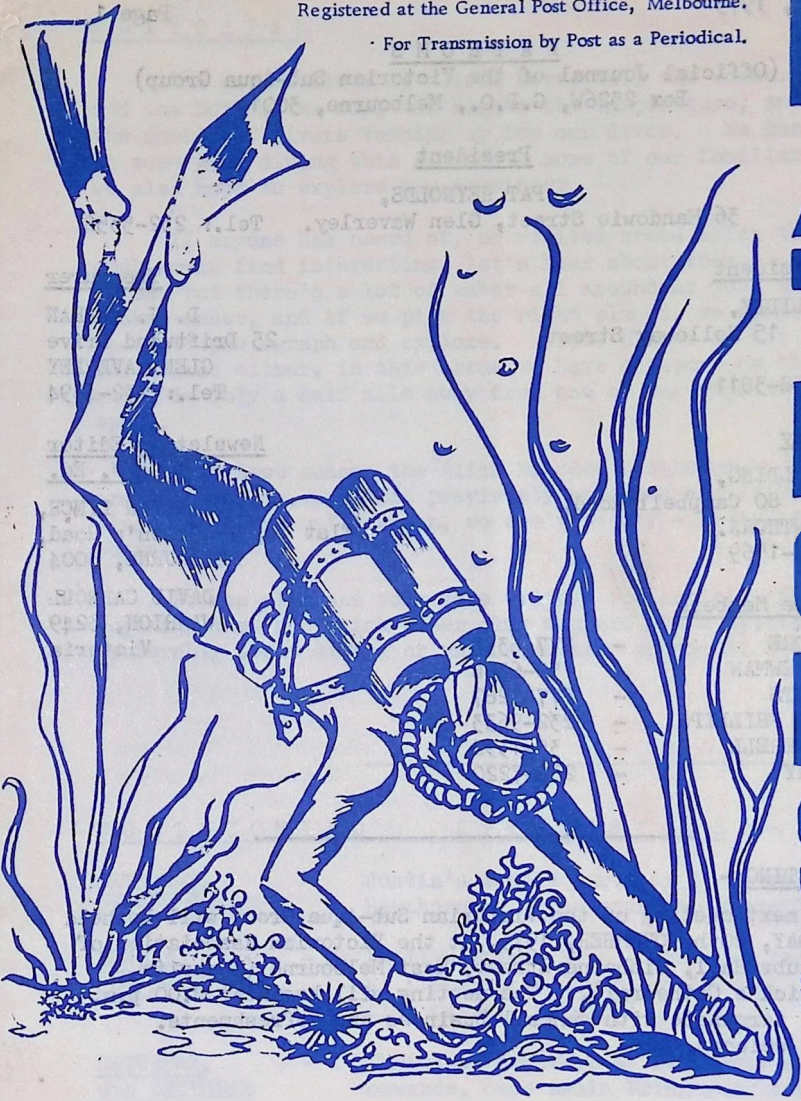


NOV 73 3c.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne.

For Transmission by Post as a Periodical.

FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

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(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, 20th NOVEMBER, 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

The good weather is almost here, well the warmer type anyway, and the hotter the sun, the higher the temperature, and the higher the number of divers turning up for our dives. We can look forward to some good diving this summer in some of our familiar spots and we also hope to explore new territory.

If anyone has heard of, or visited areas which they think the club would find interesting, let's hear about them. There's a few of us, but there's a lot of water all around us just waiting to be looked under, and if we pick the right placed, we could discover new spots to photograph and explore. These placed do not have to be far afield either, in this issue we have a report on the Portsea hole which is only a half mile away from one of our regular pier crawl spots.

This last season the Eliza Ramsden has become a household word around the club, and this previously had been a difficult wreck to find, let alone get down on, so don't be shy - let's hear all your suggestions.

We can also use some more writers for articles for the magazine. Anything that you think other club members would appreciate, preferably about diving or any underwater subjects, so get writing.

D.C.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS -

- SATURDAY, - Justin's tennis party at 14 Tower Street,
24th NOVEMBER Hawthorn. Bring your own everything.
- SUNDAY, - Phillip Island dive - wherever best. Rendezvous
2nd DECEMBER at Fisherman's Co-op. at 10 a.m. Dive captain
Alan Cutts, 877-3287
- SATURDAY, - Christmas break-up at Bill Gray's, from 12 noon
8th DECEMBER onwards, once again bring your own everything for
a pool-side barbecue.
4 PIMM COURT, SYNDAL -232-7220.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS (Cont'd.)

- SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 16th - Portsea Hole. Dive captain Dave Moore, 277-6395. Meet at Sorrento Boat ramp, 10.00 am.
- TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 18th - General Meeting. This will be the last meeting to be held in the Victorian Youth Clubs Association Hall, 8 p.m. start.
- WEDNESDAY,
26th DECEMBER - Start of Christmas camping holiday at Mortlake. Details of the site and how to get there from Justin Liddy.

Our first dive in 1974 will be on the long weekend - 26th-27th-28th of January. Venue to be decided.

Looking ahead, our Easter camp will be at Wilson's Promontory, Tidal River camp site - information from John Goulding.

CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR -

With the beginning of a new diving year, we thought that it might be a good idea to refresh old memories and tell new members how points can be amassed towards this trophy. As you would expect the more you put into anything, the more you gain, and as the points scores show, they are awarded for other things besides diving. Writing articles for this magazine for example, can earn bonus points, so come on, get writing.

<u>List of activities</u>		<u>Points allocated</u>
Attendance at club meetings	2
Talks at meetings, e.g. Dive reports, lectures, slide showings, etc.	3
Attendance on dives (1 day)	3
Weekend or holiday dives (1st day)	3
Each day thereafter	1
Car trials, rallies, etc (per day)	3
Attending barbecues, picnics, etc. 'apres dives'		3

<u>List of activities</u>	<u>Points allocated</u>
Theatre nights, barbecues, dinner dances & fund raising events, organised by social secretary	6
Members guests to above events	2
For submitting any article published in newsletter, e.g. dive reports, stories, poems, etc. ..	4
Introducing new members paid up	6

		<u>Points</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>Date</u>		
Brian Lynch	..	21	Barry Truscott	..		8	
Dave Carroll	..	18	Bill Jansen	..		6	
Terry Smith	..	12	Keith Stewart	..		6	
Justin Liddy	..	12	Peter Sonneberg	..		6	
John Goulding	..	9	Pat Reynolds	..		5	
Dave Moore	..	8	Don McBean	..		5	

THE SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

On Thursday first of November, our three new delegates to S.D.F. attended their first meeting. Verbal reports of these meetings will in future be given at the following general meeting, but a written report will also be included in the magazine.

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Department of Health assistance on the quality of air, as supplied from filling stations throughout Victoria.
2. The placing of Safety Notices on Boat Ramps.
3. The Cave Divers Association meeting at Mt. Gambier.
4. Discussion on Articles of Association and/or a Constitution.
5. National Trust work parties.
6. Raffle for Polly Woodside.
7. Artificial Reefs.
8. Diving School asking for instructors.
9. The Legality of Air testing stations.

The SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria (Cont'd.)

As you can see we had quite a large agenda to get through and, in fact, did not cover everything. Because of this a special meeting is to be called to discuss point No. 4 dealing with the proposed constitution for S.D.F. as time ran away from us, and this we will cover separately at a later date.

Briefly running through the rest of the agenda.

No. 1. A committee of two has been formed to commence air testing in Victoria. They are Harvey Allen from the Ringwood Club and our own Adrian Neumann.

No. 2. The Safety notices have been completed and they are beginning to be erected at Boat Ramps around the Bay.

No. 3. The Cave Divers Association meeting. S.D.F. are considering making an application to become a member of the Association on behalf of the Federation. However, since this appointment means that whoever is chosen will have a lot of travelling to do. A volunteer outside of the delegates to S.D.F. may have to be chosen. However, we will be able to discuss this at our next General Meeting.

No. 5. National Trust work parties. It was decided that in order to make the task of overseeing the work on the Polly Woodside easier the following formula would be adopted. The names and skills of volunteers, together with their addresses and telephone numbers to be forwarded to the secretary, and then they will be contacted as to their availability and a rota worked out, a suggested quota of six half days was put forward.

No. 6. The Raffle for the Polly Woodside, will be drawn at the next meeting of the S.D.F. It was generally agreed that the 50 cents charge per ticket was a bit too high, resulting in a low return.

The last three points were brought up as any other business, the only thing which would be of interest we feel to club members at this stage, is the request from Southern Aquanauts for instructors to train recruits to Scuba diving. Anyone interested, and having the requisite qualifications should contact Justin Liddy.

BRIAN LYNCH
ADRIAN NEUMANN
JUSTIN LIDDY

SORRENTO BACK BEACH DIVESUNDAY, 4th NOVEMBER

This should have been our Crawfish Rock day but since the elements conspired against us, we settled for familiar territory. We arrived down on the beach at the end of St. Johns Wood Road, breathless but happy to see that the sea looked reasonably flat.

We followed Pat into the water, and snorkelled around the flat table rock in the centre of the inlet. The visibility was about twelve to fifteen feet, however, to see any signs of fish life you had to get down on the bottom and pull yourself under the rocks to see the fish sheltering inside. Justin and our New Zealand visitor, Mike, donned their tanks and made a more thorough investigation of the area, but the crays were that small not even Bazza would have been tempted.

The water was warm, and we spent a good two hours enjoying ourselves; the only casualty being Max's knife which was torn from the scabbard as we threshed our way through the kelp towards the beach.

We decided that once again we should sample the delights of sauteed abalone, so we dived the rock pools, until we had enough for supper. By this time the sea was telling us to go home in no uncertain fashion, so we went.

We stopped off at the Liddy Hacienda, where we cooked up our abalone à la Goulding. First take your abalone, and beat it to a pulp, then scrape it off whatever you beat it with and on. Throw the remains into melted butter, season well and cook until tender, garnish with sand and serve. Joking aside, we did enjoy them and they finished off a good day.

BRIAN LYNCH

KEVINGTON - A JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN.

Our secretary John, talks often of Kevington,
In words and song, he chatters on,
So there we were, him and us three -
On a Friday night, not clear -
Quite late, at camping ground
With cows and sheep and bug all around,
Tents up, a few ales down,
The rest of the night unknown
Till morning dawned, with rain coming down
In Kevington.

Sat. a.m. was one out of the box
With water way up past our sox.
Cars bogged
Tents water logged
John said, it must fine up,
I wouldn't sell you a pup.
Lunch time came and went,
Water now over the tent.
It must have rained a ton
In Kevington.

Sat. p.m., unrest in the camp
For all of us were pretty damp -
Then glory be, the sun began to shine
And suddenly all was fine.
John and Brian to Gaffney's Creek did go
While Denise and I roamed the creeks below.
And then it was Sat. eve here
And time to have a beer -
And put the nose bag on
In Kevington.

People came from far and near
To join in the good cheer
At the Kevington Hilton
Where one could easily get a tilt-on
Talking, dancing and a sing-a-long
The night began, quite happily, to swing-a-long
The old-timers were happy, but wanted to thump it
When Johnny produced his trumpet -
But all was calm and quite a joy
When Brian and I tried singing 'Danny Boy',
While the band played on
 At Kevington.

Sunday morning by the River Reedy
All of us was awfully seedy
Breakfast was a hazardous affair,
The steaks were really rare
Nearly enough to choke a bear,
Nobody knew quite how or where,
Or even if we were all really there
And that's how the morning went, right on
 At Kevington.

In the afternoon
The sun still shone
So we motored on
To Eildon
And there by the water, dirty and gray
We all said "Hooray"
 For Kevington.

The above stirring epic was written and produced in just on half an hour with the editor screaming "deadline - deadline". Maybe if you can get through reading it, you too will be screaming.

With apologies to poets anywhere.

BANJO LIDDY

F L O T S A M and J E T S A M

After reading this article month after month I began to wonder if anyone else in the club would be fool enough to read it also, well, it certainly appears so. The author, who cares to remain anonymous - smart lad, tells me that he had a great response to last month's article. You might recall that in October, Mr. Argus Tuft pleaded for all young ladies who wanted to become women to stand up and be counted. It seems that results were better than expected and last month's ingenious caniving dirty old son of a gun journalist has disappeared in a puff (pronounced poopfh). Never mind, you'll be glad to know that VSAG has by arrangement with Harry M. Mitty obtained the services of Mr. Tuft's brother to write this month's column.

Further adventures of "our Bazza does it again". Owing to recent activities of one Mr. B. Truscott, who shall probably deny any knowledge of such activities a new phrase has been added to the STRINE vocabulary - such phrase is "Going to have a Bazza's sink". For further clues to meaning of this VSAG jargon imagine our Bazza calling for Herb in glorious technicolor chunderama. Bad luck mate, you missed out on a good dive that day.

Talking of sinks, I recently heard the following which is pretty true these days.

Marriage starts off when a bloke sinks his arms and finishing up with his arms in the sink.

More worthless information for use around the house. A flystrip "guarantees death for four months" says the radio ad. And its true. Survey shows that there hasn't been a blowie waking before the warrant was up.

Having read this fine literature you'll probably want to dive out the nearest window, but stop - Make sure you have a buddy.

Signed: GUNGUS TUFT.

PORTSEA HOLE DIVE 7/10/73

The weather was "A1" with everyone lined up at the Sorrento boat ramp with Bazza's, Dave's and Terry's boats in the water rearing to go. They set off for Portsea to pick up the rest of the eager mob, to set off on the dive of the year into the unknown depths off Portsea.

Under the expert helmsmanship of Bazza and a fine bit of navigation by Harvey Allen and Barry Degenhardt, they managed to drop the pick right in it.

After laying at anchor for about 3/4 of an hour waiting for the slack water there was a mad rush to get into the water to cool off a bit. On descending the anchor rope we hit the bottom at 45 feet, then we followed it over the edge of the 'dropoff' which went down to a sandy bottom at 105 to 110 feet.

This is where Bazza found an old dinner plate and a couple of car number plates. (funny place to park a car). Also down here our old faithful pirates by the name of Lynch and Carroll discovered but unsuccessfully tried to recover an ancient anchor believed to be from some mythical treasure galleon.

As for the rest of us we were content to swim around looking at all the tame fish and other marine life which haunted all the nooks and crannies of the 'dropoff'.

While Judy and I settled down to acquiring some stunning fish profiles with the aid of our ever increasing array of professional models to choose from. One rather large (2.5 to 3 Kg) Horseshoe Leather jacket decided the distance rod of the close up lens looked a good feed until he found it a bit hard to chew.

After a look at the watch and seeing we had been down 18 minutes it was time to head for the surface, bring an end to a most enjoyable dive on one of the few spots left in Port Phillip Bay where the "idiots" with spear guns haven't shot every fish game enough to stick it's nose our from behind a rock.

Those present:

Pat Reynolds and Family
 Justin and Denise
 'Cat' Carroll
 Dave Moore and Pat
 and Russell
 Paul Sier and friend

Bazza Truscott
 Keith Stewart
 Brian Lynch
 John Goulding
 Terry Smith
 Max Ryan and family
 Don McBean

Visitors Harvey Allen and Barry Degenhardt of the Ringwood Underwater club, with myself and Judy.

ADRIAN NEUMANNTHE ELIZA RAMSDEN

It had been some years since I had done any fishing in the bay, so when Barry Truscott suggested we try for a few schnapper before the Portsea hole dive, I was quite eager to be in it. Even if it did mean being up at 5.30 a.m. and getting down to Bazza's at 7. On arrival at Sorrento Boat ramp at 8.00 am my hopes for fishing were suddenly dashed. There was Harvey Allen and Barry Degenhardt from Ringwood Underwater Group cursing the non arrival of one of their boats which was to take them to the Eliza Ramsden. The weather was perfect with hardly a ripple on the water, so it was agreed that we should make a dive on the Eliza. Harvey and Barry both knew where it was so off we went followed by a convoy of boats from other clubs.

Having set up the correct bearings, Harvey dropped the pick over the side, and whilst we waited for slack water the MAKO group turned up with echo sounder and confirmed our position. So over we went and found the anchor had landed in what was probably the ships anchor chain locker.

It was a superb day for diving and the wreck loomed up majestically from the bottom. The abundance of fish and the complete absence of their fear of divers makes this spot well worth seeing. It also reassures us of the need to protect such places from spear fishermen.

There were at least a dozen divers in the water swarming around the wreck as if it might be full of sunken treasure, and if one was not getting out of the way of other divers, there was the problem of pushing the fish out of the way to investigate

some part of the wreck. I'm sure Bazza soon forgot about sitting in a boat dangling a line down for some schnapper, and Justin and I both agreed that this dive was well worth the early start.

JOHN GOULDING

FLINDERS PIER RAMBLE, SUN. 21st.

On this particular Sunday we drove through sunlight and driving rain to arrive at Flinders pier surprisingly enough with the sun shining, and with a surprisingly high turnout of divers. Because of the state of the tide and the weather we decided that we would first submerge into the Flinders Pub for a counter lunch. However, Peter Sonneberg and Paul Beecher braved the elements and using hookah equipment investigated the Flinders pier.

When we surfaced and arrived back at the pier, the only two who joined the hardy souls were myself and Peter Smith. We tried out the Hookah unit, but had to stay close together because for once the usual Flinders visibility let us down. However, we stayed down for a good spell outside the pier and then finally threaded ourselves and our hoses through the piles of the pier itself. The water was warm, we all agreed on that, even Pat who organised us superbly from the safety of the pier. We emerged with one old champagne bottle, but left all the Carlton United ones under the water.

We returned home after what turned out to be a reasonable day after all, and as Dave always says 'every dive is an experience'.

BRIAN LYNCH.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

Further to our reminder about Medical certificates, the following members still have not submitted current certificates.

Margaret Phillips
Rob Adamson
Paul Beecher

Peter Attwood
John Noonan

Remember it is in everyone's interest, that you are regularly medically examined. In order to be able to help your buddy under water, you must first be able to help yourself.

KEITH STEWART

BUY, SELL, or SWAP.

1 Canon Super 8 Movie Camera, Auto Zoom - slow motion Auto Focus, etc. Also telescopic tripod. All in cases - as new - \$150 O.N.O.

Justin Liddy, 58-3811

1 Stem Gauge & Hose. Gives accurate readings, \$12.00.

John Goulding, 82-1569

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Oct. '81