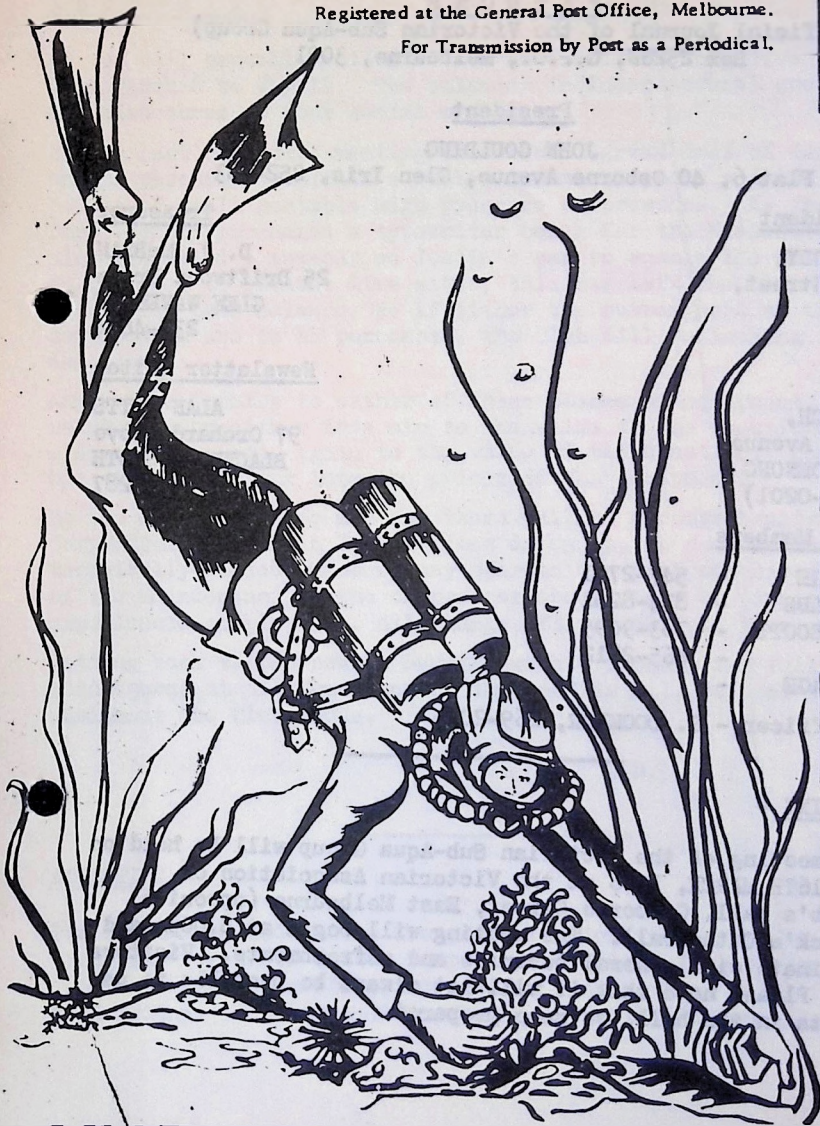


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FATHOMS



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

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CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on TUESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 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.

E D I T O R I A L

As you will probably notice we now have quite a long dive calendar - from March 6 to May 18. The calendar includes several good dives and also three or four social events.

At the last committee meeting there was a great deal of discussion on the purchase of either a rubber inflatable boat and motor or a couple of small portable high pressure compressors. As the Club has recently purchased a typewriter being for the Newsletter, and has also installed a tow-bar on Justin's car to enable the Club compressor to be towed to distant dive sites, this has left the Club with a rather low bank balance, so if either the rubber boat or the compressors are to be purchased, the Club will be looking for donations.

Anyone who donates to either of these pieces of equipment, will be reimbursed by either free air to the value of the donation, or free rides on the boat, again to the value of the donation. Dave Moore has offered to look into the prices of the equipment.

By the next committee meeting there will be a comprehensive Compressor Operator's Instructions drawn up, so some of the "not too technically minded" members may operate the club compressor. Some of the maintenance on the compressor should only be carried out by experienced people, i.e. oil change, filter change, bearings etc.

Getting back to the social events, we are looking for full attendances at all functions as the profits will be used to buy the equipment the Club needs.

ED.

A T T E N T I O N -

The Black Rock Underwater Group are looking for divers to fill vacancies for their Easter Trip to Deal Island in Bass Strait. Two boats have been chartered and are leaving Port Franklin on Good Friday. Further details from Bob Hurst telephone 93-4924.

DIVE CALENDAR

- MAR. 6,7,8 RUSHWORTH WEEKEND - Organiser J. Liddy 58-2310
Meeting Wednesday night 3rd March at 8 pm. OR
PORT CAMPBELL - Dive Capt. B. Truscott 783-9095
- MAR. 14 ELIZA RAMSDEN, CHANNEL RUN, PORTSEA HOLE OR HEADS Meet
MAR. 16 GENERAL MEETING Sorrento Boat Ramp 10.30 am.
- MAR. 21 FUN RUN - Details B. Lynch 662-0201 Ext. 494
- MAR. 28 FLINDERS PIER 10 am. Followed by BBQ at 3 Sandy Cou
Somers - B.Y.O. Dive Capt. T. Tipping 24-7133
- APR. 4 PINNACLES. Meeting San Remo 7.30 am. Alternative
dive at Sorrento. Dive Capt. D. Moore 547-2791
- APR. 10 POOL PARTY 7 KALMIA ST. FRANKSTON. Starts 3 pm.
Entry fee 50c. Bring your money & booze. All clubs
and visitors welcome. Points awarded for paying
visitors. Organiser - D. Moore 547-2791
- APR. 15-19 EASTER. WILSON'S PROM. Dive Capt. J. Goulding
25-2833
- APR. 20 GENERAL MEETING
- APR. 25 HORSE RIDING - Details Jeff Barker 24-4025
- MAY 2 SORRENTO 9 am. Dive Capt. B. Lynch 662-0201 Ext. 494
or B. Truscott 783-9095
- MAY 16 TUBE TRIP ON THE GOULBURN - Dive Capt. J. Liddy
58-2310
- MAY 18 GENERAL MEETING

AIR FILLS - EDEN CHRISTMAS '75

<u>Name</u>	<u>Owing</u>	<u>Paid</u>
Bass Strait (J. Cody)	6 fills	4
B. Truscott	4	
M. Synon	4	
J. Goulding	3	
M. Gagliardi	-	3
T. Snushall	3	
F. Derkson	3	
T. Tipping	4	
T. Cowley	2	
R. Adamson	3	
T. Smith	1	
Gerard (Visitor)		1
P. Sier		1
Strays		4
	<hr/>	
	\$35	\$13

@ \$1.00 ea.

Cr.	M. Synon	10	} From prizes
	B. Truscott	1	
	R. Adamson	1	
	T. Snushall	1	

AIR FILLS owing as at 24/2/76 - From Penang Street

<u>Name</u>	<u>Owing</u>
Bernadette Kolly	1
F. Derkson	7
J. Cody	3
J. Goulding	4
T. Tipping	1
M. Bennett	6
K. James	1
D. Hurlo	2
T. West	2

27 @ 70c ea.

"JAWS"

Last year, many moons ago now, we all went to the pictures under the direction of our social secretary, Mr. D. Moore. The film chosen for the clubs foray into Melbourne night life was "Jaws" a semi documentary about a super shark, possessing almost supernatural gifts. Despite the fact that all hardened divers, divers wives, parents and friends know all about sharks and their habits, there were several loud gasps at certain parts in the film, when either the shark appeared or bits of people floated across the screen.

We had gone to this picture rather for light relief because as divers we are perhaps better informed than most about this particular form of danger in the sea. This time of the year however does become something of a silly shark season and shark attacks always make headlines. Recently the Sydney Morning Herald devoted 3.5 centimetres of its front page to stating that 1008 people had been killed on New South Wales roads in ten months of 1975. The previous day at Lennox Head in the far north, a young man lost a tooth and was scratched in an incident which the Daily Mirror reported over most of its front page with headlines 16.5 cm deep and the Sydney Sun emblazoned its newsagents placards with "Jaws Attack".

It is worth recording that since 1791 - when an aboriginal woman was taken in Sydney Harbour - there have been 102 fatal shark attacks in Australia. With our ever increasing beach and sea mad population, there are roughly four fatal attacks every five years. I say this because each year the shark "menace" looms large and this year of course it is bolstered by "Jaws" and a Burt Reynolds spectacular called strangely enough "Shark". By using the road accident comparison I hope that it will be seen that you stand a greater chance of dying on the road, rather than ending up as a sharks appetiser.

It would be true to say, however, that the pattern of shark attacks is changing, and Victoria can expect more. We are now getting more attacks by the great whites and they like colder waters i.e. South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. I would expect more attacks in these areas, not because the great whites are coming in, but because divers particularly are going into their territory.

Abalone divers, are moving into deeper and colder waters. So are scuba (lung) divers, and so the risk of attack becomes greater. So

here I can quote President Truman, "if you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen". The sea after all is still to us an alien environment, we cannot yet move as freely as we would like beneath its surface and probably man's great fear of the shark stems from the fact that he can move and manoeuvre far quicker than we can in water, and a hand to Jaws encounter is very much in his favour.

In conclusion, perhaps the fact that we, the land animals, will eat perhaps 200,000 sharks this year tips the scales a little in our favour.

BRIAN LYNCH

DIVER PANIC AND HOW TO BEAT IT

An insight into the psychology of PANIC can provide divers with a real defence against its deadly consequences. Many instances of drowning are directly attributable to panic. In a panic or near panic situation, logic is thrown to the winds. The mind looks blindly towards one goal.

The best way to solve the problem of panic is to avoid it. This is achieved through training for (manoeuvres) which have a high panic potential, most notable of which is failure of the air supply. Upon running out of air the diver tries to open his reserve, nothing happens so he tries again and again. The single thought overwhelms the brain, open the reserve, the thought becomes an obsession, excluding all else, even the simple idea of heading for the surface or your buddy.

The ability of a diver to recognise the early stages of panic in his buddy, presents an opportunity for him to assist before a full scale panic situation develops.

The first signs of panic are:-

1. Increased rate of breathing.
2. Orientation. Instinctively diver moves into vertical position ready to run for surface.
3. Preoccupation with instruments. Rapidly trying to read all his instruments is very close to a panic situation.
4. Swimming posture. The diver brings knees forward and kicks with small jerking strokes, starting from the knees instead of the thighs.
5. The eyes. The expression the eyes give, offers the complete

spectrum from ecstatic relaxation to out and out panic. Divers should pay attention to the eyes when communicating with each other. (Do not confuse the expression of anxiety with the usual distortion of the face produced by a tight fitting mask, look deep into the eyes.)

6. Lack of noise. The luxury of a full bodied scream is denied, as this involves the complete venting of the lungs. Therefore one must rely solely on visual surveillance.

What can be done for the near panic or panicking diver? Reassurance is the key word. It is a decision for the rescuer whether he moves in close for physical contact. There is the problem of losing one's own equipment, air supply and ultimately one's desire to rescue. If the rescuer can possibly and confidently close on the panicking diver, this is highly recommended.

Grasp both the divers arms tightly and stare fixedly at his eyes, within seconds he should stop struggling and rapid breathing should decrease. Reassure as best you can and then start a controlled ascent, keeping in full view of the victim so that he has something to concentrate on.

Evasive action.

1. Make out dive plan and stick to it.
2. Carry out pre-diving checks for leaks or damage.
3. Suspect gear should be discarded, don't make do.
4. If you feel unwell, abort the dive.
5. Check endurance by tank gauge.
6. Leave the water with at least 15% tank pressure remaining.
7. If there is any doubt, abort.
8. Cramp, fear of and pain, stretch affected muscle, keep fit and warm.
9. Headache is a symptom of something else, you should not dive.
10. Anxiety. A moderate amount will have the desirable effect of ensuring that the diver is particularly careful in checking his equipment and that of his buddy and preparing for a dive. Once in the water he should feel much less anxious.

If unchecked anxiety can escalate to panic. Anyone subject to stress should not dive. The dividing line between comfortable confidence and panic when diving is a very thin one made up of self-discipline, knowledge, training and experience.

JUSTIN LIDDY

BOATMANIA

V.S.A.G. seems to have a preoccupation with boats of different kinds. Some have even said they use them for diving. There has been great controversy between members on the merits of plastic against wood against tin with nothing ever being resolved.

Rumour has it that down McKinnon way Dave Moore has been dreaming up some outlandish way of proving the superiority of a certain type of craft. Now, Dave has been talking about this scheme for some six months now and we never thought much would come of it but quietly on the weekend of 21st and 22nd February Dave got together with a few labourers and built his boat to hull stage. Starting at 10 am on the Saturday and finishing at 8 pm on the Sunday night we poured five layers of fibreglass into a plaster mould and then sat back and had a beer and hoped. Everything set hard and fast and now Dave, Johnny and I are anxiously awaiting the great pull out. If it pulls out then Johnny and I will have a go at making another one!!

On behalf of Dave, Johnny and myself I would like to thank all those who offered their encouragement and especially those who gave of their time and effort to bring it to the stage it is now, in particular, Pete Smith, Bazza, Alan Cutts, Rod and Sonya, Mike Bonnett, Tony Snushall, Dave Hurlc, Trevor West and the womenfolk who kept us going through that long Saturday night!!

Thanks a lot follas and girls, we'll see you get at least one free trip if they float.

JUSTIN LIDDY
DAVE MOORE
JOHN GOULDING

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Having been severely reprimanded for not preparing an article in the February issue of "Fathoms", my only reaction is surprise. Someone must read this crap after all. Maybe people just use it for crap!! I don't know but its pleasing to know you've been missed.

With such a long gap between episodes there must be plenty to write about. Here are just a few starters.

The Eden Xmas trip provided quite a haul in the way of relics and things.

Virgin wrecks are very rare in our waters but the mysterious wrecks we were lucky enough to find certainly provided a lot of enjoyment. Just ask Tony T !

Bazza and Marie proved to be a couple of good pullers on the pokies. After pulling a few pokers, they finished up close to \$200 in front.

Nice to see Terry and Judy back on the scene, but in my opinion Terry's new hobby is strictly for the birds.

Special mention and thanks to the Bass Strait Diving Club girls and guys for the superb New Year's Eve party.

The next significant outing the Club had was the Port Campbell weekend. Thanks to Max we were accommodated at "Luxury Lodge", overlooking the sea. The weather allowed us one dive on the "Loch Ard", which is always a special treat. With the usual trips down Deany Steps and Moonlight Head, the weekend was fairly uneventful. We were entertained each morning by the V.S.A.G. running squad. What a way to work up a thirst.

Sunday 8th February saw some of the mob assembled very early at Sorrento. The early morning showed its toll on attendances however a few early birds got a dive on the wreck of the "Sierra Nevada". Next time you go around to Bazza's for a cup of tea, watch out for the barnacles on the saucer. Word has it that there has been a lot of activity around at Liddy's lately. Apart from Liddy's factory being filled with fibreglass there is something in a corner which looks very much like the ideal dive boat.

The industrious efforts of a few members are now beginning to take shape. Dave Moore the industrious designer is confident that the new style will be the last word in dive boats. Who knows it might float for long enough so that we can ride in it as well as dive on it.

The trip under sail aboard the Golden Plover was an interesting experience. This 100' ship, rigged for sail as a barquentine has all the atmosphere and romance of an old sailer. The crew, all fluent in the jargon of setting sails carried on heedless of the calls of Jay Cody who kept calling the mates to "splice the main brace". (For you land lubbers, "splicing the main brace" is the same as giving the crew their daily do of rum.)

V.S.A.G. are happy to announce the engagement of two members John Marshall to Carey Ramage. If our memory is correct these two

bumped into each other at the City Baths whilst doing our Training course. When one thinks back to those pool days, John and Carey did keep asking for more practise at "Buddy Breathing"!!

Well boys and girls we look forward to an exciting year in '76. Remember to come to the March General meeting on the 16th and get the information on the Easter Trip to Wilsons Prom. The usual awards will again be published for various deeds.

RIP ATOPOFF
