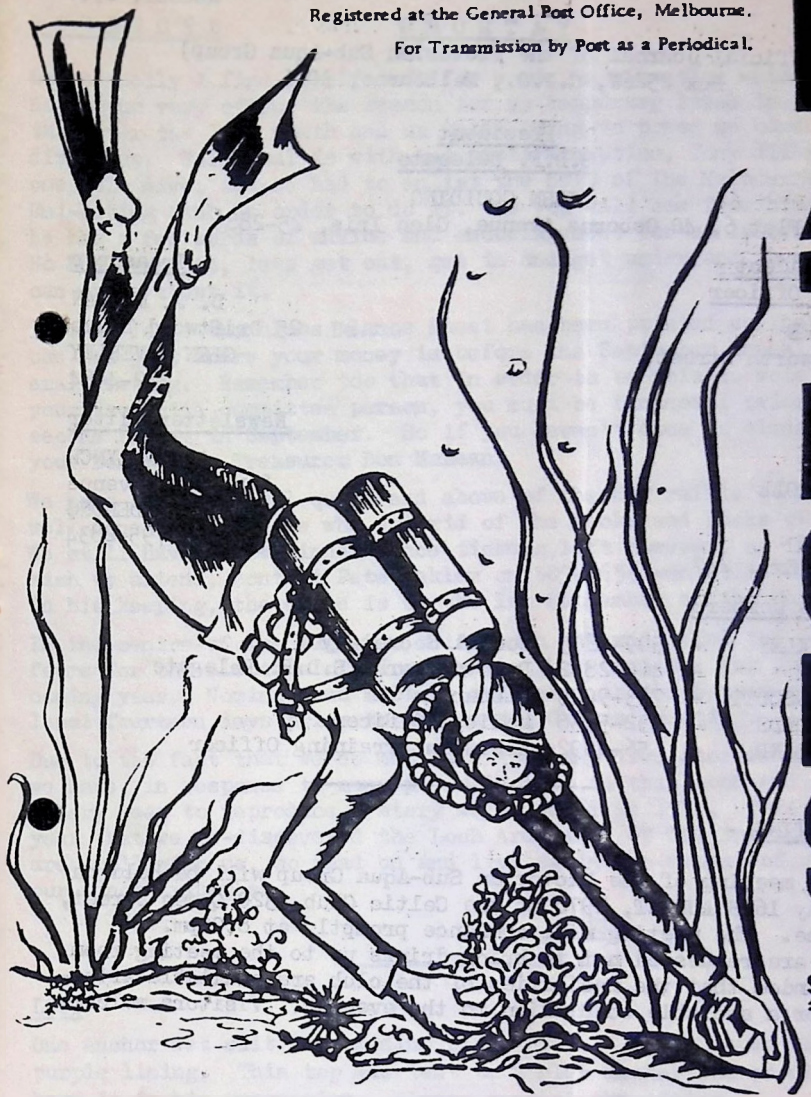


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FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)

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

President
S.D.F. Delegate

JOHN GOULDING

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

Vice President
Property OfficerDAVE MOORE
127 Hansworth Street,
MULGRAVE
547-2791Secretary

DAVE CARROLL

391-2211 Ext. 247

Committee Members

PETER OAKLEY	-	509-4655	Social Secretary
MAX SYNON	-	465-2812	Points Scorer/S.D.F. Delegate
BARRY TRUSCOTT	-	783-9095	Librarian
PAT REYNOLDS	-	232-5358	Medical Officer
NEIL GARLAND	-	56-4992	Assistant Training Officer

CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on Wednesday 16TH AUGUST, 1978 at the Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne. The meeting will commence promptly at 8.00pm. 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.

F O R E W O R D

Occasionally I find myself left for words, a situation which does not occur very often, the reason for my temporary lapse is the fact that over the last month and up until going to press we have been dive-less. Well that is with one small exception, Tony did record one solo dive, but he had to enlist the help of the Melbourne Uni-Diving Club in order to do it. As you will see from his article he has a few words of advice and encouragement for us lesser mortals. So how about it, lets get out, get in and get under and then you can write about it.

In this issue the clubs Balance Sheet has been printed so that you can see just where your money is before the September Annual General Meeting. Remember too that in order to be able to vote for your favourite committee person, you must be financial prior to the second Friday in September. So if you haven't done so already get your money into Treasurer Don McBean.

We have sold our full quota and above of the SDF raffle tickets, so well done to all those who got rid of the books and books of tickets. We still have a few dinner dance tickets left however, so if you wish to attend; contact Pete Oakley on 509-4655 who still has a few in his keeping, the dance is on the 1st September at the Tudor Court.

In the centre of the magazine this month you will find the nomination forms for the election of directors to the committee for the forthcoming year. Nominations must be delivered to the Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Due to the fact that we do not have too many dive stories this issue, we have, in response to many pleas decided in this Loch Ard Centenary year to reproduce a story we featured in 1974. This was the year that we re-discovered the Loch Ard, some of the intrepid band are still with us, so read on and live again the moment of one of our minor triumphs.

ED.

LOST -

One anchor wet suit top, medium size 3/16th. Black outer with purple lining. This top was lent to a club member who should still have it in his possession. Please contact the editor.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
AUG. 16	GENERAL MEETING	8 PM		Celtic Club
AUG. 20	SORRENTO (BOAT RAMP)	To be advised	P.Tipping 387-2027	Channel Run
SEPT. 1	SDF DINNER DANCE		TUDOR COURT	
SEPT. 3	FLINDERS PIER	10 AM	B.Lynch 795-2834	
SEPT.17	SORRENTO OR TORQUAY	To be advised	M.Synon 465-2812	
SEPT.20	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	8 PM		Celtic Club
SEPT.24	SORRENTO	To be advised	N.Garland 56-4992	

COMMITTEE NEWS

1. The following committee members will be standing down this September. All will be seeking re-election. They are in alphabetical order -

FRED FERRANTE
NELL GARLAND
JOHN GOULDING

DAVE MOORE
PAUL TIPPING
BARRY TRUSCOTT

2. The 25 year commemorative gift will be a silver medallion. These will only be given to members who are financial at the time of the Annual General Meeting, and to Life Members.

3. Air fills. It was decided that if a member purchases pre-paid air, fills would be \$1.00 each. The minimum amount decided upon was set at \$20.00. Other fills will be \$1.50 as from 1st September.

4. A letter is to be sent to Huskisson Caravan Park to reserve 10 sites for the Christmas period, also investigations to be made regarding transport to Tasmania for Christmas 1980.

TIP'S TIT-BITS

Having just put down my "Business Age" and noticing that Olympic lost 2 cents this week on the Melbourne Stock Exchange I immediately could understand why: well, the company's profits have recently been subsidizing VSAG's illustrious leader Johnny Goulding who has been jetting his way around the country first class to Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Hobart and Perth with a fat expense account - in fact he's been seen regularly at some of the country's most exclusive nightspots entertaining up to three or four big-breasted mini-skirted young lovelies in one night! No wonder he was drinking Guinness stout at the July meeting!

Never mind; at the meeting prior to the ski weekend at Jay Cody's Maree James came along with new outfit, new hairstyle and several bottles of champagne - Johnny incidentally was in Sydney at the time - who ever made up the old saying "when the cat's away the mice will play?" That excuse about the fog being too thick to drive home was a real beauty!

Going back a few weeks to the scheduled Barwon Heads dive which was transferred across to Queenscliffe due to a southerly change, one of our junior reporters had a lucky escape from copping a \$500 fine and losing his gear. You see he was diving with John McKenzie when he snared a large cray under a shelf which went through i.e. a short tunnel. John had seen the cray also and hooked it the other side neither knowing the other had it within his grasp. Consequently they both pulled too hard and lost all but a feeler and a leg (unfortunately for the poor creature.) But just as well - on returning to the boat ramp all boats were thoroughly searched and it was pointed out by the Fisheries Inspectors that hooks, spears and snares were out regarding cray catching - in other words a pair of gloves is all you can use and even then you risk a fine if a leg or feeler is damaged.

What happened to all the divers on 16th July at Flinders? They piked! OK there were 20-25 knot northerly winds and the air temperature only got to 14 C but surely they've been out in worse than that. One member did dive - shore dive on the Bushranger Bay side of Cape Schanck and came back with a sizeable feed of abs. In fact there were eight Melb. Uni Club divers (who incidentally do a lot of shore dives) to buddy with - doesn't say much for VSAG diving enthusiasm! (Conditions there were: no swell, 20 foot visibility and no measurable current.)

Just the other night on Johnny's return flight from Perth the captain gave his final address to the passengers re Melbourne's weather etc. and the estimated time of arrival but unfortunately left the intercom on. The co-pilot then asked him what he was going to do in Melbourne. The captain said, "Firstly I'm going to have a couple of cold cans of Fosters, then I'm going to make passionate love to the red-haired air hostess!" The hostess then quickly raced down the passage to the cockpit but tripped over Johnny's hand luggage in the aisle. It was then that Johnny quipped: "I don't know what you're rushing for love, he's going to drink a couple of cans of Fosters first!" Sounds like Pete (Ace) Smith's flying for TAA!

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND - FEBRUARY 1974

While holidaying at Mortlake over Christmas, the name "Loch Ard" became a household word. We ranged the cliff tops around the gorge watching the mighty Southern Ocean breakers hurl themselves against the wall of Mutton Bird Island. Somewhere just off the tip of the island under 12 fathoms of boiling white water lay the remains of the famous Lion clipper. It seemed to us that the sea would never ease, it guarded its secrets far too well we thought. However, because of the fascination of the fabled old ship, we searched the length and breadth of the gorge for any relics. Barry and Dave taking advantage of a lull in the rolling seas swam outside the gorge and round into the next bay, and Terry and I inadvertently swam nonchalantly out to sea along the western wall of the gorge until we realised our mistake.

All this intensive action took place at Christmas and because we felt we were becoming bewitched by the magic name 'Loch Ard', we decided to change the location of our Australia Day weekend, and by camping at Port Campbell take early advantage of any good weather. The idea was that we would check the weather at dawn each day and if the conditions were right we would attempt to find the ship, if the weather was against us, we would then choose alternative diving locations along the coast. As it happened, on two days out of our three, conditions were just right.

Our advance guard arrived on Friday evening and unfortunately were unable to take our sites right away, so we slept on the edge of the camping ground. Saturday morning dawned good and sunny, however we were settling into our sites and by lunchtime the north wind had

changed conditions and we dived through the gorge once more, much to Keith's delight! The current and surge were strong and we became apprehensive about our chances of ever getting out to sea as the wind crowned the deep troughed waves with white caps. However, we watched the water through Saturday night and Sunday morning brought us a northerly wind and flat seas.

We roused everyone and by eight thirty had Dave's boat across the sand and in the water. Our two sailors, Dave and Barry, then took the boat around to the gorge whilst the rest of us went down by car. We waited on the cliff tops while Dave zipped through the entrance dodging the waves. Barry and I were the first pair into the boat, Dave took us out through the gorge into the rolling swell outside. Paul Beecher who had dived on the wreck on the club's dive, two years earlier, was also in the boat to narrow down the search area. We dropped the shot on Paul's direction just off the end of Mutton Bird Island.

Then it was time to go, we dropped off simultaneously and arrived at the marker buoy. After checking one another over we descended into the green depths from where the shot line seemed to beckon us down. We touched down at eighty feet onto a sandy bottom, then with Barry holding the shot, we swam in towards the cliff. The rocks loomed up before us like giant steps then there before us was a triangle of twisted metal and the broken deck of a large ship disappearing off to our right. It had taken us about five minutes to find it, at last the elusive Loch Ard was there right in front of us. The water was still, the inert skeleton lay quietly before us. We ascended the shot line and signalled to the boat that we had struck gold. We hurried back down the line, as if we feared that the guardians of the deep had spirited the remains away whilst we had been topside. But no, as the bottom opened up before our masks there she lay, to our eyes a giant mis-array of girders, plates and pipes all softly clad in camouflaging weed, gently moving under the seas caress. We started moving over her slowly trying not to miss any detail. She was propped against a wall of rock, we swam below her sides, across her patchwork decks, down into a cavernous hole in her side along a tunnel of iron, paved with marble and broken glass. Emerging from the darkness of the hole we swam up and across her decks again. She still seemed enormous and there were still other sections of the hull away and beyond us, hidden behind the green shimmering wall of the sea. At least it was time to leave this once proud old lady of the sea and as we prepared to swim up the line Adrian and Rob Parker moved past us to take our places on the Loch Ard. We emerged into the sunlight to

find the boat waiting for us, clambering aboard with our mouth pieces removed we started to compare excited notes. We both agreed that the wreck had exceeded our wildest hopes, probably because it lies on the edge of the most inhospitable section of coast in the world. There are only about 50 or 60 days in the year that it is possible even to consider taking a boat close in to the towering cliffs. This means that only boats habitually in the area have any real hope of hitting the right days. Groups going down to try for the wreck are almost always disappointed by the weather, as we ourselves know only too well. So this particular lady lies undisturbed for most of the year.

Anyway back to the story: We planed into the gorge, back to the beach and to excited questions from the rest of the group. The next pair however, were kitted up and so we slid out of the boat and Dave took the boat back out. This ferrying carried on until everyone diving had finished. To finish off Dave took the boat back into Port Campbell while the rest of us motored happily back to meet him on the beach and hauled the boat onto the trailer. For my part then I just sat, rested and waited for Monday to have another crack at the fabled old ship, but that is another story.

BRIAN LYNCH; BARRY TRUSCOTT; DAVE MOORE

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING

The following passage is taken from Chapter 9 of Underwater Medicine by S. Miles and D.E. Mackay:

Carbon Monoxide poisoning must be included as one of the occupational hazards of diving resulting from failure to ensure that the air supplied, either from a pump or cylinder, is free from traces of this gas.

The onset of this condition is heralded by increasing weakness, exhaustion with breathlessness, dizziness and fainting. The lips and mucous membranes may appear bright red but elsewhere pallor is usual.

Oxygen is essential in treatment and where there is unconsciousness artificial means for resuscitation may be needed. If medical oxygen containing a little carbon dioxide (carbogen) is available, it will assist the elimination of carbon monoxide by increasing ventilation. Failure to respond to this treatment within an hour or so indicates some severe brain damage from hypoxia. Hyperbaric oxygen is almost the definitive treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Another risk that may occur with all forms of compressors is the introduction of oil vapour into the compressed air. Oil fumes give a very unpleasant taste to the mixture breathed and if used under pressure the concentration may be sufficient to irritate the delicate membranes of the lungs giving a troublesome cough or in extreme cases pneumonia.

It is not always easy to eliminate oil completely from the compressing machinery and therefore the compressed air before being supplied to the diver or put into storage cylinders should be passed through alumina filters or their equivalent.

Air which contains a little moisture is usually more pleasant to breathe but dry air is kinder to equipment. Storage bottles and delicate valves are less likely to corrode. The drying of the air can usually be accomplished at the same time as the filtration.

It is quite likely that as a result of an insistence on a supply of perfectly pure dry air one may be accused of being fussy and it may be pointed out that there are many situations in general daily life when quite noxious samples of air are breathed, heavy with tobacco smoke, exhaust fumes, dust and all the atmospheric pollution of modern cosmopolitan life. Be that as it may, the diver under pressure is very sensitive to minor changes in respiratory gases, the lungs may already be irritated by increased oxygen partial pressures and an abnormal exchange balance established. The least that can be done to mitigate the results of increased pressure is to ensure that the increase is not at the same time being applied to any additional commonplace harassing agent.

Submitted by - TONY TIPPING

VSAG - BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1978

1977

MEMBERS FUNDS

1,875	Accumulated funds as at 30/6/77	3,778.45
<u>1,903</u>	<u>Add</u> Surplus for the year	<u>145.53</u>
<u>\$3,778</u>		<u>\$3,923.98</u>
	Represented by -	
-	Cash on Hand	15.08
677	Cash at Bank	395.88
-	Permanent Building Society	633.94

-	Deposit SDF Dinner Dance		103.60
	Equipment (at cost)	3,544.48	
<u>3,101</u>	Less Provision for Depreciation	<u>769.00</u>	<u>2,775.48</u>
<u>\$3,778</u>			<u>\$3,923.98</u>

VSAG - STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR END 30/6/78

<u>1977</u>	<u>INCOME</u>		
615	Annual Subscriptions		649.50
139	Newsletter Subscriptions		145.50
620	Training & Joining Fees		67.00
22	Compressor Air Fills		10.00
8	Badges, Log Books & Slates		-
158	Sale of "T" Shirts		-
1,491	Social Functions		1,648.05
892	Donations		-
-	Interest		51.56
-	Sundry Income		3.00
-	Profit on Sale of Compressor		<u>208.00</u>
<u>3,945</u>			<u>\$2,782.61</u>
	Less <u>EXPENSES</u>		
42	Rental of Post Office Box		-
57	Rent of Hall		56.00
60	Printing, Stationery incl. N'letter Publicat'n		242.95
50	Clubman of the Year Award		60.00
966	Social Functions		1,408.72
64	Insurances		97.37
24	Training Expenses		24.00
32	Subscriptions		27.00
6	Bank Charges		5.40
102	"T" Shirts		-
90	Bulk Postage of Newsletter		56.81
139	Repairs to Compressor		10.34
67	General Expenses		193.16
60	Sponsorship of Training		60.00
-	First Aid Kits		68.33
<u>283</u>	Depreciation		<u>327.00</u>
<u>2,042</u>			<u>2,637.08</u>
<u>\$1,903</u>	<u>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u>		<u>\$ 145.53</u>

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS 1978-79

NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being full members of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group, hereby nominate:

for the position of Director

Signed: _____ Date: / /

Signed: _____ Date: / /

I, _____ hereby accept the above nomination for Director of the Group.

Signed: _____ Date: / /

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VSAG - PROFIT (LOSS) ON SOCIAL FUNCTIONS FOR YEAR ENDED 30/6/78

Annual Dinner	82.13
Mystery Dive	4.60
Suppers	3.20
Car Rally	10.00
Boat Owners Meeting	(15.00)
Tennis Party	5.00
Film Night	(2.10)
Refuge Cove	68.00
Wilson's Prom.	24.60
Wh Ard	52.00
Regulator Raffle	6.90
	<u>\$239.33</u>

VSAG - DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE YEAR ENDED 30/6/78

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>W.D.V.</u>	<u>Disposals</u>		<u>Additions</u>		<u>W.D.V.</u>		
			<u>30/6/77</u>	<u>Proceeds</u>	<u>Profit</u>	<u>Cost</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>Depn.</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	
Filing Cabinet	50	12					15	2	10
Regs, Snorkels									
Flippers, Masks	75	75					-		75
Tanks	90	54				7½	4	50	
Compressor	400	192	400	208					-
Decompressor Meter	68	52				10	5	47	
Manta Board	45	37				7½	3	34	
Depth Sounder	373	287				10	29	258	
Trailer	262	175				15	26	149	
Vests, Back Packs									
Weight Belts	127	127				-	-	127	
Compressor	1,501	1,351				15	203	1148	
3 Tanks & Regs	645	629				7½	47	582	
Vests	30	30				-	-	30	
2 Regs	85	80				7½	6	74	
<u>Additions</u>									
2X Walkie Talkies									
May '78	193					193	15	2	191
	<u>\$3,944</u>	<u>\$3,101</u>	<u>\$400</u>	<u>\$208</u>	<u>\$193</u>		<u>\$327</u>	<u>\$2,775</u>	

DIRECTORS' REPORT V.S.A.G. JUNE 30, 1978

The Directors of Victorian Sub Aqua Group, submit herewith the Balance Sheet as at June 30, 1978 and the Income & Expenditure Statement as at June 30, 1978, and report as follows :-

1. The names of the Directors in office at the date of this report are:-

D. Carroll	M. Synon
B. Truscott	D. McBean
F. Ferrante	J. Goulding
P. Reynolds	B. Lynch
P. Oakley	P. Tipping
D. Moore	N. Garland
2. The principal activity of the Group is underwater diving and training.
3. The net surplus of the Group for the year was \$145.53 Income Tax is not applicable.
4. The Directors took reasonable steps before the Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet of the Group were made out to ascertain that all known bad debts (if any) were written off, but no provision has been made for doubtful debts.
5. The Directors took reasonable steps prior to the Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet being made out to ascertain that the current assets of the Group, other than debtors were shown in the accounting records of the company at a value equal to or below the value that would be expected to be realised in the ordinary course of the business.
6. At the date of this report the Directors are not aware of any circumstances which would render the values attributable to the current assets in the Groups accounts misleading.
7. No charge on the assets of the Group has arisen since the end of the financial period to the date of this report to secure the liabilities of any other persons.
8. No contingent liability has arisen since the end of the financial period to the date of this report.
9. No contingent liability has become enforceable or is likely to become enforceable within a period of twelve months after the end of the financial period, in the opinion of the Directors, will or may affect the ability of the Group to meet its obligations as and when

AUGUST, 1978

FATHOMS

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they fall due.

10. At the date of this report the Directors are not aware of any circumstances, not otherwise dealt with in the report or accounts which would render any amount stated in the accounts misleading.
11. The result of the Groups operations during the financial period have not in the opinion of the Directors been substantially affected by any item, transaction or event of a material or unusual nature.
12. Since the 30th June, 1978 and to date of this report, in the opinion of the Directors, no item, transaction or event of a material or unusual nature which would affect substantially the results of the Group for the next succeeding financial period has occurred.
13. No Director since the end of the previous financial period, has received or has become entitled to receive a benefit by reason of a contract made by the Group, with the Director or with a firm of which he is a member or with a Company in which he has a substantial financial interest.

On behalf of the Board

D. Moore

Director

B. Lynch

Director

Date: 19/7/78

VSAG - DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

In the opinion of the Directors, the accompanying Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Statement are drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group for the year ended June 30, 1978 and so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the business for the year ended 30th June, 1978.

Signed at Melbourne this 19th day of July 1978.

On behalf of the Directors

D. Moore

Director

B. Lynch

Director

STATEMENT BY PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER

I, Don McBean, principal accounting officer of Victorian Sub Aqua Group state that to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying accounts for the year ended June 30, 1978 give a true and

fair view of the matters required by Section 162 of the Companies Act 1961 as amended.

D.J. McBean

Principal Accounting Officer

AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS - V.S.A.G.

1. In our opinion the attached accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's affairs for the year ended June 30, 1978 and of the surplus for the period ended on that date.
2. As required by the Companies Act 1961 of Victoria we report as follows:-
 - a) The attached accounts are properly drawn up so:-
 - (i) as to give a true and fair view of the matters required by Section 162 to be dealt with in the accounts; and
 - (ii) in accordance with provisions of that act.
 - b) The Accounting records and other records, and the registers, required by that Act to be kept by the Group have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

O.W. PARKINSON & SON

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

PARTNER

DIVING ACCIDENTS NORTH SEA OIL & GAS INDUSTRY 1971-75

Following on from our "Project Stickybeak" articles, we now reproduce extracts from the above, taken from the "South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society's Magazine". These accidents however occurred in the North Sea off-shore industry on the other side of the world.

We all know that diving is a hazardous business, and as a point of interest to us sports divers, it is worth noting that the United Kingdom is drafting a common set of diving regulations which include the existing Factory Acts, off-shore installations, submarine pipelines, and some of the Merchant Shipping regulations.

Within the U.K. all fatal and serious diving accidents have to be reported to the appropriate Government Authority immediately. They are then investigated by the government department concerned and the

police. These investigate the accident thoroughly, invariably working with the doctor who was called to the particular emergency, and then discuss the findings with the pathologist.

The findings are made public, anyone can be legally represented including the next of kin, and all relevant details are brought out, including any possible methods of saving life in the future.

Over the next few months we will print a list of diving accidents that have occurred in the off-shore industry in all sectors of the North European Continental Shelf. Some of the early incidents are lacking in detailed information, but I am sure that some of these accidents and the depths at which they happened will in the words of the coroners reports, take your breath away:-

The first fatal accident recorded in the Department of Energy records happened to a diver in February 1971. He was diving in the Norwegian sector to a depth of 200 ft without a diving bell. The cause of death was drowning.

A month later from the same installation diver No.2 diving to 200ft with a diving bell died to decompression sickness. The actual details of these two accidents are rather scarce.

In November 1971 diver No.3 died after a dive of 275 feet from the drill ship Glomar 3. My broad interpretation from the available records is that the diver carried out a dive to a depth of 275 ft for a bottom time of well over 45 mins. He had previously carried out a dive to this depth within the preceding 24 hours. Having completed his task at the bottom he started his ascent and his life-line or airpipe reportedly became fouled. It would appear that during the process of clearing himself he became free and he blew to the surface. The pathologist's finding was that this diver died from embolism.

In May 1972 diver No.4 was lost from the rig Britannia during a dive to 44ft. The cause of death was drowning and at the subsequent coroner's Inquest, grave doubts were expressed as to whether the deceased had in fact been trained as a diver and whether he was qualified.

In August 1973 diver No.5 died of pulmonary haemorrhage whilst diving to a depth of 320 ft. Scientific evaluation of the breathing equipment subsequent to the fatal accident lead to modifications.

In December 1973 No.6 disappeared whilst diving from Blue Water 3

and the body was not recovered. The task he was required to do was simple and the depth was only between 60 and 70 ft. He was an experienced diver and for some reason or other cut his communication lifeline and was lost. At the time of the inquest the only logical conclusion that could be drawn was that for some reason or other the diver got into a panic. However, we know that he was cold and shivering as a result of a previous dive and our subsequent investigations of the effect of cold on the diver suggest that he might in fact have carried out his illogical actions during the onset of hypothermia. This can only be surmised in hindsight but I am prepared to say that everything points to the fact that cold is a very real menace and may well trigger off other problems.

In January 1974 two divers operating from the drill master rig in the Norwegian sector at a depth of 250 ft lost their lives when the bell accidentally surfaced. Subsequent investigation showed a breakdown in company communications correcting the drill after a modification to the weight slipping devices.

In April 1974 diver No.9 was drowned whilst diving from a drill ship Habdrill at a depth of 300 ft. This was an unfortunate case of panic by the attendant in the bell. The diver was carrying out the first operational dive from Habdrill on that particular site. The diving team had carried out several practice dives and they were very enthusiastic to get down to work. This may have had some bearing on the accident which really started when the diver overworked. He carried out his task in almost record time and in spite of the fact that he was advised several times to slow down. Having overworked on the task the diver was in some distress and swam rapidly back to the bell, but unfortunately he took a turn around one of the bell's weight wires with his umbilical. The bell assistant tried to assist him into the bell by pulling on his umbilical which in turn pulled him under water. A series of panic actions by the attendant lead to him cutting the divers umbilical and shutting the bottom door and screaming to the surface to be brought up.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Writer's cramp is not an uncommon complaint among the literary greats of the world, but such a minor ache would go unnoticed in this wretched body, suffering from the pains of a thousand parallel turns. Eyes, the writer's perceiver of life around us that hang wearily in their sockets from straining through a fog shrouded

highway for 6 hours that seemed like 60, and a nose that glows like a massage parlors welcome light caused through excess exposure to brilliant sunshine, mirror reflected by a 6000 foot white clad mountain.

Yessir, you guessed it. V.S.A.G. has had another snow weekend. This year, due to the increasing popularity of previous annual ski trips the club booked into The Swindlers Valley Ski Club at Mt. Hotham. Jay Cody is a foundation member of Swindlers and he and the other members have worked hard over the years to build a delightful 2 storey skiers retreat perched right on the edge of a deep valley.

Right from the start all pointers indicated that this would be a great weekend. Murgatroyd was packed and ready to leave by 6pm on the Friday and after allowing for five feeding stops we stumbled in about 12.30am - the last to arrive.

Tony Tip who had inflicted himself as a passenger on Johnny and Maree was well and truly primed against the cold weather with a bottle and a half of Bundaberg Rum. With such precautionary action its amazing that he suffered from cold shoulder all weekend. I doubt whether Rob Adamson had the same problem. Rob, who had the distinction of winning our first "Superman" award back in 1976 apparently had quite a night on the Friday. As Cheryl described it "He almost smashed me through the wall".

Down in the bunk room Karen Croxford was up early with the news that the parking inspectors had given us quarter of an hour to move our illegally parked cars. It seems that you're not allowed to move witches hats

On the ski slopes the Croxfords took Dave Carroll and Tony in hand for some tuition, whilst the others quickly caught up their old skills and skied their heads off or in the case of Dave Moore skied his backside off!!

Jay and Ken Cellec obviously knew what they were doing although we did hear that Jay tried some rank amateur tricks with a T-Bar.

Rob Adamson, up till now an unknown quantity on the ski slopes certainly proved that he's skied before and can do it pretty well. Wouldn't be a bit surprised if Robby turns up in a four wheel drive Range Rover or other bush basher, so that he can get up to these far away resorts more often - watch out all you Mt. Donna Buang

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION
OF VICTORIA

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 1978

TUDOR COURT

141 KOOYONG RD

CAULFIELD

7-45 PM

\$16-00 A HEAD - ALL INCLUSIVE

All tickets must be paid for by the August General Meeting (16th)

The following people still owe money for tickets -

M. Synon
J. McKenzie
D. Moore
J. Turner
J. Okle
P. Oakley
J. Goulding
T. Tipping
P. Tipping
C. Jironec
P. Reynolds

How about some of you others - Come on Support

Diving - without getting wet