

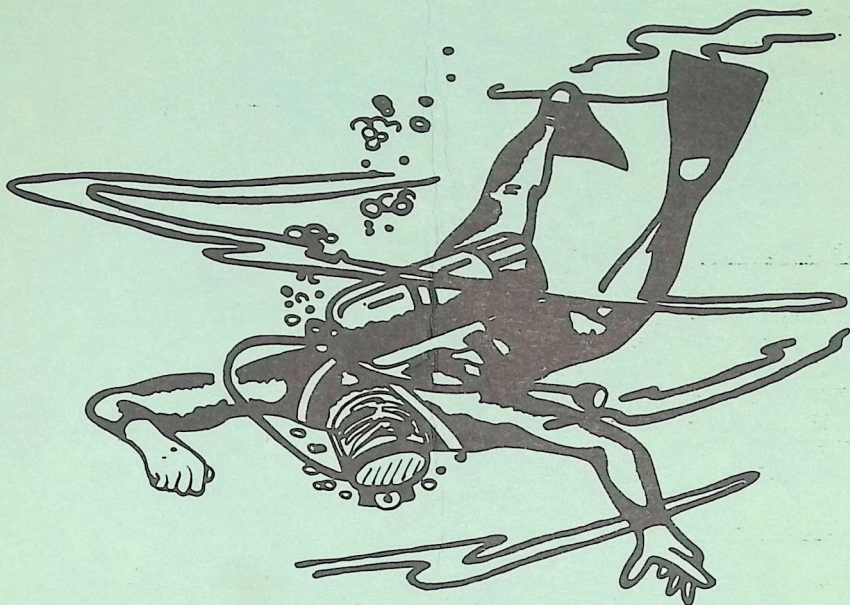
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FATHOMS

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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 16TH MAY, 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!

F O R E W O R D

This month there is a substitute editor for Brian Lynch who, due to pressures of work, has found it necessary to delegate this responsibility. At the last committee meeting Brian also indicated that he will not be available to stand for the committee next year as he wishes to devote more time to his family, so any budding editors will be extremely welcome, I for one will be happy to nominate them.

Easter has been and gone and I feel that everyone who was at the Prom would agree that it was an excellent weekend. I have never seen 4 days in a row with weather as fine as we experienced; little wind, less swell and clear blue skies. The only disappointment was that the visibility was only about 40', it looked as though it should have been better, but was reduced by the large number of jellyfish we encountered. Naturally enough at the Prom, there were a lot of crayfish pulled out with a couple of people snaring their first and the master (Bazza) still grabbing more than the apprentice (Tony T.). The annual Easter awards are announced in Flotsam and Jetsam.

The annual Golf Day was also held during April, the results and a report are also in this issue, as is an article on the Mary Rose. However there is still a definite need for more involvement by club members in the newsletter. At the moment Brian Lynch, Tony Tipping and John Goulding are the only consistent contributors with about one article a month from someone else. Little or no literary skill is required, (as evidenced by this article), just the physical dexterity to push a pen, and the motivation to contribute. Remember you can't win Jay Cody's prize if you haven't had an article in the newsletter.

You will notice that the dive calendar does not go as far forward this month as usual; this is on account of the planned Graveyard dive, it is not yet known when we will be able to arrange it. A requirement for these dives which was not published in the April magazine is a current medical certificate, something which less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the club possess, despite an article in the December '78 newsletter about this.

Finally I would like to say how pleased I was to see the roster for compressor duty work so well at Easter, it meant that no one spent more than 90 minutes filling tanks over the whole 4 days.

Well organised Fred, but when are you and Neil Garland going to organise your rescue and resuscitation sessions?

ED.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
MAY 16	COLLINGWOOD Football Club	8 PM		General Meeting
MAY 20	VICTORIA TOWERS	10 AM	D.Carroll Work 391-2211	Ring before Saturday
JUNE 3	SORRENTO	9.30 AM	J.Goulding 819-1739	Outside Wall
JUNE 16,17 18	PORT CAMPBELL		F.Ferrante 211-0708	
JUNE 20	COLLINGWOOD Football Club	8 PM		General Meeting
JUNE 22	21 ABERCROMBIE St., Deepdene	8 PM	Organiser T.Tipping	VSAG Nostalgia Night

THE LITTLE WHITE BALL AND I

Well we started off the Ferrit and I, raining like hell as usual, to play a game of golf! Now golf I ask you is a little white ball and those funny looking sticks all shapes and sizes and you have to pull them along in a pram, but poor old Ferrit had to carry a bag, I thought he was going to the supermarket. Well we started off with our partner who was pretty good, fit I mean fit. He said

you have to put that little white ball on that little plastic stick, well I put it on and it rolled off, so I put it on again. They said hit it, to my surprise it left that little stick, my partner said good shot, I don't know what he meant because I didn't even see it land.

Well off we went until we came to what they call the 'green' with a hole and a flag. Now I didn't know whether to salute that flag, but they said you have to hit that ball into the hole, well I tried and tried again. Only took 8 shots, not too bad and so we went off again to play 9 more holes. Gee I thought, I would love a cuppa, but to my surprise Ferrit said you can't have a cuppa now you have to go play 9 more holes!!

And so we went to play 9 more of those holes. I hate that little white ball and those holes. I could see the 13th hole coming up the last flag and hole and I loved that flag it was a beautiful sight. I ran to the car and had 5 cups of tea, ah that's better. Would you believe that Ferrit and I won prizes? Well I started to love the game, fancy winning 10 of those lovely little white balls and a bottle of beer, but to the winning girls and boys, congratulations!

FERRIT'S FRIEND

NOTICE

TRUK LAGOON - 1980

Limited vacancies available to visit the Diver's Mecca at Truk Lagoon in 1980.

First and final notice - contact Tony Tipping - or write to Tony Tipping C/- Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne 3001.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE!

Annual Subscriptions will be due for payment at the end of June. Your payment reminder slip will be included in the June Newsletter. Prompt payment will be gratefully appreciated.

Our guest speaker at the May General Meeting (May 16th) will be

MR. TOBY STEWART

President of the Scuba Divers Federation
of Victoria

and member of the
Geelong Sub Aqua Club

Toby Stewart is a very capable and knowledgeable
underwater photographer and will present
a session on

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY
(complete with films and equipment demonstrations)

As a further subject Toby will also give us a first
hand run down on the SDF-V activities, and will be
available to answer any questions you may have on
either of these two topics

So for a meeting with a difference come along on
May 16th Collingwood Football Club

THE MARY ROSE SAGA

We are well aware of the rivalry between Melbourne and Sydney. In the main it has been friendly, with both sides firing blanks about the Opera House the King Street Bridge; the magnificent view of Sydney Harbour, the West Gate Bridge, City Square and so on - all about the marvels of the twentieth century.

But not so the rivalry between the English and the French. After 400 years these two countries are still squabbling about the tragic sinking of the 16th Century battleship "The Mary Rose".

The French claimed victory for the sinking of the "Mary Rose" with its 700 sailors in 1545 during a minor battle with the English.

On the other hand the British claim, that mishandling by the crew, and water flooding through the innovative gunports caused the ship to sink. Incidentally these gunports were less than 2 feet above the water line.

Needless to say, neither side will give an inch, even to the point of the intended excavation of the remains of the "Mary Rose".

Now, an international group comprising English, American, Australian and Canadian salvage teams will work together to make an archaeological excavation of the site. Already rare guns, coins, pewter dishes wooden plates, leather goods, crossbows and arrows have been recovered from the site.

The Mary Rose is a unique early example of the ships which would have dominated the seaways of the world for 300 years and form the foundation of the British Empire.

In fact the "Mary Rose" marked the cross roads of maritime history. It was not only one of the last ships to arm the marines with crossbows and arrows, but also one of the first ships to include port windows for firing broadsides. Unfortunately they were too close to the water.

The archaeological movement behind this excavation have planned for a multi-million dollar program around the "Mary Rose" to be constructed at Portsmouth.

JOHN GOULDING

TIP'S TIT-BITS

Looks like Tip's Tit-Bits will be in for a few scoops in the coming few months - we've managed to get one of our sub-junior apprentice cub reporters elected to the VSAG Committee so from now on there'll be a "no holes barred" attitude as to what will go to press with regard to the ins and outs of this heirarchy - come to think of it with the libel, graft and corruption that goes on at their meetings a bloke could make a fortune in blackmail just by keeping his mouth shut - for a while!

What more could you say about this years Easter trip to the Prom

that hasn't already been said? The dive conditions were perfect - up to 80 foot visibility, in fact Skull Rock down deep must be one of Victoria's best for fauna and flora; even the visibility got better as you got deeper (narked?!). The islands of Norman and Anser plus the area around Oberon Point must rate a mention, too, and to feast on cray three nights in a row must just about go down in the record books. Congratulations to the organiser and the dive captains for their efforts, especially in keeping us all sober (damm it)! (Excluding Les.)

By the way - this clicky group raving on about a Truk Lagoon trip in about 12 months seems to be fair dinkum after all - they need only a few more names and deposits by about September to make it set to go - about 12 days diving the best wrecks in the world. Sounds great but how many will actually make the trip once they realize there's no booze allowed on the island! If interested speak up soon!

The Golf Day last month was quite a day out at Glen Eagles, then on to Churchill Park for a barbeque until dusk - one would have expected reigning champ Neil Garland to fight it out with the Tipping brothers once again but unfortunately this wasn't to be - the day was marred by a female storming home with a second nine 40 to snatch victory from the aforesaid threesome plus Neil's old man, Ken who shot a tidy 98. But watch out Helen, Minnie and Marg have already put in some heavy petting practice for next year! I mean putting!

It seems very strange that one of our prominent members who plans on getting married in the very near future has just rented a room at the residence of another member in one of Melbourne's upper middle class suburbs - one may ask why he needed a spare room at this late stage? His reply: I want somewhere to go after the wedding night; I mean you need a break once in a while!

On a more serious note we'd like to hear from a few of the more senior members of VSAG regarding the slide night in June - even if we haven't seen you for a while, because you may have a few old slides you'd like to put up to show what diving Victoria was like back in the dim dark ages. Incidentally, the club is prepared to foot the bill for the hiring of wheel chairs!

GOLF DAY 8/4/79

On a cold wet Sunday morning, 17 hardy golfers arrived at Glen-eagles golf course for the annual VSAG Golf Tournament. Fortunately the rain only persisted for a couple of holes, after which the weather, while windy stayed fine for the rest of the day. Unfortunately no one played at their best, particularly on the front nine, and in the confrontation between person and golf course the course won hands down, with only 3 players bettering 100 for the 18 holes. However most of us revenged ourselves at one stage or another by gouging great holes in the course (I think they are called divots), and a couple of times I was sure that John McKenzie must have pulled out a 3 spade rather than his 3 iron. Nevertheless, everyone seemed to have a good time, and at least hit a couple of decent shots, notably Dave Moore's tee shot on the last hole to within 4 feet of the pin (after which he took 3 putts), and Johnny Goulding's birdie on the same hole.

Now for the results: A blow was struck against the male supremacists within the club when a friend of John McK's, Helen McAuliffe by name, showed the fit(?) divers how the game should be played with a fine 89. Second place in the absence of pre post favourite Paul King, went to Neil Garland with 94, with his father 3rd with a 98. Full results are as follows:-

Helen McAuliffe	89	Marie Truscott	149	Brian Lynch	60)	For
Neil Garland	94	Barry Truscott	120	Dave Carroll	63)	9
Ken Garland	98	John McKenzie	121			holes
Tony Tipping	100	Dave Moore	114			
Paul Tipping	100	June Furneaux	157			
John Goulding	107	Marg Ziccone	118			
Maree James	110	Bob Scott	147			
		Fred Ferrante	131			

Prizes won were by -

Womens Open	Helen McAuliffe
Womens Handicap	Maree James
Mens Open	Neil Garland
Mens Handicap	Ken Garland
Nearest the Pin	Dave Moore
Longest Drive	Paul Tipping
Most Hits Men	Bob Scott
Most Hits Women	June Furneaux

NEIL GARLAND

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Like all good politicians, we promise you better things to come in the future and this promise was made by our esteemed colleague General Striker in the last issue of Flotsam & Jetsam. It is therefore our intention to write this month's column mainly about the events of the magnificent Easter at Wilson's Promontory, and of course to announce the much coveted awards.

Weather forecasters have a difficult time predicting the weather patterns for Easter. In Victoria the wind patterns in March and April tend to change often and rapidly and bring with them varying types of weather, ranging from the mild summer season to the dread of winter.

Up until the Tuesday before Easter it was anybody's guess how the following Friday to Monday would turn out, but what did follow was the most fantastic diving weather that any of those present at the Prom could remember for the Easter break. Warm windless days with satin smooth seas that enabled us to dive Skull Rock, Anser and Norman Islands as well as the mainland coast. In the distance the Hogan Island group was starkly visible upon the glistening sea and only its distance from shore prevented us from going there. There was even talk about boating down to Deal Island, but again this was too far to travel with our small boats and their limited fuel capacity.

Skull Rock or Cleft Island as it is properly named, must be one of the most forboding and awesome sights seen by Mariners in this part of the world. The huge crater-like cavern in its side, where it is said that cannon balls were found by an exploring mountaineering club appears like the empty eye socket of a huge head. This rock formation which gives the impression of an aged skull rises sheer from the water to over 200 feet in height and dwarfs our boats as we play out enough anchor line before invading this gruesome monster.

Creepers!!! Its enough to give you the screamin' irates - and all this was happening on Friday 13th April.

Underwater it was a divers paradise. Seals kept us company and provided us with an underwater playground as we swam through the brilliant coral gardens, the gorges and crevices, and the kelp carpeted rock walls.

For a time one almost forgot about looking for crays - but fortunately for our hungry mouths and unfortunately for the crays, Bazza did manage to bag a few, and I would think, taught the seals a few tricks about how to add cray to their diet.

Norman Island too provided interesting diving, especially as we were eager to find Dave Moore's fabled "drop-off" which he claimed to see diving the Australia Day Weekend trip to that place. If there was one drop-off there were ten, and our recently repaired depth sounder was drawing the strangest chart impressions as we criss-crossed a series of gullies and rock bommies. Maybe someone should ask Dave the question "What did drop off, Dave?" or perhaps that question should be put to Pat!

And so, on four days we struggled with our boats to launch them and in the afternoons, strained to bring them ashore again.

Then of course there was the tank filling duty, and I think Fred Ferrante did a great job to get everyone involved. That's the way it should be done, and nobody begrudged their turn of duty.

Back at shore things were not going quite so smoothly. With already three dives under my weight belt and no crayfish in the pot Murgatroyd began to demand a better return from all this bubble blowing. It was no use explaining to her about looking for Dave's "drop-off" or stroking the seals - she thought it was vulgar - I just had to get a cray!! So a cray I got - as well as \$2.00 worth of scallops and 3 flathead fillets.

There were others who were having problems also!

Dave Moore ran out of food by Saturday and had to return to Melbourne to pick up more chicken - but was back in time to dive on Sunday.

Wayne Hatch, John McKenzie and John Smibert spent all night on Saturday helping Tony Tipping look for his lost libido.

Pat Reynolds and Max Synon had to stay up nearly all night cooking Bazza's cray - 10 minutes per pound and it took 5 hours! Wow, that's a big one!

Brian Baldock kept puncturing his punctures.

Carol Croxford, Mandi Wookey and Roma Waldron kept Mick Jackieu at bay with threats to try out their cooking on him.

Fred and Wendy could not keep people away from their great new tent.

Rob Whoolley was trying to get abalone with a hook and line. Paul and Lesley were still working out their dive tables 8 hours after their dive.

Neil Garland and Pete Smith were taking it in turns with Karl to belt up Christopher Synon (aged 5).

Oh! And as for Bazza - well he just kept catching crays and saying to himself - "If they don't eat this one, I'll take it to a film studio and make it the star of a new film called -"CLAWS".

And so to the Easter Awards

The Most Worthwhile Act Award - Its a toss up between - Karl Jironc - for bringing the compressor
Fred Ferrante - for organising the filling
Mick Jackieu - for taking it home again

The judges unanimously decide Karl Jironc - not only did he bring it down, but he also fixed it up before Easter so that we could all enjoy the good diving.

Authors note - This is the second year in a row that Karl has won this award.

The Slowest Moving Creature in Camp Award - This award will be divided between Mandi, Roma and Carol - who were too slow to "Move In" on all us beaut single blokes.

The Fastest Moving Creature in Camp Award - Was it Lesley Gillies after a night on the cider? or Pam Synon running to get help after she bogged Max's car.

Neither, it was me, after I bogged my car on the beach when the tide was coming in!!

The Charm Award - To be shared by Marg, Sue, Vicki, Joan, Maree, Pam, Jenni, Marie for putting up with us divers. Oh, and of course Murgatroyd.

The Cuddly Couple Award - This year the judges have made a joint ruling to a number of couples -

Tony and Marg

John and Marg - (Hey, which John???)

Wayne and Marg

Neil and Marg

Roma and Marg (Gosh, I hope Tony finds his libido)

The Superman Award - Yes! We have another superman - yet still not quite of the same calibre as the great Robbie - but nevertheless a good try.

Young Johnny McKenzie who since bringing a budding golf champion to our golf tournament, is getting the reputation as "A Man for All Seasons", wins the Superman Award for Easter 1979.

Well done John, and keep it up!

CEC POOLE