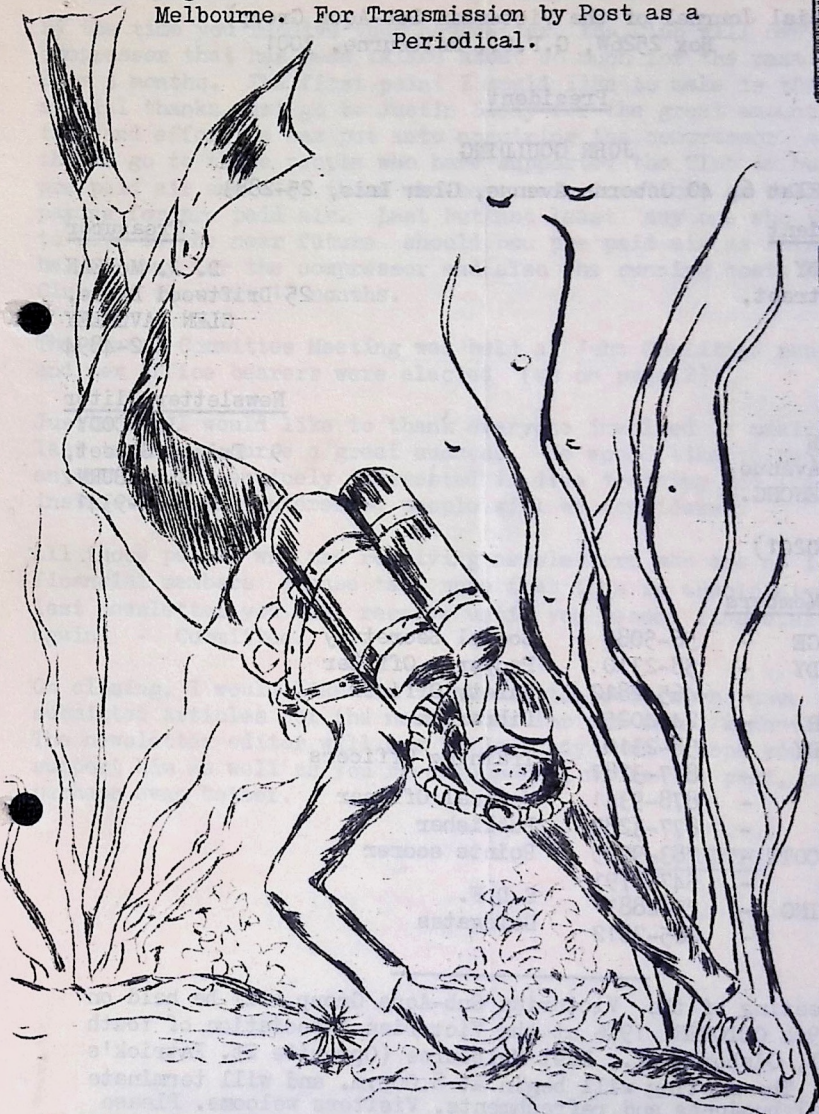


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F A T H O M S



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

President

JOHN GOULDING

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

Vice PresidentJUSTIN LIDDY
8 Penang Street,
McKINNON.
58-2310TreasurerD. J. McBEAN
25 Driftwood Drive,
GLEN WAVERLEY
232-4394SecretaryBRIAN LYNCH
8 Madison Avenue,
NORTH DANENONG.
795-2834
(Work 662-0201)Newsletter EditorJAY CODY
9 Esdale Street,
BLACKBURN.
878-9341Committee Members

| | | | |
|----------------|---|----------|-------------------|
| CAREY RAMAGE | - | 56-5085 | Social Secretary |
| JUSTIN LIDDY | - | 58-2310 | Property Officer |
| MAX SYNON | - | 465-2812 | Safety Officer |
| JEFF BARKER | - | 24-4025 | Librarian |
| JUSTIN LIDDY | - | 58-2310 | Training Officers |
| ALAN CUTTS | - | 877-3287 | |
| JAY CODY | - | 878-9341 | Medical Officer |
| ALAN CUTTS | - | 877-3287 | Publisher |
| BARRY TRUSCOTT | - | 783-9095 | Points scorer |
| DAVE MOORE | - | 547-2791 | |
| JOHN GOULDING | - | 25-2883 | S.D.F. |
| MAX SYNON | - | 465-2812 | Delegates |

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on TUESDAY, 19th OCTOBER, 1976 at the Victorian Association of Youth Club's Hall, Gisborne St., East Melbourne (Opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral). The meeting will begin at 8.00p.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.

By the time you receive your newsletter, the Club will own the compressor that has been talked about so much for the past 2 or 3 months. The first point I would like to make is that special thanks must go to Justin Liddy for the great amount of time and effort he has put into acquiring the compressor secondly thanks go to those people who have supported the Club in buying pre paid air and also those who have made donations as well as paying for pre paid air. Last but not least any one who intends to dive in the near future should bou pre paid air as this will help to pay for the compressor and also the running costs of the Club for the next 12 months.

The Annual Committee Meeting was held at John Gouldings residence and new office bearers were elected (as on page 2).

Justin and I would like to thank everyone involved in making the last training course a great success. We would like to hear from anyone who is genuinely interested in dive training and theoretical instruction all interested people will be considered.

All those people who are receiving newsletters who are no longer financial members please take note that this is absolutely the last newsletter you will receive until you become financial again. - Committee.

On closing, I would like the thank all the people who have submitted articles for the newsletter for the past 12 months. The newsletter editor will now be Jay Cody and I hope you will support him as well as you have supported me in the past, or perhaps even better.

ALAN CUTTS.

- OCTOBER 16 ANNUAL DINNER.
- OCTOBER 19 GENERAL MEETING.
- OCTOBER 24 GEORGE KERMODE or SPEKE - Meet Flinders
10.00 a.m. Dive Captain Brian Lynch 795 2834
- NOVEMBER 6-7 CHANNEL RUN - Meet Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
Dive Captain Barry Truscott 783 9095
- NOVEMBER 16 GENERAL MEETING.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 21.9.'76

PRESIDENTS REPORT.

Good evening, I would like to welcome you to the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group.

It is customary at this annual meeting to commence on the events of the preceding 12 months since October 1st 1975.

So I would like to recap for a few moments on some of the things the Club has organised. During the year, 21 single day dives were listed in the calendar, although some of these were cancelled due to poor weather, it was encouraging to see good attendances at most dives. The locations which featured regularly in the dive calendar were San Remo and the Pinnacles,

Sorrento and Southern section of the Bay including Portsea Hole and Eliza Ramsden and Kelp Farm, Flinders and Cape Shank.

These three areas accounted for more than half of the single day dives.

In addition 2 long weekend dives were organised, one to Port Campbell, where a few members succeeded in diving the Loch Ard and the other in the Sorrento region.

2 Holiday trips were also arranged. Last year's Xmas trip being to Eden, for 10 days, where we enjoyed some very good diving on old wrecks, and the other to our usual Easter haunt at Wilsons Prom.

That was what the Club did dive wise. However in the belief that all diving and no fun dulls the senses, the Club organized Social events and a number of other activities which include :

Horse riding Skiing Tube riding gold mine exploring
Fun running

All in all a total of 55 days of Club activities were organized to be enjoyed by members.

Added to this many members have organized additional dives and activities during the year. The Club has also been active in dive training during the year, and is currently conducting a course.

We should be very proud of the V.S.A.G.'s record in dive training. Over the years since the Club was founded, well over 100 people have been trained by the Club, and this has involved a great deal of members time and energy.

To the present course leaders Alan Cutts and Justin Liddy. I extend a sincere appreciation of thanks and congratulations. Not only is this activity good for our Club, it also is very important from a community point of view by providing a very worthwhile in - club training facility.

Whilst on a note of thanks; I would like to make special mention of the boat owners,

Barry Truscott

Terry Smith

Max Synon

Peter Saunders

Trevor Cowley

Peter Smith

To Jay Cody on behalf of the Bass Strait Diving Club.

Without a doubt it is the participation of these people along with their boats that have made a very valuable contribution to the enjoyment of members of this Club.

It is very pleasing to see more members acquiring boats and next year promises to be better than ever on a diver/boat ratio.

One cannot pass without making special thanks to the Committee. We on the Committee have approached the job seriously and have endeavoured to do our tasks as effectively as we can.

I would like to express thanks to the Committee in a two-fold manner, firstly as President I thank you for your contribution to the team effort and working so well together. Secondly, on behalf of the Club members, I would like to thank you for the tremendous job you have done to organise an active, safe and enjoyable 23rd year of the V.S.A.G.

There's a few people I must pick on for singular comment. Alan & Glenys Cutts for editing production and distribution of the newsletter. Our consistency of good standard is a credit to the Cutts family.

To Justin Liddy for the very unselfish way he has acted as property officer and the magnificent job he has done through the year to have our tanks filled and equipment in working order. And to Bryan and D.J. as our 2 administrators for keeping the books and the correspondence in order and assisting the running of the Club by their efforts.

I could go on to thank all committee members, but I think this will suffice.

Before closing this address let me remind you of some of the things the Club has done to support its motto of safety in diving.

Our In-club training program has been improved with the purchase of new equipment. Our Club strongly supports the concept of proper medical examinations conducted by medical practitioners qualified to know the requirements for divers.

Log books have been introduced and those of you who keep them up to date will have a good record of diving activities and lessons learnt from the dives.

The Clubs insistence on safety vests is well accepted by members and the example shown to other divers is one of concern for safety.

The last point I want to mention is one of the most critical and expensive decisions the Club has made. I refer to the purchase of our new compressor.

I have written to you about it, we have talked about it, we need it.

Why do we need it? Mainly because our existing compressor can no longer be expected to give us the type of service we require.

If we don't have a compressor, we become extremely limited and fall back to the category of a small unorganised club.

In order to carry on our diving, especially on holiday trips, we have to have the money to pay for this compressor. I therefore make one further appeal to you to INVEST IN AIR by giving as generously as you can to this cause.

JOHN GOULDING.

SAN REMO. 19.9.'76

Hell. I'm always at a loss on how to start a dive report. Everyone seems to start by saying I arose at 6.30 which I did. So I'll start there.

I arose at 6.30, fed and watered myself - cup of tea for June, who had declined to venture out of bed, and set off to pick up Tony Snush, another cup of coffee to warm the cockles of the heart, then off once again to San Remo.

We arrived at 10.00 a.m. at San Remo, and met up with Max, Janet, Trevor C., Frank D., Jay C., and friends of Trevor C. and we waited until 11.00 a.m. for Tony T., Geoff B., Barry T., to show. But they found the going a bit rough so piked.

The pinnacle was ruled out, so it was decided to dive on the protected side of the island. After an hour of dropping of

anchor, four in all, it was over the side and as you hit the water, a thought hit my frozen mind, "I should have stayed home", but it was too late for that. We anchored on the only large rock on any rock in the area for that matter.

The visibility was 15 to 20 ft., which was clear considering the weather conditions. We went around this rock until we were nearly giddy at a max. depth of 30 ft.

The marine life was there, but skitish, all except one sting ray, who must be the most photographed stinger in the ocean.

So it was back into the boat and shore. Sandwiches and coffee, then the long trek home.

Verdict.

A good dive but the Pinnacles would have been better.

BOB SCOTT.

JERVIS BAY. XMAS 1976.

Nine unpowered camp sites have been reserved at the HUSKISSON CAMPING RESERVE, HUSKISSON, on the shores of beautiful Jervis Bay, commencing Sunday 26th December until Sunday 9th January.

This trip promises to provide excellent diving and a real away-from-it-all holiday at the quiet little village of Huskisson.

Book early and avoid missing out.

See or contact John Goulding for details.

No Pets, but children tolerated.

TEE SHIRTS!!

For \$3.50 you get...
a TEE SHIRT with

The one and only V.S.A.G.
emblem, your choice of
colour - WHITE, BLUE,
YELLOW and GREEN.

You also get the pleasure
of wearing your Club
colours and the chance
to NAME DROP just a little!!!
000

ORDERS NOW TO \$-

MAX SYNON - 465 2812

JUSTIN LIDDY - 58 2310

HURRY - HURRY - HURRY
This Means YOU.

Report on Research into the Crown of Thorns Starfish.

The Federal Minister for Science, Senator Webster, and the Queensland Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Wharton, have released the report of the joint Advisors Committee on Research into the crown of thorns starfish.

The conclusions reached by the Advisory Committee are reproduced below.

1. The crown of thorns starfish *Acanthaster Planci*, does not pose a threat to the Great Barrier Reef and in all probability it may never have done so.
2. The observed increase in *A.planci* populations on some reefs during the past decade may not have been a unique phenomenon but rather one that had been more closely observed and more publicised than similar previous occurrences.
3. The recovery of reefs destroyed by the starfish has been rapid and on most reefs no evidence has been found to suggest that any such reefs have suffered permanent damage.
4. A mechanism which may cause population expansions in *A.planci* has been suggested. It involves the interaction of optimal physical, chemical and biological factors whereby lowered salinity, adequate water temperature and good spawning occur at the same time, thus enabling a high rate of larval survival. These conditions occur from time to time in regions offshore from high land where heavy seasonal stream run-off leads to lowered surface salinities for the concentration of infestations on reefs near the land mass or near high islands and their comparatively rare occurrence on oceanic reefs.
5. No evidence has emerged to support various assertions that man's interference with the reef environment has caused increases in *A.planci* populations. On the contrary the evidence indicates that the *A.planci* phenomenon may be a natural part of the reef process and, in the long

term may contribute to the growth of the reef.

6. There is no doubt that the crown of thorns has been found progressively further south over a period of fourteen years. As some of the reefs concerned were regularly visited and were known to have been free of the crown of thorns in the early stages, there is a fair degree of certainty that the populations later discovered were new arrivals (whether they reached the reefs as larvae or as adults, the evidence does not reveal). However, the monitoring programs of Pearson and the Special Survey Project indicate that the rate of dispersal through the central region of the Great Barrier Reef has been slow. The presence of *A. planci* on a number of reefs in the Swain's group further south has been known since 1972 but it has not been possible to determine whether these populations have migrated from the central region or whether they are endemic to this part of the southern region.

From Australian-New Zealand Environmental Report.

JEFF BARKER.

SUCCESS STORY IN DIVING.

This article is reproduced from "Transport Journal".

A 31 year old Australian who started diving when he was only 12 and caught and trained porpoises on the Queensland Gold Coast when he was 19, has just been appointed as Vice President responsible for all international operations, of one of the largest underwater service contractors in the world - Oceaneering International Inc., which has assets in excess of \$US27 million.

Rodney Stanley, "The Boy from Queensland".who has made it to the

top in the highly competitive world of deep sea diving and other underwater support services, is currently based in Singapore, but will be moving to Europe shortly in his new role as Vice President International Operations.

Born in 1944, Rod Stanley was well-known to thousands of Gold Coast tourists in 1963 as the Curator of a big porpoise pool development. He helped catch porpoises off the coast and then train them, but also worked on a number of commercial diving projects off the Queensland and New South Wales Coast.

In 1967 he went to Bairnsdale, Victoria, to join International Divers (later renamed Oceaneering International Inc.) then carrying out work on the Esso/B.H.P. oil drilling programme in Bass Strait. Rod Stanley worked hard to learn the latest diving techniques, and quickly became Diving Superintendent in the area, working to the Operations Manager, Lou Tapscott.

Diving was being carried out in 260 ft. of water in Bass Strait, and International Divers also handled construction support work on the North West Shelf.

In 1968 Rod Stanley was appointed as Diving Superintendent for Oceaneering International, based at Singapore. He supervised the underwater services in support of the installation of the largest single buoy mooring in Singapore Harbour. His diving team was engaged also in offshore exploration, construction of drilling and production platforms, and salvage inspections in a work area which included Burma, Indonesia, West Irian and Taiwan.

In 1973, he returned to the Australian scene as Manager for Oceaneering Australia Pty. Ltd., a 50/50 joint venture set up by Brambles Industries Ltd. and Oceaneering International Inc. By this time the Company had greatly expanded its operations in Australian waters, including the installation of a 1 000 ft. diving system (which had been manufactured in Newcastle N.S.W.) on the drillship "Dalmahoy", working on the North West Shelf.

In 1974 he was involved in the setting up of a new company Oceaneering New Zealand Ltd., to carry out underwater support work for the Maui oilfield development off the North Island,

(Oceaneering New Zealand is a 50/50 joint venture of Oceaneering International Inc. and Fenwick Holdings(N.Z.) Limited. Fenwicks is a subsidiary of Brambles Industries Limited of Aust.

In 1975, he was sent back to the Singapore area this time as Manager for South Asia and Australasia.

Announcing Rod Stanley's appointment as Vice President International Inc., Mr. Lou Tapscott, now Vice President of the worldwide company, base in Europe said:

"Over the last nine years we have trained hundreds of divers who are now operating in all parts of the world from the North Sea to Malaysia, Off Brazil - in fact, in 25 countries - but Rod Stanley, has been really outstanding. I think it is a great credit to his country that Rod Stanley, an Australian, today heads up all of our operations at the age of 31, and he has gone right to the top on merit, against the most keen competition.

The Oceaneering Group currently employs more than 1,000 people including 500 divers, Rod is heading up this big organisation in the operational role - a group which today has a yearly revenue in excess of \$US52 million, and increasing rapidly .

Australian divers today are working on projects throughout the world. It is hard to believe that when Oceaneering first came to the Bass Strait area less than 10 years ago there was not one Australian diver in the group".

As part of the restructuring of the Oceaneering Group, Mr. Don Sites, who has been Chief Executive Oceaneering Australia Pty. Ltd., based in Singapore, will be moving to Europe and will be replaced by Mr. Foster Manning who will also be Vice President Australasia Division, Oceaneering International Inc. Mr. Sandy Loyd is finance controller for South East Asia.

Oceaneering International Inc., today provides diving and sub-sea construction services, oceanographic surveys, and oil field supplies to the offshore petroleum industry. It has successfully completed more diving contracts in more areas of the world than

any other underwater contractor.

Today the Company owns and operates more than 40 bell and saturation diving systems rated at 650, 1,000 and 1,200 feet, more than 40 surface decompression chambers, and a series of 1,000 to 1,500 ft articulated atmospheric diving suits. It operates seven derrick barges and two ships converted for diving operations.

PETER OAKLEY.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM. October '76.

My good friend and diving companion, Argus was a little disappointed at not winning the Clubman of the Year award again. It seems that Argus who is often seen diving around the deep end of the Albert Park Lake is planning to make a triumphant comeback next year. Any member going overseas during the year, should see Argus about forfeiting points to him.

Whilst talking about the Clubman Trophy, it was good to see Jack the rip-a-top-off Liddy, come up with the numbers again. Justin may not dive as much as he would like to but that's because he's building a boat. So needless to say we'll see more of him next year. Tony Tipping, another new boat owner will provide some stiff competition as well. There's a rumour around that Trevor Cowley has sold his Aluminium Albatross. Maybe we'll see Trev, in one of those Fibreglass Floatables before long - It certainly is amazing what Spring weather does.

It is encouraging to see quite a good response to our fund raising appeal. Although less than half the money was collected at the Annual General Meeting, some cheques have been received by post, and most of them are from old members who have not dived with us for a few years. It is really good to see the V.S.A.G. spirit fastened deep in the pockets of members, at a time of the Club's financial struggle.

There's not long to go until the end of 1976, and we'll soon be heading off to places in the Sunny North. Don't forget to check your gear. Make sure you and your equipment are in test and good

working order.

Seem to be running out of ink early this month. - maybe that's just as well and being a considerate type of bloke I'll save you from reading any more.

SHEIK ALEG.

(The arab running Coach)
