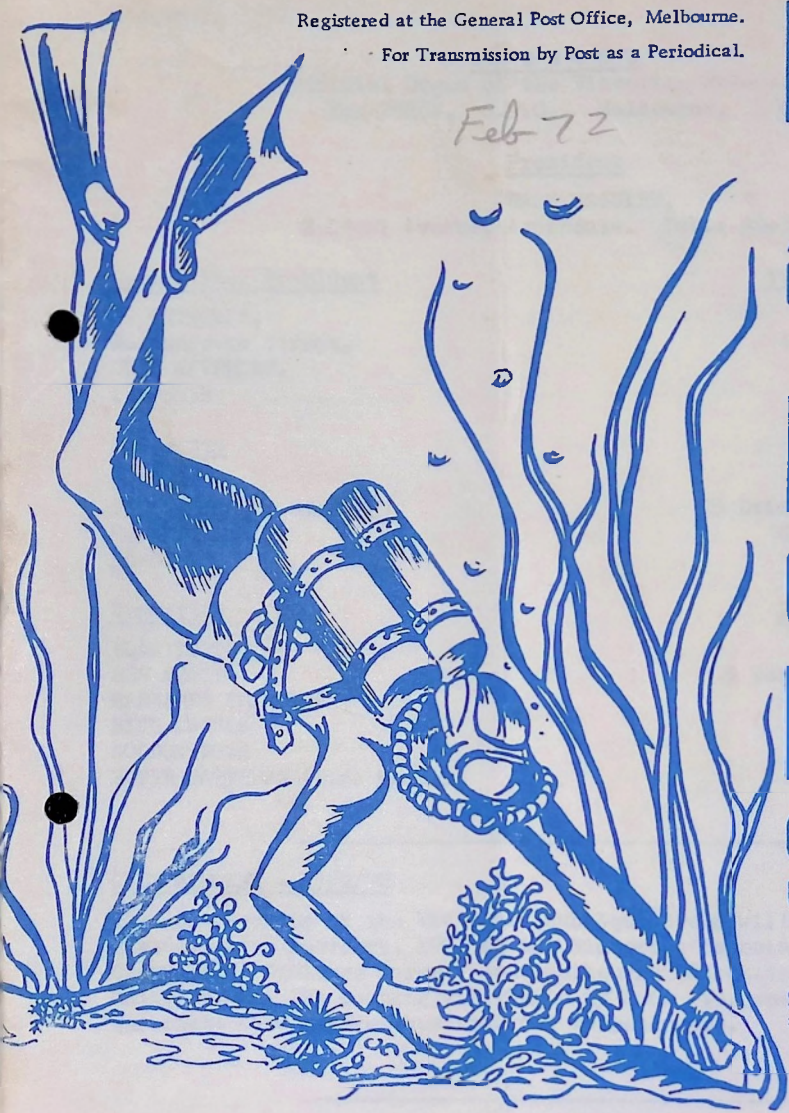


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Feb 72



FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)
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CLUB MEETING - 15/2/72

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on Tuesday, 15th February, 1972 at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne (Opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral). The meeting will begin at 8.00 p.m. sharp and will terminate with general business and refreshments.

C O N T E N T SPage

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Points Score Report
Dive Report, "The Speke"		
Club News		
'How to Be In It Without Really Trying'		

FUTURE OUTINGS :

- FEBRUARY 15 - 'The Pinnacles', Phillip Island. Dive Captain - Frank Maguire (90-3030). Boat leaves at 10.00 a.m. from San Remo Pier. The dive will be followed by a barbecue at the home of Stan Watts, who is providing the boat for the dive. Bring the family along.
- FEBRUARY 27 - 'The Hurricane'. Boat dive on wreck in Port Phillip Bay. Dive captain - John Noonan (98-8650). Meet at Rosebud Jetty at 10 a.m.
- MARCH 5 - Tube trip on the Goulburn River followed by barbecue at landing point. Meet at 10 a.m. on Snobs Creek corner. Contact Bill Gray (232-7220) for further details.
- MARCH 11-12-13 - Apollo Bay. Wreck dive on the 'Casino' and others (long weekend) in the vicinity. This wreck is reputed to 'belong' to V.S.A.G. It is in reasonable condition and in shallow water.
- MARCH 26 - Gunamatta Bay. Good crayfish spot in Rye - Portsea back beach area. Dive captain - Pat Reynolds (232-5358). Meet at Frankston Post Office at 10 a.m.
- MARCH 31 - -
- APRIL 1-2 - Wilson's Prom. Please book up early for this as (Easter weekend) camp sites have to be arranged.

FUTURE OUTINGS (Cont'd.)

- APRIL 16 - Pope's Eye Rock - Boat dive in Port Phillip Bay. Contact Dive captain Frank Maguire (90-3030) for details.
- APRIL 30 - Cape Patterson. Approx. 100 miles from Melbourne, beyond San Remo. Good crayfishing, natural coastline and possible wrecks.
- MAY 14 - Mordialloc Wreck. Sunk for artificial reef off Mordialloc Pier. Boat details to be arranged at later meeting.
- MAY 28 - Flinders. This will be a boat dive if weather permits.

These dive locations have been discussed and worked out by the committee. Many venues have been considered, and either listed or discarded according to their convenience and appeal to divers. We would very much welcome your suggestions as to favorite diving spots. If you've wondered why a dive is never scheduled at your favorite area, now's the time to speak up. Come along to the meeting and make a suggestion. It will be very welcome.

DIVE REPORT - THE HURRICANE

December 19th started out warm but overcast. The weather remained undecided through the day, with patches of sun and occasional light flurries of rain. The meeting place was Rosebud jetty at 10am, the destination: The Hurricane, an old wreck lying close to the shipping channel about a mile off Rosebud beach. There is very little left recognizable as a ship, except for a few steel plates and a boiler. However, many species of fish have adopted the wreck, as can be seen by the bay fishermen always in evidence in their little boats.

We arrived at the appointed spot to find Paul, Dave, Bill, Margaret and D.J. waiting, with John Noonan very soon to follow. After suiting up, the boats (two aluminium 13 footers) were eased into the water and walked across the sand bar to a safer depth. Then, leaving families waiting on the beach it was away. The wreck was not difficult to find because of a marker buoy and the

DIVE REPORT - THE HURRICANE (Cont'd.)

ever present fishermen. Upon arrival at the spot some difficulty was encountered snagging the wreck with our hooks, but finally we were secured. Paul and Dave were first in, soon followed by Bill Gray and D.J. Peter Lustig set to work in his usual efficient fashion and was soon bringing in fish after fish with his Hawaiian sling spear. Contrary to expectations no anchors were to be found around the wreck. (Someone must have beaten us to it). The water was quite clear for the bay and fish were plentiful.

After a good look around we unhooked and headed for shore, with a bit of horseplay between the two boats. I copped a bucket of water in the face, accidentally, I'm sure. Back at the beach, the boats were hauled out with great care taken to avoid the broken glass scattered everywhere. While this was going on I was able to assist in a minor emergency. A nearby boatman had dropped his watch in chest deep water and was standing fixed to the spot for fear of losing it. I went over with a face mask and soon picked it up for him. Divers are always ready to lend a hand to free an anchor, untangle a propellor, etc. Many don't stop to think how valuable this assistance is.

The dive was very much enjoyed by the eight divers who participated and it was agreed on the spot to return at a later date. This date is now set for February 27th. Don't miss out.

BILL JANSEN.

CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR - Points score Progress.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
F. Maguire ..	74	R. Addison ..	9
D. McBean ..	68	L. Addison ..	9
A. Cutts ..	57	B. Truscott ..	8
W. Jansen ..	46	P. Lustig ..	8
P. Reynolds ..	44	P. Beecher ..	8
B. Scott ..	43	F. Lottner ..	7
L. Walkling ..	42	N. Knight ..	3
W. Gray ..	29	D. McKenzie ..	3
M. Phillips ..	27	M. Richmond ..	2
P. Matthews ..	15	G. Muddiman ..	2
J. Noonan ..	11	A. Carroll ..	2
I. Cockerell ..	10		

CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR (Cont'd.)

Surprising, isn't it? Some members have rocketed ahead in points scoring. In case you're wondering how, the clue is in where the most points can be earned. All the high scorers have been consistent in attending dives and meetings, but most important, they have come along to all the barbecues and social events, brought along guests, and introduced new members. From the following re-printed points allocation list it can be seen that this is where the points are. Another good score builder is submitting dive or activity reports for "Fathoms". As editor I will only provide a dive report if none is available from members. So, it's an open go for whoever gets busy on it.

<u>List of Activities</u>		<u>Points allocated</u>
Attendance at club meetings	.. ..	2
Talks at meetings, e.g. dive reports, lectures, slide showings, etc.	.. ..	3
Attendance on dives (1 day)	.. ..	3
Weekend or holiday dives (1st day)	.. ..	3
Each day thereafter	.. ..	1
Car Trials, rallies, etc. (per day)	.. ..	3
Attending barbecues, picnics, etc. after dives		3
Theatre nights, barbecues, dinner dances and fund-raising events, organized by social secretary		6
Members' guests to above events	.. ..	2
For submitting any article published in newsletter, e.g. dive reports, stories, etc.	.. ..	4
Introducing new members (paid up)	.. ..	6

DIVE REPORT -- 'THE SPEKE'

Seamen considered the big three-masted barque 'Speke' one of the most comfortable sailing ships afloat. She left Mollendo in Peru on November 8th, 1905, with a crew of 25 and a cargo for Sydney, which she unloaded before proceeding in ballast for Melbourne.

After battling head winds for 12 days she reached Port Phillip heads early in the evening of February 21st, but in the near gale conditions was driven many miles east towards Phillip Island.

Her Master, Captain Tilson, ordered her three life boats made

DIVE REPORT - 'The Speke' (Cont'd.)

ready while a vain attempt was made to 'wear' her around. Both anchors were then let go but the port anchor chain parted and the ship drifted broadside onto the reef in Kitty Miller's Bay, near the Nobbies, in the afternoon of February 22nd.

Immediately she struck a boat was launched, but it capsized drowning one of the four occupants, those remaining finally reaching the beach exhausted. The second officer swam ashore with a line, being soon followed by a young apprentice, and after the line was secured, the remaining crewmen landed safely.

News of the wreck was telegraphed to Melbourne while the people of Cowes and surrounding districts rallied to assist the shipwrecked crew. Heavy seas battered the ship for several days until it broke in two and rapidly disintegrated. The figurehead was recovered and later repaired by Cowes school children, the ship's bell being presented to the Presbyterian Church.

The Speke was built in Wales in 1891. Of 2,876 gross tons, she was 310 ft. in length, with a beam of 35 ft.

Sunday, 16th January, 1972 (first official dive for the Club in 1972)

Time 7.15 a.m., Glenys and I left home in Reservoir, with Glenys at the wheel of the car, for Peter Lustig's home in Kew, arriving safely at 7.35 a.m. and then proceeded to Bill Jansen's, arriving there at 8.05 a.m. just as the fog was starting to lift.

We left Bill Jansen's home at 8.10 a.m. and headed towards Phillip Island. On the way down we encountered some people who thought the whole road went with the price of their cars, i.e. overtaking on double white lines or on the crest of hills or on sharp corners. Fortunately we didn't see any accidents.

We arrived at the San Remo Fishermen's Co-op at 9.45 a.m. to find Paul Beecher, Dave, Bob Scott and family and two of his friends all waiting for us. Having waited until exactly 10.30 am we then headed off to the wreck site. After gaining permission from the farmer who owns the land (which is only 100 yards from the Bow of the wreck), we did a little bush bashing in the five cars until we were almost on top of the wreck. We unloaded the cars and carried all the food and equipment about 50 yards down to a rocky beach.

After setting up umbrellas, chairs and various designs of sunshades, there was a mad rush for the wetsuits. At this stage I should mention that the sea was as calm as could be expected for this area. A light south-east wind was blowing at about 5 - 10 mph and the sun was blazing away in the sky. The plan was for all divers to snorkel out from the rocks for about 100 yards to locate the wreck which was found very quickly and buoyed with a 9" white and black styrene ball. All divers then returned to the beach and donned aqualungs and then the mad rush started back to the water. We met three other divers who had just returned from the wreck and traded some information which later turned out to be useless to us. They told us that the thing was covered in brass portholes of which they had a couple to support their claim. They then asked us how we managed to get so close to the wreck. I then told them as this seemed to be worth the 40 or 50 portholes they were talking about. Incidentally, NO portholes were seen so souvenir hunters you can almost forget your long dreamed of porthole. Eight divers swam out to the wreck. Some were interested in the wreck itself whilst others were interested in fish life and yet another, Dave, was interested in photographing almost everything that took place.

The wreck lay in about twenty feet of water, which on this particular occasion had about a forty foot visibility. The Speke was spread out across the bottom as though it had been blown apart with about ten tons of high explosive placed every twenty feet. Very few souvenirs were collected as the Speke carried no cargo when she went aground. When the air ran out we headed to the beach for lunch at 1.50 p.m. When lunch had been eaten Paul and Peter went back into the water to investigate some Port Jackson sharks which had been seen earlier. An hour or so later we were informed that 18 sharks had been seen and photographed. As time was rapidly passing people started to leave. Peter, Bill, Jean, Young Alan, Glenys and I were the last to leave at 5.30 p.m.

This was a very good dive in excellent conditions and I know that all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

ALAN CUTTS

CLUB NEWS -

The opinion of club members is being sought on which night of the week is most suitable to the majority for club meetings. For this purpose a reply form is being included in this newsletter for each member to indicate his preference. Please fill in the form and post it to:

Victorian Sub Aqua Group,

Box 2526W, G.P.O.,

MELBOURNE. 3001,

or hand it in at the next club meeting.

..

CAPE EVERARD:

This outing was cancelled due to lack of starters. Apparently everyone was too broke or had other commitments during holidays.

..

The grapevine has it that Peter Matthews is at present overseas. Half his luck! We will be interested to hear about it upon his return.

HOW TO BE IN IT WITHOUT REALLY TRYING -

There is a certain amount of social prestige to be derived from being able to call oneself a skin diver, or better still, having others refer to you as such. (This is excluding certain circles, such as sport and commercial fishermen, where the term 'skin diver' may be used in a derogatory manner.) Having established the prestige factor, it becomes obvious to the average, well-balanced person that the reasons for not skin diving greatly outweigh those in favor. It does not seem normal that an individual would purposely spend a great deal of hard-earned money just to expose himself to unbearably cold water, currents, razor sharp rocks and a myriad of marine organisms,

HOW TO BE IN IT WITHOUT REALLY TRYING (Cont'd.)

some a good deal larger than man and carnivorous at that. It is hard to conceive that this may be called 'good clean fun', especially considering the amount of sewage that our forward looking civic leaders see fit to discharge into our watery resources.

How can one become a skin-diver without really skindiving? It is quite easy.....much easier than actual skindiving to be sure, and of very little potential danger if one learns his lessons well. For this purpose the following gambit has been devised (gambit refers to the overall scheme to establish oneself as a skindiver) with the detailed description of several ploys (a ploy refers to the individual acts employed to carry out the gambit) to carry it off successfully. Incidentally, at times you may notice that the subject matter seems familiar. This is because most people incorporate this art into their everyday lives, but not to the fine point of which it is capable.

Equipment ploy: In order to begin it is necessary to expend a relatively small amount of money for rudimentary diving gear. This should at least consist of a pair of flippers and a mask, preferably with a worn look about them. These may be displayed in such obvious places as your living room, or the back seat of your car. This will keep you from being the one to bring up the subject. Your victim will naturally say something like, "Oh, do you skindive?" to which you should answer humbly, "a little". Always humble. You may embellish a bit by adding, "just for food". This is known as the humble hunter ploy. You now have them in the palm of your hand. Let them ask questions. The worn gear will automatically establish you as an old timer.

Literature ploy: Nearly as important as the gear ploy is an accumulation of a few well chosen books. A few scattered around in plain sight are very effective. In the bookcase, Jacques Cousteau's "Silent World" is quite impressive. It may even be interesting reading, but this is beside the point. It is quite likely to be brought up as a topic of conversation, so one should learn to pronounce Cousteau correctly. This is not just for your own protection, but occasionally it enables you to become "one up" on a rival, should he stumble here. The moment he utters something like "Ccwstew", you interject with "you mean Cousteau, don't you, old man?" This will make him look

marvellously idiotic, and the 'old man' to finish it off won't hurt either. You must have no qualms about pulling off a ploy like this, for you are either 'one-up' or 'one-down', there is no in between.

Name dropping or Association ploy: This type of ploy may seem one of the easiest to execute, but can be fraught with hazards. Suppose you are at a party and the conversation turns to skin diving. Being humble you describe a well-known skindiver rather than yourself. Let's say you are discussing the exploits of the well known Ron Taylor. "I'll never forget in the summer of '68 old Ron and I were after this picture for a leading magazine." The 'old' used here adds a note of familiarity.

Seems quite safe, doesn't it? However, there may be someone else in the party better informed than you who could step up and say, "I thought Ron Taylor was over in W.A. in the summer of '68". It is too late to develop a headache and leave, so you assume a hurt air and say, "I'm afraid you've confused your Rons. Old Ron Ferguson lives over in Box Hill. Good diver!"

The Old Wound ploy: Most of us have a scar somewhere that can be used to good advantage. "There I was at 20 fathoms (depth exaggeration), when I reached into this hole for a cray. I saw a green flash and felt the eel bite through my gloved hand. I resisted the impulse to jerk my hand back and gradually let go. It took a while to heal but at least I still have the finger." In using this ploy, ensure that an old acquaintance is not present who knows the true origin of the scar.

Head Cold Ploy: From time to time you may be invited along on outings. This may cause some concern but there is truly no reason to worry. No one could expect you to participate with a head cold. As this is a known dangerous condition in diving you may feel perfectly safe.

The Skindiving Trip ploy: Men; you may be bullied into taking the wife or girl friend diving. This problem is easily solved. Take her diving. Pick a nice cool windy day and a site accessible only by a steep, treacherous cliff. She may back out any time now. If she continues the chances of her

entering the water are extremely slim. In fact she should be nearly freezing to death. From this time on you should have no trouble getting away by yourself. The popularity of night diving will not restrict your freedom to daylight hours. It's quite easy to pick up a live cray from a fish market to dispel any doubts. Be sure to poke a hole where the spear went through.

The Club Joining ploy: This may be carrying things too far, because it may become unavoidable to participate at times. Still, it serves the purpose of fooling yourself as well as others as to your abilities. One can always bury himself in club social activities and be considered a definite asset to the club by other members. Here the head cold ploy may be extremely utilized, as well as acute ingrown toenails (preventing the donning of flippers), as well as other family or business commitments.

With a little imagination and by applying yourself, you should now be well on the way to mastering the gambit. I hope that you will find the pleasure and self-satisfaction that this art has brought to so many others.

Ancn.
