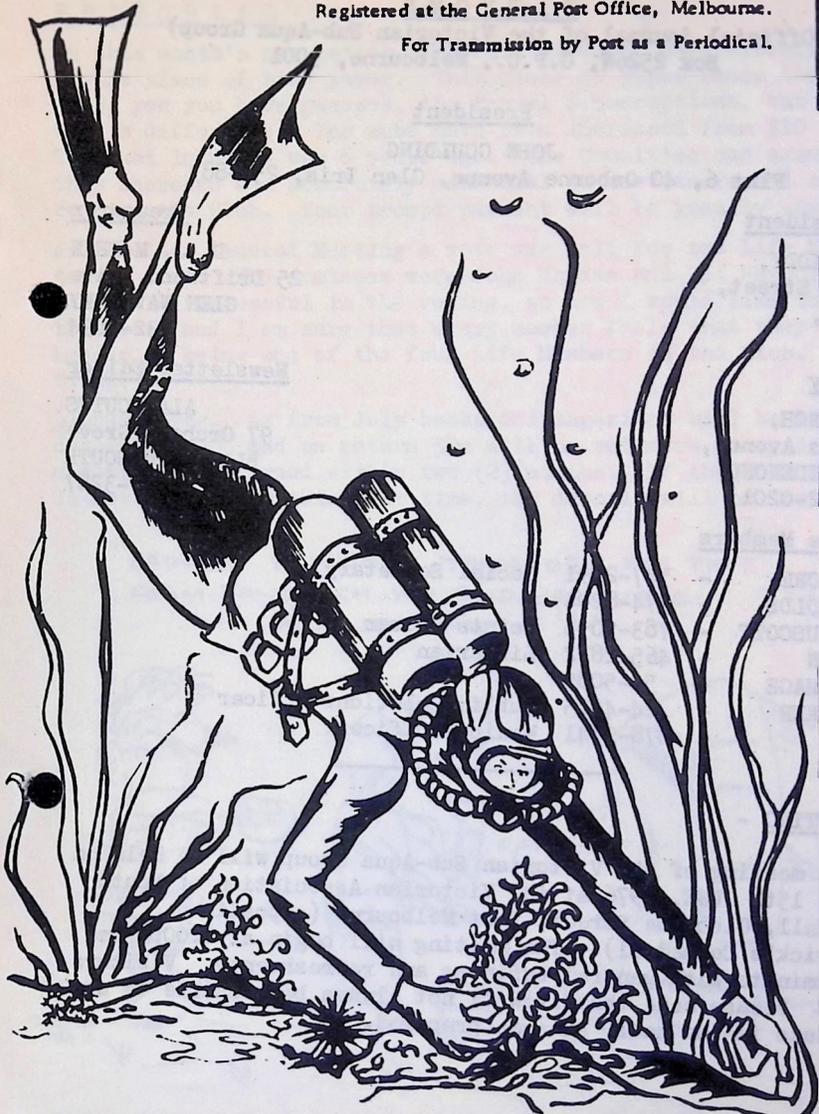


Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne.  
For Transmission by Post as a Periodical.

# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

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, 15th JUNE, 1976 at the Victorian Association of Youth Club's Hall, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne (opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral). The meeting will begin at 8.00pm 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 some prepared.

EDITORIAL

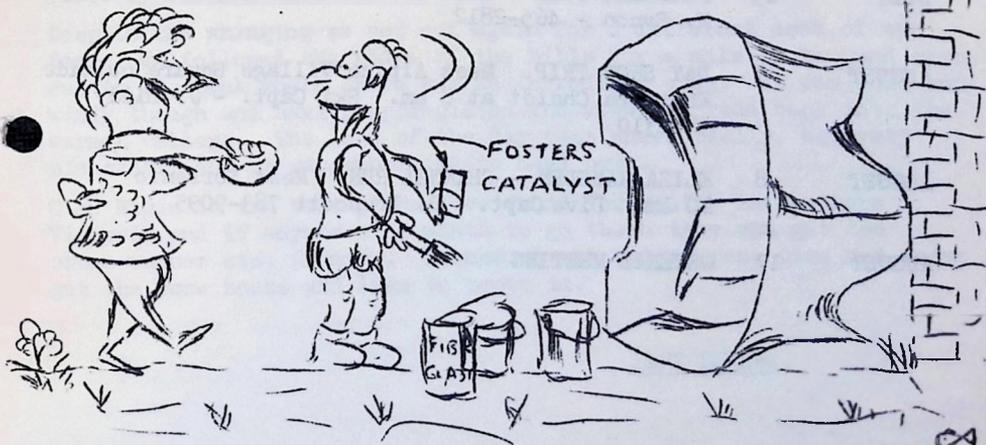
In this month's newsletter, you will find, or have already found a little piece of blue paper. This piece of paper bears the annual bad news, yes you have guessed, the Annual Subscriptions, but this year with a difference. The subs have been increased from \$10 to \$15. The last increase was 6 years ago. The Committee can assure you that this increase was absolutely essential to meet increased costs of running the Club. Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated.

At the last General Meeting a vote was held for two Life Memberships to the Club. The nominees were John Noonan and Pat Reynolds. They were both successful in the voting, so now I would like to congratulate them both and I am sure that every member feels that they deserve the honour of being one of the four Life Members in the Club. Congratulations.

Library News. As from July books and magazines will be lent at a deposit of 50c and on return 50c will be refunded, only if the book or magazine is returned within two (2) months. If the book or magazine is not returned within that time, the deposit will be forfeited.

ED.

"BROUGHT YOU SOME TOMATOES FOR THAT  
FOAM SANDWICH YOU SAID YOU WERE  
MAKING, JUSTIN!!"



DIVE CALENDAR

- JUNE 12-13-14 NAUTILUS CARAVAN PARK, SORRENTO. Organiser -  
D. Moore 547-2791
- JUNE 15 GENERAL MEETING
- JUNE 20 MYSTERY DIVE - Meet 10 am Mornington. B-B-Q  
to follow. Dive Capt. - D. Moore 547-2791
- JUNE 26-27 GRAMPAINS GET AWAY. To stay in a private hut in  
the Grampian Mountains. Map to be supplied.  
Contact Jeff Barker - 24-4025
- JULY 3 OVERLANDER RESTAURANT, NEPEAN HIGHWAY, MORNINGTON.  
Annual Dinner Warm Up. Tickets \$10 per head; \$2  
deposit per head to Dave Moore before 26/6/76.  
Organiser - D. Moore 547-2791
- JULY 11 KELP FARM. Meet 10 am Sorrento Boat Ramp  
Dive Capt. - J. Cody 878-9341
- JULY 20 GENERAL MEETING
- JULY 25 FLINDERS PIER - Meet 10 am. Dive Capt. -  
M. Synon - 465-2812
- AUGUST 1 DAY SNOW TRIP. Meet Alpine Village Square outside  
Kooroora Chalet at 8 am. Ski Capt. - J. Liddy  
58-2310
- AUGUST 8 ELIZA RAMSDEN - CHANNEL RUN. Meet Sorrento  
10 am. Dive Capt. - B. Truscott 783-9095
- AUGUST 17 GENERAL MEETING

HORSE RIDING AT BROADFORD

Sunday broke rainy and typically Melbourne. I would have loved to stay in bed, but being horse captain, had to make the effort and Christine and I set out for Wandong.

The new Hume made the trip very fast and by 8.15 I was looking for the Wandong Pub where we were to meet. As luck would have it Wandong is the only town in Victoria without a pub so we settled for a railway bridge. John, Maree, Pat, Carey and John showed up shortly thereafter and with the sun breaking out on that side of the divide, things were looking better. Bernadette and the kids turned up in another 15 minutes leaving only Jay and Trish to come, so we posted a map on a telephone pole and headed for Glen Elgin.

It is a beautiful farm set in the hills to the east of the Hume and just south of Broadford. The farm itself is 200 acres of bush and cleared land, but there's access to much, much more. We set out on horseback about 10.00 and after a short delay when we traded the slow horses in for wild ones, we were into open country. Between climbing hills, fording creeks, and cantering across paddocks, it was soon 1.30. We rode back to a BBQ spot where we ran into the Cody's who had arrived, and we all had lunch.

By this time everyone was complaining about muscles and Pat even flashed a section of leg where all the hair had rolled into little balls by rubbing against the horse.

Despite the whinging we set out again for a different area of the farm. We followed the ridge of the hills for a mile or two and came out to the peak where there was an incredible view. It was cold and windy though and having appreciated the view, we rode back into the warmer valleys. The rest of the day past uneventfully, but very pleasantly and it was soon time to head home.

Glen Elgin is the best place I've found for riding in southern Victoria and if anyone else wants to go there they can get the phone number etc. from me. I know we all had a great time and we've got the sore backs and legs to prove it.

JEFF BARKER

BROADFORD TRAIL RIDE

After the usual slight delay, a five car convoy headed off from the Wandong Pub, for a most enjoyable days outing.

On arriving at the farm and being allotted our respective mounts for the day - ranging from pony size, a rather finely built speedy grey - which by the way John Goulding mastered very quickly (could be another "Purtell"); a pretty chestnut mare for Jeff's wife, who I believe was carrying more than the rider (so much for women's lib) to a rather hefty bay to carry the amiable, overweight Pat and a mixture of chestnut, bay, grey and black for the rest of us - we headed for the rolling hills ahead.

After clearing the holding yards, it was discovered that at least one horse did not believe in working on Sundays (was it Irish or Mick). Onwards again after a short delay and a suitable exchange of mounts, each taking a turn to lead the way along river beds and up hills that would have proved a great test of stamina for our fitness fanatic Tony T.

The views were fabulous, the cattle were not too keen on the amateur stockmen. About an hour out then back to the B-B-Q area, to meet up with Trish, Jay and Justin, not to mention "Snowdrop" - with a name like that you couldn't expect him to move at all unless the conditions were right, and move he would not. After a short rest we set out again.

A few points of interest -

Most considerate offer of the day - Pat offers to hold Carey's horse while - "guess what" - Carey declines gracefully.

John Goulding wins the V.S.A.G. 600m sprint, also acting as starter for every other horse and rider with his blood curdling yell.

Jay C. entertains a few of the stragglers - sitting back having an armchair ride singing "I was born under a Wandering Star" to the S-L-O-W accompaniment of his horses hooves.

At approximately 4.30 and at least six hours in the saddle, weary, very sore but after a fabulous day, we slid gingerly into the comfort of our various cars and headed back to the "Big Smoke".

Thanks to Jeff B. - a great day - another soon please.

Those present - Jeff and wife, Pat Reynolds, John Goulding and Maree,

John Marshall, Carey Ramage, Bernadette, Joanne and Mark, Trish, Jay and Justin.

BERNADETTE KELLY

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This is an article taken from the Business Journal - "Sweden Now".

COMPANY OF THE MONTH

Poseidons most spectacular customer is probably underwater film maker Jean Jacques Costeau, whose new film from the Antarctic will show their diving equipment to T.V. viewers in many countries this fall.

The Company's speciality is for diving in Arctic conditions since its 'Uni-suit' keeps the diver warm and dry at very low temperatures both on land and in the water. It is a dry suit in which air surrounds the diver's body. These two features add up to several advantages, such as excellent insulating properties, easy buoyancy control and no need for a Safety Jacket.

The Company's origin dates back to the beginning of the 1950's, when Poseidon was just a Gothenburg Diving Club, with unusually enthusiastic members. In those days diving equipment was not made in Sweden and could only be acquired from abroad with difficulty and was not so good anyway - that is why these ambitious members found it practical to take the matter into their own hands.

First they designed a breathing device, with which they equipped the Club's members. It was found to function well, so serious production could start and the orders rolled in. In 1957 they joined forces with diving instructors and launched several new diving products. Among them was the 'Unisuit', which was developed in collaboration with the Swedish Navy, whose demands for diving equipment quality, could not be met by existing material.

The Unisuit is made of neophrene cellular rubber, a material that was earlier used only for wet suits. The American manufacturer said he couldn't guarantee it was air-tight. Against his advice, however, Poseidon took the risk of using it - to the regret only of the competition. When the suit was first introduced in 1968, it was met with considerable suspicion. It proved successful, however, and is now used as standard equipment by the Naval divers in several

countries, and by divers working on oil drilling platforms and several similar hard jobs, as well as by advanced sports divers.

Poseidon is on the alert when it comes to the development of still more advanced equipment. Its plant in Gothenburg - built partly with grants from the Swedish Board for Technical Development, includes a pool in which diving conditions down to a depth of 200m can be simulated in water temperatures down to  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

(They don't have to knock the Ice off, just add a lot of salt.)

BERNADETTE KELLY

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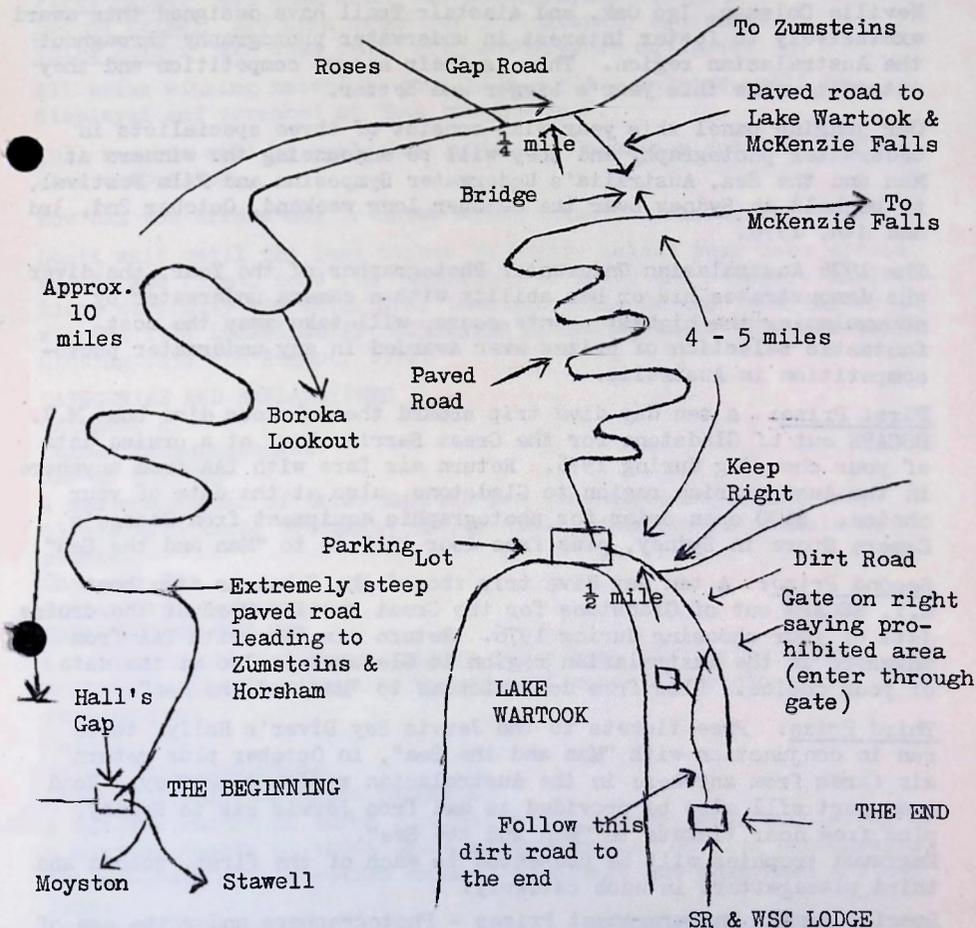
DETAILS ON LAKE WARTOOK - JUNE 26 & 27

1. There are 4 bedrooms, so its first come, first served. The rest can lie on the folding couch or on the living room floor by the fire.
2. Blankets are supplied but on a limited basis so to be safe bring 1 blanket or sleeping bag each. If you want sheets, bring them.
3. There is a fridge but it is small and will only hold food for a dozen or so. If you want to keep beer cold bring an esky or you can leave the grog in the lake.
4. Cutlery and dishes are supplied but towels and toilet paper are not.
5. Bring all the food you need. Hall's Gap is the closest town and it is expensive and a long drive.
6. Bring bushwalking gear as there are millions of tracks.
7. Fishing but not hunting is allowed. Small powered boats (up to 10 hp) are allowed on the lake.
8. I will be going up Friday night arriving about 10.00 pm. As I have the keys there is not much point getting there before 10.00 pm.
9. The gate with the sign saying SR & WSC Prohibited Area will be closed, but not locked after I go in. Will subsequent visitors close the gate after them, as it discourages visits from strangers.
10. The route to the lodge is shown on the accompanying map. Once going through the prohibited area gate it is about 2 miles to the cottage. It is not the first cottage on the right hand side.

11. All those wishing to go should phone me the week before on 224-1537 or 408-0453 during the day.

JEFF BARKER

NOT TO SCALE



THE 1976 AUSTRALASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Photographic Advisory Panel of the Australian Underwater Federation comprising - Chairman - Steve Parish and Panel Members - Ben Cropp, Walt Deas, Neville Coleman, Igo Oak, and Alastair Trail have designed this award exclusively to foster interest in underwater photography throughout the Australasian region. This is their second competition and they intend to make this year's bigger and better.

Our judging panel this year will consist of three specialists in underwater photography and they will be announcing the winners at Man and the Sea, Australia's Underwater Symposium and Film Festival, to be held in Sydney over the October long weekend, October 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1976.

The 1976 Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year, the diver who demonstrates his or her ability with a camera underwater by accumulating the highest points score, will take away the most fantastic selection of prizes ever awarded in any underwater photo-competition in Australia.

First Prize: A ten day dive trip aboard the fabulous dive boat M.V. ESCAPE out of Gladstone for the Great Barrier Reef at a cruise date of your choosing during 1976. Return air fare with TAA from anywhere in the Australasian region to Gladstone, also at the date of your choice. \$100 open order for photographic equipment from George's Camera Store in Sydney, plus free door tickets to "Man and the Sea".

Second Prize: A ten day dive trip aboard the fabulous dive boat M.V. ESCAPE out of Gladstone for the Great Barrier Reef at the cruise date of your choosing during 1976. Return air fare with TAA from anywhere in the Australasian region to Gladstone, also at the date of your choice. Plus free door tickets to "Man and the Sea".

Third Prize: Free tickets to the Jervis Bay Diver's Rally, to be run in conjunction with "Man and the Sea", in October plus return air fares from anywhere in the Australasian region to Sydney. Road transport will also be provided to and from Jervis Bay to Sydney, plus free door tickets to "Man and the Sea". Engraved trophies will be presented to each of the first, second and third placegetters in each category.

Special Junior Encouragement Prizes - Photographers under the age of 18 on the 6th August, 1976 will have an opportunity to win not only the above prizes but also open orders for photographic equipment

from George's Camera Store by accumulating the highest points for the Junior Award. After the judging has been carried out on the overall award, points will be awarded separately to the juniors - but remember to precede each category entered with the letter 'J'.

First Prize: \$75 open order for photographic equipment

Second Prize: \$20 open order for photographic equipment

Third Prize: \$20 open order for photographic equipment

All prize winning material, plus high quality entries, will be displayed and screened at "Man and the Sea".

Full results will be published in Diving Magazines and sent out to each competitor.

How can you afford not to enter with fantastic prizes like these?

Don't wait until the last minute to enter; select your best slides, prints and films, read the Conditions of Entry and category explanations carefully and enter NOW, then YOU could be the lucky diver to win THE 1976 AUSTRALASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD. Closing date 6th August, 1976.

#### CATEGORIES AND EXPLANATIONS -

##### Category A:

Colour Transparencies

##### MAN IN THE SEA

A maximum number of three entries per person portraying divers, divers with their equipment and/or divers with marine animals or plants.

##### Category B:

Colour Transparencies

##### CREATURES OF THE SEA

A maximum number of three entries per person portraying marine animals or plants either by way of environmental or close-up photography.

##### Category C:

Colour Transparencies

##### NATURAL HISTORY UNDERSEA SEQUENCE

A maximum number of three portfolios per person, each consisting of a minimum number of three and a maximum number of five photographs. The subjects may be either animals or plants but must have a story line.

##### Category D:

Black and White Prints

##### BLACK AND WHITE OPEN CATEGORY

A maximum number of three entries per person portraying any underwater subject.

Category E:

Open Movie Category both 16mm and 8mm

OPEN MOVIE

A maximum number of two entries per person portraying any underwater event.

Closing Date 6th August, 1976.

1. Competitors may be either amateur or professional photographers normally resident within the Australasian regions, including Fiji, New Guinea and New Zealand.
2. Photographic material which was entered in the 1975 Award is not eligible.
3. COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES may be cropped, but must be mounted in either 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " square or 35mm cardboard, plastic or glass mounts. Each mount must have the submitting photographer's name, address, category insignia and picture title clearly printed on the mount's edge. Photographer's also wishing to try for the special junior encouragement award must be under the age of 18 on the date of closing, 6th August, 1976. All junior entrants must also precede the category with the letter 'J', i.e. J/A, J/B, and so on.
4. BLACK AND WHITE PRINTS may be either prepared for entry by the submitting photographer or by a professional studio. They may be cropped to any format but must be submitted mounted on stiff white card with overall dimensions between 10" x 8" and 12" x 10". The submitting photographer's name, address, category insignia and picture title must be clearly printed on the rear of the mounted card.
5. 8mm and 16mm MOVIES must be submitted on a single spool with a total screening time no greater than 20 minutes. They may be black and white or colour with or without sound track. Submitting photographers may employ professional laboratories for editing, sound track, special effects or titling purposes, but all other camera work must be that of the submitting photographer. Photographers may employ surface sequences as PART of the story line only. Submitting photographers must have their name, address and film title printed clearly on both the film's white leader and film can.
6. There is no limit to the number of categories that a submitting photographer may enter, but if the judging panel considers that a category has been incorrectly nominated the photographic entry may become disqualified.
7. All submitted material must be accompanied by a stamped self-

addressed post office approved padded jiffy bag for return postage. The Photographic Advisory Panel will take all reasonable care in the handling of photographic material, but will accept no responsibility for loss or damage.

8. All submitted material must be accompanied by an entry fee of one Australian dollar (\$A1) per category entered. All cheques should be made payable to "Australian Underwater Photographer of the Year Award".

9. Judging will be carried out on a points score basis: 15, 10 and 5 respectively, and the Judging Panel will only nominate 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, and the overall "Underwater Photographer of the Year Award", if they consider the submitted material is of a sufficiently high standard. The decisions of the Judging Panel will be final and there will be no correspondence entered into.

UNLESS ALL THE ABOVE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY ARE FULLY COMPLIED WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL ENTERED INTO THE AWARD WILL BECOME DISQUALIFIED FROM THE COMPETITION. ALL ENTRIES MUST REACH

The Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year, P.O. Box 67, St. Lucia, Qld. 4067.

By no later than: Closing date 6th August, 1976.

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### FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Since last writing this column we have done a bit of diving, a bit of horsing around, a little tubing and a great deal of stretching the truth. Still most of what you might read in this article does happen. It's just that nobody wants to own up to the fact.

Let us begin our little sojourn through time by going back to Sunday morning of the 25th April. It started out a very dismal day in Melbourne so I had no intention of being at Sorrento at 9.00 am. So having called Murgatroyde and found out that she had salvaged some of her favourite Camp-Pie and garlic sandwiches from Friday's play lunch we set off to meet the others who by this time were heading from Sorrento to Flinders. Thereupon we launched the boats in rather unsettled weather conditions towards Cape Schank. The dive was interesting and rewarding for those who found some crays. As for me, my reward came when we safely arrived back at Flinders. Good old Bazza's boat.

And so on to some horse-nonsense on the 2nd May. For a long time Jeff and Christine Barker have been telling us about rolling

ponies.....?? or what was it - aah perhaps it was rolling hills.

We headed off bright and early with our trusty stallions, brumbies, mares, ponies, hacks, donkeys etc. etc. panting at the bit. Actually my horse was panting at the bit of leg shown by Bernadette. It was a great day really and one could almost write a serial about it. Perhaps an appropriate name would be - The Snowflake Cereal.

The rest of the week proved to us that there's a big hangover to horseriding. Would have been a big week for chiropractors or massage parlours.....

Sunday 16th May, the date of the VSAG Annual Tube Trip. This year pilgrimage to the upper raging stretches of the Goulburn River provided its usual array of fancy flotilla. This year the competition was fierce, but line honours went to the back-markers Brian Baldock and Mick. Although there was no award for coming first there was a prize for the WHACKER AWARD - and who better qualified to win it but The Fat Man himself daring Dave Hurlle - a name very appropriate because Dave was so overcome by the honour that he HURLED himself over the cliff. How's the leg Dave??

Sunday the 23rd May it was back to diving again and it was a good opportunity to meet a few faces for a quiet pier crawl at Flinders.

Believe it or not I have eventually run out of paper so all back-copies would be greatly appreciated.

RICK O'SHEA  
(THE IRISH SHARP-SHOOTER WHO MISSED)

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### TUBE TRIP - 16/5/76

On Saturday evening Justin threatened me with a 5.30am start for the tube trip, but fortunately he didn't arrive until 6.45am. When I awoke on Sunday morning at 6.30am, I took one look at the weather, lousy, I thought, very overcast and almost raining at the time. I said to myself, "Justin isn't stupid so he won't be round to pick me up, I'll give him until 7.00am and if he hasn't fronted by then, I'll go back to bed, like any sane person would". Anyhow, 6.45am and the fools turned up, just as I was about to drink my coffee and have another slice of toast. The first words uttered were "You haven't got time for that, come on, let's go". That sounded very final so I threw my gear in Justin's car and we took off for Thornton on

the Lower Goulburn River. (Yes, Snush, there is an Upper and a Lower Goulburn River.) We (Pat Reynolds, Justin and myself) were the first to arrive at 8.15am. There was supposed to be an 8.00am start so that we could have a B.B.Q. lunch and get home early.

Most people had arrived by 10 am and we then drove the cars about 5 miles upstream. Changing into wetsuits and carrying tubes of every different shape and size conceivable and basically of two different materials, namely rubber and steel, kept many passing motorists imagination running wild.

Finally we hit the icy cold water, Mike Bennett got such a surprise that he lost two of his tubes (metal) and Dave Hurle who some how managed to win the Whacker Award (presented by Bass Strait Diving Club) took half an hour to mount his tube (rubber).

The next couple of hours are virtually indescribable. Dave Moore upended Bazza's toy boat, which made Bazza smile all day as he lost his liquid refreshment. Most people couldn't understand why Dave was tail-end-Charlie after the incident, but Bazza kept giving Dave encouragement by shouting "Come on Dave" and in a very quiet voice afterwards said "and I'll kill you." The irregularly spaced rapids woke those up who were sleeping and created a great deal of fun for those who were conscious.

Finally Dave caught up with Bazza and all hell lets loose. Bazza was assisted by Brian Lynch, Tony Tipping and Max Synon. In the ensuing battle Dave lost one of his flippers.

We finally beached our craft at Thornton and most of us had to wait for our clothes and food to arrive. The Whacker of the Year Award was presented to Dave Hurle by Jay Cody on behalf of the Bass Strait Diving Club. After the presentation we changed into dry clothes and stood in the rain to cook our lunch.

If you want to know how to light a barbeque fire ask Bazza, but first make sure you have a gallon or two of metho or else he may not be able to help you.

If you want to know how to drive from Thornton to Melbourne with your eyes closed ask Justin, but don't let him drive!

ALAN CUTTS