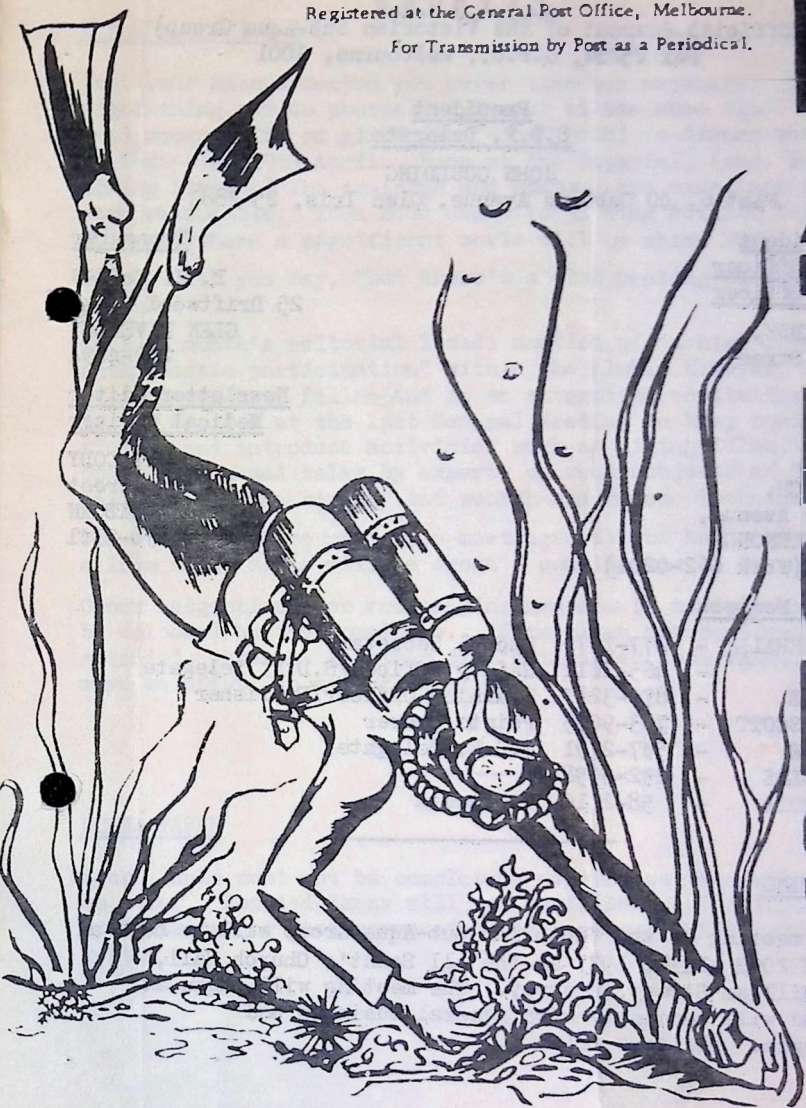


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# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS  
 (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 WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL, 1977 at the All Saint's Church Hall, 97 King William Street, Fitzroy. The meeting will begin at 8.00pm and will terminate with general business and refreshments. Visitors welcome.

EDITORIAL

Does your missus reckon you never take her anywhere? Why not do the right thing and do yourself a favour at the same time. Treat the good woman (wife or girlfriend - not both) to dinner and a show on Wednesday 20th April. Dine at the Imperial, (cnr. Bourke and Spring Streets) the cuisine and company are excellent and prices very reasonable. Then head north to 97 King William Street, Fitzroy, where a magnificent movie will be shown FREE!

"April 20!" you say, "but there's a club meeting on that night!" Exactly.

In last month's editorial I made mention of "a high level of enthusiastic participation" within the club. However, meeting attendances have fallen and in an attempt to revitalise interest, it was decided at the last General Meeting to keep business to a minimum and introduce activities such as diving films, slide competitions and talks by experts on such subjects as diving medicine, marine biology and search and rescue techniques etc.

The first of these new style meetings will be held this month when a 16mm sound movie will be shown - compliments of Dave Moore.

Other suggestions for encouraging members to attend meetings will be welcomed by the Committee. If meetings are continually poorly attended, interest in other club activities soon wanes, so please make an effort to attend regularly.

ED.

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SCUBA TANKS

Scuba tanks must not be completely emptied as this allows moisture to enter. Emptied tanks will not be filled on V.S.A.G. compressors, or most commercial compressors, until hydrostatically tested.

DIVE CALENDAR

- APRIL 20 GENERAL MEETING
- APRIL 23/24 WATER SKIING - JERUSALEM CREEK  
Organiser - Pat Reynolds 232-5358
- APRIL 25 TUBE TRIP - Organiser - Justin Liddy 58-2310
- MAY 1 GEORGE KERMODE - Dive Capt. - Tony Tipping  
24-7133
- MAY 8 PINNACLES - Dive Capt. - Brian Lynch 795-2834
- MAY 14 FANCY DRESS (SEX CHANGE) - Justin Liddy 58-2310
- MAY 18 GENERAL MEETING
- MAY 22 HORSE RIDING - Organiser - Carey Marshall  
277-1679 (or Jay Cody 878-9341)
- MAY 29 THE WALL or ELIZA RAMSDEN - Dive Capt. - Don  
McBean 232-4894. Meet 8.30 Sorrento Boat Ramp.
- JUNE 10-13 PORT CAMPBELL - Dive Capt. - Barry Truscott  
783-9095
- JUNE 15 GENERAL MEETING
- JUNE 19 SIERRA NEVADA - Dive Capt. - Dave Moore 547-2791
- JUNE 26 MYSTERY DIVE - MORNINGTON - \$1.00 per head.  
Dive Capt. - Carey Marshall 277-1679
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HORSE RIDING

Bookings for the horse riding day (May 22) must be made by the April meeting. Don't be deterred if you are unable to ride, quiet horses can be hired. Bring your own lunch, barbecue facilities are available. Meet at the Wandong General Store at 8.45am.

FANCY DRESS

A sex-change fancy dress party will be held at Justin Liddy's, 8 Penang Street, McKinnon, on Saturday 14th May at 7.30 pm. Everyone is required to come as a member of the opposite sex - or pay a fine. Bring a plate and grog.

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PINNACLES

A charter boat has been booked for this dive so numbers are limited. Book early with Brian and ring him again on Saturday night (May 7) to confirm arrangements. Meet at San Remo at 9.00 am.

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TUBE TRIP

The Annual Tube Trip will happen again on Anzac Day. In previous years we've seen some weird and wonderful contraptions designed to keep their owners warm and their beer cold. Make sure you participate in this great event and put yourself in the running to win the coveted Wacker Award. Pack the barby and bangers and don't forget the Aerogard.

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DIVE TRAINING

A training course will eventually get under way on 16th April. The venue is the City Baths at 3.30pm. Six trainees will undertake the course.

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DIVING INSTRUCTOR

Ever thought of becoming a professional diver? A great opportunity exists for a keen diver to be trained as a U.I.A.V. instructor, FREE! The cost of the course is about \$200.00, which the Club will meet. In return the Club expects the successful applicant to devote time to Club training.

THE WALL - FEBRUARY, 27TH

Well, I'd been telling Johnny Goulding and the rest of the boat captains: "You gotta get an early start cause between now and June we get the best visibility and lightest winds." So sure enough it was an 8.00am start at Sorrento boat ramp and everyone was raring to go, slack water flood being at 9.31.

Off went the three boats "Lil Ab", "Bill" and the "Italian Job" powered by Mr. Moore - unfortunately the "Italian Job" had a Taiwanese prop which caused Mr. Moore and the rest of us a delay of about 40 minutes.

Once down the rip area Bazza quickly located the Wall drop-off with the sounder and "Ace" Smith dropped Lil Ab's pick within about 50 feet of the first step. Down the rope I went to check and secure anchor and up to inform dive captain Truscott that the current had already started running outside. Bazza quickly paired us off then Pete and I stormed straight down the rope and over the edge descending the huge steps one by one. Visibility at 50 feet was about 50-60' but once over the wall it improved to a conservatively estimated 80 feet! Only once before in the Rip area had I seen such clean water (Eliza Ramsden about 18 months ago). Pete and I had a most memorable dive - you could even see a ripple on the surface from 119 feet 6 inches - our maximum depth! (No doubt about the old Wilky depth gauge, Scotty.) Several others had a brief dive either trying to secure anchors or looking for Paul's prescription mask - Pete and I had played safe by kitting up on the way out. Poor old Bazza didn't even get a crack at it.

Those who missed the Wall or didn't get much time down it had a channel run along Pope's Eye later on, scored a few old bottles. Pete and I were happy with the Wall - what hasn't it got to offer?

TONY TIPPING

'77 FUN RUN

On Sunday 13th March the annual City to Surf Race or Fun Run took place. For the last four years the V.S.A.G. in order to prove their fitness have entered a team. This year because of the run clashing with the long weekend our ranks were sadly depleted with only John Marshall and myself taking part ably assisted as always by chief coach Justin Liddy and his assistants.

Over the past four years the course has never been exactly the same. In 74 the start was in Flinders Street and the finish at Brighton. 75 the start was in Domain Road. In 76 the runners engulfed St. Kilda Road by the Travelodge. On both occasions the finish was also at Brighton. This year the off was to be in Queens Road, down there for about a mile around the Lake (definitely Tipping country) then down Fitzroy Street, along the esplanade past the marina to the finish in Elwood Park; about eight miles.

There was reputed to be about 7000 people entered. I don't know if that is true but there were certainly plenty of people milling around at the start. Mickey Mouse and Brian Dixon started the run and then as always it was every man/woman for him/herself. The day was hotter than last year, but to offset this there was a cool breeze blowing from the South. I had a nice easy run this year because Tony was busy beating and getting beaten by Bazza down at Port Campbell.

John Marshall who only runs once a year now that he's getting married, also had a nice comfortable run down, finishing just over the hour which was a tremendous effort since as I said he only runs once a year. We didn't see too many of the dreaded health studio fanatics, they all seemed to be behind me and John reported passing one who had collapsed on the side of the road. Obviously the lack of mirrors along the route had shattered his confidence.

Elwood Park seemed a good place to finish the run, there was easy access to the beach, toilets and showers. As always there was plenty of coco-cola or staminade available at the finish and plenty of room for people to see the fantastic finishes which occur from time to time. Justin was even able to take photographs this year. The disappointing aspect of the run was the fact that there was little or no media coverage of the event. For a State that spends quite a lot of money telling people to go for a walk in the park

and extolling the virtues of kite flying, ball throwing and touching your toes, plus the continuing saga of "Norm", a splendid opportunity of actually seeing people participating in a fitness exercise seemed to me to be missed. Even Ron Casey's Channel Seven were nowhere to be seen, obviously although the "Life Be In It" advertisements bring revenue to those channels who screen them, a community health run does nothing for the ratings. "Bewdy Norm"!!

BRIAN LYNCH

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VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP - DIVE PROCEDURES AND DUTIES OF DIVE CAPTAIN

Dive Captain

- a. Plan dive - weather conditions, currents, tides, distances to travel, times in and out of water. Set depth. Any particular dangers.
- b. Full equipment check before dive, including medical certificates.
- c. Dive buddies to be allocated and boat complement agreed upon.
- d. Briefing before dive - outline of probable dive procedure, area and establish dive order.
- e. Written check in and out of water.
- f. Back up diver to be dive captain's buddy.
- g. Dive captain to compile written report after dive to go into club records.
- h. When more than one boat, deputy dive captain to be appointed.
- i. Boats to be moored to anchored buoys where possible rather than fixed anchors.
- j. Dive Captain to make sure buddies check out each other's equipment.
- k. Dive Captain to check capacity of boats for particular day and conditions.



- l. Where there are more divers than spaces in boats, Dive Captain will allocate spaces, having regard to who contacted him prior to dive and who turns up on time.
- m. Dive Captain to be identified in some manner.
- n. Dive Captain to select alternative dive sites and select deputy Dive Captain if there are more divers than spaces, or if primary dive site is unsuitable.
- o. Dive Captain will ensure that novice divers are buddied with experienced divers.
- p. Dive Captain to ensure all divers return to shore.
- q. Dive Captain to notify commencement and termination of dive.
- r. Responsibility of Dive Captain terminates when all divers have notified him that they have finished that dive.
- s. If divers intend continuing diving after the planned dive, then they will notify the Dive Captain of their intentions.
- t. If the diver is advised against that dive, but still does so, he shall be reported to the Committee.
- u. Dive Captain to ensure divers with defective vision are buddied with divers with good vision.

#### Responsibilities of the Diver

It is the diver's responsibility to:-

- a. Contact the Dive Captain prior to the dive.
- b. Be kitted up and ready at the advertised time - the advertised time will be on the briefing time. If the diver misses the briefing, then he may not be assured of a dive.
- c. Obey all instructions of the Dive Captain.
- d. Make payments to the Dive Captain any moneys agreed upon.
- e. Make any criticism he feels necessary direct to the Dive Captain at the time. If no satisfaction is obtained then matter can be reported to Committee.
- f. Stay in the boat he is allocated to.
- g. Ensure his gear is in good condition.
- h. Report to Dive Captain on entering and leaving water and to report any abnormalities.

- i. Notify Dive Captain if Diver aborts dive or finishes for the day.
- j. Seek the approval of Dive Captain or Safety Officer if diver wishes to make secondary dive.

THE ABOVE GUIDELINES WERE FORMULATED BY THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP ON 16TH DECEMBER, 1974. ANY MISUSE OF THESE GUIDELINES WILL BE REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE.

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### PORT CAMPBELL

The lure of Port Campbell is the hope and thought of diving the famed LOCH ARD wrecked at Mutton Bird Island on June 1st, 1878. So nearly 100 years later with the same adventure in our spirits as those hardy sailors who had passed this way before, we descended on the quiet township of Port Campbell on Friday March 11th.

Port Campbell is no stranger to us. For many years the VSAG has gone there and many times we have come away without even our flippers getting wet. The area is wide open to the forces of nature who seem determined to safeguard their prey that was claimed on that early foggy morning. Was this weekend to be the same?

Certainly the spirits of the chums assembled at the caravan park were high when Maree, Bill and I arrived, however our hopes were dashed in the morning when we woke to the thunderous roar of the swells crashing ashore.

So what else to do but sit around camp, or go for walks. But somewhere there had to be a place to dive and it was decided to try Thunder Cave. We have dived here before and providing the swells are not too high, this place is quite interesting and easy to enter and exit. It was decided to snorkel the area only and those who went in, mainly saw white water and nothing else.

That evening we enjoyed the savoury delights of the local hotel which has been extended to include a BISTRO. Sunday afternoon we found ourselves again at Thunder Cave, where Tony, Bazza, Dave and Pete dived with tanks. As they exited the swells began to increase in strength so the rest of us had to be content with either a paddle in near zero visibility in Loch Ard Gorge or a

5 mile run back to camp. Some even tried both.

Monday had to be our day. Sure enough it had settled enough to put the 2 boats in, but misfortune was again on our side. Max's steering cable broke and he had to abort. Thereupon Pete, Dave, Paul, Tony and myself set out in Bill and dived at the entrance of Port Campbell Bay.

Not worth it you might think, but that's the chance you take. You can never count on the weather so the more times you turn up the greater your chances of having some good dives. (Also of course the greater your chances of having poor or cancelled dives.)

Perhaps the wisest one to come down was Murray Richardson, who flew down from Mortlake, circled the bay where we were diving, acknowledged the waves of those on board Bill, and then returned home.....probably to a hot roast.

JOHN GOULDING

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GEORGE KERMODE - MARCH 20TH

Two weeks before this day Johnny and I set off in 10 foot swells to re-visit the old dredge which we dived twice last year 3 months or so after it was put down. I was positive I could find the markings first up but unfortunately failed and when I suggested the other telegraph pole to line up with the house window they were either chundering over the side of "Bill" or just about to.

This time we had six boats - "Lil Ab", "Bill", Peter Smith's, one Bass Strait and two Black Rock boats - not only that but the depth sounder's chief operator listened to me when I said: "It's the other pole I tell you!" There's no way we'll forget those markings now - we were right over the top! It was quite a dive; Paul and I swam around the outside once, through it a couple of times and were spectators to large schools of trumpeter, parrot, sweep, luderick and mullet.

Although visibility was only about 15 feet I was surprised to see so many fish encouraged by the obvious effective changes that had taken place since my last visit - it had taken the form of an artificial reef and was well on the way to becoming covered in weed, kelp and sponges. This wreck must become the 20th Century's answer to the Eliza Ramsden!

On the way back to Flinders we stopped at Seal Rocks to let two frustrated dive hungry snorkellers have their thrill, but Jill and Lesley could only lure two of the barking mongrels into the drink.

Special thanks to Johnny, Peter, Jay, Carroll, Bazza, Paul Sier, Little Pully, Trish, Marie, Sam and Little Justin for not drinking my beer when they came back to lift "Lil Ab" off the trailer at Somers!

TONY TIPPING

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COMPRESSOR

Members are reminded that they are not permitted to operate the compressors unless trained. The compressor at Justin's factory is not available during business hours.

Conditions -

1. No fills after 8 pm (E.P.A. Regulation)
  2. Tanks left early in the week will be filled by Friday night.
  3. Tanks left late in the week will be filled by Saturday night.
  4. Anyone wanting a same day fill before 8 pm must ring first and make arrangements.
  5. Tanks not in test will definitely NOT be filled
- 

COMPRESSOR CREDIT

|              | No. of fills<br>bought | No. used | Balance |
|--------------|------------------------|----------|---------|
| J. Liddy     | 96                     | -        | 96      |
| M. Synon     | 60                     | 7        | 53      |
| B. Truscott  | 60                     | 10       | 50      |
| D. McBean    | 60                     | -        | 60      |
| M. Davenport | 50                     | -        | 50      |
| J. Goulding  | 60                     | 12       | 48      |
| T. Tipping   | 60                     | 27       | 33      |
| P. Tipping   | 12                     | 11       | 1       |
| D. Carroll   | 60                     | 2        | 58      |
| P. Oakley    | 60                     | -        | 60      |
| B. Kelly     | 24                     | -        | 24      |

|              | No. of fills<br>bought | No. used | Balance |
|--------------|------------------------|----------|---------|
| T. Armstrong | 24                     | -        | 24      |
| C. Marshall  | 30                     | 1        | 29      |
| J. Robinson  | 60                     | -        | 60      |
| R. Adamson   | 36                     | 4        | 32      |
| J. Cody      | 60                     | 15       | 45      |
| D. Hurle     | 24                     | 2        | 22      |
| T. West      | 36                     | 5        | 31      |

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COMPRESSOR DEBIT

|                | No. of fills |
|----------------|--------------|
| P. Smith (Ace) | 8            |
| F. Derkson     | 8            |
| P. Reynolds    | 3            |
| M. Bennett     | 4            |
| J. Tillbrook   | 1            |
| D. Moore       | 1            |
| C. Brooks      | 2            |
| P. Smith       | 2            |
| J. Marshall    | 4            |
| T. Snushall    | 2            |
| C. Tillbrook   | 3            |
| K. Jironc      | 1            |
| W. Mason       | 1            |
| D. Barker      | 2            |

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**F R E E !**

A 16mm colour film with sound track will be shown at the General Meeting on April 20.

The movie, which runs for an hour, covers many aspects of diving including recovery of an atomic bomb off Spain.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Well, did you have a good look at the March issue of Fathoms. The authors names read like a line up of members from Alcoholics Anonymous. There was :-

- "Ferrets Friend" talking about Smiley, Ratso, Slack Jack and all the others
- The "Beachmaster" getting in on the act and having a dig at all his mates
- "Ben Gunn" who told of the fascinating exploits of two of our more daring and adventuresome members namely "Wrecks Hynon" and "Lion Pinch"
- and last and definitely least "Anna Conda" who appears to have as much diving knowledge as she has sense of humour.

So that there be no confusion about who's who this month, let me tell you about the Sunday down at Sorrento when Bony Dripping, Lust-in Giddy and Rave Bore set off in their boats to dive the fantastic wall at the Rip. No sooner had they set off when Rave's boat commonly known as the "Yellow Rose of Mulgrave" stopped for its regular pre-trip maintenance.

With some jolly good dead reckoning by Tarry Musket our little band of cut-throats and scallywags were able to enjoy an excellent dive. This area, offers excellent visibility if dived at slack water after the flood tide. The wall is teeming with many species of fish which follow the divers so closely they become almost a hindrance. It is most fortunate that our club knows the location of this spot and a dive here is a real bonus.

Enough romanticism and onto reality. There is nothing quite so real as the roar of breakers whipped up by a sou' westerly crashing against the fortress-like cliffs of Port Campbell. This was the sound that greeted all those who attended the Port Campbell weekend in March.

In vain our group searched the cliff tops looking for blue water. Eventually in desperation Thunder Cave was selected as a snorkelling site for all those interested in bubble baths.

Saturday brought almost the high spot of the weekend - one member claimed it was his climax -- but after waiting several hours at the pub for a feed we enjoyed watching Dave Carroll, Tony Tipp and big Carl play musical chairs with some local lovelies.

Sunday did not bring any real relief in the weather however, one could be mistaken for thinking that at some moments during the day the seas were not quite so fierce.

It was during one of these moments that four of the group dived Thunder Cave again and actually did find the conditions under the water to be better than on the surface.

Picking a particularly quiet time to surface the group swam back to the rock landing and to the tune of "with a little help from my friends" were plucked from the sea, much to the amazement of the usual tourists.

On Monday before packing up we managed a boat dive near the entrance of Port Campbell Bay and thus completed the weekend.

Whilst we were enjoying ourselves, John Marshall and Brian Lynch were beating a mean pace around Albert Park Lake and down to Elwood in the Annual Fun Run. Lynchy who had described his condition as: "Oh Yes!! Really clean them up this year" was himself cleaned up by a mechanical street sweeper on the Monday morning as he was nearing the half way mark.

John Marshall on the other hand was last seen still at the starting post half an hour after the race got away, being lectured by Carey not to stop and accept ice-creams from strange women along the route in Fitzroy Street St. Kilda.

Y. NOSCEROS  
(The Hairy Horny Greek)

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Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Carey and John Marshall who were married on 9th April. Carey and John's relationship developed after they met at a V.S.A.G. training course. John is the Club's Auditor and Carey Social Secretary. May the future bring you both lots of luck and happiness and perhaps some more diving Marshalls who will be as beneficial to the Club as you are.