

FATHOMS

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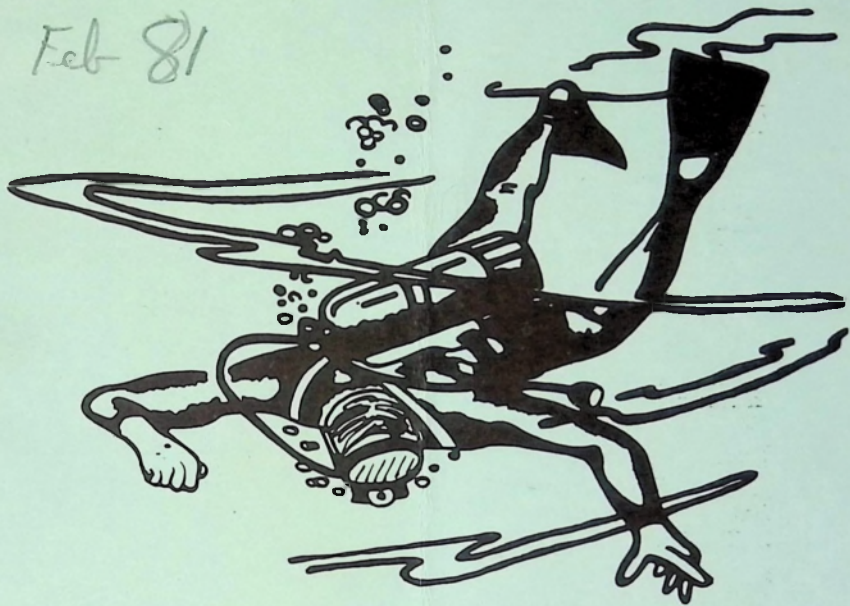
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SAFETY IN DIVING

50c

Feb 81



VSAAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FEBRUARY, 1981

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 18th February, 1981 at 8pm at 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!

EDITORIAL:

A new year and already VSAG has dived a new location! I refer to the Christmas Dive Trip to Ulladulla in NSW which was a resounding success. There were only three out of seventeen days, I spent there, that were unsuitable for diving, The first time since our Truk Lagoon trip since I have seen divers actually "dived out"! The Club could certainly do a lot worse than return to Ulladulla next year.

Our congratulations to Fred & Wendy Ferrante (NEE MASON) who were married in very pleasant surroundings at Mr. Ferrante Snr. home early in December, 1980. Very best wishes to you both for a happy and healthy life together from all your friends in VSAG.

I am no Ita Buttrose, but the bride wore a lovely full length wet suit with matching buoyancy compensator and a cluster of mauve ascidians. The groom looked resplendent in a beautiful flannel wet suit with matching blazer and a pair of very natty wetsuit boots.

The weather was superb and the buddy line was tied in the traditional way. Cindy and Justine Liddy were official photographers and some excellent photos were taken on Justines Nikonos II, with the lens cap in place!

At our annual dinner dance for 1980 held at the "Greek Inn" in December our usual raffle was run. Our enthusiastic Social Secretary Bob Scott Esq. was seen standing over members (on a chair!) extracting donations for tickets, but everyone enjoyed the fun of the draw. It must have been our most successful raffle ever, as over \$100 was raised for the Club! A mighty effort and only made possible by the generosity of Bob & June Scott and our fearless Treasurer Dave Carroll, who donated the prizes.

By the time you receive this newsletter one of our Committee Members KARL JIRONC will have left Australia for Nauru out in the Pacific Ocean. Karl applied for a position with the phosphate mining company and his application was successful, much to his delight.

For those of you who don't know Karl all that well, he is the kind of guy who would drive many miles to pick up the Club compressor and take it around in his Kombi-Van to Club dives; or would sit for hours filling tanks for Club members on long weekends.

I feel sure that the diving in Nauru will suit you Karl, and our wishes for Good Luck go with you. Don't forget to drop us a line and let us know how the new job is going, we will all be interested.

Our Club Gestetner printing machine has had a service over XMAS and we hope with due care should see many newsletters over the coming years. Our thanks must go to Geoff Birtles for this very generous donation to the Club. We certainly would not have been able to purchase one ourselves.

The recent Australia Day long weekend trip at Wilsons' Promontory in magnificent weather, was unfortunately marred by a very severe ear problem for Tony Tipping. Tony has spent some time in Melbourne's Eye & Ear Hospital and at the time of publishing this newsletter the exact extent of damage is unknown. We are all hoping it won't be too long before you are back with us again Tony.

EDITOR

DIVE CALENDAR:

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>LOCATION:</u>	<u>TIME:</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT:</u>	<u>NOTES:</u>
March 1	SORRENTO	8.30AM	M. SYNON 465-2812	"WALL DIVE" *
March 7-8 & 9	PT. CAMPBELL	"LOCH ARD"		BE AT FEB. MEETING FOR DETAILS

* This will be an open water dive weather permitting, otherwise a channel run. Please note this dive has

* been changed from San Remo
due to suitability of tides
for Port Phillip Heads.

March 22	INVERLOCH	10 AM	BOB SCOTT 367-2261	MEET AT BOAT RAMP
March 29	FLINDERS	10 AM	BARRY TRUSCOTT 783-9095	WRECK "GEORGE KERMODE"

COMMITTEE NEWS:

1. Our next Christmas trip to be at Ulladulla NSW again because facilities and the excellent dive sites available are better than other places we have been.
2. A tentative booking aboard the Bass Strait dive boat "POLPERO" has been arranged, for September 1981.
3. Our club compressor has been receiving servicing and repairs by Mick Jackiw.
4. There is now a vacancy in the Club Committee due to the recent departure of Karl Kironc, so nominations will be taken for a replacement member at next general meeting in February.
5. Discussion on the coming Easter Dive Trip, and John Goulding will obtain application for us to again camp at Tidal River - Wilsons' Prmmontory.
6. Our President Tony Tipping was not present as he has unfortunately had a serious EAR problem and was in the Eye & Ear Hospital at the time.
7. Next Committee meeting to be held on 25th February, 1981 at the home of Pat & Jenny Reynolds, 14 NURLA COURT, FRANKSTON at 8.00 PM.

CHRISTMAS AT ULLADULLA:

Ulladulla wasn't the best place I have been to, then again it wasn't the worst. The bit I liked was that the beach which was really close to the caravan park, although it mostly was rocks and set in the rocks was a full size olympic swimming pool that had salt-water. One thing, was that besides going shopping, swimming, reading, going on the paddle-boats and playing "UNO" there was nothing to do. I didn't like the jelly-fish and the blue bottles. One ace thing was Bob & June and the Truscott's all played squash a lot of the time. I suppose the highlight of the trip was when Chris beat Tony in the run to the lighthouse, and even Craig beat Dad, so they must be getting old.

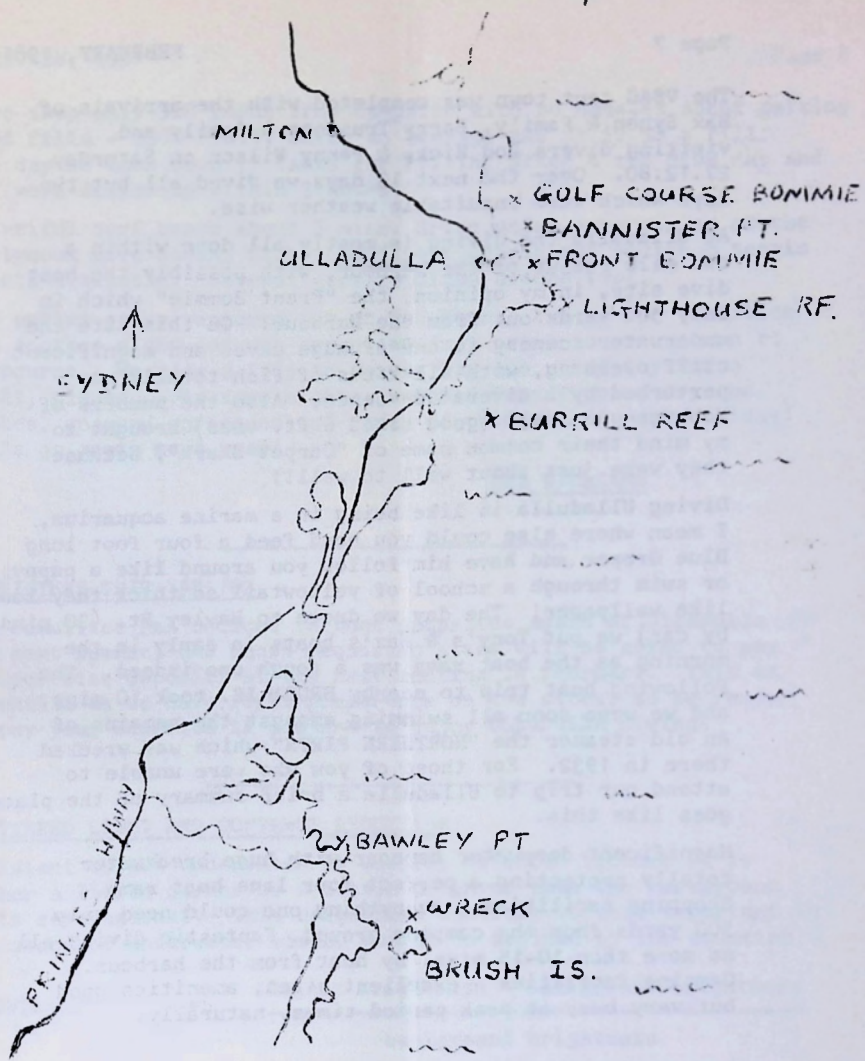
SAMANTHA TRUSCOTT

ED: Thank you Samantha for a different view of our Christmas Trip:

CHRISTMAS CLUB TRIP TO ULLADULLA NSW:

First to occupy sites at Ulladulla were Tony, Marg and myself on Christmas Eve, and we began our first dive on Xmas Day at Lighthouse Reef. The sea was so flat that day, Tony and I waterskied home to Ulladulla.

Boxing Day was again perfect and Tony & I dived Burrill Rocks where the viz was 80-100 ft. We were circled by a school of very large Kingies and the fish and marine life on this 70 ft. drop-off made our 30 minute dive go very quickly. Later that day Mick Jackiw arrived and near midnight Bob & June Scott turned up.



MILTON

ULLADULLA

↑
SYDNEY

x GOLF COURSE BONNIE
x BANNISTER PT.
x FRONT BONNIE
x LIGHTHOUSE RF.

x BURRILL REEF

x BAWLEY PT

x WRECK

BRUSH IS.

RIVER OF THE MARY

The VSAG tent town was completed with the arrivals of Max Synon & Family, Barry Truscott & family and visiting divers Rod Hicks & Penny Wilson on Saturday 27.12.80. Over the next 13 days we dived all but two days which were unsuitable weather wise.

At Ulladulla the diving is mostly all done within a two mile radius of the harbour, with possibly the best dive site, in my opinion, the "Front Bommie" which is only 500 yards out from the harbour! On this site the underwater scenery is one of huge caves and magnificent cliff overhang, with all kinds of fish totally unperturbed by a divers' presence. Also the numbers of Wobblygong Sharks' (good sized 6 ft. ones) brought to my mind their common name of "Carpet Shark", because they were just about wall to wall!!

Diving Ulladulla is like being in a marine aquarium, I mean where else could you hand feed a four foot long Blue Groper and have him follow you around like a puppy; or swim through a school of yellowtail so thick they looked like wallpaper! The day we drove to Bawley Pt. (30 mins. by car) we put Tony's & Max's boats in early in the morning as the boat ramp was a rough one indeed. The following boat trip to nearby BRUSH IS. took 10 mins. and we were soon all swimming amongst the remains of an old steamer the "NORTHERN FIRTH" which was wrecked there in 1932. For those of you who were unable to attend our trip to Ulladulla a brief summary of the place goes like this.

Magnificent deepwater harbour with huge breakwater totally protecting a perfect four lane boat ramp. Shopping facilities - everything one could need only 500 yards from the camping ground. Fantastic diving all no more than 10-15 mins. by boat from the harbour. Camping facilities - excellent sites, amenities good but very busy at peak period times, naturally.

Dive shop only 500 yards from Campsite with no hassles about getting good fills - 3300 P.S.I. being an average and at \$2.50 a fill! One day we took down 17 tanks for filling after a two dive day and all were filled up within 3 hours.

Beautiful surf beach about 5 mins. drive under supervision of the Mollymook Life Saving Club. Good golf course and squash & tennis courts available. Several service Clubs around too!

The entire group ventured out on New Years' Eve as the tradition and another night out was organized just prior to our return to Melbourne. We made a trip to Jervis Bay one rainy day for a visit, played cards some nights, watched Tony Tipping dry the dishes, enjoyed barbecues and games of cricket. A real holiday! Let's go again next year!

DES WILLIAMS

CHRISTMAS TRIP 1981/82:

The committee has decided to book campsites again at Ulladulla for next summer, and those requiring sites will be asked to pay \$24 per site deposit, at the next meeting in February. This is essential as we have first preference on the sites; so be ready to pay your deposits if you wish to enjoy ULLADULLA diving.

SCATTERED LIGHT AND CONTRAST REDUCTION:

A distant object underwater is usually detected because it is either a little darker or a little brighter than the background it is seen against. This brightness contrast is very important in the study of underwater vision and it is defined by the equation:-

$$\text{CONTRAST} = \frac{\text{Object brightness} - \text{background brightness}}{\text{background brightness}}$$

Contrasts are low underwater because much of the image-forming light from an object is either scattered out of the light path or absorbed by the water before it reaches the eye, whilst daylight is scattered out of its downward path into the eye thus interposing a veil of brightness between the object and the eye. It is this scattered daylight which is responsible for the brightness of the water background. Taking the results of absorption and scatter together, bright objects become darker and dark objects become brighter as they recede until neither can be distinguished from the water background. The rate at which this happens depends upon the rate that a beam of light is diffused and attenuated by the water and upon the direction of sight. Obviously if the rate of contrast decrease remains the same, the distance that an object can recede before it becomes invisible depends on the original contrast with the water background.

A close black object has a brightness of zero and therefore the contrast is -1 irrespective of the background brightness. As man can generally detect contrasts greater than about $.02$ in good light and with large targets, the distance at which a large black object can just be seen depends only upon the rate at which contrast decreases in water. Thus the distance at which a black body greater in area than 1 sq. ft. can just be seen when viewed horizontally is an excellent standard method for measuring the visibility.

In practice, a good way to make the measurement is for two divers wearing black suits to stretch a measuring tape between them. The "black body" distance being that at which it just becomes impossible to decide the position of the co-diver's limbs in the water.

The range at which objects of different brightness can be detected when viewed horizontally underwater. Objects which exactly match the water background in brightness are nearly invisible; those which are white can be seen at the greatest distance. (This diagram was calculated from actual sightings using painted grey targets 37 sq. cm in area at 16 M in Broad Bay, Stornoway.)

The reduction of light with depth and the sensitivity of the eye. The rate at which daylight is absorbed by different bodies of water varies greatly and depends on the amount of dissolved and suspended matter in the water. In Britain it is common enough to find it too dark to see at 50 ft. (15 mtrs) whilst in the Mediterranean this limit is still far off at the deepest aqualung depth. The eye is able to cope with great differences in light intensity by switching between its two visual systems, one adapted for use during the day and the other at night. In day vision relatively bright light is needed but colours can be seen and there is a good perception of contrast and detail. Night vision is much more sensitive to low light intensities but colour vision is lost and there is some reduction in the ability to distinguish contrasts and detail. It takes between 20 and 30 minutes for an eye adapted to bright light to achieve maximum sensitivity in very dim light. In diving terms this means that a dive into darker water is usually completed before the eye has had time to reach its greatest sensitivity.

In biological diving where a torch can upset the animals being observed, a technique has been successfully used to overcome the slow rate of dark adaptation. The technique takes advantage of the fact that the night vision system is quite insensitive to red light and thus if a well fitted red visor is worn for the 25 mins. before a dive and only removed at depth, the night vision system reacts as though it were dark and adapts accordingly. It has been estimated that this technique provides a 30% greater working depth when no torch is used.

Colour underwater:

The eye is sensitive to a band of radiation extending in wavelength from about 350 nanometers ($1 \text{ nm} = 10^{-9}$ metres) to about 750 nm. When all wavelengths are present in about equal amounts the sensation of white is produced but when a narrow band of wavelengths predominates, the sensation of colour is produced

Pure water absorbs most red and orange light, less yellow, still less green and relatively little blue light. Therefore the deeper daylight penetrates into pure ocean water the poorer it becomes in red light relative to blue. Inshore waters, on the other hand, are usually stained by the yellow products of vegetable decay. These substances are very persistent and have the property of absorbing much blue light, less green and very little yellow or red. If these yellow substances are present in quantity they act as such strong light filters as to over-ride the blue filtering properties of pure water and the reddish-brown colour of fresh-water lochs and burns results. If the yellow stain is rather more diluted, the red and yellow light is absorbed by the water and the blue by the yellow substances and this leaves green as the colour least absorbed. This is the explanation for the green colour of the water around our coasts.

This colour-filter action of a water mass is chiefly responsible for the fact that colours appear different below the surface. An object is coloured because it absorbs some wavelengths more than others. The wavelengths that it does not absorb but reflects are responsible for its colour. For instance, at about 30 metres in the Mediterranean the water has absorbed most of the red light so that an object which is red on the surface because it absorbs all save red light will not be exposed to the only wavelengths it reflects and will thus appear black. In reddish-brown peat-stained water the blue is absorbed more than the red (although both are absorbed more rapidly than in pure water) and it is the blue object which appears black. Next month we'll discuss various colours underwater.

By Prof. NO-ITALL

FATHOMS: BASS STRAIT DIVING TRIP:

VSAG has a tentative booking aboard the luxurious dive charter launch "Polperro".

Planned departure is from Port Franklin on Saturday 12th September, and return is on Sunday 20th September, 1981.

The Trip will include diving on the fantastic wrecks in Bass Strait as well as getting among some of the best crayfish country in Aust.

The many islands in Bass Strait provide for good anchorages and protective coves can be found in virtually any weather condition.

The "Polperro" has its own compressor, hot showers, freezer, radar, T.V. and all meals are provided by the skipper; however to maintain comfort, she is limited to 10 passengers.

So its' the first 10 people to pay \$40 deposit go on the trip. Estimated cost of the whole trip is between \$260-\$300. Our booking will close at the end of February, and if the 10 places are not filled we will have to forego the booking.

For further details contact John Goulding Tel: 89-6634 (Private)

Remember: - \$40.00 deposit before the end of February!!

DIVING OFFICERS CONFERENCE:

The SDF ran a diving officers conference in November which John Goulding and myself attended and of the seven subjects covered at that meeting you have already received a report on one by John Goulding in December issue - "DIVER LIFESAVING".

My summary is to be on a talk given by JOHN GORDON - "DIVE PLANNING" - BOAT DIVING. While the points covered in John's talk would keep a dive captain more than moderately busy on the day, the points are all valid ones if the dive captain is to satisfy himself that everyone is in good shape to dive. Safety for everyone being the main objective.

1. A card should exist for each diver with details of allergies, blood group, address, doctor, emergency contact, birth date etc., and should be available to the Dive Capt. on the day.

2. Pre-boarding dive boat: D.C. should acquaint all divers with the situation of emergency equipment in the boat, organise buddy pairs, and enter on log sheet, especially experienced with less experienced divers. Ensure first aid kit is available. The carrying of some spares was also recommended such as, CO2 cartridges, O-Rings, weights and snorkels. A check of all compensators for perforated CO2 cartridges to be made at this point.

3. At Dive Site: Check hand signals, especially with visitors; put up dive flag and check anchor is secure. Familiarity with different type of equipment is certainly an advantage to the D.C. and he shouldn't be ashamed to ask the owners of unfamiliar equipment how it operates.

A work sheet should now be entered as divers gear up. It should include names, group number, cylinder size and pressure, expected depth and bottom time, and lastly the time each diver submerged and time diver is up. A head count at the end of the dive is also essential to check with number of divers and non divers listed on boat.

It was explained by John that while there are many things and dive captain must do on the day it should be remembered by all divers that their assistance is required to help the Dive Captain with total co-operation as responsible divers.

DES WILLIAMS

FOR SALE:

SEIKO AUTOMATIC DIVERS WATCH:

Superseded model rated to 230 foot depth.

This watch has adjustable 60 minute bezel and 12 hour international time adjustment ring. Also day and date indicator.

Will sell for \$50.00 O.N.O.

Contact JOHN GOULDING: TE: 89-6634 (Private)

FLOTSAM & JETSAM:

From all reports the diving at Ulladulla was as good as NSW locals make it out to be. The usual stories of clear water, schools of fish, coral drop-offs and all the other trimmings that make the NSW South Coast a mecca for Victorian divers.

Even the campsites were good, and the chinese food at the bowling club was the best this side of Hongkong.

Needless to say, your correspondent was not there so these excited stories about VSAG's Christmas trip can only be considered with some scepticism.

We know of one member who was allowed to go only if he behaved himself and even then he was limited to only two "boys nights out". Seems that boy in question ran out of steam after the first night out and spent the second one back at the camp playing cards.

Des Williams and Mick Jackiw were kept busy looking at the local bird life but we hear that the surfies were a better attraction.

Diving was never much of a spectator sport! and all the talk about "Divers doing it deeper" seems to be all wishful thinking.

The Scotts managed their second game of golf for the year, however with no highest score prizes in the offering they managed to break the 100 mark.

The Synons and the Truscotts let their children loose again and all managed to survive the ordeal, much to the amazement of their parents.

Visitors; Rod & Penny went along to Ulladulla and we believe some heavy work was put in on them to join the club. - Time will tell!!

So for us that stayed home, we were given heaps of sunshine and the waters around Bass Strait and the Southern section of the Bay were the clearest they have been for a long time. Recently departed from our shores is Karl Fironc. Big Karl has been appointed to a supervisors job on the island of Nauru, and no doubt will be making his presence felt in that part of the world. Nauru has some excellent diving and Karl was looking forward to his new job (salary tax free) and getting in plenty of diving. A small farewell party was held for Karl in January and those present were treated to a last look at his famous tattoos and a few well chosen words from our gentle giant.

And so to the January long weekend..... Once again we booked the good ship Mirrabooka under command of Captain Reg (Red Bum) Truscott.

Friday's meeting at the Foster pub set the mood for the weekend and the excellent weather made it a superb trip. We dived at Waterloo Bay, Skull Rock, Horn point and around the very southern part of the prom. The usual ones caught the crays and the usual ones missed them again. After missing 3 good crays I am definitely going to develop something better than the rabbit trap I have been using. My female cray decoy was successful once, but was put on the pot by mistake and melted in the heat.

It was good to see Neil Garland back in the water again about an 8 month absence - (been practising his golf). Also Paul Sier complete with Arse-all-torn wet suit!!

We were able to meet up with a few of the usual Refuge Cove crew and enjoyed again a burst of last years jokes - (Good on you Archie).

Reg - the old man of the sea looks as young and fit as ever, especially from the knees down.

These Australia Day Weekend Prom Trips with Reg have been probably the most popular regular trips that our club enjoys. This year we had 23 members along and our thanks go to Reg for putting up once again with us, and also to Barry and Tony for bringing along their boats to accommodate the overload.

Divng at the Prom offers quite a variety from the gentle kelp fringed shores of Waterloo Bay to the forbidding and awesome drop-off at Skull Rock. As an area for underwater scenery and fish life, the Prom must rate about tops along the Victorian Coast. So lets hope we can all enjoy it for many years to come.

It seems that Bass Strait is getting quite a reputation these days. Two books recently released equate some mysterious happenings in Bass Strait to the Bermuda Triangle. It appears that just as in the Bermuda Triangle were to have been ships and aircraft that have disappeared without trace over our local waters. One of the books also claims 5 witnesses who saw a fiery football with vague shapes inside in the suburb of Melbourne. The book also theorizes that extra terrestrial entities have been collecting planes, ships and their occupants for the purpose of study.

Well this may seem like pretty heavy stuff to most of you, but we writers have empathy for those who dare to write about the unusual so we contacted the writers of these books and offered our professional underwater "LITTLE GREEN SPACE MAN DETECTING DEVICE" to help seek further evidence to these theories.

The writers have been very keen about our support, and thrilled with the space, bits we have so far delivered: - "Flying Saucers" from the wreck of the Sierra Nevada, "Dead Eyes" from the "Holyhead" - that one really got 'em in - "Cor blimey said one learned writer - thats a dead eye? - these green men must be huge!

Any member finding space ships underwater is asked to take them to the representative of the Mars Inter-Space Lost Property Office.

Signed

GLORIA SOAME

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LIZARD ISLAND CRUISE: by Andy Redwood

Nineteen dives in 7 days - and I decided to miss two, being lazy (and not in running condition after the Xmas festivities). Five days of perfect weather before the rains came - flat sea, sunshine blue skies, masses of fish, clear water. The far north of the Barrier reef, has all the ingredients for some perfect diving! And when you just fall over the side to dive, climb back up the ladders, eat, sunbathe and fall over the side again a couple of hours later, well that's gotta be the only way to dive!

The trip was an 8 day cruise from Cairns up to Lizard Island about 140 miles north, and back leaving December, 30th at midnight. Risky weather at that time of year as it turned out, but I was lucky, catching the last of a set of fine weather and the start of a rainy set. The best time to make it is evidently mid March to mid May or September to early December, to catch the times of low winds and fine weather.

The outfit I went with, "Going Places" has two boats. The 50 ft. "Auriga Bay" has berths for 12 divers, plus 3 crew, though things would certainly get crowded with more than about 8 divers. Two four berth cabins, a shower/toilet and two other cabins for two people below; top decks there's the main cabin come deckhouse, gallery and a second shower/toilet. Forward, there's a large area of covered deckspace for kitting up for diving or sitting around with an ale or three.

Their other boat is the 60 ft. "Reef Explorer", built for extended cruises to the Coral Sea reefs (Osprey, Boogainville and other). It carries 12 divers as well, but in real luxury - though even it probably doesn't have enough freezer space to store the fosters that a boatfull of VSAG divers would bring along!

Most of the time "Going Places" caters for the American diving market, or private charters, but several times a year they do have a trip for Australian parties. The idea of the present trip was to take on time cruising up the Ribbon reefs - finger reefs which stretch from about the latitude of Cooktown to north of Lizard Island and which form the outer ramparts of the Barrier reef itself. This "outer-Edge" diving provides crystal clear waters, masses of pelagic fish and superb drop-offs.

We left just after midnight on the 30th and steamed northwards, parallel to the coast. It took us all the night and the next day to get to the start of the Ribbons, and we stopped for two dives on the way to break the journey. Comparing them to the dives that followed, these were just "average" coral reef dives, though for me (as I haven't been in the water since Truk they were sheer delight. First dive was at 11.30 am at Evening Reef. Not a noted dive spot as it tends to take the force of the SE winds which blow most of the year. (We had light NE winds for most of the trip). Here there was a well defined reef wall dropping off to about 50 ft. and a sandy bottom, split by gullies thickly carpeted with staghorn coral. Masses of coral fish playing amongst the corals and a few small schools of pelagics - something in the trevally family. Visibility only about 60 ft., as the ebb and flow of the tides through these inner reefs never allow the crystal clear conditions of the outer edge.

Dive number two was very similar, at the southern end of Pearl Reef. Visibility about 60 ft. again but here there were bommies and small reefs rising out of the sand bottom at 60 ft. Some fine plate corals here, though we dived late in the afternoon and most of the colour had gone from the water.

The evening we anchored for New Year's Eve at the southern end of Ribbon No. 2 on a flat calm sea. We were all pretty tired after that first day's diving so although there was a complete mixture of people aboard - from Aust., N.Z., Canadians, U.S.A. and Brazil we all celebrated New Zealand New Year with a magnum of champagne (10.00 p.m. Qld. time) so we could all get to sleep!
Next month: Dives on the outer edge!!

ED: Greatest to hear from you again Andy, we will look forward to the second half of your trip resume next month.

REFUSE COVE TRIP JANUARY, 1981

The following members are asked to pay for air fills from the Refuge Cove Trip:-

J. GOULDING	3	FILLS	\$4.50
B. TRUSCOTT	3	"	"
T. TIPPING	2	"	\$3.00
P. TIPPING	3	"	\$4.50
P. REYNOLDS	3	"	\$4.50
B. SCOTT	2	"	\$3.00
D. MOORE	3	"	\$4.50
D. ABELL	3	"	\$4.50
N. ABELL	-		-
T. BROOKS	2	"	\$3.00
D. WILLIAMS	3	"	\$4.50
J. TURNER	2	"	\$3.00
P. SIER	3	"	\$4.50
N. GARLAND	2	"	\$3.00
B. SOULSBY	3	"	\$4.50
P. KING	3	"	\$4.50
G. BIRTLES	3	"	\$4.50
J. RUMOLD	3	"	\$4.50
D. CARROLL	3	"	"
J. ELLIOTT	3	"	"
D. HENTY WILSON	3	"	"

Those members with pre paid air will have their fills deducted from their outstanding balance by the property officer.

SOME HISTORY OF POINT LONSDALE AREA:

By: Des Williams

Recently I was browsing through some old papers in the Latrobe Library and came across a few snippets of history which may be of interest to you.

In October 1886 there occurred one of Lonsdales' best remembered wrecks, when the French barque GLANEUSE 483 tons, built at LA SEINE in 1870, went ashore a couple of hundred yards along the Ocean Beach from the lighthouse. She went stern first into an opening in the reef that made a natural dock and held her secure until the waves smashed her free in fragments. But that was not for several years, and the veteran Capt. Harley Watson recounts how as a boy he used to climb up a rope trailing from the spanker boom which was hanging over the stern. There was at first considerable optimism about getting her off, though it seems probable by the following report that the optimism was mainly among non-seafarers. From the "SENTINEL" of 13th November, 1886 "The Iron barque "GLANEUSE", lying stranded near the Pt. Lonsdale lighthouse, was sold by auction on Wednesday morning at the Exchange. It was stated that the damage to the ship was not great - chiefly the breaking of rivets along the bilge, and that it could be floated off in a week, at a cost of about £150. Bidding started at £200 and the ship was knocked down to Mr. S. COHEN, for £350.

The "Sentinel" adds, with sly humour "Whoever floats off the remains of the "GLANEUSE" for a cost of £150 will certainly prove himself a smart man".

Other optimists continued in vain as their flippant article shows - "SENTINEL" of 14th July, 1888 two years later.

"There only about 400 tons of sand in the "GLANEUSE", and yet Mr. Kitton is working away at her in the joyful hope of getting her off! The sand is only one item in the list of difficulties."

Underterred by the non-success attending efforts to salvage the "GLANEUSE", there were more optimists to speculate on the "MAFFRA" when she went aground in 1888.

"It is expected" report the "Sentinel" of 26/6/1888 "that Mr. James Miller, the purchaser of the wrecked schooner "MAFFRA", will be able, early next week, to have the vessel again afloat off the beach at Pt. Lonsdale."

There is more and very interesting matter, in connection with the "MAFFRA" in that same "Sentinel". "During the past few days the sea in the vicinity of Pt. Lonsdale has encroached upon a part of the beach in an alarming manner. The wrecked schooner "MAFFRA" has in some way caused the tide as it rises to flow in a kind of eddy towards the westward, and this has gradually forced itself up the beach, until now the water is almost 100 yards or so further inland than it was two weeks ago.

"A most singular circumstance in connection with the encroachment of the sea is the washing away of what has been looked on as the surface sand has left exposed to view, portions of the hull, masts and spars of some vessel evidently wrecked in the locality many years since. The wooden hull bears the signs having been under the sand and for very many years and is in an advanced state of decay".

A terse disillusioned comment in the "Sentinel" of 25/8/1888 tells the end of another experiment in salvage - "The "Maffra" has gone the way of all wrecks".

I found also the following information most interesting and submit for your interest.

In 1868, the "Light of the Age" ran on the rocks off the ocean beach and was pounded to pieces by the waves. From the point of view of the general public she was a thoroughly satisfactory wreck. No casualties and plenty of cargo to be picked up.

From all accounts the event was treated after the fashion of a ground picnic and Queenscliff was empty of everyone who could push a barrow or carry a basket.

The scene on the beach the day after it occurred, which happened most conveniently to be a Saturday, was such as had never been seen before, and has never been seen since. Pianos and large cases of heavy merchandise made a fast crumbling breakwater for 100's of yards along the low water mark. Iron tanks filled with flour made some resistance to the tides. Bedroom crockery was smashed on the rocks, or salvaged by bare-legged boys. Those who had gathered more booty than they could carry buried the surplus in the sand for further reference.

Tragic and unheeding among the carnival crowd, stood the ships with shattered hull and masts and yards all brokenly stacked for flotsam of the next tide. The crowds had it all their way till Sunday when the police arrived to patrol the beach and protect the fragments that remained.
