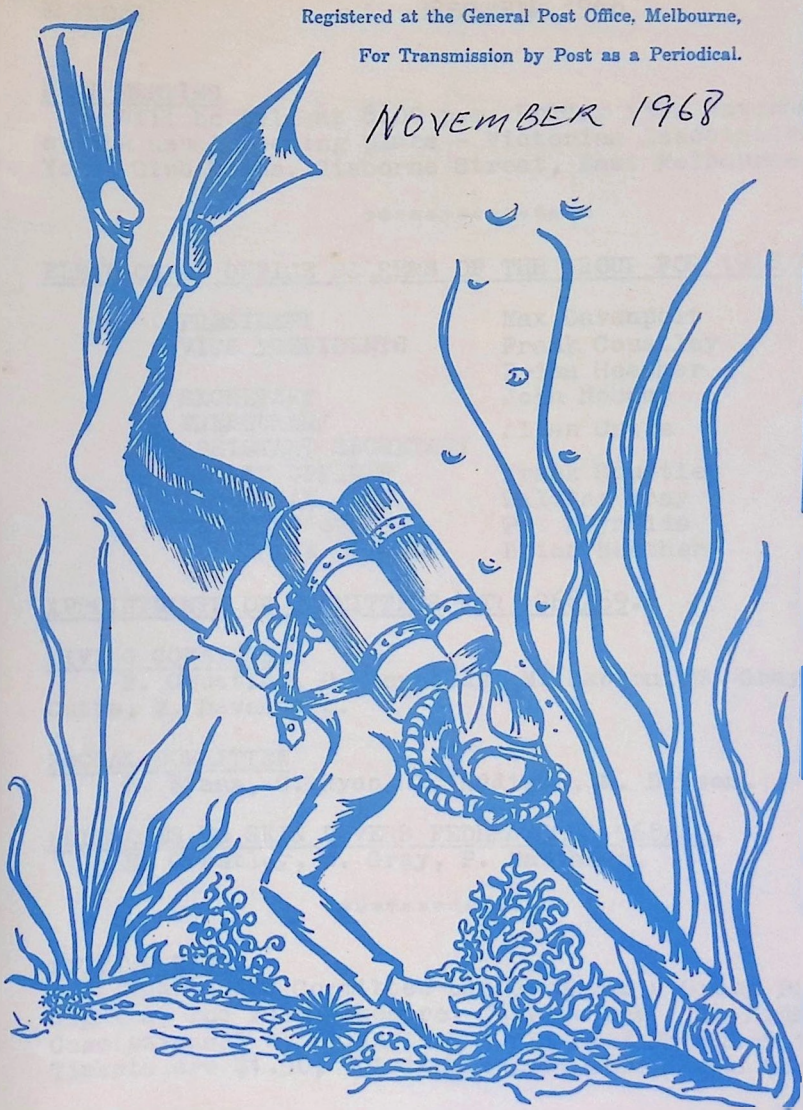


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NOVEMBER 1968



# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP



NEXT MEETING

Will be held at 8.00 p.m. Friday 15th November 1968 at the usual meeting place - Victorian Association of Youth Club Rooms, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne.

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ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS OF THE GROUP FOR 1968/69.

PRESIDENT	Max Davenport
VICE PRESIDENTS	Frank Coustley Brian Heather
SECRETARY	John Noonan
TREASURER/ ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Allan Cutts
PUBLIC OFFICER	Frank Coustley
LIBRARIAN	William Gray
QUARTERMASTER	Pat Reynolds
INSURANCE OFFICER	Brian Heather

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES FOR 1968/69.

DIVING COMMITTEE

F. Coustley, P. Reynolds, M. Dawson, W. Gray, A. Cutts, M. Davenport.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

G. Evans, G. Ryan, L. Addison, M. Dawson.

DELEGATES TO SKIN DIVERS FEDERATION 1968/69.

F. Coustley, W. Gray, P. Matthews.

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PICTURE NIGHT

The Social Committee has arranged a Group Picture Night at The Forum theatre, City to see "The High Commissioner" on Friday night the 22nd November 1968. Tickets are \$1.50, obtainable from Jeff Evans (telephone



45 6449), Allan Cutts, or at the next meeting.

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#### ORDER BOOKS

Members are reminded the Group has a series of Business Order Books for use by members desirous of buying goods on discount. If you are in the market for purchases of any kind contact any of the Committee for an order and get a discount.

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#### LAPEL BADGES

The Group has obtained a further supply of its badges which are now obtainable for purchase by members at \$1.00 each. Members interested should contact the Treasurer, Allan Cutts.

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#### TRAINING

A new traing course is scheduled to commence at the City Baths on Saturday 16th November at 5.00 P.M. Fee is \$10.00 in advance for the course - all equipment provided. If you know of anyone wishing to undertake the course contact any member of the Diving Committee.

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#### EASTER TRIP

It is understood that the Diving Committee is very keen to organize a further trip to King Island.

The Group still has a number of present members who helped organize the prior trip, so that it has every chance of being as resounding a success as the last one. Those who were on that trip still talk of it as the trip to beat all trips - even those from other clubs who joined us then. This proposed trip, like any other, will

only succeed if given the full support of all members, those who are fortunate enough to go and those too who are unable to go but who can help organize from this end,

Give it some thought fellow members and when your help is asked for, be ready to pitch in for the benefit of the Group and your fellow members.

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### ABALONE

A shellfish found on submarine reefs around the Australian coast - is an important seafood export. In 1967-68 production was estimated to be 9102 short tons (liveweight) and exports were worth \$3.5 million.

Abalone has a single saucershaped shell which covers its exposed surface. The large meaty portion, which attaches the animal and its shell to the rocks, is the part which is marketed.

Observations suggest that abalone move away from reefs at night to feed on broad-leafed algae, such as brown kelp, and return to the ~~shelter~~ shelter of rocks before daylight.

Fifteen species of abalone are found in Australian waters but only four are exploited commercially. The black-lip or red-ear shell is by far the most important but the green lip or mutton fish brings the highest ~~prices~~ prices because of its white flesh.

The fishery has a short but spectacular history. It began in Tasmania and Victoria late in 1963 and spread to southern N.S.W. and South Australia.

First divers to enter the fishery were amateurs who realized the abalone's export value. Many became full-time professionals and in five years between 1963 and 68 the catch grew from 78 to 9102 short tons.

On latest figures Australia is the second largest producer of abalone in the world while abalone ranks third in the list of the country's seafood exports.

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DEEPEST AND LONGEST

Two United States divers have made the deepest and longest saturation dive on record. Neither suffered any ill effects after their dive to 636 feet in the Gulf of Mexico. They descended in a steel sphere and put on diving suits to carry out work on an oil well-head system. Almost seven hours were spent in the water. During this time, which was split into three periods, they breathed an oxy-helium mixture through an umbilical. Decompression took six days and was carried out in a pressure chamber on the deck of a barge.

Ocean Systems Incorporated, New York, and Esso Production Research of Houston, Texas, sponsored the dive in order to collect information on the ability to work at great depths

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KILLERS SECRET

Scientists at Queensland University have isolated the toxin which makes the blue-ring octopus a killer.

The bite of this small and deadly octopus often goes unnoticed. But the poison introduced causes symptoms like those of drunkenness within about 10 minutes, followed by the cessation of muscle action. This means that breathing becomes impossible and unless artificial respiration is applied immediately, the victim dies.

Isolating the toxin is only the first stage, now the university research team is to continue the exacting work of finding a suitable antidote.

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FOR SALE

1 Only twin 38 cubic ft. aqualung complete with demand valve and harness - tanks recently tested. Price \$50.00. Contact J. Noonan ( telephone 61 3771 ).

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