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CUTTS.



FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

(Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

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COMMITTEE

B. GRAY	-	Librarian
P. REYNOLDS	-	Quartermaster
P. ATTWOOD		
L. ADDISON		
C. BULL		
M. HENSHALL		
P. ROBERTSON		*Life Member

CLUB MEETING - 16/10/70

The next meeting of the Group will be held on 16th OCTOBER, 1970 at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne, opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral at 8.00 p.m. sharp. Meeting will terminate with General Business at 9.00 p.m. sharp and a discussion panel will be set up to answer any questions put forward by members.

ANNUAL REPORT OF V.S.A.G. HELD ON 21/8/70

OPENING - On behalf of your Committee I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 1969/70.

MEMBERSHIP - Membership at the date of the Annual General Meeting for 1970 is 27 members; this figure includes 7 new members for the year and 2 life members. The figure does not take into account applications for membership that are now in the hands of the secretary.

FINANCIAL - The club finishes the year with a bank balance at the end of June of \$413.92 which, when reflected against last year's final balance of \$222.70, appears that financially the club has done downhill during the year. However, in fact this is not the case. During the year the club has purchased a 72 C/F tank and regulator which accounted for nearly \$92. This tank is now being hired out to members and is also being used for training new divers. Also, the club has paid a deposit of \$100 for the annual dinner at the Chateau Wyuna all of which will be recouped upon the sale of tickets for the dinner. So taking all into consideration we have finished the year in rather a healthy state.

MEETINGS - Eleven monthly meetings were held during the year. The attendance at these was not always satisfactory, but taken over the whole year seemed quite fair. It did appear, however, that when constructive criticism or assistance was needed it always seemed to be the same members who volunteered their time and help. To these people, on behalf of myself and the committee, we offer our thanks.

During the year we had an informative lecture given by Dr. Gavin Dawson from the Hyperbolic Medical Department of Prince Henry's Hospital on the psychology of diving. I would also like to thank Mr. Ron Addison for the arrangement of the screening of the films on diving in the South Australian Lakes, and to all the members who brought along their own slides which were viewed, I think, with appreciation and interest by all who saw them.

OUTINGS - The outings during the year were attended in much the same way as the monthly meetings. Except for a couple of dives that were cancelled due to adverse conditions, I think on the average the dives held during the year were a success.

After this meeting the next committee will be anxious to hear from members any suggestions for possible diving localities for next year, so please have a list of places where you would like to dive to hand to the committee when it is called for.

SOCIAL - During the year two social functions were held by the club, both of which were a success.

In December the Club's Annual Dinner was held at Hunters Lodge and I think I could say without fear of contradiction that it was the best annual dinner held to date and a very enjoyable time was had by all. The event was highlighted by the presentation of Life Memberships to both Peter Mathews and Frank Coustley.

A Bar-B-Q was held at the residence of Bill Gray. The event was marred by a cold, drizzling night, but returned to the club a profit of over \$50. All credit must go to both Pat and Bill Gray for their hospitality; to Allen and Glenys Cutts for their cullinary contributions; Ron Addison for his friendly persuasion and last but not at all least, to Pat Reynolds for his good cheer.

DELEGATES - Peter Mathews, Bill Gray and Pat Reynolds represented the V.S.A.G. at S.D.F. meetings. I think they represented our club ably in an organisation, of which we were a foundation member, that is now beginning to emerge from an idea that was formulated only a few years ago into a force that will represent all scuba divers in the not too distant future.

NEWSLETTER - Ron Addison again had the arduous task of editing and producing our newsletter "Fathoms". As with last year's "Fathoms" I think he did a magnificent job especially when it is realised that it is practically a sole effort. I hope you will be willing to persevere with the job for next year and that some of the members will come forward with items for publication.

COMMITTEE - I would personally like to thank the members of the committee for all the work and sacrifice they contributed in the running of the Club -

BILL GRAY - as Librarian, S.D.F. delegate and diving instructor.

PAT REYNOLDS - as co-ordinator of diving training, S.D.F. delegate.

L. ADDISON - Social committee

COLIN BALL - Diving training

PETER MATHEWS - Delegate to S.D.F.

FRANK COUSTLEY - Vice president, who unfortunately for us had to go to Queensland to live in January.

PETER ROBERTSON - Vice President.

ALLEN CUTTS - Treasurer, diving instructor, social committee.

JOHN NOONAN - who had the unenviable task of secretary.

PETER ATTWOOD and MAX HENSHALL for their help in running the club.

To all these people I give my gratitude and thanks for their help in making my position as president of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group a pleasure and a position that I was able to have with pride. I wish the new President and Committee all the best for the coming year. I thank you all.

M. DAVENPORT

ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF VICTORIA-REPORT

Although the job of repairing the railway lines of the slipway sounds like an easy job, don't be fooled by anyone. You have to have extremely good night vision, even on the clearest of days. In my opinion the biggest drawback is the thick black mud. As soon as someone moves a flipper the daylight vanishes and night is once again upon you. The only way to overcome this is, I think, to go down wearing shoes or sandals which give some propulsion but do not stir up the black mud. The only other way of clearing this big cloud is by using the oxy cutting torch which we do not know how to use correctly.

In my opinion this job is a far larger job than first anticipated and I think that Max might have a lot of trouble getting divers to give up their leisure diving in clear water to dive at Williamstown. Whilst I don't mind helping occasionally, I certainly don't want to spend the rest of the year working knee deep in mud.

It would be more economical and safe if the Yacht Club were to remove the old tracks and renew them with sturdier and better braced tracks. At the rate we are going, it is certainly going to cost someone some money and I don't think it will be the Yacht Club's money.

- Anon.

FOR SALE

Combination 22 rifle and 20 gauge shotgun over and under barrel type, case, belt and ammunition for both - \$55.00. This is in new condition and it would set you back in excess of \$90.00 new. If interested, contact John Noonan, 98-8650, after hours.

PETER ATTWOOD'S REPORT ON THE SLIPWAY AT WILLIAMSTOWN

It sure is nice to see a new face in the writing division -(Ed.)

Progress is slow - don't argue with that. I don't understand the workings of an oxy-cutter, especially one that won't cut. Do you? When the problem of getting off bolts that are so difficult is overcome, the job should be finished in a few dives. A recent suggestion is one that could perhaps be described as the "C.A.N." - "Cutts-Addison-Noonan" method. A large cold chisel and a very large hammer. This method can be used to snap large bolts out of water and this could be adapted to Sub-Aqua conditions.

Murky conditions are very difficult to work in, but the under water cutter seems to improve these no end because of the up-draught caused by the rising bubbles. This system could be used even where cutting is not required.

It is important to note, and V.S.A.G. members please do so, that the water is definitely getting warmer, so let's see you at more dives.

P. ATTWOOD.

DIRECTORS 1970/71

Elected at Annual General Meeting, 1970.

RETIRING DIRECTORS: P. Mathews, J. Noonan, F. Coustley, Mr. Davenport.

Nominations received:

P. Beecher, R. Addison, W. Jansen, P. Mathews, J. Noonan, G. Ryan.

Elected: R. Addison, W. Jansen, P. Mathews, J. Noonan.

PRESENT DIRECTORS: J. Noonan, P. Mathews, R. Addison, W. Jansen, P. Robertson, A. Cutts, W. Gray, P. Reynolds, P. Attwood, L. Addison, (Mrs.) C. Bull, M. Henshall.

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V.S.A. + V.S.A.G. combined weekend diving and caving at Grinder Point, weekend 24th & 25th October, 1970. Camp at Bear Gully. Road sign on Walkerville South road. Barbecue, etc. Arched Rock. Saturday - 6 Toyotas - plenty of transport.

S.C.U.B.A. Diving Club applied to S.D.F. to join S.D.F.

V.S.A.G. considered - no objection.

23/10/70 Bass Strait Divers Club. DINNER DANCE - SMORGASBORD - SERGIO'S RENDEZVOUS, 18 Upper Esplanade, St. Kilda. Good casual dress - floor show. Single ticket, \$4.00. Tickets from J. Noonan, Secretary.

Underwater Explorers Club - Poppa's Pizza Parlor, Toorak Road, South Yarra, 16/11/70. \$2.00 single.

Every ticket entitles bearer to a scrumptious pizza and free coffee or tea and biscuits. Soft drinks approval. B.Y.O. Licence until 11.30 p.m. Ticket sales strictly C.O.D. Limited number of tickets 200 only. Apply immediately to J. Noonan, Secretary (6 club members going so far).

V.S.A.G. MYSTERY WEEKEND AND BARBEQUE - SATURDAY, 24th OCTOBER

This is to be the social weekend trip to end all weekend trips at only 120 miles drive from Melbourne. During the day you may:-

- a. Visit many untrodden beaches.
- b. Gaze across the sea to Wilsons Prom.
- c. Drive your car along miles of flat, firm beaches.
- d. Be towed miles back again.
- e. Enjoy the bouncing ride in three Toyota Land Cruisers.
- f. Ride in comfort in a Land Rover.
- g. Visit the many good diving spots and marvel at the underwater scenery and fish.
- h. Explore the many limestone and shale caves.
- i. See the most southerly (mainland) colony of bats!
- j. I could go on and on but it's up to you to add to the list!!

Come along and camp at the fabulous Bears Gully (no camping fees) - fresh water creek - good shelter. Just turn off to the right a bit before coming into Walkerville South at Cape Liptrap (all sign posted).

The barbequing of two sheep will start at about 6 p.m. on Saturday on a beach. B.Y.O.G. 50c per person. All welcome.

For further details, contact -

Miss Sue Eager - Phone: 86-9697

Peter Robertson - " 29-2647

S O C I A L

A house warming party is to be held by life member and senior vice president Peter Mathews at 66 Frogmore Crescent, Park Orchards on 31st October, 1970 at 8 p.m. B.Y.O. and records. This is a chance for V.S.A.G. to get together with V.S.A. members and really warm up Peter and Margo's new house.

COMMITTEE MEETING 1/10/70

The committee met on 1st October, 1970 to select the office bearers for the coming year. The line up appears elsewhere. In addition to these positions others filled were S.D.F. delegates F. Mathews and G. Ryan, with two emergencies - No. 1 B. Gray and No. 2. R. Addison.

The diving instructors line-up is R. Reynolds, M. Davenport, G. Ryan, A. Cutts, M. Henshall and P. Beecher. Good divers all these chaps, and we hope, with a bit of luck, that they can use the rotation system so that no-one is overworked.

It was decided by the committee to investigate a change of meeting night as it was felt that Friday clashes with the weekend and if people want to go away for the weekend they either have to miss the meeting or leave home late at night. It was mooted that we change the meeting night to the third Tuesday in the month. If you are not in favour of this plan or if you have any other ideas, come along to the next meeting on 16/10/70 and put your ideas forward.

It was discussed by committee that people coming late for meetings would be fined. This will be held in abeyance for two months to see if there is any improvement on punctuality but it will be under review at all times and the relevant clauses in the Group's rules and by-laws will be made use of if there is any lapse.

FUTURE OUTINGS TO END OF YEAR

OCTOBER	18th	-	BLACKWOOD - Gold Dive - weekend trip
NOVEMBER	1st	-	PHILLIP ISLAND
"	15th	-	KELP FARM - Boat
"	29th	-	BYE
DECEMBER	12th	-	club dinner DINNER - CHATEAU WYUNA

DIVERS VISIT WRECK

Royal Australian Navy divers have been inspecting the wreck of BATAVIA, once the pride of the Dutch East Indies fleet. The ship sank in the Abrolhos Islands 304 years ago and was only discovered again in 1963.

Divers from the shore establishment, EMAS LEEUWIN, were sent at the request of the Western Australian Museum, to survey the wreck which journalists claim has been blasted by plunderers. Batavia carried hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of coin when it foundered and sank in 1629.

TYRE REEF ATTRACTS FISH

Fish, mussels, ascidians and barnacles are already making their home on the reef in Lake Macquarie, near Newcastle in N.S.W. The reef was made with old tyres about eight months ago.

The experiment by the Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company in association with the N.S.W. State Fisheries and the Newcastle Underwater Research Group, has proved successful enough for a second reef to be established in the lake.

Located about 100 yards from the Wangi Pt. camping area, the reef is made up of 650 old car tyres tied into bundles and laid on the bottom in a horseshoe shape.

It was laid with the idea of attracting fish and the most common to have found a home there are tarwine. There are also many bream and good pan-sized leather jacket.

Over the next few months two more similar reefs will be laid in the lake and then the complete project will be studied by the N.S.W. State Fisheries.

If the study shows the scheme has merit, a tentative plan calls for the laying of a giant reef of many thousands of tyres in the lake where it is hoped it would be of great benefit to amateur fishermen and assist the local tourist industry.
