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FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)
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CLUB MEETING

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on Tuesday, 19th December, 1972, at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne (opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral.) This will be the last meeting for the year and it is hoped that all members will make a special effort to be present. The meeting begins at 8.00 p.m. sharp.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS !

This year, 1972, is drawing to a close. All indications point to a hot summer and lots of diving opportunities. A new interesting program has been drawn up for the first half of 1973, so it looks like a real go-ahead year. The VSAG extends to all its members and friends best wishes for the season - and safe diving!

FUTURE OUTINGS

- DECEMBER 15th - Annual VSAG Dinner. Drink, dine and dance at "The Cuckoo" Restaurant, Main Road, Olinda. Dinner is served Smorgasborg style and starts from 6.30 p.m. This is that once-a-year when everybody turns up. An award will be presented to the most active diver of the year. See you there!
- DECEMBER 17th - "The Speake", Phillip Island. This is one of the most accessible wrecks on the Victorian coastline, laying in 15-20 ft. and only a few yards off a pleasant beach. There is plenty of interesting wreckage to be seen. We will have the company of the Black Rock Club so it should be a good day. Meet at San Remo Fishermen's Co-op. at 10 a.m. Dive Captain Frank Maguire, 786-4940.
- DECEMBER 26th - Mount Gambier. Space has been booked at the Willow Vale Caravan Park, for an indefinite period. The club compressor will be available and authorities have been contacted for permission to dive restricted areas. Make it a diving holiday. For all information contact Frank Maguire, 786-4940.
- JANUARY 28th - Holyoake and George Roper, wrecks in Fort Phillip Heads. Boat dive, followed by barbecue at Blairgowrie. Dive captain - Bill Gray, Tel.: 232-7220.
- FEBRUARY 11th - The Finnacle, boat dive off Phillip Island. For details contact Frank Maguire, 786-4940.

- FEBRUARY 25th - Rye back beach. Meet at ST. John's Wood Road, at 10 a.m. Dive captain Pat Reynolds, 232-5358.
- MARCH 4th - Tube trip on the Goulburn River, followed by barbecue at Eildon. For details contact Bill Gray, 232-7220.
- MARCH 10,11,12- (Long weekend) Peterborough. Dives will be organized on Falls of Halladale and Loch Ard.
- MARCH 18th. -
- MARCH 25th - Flinders area - boat dive.
- APRIL 8th - Victoria Towers, wreck dive off the beach at Torquay.
- APRIL 20-25 - (Easter Holiday) Camping at Wilson's Prom. Put your name in early for this one.
- MAY 6th - Cheviot Beach, Mornington Peninsula. London Bridge Wreck, boat dive, leaving from Sorrento ramp at 10 a.m.
- MAY 20th - Canterbury Jetty Road, Rye back beach area.
- JUNE 2,3,4 - (Queen's Birthday) Mount Gambier.
- JUNE 17th - "The Time", wreck in Port Phillip Heads. Boat dive from Sorrento Ramp, meet at 10 a.m.

BEAR'S GULLY REPORT

A combined outing of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group and the Victorian Speleological Association at Bear's Gully in Cape Liptrap.

Friday afternoon was just a little bit hot about 4.30 p.m. when Bill and Bonny Reeves, Keith and Dianne Stewart and myself headed out of town for Bear's Gully. After a brief stop at Dandenong to meet Chubby and transfer some of the load out of my car we set sail for Leongatha, where we reckoned it would be a good thing to take on "essential supplies"!!! Unfortunately the load and the weather proved too much and after 40 odd miles we boiled rather spectacularly, which delayed us somewhat. After that little setback we plugged on and finally made the turn off to Tarwin Lower where we met up with a wombat in the middle of the road. As Bonny had never seen one before we stopped to have a look - so

did Chubby, bot not quite in time.

Anyway we finally arrived at Bear's Gully along with Peter Matthews and wife about 10 p.m. Over the next couple of hours we were joined by members of VSA and VSAG UNTIL BY ABOUT MIDNIGHT there were about 20 or 30 people wandering round having a little light refreshment.

Saturday morning dawned dull and overcast and most people spent the morning going into town to vote. Some of us had to recover from the usual complaint. Some of us even went for a quick snorkel in the rain. Anyway about 1 p.m. it was decided to go for a scrub bash and have a look at Grinder Point. The sun had managed to break through by this time and we spent a very pleasant but bumpy hour in some chap's paddock trying to find the gate onto the beach. We finally succeeded and spent the rest of the afternoon wandering around the pools and rocks of Grinder Point.

Then it was all back to camp to see how the sheep was progressing. It looked cooked so everyone hoed in. For a while there it didn't look enough but everyone seemed to get a bit (of sheep, at least!) Then we all settled down around the fire which Chubby insisted on piling as high as possible and chin-wagged, argued politics, talked diving, caving, and the odd joke or two. Another favorite occupation about this time was telling Tipping to shut up about politics. All in all everybody managed, with the help of the old amber, to have a damn good night.

Next day was a bit of a late start, for one reason or another and it wasn't until about 12.30 that we started heading out for Arch Rock. About 15 cars and four wheel drives plus a few bikes started and most made it onto the beach and along to Arch Rock. Once there we waited for the tide to recede a bit and proceeded to wander over the rock looking for the much discussed cave of bats. After much cut feet and sore B....s we finally found it and succeeded in catching one for closer examination. Then the different groups split up, some to dive, others to go wandering.

About 4 p.m. everybody had had enough and started to head

out. Most again made it off the beach with the exception of the Mini and Chubby, who tried to bury his.

All in all a really great weekend away from the noise and bustle of Melbourne.

20 from VSAG (including visitors)
30 from VSA

JUSTIN LIDDY.

NEWS ITEM:

Pat Reynolds has been appointed the club's diving officer. This fills the vacancy created by Mick Ryan's resignation from committee. Pat now has the job of formulating an organized diving procedure as regards safety and control.

PIED PIPER "BLEEPS" SHARKS

After 11 years of research, diver Theo Brown, of Sydney, feels certain that the ultimate protection against shark attack will be a sonic repellent - the transmission of underwater sound waves. He is already using individual signals to repel a whaler, tiger and hammerhead shark. He has found one signal which will attract all sharks and has often carried out "Pied Piper" demonstrations by trailing his bleeper behind his boat and leading packs of sharks around. While one frequency attracts all sharks, at present it requires separate sounds for each species to produce a repellent effect. The last and most difficult step would

be to produce an all purpose sound pattern that will deter all known species of man-eaters. A proposed pocket set transmitter which could be attached to life jackets would be about the size of 2 cigarette packs.

Condensed from "Skindiver" Magazine.

THE "BARBECUE AT BILL'S"

Saturday, Nov. 25th.

What a miserable morning - no promise in it at all. Just the same, we packed up the grog and chops and arrived at Bill Gray's about 3 p.m. Justin, Bonnie and I were first arrivals, and only arrivals for a couple of hours, but enjoyed playing ping-pong and keeping warm at the same time. Bill and Fatsy and kids had done an excellent job of preparing house and as the weather improved later, the group started to filter in; Pat and Annette and kids, John and Chris, Tony, Marg; enough to confuse me good and proper when it came time to organize a ping-pong tournament later on. We knocked the volley-ball around for a bit while some of the braver (sillier) ones had brief dips in the pool. Along with the barbecue and a few more grogs we enjoyed music played by Chubby. This didn't seem exciting enough for some swimmers who took to water again, one certain John fully clothed. Doug Gray emerged as victor in the tournament.

As the evening carried on we all wilted to varying degrees, but as Bonnie and I bummed a lift home at 12.30 the floors were vibrating and we understand they didn't stop until 5.15.

Thank you very much Bill and Fatsy.

BILL REEVES

MY BIG BOAT PROJECT

I have bored most members with reports on my boatbuilding at some time or other, but for those who haven't heard about it, I thought I'd put down a few of the ideas that are behind the venture.

Some members may remember the boat I built a couple of years ago. It was a 16 ft. fibreglass inboard clinker of standard ski-boat design. We had a lot of fun with it for a little until I needed to raise some cash. I found that the best fun was in skindiving outings, so determined to design the next one specifically with this in mind.

The first change was to jet propulsion instead of a prop. This eliminated the danger of cutting up a diver and gave shallow draft and wonderful manoeuvreability around dangerous rocks. It also provided reverse at no extra cost. Numerous hull changes have been made to adapt to jet drive including widening, deep vee-ing and rear mounting the engine. This also made a roomier boat.

To handle lines a special opening windscreen and forward hatch has been designed. This would be a help on any boat. Sturdy lifting rings will be built in to hoist the boat out by sling if need be. (This was learned by experience). Another innovation which should appeal to divers is a ski-pole provided with cradle to support a SCUBA tank while donning gear. Extra large tanks will give a good range and V-8 power will pull the load. Flotation will be built in plus a heat exchanger to keep salt out of the works. A boarding ladder, of course, and all fittings possible will go to make this not only an ideal diving boat but also a fast and responsive performer.

BILL JANSEN.

"NUCLEAR POWER GOES TO SEA"

Condensed from "New Scientist"

The idea of a nuclear power plant floating on a giant barge in the middle of the ocean has a distinct science fiction ring to us. But, if the forecasts of power moguls prove correct, floating reactors could become a familiar sight along the United States east coast and elsewhere by the mid-1980's.

The plants will be 1.5 million Kilowatt pressurized water reactors mounted aboard 400 ft. square barges honeycombed with watertight bulkheads. Together, the plants and barges will stand more than 200 ft. above the waterline, draw 30 ft. of water and displace perhaps 140,000 tons. Each plant will be protected by breakwaters of sand, gravel, rock and concrete widening from 50 ft. to 300 ft. at the base. They will be designed to withstand winds of 300 m.p.h. and 50 ft. waves. The reactor platforms will be moored to rise and fall with the tides while remaining completely steady. The power from the reactors will be delivered via underwater cables to the shore and thence to power-hungry masses.

Plans are to put the first pair of floating plants into operation by 1980. The two plants will be installed, at a cost of about \$1,000 million, in 45 ft. of water on a site just within the New Jersey 3 mile jurisdictional limit.

From the environmental angle the floating nuclear plants come highly recommended. Unlike the lakes and rivers that supply cooling water for nuclear plants on land, the ocean has a virtually unlimited supply of cooling water. Some estimates suggest that only a few acres of water around a floating nuclear plant would be heated, while the plumes of warm water that threaten fish in inland waterways serving nuclear plants would be all but absent in the open sea. Indeed, the development authorities foresee a minor growth benefit for fish in the mild ocean temperature increase in the vicinity of a plant. They forecast a surge in fishing for pleasure or commerce, and perhaps in fish farming, around the floating plants.

Submitted by DON McBEAN

DIVE REPORT - ST. JOHN'S WOOD ROAD, RYE

Nov. 19, 1972

Participants - Pat, Justin, D.J., Barry Truscott, Frank Maguire and Tom Armstrong.

Fat and I, running late as usual, fronted to the car park at St. John's Wood Road about 10 a.m. but we weren't that late because only Frank and Tom were there. After a bit of a chat and a look at the crystal clear calm water, we went back to the cars to suit up and found D.J. waiting. So we all kitted up then Tom mentioned he knew a shorter way down. We all piled into his landrover and took off along the cliffs. We stopped somewhere and took to the sand dunes. After about 10 minutes of searching we finally made the beach - only to find it was the wrong one.

So back along the rocks, lugging all our gear, we finally made it to the rockpool at the end of St. John's Wood Road. By this time I was feeling a bit warm so donned mask and fell in. To my great amazement and delight I could see clear across the pool. Terrific!

We then moved around to the centre of the beach and hit the water. Words fail. The water was nearly as clear as Mt. Gambier and had an abundance of fish life and marine growth. We spent a very relaxing and enjoyable couple of hours swimming around. Then, due to hunger gains, Fat and I headed for the local hamburger shop.

By the time we got back all the rock pools were exposed so we decided to look for a few abalone. Whilst this exercise was going on we attracted the attention of a group of Japanese businessmen who were sightseeing. When they saw the abalone they thought it was Christmas as apparently these are a great delicacy in Japan and fetch as much as \$50 a pound. So we gave them a couple of pounds for which they were most grateful. After that we spent a while dodging them as they insisted on paying for them.

We finally succeeded in getting away and packing up

December, 1972

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and left about 5 p.m., after one of the greatest dives
I've ever had in Victoria for the past 12 months.

JUSTIN LIDDY

MERRY CHRISTMAS !

"EATONS"

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*David Connell
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