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# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 8.30 P.M. Friday the 15th September 1967 at Scots Church Hall, Russell Street, City. All members should make every effort to attend as this is the Annual General Meeting. The election of the Committee, from which the Group's Office - Bearers will be selected for the next 12 months, takes place at this meeting. As the progress of the Group depends to a large extent on the quality of its Committee make sure you are in attendance and ensure by your vote, the election of those members you consider can do a good job for your Club.

On the entertainment side it has been arranged to screen at this meeting the following 3 films from the State Film Centre: -

- (1) "Assins D'eau Douce"
- (2) "These Sharks Need Protection"
- (3) "Wonders of the Deep".

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OUTINGS PAST

August 13th - San Remo. This outing did not eventuate due to unsuitable weather. It is understood that a couple of members turned up - no doubt disappointed. To avoid disappointments and unnecessary travelling, all divers contemplating attending any outing, particularly in winter should contact either the Dive Captain for the particular outing or the Secretary to ascertain if the dive is still on.

August 27th - Dive on the wreck of the "Arundel", Barwon Heads. A boat had been hired to take attending divers to this wreck, but everyone except the Editor must have realized that weather conditions were unsuitable for diving for no-one turned up. The weather was terrible.

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OUTINGS FUTURE

8th September - Rickett's Point. Good colourful boat diving - manta board riding - collection of mussels and scallops from 40 ft water. Meet at Rickett's Point Car Park at 11.30 a.m.

1st October - Anonyma Shoal. Boat dive in interesting 40 ft deep water. Usually good for fish and collection of anchors which have resale value. Meet at car park - Sandringham Yacht Club 11.00 a.m.

15th October - Drum Rock - Sorrento. This can be a very entertaining dive, from a dive through Drum Rock, to the thundering surge through the tunnel at high tide, to searching for crays in 40 ft of water riddled with seaweed covered caves. Meet at 11.30 a.m. on the corner of St Pauls Road and the Old Melbourne Road, Sorrento.

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DINNER DANCE

The Social Committee would still appreciate suggestions as to the venue for the Group's Christmas Dinner Dance, so hurry up and suggest, because time is running out.

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U.R.G. NEWS

The next meeting of the Underwater Research Group is set for 10th October 1967 at Normal Air, Airport West. Anyone needing further information should contact Jan Watson, 337 9263. This group organized a very successful picture night for Cousteau's "World Without Sun" on Friday 1st September at the Museum Theatre - full house - tea and biscuits and usual divers discussions on

matters of marine interest followed.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Brian and Lorna Heather on the arrival of a baby daughter, Joanne Denise. Bet her brothers spoil her.

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RUMOUR hath it that Ern Ireland, of the Underwater Explorers, is operating Air Filling and Bottle Testing Section at Normal Air. No doubt divers living out North will be pleased. For divers in that area desirous of further information ring 870 6110.

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ANNUAL FEES are now due and all members who are not financial are requested to bring their dues to the next meeting for passing over to the Treasurer who will be pleased to give a receipt in exchange.

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### DIVING ACCIDENTS

Water can be an unfriendly environment and therefore those taking their sport and recreation in it must treat it with respect, particularly divers. Sudden loss of consciousness on dry land is of no great consequence but the same mishap underwater can lead to drowning. Vomiting into a mouthpiece can be fatal. Water leaking into a face mask can, in the inexperienced, induce panic all too easily.

It is fair comment to say that most underwater fatalities could have been avoided and therefore all divers should know what risks exist and how to prevent accidents occurring and how to cope with any

diving emergency.

Over the next few months your Editors will bring before you some of the contingencies which may arise so that if and when they do you will have given them some previous thought and have a basic know - how in how to handle them.

Snorkelling and aqualung diving are among the most arduous sports that can be indulged in and require a high standard of physical fitness. All those pursuing these recreations should have regular medical checks and X-rays to ensure that they are up to standard. Apart from Medical fitness, physical fitness is essential to allow for extra energy required in emergencies.

Prior to a dive, diet must be considered. It is not wise to enter the water on a full stomach or an empty one. These extremes should be avoided and a light, satisfactory meal taken about 2 hours before diving. No-one should dive if they feel off-colour for any reason, because the consequences could be serious.

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### TRAINING

Adequate training in the use of diving gear is essential if it is to be used safely and with pleasure. Training in a pool under expert guidance is the best way of acquiring knowledge quickly and safely.

### SAFETY

Never dive alone, check all equipment before each dive. A knife should always be worn and the snorkel should be securely attached to the mask, not carried in a belt.

### SEAMANSHIP

Check your diving venue before entering the water, for currents etc., and a suitable area for leaving the water if water becomes rough.

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