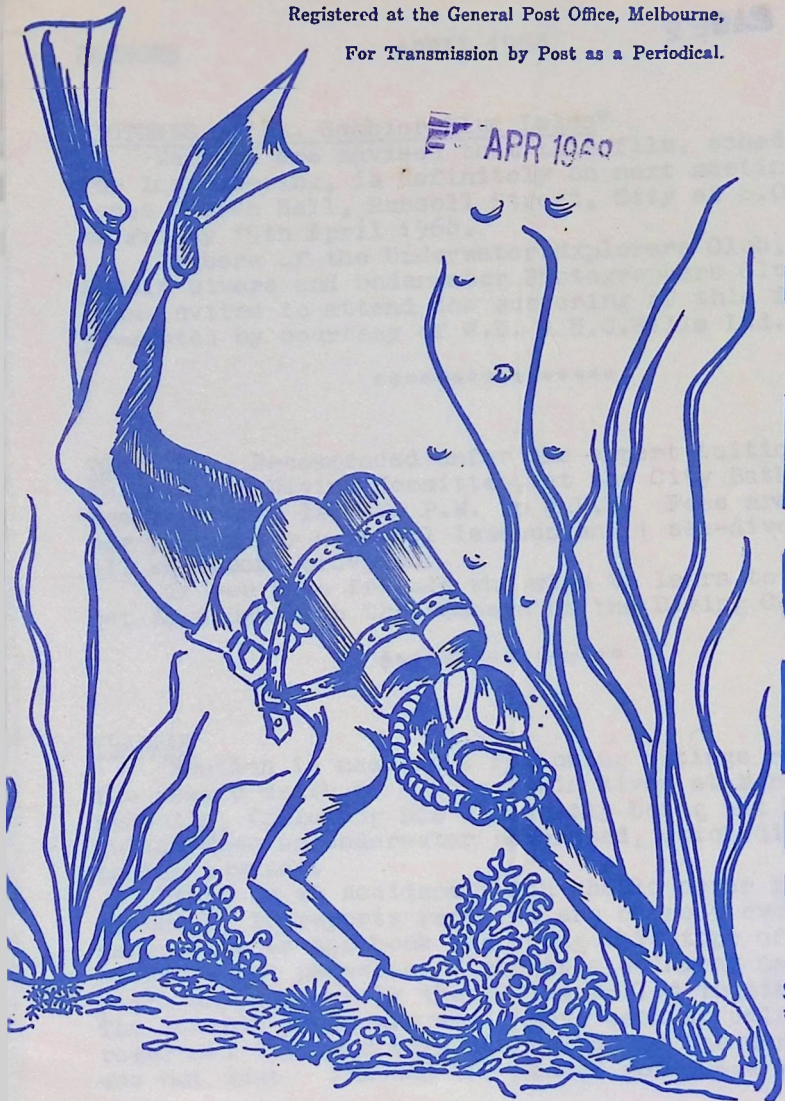


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# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

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PICTURES - "Mt. Gambier Blue Lakes"

Members are advised that this film, scheduled for last meeting, is definitely on next meeting at Scots Church Hall, Russell Street, City at 8.00 P.M. on Friday 19th April 1968.

Members of the Underwater Explorers Club, Bass Strait Divers and Underwater Photographers Club have been invited to attend the screening of this film, presented by courtesy of W.D. & H.O. Wills Ltd.

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TRAINING - Recommended under the expert tuition of the Group's Diving Committee, at the City Baths. Training time is 5.00 P.M. to 7 P.M. Fees are £ 10 per person for 4 inpool lessons and 1 sea-dive - all equipment provided.

If you have friends who wish to learn to dive get in touch with the members of the Diving Committee.

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TRAGEDY

Mention is made in a following outings report of the tragic death of a young skin diver at Mornington recently, following his accidentally being hit by a bullet from an underwater powerhead, which discharged on the surface.

This is an accident which should never have occurred. If reports received are correct every common sense rule in the book regarding this type of firearm was broken. The possessor fired at a stingray near the pier, and apparently the bullet failed to discharge. The correct procedure would have been to unload the powerhead then and bury the bullet in the sand. This was not done. Instead the loaded powerhead was

bought to shore and an attempt at unloading it resulted in its discharging through the hand of one chap and then through the chest of the young boy who died.

There have been a number of comments in the papers following this tragedy and whilst most of them were well prepared and informative, one or two tended, in the Editors' opinion, grossly exaggerated the danger of power heads particularly in Port Phillip Bay, exhibited a lack of knowledge on the part of the author.

Powerheads, like any other firearm are safe provided the rules applicable are followed.

1. In Victoria a pistol permit must be obtained from the Victorian Police to purchase and own one. This assures that only sensible adults may own them.

2. On the issue of the permit it is clearly stated that the powerhead must only be loaded in the water and unloaded before leaving the water.

3. The powerhead may not be exposed to general public view nor discharged in proximity to swimmers.

4. As the law now stands it is unlawful to own a powerhead without a permit and even with a permit it is unlawful to carry or use them on a Sunday.

If members of this Group own powerheads under permit then ensure that at all times you set the highest example with them by following the law and rules. Remember they are designed primarily as a protective device, not as a sporting accessory to your spear gun.

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#### OUTINGS PAST

SUNDAY 24th March - Mornington.

On Sunday the 24th March six members showed up at Mornington and were ~~in~~ the water by 10-45 a.m. One member came out five minutes later clasping to his bosom a brass wheel and axle used to haul cray pots in. It was smartly salted away and the member went back into the water a dozen more times, each time on his return bringing goodies of brass and copper with an occasional scallop thrown in for good measure. Two members came struggling to the surface with a death hold on the motor half of an out-board, and this was smartly hacked to bits to salvage only the fuel tank. Amongst the loot was a ships compass, assorted brass nuts, bolts and plate, odd copper pipe and plate and a piece of plastic hose containing a type of sea snake which was smartly decapitated by a wildy swung knife.

During the day other members of other clubs were diving around the pier and two of these people came out of the water and began dismantling a "smokey-pokey" which had failed to fire underwater. It fired while they were fiddling with it, sending a bullet through the owners hand and into the chest of a diving companion behind him. The wound proved fatal and the youth died on the way to hospital.

All members of this group should take note of this and hever muck around with loaded guns out of the water.

If the ~~bullet~~ gun fails to fire underwater, unload it then and there and bury the bullet in the sand.

DIVE CAPTAIN.

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L.W.E. March 9/10/11 - NEWHAVEN.

Two divers with boat turned up Saturday afternoon and did a seven mile return trip by water to examine the Rhyll Wreck. On rising tide the water was too

dirty to see much and obviously others had cleaned out all the copper and brass etc.

Saturday night and Sunday, one of the two was ill most of the time.

Two other divers arrived Sunday morning and a short boat trip was made around Cape Woolamai, but again tide change reduced visibility to near zero.

On Monday our original two sought some fish around Kitty Miller Bay but instead came across the underwater remains of the wreck of the "Speak", and again whilst all worthwhile metals had been removed, a very pleasant hour was spent snorkelling amid the remains.

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#### INTERSTATE NEWS

Rob, Bricker, Barbara and family, from a recent letter received by the Editor, are all well. Rob is diving nearly every weekend, on the reefs, spearing fish for sale to offset diving expenses.

He reports he has captured and has in a fish tank a rare Trigger Fish, which on overseas markets is worth \$250. Any local buyers?????

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#### OVERSEAS SNIPPETS

##### DIVERS DOWN 12,500 FT.

Scuba dives to 3000 ft in three to five years and the likelihood of putting aquanauts 12,500 ft down on the Atlantic's Abyssal Plain on fluid breathing - this is the

inner space vision of Capt. George Bond, the "Papa Topside" of the U.S. Navy's Sealab deep emergence experiments.

Captain Bond talked about the fluid-breathing future, following his discussion of "The Lung in Water" at a University Of Buffalo seminar on Pulmonary Emphysema.

The burly, pipe-smoking surgeon-physician said that experimental 3000ft dives would be done on ~~hydrogen-oxy~~ hydrogen-oxygen breathing mixtures instead of the traditional oxy-helium, which becomes narcotic and toxic at this depth. There would also "probably be some kind of mechanical assistance for breathing."

Discussing the Abyssal Plunge, Captain Bond said; "I could, with proper engineering technology, take a man at the surface upon whom I had performed a tracheotomy, seal off with a tube the operative procedure, hook him up to two bags of Ringer's solution or the equivalent, and attach to those two bags a highly compressed source of oxygen together with a small pump and a monitor control device. "I could then commence, within a simple pressure vessel, to pump this fluid through his lungs.

"We would next flood his sinuses and his nasal cavity and we would drop him out of the pressure vessel. This man could now go to the depth of 12,500 ft and do two hours of useful work on the ocean bottom and return to the surface without any requirement of decompression whatsoever.

"I am not saying that it will be done. I only tell you that it can be done. We have been doing this type of thing with dogs now for several years. It appears feasible and perhaps the day may come when we will see it. But for the moment this is sky-blue speculation."

Captain Bond said his Sealab 111 schedule

anticipates putting 40 divers down 430 feet in the Pacific off San Clemente Island west of the California Coast.

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### DEEP DIVE

As a result of deep diving and other tests, the U.S. Navy's Sealab 111 habitat will now be placed at 600ft for 60 days instead of the 430 ft originally planned.

A recent experimental saturation dive to a simulated 700 ft at the Kanton Hospital Medical Institute, Zurich, helped to convince Captain Walter Mazzone, commander of the U.S. Navy's Man-in-the-Sea programme, that the depth increase was feasible for Sealab.

During the test in Zurich, two divers stayed at 700ft for 68 hours and decompressed in 62 hours.

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