

JULY 79

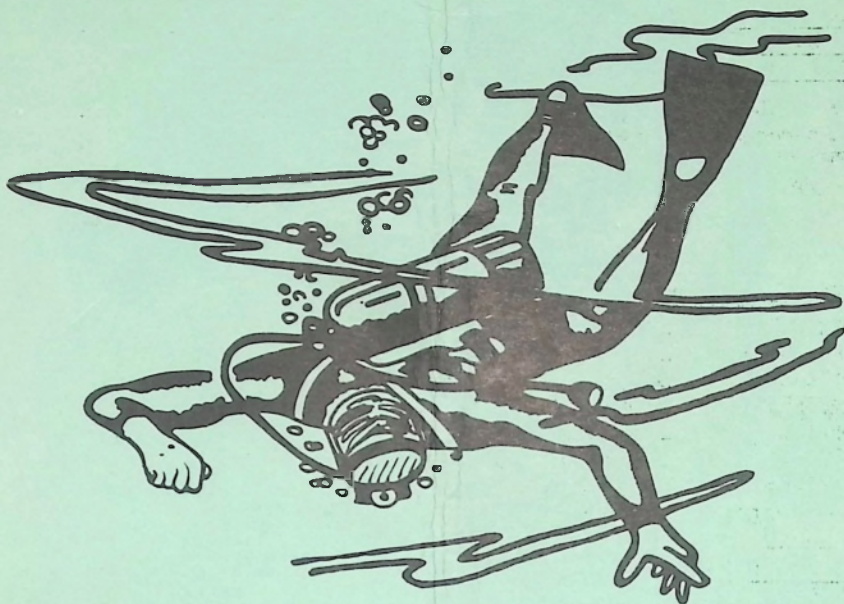
FATHOMS

Registered for posting as a publication category B
If undeliverable, return to Victorian Sub Aqua Group, Box 2526W, GPO Melbourne 3001



SAFETY IN DIVING

50c



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

President
S.D.F. Delegate

DAVE MOORE
127 Hansworth Street, Mulgrave 547-2791

Vice President
Treasurer
S.D.F. Delegate

JOHN GOULDING,
21 Abercrombie Street,
DEEPEENE
80-4956

Secretary
DAVE CARROLL

391-2211 Ext. 247

Newsletter Editor

BRIAN LYNCH
8 Madiscn Avenue
NORTH DANDENONG
795-2834

Committee Members

MAX SYNON	-	465-2812	Points Scorer
BARRY TRUSCOTT	-	783-9095	Safety Officer
PAT REYNOLDS	-	232-5358	Librarian
NEIL GARLAND	-	529-5484	Training Officer & Medical Records
FRED FERRANTE	-	211-0708	Social Secretary
PAUL TIPPING	-	387-2027	S.D.F. Delegate
BOB SCOTT	-	328-3036	
TONY TIPPING	-	80-4956	

CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on Wednesday 18TH JULY, 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

This month there is a substitute editor for the substitute editor who substituted for Brian Lynch who at last rumour was jogging to the table tennis finals in China. All we from the VSAG can say is "Good Luck Brian" and I hope they let you use your fins as ping-pong bats.

At the last committee meeting there was a discussion about the rotation of divers in a diver buddy situation. This was brought about by the fact that a few of the divers felt that they were always being paired with the same buddy, which created a sense of anticipated reaction in certain circumstances. So from now on if you feel that you are being buddied with the same person too often, advise the dive captain, who will take the appropriate action. (This was re-instated as an unwritten club policy.)

Another point which continually crops up is "MEDICALS" as divers we must have a current medical certificate which means examination every two years. From the next magazine published there will be a list of divers without current medicals and this list will continue to be printed until medicals are obtained. If any name appears for more than three months this could jeopardise the divers position on a dive, subject to the dive captain. Remember summer is not that far away.

As the fuel crisis rears its ugly head again, the problem of rising petrol prices in regard to price of getting divers and most important, boats from home to the dive location and return trip. Several suggestions were made:-

- (a) more divers pool their cars to get to dive sites and
- (b) two or three divers go with the boat captain thus sharing expenses and running costs which would not facilitate a need to raise dive costs.

This was made more relevant by a recent article in The Herald headed "On the road costs, drive up boat bills" dated 28/6.

Well once again the VSAG number 1 pill pusher threw open the doors, sorry door to his home to a very enjoyable social night, very nostalgic. I must compliment Tony on the catering service he used, Ziccone Fast Food Ltd.

There seems to be a rumour afloat that there's a lagoon of Truks up north, and that a team of our keenest divers are going to

investigate if the dreaded Fowie did originate from this mysterious location. Perhaps we could change our club motto from "Safety in Diving" to "Keep on Trukking".

ED.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
JULY 15	GRAVEYARD	9 AM	B.Lynch 795-2834 Ring 14/7	Barwon Heads Jetty
JULY 18	COLLINGWOOD Football Club	8 PM		General Meeting
JULY 22	WALL & KELP Farm	11 AM	P.Tipping 387-2027	Sorrento
JULY 25	21 Abercrombie St., Deepdene	8 PM	J.Goulding 80-4956	Committee Meeting
AUG 5	CHANNEL FORT	10 AM	P.Reynolds 232-5358	Rye
AUG 15	COLLINGWOOD Football Club	8 PM		General Meeting
AUG 19	PINNACLES	10 AM	B.Scott - Ring B.Lynch 795-2834	San Remo

COMMITTEE NEWS

Subjects discussed at the last committee meeting were:-

1. Rotation in regard to diving buddies
2. All dive captains must fill in a complete dive report as record of dive
3. Medicals - all divers must have up to date CZ-18 medicals
4. Problem of petrol cost and rises in relationship to boat running cost in diving
5. Car pooling system for travelling to dive site (fuel conservation)

6. Fenzy bottles filling capacity - up to 5000 p.s.i.
 7. Sale of enlarged, famous ship wrecks photos.
-

"MASON, THE SPY" BY MRS. DOLPHIN

Dolphin - 007!

For thousands of years, man has harnessed the energy of the ox and the horse. He has in recent times provided sophisticated training to his best friend - for rounding up sheep, catching criminals helping the blind, and even diving for submerged cray port buoys.

To what extent can animals be used to further the interests of man? For instance, should we train animals to assist us in the cause of enemy aggression with the possibility of saving our own lives, even the possibility of saving a nation?

The question becomes particularly horrifying for animal lovers when the animal is trained to perform an act which is self-destructing. An old newspaper report comes to hand, on U.S. Navy Training of dolphins to carry an explosive warhead on a snout cover and to "attack" enemy vessels blowing both the ship and dolphin to oblivion.

There has been a more recent report concerning the training of "killer dolphins" by the CIA (who else). Experiments have apparently been conducted in Vietnam to kill swimmers and divers by injecting a high pressure gas into them. The gas canisters and a hyperdermic needle are carried on the dolphin's beak. This information has been leaked as a result of two former researchers who attempted to release dolphins under training. At the trial of Marine Biologist Undergraduates, Ken LeVasseur and Steve Sipman, it was alleged that not only had dolphins been trained in Vietnam, but that they had also been sold to Latin American countries.

In Great Britain, there was speculation that killer dolphins are being used to protect U.S. nuclear submarine station at Holyloch on Scotland's West Coast. The "needle canisters" techniques has been suggested again.

LITERARY AWARD

Well finally the day of reckoning is upon those budding authors,

who have aspired to win the coveted "Jay Cody" Memorial Award for Scribbling".

Nominations for the award to date are:-

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| October '78 | 1. Flotsam & Jetsam - Miss Roma Round |
| November '78 | 2. Editorial - B. Lynch |
| | 3. Dive Leaders, a Dying Race - F.Ferrante |
| December '78 | 4. Summer at Jervis Bay - J.Goulding |
| April '79 | 5. Marlo Weekend - J.McKenzie |
| | 6. The Golf Day - The Ferrits Friend |
| | 7. The Cripps Experience - D.Carroll |
| June '79 | 8. Whisky on the Rocks - J.Goulding |

If you still have not submitted your vote yet, the final date is the July General Meeting. "So consider yourself warned".

SUBMARINE DIVE - SUNDAY 24TH JUNE

This was our first dive with Geoff Naylor out from Barwon Heads. Our choice for this our first, of a trio of dives from Lance Steven's boat, was the other submarine (as opposed to the one we had already dived) situated just outside the heads, in 125 feet of cool June Bass Strait water.

Our pre-dive checking had commenced on Saturday night, with one phone call to Barwon Heads to check whether we had a go situation or not, followed by the check calls in to the dive captain. All this went very smoothly and quickly which meant yours truly got a reasonably early night. Sunday morning with the barometer rising, and Bazza half asleep next to me I drove over the Westgate Bridge en route for Geelong and points east.

We met Geoff Naylor at the Barwon Heads jetty, and very quickly had our gear stowed aboard. It was a sunny day, with a light northerly wind, and the sea flat. We motored smoothly out across the Barwon Bar, and set off to find the sub. This arrived quite smartly and whilst our first pairs geared up, Geoff Naylor and the skipper contrived to drop the shot line right into the submarine itself. Once the shot was in position Fred attached our spare tank and regulator at the 10 foot mark, that is after Tony had decided which tank he would ultimately use; and our first two pairs were ready to go. Justin and Cindy, Neil and Dave went over the

side, and then down the shot line with the Liddy's to the fore as usual. They were to have 12 minutes on the wreck and then a 2 minute decompression stop at 10 feet. Whilst they were down our remaining 6 divers got ready, and Fred acting as standby. They were soon up, and back on the boat, and the next group got ready to go.

Up to this point things had gone nice and smoothly, apart from Tony's "O" ring problem that is. Then we did have a few setbacks. Wendy when entering the water struck the boats rail with her tank, which then proceeded to disengage itself from her back pack unbeknown to her. Sitting beside her waiting to go, and seeing this happen, I could only utter a well known oath, fall into the water and grab the tank, finally freeing it and helping Fred load Wendy and the tank back on the boat. Having done this I looked up to Justin, who pointed over my shoulder to where I supposed the buoy and Bazza were. Turning around in the water I could see nothing but empty sea, and then about a 100 yards away appearing out of a trough every now and again was the buoy. I turned back to the boat which was now fast disappearing the other way, so I had to swim for it.

Eventually I arrived, we waited a minute or two for my breath to come back, and then down the shot line, Bazza and I joined by a nylon umbilical cord. It was like going down in a lift, past the ghostly outline of the spare tank and then down, down into the basement submarine. This wreck leans to starboard in a narrow rocky cleft in the Strait floor. It has been torn apart either by the charges set off when scuttling her, or the impact caused by hitting the bottom. We set off towards the bow, passing the conning tower leaning at 45° away from us, arriving at the bow we could see away and up to our left a large shoal of sweep hovering like a white silvery cloud in a dark sky. We turned back, peering into holes along the deck as we went, unfortunately my torch was not working too well so peer was all we did. We came to a large opening just aft of the conning tower, sticking my head in I could see a large opening away to my left, so in I went towing my partner behind me. We were in a large round looking compartment, possibly the engine room, although it was empty now. The beam from my torch could only just pierce the gloom enough for us to see the sides and roof quite high above us. We swam slowly through arriving at the end we checked our watches, our 12 minutes were about up, and so we reluctantly turned and began ascending the shot line. We swam very slowly up, until we arrived at the 10 foot mark and Fred's spare tank, here we rested and wrote personal messages to Fred on his

slate of decompression tables, before finally poking our heads out above the surface.

Once on top we came upon Fred and Wendy about to have another go at getting down. So down they went and up we got onto the boat, just in time for morning tea. We got out of our gear and compared notes with the others already aboard. We all agreed that it had been an excellent dive. In the middle of this, Fred and Wendy surfaced after their dive, with poor old Wendy in the wars once more with her wet suit giving her some discomfort around the neck, and interfering with her breathing. Once we had her on board however, we had her back to normal by ripping the offending jacket off and pouring hot coffee into her. Our diagnosis of the problem was either get a new wetsuit jacket or, take up some Tipping-type jogging.

Then it was time for a quick head count, yes we still had 10, Geoff Naylor hauled up the shot line complete with shot and spare tank, and the skipper disappeared into the forward cabin to drive us back to the Barwon. We soon found out why, as parts of Bass Strait came pouring across the cabin roof, onto all of us except Neil who as the safety officer had positioned himself beneath the depth sounder recorder box, although when we looked into the thing we couldn't see much down there Neil!

We arrived back at the Barwon Heads jetty and quickly got ourselves and our gear ashore. We thanked Geoff Naylor who surprisingly enough insisted on taking us out on our next dive which is to be the 15th July, and then all headed home.

Epilogue.

These series of dives undertaken by us in this area are all deep dives. There have been a number of pre-requisites required to make sure that these dives are undertaken safely which had been met by those diving on the Sunday. However accidents can happen, and my own advice to anyone who is contemplating either these set of dives or dives conducted in this manner in the future, particularly anyone unused to these depths, is to establish a regular dive routine prior to the event, familiarise yourself thoroughly with the equipment you intend to use, and check it out beforehand. As you know we had intended to dive in the Graveyard area this set of dives, but because of the depth involved, and the extra equipment required to make this dive safe we have decided to keep this bracket of dives at around the 120 ft. mark.

I would like to thank all the divers who participated for their

co-operation and assistance before and during the dive, and look forward to their company on the next two or three.

BRIAN LYNCH

S.D.F.V. RAFFLE

All you members with SDF.V raffle books, don't forget to keep selling your tickets.

If possible bring the money and ticket butts to the July General Meeting.

If you find that you're unable to sell the tickets, don't hold on to the book - bring it back to the meeting, or call Fred Ferrante on 211-0708 (Home). All tickets must be sold by the 31st August.

MEMBERS

Please don't forget to pay your 1979/80 subscriptions to the VSAC which were due on the 30th June.

Please bring your \$20.00 to the July General Meeting or if unable to attend, post a cheque to -

V.S.A.G.
Box 2526W, G.P.O.,
Melbourne. 3001.

TIP'S TIT-BITS

As usual the last few weeks haven't seen too much diving - in fact only really the Holyhead-George Roper on June 3rd and the fabulous submarine on the 24th June under the direction of Geoff Naylor. Towards the end of his air Bazza came across a stack of plates on the Holyhead but only had time to smash them!

Once again the long weekend in June was cancelled due to high winds and heavy seas - in fact it was even too rough for the surfies down Port Campbell way - but a few club members still got together hoping for a change in the weather on the Peninsula. Unfortunately the group of 8 or so had to be content with golf at Devil Bend,

cards and booze at Somers and then on to VFL Park to witness another crushing win to the Bombers in their quest for the 1979 Premiership! Carn the fung Bombers!

Oceans 79 proved to be interesting entertainment as usual, the Friday night, anyhow, when they showed all Australian films and slides. Ben Cropp sure knows how to look after himself doesn't he - although I wonder how serious he was when he was shown to go ashore on a deserted island with 2 ladies and commented that it was every man's dream - after all he was married to both of them!

Up went the VSAG subscriptions once again by yet another \$5 - so distressed was one club member, who was planning to repair his W.C., that all he could afford was a shovel to make the garden beds around his lemon tree more accessible!

The June Nostalgia Night was enjoyed by all those forty odd who attended - there was plenty to eat and the club managed to raise \$30 profit - (something that doesn't happen too often these days, Mr. Social Secretary.) The night was to some extent marred unfortunately by the showing of a few obscene slides by Messrs. Liddy and Moore which caused other club members a certain amount of embarrassment! Maybe it was just as well Rosemary Sier stayed at home to look after young Nicholas!

Speaking of price rises it now looks as though we'll soon be paying about 30 cents a litre for petrol and don't forget with outboards there's a few cents more for the oil. However one adventurous VSAG boat owner has managed to contract Dave Carroll to help solve this problem. Now we all know Dave is an outstanding mechanical engineer - his brilliant answer to overcome this problem was that he personally would attend each days diving after a large breakfast of baked beans and spam - no doubt the resulting flatulence would even power the Queen Mary!

TRUK LAGOON: So far seven members have committed themselves for this trip - we leave Good Friday next year for 12 days, eight diving Truk (up to three dives per day including a night dive) and a couple of dives around Ponape on the way home. Anthony Newley of Always Travel will not confirm our booking until we have 10 members pay \$200 each as a deposit - could all those interested please pay their deposits as soon as possible and how about a few more names at the July meeting! It'll be a once in a lifetime chance to do it with your regular diving buddies! Total cost of trip should be

about \$1200 + some evening meals.

MEDIFACTS

Octopuses belong to the class Cephalopoda which is a group of molluscs comprising all of the octopuses, squids, cuttlefish, nautiloids and spirula.

Octopuses feed mainly on shellfish and crustaceans such as crabs and shrimps. They are well adapted to such a diet by being equipped with tentacles to seize the prey, a venom apparatus to paralyse it and horny jaws, shaped like the beak of a parrot, to tear it apart.

There are two species of blue-ringed octopus in Australia, *Hapalochlaena maculosa*, common in shallow sheltered waters of Southern Australia, and *H.lunulata*, a slightly larger but closely related tropical species. The following comments are restricted to *H.maculosa* but, except for the breeding biology, may be applied to *H.lunulata*.

Habits and Habitat - *H.maculosa* is a relatively small octopus whose spread of tentacles rarely exceeds 12cm. At rest it is rather inconspicuous, but when disturbed or angry the brown or yellowish body darkens dramatically and the dark bluish rings and markings become an iridescent blue.

Octopuses are generally non-aggressive, shy animals usually hiding under rocks, in empty sea shells, amongst seaweed or other objects that give cover. They do not float about like jelly-fish, and any comparisons with the 'sea wasp' scares of the tropics would be totally inaccurate and irresponsible. Occasionally there are reports of floating octopuses, especially during January - February; however, these animals are either dead or in very poor condition, and experiments with such animals have shown that they are unable to inflict a fatal bite on experimental animals.

The blue-ringed octopus has always been abundant in our coastal waters and recent reports of increases in octopus numbers are unjustified and can be attributed to increased public awareness due to media coverage and an increase in the numbers of people visiting local beaches and searching through rock pools. No doubt the littering of beaches with cans and bottles is providing more suitable places for the octopus to live, but it is unlikely that the availability of living space has been a limiting factor for octopus

numbers in the past. The octopus that may be found in a can or bottle could just as easily have been hiding under a rock nearby.

Life Cycle - Mature adult females produce about 150 eggs which are carried around by the female until they hatch. Of the 100 or so eggs that may hatch successfully, perhaps only a few would survive to reach the adult stage. Hatched young are benthonic in habit - they live on the sea floor and do not float about in the plankton as do some other species of octopus. The entire life cycle takes about seven months.

In captivity the females usually die soon after the eggs have hatched. Perhaps these animals only breed once in a lifetime.

Octopus Bite and Treatment - All human fatalities (three known in Australia) and near-fatalities follow the same pattern. The octopus had been provoked by being captured and was then placed on the hand or arm of the victim.

To the uninitiated the long tentacles together with their many suckers might seem to be a formidable weapon. However, humans have nothing to fear from the tentacles as they are mainly used to catch and hold the prey of the octopus. The biting apparatus, or beak, of the octopus is located in the mouth which is at the centre of the tentacles.

The actual bite is initially almost painless and may even go unnoticed. The octopus breaks the skin surface with its beak and the venomous saliva which has been released into the mouth flows into the wound made by the beak and radula (a tongue-like structure with a rasping action). It is most important to realise that the venom is in the saliva; it is not injected by any special arrangement such as fangs, and there is no venom sac. Therefore, bites under water may even go unnoticed as the venom would easily wash out of the shallow wound. In any case *H. maculosa* has a very small beak which makes a penetration of venom into a victim very difficult.

Symptoms of a bite are numbness about the face and neck and difficulty in breathing. These symptoms occur about 5 to 10 minutes after being bitten. The toxin or poison from the large salivary glands affects the nerve-muscle junctions and nerve conductivity but does not alter the function of the heart. As a result the victim is paralysed and is unable to breathe and hence death is due purely to respiratory failure. Artificial respiration is therefore the best initial treatment, and if this is followed up by expert medical assistance, the

victim should recover completely. A more detailed account of symptoms and treatment is given by Edmonds (1975).

An antivenene is difficult to produce because of the chemical nature of the venom, and would probably be impractical as the action of the venom is so rapid.

Prevention - 1. Take care when turning over rocks and in picking up apparently empty shells or cans.

2. Do not explore rock crevices with bare hands.

3. Wear shoes when exploring rock pools and when crabbing. (The weedy channels of our local crabbing beaches are a favourite haunt for the blue-ringed octopus).

4. Parents should warn children who are attracted by the bright colour of the octopus.

Summary - 1. The blue-ringed octopus *H. maculosa* is, and always has been, a very common intertidal and shallow-water animal. It will not attack unless very strongly provoked. If people leave them alone there is no danger of being bitten.

2. If someone suspects that they have been bitten by a blue-ringed octopus, they should firstly try to wash the venom from the wound. If respiratory difficulties ensue, artificial respiration should be administered. In all suspected cases expert medical help should be sought but under no circumstances should the victim be left unattended.

DOCTOR DID LITTLE (R.S.M.D.)

DATE TO REMEMBER

14TH SEPTEMBER

The S.D.F.-V. Annual Dinner is being organised this year by the
Marlin Scuba Club

14TH SEPTEMBER

The venue is Oakville Receptions - which is one of Melbourne's
newest and most with-it hot spots

14TH SEPTEMBER

14TH SEPTEMBER

14TH SEPTEMBER

As the VSAG does not intend to hold a formal dinner dance this year, we hope many members will make up a good big party at the SDF-V Dinner

14TH SEPTEMBER

Further details at July General Meeting

How many times have you heard some of the following questions, well now here are the answers.

What is the difference between a dolphin and a porpoise?

"Dolphin" and "Porpoise" are popular names for members of a family of small whales that scientists call Delphinidae. A number of rules have been proposed to define which of the Delphinidae are "dolphins" and which are "porpoises", such as: A toothed whale less than 15 feet in length is a "dolphin" if it has a beak, and a "porpoise" if it has a rounded snout. However, this definition has a number of exceptions, and ultimately most specialists agree that the two names are interchangeable in popular usage.

Like all whales, dolphins are mammals: they are warm-blooded; they breathe by means of lungs; fertilization and gestation are internal; and the females nurse their offspring. Also, like all whales, their tails spread horizontally (rather than vertically, as in the case of fish), and they breathe through a blowhole, or vent, at the top of their heads. All dolphins have teeth, and they are carnivorous - they feed on such things as fish and shrimp. The age of dolphins can be determined by an examination of their teeth; and on that basis, it appears that the average life expectancy for dolphins is 20 to 25 years.

How many species of dolphins are there?

There are about 48 species in the Delphinidae family, which includes 19 genera of salt water dolphins and 4 genera of freshwater dolphins. The largest member of the clan is the orca (*Orcinus orca*) or so-called "killer whale", which grows to lengths of 28 feet and weighs about one ton. The name "killer" whale was coined by whalers who saw packs of these dolphins attacking harpooned whales more than twice the size of the orcas. The "killers" are unable to successfully attack healthy adult large whales, however, and have never been known to attack a human without provocation.

The bottlenosed dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) grows to lengths of 9 to 12 feet. It is very common in the Atlantic Ocean and is the prototypal dolphin for the general public as its beak and rictus give this dolphin the appearance of wearing a perpetual smile. The common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), is slightly smaller than the bottlenosed, and is found in all warm and temperate seas, such as the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The common dolphin is the species the ancients were most familiar with and which they depicted in their artifacts. The common porpoise (*Phocaena phocaena*) attains lengths of 4 to 6 feet, and is found in almost all parts of the world.

by Prof. Noit All

DIVING EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

1. 1 72 cu.ft. Aluminium Tank with Backpack & boot (in test) - \$150
 2. 1 Aquarius Regulator (completely serviced) 1st & 2nd stage perfect working order - \$65
 3. 1 Seatec BC Vest - CO² bottle
- Scuba feed
- Easy oral inflation
(in excellent condition) - \$75
 4. 1 pair Healthways Scuba masterfins (opon heel fin - as new) \$20
- For the diver with everything here's a bargain -
5. 1 Trombone in good condition (N.B. has been waterproofed) \$50

All inquiries about the above equipment contact Fearless Fred A.H. 211-0708

If you have something to sell and want it advertised, make up a list and give it to Fearless, because something you don't want may be needed by someone else.

KELD HEAD: AN UNDERWATER CAVE SYSTEM

For years, Keld Head, a dark pool alongside the Ingleton-Dent road through Kingsdale, has been mysterious. Early attempts to

penetrate the cave passage leading from its south-west extremity were thwarted by the water which fills it completely.

During the last 4 years, however, Oliver Statham and Geoff Yeadon have developed cave diving techniques that have taken them far into the cave system. In July they found the underwater link between Keld Head and the Kingsdale Master Cave, and they are now on the brink of establishing a world cave diving distance record from one cave to another.

How Keld Head relinquished its secret and what mental and physical strains it imposed on its explorers, is explained here.

Geoff Yeadon was convinced he was shaking hands with a dead man. His back and hips ached with the burden of 4 heavy air cylinders, representing his life support for an arduous underwater journey to this point 3,000 feet from the entrance to Keld Head. He was now beyond the limit of his previous exploration. The hand that gripped his own belonged to Jochen Hasenmayer, a German cave diving pioneer who had joined Geoff and Oliver Statham for a week's exploration of the Ingleton cave after hearing of their remarkable long-distance dives.

Over an hour earlier, Jochen slid into the weed-infested pool and disappeared. Oliver and Geoff followed at half-hour intervals. Beyond the previous limit reached, Jochen made 4 attempts at passing various small underwater rifts before returning to one of them and forcing his way through a crack.

Twenty-five feet inside, he slid across to one of the other holes and after a further 30 feet emerged in a roomier underwater passage. He laid the rest of his diving guideline to 3,300 ft., expending the European cave diving distance record he already held, and tied the end to a boulder.

By this time, Oliver had arrived at the constriction. Wearing cylinders on his back and sides, he tried three times to pass the squeeze. On the third attempt he was in a position to continue, but he could see the line laid by Jochen pulling into the side of a passage that was only several inches high.

Oliver felt that Jochen would have enough trouble on his own account without endangering both divers. He returned and met Geoff at 2750 ft., writing a message on Geoff's slate: "3,000, small with back and side (the cylinders). No Jochen. Trouble?"

Geoff indicated he would go and look for Jochen while Oliver returned to the entrance. His air supply was nearing the allowed safety margin.

Geoff arrived at the slot. "I could see Jochen's headlight moving to and fro in the gloom as he tried one place and then another in his attempts to return. Jochen had already been stuck for 5 minutes, and the episode carried on for a further 15 minutes. I knew Jochen had set off an hour earlier, and I was preparing to hand a bottle through. He had missed the way and was trying to squeeze through a 9 inches high crack. He was 25 feet off route.

His hand caught mine, I couldn't see a thing. It was pitch black and I was convinced I was shaking hands with a dead man. I pulled the guideline in the right direction and eventually, after what seemed an age, Jochen found his way through. We returned uneventfully".

To be continued.

Submitted by - BRIAN LYNCH

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Once again the southerly busters that prevail along the shores of our fair land disrupted our plans for a long weekend at Port Campbell. However not all was lost. It did provide the opportunity for some members to take in part of the Oceans '79 Congress.

Oceans '79 like the previous Oceans Congress was truly a first class international function, and is a credit to the organisers. Without doubt Oceans places Melbourne firmly on the map as the hub of Australia's diving. Whilst we may not enjoy the best climate, or the clearest waters, I believe divers in Victoria have a keenness that is needed for them to enjoy their recreational activity and so provide the necessary spirit that is required to do that little bit extra for their sport.

However the keenness exhibited by Melbourne divers could perhaps be matched by some daring young men in Italy recently. It seems that a gang of ingenious thieves with scuba gear plunged into a lake and made their way through a city sewer network to a bank where they stole cash and jewels worth millions of dollars.

Police have issued descriptions of the bandits which read as

4 black human-like creatures with large webbed feet and a big single glass eye. - Sounds like a few of our characters in their Sunday dress.

Talking about dress, the slide night at Tippings on June 22nd brought back a few memories and provided a great opportunity for a good laugh. My favourite slide was Dave Carroll dressed as a "woman of the night" when he turned up at an "opposites" party at Liddy's a couple of years ago.

The nostalgia fashion is certainly catching. On TV we have the "Sullivans" and "This Fabulous Century" - but neither of them could come near to bringing back some of our own experiences, caught on film and most embarrassingly portrayed at the VSAG Nostalgia Night. - But oh dear, who was the drag who showed all those underwater photos - how dreary. People are so much more fun than fish.

At this stage we have completed our first dive with Geoff Naylor and it was indeed a great experience to dive the Submarine out from Barwon Heads.

The sub was one of the J Class ships built by the British Government under the World War I Emergency Programme. In their day they were the fastest diesel engined subs in the world and were intended as a counter to German U Boats. Their details were -

Displacement	1260 tons (surface)
	1820 tons (submerged)
Length	274'9"
Beam	23'6"
Draught	14'

they carried 1 four inch gun and were equipped with 6 18" torpedo tubes. Their speed was: 19 knots surface
9½ knots submerged

Naylor and his friends were probably the first to dive this sub and another close by, after a local fisherman had told them about rusty coloured crayfish and a shellfish taken in the area.

You can imagine their surprise to suddenly come across a submarine lying on the bottom of the sea.

A lot more information can be obtained from Geoff Naylor's book "My Ceiling the Waves" available at most dive shops.

Recently divers retrieved 40kg of fossilised whale and shark bones, jaw sections and teeth from another kind of graveyard. This time down

at Flinders Island where an abalone diver located masses of bone fossils. Scientists estimate their age at up to 20 million years old, however they are having trouble surveying the area because of the menacing presence of present day sharks.

In the last Fathoms we mentioned about the drilling issue on the Barrier Reef. Well the Federal Government was quick to take action on our article and have declared a 10 year moratorium on drilling certain areas of the reef.

But yet there is another plunderer there. The Taiwanese Fishermen who fish the giant clams. The clam used to be very bountiful and the large shell graced many a Melbourne garden, being used as bird baths. In more recent times scientists have discovered that the clams play a vital role in ecological system of the reef, and the Government of Queensland declared that it could not be taken by the fishermen. Yet along this coast with too little surveillance the Taiwanese captains have been having a field day. One such boat collected 9900 giant clams on two days on the magnificent Swains Reefs, but these illegal fishermen were caught and the captain sentenced to 8 months in jail.

This engagement business is certainly catching on. Latest to join the ranks of apprenticeship for married bliss are Paul King and Julie Hemsworth. Congratulations to you both.

I do hope that Murgatroyd doesn't start getting any funny ideas!! She once told me that her intentions were not honourable and described marriage as follows - "You start out by sinking yourself into it up to your arms, and finish up with your arms in the sink."

WES DE BOOS