

# FATHOMS

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## SAFETY IN DIVING

50c

Dec 79



# V S A G

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

F A T H O M S  
 (Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group)  
 Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001

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CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on Wednesday 19TH DECEMBER, 1979 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

Well this will be the last time in 1979 that I will bore you with my petty crusades to unite our club into a more meaningful organisation. All I wish to say is -

On behalf of the Committee I hope you will have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, not to mention a safe one for all you imbibers.

For the people going to Narooma, safe trip up there and we'll see you there. I'm signing off now, your Merry Editor, with Best for the Season, safe travel and most important, Safe Diving.

ED.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
DEC. 16	WRECK DIVE	T.B.A.	D.Henty-Wilson 497-3976	
DEC. 19	COLLINGWOOD Football Club	8 PM		General Meeting
DEC. 23	CHRISTMAS TRIP Narooma Address:-		P.Tipping 387-2027 THE VAN VILLAGE, NAROOMA PRINCES HWY, NAROOMA PHONE (044) 76-2161	
JAN. 23	COMMITTEE Meeting	8 PM	T.Tipping 80-4956	21 Abercrombie St., Deepdene
JAN.26-28	REFUGE COVE		F.Ferrante 211-0708	

COMMITTEE NEWS IN BRIEF

1. Organisation of advance party to Narooma
  2. Finalization of details re- Hungi
  3. Clarification of Over 40, medical time period
  4. Newsletter articles to be handed in by Committee Meeting at the latest, if not they shall not be published
  5. Dive Captain elected for Australia Day weekend in January - Fred Ferrante - 211-0708
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AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

The following list of people booked their place on the good ship "Mirrabooka" for the traditional long weekend orgy around the rugged coastline of Wilsons Prom. There are only 16 places available on board. So the first in with their deposit of \$10 (at December General Meeting) will ensure a place.

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Fred Ferrante   | 10. Garry Coplestone  |
| 2. Wendy Mason     | 11. Roma Waldron      |
| 3. Neil Garland    | 12. Amanda Wookey     |
| 4. John Goulding ? | 13. Pete Smith        |
| 5. Tony Tipping    | 14. Dave Henty-Wilson |
| 6. Paul Tipping    | 15. Paul Sier         |
| 7. Dave Carroll    | 16. Carl Jironc       |
| 8. Max Synon       | 17. 1st Reserve       |
| 9. Barry Truscott  | 18. 2nd Reserve       |

"REMEMBER - 1ST IN WITH DEPOSIT GETS A PLACE"

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TENNIS PARTY '79 OR "TENNISING IN THE RAIN"

The day dawned grey and overcast and as we assembled our barbeque needs a fine mist descended upon us. Undaunted, we set off hoping the sky would clear. As we neared our destination, the weather no better, we wondered what fate awaited us.

At the Balnarring Tennis Courts we were welcomed by Tony, Marg, the Moores, Bob and June +2, and the Truscotts (Sam with her early Christmas present).

A few more people arrived and we decided to begin the "tournament".

The men whose wives/girlfriends didn't play or hadn't arrived were matched with the younger generation. Couple against couple were to play, with Tony making up the rules as he went along - winners v. winners, losers v. winners, losers v. losers etc. The final result was that Tony and Marg won the tournament.

As the rain began falling harder Fred, Jon Mac, Brian and Bob decided to have a strictly sexist game. They played and we huddled under umbrellas and whatever else was handy.

At Somers was a dry house, but were we to get some rest? Oh no - first we had to earn our barbeque by running in the mile marathon.

Most of us assembled a mile away from the Somers house. Marie, Simon and I started off with a 120 sec. handicap and as we began, Simon took off like a shot. Very soon the rest of the field caught up with me and most flashed by, some faster than others. That mile seemed like 10 as I plodded along the road, but I made the finish line at last. Simon was first, closely followed by our illustrious marathonner Brian Lynch with Marg the first lady. Well done everyone who competed.

The weather was dry by this time and so were we. We cooled down and the barbeque heated up and we proceeded to have a leisurely meal with the occasional tinny. The sun even peeped out at us a few times, although a bit better timing would have been appreciated.

WENDY MASON

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### MEDICALS

As from December 1st, any person who's name appears on the list below will not be permitted to participate on any scheduled club dive. So get your medicals up to date or else you'll be the ones who'll miss out on the pleasure of club diving.

If you have a medical and your name still appears on the list below please notify the medical officer and/or the editor and also supply a photocopy of the medical for the club files.

Numerous members have medicals but there is no record on file, so could all medical holders please supply a photocopy of their certificate to the medical officer/editor.

Dave Moore	Ian Cockerell	Gordon Ryan
Paul Tipping	Leo Canteri	Peter Smith (Ace)
Barry Truscott	Alan Cutts	M. Richardson
Max Synon	Ken Callec	Roma Waldron
Neil Garland	Frank Herbert	Paul King
Pat Reynolds	Dave Hurlle	John Marshall
Andrew Benson	B. Kelly	M. Matthews
Brian Baldock	Mick Jackieu	Milton Robinson
Jay Cody	N. Knight	Peter Saunders
Max Dawson	Carey Marshall	Peter Oakley
Frank Coustley	P. Matthews	Clara Oakley
Phil Jefferson	John Noonan	Alan Whiteley
Lesley Gillies	Jenni Reynolds	
Bill Jansen	R. Koper	
Rob Adamson	John Smibert	
Trevor West	Graeme Hamilton	
Lindsay Cole		

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WANT AN OVERSEAS DIVE TRIP AT EASTER?

Black Rock Underwater Diving Group are wanting extra divers to go down to Deal Island in Bass Strait at Easter.

Reg Truscott's boat has been booked and divers will stay at accommodation on the island.

Diving around Deal Island is quite fabulous with wrecks, crays and clear water.

For further details contact -

Bob Hurst  
93-4924 (Priv.)

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TIP'S TIT-BITS

The term "Non Financial Member" has received quite an airing lately and about time too. We've only just found out that Fathoms, with, incidentally a mass circulation of 100 copies per month, (eat your heart out Rupert Murdock!) has finally exposed a list of these blatent

free loaders who are either 6 or 18 months behind in their annual subscriptions. To think that these persons have had the pleasure of perusing the likes of Fred's and Lynch's hard hitting editorials, gossip from "Flotsam & Jetsam's" world wide resources, the award winning Ferrit's Friend, and even the smutty scoops revealed by yours truly, and all for absolutely nothing! We reckon the committee is right in striking them from the mailing list publicly and we'd also like to add that if they're 18 months behind they don't get back unless they pay up two years subs.

If you read last month's Fathoms you'll know all about the policing of the clubs policy with regard to CZ18 medicals. For those living in the eastern or northern suburbs and who need a medical before the Christmas trip, get in touch with Dr. Geoff Broomhall, 364 Belmore Road, North Balwyn Tel. 857-7474, he's comparatively new to diving but has a thorough knowledge of underwater medicine.

On a more relevant note we've managed to enjoy a few good dives in the last few weeks. Firstly, a channel run along Quarantine where little Paully slayed them when he picked up two 115 year old cognac bottles. Then there was the Red Monster Hunt on 4th November, where Dave Henty-Wilson took the honours by grabbing three bugs that were actually legal size! Even Bruce Soulsby came down from Yarrowonga and proved on the Saturday that the private dives still rate No. 1 especially after Alan Currie's effort next day. (No worries, Alan, mum's the word!) And finally in November we had a ripper on the Broken Submarine out from Lonsdale where visibility has since been confirmed to be a breath-taking 120 feet (or was it metres?) Not only that but we also managed a snorkel on the Sierra Nevada and a "Junior Cray Dive" out from Cheviot Beach. Why go all the way to Yarrowonga for a feed of yabbies?

Sunday 11th November as usual was wet and miserable for - you guessed it - the VSAG Tennis Day and Handicap Mile. Congratulations must go to the organisers who amassed a net profit of \$11 for the club, to the winners of the Mixed Doubles who showed the style and panache of a couple of Wimbledon Centre Court stars in crushing the opposition, and finally to young Simon Whiteley for his performance in his first VSAG Mile. Placings with handicaps, excuses and times were:-

1st.	Simon Whiteley	120 sec.	5.02
2nd	Brian Lynch	Scratch (jetlag)	5.40
3rd	Tony Tipping	Scratch (flu)	5.42
4th	Marg Ziccone	90 sec. (the obvious)	5.45
5th	Revill Scott	30 sec. (bare feet)	5.47

.....several others.....

and last Dave Moore 120 sec. + himself still running

Just look at those first five placings - you know there's a stallion, a fillie, a gelding, a colt and just to show no after affects of Cup Fever, even a ram in there but not necessarily in that order!

Have a safe and happy Christmas and if you make it through New Years Eve at Narooma we promise plenty more scandal and rumours in the 1980's that is, if you're still on the mailing list!

### BOAT SAFETY

With the onset of the summer months we divers shall go down to the sea in boats. It is alright if we dive as a Club because as a requirement, 2 boats are needed for an open sea dive, but what of the situation such as private boat dives and boat hiring in a sense, our own boats. What is the standard equipment that should be carried in a boat? According to safety standards set by the Victorian Government a boat should carry:-

Tool kit	Anchor rope (approx. 3 times the depth you are anchored in)
Spare excess fuel	Fire extinguisher
Siphon/funnel	1 life jacket per person (not buoyancy vest)
First Aid kit	Liquid compass
Waterproofs & sun protection	Paddles/oars
Waterproof matches	1 bailer (metal)
Signal mirror	Torch
Rope to trail astern	Approx. 4 litres fresh water
2 day (smoke) flares-orange	3 metres chain between anchor and rope (spring effect)
2 night flares-red	
1 anchor appropriate to bottom terrain	

\* Boats without these may be stopped and not allowed to proceed to sea.

With the above information a boat operator must also know the rules

and regulations in regard to sea-faring. He should know the boat, local conditions and area. Also a plan of the trip should be lodged and an E.T.A. passed on to local authorities in the area.

Some main regulations that should be kept in mind are:-

1. Anchoring in a channel is prohibited
2. Anchoring to navigation buoys is prohibited
3. Observe speed limits in restricted areas i.e. harbours - 8 knots; Code A or the Diving Flag - 5 knots from 100 metres distance
4. It is an offence to obstruct a landing place except to on/off load people and/or gear
5. It is an offence to interfere with buoys, moorings or navigation markers
6. It is an offence to shine bright lights at other boats without due cause

Some basic rules of the road at sea that should be remembered:-

1. An overtaking vessel must keep clear of the other vessel
2. If a head-on collision is imminent, both alter course to starboard
3. Give way to the right
4. Power gives way to sail except when overtaking
5. In a narrow channel keep to the right hand side
6. When both vessels are under sail - vessel with wind on left i.e. port tack gives way

Any additional information can be obtained from me.

FRED FERRANTE

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ADVERTISEMENT

Lil Ab - 15 ft. 3 in. fibreglass Caribbean Galaxy; new complete steering system; 1975 Blue band Mercury 115 h.p. solid trailer, ever reliable dive boat - a bargain at \$2,795. Tel. 80-4956 (just run in)

Anchor Wet Suit - excellent condition, double lined blue, with long-johns, fit slim to medium well endowed male with rugged features \$55. Tel. 80-4956 but HURRY - these adds sell!

The following people did not renew their membership in 1978/79 or the current year 1979/80

1978/79

Peter Attwood  
 Paul Beecher  
 Marg Phillips  
 Ian Cockerall  
 Peter Zonnenberg  
 Ron Coomber  
 Frank Derkson  
 Peter Smith (Ace)  
 Bernadette Kelly  
 Ken James  
 Mike Bennett  
 Trevor West  
 John Robinson  
 Dave Barker  
 Alan Coy  
 James Elliot

1979/80

Brian Baldock  
 Andrew Benson  
 Milton Robinson  
 Graham Hamilton  
 Carey Marshall  
 Dave Hurle  
 R. Koper  
 Ken Callee  
 Max Dawson  
 Gordon Ryan

Any member who is unfinancial as from the December General Meeting will not receive any further newsletters until he/she is financial.

CommitteeFLOTSAM & JETSAM

After a wretched first 2 months of spring, Sunday 28th October was the last chance in this miserable month to get a good dive. Alas, October was to keep its unpredictable and unpleasant weather pattern by putting on a windy overcast day.

Yet there were 9 divers at Sorrento eager to get going so a channel run off the old Quarantine Station was planned. This area of the bay floor has in the past yielded many interesting bottles and china artifacts and this day was no exception. Some quite old and interesting bottles were recovered to add to the home bottle collections, and give greater intrigue to the stories related to non diving visitors.

Back at the shore, a kid asked me, "Didja get any fish?" If only he could know - I didn't even see any fish!

Things were to look up slightly on the 4th November when we had a cray hunt off the back of Flinders. In all about 7 or 8 crays were taken and a few abalone to grace the entree dishes. On this day the weather again looked bad, but once out of Westernport Bay, past West Head we were protected from the northerly wind and enjoyed a good dive with about 20-25 foot visibility.

Sunday 18th November was one of those dreamy Melbourne days, slightly overcast but perfectly still. The rip was like a plate of jelly, and through it went 3 V.S.A.G. boats in search for underwater adventure. We found "Blue Water" at the Broken Submarine some 3 kilometres off Pt. Lonsdale.

The dive was incredible! The sub was visible from 40 feet below the surface, and horizontal visibility was quoted at between 70 to 120 feet.

Who wants to go to Truk when you have these diving conditions?

After a dive on the sub it was back to the site of "Sierra Nevada" a 3 masted iron ship wrecked near 'London Bridge' Portsea in 1900.

This location is often sanded over as a result of the heavy swells that roll in along this part of the coast, and all that was visible were parts of the bow section and anchor chain. We were content to snorkel for a while before moving west along the coast to look for crays.

Of the crays we saw all but one were smaller than legal size and were left alone.

With two dives already in this new cray season, Barry's previous reputation is very much under threat. Still, there's a long way to go.

We're pleased to welcome Garry Copplestone and Des Williams to V.S.A.G. and hope that all members will make these fellows very welcome.

In past years as the summer beach season approaches we have experienced such timely releases as Jaws, Jaws II, Orca and other horror stimulators that could keep all but the brave (or stupid) from entering the sea.

This summer could almost be an exception if it wasn't for two fishermen who are travelling the country displaying an 18 foot white pointer shark frozen in an 18,000 litre bath of alcohol. What a waste!

They claim that their purpose is to persuade people that this species is endangered of extinction and that people of Australia should have the opportunity to see "perfection of creation".

When it comes to Melbourne I'm definitely going to see it, so that I will be sure of recognizing one if we ever meet underwater. If so I might add I will be sure to remember the words of one of these shark promoters --- "Sharks don't really like eating people - oh they take a bite at us now and again but generally they spit us out --- and don't forget - humans eat more shark than shark eat humans."

To divers who have regularly seen the Pilot Ship Wyuna steaming through the Rip or in more recent times at moorings off Queenscliff its absence from the area will mark a milestone in Bay navigation. The 26 year old Wyuna has gone to Launceston where it will serve as a training ship for the Maritime College. We also hear that the fast new pilot launches that are now in service will be replaced by helicopters. When this happens one of the worlds most dangerous harbour entrances will be without water based guidance vessels, which in emergencies are able to be used for rescue service.

Things are shaping up well for the Christmas trip to Narooma. Have you paid your deposit yet? Reg Truscott's "Mirrabooka" is booked for the January long weekend and we hear that Tony has his required number for the Truk Lagoon Trip. As things are planned and as they come to pass, I think we can agree that the V.S.A.G. is a pretty good club, and despite Melbourne's weather the enthusiasm shown by many members makes this club one of the best there is.

Our Fathoms, whilst it may not have a glossy cover does an excellent job in doing what it is supposed to do - be a NEWSLETTER - and we owe considerable thanks to Alan and Glenys Cutts for the continued high standard of printing and publishing.

On behalf of all the dubious authors of Flotsam & Jetsam I wish members and their families a Happy Christmas, a good New Year and safe diving.

WILLIE DRINKALL