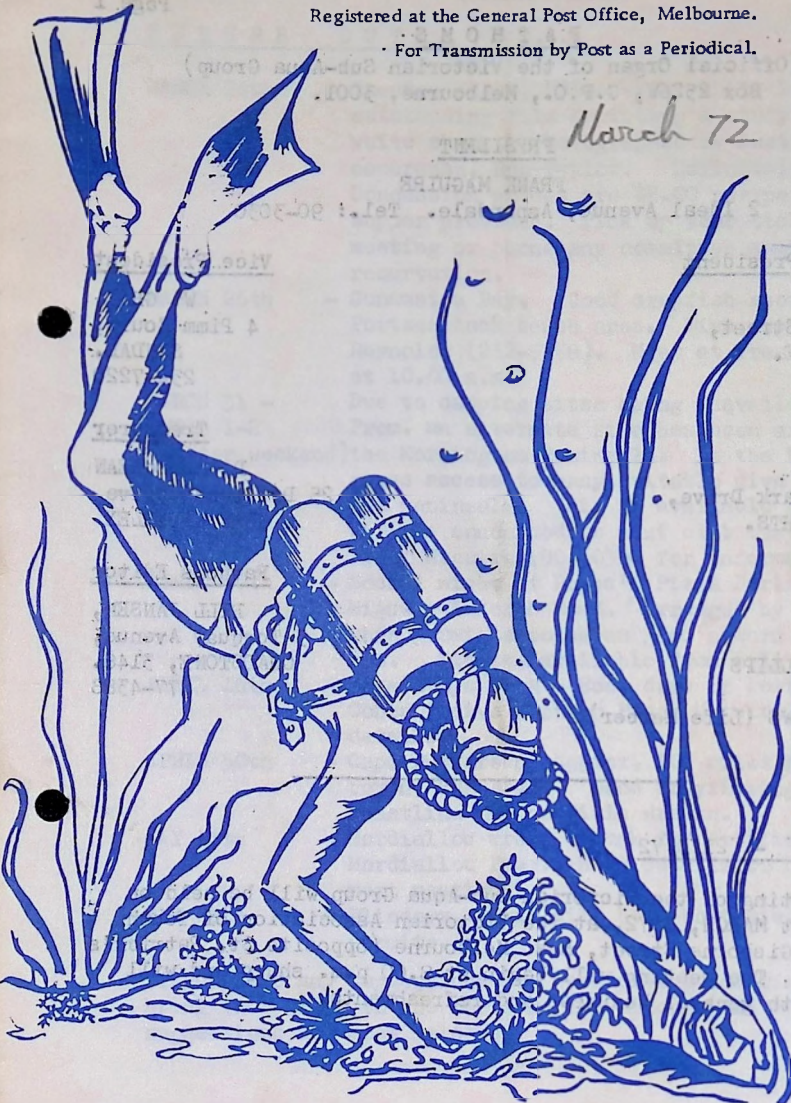


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March 72

FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)
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CLUB MEETING - 21/3/72

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on TUESDAY, 21st MARCH, 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.

FUTURE OUTINGS

- MARCH 24th - Theatre Night, "Blue Water White Death". An outstanding film depicting a study of the great white shark. Photographed by Australian underwater cameraman, Ron Taylor. Definitely not to be missed. Concession prices are \$2.00 per person, plus 65c for supper provided. Pick up your tickets at the next meeting or phone any committee member for reservation.
- MARCH 26th - Gunamatta Bay. Good crayfish spot in Rye - Portsea back beach area. Dive captain - Pat Reynolds (232-5358). Meet at Frankston Post Office at 10.00 a.m.
- MARCH 31 - Due to camping sites being unavailable at Wilson's Prom. an alternate site has been arranged for on (Easter weekend) the Mornington Peninsula. In the Rye area, it gives access to many suitable dive locations around the peninsula. Air is available nearby. Details will be announced at next club meeting, or ring Frank Maguire (90-3030- for information.
- APRIL 10th - Social night at Poppa's Pizza Parlor, Nepean Highway & North Road. Arranged by the S.D.F., this promises to be as good a turn as their last one. Tickets available from Bill Gray (232-7220)
- APRIL 16th - Pope's Eye Rock - Boat dive in Port Phillip Bay. Contact dive captain Frank Maguire (90-3030) for details.
- APRIL 30th - Cap~~t~~ Patterson, approx. 100 miles from Melbourne, beyond San Remo. Good crayfishing, natural coastline and possible wrecks.
- MAY 14th - Mordialloc Wreck - Sunk for artificial reef off Mordialloc Pier. Boat details to be arranged at next meeting.
- MAY 28th - Flinders. This will be a boat dive if weather permits.

If you have any suggestions for good diving locations, please bring them along to the meetings for discussion. All suggestions are most welcome.

TRAVELLER'S REPORT -

Most of us remember a former diving companion, Peter Trevor. He was a visitor with the club on several dives during his stay here in Melbourne and proved himself a good diver and a good friend. Peter, a New Zealander, and Margaret, his fiance, were travelling through on an extended tour which was to take them eventually to Holland, Margaret's homeland.

We had a letter from Peter and Marg the other day telling of their adventures since leaving here. The voyage started out with rough weather and this, combined with many rich Greek dishes on the menu, kept many away from the table. After Perth the weather calmed down for the rest of the voyage. A school of whales was sighted, also what appeared to be sharks, in a feeding frenzy.

A short air hop delivered them to Greece, where sightseeing was the order of the day. No time for diving. We can see who got their way.

Finally, arriving in Groningen, Marg's home town, they were greeted with Dutch flags flying from the houses. It is an old tradition for people "returning from the colonies".

Peter now has a position as a draughtsman and Margaret is managing the medical service in a nursing home. Wages are lower than here and the tax is a whopping 33%, plus 14% sales tax on everything purchased. A bond of \$650 also had to be paid to guarantee Peter's visit. Peter is now pedalling to work on a borrowed bike until finances improve. A diving holiday in Spain or the south of France is contemplated for the future, also a week of diving in Greece before finally leaving Europe.

Peter and Marg send their best regards to all of us in V.S.A.G.

DIVE REPORT - PHILLIP ISLAND

Upon arrival at San Remo we were met by Paul Beecher, D.J. and ten other divers with their families and friends. We waited for an hour for the latecomers, then embarked and set out for the dive location. On rounding Cape Woolamai we encountered 8 to 10 foot seas, which made conditions unsuitable for diving.

Dive Report - Phillip Island (Cont'd.)

It was then decided that a channel run at San Remo was the best alternative under these conditions. Upon entering the water with six other divers, we checked that everyone had a hold of the rope, then descended into approx. 60 ft. of water to be carried, swept, swirled and tangled by the current of the ebbtide.

The bottom consisted of rocky holes up to 80 ft. deep and cliff faces all covered with an accumulation of weed and growth showing every color of the rainbow. We had two runs; one of 30 minutes and the other of 23 minutes. With everyone's appetite for diving satisfied we then headed back for the long awaited B-B-Q at Stan Watts' (our boatmans) house. Sausages and steaks sizzling, the kids playing and all of us enjoying a few, a very pleasant afternoon was spent in what turned out to be the best single day's diving many of us have had for quite some time.

All in all at the barbecue there were 25 adults and approx. 10 children. I only hope we can produce more social dives of this quality and if we do I can foresee the attendance climbing with each trip.

F. MAGUIRE

S.D.F. REPORT -

In a recent meeting of the S.D.F., an application was lodged by the Frankston Sub-Aqua Club for S.D.F. membership. Upon consideration of the facts presented, the application was rejected. While application of all diving organizations is a worthwhile goal, consideration has to be given to the aims and activities of member organizations to uphold the image of diving as a sport. While this decision may be partly due

S.D.F. REPORT (Cont'd.)

to misunderstanding, it was also ascertained that a majority of the club's members were not equipped or trained as scuba divers.

On making its own inquiry into the matter, the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group has found that the potential exists for acceptance of this group by the S.D.F. A vigorous scuba training program exists within the club under a highly qualified instructor. Those not now equipped for scuba will be, as soon as circumstances permit.

With a view to future acceptance of this group, the V.S.A.G. will be extending an invitation to the Frankston club for a joint social dive. This should help both groups to become better acquainted and promote mutual understanding.

FILM PREVIEW - "BLUE WATER WHITE DEATH"

On the evening of Wednesday, 16th February, Lorraine and I were two of the fortunate divers who had the pleasure of attending a preview of "Blue Water White Death" at the Rapallo Theatre. By 8.10 p.m. with the film due to start at 8.15 pm the people massing in the foyer took their places ready for the start. Amongst them I noticed Phil Webster, U.E.C., a couple of members of the Box Hill Club and one or two people from other clubs that I have seen around various diving spots.

When we took our seats inside, Frank Maguire, our President, told me that an attempt had been made to get more tickets for other members and on looking around I could see the reason for the refusal. The theatre was packed and if they were all divers I can only say that the sport has enjoyed an upsurge of popularity that does not seem to manifest itself in club membership.

After a preliminary film on South Africa, the main reason for our being there got under way with an interview by the

M.C. with Valerie Taylor, one of the three Australians who enjoy a leading role in the film.

I don't wish to dwell too heavily on the content as I could spoil the show for someone else, but for any student of underwater photography, attendance at this film is a must! The filming is superb; the underwater sequences fantastic. It should be seen by all divers who wish to know how a shark acts underwater.

To see the divers completely surrounded by anything up to a dozen sharks is unbelievable. To see the same divers in the same setting but this time throw in a dead whale for good measure, especially if said whale is bleeding profusely, one shakes one's head in disbelief; but its all there, in glorious color and in cinemascope.

As I said before, all divers should see this film. It is not only good entertainment, but an educational experience, too.

RON ADDISON.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS BRIEFS - by BILL GRAY

AMERICAN BIOLOGIST PLEADS FOR UNSPOILT HERON ISLAND

It has come to my attention that a plan is being considered to place an airstrip on Heron Island for the convenience of tourists and Heron Island Pty. Ltd.

As one who has visited Heron Island and hopes to have enough of it left to visit again some day I wish to protest this as ignorant vandalism. To construct such a landing field on an island only 700 ft wide and 2400 ft long would be biologically devastating. Thousands of terns and many herons nest in the pisonia trees, thousands of mutton birds nest in burrows in the sand, hundreds of green and hawksbill turtles lay eggs in the upper beaches. All of these sites would be jeopardised, IF NOT ELIMINATED, by such senseless intrusion.

AMERICAN BIOLOGIST PLEADS FOR UNSPOILT HERON ISLAND (Cont'd.)

The wonders of Heron Island's wildlife and reefs are best preserved for those who really appreciate them. There are hundreds of examples of such natural wonders ruined by making them accessible to hordes of casual visitors; the geysers of Yellowstone National Park plugged with logs and stones jammed into their throats, Glen Canyon on the Colorado River converted into a lake for speed boats and millions of initials carved in or painted on any conspicuous surface. The Great Barrier Reef, one of the biological wonders of the world, must not be jeopardised by such exploitation. This area needs a conservator, not a promoter.

When a noted British scientist first visited the Grand Canyon of the Colorado he commented that "It will take a long time for the country to grow up to be worthy of this". One hopes that Australia will take the necessary steps to be worthy of the Great Barrier Reef.

Professor KENNETH F. BAKER,
University of California.

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NOTHER WRECK FOUND RECENTLY

Divers have found the wreck of the barque 'Eglington' which sank off Quinns Beach on the Western Australian coast 119 years ago.

The divers, Peter Boonman and Brian Castle, found the wreck accidentally while spearfishing. They each received rewards of \$200 for telling the W.A. Museum of the wreck.

The curator of the marine archeology at the museum has recovered the finest collection of artifacts from the Eglington so far - this was because the wreck had not been looted. The material was in good condition and was extremely important to the

Another Wreck found Recently (Cont'd.)

record of colonial history. It included glassware, ceramic water-filters, ships' fittings and items from the ship's general cargo, such as printing plates which were intended for colonial merchants.

The 462-ton Eglington was wrecked when it reached the W.A. coast from Britain on September 5, 1852.

The ship carried general cargo and 65,000 gold sovereigns, which were recovered later.

BILL GRAY

DIVE REPORT - RETURN TRIP TO THE HURRICANE

A beautiful day for diving and a long day made longer for those who forgot to put their clocks back an hour on the Saturday night. At 10.00 a.m. about 16 divers with 3 boats met at the Rosebud boat ramp, whereupon the boats belonging to Bill and John were launched. The 21 footer could not be launched at Rosebud and went further down towards Sorrento to a bigger launching ramp with deeper water.

All boats met out at the wreck site about 11.00 a.m. and in ideal conditions the divers moved into the water. Scallops abounded on the bottom and most of the members brought back enough for a couple of decent feeds. Peter Lustig was the maestro of the spear gun again and brought in enough fish to keep the family going for about a week.

The 21 footer moved off at about 11.30 a.m. with one very seasick member on board (not Bill Jansen). They said they were going back to the pick-up point to see if any more divers had turned up. They said they would return as soon as possible. We did not sight them again for the rest of the day and we (in Bill and John's boats) could only assume that they suffered some mishap ashore which prevented them from returning to the wreck site.

Dive Report - Return trip to the Hurricane (Cont'd.)

We managed to land on the bulk of the wreck and there was an abundance of fish to be had. Anyone who wanted a feed got one. The water visibility wasn't so bad for the bay - about 12 ft.

It was an enjoyable dive, well attended by members on a day that lent itself to the sport.

R. ADDISON

RANDOM NOTES:

The points system is having the desired effect. Dive and social attendance is increasing and newsletter contributions are coming in thick and fast. The editor's job is now editing, not writing, the newsletter.

Any members who are interested in the workings of the S.D.F. or the Underwater Instructor's Association are invited to contact Bill Gray or Pat Reynolds, respectively, for information or possible participation.

OVERSEAS NEWS -

Six divers led by a British Naval Officer have just ended a four-day stay on the ocean floor off Oahu Island, Hawaii. The divers ascended from the bottom in the \$1 million underwater habitat Aegir. They will remain in the 200-ton Aegir for three days decompression.

DEEP TROUBLE -

Underwater explorer, Jacques Cousteau, referring to the current practice of using chemicals to sink surface oil spills,

said, "Imagine how clever of mankind, when he has a big slick of poison on top of the water, to add something to it that will make it sink slowly and kill everything in its path all the way down."

After the 57-day, 3270-mile voyage of Thor Heyerdahl's papyrus boat Ra ll across the Atlantic, navigator Norman Baker, said, "We saw no sign of man, - except his garbage, and we saw that all the time."

TWO DIE IN SEA DIVING BID -

A man and a woman died off Andros Island in the Bahamas recently, while attempting to set a sea-diving record.

Archie Forar, 39, and Ann Gunderson, 23, were trying to break the deep diving record of 437ft.

BILL GRAY
