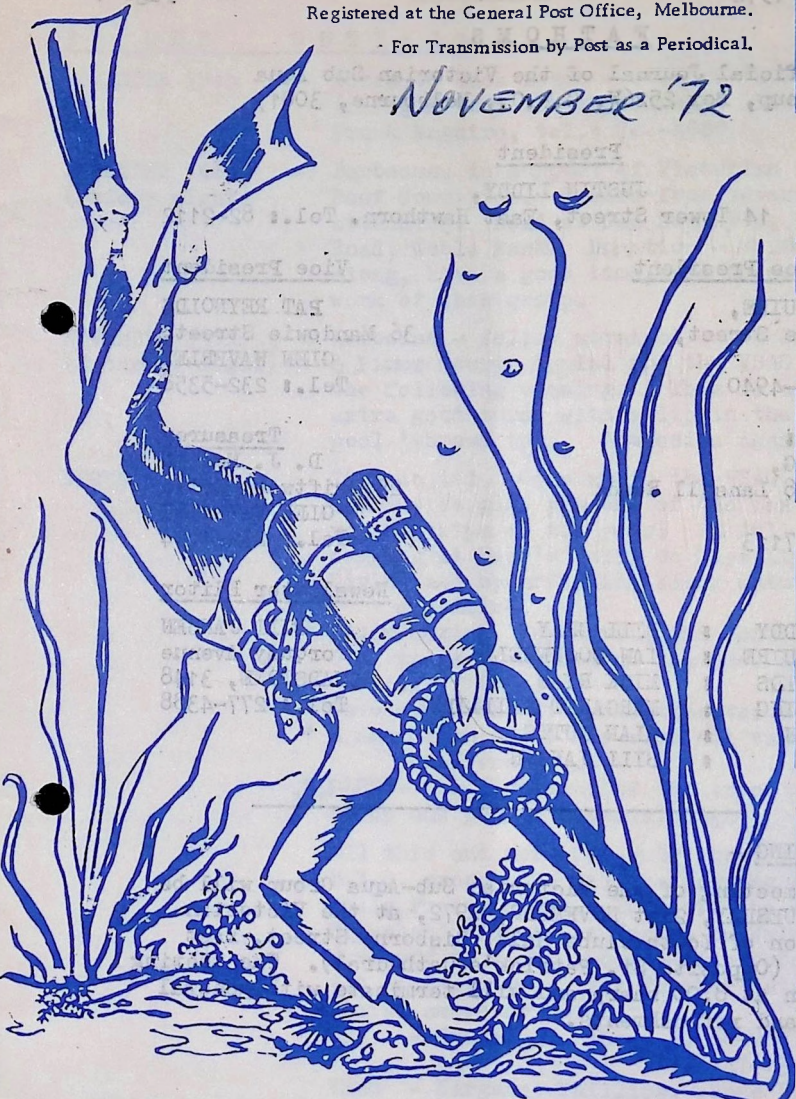


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NOVEMBER '72

FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Journal of the Victorian Sub Aqua
Group, Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001)

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CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on TUESDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 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 sharp and will terminate with general business and refreshments.

FUTURE OUTINGS

- NOVEMBER 19th - Sorrento Back Beach - St. John's Wood Road (changed from Lake Eppalock). Dive captain - Frank Maguire, tel.: 786-4940
- NOVEMBER 24th (Friday night) - Barbecue, in support of Victorian Save the Reef Committee. Divers from several clubs attending. Held at Des Sealey's, 30 Pintonia Road, Noble Park. Donation - \$1.00. Come along, have a good time, and support the good work of this group.
- NOVEMBER 25th (Saturday night) -- Barbecue - follow straight on to Bill Gray's, 4 Pimms Court, Syndal for the VSAG barbecue the following evening. This is always an extra good turn, with a dip in the swimming pool 'thrown in'. Admission again \$1.00.
- DECEMBER 2-3 - This is it! Once again the VSAG and VSA combine to give you one of the best and most varied trips of the year! A full weekend's camping at Bear's Gully on Cape Liptrap.
- * Diving and spearfishing along natural unspoiled coastline
 - * Landrovering, Toyotering and scrubbashing along miles of untrodden beaches, and unexplored cliff tops.
 - * Cave exploring with the experts.
 - * A chance to study the rare and varied flora and fauna
 - * * PLUS - the highlight of the trip, a barbecued sheep and pig on Saturday night.

All this and more for only about 75c per person. B.Y.O. grog. We will be camping at Bears Gully Friday night. Turn off the South Gippsland Highway at Tarwin to Walkerville Sth. Turn off to right about a mile before town. All sign-posted. For further details contact social secretaries:

VSA - Sue Eager, phone H. 86-9697,
W. 347-6311, ext. 213
VSAG - Margaret Phillips, phone H.232-7220

FUTURE OUTINGS (Cont'd.)

- DECEMBER 15th - Annual VSAG dinner at "The Cuckoo" Restaurant, Main Road, Olinda, in the Dandenongs. This will be a Smorgasbord style and runs from 6.30 to 12.00. This is that once-a-year when everybody turns up. Don't miss it. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Please bring or send your payment in by this meeting at the latest. (Post to Box 2526W, Melbourne.)
- DECEMBER 17th - "The Speake", wreck dive on Phillip Island. Another search for those elusive portholes. Combined with BRUDG.
- DECEMBER 26th - Mount Gambier.
(Boxing Day) Arrangements have been made and space booked at the Willow Vale Caravan Park, from this date until accommodation runs out. Anyone wishing to join in during this holiday period, please contact Frank Maguire, tel. 786-4940.

NOTE:

Two changes have been made in this calendar: Lake Eppalock to Sorrento back beach and Lake Purrumbeet to Cape Liptrap

"COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS"

We are Scuba divers. We have chosen this sport as being of greatest interest to us and we have each made the choice ourselves. For enjoyment, comradeship, safety and greater diving opportunities we have decided to join a club.

In the beginning any club will do - they are all capable of bringing these advantages. What makes them better or worse is what their members make of them. We have elected to belong to the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group. What have we made of this club, past and present?

In the past, a continuous leadership in the sport of diving, for over 18 years. Some of the foremost divers in this state have been members. A good safety record, the first with a

"Count Your Blessings" (Cont'd.)

diver's handbook, proficiency standards and medical certificates. Numerous displays have been put on at Royal Show, boat show, etc. to further the sport.

At present we are active in the S.D.F. and Underwater Instructor's Association. Discussion has been taking place on new safety procedures and a revised handbook. A points system has been introduced to encourage greater club activity. While not all members continue active participation, good dives are being held and enjoyed, at the best dive sites. The committee constantly seeks new and interesting locations.

In worldly goods, this club also stands in front. We own a compressor, which has already proved it's worth on several distant trips. A couple of aqualungs for training and members' use are also a distinct advantage.

At times members wonder what the club is doing for them and how it compares with other clubs. Well, think about these few facts and figure it out. This club does a lot for it's members and could do a lot more with unified support. Those who have undertaken positions on the committee have made up new dive listings and social arrangements, but often when these are put to members at a meeting, not enough were there to sample opinion. At a recent meeting with 14 in attendance, 9 were committee, 3 visitors and 2 members! Club dives are often poorly attended, yet many private dives are held among members. If there is something missing in club dives, we would like to know, but won't unless you turn up and speak up.

How about it? If it's diving you want this club has it for you. If all members pitched in with enthusiasm, we could truly be the No. 1 Club in Victoria.

- Ed.

DIVE REPORTS

Brighton Beach - This was originally planned for Williamstown but with reports of live explosives being found recently and trainee divers coming along, a change was decided. Conditions at the old Capt. Cook restaurant site were favorable and all present enjoyed themselves. After a worthwhile training session it was the usual scrounge, with the usual few bottles being found.

Holyoake - Hurricane - This turned out to be the Hurricane after all, as the boats available could not manage the 12 divers who turned up. Lots of scallops were there for the picking, but no bags could be found so it was a slow chore to collect a few. On the way back Barry's boat lost headway and finally slowed to a crawl. It turned out to be a "slipped disc", which serve as shear pin on Merc-cruisers. Eventually the gang wound up on Rosebud Jetty for, you guessed it - the pier crawl. Needless to say, all had a good day.

Mountain View Hotel - This is not exactly a dive, but members got into the drink just the same. It must have been a good brew as 25 turned up to get soaked. The band was top-notch. Dance floor honors went to Gordon and Bob. After a cheerful evening members drifted over to Pat's place for coffee and a sober up. Luckily no men in blue wielding 'puff bags' were encountered.

Point Cook - 22/10/72 (Report by Justin Liddy)

Dive captain - Mick Ryan.

Present: Pat Reynolds and family, Tony Tipping, Justin Liddy, Paul Seir, David Carroll, Bill Reeves, Bill Gray, Marg. Phillips and John Goulding.

The weather wasn't all the best as regards sunshine, but still we had 8 divers turn up at the gates of Pt. Cook about mid-day. After some discussion it was decided to go down and have a look at the water anyway, so we all trooped down to the pier. You should have seen the expression on people's faces when we got out of the cars - to be greeted by the foulest smell this side of Werribee.

All the same we ventured out on to the wharf to have a look at the thin soup they laughingly call 'the sea' down there. After much "um-ing and ah-ing" everybody kitted up and jumped in. Visibility was surprisingly about 4-5 feet. Paul Seir jumped in and immediately lost his brand new James Bond type speargun, much to everyone's relief!! So while we were searching round in the murk for that, Pat and David headed out to sea along the old submerged pier. They were met by several rather large rays so they decided to abort. The rest of us also decided to abort about the same time; funny about that.

Tony and Pat and a few other idiots then proceeded to give us a high dive demonstration. By this time everybody had had enough of the soupy water and strong odour, so we packed up and went back to Laverton.

Once back at Laverton Mick Ryan very kindly took us for a tour of the R.A.A.F. base, which was very interesting and much appreciated; thank you Mick. Most of us were quite amazed at the extent of the base and it's activities - then Mick's good wife turned on a rather welcome afternoon tea and after the inevitable shop talk, we all departed for home. All in all, even if the water was a "bit" dirty, it was a very good day out.

JUSTIN LIDDY.

Tennis Afternoon -

This might seem an unusual way for a diving club to get together, but it turned out to be a really pleasant day. About a dozen members and families came long with their tennis racquets - some with sand shoes and some with bare feet. Host Justin turned on the barbecue with all the trimmings, plus plenty of C.U.B. to wash it down. When I rolled up, Gordon, Bob, Pat and Dave had a good game going, with loud arguments about who took what points. They even got the ball over the net a few times.

Later I stripped down to bare toes, coat and tie to have a few hits with Tony. For my first game of tennis, I

Tennis Afternoon (Cont'd)

showed smashing form. (Pro teams please note).

By this time it was a bit nippy and too dark to see the ball so the party retired into the house. As the beer was still in good supply everyone settled down for the old chinwag. At about this time I made tracks for home, with the party just starting to settle in.

BILL JANSEN.

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C L U B N E W S

The festive season is in full swing, with 2 barbecues (November 24th and 25th), and the annual club dinner coming up. A presentation will be made at the dinner for last year's Clubman of the Year competition.

A proposal by Mick Ryan was adopted, that the club purchase an approved type of buoyancy vest for use as standby on dives. Also that life jackets be made compulsory on all open water dives. The club's vest may be used by any diver not having one along, for a few of 50 cents. Members' buoyancy vests are to be inspected by the club every six months.

Mick, as recently elected diving officer, has also laid down the following points on a dive captain's responsibilities:

First, prepare a dive plan in advance. Ensure that adequate personnel are employed to implement this plan, consistent with the size of the group. Provide for the necessary club equipment to be available, where applicable,

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and check operation of same. Check tides and weather conditions, etc. Be fair and expect to be obeyed. Insist on correct signals. Check on return of equipment. Leave the area clean. Report on the dive.

Most unfortunately for the club, Mick has had to resign his new position and committee membership. He had been assigned to organize a recreational diving group within the Laverton air force base and his time will be fully committed. Mick remains a member of V.S.A.G. and we hope to see him (and his new group) along on future dives.

The club has received a letter from old friend Peter Trevor, who has been diving recently in the Mediterranean.

An alteration has been made in the points scoring for next year's clubman award: to increase emphasis on dive attendance, a bonus of 50 points will be made to those attending 75% of club dives in the year.

Members are advised that committee meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of every month, at the following homes:

December	-	BILL GRAY
February	-	TONY TIPPING
March	-	DON McBEAN
April	-	BOB SCOTT
May	-	ALAN CUTTS
June	-	FRANK MAGUIRE
July	-	BILL JANSEN
August	-	IAN COCKERELL

Any member wishing to attend and observe is welcome to do so. Meeting start at 8 p.m.

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THE GREAT BARRIER REEF - DOOMED TO EXTINCTION ?

Victorian divers who travelled to Bowen, Queensland for the Barrier Reef survey were recently able to report their observations. Their report was discouraging in several ways.

The infestation has proceeded beyond previous known limits and now seems to have covered most of the barrier reef area. There is no concerted effort by supposedly interested parties. A recent advertisement offering government support has proved so restrictive that it is totally useless.

Rumours were heard that certain financial interests were working against the reef's preservation as there would be less public outcry against the granting of mineral rights in those areas. Several prominent diving personalities have stated that the plague will burn itself out and the reef regenerate. Unfortunately we cannot look forward to this within our lifetime.

Against these discouraging revelations, the Victorian Save the Reef Committee has decided to continue its operations - raising funds and bringing the matter before the public wherever possible. Without government backing no effort can succeed, but public opinion may force the government into acting.

A barbecue is being held on November 24th - Friday, at the home of Des Sealey, 30 Fintonia Road, Noble Park. This should be well attended by divers, both in support of the cause and as an opportunity to get together. See you there!

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"PATHWAYS"

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