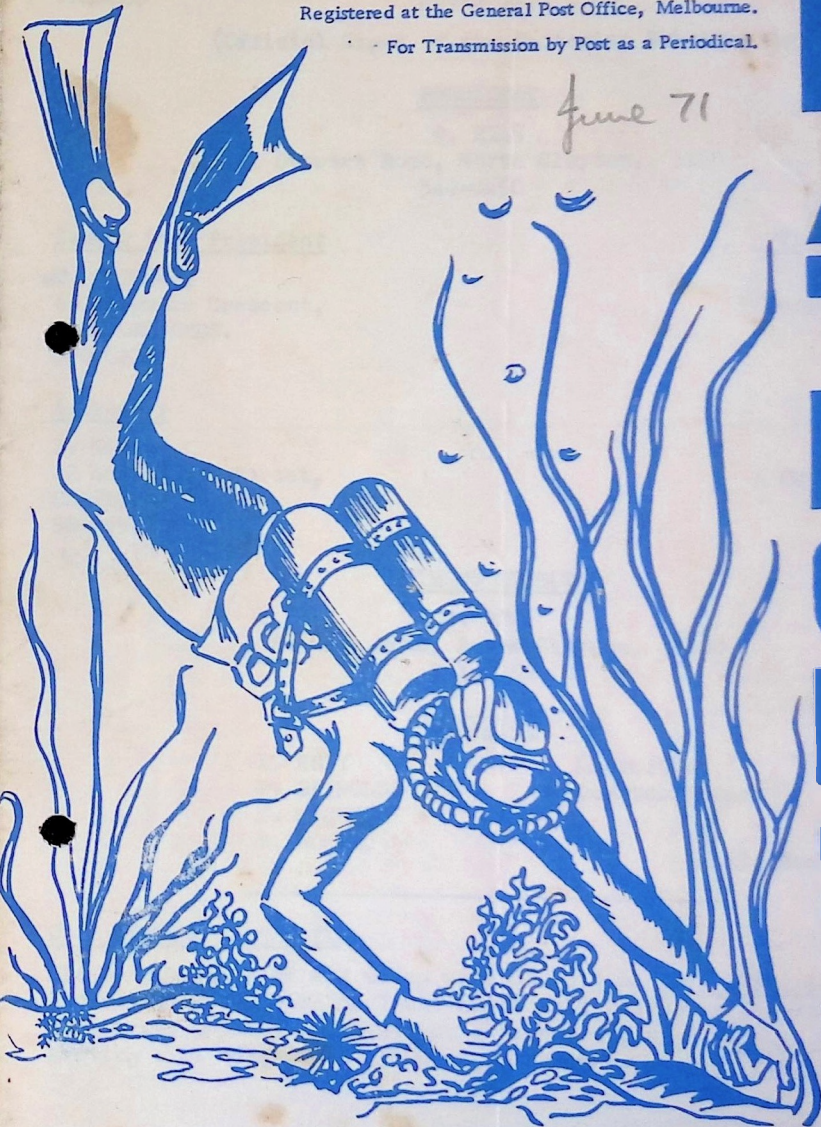


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*June 71*

# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

(Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

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B. GRAY	-	Librarian
P. REYNOLDS	-	Quartermaster
E. MAGUIRE		
B. ROMERO		

\* Life Member

CLUB MEETING - 15/6/71

The next meeting of the Group will be held on 15th JUNE, 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.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT -

The one sentence for the rest of the diving year should follow our Club motto - "SAFETY IN DIVING", - all our club safety equipment is being overhauled you might say, this includes First Aid Kit, shot line ladder, decompression tables, loudhailer, etc. The cost of reconditioning equipment will be offset by the small profit gained from our not-so-hot barbeque. I think that any money left over could go to purchasing new library books.

Another subject I would like to bring up will be that every dive from now shall have a DIVE CAPTAIN, or it will not be termed an official club dive. The duty of the Dive Captain shall be to coordinate the whole dive, this includes the fact that every diver participating, will contact the Dive Captain by phone up until a certain mentioned hour to be advertised with each particular dive in "Fathoms". He will be the one who states whether the dive will go ahead or be terminated or even changed to another venue. Every person electing to be a Dive Captain or being elected by the Dive Committee shall know what he is supposed to do by doing one small thing - reading the Club Handbook. A few club dives are listed with dive captains and phone numbers further in "Fathoms", but only a few, so could members talk amongst themselves by the time the next meeting arrives and possibly come up with some more venues so that I can compile a dive calendar for the remainder of the year.

GORDON RYAN

DIVE CALENDAR '71JUNE 12-14 - EDEN BOAT TRIP (Changed from Mt. Gambier)Dive Captain - GORDON RYAN, 544-0450

Contact me up until 5 p.m. on FRIDAY, 11th. otherwise see you at Council-run camping ground EDEN. The dive has been changed because of the amount of other divers doing.

JUNE 20th - FLINDERSDive Captain - FRANK MAGUIRE, 90-3030

Contact Frank AM through the week, until 7.30-8.00 a.m. on the 20th. This dive was a boat dive but the boat owners are "sharking", so we plan a short dive at the blow hole area. Meeting time 10 a.m. at Flinders pier and a B-B-Q after; B.Y.O.G.M.F.S.

JULY 4th - "PINNACLES" - PHILLIP ISLANDDive Captain - PAT REYNOLDS, 232-5358

Contact Pat up until 8 a.m. on the 4th, otherwise meet at San Remo Pier, 10 a.m.

DATES OF MEMBERS' LAST "MEDICAL"

These medicals are for your own safety, so now that we have nearly all the old and new files up to date, we can see a few people have just let theirs slip you might say. Medicals are current for two years from advertised date.

M. Davenport	2.10.69	P. Robertson	16.11.65
B. Heather	14.9.66	P. Reynolds	14.11.62
F. Coustley	4.10.61	B. Jansen	15.2.68
J. Noonan	23.8.62	P. Mathews	12.3.59
A. Cutts	1.3.68	M. Mathews	6.5.63
R. Addison	- - 61	G. Ryan	25.8.65
L. Addison	- - 62	B. Brett	- - 64
B. Gray	22.2.65	T. Armstrong	29.5.65

N. Knight	17.10.66	F. MAGUIRE	10.1.71
M. Morton	26.4.67	Z. OKALYI	27.5.70
P. Attwood	15.10.69	P. LUSTIG	- - -
P. Beecher	- - -	L. Morris	11.4.70
D. McBean	- - -	B. Romero	- - -
M. Phillips	28.2.70		

By this list there are not many fit divers, so up-date yourselves for your own sake.

B. JANSEN.

S.D.F. MEETING, 6.5.71

Twenty people in attendance.

1. Mako Diving Group was accepted for membership.

2. CERBERUS -

Apparently the navy will try and lift the "Cerberus" from Black Rock by using pontoons either side and steel beams across or through the hull, then lift it and take it to a dry dock for restoration.

3. MINIMUM AGE TO LEARN TO DIVE THROUGH S.D.F. CLUBS -

Motion: 16 was minimum accepted age.

4. VOTING MAJORITY -

Motion: That a 75% majority would rule with one vote per club.

5. CORRESPONDENCE -

"ODON" - offshore surveys advertised a magnetometer for only \$2800 odd dollars.

ALFRED NOTT - Optometrists, re prescription lenses for diving, easily adapted to a "MARES VIDO" mask \$7.50, lens \$20.22

MAKO APPLICATIONS - Chief Secretary - an acknowledgement letter then a reply letter saying that they are falling into line with other States on legislation for craying. They say divers are causing a considerable loss in numbers of crays and fish inshore.

5. Correspondence (Cont'd.)  
PORT PHILLIP CONSERVATION COUNCIL - a request for details on proposed reef off Ricketts Point and accepting S.D.F. as consultants.  
J. NOONAN - resignation as Secretary due to pressure of work.
6. CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH REPORT -  
The government reports on this matter state that apparently the starfish are not in proportion to worry about.
7. COPYING MACHINE -  
The use of one was offered and immediately accepted.
8. POPPA'S PIZZA -  
Cost of hiring approx. \$300, profit hopefully should be in the vicinity of \$500.  
There will be a Police Search & Rescue display, ESSO-BHP will try to get some technical equipment for show, wreck souvenirs, film and dancing.
9. SUBSCRIPTIONS -  
Motion: That each club contribute \$10 for the year.
10. SAFETY REPORT -  
Held over to next meeting as John Noonan had it and didn't turn up.
11. CONTACT TABLETS -  
Dangerous whilst diving - full report next meeting.

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DIVE REPORT - QUEENSCLIFF

9.5.71

The object of this dive was to meet at Queenscliff pier at 9.30, then travel by boat to Point Lonsdale to locate and investigate a wreck laying just behind the breaker line. Due to lack of co-ordination, the object was not achieved. Two divers arrived at the meeting place to find that they were the only ones to be at the right place at the right time.

Eight other divers arrived at Sorrento with two boats to meet Bill and Marg who were patiently waiting for them.

The boats were launched then we headed straight across to Queenscliff

to arrive there about two hours late and to find the other two had gone on by themselves, after searching the coastline we found them already in the water at Point Lonsdale. We then tried to anchor over the wreck of the "Holyoak" but rising seas made this quite dangerous. We then went on to "Popes Eye Rock" with rising seas and conditions quite unfavourable for diving, we then departed for home.

This dive had excellent prospects but due to misunderstanding and mis-timing, we all missed out on what could have been a very exciting dive.

FRANK MAGUIRE

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### DIVING FLAGS

Flag signals are used to give warning that diving is in progress. Their use is twofold - (1) to give an indication so that vessels may keep clear of the divers; (ii) to inform shipping that there may be ropes or other obstructions in the vicinity, on or below the water, which may foul their propellers or rudders.

There are three types of vessels concerned:

- (i) Naval vessels
- (ii) Ocean-going Merchant vessels
- (iii) Coastal and pleasure craft.

Naval and ocean-going Merchant vessels carry the International Code of Signals and can thus recognise and understand flag signals. The two-letter signal, H.D. in the International Code has the meaning: "I am engaged in submarine survey...You should keep clear of me." This signal should be used by vessels able to hoist and display these flags properly whenever divers are down.

In addition to the flags of the International Code, ships of the Nato Navies use additional numeral flags having special meaning. Flag numeral (4), a red flag with a white St. Andrew's Cross, flown alone, means: "Divers or friendly underwater demolition personnel down." The Admiralty has given permission for this flag to be used by non-naval organisations, and the British Sub-Aqua Group has decided to use it to indicate that diving is in progress. It has the advantage of being a single flag hoise and easily recognisable. Small coastal vessels and pleasure craft do not normally carry the International or Nato Codes and will probably not understand the meaning of any specialised

flag signals. Branches of the club are, however, advised to use the Nato Numeral 4 Flag and to inform fishermen, yachting clubs and other small craft users in their diving localities that the Branch will display this signal when diving.

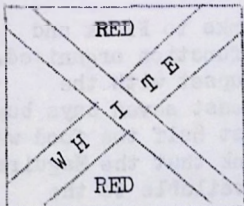
Flags should be displayed clearly on a mast, oar, or boathook. They should be hoisted when diving commences and kept flying throughout the whole time of diving. It is useless to run them up at the last moment as ships, particularly large ships, require considerable time and sea room to alter course and speed.

Masters of large vessels or strangers to a neighbourhood must keep to recognised channels if they are not to hazard their ship and crews, and they are not always able to alter course to give wide clearance. Flags must be of the correct pattern and colour and it is best to buy them from recognised yacht chandlers and not to make them, possibly incorrectly, at home. An incorrect flag gives no protection whatsoever.

Reliance should not be placed on flags alone, particularly where small pleasure and coastal craft are concerned. Therefore, a good lookout who is prepared to give warning by other signals should be posted. In certain waters, notably in America, a red flag with a white diagonal is flown as a diving flag. Its use in British waters is unlawful for this purpose. It is as well, however to know that it may be used by some clubs overseas. A plain red flag has sometimes been used as a general danger flag and to indicate diving, this is not an International Code signal and is no clear indication to anyone that diving is in progress.

D I V I N G F L A G S

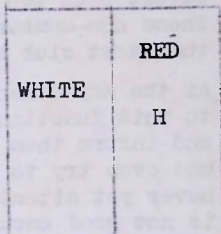
PAT REYNOLDS



NATO FLAG 4  
BS-AC  
DIVERS FLAG



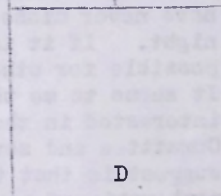
AMERICAN  
DIVERS  
FLAG



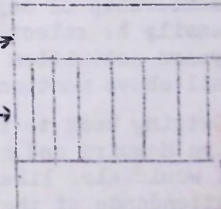
WHITE

RED

H



D



YELLOW →

BLUE →

INTERNATIONAL  
CODE  $\frac{H}{D}$



BAR-B-Q - 22/5/71

Several people who were going to run the social for the V.S.A.G. arrived at Frank Maguire's house at about 6.30 pm. The barbeques were lighted, food prepared inside the house by Lyn Maguire and several other wives. Some trouble was experienced when trying to get the Pluto working but this was eventually ironed out. Most of the lighting was set up by Frank and his electrician mate Bob. The guests started arriving about 7.50pm. By about 8.30pm some 40 people had paid to eat, drink and be merry; 25 of these (or more) were Frank's personal friends.

Everything seemed to run very smoothly and much fun was had by most. The only disappointed people that I could see were the Committee members who turned up to help. There were seven committee members and their wives, plus two interested non-members with their wives and families. These non-members certainly seem to be more interested in club functions than most club members.

At the May General Meeting well over 30 people said they would come to this function. Some had the courtesy to ring one of the organisers and inform them that they would not be able to attend, but others will not even try to raise money for the club. Some of these people have never yet attended a club dinner dance, barbeque or picture night. This is not good enough. Some people that I have known for the past 4 years have never missed a club meeting, barbeque, dinner dance, or picture night. If it is possible for these people to do this, surely it is possible for others to attend one or two of the club's functions per year. It seems to me that there are only a dozen or so people who are really interested in the welfare of the V.S.A.G. and these seem to be the Committee and several other interested people. The only thing I can really suggest is that the Directors draw up a new constitution with a closed membership of say, 25 people, excluding Life Members. These people could easily be selected from club members just by looking over the last few years activities and attendances. This would ensure good attendances at all above mentioned activities.

Getting back to the barbeque, I would like to say thanks to Frank and Lyn Maguire and all the people who helped to get the function organised. I would also like to make it known that Lyn was most upset with the attendance of the V.S.A.G. because she had spent at least seven days buying food and groceries, arranging tables, etc. and at least half the food was uneaten because of the lack of attendance. I also think that the Maguires will be very reluctant to make their house and time available to the V.S.A.G. for some time.

VERY DISAPPOINTED AGAIN.

A. CUTTS.