

FATHOMS

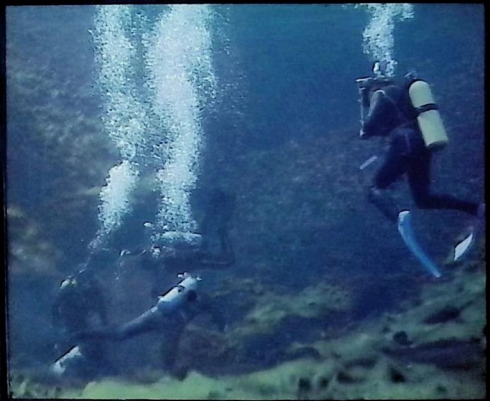
DEC 82



SAFETY IN DIVING

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Registered for posting as a publication category B Reg. No. VBH 2101
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VSAG

Top left: VSAG President Max Synon, diving Solomon Islands. (Photo by Keith Jensen). *Top right:* VSAG diver Paul Tipping on the bow area and gun of the "Dai Na Hino Maru" in Truk Lagoon. (Photo by Tony Tipping). *Bottom left:* VSAG diver Justin Liddy at Ewens Ponds, Mt. Gambier. (Photo by David Carroll). *Bottom right:* VSAG divers Barry Truscott, Tony Tipping, Paul Sier and Justin Liddy at Ewens Ponds, Mt. Gambier. (Photo by David Carroll).

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

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

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29 Valerie Street,
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Geoff Birtles | - Vice President, Assiqt.Secretary - | 846 1983 |
| | & S.D.F. Delegate | |
| Bob Scott | - Social Secretary | - 367 2261 |
| Pat Reynolds | - Property Officer | - 789 1092 |
| Paul Tipping | - Public Relations Officer | - 387 2027 |
| Mick Jackiw | - Points Scorer (Res.S.D.F.Deleg.)- | 736 1730 |
| Barry Truscott | - Safety Officer | - 789 6395 |
| David Carroll | - S.D.F. Delegate | - 397 2317 |
| Terry Brooks | - Assistant Editor | - 439 3749 |

CLUB MEETING:

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on Wednesday 16th February at 8.00 p.m. at the Collingwood Football Club, Lullie 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 at the Football club thereby eliminating the requirement to sign the visitors book at the entrance.

VISITORS ARE VERY WELCOME!

EDITORIAL

Here it is again, Christmas already and the mad rush is on. Seems like only six months since we were at Ulladulla diving to our heart's content. This year promises to be a whole new experience, with our Christmas trip to Port Lincoln in South Australia. It is going to be a long drive but should be worth it. At our next meeting in December we hope to show a film about Port Lincoln area, but this has yet to be confirmed as our Committee members TERRY BROOKS will do his best to locate the film in time.

Remember, our next General Meeting will be the last for two months, as there is no Club meeting in the month of January, refer to the Club calendar for details.

At the time of writing this article only vacancies remain for the "MIRRABOOKA" Wilson's Prom. trip in January, so if you wish to go, you had better be quick at the next meeting.

Our overseas trip savings scheme commences in December and before you know it, the 18 months will have expired and we'll all be winging our way overseas to some exotic spot to dive and have a great holiday. So, be sure to have your first payment and joining fee ready at the December General Meeting. This scheme devised by Geoff Birtles and refined with the aid of both Paul Tipping and Terry Brooks, has got to be the best thing for individual members for many years. Plenty of people, who missed out on Truk Lagoon some years ago, will be able to able to avail themselves of the experience of a lifetime.

Another commercial diving outfit has chosen to support V.S.A.G. again this month. I speak of course of Steve Sinclair's IN DEPTH in North Melbourne. For our readers and members in the area be sure to call and see Steve for diving gear or air fills, and let him know you're from V.S.A.G. Thanks for your support Steve.

We had 6 boats and 24 divers at Wilsie's Prom. a couple of weeks ago, so good old V.S.A.G. is still in top condition. Refer further in Fathoms for a detailed report.

Not much else left to say, other than it has been a great diving year which we have all shared with a lot of good friends.

My personal thanks to all members who have contributed to Fathoms over the past twelve months and to my wife, Julie, who has taken a keen interest in photographing and processing prints of V.S.A.G. members in action.

Make sure you all have a safe and happy christmas and see you on the "Mirrabooka"!!!

EDITOR

COMMITTEE NEWS:

Meeting held at Bob and June Scott's home on Tuesday 23rd November, 1982.

- (i) Heavy debate on Club compressor fees followed by decision to leave the fee at \$2.00 for members.
- (ii) G. Birtles withdrew his motion of last meeting, to have boat ramp fees paid by Club to consistently reliable Club boat owners. This saved an enormous amount of discussion.
- (iii) J. Goulding read letter sent to Len Joyce, our S.D.F. Rep. to VRFAC, stating V.S.A.G.'s views of the diving world and our aims.
- (iv) B. Truscott advised 3 campsites at Port Lincoln would not be required and cancellation of same to be done by J. Goulding.
- (v) D. Williams advised that Steve Sinclair of In Depth would be advertising in December Fathoms. Also advised

Ocean Divers have sent us their newsletter.

- (vi) V.S.A.G. overprinted key rings to be ordered from U.S.A.
- (vii) Club to purchase two more oxygen bottles plus the one recently purchased by G. Birtles. Thus giving us a total of four bottles available for Club use.
- (viii) G. Birtles tabled an excellent resume of V.S.A.G. overseas trip savings scheme together with model trip costs. A scheme Treasurer is now to be appointed and the scheme to commence in December as planned.
- * Next Committee Meeting to be held at Barry & Marie Truscott's home on January 25th at 8.00 p.m.

#

DIVE CALENDAR

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>DIVE CAPT.</u> | <u>MEET AT</u> |
|-------------|---|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Dec.12 | Heads-Slack Water | 10am | Pat Reynolds 789 1092 | Sorrento B/Ramp |
| Dec.15 | General Meeting - Collingwood Football Club at 8.00 p.m. and afterwards liquid refreshments on the Yarra Bank. | | | |
| Dec.26-Ja.9 | Port Lincoln Christmas Trip - Barry Truscott | | | 789 6395 |
| Jan.23 | Flinders | 10am | Paul Tipping 387 2027 | Flinders Pier |
| Jan.29-31 | "Australia Day" - Long Weekend - "Wilson's Prom." aboard the "Mirrabooka" - Booking at next General Meeting - be prepared to pay deposit, if any positions still available. | | | |

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>DIVE CAPT.</u> | <u>MEET AT</u> |
|-------------|--|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Feb.13 | Pinnacles | 9.45am | Geoff Birtles 846 1983 | San Remo Pier |
| Feb.16 | <u>General Meeting - Cellingwood Football Club</u> | | | |

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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C.A.S.I.C.O. DIVERS INSURANCE

All divers who have taken out CASICO Diver Insurance may now obtain a printed schedule of benefits form from the Editor. Please ask at the next General Meeting and I will be sure to have several photocopies available.

Des Williams - Editor

TENNIS PARTY & V.S.A.G. MILE - NOVEMBER 21st

What a fantastic day, great weather, good friends, some competition, plenty of food and of course fun for all the family. Thanks are due to Paul & Tony Tipping for allowing us to once again share their beach house at Scmers for the barbeque. Tony's organisation of the tennis and scratchings for the V.S.A.G. Mile were once again first class.

There was a terrific turnout of people and plenty of new babies for all to see. Nursing mothers were almost in the majority!! Samantha JEACLE, Benjamin GOULDING and Catherine TIPPING saw their first large assemblage of V.S.A.G. members and I wonder if they will ever forget it!!

The tennis was great fun and almost everyone took part. Samantha Truscott and her friend Julie were on the courts at every opportunity, while Marie & Barry Truscott played the grand final doubles match against John & Dee Nottage. John & Dee won the match as Mick Jeacle powered his way to victory in the singles match grand final. V.S.A.G.'s answer to John Newcomb, Jim Turner, was carrying a wrist injury, but turned in some good tennis.

Jim made up for his lack of success at tennis, when he powered his way to finish just in front of John Nottage in the V.S.A.G. mile.

There were some very red faces and very tired bodies making their way to the finish line and eventually to the barbeque and a good feed. Then we relaxed in the sunshine and enjoyed the remains of a perfect, sunny day.

Thanks for the company everyone!

DES WILLIAMS

PACIFIC ISLAND DIVING FOR \$49.00!

Picture a typical Melbourne diving winter. Cold, wet, overcast - strong winds and zero visibility.

Now imagine yourself basking on dazzling white sands, sipping a Kava and wrestling with the choice of water skiing, wind-surfing or canoeing. This is an off day - your sick of 100ft. visibility dives, warm water (no wet suits), big fish and spectacular drop offs!

You can make it happen for just \$49.00 a month. That's only \$11.31 per week! The saving program kicks off in December/82 and the trip is on in June '84. Plenty of time to plan, organise and accumulate the funds - without any real hardship.

THE PLAN

- (1) To bring an overseas diving holiday within the reach

of every VSAG member - and possibly their spouses as well.

- (ii) To provide the Club (it's members) with a worthwhile long term diving objective.

BACKGROUND THINKING

Not every diver has the financial resources to trip overseas as and when his fancy takes him. Some have never been overseas at all! and for many such a short term prospect is zero. Others in better financial shape fail to materialise their planning on the grounds that there's always a more practical use for the money at the time, perhaps financial insecurity, or they can't really afford to finance their non diving spouse (and wish to remain married!)

But this needn't be. Recognise that time passes quickly and small amounts of money diligently accumulated, over a lengthy period add up to big dollars. Self indulgent dollars that can be spent free of guilt because they have been accumulated painlessly for a specific purpose. (Hedonism!)

HOW IT HAPPENS. (In brief)

- (i) A common investment fund is established to which unit holders make 18 monthly subscriptions of \$49.00 (\$882).
- (ii) Additional "discretionary" subscriptions (in multiples of \$49) may be made to provide for a travelling companion.
- (iii) A ledger card is maintained both for the common fund and individual unit holders.
- (iv) Accrued funds and accrued interest are allocated and distributed to unit holders (who complete the term) at the close of the fund (June '84) on the basis of 100% return of all subscriptions plus pro rated share of interest (calculated quarterly) - less expenses associated with setting up and maintaining the fund.

Important Note: This happens irrespective of whether unit holders actually participate in the trip.

- (v) Participating unit holders will meet 9 months after establishment of the fund to decide on a venue by consensus. Failing consensus by 60% of subscribers the sub-committee's decision will be final.
- (vi) Venue, departure date and bookings will be finalised at least 6 months prior to fund maturity. Unit holders will then be individually responsible for any costs arising out of cancellation.
- (vii) Our objective is to provide a warm water venue suitable both to divers and non-diving partners. I.E. Good diving must be supported by good accommodation and good food together with a variety of other recreational pursuits - all at a reasonable and inclusive cost which is close to the individual fund maturity figure.
- (viii) The group purchasing power of an influential and large number of divers will be complimented by old fashioned bartering to obtain the best deal, lowest cost, value for money trip available from the industry. All bulk buying perks (like free trip for the organiser) will be pro-rated back to those who participate in the tour.

Example BEACHCOMBER ISLAND (FIJI)
(1½ hours from Nandi)

Beautiful island surrounded by white sands. Nightly entertainment and functions, indoor and outdoor restaurants, all meals and trips to other islands included. Great atmosphere.

| | | |
|--------|---|--------------|
| COSTS: | Airfare Melb - Nandi | \$394 return |
| | Transfer to island | 30 " |
| | Diving Package - 2 tanks per day & includes boats. | |
| | \$32 per day x 5 | 160 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Accommodation * | 221 week |
| Departure & return tax | 25 |
| | <hr/> |
| 7 days - TOTAL (subject to variation) | \$830 |

* Accommodation - Choice of 3

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Dormitory/locker | Share toilet facilities | \$188/wk. each |
| 2. Lodge 2/3 people | " " | \$221 " " |
| 3. Deluxe "Bure" (House) | Private facilities (2) | \$260 " " |

Tony Newly (of Allways) suggests this as an ideal holiday for divers and non-divers. Plenty to do (e.g. windsurfing, sailing, snorkelling, tennis, fishing trips, water skiing, Island seafaris, singing, dancing & traditional Fijian entertainment.

Unless we can come up with something better we will go to Beachcomber.

MECHANICS OF THE SCHEME

- (1) To be managed by a Sub-committee who will periodically report to the General meeting.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Chairman & Tour Organiser | Geoff Birtles |
| Treasurer | Terry Brooks |
| Legal Officer/Deputy Treasurer | Paul Tipping |

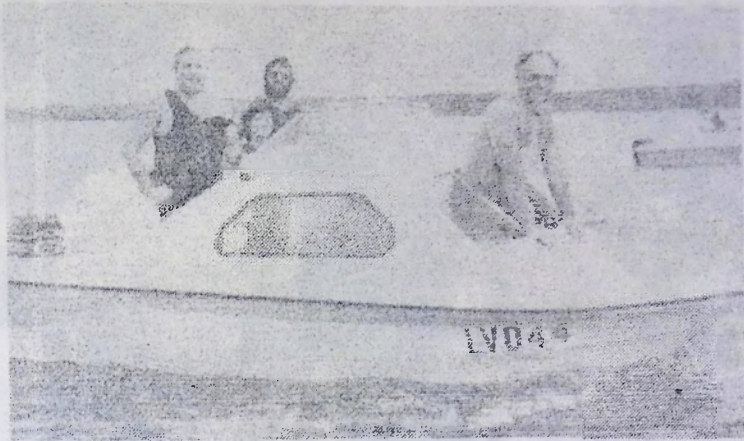
Note: These are "honorary" roles.

- (11) Disincentives!

We have spelt out the Incentives but there has to be disincentives to stop people chopping and changing their minds in the Interests of making the scheme workable.

A. The first \$49.00 subscription is a "joining fee" and is not refundable if a unit holder fails to see out the fund maturity date i.e. make 18 x \$49 month payments.

"GEORGE KERMODE" DIVE - OCTOBER 3rd, 1982



KEITH JENSEN, GAYLE & ANDY MASTROWICZ & MAX SYNON PREPARE TO ANCHOR ON THE WRECK SITE.



GEOFF BIRTLES, MICK JACKIW, GEOFF WILLIAMS, WELLS SHEEHAN & REECE BIRTLES OVER THE WRECK SITE

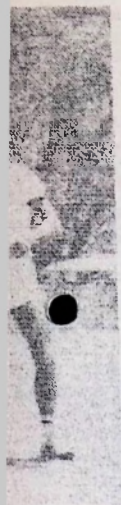


V.S.A.G. TENNIS DAY



1. JIM TURNER & JOHN NOTTAGE WE
2. BARRY TRUSCOTT RETURNS IN TH
3. MARIE TRUSCOTT IN ACTION IN
4. JOHN & DEE NOTTAGE HELPING H.
5. TWO RELAXED UMPIRES: MICK JE.
ALEX TALAY CONCENTRATES ● I TI
6. MARG ZICCONE AWAITING TONY T
THE ELIMINATION ROUND.

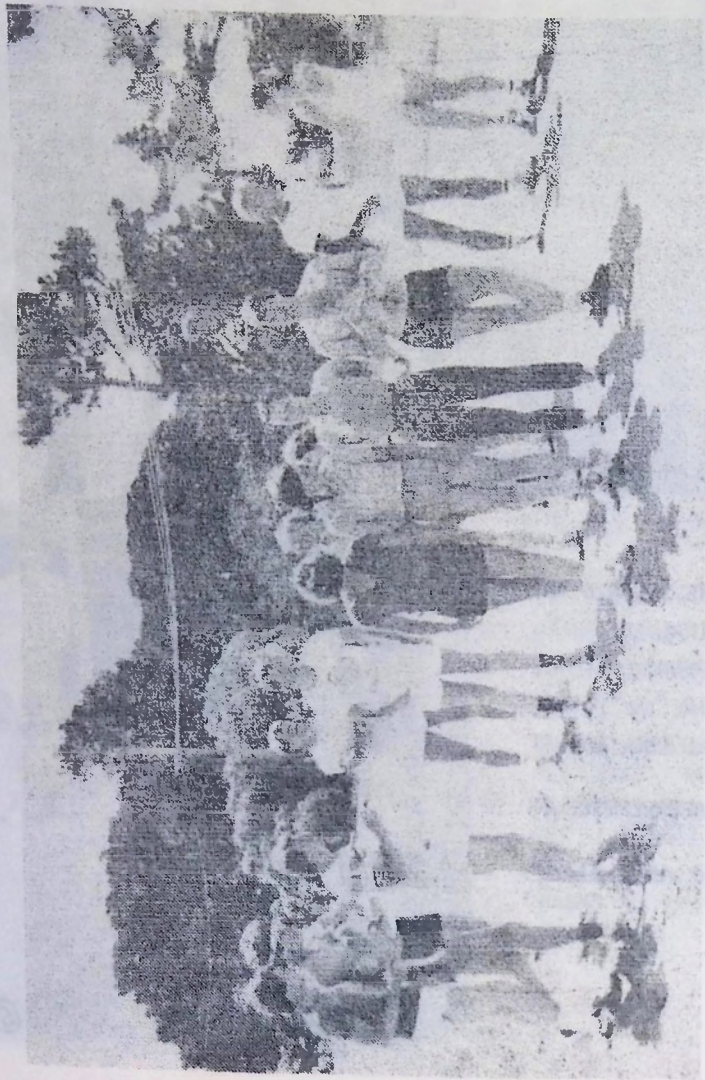
* It was a terrific day for th
supported by V.S.A.G. member



E 1ST & 2ND IN THE V.S.A.G. MILE.
 DOUBLES GRAND FINAL.
 HE ELIMINATION ROUND.
 LEY WILLIAMS UMPIRE.
 CLE SIPPING A COLD ONE, WHILST
 E SERVICE.
 PPING'S JET POWERED SERVICE IN

e whole family and very well
 ; and friends.





V. S. A. G. MILERS LINE UP AT SOMERS FOR THE STARTER.
JIM TURNER WON BY A NOSE FROM JOHN NOTTAGE - GREAT WEATHER.

B. Subsequent contributions are refundable without interest if a member elects to discontinue participation in the fund prior to maturity. A further \$49 joining fee is applicable should a member wish to rejoin the fund.

Note: Forfeited joining fees and interest are pro-rated amongst those who actually make the trip as distinct from those who simply participate in the savings scheme without making the trip.

C. The Sub-committee may, in its sole discretion, cancel participation of any member who is in arrears for 60 days or more. Joining fee and interest to be forfeited.

- (iii) Formal rules governing the "Overseas Trip Savings Scheme" and individual participation will be provided to participating members. This article covers "the spirit" of the scheme. Disputes, arbitration and so on are governed by the rules. The Sub-committee's decision is final on all questions relating to the construction of these rules.

At this stage we suggest to members that there has to be some trust. We can't cover every eventually in a 100 page document! Your committee consists of a marketing entrepreneur and two public service solicitors. It has reasonable balance and conservatism. Have faith and don't be too critical. It's a lot of "honorary" work for a worthwhile cause. It could easily be undone by petty politics.

- (iv) The fund commences at the December General Meeting - at which joining fees should be paid. (The next subscription is due in 30 days).
- (v) Members may subsequently join the fund at any time by "back paying" past subscriptions (but will not share in unearned interest).
- (vi) Unit holders will receive a "Savings Booklet" containing