

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne.
For Transmission by Post as a Periodical.

A. CUTTS.
August 71

FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

(Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

PRESIDENT

G. RYAN
1 Stewart Road, North Clayton, * 3168
544-0450

Senior Vice President —

*P. MATHEWS,
66 Frogmore Crescent
PARK ORCHARDS.
70-0487

— Vice President

B. JANSEN,
5 Torquay Avenue,
CHADSTONE
277-4388

Secretary —

J. NOONAN,
22 Lagnicourt Street,
HAMPTON.
98-8650

* Treasurer

A. CUTTS,
4 Powell Street,
RESERVOIR
478-5092

FATHOMS EDITOR

BILL JANSEN
5 Torquay Avenue, Chadstone, 3148
277-4388

COMMITTEE

* BILL GRAY — Librarian
* PAT REYNOLDS — Quartermaster
— FRANK MAGUIRE
— DR. ZOLTAN OKALYI
— MARGARET PHILLIPS
* BRIAN ROMERO

* Life Member

CLUB MEETING - 17/7/71

The next meeting of the Group will be held on 17th AUGUST, 1971, 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.

	<u>C O N T E N T S</u>	<u>Page</u>
EDITORIAL		4
BOAT SHOW REPORT		5
DIVE REPORT, PORTSEA		5-6
MEDICAL REPORTS		6
NEWS ITEMS		7
PIPELINES ARE BIG BUSINESS		7-8

E D I T O R I A L -

My name is Bill Jansen, and I am now assuming the position of 'Fathoms' editor. I feel I am coming into this position at an important time for the V.S.A.G. It is a time of changes, both in club leadership and in future prospects. Many of the former mainstays of the club now find they no longer have the time to devote to club activities. This is cause for regret, as it is difficult to replace those who have put long hours into the often thankless job of club administration.

In another way, though, it is a good thing. Other club members will take over their duties and will become actively involved in club affairs. The committee is not a "private club". It consists of Sub-Aqua members willing to contribute a great deal of their time for the good of the group. The club exists for the enjoyment of all it's members and can only continue to function through the co-operation of all it's members. It doesn't "owe you" a good dive; this can only be achieved through your own participation.

The Victorian Sub-Aqua Group needs many new members. It needs the enthusiasm and participation of all it's members. The more we participate in club activities the more enjoyment we will derive and make possible for others. This will make outings attractive and bring in more members.

Our president, Gordon Ryan, has acted to improve the organization of outings, of club administration and club finances. Let's get behind him and make this a diving group to be proud of....V.S.A.G., the best club in Victoria!

BOAT SHOW REPORT

This year's annual boat show held particular interest for members of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group. This year we decided to participate in the show with a stand advertising diving as a sport and the V.S.A.G. as the best means of joining in it. In the opinion of most members we were very successful in achieving that aim. The appearance of our stand was satisfying, if not lavish, and attracted a great deal of interest from boat show visitors. Many names were taken of people interested in knowing more about us and no doubt many more read the informative pamphlet with great interest. It seems certain that we will have enquiries for several months as a result of our effort.

The stand consisted of a partition marking off our area, a typical divers' boat, various items of SCUBA diving gear, pictures showing the progress of diving through the ages, a projector screening diving slides and a showcase decorated with artifacts and antique bottles. The last two generated a great deal of interest.

"Always Available" Alan took charge of the organization and a considerable number of members contributed time, effort and materials to making it a reality. Their efforts should serve as an inspiration to those who have thus far not participated in projects of this kind. We also owe a debt of thanks to the Wallace Mitchell organization for their loan of diving equipment and posters to decorate the stand.

The club's oash outlay was relatively modest and more than justified the favorable response received. It is hoped that we will repeat the success next year with an even bigger and better display.

DIVE REPORT - PORTSEA

Sunday morning eight-thirty, sound of Klaxon horn coming up the ve. Bob and Gary had arrived. We packed the gear into the boot the Cortine then on to pick Les up at his house. Then we were on way - first stop Frankston post office where we met approx. nine s and families.

We then proceeded once more towards Rye back beach, upon

arriving there hastily made our way to the water's edge to check conditions. There was no wind, but the sea was fairly rough. After a brief discussion we headed back to the cars, then into the wet suits and other gear. On our return to the beach we found conditions had worsened and the tide was nearly full in. We climbed down the rocks to the water but by this time it was running in all directions. A few game divers entered it brandishing spearguns. After floating around for some ten minutes looking for fish and crays, they returned to shore. We then decided to call it a day at Rye, then on to old faithful, Portsea Pier.

Arriving there all you could see was divers and more divers, it looked like a divers' convention. Jan Watson and her crew, Sea Urchins, Black Rock with compressor, plus a few strays.

It was 12.30 when we hit the water, being careful not to jump on the other rubber clad bodies. The water was very clear and the sea flat. Not many bottles left here now. I ran into Les walking pottering around, we teamed up buddy system and surfaced over a half hour later with about four old bottles and the apprenticed bottle collector. He had two oldies.

Back to the car, changed, bit of a chin-way, then back home. Emptied the car, washed gear and waved goodbye to Bob and Gary with that a wful braying horn. Another day's diving ends.

P. REYNOLDS

MEDICAL REPORTS

Club members are again reminded that our rules require a medical clearance every 2 years. Since the announcement in our June issue, no clearances have been submitted. In order to live up to our standards, a deadline has been set for the September meeting. By that date any members not holding current medical certificates will not be permitted to participate in club dives.

N E W S I T E M SANNUAL ELECTIONS -

The annual election of group directors will take place during the coming September meeting. One-third of the members of the committee will stand down and may be re-nominated or decline in favor of other candidates. Nominations will be received at the August meeting and members are advised to consider possible candidates for positions. A nomination form is included at the back of this issue.

MEMBER GOING ABROAD -

We hear that V.S.A.G. member, Brian Romero and family will be taking a trip home to England in the near future. We have enjoyed his company in the club and wish him all the best on the road ahead.

FUTURE OUTINGS -

Plans are now being made for a weekend trip to Mt. Gambier. The date is not yet finalized but details will be worked out at the August meeting. If you have been looking forward to a Mt. Gambier trip, be sure to attend this meeting, as the date may be fixed for the following weekend.

PIPELINES ARE BIG BUSINESS -

A pamphlet has come to our attention reciting the advantages to the community of a gas pipeline across Port Phillip Bay. As anything affecting the condition of Victorian waters should concern us I am commenting on it here.

In well chosen words the pamphlet described the benefits derived and the effort that will be made, at great cost, to install an artificial reef of old tyres and concrete pipes along the route of the pipeline. I have also been informed that the complete

Pipelines are Big Business (Cont'd.)

dredging and restoration of Mordialloc creek has been offered as an inducement to permit the pipeline.

There is strong opposition to this project from conservationists. They maintain that a serious threat of pollution exists from possible breaks in the pipe.

Without attempting to favor either side, this project should be examined critically before being allowed to proceed. What precautions would be taken against breakage? What damage could in fact be caused by breakage? Are the gases to be transported indeed non-toxic as stated? Would any other toxic substances be carried at a later date? If oil is carried, the effects of spillage are already well known to the community.

It is true that large areas of the bay are like a desert and could profit by the placement of artificial reefs. This is partly due to the operations of scallop boats (another commercial interest) dragging the sea bed without concern or control. The oil companies stand to save a great deal by the short cut the pipeline would afford. They must not be allowed to gloss over any possible hazards.

Conservationists on the other hand often become too carried away with their causes. If there is no harm caused, by all means let the project proceed. If some benefits can be derived by the community, then they should be taken full advantage of. However, if there is any danger to the environment, the time to call a halt is now.
