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VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

# FATHOMS

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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 DECEMBER, 1974, at the Victorian Association of Youth Club's 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. Please note that it will not always be possible to use the toilets in the hall, so come prepared.

EDITORIAL

This will be the last newsletter before February and the December 17 General Meeting will be the last one before Tuesday, 18/2/75. In the next two months we have the Christmas dive at Portland, the January long weekend at Port Campbell and two dives around the Sorrento area in mid-January and at the beginning of February. It has been decided that from now on (and consequently on these dives), the Dive captain will draw up ON PAPER the dive plan, everyone participating must gather with the dive captain before setting out and the procedure fully explained and adhered to. What will be settled on will be -

1. Diving buddies.
2. Which boat to each group of buddies.
3. Restrictions on times, depths or any other restrictions pertaining to the particular dive.

If any deviation from the plan occurs (excluding emergencies, etc.) the culprit or culprits might start numbering their days left with the club.

It will also be tried, if possible, to avoid boat owners (with boats present) being given D.C. jobs as their responsibilities tend to become too complex to guarantee their doing both jobs well.

One other policy which might also eventuate is that of testing visitors before the dive proper, unless at least a few experienced members can vouch for their capabilities with respect to the particular dive planned.

It might also be reiterated that the dive captain can refuse to allow a person or persons to dive, that the Safety Officer can refuse to allow persons to dive (even if the Dive Captain has O.K'd it), the boat owners can refuse to let themselves be put into what they think could be dangerous circumstances and lastly YOU, the diver can and should refuse to dive if you believe the circumstances are not safe for you.

Lastly, it should be said that if you see a fault that the D.C. or S.O. should have picked up but didn't or apparently didn't, notify him immediately. Don't sit on your butt and criticise later. If you know something about an area before or during a dive, let the D.C., S.O., boat owner, etc. know and if one of the above people meet any resistance in exerting their authority, back them all the way.

See you next year,

ED.

D I V E C A L E N D A R -

- 26/12/74 - 5/1/75 : Portland. Trip organizer Dave Moore  
(See further notices)
- SUNDAY, 12/1/75 : Sorrento Boat Ramp, 9.30 a.m.  
Dive captain David Carroll. Actual dive type  
and procedure to be finalized probably at  
December General Meeting.
- 25-27 JANUARY : Port Campbell. D.C. Brian Lynch.  
Actual procedure to be decided, probable procedure  
can be guessed/ Finalized bookings, if necessary  
at December meeting.
- 9/2/75 : Sorrento Boat Ramp, 9.30 a.m.  
Dive captain John Goulding (as for 12/1/75)
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A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND

We've been doing an occasional search through records and it came as a bit of a surprise to find two old "Fathoms" magazines. We decided eventually to include them both in this month's magazine just to give an idea how far we've come over the last 10 years.

It might be noticed that we still spend much of our time in the same old places and even with the same old faces (that's poetry).

March, 1964

V.S.A.G. Newsletter

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MEETINGS:

The next general meeting will be held at the "South Seas" Restaurant, Manchester Unity Building, Cnr. Swanston and Collins Streets, Melbourne on Friday, 20th March, at 7.00 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 7.00 p.m. after which the actual meeting will take place.

Our new President, Ian Beeson, will show slides of his overseas trip as a follow up to the talk he gave at the end of last year.

The reason for the change of meeting place is the chance for members to get together on a more social footing.

The April meeting will be at Scots Hall, 99 Russell Street, Melbourne  
More news about this in the next Newsletter.

### INCORPORATION

As most members already know, the Club is now incorporated and before the last General Meeting, an election of the executive committee was held by the general committee.

|                   |    |                     |
|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| Mr. I. Beeson     | .. | President           |
| Mr. F. Coustley   | .. | Snr. Vice President |
| Mr. R. Bricker    | .. | Jnr. Vice President |
| Mr. R. Addison    | .. | Treasurer           |
| Miss M. Robertson | .. | Appointed Secretary |

### OUTINGS

On February 9th, three boat loads of divers ventured out from Frankston to try and locate a mystery object on which fishermen in the area have lost a great deal of nets.

Owing to the poor visibility (the hand could not be seen in front of the face), the object still remains a mystery. One manta board enthusiast tried to locate the mystery object but this also was unsuccessful.

After this unsuccessful attempt to find the mystery object, the club members shifted their location to the Frankston wreck, where a great deal of scallops were harvested.

Members retired to Norm Drury's towards evening and enjoyed a very pleasant barbeque.

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February 23rd saw five divers take to the water at Newhaven. The water was fairly dirty, but much better than most expected, considering the violent storm which had hit most of the coastal areas throughout the previous night. After the dive, members adjourned to Woolamai beach where a picnic lunch was had and those more energetic members of the group went for a walk along the beach.

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Labour day, March 9th, the club journeyed to Cape Schank. This venue was decided at the last general meeting, but was subject to change if weather conditions for the Moomba event on Saturday the 7th were unfavorable.

Approximately 17 members climbed down the steep slopes to the sheltered bay on the left of the lighthouse. A lot of fun was had by

a few Zippy board jockeys who used the steep cliff face, which was liberally covered in sand, as a ski run.

A very pleasant day was had by all with the exception of the return journey back up the cliff face. After an exhausting day diving and spearfishing the climb back to where our cars were parked was most unenjoyable.

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### FUTURE OUTINGS

March 22nd, Kilcunda. Dive Captain will be Ian Beeson. The meeting place is the car park, about 120 yards left off the main road just past the shops.

Easter, March 27 - 30. Port Macdonnell, S.A. This promises to be the trip of the year and quite a few members are going. The camping area is the Seaview Caravan Park, The Esplanade, Port Macdonnell.

Most members are endeavouring to be there on Thursday evening so that no time is wasted and we can get about the business of diving bright and early on Friday.

Any person wishing to go, but who has no transport or other camping facilities, contact the Editor and arrangements can be made.

Compressed air is available.

Port Macdonnell is approximately 17 miles from Mount Gambier, so don't get lost.

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### FOR SALE

Sportsman twin 38 c.f., including full universal harness £20. Phone XF6120.

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### MOOMBA

On Saturday 7th March, the club held its official Moomba event at St. Kilda beach. Although the day was fine, it was windy and the water was rather choppy. The sled race was run and we had a clear winner. Lessons were learned and we feel that next year this event will be a bigger and better success. Our thanks to the Moomba Queen for waiting so patiently to present the "Divers Derby" trophy, as the race was half an hour late owing to the bad weather.

The clubs thanks must go to the Moomba Committee for the wonderful job they did in organizing everything.

The day was capped off with the dinner dance held at the Savoy Hotel, Brighton, and as everyone who attended will agree, a wonderful evening was had by all.

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### VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP NEWSLETTER

Price 3d.

November 1964

#### General Meeting.

The next general meeting will be held at Scots Church Hall, 99 Russell Street, Melbourne on Friday the 20th November at 8 pm. A film called "Life in the Fish World" will be shown.

#### Engagement

Our congratulations to Peter Mathews and Margot Robertson on their engagement. Lots of luck to you both.

#### Marriage

Pat Reynolds and Annette Warner are being married at St. Paul's Church of England, Waverley Rd., Glen Waverley on 19th December at 3pm. I know all the members of the club wish them all the best of luck.

#### Outings Past. Cowes, 11th October.

Frank Coustley reported that nobody turned up but the weather was beautiful and the weather clear.

#### Weekend, Anglesea, 25th October.

Approx. 18 people attended this outing but bad weather prevented any diving on the Saturday. On Sunday a party ventured out in the "Janthine" but the sea was still too rough so everyone took to surfing and a good time was had by all. This will be a good spot for another outing.

#### Nobbies & Area, 8th November.

A few members turned up and a little spearfishing was done, then the party adjourned to Cowes jetty where a dive was held.

#### Future Outings, Pt. Nepean, 22nd November.

Further information on this trip at the next general meeting.

Care Liptrap Weekend Trip, 5th December

Further information at the next general meeting.

SOCIAL

Bookings have now closed for the Dinner Dance to be held at the Stamford Hotel, Stud Road, Rowville, on the 28th November. 7pm is the time so be there.

Research Division

Deep Diving Operations in Australia. (Extract from Australian Marine Sciences Newsletter, November 1964.

Geological surveys of Australia are planning to put down an undersea laboratory in St. Vincent's Gulf to a depth of 100 ft. in 1965. They also intend to push scuba diving, using the latest oxygen helium diving tables to depths ranging from 300 - 700 ft. This weekend, 21st November, the Research division is holding a weekend at Mount Martha to continue surveys in the area. Anyone who wishes to assist is welcome.

Training.

Training commences on Saturday 28th November 1964 at 2pm. The place is the Tryboys pool Surrey Road Hawksburn. Anyone interested please contact the Secretary or come to the pool.

Library

The library contains a number of good books on diving and associated subjects and is for the club members so use it. Pat Reynolds is in charge and the books are available at the general meetings. So see Pat.

Symptoms of Decompression Illness.

Symptoms of decompression illness usually occur after the diver has returned to the surface and generally within 4 hours although they may be delayed as much as 24 hours; occasionally a case may develop during decompression. This illness may assume many different forms and any unusual symptoms after a dive should be investigated at once with a view to eliminating the possibility of decompression illness. If any doubt exists, it is wise to place the diver under a small pressure and see if there is any alleviation of the symptoms. The forms most commonly encountered will be listed in the next newsletter.



KING NEPTUNE'S PREDICTIONS FOR XMAS 1974

- JOHNNY GOULDING - Will insist on the buddy system, (Hey buddy it's your shout). He will also blow his trumpet at least once. He will also sponge a smoke and a beer off Liddy.
- BRIAN LYNCH - Will insist on getting up early and disturbing the peace and tranquility of all us super fit divers.
- DAVE CARROLL - Will probably discover at least two new ways to cook jaffles and sponge of anybody who comes near him.
- HARVEY - Will yell at his kids, drink beer and talk about cave diving at least once.
- BAZZA - Will yell at his kids, drink beer and prove wooden boats better than plastic ones.
- DAVE MOORE - Won't yell at his kids but will try to stay awake long enough to fix his plastic boat.
- MAX SYNON - Will live like a king and laugh at the rest of us.
- JUSTIN LIDDY - Will resolve never to drink ever again, at least once.
- MAREE JAMES - Will tan easily to a deep golden brown (something like fried chicken).
- SHIRLEY COWLEY - Will drink too much claret at least once.
- MRS. MOORE - Will try to keep her husband awake long enough.
- MRS. TRUSCOTT - Will yell at her kids, drink beer and look after Bazza's crays (if any).
- PAUL SIER - Will be a perfect gentleman!!!
- ADRI TOL - Will be welcome only if he brings his much publicised boat (or himself).
- TONY TIPPING - Will not turn up so we will not get thrown our of the pub .
- TREVOR COWLEY - Will bring his boat too, or else!

The above people will also most likely go diving a couple of times, get sunburnt, get hung over and generally have a damn good time. They will also make most welcome anyone else who would like to come down for a day or two.

King Neptune would also like to wish all and sundry a very Happy Christmas and a Happy Nude year and would like to stress no drinking when diving as the salt water spoils the taste for

KING NEPTUNE

TERRY C. SMITH

The first time V.S.A.G. encountered Terry he was about to leave or be thrown out of the Port Campbell Caravan Park by a rather irate official. (is there a song there somewhere?)

Since that time, some 20 months have passed on fleeting wings and perhaps he's older and wiser (certainly older). Now Terry, along with his wife Judy, plus 2 kids and a dog and a boat, have become familiar figures on most of the club outings and get-togethers.

Now, we all know now that Terry is a bit too smart for his own good! How he ever finds time for the wife and kids, I'll never know, for whenever anything goes wrong or something needs doing, there's Terry right in the thick of it. Without Terry's willing and enthusiastic support and readiness to jump in and help out at the various club activities, they probably wouldn't have been the success that most of them were. About the only thing Terry can't fix properly is the "glorious" Melbourne weather.

Terry has also spent considerable time and effort in the training and lecturing of Trainee Divers. He has been an invaluable member of the committee and always seemed to know the right thing to say or do at the right time. Without his help and technical guidance we wouldn't have a lot of the bits and pieces we manage to cart around on our various dives. Things such as Manta Boards, Compressors (mobile), Torches, various fittings on cameras and modifications to gear, etc. etc. !! Unasked and "unthanked" he's chased up all manner of stuff and brought it along for approval or disapproval. And all this in the space of a little over a year and a half makes for a pretty impressive sort of a record and reflective of what belonging to a club is all about. So Terry, on behalf of the Committee and members, thanks a lot mate, and bloody well done.

JUSTIN LIDDY,  
President, V.S.A.G.

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D is for Diving, about time too.  
 E is for Enough of winter, let's go for a "Doive".  
 C is for Clear water, we hope.  
 E is for Eh? who's a diver.  
 M is for Mirror flat seas.  
 B is for Blow, when it turns out rough.  
 E is for 'E'll have a tinnie, after the dive.  
 R is for Relax and have a

VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR.

From the Very  
 Sophisticated  
 Animals of the  
 vsaG . . . . . you'll agree!!

NOTE: There will be no Newsletter in January as after this talented effort the editor will probably be Lynch-ed.

Anon. (Just as well, Ed.)

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CRAWFISH CRAWL -

On Sunday the 17th Brian Hooper and I drove leisurely down onto Warneet beach to find everyone, including Dave Moore, boats and all in the water ready to go. Hastily climbing into our gear we just made the last boat, now I know what the Dunkirk beaches must have been like. It appeared that we were late. We slowly made our way down river until we met the sea, then it was a short hop over to Crawfish rock. Low tide so the rock was well exposed. The day was warm and sunny, and all looked well. Just prior to entering the water, Dave Moore's high pressure line went phut and it looked as if once again the wet suit was not going to get wet.

However, the rest of us went off in search of underwater life. For the first part of the dive we all opted for the South side of the rock. As we descended it got gloomier and gloomier until at 70 feet it became more of a night dive than a broad daylight one, with the odd mass of drifting weed materialising out of the darkness, just to keep us on our toes. At this depth too we encountered some current, so being brave, hardy souls we turned back.

Returning to the boats some of us then went down on the other side

where it was much lighter, probably because the sand reflected the light a little, and we were, of course, only at 50 feet at this stage. There was not much fish life, so we began looking under rocks and things. Not much to say about that except that Bazza is the only diver I know who finds rocks with legs. The only other interesting finds were anchors, we are turning up quite a few these days.

We decided to return to Warneet, but first Max recovered an anchor belonging to a broken-down fishing boat, and then Dave towed him in. In the distance we could see that old Moomba Masters skier Justin shaking a mean leg or two, but due to our salvage operations we were proceeding at a more sedate pace.

After lunch and a rest those of us who were left again took to the water. First for a swim, when we had two water babies, Di and Samantha, and David (C), wearing his full suit really rugged the Cat. Then it was out into the Bay for a ski. Chris Truscott in his new wet suit, went like a bomb, Johnny elegantly carved up the water. Brian Hooper almost got up, but hung on grimly until toppling sideways, but an A for effort. Maree once again had a go and Dave the Cat almost made it up. Then the weather closed in on us, our journey back was entertaining as Johnny and Dave showed us how to get off from a moving boat, or how not to get off from a moving boat, not quite sure about that.

Arriving back as the skies darkened, we pulled the boats out, had our remaining beer or two and headed home. We arrived home just as the thunderstorm broke, so we just made it. A good day. Those present - Harvey and family, Brian Hooper and family, Justin, Shirley, Johnny and Maree, Bazza and family, Max & Warren, Peter Smith (the younger), Terry Smith, Dave and Pat, the Cat and Di.

BRIAN LYNCH

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#### DEATH BY DROWNING

The following is another excerpt from the report on 1973 diving deaths in Australia, reprinted by the U.I.A.V. and distributed to diving clubs. These extracts will be placed in our magazine to emphasize just how easy it is to kill yourself underwater, and the need for us to consider re-training in our basic methods of diving and of survival. Now read on - CASE S.C.5 -

CASE S.C.5. A further case of an equipped scuba diver dying in a calm sea occurred, an inexperienced 28 year old man diving in company with two others of little experience. They appear to have had about 6 hours of practical experience, in each other's company, the victim being said to have completed his 'first stage in theory examination for scuba diving'. That one of them considered him a 'very good scuba diver' is an illustration of their grasp of the realities of the skills required for safe scuba diving. The three divers entered the water from rocks into about 5 feet of water and then swam out 40 to 50 yards to get clear of the waves which were coming onto the rocks. The victim was 30 yards behind at this point so they waited for him and then dived, rejoining on the bottom in 25 feet of water. They then swam off in line astern, but after 40 yards noticed their friends absence so surfaced to seek him. He was about that distance away, swimming on his back towards the shore and apparently in some sort of difficulty. Thinking that their progress would be quicker, they submerged and swam to his position but were unable to find him there. Though they made a search they were not alarmed at this stage, believing that though short of air themselves he would still have 15 to 20 minutes supply left. They mentioned that one of their party was missing to some breath-hold divers spearfishing nearby, and it was these who later saw the victim lying on his back in about 10 feet of water, his weight belt off and lying near him. They managed to surface the body and together brought it ashore, a distance of 30 to 40 yards. The tank was still nearly full, indicating that death occurred soon after he was last seen. Naturally there was no response to the resuscitation efforts. The equipment was tested and shown to be in good order.

Here three inexperienced divers became separated, the victim then made the fatal error of trying to return to the shore alone and in some sort of trouble. He drowned despite favourable sea conditions. This surface death was preventable had he awaited his companions, had life jacket or dropped his weight belt and backpack. It is not known whether snorkels were carried. These divers should not have been diving in open water, let alone as an unsupervised group.

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N O T I C E - XMAS TRIP - DUTTON WAY, PORTLAND

All members wishing to attend the Xmas trip at Portland between Boxing Day and January 5th. must attend the December General Meeting (providing this newsletter is distributed in time). Furthermore, all members must contact the trip organizer, Dave Moore, ph. 547-2791, prior to 22nd December.

FLOTSAM and JETSAM

It is to be expected that with the warmer weather approaching, a few of our hibernating members may drag themselves out from their hollow logs and come diving.

One familiar face that we haven't seen for a while who turned up for a Portsea Pier crawl on November 10th was Paul Sier, complete with faithful companion dog.

Paul kept us in suspense with his awe-inspiring stories about boats, planes, birds etc. and for those of you who missed his presence, the word is that he might come diving again one of these days.

The November 10th dive was scheduled to have been a boat dive but the owners could not attend. This day was still enjoyable and was a good chance to do a bit of dive training.

We have heard a lot about the mysterious CRAWFISH ROCK, from friend Harvey so on the 17th we found ourselves literally up that well-known creek, attempting to find a passage to deep water. After a slow and sometimes bumpy ride through the inlet, we came to the outlet. Daring (sexy-legs) Dave headed off towards Flinders, Bazza headed off towards Crawfish Rock (clever boy), but then Bazza was trying to get there before Sporty Smith.

Finally, after Dave had run aground a few more times in the middle of Westernport Bay, we arrived for a good dive. Visibility was quite poor but there was certainly plenty of plant life, which gave an interesting contrast to anything in Port Phillip Bay.

Skiers abounded everywhere in the afternoon and this proved to be a great day out. We even had some commando style demonstrations of abandoning boats at high speed.

And still on we go to November 24th, where together with some visitors from the Jet Boat Association of Australia, we searched for the wreck of the Gambier. This day saw the debut of Noel Lees' new cruiser which tended to put the jet boats to shame. Gee, one wonders what would happen if Paul Sier really did bring his boat along one day?

This dive saw us making use of a lifeline system and to all the critics I say - IT WORKS.

And then on to the 1st December. After a look see outside the Rip and a huge declaration of approval for Trevor Cowley's boat we again did a lifeline, drift dive looking for more relics of the

Gambier.

Obviously, Dave Carroll, wreck pin-pointer extraordinaire, is keeping the location of the pot holes a big secret. However, if anybody wants some plates, bottles, cups, pieces of eight, telescopes, horror movies or fairy tales, Dave will be too happy to oblige.

In conclusion, we distinguished and honorary members of V.S.A.G. which of course stands for "Veteran Subscribers of Article Gens", wish our reader a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

MAYOR E. CHRISTMAS

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TOM MOUNT & JIM LOCKWOOD IN MOUNT GAMBIER.

Some months ago correspondence was received from Jim Lockwood that he and Tom Mount were intending to visit Australia for the purpose of diving the Mount Gambier region. Both Tom and Jim are heavily involved in the cave diving scene in America and it was felt by the Committee of the Cave Divers Association of Australia that we had a great deal to gain by associating with them for this venture.

At first this trip was to be for about four weeks duration; unfortunately due to work commitments all round it meant that their stay at the Mount could be no longer than one week; hardly enough time to extensively dive the area.

Roger Townley and I were already in the Mount for the C.D.A.A. testing program on October 19th. Early Sunday morning at about 3.30 a.m. we found ourselves at the Bordertown Railway Station waiting for them to arrive from Melbourne. By about 7am we were back at the Mount on the edge of Blue Lake, and for about ten minutes we had them convinced that this was one of our smaller sinks; however, they finally realized their legs were being pulled.

After breakfast we set down to sorting out gear and charging up batteries of underwater lights. The lights used currently in America are much more developed than here in Australia. The power source used are wet cell nickel cadmium batteries, the light source a 6 volt 50 watt Q.I. bulb enclosed in of all things, a test tube. This arrangement is then placed through a reflector such that it may be adjusted whilst underwater permitting either a wide flood of light or