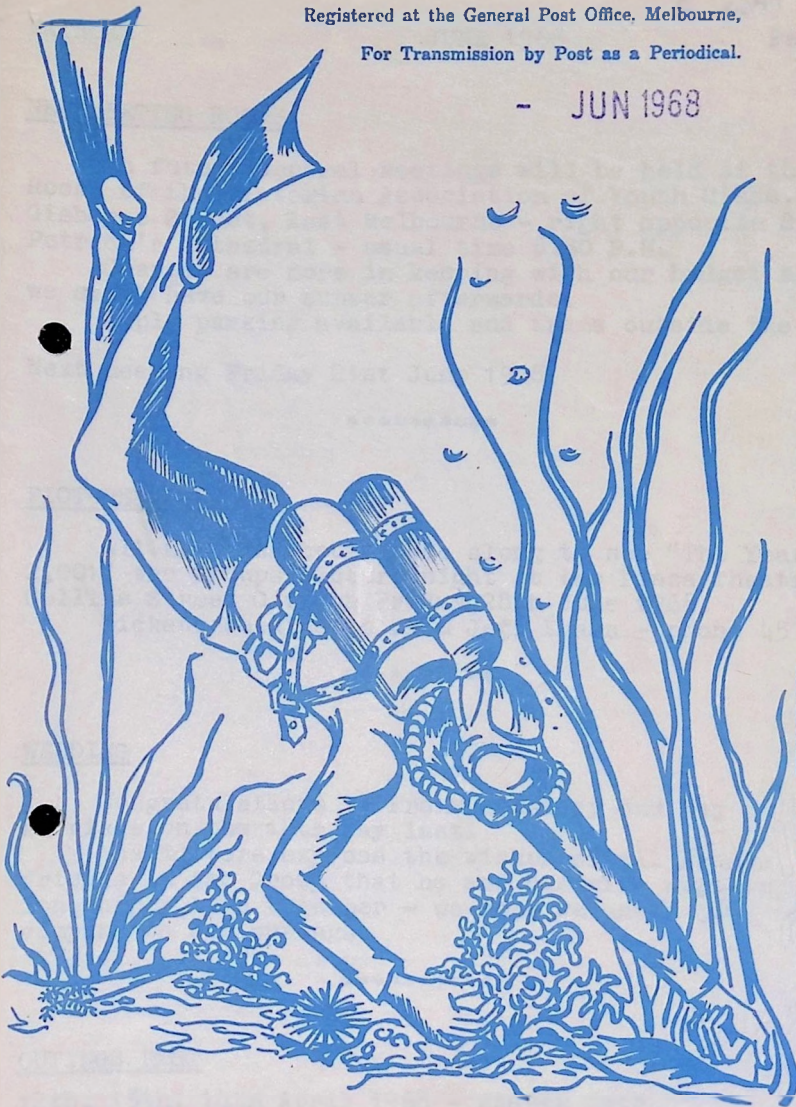


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- JUN 1968

FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

PAGE 2

NEW
COND
AUSTRALIA

NEW MEETING ROOMS

In future General Meetings will be held at the Rooms of the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne - right opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral - usual time 8.30 P.M.

Charges are more in keeping with our budget and we still have our supper afterwards.

Ample parking available and trams outside the door.

Next meeting Friday 21st June 1968.

PICTURE NIGHT

All members should come along to see "The Year 2,001" the Groups picture night at the Plaza Theatre, Collins Street City on Friday 28th June 1968.

Tickets obtainable from Jeff Evans - phone 45 6449.

WEDDING

Congratulations to Frank Coustley and Fay on their marriage on the 18th May last.

The Editors express the wishes of all Franks friends in the Group that he and his wife will enjoy a long happy life together - we hope we shall have their company on our outings.

OUTINGS PAST

12th, 13th, 14th April 1968 - EASTER TRIP.

This was scheduled for Portland but other commitments certainly decimated the turn up here - only 4 divers made the journey, For those turning up there was plenty of fish to be taken but no extensive wreck diving was undertaken - the original purpose of the excursion. The run down to Mt. Gambier for diving in the sink holes was undertaken as usual. Greater roll up would have made a more enjoyable holiday.

28th April 1968 - FLINDERS JETTY

The usual four stalwarts turned up and had a thoroughly enjoyable time in crystal clear water on a pleasant day. A small quantity of scrap brass was collected. More members and their friends would have improved the day.

12th May 1968 - POPES EYE ROCK

As only 4 divers turned up no boat trip to the Rock eventuated. However, a pier crawl resulted in the further recovery of some old time soft drink bottles now believed to be collectors items.

Further information on this matter later in the Newsletter.

9th June 1968 - WRECK OF THE "VICTORIA TOWERS" TORQUAY.

Sunday blossomed sunny and windless. The sea was flat and the tide was full. The two 13ft boats owned by Group members arrived by 10.00a.m. and were launched and over the wreck area by 10.45 a.m. Other divers in the area indicated the wreck had been pretty well picked out and that as far as Stout bottles were concerned there were none left.

Five divers descended into the sanded waters and roamed for nearly two hours through the wreck. Eight complete Guinness Stout bottles and 2 Champagne bottles were recovered with contents (highly repugnant to the

nose). Three solid brass shoe or belt buckles were recovered together with odd assortment of small coloured floor tiles.

OUTINGS FUTURE

29th June 1968 - Venue to be decided at next club meeting.

14th July 1968 - INDENTED HEAD

Meet at old wreck 10.00 a.m. Recent reports indicate a certain amount of salvage may still be available, but the Editors are sceptical.

The only way to find out is to join the boys and investigate.

28th July 1968 - COWES JETTY PHILLIP ISLAND

Deatails to be worked out at next meeting.

WANTED TO BUY

Harry Weaver wants to buy a second hand aqualung 72 c.ft. or twin 38 cubic ft. tanks.

If anyone has a lung for sale let Brian Heather know at the next meeting.

FOR SALE

Twin 38 c.ft. Heinke tanks with Normalair demand

and Reducer 1961 model in test - \$70.00.

FOR SALE

Collectors items from Wreck of "Victoria Towers".
Guinness Stout bottles - full - hand made 106 years old.
\$30.00 each.

FOR SALE

Collectors items. Antique soft drink bottles.
80 years old. \$25.00 each.

S.D.F.

Group Delegates to the S.D.F. were asked to raise the matter of the cost and frequency of testing aqualung tanks with a view to obtaining uniformity throughout Victoria at least. For some time members have been confused by the price ranges from filling and testing stations, particularly in the Melbourne area, and also the varying periods laid down between hydrostatic tests.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Treasurer reports that a number of members have not renewed their membership fees for 1968.

If you are one of the defaulters your subscription at the next meeting is requested.

INSURANCE

The Yorshire Insurance Company has advised that Commission due to the Group could be enhanced if members would pay up outstanding insurance premiums some of which have been due since 1966.

Brian Heather has undertaken to follow these cases up and if you are one of those concerned your co-operation would be appreciated.

Remember if premiums are un-paid your possessions may not be covered by insurance.

SNOW TRIP

Are there any takers interested in making up a party for a week-end in the snow. If so please let the Editors know at the next meeting.

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

Are there any Group members interested in having a progressive supper on a Saturday night. This can be quite fun. Cost will be decided upon if members are interested.

The Editors will welcome any suggestions and ideas.

BARBEQUE

Alan Day has generously offered to make his home

at 39 Carlton Street, Bentleigh available for a Group Barbeque on Saturday night the 17th August. Keep this evening free - further advice in near future.

It is proposed to run a Social Auction at the Barbeque so save up those articles you want to sell and put a reserve price on same - it all makes for lots of fun and profits.

DANGER UNDERWATER

For every person bitten by a shark 100,000 go unscathed, probably never even seeing an underwater predator. This fact does not make sharks the ideal underwater playmates since they are one of the biggest question marks in the free divers' world. With just over 350 different kinds of sharks in the world's waters it is all too easy to generalize about them and their behaviour. In spite of the fact that sharks have been known to man since the beginning of history - sharks existed before man and there are fossils to prove it - there is surprisingly little in the way of research done on them. One of the first writers to touch on the subject of sharks was Pliny, advising a person to swim directly at a shark in order to turn aside an attack. Oddly enough, the same advice is given today by men who know - and it has proved as effective as almost any of the modern shark remedies.

Sharks range in size from the giant basking variety, which may attain a length of 50 feet, down to the tiny little triakids, which measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet at maturity. The range of the sharks' territory might be defined as the range of the world's seas. They occur from the Arctic to the Antarctic and have been known to travel 400 and 500 miles up fresh water river. One type, the Lake Nicaragua shark, is a fresh-water fish entirely. The first modern record of a death occurring from shark attack was written in 1793, about an attack at Botany Bay a few years

previously. Australasian waters gained the dubious honour of first place in modern shark chronicling and they still retain that honour, for the largest number of recorded shark attacks take place in Australian waters.

A shark which is set to bite is not discriminating in his choice of target area, but recent tests have shown they tend to be attracted to light colours in the water. Strangely, this was another point in Pliny's remarks, for he was sure a shark would attack those parts of the human body which are lightest in colour. Negro divers in tropical waters seem far less troubled by sharks than their white counter-parts - and when the attack is made on them it usually centers on the heel or palm of the hand.

The shark which is considered dangerous in Australian waters may not be so of the coast of Cornwall and vice-versa. Generalizations about sharks are always fallacious, except when there is blood in the water, any shark more than 3 feet long and in good health is a potential source of danger to any swimmer or diver. All sharks are meat eaters, with the exception of the basking or whale shark and even then their planktonic diet is largely animal.

Sharks are drawn to fish blood in the water like a magnet. Tests have proved that sharks will come from a considerable distance if as little as a cup of ~~fresh~~ fish blood is put into an outgoing tide. For this reason the underwater hunter is offering himself as bait for the sharks. Even if no blood is coming from a fish its violent struggles on a spear may draw sharks. A wounded fish by its contortions sets up a number of low frequency ~~beats~~ vibrations in the water. Although it has not been proven completely, science believes the lateral line system of the shark is geared to respond to these beats. What is really pertinent as far as the diver is concerned is the fact that a hungry shark will locate what he thinks is food with an ability which is uncanny.

Shark attacks seem to occur with an almost predictable geographical distribution - few cases being reported beyond a belt between 30'N and 30' S.

Governments have done a great deal along the line of a fool proof shark repellent. Its development was of particular importance during World War 11 when the increased use of small surface craft put men in danger of shark attack. The best repellent among those tested was copper acetate. It is by no means fool proof, but it is used today in combination with a dye which clouds the water and hides the swimmer from the sharks. Its effectiveness is excellent where sharks are feeding or attempting to feed normally. However, there is a shark feeding pattern in which the big fish exhibit a form of hysteria, whadh occurs where there is a sudden glut of food, and when this happens many species of sharks will go berserk, attacking anything moving within their range including members of their own pack. Whether copper acetate would function effectively under these circumstances is extremely doubtful.

Hans Haas recommends that a free diver should face the shark and move towards it, shouting at the same time.

Commander Cousteau recommends a shark-billy- a stout nail-studded club worn on a wrist thong. His opinion is that the shark may be held off with it, the nails preventing the club from slipping. Other divers have "spooked" sharks by discharging CO2 towards them.

Free divers in shark waters should be prepared to meet them, since as often as not, sharks hunt in pairs the diver must always be prepared for the fact that the adversary may not be alone. In getting to his boat, the diver should remember his legs and feet are particularly vulnerable to attack. His heels, unless he is wearing full shoe flippers are bright spots moving through the water and as he pulls himself over the side he has no defence whatsoever.

Ag'in, it is safer with two men diving in a team, so that one can furnish covering for the other if the need arises.



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