

# FATHOMS

April 82



## SAFETY IN DIVING

50c

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# VSAG

VSAG divers at Truk Lagoon. Geoff Birtles, John Goulding, Andy Redwood, Yves Corbett, Cynthia. Photo by Des Williams

## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

(Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group,  
Box 2526W G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001)

PRESIDENT:

Max Synon  
8 Pine Street,  
Thomastown 3074  
465 2812

SECRETARY & SAFETY/  
MEDICAL OFFICER:

John Goulding  
13 Birdwood Street,  
Box Hill South 3128  
89 6634

TREASURER:

David Carroll  
5/29 Dover Road,  
Williamstown 3016  
397 2317

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Des Williams  
29 Valerie Street,  
Boronia 3155  
762 1623

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

TONY TIPPING	- Vice Pres. & S.D.F. Deleg.	-	80 4956
BOB SCOTT	- Social Secretary	-	367 2261
PAT REYNOLDS	- Property Officer	-	789 1092
TERRY BROOKS	- Points Scorer & Assist. Ed.	-	439 3749
PAUL TIPPING	- Public Relations Officer	-	387 2027
MICK JACKIW	- S.D.F. Delegate	-	736 1730
GEOFF BIRTLES	- S.D.F. Delegate	-	846 1983
BARRY TRUSCOTT	- Committee Member	-	783 9095

CLUB MEETING:

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on the Wednesday 21st April, at 8.00 p.m., at the Collingwood Football Club, Lulie Street, Abbotsford. Bar facilities are available to VSAG Members prior to and after the General Meeting and meals are served from 6.00 p.m. until about 9.00 p.m. 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 ARE VERY WELCOME!

## EDITORIAL

And now for something completely different. Your regular editor being newly married and honeymooning in Fiji (congratulations Des & Julie), your assistant editor has stepped into the breach.

I think the first comment to be made is that last month's meeting was made very worthwhile by the instruction given by Owen Wright, who spoke on resuscitation technique. Owen was accompanied by a delightful young lady (I think her name was Resus. Annie). The mannequin, which employed a great deal of circuitry, showed us more than anything else that it is not easy to correctly administer expired air resuscitation (mouth to mouth) and cardiac massage. Perhaps more people ought to follow one member's example and take the course that Owen offers in these skills.

In the same educational vein, Dr. Geoff Broomhall will give a lecture this month on deep diving and its effects. This should also be valuable as many of us frequently go past 100 feet and deeper.

Preparations for the Wilson's Prom. trip are well under way. Currently, John Goulding and Tony Tipping are putting names to camp sites and by the time you receive this copy, a good time will have been had by all, weather permitting. I say this to remind members that a lot of work goes into the planning of these trips. I for one, appreciate being a member of such an active club where people will put work into such trips.

Finally, I would point out that we still need more articles for this magazine. Therefore, your assistant editor is introducing a new incentive scheme to encourage members to put pen to paper. The most prolific writer for next month wins a date with "Resus. Annie". (See if you can turn her lights on! ).

Terry Brooks

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Dive Capt.</u>	<u>Meet at</u>
Apr.2-17	Vanautu Tour		Andy Redwood	699 3908
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Apr.9-12	Wilson's Prom. 8 sites for camping will be booked at Tidal River		Tony Tipping	80 4956
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Apr.21	General Meeting Deep Diving lecture.		Lecture by Dr. Broomhall	
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Apr.25	Sorrento/Heads "This will be a deep dive outside the Heads"	9.00am	Terry Brooks 439 3749	Sorrento Boat Ram
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May 2	Flinders	10.00am	Geoff Birtles 846 1983	Flinders Pier
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May 16	Petria Rock	9.45am	David Carroll 397 2317	Sorrento Boat Ram
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May 19	General Meeting			
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May 30	"Victoria Towers"	9.45am	J. Goulding 89 6634	Torquay Boat Ram
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June 12/ 13/14	Apollo Bay Long Weekend		Terry Brooks	439 3749
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DIVE CALENDAR (CONTD.)

June 16 General Meeting

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June 20	Heads Area	11.00am	D. Williams	Sorrento
			762 1623	Boat
				Ramp

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NOTE: *Those wishing to dive on above dates must confirm with the Dive Captain the evening before the dive to arrange boat accommodation.*

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COMMITTEE NEWS

Meeting held at Paul and Leslie Tipping's home at Carlton on Wednesday 24th March, 1982. Present were Max Synon, Dave Carroll, John Goulding, Tony Tipping, Pat Reynolds, Terry Brooks, Paul Tipping, Barry Truscott and periodically Eliza Tipping.

- (1) Matters discussed included the CASICO insurance scheme. Those who wish to be covered by this scheme need to supply their name and address, plus \$11.00 to Tony Tipping at the next meeting. Tony will be able to supply full details of coverage at this meeting.
- (2) Tony Tipping also confirmed that Dr. Geoff Broomhall is to speak at the April meeting on the physiological effects of deep diving (See editorial).
- (3) The S.D.F. dinner dance for 1982 was discussed. It is to be held at the Camberwell

Civic Centre on 13th August, 7.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. The cost of \$23.00 per head includes beer, wine and spirits and V.S.A.G. has booked 3 tables of 10. Tony Tipping will speak further on this function at the April meeting.

- (4) The Christmas trip to Robe, South Aust. was discussed at some length. Barry Truscott is co-ordinating the trip this year and he will be travelling over to Robe soon after Easter to check out sites and bookings. Bookings by members this year will need to be accompanied by a booking fee of probably \$15. Barry will provide more details at the April meeting. (Ed. Note: I hope members will appreciate the efforts of Barry and Tony who will spend a weekend driving to S.A. With this sort of planning for a trip, what could go wrong!).
- (5) John Goulding supplied copies of an information sheet for new members. This sheet will be posted out with each copy of this month's "Fathoms" and subsequently supplied to new members on joining.

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### "FLOTSAM AND JETSAM"

There I was, sitting back with a cold can of blue watching the political rhubarb on the telly, when all of sudden this familiar face appears on the screer gabbling away about "underwater vandals". Sure enough, as large as life, was "Mr. Tony Tipping of the Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria", complete with "on-camera make-up" and blow wave doing his bit for the ship wreck preservationists. If this was not enough to make a

bloke choke on a beer, who else should pop up on the screen but Terry Brooks, with trimmed beard and new aqua-chartreuse blend wet suit. As far as name dropping is concerned, this little effort must take the prize.

After an "in situ" interview our two multi-media personalities then plunged into the sea and swam around the Eliza Ramsden, with the Channel 2 camera catching every bubble as it was whisked away in the logging current.

- Truly a great effort lads, but Tip, - you would have been a lot more convincing if you didn't have that crow-bar sticking out of your wetsuit.

On your first appearance F. & J. awards the act 42 points and suggests that with a little voice training and more practice in cleaning your nose so as to miss your beard Terry, the two of you could go on to be big attractions at seaside carnivals.

The annual Albert Park to Elwood Fun Run has again been held and V.S.A.G. fielded only three entrants; Brian Lynch, Barry Truscott and Tony Tipping. Lynchy won line honours for the club with Barry finishing a close second. Now third place was a bit of a mystery. The third runner did well to finish at all, so there was no need for him to rip off his number so that his name and official time would not be published in Runners World - You know Tip, when you're a multi-media personality, you need all the publicity you can get, even if you did slip through the finishing line just under the 60 minute mark.

Since the long weekend in January, the fortunes of V.S.A.G. have really improved. Not only have we won a couple of great birds in Kerrie and Kaye, but also we have found two ladies who know what diving is all about.

- You know the sort of things we mean. "Mick - be a darling and rub this oil on my back"

"We've got some chicken here - who'd like some breast?"

- how about stuffing??

and so on!!!!

The March long weekend was another great success - Port Campbell turned on some great weather for two days and gave us a chance to dive the "Loch Ard" and get some crays. Seems the Truscott boys have learnt a few tricks from the old man - and produced some good sized crays much to Bazza's envy.

At the March General Meeting we were treated to an excellent talk by Owen Wright on Resuscitation techniques - Owen and number one dive student these days, Geoff Birtles, did their thing on the blond blue eyed dummy and gave a very worthwhile lesson on keeping people alive.

Bob Scott, social secretary supreme, has done it again - An ocker night held at his place on the 27th March featured an all-girl band - Never seen Bazza take such an interest in music!

Easter is just a couple of weeks away and for those who can't get down to Wilson's Prom. there is the Andy Redwood - V.S.A.G. Trip to Vanuatu.

Dave Carroll, Mick Jackiw and Peter Harkin will join Andy and others on another fantastic trip to warm tropical waters. Meanwhile, for those going to the Prom. F. & J. will be there and once again the Annual Easter awards will be published in the May issue: - the big question is who will win the Easter "Superman" award - or will it be a "Superwoman" award?



Congratulations to Des Williams and Julie Evans who were married in March. As Des's diving buddies know, he was a great provider on dives: - eggs, sandwiches, fruit and cakes - and that was in his bachelor days - What will it be like now with Julie adding her bit. - Hope to see you up and about again soon Des.

Congratulations also to Fred and Wendy Fenante, on the birth of their daughter in February.

- Marriages, births! What's happening to you macho diving blokes! - Even the big M has been missing a few recently as he nears fatherhood. - Still, Paul Sier has dived twice in 3 months and Lynchy is believed to be trying to make a comeback - and the Wangaratta division of V.S.A.G. seems to get bigger each month. Its good to have you along lads.

No doubt you've read some of the publicity about the proclamation of the Historic Shipwrecks Act. It is now against the law to remove any artifact from a wreck that has been protected under the act. Some of the wrecks including the "City of Launceston" in Port Phillip Bay will be strictly policed by various maritime authorities and perhaps in this way, the destruction that has taken place in previous years can be stopped. All keen wreck divers obtain a lot of satisfaction by recovering artifacts from wrecks, and there will be plenty of pickings for years to come, on many wrecks that are not covered by this Act.

- However, in the long run, we may all benefit - by being able to dive wrecks and observe the remnants of a bygone era. Who knows, maybe some foolhardy politician will put the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne in Port Phillip Bay, and with some luck it will sink and make the most amazing dive this side of Truk Lagoon.

- What a fantastic dive we had at Spectacular Reef on March 28. Geoff Birtles (The poor man's Dick Smith)

led 13 divers to this magic spot and as is the luck of dive captains on slack current dives, he had to stay topside along with Mick Jeacle and Mick Jackiw.

Spectacular Reef is every bit as good as it's name suggests. A magnificent drop-off teeming with fish and the most wonderful array of sponges, soft and hard corals - also a couple of monster crays - a 10 pounder taken by Alistair and an 8 pounder taken by Kaye and Kerrie who showed great style in bagging this beauty after it attached itself to John's hand - how do you split a cray 3 ways? Simple, take it home to Murgatroyd who wants to serve it as lobster cocktail entree. Boy! Can't wait to hear what the main course will be - probably a 20 pound rump steak.

After the big ones had been caught, Geoff, Mick and Mick tried their skill in the current - before heading off for a scallop dive at Rye.

Signed Horrace Cope

### OBSERVATIONS OF THE EDITOR

I have been out of Melbourne only two weeks and already feel out of touch.

You probably all know by now that Julie and I were married on the 13th March and spent two weeks in Fiji. But returned in time to get the April issue of Fathoms off the ground. My thanks go to your assistant editor, who prepared most of this issue in my absence. Thanks Terry.

APRIL 1982

PAGE 10.

It has to be the best news of the month, and I guess I will spill it for John and Maree Goulding, who are soon to become parents. This is very exciting to hear and I am sure you both have every good wish from your friends at V.S.A.G.

Geoff Birtles is extremely busy these days working very hard in business, and I sure hope this doesn't restrict his usual eagerness to be involved in Club matters and diving. Still, a man's got to do what a man's got to do.

Yes, of course I went Scuba diving in Fiji! Paul King had made sure I made contact with API SAMBAR whilst on the magic island of Mana. Api, like all the Fijian men, is a tall well built guy with an infectious laugh and pleasant disposition.

The day we chose to dive, turned on a torrential downpour for the 5 kilometer boat ride to the dive site off MANA at "The Rocks", a 120 ft. drop off. My wife of only four days, watched as we vanished into the pouring rain in the large dive boat now half full of water!

!

We entered a gigantic cave at 100 ft. after a mind boggling descent down the coral wall in the bath temperature water alive with tropical fish. Api led the way into the depths of the cave and his shrieks of laughter as we squeezed past a huge ray snoozing in the passage-way will always remain in my mind.

Api said later, that the cave is his favourite first dive with tourists because it usually contains a couple of sharks! Api said the sound of tanks banging against the cave wall as tourist divers panic in the gloom, breaks him up! Paul and Alistair will know just how funny this is because they know Api's sense of humour!

Anyway, our dive was terrific, with every foot of the cave scanned in our powerful lights, we returned to the world of light and watched as a school of barracouda came within two metres of us. The following dive was only one hour later, at the MANA IS. fringing reef and we didn't exceed 40 ft. for obvious reasons.

But, what a beautiful dive it was; I have been fortunate enough to have dived extensively in tropical waters over the years, but this reef dive contained the most complex array of fishes and corals I have ever seen on one dive.

The remainder of our stay on Mana Is. and later at the "Fijian" resort on the main island of VITI LEVU, was a fantastic experience and Julie joined me on many snorkel dives over the tropical reefs.

It is good to be back in Melbourne again, away from all that sunshine and tepid crystal waters alive with fishes!!! See you at the April General meeting.

Hope to see you at that meeting Fred, we are keen to hear about your addition to the Ferrante family. Congratulations Wendy and Fred!!

Des Williams

This months issue of Fathoms contains a new Club information sheet for members as a result of a decision of the Committee recently. Members are asked to keep it in a safe place for future reference. In future all new members will be issued with a copy to explain a little of V.S.A.G history and help them to settle into Club activities more quickly.

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DOWN 'SCOPE:

Conspicuous by its absence this month is our usual 'periscope' article for which the author makes his apology. Geoff Birtles has been busier than a one armed wall-paper hanger with hives lately and unable to complete this months submission.

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The Thermopylae ended her career under remarkable circumstances. Up to April 1912 she was a training ship on the river Tagus and was then discarded as being too old for further service. The Portugese Government did not like to sell a vessel with her reputation and it was therefore decided to tow her to sea and give her a naval funeral by sinking her. This was done by two Portugese men of war, and so ended the career of one of the fastest and finest sailing ships that ever sailed. Thermopylae on her maiden voyage in 1868 under Captain Kemball sailed from London to an anchorage in Hobsons Bay in 61 days, a record that has never been beaten under sail. The nearest approach was Ben Voirlich in 1875 - 62 days. On that maiden voyage Thermopylae on January 4th, 1869, logged 336 miles in 24 hours.

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EARLY PORT PHILLIP FISHING INDUSTRY:

Of all the groups of commercial fisherman who operated in the Sorrento-Portsea area, perhaps the best known were the Watson family; three brothers, James, Henry and John left Scotland in 1850 and all eventually arrived at Portsea, establishing themselves in the industry to which they had been born and bred. They selected an area on Weeroona Bay which was already being operated by a man called Jack Inglis who turned it over to them and left for Queenscliff. They were later joined by a younger brother, Alec, who as well as being a fisherman, tried his hand at growing tobacco which, however, he was unable to cure properly. He also applied himself to limeburning and later built a cottage to which he added a bar, obtained a license and thus started the PORTSEA HOTEL. However he lived mainly on the beach where he and his scottish wife raised a family of ten children.

The four brothers operated a very well organised fishing set up, consisting of a camp on the beach near their own huts, where all gear was stored and where there were bunks for the men to have a nap. Straight up the cliff, 104 feet, they built a look out at a spot where the shoals of fish entering the main channel between the sand banks could be readily discerned. This look out was manned from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and immediately the look out man sighted the grey cloud in the water he gave the alarm through their system consisting of two bells, each one being erected on a hut at opposite ends of the camp, attached by a strong wire to the look-out. When giving the signal, the look-out man would pull the wire ringing the bell attached to the hut nearest the shoal. Immediately there would be activity, all men rushing to the boats, pushing them out and rowing with muffled oars, all the time watching for signals from the look-out man. If he waved his left hand they took out the 200 fathoms net, but if his right, then the 100 fathom net was used. One hand up meant, go quietly, as there was a porpoise close behind, both hands conveyed that there were a hundred dozen boxes in the shoal and to

take the biggest net but a blow on the whistle indicated look out for sharks. When they returned with their catch, women and children, in fact, everyone in the vicinity, helped to haul in the nets, it being no light task. In time they built their own jetty and pens in which to house the fish until they were able to transport them to market. The catch usually consisted of salmon, trout, mullet with sometimes yellowtail giants weighing as much as 90 lbs.

Some of the fisherman lived in stone houses on top of the cliff and others in the cottages on the beach; for these latter they paid no rates as they were on Government land by right of their fishing licenses.

John later set up his camp in the area now occupied by the Sorrento Sailing Club, and used the Western Sister for his look-out.

The cottages on the beach have now been pulled down (in 1965) owing to the expiration of their fishing rights licence.

(extract from 'The Peninsula Story' by the  
Nepean Historical Society).