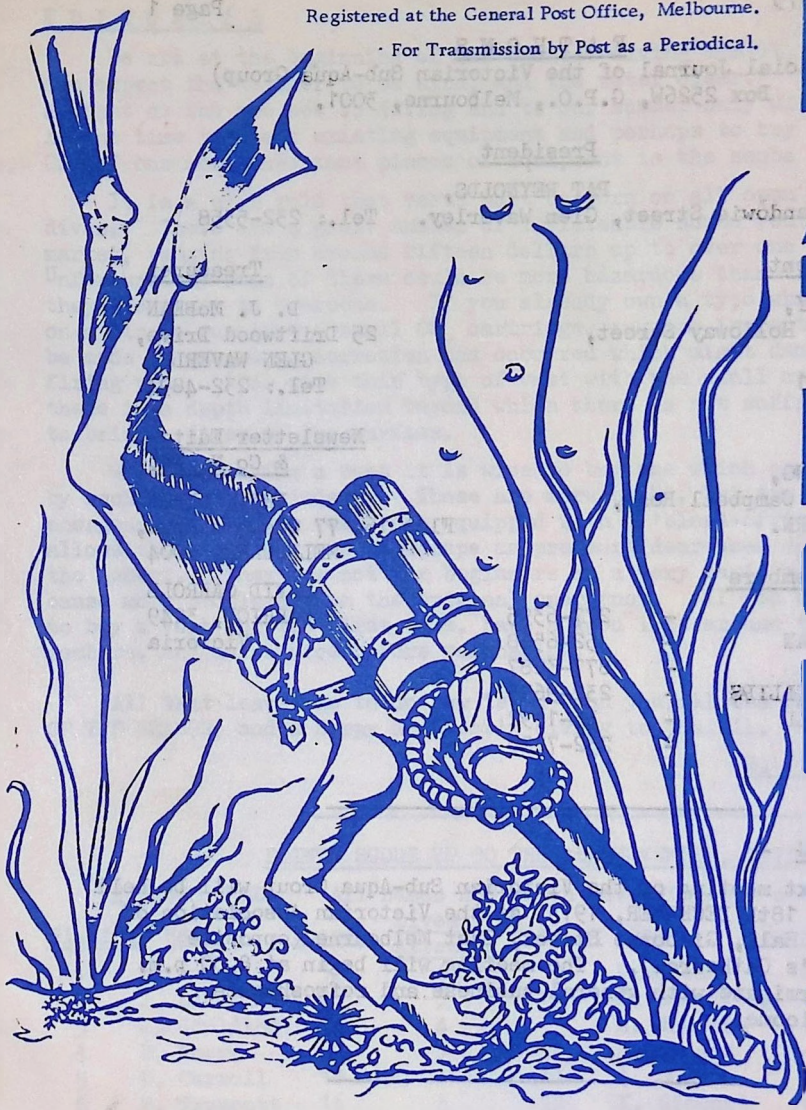


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# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

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VictoriaCLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on TUESDAY, 18th DECEMBER, 1973, 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. and will terminate with general business and refreshments. Visitors welcome.

EDITORIAL

We are at the beginning of our busiest diving months, when we can expect the weather to be kind, and the water clear. For those amongst us who are new to diving and to our summer only divers, now is the time to check existing equipment and perhaps to buy new gear. One of our most important pieces of equipment is the scuba vest.

It is a club rule that vests must be worn on all open sea dives. There are a great number of inflatable scuba vests on the market, ranging from around fifteen dollars up to over one hundred. Unfortunately some of these could be more hazardous than the dangers they are meant to overcome. If you already own a type which relies on a pin to puncture a small CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge, regular inspections must be made to ensure no corrosion has occurred which might damage the firing pin. Also with this type of vest with the small cartridge, there is a depth limitation beyond which there is not sufficient gas to bring a diver to the surface.

When purchasing a vest it is wise to buy one which can be inflated by rechargeable cylinders. These are more bulky, but are safer in emergencies. These vests are equipped with a 'bleed-off' valve which allows the expanding air to escape as pressure decreases during the ascent. They are not for beginners as a very rapid ascent can cause more problems than the original emergency. If you are about to buy a vest for the first time, have a good look around the club members, and ask advice before purchasing.

All that leaves me to do now is to wish you all the COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON, and a Happy New Year's diving to you all.

B. L.

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POINTS SCORE UP TO THE 4th NOVEMBER, 1973

4 DIVES HELD. All names not shown have either 2 or less.

<u>Placing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Scores</u>	<u>Dives</u> <u>Attended</u>	<u>Placing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Scores</u>	<u>Dives</u> <u>Attended</u>
1	B. Lynch	32	4	9	D. McBean	10	2
2	J. Liddy	26	3	10	P. Zonenberg	8	-
3	J. Goulding	24	4		A. Newmann	8	2
4	D. Moore	20	3		B. Jansen	-	-
5	D. Carroll	18	-	11	A. Cutts	7	1
6	B. Truscott	16	3	12	K. Stewart	6	-
	P. Reynolds	16	4	13	B. Gray	4	-
7	T. Smith	14	1		M. Phillips	4	-
8	M. Symon	13	2		B. Adamson	4	-

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

- TUESDAY, - General meeting at the Victorian Youth Clubs  
18th DECEMBER Association Hall. 8 p.m. start.
- WEDNESDAY, - Start of our Christmas camping holiday at Mortlake.  
26th DECEMBER How to get there. Just before entering Mortlake turn right onto the Lake Bolac Road. Proceed along this road for about three miles, then first road left past the "Scoria" Pits, keeping the large hill on your left. Murray's farm is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile down on the left, with two wagon wheels flanking the cattle grid. The shearing shed alias Murray's Hilton can be seen from the road.
- 26-27-28th - This will probably be a gold diving weekend at  
JANUARY, 1973 Bright, bring your own pans. Dive captain - Dave Moore.
- SUNDAY, - Seal Rocks, Flinders Pier, 10 a.m.  
10th FEBRUARY Dive Captain - Barry Truscott.
- 

SORRENTO WEEKEND

We arrived at the Nautilus caravan park on the afternoon of Saturday the 17th, as usual Terry was late, but after some bargaining with the site landlady we did manage to get into a van or two. The high spot of the afternoon was the arrival of Les Walkling on his bike which was lucky for me since he is one of our hardier members and can go into the water occasionally without the all-weather protection of his wet suit.

The next arrivals were Barry and family, followed closely by a pussycat driving a Volkswagen, now we know just why John kept putting down saucers of milk all along the Nepean Highway. Round about this time Terry arrived, and we settled ourselves into our respective caravans. The next item on the agenda was a barbecue, for which Peter Sonnenberg produced a succulent mushroom sauce. We were joined there by Harvey Allen and Barry Degenhardt from Ringwood and Colin Freeman from Melbourne Scuba, and then we set off for a night dive from Portsea pier.

We arrived at the pier at 11.30 to find it covered in fishermen, and the problem was, where should we enter the water. We entered eventually from the sea-ward side of the pier, accompanied at this stage by our bikie friend from Melbourne Scuba.

We split into three main groups, accompanied by John, Terry and Peter I went in search of the reef which lies just to the right of the Portsea pier. The world below the surface of the Bay at night is very different to the light, opaque vistas we were used to. Being underwater at night is as if you were suspended in warm clinging velvet. Held in the beam of the torch, multi-coloured small fish swim lazily up towards the light, trying to discover just who, or what is invading their private night world. Upon switching off the light, all is darkness except where above us phosphorescent shapes dance to the motions of the unseen waves. On the floor of the Bay picked out by the searching finger of light, brightly coloured shells materialise out of the sand.

Looking around us, we can see outlined in the green distance other divers reflecting back our light beams at us. Their silhouettes behind the light dance nearer to us as we meet up in an oasis of light in the dark sea.

Terry and Peter made for the beach whilst John and I swam leisurely back towards the pier, the highlight of the evening was our rendition of "Come back to Sorrento", as we swam on our backs alongside the pier. Arriving back on shore we met up with our other intrepid nocturnal divers, all of us including beachmaster Barry having had a very enjoyable night dive.

BRIAN LYNCH

---

THE OTHER SIDE OF PORTSEA PIER BY NIGHT.

Jim Taube and I decided we would dive around the pier and then go over the sandy flats to the left of Portsea pier on the recent Club dive there.

After an interesting fifteen minutes or so under the pier where we found many interesting and fascinating exhibits of marine life, we ventured out over the sand. Our reason for going over the sand, instead of the reef was I figured the shells and molluscs which normally hide in the sand by day, would be out at night to feed. (Wasn't far wrong).

Out over the sand we came across some worms of some kind. (don't know which or what). They were about 1 meter long and almost transparent, as soon as we touched them they would disappear down their holes in the sand.

Later on we came across two very good specimens of Wavy Volutes (*Amorena undulata*) and also one lone spotted helmet (*Xenogalea spectabilis*) which I knew would keep me "sweet" with Judy.

Jim acquired a small but active hitch hiker in the form of a small pink octopus which followed us around for quite a while as well as the numerous squid and cuttlefish.

In all we had a most enjoyable dive in an area we normally wouldn't waste our time in during the day. The only thing I was "crook" on was I didn't take the camera.

ADRIAN NEWMANN.

---

THE SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA  
HELD AT THE CELTIC CLUB.

Two of your delegates attended the special meeting called by S.D.F. to discuss the Ringwood Club's proposed constitution. As those of you who were present will remember, we as a club had discussed this proposal and had voted to support Ringwood in presenting this constitution to S.D.F. We did this because we felt that S.D.F. needed guidelines in order to safeguard the clubs concerned, and because at present there exists no visible constitution nor visible Articles of Association.

Upon going round the table we found that four clubs were for the constitution. Ourselves, Ringwood, Melbourne Scuba and Bass Strait. Against were Underwater Explorers, Box Hill; those undecided were Black Rock and Mako.

There was much discussion about the fors and againsts, mainly because some clubs were of the opinion that with a constitution, S.D.F. might be in a position to dictate to the clubs in the Federation. Unfortunately no decision was reached, but the delegates have gone back to their clubs to report and to have further discussion, and this matter will be raised again at the next S.D.F. meeting.

BRIAN LYNCH  
ADRIAN NEWMANN

SUNDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 1973 -

For those of you who turned up at Phillip Island for the advertised dive it must have been a disappointing day and would have served to bring home the point of "ring your dive captain". Those who rang the dive captain found because of the weather, the venue was moved to old faithful, Sorrento.

Brian and Adrian were first on the scene, closely followed by Denise and myself, John Goulding and Mike McGooghan (N.Z.), Peter Smith. By this time tides were getting close so they all deserted me to head for Pearce's Road. I was elected to stick around and wait for latecomers. These turned out to be Terry Smith and tribe, and Dave Moore and the ever faithful Pat. Showed them the right spot to find most people in the process of kitting up to plunge into a relatively calm sea. Terry, John and I wandered over to have a look at the next bay and when we got back the rest of the intrepid band were down on the edge of the rocks preparing for the plunge. Then the big waves started to roll in and suddenly every one lost interest in diving, although there were still a few mad spearers trying to get back in. Back at the cars we found Bazza and family laughing at us.

After much deliberation it was decided to give Portsea Reef a go. After a quick walk in the wind several intrepid souls decided to give it a go after lunch. Lunch came and went and then time for John and Mike, Terry, Rob, Alan, Adrian & Brian to kit up and fall in. Very well organised with D.C. Alan barking orders left and right, I think most got in the water for a bit of peace and quiet! The rest of us went and sheltered from the wind and swapped a few stories around and waited. About an hour and a half out they came, wet a cold but quite happy with the day. After the usual postmortem the party began to break up and head for home. Weather conditions weren't the best for the day but still it was a chance to get in the water and see if one could still swim. Several hardy members even ended up at my place devouring abalone caught by John which were quite tasty even if it did take some chewing.

Another good day for V.S.A.G. made possible by those who came along.

JUSTIN LIDDY.

- TENNIS AFTERNOON AND BARBEQUE - 24/11/73

Saturday, 24th Nov. turned out to be a remarkably good day, and the more athletic members of the club were scheduled to meet at Justin's place for preliminaries for the Davis Cup.

Glenys and I arrived about 2.30pm, the barbeque was warming up and so were some of the budding professionals. As all could not play at the same time, the remainder were carrying out a beer and wine tasting competition. So many people turned up at different times I will not even try to remember who they were, but I would say that at one time there were some 30 people present, no doubt one of the largest attendances I have seen at a social outing.

The hint has been continuously given to me over the last two weeks not to forget the names of the two champions in the Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Singles and anything else you can do on a tennis court. Yes, you must have guessed BAZZA and BRIAN LYNCH. They certainly played a mean game of tennis, Brian always served oval balls and Bazza was definitely a line man, i.e. when you thought the ball was out it always seemed to just hit the line by the time you had cancelled your attempted stroke and just stood there hoping.

About 6.30 older members left the court to get a bite to eat and a little something to ease the blistering throat. No sooner had they left when it was invaded by about 15 kids all trying to match the skills of their parents. I must mention Bazza's two boys who were supposed to be ball boys, but I don't think they quite got the right idea. They were certainly good at getting the balls off the court and from adjoining neighbour's properties, but once retrieved they would have their own private game with 4 or 5 balls in the corner of the court. After some coaxing and yelling by Bazza and Marie they would reluctantly give up one or possibly two balls for us to use.

Back to the barbeque. Several people were standing around the fire cooking their food, which reminds me, I wish Brian Lynch, our Resident Chef, would instruct Rob Adamson on the art of turning steak and chops. Yours truly, wearing only T shirt and shorts, was continuously burned on the legs and arms by fat from Rob's rapidly descending steaks. (Hint: "Rob, would you see Brian about turning steaks.") The barbeque lasted until 7.30pm when again the court was commandeered by the professionals, who held it until it was too dark to see a ball at 6 inches. We retired to the fire, music and some who weren't too sore even managed to dance. This was definitely out for my aching legs so I tried my hand at a few photographs with the flash.



Most started to wander home by 11pm leaving behind a trailer load of empties after a thoroughly enjoyable day.

I would like to thank Mr. Liddy, Senior, for the use of his house, garden and tennis court, and also Justin for arranging the turn, and last but not least, all the people who made the day so enjoyable, including Bazza and Brian our undefeated club doubles champions.

ALAN CUTTS

---

Dear Sir,

Trespass at Quarantine Station, Portsea.

During the past year there have been several occasions when aqua-lung divers have been found trespassing in the restricted area of the Quarantine Station, Portsea. Apparently, the divers concerned were members of a Diving Club, although they were in fact diving in a private capacity and were unaware of the fact that unauthorized personnel are not permitted in the Quarantine area.

One conclusion that can be drawn from this is that some people connected with Diving Clubs are generally unaware that the beach area is in fact part of the restricted Quarantine Station. Therefore, they need to be informed of the fact and made aware of the possible consequences.

It is in this area that the Department requires your co-operation to inform your members that the Quarantine Station is a restricted area and that there are penalties involved if trespass occurs.

Enclosed is a copy of the relevant section of the Quarantine Act and a description of the restricted area. It should be noted that if anyone commits trespass when an active-quarantine is in operation, then that person would be bound to remain in quarantine for a period of two weeks, and further they would be liable for the cost of quarantine which could be up to \$1000.

It would be much appreciated if you could contact the Department and let us know if you require a further supply of the attached sheet to circularize to your members, or if you could provide a list of the various member Clubs and their addresses so that the Department can then contact each club.

Thanking you in anticipation of your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

R.C. WEBB

Director (Victorian Division)  
Department of Health.

THE QUARANTINE ACT STATES UNDER:-

Section 76:- (1) An unauthorised person shall not -

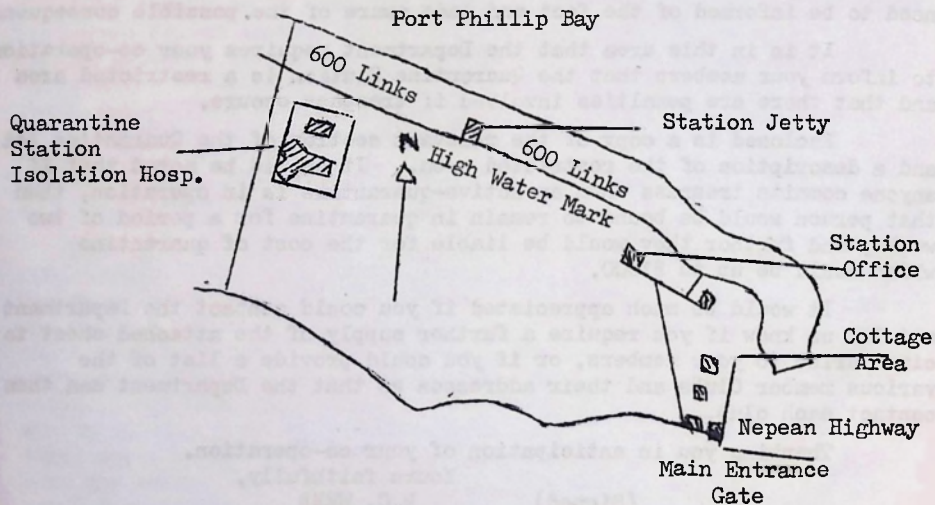
- (a) enter or trespass on any quarantine station or quarantine area; or
- (b) interfere with any goods, animals, or plants subject to quarantine.

Penalty: Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)

(2) Any unauthorised person who enters any quarantine station while any person is performing quarantine thereon or enters a quarantine area shall be subject to quarantine, and may be detained at the quarantine station for the performance of quarantine or in the quarantine area, as the case may be and cost \$1000.

UNDER PROCLAMATION 39.G. of 1956, THE DESCRIPTION OF THE QUARANTINE STATION IS

All that piece of land being part of Crown Allotment No. 154 and part of the waters of Port Phillip Bay lying between high-water mark and a line running 600 links from and parallel thereto in the parish of Nepean, County of Mornington, State of Victoria, Commonwealth of Australia as shown on plan hereunder:-



FLOTSAM and JETSAM -

It was quite fitting for Australia to win the Davis Cup this year. Having attended the last two VSAG Tennis Parties it is easy to see the upgraded standard our own members have shown in playing the game. For example, last year we started off with 24 balls and finished up with none. This year we had twelve balls and I still managed to take two home with me.

The assorted styles of tennis dress may have made ladies of Kooyong blush, but the style of some of our members was well worth a second look. If it was any longer than one second, you'd probably die laughing. Many thanks to Justin who once again provided the means for a most happy day and evening.

Thanks should also go to Terry Smith for providing the barbeque and blonde pat (I can never remember her sir name) who flew around the court on her broom before the guests arrived and made the white lines visible for a while.

Already we are at December, the end of another year. It seems as we grow older time passes more quickly. Unfortunately with some of our members age shows its toll more obviously Justin's getting balder and balder and now he's got ulcers. Pat Reynold's beard is going grey. Rob Adamson's glasses are getting stronger. Adrian Newmann's getting married and so it goes. But perhaps the biggest shocker of all is the young lady at the tennis party who thought Marie Truscott was Barry's daughter! Bazza says he's as old as he feels and I have it on good authority that he's still feeling. Notice you haven't been in the water for a while though old mate - rheumatism playing up again?

1973 has seen quite a few changes in the VSAG and as a keen observer I have seen a great deal of enjoyment achieved by many people, both members and friends. There have been many personnel changes, small upheavals and positive direction. However, in the main, attendances at dive have been less than 40% of club members. 1974 may be a year when greater government involvement may intrude in our sport. Such activity must be well advised and knowledgeable guided. For those of you who enjoy diving and want to continue practising your sport without a load of legal restrictions, then your support and participation at dives, meetings and socials is necessary. The club can only work if it gets the support from its members.

This column and its many authors wishes all members, their families and people on the circulation list a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

NICKEL ARSE

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