

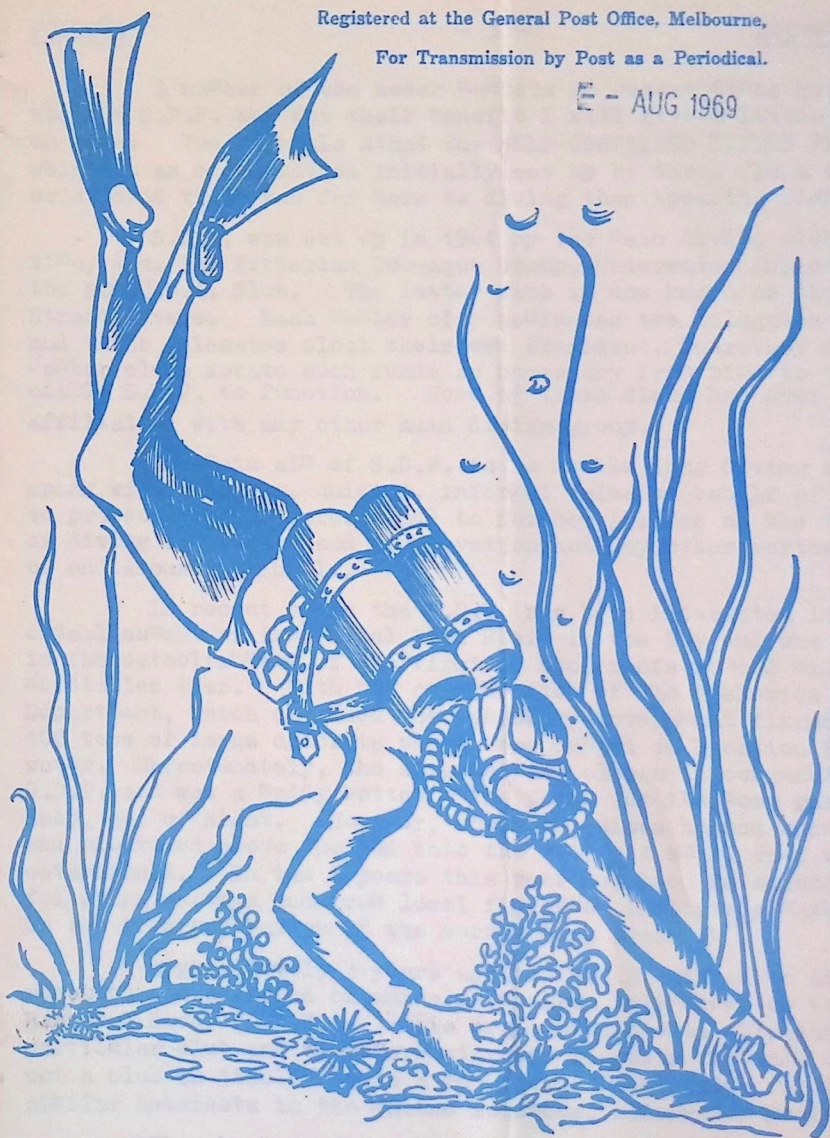
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E - AUG 1969

FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

A number of the newer members in recent times have asked what is S.D.F. and for their benefit I will give a little information on same. The initials stand for SELF-CONTAINED DIVERS FEDERATION which is an organization initially set up by three clubs that considered there was far more to diving than spearing fish.

S.D.F. was set up in 1961 by the main diving clubs at that time, i.e. The Victorian Sub-Aqua Group, Underwater Explorers & the S.C.U.B.A. Club. The latter club is now known as the Bass Strait Divers. Each member club nominates two delegates to S.D.F., and these delegates elect their own President, Secretary and Treasurer. Member clubs donate such funds as necessary from time to time to enable S.D.F. to function. None of these clubs has ever had any affiliation with any other skin diving group.

The main aim of S.D.F. is to enable lung diving clubs to speak with a strong, unified, informed voice on behalf of all divers to protect their interests and to further the use of the techniques of diving in science and conservation and any other worthwhile field of endeavour applicable.

In recent years the S.D.F. has been interested in the establishment of Artificial Fish Reefs in the Bay and was instrumental in the establishment of the first of such reefs some 4 miles off the Merdialloc Pier. With the co-operation of the Fisheries & Wildlife Department, which obtained the necessary Government finance approx. 100 tons of large concrete pipes were dumped on location in 60 feet of water. Unfortunately, the site was not chosen in conjunction with S.D.F. and was a muddy bottom - the pipes for the most part sank deep, out of sight. However, where the pipes heaped upon each other and protruded above the mud into the water, a small reef was established. In the 3 years this reef has been in existence reports following surveys and from local fishermen indicate a marked increase in the fish population of the surrounding area.

Approximately 3 years ago the S.D.F. wished to aid in Marine research and assisted organize a research body known as the Underwater Research Group (U.R.G.). This organization owes allegiance to no particular club and therefore attracts recruits from all clubs. It is not a club in itself but is a recognized focal point for divers of similar interests in the Marine sciences, underwater photography, etc.

The charter of S.D.F. is anything and everything associated with the sea and it welcomes suggestions and new ideas so if any

August, 1969

Member of V.S.A.S. has any ideas for the promotion of or betterment of diving or suggestions to aid science, advise the Delegates who will take up with the other Member clubs.

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OUTINGS - PAST 13th July, 1969 - Frankston Wreck.

Due to the survey of the wreck of theerberus (three headed dog) undertaken by S.D.F. members at the request of the National Trust, many Sub-aqua Members dived on the prior Saturday and were unable to be on deck for a further dive on the Sunday - no dive.

27th July, 1969. - Queenscliff.

Only three of the newer members turned up on this occasion, but with calm waters and a fine day, they were able to spend an enjoyable day sporting around the pier. It is expected that this will be the last occasion when this state of affairs will occur.

10th August, 1969 - Portsea.

Depending on the weather conditions this could be an ocean dive or a bayside dive. Report will be included in the next Newsletter.

FUTURE OUTINGS FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

- 15/8/69 - Snow Trip - Mt. Bulla
- 7/9/69 - Rosebud - Hurricane Wreck.
- 21/9/69 - To be selected.
- 5/10/69 - Channel Port Island.
- 19/10/69 - Phillip Island.

PAST MEMBERS MEETING - 18/7/69

At this meeting spirited but amicable discussion on the present state of the Group took place. Regrettably, due to lack of time, it had to be curtailed. This should not happen. Meetings are not starting on or near the advertised time of 8.00 p.m. It is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure that meetings do start on time and improvement in this regard is essential immediately. Late starts with members, friends and visitors drifting around is a very poor advertisement, let's see a return to a disciplined, organised meetings.

PYROSOOMA. Is a Marine organism made up of thousands of small living organisms in the shape of a long tubular body with an orifice extending its length through which water passes from which the organisms extract their food. Fishermen recently reported seeing a giant Pyrosooma off the N.S.W. coast. It was some 48 ft. long and about 1 foot wide, looking like a closely cluttered collection of leaves. The normal colour is pinkish but if one of the organisms is touched, it becomes luminescent and touches off all the other organisms. Other smaller Pyrosooma have been sighted up to 30 feet long. The last reported sighting of a giant Pyrosooma was back in 1873.

CLUB DINNER DANCE - THE BARREL, ELTHAM, on 6th DECEMBER, 1969.

Bookings for this most popular of events are being received en masse. Those desirous of going who have not yet lodged their deposits of \$1.00 per head had better hustle along with it or they will certainly miss out and be very disappointed. The limited number of 40 bookings are being filled fast. If you dip out don't blame us - we warned you.

Next Meeting - Friday, 15/8/69. to be held at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne, opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral at 8.00 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTE -

The member clubs of S.O.F. agreed that rather than have combined money making events, that each club run its own function and receive the support of the other clubs. The organizing club to retain all proceeds.

BASS STRAIT DIVERS CLUB is the first off the Mark and has arranged a DINNER DANCE for Friday, 31st October, 1969 at Carinya Receptions, 550 High Street, Preston. The price is all inclusive, food, drinks, everything - \$14.00 per double.

It Sub-Aqua expects support in its functions, its members must support the other member clubs, so see if we can get a group to go to this function. Tickets available from the Secretary at the next meeting, or ring 36-8587 - Trevor Johnson.

I M P O R T A N TELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR 1969 - 1970

This election will take place at the September 1969 meeting of the Group.

It is essential to the welfare and future of the Group that all financial members give careful thought to those members that they are proposing to nominate for election and also those they will vote for at the election. Over the past year some well intentioned and well deserved constructive criticism has been levelled by various members at the Directors for the failure of the members of the Group to show enthusiasm for helping new members and attendance at Rostered Dive Outings.

In selecting new Directors, members should endeavour to pick those who are prepared to push for greater enthusiasm and activity and this might well mean the dropping of some of the old and tried Directors who, year after year, are re-elected. Whilst most of these are keen and enthusiastic, there must be some who, because of other pressing commitments and perhaps new interests, are not infusing that element of "go" and developing new ideas. The answer could well be the election of new "untried blood" (diving wise) to the Directors.

Under the Victorian Sub Aqua Groups, Articles of Association, the number of Directors shall be twelve. Each year one third are required to stand down, being those longest in office.

In this Newsletter are nomination forms for use by members - use them - You will note that two members are required to nominate each nominee who must be a full member and who must also sign the nomination form accepting the nomination.

NOTE CAREFULLY. All nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by the 5th September, 1969 at the latest.

Only financial members of the Group are entitled to vote at the elections on Friday, 19th September, 1969, i.e. those who pay their subscription for the 1969-70 year by 19th September, 1969. If you have not yet paid your subscription, the Treasurer will be pleased to receive same.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS 1969-70

NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being Full members of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group hereby nominate _____
for the position of Director.

Signed: _____ Date / /

Signed: _____ Date / /

I, _____ hereby accept the above nomination for Director of the Group.

Signed: _____

Date / /

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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS 1969-70

NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being Full members of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group hereby nominate _____
for the position of Director.

Signed: _____ Date / /

Signed: _____ Date / /

I, _____ hereby accept the above nomination for Director of the Group.

Signed: _____

Date / /