

FATHOMS

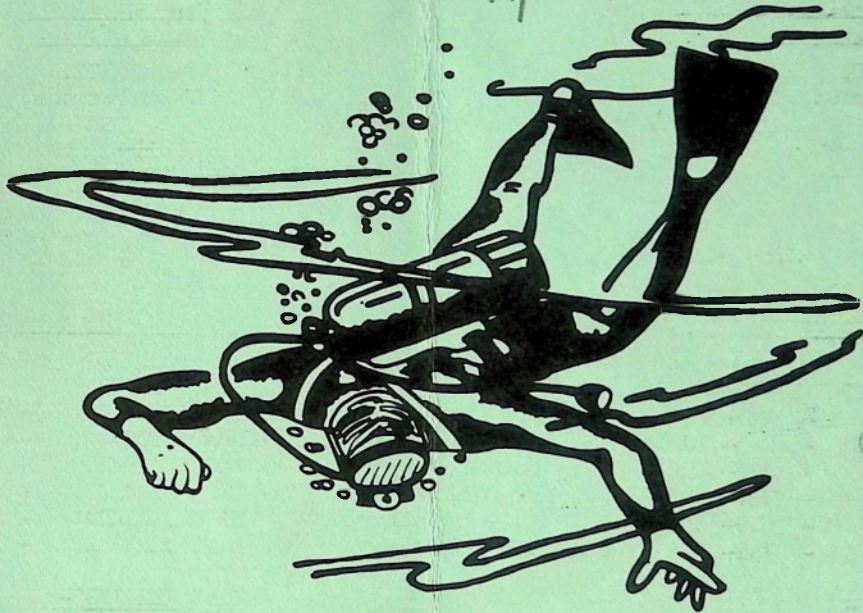
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SAFETY IN DIVING

50c

April 80



V S A G

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS
 (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 16TH APRIL, 1980 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

Well here we are in April, the year seems to be quickly passing by. When you read this newsletter a group of V.S.A.G. members will be exploring various wrecks in the waters of Truk lagoon. I suppose we should say enviously, "Good luck to them."

On more important points, this month sees the start of the Bouquets and Brickbat's page. This page will be devoted to letters which people can submit. These letters can be personal opinions of a genuine nature, anything from praises to gripes. The writer's name will not be published if it is requested, but a name must accompany the letter if you wish it printed.

One point which affects all of us as divers and members of an active club is the rising cost of running boats and vehicles. It was suggested that running costs for dives be raised by \$2 - but this was rejected, another suggestion was that the club would subsidize each boat owner \$1 per dive on day trips only. This applies only to Club members, visitors would incur the full cost. The second suggestion was accepted and will be tried for a period of 6 months.

One has to evaluate which of the two proposed points is the worst.

It has been decided that compressor duty will be undertaken by two persons at all times until filling is complete or else no tank fills will be done. This is due to one person having to handle the compressor by himself after filling has been completed.

S.D.F.V. has now produced a newsletter which will be circulated to all clubs, this newsletter will be very informative to divers and will not cost them anything. It is not often that you are given something worthwhile for nothing. Thank you S.D.F.V.

ED.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
APR. 13	FLINDERS	10 AM	D.Henty-Wilson 497-3976	Flinders B/R

DIVE CALENDAR (Cont'd.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
APR. 25-27	PORT CAMPBELL or back up Sorrento	(Weather permitting)	T.Tipping 24th 80-4956	
MAY 11	THE WALL	8.30AM	D.Carroll- ring J.Gould- ing 819-1739	Sorrento B/R
MAY 18	GEORGE KERMODE Phillip Island	9.30AM	N.Garland 529-5484	Flinders B/R
MAY 25	PORTSEA HOLE	9.30AM	P.Reynolds 787-5972	Sorrento B/R
JUNE 1	CHANNEL RUN	9.00AM	D.Moore 547-2791	Sorrento B/R

VSAG COMMITTEE NEWS IN BRIEF

1. 'C' Cards will be issued to persons who passed their training programme conducted by Alan Cutts in 1977.
2. General outline of aims of S.D.F.V. "Scuba Scene".
3. It was declared that the Truk Lagoon trip is classed as a club dive (similar to Easter trip).
4. A motion was put forward that club diving costs be raised, this was rejected and the following system would be used for a trial period till Sept. "That the club would subsidize each boat captain \$1 per diver on day dives only." (Members only, non-members the cost per dive will be \$5.)
5. The compressor will not be used unless there are two operators present until filling is completed.

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS

It has been agreed to devote a column to letters which people wish to submit to the newsletter. These letters can be personal opinions of a genuine nature, ranging from praises to gripes. Writers names will not be published if they request it, but a name must accompany the letter. (Letters should be given or mailed to the Editor, address on inside front cover, no later than General Meeting each month.)

Bruce Soulsby,
62 Telford Street,
Yarrawonga. 3730.

24/3/80

Dear VSAG Members,

As a suggestion to the club for a week-end away, either playing golf or water skiing or just relaxing, at this Aquatic Paradise, there are also tennis and squash courts available.

There is a variety of accommodation available, ranging from hotel and motel through to caravan sites or on site vans. After arranging your accommodation you could start off Saturday morning, with a game of golf at either the Corowa, Yarrawonga or Cobram-Barooga clubs, which are all within a $\frac{1}{2}$ hours drive of Yarrawonga, Saturday afternoon you may enjoy a cruise on a cruising boat that plies the waters of Lake Mulwala and the Murray River, complete with a barbeque on board, a most enjoyable trip too I might add, especially if you take plenty of booze.

Saturday evening, at the Golf or RSL clubs, for dinner and dancing and of course the pokies, or just a few more drinks. Members with families need not be concerned as we are able to arrange a baby sitting service.

For the enthusiast Sunday morning could be used for water skiing or perhaps another round of golf, finishing with lunch at the RSL club before leaving for home Sunday afternoon. By the way it only takes $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the Melbourne GPO to Yarrawonga!

If you are at all interested, please advise of a suitable week-end and the numbers, I would be able to organise all accommodation and club bookings, and arrange for baby sitting facilities.

A rough estimate for the cost of the boat trip would be approximately \$6 per family or \$2 a head plus food and booze, depending upon

how many decide to come.

Anyone feeling really keen could come up on Friday evening and we could have a barbeque dinner and card night or anything else you had in mind.

Any more information required and you are quite welcome to write or phone me, I would be only too pleased to help.

Best Regards,

Bruce.

SECRETARY'S NEWS

At the March Committee Meeting a motion was carried as follows:

"That the club subsidize boat owners in the sum of \$1 per diver on day club dives, that the dive captain keep appropriate records which are to be submitted to the club and that this proposal is to take effect from 1st April, 1980 and to be for a trial period of 6 months.

This applies to members only. Non-members, the cost will be \$5.

NOTICE

CASICO DIVER INSURANCE

Members please note, if you wish to be covered by C.A.S.I.C.O. Diver Insurance for compensation against death or injury incurred whilst diving, PLEASE NOTIFY DAVE MOORE AT APRIL GENERAL MEETING.

V.S.A.G. will pay your \$2.00 premium if you advise Dave that you want this insurance.

Its a must for serious divers but PLEASE remember all names must be finalised by the end of April.

---- Announcing "SCUBA SCENE"

Not sure about what's going on with Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria?

Interested in the Marine Ecology Seminar?

How about Film Festivals, Marine Reserves or Dinner Dances?

Well don't miss out on SDFV's new publication SCUBA SCENE.

- Available at the April General Meeting.

- It's Free -

BEVERWIJK 19

The "Beverwijk 19" had ten minutes to live as the powder monkey left the deck of the doomed workhorse after laying charges of gelignite deep in her starboard side. Her hull surrendered to the blast and she settled quickly and evenly to starboard as the sea gulped in, then rolled completely upside down and eventually slid beneath the surface by her stern.

It was a clear calm day in May 1963 when the "Beverwijk 19" slipped to her grave after many years of laborious work, deepening shipping channels of Corio Bay.

Who cares about the mudstained unattractive outline of a dredge when a visit to the grave of a famous passenger liner such as the "Rotomahana" can be made in shallower water where one can sense the history and aura of the old days. But my visit to the "Beverwijk 19" in November of 1972 with the Geelong Skindivers will always remain in my memory, because there was a feeling of the "ugly duckling" about this old ship. She had been just as an important part of early shipping in Victoria as any of the famous ships like the "Rotomahana" or "Hygeia", as her job was vital to the safety of a great many famous ships.

I arrived at Geoff Naylor's home at Newcomb in the late evening after a phone call from Geoff to say that Saturday was to be the day for the first dive into the ships graveyard proper. Geoff had already been onto the two submarines and the "Rotomahana" at this stage, dives which I had to miss due to work commitments.

We were sailing towards the graveyard by Sam next morning in Owen Yateman's fishing boat, "Lee Ann", on a flat sea. The wreck site was found with little difficulty and showed as a very large blob on the echo sounder graph on sand at 160 feet.

Owen dropped anchor right beside the old hull and Geoff, Garth Torrens and myself made the first descent. Visibility was quite good about 50 ft, and our first view of the ship was the huge pulley

wheels from the top of "Beverwijk's" superstructure resting on the sand like a huge barbell. The wheels had obviously torn from their mountings when the ship rolled upside down.

A short distance away lay the upturned hull of the "Beverwijk", her flat bottom presenting a rather uninteresting sight as we quickly made our way along the length of the ship with the valuable seconds of an all too short bottom time ticking away. During the dive I was puzzled as to which vessel we were actually looking at, although the "Hygeia" was in the back of my mind.

Geoff had exposed a roll Tri-X film in his usual rapid fashion and it was now time to leave the site. At our scheduled precautionary decompression stop at 10 feet my thoughts were still of the "Hygeia" but once back on board the "Lee Ann", Geoff produced a photo of the "Beverwijk 19" leaving little doubt in our minds as to the identity of the vessel 160 feet below.

A short time after this dive I moved to Queensland and my association with the ship's graveyard ended for some time. As we had both worked on researching the graveyard, Geoff kept in contact and turned me green with envy with tales of further graveyard dives one in which he had located the massive "Milora" disposed of in 1936. But the elusive "Hygeia" still awaits us.

Perhaps some members of V.S.A.G. would be interested in making an all out effort to locate the "Hygeia" as I am sure, to see this famous bay steamer of years gone by would indeed be worth the effort. I would be pleased to hear from anyone interested.

I learned only recently that Owen Yateman is no longer fishing and has been unwell for some time. Quite a shame as he is a real character and was very enthusiastic about identifying the lonely hulls of Victoria's graveyard. We owe a big thank you to Owen for his enthusiasm on the subject and his willingness to take divers to this lonely part of Bass Strait, his great knowledge of the graveyard was gleaned during his repeated crayfishing visits to the area and his careful records of wreck bearings.

DES WILLIAMS

NOTICEMARINE ECOLOGY SEMINAR
OZONE HOTEL, QUEENSCLIFF

2ND - 4TH MAY.

The seminar will present the ecology of Port Phillip Bay.

To the average diver it will provide valuable information on species identification and most factors relating to the ecology of the bay.

For further details contact one of the clubs SDF delegates.

NOTICE

The SDFV dinner dance will be held at Chaucers - Canterbury Road, Canterbury on 26th September. 7pm till midnight.

\$18 head all inclusive - 4 course dinner

Tickets will be available next month.

The V.S.A.G. party will be on again at the SDF dinner dance - so be in it. Names please at the May meeting - see you there!

FUN RUN 1980

Seven years ago Melbourne had its first Fun Run. I ran in it and Justin expended almost as much energy as I in pouring ice and cold water over and into me all the way from Flinders Street to Brighton Baths. That was the longest and the most demanding run with the temperature in the 30's. Since then the distances get shorter, and somehow the running gets a bit easier, however the starts get harder with 13,000 people this year all trying to start running at the same time.

The course this year was almost the same as last year, but about half a mile shorter. The weather was cool and the wind didn't seem to bother us much at all. The funny thing about these runs is that about half-way around you wish you'd done a bit more training; and always at the end you know you could have run it faster if you'd really wanted to, or in my case if I'd known that Tony was in front of me, I most certainly would have. This year I got stuck at the start the gun went off and I took one step forward and stopped, and

and then had to do a slow walk for a couple of hundred yards, which put me back a few hundred people. To give you some idea of the amount of people I was still heading off and dodging people along Beaconsfield Parade, which is about 4 miles out, and in order to get to the finishing line I was still dodging people and that was 7½ miles.

This year Tony finished first of the club runners, and I just managed to pip Bazza for the Veterans title with Johnny, little Paully, Lesley and Marg bringing up the rear, and a nice rear too if I may say so. After all that exertion we all adjourned to the Yarra bank for drinks and a barbeque, hosted by Fred, who I must say looked a great deal fitter than we all felt. We now have to wait until September for the Bridge Run and October for the Marathon to see if Tony can keep going on his comeback trail.

These Fun Runs were started to make people more interested in fitness, and to give them some yardstick to measure themselves by. They are not races although we do among ourselves have this competition really just to see if we can beat Tony, but anyone who takes part and finishes the course wins, so to all those who took part well-done.

R.U. FITT

SCUDA DIVERS FEDERATION OF VICTORIA - REPORT OF QUARTERLY MEETING
5/2/1980.

New Clubs

Corio Scuba Club and Barwon Grove Skin Diving Club were voted into the SDFV.

SDF - Australia Report

At the recent Annual Meeting of the SDF-A held at Queenscliff, two major policy statements were agreed to -

1. That the SDF-A supports P.A.D.I. as a responsible diving instruction association.
2. That the SDF-A supports and encourages the establishment of marine reserves.

Whilst SDF-V showed itself to be clearly the most active group within the SDF-A, all states present (Vic, NSW, Q'ld, SA) agreed that a national body was necessary.

CASICO insurance will continue to be available to SDF-A members at \$2.00 per head whereas general fees for sporting groups had increased to \$4.75 per head.

Dive News Magazine will continue and a new Divers Directory will be available within 3 months.

3. Marine Reserves

Although certain areas of Port Phillip Bay have been proclaimed as Marine Reserves very little has been done by the Government to locally publicize the fact or institute controls in these areas.

It was reported that recently Fisheries and Wildlife Officers have been advising divers and fishermen at Sorrento boat ramp of the Marine reserve areas and further-more 2 prosecutions were in the process of being levied against people violating the reserves.

The SDF-V is a member of the Conservation Council and is pressing for better publicity on marine reserves. SDF-V has also urged that the Portsea Pier area be included.

4. The Technical Review Committee

The Technical Review Committee has finalised a report on the comparison of decompression tables and is currently completing a review of depth gauges.

A copy of the decompression table review is in the V.S.A.G. library and other reviews will also be included when available.

They are also available for purchase at \$3.50 each.

SDF-V Dive Tours

The SDF-V is conducting a dive tour to Lord Howe Island in March. Bookings through Allways Dive Tours.

CASICO Insurance

CASICO insurance premium is required to be paid by May 5th. VSAG members please pay by April meeting.

SDF-V Dinner Dance

Hawthorn Scuba Club will organise this years dinner dance.

SDF-V Film Festival

A film festival will be held at Monash University in April.

Tee Shirts

SDF Tee Shirts are available in sizes 16, 18 and 20 at a cost of \$4.50.

Diver Accident

A brief report was given on an incident in which a Scuba diver was hit by a boat at Queenscliff in January.

SDF-V Expenses

SDF-V delegates attending recent SDF-A Annual Meeting were refunded their accommodation expenses.

It was also moved to reimburse the Queensland delegate \$100 from SDF-V funds for attending the meeting.

Safety Officers Conference

Later in the year an SDF-V Safety Officers Conference will be held. Clubs are invited to have 2 delegates attend.

Topics for discussion will include safety procedures and legal responsibilities and could also include practical demonstrations.

Victorian Octopush Federation

A Victorian Octopush Federation exists with approximately 6 clubs participating. Clubs interested should contact Kaiaraba Divers - Chris Sheahan 861-8100.

Publications

The following publications are available for sale to VSAG members

SDF-V Logbooks	\$2.50
Scuba Seminar Notes	3.50
Wreck Seminar Notes	5.50
Photographic Seminar Notes	4.50
SDF Stickers	.20

Marine Ecology Seminar

A Marine Ecology of Port Phillip Bay will be held at Queenscliff on May 2nd - 4th.

This will be a not too "heavy" insight into what you see when diving in Port Phillip Bay. Applications to be in by April. Programmes were available at February VSAG General Meeting and for further details contact John Goulding or Dave Carroll.

You maybe wondering as to what's happened to Pete Smith lately. Pete's familiar style has been missing from the dive scene for the past few months and lately the only chance we get to see him is at the meetings.

Well it seems that Pete has been "a wooing" and has been quite successful too.

To Pete and Chris we extend the clubs best wishes on your recent engagement. So Pete, now your in hot water, we'd like to see you back soon into deep water!

PORT CAMPBELL WEEKEND

If you didn't attend the Labour Day weekend at Port Campbell you would have been one of the very few. We eventually ended up with 38 people, which is more than we have attend our General Meetings.

The majority of people arrived on Friday night and commenced to erect their portable dwellings by the light of the silvery moon, with an occasional chat or tinny. I have it on good authority that the last person took till 2am to find his own tent and fall into it.

We decided to leave early Saturday morning and casually drive down, but when I woke Saturday I was having second thoughts because the weather was horrific. Melbourne had been set upon by heavy rain and high winds, the type of weather, that if you're still in bed at 6am and look out your window and see this sight, you just happily turn over and cancel the day. But no, being a VSAGer, I decided it was my duty to brave these fierce elements.

Somewhere near Geelong we lost the bad weather and found sunshine which stayed with us for the entire long weekend. Wendy and I arrived at Port Campbell at about 11am. With the usual salutations which accompany new arrivals, we proceeded to erect "Ripponlea". On completion, the battlecry was heard "Anyone for golf?" and the stampee was on. Timboon Golf Course was the venue and quite a scenic and pleasant one at that. Bruce Soulsby played like a true professional which is more than I can say for some other golfers. To finish Saturday off completely (for a few a total wipe out) we all dined at the Port Campbell hotel, all except two - who dined at the exclusive "Zuconi by the Sea" restaurant. On Sunday various people played golf, tennis or just pleasantly wasted the morning away. After lunch a dive was organised, the Blow Hole of all places. Six divers participated. This dive was conducted like a well planned military operation. D/C Reynolds controlled the tender line, two divers down at any one time, all in all a very safe dive in a not so safe area.

Sunday night saw a barbeque at the Elliot-Sculsky camp followed by another late night. The following morning saw many a sore head, but it also saw a large group of divers descend into the murky depths

of Loch Ard Gorge looking for sunken treasure from the ill-fated Loch Ard. All that was salvaged that day was a handful of crayfish.

With all diving completed and camp broken the brave but probably quite tired group proceeded to make their way back to their homely hollows.

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.

NB. 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.

Jay Cody	Ian Cockerell	Peter Smith (Ace)
Max Dawson	Leo Canteri	M. Richardson
Frank Coustley	Alan Cutts	John Marshall
Bill Jansen	Frank Herbert	Peter Saunders
Trevor West	N. Knight	Peter Oakley
R. Kroper	P. Matthews	Alan Whiteley
John Noonan	Jon McKenzie	M. Matthews

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Once again VSAG descended upon sleepy old Port Campbell for the long weekend in March. It is many years since such a large number of members turned up for a weekend trip and although the diving conditions did not permit a dive on the Loch Ard, it was nevertheless a thrill packed weekend.

Our old friend Cyril Couch the famed ranger of Port Campbell National Park is retiring soon so this was to be our last farewell, and all Cyril wanted was a silver teapot from the wreck. Our reply to Cyril was that if we found an abundance of teapots then for sure we would gladly give him one.

On the Saturday, golf was the order of the day and the Timboon golf course provided a pleasant change from the windswept, rabbit warren ridden course at Peterborough.

The word is that Bruce Soulsby played pretty well but whether he beat the Tippings has been lost in the confusion of the latter's ceaseless dialogue about pars and birdies.

Johnny's star wife Maree showed the form amongst the girls although Bruce's wife Val is one to watch (both on and off the course!)

The Port Campbell weekend wouldn't be complete without the now traditional Gorge to camp race.

This is a no handicap event open to all members and attendees who think they are fit or fool enough to run the 8.2km distance. Dave Henty-Wilson was a first time starter and was doing well until he fell to the temptation of a good looking blonde in a green falcon who was heading the same way. Bazza took an early lead and to me soon became a dot on the horizon. Paul and Tony also started and the latter was soon seen to shed part of his clothing as the strain of seemingly endless hills took a toll on him.

Although the run does not follow the course of an earlier runner some 102 years ago, I did feel a certain empathy with the brave little Tom Pearce as he struggled alone in the wilderness searching for help in his rescue of fellow wreck survivor Eva Carmichael. In fact I will now call this traditional VSAG race the Tom Pearce Memorial Run.

So next time we do it - the winner gets to be shipwrecked with the fairest maid of Port Campbell - look out Murgatroyd!

Sunday some again went off to play golf but others lead by Dave Moore and Pat Reynolds dived the dreaded blow hole.

The Blow Hole! More like a hell hole if you ask me. The visitors to the area were amazed to see divers in the water of this treacherous place.

"How did they get in?" "How will they get out?" "They must be mad!" These were some of the exclamations given as a few of the more enlightened onlookers gave vivid descriptions of how these very brave men were trying to save a busload of Pakistani cricketers and English school girls that had gone over the side and disappeared beneath the icy waters.

In all seriousness this was a well planned dive with elaborate safety precautions and a special mention to Pat Reynolds who was dive master.

At last on Monday we managed a dive in Loch Ard Gorge which yielded several good size crayfish and some interesting wreck age material.

In dives of earlier years the Gorge was scattered with junk but is now quite bare except for the odd piece of broken glass that glistens on the sand bed.

The next VSAG activity was on Sunday 16th March and again it was a run. The Coco Cola Fun Run.

This year VSAG fielded 7 starters in the 12.73 km run and the thought of a long cool drink and tasty barbeque to follow spurred on the group towards the finish line.

Official placings are as follows:-

T.Tipping	time	50.47	place	1016
B.Lynch	"	51.18	"	1133
B.Truscott	"	51.26	"	1164
P.Tipping	"	57.29	"	3234
J.Goulding	"	58.02	"	3428
Marg Ziccone	"	71.31	"	7173
Lesley Gillies	"	103.19	"	8795

Fred and Wendy had arranged a peaceful spot on the Yarra bank for a restful barbeque later and joined by wives, girlfriends, kids and Pat R. we swapped yarns till well into the afternoon, whilst a skier without skis demonstrated the art of barefoot skiing up and down the river.

It was back to diving on the 23rd March and again we had another good attendance.

Earlier plans to dive outside the bay were changed due to a reported south west wind and big swells, and instead we headed out to Channel Fort. The dive was not so great with little fish life or anything much else to capture our interest, and an hour in the quite shallow water here left plenty of air for another dive.

So to the Goorangai we dashed in order to catch the slack current. Picking up the marks, (somebody please tell Goulding how to find the Goorangai quickly!) we dragged anchors in circles for 30 minutes before hooking into it just at the start of slack water. There was feverish activity on board the boats and soon it was as crowded as Bourke Street down on that wreck. On this occasion we were

joined by Bob Hurst from the Black Rock Underwater Group however not even wreck fanatic extraordinaire Hurst himself was able to recover anything of interest. Perhaps it is best. The Goorangai is the resting place of many Australian seamen and although we visit this immensely interesting place often to view the overgrown shell of this ship, its emptiness compared to many wrecks allows its sacredness to be preserved.

The readers of the Sun and Herald newspapers must have been a little confused about two reports on sharks that appeared in these papers during a week in March.

On Friday 21st March in the Sun there was an article about the dreaded White Pointer shark and one time near fatal victim Rodney Fox was quoted as saying ---- "I have hand fed them from cages, they are not the ferocious monsters they are made out to be". Then 3 days later in the Herald it was reported that a woman was attacked by a baby shark in the shallows of Brighton's Dendy Beach.

So what does a poor beach bum do? Simple - reading Rodney Fox a little further we find that ---- "If someone sees a shark while out in the water - they should not panic -- (oh no) swim slowly away from it and never let it out of their sight. Most attacks have been from behind" - sneaky eh! So what we do is wear bathers with two big eyes painted on the back side. The sneaky shark comes creeping up from your behind, sees those two big eyes and decides that he's not at your behind after all. So he goes round the other side where he's met by your cool (non panic) gaze - confused he gives up and bites himself to bits.

This method is based on the assumption that most sharks are bum bandits!

Signed PEAT MOSS
(The Compost Man)

TIPS TIT-BITS

Some smart-arse recently came up with an interesting comparison: in 1972 a gallon of petrol at a particular service station in Camberwell sold for 32 cents; today at the very same garage petrol sells for 31.9 cents per litre - you may say "What the hell!" There are 4 1/2 litres to a gallon (approx.) and in 1972 a club dive cost \$3; in 1980 it costs \$4 not \$13.50 (pre rata). I reckon the boat owners

in this club must be either stupid or filthy rich!

The long weekend at Port Campbell brought a mixed bag of fun this year - unfortunately no one was able to dive the loch Ard but our mob (38 in all) managed to amuse themselves for the three days - some played golf at Timboon where Little Paully and Bruce battled it out for line honors, some dived the Blow Hole, others the Gorge for a feed of crays and the most monstrous time was had on Saturday night at the pub. Poor old Paul King! He was led home at 10 o'clock a liquid mess and not allowed to stay on for the "boys night out".

The Fun Run, despite the big build-up in last months Fathoms proved to be the non-event of the year. Hot favourite and super-fit "Lynchy" was crushed for the third time in four years - I think the expectant grand-father (he's approaching 50 you know) should hang up his Nikes and take up lawn bowls or something less strenuous. To this very day the old bugger thinks he was gaining all through the race - in actual fact he was passed by one hungover VSAG jogger about a mile before the finish and even Bazza was gaining stride for stride at the end! So instead of copping the 12 month earbashing about running, Lynchy will have to settle for ping-pong!

23rd March was a very ordinary day weather wise, but Johnny managed to get together 20 divers and seven boats for a lap around the Fort (big deal) and 45 minutes on the Goorangai. When you look at these figures plus the 38 at Port Campbell and the 18 on the previous dive it just goes to prove that despite what the sceptics are saying VSAG is very much alive and kicking!

Just think, as many of you read this spare a thought for some of your poor old colleagues over at Truk Lagoon constantly having to overcome the Truk trots and possibly various other tropical diseases - in fact one member's medical kit was so heavy that he was forced to leave his diving gear at Tulla rather than pay excess baggage - said that he wouldn't need it anyhow after what he'd heard about the semi-clad heavy breasted Trukese women!

In Brief: For Sale: Brand new Mercury 80 H.P. (in crate) power trim and tilt - best offer. Welcome to Peter Kamen a new member from Healesville. Finally worked out why Dave Moore is always late for dives - manages to pick up all the stragglers at the ramp for \$4 a pop and actually comes out ahead!