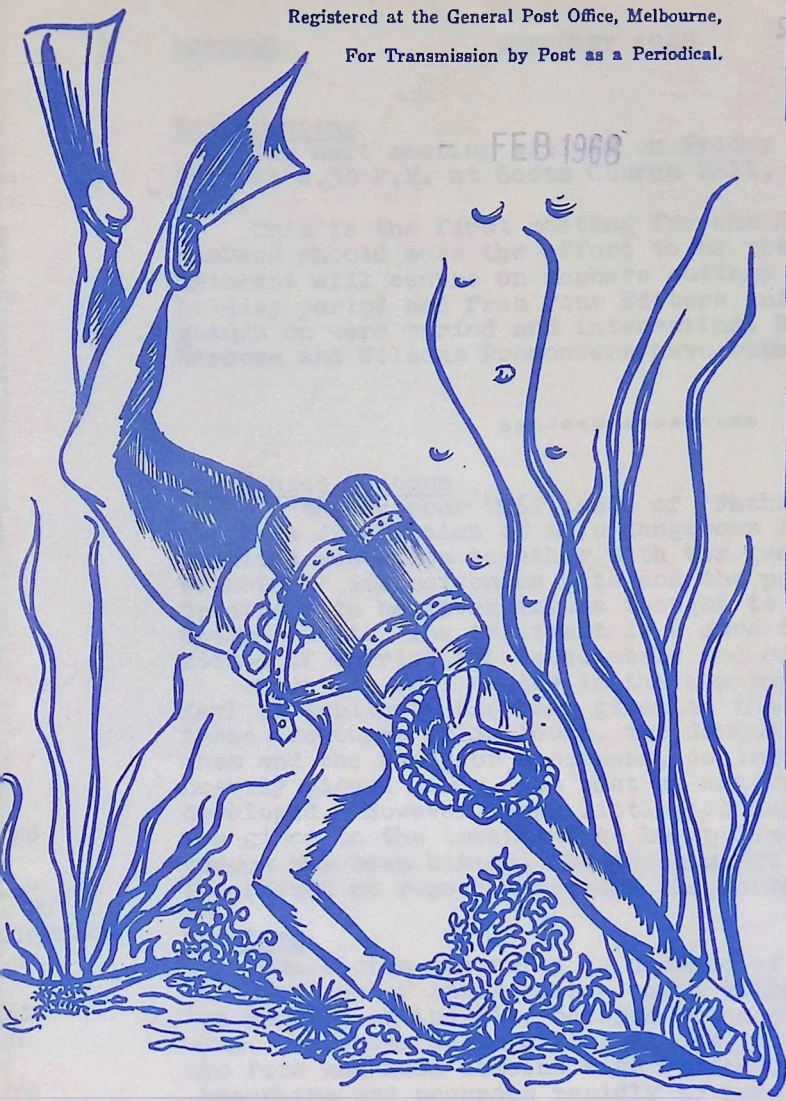


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FEB 1968



FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

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Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Friday 16th February 1968 at 8.30 P.M. at Scots Church Hall, Russell St. City.

This is the first meeting for the New Year - all members should make the effort to be present - interest will centre on members outings over the holiday period and from your Editors information the goings on were varied and interesting, Bitangabee, Narooma and Wilsons Promontory have been mentioned.

The Ringed Octopus

In the October 1967 issue of "Fathoms" a complete description of this dangerous little marine creature was given together with the generally fatal effects of its poisonous bite and the possible treatment to be given anyone thought to have been bitten by it. The treatment is a sure fire survival method if carried out immediately and efficiently.

Over the past months in the Newspapers a great deal of publicity has been given to the numbers of these creatures being found, the danger of handling them and the need for specimens, collected with heavily gloved hands, so that an antivenene can be developed. However, very little, if any, publicity was given to the treatment to be applied when a person has been bitten, for the benefit of all interested we repeat hereunder the former article;-

SYMPTOMS

The victim generally is unaware of any actual bite but symptoms of intoxication occur within five or ten minutes of the live octopus being placed on the skin. Symptoms begin with weakness, numbness about the face and neck combine with difficulty in breathing and progress rapidly to paralysis. The

heart continues to function until anoxia becomes severe

TREATMENT

There is no specific antitoxin or antivenene yet available - treatment consists of effective artificial respiration which may have to be maintained for a considerable time, possibly 3 or 4 hours before any spontaneous respiratory efforts were observed. Artificial respiration must be commenced immediately and maintained and medical treatment sought when artificial respiration with assistance of oxygen may be obtainable.

This attractive but dangerous little creature is easily recognised and therefore contact with it should be avoided - which is after all the surest safety method.

Following an S.D.F. Conference recently your delegates Frank Coustley and Ron Addison reported that it is understood that the Navy will be installing a ~~RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER~~ Recompression Chamber at H.M.A.S. Lonsdale in the latter part of this year.

Commander Hawk R.A.N.R. has agreed, it is understood, to complete the training of operators for this Chamber, which was commenced a couple of years ago in anticipation of this event.

UNDERWATER RESERVE

Approaches have been made through S.D.F. to the Commonwealth and State Governments and the Piscatorial Council to have Channel Fort Island, in Port Phillip Bay, set aside as a Marine Conservation Reserve. From information so far

obtained the proposal has been very favourably received in all quarters.

Most members will recall that Channel Fort eas built during the Crimean War as a defence against possible attack.

At the present time many of the underground chambers are used as explosives storage areas. However, there are many others unoccupied which would be admirably suited for research laboratories.

OUTINGS LIST

It is desired to draw members attention to the following alteration to the Outings List as published in the December 1967 issue.

EASTER } April 12/13/14/15 was to be Bitangabee.
It has now been changed to Portland.

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OUTINGS FUTURE

February 25th - Williamstown. Dive Captain John Stewart. Wreck of KAKI RIKI or what remains of it. Meet at the main Transport Terminal at Williamstown at 10.30 a.m. The wreck can be reached from the shore.

March 9/10/11. -L.W.E. - Newhaven. Meeting place - camping area. Phillip Island presents many diving venues no matter what the weather. 2Members small boats will probably be available and diving around new bridge structure could be interesting.

EASTER - April 12/13/14/15 - PORTLAND

The small boats of the members will again be available and this has always been an excellent venue. Fish are plentiful, there are a number of wrecks just offshore to be visited. The last time we were there an old salt offered to show us the secret resting place of the "remains of an old Spanish Galleon". This trip we may get him to show us where.

Members interested in making this trip should book their caravans soon, so as not to be disappointed.

WILSONS PROMONTORY

The water and the islands around Wilsons Prom. are the best in Victoria. Having spent my holidays at Narooma, and diving at Montagu Island, I would say Wilsons Prom. is as good, the amount of fish and size was fantastic, not forgetting the crays that were there. There were nine divers, five from our club. Three boats were available, The water was calm on the 3 days we were there. We went out to the Glennie group, and Norman islands - fairly deep water - 65ft downwards, very easy to overstay your time, specially when you have a portable compressor on hand. I was amazed at the beautiful growth, there were some types of coral growing. Pat Reynolds caught some crays he swears were attacking him. We were all sorry to hear that a 20 year-old diver was drowned in one of the bays. The exact cause is not known, but we feel that we should mention that Hyperventilation should never be carried out when free diving as there is no sensation that you will black out, it is instant. To place the boats in the water you drive down to Tidal River, then head down river to the beach, using rollers. The boats are then placed in the water if the breakers are not too high. Well, all of us are just waiting to get to those waters again.

Bill Gray.