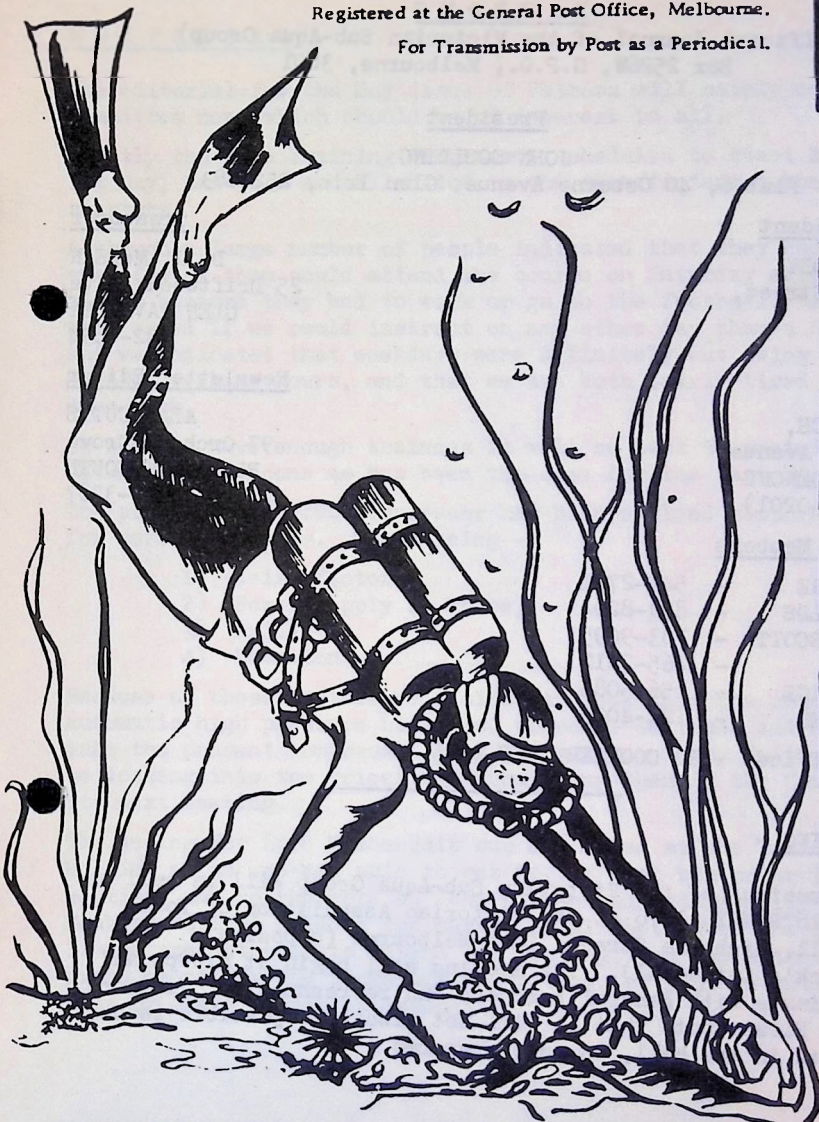


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FATHOMS



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, 18TH MAY, 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 come prepared.

EDITORIAL

The editorial for the May issue of Fathoms will mainly cover Committee news which should be of interest to all.

Firstly the Dive Training Programme, scheduled to start on the 1st May, has been cancelled due to the insufficient number of starters.

Although a large number of people indicated that they had trainees, very few of them could attend the course on Saturday afternoons, either because they had to work or go to the football. Justin and I were asked if we could instruct on any other day than a Saturday, and we indicated that weekdays were definitely out owing to my erratic working hours, and that we are both fairly tired after a days work.

So when we have enough trainees it will be back to training on Saturday afternoons as has been the case for the last 20 years.

The proposed new club compressor has been shelved temporarily for several reasons. These being -

- 1) Noise factor
- 2) Power Supply (3 Phase)
- 3) Price
- 4) Location

Because of these factors we decided to look into the cost of automatic high pressure bleeders, pressure switches and alarms, to make the present compressor semi automatic. Terry Smith and I will be looking into the prices and submitting them to the Committee at its next meeting.

The voting for Life Membership was not taken at the last General Meeting as no one was able to get to the post box prior to the meeting, and so the vote on John Noonan and Pat Reynolds as Life Members will be held at the next General Meeting on the 18th May, 1976. If you are not able to attend the meeting, you can either vote by proxy or notify the Secretary in writing, of your intention. A vote by every member is essential.

ED.

DIVE CALENDAR

- MAY 23 FLINDERS PIER - Meet 10 am. Dive Capt. -
Jeff Barker 24-4025
- JUNE 6 To be advised - Contact Jeff Barker 24-4025
- JUNE 12-13-14 NAUTILUS CARAVAN PARK, SORRENTO. Organiser -
D. Moore 547-2791 OR
FLINDERS IS. TRIP - Contact Jeff Barker 24-4025
- 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 GRAMPPIANS 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. Organiser - D. Moore
547-2791
-

COMPRESSOR FILL TIMES

It is the practice of this Club to do most of its diving on Sundays. It is also most people's practice to leave the filling of their tanks to the last moment, usually on Saturday. Therefore, I would like to make a suggestion. On the way home from the dive or early in the week, drop your tank off and pick it up FULL on the Saturday. This would make it far easier on the chap who fills the tanks. Thank you.

JUSTIN LIDDY

FLINDERS DIVE, SOMERS BARBEQUE - MARCH 28TH

It would probably be pretty easy for me to dig up a 1972 Fathoms and transcribe a similar VSAG outing which I may have attended or even been dive captain, and still scored points towards the Award. But not this time! It was different!

I did the usual drive down to Skull Rock to check swells etc. and within half an hour of the scheduled 10 am start at Flinders Pier I realised there were 25 divers and 6 boats at my disposal - the most I can recall on a single day's outing! After spending half an hour clearing several tonnes of seaweed pretty successfully, thanks to the man power, we managed to launch the boats and head down to the reef off Picnic Point near Bushranger Bay. The dive went smoothly enough, about 20 foot visibility and the usual fascinating sights we're all so used to seeing in this area: chasms, caves, kelp, fish, Port Jacksons, crays amidst this undulating bottom between 20 50 ft. depth.

Owing to such a large turn out of divers, many of whom were inexperienced as far as open sea boat diving went, I decided to place the less regular or inexperienced diver with a blue water man - in fact the way it turned out very few of us had ever actually buddied with the other before. I think this practice should be used more often because after all we are a diving group so why not get to know each other better, snorkel to snorkel.

So much for the dive - yes, all the boats made it back OK and there were no casualties, so it was off to Sandy Court Somers for the feast. There must have been 50 people plus including all the partners wives and kids, and no one complained about it being a lousy turn! Thanks to all who came along that day and especially the guys who towed those 6 boats down - Bazza, Trevor, Rob, Max, Jay and Leo - thanks to them none of those 25 divers was left on the beach.

TONY TIPPING

THE PINNACLES

On Sunday April the fourth we gathered once again at San Remo for an outing to the Pinnacles with Stan Watt's fishing boat. Only nine divers instead of the usual quota of 16 meant that there was plenty of room to move around and that wives and girlfriends could accompany us. The sea was calm, and our trip out was smooth and relaxed. Once on the mark, we were joined by another boat with a group of divers on board.

We began our dive, unfortunately for Justin and I as we began our descent Pat and Bob moved the buoy and we swam down and down, it got darker and darker and we finished up at 140 feet with not even a small hill in sight. Plenty of fish life, and the bottom was covered with many sponges which are a feature of the area. Although it was darkish where we were the visibility was not too bad, but unfortunately we search in the wrong direction so on our first attempt missed the thing. We came up to see our boat on the horizon but they could see us and came and picked us up.

We dived again this time straight down the buoy line, we didn't stay too long because by now the lining of my tank was becoming a bit difficult to breathe so once again to the surface. Once we were aboard the second group of divers went over. While they were down we witnessed aboard the other vessel, what at first we thought was a diving fatality.

A group of divers surfaced with what appeared to be just an inflated wet suit. It was however a girl who had apparently made a very rapid ascent from 120 feet, and who appeared to be either dead or very unconscious. Her colleagues seemed more concerned about possibly losing her tank than they were about getting her into the boat. They finally got her aboard, but didn't seem to know what to do then. Finally they loaded her into a speed boat which was accompanying the fishing boat and took her back to San Remo. They then got back to the much more serious business of diving.

This accident, which apparently did not have a tragic ending, underlined to us the hazards which abound in our sport. The divers concerned were mostly novices who had been told not to go below sixty feet. The "experienced" ones amongst them did not know what to do, and didn't really seem to know what had happened, and if the girl survived, Lady Luck was the only saviour around.

For those people who have never lived on the Finnacle, they are two rock buttresses rising from the ocean floor, to within 35 feet of the surface, one slightly lower than the other. If you miss them, as we did, you can be in 140 feet of Twilight water, certainly not the place in our opinion to bring novices for their first sea dive, and just the place for a trainee to hit the panic button, as this young lady apparently did, with possible dire consequences.

However as I said before, as far as we were able to find out this time the liver was lucky, but it certainly gave us plenty of food for thought.

B. LYNCE

The Committee would like to thank all members and friends who supported our fund raising Party held on April 11th. Over \$100 was raised and this money will greatly assist the Club to finance its purchases of new equipment.

In particular we would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Creffield for their generosity in opening their house for the occasion.

FOR SALE

Aluminium Diving Boat, O/B Motor and Trailer. Price Negotiable.
Contact -- Bob Hurst 93 4924

Seats now available for the rise of a lifetime. Join Justin and John on Diving Safaris 1976-77 in the new 16 foot custom built dive boat. A special price of \$50.00 is being offered, this includes helping to build boat, helping to build trailer, helping to install motor, helping to launch, quick ride around St. Kilda Marina and then home again.

OCEANS '76 UNDERWATER CONGRESS AND FILM FESTIVAL

Monash University, Melbourne - Queen's Birthday Weekend, June 11, 12 & 13, 1976.

Oceans '76 is taking place again to encourage interest in skin diving and marine life. To do this the programme will start with a display of equipment and activities of various organisations. Then will follow a daytime programme on the Saturday and Sunday of lectures covering the topics of:

Sydney diving, currents, cave diving, underwater film making, antarctic underwater life, the animals of the Red Sea, invertebrates, Bass Strait Islands, Pelagic fish, underwater photography, life of the oyster, professional diving and underwater medicine. Saturday evening will feature a series of films by top world underwater film makers who will introduce their films in person. Heading the bill will be America's Al Giddings & Australia's Ben Cropp. Between films will be presentations of master pass lucky door prizes and the Oceans fellowship awards. Sunday's lectures will be followed by the winning entries in the Nikon photo competition. Lastly will be a social smorgasboard get together.

In detail the programme will consist of:

Friday 11th, 7.00-10.30pm Trade Display and Divers Supermarket in the Robert Blackwood Hall.

Saturday 12th, 10.00am-4.00pm Lectures in the Alexander Theatre. Afternoon tea included in the price.

8.00 pm Film Festival in the Robert Blackwood Hall.

Sunday 13th, 11.00am-6.00pm Lectures and Photographic Competition Results in the Alexander Theatre. Afternoon tea is included in the price.

6.15-9.00pm Closing Get Together. Price includes hot meal and wine or beer.

Friday Trade Night - Tickets at \$1.00 ea. (Children 50c)

Saturday & Sunday Lectures - Tickets at \$6.00 for adults. Tickets at \$5.00 ea. for students and children (evidence such as student No. required.)

Saturday Film Festival - Tickets at \$5.00 ea. for adults. Tickets at \$3.00 ea. for students and children (evidence required)

Sunday Final Get Together - Tickets at \$7.00 ea.

Master Pass to Whole Programme - Tickets for individuals at \$16.00 ea. a saving of \$3.00. Tickets for groups of more than 15 at \$14.00 ea.

Any divers not going away for the Queen's Birthday Weekend (June 11, 12 & 13) should consider attending this Underwater Congress and Film Festival. Melbournians are lucky to have the best diving convention in Australia and should support it. Divers wishing to attend should contact Jay Cody (878 9341) to obtain concession tickets.

RUSHWORTH AGAIN!! 24TH & 25TH APRIL, 1976

A beautiful day so Alan said "Just for a change, let's go to Rushworth". So ever ready for a change, I threw the body into the car along with the odd tube or two and headed out. Rumour had it that Alan had pressganged D.J. and Pat to come along as well and so about 9.30 I drove into Rushworth in a frantic search for ice. Nobody up there seems to have heard of the damn stuff. Finally achieved success and charged out onto the Balaclava road in search of the rest of the crew. About two miles out I noticed a caravan parked at an odd angle in the dirt and surrounded by a funny shaped blue car and a herd of people. Hello, says I looks like a party. Never being one to pass up a chance like this, I pulled over and saw to my surprise that D.J., Pat, Alan and Glenys were already there. So out I jumped and straight away noticed something odd, Alan was quietly but steadily swearing and using other rude words. "Wassa matta" I said and Alan said "Iamn" and I said "Oh goodness" and Alan said "Damn" and I saw that the caravan looked funny and broken and Alan said "Damn" and then I noticed that the caravan was a complete write off and the car wasn't much better, and Alan said "Damn" and I said "What a b.....!"

That put a damper on the weekend, to say the least. It took us the rest of the morning and the early part of the afternoon to transport the van and personal effects into Rushworth. Here I should say "Thank you" to Mr. Bill Morrison of Rushworth for without his help we would have really been in trouble. He very kindly hauled the wreck into Rushworth and stored it in his yard. His wife took Glenys and Graham under her wing and looked after them while we attended to the rest of the business associated with such an event.

Finally about 4 pm we had things sorted out and we decided to have a crack at the deep hole at Balaclava. So away we went and down and down we went. It's a hell of a deep climb and when I finally hit bottom the little hole at the top looked a bloody long way

away. Then D.J. and Alan landed beside me and away we went into a seemingly endless maze of tunnels. This time we struck "gold" in the form of railway lines and at the end a little dump truck. At this stage we worked out we were about 400 ft. underground. After about 3 hours we decided to come up and now was the time we stopped calling Pat 'chicken', and were glad that Pat was there to pull us out. It was by far the most spectacular hole we'd ever been in at Rushworth and well worth the effort.

Saturday night we thought we'd have a few beers but halfway through to my horror and shame, we all flaked out. Sunday dawned bright and early, "Damn" said Alan. After breakfast superbly cooked by Pat, we all shot back out to Balaclava and spent the next 4 or 5 hours checking out all the holes and suggestions of holes we'd bypassed on previous occasions. Then it was time for home. Alan and Glenys limped off in the direction of Melbourne and D.J. and I took Pat for a quick tour of the Phoenix Mine.

All in all, it was a great weekend but a hell of a bad luck show for Alan, but as someone said, lucky no one was hurt. We think we've seen all of the underneath of Rushworth now and any suggestions for other holes would be appreciated and I promise I won't talk about Rushworth anymore.....much!

JUSTIN LIDDY

FLOPSAM & JESAM

I have just been watching a T.V. show called "Trapped Beneath the Sea" in which 4 men trapped 350 feet under the surface in a mini-submarine are able to see their rescue divers whom they claim, are 50 YARDS away. Now that's what I call good visibility!! Walking about good vis., we were in good fortune on March 28th when we had a boat dive off Flinders followed by a bar-b-que back at Pipping's place at Somers. It was good to see so many people on this occasion, both from our own Club and the Bass Strait Club.

The following week again was successful with a good dive on the Pinnacles. The morning mist made it a little difficult for our skipper, Stan Watt to pick up his bearings, however, he soon had a buoy on the Pinnacle and divers enjoyed a good dive there and a shorter dive later on, at a spot closer to shore. Stan Watt is not only a very capable boat skipper, but he also knows quite a deal about

diving and how to run a diving trip successfully.

On April 11th, the Club held a fund raising party at Frankston. In the best interests of diving a few of the members made sure that all present knew how to swim, or as Justin put it, he was just making sure that everyone was capable of saving themselves if by chance the land and house should subside into the swimming pool. Not to be daunted by being thrown fully clothed into the pool, most people even found it possible to lose their money in the "games of chance". - That's what we might say as being - "Really taken to the Cleaners".

Once again we welcomed members from Bass Strait and Black Rock Diving Clubs. Having fleeced all these good people of their cash, one must wonder whether such activities are indeed in the cause of diver fraternisation. Just imagine being down 100 feet with Bob Hurst (Black Rock) when he remembers the \$2.00 he lost on Dave Moore's Square Roulette Wheel!

And speaking of wheels, have you noticed the wheels on Bazza's trailer since it was pulled out of the River at Wilson's Prom. over Easter. Aaah, thank heavens at last someone mentioned Easter, the time of rabbits, wombats, and other things which bang in the night.

The V.S.A.G. camping crowd was swelled to 40 adults this Easter, not to mention boys and girls and 2 budgerigars in a cage.

Every Easter we like to take a look at a few of the people present and some of their antics and award verbal prizes.

Its a difficult decision to select the cuddly couple award, but after much consideration our vote goes to Rob Adamson and Cheryl. I had put Rob down to win the endurance award, but when you take all things into account, his little antics were probably not too hard to endure!!!

The Slowest Moving Creature in camp must go to Ken James. Poor old Ken finished the holiday hobbling around on one leg after being trodden underfoot during the soccer game.

The First Time Sucker Award goes again to Ken and Bernadette. I believe its the first time this couple has come away with us and even with an old hand like Tony Snushall they still pitched their tent next to Liddy's Lodge.

The Hospitality Award goes to Justin Liddy, who once again provided

the venue for many an exciting evening.

The Shylock Award goes to Jay Cody, for ripping everyone off at cards, Sportsman of the Camp goes to Brian Baldock for his sterling effort as goal keeper in the Soccer match. Bazza's bunch (more like a bunch of roses) went down 8 goals to nil against Tip's Tigers.

The most favourite person award goes to Paul Sier, for not coming.....!!

Well after the Easter Festivities it was not long before we were in the water again. This time it was out the back of Flinders near Picnic Point. Its always nice to see new boats along and on this day we had the chance to see Pete Saunders new 16 foot Quintrex. The conditions weren't all that good but Pete's boat came through barely unscathed. A few crays were caught by the usuals but Tony Tip tells us he captured one which was big enough to play billiards on, but much as we believe him, we would rather believe his brother Paul, who on seeing such a cute little cray, put it back in the deep so that it might grow to achieve legal size!

Don't forget the fun times and good diving times to come during the Winter.

Hope we'll be there to see you.

ARFER ARDON
