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May 72

FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Organ of the Victorian Sub-Squa Group)
Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001.

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CLUB MEETING - 16/5/72

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Squa Group will be held on Tuesday, 16th May, 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

- MAY 14th - Mordialloc Wreck - This is a hulk sunk off Mordialloc Pier as an artificial reef. It should be good for scallops, fish for the table and a few anchors. It's near and handy to everyone, so turn up for a good day. Meet at Mordialloc pier 10 a.m. Ring 90-3050 for any other information.
- May 20th - "Progressive Dinner". As announced previously, this will be a dinner with each course served at a different house. Roll up to Bill Jansen's at 5 Torquay Avenue, Chadstone for wine and hors d'ouvres at 7.30 p.m. Next stop is Pat Reynolds' house, 36 Mandowie Street, Glen Waverley for Entrees, then on to Don McBean's, 25 Driftwood Drive, Glen Waverley for the main course (this is not a car trial). The party then rolls on to Bill Gray's for sweets, coffee, dancing and relaxation. A swim in the pool too, if you care to. The address is 4 Pimm Court, Syndal. Interested? Of course! Tickets are only \$2.00 per person and must be limited to 50, so don't miss out. Tickets available at coming meeting, or ring Margaret Phillips on 232-9633. (B.Y.O. beer if desired, and a glass, as they're a bit short).
- MAY 28th - Flinders - Boat dive, if weather permitting.
- JUNE 10, 11,
12 (Queen's Birthday weekend). Lond weekend at Mt. Gambier. A powered site has been arranged at Willow Vale Caravan Park, Princes Highway, 2 miles each of Mt. Gambier where our compressor will be operating. Tent and van sites available. Life jackets and full equipment required. Ring Frank Maguire (90-3050) for details.
- JUNE 25 - The "Cerberus" at Half Moon Bay, Black Rock. Always an interesting dive. To be followed by a barbecue at Frank Maguire's.
- JULY 9th - Smorgasbord at White Horse Inn, Box Hill.
- JULY 23rd - The Pinnacles, Phillip Island.
- AUGUST 6th - Rye Pier.
- AUGUST 27 - Snow Trip, Mt. Baw Baw - approx. 100 miles from city. Good family outing.

EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

I think it is time we took another hard look at ourselves and where we are going. If our club is to live up to the prospects we have for it, then we should have some idea of our responsibilities to the sport of Scuba diving.

There are over 60 names on the mailing list of 'Fathoms' and it is a rare occasion when we see one-third of these at a meeting. It is even rarer to see this number on a dive. This is the first problem. Are our members really interested in the affairs of their club? Are they really interested in diving? In the August '71 issue of 'Fathoms' (my first as editor) I stated: "The club exists for the enjoyment of all its members and can only continue to function through the co-operation of all its members. It doesn't owe you a good dive; this can only be achieved through your own participation". This statement is just as true today as when it was written. One night a month is not too much to turn up and know what's going on. Lots of good dives are planned but many fall short of success for lack of participation. It is true that our points system has helped improve participation. Besides dive and meeting attendance, we can see an increase in new member introductions, guests at social functions and newsletter contributions. But there are still members that we rarely see or hear from

All this leads to a more important problem, our responsibility to our sport. With the advent of SCUBA, swimming underwater has made tremendous gains in popularity. Yet it remains a potentially hazardous sport, and one which easily catches the eye of the public. Whenever a fatality occurs through poor training or equipment, whenever divers engage in unsportsmanlike activities, a public outcry is likely to arise. There are opposing interests ready to push legislation restricting divers. Those engaged only in underwater exploration have been blamed for decimation of fishing grounds. Once restrictive legislation is passed, it is difficult to repeal.

I would like to see greater attention to organization on all our activities. We must always appear as a model to the non diving public. I would like to see a graded standard of training re-instituted in our club. This would not stop at basic instruction but would take all our members through successively higher standards of proficiency. Hopefully this may eventually

Editorial (Cont'd.)

become the accepted standard throughout Australia. I would like to see a greater interest, from all club members, in the affairs of the S.D.F. This body strives to achieve a better standard and better image for divers. We should actively back everything it undertakes. I would like to see more community spirit in our diving activities. Many of our dives can be voluntary efforts to improve the community, such as clean-ups, surveys and seaside construction projects. We can contribute to knowledge on Australia's history by exploration and documenting details of shipwrecks. When artifacts are found we should consider historical records rather than scrap value or personal gain.

In the November '71 'Fathoms' our incoming president published an appeal for our co-operation. He promised an active program of outings and socials and stated, "only your ACTIVE support can make it succeed". He has lived up to his promise. It's up to every individual member, if he values the club he's in, to "make it succeed".

BILL JANSEN.

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D I V E R E P O R T SPOPE'S EYE OUTING - Bill Gray

Leaving home at 7.45 a.m., the weather looked really promising. We set off down Wells Road, towards Frankston and, as my tank was empty, stopped at the filling station for air. I could see myself dragging the fellow out of a Sunday morning sleep, but he was well and truly up. It took him about 15 minutes to fill my lung.

Although hauling my boat I realized I had plenty of time to make Sorrento by 10.30, so I decided to turn off at Mornington and travel along the coast road. The bay was a sheet of glass; on it was a destroyer doing about 15 knots. It looked quite fast for a ship in the bay. Not far behind was a container cargo boat with 2 or 3 containers stacked on its deck. It was as if they were model ships with the sun shining down on them.

We arrived at Sorrento at 10.20. Soon after, the rest of the good men arrived; 16 divers with 4 boats. Just right! With us on this dive were some members of the Frankston Sub-Aqua Club.

Pope's Eye Outing (Cont'd.)

Also, two divers from the Hawthorn Club came along.

It was low water when we arrived at Sorrento. We waited about 30 minutes for possible late-comers, then started out for Pope's Eye Rock. The tide was running fairly hard at the rock so it was decided we would go in one end, and allowed the tide to carry us down. This we did a number of times, but visibility was not the best owing to the movement of water. I was quite surprised at the number of fish back in the area. Of the 16 divers, not one was carrying a speargun. Good for conservation, wot?!

It was now time to move on to our next destination - the submarine at Swan Island. This was thoroughly examined and two very nice souvenirs were taken - there is still one to go!

Someone mentioned food, the time 3.00 p.m.! After a bit of struggle loading one of the boats, we all headed back to Sorrento. Twenty minutes to eat, then off in the boats to Portsea to find some of those elusive bottles. On arrival it was noted that Ringwood Diving Club was present, as one of our boats nearly ran them down. Our sincere apologies to them. We thought it wise not to dive there and headed for the Sorrento pier. Some were lucky, finding 5 marble bottles and one old stout bottle about a hundred years old.

By this time it was getting a bit too dark to see, so as everyone had had a good day we headed back to the boat ramp and home.

BILL GRAY.

Some of our members don't get out with us very often, but its good to hear they are still active in diving elsewhere. The following is a report from David Carroll, who now lives in Colac.

"This year, being probably the only possessor of aqualungs for about fifty miles, with a similar distance to the nearest compressor, I joined a spearfishing Club (Colac).

Two things I discovered. One, I am no spearfisherman and, secondly, most people wouldn't know a wreck if it was piled on top of them.

Our last club dive (we won) was for a final heat of the Nemrod Western District Championships at South Australia. Cape Banks was the locality, and despite turbulent conditions, about six

clubs of about eighty divers took part. (A previous meeting at the same place was postponed because of 25ft. waves and gale force winds). Three people got no fish. I was one and the other two were about thirteen years old!

One thing that helps explain this, however, is that within five minutes of hitting the water I started seeing a ship. Anchor chain was the most obvious thing, so I followed it to several large anchors. There was mostly iron plate and girder work in that locality, but I spent a lot of time in it. Needless to say, the competition retreated to the back of my mind. While poking around I repeatedly saw divers peer under wreckage for fish, one even tried prying wreckage away with a piece of piping. (A friend tied his float to an anchor fluke at one stage but later denied seeing anything but fish, weed and rocks). I picked up part of an enamelled clock face with a lot of rusty junk which I imagine was most of the mechanics. The face and a backing plate were the only brass and enamel parts. The rest must have been iron. There was a fair bit of copper sheathing about in a large area, some attached to pieces of wood, but most pieces very corroded thin and small in size.

I did a bit of homework afterwards and found that there have been dozens of wrecks in the area. The "Admella" and the "Corio" were only a few miles up the reef from where we were, and other divers from Mt. Gambier Club mentioned that bits and pieces had been found practically all the way up to Rivoli Bay, though not one of them had ever seen anything like wreckage. They'd just been swimming over it all day!

The one thing that I didn't enjoy was the quantity of crays I could see. There were crays everywhere, but the only way I could have reached one was with a spear. This doesn't go down well with S.A. inspectors, two of whom were on the beach checking everyone who moved out of the water. Incidentally they also charge \$10 (I think) licence for a speargun. Visitors must also have a licence, whether they come from Victoria or not. Colac club got a day licence (\$10) which came out at about 70c each, which isn't that much I suppose, but just shows how free Victoria is, all the same.

Anyway Colac won by 25 points over the season. (This I think is about the value of one average fish), so we celebrated all the way back roughly 300 miles and eventually got back in various stages of exhaustion and other stages of physical and mental disrepair. All in all it was a pretty good weekend, marred only by the approach of Monday.

MOUTH TO MOUTH RESUSCITATION

To properly assist a drowning victim, prompt resuscitation is needed. When one considers the time limit, there is little margin for error.

The final step in rescue must be locating the victim and bringing him to the surface. Then resuscitation ought to be started before any attempt to swim ashore. The time delay in reaching the beach may make survival impossible. It has been estimated by Buchanan that delaying resuscitation until reaching shore eliminates 3/8 of possible survivors.

The only form of resuscitation which should be considered is mouth to mouth. It, unlike the other forms can be started in the water. In chest deep water, the victim can be readily supported. In deep water, the technique is more difficult, but flotation gear, safety vests help considerably. Until 1958 various forms of artificial resuscitation were taught, but the simplest form, mouth to mouth, was rarely considered. Research has proven the marked superiority of this technique. Most importantly, the amount of air exchanged and the amount of O₂ supplied is much greater than by other methods. With correct application, a tidal volume of 1000 to 1600 ml can be provided, well above the normal 500 ml per breath. Four good breaths can reoxygenate the patient's lungs and bring blood O₂ tension back to normal. Anyone can easily learn rescue breathing, even children can be taught, but mouth to mouth must be practiced to be learned. This article will mention only the salient features, but every diver should have individual instructions and practice in rescue breathing.

1. Tilt head back and raise neck to straighten windpipe.
2. Pull jaw forward and clear the airway of tongue or matter.
3. Place mouth firmly over victim's mouth while sealing victim's nostrils.
4. Pressure of your cheek may be used to close victim's nostrils. Blow into the victim.
5. Remove your mouth and listen for expulsion. Check air passage and repeat steps 4 and 5.
6. If no air exchange is observed, quickly turn victim and slap his back sharply to dislodge blocking matter.

Mouth to Mouth Resuscitation (Cont'd.)

Remember that one should begin resuscitation in the water. Upon reaching the beach, no time should be wasted looking for a comfortable spot. No attempt should be made to turn patient over and drain the lungs, but do clean the mouth and pharynx of any foreign material. The nose of the victim must be sealed and the lips of the rescuer placed tightly over those of the victim. Proper positioning with the jaw forward will provide an adequate airway. An oropharyngeal tube is usually not necessary. In each cycle blowing into the victim's lungs should occupy only 1/3 of the time while 2/3 of the time should be allowed for his expiration. Respiratory rate should be 12-15 per minute for adults and about 20-25 a minute for children. The chest must rise and fall, care must be taken to differentiate between chest and abdominal inflation. If breathing is difficult or if chest expansion is not seen, the mouth should be recleaned and the head position of the victim readjusted.

The idea of performing mouth to mouth resuscitation offends some people. The close contact, especially if vomiting has occurred, is not always pleasant; however, immediate resuscitation may be lifesaving. With such in the balance, personal qualms must be overcome by the emergency.

BILL GRAY

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COMPRESSOR NEWS

The club's compressor will be available to members and divers at the home of Bob Scott, 88 Brunel Street, East Malvern. Fills are 70c and time is 6-8 p.m. weekdays and all day Saturday. Good clean air.

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V.S.A.G. MEMBER "GOING PLACES"

A member well known to us all is Les Walkling. Les recently was awarded a Dafydd Lewis Scholarship to cover all his University fees. The scholarship will be worth about \$5,000 over 3 years, covering his tuition fees and a living allowance. Les intends to work for a science degree majoring in Zoology, eventually becoming a marine ecologist. He has been a member of the V.S.A.G. for about 3 years and states that this has been responsible for his interest in marine life. He recently acquired a Nikonos underwater camera and has been busy mastering the art.

Only twelve students in Victoria were awarded the scholarship. Good on you, Les!

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MEDICALS

Our medical officer reports that the following persons are due for renewal of medical certificates:

Frank Maguire

Gordon Ryan

Peter Attwood

Peter Lustig

Ron Addison

John Noonan

L. Addison

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