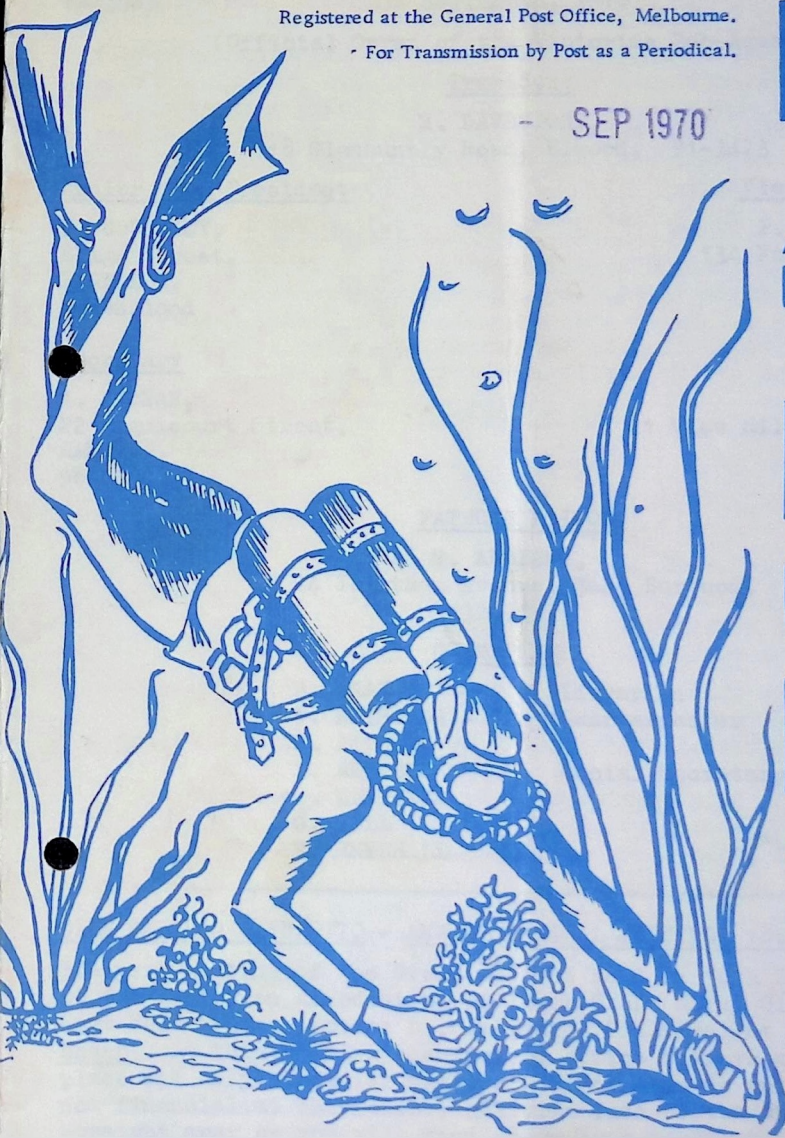


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- SEP 1970



# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

## (Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

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C. BULL		
M. HENSHELL		*Life Member

CLUB MEETING - 18/9/70 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 18th SEPTEMBER

The next meeting of the Group will be held on 18th SEPTEMBER, 1970 at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne, opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral at 8.00 p.m. sharp. At this meeting election of office bearers will take place and only financial members will be able to vote. If you are not financial at the moment, get your fees to the treasurer straight away or you will find yourselves ineligible to vote.

At the direction of S.D.F. the following comments and report are being distributed to all affiliated Clubs for perusal. It is requested that the members of such clubs critically analyse the suggested Safety Code and submit their comments and any questions to the Secretary so that they can be referred back to S.D.F. at its next quarterly meeting.

SCUBA DIVE SAFETY PROCEDURES

The Self Contained Divers Federation of Victoria in May, 1970 appointed the undermentioned Sub-Committee to investigate and make a recommendation to S.D.F. of its suggestions for Diving Safety Procedures as a preliminary to the establishment of a Safety Code to be recommended for use by affiliated Diving Clubs of S.D.F.

SUB - COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliated Club</u>
JOHN DAVIS	Black Rock
CHRIS HARRIS	Ringwood
FRANK PORTER	Bass Strait Divers
JOHN NOONAN	Victorian Sub Aqua Group

The S.D.F. Sub-Committee for the preparation of desirable S.C.U.B.A. Diving Safety Procedures submits its Report and Recommendations herewith.

In preparing this Report the Committee had reference to:-

- (a) The original S.D.F. Safety Code.
- (b) Available existing Safety Codes of other affiliated Diving Clubs.
- (c) Personal knowledge and experience of the personnel of the above Sub-Committee.
- (d) Submissions by interested individual divers.

The Committee met three times. All four members being present on two occasions and three present at the third meeting.

In its deliberations the Committee endeavoured to limit itself to matters of safety on dives alone. Where thoughts were evoked on other essential matters pertaining to diving it deemed it proper to refer specifically to same separately on the attached "Appendix" for further appropriate action by S.D.F. e.g., Basic Standards of Dive Training.

Points of explanation on Safety Code:-

Item 5(1) Whilst desiring to see the introduction of an audible underwater warning or recall device the Committee was unable to come up with a suitable and practical method or system and

suggestions would be appreciated.

Item 6(f) The Committee inserted wearing a lifejacket as a desirable safety feature. However, it had many reservations in putting forward same, e.g. those approved to A.S.A. standard are understood to be limited to the Beaufort and R.F.D. In practice it is known that the Beaufort has draw packs in elasticity of material under full inflation and the automatic filling cylinder has dangerous vagaries. The R.F.D. is expensive. Even an apparently satisfactory all purpose inflatable life vest can raise problems by causing accelerated free ascents. Also dependence on a safety device so prone to failure could be disastrous if failure occurred in emergency to a dependent diver.

#### APPENDIX

#### 1. Medical Forms:-

Recommended that a Standard Medical Form, appropriate to diving requirements be adopted in consultation with appropriate medical practitioners.

#### 2. Compilation and distribution of:-

- (a) List of appropriate and willing Medical Practitioners who will carry out examination of divers.
- (b) List of the locations of Recompression Chambers throughout Australia.
- (c) Establishment or re-establishment of line of communication for expert aid for emergency requirements, i.e. Bends, shark attack, etc.

#### 3. Training:-

S.D.F. as a matter of urgency appoint a Sub-Committee to establish minimum diver training standards for adoption by all affiliated Clubs in their own training or recognition in accepting new members to their ranks. Complementary to this is the need for the issue of documentary evidence of having passed a test or tests to such standards, e.g. Certificate of Competency. Such standards should place emphasis of the dangers of (1) the practicing of the emergency procedure of free ascent and (2) hyperventilation.

#### 4. Diving Accidents:-

All diving accidents whether of a serious or minor nature should be reported through the Clubs and collected by S.D.F., acting as a central register for the recording of same and analysis with the aid of suitable qualified consultants. Information derived to be circulated to all clubs.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT ON DESIRABLE FEATURES IN SAFETY  
CODE

1. MEDICAL

Recommend the introduction of a medical examination of persons applying for membership as divers. A current chest X-Ray to be included. Follow up examinations to be taken every 2 years.

Standard Medical Form to be adopted.

List of Doctors to be prepared.

2. HAND SIGNALS

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. O. K.      | Form a circle with thumb and forefinger. |
| 2. HELP       | Arm raised vertically.                   |
| 3. OUT OF AIR | Forefinger pointing to mouth.            |
| 4. DANGER     | Forefinger moved across throat.          |
| 5. SURFACE    | Forefinger pointed up.                   |
| 6. DIVE       | Forefinger pointed down.                 |

3. TRAINING - MINIMUM STANDARD

Recommend all applicant members pass an accepted minimum training standard and obtain documentary evidence of such pass.

4. SAFETY OFFICER

Each Club appoint a Safety Officer. Such appointment preferably to be permanent as such a person would know the capabilities of his fellow members. The Safety Officer to be responsible for:-

- (a) Organization of Club Safety Procedures.
- (b) Appoint Dive Captains.
- (c) Organize safety equipment for a dive as per check list.

5. PRE-DIVE CHECK LIST

- (a) Divers Flag - White St. Andrews Cross on Red Background.
- (b) Medical Kit: To be checked and replenished after each dive if necessary. To be in charge of someone competent in its use wherever possible.
- (c) Radio Transceiver desirable, boatladder, shot and lifelines and floats, field glasses and legal powerhead for emergency use only.
- (d) Complete spare SCUBA unit
- (e) Decompression and repetitive dive tables - in charge of person or persons competent in their use. All sports dives should be planned on no decompression necessary basis.

- (f) Sign on and Sign off Dive Sheets. To provide for divers name, sex, time of entry into water, time of exit from water, depth of dive and any other details necessary, i.e. decompression stops found necessary.
- (g) Armband to be worn by Dive Captain - White St. Andrews Cross on Red Background.
- (h) Dinghy - (compulsory on boat dive).
- (i) Audible Warning Device below surface.  
Visual warning device - Return to boat. Flag half mast  
OK " full "

6 DIVE CAPTAIN These responsibilities may be shared with Safety Officer on Dive.

- (a) Some responsible person on shore to be informed of destination and expected time of return and actual return.
- (b) Know telephone numbers of and location of emergency services, e.g. Search and Rescue, Coast Guard, Police, Ambulance, decompression chamber, Doctor.
- (c) Check all gear is packed safely in boat with all sharp projections removed (Spearheads). Due care must be given to spears when entering and leaving water.
- (d) Check that all divers carry knives in scabbard.
- (e) Check that at least one member of a buddy team has an operative depth gauge and divers watch.
- (f) Check that divers have operative auto-inflating life vests approved by A.S.A. and wear same.
- (g) Be responsible for correct recording of sign on - sign off sheets.
- (h) Organize divers into "Buddies" or "Teams". Inexperienced divers should not be paired. Dive Captain when handling a large party must observe caution when determining the number to be permitted in the water at any one time having regard to general conditions and emergency backing up support, e.g. motorized small boat.
- (i) Brief divers on depth, currents, bottom times, conditions and hand signals.
- (j) Brief and check out visitors or guest divers ability and experience. It is the responsibility of the visitor or guest to satisfy the Dive Captain of his competency either by an acceptable Certificate or recommendation from a Club member to whom he is known.
- (k) Check safety device on each S.C.U.B.A. Single tanks must have reserve valve or air pressure indicator or audible alarm. Twin unit must have one of the tanks turned off for

decanting purposes.

- (l) The Dive Captain will have at least one stand by diver to remain on ready on the boat in case of emergency and another person to act as lookout.
- (m) Dinghy to be lowered into water ready for use at Dive Captain's discretion.
- (n) Two divers check anchor and report on conditions of water to dive captain before commencement of dive.

## 7. GENERAL

- (a) Buddies check out each others equipment. Air supply turned full on and adequate, reserve lever in "up" position, mask, snorkel, weight belt and knife to be worn and capable of quick release.
- (b) Spearguns must not be loaded within 20 feet of dive boat.
- (c) Shot line to be dropped from boat for use on descent, and trail lines dropped from stern (when warranted by tidal conditions).
- (d) Divers must check at regular brief intervals to ensure that close contact is kept with buddy at all times. Diver must surface immediately contact is lost and the dive resumed only when contact is restored.
- (e) It is each diver's responsibility to see that he has been signed on as soon as he returns to the boat.
- (f) It is each diver's responsibility to see that he is fully conversant with all standard hand signals.

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SMORGASBORD      DINNER      DANCE

BASS STRAIT DIVES

Fellow members of S.D.F. are now holding a fund-raising function and would like the support of members of federated clubs to attend.

This will be held on 23.10.70 at Sergio's, Upper Esplanade, St. Kilda - next door to St. Moritz. \$4.00 per single for hot and cold smorgasbord - drinks at a reasonable extra charge. Tickets should be available at the next club meeting and it is desired that our club support Bass Strait to the hilt.

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S.D.F. MEETING, 6/8/70 AT FEDERAL HOTEL

1. The Safety Committee presented its report and its recommended safety rules for consideration by member clubs. Out of this exercise came the realisation that other related aspects also needed closer attention, one of these being medical requirements. This will now also be investigated.
2. Application was received from Police Search & Rescue Squad for representation at S.D.F. Meetings.
3. Request from Port Phillip Bay Conservation Council for support in their fight against the Bay pipeline.
4. SCUBA Divers Association of Australia asking for volunteers to go to Barrier Reef to remove Crown of Thorns Starfish. Whether or not anyone goes depends on whether an offer of possible free transport comes good. The S.D.A.A. also issued a questionnaire for clubs to fill in regarding any projects they may be doing; it may be that the S.D.A.A. will be able to finance suitable projects.
5. All clubs were requested to write to the Chief Secretary (Mr. Rylah) regarding alteration to Draft Regulations in the Fisheries Act. This is the proposed legislation concerning the spearing of crayfish. Apparently the matter is being reconsidered, or at least held up, in view of the objections already received.

P. MATTHEWS

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PAST OUTINGS

E DON 2/8/70

Five divers arrived at the meeting place and then proceeded to a spot that had been decided on beforehand. It has been such a long time since the club has dived at this place that it was not possible to find the locale of the underwater house. Road changes and new buildings have gone up in all directions and this helped to upset the point of entry. Eventually they dived and to their great surprise found that the deeper they went the clearer the water became. From 2' visibility at ten feet down to about 10' visibility at forty feet.

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TIDES FOR WEEKENDS IN SEPTEMBER, 1970

Date	HIGH WATER AT HEADS		LOW WATER AT HEADS	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
5	2.42	2.48	8.36	8.56
6	3.19	3.16	9.10	9.25
12	7.58	7.05	12.24	12.44
13	9.02	8.33	1.23	1.54
19	2.31	2.36	8.23	9.35
20	3.19	3.16	9.10	9.21
26	8.02	7.31	12.44	1.16
27	9.00	8.48	1.37	2.22

At other places High or Low Water can be ascertained approximately by subtracting from or adding to the time of high or low water at Port Phillip Heads as follows:-

SUBTRACT FOR:

APOLLO BAY	-	38 min.
LORNE	-	35 min.
CAFE SCHANCK	-	1 hr. 33 min.
FLINDERS JETTY	-	1 min.
LAKES ENTRANCE	-	3 hr. 25 min.
MARLO	-	3 hr. 22 min.
MALLACOOTA INLET	-	3 hr. 13 min.

ADD FOR:

BARWON HEADS	--	16 min.
POINT NEPEAN JETTY	-	9 min.
QUEENSCLIFF JETTY	--	3 min.
SWAN ISLAND DOCK	--	1 hr. 59 min.
PORTSEA JETTY	-	29 min.
SORRENTO JETTY	-	2 hr. 11 min.
DROMANA JETTY	-	2 hr. 33 min.
MORNINGTON JETTY (Schnapper Point)	-	2 hr. 42 min.
FRANKSTON JETTY	-	3 hr. 7 min.
BLACK ROCK BREAKWATER	-	3 hr. 2 min.
ST. LEONARDS JETTY	-	2 hr. 44 min.
INDENTED HEAD	-	2 hr. 47 min.
FORTARLINGTON JETTY	-	2 hr. 50 min.
GEE LONG WHARVES	-	3 hr. 32 min.
COWES JETTY	-	28 min.
STONY POINT JETTY	-	39 min.
HASTINGS JETTY	-	1 hr. 6 min.
TOORADIN	-	1 hr. 23 min.

ADD FOR:

INVERLOCH	-	20 min.
CORNER INLET ENTRANCE	-	25 min.
WELSIPOOL JETTY	-	1 hr. 28 min.
TOORA JETTY	-	1 hr. 5 min.
FORT ALBERT WHARF	-	1 hr

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FAST MEETING 21.8.70

Eighteen members turned up for this meeting and among the items discussed were the club project. Paul Beecher gave a good account of what has to be done following his and Peter Attwood's exploratory dive on 15.8.70. It was decided at this meeting to hold an official club dive on the project on 30.8.70. A report on this dive will appear in the October issue of "Fathoms".

Amongst the correspondence out was a letter to the officials of S.D.A. pointing out to them that a publication they were thinking of bringing out under the name of "Fathom" was an unfortunate choice of name as the V.S.A.G. had been using the name "Fathoms" for their publication for the past ten years. As it goes interstate and overseas the name now is synonymous with V.S.A.G.

Also a letter was sent to the Sandringham Council pointing out to them the unsafe condition of "Cerberus" and enclosing a report that had been drawn up after a survey had been carried out by member clubs of S.D.F.

The treasurer gave a report on the finances of the Group and reminded members that deposits were due on dinner tickets. Bookings are now open to anyone and everyone who desires to come on a first-come-first-served basis.

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LOST and FOUND

LOST - 125' of nylon rope. Last seen on dive to wreck of 'Loch Ard'. Owned by A. Cutts.

SMORGASBORD REPORT

On arriving at the Whitehorse Hotel, Nunawading about 6.55 pm we entered the Regency Room to find about 20 people had already arrived - they were from various clubs.

People slowly arrived in two's and three's, by about 7.30 pm some 75 people had arrived and were walking from table to table having conversations with old and new friends. At 8 p.m. about 120 were inside the Regency Room listening to the rhythm of the three-man band.

Shortly after 8 o'clock food seemed to be the general idea, the queue to the food at one stage was about 50 feet long and Glenys and I were right at the far end (unusual).

The food consisted of plates of chicken, ham, pork, roast lamb, strasbourg, corned beef, potato salad, cheese, beetroot, lettuce and just about every other vegetable under the sun.

Whilst the food was being eaten, the band were playing old and new tunes and the singing was the best I have heard from a modern band. The band was called the "Kopyrite".

The drink waitresses were well trained in their jobs and the liquid never stopped flowing. Two pictures were shown, the first called "McLures Lures", which was a comedy about two fishermen - (it was the longest advertisement I have ever seen), the second was called "Don't Rubbish Australia" - self explanatory.

The whole evening was a great success and I certainly hope the Ringwood Club are financially better off.

The only criticism I have is the usual good attendance of the V.S.A.G. with only ONE member and his wife attending. I have seen dives in the middle of winter, on stormy days, and even night dives, better attended by the V.S.A.G. than the social evening put on by the Ringwood Club. We ask other clubs to come to our socials, they turn up, but when they ask the members of the V.S.A.G. to go to a social they seem very reluctant to go. Tickets are now being sold for our own club's Annual Dinner Dance, so don't let the club down.

BOOK NOW. See LORRAINE ADDISON or ALAN CUTTS.

ALAN CUTTS

PORTSEA DIVE - 16th AUGUST, 1970

On Sunday morning at 8 o'clock Melbourne was only slightly overcast but by the time we reached Mordialloc, it was raining quite heavily. We decided to go on as I had made arrangements to meet Ron down there. The rain poured down for the next 40 miles, all the way to Portsea.

We arrived at 10 o'clock and sat in the car, waiting for other members to arrive. At 11 o'clock and still no sign of other members, we went to Fred Tidman's house in Rye to see if anyone had called in.

We returned to Portsea to find Pat and Annette, and Gordon and Diane Ryan sitting in Pat's car. We stood around admiring the weather for some time. Paul Beecher and Peter Attwood turned up at 12.15 p.m.

The beach was cleared of most of its driftwood for the barbeque and whilst the food was being eaten the weather worsened, with the onset of heavy rain and hail - by this time the water was dirty and rough. After being smoked out by the barbeque fire the dive was finally abandoned.

The attendance for the day was good considering the rotten weather conditions.

ALAN CUTTS.

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FUTURE DIVESSEPTEMBER 6th -- DIAMOND BAY

Max Davenport is dive captain. Tentative meeting place is the corner of Old Melbourne Road and Canterbury Jetty Road at 10.30 am. Good crabs can be caught at the spot picked to dive at. Ring Max the night before at 91-3473 - Saturday night.

SEPTEMBER 20th - GEELONG PIER

Pat Reynolds is the dive captain. Meet at Geelong pier at 11.00 a.m. Could be that some bits and pieces could be picked up from the "Lightning". Ring Pat before 8.30 a.m. on the Sunday morning.

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FUTURE OUTINGS TO END OF YEAR.

OCTOBER	4th	-	CHANNEL FORT - Boat
"	18th	-	BLACKWOOD - Gold Dive - weekend trip
NOVEMBER	1st	-	PHILLIP ISLAND
"	15th	-	KELP FARM - Boat
"	29th	-	RYE
DECEMBER	12th	-	DINNER - CHATEAU WYUNA

PHOTO COMPETITION

A photo contest will be run by the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group, open to all comers from all clubs. The rules are few and we would like to see lots of entries.

RULES -

- A. Open to individuals from among all clubs and club members - beginners and advanced.
- B. Content - prints for display (Colour or black and white) and slides for projection.
- C. Subject - underwater photography or pictures associated with diving activities.
- D. Prints and slides will be evaluated not only on technical quality but also general interest of subject matter and situation.
- E. Aims - 1. To promote interest in diving and its associated application, photography.  
2. To bring together individual efforts, comparing results and stimulating further activity.
- F. 1. Two categories - underwater and out of the water.  
2. Three sections in each category - black and white, colour prints and colour slides.
- G. Prizes will be offered to all winners.
- H. Entry fee will be 20c per person. Each person may put in as many prints as he likes for the 20c. Prints should have the owner's name and address on the back and all prints will be returned.
- I. Prints to be sent to Bill Jansen, 5 Torquay Avenue, Chadstone by 6th November, 1970 and no entries will be considered after that date.
- J. Prizes will be awarded on 20th November, 1970 at V.A.Y.C. Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne, at 8.00 p.m. sharp.

Further information may be had by contacting B. Jansen at 277-4388

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE : If a tick appears in this box  it means you are unfinancial and this will be the last issue of "Fathoms" you will receive until you pay your fees.