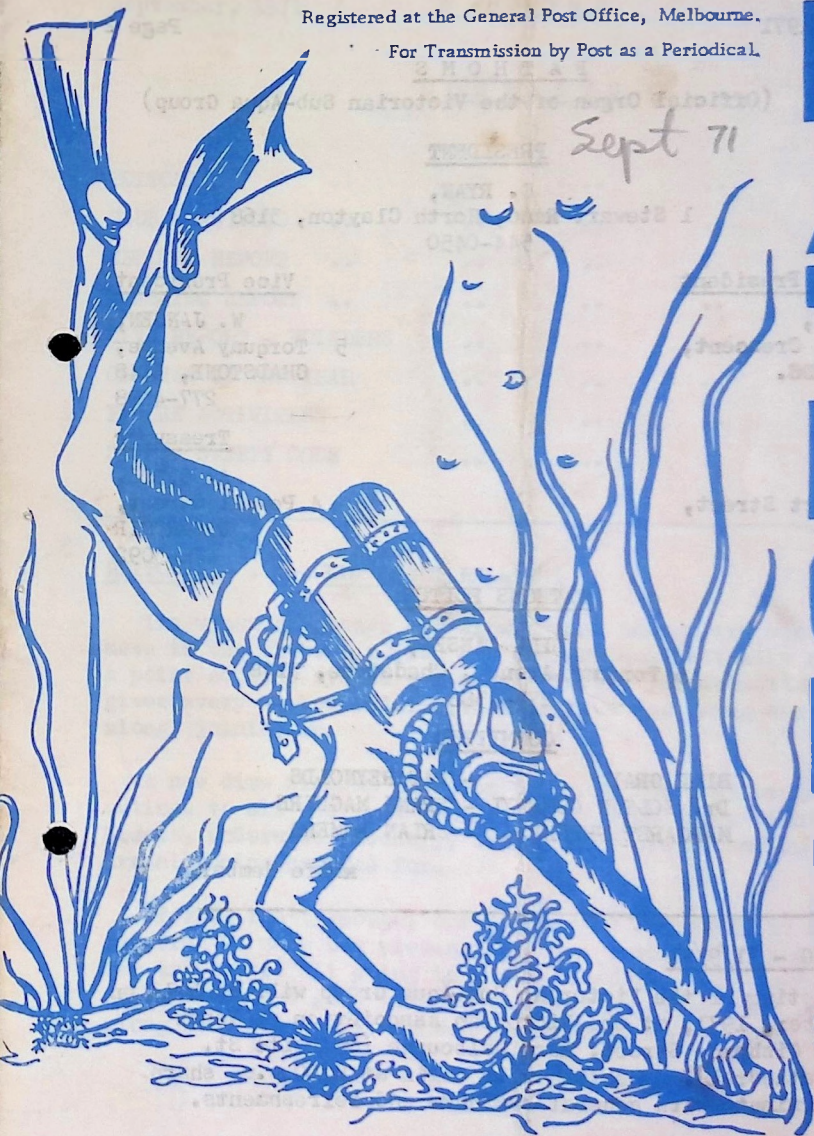


Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne.  
For Transmission by Post as a Periodical.

Sept 71

# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

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MARGARET PHILLIPS - BRIAN ROMERO

\*Life Member

CLUB MEETING - 21/9/71

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on 21st September, 1971, at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne (Opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral). Meeting will begin at 8.00 p.m. sharp and will terminate with general business and refreshments.

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EDITORIAL .... LET'S GET ROLLING!

The winds of change are blowing and things are starting to move in the club. A plan has been enthusiastically adopted for a point scoring system for club activity participation. This gives every member a definite incentive for being there, coming along, joining in.

A new dive program has been drawn up for well organized outings to all the most interesting diving sites within range. Wrecks, underwater scenery, crays, pier crawls and deep water are all being catered for.

If this isn't enough, our new social secretary is really starting to make her presence felt. Barbecues, theatre nights, car trials are all going into the schedule. If you've been hoping for some good times with the club, then gear up and go along with it. This season promises to be the best ever.

903030

---ooOoo---

8.30



CLUB ELECTIONS:

The annual election of club officers will be held at the next meeting, September 21st. One-third of the committee are standing down and the positions will be filled at this election.

Members MUST be financial to stand for positions or vote. Most members' subscriptions are still unpaid, so be sure to have your \$12.00 along at the September meeting. The voting cannot be representative of the club members' opinions if few members are eligible to vote.

Now is the time to think about who should be on the committee. Every financial member is entitled to nominate anyone they feel should be included. If you have someone in mind, cut the nomination out of last month's newsletter and have it with you at the meeting, ALONG WITH YOUR \$12.

MEDICAL REPORT:

It's time to get up to date. For the past few months we have been reminding members that a medical fitness report is required from each member every two years. Some members have not had examinations for at least ten years. As previously stated, the deadline is now. After the September meeting anyone who has not handed in an up to date medical certificate WILL NOT be allowed to participate in club dives. Don't be offended if you turn up for a dive and are not permitted to join in. Diving is not a sport to be treated casually and no one would want to experience unexpected difficulties while at depth. Our motto is "Safety in Diving" and we'd rather have no divers than potentially unsafe divers.

If you don't already have the club medical forms, they are available from the medical officer, Bill Jansen, or from club officers. They will also be available at the September meeting. If you don't have your completed medical with you at the meeting, be sure to bring it along with you on your next dive.

TRAINING REPORT:

The burden of carrying out our training sessions has been falling on too few for too long. It has become increasingly difficult to maintain an active program with regular sessions. Because of this it has been decided that the present training program be discontinued. No further trainees will be recruited until a complete re-organization comes into effect.

The most important improvement will be to plan out the procedure for each training session, in writing, so that any qualified club member can supervise a training session by simply following the procedure laid down. Rules will also be established for the overall duration of a course, management of sea dives and a final examination to conform with the standards of the underwater instructors' association.

Volunteers were sought at the August meeting and the following persons have indicated their willingness to form the new course:

Gordon Ryan	Don McBean	Alan Cutts	Peter Matthews
Les Walkling	Frank Maguire	Pat Reynolds	Bill Gray
Margaret Phillips	Bob Scott		

There are several names from the old training group and also quite a few new ones, so with this much extra help we should see some progress made. The group will get together on the training rules first and then conduct future courses.

DIVE REPORT - SEA TEST AT FLINDERS, 22-8-71.

On arriving at Flinders pier, where I met Pat, Les and Peter, we proceeded to organize a sea test for our six trainees. They were patiently waiting for the moment that would prove they were competent divers and had been thoroughly trained.

Upon the arrival of Bill Gray and family, including Margaret the sea testing got under way. After a few hours in the ice, we finally managed to pass all the students to the degree of competent shallow water divers.

By the time the sea testing was over our numbers had strengthened with more divers and families. A bit of lunch

then on to the blowhole for a dive and maybe the chance to pick up a few crays. Six divers entered the water, being Bill, Pat, Peter, Les Fritz and myself. Upon hitting the water we separated into pairs and went our own separate ways.

Fritz and I submerged and went our happy way looking for crays. After about 30 minutes we ascended to find that we had been taken by the current some 500-600 yards from shore and that there were some fairly decent swells coming up. We then decided to make the big swim to shore. After much puffing and panting we finally managed to get back to where we had entered the water, only to find that the rising seas made it unsafe for exit at this point.

On seeing all the females standing on the rocks at this position shouting and waving, I moved in close to hear what they were trying to tell us, only to be caught by a wave and lose a flipper. I then ditched my weight belt in my effort to get out of the white water but another wave caught me and I hit my head against a rock thus losing all orientation of what was going on around me. I then ditched my tank, lost mask and snorkel, and blindly crawled onto the rocks. At this point I must admit that panic was starting to overtake me.

Meanwhile Peter and Les were coming to our aid. Fritz submerged and held on to a rock until he recovered his breath and then headed to shore in a much quieter area. Peter Trevor managed to retrieve my tank, but all else was lost.

This served as a lesson to me and should also to all of you. Always check for a substitute exit point in case water conditions deteriorate while you're in the water.

All in all it was an interesting and eventful dive as well as a successful training session. After sorting ourselves out and relaxing for a while, we all headed on our respective ways home.

FRANK MAGUIRE



CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR:

It has always been a problem with our club (and with many other clubs) to enlist sufficient participation in club activities. With members having other interests competing for their time, they attend only when convenient or when the outing promises to be exceptionally interesting. Couple this with our relatively small number of active members and we have many outings spoiled through small attendance.

In order to provide a solution for this problem, the V.S.A.G. has instituted a points system culminating in a clubman of the year award. Points are allocated for dives, meeting attendance and all general club activities, giving every member a fair and equal chance to build up his score. Following is a list of activities and the points allocated for each:

Attendance at club meetings	..	..	2 points
Talks at meetings; e.g. Dive reports, lectures, film slide showings or displays of any kind providing it is of interest to members	..	..	3 points
Attendance on dives (one day)	..	..	3 points
Weekend or holiday dives (first day)	..	..	3 points
Each day thereafter	..	..	1 point
Car trials, Rallies, etc. (per day)	..	..	3 points
Attending barbecues, picnics, etc. after dives			3 points
Theatre nights, barbecues, dinner dances and fund raising events organized by social secretary			6 points
For each additional person brought by club members			2 points
For submitting any article published in the newsletter; e.g. dive reports, diving tips, etc.	..	..	4 points
Introducing new members (paid up)	..	..	6 points

The club member winning the most points at the end of a year will be awarded a purchase voucher for goods of his choice from a leading store. The amount of this voucher and other details are still to be worked out, but it will be substantial and worth winning. The scoring will operate from the next general meeting. The design of a shield also to be presented to the winner will also be worked out shortly.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

Our very active member Frank Maguire has volunteered for the position of dive organizer for the coming year. Together with our social Secretary, Margaret Phillips, a program of activities has been worked out for the coming season.

- September 11-12 - Mt. Gambier; Dive captain - Frank Maguire  
 September 26 - Mystery car trial, followed by barbecue.  
 October 3 - Survey of Frankston area of bay for S.D.F.  
 (Each member club is allocated a different area)  
 October 17 - Wreck dive on the Victoria Towers, Torquay.  
 October 31 - Cape Schanck.  
 November 12 - Annual Christmas Dinner at "Baron of Beef"  
 Located at Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke.  
 Tickets are \$5.00 per head and guests are  
 requested to arrive at 7.00-7.20 p.m.  
 Payment can be made to Social Secretary,  
 Margaret Phillips, or to club Treasurer at  
 any time from now.  
 November 14 - Port Campbell (Loch Ard wreck); alternate  
 dive site at Camperdown Lakes (boat dive).  
 November 28 - The Pinnacles, Phillip Island (boat dive)  
 December 5 - Frankston S.D.F. Survey.  
 December 11 - Barbecue at Bill Gray's, start 3 p.m. \$2.00  
 per head (price including evening meal)  
 December 19 - Wreck dive on the "Hurricane" (boat dive)  
 Christmas Holidays- A fortnight's holiday dive is being  
 considered at a suitable site, depending on  
 sufficient attendance. All interested, contact  
 Frank Maguire.  
 January 16 - Wreck dive on the "Speake", Cowes, Phillip Isl.  
 January 29, 30, 31- (A.N.A. weekend) Cape Everard.  
 February 13 - Mornington Peninsula (site to be decided).  
 February 27 - Eildon Weir (house dive)

In addition, several picture nights are being planned and a re-screening of that very funny movie, "It's a Mad, Mad World" is being considered. Any opinions on this or other suggestions may be stated at the meeting.



SAFETY CODE:

The S.D.F. has recently prepared a comprehensive safety code for the benefit of its member clubs, and divers. In order to give this the widest possible circulation we are re-printing it in full.

VICTORIAN SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION

SAFETY CODE RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION BY  
AFFILIATED CLUBS.

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

MYSTERY CAR TRIAL

Roll up to Chadstone Shopping Centre on Sunday, September 26 for the big car trial. (3 to 6 points event)

The starting point is outside the bowling lanes (lower level) and the start is 9 a.m. sharp.

Prizes, 'snorkel dive', barbecue and big treasure hunt.  
All welcome. Entry - \$1.00 per car.

Bring along your wet suits, snorkels and barbecue lunch.

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 Transciever 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., dccompression stops found necessary.
- (g) Armband to be worn by Dive Captain - White St. Andrews Cross on Red Background.
- (h) Dinghy - Raft or other rescue vehicle (compulsory on boat dive).
- (i) Audible Warning Device below surface.  
Visual warning device - Return to boat. Flag  $\frac{1}{2}$  mast  
O.K. " 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, or other rescue vehicle. It could be preferable to use rescue vehicle without a propeller which itself could be a hazard.
- (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) Rescue vehicle to be lowered into water ready for use at Dive Captain's discretion.
- (n) 2 Divers check anchor and report on conditions of water to dive captain before commencement of dive.

Cont'd.



7. GENERAL:

- (a) Buddies check out each other's 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.
- (g) All divers whilst diving wear a "dog tag" or other similar form of identification showing basic information such as:- NAME - BLOOD GROUP - CLUB - and ALLERGIES, etc.

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