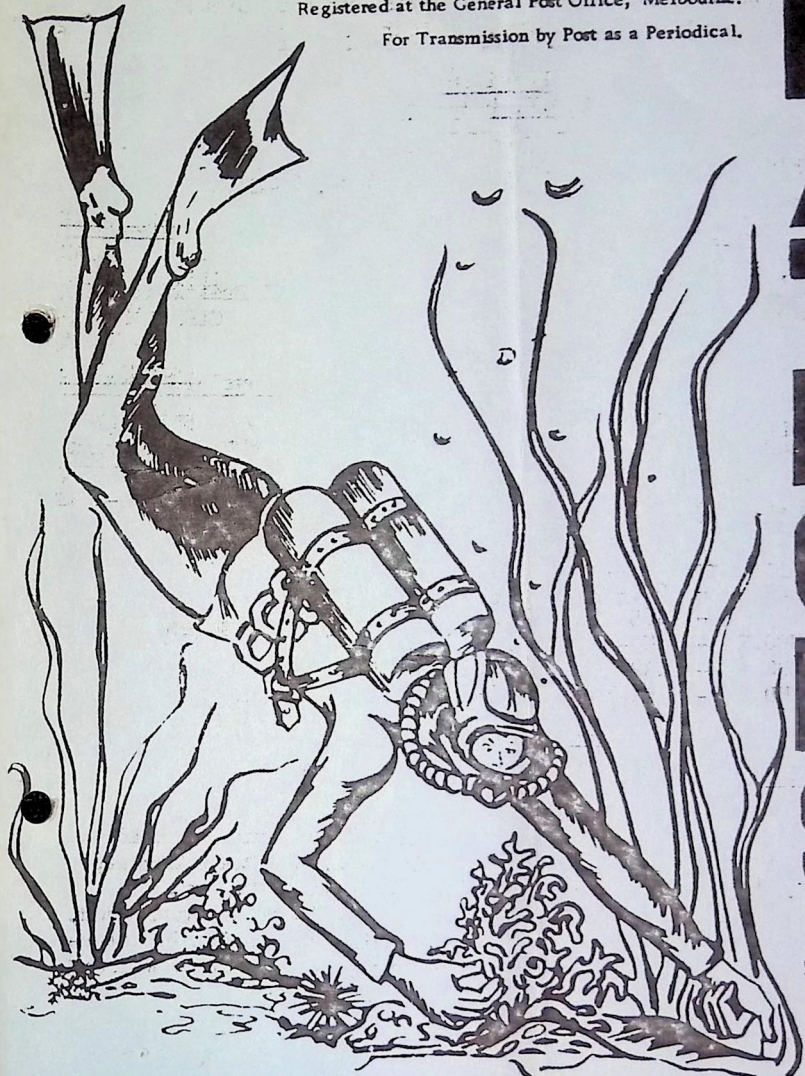


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FATHOMS



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 JUNE, 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.

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FOREWARD

As you will have already noticed included with this months magazine is your annual subscription reminder. This coming year is a milestone for the VSAG; it is our twenty-fifth silver anniversary. This then is perhaps a good time to stop, and take stock of ourselves as a club and see which direction we should head in the next twentyfive years.

We have over 50 members, and it can well and truly be said that we are a very active diving club. We still dive many of the sites visited by our earlier clubmen, but we are setting our sights further afield and are trying to broaden the spectrum of our diving experiences. In this respect we are fortunate that many of the club own boats which are available for other members on dive dates.

V.S.A.G. is a club (singular) but comprises of divers (plural) and can only function as well as those in it, want it to. To make sure that the club continues to go forward we must all be prepared to lend a hand. Belonging to this or any club is merely a means by which we can enjoy our chosen sport more fully, in the company of, and sometimes competing with friends. After all diving to us is a hobby and this way we can enjoy our sport and also relax with one another on dives, in our various meetings, skiing or even playing that dreadful golf game. However by being a club member does not mean that we can all sit on our back-sides and everything will be done for us, after all we are all the club and none of us will get anything out of it unless we put something in.

New talking of putting something in. Dave Carrcll has recently returned yet again from Preservation Island. I am sorry that we are unable to reproduce his stunning front page photographs, but we are able to publish his report of the lifting of an anchor and a cannon from the Sydney Cove. This is rather a long report and so, with Dave's permission we are going to print it in two sections. We haven't seen too much of the old Cat of late, but as you will see he's been very busy.

Congratulations yet again to Neil Garland this time for winning the title of champion VSAG golfer. It was good to see so many Bass Strait divers participating, and I have to say too what a good organiser Jay turned out to be, both for the day and the barbeque, and for not trying to win himself, well done.

Finally for those of you who haven't seen Max in the water lately, he hasn't just seen a shark, brown is the colour of the new suit.

ED.

SKIING

The Annual Skiing Weekend will be at Mt. Hotham 29-30th July.

Accommodation will cost \$20 plus food and hire of equipment where necessary.

Book with Jay Cody by the next General Meeting (June) Phone 846-1313

If you are going by car remember the anti-freeze, that is if you wish to come back by car.

J.C.

The Scuba Federation will conduct a Seminar on Underwater Photography at Queenscliff over the weekend of the 13th to the 15th October at the historic Ozone Hotel.

Those interested should contact the Seminar Co-ordinator

Alan O'Brien

Tel. 615-6632 Business

870-6202 Private

Registration forms are available from John Goulding

COMMITTEE NEWS

1. Nominations to fill the two committee vacancies are called for, to be given at the June General Meeting.
2. The Club tanks are to be sent away for hydrostatic testing during the period prior to the June meeting.
3. Club funds. Although total club funds were \$865.52 the committee felt that it should be pointed out that from this money we must allow for depreciation of club equipment, and make provision for replacement of club property.

4. To coincide with the twentyfifth anniversary of the VSAG, it was agreed that a presentation should be made to each member, and there will be a discussion on this project at the June meeting. One suggestion was that something along the lines of club T-shirts or windcheaters would be appropriate.

5. The committee would like suggestions for the 1978 Christmas trip. So get your thinking caps on and lets hear of some exotic sites by the June General Meeting.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Dive Capt.</u>	<u>Notes</u>
JUNE 17-18	SORRENTO Nautilus C'van Park	Sat. after- noon	N.Garland 56-4992	Night Dive Portsea Pier
	SORRENTO Boat Ramp	Sunday 9.45 AM	"	Dive to be advised
JULY 2	GEE LONG SIDE To be advised		P.Tipping 387-2027	
JULY 16	FLINDERS	10 AM	F.Ferrante 51-1915	Pyramid Rock
JULY 19	GENERAL MEETING Celtic Club	8 PM		
JULY 29-30	SKI WEEKEND		J.Cody 846-1313	
AUG. 6	MYSTERY DIVE Details are secret but clues will be given in July magazine.		D.Moore 547-2791	

DIVE REPORT - ELIZA RAMSDEN

21st May was one of those days that had to come good for a dive despite a strong wind on Saturday evening. Brian Lynch had relinquished his dive captaincy saying: "It's no good - the dive has been cancelled!"

This did not impress Paul and I who had been playing golf on Saturday at Flinders overlooking a choppy sea with little or no swell. Nine times out of ten a north-easterly that blows all night blows itself out by midday the next day and this was to be no exception.

Two boats plus Milton, Karl, Johnny, Paul, George and myself left Sorrento ramp at 11.00am with a slight to choppy sea intending to dive the Portsea Hole. On arrival though, the wind had dropped right off so we headed for the Eliza Ramsden as slack water flood was not until 1.09. No problems hooking in and one could see down the anchor rope a good thirty feet - ensuring us good visibility and an enjoyable dive. While "deckie" George controlled proceedings up above the five of us spent almost forty minutes doing the usual wander around inside followed by the lap of honour before unhooking the picks and surfacing.

Earlier we'd noticed a group of boats about a kilometer or so further inside the bay - so off we went to investigate. Sure enough a group of divers were on the elusive Gorangi which we'd been searching for for quite a while. As Karl and I still had 700 p.s.i. left and the tide looked pretty slack, over we went to investigate. Ten minutes was enough time to have a quick glance at the remains of this comparatively small wreck and to see that it obviously has not yet been completely stripped of brass fittings, etc. - although a large proportion lies covered in sand at about 50 feet depth. Proof of this was the ease at which I undid a nut from a protruding brass fitting by hand!

It's worth repeating that future attempts at this location could be marred by shipping traffic on the day - on completion of our dive the "Iron Monarch" passed 100 metres south of our location.

TONY TIPPING

A POTTY DIVE - 30TH APRIL - SORRENTO

The eight o'clock start didn't deter eight sturdy divers. Everyone was assembled at 7.55am and two boat loads underway by 8.30 despite dubious weather assessments from our Dive Captain - John Goulding.

The trip to the proposed dive site - George Roper/Holyhead - was enlivened by a melodious solo from Brian and self convincing mutterings from John re the Heads region such as :-
John: "Its flat as a tack"

"A millpond."

qualified by Brian: "You mean a very bumpy millpond."

Due to large swells a channel run was undertaken from Queenscliff to Pt. Lonsdale, with the possibility of finding what turned out to be elusive cave entries. The marine life here didn't inspire any great attention although large kelp kept turning up in the divers path created a luna park type progression. Some of us then tried another channel run, this time past the Quarantine station in the hope of repeating the good luck of last weeks dive. Success!!

The proud divers (Tony and John) surfaced with that ever useful china creation - the potty - (I only wish they had found it earlier) a superb specimen with delicate paintings and various tubificids. This prize was only surmounted by the enormous urn which wasn't accessible. (That's to keep you interested next time boys.)

The Tipping-leaky-tap syndrome must be contagious, 'cause 3 divers had to pollute the bay to achieve personal comfort. The best exhibition award is taken out by Neil - he was bashful enough to turn his back to the boating company but turned not a hair at displaying all to the people sitting on the shore at the Quarantine Station not 50 yards away.

For those ardent bottle collectors the days activities was complete by a dive around the Portsea pier. A few items were collected but I think the marine life here offered more interest. I was somewhat alarmed at being attacked by a scallop, so didn't try to disturb any more of these bright orange creatures. We then wended our way back to Sorrento.

For some this was not the end of the days activities, for muscle power was needed at Bazza's new plot to raise a steel beam, and

raise a few tinnies. (I might add Bazza had given us up for lost.)
In all a good event.

CAROL CROXFORD

PROVISIONAL REPORT ON 1976 AUSTRALIAN DIVING DEATHS (Cont'd.)

Hose air supply diving (also called hookah or surface air supply) provided one tragic but very significant case. Those immediately involved were the unfortunate victims of a series of decisions made by others not present, in times long past, that had had set up an unrecognised fail-fatal situation. They merely made the final mistakes that completed the scenario.

Case H 1/76 This experienced and well trained diver was working with others from a regular dive boat attending to moorings. Only one diver was underwater at any time. The air was supplied from a double bank of 150cu ft cylinders, two rows of five, kept protected (i.e. hidden) at the stern by a wooden cover. There were two lines from this bank, one being coiled on the deck and the other attached to the diver's harness for present use. A mouth-held demand valve was being used in connection with this hose supply and the diver wore a mask covering eyes and nose only. The water depth was 70 ft and a total dive time of 30 minutes was allotted each diver in turn, this allowing a generous safety margin for hard work component. The dive pattern was descent, attach lifting cables ascend while lifting in progress and descent again for next attaching task till time was expired. Only one diver was underwater at any time. The man whose dive preceeded that of the victim noticed that the gauge indicated that the in-use cylinder was low so changed the attachment to a full cylinder. This change-over was not the specific responsibility of any designated person apparently. The victim entered the water and dived to the same pattern as all the others, making two surface excursions as required by the above plan. No variation in his actions from perfect normality was noted. When his time totalled 28 minutes he was given the recall signal by line, this being after 8-10 minutes in his third submergence of the dive. When he failed to respond to even a second signal, the absence of ascending bubbles was noted, the standby diver was immediately sent down to investigate. He found the victim lying on the harbour bottom minus his mouthpiece and unconscious. He was raised as rapidly as

possible and resuscitation started using an Oxy-viva and ECC on the dive boat. Although there were no definite signs of life attempts continued and the set's oxygen supply became exhausted so it became necessary to change to the large cylinder of oxygen that was aboard for just such an eventuality. It was now discovered that the oxygen cylinder was already coupled up to a hose, the diver's supply hose. Though resuscitation was continued during the trip to shore and onwards to a major hospital, it was unavailing. Autopsy showed that death resulted from drowning, this following unconsciousness from breathing oxygen during work at 70 ft depth.

The most immediate error in the chain of events was the connection of the incorrect gas supply to the diver's equipment. This occurred easily because only the cylinder valve was visible, the colour coded shoulder being hidden behind protective flooring. The only precaution taken against this type of mistake was the general knowledge among divers who were likely to dive from the boat that the oxygen bottle was always the bottom left one in the rack of the ten 150 cu ft cylinders. Naturally the reliance on traditional practices was immediately changed to a fail-safe method in that the oxygen cylinder was separated from the air cylinders from this time. Nevertheless the events could never have occurred had it not been possible to connect up the hose incorrectly. Hospital anesthetic fatalities have amply demonstrated the imperative necessity for different thread sizes for each type of gas if machines are not to be wrongly connected up on occasions. Nitrogen and Helium have elsewhere, it is believed, been supplied to divers with similarly fatal outcome. There are other (fire) dangers, too if oxygen under pressure passes through incorrect fittings. Attention could well be given to this matter before a similar misadventure occurs in some other diving group. It is to be noted that this tragedy illustrated that it is unwise to assume that any procedure is safe merely because no accident has yet occurred. Only frequent positive reassessment of current diving practices will keep unsafe practices at bay.

Taken from Project Stickybeak by Dr. D. Walker

REPORT ON EXCAVATION, WRAPPING, LIFTING AND TRANSPORTATION TO
LAUNCESTON OF ANCHOR AND CANNON OF SHIP "SYDNEY COVE"

Introduction:

One of the aims of the April 1978 trip to Preservation Island was the raising of two anchors, stocks and the cannon found at the "Sydney Cove" wreck area during October 1977 and their subsequent transport to Launceston for treatment and preservation. It was, however, a decision which all concerned knew might need modifying on site during the trip as controlled parameters changed. This was to be the case from the beginning as, because of bad weather, it became uncertain whether the transport vessel would be available to move the items to Launceston. As a result, work could not progress until the position on transport became clear, which was on 2/5/78. At this stage, it was decided to lift anchor (2) first.

Uncovering the anchor(2):

2/5/78

Work commenced at 11am with David Carroll clearing sand from the anchor and depositing it downcurrent to the east of the wreck site. The first stage was to move the protective overburden of sand deposited on the anchor during October 1977. This was finished at 11.30am, by which time the anchor was fully exposed, being supported at the ring and by anchor (1) and resting upon unknown foundations under the flukes.

From here on, excavation work had to be done much more cautiously and slowly, as it was all new ground and possibly contained fragile and delicate artifacts. This was shown to be so and rope, barrel stoves, barrel hoops, barrel tops, pieces of gin bottle and shoes were found. These were recorded and subsequently reburied.

It was found that the western fluke was resting upon concretions of barrel hoops, sand, rope and dunnage, and the easternmost fluke upon a plank. The plank was sawn through on each side of the fluke and, upon examination of the concretion at the western fluke support, it was seen that a weak point existed at one spot where a rotten piece of dunnage separated the concretion.

Wrapping & Separation:

At this stage, diver Peter Alexander chipped around the concretion joining anchors (1) and (2) while David Carroll separated the

wooden stock from the shaft. After this the anchor was completely wrapped in clear polyvinyl chloride plastic sheeting, except for at its support points, and lashed with baling twine. This was to help prevent the item drying out on lifting.

During the excavation, the muzzle of a second cannon, larger than the one found during October 1977, was uncovered to the north of the ring on anchor (2). Simultaneously with the excavation, the anchor was triangulated so that its position relative to the ship was firmly established for records.

Time in water: 5 hours.

Lifting of anchor:

5/78
Diving commenced at 11.15am with Graham Henderson, Ken Atherton and Ken Trebilco tying 25cm wide rolls of polyester carpet underlay around all possible surfaces of the anchor as a protective buffer against the ropes and other objects whilst lifting and in transit. Next, 44 gallon drums and 12mm nylon rope lengths were submerged and transferred to the site. At this stage, David Carroll entered the water and plastic stop-cocks were added to the vent holes in the drums, the larger holes being left open.

It was intended to use four drums lashed horizontally to the main shaft with the larger holes at the lowest position and the vent cocks uppermost, while two more 44 gallon drums were to be used at the fluke end of the anchor. The latter two were to be tied so that they would float vertically with both vent and filling hole uppermost. They had vent-cocks added but the larger holes were plugged with bungs. At their bases, holes had been punched through the sides and bottom and slings of 3mm fencing wire were made up and padded with rags to protect the slinging ropes.

The drums were lashed, tied and air added progressively to give a lifting system. Unfortunately, at this stage there was a very heavy ground swell present at the bottom making conditions very hazardous as the surge tossed both divers and drums around, threatening crushed hands or worse and also the risk of damaging the anchor as the heavy steel drums crashed around.

The final straw was when drum (3) escaped from its lashings and being half full of air, shot to the surface out of control. Obviously, also, others on the shaft were on the verge of escaping so the air was released from all drums and the lifting was

postponed until less hazardous weather conditions prevailed. All drums were removed from the anchor and tied to a star picket about 8 metres to the S-W of the anchor. Diving ceased at 1.30pm.

4/5/78

At 8.45am, in almost dead-calm conditions, diving commenced and the drums were taken from the star picket and relocated and tied as on the previous day, but with a few changes. The lashings on the horizontal drums were changed to that shown and three 15 gallon drums were added. Air was progressively added to each drum until the anchor lifted cleanly from the bottom. Because of a prevailing current on the site, the drums and anchor commenced drifting to the south-east, and after allowing the arrangement to get well clear of the wreck, air was released from the drums to settle the anchor on a flat, grassy bottom in about 6 metres of water. The anchor was buoyed and the drums released, refloated and towed back to the wreck site at 11am. (To be continued)

DAVE CARROLL

TIP'S TIT-BITS

There we were off Quarantine in 60 ft. of water on 13th April doing a Channel Run when I noticed Johnny G grimacing and doubled up hanging on to a broken down toilet with an "out of order" sign slung over it. However, when I passed across a nearby jerry-pot the expression on his face turned to a sign of relief! Maybe he's still trying to correct that Easter curry recipe!

Congratulations to Neil Garland on winning the inaugural VSAG Golf Tournament, despite the fact that Jay Cody started hot favourite for the event. Until this year Jay had confidently defied the hazards and bunkers at Eden and Vincentia (Jervis Bay). A cool and calm Trish Cody spoke of her husband's previous success against VSAG and Bass Strait opposition: "My husband's only quirk is to insist that I kiss his balls immediately prior to teeing off." - One must presume she was referring to his golf balls.

7th May probably provided the best diving conditions in Victoria so far this year - unfortunately there was nothing scheduled on the dive calendar so Paully, Lesley, Fred and your reporter

enjoyed 60 minutes of 50 foot + visibility roaming around the oaves and drop-offs between Razorback Road and the Quarry out the back of Flinders. This must be about the best place close to Melbourne for colour photography, as well as having the chance to pick up a feed of cray or abs.

As we all know Paul Sier and Dave Moore are now proud dads. Tip's Tit-Bits sought interviews from both only hours after each birth. Paul was absolutely elated about a certain part of his son's anatomy the remainder of the interview being censored. Dave refused to comment on young Darren's arrival when interviewed - he was too busy chatting up the Italian waitress at Toto's Pizza House!

Sunday 21st May, with 30 foot visibility on the Ramsden and even better on the Goorangi, flat seas, slack water flood and wind less than 2 knots when we dived; conditions not good enough for the Dive Captain to come along? In a clandestine move TTB had sent out a helicopter to hover above Madison Avenue North Dandenong to investigate. It followed the "athletic Lynchy" along Dandenong Road to St.Kilda, four times around Albert Park Lake and back to Madison Ave! Good luck in next years Fun Run, Lynchv, I guess the conditions were perfect for running, too!

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

The nineteen sixties and seventies have brought us many developments and, even though there has been great advances in mechanisation there has also been a vast increase in opportunities for employment. I couldn't help but notice in the T.V. documentaries about Sir Robert Menzies, the apparent ease and freedom with which he was able to travel about and mingle with the peoples of the world. Not a single policeman or bulging coated security man in sight. Yet at his funeral, the world's dignitaries were afforded the greatest measures of security that Australia has seen.

The body guard business, once only used by famous pop singers and film stars is now a thriving and prosperous industry and one in which the labour content is very high. Yet even mechanisation is creeping in to this field.....

THE SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION
OF VICTORIA

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1978

TUDOR COURT

141 KOOYONG ROAD

CAULFIELD

7.45 PM

\$16.00 HEAD - ALL INCLUSIVE

TICKETS ON SALE JUNE MEETING

Tickets available from -

Julie Okle

John Goulding Tel. 25-2883 Priv.
347-7322 Bus.

Peter Oakley Tel. 509-4555 Priv.

The S.D.F. Dinner Dance will be a great opportunity to enjoy a fine night out with fellow members and friends and members from all other S.D.F. clubs. Arrangements are planned to make this occasion bigger and better than last years, so -

COME ALONG AND SUPPORT DIVING - WITHOUT GETTING

WET

On the morning of the 20th May 2 passing policemen noticed a strange looking box with wires protruding sitting on the steps of our beloved Celtic Club. So they called in the army, who called in the bomb squad, who ordered half of Melbourne evacuated, whilst this suspicious looking tool of terrorism held ransom over the city. A mechanical bomb destructor unit was called in and under remote control was able to move the object away from the Club and fire a 12 gauge shotgun blast into it. Result The Eagle Signal company lost one box of traffic light control fuses!! Maybe that's not such a bad thing after all. There's a lot of irrate motorists who would like to see the mechanical shotgun toting destructor shoot out every traffic light in Melbourne.

Whilst on the subject of shotguns, there was nothing about the distant marriages of members Oakley, Sier and Moore. Just about when we had almost given up hope for a second generation of V.S.A.G. divers, Clara, Rosemary and Pat gave birth to fine healthy children. At the time of writing the only name to hand is for young Master Moore who will be known as Darren Adam. The initials D.A.M. may have been Dave's first reaction, when learning that he hadn't sired twins and been able to claim the insurance.

As was expected the V.S.A.G. members proved to be better golfers than the Bass Strait crew. In fairness to Bass Strait, they did win the prize for the best dressed golfer and for the highest score. They also took out the award for the best shot of the day - a 30 metre putt straight into the hole! Neil Garland turned in an excellent score to win the first prize and Maree James took off the ladies trophy.

Jay and Trish Cody's home was the venue for the after match bar-b-que and Jay's fine style was only let down when he served up Trish's snags on a piece of newspaper. The snags were burnt too!!

On Sunday 21st May the cancelled Pinnacles dive was re-located to the Portsea area, and in first class conditions we dived the Eliza Ramsden. This must be one of the most-often dived sites which this club has been to but every time we go there, the Ramsden is a little bit different. Now the bow section inside the wreck is opened up by two large tunnels enabling new territory to be explored. The divers on this day were favoured with such excellent conditions and an unusually long slack water that a second dive was made on the Goorangi. A flotilla of dive boats were anchored there which allowed us to moor on the wreck and at long last obtain

some bearings as to where she lies. We still wait for the day to search for the Australia, but our day will come so don't miss out. Recent visitor to the club Phil Jefferson is unfortunately the subject of bureacracy. Phil has an English made 82 cubic foot steel tank which he purchased overseas but cannot have it filled or tested in Australia. The steel tank manufacturers have lost considerable market share to the aluminium tank over recent years and as yet have not tried to market their 'big tank' out here. Whilst Phil is conducting a one man battle to have the English standards recognised so he can get his tank tested, he is without a tank. Anyone who will lend Phil a tank or sell him one should phone him on 25-2562.

The V.S.A.G. snow skiing weekend this year will be at Mt. Hotham on the last weekend in July. Jay Cody is the organiser and if you haven't paid your money by now you maybe too late. So if you want to go, ring Jay now on 846-1313.

The winter diving months produce some incredibly still days so don't be daunted by gusty winds around Melbourne and overcast days. Follow the dive calendar, phone the dive captain and go winter diving for some exhilarating experiences.

B. INIT