

FATHOMS

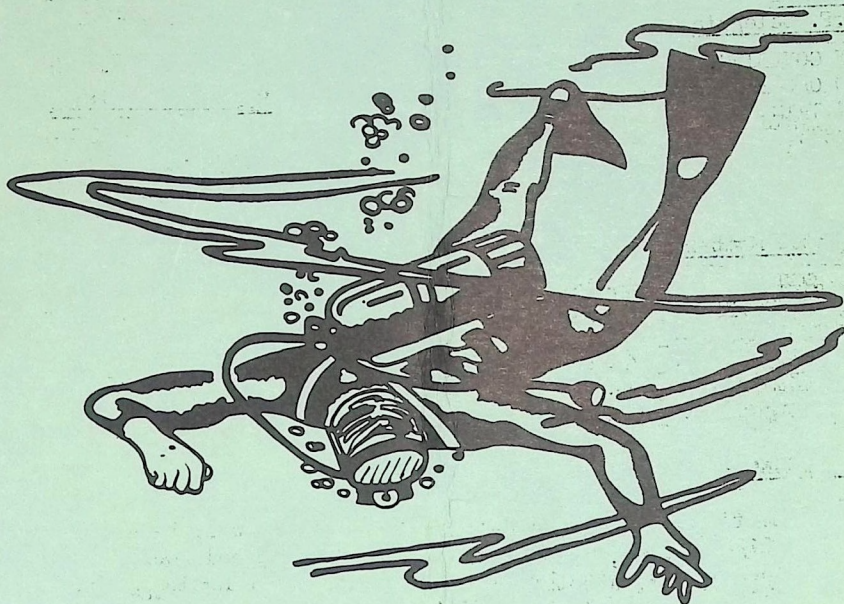
MARCH 79

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SAFETY IN DIVING

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V S A G

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

F A T H O M 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 21ST MARCH, 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

I will start this month by cautioning you all to look at the dive calendar. The dreaded golf has reared its head once more and a Golf Day has been planned under the guidance of the club professional Neil Garland. All those wishing to watch Tony neatly taking off shots he didn't really mean and doesn't want added to his score, should attend the Golf Day on 8th April (details of which will be advised later). This will be followed by a barbeque at Somers where I am sure the whole thing will be played over and over again. This would have been followed by the usual Tipping mile, only Tony is off running at the moment.

All those wishing to go to the Prom for Easter should contact either John, Paul (or Ringo) for the site details. They would like to know the numbers by the March meeting. There is also the Wreck Diving Seminar at Queenscliff to be held at the Ozone Hotel. There is accommodation at the hotel, but there are also caravan parks and camping grounds in the area. So for all you wreck enthusiasts see Dave Moore again at the March meeting.

Some southern end of the Bay areas have been designated as Marine Parkland. We are not too sure of the details at the moment and our legal eagles will investigate, and we hope to have more information in our April issue.

Sports Expo has been and gone, our thanks to all those who helped man the SDF stand. Many of our members who went along expressed their concern that diving as a sport was presented in a divided fashion, with the SDF and the AUF stands although quite close, most certainly two different entities. We as a club and as founder members of SDF can not tolerate spear fishing contests as they are, but it would be true to say that many of us commenced our diving experiences as spear fishermen, and if diving is going to be exhibited before the general public perhaps it should be as a united force. It is certain too that in the future, legislation will creep into our sport and can only inhibit us as divers. Again this is an area where a united front is required and I think perhaps the time is coming when our respective Federations must start getting together, differences after all can only be ironed out together, nothing much is achieved by separation.

Now for something completely different. How fit are you? I believe that we as a body are reasonably fit. By that I mean

that for most of us the physical aspect of diving is enjoyable, and recovery from the exertion of actually weighting ourselves down under many kilos of equipment, and diving into, and climbing out of the depths occurs quite quickly. However, next time you dive just imagine that instead of your usual trouble free trip, your buddy has complications, either out of air, exhaustion, or perhaps even unconsciousness, are you after being in the water for, say half an hour yourself, in a fit state to look after someone else. Think about it. The committee has thought about it, and shortly our regular dives will be followed by practice emergency techniques just to make sure that you are able, and know what to do if an emergency should arise.

Finally I would like to close this month with a plea for contributions no not for money, but for some more articles for the magazine. This month the same old names appear, remember that the J.C. prize for literature is up for grabs, and as the man says you've got to be in it to win it.

ED.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
MAR. 24	EILDON WATER SKIING		P.Reynolds 232-5358	
25	TUBE TRIP	9.30AM	D.Moore 547-2791	
APR. 1	FLINDERS	10 AM	P.Tipping 387-2027	Seal Rocks
8	GOLF TOURNAMENT Followed by a Somers BBQ		N.Garland 63-3245	Details to be advised later
13	EASTER - WILSONS PROM.	For details - P.Tipping or J.Goulding		25-2883
18	COLLINGWOOD Football Club	8 PM		General Meeting

DIVE CALENDAR (Cont'd.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
APR. 28	WRECK SEMINAR		Details -D.Moore 547-2791	See advert. following calendar
29				
ALSO				
APR. 29	FLINDERS	10 AM	T.Tipping but ring B.Lynch 795-2834	
MAY 6	SORRENTO	8 AM	D.Moore 547-2791	Outside wall or Sierra Nevada

COMMITTEE NEWS

The following topics were brought forward and discussed at the February committee meeting.

Bills for payment -

Postage \$8.80

Deposits Wilsons Prom. Easter \$140.80

Food & Provisions January Weekend \$143.00

The above were passed for payment.

A critique of the Sports Expo was held and a letter of recommendations will be sent to SDF-V.

The Committee recommends that V.S.A.G. members subscribe to the CASICO Insurance Scheme. (See notice of this scheme elsewhere in Fathoms).

New divers wishing to dive with the club will in future be buddied with two experienced members, but first must meet the satisfaction of the dive captain and/or safety officer as to having sufficient ability to dive in the conditions of the planned dive area.

The club will conduct some diver rescue programs and these will be undertaken by F.Ferrante and N.Garland in conjunction with forthcoming dives.

Certain conditions regarding diving the Eliza Ramsden were laid down.

WRECK DIVING SEMINAR

Ozone Hotel Queenscliff

Commencing Friday evening 27th April and
closing Sunday evening 29th April

Costs without accommodation	\$20
Costs with one night accommodation	\$35
Costs " two nights "	\$45

(Note camping facilities are available at
Queenscliff)

Agenda

- Maritime archaeology
- Wreck Surveying
- The Law
- Local Victorian Wrecks & Wreck Diving
- Conservation of Material
- Maritime Museums
- Victorian Maritime History
- Research Techniques
- Computer Wreck List
- The Maritime Archaeological Association
- Recording and Photographing Relics

Saturday and Sunday mornings have been left free for
diving

This promises to be an excellent weekend in which you
can learn more about shipwrecks and have time to make
a wreck of yourself!

Names at March General Meeting please.

Committee News (Cont'd.)

- No boats to anchor on the Eliza Ramsden or in the
shipping fairway
- Boats will be manned at all times
- An inflated rubber tube will be buoyed to the wreck
as a location prior to the commencement of the dive.

The dive calendar was discussed and extended.

NOTICE

DIVER INSURANCE

The Confederation of Australian Sport Insurance Company will shortly introduce a Sports Injury Insurance Scheme to provide cover against death or injury for divers, both whilst carrying out their diving activities and whilst away from diving.

The yearly premiums for this insurance scheme is only \$2.00 per person.

The scheme will operate from May 1st 1979 and people wishing to join this scheme must register prior to this date. (In other words you cannot join the scheme partway through the 12 months from May 1st and be covered in that 12 month period.)

The names of all members wishing to participate must be finalised by the March General Meeting. All monies must also be provided to V.S.A.G. at this time.

The best way to ensure you are covered is bring your \$2.00 to the March General Meeting, or send it by post to our post office box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne to be there by 21st March.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COVER OFFERED BY DIVER INSURANCE SCHEME

	<u>Whilst carrying out diving</u>	<u>Whilst not carrying out diving</u>
A Death	A \$20,000	\$2,000
B Loss of all sight and/or Loss of use of both hands and/or Loss of use of both legs	B \$20,000	\$2,000
C Loss of use of one hand <u>or</u> one foot together with loss of sight in one eye	C \$20,000	\$2,000
D Loss of sight in one eye or loss of use of one hand or loss of use of one foot	D \$10,000	\$1,000

	<u>Whilst carrying out diving</u>	<u>Whilst not carrying out diving</u>
E Total disablement from immediate previous occupation	E Either \$150pw or $\frac{2}{3}$ of previous wage whichever is less	-
F Total disablement from immediate previous occupation caused through events other than in B, C & D	F \$20,000	\$2,000

For further details contact - Dave Moore
Paul Tipping
John Goulding

TIP'S TIT-BITS

The Presidency has obviously gone to Dave Moore's head - he's been regularly buddied up with Roma or Mandy and when dive captain on February 18th there were only female passengers aboard the Italian Job - Mandy braless as usual. Who doxed you in Dave? I noticed Pat was out with you keeping her eyes on things the following week!

The MAAV seem to be making a bit of a name for themselves lately - recently the old Hurricane was revisited by several "rejects" from other clubs who incidentally make up the MAAV. The purpose of this dive was to map out as much of the remains as possible but unfortunately Dave Carroll's slates and pencils were about as effective as his deoderant!

Once again Torquay provided us with excellent conditions for the Victoria Towers dive on February 11th: slight seas visibility of 20-30 feet and warm weather but unfortunately no Paully or Lesley - they'd managed to blow up Clarrie Cortina's left wing cousin just out of Werribee on the Geelong Road. It didn't take long for Alan "Skinhead" Whitely to make his move - flogged Lesley a brand new 200B the next day and could even afford to take one of our

reporters for a four course lunch with the profits!

By the time this issue hits the streets the Fun Run will have been run and won - this year the VSAG Big Three are at each others throats regarding training and injuries and how good they are, etc. - may the best man or perhaps woman (for the first time?) win. Latest prices are Lynchy 5/4 on and Bazza and Tippo eveno!

Well all the silver VSAG medallions have been claimed, 50 odd in all - there are still rows about "I was financial", "where's mine - I had my cheque in" well stiff - but how about some of these other members fronting up to either meetings or dives - for a club with over 60 the regulars don't even know half the members!

One of the best long weekends VSAG has ever had must have been the Wilson's Prom trip in January - for further info please read the rest of Fathoms but don't believe that bit about 'em all chundering!

ELIZA RAMSDEN - SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Despite the thunderstorms we gathered at the Sorrento boat ramp, or rather in the Sorrento boat ramp cafe to wait for the weather to clear. When it looked a little better the more experienced divers headed out in their boats towards the heads, and poor nervous run-down Tony went off to cheat the girls at golf (piker). The further down the bay we went the better got the weather. Our original intention was to dive the Quarantine station but because conditions were so good we elected under the dive captaincy of Bazza to dive the Ramsden, under the new condition of buoying the wreck since it is now forbidden to anchor the boats there.

Bazza dropped the anchor right into the wreck (he must have a cross on the water I think). Carl swam down to check, and returned to the surface to say that no current was running. The wind must have influenced the tides since we were still about an hour before the scheduled time. Down we went, it really was slack water when we arrived at the bow section. No movement, no noise so peaceful. We swam the length of the ship to drop gently onto the sand at the stern. There were many fish every way you turned. Then back to the bow and up the anchor line, passing the tail end charlies coming down. Back on the surface I had a pleasant 20 minutes motoring around in the Italian Job with Patsy, unfortunately I did get her drenched with one wave. When we had retrieved every one and the anchor, much to Bazza's relief, we headed for the Quarantine.

Here we had a couple of runs, Carl collected one alley bottle, and I found a small ink bottle. The visibility wasn't the best, with the amount of sand floating around, I wouldn't have been surprised to see a camel float by. Then it was up and we headed back to Sorrento in brilliant sunshine.

Our Ramsden dive had been well executed, with Barry remembering to have plenty of line out, and plenty of buoyancy on the surface. He's had to go back at the next slack water to recover floats and anchors before. It did show us though that on subsequent Ramsden dives the dive captain will probably miss out on the dive, and the boats must have a helmsman left in. Anchoring away from the site is out of the question since picking up divers is often crucial in this area, and towing other boats could lead to complications. However it can be done, but divers must remember to return to the surface along the anchor line, and wait at the buoy for their boats to come in for them.

B. LYNCH

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Reading our magazine Fathoms and in particular Flotsam and Jetsam must almost seem like reading yesterdays weather report. Some may say that the weather report is more interesting, but the reason that the articles in Fathoms are always a month behind is due to the early copy deadlines required to enable the printing, collating and distribution to be done so that you receive the magazine in time for the current months General Meeting. As time goes on it becomes obvious as to the people regularly contributing and those who are content to sit back and let everything happen around them.

I for one enjoy reading Fathoms, and I am most interested to see new writers having a 'go'. One of our more recent contributors has been Rob Woolley - to Rob I say good on you and keep it up.

But there must be some more. Why I remember the time that Bazza wrote an article for Fathoms. Bazza read the article from a book (in actual fact it was Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea"). Chris copied it down and Samantha corrected the spelling mistakes.

My first comment that Flotsam and Jetsam gave you only stale news

was simply to set the pace for this next mind blowing report.

While the Liddy's were winging their way home from diving the Bahamas seventeen VSAG members were pitching their way aboard the good ship Mirrabooka south bound from Port Franklin to any place that offered sheltered waters and good visibility. Our intrepid skipper Reginald Oscar Truscott code name R.O.T. seeing the dismal condition of most of his passengers insisted on going twice as far as originally planned before making a stop at Anser Island. After an 8 hour boat trip it was only the very hardy that managed a dive. Maybe some were a little shaken by the sight of the 8 foot bronze whaler that accompanied our boat for a short distance on the trip south.

The most energetic man on board that day was Dave Carroll. I've never seen Dave move so fast. Running all over the boat he was armed with a bright red bucket - first to Marg then to Alan, next was Roma, Max, even Bazza was looking green. By the time Dave reached Tony, it was too late. However as Dave later said "Who wants a sample of Tipping's stomach? You get a belly full everytime he opens his mouth"!!

After a dive at Anser Island we moved on to Great Glennie Island and without too much fuss and bother took over the island and the hut, from resident zoologist John somebody. Poor old John. He's been visiting the island for some years doing a study of the islands rats and marsupials. In that time he has kept a daily log book of his visits in which he has often complained of the feeling of loneliness and isolation. Not this weekend however. He was pampered by our women, cooked for by our men, and listened bewitched to the stories of giant sharks related to vividly by that well known troupedor of the Brighton Sea Baths -- Paul Sier. It wasn't long before crayfish was on the menu. It seems that Bazza had bought a 9lb cray in Frankston and hidden it in his sleeping bag. Must have been there about a week I'd say judging from the flies buzzing around Bazza's heavy bag!

This weekend was one of the best diving trips we've had for many years and what is more we were spared the trip back to Port Franklin, when Reg tipped us off at Tidal River.

Thanks indeed go to Jay Cody for another successful trip and of course to the Bass Strait Diving Club for the use of their camping gear.

Although Lynchy was unable to attend his assistance in providing a lot of the food was greatly appreciated.

Early in February we once again visited the wreck of the Victoria Towers. Our dive there last year revealed the bow section of the ship, sitting upright in the sand with bow sprit still in position. Now the whole thing is twisted over, reportedly the result of over enthusiastic divers scrounging the guts of this helpless skeleton. We understand that the owner of the wreck is getting somewhat uptight about the actions of certain divers. The wreck still contains hundred of slate tiles and broken bottles, and shows in good detail the rib construction of this once fine sailing ship.

It seems that golf maybe overtaking diving as the main interest for one of our once keener divers. Seems that on February 25th he gave up the chance for his 17th dive on the Eliza Ramsden to play 9 holes with Marg, Maree and Marie. Too bad he didn't win!!

Its taken a while but Pete Smith finally has produced the Nikonos III camera he won in the SDF raffle last September. Pete has the flash unit all set up and it won't be long before "fingers" will be "flashing".

We were sorry to hear that Julie Okle has been forced to hang up her weight belt and wet suit. Jules has been diving with the club since early 1976 but over the last 12 months has had to stay out of the water with an ear problem. We all hope it gets better soon Jules, and even if it doesn't, you had still better come to our Annual Dinner - otherwise how else will Dave Carroll be able to get home, let alone stand up?

Noticed in the Herald tonight the sale of a Mercedes 450 SL Sports Car for \$29,500. Registration number RC 222. In fine print down the bottom was "previous owner Roman Catholic Priest - used only for going to church".

PASTOR BUCK