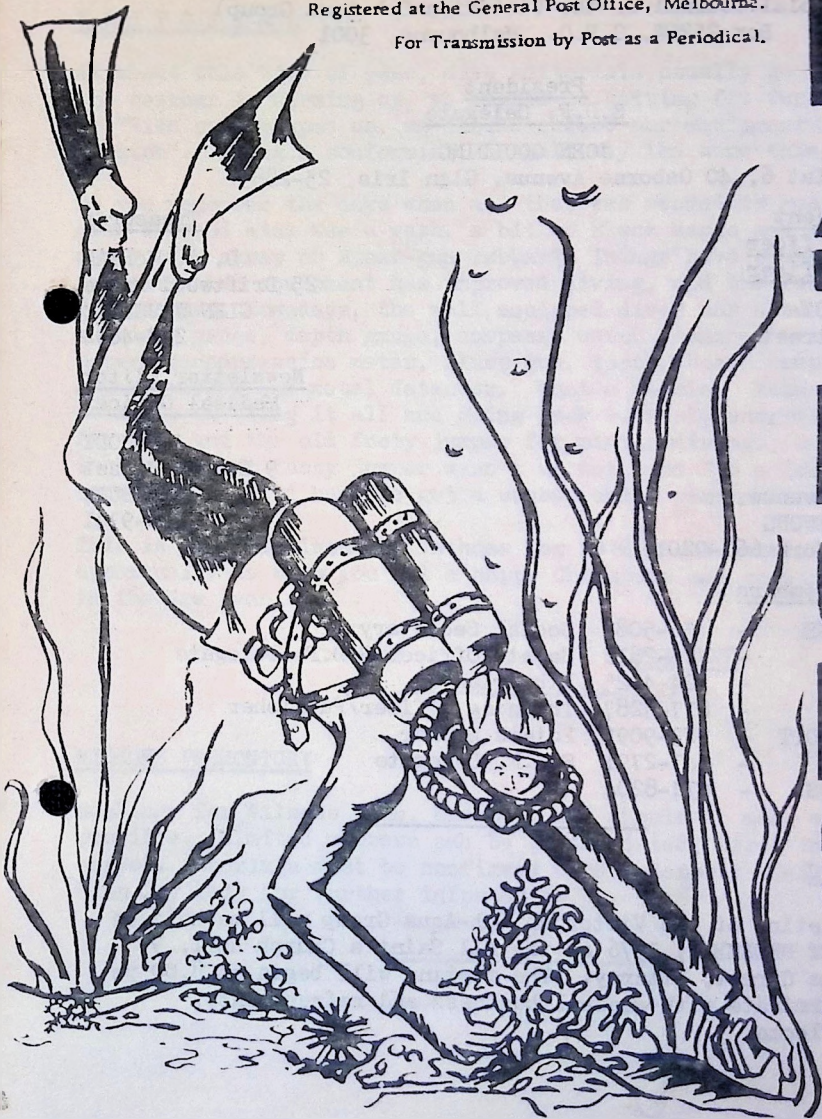


DEC 76 3c.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne.  
For Transmission by Post as a Periodical.



# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

F A T H O M S

(Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001

PresidentS.D.F. Delegate

JOHN GOULDING

Flat 6, 40 Osborne Avenue, Glen Iris, 25-2883

Vice PresidentProperty OfficerTraining OfficerJUSTIN LIDDY  
8 Penang Street,  
McKINNON  
58-2310SecretaryBRIAN LYNCH  
8 Madison Avenue,  
NORTH DANDENONG  
795-2834 (Work 662-0201)Committee Members

CAREY RAMAGE	-	56-5085	Social Secretary
MAX SYNON	-	465-2812	Safety Officer/S.D.F. Delegate
JEFF BARKER	-	24-4025	Librarian
ALAN CUPTS	-	877-3287	Training Officer/Publisher
BARRY TRUSCOTT	-	783-9095	Points Scorer
DAVE MOORE	-	547-2791	S.D.F. Delegate
PAT REYNOLDS	-	874-8204	

CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on TUESDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 1976 at the All Saint's Church Hall, 97 King William Street, Fitzroy. The meeting will begin at 8.00 pm and will terminate with general business and refreshments. Visitors welcome.

TreasurerD. J. McBEAN  
25 Driftwood Drive  
GLEN WAVERLEY  
232-4894Newsletter EditorMedical OfficerJAY CODY  
9 Esdale Street  
BLACKBURN  
878-9341



EDITORIAL

At about this time of year, dive editorials usually go "Now that the weather is warming up, we should be getting fit for diving" or "With summer upon us, we should ensure our equipment is up to scratch". Being a conformist, I shall say the same thing.

Do you remember the days when all that was needed to keep your gear in good nick was a wash, a bit of Black Magic and occasionally a new mask strap or spear-gun rubber? Things have changed. Sophisticated equipment has improved diving, and the revenue in dive shops. Nowadays, the well equipped diver has a buoyancy vest, contents gauge, depth gauge, compass, watch, camera, flash, light meter, decompression meter, slurp gun, torch, boat, compressor, depth sounder and metal detector. What a hassle! Makes one consider chucking it all and going back to mask, snorkel and flippers and the old footy jumper for winter diving. On second thoughts, that footy jumper wasn't so hot, and I'm a lousy snorkeller so I'd have to get a scuba, and a vest and .....

This is the last issue of Fathoms for 1976, so I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and good health in the New Year.

JAY CODY

---

WILSONS PROMONTORY

Bookings for Wilsons Prom. are open and should be made as soon as possible. Limited numbers can be accommodated, first in first served. Bookings must be confirmed with a deposit of \$10.00. Ring Jay Cody for further information.

---

DIVE CALENDAR

- DECEMBER 21 GENERAL MEETING - See map & note for new location
- DECEMBER 26  
- JANUARY 9 JERVIS BAY - Organiser John Goulding 25-2833
- JANUARY 22-24 WILSONS PROM. - Organiser Jay Cody 878-9341
- JANUARY 30 GEORGE KERMODE - Meet Flinders 10 am.  
Dive Capt. - Max Synon 465-2812
- FEBRUARY 6 SIERRA NEVADA - Meet Sorrento Boat Ramp 10 am.  
Dive Capt. - J. Goulding 25-2883
- FEBRUARY 13 UP THE YARRA BARBEQUE - Organiser Dave Moore  
547-2791
- FEBRUARY 15 GENERAL MEETING
- 

GENERAL MEETINGS - NEW VENUE

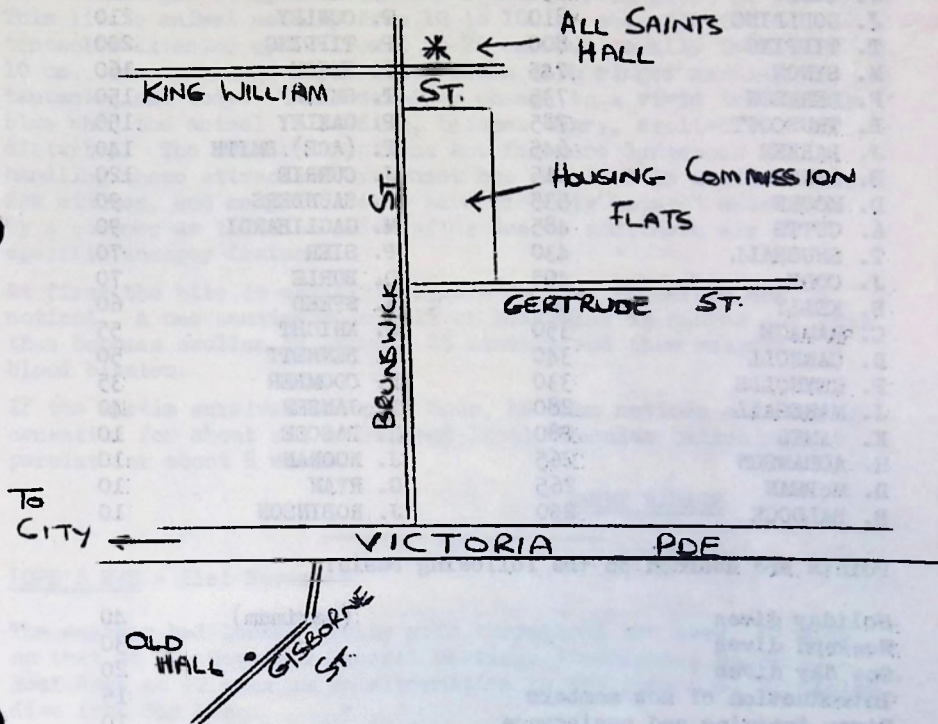
The NEW VENUE for the monthly General Meetings of the V.S.A.G. will be:

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL,  
97 KING WILLIAM STREET,  
FITZROY.

The hall is a RED BRICK BUILDING, located in King William Street, just east of Brunswick Street. Parking is available in the street. Cigarette butts must not be dropped on the floor. So if you want to smoke, bring your own ash tray!

The next meeting will be held on December 21st commencing at 8 pm.

---



#### ADDITIONAL COMPRESSOR LOCATION

Now that our new compressor is in operation at Justin's, the old compressor is for sale. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Meanwhile, Alan Cutts will be supplying air from his place until it is sold.



POINTS SCORES - 75/76

J. LIDDY	850	R. SCOTT	210
J. GOULDING	810	T. COWLEY	210
T. TIPPING	800	P. TIPPING	200
M. SYNON	745	P. SMITH	160
F. DERKSON	735	T. SMITH	150
B. TRUSCOTT	725	P. OAKLEY	150
J. BARKER	645	P. (ACE) SMITH	140
B. LYNCH	615	J. CURRIE	120
D. MOORE	535	P. SAUNDERS	90
A. CUTTS	485	M. GAGLIHARDI	90
T. SNUSHALL	430	P. STER	70
J. CODY	405	D. HURLE	70
B. KELLY	360	J. SPEED	60
C. RAMAGE	350	G. KNIGHT	55
D. CARROLL	340	M. BENNETT	50
P. REYNOLDS	330	R. COOMBER	35
J. MARSHALL	280	B. JANSEN	40
K. JAMES	280	R. PASCOE	10
R. ADDAMSON	265	J. NOONAN	10
D. McBEAN	265	G. RYAN	10
B. BALDOCK	250	J. ROBINSON	10

Points are awarded on the following basis:

Holiday dives	(maximum)	40
Weekend dives		30
One day dives		20
Introduction of new members		15
Diver training and assistance		10
General Meetings		10
Working bees		10
Social events		10
Newsletter articles (not including committee news or ads.)		10
Guests at fund raising events		5
After meeting lectures		5

THE BLUE RINGED OCTOPUS

The Blue Ringed Octopus is usually found in rock pools at low tide. This little animal usually from 10 to 100 g, and with its tentacles extended spans from 2 to 20 cm, but usually less than 10 cm. Its colour is a yellowish brown with ringed marking on tentacles and body. These markings change to a vivid iridescent blue when the animal is feeding, becomes angry, excited or disturbed. The heavier specimens are far more dangerous and handling these attractive creatures has resulted in death within a few minutes, and many incidents have probably escaped detection by a coroner as the bite fades after death, and there are no specific autopsy features.

At first the bite is usually painless and may therefore not be noticed. A one centimetre circle of blanching is caused and this then becomes swollen in approx. 25 minutes and then resembles a blood blister.

If the victim survives the next hour, he then notices a stinging sensation for about six hours, and local muscular twitching may persist for about 6 weeks.

CAREY RAMAGEPOPE'S EYE - 21st November

The weather had looked pretty grim throughout the week, so much so that at the November General Meeting, I nominated Sorrento Boat Ramp at 12 noon as an alternative to the scheduled Pinnacles dive from San Remo.

Come Sunday morning, with intermittent showers and a stiff south easterly, five of us showed up for a dive. Peter Smith with his boat, Carl, Cindy, little Paully and myself. Conditions still looking bleak I ruled out the question of diving on our newly found sheer wall near Pt. Lonsdale and we headed out to Pope's Eye - one of our regular old haunts often dived after the Hole or Ramsden, but never on slack water flood!

For the benefit of our old buddy Jeff Barker, who'd been plugging for an official club dive here for months on slack water flood, I

can highly recommend that we do this again. Visibility was over 30 feet and we must have encountered about 30 different species of fish: leatherjackets, angel, magpie perch, luderick, sweep, trumpeter, mullet, baracouta, parrot, kelpie, old wife, blue devil, butterfish, stingray, puffer - all these and many more. It was a most relaxing 40 minute dive and far easier than the usual two hours after slack performance because there was minimal current.

One unfortunate incident that the day produced was to find another boat already out there with a snorkel diver kitting up - SLING SPEAR AND ALL! I casually informed him that the area was included in the proposed Marine National Park for Southern Port Phillip Bay and that spearfishing would be totally outlawed in this area. His smart-arsed mate piped up then saying that the Bill had not been passed so it took a little vintage Tipping lingo to have them sent on their merry way without a shot being fired!

#### TONY TIPPING

#### RIP DIVE - Sunday 28th November, 1976

Six of us, Barry, Max, Cindy, Pete, Tony and yours truly turned up at Sorrento ramp around 11 am hoping to have a crack at the 'Wall' on the Lonsdale side of the channel just inside Pt. Phillip Heads.

With three boats in the water (Tony was able to fix a minor starting problem), and the boys yelling encouragement to new member Cindy wading out almost fully kitted across several sand bars to board, we set off. Bazza took a turn at the wheel of Tony's 'Ab Boat' just inside on the Portsea side to give Tony, Cindy and Max a ski, leaving Pete and self to perfect the art of up-anchoring in a strong current. Max even managed a quick snorkel on the reef while Warren fished.

After killing time we moved on to the rip area where with his usual aplomb ol' "greyhair" aided by the depth sounder soon found the ledge and drop off which falls steeply off the graph at 300 feet.

At 2.35 on slack water ebb, and having judged that a large container ship would pass at a safe distance, we went down. After 9 minutes at between 30 and 40 feet, we found the edge of the wall.



Cindy and Pete made a leisurely descent to about 80 feet where the rest of us decided to leave the couple to ponder the natural cave formations, ledges, large sponges, blue devils, magpie perch, other exotic species, and each other. The four of us headed down over a series of natural steps concealing and revealing fabulous marine charms with Tony and self doing a quick bounce from the plateau to a couple of 'steps' below while Max and Bazza had decided to use the wall for rock climbing practice.

The two brothers surfaced together to see the good ship 'Marie' 150 metres away, with the good ship 'Container' passing another few hundred metres behind them, and after a quick swim they blew out some of their remaining air with a couple of purely precautionary stages for three minutes at 20 feet and 7½ minutes at 10 feet, while hanging onto Bazza's anchor rope.

There was general agreement that the dive was a good one with reasonable conditions prevailing. Obviously the wall represents an attractive challenge to the intrepid sports diver but at the same time will demand the cautious respect of all who attempt it. In turn, it would be foolish and possibly folly to embark on a venture of this type without adequate preparation and precautions. Nonetheless this dive offered to those participating a chance to clock up some form and a taste of the excitement anticipated over Christmas at Jervis Bay.

Thanks to Barry, Pete and nipper Tony for putting their boats in.

PAUL TIPPING

---

### FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Flotsam and Jetsam this month reports sadly the passing of some close friends. Not that they have passed on to the great blue lagoon in the sky, but nevertheless passed from our local diving scene.

Jeff and Chris Barker have, like a pair of jolly swagmen moved on. Firstly for a holiday in Tasmania and then to Brisbane where Jeff will take up a position with a Government department similar to our E.P.A. No doubt Chris will find suitable employment in the dietary consultant field.

Its always a little sad to say goodbye to friends but its worse when those friends take another comrade with them.

You see before Chris and Jeff left they caught Barry in a soft moment and before he could say "I'll see what the boss says", he signed over the ownership of the good ship Marie, oars, bailing?? bucket and all.

So if its good diving you want don't ring Bazza any more, just drive to Brisbane, and tell Jeff that you want to check out some rumour about polluting the Barrier Reef.

Have you written to the Minister for Conservation and the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation yet protesting about the proposed crayfish licence? - No !! Well write your letters, bring them to the VSAG December meeting and collect the money for the stamps. The cost of postage is pretty high, but the cost of apathy is the loss of freedom.

Flotsam and Jetsam wishes all readers a happy Christmas and New Year and looks forward to dulling your day next again in February.

#### THESNO SAN TA CLAWS

---

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Those members of the Club who already know, would like to congratulate Jenni and Pat on their recent engagement.