

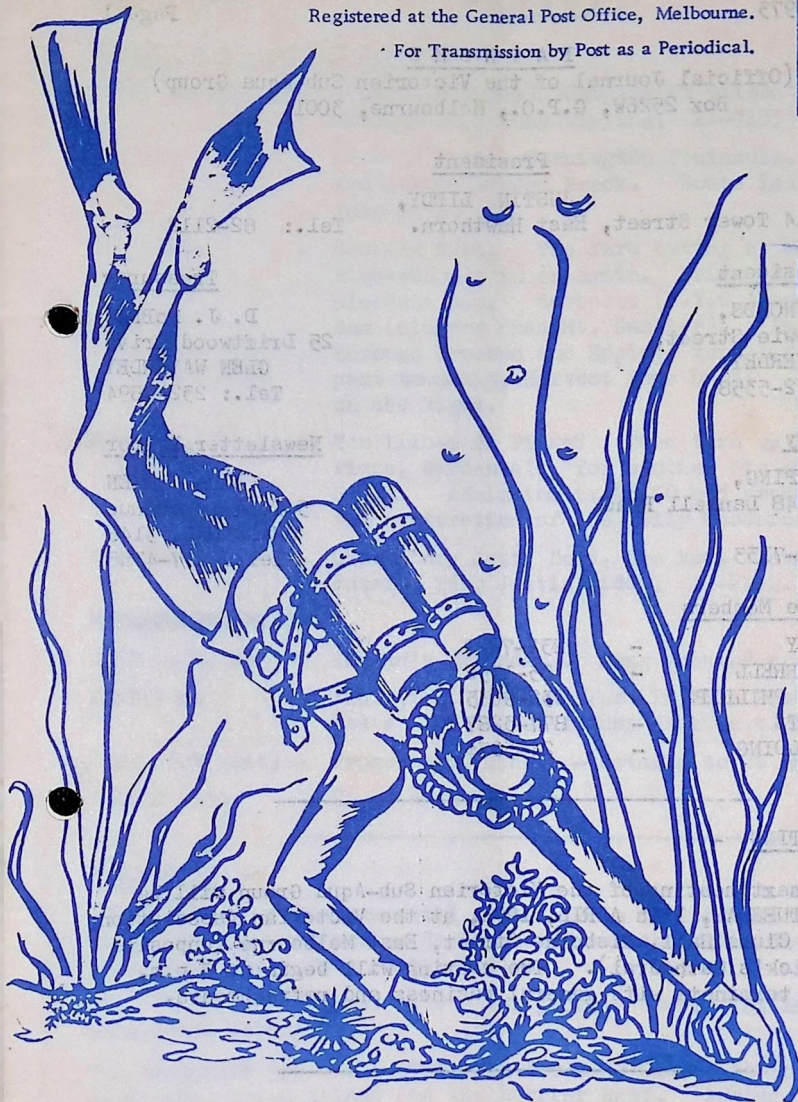
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# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Journal 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, 17th APRIL, 1973, at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne (opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral). The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. and will terminate with general business and refreshments.



F U T U R E O U T I N G S

- APRIL 20-25th - (Easter Holiday) Camping at Wilson's Prom. For details ring Tony Tipping, 24-7133 (A.H.)
- MAY 6th - Cheviot Beach, Mornington Peninsula. Boat dive on the London Bridge Wreck. Boats leave from Sorrento Ramp at 10 a.m.
- MAY 12th - Cocky's Turn. The farm outing at Murray Richardson's is on again. Bring the family for a pleasant day. Barbecue (B.Y.O.) and a dive in the dam (clearer than Mt. Gambier). Follow High St. through Preston and Epping, turn left at 3rd road past township, Harvest Home Lane. Second house on the right.
- MAY 14th - You like-a da Pizza? Then turn up at Peppa's Pizza, Gardenvale, for another big night with the S.D.F. Admission is \$2.50 and proceeds are to aid the restoration of the Polly Woodside.
- MAY 20th - Canterbury Jetty Road, Rye back beach area. For details ring Justin Liddy, 82-2112.
- ~~MAY 26th (Sat.)~~
- JUNE 2, 3, 4th - (Queen's Birthday). Long weekend at Mt. Gambier.
- JUNE 17th - 'The Time' wreck in Port Phillip Heads. Boats leave from Sorrento Ramp at 10 a.m.
- JUNE 23rd (Sat) - Progressive dinner - details to be announced.
- AUGUST 24th - Club Annual Dinner
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CLUB NOTES -

Tee Shirts - A few are still available in various colors and sizes. These carry a distinctive diving motif and the VSAG initials. \$2.80 while they last, from Justin Liddy.

Life Jackets - Payment is due for jackets ordered at last meeting from Peter Atkins.

Two vacancies are still available for MAKO Club's coming outing to Gladstone, Heron Island and the Barrier Reef. Anyone interested should contact Norm Wentworth, Mako Skindiving Club.

CLUB NOTES (Cont'd.)

Any suggestions on where to hold our annual dinner? The committee has discussed possible venues but nothing is finalized so far. The date is set for August. If you have a bright idea, bring it in to the next meeting.

Our hot-shot secretary will soon be leaving us for distant lands and dusky maidens, (apartheid permitting). This leaves us in dire need of a secretary. If anyone in the club is willing to tackle this vitally important job, make yourself known. Nominations are now being received.

Quotable Quote - "The only real danger in skindiving is in yourself - lack of self control in moments of possible panic, disregard of safety rules, and taking unnecessary, uncalculated risks."

from Ben Cropp's handbook.

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TUBE TRIP - SUNDAY, 4th of MARCH

Following is a complete and detailed report of last month's river cruise, to make up for my sketchy outline in the last newsletter. - Ed.

This outing with a difference was held in conjunction with the Bass Strait Divers and the Laverton Sub-Aqua Club, alias Mick Ryan's mob. A good turnout was seen from both clubs, with as many non-swimmers waving goodbye at the start as there were people in the water. There were tubes of varying sizes from tractor down to mini. Justin seemed to think that 'tube trip' meant the amber liquid variety; and to two large tubes he had attached several small ones, for medicinal purposes he would have us believe. Rob came complete with a kayak but initially seemed to spend more time beneath it and the river, a sort of 'get out and get under' with a vengeance. The water babies, Scott, Craig and Chris kept a strict eye on their respective fathers as we set out from Fildon Weir.

The water was cold and the current slow, and for the first mile or so everyone was within hailing distance of each other. A slow passage was the pattern of the trip except where the rapids churned up the river and speeded up the action. One section of the broken water near the start, when viewed through a mask, revealed a nightmarish ride between house size boulders, with

Tube Trip (Cont'd.)

the river bed alternately rushing up to within inches of the mask and then dropping away suddenly to seemingly bottomless depths. The old skeletons of dead white gums appeared starkly through green water, pointing their branches up to within inches of the rushing surface and club bottoms sticking through their tubes.

In the quiet stretches between the rapids we had a chance to view the countryside, sedately and with no traffic problems except for punctures which bothered us once or twice. Our progress downstream was also marked by a series of attempted ambushes, none of which were successful except to give us a chance to warm up on the bank while waiting to be spotted.

Eventually a half-way stage was reached where everyone with the exception of 5 stalwarts got out and hitched rides back to civilization, overcome by the cold and rugged conditions. They were soon back at the weir enjoying a barbecue, a cold beer and a game of footy. Meanwhile, back at the river, the survivors drifted on and on and on, until finally the end of the trip was in sight with Phil Patridge being the winner, followed home by Tony Tipping, whose tube was under the whip at the finish. So after about 9 miles of river and about 30 starters there were eventually only 5 finishers.

That was not the end of the trip, however, for three of us there still remained the 'slight' problem of getting back to the weir and our colleagues no doubt waiting anxiously for us. We began to walk back along the road, and I am sure that psychiatrists in the area are still looking for 3 nuts in diving suits with two large tubes who were attempting to thumb lifts in the depths of the country nowhere near the sea. However, all well that ends well; we were eventually rescued and restored to the bosom of the club, where everyone said how quiet it had been without Tony.

We drove home exhausted but after a good day out with a difference, and the river returned to normal again.

BRIAN LYNCH



FLINDERS DIVE; SOMERS BARBECUE25th March.

Early Sunday morning Tony went off to check out the coast between the Flinders golf course and Bushranger Bay and decided on a popular spot about two miles from Flinders. By 10 a.m. stacks of divers together with their girl friends, wives and children had arrived including Norm Wentworth and a few of the crew from Mako.

The climb down the cliff was not exactly easy because Black Rock Club had pinched the easy side of this dive location by just a few moments. There was a four to six foot swell which made it a little awkward to snorkel out beyond the rocks and likewise getting back, so most of the divers were quite happy to snorkel close in. The highlights of this dive were Dave's and Brian's sighting of a 6 ft. whaler shark and Bazza's 8 lb. bug. Tony and Bazza were grateful to have Pat on the rocks guiding them back as the swells had strengthened with the incoming tide.

After the savage climb back up the cliffs it was decided to head back to Flinders Pier for a recovery swim or dive before proceeding on to the barbecue at Somers.

This barbecue was really successful - in all there were over 40 people: families, the Mako and Eastern teams, trainees, ratbags, the lot. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves as there was no shortage of food and drink (for a while anyhow). You could even have a kick of the footy thanks to the Truscott boys. It proved that VSAG attendances at dives are right back where they should be, so let's keep it up and enjoy ourselves while we can.

TONY TIPPING  

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POINTS SCORES !

At long last, here are the up-to-date points score placings. They prove that the best way to build up a score is to consistently get out on the dives. Those leading are out there - and having a ball.

<u>Placing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Placing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	J. LIDDY	140	11	B. SCOTT	38
2	T. TIPPING	137	12	J. GOULDING	34
3	B. TRUSCOTT	92	13	D. McBEAN	15
4	P. REYNOLDS	73	14	B. LYNCH	13
5	I. COCKPSELL	70	15	M. RYAN	11
6	W. GRAY	63	16	T. ARMSTRONG	9
7	W. JANSEN	59	17	G. RYAN	6
8	M. PHILLIPS	57	18	R. ADDISON	5
9	F. MAGUIRE	51	19	J. NOCNAN	2
9	L. WALKLING	51	19	K. STEWART	2
10	A. CUTTS	43	19	J. CARSON	2

If you don't see your name above, or feel you have more points coming, get down to the meetings and sign the book. That's the only way we can tell you were there.

STARFISH CONTROL BID FAILS

Brisbane - Japanese experiments to control the movement of the Crown of Thorns starfish on the Barrier Reef have failed. The experiments used a copper sulphate unigel poison mixture, developed by Prof. Y. Suyehiro, a Japanese marine biologist.

The Primary Industries Department's director general, Dr. J.M. Harvey said plastic pipes containing the poison laid around six experimental 'plots' had failed to keep starfish out of

Starfish Control Bid Fails (Cont'd.)

'clean' coral areas. They were laid 45 miles off Townsville four months ago.

Dr. Harvey said the joint Commonwealth-State Committee of inquiry into the starfish problem believed the current invasion is due to a normal cyclic behavior of the Crown of Thorns. "There is no doubt that recovery will be complete, but regeneration in some more difficult areas may take a decade or so," he said.

Editor's Note: As stated in this newsletter previously, authorities are hiding their heads in the sand for fear of having to spend some money. Can we afford to wait "a decade or so"? Science must spare no effort until this challenge is beaten.

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WHAT MAKES A GOOD DIVER ?

Almost every new diver coming into the sport is eager to prove that he is a good diver. In the early days of the sport a man proved his worth by the size and number of fish he speared. Fortunately we have matured considerably since those early fish-sticking days and this is no longer considered a valid yardstick.

Breath-holding and prolonged free diving was another early day measure of diving skill. That was until the medical men blew the whistle and showed the diving community how hyperventilation and over-extension could (and often did) result in underwater blackout.

An equally insane yardstick of the hero diver is deep diving with compressed air. An astonishing number of misguided youths have met with tragic endings during Scuba dives to 270, 300 and even 320 ft! These fatalities were senseless because depth is certainly no measure of a man's diving ability.

What then, is the criteria for judging a person a 'good diver'? It is the diver's actions in and around the water that



What Makes a Good Diver? (Cont'd.)

provide the clues - how he prepares for a dive - how he conducts himself underwater - and how he avoids accident situations. Here are just a few of the basic signs to look for:

Physical condition - a good diver keeps himself in basically good physical condition so that he can enjoy his dives and avoid panic situations. He knows when to quit for the day. He will not push himself beyond his limit regardless of how good the diving may be. He does not punish himself with carousing and late nights before an outing.

Proper Equipment - A good diver shows up properly equipped for that specific dive, with the special gear needed for any specific job. A pressure gauge, depth gauge, life jacket and knife are essential to him. He also maintains his equipment on a regular basis, such as rinsing after a dive and doing a pre-check well before an outing.

Underwater Orientation - A good diver takes careful mental note of underwater landmarks. He always has a fair idea where he is and can find his way back. He also keeps a careful check on his tank pressure and makes his turn around before the air is half gone.

Buddy Contact - 'Never dive alone' is a cardinal rule of diving, but there is much more to the buddy system than being in the same ocean with another diver. A good diver maintains constant visual contact with his partner, has arranged rendezvous points and a plan of action should they become separated.

Awareness - A good diver develops a 'sixth sense' about impending trouble. He does this by maintaining a constant vigilance for potential hazards, such as increasing surf or ~~current~~ narcosis. He thinks ahead and will generally avoid the situation rather than plunging into it.

Pre-dive Judgment - Knowing when not to dive is just as important as knowing how to dive. A good diver evaluates the situation before he makes his entry. If the situation appears too hazardous, he aborts the dive. The same holds true for his personal condition. If he has a bad cold or just doesn't feel quite right, he cancels out rather than burden his fellow divers with the possibility of

What Makes a Good Diver (Cont'd.)

a rescue problem.

If you had to sum it up; "a good diver is a careful diver". He avoids trouble rather than always struggling out of a tight squeeze. The next time you're out on a dive, take a look around you. Better still, check yourself out on this little test.

Condensed from "Skindiver" magazine.

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D I V E R S

D I V E R S

DIVING ALONG THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD ?

SPECIAL RATES TO DIVERS AND DIVING GROUPS AT THE

SOUTHERN OCEAN MOTEL

PORT CAMPBELL

PHONE:  
98-6231

or Write -  
Prop. Keith Gray

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