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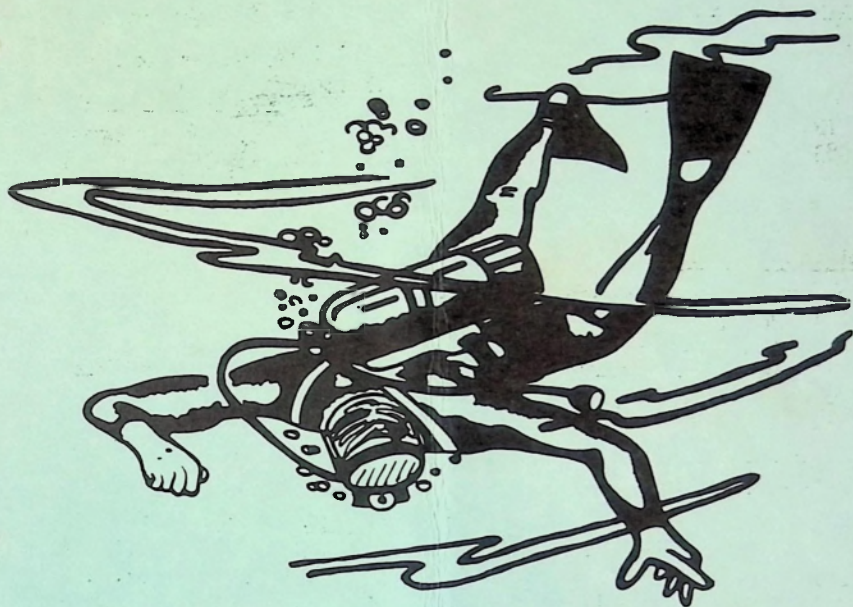
# FATHOMS

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## SAFETY IN DIVING

50c



# V S A G

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 20TH DECEMBER, 1978 at 8pm at the Collingwood Football Club, Lulie Street, Abbotsford in the 2nd floor Function Room. Bar facilities are available to VSAG members prior to, and after the General Meeting and meals are served from 6pm until about 9pm. A list of VSAG members will be provided to the Football Club thereby eliminating the requirement to sign the visitors book at the entrance. Visitors welcome!

FOREWORD

The season of goodwill is almost upon us, and so it is appropriate to start this months edition with Christmas Greetings and a few HO, HO, HO's thrown in. Quite a lot has happened since our last issue. On October 29th we did get out on our scheduled submarine dive made in conjunction with Torquay Scuba Club and as you will see from the following reports it certainly was an excellent dive. The Big M Marathon has been run and Tony and I are still in the land of the living. Unfortunately our Annual Tennis Tournament at Balmarring was washed out, with only a hardy few playing out to the end, however thanks to Mrs. Tipping's hospitality the day was saved. The high spot of that day was Johnny Goulding winning the Tipping Mile and the dozen blessings donated by the scratch men, much to their disgust. A special mention too for little Justin Cody who although only 8 covered the course remarkably well and led his father (running well too) over the finishing line.

At the last General Meeting, for those of you who weren't there, Jay Cody announced that he would sponsor an inaugural award to be given to the best Newsletter article submitted over the next 9 months. This award to coincide with the Diver of the Year presentation. There is also to be a President's prize to be awarded again over the same length of time and again for literary effort. At the meeting there was some discussion about the period of time involved with these awards; either a year or six months. Since we are now almost a quarter of the way into this year 78/79, we decided to split the difference and so this first award will encompass the next 9 months. At the end of which gestation period our first literary award will be born. Members will be able to vote each month at the General Meetings for articles in that months magazine. Now all I have to do is sit back and wait for all your articles to flood in.

I hope that all of you planning on spending Christmas at Jervis Bay have by now contacted Johnny Goulding who is organising this particular little gathering, or a right boil-over as he calls it. For those of you who haven't Johnny's telephone number, its on the inside cover.

Finally this will be our last Newsletter of 1978, and we will not be in print again until February '79, as you will see from the dive calendar. The committee would therefore like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, and a happy New Diving Year.



so dive and drive safely over the festive season, and see you all next year.

ED.

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DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
DEC. 10	SORRENTO BOAT Ramp		M.Synon 465-2812	Sierra Nevada
DEC. 20	COLLINGWOOD Football Club	8 PM		General Meeting
DEC.23- JAN.14 '79	JERVIS BAY HUSKISSON		J.Goulding 25-2883	
AUST.DAY WEEKEND	REFUGE COVE Bookings limited to 18. NO PRIVATE BOATS (Money at December Meeting)		J.Cody 846-1313	
FEB. 4	SORRENTO	9.30AM	M.Synon 465-2812	Explor- ation Dive
FEB. 11	TORQUAY	10 AM	J.Goulding 25-2883	Victoria Towers
FEB. 18	KILCUNDA	11 AM	F.Ferrante 211-0708	Shore dive followed by BBQ
FEB. 21	COLLINGWOOD Football Club	8 PM		General Meeting
FEB. 25	SORRENTO BOAT Ramp	10 AM	D.Moore 547-2791	Channel Run Fort Area

N.B. Please note that there is no General Meeting in January.

HERRINGBONE CORNER

Wishbones - Spend their life wishing someone else do all the work

Jawbones - Do a lot of talking, but very little else

Knucklebones - Knock everything that anybody else tries to do

Backbones - Take the load and do all the work

R.W.

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S.D.F.-V MEETING NOTES

The fourth and last meeting of the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria for 1978 was held at the North Melbourne Football Club on the 31st October. The meeting was attended by SDF delegates Paul Tipping and John Goulding. The main points of the meeting are as follows :-

1. Five new Scuba Diving Clubs were accepted as members to SDF-V. These were -  
Geelong Skindiving Club  
Ocean Divers  
Melbourne Bottom Scratchers Club  
Metropolitan Fire Brigade Scuba Club  
R.M.I.T. Underwater Club
2. Another run of 1000 SDF-A Logbooks are to be printed. Those who want Log Books should give their names to John Goulding.
3. The Department of Housing & Community Relations has rejected an application for funds from SDF-A on the grounds that A.U.F. is the only government recognised diving organisation. A member of the SDF-A executive will go to Canberra to lobby the Sports Advisory Council to seek recognition of the SDF-A and state organisations of the SDF.
4. The Photographic Seminar held at Queenscliff in October was a huge success and the venue has been booked again for 2 seminars in 1979. These will be : Wreck Diving Seminar - April 1979  
Scuba Diving Seminar - October 1979
5. The SDF-V Standards Committee will conduct tests and issue reports on various diving equipment. Any diver with a complaint on diving equipment is asked to report to the Standards Committee.

6. A Marine Parks Sub-committee has been formed to pursue the matter of Marine Parks in Victoria.
  7. A motion was passed for the appointment of two new positions to the SDF-V Committee. These will be: Assistant Secretary  
Public Relations Officer
- Elections for these and other positions of SDF-V will be held in February '79. Nominations close Monday 4th December, 1978.
8. A motion was passed to spend a maximum of \$660 to provide audio visual equipment for the SDF-V.
  9. A motion was passed to publish a booklet about SDF and the affiliated clubs.
  10. The position of the "Eliza Ramsden" was reported to be incorrect as shown on Admiralty maps. The matter will be pursued with Ports and Harbours to obtain a clarification on diving this wreck.
  11. It was reported that divers have been requested not to dive from the Portsea Pier.
  12. Orders for SDF T-shirts can be given to delegates.
  13. A survey of "Diver Below" signs at boat ramps is being undertaken and clubs maybe asked to assist with this project and the erection of new signs.
  14. A list of Diving Medical Practicioners is included in the Divers Directory available with the purchase of the SDF Log Book.
  15. The Polly Woodside museum has a cabinet containing artifacts provided by SDF Clubs.
  16. A Sports Expo will be held at the Exhibition Buildings in February and it is anticipated that SDF will have a display.
- The next meeting of the SDF-V will be held at the North Melbourne Football Club on the 6th February 1979, commencing at 7.45pm.
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### SUBMARINE TREASURE

On October 29th we were scheduled to dive in conjunction with the Torquay Scuba Club on what had been to us for many years a fabled myth, the submarine just outside the Heads. We drove down to Barwon Heads, arriving at the launching ramp near Ocean Grove in



brilliant sunshine. After a pre-dive briefing we set off very slowly down the shallow waters of the Barwon. Passing very demurely under the rickety road bridge at Barwon Heads we headed out over the friendly bar towards Arthurs Seat shimmering away in the haze, following a couple of Torquay divers boats.

After a mid-strait discussion we finally arrived at the spot where the earlier boats had anchored. After one pass over the area with the depth sounder, which pinpointed the sunken submarine, it then packed up, before we were able to anchor into the wreck. After a little while, and a lot of bottom ploughing with our anchors (out on 200 ft. of line), our dive captain Paully registered a hit, which was quickly followed by a Torquay anchor. These very positive anchorages were checked out by a couple of Torquay divers already in the water, who upon surfacing, informed us that we were hooked into the submarine, aft of the conning tower, and close to what had once been the engine room.

The Torquay Club dived first, whilst we waited in the warm sunshine with a slight breeze cooling us, on a smooth sea with only the slow undulating swells sliding the boats up and down. Then it was our turn, the first divers down were Justin and Cindy, we awaited their return "What was it like?" we asked, "Bloody Ripper" quoth Justin from about 10 feet down. Then it was our turn. Max and I followed Fred and Wendy down the anchor line, down and down until we arrived at the rainbows end so to speak.

There in front of us was the Submarine. Visibility was around 12 to 15 ft, just below us the decks opened up and there was a cavernous hole, this had apparently been the engine room long removed for scrap. We were not going into the wreck, since we were not equipped for that, and so we swam along the waving, weed covered, decking until we reached the conning tower. I sat on top whilst Max took my picture with an imaginary camera. Then down to the deck again and on to the bow, here we checked our depth gauges 100 feet exactly. We slid over the side and peered with the aid of my flickering torch beam into the now harmless torpedo tubes, and I wondered how many lives this weed covered hole had taken. We then swam back along the deck, having a closer look at the conning tower as we passed. Looking closely at the hatches, as we passed them, I worked out that early submariners must have been small men.

We passed the vacant engine room, and then swam to the stern, and down to the aquavanes on the side. On the sand we were at about

120 ft, submarine may have had to be smallish, but this vessel itself was of a fair size. A glance at my watch and time to head for the surface, away from this twilight world and the remains of a once deadly warship. We slowly ascended the anchor rope, at 50 feet we were suspended in an enclosed white world whilst our tiny air bubbles floated out and disappeared in the milky water above us. All too soon we were back on the surface, passing the Brothers Tipping en route for the shortest anchor line and the quickest way to the bottom.

Back on the boats we compared notes and decided that the submarine had been well worth waiting for. When Paul and Tony returned we reluctantly pulled up the anchor and headed for Barwon Heads once more. We arrived at the mouth of the river to find that it was low tide, very low tide in fact, so it was a slow sometimes pedestrian passage back to the launching ramp and my thermos of tea. After thanking the Torquay Club, we headed home via Barwon Heads, myself driving with Dave Moore being the last to leave.

Those present were Paul & Tony Tipping, Max, Justin and Cindy, Paul King, Carl, Mick Jacquieu, Fred and Wendy, Neil Garland and myself.

BRIAN LYNCH

### MEDICALS

Here is a list of those club members who are on record as having current (2 years since issue) medical certificates, and the date at which these expire.

C. Castagna	18/4/79	J. Randell	19/4/79
Alex Castagna	18/4/79	Bob Scott	29/4/79
Ron Coomber	29/4/79	Tony Snushall	28/9/79
Allan Coy	4/5/79	Judith Turner	17/3/79
Neil Knight	1/4/79	Heather Wennacott	14/4/79
John McKenzie	14/7/79	Dave Carroll	29/9/79
David Poole	8/2/79		

The rest of us have either let the medicals become overdue or in quite a few cases, never show a record of lodging a medical with the club. Both as a matter of personal safety and club rules, this situation should be rectified as soon as possible.



PRE-PAID AIR - Fills remaining up till 22/11/78

C. Croxford	60	P. Smith Jnr.	13
J. Liddy	94	R. Adamson	28
M. Synon	47	J. Cody	45
B. Truscott	42	D. Hurle	34
D. McBean	48	T. West	31
J. Goulding	41	J. Robinson	60
T. Tipping	21	T. Armstrong	24
D. Carroll	58	B. Kelly	24
C. Marshall	23	M. Davenport	50
B. Lynch	26	P. Oakley	45

MORE SHELLSHOCK

A top level review of research data has confirmed the worst fears about heavy metal pollution in Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay.

The review was undertaken for the Marine Pollution Study Group, which is attached to the Victorian Ministry of Conservation. It was conducted by an American scientist Dr. Negilski, whose report concluded that there were many sites in near shore waters of the Bay where cadmium and lead in shellfish exceeded present National Health and Medical Research Council public health standards. As well in the north-eastern part of the Bay at Brighton, Sandringham and Mordialloc, lead values exceeded health standards.

The report said the problem is worst in late winter and early spring, also stating that trace metals are persistent and can be mobilized in a marine environment and translocated. Metals such as cadmium, lead and zinc which have been found in the sediments of the Bay, are taken up by plants and benthic (flora and fauna found on the ocean bottom) invertebrates and bottom feeding fish and distributed far from their original source.

We can also expect that the sediments which contain heavy metal contaminants, will continue to serve as a source of metals for contamination long after the discharge source has been stopped.

Although Dr. Negilski says that there is insufficient evidence to suggest the mussels in the whole of Corio Bay and Hobson's Bay should be banned from public consumption, the data does indicate that mussels from a number of sites exceed public health standards.

Collectively, the biological data indicates concern for a number of local areas and suggests that investigations be conducted immediately to determine the source of the contaminants and the extent of off-shore contamination.

Dr. Negilski recommends that strict control measures should be taken now to restrict inputs into Port Phillip Bay, particularly regarding mercury, cadmium and lead.

(This article taken from "Scientific Australian")

Submitted by - ROBERT WOOLLEY

### TIPS TIT-BITS

The Torquay "Boys" have certainly been kind to us recently introducing us to Chimney Rock a few months ago and lately that fabulous sub out off Lonsdale. Thanks a lot fellas, hope we can entertain you fairly soon at our favourite exclusive spots like Flinders Pier, Williamstown sand bar and the Cerberus! And by the way one of our members wants to know do you have any women divers?

About 3,000 idiots thought November 5th was a perfect day to run from Frankston to Melbourne - VSAG providing 2 starters only. However after 17 miles and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  hours one of our reporters, injured for life, decided to walk the rest of the journey taking 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  hours for the trip, a full hour behind Lynchy! Hope the club can muster up a few more for the Fun Run next March, girls!

It would have left the Name-Dropper's Picnic for dead - at Treasury Place on Nov. 17th! Sir John Holland was overhead peeling off names like John Goulding, Peter Stone and Paul Tipping in one breath and he's never even dived on the Loch Ard nor climbed Kilimanjaro!

Well, this year's Annual VSAG Tennis Day was a bit of a flop after the sky emptied itself out (settle down Johnny) on the Balnarring Courts on Nov. 19th. But it was still encouraging to see 29 people turn up in the storm for the barbeque and the Handicap Mile - this was run into winds gusting up to 50 knots and won for a change by Johnny Goulding in 5:04 on 90 seconds handicap. What hope did the scratch markers have, the best who could manage 5:23! Paully managed to even simulate a collapse in front of the handicappers after his pathetic performance keeping in mind a better handicap