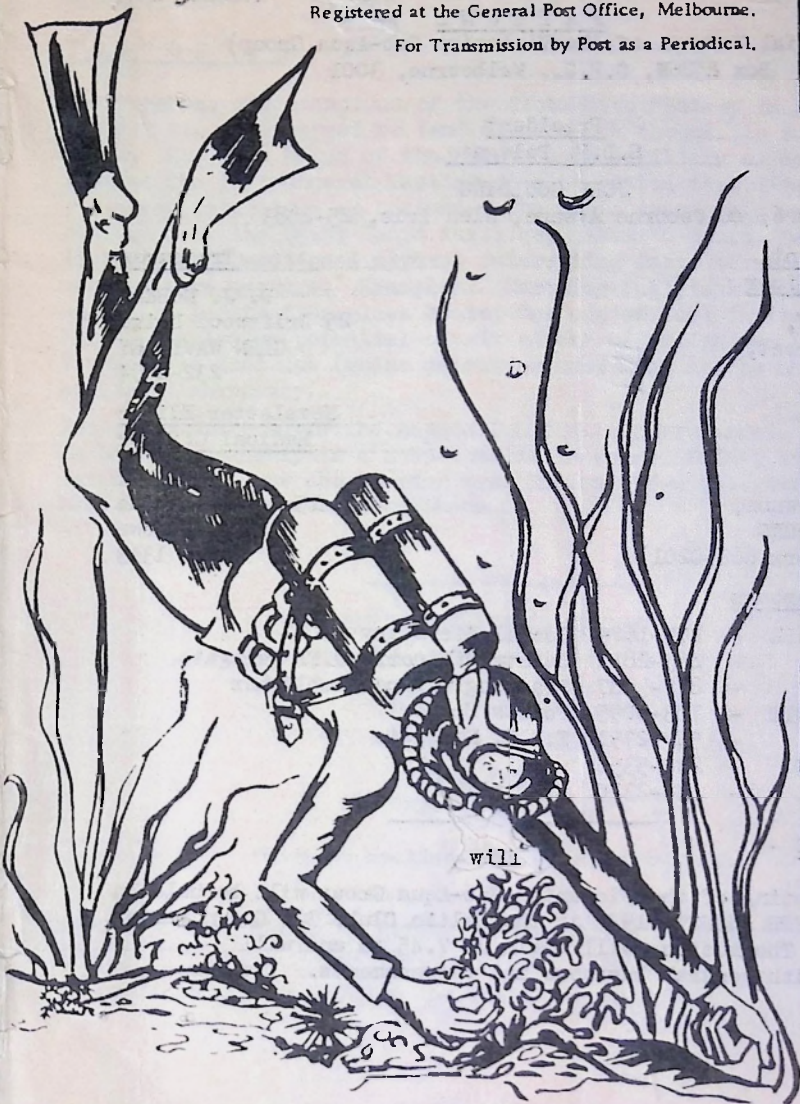


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# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001

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DAVE CARROLL	-	58-2310	Librarian

CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST, 1977 at the Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne. The meeting will begin at 7.45 pm and will terminate with general business and refreshments. Visitors welcome.

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94 4094

EDITORIAL

Most members are conscious of the Club motto "Safety in Diving" and respect it. One aspect we tend to overlook though, is safety above water. Mr. Lyle Detez of the Coast Guard Auxiliary exemplified this at the last General Meeting when he stated that divers have a very poor reputation as boatmen. The basic seamanship course conducted by the Coast Guard Auxiliary takes 20 hours, yet in about 1½ hours Lyle mentioned several interesting facts of which many members were unaware. Examples: Earthing fuel tank intake; Radar unable to locate fibreglass boats; One cup of fuel in flooded bilge has the explosive potential of six sticks of gelignite; Aluminium V sheet has dual use (radar detection) and must not be unfurled except in emergency.

Let's try and reverse the reputation divers have earned. A course in basic seamanship is a step towards increased Safety in Diving. Interested members should ring Mrs. Bullen 895-4553. Courses are held regularly in various suburbs.

ED.

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MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE

VSAC

WILL BE HELD AT

THE CELTIC CLUB

320 QUEEN ST

(Cnr. Latrobe St)

The next meeting will be August 17th.

Members are requested to arrive at the Celtic Club by 7.45pm and meet in the ground floor bar.

The meeting will be held on the first floor.



DIVE CALENDAR

- AUGUST 17 GENERAL MEETING - Celtic Club, cnr. Latrobe and Queen Streets. Commences 7.45pm.
- AUGUST 19 S.D.F. DINNER DANCE - Contact John Goulding 25-2883
- AUGUST 21 CAR RALLY - Organiser Carey Marshall 277-1679  
Meet Mountain View Hotel Car Park cnr. High St. Road and Springvale Road 9.30am. Bring own food to cook on electric bar-b-ques. \$2.00 per car entry fee. Big prize to be won.  
!! Great Family Outing !!
- AUGUST 29 FLINDERS - Dive Capt. - John Marshall 277-1679  
Meet 10am Flinders Boat Ramp.
- SEPT. 11 ELIZA RAMSDEN OR THE WALL - Dive Capt. - B. Lynch 795-2834
- SEPT. 21 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- SEPT. 25 KELP FARM - Dive Capt. - John Goulding 25-2883  
Meet Sorrento Boat Ramp 9.30am
- OCT. 9 VICTORIA TOWERS (Wreck Dive) or OZONE - Dive Capt. - Max Synon 465-2812. Meet Torquay Boat Ramp 10.00am.
- OCT. 19 GENERAL MEETING
- OCT. 22 TSAG ANNUAL DINNER - THE DORCHESTER (See advert.)

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The following members have completed a three year term on committee and are standing for re-election:-

Brian Lynch, Barry Truscott and Pat Reynolds. Dave Carroll was seconded so must stand for election again. Jay Cody is resigning and not standing for re-election.

LIFE MEMBER

Alan Cutts has been nominated to be made a Life Member of the V.S.A.G. Before Alan can be made a Life Member an election must be held at the Annual General Meeting on September 21st to approve this nomination. The voting shall be by ballot and four-fifths of the members present in person, by proxy or postal vote must vote in the affirmative. A postal vote form is included in this edition for those who are unable to attend the meeting.

Alan Cutts joined the V.S.A.G. in 1968 at the age of 21 years. From the start he was a keen and active diver, having passed the Club training course after joining.

For a long time Alan was diving almost every week and anyone who knows him will also know that Alan is a wreck fanatic. Amongst the many wrecks he dived were the Cerberus (there was more of it when the young Cutts started diving), the Speke, Ozone, Victoria Towers. He was also one of our first members to dive the Loch Ard.

As a Club trainee, Alan appreciated the benefit of the V.S.A.G. training course and on completion of his own training assisted in other courses. Alan's involvement with training increased over the years and in 1974 he successfully completed an Underwater Instructors Association of Victoria training course to make him a qualified U.I.A.V. instructor. Since 1968 he has assisted in training about 180 people to dive with S.C.U.B.A. The revenue from these courses has been a major source of funds and new members - the life blood of the Club. Not content with this Alan is currently training members to B and A grade standard.

Apart from his training functions, Alan was Club Treasurer for 3 years, Fathoms Editor and Publisher for almost 3 years and Training Officer.

In 1973 Alan and Glenys started their family, firstly with Graham and then with Carol, and the same dedication he has given to the VSAG, Alan gives more to his family. So amongst our diving family let's give our Club support to Alan, Glenys and the family and vote yes to Life Membership for Alan Cutts.

VICTORY AT THE VICTORIA TOWERS

Tony Stewart from Geelong Sub-Aqua had given me some very explicit directions for finding the wreck of the Victoria Towers near Torquay.

"Head out left from the boat ramp until you come to a sand-dune with a crack in it and another one close by with a mound between the two." How could anyone miss it? Well you see the coastline down that part of the world is all sand-dunes and all of them seem to have cracks in them.

Nevertheless after obtaining some further directions from some local divers and after about half an hour's surface swimming by Tony and Max, we found the remains of the ill fated Victoria Towers.

In 1869 this graceful iron sailing ship on her maiden voyage from England to Melbourne came almost to the end of her journey and crashed onto a reef near present day Torquay. She was carrying iron pipes, bottled beer, hardware, salt and slates and most of it was salvaged soon after.

However there still remains the rib structure of this ship and thousands of slates (mainly broken) and of course broken bottles. Diving conditions on the 10th of July were perfect; a flat sea and clear water.

So at last after several trips to this area over the past few years we were able to dive and find the wreck.

JOHN GOULDING

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The V.S.A.G. would like to extend a very warm welcome (not to mention warm weather and water) to three new members:-

John McKenzie  
Leo Canteri  
Frank Herbert

To the three of you, and to all members, we hope you will avail yourselves of the club's facilities and participate and enjoy the activities of the club and the friendship of its members in keeping with the Club motto -

"SAFETY IN DIVING"



The Treasurer reports that the following members are OVERDUE with their 1977 subscriptions -

B. Jansen	R. Adamson
P. Beecher	T. Smith
M. Richardson	R. Coomber
F. Derkson	P. Oakley
P. Smith (Ace)	K. James
B. Kelly	G. Oke
P. Saunders	D. Hurle
C. Oakley	M. Bennett
T. West	G. Knight
P. Tipping	M. Jackiw
J. Reynolds	J. Robinson
A. Whitely	R. Baird
C. Jironc	D. Barker
	Jackie Barker

The V.S.A.G. would appreciate subscriptions paid prior to the end of August.

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#### MID-WINTER DIVING - CRAWFISH ROCK

So they reckon Melbourne winter is too cold for diving and the conditions are RS anyway! Too cold - yes, unless you wear a warm suit, a decent pair of boots and gloves. Conditions RS? Not always - on 3rd July Paul and I had a reasonable dive at Crawfish Rock (south-west of French Island), 9th July Paul, Dave Moore and I cracked it for the Sierra Nevada then the Holyhead; the next day Johnny, Max and I located the Victoria Towers off Torquay in perfect conditions and once again with Bazza it was back to Crawfish Rock on the 17th July. I guess you could say July so far makes up for the lousy May and June we had!

The first of these dives to Crawfish Rock we left Hastings and headed across a choppy Westernport Channel to the more sheltered French Island side then down to the large buoy marking the Rock - we decided to dive the shore side as it was much calmer. Timing is important here about an hour before high tide at Tooradin is advisable for good visibility which here would be about 12 feet. This didn't matter much as we took a powerful torch down to get the

colourful effect of the many varieties of sponges. In fact for colour this spot rates as one of the best local spots and completely different to our other regular reefs. Paul had his thrill snapping away merrily at the beautiful flora with his brand new Nikonos III GT 5000 coloured stripes and all! Pity he only had black and white film!

As far as the Sierra, Holyhead and Victoria Towers dives go - no comment - I'd only be accused of exaggerating so I'll leave it to the experts.

The following trip to Crawfish Rock was with Paul and Bazza - it was one of those cold foggy mornings and the sea was dead calm right across Westernport Bay so one could not resist a ski down to the dive site; besides I needed a confidence booster after the previous days debacle on the slopes at Buller! (Extra points?)

This time we first dived on the channel side but were not impressed - neither was Bazza, especially with the water temperature! Not to worry, back to the other side we went and Paul and I left Bazza and Lesley alone in Lil Ab and enjoyed looking around the same exotic sponges and anemones.

#### TONY TIPPING

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#### PORTSEA/LONSDALE REEF - 9th July, 1977

On Friday 8th July I rang my little brother Tony to say how about a dive the next day, noting that our usual mid-week conditions for once looked like holding for the weekend. Although we didn't get our best weather as promised for May and June, it now looked like July was the month. So Saturday saw us with Dave Moore taking off from Sorrento at 9 in the Ab-craft on an almost flat sea. After rounding Corsair Rock we found ourselves on the lee of the shore which sheltered us from the 2 knot northerly and Bass Strait was (wait for it)...like a bloody mill-pond. On getting to London Bridge, and looking over the side for nearly an hour for suitable shadows, Dave's earlier confidence that he could put us onto the "Sierra Nevada" was becoming a little shaken. But not to worry because a couple of our old friends from Wilson's Prom. at Easter turned up. Yes, it was the Latrobe Valley boys with hookah gear. They went down and within a few minutes surfaced with the disappoint-



ing news that only a small part of the vessel was uncovered. The 3 of us not wanting to miss the chance went in and explored the little bit of the bow section poking out from the sandy bottom. Visibility was variable due to the surge and only small pieces off an old kitchen plate or two were found before we gave it away.

Then over to the Lonsdale Reef outside, and with a number of other boats already there we soon reckoned on what was the right spot for the "George Roper" and "Holyhead". Dave and Tony went over the side followed by me with new Nikonos. I snapped merrily away at 20 feet or so with 30 foot vis. using b. & w. ASA 400 and subject distances of 5-7 feet capturing the odd sweep and parrot with various parts of the ships superstructure in sight. Meanwhile the other 2 found a heap of busted clay bottles that were intact and bearing these easily read markings - "H. Kennedy Harrowfield (42) Pottery, Glasgow."

On finishing shooting with camera and having made sure that Dave was nice and warm back on board we returned to attack the antique tubes. Alas we were unable to recover any whole bottles which were heavily encrusted in growth, but with assorted bri a brac and inflated vests we bore our treasure back to the Ab-craft. Six hours on calm water outside the bay had been a most enjoyable way to spend such a sunny winter's day even if Dave did have to be told he needn't keep looking over the side after we'd had our second dive!

PAUL TIPPING

VICTORIAN SUB-STANDARD GROUP - BULLER 16/7/77

Some of our members are so keen on skiing they're prepared to leave a warm bed at four a.m. But they didn't on this particular day, so a very excited Tony, (who had never skiid before) John, Maree and myself left for the slopes at 6.30am. Tony kept up an endless chatter on the way - samples:

"I'm only going because I teach skiing exercises"

"I'm sure I'll be good at it - I'm very fit"

"How do you stop?"

"I wish I had some fashionable gear, someone might see me"

"I'll need to do poos when we get there"

Definitely too excited.

On the slopes at last, Tony tucks his lumberjack shirt into his Bendem Bedwards track suit pants, slaps into his goggles, and dons his wet suit gloves. With some expert coaching from John, it was no time before Tony was proficient enough to stand up with ski boots on. Later in the day he even attached skis. Meantime Maree, John and I were mixing it with the experts on Summit, Boggy Creek, Howqua, Family, Boomerang, Shaky Knees and other death defying slopes. The weather was perfect although rain the previous night had caused icy patches on some slopes.

At the end of the day, Tony was still excited and babbling. He reckoned he met a few girlfriends from work and was teaching them racing turns.

On the way home we stopped for a snack at a service station and were kicked out when Tony accused the proprietor of getting the sauce bottle mixed up with the multigrade.

Mt. Buller to Templestowe took 1½ hours. Templestowe to Hawthorn took 2 hours - yes, Tony got lost - still too excited.

JAY CODY

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### SEASICKNESS

Are you one of those salty old sea dogs who never gets seasick? Then you've never been in rough water or there's something wrong with you. Royal Navy research indicates 90% of their 3000 subjects were sick in heavy seas. The only people not suffering were deaf or had other damage to their inner ears. An article in Modern Boating reveals that the culprit in motion sickness is "labyrinth stimulation" which is a description of the two parts of the inner ear. The otolith sense the relationship of the head to gravity and changes in that relationship. The semi circular canals sense angular and rotary motion. One step removed from these organs is the central nervous system, which is the system that the drugs are designed to modify as a remedy to motion sickness.

One of the simplest ways to avoid seasickness aboard a boat is to watch the horizon. The eyes focusing on the horizon help to stabilize head and reduce the stimulation to the labyrinth. Putting your head down on a bunk also helps to reduce the stimulation, since the labyrinths are designed to function while the head is

on a vertical not horizontal plane.

Another interesting aspect of the central nervous system's effect on motion sickness is the need for the visual senses to agree with the labyrinths. An example is when one is below decks and sitting up - the environment appears stable, although the labyrinths are getting messages that things are actually bouncing around a good deal. This may tend to aggravate a person who is becoming motion sick.

Most experimenters agree that the psychological effects are mostly contributing factors rather than the causes of seasickness. This means that diet, bad smells, fear, tension and other aspects of boating can be aggravating factors but not causes. A modification of diet or any of the other factors cannot really prevent or treat seasickness.

The most important question for most people is how to prevent seasickness. The only real prevention comes from drugs which block the action of the motion senses, but these are not recommended if diving.

JAY CODY

### FLOTSAM & JETSAM

The name "Mystery Dive" could be used to express a dive at an unknown location or a dive not knowing what to expect, or a dive with some sinister connotation - but the V.S.A.G. "Mystery Dive" was none of these. It took place on June 26th - no mystery there! We know who was there, so no mystery on that score either, we even knew what we had to find, so what was mysterious about it?

Well my fine frigid friends let me tell you. After jumping in and going through the OOH, AAH, HELL, DAMN ISN'T IT CCCOLD! and then diving down, finding you had to grope your way towards the bottom, it seemed a MYSTERY to me as to why the hell we were doing it. But like the guy who used to keep knocking his head against the brick wall, it was beautiful to come out!!!

The Club's diving record at Torquay has not been all that good over recent years. Usually the weather has put an end to any thought of diving but fortunately this was not the case on July 10th.



" D I V E R S   B E W A R E "

OCTOBER 22ND

THE V.S.A.G. ANNUAL DINNER

featuring

CORDITE EXPLOSIVE SOUND

at the

"DORCHESTER"

HENLEY LAWNS

MELBOURNE

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW:

CONTACT -	J. Goulding	Tel. 347 7322	Bus.
		25 2883	Priv.
	J. Cody	" 544 7088	Bus.
		846 1313	Priv.
	C. Marshall	" 277 1679	Priv.

\$34.00 DOUBLE (ALL INCLUSIVE)

- ALSO - Lucky Ticket and Spot Prizes
- The Clubman of the Year Trophy
- Life Membership Awards

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB "BEWARE"

We are told that the sea was like glass - probably a thin coating of ice on top! and the visibility was 30 feet. - I wonder what it was like under the water?

We are also told that Max, John and Tony found the wreck and had a great dive. Could anybody really believe these three? We also hear that after the dive they headed off in Bill Boat to make some waves for the surfies who were becalmed in a waveless sea.

We also hear that more of our chaps have been taking to the ski slopes. The newcomers for 1977 are Dave Carroll and Tony Tipping. Just by chance these two are also doing the FAUI Advanced Diver Training Course.

Could it be that we will soon see something like this -

"Carroll & Tipping"  
Specialists in training programmes in -

Diving

Water Skiing

Snow Skiing

Engineering Arguments

Physical Jerks

Name Dropping

Botting and Getting Away With It

Fashion Advisors

Socialist Discussions in Nice Capitalistic Boat

Capitalist Discussions in Nice Socialistic Mini Van

Those of you who missed the scheduled "Holyhead" dive on July 14th need not be disappointed at passing up an opportunity to pick up port holes or ships bells. The nearest any of us came to the water was tasting the coffee at the Sorrento Aquarium. A somewhat of a disappointing start for new member Leo Canteri and W.A. visitor Milton Robinson, but nevertheless it was not an entirely wasted day for those who stayed to enjoy a game of golf at Sorrento Downs.

Here we should issue a warning and perhaps a challenge to the Jervis Bay 'A' Golf Team: Jay, Alan and Paul, watch out for Bazza, Tony, Dave and Johnny. With little skill but great determination these 4 played 18 holes with only about 600 strokes being accumulated by the lot of them.

ANNE CHOVEY  
(The Fisherman's Daughter)