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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, 16th OCTOBER, 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 fine weather (we hope) has finally arrived and with it the chances we have all been waiting for, to get at those elusive goodies so hard to reach during the winter months.

Everyone who can think of a decent excuse to get away from wives, family, work, responsibilities etc. shall surely head down to the Mortlake area at the New Year for the Annual Outing that we spend the rest of the year talking about.

Over the period concerned a thirty mile trip will give us access to about one hundred miles of coastline, including Port Campbell, Peterborough, Children's Cove and Warrnambool, and also skiing at the local Camperdown Lakes. Any shooting fanatics will also have fun over about 2500 square miles of stony country (Western district rabbit land), scrub, plains, swamp and gum forest.

Murray Richardson has done it again (shades of the Cocky's Turn) and offered the most inexpensive type of lodging possible, i.e. Free. Remembering problems we have encountered in the past with overcrowded camping grounds, noisy neighbours, etc. we should all be extremely grateful to one of the keenest divers and one of the greatest, unselfish blokes I have ever met.

Now to return to my normal grouchy, suspicious self and start complaining. Actually its not a complaint but it could eventuate to one. Its great to see the support the "Polly Woodside" project is receiving and the interest it is generating with the general public, but one hopes that it will be used for what was originally stated - a floating maritime museum.

During a recent talk with a representative of the Victorian Museum I was disappointed and shocked to hear that various ship artifacts that divers had presented to the museum had been rejected as being unsuitable. A ship's chronometer (Circa 1860) had been rejected because of the fact that the iron parts (inside and not visible) had rusted away. It did not look brand new. How many divers have even seen a ship's chronometer, even a recent one? Even fewer members of the public will have seen one, and such an object would be a most desirable exhibit of maritime type. If an object looks as if it had been recovered from the seabed, surely it would be interesting from this point, and also a more "truthful" exhibit.

Several divers had transported artifacts from King Island by air, and had been rejected for a similar reason. Similarly, offers of bronze ship's fittings weighing upwards of sixty pounds each were

turned down. A collection of sailors' clay smoking pipes was offered and accepted, but the offer rescinded when it was learned that the collection was to be broken up and used in various displays e.g. as part of a miner's gear, etc.

It would be sad if this situation were allowed to continue. A major source of maritime exhibits must be from divers in the future. It may be hard to get the things from them at all and even more so if they have to be gift wrapped to be acceptable.

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W E T & D R Y '72 - 73 I N R E T R O S P E C T

On the WET side of the water V.S.A.G. over the past 12 months organised and carried off successfully 20 Club dives, including 5 long weekends.

On the DRY side of the water we struggled gamely through 18 social events, including two annual dinners. Dives included trips to Mt. Gambier, Port Campbell and various spots around the Heads. On the social scene the year was distinguished by the variety of events. . . with the change of the annual dinner to mid-year we now have two annual dinners, which is great judging by the turn-up each time. Also on the social scene we had pub nites, B.B.Ques, Tennis, horse-riding, tube trips and a day on the farm. We also managed to squeeze in five long weekend trips which were great successes even if a few of them were marred by bad weather.

Now let's have a quick look at the rest of the club's activities. First, the balance sheet showed a healthy increase at the rate of some \$20 a month which, combined with the expenditure on New gear and various other expenses, shows a confident outlook for the group (as they say on the Stock pages!) Speaking of new gear we are now the proud owners of -

2 SCUBA units complete; 2 Safety Vests; 12 sets of Masks, flippers and snorkels; 3 Buddy lines; 2 Weight belts; Safety floats and last but not least, 1 fully operational and tested MANTA Board.

Most of this new gear has been necessary because of the upsurge in training and here thanks must go to Pat Reynolds, Alan Cutts, Bill Gray and Les Walkling for their fine effort in

training some 20 new divers up to basic SCUBA standard. Most of these divers have since joined the club and, along with the other new members, have re-awakened interest among older members. V.S.A.G. has had a great year.

On the boat scene we have been fortunate in gaining a few more boats which have helped considerably in making the boat dives the successes they were. Special thanks to Barry Truscott, Don McBean, Dave Moore, Terry Smith, Ian Haack and Adrian Newman for the use of their boats.

The club motto is "Safety in Diving" and again thanks are due to our safety officer, Pat Reynolds, and Les Walkling for making the past year once again accident free, and also, finally the acceptance of safety vests is compulsory.

The points score has been an outstanding success once again and has been one of the reasons why attendances have increased. Also the newsletter has begun to get bulkier due to the impetus of the points score. Thanks must go to Alan Cutts for the thankless job of recording it all.

Finally, a brief list of 'thank you's' to :-

The two Secretaries - Tony Tipping and John Goulding.
Vice President, Training Officer and Quartermaster -
Pat Reynolds.

Treasurer - Don McBean.

Training Officers - Bill Gray, Alan Cutts and
Les Walkling (also Medical Records).

"Fathoms" - Bill Jansen and Dave Carroll.

Social - Marg. Phillips.

Librarian - Ian Cockerell

and Brian Lynch by helping Bill Gray for looking
after the compressor.

Also the job the S.D.F. delegates, Alan Cutts, Frank Maguire and Ian Cockerell, have done. Also Mick Ryan, Bob Scott and Frank Maguire for the work they did on the committee before their resignations. And finally, a thank you to all those members who gave of their time to help run the various functions of the club without whose enthusiasm this club would not run.

In conclusion, on behalf of the committee I would like to say Thanks to everyone for making it such a great year and hope that the next year is just as good if not better.

Thank you and safe diving,

JUSTIN LIDDY,

Ex-President, V.S.A.G.

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CLUB DIVE - SUNDAY, 16/9/73

Sunday dawned bright and clear, but too early, and the sound of Brian and Dave hammering quietly on the door meant I had to go diving (damn). Goulding naturally turned up late and after a fast trip down to Bazza's, we just happened to miss out on helping him get the boat ready. (Damn again). Then on to Sorrento where we reported to Dive Capt., Dave Moore, and along with Pat, Adrian and Judy, the Sonnenbergs, Chris Ward, Peter Attwood, Paul Beecher, Jim Taube, Terry Smith (complete with Manta Board) and Murray and Keith (both late again), proceeded to launch the boats. After discovering there were more divers than room in the boats we drew straws with the losers heading on to Portsea.

Finally about 11 a.m. we headed out for the final resting place of the Holyhead, making sure we didn't run down any of the other divers who seemed to be everywhere you looked. Out at the Holy head things looked good so we told Dave and Brian to volunteer to go over on a rope and see if they could find the wreck. They did and so Keith and I went over to secure the anchor. Imagine our surprise when all four of us found ourselves swimming backwards into the rip (guess who read the wrong line of the tide tables). Any way, after a few words and a bit of work, we finally convinced those on the boats that we weren't just waving to them and they motored over and picked us up. Once back on the boat we aborted and headed back inside. Finally settled for old faithful, Pipes Eye. Conditions there were pretty good and everyone had a dive except Bazza and yours truly, who were content to lie in the sun and talk about lunch and things!!

After about an hour we collected all divers and headed back to Sorrento across a glass flat sea. Over lunch we discussed

the new Manta Board (designed and constructed by Terry Smith and Dave Moore). After discussions were completed, came the big moment and it was into the water with it. It immediately sank like a rock to the bottom of the bay. Everybody was most disappointed until Terry assured us it was meant to do that. Then Terry and Brian climbed gingerly aboard and it was off. Then the rope broke. Stop for a knot tying session. Away again. Next problem was how to get them up again. They wouldn't get off. Having a great time, they said. An unqualified success. Then a great scramble to see who was going next. The rest of the afternoon was spent being towed or towing the board up and down the bay. Terry began to get a bit bashful round about this time as divers surfaced with comments such as "Bloody terrific", "Bewdy mate", "Fan-bloody-tastic" and other delightful little gems. Around 6 p.m. the light began to fade as it was getting dark and we finally hauled the boats out and headed for home. After a hamburger or two we just made Bazza's in time to see him put the boat away (Damn). Anyway, a terrific day's diving after a few minor mishaps earlier on. Should be more like it.

JUSTIN LIDDY.

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PRESERVING ARTIFACTS

Probably the hardest type of material to preserve is wood raised from the bottom of the sea.

Normally, wood found underneath is hardly worth the trouble of looking at it, though occasionally some very nice souvenirs can be picked up. Unfortunately a few days after it is brought home the first splits appear and very shortly the wondrous exhibit is often mistaken for a heap of kindling, and poor kindling at that.

The reason for all this can be partly understood if the cellular structure of wood is examined. Under a low power microscope one can see that the surface of a polished specimen of wood appears somewhat like a brick wall, where each brick represents a cell.

Unlike humans and animals which derive their necessary structural strength from the bones inside the body, trees must rely on the cells only to hold them up. As a result the cell has an extremely hard shell of a material called cellulose, while the inside of the cell is reasonably soft, like with us.

A picture of this can be seen if a brick wall is thought of again. The cement can be thought of as the cellulose shell while the brick is the inner part of each cell.

When a piece of wood is submerged over a long period of time, especially in salt water, the cellulose shell becomes very soft and the inside of the cell, which is largely sap, becomes filled with salty water forming a mixture of sap, salt and water.

Next, the equivalent of an embolism occurs and the cell swells because of the increased volume inside, and eventually, a level of equilibrium is achieved.

When the wood is eventually raised it immediately commences to dry out. Because of the fact that the wood may be hundreds of cells thick the outside layers dry out first and shrink because of the loss of water from inside. As they dry out, the cellulose layers also become hard again. Eventually, a point is reached where the outside "skin" of cells is hard and in tension. As the basic structure of the wood has been weakened by its long immersion, very quickly this outer layer splits, exposing another new layer. The process continues, eventually meeting in the middle.
Result? Bits of matchwood.

What you must do is catch the decomposition process before it starts. The object must firstly be placed in water as soon as possible to prevent the onset of the uncontrolled drying out process. Chip off any rust, heavy concretions and weed and then drop the thing in methylated spirits for a period of a few months. For an object thicker than a few inches the time should be increased accordingly.

At the end of this period the object can be removed and left for a few days in a cool spot. After this, some form of coating should be put over the artifact, preferably an epoxy type. Estapol is quite good. Varnish is O.K. but tends to take a long time to dry because of the fact that the object is impregnated with metho.

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DIVING CALENDAR

This time we have made the dive lists detachable and we have begun it with a refresher check list in order to eliminate any disappointment to those unfamiliar with V.S.A.G. procedures.

CLUB RULES FOR OFFICIAL DIVES

1. All divers must have current medical certificates.
2. Life vests or bouyancy compensators must be worn.
3. Visiting divers must satisfy Dive Captain and/or Safety Officer of their proficiency, proof will be required.
4. All persons wishing to dive must contact the Dive Captain prior to the day of the dive.
5. If late arriving at dive venue, check for notes concerning dive location.
6. Diving partners to be assigned by Dive Captain, no one to enter water until designated by Dive Captain.
7. Any misconduct will be reported to the committee and can be punishable by suspension or a fine. (Article 94 of the Club Constitution)
These rules are not meant to be restrictive but are designed to ensure safety in our diving.

Oct. 21 Change of Venue. Flinders boat ramp at 10.00 am.
Dive Captain - Terry C Smith - 842.2927

Nov. 4 Crawfish Rocks - Rendezvous at Warneet (just before Tooradin) 10.00 am.
Dive Captain - Pat Reynolds - 232.5358

Weekend Activity

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 November.
Sites have been booked at the Nautilus Caravan Park, Sorrento.
A night dive has been arranged for Saturday evening followed by a barbecue.

Sunday 18 an Ocean dive off Pearces Road, off Sorrento back beach.
Dive Captains - Terry Smith and Adrian Newman.
842.2927 52.6568

Saturday Nov 24. Justin's tennis party at 14 Tower Street, Hawthorn.
Bring your own - everything.

Dec. 2 Phillip Island dive - wherever best, rendezvous at St Remo
Fishermans Co-op. - 10.00 am.
Dive Captain - Alan Cutts - 877.3287

Dec. 16 Portsea hole.
Dive Captain - Dave Moore - 277.6395
Meet at Sorrento Boat Ramp 10.00 am.

It must be understood that the entire surface should be coated, to prevent the methylated spirits from drying out. The spirits act as a preservative and a softener.

DAVE CARROLL

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C A R R A L L Y

Clouds of dust arose from all parts of Victoria, as six vehicles headed off for the unknown. Overcast weather hindered no-one, although an excess of fog-lights, sump guards, mud flaps and kangaroo bars did tend to unnecessarily weigh some of the cars down, as they were not needed.

Paul Rainbow led the way like a true professional, but unfortunately ran out of petrol just before the end. It just goes to show, wheel stands, bulk noise and petrol fired internal heating does tend to use the juice up.

Brian Lynch, with Fay navigating, did very well, coming second, far ahead of that terrifying snorting red monster driven by the one and only Bazza.

Jay Cody from Bass Strait (I hope he attends as many Bass Strait outings as V.S.A.G. ones), led the way to win, with Russell Lumsden third in his works air-conditioning van and a friend of Paul Rainbow fourth, two ahead of Paul.

Justin and Torry were both a great help in guiding these babes to the road over the treacherous and uncharted paths to the You Yangs. It is regrettable that other members of the club did not appear, to help as well.

DAVE MOORE

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FINAL PLACINGS & POINTS SCORE
FOR THE CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR TROPHY -- 1973

1.	Justin Liddy	-	258
2.	Tony Tipping	-	190
3.	Barry Truscott	-	168
4.	Pat Reynolds	-	144
5.	Bill Gray	-	131
6.	Margaret Phillips	-	116
7.	Ian Cockerell	-	101
8.	John Goulding	-	100
9.	Alan Cutts	-	89
10.	Bill Jansen	-	87
11.	Rob Adamson	-	84
12.	Brian Lynch	-	82
13.	Les Walkling (Resigned)	-	79
14.	Frank Maguire	-	74
15.	Adrian Newmann	-	65
16.	Don McBean	-	58
17.	Dave Carroll	-	57
18.	Dave Moore	-	51
19.	Keith Stewart	-	50
20.	Bob Scott	-	37
21.	Murray Richardson	-	35
22.	Peter Zonnenberg	-	20
22.	Maryatta Zonnenberg	-	20
22.	John Carson	-	20
25.	Paul Beecher	-	19
26.	Peter Attwood	-	15
27.	Paul Rainbow	-	14
28.	A. Kolmokon	-	14
29.	Mick Ryan	-	11
30.	- Jones	-	7
31.	Gordon Ryan	-	6
32.	Chas Croft	-	5
33.	John Noonan	-	5
34.	- Coustley	-	2

MORNINGTON DIVE - SUNDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER

Jim Taube and family arrived at my place at 9 a.m. as arranged, shortly after Peter Attwood and wife Marcia turned up, so it was off to Mornington Pier. We were to meet Pete and Maryatta Sonnenberg down there. Arriving first we stood around chatting, shortly after they arrived, in the meantime Pete Attwood had convinced himself that it was too cold and decided to give it a miss this time and return to the comforts of home. The wind was cold to say the least, however, the seas didn't look too bad. So the rest of us got into our gear, plus life jackets and into the water, visibility being only about 8 ft. We were only in a short while when Pete signalled that he was going to surface; on surfacing Pete said Maryatta didn't like it as the water was very murky and he was taking her back to shore and would be back to join us. On returning the three of us set off once again. Our first find was a heap of tangled fishing line, on it was a grapevine of sinkers (lead weights). We were all hands cutting and breaking them off. I had a little half gallon tin hanging on my weight belt for finds such as this.

Jim signalled he was on reserve so we surfaced and headed for the rocks, as Pete's tank was fairly low too he decided to use Maryatta's. On emptying the lead weights, we were off again. Next find was 3 halves of fishing rods, a 2 lb. hammer and an old tin lantern. We were on our way back when Pete pointed to some scallops moving, on closer investigation we found our find of the day - scallops galore. The mad rush was on, as my air was very low at this stage, I knew it wouldn't last very long. We filled the tin and Pete offered to carry it as I was still carrying hammer, etc. so I gathered up what scallops I could carry. I signalled to Pete I was out of air, so we surfaced and headed for the shore-to my amazement Pete was empty handed on arrival. He informed me that he had got a cramp in his leg and had to drop everything, fortunately he knew where he dropped them, so I grabbed another tank with Pete's direction from the pier over the exact spot, where I soon scooped them up and lots more. Meanwhile Pete had lined up a little job on one of the fishing boats which more than covered our air for the day plus gave Pete $\frac{1}{2}$ a bag of scallops. He also informed us that one of the boats had lost some scallops over the side and this was the reason for our good find. We all set off home, no need to mention what we had for tea.

FLOTSAM and JETSAM

The V.S.A.G. is certainly having its fair share of celebrations this year. There's been a couple of births, some overseas departures, and just recently some engagements. The most recent betrothal is between Chubby and Gloria. As soon as I saw them I knew they were made for each other. To the cuddly couple we wish you our congratulations and all the very best for the future. It sure is getting tough for us single blokes so much so that it prompts me to place the following advert.

WANTED: One good as new low mileage woman. Must be intelligent, sensuous and adventurous and be ready, willing and able to take up position under mature and refined gentleman in return for non-financial enrichment of herself. All applicants should reply to Flotsam & Jetsam, C/- Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001, and include a stamped and self addressed envelope, together with \$10.00 to show their sincerity.

September 9th saw Bazza put Marie (the boat) through her paces for the first time for some months. The weather was just like Bazza likes it.....Moderate to rough seas on the Bay with wind gusts up to 60 knots. A few of us ventured along for the ride and a dive, however, green faces and shaky knees were the order of the day. Dave Moore was down there practisint for the speed boat steeplechase. The blue and white triple hulled bone shaker was more often out of the water than in it, and Dave, with leather helmet flying goggles and red scarf trailing behind, looked every bit like the famous Baron von Richthoffen. A word of warning Dave - watch out for Snoopy.

The MANTA Board is a great success thanks to the efforts of Terry Smith and others who have contributed much time to making this amazing little craft.

It's the start of a new season for the V.S.A.G. with everyone having a new chance to win the coveted 'Clubman of the Year' Award, and have the honor of holding the Club's Shield for the year. The last two years have seen the award won by the President, which only says one thing. The President puts in

a damn lot of time towards club activities, for example - attending dives, writing for newsletter, attending meetings and recruiting new members. The club is gaining in strength all the time and we've got some pretty energetic people coming along so to all of you, don't forget to sign the book. Let's keep this year's President (whoever it may be) from winning again. This column will personally see to it that any member who recruits 3 single unattached females to the club during the year is awarded 10 bonus points.

ARGUS TUFT

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COMMITTEE NOTES:

Next time you dive, take a look at the nearest boat ramp. The chances are that you will see a sign beside it, carrying the following words and a picture of the aftermentioned flag, the blue and white swallowtail, international code A type.

WARNING -----Red Paint

(Flag)

THIS FLAG INDICATES

DIVER BELOW -----Red Paint

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO

STAY 30 METRES CLEAR

in accordance with boating regulations.

Erected by - SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF VICT.

The S.D.F. has had manufactured fifty copies of this sign about two feet by two feet square on 20 Ga. galvanized iron sheet and of bold blue and red printing. It is understood that the clubs in general will help to erect the signs over a period, to cover the more popular diving areas firstly. It was also mentioned that it is possible that Parliamentary legislation shall soon increase the distance from 30 metres to 90 metres. It is hoped that if this occurs, when the signs are changed, that other languages such as Greek and Italian be also catered for.

Two representatives from Ringwood Diving Club (this Club's representatives on S.D.F.) also introduced a proposed constitution for S.D.F. After several readings and sometimes heated discussion of same it was decided that it be recommended for a S.D.F. constitution, with some changes.

The main general business of the meeting was the election of office bearers in the committee.

Apart from those positions named on the inside page (page 1) the following positions were filled:

Points Scorer	-	DAVE MOORE
Quartermaster	-	PAT REYNOLDS
Social Secretary	-	MARGARET PHILLIPS
Diving & Safety Officer	-	ALAN CUTTS
Training Officers	-	ALAN CUTTS and PAT REYNOLDS
Librarian	-	ADRIAN NEWMAN
Medical Officer	-	KEITH STEWART
Delegates to S.D.F.	-	JUSTIN LIDDY and BRIAN LYNCH
Deputy Delegate to S.D.F.	-	ADRIAN NEWMAN

FOR SALE:

1 Self Loading Roof Rack, suit up to 12 ft.
aluminium boat. Fits most sedan or station wagon
cars.

\$15 at Adrian Neumann's - 526-568

One faultless, immaculate and accurate pressure
gauge (NOT submersible type). 0 - 4500 p.s.i.
/0 - 315 Kg/cm². Nemrod, heavy brass.

\$8.00 - J. Liddy - 58-3811

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