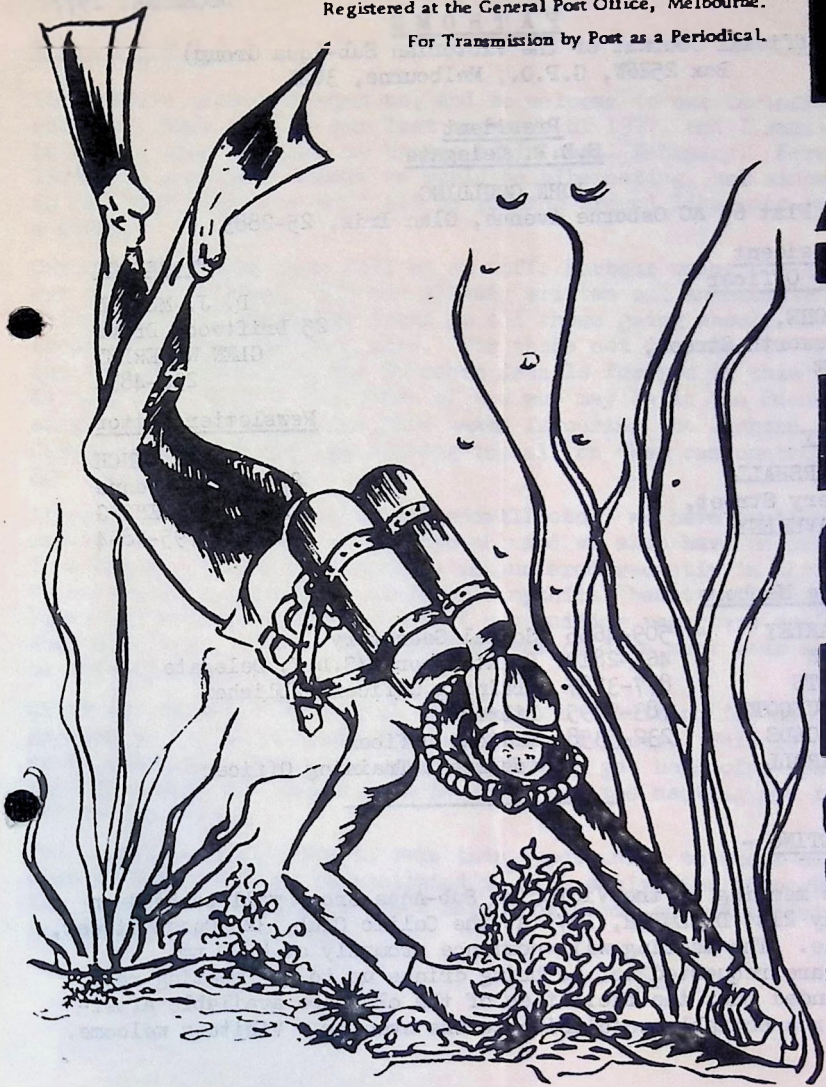


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# FATHOMS



## 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 Wednesday 21st DECEMBER, 1977 at the Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne. The meeting will commence promptly at 8.00 pm. Members are requested not to bring drinks up to the meeting room, but reminded that the facilities of the club are available afterwards for a sociable conclusion to the evening. Visitors welcome.

EDITORIAL

The festive season is upon us, and so welcome to our Christmas edition. This will be our last magazine of 1977, and I shall not be called upon to wrack my brains again until February. Were we living in a colder climate we would be hibernating, but since this is now high summer we will all be rushing around like ants before a storm.

Our main Christmas camp will be at Coffs Harbour under the benevolent eye of Tony Tipping. Tip has already written out an excellent itinerary in the November issue so all those going should have no trouble locating the camp site. For those not disposed to travel too far, Max Synon has the Sorrento details for you in this issue. We must also mention for those of you who may be in the Eden area, that Bass Strait are once again favouring the Inshore Caravan Park, and anybody wishing to call on them can contact Ken Callec for details.

Although this is the season of goodwill etc., we have continued our excerpts from Project Stickybeak, and we also have an article from Bazza on a diving hazard he encountered recently in the Bay. We have also heard a lot lately of a mythical beast called a Fowie and were wondering if any of you budding reporters could shed some light on it. Perhaps our mystery dive next year should be a Fowie hunt!

After our December meeting it has become a tradition for us to go down to the Yarra banks for our break up party. This is a BYO so be prepared. Last year Bazza could only get hold of a sparkling wine to quench his thirst. So be early for the meeting and then off to the Yarra.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all club members who have participated in club activities throughout the year, and to wish you all a Happy Christmas and safe diving in the forthcoming year.

ED.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
DEC. 21	GEN. MEETING Celtic Club & afterwards Yarra Bank	8 PM		
DEC. 26	COFFS HARBOUR	From Dec. 25th	T. Tipping 20-6848(Wk) 24-7133(Ho)	
DEC. 26	SORRENTO		M. Synon	Contact Max & family on Site 224 Sorrento Fore- shore
JAN. 15	SORRENTO - Boat Ramp	10 AM	B. Lynch 795-2834	
JAN. 27/28/ 29/30 AUST. DAY W'END	PORT FRANKLIN	Depart first light Sat. 28th	J. Cody 846-1313	\$40 per head must be paid by Dec. Gen. Meeting
Dependent on the weather one or other of the following dives will take place.				
FEB. 10/11/12	PORT CAMPBELL (LOCH ARD)	Fri. night	M. Synon	Ring Thurs. night 9/2/78 after 7pm
		OR		
FEB. 12	FLINDERS	9.30AM	J. Goulding 25-2883	
FEB. 19	SORRENTO WRECK DIVE SWAPPER REEF	To be announced	B. Truscott 783-9095	

DIVING HAZARDS

On a recent dive it was driven home to me (almost), how quickly diving hazards occur. Not being a club dive that Sunday and Tony being what he is, there was a dive anyway. Slack water about 9 am was too early, so 10 am as usual for a channel run. Leaving Sorrento with a nor'wester blowing there were two boats, four divers and one passenger.

With the bay chopping up it was decided to give the kelp farm a try on the drift. Tony being the experienced diver that he is suggested that Pete and I try it first. Drifting through the thinnest edge first, but this was shallow only 15'-20' and sandy bottomed. John passed us a line and the boat towed us into the thicker kelp, down we go again, deeper this time 30'-35' with a few ledges, visibility still bad 10'-12' hugging the bottom and Pete right behind we drifted along looking for the odd cray. Coming out of a patch of kelp into a sandy clearing I was looking a large black ray 5'-6' right in the eye, the barb in its tail looked to be a foot long, the slight surge was pushing me right over the top of it, banking to the left and a few hard kicks of the giants and I was past, turning to see how Pete was doing I could see the ray had come off the bottom and was to the right and slightly behind Pete, who had stopped and was looking to see what I was doing. The rays tail was arching up over its head as if to strike, and Pete completely unaware of its presence. The surge rolled me slightly and I didn't see whether it struck and missed, or just menaced, after turning to look again I couldn't see the ray and as I could see no further than Pete I waved for him to swim over to me. He still didn't know what was going on, so I indicated that we surface. All this happened in a few seconds, and on the surface Pete said he had seen nothing but had felt something brush his leg, at the time he thought it was kelp. Thinking about it later I feel sure if the ray had struck at Pete he would be wearing a permanent parting in his hair.

BAZZA

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ANYONE FOR TENNIS

November the 20th, was Tony's Tennis Tournament, and Athletic Afternoon, it was also in direct contrast, Peter's spectacular

spaghetti eating show. More of that later. We arrived at Balnarring Tennis Courts to find that they were the wrong ones, driving on we eventually found the club at another set of courts, this set not so clearly sign posted, perhaps Tony was trying to keep some of us away.

Arriving when we did obviously gave us an advantage, since everyone else had been playing for a while and were all looking tired, all that is except Tony who as usual was looking for someone to go for a run. Jay organised a very even tournament with his usual flair, and Trish took lots of superb action shots. One of John and Maree I think should be entitled Love All, I particularly liked their little ball boy.

Several exciting games were played including a marathon between Bob and June, who were pitted against Dave Moore and Vicki Synon, Bob and June finally crawled out winners. Vicki said that they could have won except Dave kept going to sleep during the final stages of some of the longer rallies. We will draw a veil over the eventual winners, a combination of the youngest and the oldest people there, we will say however that Craig Truscott has a touch of the Jimmy Connors doublehanded backhand magic, and that my shoulder ached all week.

Afterwards we all retired to Somers, where Pete had prepared mounds of spaghetti, before being allowed to eat or drink anything, Tony had most of us lined up a mile away from the house ready to race. Tony had obviously run this way before, since he led us all home. The surprises of the race were Scotty and little Justin who beat home some of their elders, and Reville Scott who nearly beat all of us home.

You can imagine how we all felt stumbling back into the garden to be confronted by Pete and his steaming spaghetti eating competition. Dave Moore and Carl Jironc were the stars of the competition. Dave winning one heat and being runner up in the second. Some of us had run a mile, we reckon Dave must have eaten a mile. Afterwards just to relax Dave had his usual huge barbecue lunch, and we all thought it was Pat who was eating for two.

The party continued merrily into the early hours of the morning with people leaving as they felt like it. Diane and I thought it was a great success since our two children were thoroughly worn out afterwards. Diane would like to apologise to all those from

whom Belinda pinched food, we really do feed her at home. Our thanks to Tony for a good day all round including his usual Somers-type hospitality.

BRIAN LYNCH

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SOCIAL GOSSIP

Those who attended the Somers Tennis enjoyed some classic examples of atrocious racket and ball play. Jay's new toy a polaroid camera froze several action shots, including yours truly in what was rudely termed "the flight of the Bumble Bee". Bee that as it may the fact that my partner Chris and I went down 6:1 to the eventual winners Brian (the Hangman) and Craig although my effort was no consolation.

What followed back at Tips house could aptly be described as "Le Grand Bouffle a la V.S.A.G." Hangman had told me "No, no interest in a spaghetti contest" at the meeting, so no supplies were laid on. On the day it was demanded why was it not ready? So a hurried trip to the local store where we cleaned the shelves of all spaghetti and a frantic cook up. My thanks to Carey, John and Carl as assistant cooks cum washers up.

Receipt - used 3 kilos of spaghetti, 3 tins Campbell's Spaghetti Meat Sauce (and that's the receipt for the week folks). Feeds 12 V.S.A.G's! A culinary delight would have been prepared if a fair warning was given, but those that took part in First and Second heats deserve a commendation for their wielding of chopstick and teaspoon.

Winners in an eat-off Carl and Dave Moore, both of whom had a normal bar-b-que to follow. Only one prize - Alka-Seltza and it was well used.

It was announced that Carey Marshall had turned into an adult and conceded that Tip, while a decade old was still yet to turn into an ??

Maree James was seen to cuddle Belinda Lynch, after what happened (is happening) to Clara and Pat Moore 'nuff said, especially considering the porous rubber Johnny supplies. Esther cuddled Belinda, but for those that still don't know it, Tony and Esther are engaged. Our congratulations to you both, when's the stag

night??

SOCIAL SEC. - P. OAKLEYPROVISIONAL REPORT ON 1976 AUSTRALIAN DIVING DEATHS (CONT'D.)

2. Scuba divers suffered eight identified fatalities, equally divided between the ignorant and the certificated. All appear to have experienced the critical events when at the surface if one includes the unfortunate commercial diver who was destroyed by a propellor a few feet beneath the actual surface. It is not possible to state with certainty every event and factor surrounding fatal incidents but there is obviously a highly critical period in every dive when the diver is at the surface and death, whether following inhalation or from some other cause, can occur with extreme rapidity. Reliable surface buoyancy is an obvious safety factor and the two instances of failure with CO<sup>2</sup> inflatable vests in this small series seem significant. As the buoyancy is most urgently required by a diver already in trouble it would be inappropriate to rely on any aid requiring oral inflation. The added security that buoyancy gives would allow time for a victim to think rationally and perhaps even to drop his weight belt. The organised diving club outings fatality was not the fault of either the buddy or the club and in other cases also the buddies did all possible to offer aid once it seemed to be necessary.

Case SC 1/76 This 45 year old man was diving for crayfish from a boat on this, his first open water dive. It is said that he had practiced diving a number of times on inland waters but his skill is unknown and neither is it known whether he received any instruction. The party consisted of one diver using a snorkel and three using scuba. The three scuba divers completed their dive and swam back to their boat, on the surface, the victim being the last on the line. After boarding the boat they observed him floating face down on the surface. Although not really worried by this they decided to start the engine and go to pick him up as he was quietly drifting away from them. After some delay occasioned by difficulty in raising the anchor they reached him. He was found to be unconscious so was taken into the boat and both EAR and ECC started, unfortunately without success. Autopsy revealed that a Myocardial infarction, due to vascular disease, had occurred. No evidence about the victim's previous health was presented to the Coroner.



Case SC 2/76 About a year before this incident the victim had successfully completed a diving course and had been adjudged a good student. Since then he was thought to have made 8 dives. On this occasion he was with a friend. They proposed to swim to a nearby reef and then to scuba dive, but as he had a recently healed perforated eardrum he warned his companion that he might have to return to shore if he experienced any ear trouble. The other diver led the way as they started their surface swim out to the reef, and when half way there he looked back and saw his friend wave once, an action he took to indicate that he was aborting the dive. This was the last time the victim was seen alive, for when the leading diver reached the reef and stood up to check there was no sign of the victim. This made him a little alarmed so he returned to the beach. A short time later, while undecided what to do, he observed activity by the lifesavers who were attempting to resuscitate a person a snorkel diver had found lying on the seabed in 4m of water about 70m off the beach. Weight belt and tank were still on the body. Neither diver wore a buoyancy aid and the scuba air was turned off, it being the intention only to start using when the dive commenced at the reef. The sea was calm. Autopsy revealed drowning changes and no disease changes in this 36 year old man. It is easy to suppose that survival would have been assured if a buoyancy vest had been worn and the air been turned on.

Case SC 3/76 This experienced part-time professional diver forgot the powerful suction effect of a revolving propellor, with fatal results 15 seconds after entering the water. He was aged 40, had a basic C-card qualification and was respected as being conscientious in his work. This day's task was the finding, and later recovery, of a large and very valuable anchor that had been lost in a harbour tideway, a type of search and recovery task with which he had previous experience. The method he chose was to drag a large metal bar between two steel hawsers which led over the sides of a powerful tug. They were steaming into an ebb tide when an underwater obstruction was encountered that required checking. The diver ordered the tug captain to maintain position against the water flow by use of one propellor at low speed. The propellers were in short tunnels a few feet beneath the surface. His plan was to follow one of the hawsers till reaching the object that had been fouled. He was warned about the propellor's turning and apparently said that if this caused problems he would try a different method

the next time. This was the first time he had been known to enter the water in such circumstances. He jumped overboard and swam back to the wire hawser before submerging. A few seconds later a thump was heard and blood stains appeared in the water. He had apparently been irresistably sucked into the propellor tunnel and killed.

Taken from Project Stickybeak by Dr. D. Walker

### COMMITTEE NEWS

1. A letter to be sent to S.D.F. confirming our acceptance into the SDF of the Maroondah & District Divers, and the Marlin Scuba Club. We are also advising SDF that the VSAG is not in favour of SDF accepting V.U.F. clubs whose members competitively spearfish. Also at this time we will place on the agenda for the next meeting, Proposed Marine Reserves, and if any club members have views they wish put forward could they please contact SDF delegates.
2. The committee was informed that the club compressor is now able to fill aluminium tanks to 3000 p.s.i.

The following item has been taken and summarised from the Manual of Water Safety & Life-Saving Manual which is put out by the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia.

### Mouth to Mouth Resuscitation (Expired Air Resuscitation)

For breathing stoppage; possible causes drowning, electric shock, lightning, suffocation, strangulation, drug overdose, poisonous bites or other serious accident.

Check signs that breathing has stopped -

1. Blue face (cyanosis)
2. Cannot see chest rise & fall
3. Cannot hear breath
4. Cannot feel breath on cheek

Immediate treatment:

1. Place patient on back with head up or across any slope; quickly clear mouth, nose and throat of all foreign matter
2. Place one hand on forehead the other in "pistol grip" on chin; lift jaw upwards thus tilting head back. This removes tongue from back of throat. Open patients mouth slightly.

3. Pinch patients nose closed with index finger and thumb of hand on forehead, cover patients mouth completely with your own and breathe into him/her until chest starts to rise.

4. Turn head to watch chest fall. Place ear over patients mouth thus hearing and feeling him/her breathe out. Breathe into patient again each time chest finishes falling.

Continue resuscitation until patient starts to breathe unaided or medical help arrives. For babies and young children place mouth over nose and mouth and puff only.

If any obstruction is lodged in the patient's throat which cannot be removed with the finger, roll patient onto side and slap firmly between the shoulder blades.

If patient vomits, clear mouth, nose and throat again.

If patients stomach becomes inflated, check jaw lift and reduce the volume of inflation.

Submitted by - TONY TIPPING

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### FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Having just listened to a political policy speech I realise my ability (or lack of it) for writing trivia is nowhere near the level required to be a leading politician in this country. Nevertheless undaunted as always, and spurred on by the intriguing exploits of our members, I have great pleasure in bringing you the last issue of Flotsam and Jetsam for the year.

● recap over the years scribblings we had Bill Dubboat writing for us in February about Jervis Bay, in March we saw a blow for Womens Lib when Anna Condor gave her account of the comings and goings of Refuge Cove - we should have more women writers - how about it girls. Mr. Y Nosceros tried to do justice to the pidgeon english language in April and U.R. Awacker gave a rendition of Easter in the May issue.

Another female writer did us an injustice in June and had the indecency to call herself Oepheelia Dick. A touch of the old Orient was with us in July when See Yar Soon gave some lessons from The Thoughts of Chairman Mal. His brother Cheer Ho wrote the October issue after being blackmailed by the August author,

Miss Anne Chovey. There was something very fishy about that one! Finally Kanny Packermin and one of his Pakistani slow bowlers, Inda Dark helped put together the September and November issues.

10 Editions, 10 authors - it says a lot for job security with this crowd doesn't it? Maybe I will vote for that prophet of good times after all!

The month that recently passed was highlighted by a Night Dive on the Cerberus which didn't take place, and a dive on the Sierra Nevada which also suffered the same fate. Instead there was a great dive off Flinders with visibility approaching 4 to 5 feet, and a tennis party at Somers. For some this was a chance to show their skills; like Brian Lynch and Craig Truscott, who cleaned up the reigning champions by employing the same tactics as R.A.F. fighter ace Douglas Bader, "- shoot the ball in high so your opponent is dazzled by the sunlight and strikes aimlessly at the golden glow in the sky".

Tony Tipping, the organiser for the day's events was determined to win something, so he organised a 1 mile race to match things up a little. We accept the fact that he did win the race, but it was his home ground and obviously this had an advantage in his favour.

With the afternoon only half over it was time for the spaghetti eating competition. In the first heat just two minutes after the starting time, Dave Moore scraped home to win, with a magnificent suck, that almost took the table cloth along with the last 6 feet of spaghetti. Carl Jironc easily won the second heat by turning his glasses back to front so as the load would look smaller than life size. Second-place getter in this heat was Dave Moore. It seems that Pat Moore, now with two to feed, is forgetting all about Dave. Never mind Dave when you get sick of spaghetti ask Dave Carroll for his recipe for baked beans. You maybe able to have a dinner party and invite Paul Sier and Peter Oakley whose wines are also approaching motherhood.

On behalf of all my anonymous friends listed in the earlier part of this article I wish you all a very happy Christmas and excellent opportunities in the New Year. May your holiday journeys be safe and whatever diving or other recreations you choose to engage in be enjoyable and give you the satisfaction you seek.

DES A' SANTA CLAWS

HAPPY

CHRISTMAS,

DAVE.

&

Aci PROSPEROUS

NEW YEAR!

