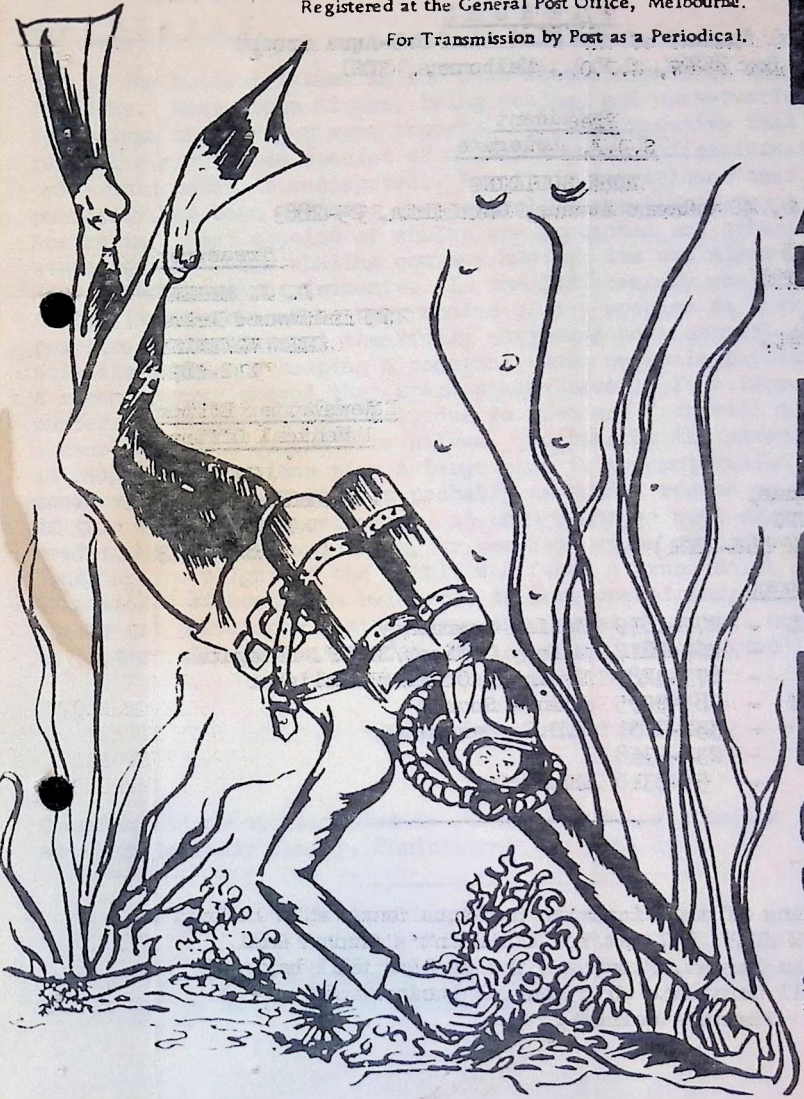


JULY 77 3c.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne.
For Transmission by Post as a Periodical.



FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

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

PresidentS.D.F. Delegate

JOHN GOULDING

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

Vice PresidentProperty OfficerJUSTIN LIDDY,
8 Penang Street,
McKINNON
58-2310TreasurerD. J. McBEAN
25 Driftwood Drive
GLEN WAVERLEY
232-4894SecretaryBRIAN LYNCH,
8 Madison Avenue,
NORTH DANDENONG
795-2834 (work 662-0201)Newsletter EditorMedical OfficerJAY CODY
15 Dellas Avenue
Templestowe
846 1313Committee Members

CAREY MARSHALL	- 277-1679	Social Secretary
MAX SYNON	- 465-2812	Safety Officer/S.D.F. Delegate
ALAN CUTTS	- 877-3287	Training Officer/Publisher
BARRY TRUSCOTT	- 783-9095	Points Scorer
DAVE MOORE	- 547-2791	S.D.F. Delegate
PAT REYNOLDS	- 232-5358	
DAVE CARROLL	- 58-2310	Librarian

CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY, 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

One of the hottest issues in the news at the moment is the whaling industry. Most scuba divers, being ecology and conservation minded, have given this subject some thought. It is imperative that the remaining eighty odd species of whales are not indiscriminately wiped out - this point is undisputed. But it is significant that little publicity has been given to the controls currently in force in Australia. Most species of whales are protected and others have strict quotas - one whaling company has set its own minimum size above government requirements. In the last century whalers in Australia slaughtered as many whales of any species as they could practically handle, but thankfully attitudes have changed and scientists are now keeping a constant check on whale populations. A recent survey showed that sperm whales have in fact increased in numbers in recent years - yet, due to pressure from well meaning conservationists quotas were halved. Judging by the advertising, it seems that emotions play a large part in the motivation of conservationists and this is probably as good a reason as any, yet, if this is to be our criterion, it then seems we must examine our need to kill cattle and sheep, or use rat poison, or insect sprays. Consider the plight of the rabbit who faces a cruel death by mixomatosis without even being put to some useful purpose. Should whales get preference just because they're big? By all means let us protect all species of wild life, but let sanity prevail.

ED.

Congratulations are extended to Di and Brian Lynch on the latest addition to their family, Christopher, on 17th June.

Several members have not paid their annual dues. Please send to Don McBean or settle at the General Meeting.

DIVE CALENDAR

JULY	20	GENERAL MEETING
JULY	24	HOLLYHEAD - Dive Capt. - Barry Truscott 783-9095 Meet Sorrento Boat Ramp 10.00 am.
AUGUST	14	CHANNEL RUN - Dive Capt. - Max Synon 465-2812 Meet Sorrento Boat Ramp 10.00 am.
AUGUST	17	GENERAL MEETING
AUGUST	19	S.D.F. DINNER DANCE (See ad.)
AUGUST	21	CAR RALLY - Organiser - Carey Marshall 277-1679
AUGUST	28	FLINDERS - Dive Capt. - John Marshall 277-1679 Meet 10.00 am Boat Ramp
SEPTEMBER	11	ELIZA RAMSDEN OR THE WALL - (Dive Capt. to be appointed.) Meet 10.00 am Sorrento Boat Ramp
SEPTEMBER	21	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

COMMITTEE NEWS

The following matters were brought before and dealt with by the Committee at their meeting on the 22nd June.

1. Six Life Membership Badges have been ordered at a cost of approximately \$30 each.
2. Club members responsible for the storing of the Club compressors are requested to check their household-risk insurance policies to determine whether additional cover is necessary for protection against accidents caused by operating the compressors. This item was brought forward from May.
3. Cash funds of the Club \$773.45
Bills for Payment -
\$60.00 to D. Carroll as part payment for Club sponsorship of F.A.U.I. training course.

- \$6.00 to J. Goulding for hall hire costs - June.
\$40.00 to Dorchester for deposit on Club Annual Dinner.
4. Future ski weekends to be advertised in Fathoms, rather than announced at General Meeting.
 5. Club Training. A. Cutts will arrange B and A grade diving courses for current C card holders. He will be assisted by P. Reynolds and D. Moore.
 6. Medical Kit. Dr. Z. Okali to be asked to review the contents of the club medical kit, and restock if necessary. Again it was restated that the medical kit should be brought to all club activities.
 7. Dive Calendar. The dive calendar was extended.

SPECIAL EVENT

General Meeting
Wednesday 20th July

MR. LYLE DETEZ
of the
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard
will be our guest speaker
and will give a lecture
and films on
"SEAMANSHIP"

This promises to be a very interesting session and we hope that all members will try and attend. We also suggest that members bring their wives/husbands/friends along and especially those people who have boating interests.

The meeting will commence at 8.00 pm SHARP, so DON'T BE LATE.

LOST

Anybody knowing the whereabouts of a 72 c.ft. tank which is described below please contact Pat Reynolds or any other member of the Committee:-
Harness-Chrome U-Tube with red plastic straps; Tank-Grey galvanised tank Seebee make.

The 2 Diving Social Events of the Year

THE V.S.A.G. ANNUAL DINNER

AND

PRESENTATION NIGHT

to be held at the Dorchester
Alexander Avenue
by the Yarra

on Saturday October 22nd

with our own DISCO

Tickets available July Meeting

ALSO

THE S.D.F. DINNER DANCE

FRIDAY AUGUST 19TH

at the STOKEHOUSE

The Esplanade St Kilda 8pm

Tickets \$9.00 per head B.Y.O.

See J. Goulding for tickets

All tickets must be sold by
the end of July!

Hurry only 12 tickets left.

SUPPORT DIVING

The V.S.A.G. is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring David Carroll in the F.A.U.I. advanced diving course.

The V.S.A.G. has been extremely fortunate in having members who have been willing to dedicate their time and in some cases their money to undertake advanced diving courses. These courses involve a great deal of hard work. On completion these members have then conducted our own training courses, which over the years, have introduced many people to SCUBA diving and brought in new members to our club.

Tony Tipping is also doing the F.A.U.I. course and to both members we wish good luck and success.

THE WALL - Sunday 29/5/77

A high pitched voice breaks the icy air.

"Wake-up! Wake-up!"

My God! Ric Melbourne's voice has changed. Who cares?

"Get up if you want to go diving."

Diving! Don't tell me it's Sunday already, what happened to Saturday night? Reluctantly I leave my warm bed and head for the bathroom. No water. Oh well, who needs a shower before diving anyway? Jumping into some clothes, we load the car and head off down Nepean Highway towards Sorrento.

Half way there I realised this would be my first dive as a V.S.A.G. member. How exciting! Don't have to sign the visitors book at meetings anymore.

"Wendy, do you know where Sorrento Boat Ramp is?"

"No, don't you?"

"No, but I guess if we keep driving we'll end up somewhere."

Saved. Bill Boat's up ahead, we'll follow him.

Eight o'clock and time to get geared up. Struggle, struggle. My wet suit has shrunk. Kindly Bob Scott informs me my wet suit hadn't shrunk, I got fat. Thanks Bob, information much appreciated. D.J. paired us off and Max, Tony, Wendy and myself proceed to launch Little Ab. The water was cold so Wendy and Tony jumped in the boat.

"Push it out deeper," screamed Tony.

So I did, then had to swim out to get in the dam thing. By the way Max, how did you get in the boat?

The yellow boat and Dave Moore had arrived, but was having a little

trouble, so Bill Boat stayed and we headed off towards the Wall. It was rough, but we made it and settled down to wait for the others. Max got out his radio and we listened to one kid, telling another kid, what he got for his birthday. Or was it Christmas? Bill Boat arrived with the rest of the divers, Dave was coming, and the hunt for the drop off to the wall was on.

Tony started lining up his markings. He headed right, but Max said it was to the left. On the horizon I could see a ship heading towards us, but we kept on going left and right, Between the red triangles, the lighthouse, the end of the jetty and some other markings I couldn't quite understand.

Meanwhile Bill Boat is going around in circles too, with Bob Scott hanging over the side with the depth sounder, and having a little chuckle too. The conversation from then on went a little like this.

"What's the depth sounder say?"

"Don't know, it's not working."

"Do you know how to use it?"

"No, who does?"

"Dave Moore, but he's not here yet."

"Slack water's at ten past ten."

"It's more to the right."

"No it's over to the left."

The ship is going past and someone suggests that where it turns right, that's where the wall is. Someone else suggests, that where the swells got bigger, that's where it is.

It's ten thirty and yellow boat has arrived. With much disappointment we head off to the Kelp Farm for a dive. I've never dived there before, but I think we missed it too. I saw plenty of seaweed, Goulding playing with a Banjo and Max got an Abalone. Later he pointed one out to me, and I got one too. My first in fact. The heavy swells stirred things up and the vis wasn't too good. Don't know what it was in feet, but Tony could tell you. Dive over we headed back. Rob Adamson and myself in yellow boat this time. Please Dave, get a hand rail so we've got something to hold onto while you are proving how good yellow boat is, once it is going. Back at the boat ramp my weight was once again brought up, but this time it was needed for standing on a trailer. Now changed back into good old jeans and T-shirt we all head off to D.J.'s for coffee. Thanks to you and your wife D.J., much appreciated.

I guess the dive wasn't much for the experienced ones, but I thought it was good. Hope to be on more in the future.

P.S. Bad luck your windscreen got broken Tony, but you can't help bad luck, can you?

THE FAT ONE

THE WALL DIVE - MAY 29TH

Friday night looked pretty miserable and by Saturday morning, it was raining with a "Red Alert" on the bays. Still hopeful, I set off to Rye for the weekend with Irene and the children. Saturday afternoon Bob Scott arrived alone, with the news that June was crook, but he had the weekend off for services rendered and good behaviour.

With the wind blowing 30 knots upwards, we all left to check the back beaches. Five minutes on the beach was enough to think the weather could not clear up by the morning for the scheduled dive.

Well, from there to the hotel for a counter tea, then back to Rye to settle in with a warming drink; not very optimistic about the morning.

The morning dawned overcast, but the wind appeared to have dropped. After coffee and toast, we headed for the beach to find the sea still with a two foot chop. On arrival at Sorrente, we found one boat waiting, with the boat ramp clear and calm. By 8.30 we had 3 boats and 10 divers, and we headed out for the "Wall" just off Point Lonsdale.

Once clear of the protection of the cliffs, we hit a 3' swell, but undaunted, travelled on to the dive site to find also the sea rollers rising 5' to 6'.

After some early problems with the depth sounder, we thought we had enough time to anchor and still make slack tide. This was not to be. When we found the wall, on the depth sounder, the anchor could not hold onto anything, with the wind and tide holding it away. After 4 or 5 tries we reached the slack time and it was decided to move back onto the kelp farm.

All 10 divers took to the water; the longest duration being approximately 45 minutes. The water appeared cold after the long wait before getting into it. Visibility was about 25 ft. in 20 ft. of water.

After Dave picked up all the stray divers, we all returned to Sorrento via the southern shore of the bay. A mistimed wave on Tony's behalf cost him a windscreen which was the only mishap of the day.

Everyone called into Rye on their way home, for hot coffee and an inquest. This did not turn out to be an extraordinary dive, but it shows that if a dive is arranged, you still get a good turn-out despite the weather. Present were Julie, Wendy, Alex, Tony, John, Rob, Andrew, Peter, Bob, Dave and myself.

D.J.

PORT CAMPBELL - QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

After a quiet three hour drive Paul, Lesley and myself were greeted by Dave, Pat, Johnny and Maree at the Port Campbell Tourist Park - they had just commenced erecting their tents with a familiar 30 knot westerly wind. Tents sprang up everywhere in the sheltered corner of the park as Max and Warren then Rob and Cheryl arrived, and by 2.00 am with some expert advice from Dave Moore Paul and Lesley finally got themselves organised.

Next morning we woke to the sounds of a jovial young ranger jingling his 20c pieces in his pocket with the sad news that our old friend Cyril had gone to Peterborough for a well earned annual holiday. As expected there was no chance of a dive so after a couple of quick beers at the pub Paul and I got the others out of bed and we went for a drive around the coast to the Bay of Islands. It was here that the VSAG caber tossing championships were held and with 5 of us only inches apart Dave Moore managed to smash the caber and force a postponement of the contest for another year!

Back to camp for lunch to find Dave Carroll had arrived then the rest of the afternoon was spent in the Moore's tent playing 500, drinking beer and arguing about legal technicalities. Saturday night was quiet - a meal at the local bistro, a few orange juices and bedtime at 10pm in order to rise early and head off to Mt. Gambier next morning.

Three cars left at 7.30 am and the idea was to dive Piccaninnie Ponds first then use what air we had left at Ewans Ponds. However this was not quite possible - just as we were about to take the

plunge a friendly National Parks Ranger informed us that one must have a special Cave Divers category to enter the area! Of course this was news to us so we asked for a snorkelling permit which he obligingly gave us. After a five year absence from Pics, and although we only used snorkelling gear, I found that swimming on the surface through the reeds and looking down that first deep chasm still rates as the most breathtaking sight I've seen in FRESH water. We spent 45 minutes flapping around and entering the top of the Cathedral before heading off to Ewans and taking 45 minutes to do the three ponds with tanks.

After minor repairs to Max's car we headed back to Port Campbell for the usual night of barbecue, beer and song - although it was noticed that Superman (Rob Adamson) retired early as usual!

Monday morning with the wind still howling in from the south west we packed up and headed off for a game of golf at Colac - unfortunately no clubs could be hired so all arrived back in Melbourne in time to wash their cars and boats before dark!

TONY TIPPING

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

"Oh! to have a house at Rye, now that winter's here!" It could be the start of a new hit, because it was certainly the most popular thought in the minds of those who went back to Don McBean's Rye house after the dive at the Kelp Farm on the 29th May. - An 8.30am water entry on the dawn of winter was bad enough - but then to miss the famed WALL dive and then even miss the kelp farm was enough disappointment for one day. However all was not lost. For Irene's coffee and cake was the most welcome part of the day's activities.

June has not been one of our best months for diving, although we are going to print before the Mystery Dive scheduled for the 26th June, the club managed to get wet only once prior to this event. And to do that we had to travel 270 miles to the Mount Gambier region. It all started when we went to that home away from home down at Port Campbell. True to expectations, Port Campbell turned on its gales, known down that part of the world as a "mild sou' westerly air stream" which put end to all thought of diving.

Not even the golf courses were catering to tourists. So after an early Saturday night, we headed off to Picaninnie Ponds, where permits were obtained for snorkelling. Even without SCUBA this fresh water pond is splendidly breathtaking. For those who had not dived fresh water before, the water clarity was a fascinating experience, and for everyone, the place has a certain awe about it which makes it very worthwhile to visit. After a while the group moved on to Ewans Ponds, where we were met by about 30 members of the Adelaide branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club. Much to the dismay of these chaps, we beat them into the water, as we were already in our wet suits from our previous dive. Ewans was very pretty and provided us with a much awaited dive with tanks.

One cannot close without mentioning the fantastic horse-riding day near Wallan on May 22nd.

With the weather at perfection, about 20 of us took to the saddles and with a round of tally-ho! headed for a day's trail blazing. Now I know how good it feels to have a throbbing beast between your legs!

One member who missed that day's events was big Carl Jironc. Poor old Carl was wasting away in hospital after a knee operation. He tells us that the food was OK and at regular times, the bed was comfortable and the company, excellent. However he found it strange that he was sponged down 3 times a day and each time by different PAIRS of nurses. Obviously the word got around about Carl's body art-work and no one was going to miss the show.

Another victim of the roads was young Bazza Truscott, who was knocked off Chris' bike by a motorist. Bazza suffered a fractured collar-bone. In this regard he was fortunate. However his acute embarrassment when he heard that Chris was telling his mates that "the old man fell off by bike" has produced serious complications. We hear that Bazza now has a hoop which he rolls along the footpath so that he can learn balance.

SEE YAR SOON
(The Chinese Fly-By-Night)