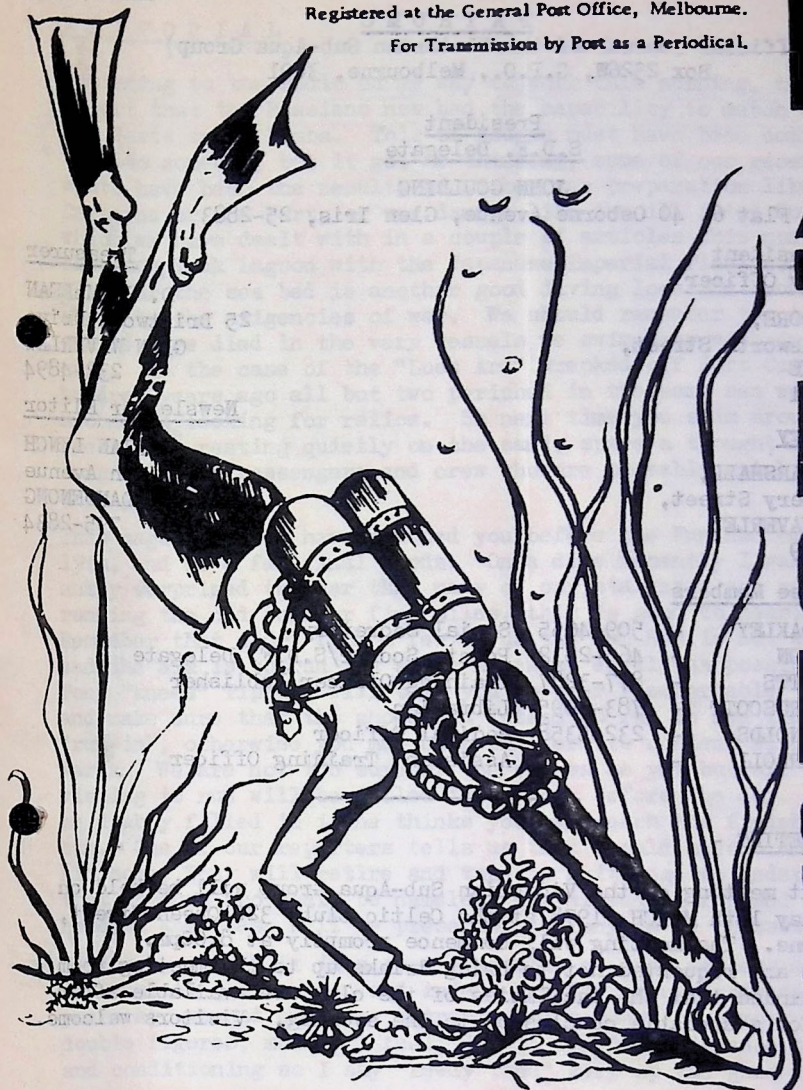


MAR 21 78 3c.

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

# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOM'S

(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 15th MARCH, 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.

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

EDITORIAL

Listening to the radio on my way to work this morning, there was a report that the Russians now had the capability to match any of the Wests super bombs. This of course must have been comforting news to someone, but it got me thinking, some of our recent diving spots have been the results of either war preparation like the Cerberus or the Fort, or war damage like the ill fated Goorangi which we have dealt with in a couple of articles this month. The fabulous Truk Lagoon with the Japanese Imperial Fleet scattered all over the sea bed is another good diving location brought about by the exigencies of war. We should remember too that many people have died in the very vessels we swim over with insolent ease. In the case of the "Loch Ard" wrecked off Port Campbell one hundred years ago all but two perished in the same sea we swim around in looking for relics. So next time you swim around a wreck, now resting quietly on the sand, spare a thought for the long vanished passengers and crew who are probably watching you anyway.

This magazine will have reached you before the Fun Run on March 19th, and so a few final words. On a dive recently I was pleasantly surprised to hear that many of our stalwarts are regularly running the odd four or five miles, this is good to hear. Remember that apart from a few of us the Fun Run is not a race, and the aim is to run the seven miles as easily as possible. Tony "knees" Tipping will tell you to wear "comfortable" clothing, and make sure that the shoes you intend to run in are indeed well "run-in", otherwise you may have blisters to contend with afterwards. We are not too sure of the course as yet but all those wishing to run will be filled in by Tony before the day. You may be doubly filled in if he thinks you may reach the finish before him. One of our reporters tells us that should anyone older beat him home, Tony will retire and take up knitting; we understand that someone who shall be nameless has already purchased a set of needles and these will be presented to Tony as he crosses the line.

Seriously though it is a good sign that so many members are contemplating entering, and indeed are fit enough to enter. Four years ago we had one lone entrant, now we must be almost into double figures, mostly I feel, due to Tony's insistence on circuits and conditioning so I say "Bewdy Tone" keep up the good work.

ED.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
MAR.11,12 13	PORT CAMPBELL	FRI. EVE.	J.Goulding 25 2883	Loch Ard
MAR. 15	GENERAL MEETING	8 PM		Celtic Club
MAR. 19	THE FUN RUN followed by a dive or ski Half Moon Bay		T.Tipping 24 7133 20 6948	
EASTER MAR.24,25 26,27	WILSONS PROM.		C.Marshall 277 1679	
APR. 2	TUBE TRIP		P.Reynolds 232 5358	Time and location to be advised
APR. 9	FLINDERS	10AM	M.Synon 465 2812	
APR. 16	SORRENTO Boat Ramp	8.30 AM	J.Cody 846 1313	Sierra Nevada
APR. 19	GENERAL MEETING	8 PM		Celtic Club
APR. 23	SORRENTO	10AM	B.Lynch 795 2834	Snapper Reef Goorangi
APR. 30	SORRENTO	10AM	J.Goulding 25 2883	George Roper Holyhead

COMMITTEE NEWS

1. It was decided to fill the vacancy on the committee. Anyone wishing to nominate for the position, please contact the Secretary prior to the March General Meeting.
2. A clarification was made regarding the hiring of Club equipment as follows:-

Club members are required to pay a deposit for equipment but are not subject to hire fees. Non-members who require club equipment must hire this equipment through a member, who will be responsible for same, and who must notify the property officer of details of the intended hirer.

All equipment must be returned clean promptly after use. Deposit fees for members and non members are:-

\$20 for any equipment including Tank and Reg.

\$10 for any other equipment not including tank and regulator.

Hiring Fees for non members only -

\$2.50 per day; \$5.00 per weekend; \$10.00 per week.

3. Training. The committee decided not to start any training courses in the immediate future.

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#### FOR SALE

##### INFLATABLE BOAT

14½' METZELER 'ELEFANT' WITH 25HP JOHNSON, TRAILER WITH WINCH AND ALL ACCESSORIES. AS NEW CONDITION. REPLACEMENT VALUE \$3,500. SELL \$2,000. PHONE 787-4207

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#### THE LAST REFUGE OF JANUARY, 1978

While away at the Prom on the long weekend, some of us said we'd do it all again!!!!, and.....

Johnny G: slept thru the wrecking of Bill Boat,

Tony T: talked non stop and starred at cricket and any other form of strenuous pursuit.

Bazza: added a few more grey hairs and stayed in the bush to keep off the grass,

Pete Oakley: refused to believe it was all happening, and also cooked the best meal of the weekend.

Jay Cody: got abused for organising the whole affair,

Peter Smith: kept his pants dry until about 2 steps off the Mirrabooka and then got soaked,....also played nurse to Leo. He should get a medal for bravery, as he also drove down with Carl.

Dave Hurle: fell out of Bill Boat at full speed...15 times.

Mike Bennett: took a dive while playing cricket and broke his leg again. Only hurts when he sees Tipping and ice.

Alan Coy: Can't count up to 80 dozen.

John Smibert: was one of the few idiots to dive. Also drank too much on the rare occasions he was awake.

Leo Canteri: Talked too much and did a very good Foster's Flop for a finale.

Dave Moore: set some sort of record by having the Yellow Peril only break down about 10 times.

Paul Sier: demanded a refund due to lack of animals and gashing himself a lot

Julie Okle: did a great job as Den Mother

Wendy Mason: went out 1st ball at cricket, and also helped out when Paul gashed himself.

Fred Ferranti: ) were newcomers and don't really believe the VSAG.

Neal Garland: ) They also went diving and falling out of boats.

Carl Jironc: did a great job as a sea-going St. Bernard, and spent the rest of the time being Carl!!!

Milton Robinson & Robyn: piked early and missed all the good bits, as did everyone else.

Justin Liddy: wrote this rubbish and so won't say any more.

Cindy Tilbrook: will hit me if anything is said about her and a bucket.

Seriously though, the only thing wrong with the weekend was the weather, and rough seas, the wind, the rain, not enough Fosters, no sign of Refuge Cove, nowhere to keep dry, the weather, we lost the cricket, the weather, Mike Bennett breaking his leg a few times, Dave Hurtle getting cramp, Paul gashing himself, the weather, the boats full of water, the tents leaking, we all got wet and just a bit Molly the Monk, and we'll probably all go again next year---- probably. After all, what would Australia Day weekend be without the Mirrabooka and Captain Reg?

JUSTIN LIDDY

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SLACK WATER - 19TH FEBRUARY

It was about time poor old "Lil Ab" stopped taking in gallons of water every time it got wet during the Coff's Harbour-Jervis Bay venture so I finally got around to plugging the hole and glassing the keel on the Saturday. Just as well because Bazza had 17

divers booked, and only three boats by 10pm Saturday night!

At 9.30am Sorrento ramp had plenty of divers, three boats and a message that Mr. Moore had slept in so 12 of us headed out in Rob's Haines, Milton's "Surf-boat" and the "aforesaid above mentioned". After checking conditions outside Lonsdale Bazza decided it was a bit too swelly to do the Holyhead so we headed back to Snapper Reef to try and find the Goorangi. Lynchy and Karl dropped down the anchor to find nothing but bits and pieces of rock and sponges so it was up and over to the Ramsden where a flotella of small craft were already booked in.

No one wasted much time going in because the tide had already begun to turn. I won't bore you with details about this dive because its been flogged to death so many times before - standing room only as there would have been 30 divers in and around it - just as well we had 50 foot visibility to help sort out the traffic jams!

About an hour later we decided on a channel run from back the other side of the reef we were originally looking for down to the heads side of the Ramsden. Trevor West and I went very close to what we believe may be the Goorangi - a large flat platform structure protruding about four feet up from the sandy side and dropping sharply away the other side. It was in 60-70 feet and was surrounded by various schools of fish - unfortunately we were moving too quickly to stop and get markings so we stayed down along with Smibes and Milton on the hookah until we ran out of rope (and air) at about 100 feet!

Upon surfacing we were surprised to see Mr. Moore and the "Italian Job" had finally arrived (about 4 hours late) allowing Leo, Wendy, Paul and Fred a chance to get wet and lose an anchor!

TONY TIPPING

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### GOORANGI

The Goorangi was a 223 ton minesweeper trawler. She sank after a collision with the troop carrier Duntroon on the evening of the 20th November at 8.37pm. The little vessel sank immediately, taking her five officers and nineteen ratings to a watery grave with her.

The Captain of the Duntroon Captain I.L. Lloyd, had held a pilotage exemption certificate for the Bay since 1907, and was thoroughly familiar with the navigation hazards of Port Phillip. He had been watching two small white lights away to starboard from about 5.30pm, until the collision, thinking that they belonged to a ship he was about to overtake. It was not until a red light showed on this vessel that he realised that the Goorangi was about to cross his bows. He gave the order "hard aport" and rang for full speed astern. It appeared to him that the trawler had changed course and only then had revealed her port light to him, and was now only a few hundred feet distant. A collision was inevitable. Assisted by a 5 knot ebb tide, Duntroon carved into Goorangi, at some 17.5 knots, cutting her completely in two.

When the little vessel sank, the cries of the men struggling against the fierce current were plainly heard by those on Duntroon, which immediately hove to, and at the same time giving three blasts on her whistle. Rockets were set off and the Queenscliff shipwreck alarm bell tolled out its urgent message; unfortunately once launched the Queenscliff lifeboat had grounded on a sandbar and lost a precious thirty minutes getting away.

Despite an extensive search none of the Goorangi men was ever seen again. It was midnight before the twin searchlights of the Queenscliff lifeboat picked out Goorangi's two masts standing above the water, still with an unbroken masthead light.

Dawn revealed the minesweeper standing upright in the centre of the mile-wide shipping channel, midway between the Queenscliff pier and the Quarantine Station, with only the tops of her masts showing. Little wreckage was found.

It was later revealed that the Goorangi had been anchored off Queenscliff, but a fierce southerly made her anchorage hazardous, so it was decided to move across the Bay and seek shelter in the lee of the land at Portsea. Halfway across, almost at the junction of the South and west channels, she found a permanent anchorage on the floor of the Bay.

B. LYNCH



TIPS TIT-BITS

The Christmas trips to Coff's Harbour and Eden are past tense now but the golf teams are really getting into the swing of things. Most of the keen players pack their golf clubs on all club dives and Johnny Goulding was even overheard cursing the 50 foot visibility at the recent Ramsden dive - thought he might have broken 50 at Sorrento Downs for nine holes!

Never mind you'll get a game Johnny - there's an A, B, and C team and Dave Moore even trying to organise a Z team!

It was surprising to see such a show of hands at the February meeting for the Fun Run 78 - reckon we'll get a good dozen starters; yes starters, not necessarily finishers! Lynchy and Bazza are in for some pretty mean competition from the likes of Ken, Trevor (short hair to cut down wind resistance and all) and Sharron complete with cricket boots and creams! For all the other competitors don't forget to fill out the form in Monday's or Wednesday's Age and train at least 9 miles per week (i.e. 3 x 3) plus a few stretching exercises afterwards.

Rob Adamsons back into diving - good to see it, Rob and keep it up we need your boat! He might even turn out regularly now Cheryl's given him a decent wet-suit! Looks like you've been hooked, Rob - no wonder you've given up fishing!

For a club who must boast 10 underwater photographers the slide night after the February meeting copped its share of rubbishing - admittedly the slides shown by Paul, Dave and myself were nothing marvellous but how about some of the others putting theirs on for a change - even if they're shockers fellas, you still get your extra 10 points!

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

Case SC 5/76 Aged 24 and armed with one year's diving experience and a C-card obtained after a course, this diver was on a boat dive with fellow club members. The sea and weather conditions were good, underwater visibility excellent. All the divers were certificated and were checked as to their equipment and buddy pairing before being allowed to enter the water. As the boat owner accurately summed it up, "I check because I am the one who has to

fish them out later." He remained in the boat and was a very efficient "surface cover" as events showed. The victim and buddy were not the first to enter the water. They kept close together during descent down the sloping seafloor and eventually reached 100 ft., here meeting by chance a pair who had entered the water before them. One of this pair realised that he was low on air so they made an orderly ascent. Suddenly the buddy realised that she was alone, her companion no longer visible. She therefore returned to the anchor line, expecting to find the buddy there or already surfaced and waiting at the boat. She ascended alone to find that the line had been buoyed, the boat was gone and that the other pair of divers at the float had not seen the missing diver.

The man left in the boat reported that he had seen a diver surface about 150m away and call several times for help, so he had buoyed the anchor and proceeded immediately to the spot. Unfortunately no trace of any diver could be seen so he returned and collected all the dive party, checked that one was indeed missing, and returned to institute an underwater search in the area of sighting. Other divers joined in and ultimately the body was discovered in 40 ft. of water in the expected area. The weight belt was still in position and the CO<sup>2</sup> type vest was not inflated. As more than one hour had elapsed there was no point in resuscitation attempts. Subsequent investigation showed that the tank still contained 900 psi air and that all the quick-releases functioned correctly. The victim had spoken a short time previously to a friend about a free-flow trouble with the regulator but had not mentioned this at the dive shop when obtaining air for this dive so it was presumably an instant problem. Testing showed that there was a mild problem with water entering the mouthpiece but this was not to a degree likely to trouble a trained diver. However the lifejacket's CO<sup>2</sup> cylinder spontaneously fired after the vest had been washed and put aside for later examination by the police. It was thought likely that the firing pin had dented but not fully pierced the seal during the incident and the perforation became completed as a result of later handling.

There was no known reason for the victim to make a sudden ascent without warning the buddy first, for visibility was good and air was still adequate. Possibly a shark was seen or a malfunction of the demand valve occurred. As the victim shouted several times after reaching the surface and the autopsy showed no signs of

pulmonary barotrauma, only drowning changes being described, air embolism cannot be readily suggested. It is possible that after a successful 100 ft. ascent there was some surface buoyancy inadequacy, the vest failed to inflate and water was inhaled before thought could be given to releasing the weight belt.

Taken from Project Stickybeak by Dr. D. Walker

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### FLOTSAM & JETSAM

I recall with happy memories reading last year's March edition of Fathoms and in particular the adventures of two worthy members at Refuge Cove. I speak of course of "Wrecks Hynon" and "Lion Pinch" whose story was most aptly related by one calling himself Ben Gunn.

Alas poor Ben, your talents were missed on this year's trip on the good ship "Mirrabooka". And where were "Wrecks" and "Lion" and little "Paulty"? not to mention the fate that has befallen our Clara!

For those who missed our annual pilgrimage to Refuge Cove, (which by the way, was everyone) your wisdom in choosing to stay at home is admired. But you may never experience the unleashed savagery of a Wilsons Prom storm as did those who had departed from Pt. Franklin and Port Welshpool on that long weekend in January.

On a brighter note, one member was heard to say that in the 2 trips he had made to this part of the coast he was able to dive on 50% of the time. Next year is really going to be a tie breaker.

Not all was lost on that weekend. We did manage to catch a glimpse of Mike Bennett bowling before being forced to retire with multiple bruises, sprains and twists. Karl Jironc showed us a new method of "sleeping like a log". Pete Oakley and Leo Canteri can do wonders to 20 pounds of snags and 6 tins of tomato soup. Too bad it made Leo a little off-colour the next afternoon!!

Although the weekend was marred with bad luck it was certainly an experience, and as Dave Carroll used to say "You can't get enough experiences".

It seemed that the bad weather was to stay with us for a while. Our scheduled trip to Port Campbell in the beginning of February

had to be cancelled owing to the weather, and the alternative dive sites, Flinders or Sorrento were also wiped out. Nevertheless we hear that a few disappointed divers played a round of golf at Sorrento Downs instead. Seems a few of the lads and lassies are getting in some practice before Jay Cody's planned Golf Day.

Eventually the bad weather was to break and Sunday 19th February was a beauty. We had planned to dive a reef near the Eliza Ramsden but after some difficulty in trying to locate the mysterious reef, settled for the good old 'Liza. Even on this dive we still had some members who had not dived her before. So for them it was a great experience to view this magnificent-looking wreck. The scene was as busy as the Bourke Street Mall. We had 12 divers on the wreck and 3 boats, but in all there must have been 8-10 boats and about 30 divers. It was a good thing my buddy was wearing a hard hat and lead boots, otherwise I might have paired off with a dreaded "FOWIE".

Some years ago the 72 cubic foot aluminium tank was released on the diving market with the advantage that it had a higher working pressure than the good old steel tank. A couple of years later the 80 cubic foot ally tank followed and now we hear that there's an 88 cub. foot tank. Undoubtedly this has been a great aid to air gulping divers who can maintain equal submerged time to their lower consumption friends. However a word of warning. With greater air capacity tanks there is the need for closer attention to decompression times, especially on repetitive dives. And with all this development what are the steel tank people doing? Watch for the 82 cubic foot steely!

In the cold waters of Victoria the users of these larger SCUBA tanks need a pretty thick wet suit to get maximum use of their air. So having paid out \$150 for a new tank, your now up for another \$140 for a new suit plus an extra \$3.00 for two additional weights - a total of \$293 - just for 8-10 cub. feet of air. Who said air's cheap.

E-CON FUSED  
(The muddled-up economist)