

FATHOMS

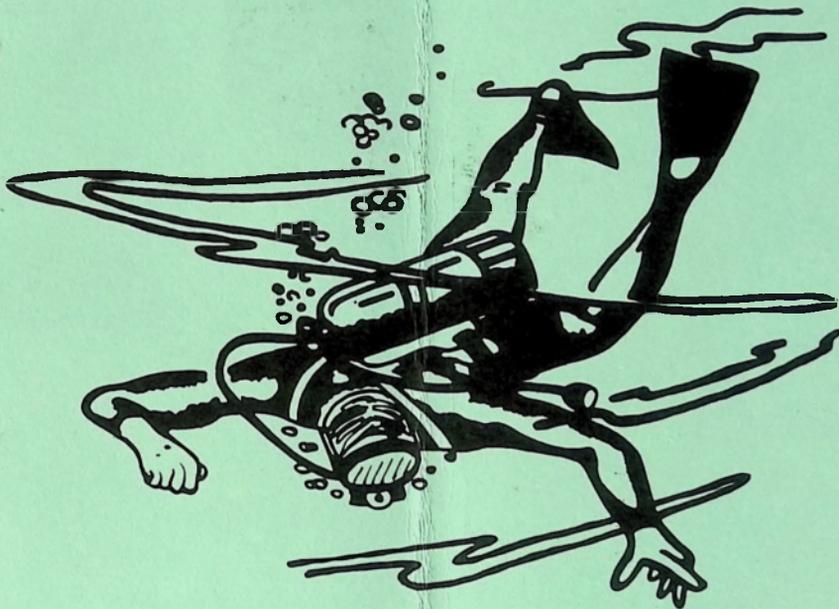
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SAFETY IN DIVING

AUG '80

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

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CLUB MEETING -

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on Wednesday 20TH AUGUST, 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!

Dear Member,

It is good to see members of V.S.A.G. who are unhappy, taking the time to sit down and write to the Committee with their complaints. For it is our job to try and satisfy "ALL" members various needs when it comes to "DIVING" (diving, for it is a diving club first and social second).

At times it is hard to satisfy every member for when you have 55 plus people with different needs someone is bound to disagree with what we do, but as a member you have a right to consideration. This was the intention of the committee when we started "Letters to the Committee" for members to voice their opinions. But after the last 2 letters it seems nothing can be solved with a literary battle between two parties.

eg. Paragraph 1 - your letter "Safety in Diving" - the incident 2 years ago.

The person who wrote to the V.S.A.G. was in fact an old member who left the club because he wanted more from the club. The VSAG's lack in safe boating was when boats came together when the tide changed and it was in fact a VSAG boat who picked up two divers from the other persons boat as they headed out to the heads from the wall, because we always have a driver in a boat in those conditions when divers are down (who lacks safety in boating).

The debate on anchoring in the channel was concerned with the 'Ramsden' for it was at that time even unknown by the Ports and Harbours as to its exact location (in or out of the channel) it has since been surveyed and was found to be on the edge of the channel as such we do not anchor but buoy it when diving.

'Rigid safety standards on Graveyard dive'. As the dive was run by a charter boat owner who set the standards (not the club) surely he had the right to change the requirements as he felt fit to do so.

As you can see this can go on and on with us answering your statements and questions and you not being satisfied until you get the answers you want to suit you. So it has been decided by the committee to invite either all or a spokesperson from the complainants to attend the next committee meeting at Max Synon's place at 8 Pine St. Thomastown at 8pm on 27/8/1980, to put this out once and for all so as the majority of the members can get on with the joys of diving in peace.

DAVID MCCOY

on behalf of the Committee.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
AUG. 3	REEF DIVE	TBA	B.Scott 367-2261	Inverloch
AUG. 20	GENERAL MEETING	8 PM		Collingwood F/C
AUG. 24	WRECK OF THE AUSTRALIA	10 AM	D.Carroll Ring Friday 391-2211	Sorrento B/R
SEPT. 7	PINNACLES	9.30 AM	B.Lynch 795-2834	San Remo jetty
SEPT. 14	CHIMNEY ROCK	10 AM	J.Goulding 819-1739	Barwon Heads B/R
SEPT. 17	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	8 PM		Collingwood F/C

COMMITTEE NEWS

1. Tally of SDF Dinner/Dance tickets sold by the club is 21.
2. It has been decided that the club will design and purchase new car stickers
3. It was suggested that the position of Safety Officer, Training Officer and Medical Officer should be made one combined portfolio.
4. It was also suggested that the position of Training Officer should be dropped from the club.
5. No alcohol is to be consumed or brought into the General Meeting while it is in progress
6. Nominations for the positions that will become vacant at the A.G.M. will be due no later than 2 weeks before the A.G.M.
7. Persons standing down from the committee are -
 1. David Moore
 2. Paul Tipping
 3. Pat Reynolds

LETTERS TO THE COMMITTEE

Dear Committee,

As a club member of some $3\frac{1}{2}$ years standing, and as one of those who have ceased to attend the vast majority of club functions and, indeed, is seriously considering not renewing my subscription, I would like to add my comments to the increasing debate on "what is wrong with the VSAG." And I would like to address my comments not only to the committee, but to all present and prospective club members.

Firstly, to try to convince you that I have a right to make the following comments (as it seems that you feel the writer of last month's letter was not so qualified), I mention:

- "when a new committee is to be elected, where are you?" (quote): I stood for election to the committee last year.

- I have attended club meetings regularly over the last 4 years, and until the last 12-18 months, have dived regularly with the club

- I have some 6-7 years of varied diving experience, and propose to continue diving for many years to come. I feel the problems with the club are as follows:

1. The oft-quoted motto of the club is "Safety in Diving". Over the last few years I feel that this motto seems to have been increasingly forgotten. Surely "Safety in Diving" covers a wider field than the actual time spent in the water. I mention specifically here (and this list is by no means comprehensive):

- the incident which arose some 2 years ago when another diving club had cause to write to the VSAG complaining of our lack of safe boating

- the debate of a similar time ago regarding diving and anchoring in the channel, which to my mind, should not even be grounds for debate

- the repeated occasions when boats have carried far more than their legal capacity for passengers on dives

- the lack of questioning and determination of experience of new divers

- one particular occasion when the dive location was changed (at the last minute) to the then newly-located submarines outside the heads, until it was pointed out that not one boat had an anchor line of sufficient length to even reach the bottom

- the rigid safety standards established to qualify divers for the series of Graveyard dives last year e.g. must complete 3 preliminary dives, which seemed to go by the wayside somewhere along the line

2. I have ceased to be interested in participating on club dives because of the time wasted on the boat ramps, the number of times dive sites have been changed at the last minute, and the expectation that we should all desire to dive under any circumstances. One part-

icular occasion comes to mind-and on this occasion I attended the dive. The dive was scheduled for Portsea Hole, and all boats were actually anchored over the hole 10 minutes before slack water, when it was decided (not by the dive captain), to change the location to the wall. Up came the anchors, and we headed out to the wall, only to miss slack water there. So we then headed back to Portsea Hole, only to have now missed slack water there also. The result: a channel run (again). I personally choose not to dive under these types of circumstances, and I know I am not alone in this feeling.

3. I believe that "Fathoms" should be regarded as the voice of the VSAG. As a financial member, I feel it reflects very poorly on all members when, in a publication which is seen by many persons other than club members, derogatory comments appear which are directed to individual club members, and a standard of language is used which even my reasonably broad mind regards as unnecessary. I do not want my subscriptions to further publication of such items, and my only option (as efforts by the editor to censor such items seems to be ineffectual) appears to be to become unfinancial.

A few further comments:

a) There has been an increasing question of the usage of club funds, inevitably answered with the comment "during 1979 Club Subs did not cover club running expenses". May I point out that the only reason the club went into a deficit situation last year was due to the trophies purchased for the 25 year jubilee, and not via club running expenses. In my not completely unqualified opinion, the 25 year trophies were incorrectly regarded as a running cost for the year, when in reality the cost of the trophies should have been deducted from accumulated members' funds, or regarded as an "extraordinary", or "once-off" item. Does the committee propose writing off the CASICO insurance and the club subsidies for boat dives against this year's figures, because if it does, then the club will probably show a deficit once again. Will these costs be once again used as a justification for an increase in subscriptions next year?

b) I note that the Committee quotes the figures for membership over the last few years. Whilst not disputing these figures, I would much rather see figures showing the number of members who have joined the club, only to cease coming after one or two meetings or dives. To me, the number of people who are not renewing their membership (see "Fathoms" Nov.'79), is a much more meaningful figure, especially when one considers that the list contains the name of a previous committee member.

I feel it is a great pity that a club which I was proud to belong to 3 years ago has reached the stage where letters such as this are even necessary. How about the committee approaching some of the dissatisfied older members (they know who they are), and asking for their opinions. They may be surprised to find that a lot of them agree with me.

Yours faithfully,

CINDY LIDDY

S.D.F.V. DINNER DANCE

ABSOLUTELY LAST CHANCE

to purchase tickets for a great night at the Annual
Scuba Divers Dinner Dance

CHAUCERS

Canterbury Road Canterbury

26th September

7pm 'til Midnight

£18.00/head all inclusive

Contact - Dave Carroll John Goulding or Dave Moore

UNDERWATER SEARCH & RECOVERY. SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT (Part 1.)

The official role of underwater search and recovery within the state of Victoria is very firmly vested in the state government, being a function of the Police Search and Rescue Squad. The charter of Squad is, among other things, to undertake any u/w task involving death, accident or crime. This devolves into 3 broad areas:

- (a) Acting as the agent of the Coroner in the u/w recovery of the bodies of persons killed as a result of murder, accident or Act of God
- (b) The u/w recovery of any artifacts involved in the above eg. murder weapons, motor cars, boats, aircraft etc.
- (c) The u/w recovery of stolen property or any property involved in crime, and required as evidence, eg. stolen motor cars, stolen property, weapons, printing plates etc.

Within this framework there are certain "grey" areas in which the sports diver may become involved in S & R operations. They may, for example, be on the spot when an accident occurs involving a diver or swimmer, and a quick location and recovery presents the chance of saving a life. They may also, in very rare instances, be requested

by police to assist in the recovery of bodies or property. This is against the stated policy of the police department but sometimes does occur.

There is also the completely uncommitted area of "commercial" and "salvage" operations, ranging from the location of lost property such as watches, rings etc., to the recovery of submerged motor cars and sunken boats etc.

SEARCH & RECOVERY OPERATIONS

General - It must be realised from the start that S & R operations can be amongst the most hazardous encountered in diving. They invariably seem to occur in the worst conditions available, eg. deep water nil visibility, fast current, snags and obstructions and with very poor location indicators. Bearing these things in mind, the diver may be faced with a long, cold, dark, difficult, hazardous and tiring search before he even locates the item and begins recovery. Like cave diving, S & R diving is an extension of the basic techniques of sports diving, and demands more of the divers involved than some sports divers possess or are prepared to give.

Selection of personnel - There are certain pre-requisites which divers should be able to meet if they are to undertake serious S & R tasks. These are:

- (a) Be a fully trained and experienced clear water diver. Dark water is no place to be learning how to dive.
- (b) Be entirely unaffected by claustrophobia or fear of the dark. This will involve carefully supervised "familiarity" training in dark water. If a diver still feels nervous and uneasy at the conclusion of this training, he should, in his own and other's interests, refrain from dark water diving.
- (c) Have very good self control and steady nerves. An hour of clambering around through trees and rubbish at 50' in pitch darkness will try the control of any man. It is one of the amazing facts of nature how 50' in black water can be so much deeper than it is in clear water.
- (d) Be amenable to discipline and be able to act as part of a team. There is no place for an individualist or for "stars" in a hazardous u/w operation. Each member is indispensable to and inter-dependant on the diving team as a whole.
- (e) Have good and reliable judgement. Very handy to know when caution is the better part, there are enough heroes as it is.
- (f) Have undertaken training in the specialised techniques of dark water S & R diving. This should include:

- (i) Diver-surface line technique
 - (ii) Search technique
 - (iii) Specialised emergency techniques
- (g) Be safety conscious in the extreme. The risks of sports diving are magnified many times over when you engage in dark water S & R diving. You may get away with a casual observance of safety for a good while, but the law of averages is against you in the long run.

The search and recovery diver is not a super-person (not a male-chauvinist, either) but he should be an above average diver, with a very thorough understanding of what he's about. I cannot emphasise too greatly that S & R diver is a team effort and that the safety of the diver is the direct responsibility of every member of the team.

The diving team - The search for and the recovery of objects in dark water cannot be efficiently and safely undertaken by the lone diver. In dark water, a diver instantly loses all sense of position and direction, unless he can constantly check his body heading in relationship to a known point. This check is given by reference to the diver-surface line (or life line). The diver is completely dependent upon this line and the attendant on the other end, for his controlled progress across the bottom and also for his communications with the surface. In most instances, the diver is merely the pair of hands groping across the bottom, seeking physical contact with the desired object. The control of this search and any decisions to do with it (other than the diver's physical capacity to conduct the search) must be made from the surface. (To be continued)

F. FERRANTE

(written from notes and lectures by P.L. Butler Police Search & Rescue)

ULLADULLA 1980

Well, after much discussion and phone calls to South Australia and N.S.W., the VSAG Christmas trip this year will be to Ulladulla, N.S.W. Location 837 kilometres (520 miles) from Melbourne along the Prince's Highway Ulladulla is fairly typical of the fishing villages come holiday resorts along the south coast of N.S.W.

Of particular interest to divers is the good reef diving to be found offshore from Ulladulla and furthermore the diver is catered for by the amicable Peter Smith at the Blue Marlin Marine centre in the township.

Some well known dive spots in this area include -

- * Lighthouse reef with drop offs to about 90 feet
- * Burrill Rocks Reef, where giant boulders, caves and drop offs make an interesting sight at depths up to 80 feet
- * Golf Course Bommie - off the golf course naturally! With drop-offs from 50 feet to 90 feet.
- * Wreck diving at Brush Island

Ulladulla is conveniently located to the great surf beaches at Mollymook and is only 50 kilometres from Jervis Bay, where if possible we will dive the famed "Arch" and one of Australia's top spots "Stony Creek".

Eight campsites have been booked at the Ulladulla caravan park from Friday 26th December to Friday 9th January and already we have 8 names down for the bookings.

So if you want to get a spot contact John Goulding by the August General Meeting.

TIP'S TIT-BITS

Unfortunately we were unable to dive the wreck of the Inverlochly down near Angelsea on 6th July, but never mind the reserve dive captain changed the venue to Sorrento boat ramp for a last resort channel run off the Quarantine. Considering the lousy weather the dive proved to be quite successful, 13 turned up in all and squeezed into two boats Bazza's and Johnny's (any chance of a loan fellas?) and several old bottles were found. However 11 blokes were disgraced when it was discovered that a new sheila named Rhonda had picked up the prize of the day - one of those old earthenware bottles of about 1850. The committee is now seriously considering banning women from all future channel runs!

Speaking of women it appears that VSAG is once again entering another population explosion (refer Flotsam & Jetsam July issue Fathoms) two recent births and two more on the way including twins. I wonder if our travelling salesman (who sells the pill) has been doing his job - "never mind", he said recently "it's a good each way bet when you flog baby food as well!" Judging by the tension shown at a couple of recent club meetings our friend may also have a ready made market for his tranquilisers!

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: 1980-81

NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being full members of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group, hereby nominate:

for the position of Director.

Signed: _____ Date: / /

Signed: _____ Date: / /

I, _____ hereby accept the
above nomination for Director of the Group.

Signed: _____ Date: / /

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Now just because a bloke is over 30 and still single it doesn't necessarily mean there is anything peculiar about him. For instance look at Dave Carroll: he claims he's well travelled, intelligent rugged looking, affluent and modest, too, obviously. Dave also has a keen eye for the opposite sex but prefers the independence of bachelorhood. In fact since the drought earlier this year the Colac grazier was recently quoted as saying that "lately it's been a case of when it rains it bloody well pours!"

The July Boat Show this year aroused a very controversial subject - should people be allowed to catch fish in their unnatural environment eg. bright lights, noise, not enough oxygen in the water etc. These points are debatable, but to put live fish in plastic bags to take home where they died a slow death was quite wrong (this was done during the first few days of the show until the RSPCA intervened.) Johnny Goulding and Dave Moore certainly were not guilty of cruelty in any form - each night they went to the show with rods and reels plus an arsenal of gaffs, spears, machetes etc. (keen blood sport boys) and sure enough both went home to their wives with heavy bags every night!

Best quote this month goes to Geoff Birtles regarding his lovely wife Isabel: "She's great my missus does all the things really well that wives are supposed to - cooks, housekeeps you know and she's even got brains, too!"

FIXED FORTIFICATIONS OF PORT PHILLIP

Work was commenced on fortifications at Port Phillip Heads during 1877, and as divers today, we often see the remaining products of those efforts.

Forts were built at Queenscliff where 9 inch and 10 inch and sixty pounder guns were housed; and also at Swan Island to cover the West Channel which was similarly fortified. Work was then commenced on two island forts raised from shoals to cover West, Symonds and South Channels.

The South Channel fort being the most important of the two was commenced first as this is the deep draught Channel and the only effective site on shore to cover this channel was at Point King at Sorrento.

South Channel Fort was only 1500 metres from a narrow portion of the channel and her guns here could not fail to be effective. Iron plates

in the casemate of the fort were made thick enough to withstand possible return fire from passing ships.

Pope's Eye Shoal Fort was intended to protect West and Symonds Channels, but with the advent of electronically controlled mines which could be fired by the flick of a switch, it was decided to stop work on Pope's Eye Fort as the channels could be mined if necessary and controlled from Swan Island Fort. A fleet of light draught schooners were chartered to carry the bluestone blocks from quarries near Point Wilson to South Channel and Pope's Eye Forts.

South Channel Fort was raised from six feet deep water on the northern side of the south channel, about 3 miles west of Arthur's Seat. Timber piling, closely spaced around the perimeter, allowed the bluestone blocks to be carefully placed to form a retaining wall sloping upwards and inwards to a height of about 20 feet above sea level. Contained within the reclamation are galleries of the fort. The guns have been removed now, but the concrete emplacements can still be seen.

Since the fortifications were removed in 1914 the Ports and Harbours Department have used the magazines for storing the explosives used for blasting and extending the channel across Rip Bank.

When construction was ultimately abandoned on Pope's Eye Fort the circle of stone was about half finished and today is known as Pope's Eye Annulus - a semi-circular stone wall projecting about 3 feet from the water on the crown of Pope's Eye Shoal.

On its northern side the annulus is open and a theory exists that this gap was left to enable HMAS Cerberus to be floated within the barrier of bluestone to serve as a portable fort. Because there is a depth of only four feet of water within the annulus this theory only holds this amount of water.

But what an interesting picture that theory presents, our mighty Cerberus firmly aground at Pope's Eye hoping for a direct hit on the enemy, because she wouldn't be able to pursue. Certainly with today's war machinery it is a ludicrous thought.

By 1886 the defence system was complete, including electrically operated mines in South Channel fired from a control room within South Channel Fort, and we were ready for those Russians to invade!!

Sometime later a more powerful battery was mounted on Eagles' Nest, higher and eastwards from Point Nepean. On this peninsula a maze of tunnels still connect the batteries with the magazines and garrison accommodation.

DES WILLIAMS

INDIRECT EFFECTS OF PRESSURE

The indirect effects of pressure result from changes in the partial pressures of the gases in the breathing medium. The mechanism of these effects include saturation and desaturation of body tissues with dissolved gas, and changes of body functions by abnormal gas tensions.

Nitrogen Absorption and Elimination - At sea level the body tissues are equilibrated with dissolved nitrogen equal to the partial pressure of nitrogen in the lungs. Upon exposure to altitude or pressure, the partial pressure of nitrogen in the lungs will change and the tissues will either lose or gain nitrogen to reach a new equilibrium with the nitrogen pressure in the lungs. Taking up nitrogen in tissues is called absorption or uptake. Giving up nitrogen from tissues is termed elimination. In air diving, nitrogen absorption occurs when a diver is exposed to an increased nitrogen partial pressure. Elimination occurs when pressure decreases. This is true for any inert gas breathed.

The process of absorption consists of several phases, which include transfer of inert gas from the lungs to the blood, then from the blood to the various tissues through which it flows. The gradient for gas transfer is the partial pressure difference of the gas between the lungs and blood and blood and the tissues. The volume of blood flowing through tissues is usually small compared to the mass of the tissue, but over a period of time the gas delivered to the tissue will cause it to become equilibrated with that carried in solution in the blood. The rate of volume of blood flow and the respective capacities of blood and tissues to absorb dissolved gas. For example, fatty tissues hold significantly more gas than watery tissues and will thus take longer to absorb or eliminate excess inert gas.

The process of elimination is the reverse of absorption. During ascent, and after surfacing the tissues lose excess inert gas to the circulating blood by diffusion, the gradient being the difference between the inert gas partial pressure in each tissue and that in the blood vessels after the blood has equilibrated to the gas in the lungs. The amount of inert gas that can be taken up in the blood is limited, so the tissue inert gas tension falls gradually. As in absorption, the rate of blood flow and the amount of inert gas dissolved in the tissues and blood determine the rate of elimination. After decompressing to the surface or ascending to a shallower level, elimination at the new level may require 24 hours or more.

During decompression, the blood and tissues can hold gas in supersaturated solution to some degree, without bubbles being formed. A supersaturated solution is one in which the blood and tissues hold more gas than is possible at equilibrium at the particular temperature and pressure. Because of the ability of the blood and tissue to become supersaturated for short periods of time, a diver can ascend at least part of the way regardless of the depth and duration of his dive. An outward gradient is established and inert gas is eliminated from body tissues. This permits the diver to ascend further after some period of time. The process is continued until a diver can reach the surface. The diver's body will still contain inert gas in supersaturated solution in some tissues, but this is normally safe if kept within proper decompression limits, and if further pressure reduction such as ascending to altitude does not take place.

The basic principles of absorption and elimination of gas are the same for any inert gas breathed. Differences exist in the solubility and rates of diffusion of gases in water and fat. Helium is much less soluble in tissues than is nitrogen and diffuses faster. Thus, helium saturation may occur somewhat more rapidly than for nitrogen. It would appear that the more rapid saturation and desaturation that occurs with helium could require less decompression after long deep dives than when air is breathed. However, somewhat deeper decompression stops are required with helium to prevent it from coming out of solution as bubbles. As a result, some of this advantage is lost. The greatest advantage in the use of helium-oxygen mixture is the freedom from narcosis and the decrease in breathing resistance, rather than a decompression advantage.

DR. R. ESS

(Medical Adviser to the V.S.A.C.)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE VSAG

Over the past years, I have enjoyed many dives and other experiences and I am looking forward to many more in the future.

I have noticed a decay in the laws handed down to the present divers by the divers of the past. The bad experiences which our past divers had are not to be passed onto the present divers. I have put together 10 laws which, if used in conjunction with JC's 10 commandments, will make for safer diving and a better life.

1. Thou shalt not hit the grog or play junkies for a considerable time before the dive
2. Thou shalt know your own capabilities (a medical certified by the right doctor is essential)
3. Thou shalt make sure your diving equipment is in good condition and kept that way
4. Thou shalt make sure you have the correct equipment before the dive and enough air to complete the dive
5. Thou shalt not (when below) let your diving buddy out of sight or contact (depending on circumstances)
6. Thou shalt not (from below the water) rise faster than your smallest air bubble
7. Thou shalt know your own decompression stops and times and carry out this law
8. Thou shalt before the dive know where you are and how to get in and out of the water
9. Thou shalt make sure you have the first aid kit ready and know where medical assistance is
10. Thou shalt make sure you obey the command of your dive captain or person in charge - if not obeyed your punishment could be of great suffering.

To the new divers of not much experience, may you thoroughly enjoy your future dives. To those past divers we thank you for your experiences and by following these rules may we also be past divers one day, not late divers.

One final rule after the top 10, use your own good sense in each situation and do not take needless risks.

ANONYMOUS

YARRAWONGA TRIP

Well I will not bore you with all the details of the trip, but ferrit and I enjoyed ourselves very much.

There is one little story I would like to tell you about (Wild Mick Rogers?) We all decided to go horse trail riding, well its been a few years since I have ridden a horse and some of the others have never ridden one (like Wild Mick).

We all went down to the farm to pick up our horses, the guy said to me, "This is your horse." Well I ask you how can a woman with 3 ft

lung legs ride a horse with 6 foot long legs. So I asked for a small one and got a wee little grey named Spot, so I thought. Well off we trotted like browns cows, up hills and half way home.

Out of the trees raced a big black dog, barking like mad, then all of a sudden all hell broke loose, off went Mick, I reckon he was doing 60 miles per hour, did he go! I'm sure that horse had a battery up his you know what, well Mick fell off, up he got again and off went the horse again. I think that horse was jet propelled, My ferrit of only a few months married said "I'll ride it back Mick" (you'd think he was John Wayne) after all I wanted to keep him a bit longer.

Well my sweet little horse, Spot decided he would take a little trot off I went on my you know what. (I'm writing this standing up.)

I would like to say, Jenny and John, who put us up for the weekend, you couldn't find two nicer people, they made us very welcome.

Congratulations to - Jenny and Pat; Cindy and Justin; Leslie and Paul
F.S. Mick's horse was called LOCO.

scary

FERRITS FRIEND

FERRITS WIFE

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

July has been a most uninteresting month for dive reporting, unless of course you managed to find a rare bottle on the Drift Dive offshore from the Quarantine Station on July 6th.

The strong westerly winds that had been blowing during the week preceding this dive had caused shifts in the sand, which revealed a fine collection of bottles including a rather nice stone bottle found by a visiting lady diver.

Whilst on the subject of lady divers we welcome Sally Austin to the club, and suggest to her that not all lady members have married male members and settled down to have families: but club statistics do indicate that - those who dive together often end up in the hive together!

Another member to recently join our ranks is Terry Arnott from Geelong. Terry joined the VSAG group that went to Trul Lagoon in April and is one of the most dedicated and knowledgeable shipwreck fanatics we know.

Unfortunately Terry, his wife Debbie and their family are moving to Western Australia for about 12 months. No doubt Terry's already rich knowledge of wrecks will be further complemented with a closer history of the Dutch ships that were wrecked along the West Coast.

With the chilling temperatures of winter biting through our wet suits, its comforting to think about the warmer waters of Ulladulla that await us at Christmas time.

A limited number of campsites have been booked, so if you want to go contact John Goulding by the August General Meeting.

Recent attempts by some members to locate some new dive spots for the Club have not been successful due to poor weather.

However, when the opportunity is right we will attempt a dive at the Outside Wall, off Point Nepean, and also the wreck of the "Light of the Age".

Our second planned dive at the wreck of the "Inverlochy" had also been postponed in July and this wreck also warrants further attempts. Chimney Rock off Barwon Heads can be a spectacular dive on its day. Hopefully we will be diving this spot again in the spring.

So from a fairly quiet sort of month in the middle of winter, let's look forward to better things to come in the months ahead.

RAY ZORBLADES
(A real sharp cookie)