

FATHOMS

July '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

TREASURER:

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

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 July, 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!

SECRETARY & SAFETY/MEDICAL OFFICER:

John Goulding
13 Birdwood Street,
Box Hill South 3128
890 6634

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Des Williams
29 Valerie Street,
Boronia 3155
762 1623

EDITORIAL

This month we have a newsy item from Chris and Kaye in the USA. The letter was written in Canada, posted in Seattle, Washington and marked with a return address in Bermuda, so they are certainly on the move.

On the 10th of July 1932, S.S. CASINO was wrecked at Apollo Bay. The Apollo Bay and District Historical Society will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the sinking this month, with a function to be attended by the President of the Shire of Otway. Members of Parliament, family members of the survivors and the rescuers, and local townspeople will attend to see the presentation of an anchor from the wreck, by the shire President.

After months of headlines on our newspapers screaming of War in the Falklands and Beirut, what a pleasant change to see some happy news up front, the birth of the Royal baby! But, in V.S.A.G. we had more good news, because it was closer to home; SAMANTHA ANNE JEACLE was born on Saturday 19th June!!! Well done Annie and Mick, we are all very pleased for you and guess we will all be smoking cigars at the next general meeting. I believe the above date to be correct, as I received it from Alex Talay (who was still hung over at the time) after completing a record marathon celebration of "wetting the baby's head" with the proud father!

Next month's S.D.F.V. Dinner Dance should be quite a "bash", as there will certainly be a large contingent of V.S.A.G. members present. Maybe we will be lucky enough to win a few prizes this year, and believe me they are worth winning, see you there. Thanks to Tony Tipping for arranging ticket sales.

This month's issue also sees a milestone in our written word, as the 100th "Flotsam & Jetsam" column is submitted for your, er!, reading pleasure. Congratulations to that mysterious author,

and maybe his true identity will be disclosed before the 200th column is reached!

Our membership is still growing and we welcome Geoff Drucker, Ken Virtue, Andy Mastrowicz, Peter Quail and Paul Hunt this month. What a year for membership, guess all that publicity we have received free of charge was better than no publicity.

Interesting to note that a third submarine has been located off Point Lonsdale, and how quickly different Clubs have claimed to be the first to dive it. But I was recently talking to the original finder and discovered that this exciting find was made by accident. The boys had planned to dive the intact submarine, but when they reached the site, found many boats and divers already on it. So, they decided to head into Pt. Lonsdale with the depth sounder on to locate some decent reef. An interesting shape appeared and the boys dived to discover submarine No. 3 in 90 ft. of water. Well done lads!!

For the second month in a row, we have attempted to bring you photographs in Fathoms. Because I have to write this before I see the result in print, I hope you approve. Alex Talay has screened the photos taken by Julie Williams at Apollo Bay long weekend. Thanks are due to Julie for developing the prints and to Alex for rapid screening done in time for publication in July issue.

A special thank you to those who contributed articles to this month's issue, and I hope we will have the chance to read the work of other members, next month.

D. Williams
Editor

COMMITTEE NEWS

Meeting held at John and Marie Goulding's home on June.

- (i) New members accepted this month were Andy Mastrowicz, Ken Virtue, Peter Quail, Geoff Drucker and provisional member Paul Hunt. Welcome Lads!
- (ii) Monies owing for accomodation and air fills were discussed as a result of recent Apollo Bay weekend trip.
- (iii) Christmas dive at Port Lincoln discussed. 3 sites have been booked and deposit paid.
- (iv) V.S.A.G. Dinner Dance details given by Bob Scott
- (v) The Committee has considered the Komesaroff oxy-resuscitation unit and will next month look at a less complex unit.
- (vi) Paul Tipping still investigating new wreck dive in Western Port, to date not dived by anyone.
- (vii) Membership for Eileen Virtue and Paul Hunt to be approved after check out dive and medical certificate respectively.
- (viii) Snow trips discussed. Pat Reynolds organising two trips: Weekend and single day.
- (ix) A boat handling session aimed at showing members the basic principles of boatmanship will be held during the Spring diving season. To be co-ordinated by G. Birtles.

* Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 27th July at Tony Tipping's home, 21 Abercrombie Street, Deepdene at 8.00p

FOR SALE

Tabata Buoyancy Vest (Jacket Type)
 Only 12 months old excellent condition
 Blue in colour - Scuba Fed. \$100
 Ring Alex Talay on 772 3085

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>
July 18	Spectacular Reef	9.30am	Alex Talay 772 3085	Sorrento B/Ramp
July 21	General Meeting - Lecture on Diving Overseas			
August 7	Snow Trip - Book with ..		Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Sat. 31/7/82
August 15	Sorrento/Heads	8.30am	Paul Tipping 367 2027	Sorrento B/Ramp
Aug 21 & 22	Snow Weekend		Pat Reynolds 789 1092	
August 18	General Meeting			
August 29	Port Phillip Heads	8.30am	Geoff Birtles 846 1983	Sorrento B/Ramp

DIVE CALENDAR (CONTD.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>
Sept. 5	Western Port Dive		Paul Tipping 387 2027	Details to to come
Sept. 17	V.S.A.G. Dinner Dance -		Bob Scott 367 2261	

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members please note that your Annual Subscriptions were due on 30th June. If you have not paid your subs by now, would you please do so by July General Meeting.

FOR SALE

ONE PAIR OF SNOW-CHAINS TO SUIT MOST SIZES OF
13 INCH TYRES AND NARROW WIDTH 14 INCH TYRES.

USED 3 TIMES ONLY. BARGAIN AT \$34.99
CONTACT: JOHN GOULDING PHONE: 890 6634

"FLOTSAM AND JETSAM"

It seems that old age and a desire for the soft life has finally caught up with V.S.A.G. Even though one hardy member was abhorrent about the idea of booking comfortable warm dry houses for the June long weekend,

most members welcomed the change from pitching tents in the dark and battling the elements, So much so did the Truscott family take to the holiday house concept, that Bazza has his doubts as to whether he'll ever get Marie back into a tent again.

As for Murgatroyd, if she had her way she'd nominate Terry Brooks as tour organiser for every trip - but next time Terry, would you please provide a maid and ensure that her house has a dishwasher.

The Apollo Bay trip was a great success, even if the diving was a little lacking. Still, for our first visit I'm sure that most would agree that the area needs further investigation.

We were fortunate with the weather, to be able to get down to and around Cape Otway. Wow, what a place! - White water on the right of us. White water on the left of us. The reefs from Cape Otway stretch out into Bass Strait for miles just waiting to snatch any vessel that strays too close. The swells around the Cape were 20 to 30 feet high and from a small boat it looked as if a mountain was rushing towards you. Yet we found a spot on the west side and for those who were still left in one piece, it was over the side for a dive.

Thanks to some expert guidance by Des Williams we also found and dived the wreck of the "Casino", which sank just east of Apollo Bay in 1932, with the loss of 10 lives. Not much remains of the wreck except the skeletal structure of the ship. No doubt it has been an easy target for shore divers. As a matter of fact two such divers were in the area when we arrived at the wreck site, but it seemed that one was short sighted and the other half deaf, so their time consuming efforts to find the marks and communicate with each other seemed to be in vain. Last seen, the brothers Tipping were dragging themselves back through the surf much to the amazement of children and logs playing on

the beach. Later Tony was heard to mutter, "Knew I shouldn't have sold me boat".

Ever since we awarded the "Cuddly Couple" award to the "Odd Couple", Max and Keith, they seem to have adopted a young diving companion by name of Billy Anderson. Bill and his boat, undeservedly named the "General Belgrano", have been on numerous dives recently, and is creating quite an impression!! Could it be that the Odd Couple will become "The Three Stooges!"

Hearty congratulations to Annie and Mick Jeacle on the arrival of their daughter. Does this add more weight to the theory that divers have more daughters? Tell you in October!

An intriguing sight caught my eye at Apollo Bay. There was Bazza in the back of his boat at the boat ramp dipping his wet suit into a bucket of water. Goodness, the man must be mad! As if it wasn't chilly enough, but to wet his neoprenes needed some explanation. "Elementary me dear chap", cried Bazza "its hot water!" - Well, I suppose if some "puss" divers have their underwear warmed, and rugged old men of the sea have a shot of rum to ward off the chills, then Bazza's action seems to make good sense.

Note: Plumbers and electricians are required now to install a hot water service on JG's boat.

For those of you who are still reading this article, and if you've been crazy or bored enough to read every issue of "Flotsam and Jetsam", then my hearty congratulations to you. For you've just read the 100th F & J, and every one of the 75,000 odd words written, has been inspired by members and families of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group. Thanks folks!

Signed: JUFE HART

FATHOMS FRONT COVER COMPETITION:

The closing date for this competition is July General Meeting on 21st July. We have three photographers who have bothered to enter slides so far, and if you have a favourite shot to submit, then hurry up.

Alex Talay will judge the winning entry, so hand your slides to Alex or Des Williams by July General Meeting.

JULY MEETING - DIVING OVERSEAS LECTURE:

Be at our July 21st General Meeting to hear Jan and Peter Stone of Aquarius Travel lecture on overseas diving holidays. They will present some fantastic slides and stories.

WEEKEND TRIP TO FALLS CREEK: (August 21st and 22nd)

- * Accomodation Friday and Saturday nights at nearby village of Towonga, just 30 minutes away from the slopes.
- * Very limited number of vacancies.
- * Accomodation costs only \$30.00 per head (beat that!)
- * Members must notify Pat Reynolds by July 21st General Meeting. Or phone: 789 1092.

V.S.A.C. SNOW TRIP (one day only) MT. BULLER:

A one day trip to the snow will be organized by Pat Reynolds again this year. We'll be off to Mt. Buller on Saturday 7th August. Those interested should contact Pat Reynolds on 789 1092.

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"BLAST FROM THE PAST"

The following section is taken from "FATHOMS" printed in April, 1960.

Outings:

The deep dive last Sunday was a great success with two shark-boats just filled nicely by 39 members and friends. The weather was calmer than usual but most still got seasick by the time they had been out in Bass Strait a couple of hours. We had to go out further than usual to get the extra 60 ft, and finally the echo-sounders registered 30 fathoms (180 ft.) under the keel about a mile south of Cape Woolamai. The shot-line was put down and divers were marked off as they entered the water in groups of threes, each group waiting until the preceding one regained the boat. Fifteen divers made the bottom though most reported slight attacks of nitrogen narcosis, but with no serious consequences.

The boats then returned to the shallower water near the Cape where in contrast to the barren scene at 180 ft, marine life and large fish were abundant.

Next week-end the dive will be to Kitty Miller Bay. Cross the bridge to Phillip Is. at San Remo and follow the main road for $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles to Fowlers Junction, take the left fork along Back Beach Road for $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles then turn left down Kitty Miller's Road to the bay.

The Anzac week-end camp a week after Easter is also to Phillip Is., this time to Cape Woolamai. The only practical way of getting there is by boat, and we are arranging this with our San Remo contacts, they will most likely also be available during the camp and this will enable fishing anywhere off the Cape and probably another deep dive. Because of its relative inaccessability, the waters have hardly been touched by divers; there is plenty of shelter for a camping spot and water is available. If you can take down a large air cylinder or two, please let me know. Expected departure time from San Remo is 10.00 a.m. on the Saturday.

On May the 9th, Cape Patterson (five miles from

Wonthaggi) is the venue. Meet at 10.00 am in the camping reserve. Latecomers will find a notice at the Life Saving Club there.

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* *The above list of outings is for hired boat dives and shore dives. There weren't too many people in V.S.A.G. who owned boats to dive from. A far cry from the ease with which we dive now.*

The V.S.A.G. "Fathoms" newsletter was just that, a single sheet of foolscap paper printed both sides back in 1960, and the Club was only about 7 years old.

Editor

GOING DOWN

Recently risked life and limb and bravely set forth on yet another V.S.A.G. trip, this time Apollo Bay was the unfortunate recipient of our attentions.

Pat, Hillary and I journeyed down on the Friday evening and eventually found our wondrous abode complete with 2 portable lawn mowers, log fire, games room and the "Odd Couple" plus some poor unfortunate by the name of Bill that they'd somehow managed to drag along (probably with all sorts of evil promises). "What more could we want" we cried as we laid claim to our beds and headed for the fridge to crack the first of many. A good night was had by all, as once again the singles house proved a popular venue.

Saturday morning we awoke to a chilly, drizzly, menacing sort of a day and like the true sportsmen we are Pat and I decided that a couple of coldies, a warm fire and a colour T.V. was the ideal way to spend the day. Particularly as there was a Heavyweight World Title Fight in progress. The rest of V.S.A.G. opted for a dive and Pat and I watched (with some amusement, I might add) the antics of fully laden boats zipping to and fro through the sleet for most of the afternoon. (The house we were in had lovely picture windows facing the water you see).

John Goulding and our long weekend convener, Terry Brooks, after Sunday's dive at Cape Otway and the "Casino" wreck.



APOLLO BAY 11/6/1982 - L. to R. are Max Synon, Keith Jensen,
Tony Tipping, Andre Mastrowicz, Wayne Hatch, Gayle Mastrowicz,
Vic Olivera and Barry Truscott. Just returned from Blanket
Bay.

All Photos by Julie Williams.





← APOLLO BAY 12/6/1982 - L. to R. are Tony Tipping, Rob Adamson,
Vic Olivera, Pat Reynolds, Barry Truscott, Hilary Brew and
Paul Tipping. Perfect sunny weather and flat seas.



← Apollo Bay seal leaves for the wreck of the "Casino".
"In the early days, all our dives were made from shore".

Saturday night saw us in the local pub for a counter tea with everyone in attendance, some stayed on until they were swept out with the butts and I'll take this opportunity to refute the ugly rumour going about, that one of our more shapely members and an A.B.C. film crew, in particular a well known sports broadcaster, were organizing a Porn movie. It's just not true, I ought to know because I was there, I think.

Sunday we awoke to a fine day and set off for Cape Otway. Geoff was first to arrive at the proposed dive site, as usual, and promptly despatched Wayne over the side with orders to check out the scene. Wayne reported there was not much doing, so we hauled him aboard and headed off to the other side of the lighthouse. Big swells were running at this spot, as once again Wayne entered the briny. He emerged some 5 minutes later about 300 yards from our boat. We cleverly deduced that this meant a heavy surge or current was running, but this minor phenomenon was immediately forgotten, as we espied him clutching a cray. Geoff and a few other hardy souls were soon over the side leaving the rest of us to sweat it out up top.

After this we headed for the wreck of the "Casino", not far offshore at Apollo Bay. Upon arriving over the wreck (ably assisted by Des who was strategically placed on a hill directed us right onto it via radio), we saw, some ½ mile or so away, what we took to be a couple of stranded seals. We thought this so unusual that we decided to help them out. Gingerly approaching, so as not to scare them off, we discovered much to our surprise that it was only a couple of shore divers huffing and puffing after having been in the drink for quite some time. We inquired after their welfare and discovered that it was none other than Tony and Paul Tipping. I asked Paul if he was still looking for the submarine, but didn't catch his reply. With threats of "Touch the boat and it'll cost you 9 bucks" we headed

off back to the wreck. After an interesting dive, we emerged to find the shore divers just arriving at the scene. They excitedly told us that they'd discovered an anchor off an old wreck, but we haughtily informed them that it was only the anchor off Bill's boat, that had unfortunately slipped over the side unattached to a rope. We wished them a good dive and headed off.

Geoff, Wayne and I then found an extremely promising reef about 3 miles offshore and this proved to be a very good dive and would be great given good visibility. Lots of crays with good dropoffs and reef life.

That night saw us at the big house with everyone in attendance. Music, food, grog and a warm fire were the main ingredients for a very enjoyable evening.

Next day some of the troops went for a dive under the pier, but most of us lazed around until lunch, then packed up and headed home after another good weekend.

Signed -- A.T.

V.S.A.G. DINNER DANCE

VENUE: MANHATTAN ROOM
BENDIGO HOTEL
125 JOHNSON STREET, COLLINGWOOD

DATE: FRIDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

COST: \$30.00 PER DOUBLE WHICH INCLUDES MEAL,
DRINKS AND BAND (GREAT VALUE)

* THERE WILL BE TICKET PRIZES AND RAFFLE ORGANIZED BY OUR MINISTER FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES BOB SCOTT.

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Our dinner dance is always a lot of fun, so don't miss out! Bob Scott must have deposits and names by July General Meeting - 21st July.

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR JOHN GOULDING:

Please make note of John's new telephone number which is now 890 6634.

V.S.A.G. 1982 CHRISTMAS TRIP - PORT LINCOLN

This year our Christmas diving trip will be at Port Lincoln in South Australia from December 26th to January 10th. Barry Truscott is our organizer, we have 8 sites only booked, most of which are filled, so if you want a site ring Barry now on 783 9055. A deposit of \$10.00 will be required. Port Lincoln is a real frontier in diving with many islands, reefs and coves. Ring Bazza for more details.

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"TO DIVE OR NOT TO DIVE - WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?"

From snow to sandy beaches, the dynamic duo, like U.S. Marines, landed at Nanaimo, Vancouver Island on the Princess Marguerita.

Having heard so much about this magnificent island, (and having met up with a resident of the island at Whistler), we all headed to his home town of Courtnay pick up the camper for a trip to the west coast to do some diving . . . or so we thought!!!

Tanks on board, gear all packed, our very enthusiastic friend (29 years) gave us all the info. on the West Coast and its sensational diving spots, as we travelled four hours across the mountains to Ucluelet.

On our arrival, we headed to what our friend told us to be "the perfect spot". My eyes and Kayes' collided

with a shared unknown feeling as we climbed down a 30 ft. rock face to see this perfect spot.

Having had a reasonably early night for a change and having insisted on finding out slack tide times, etc. from the local guys, we headed to the "perfect spot".

Ten paces to our right was the lighthouse blaring its warning to the ships in the fog - we couldn't see 3 ft. in front of us on land at 11.00 a.m. at the top of the cliff! - Individually, Kaye and I thought this is wank, but our enthusiastic friend, (who happens to be a qualified instructor) said "it will clear, it will clear".

All gear on, choking in the wet suits, we headed like mountain goats gone wrong, to the edge of the cliff face.

Fitted with tank, weight belt and the remainder of gear in hands, we managed to pass our sub-ROCK-Bronze with bruised cheeks (not facial).

We hit rock bottom - bottom time being 30 minutes - no air consumed - no deco. needed and visibility above sea level was zero - except for the lights of the lighthouse.

Being engulfed at slack tide by the Pacific Ocean, lashed by sea weed, and combed by rocks while trying to fit snorkel and fins, we started to question the experience (or should I say intelligence) of our dive captain who suggested that we "barrel down to 50 ft.", quote/unquote, to AVOID the surge of the all bloodymighty Pacific Ocean.

The V.S.A.G. Buddies after taking point five kilopascals of air decided to ABORT the dive, before

we were aborted on the sandy beaches of Japan - with a bag of scallops.

Henceforth, we commenced to climb the shear rock face with gear intact, leaving the dive captain bobbing up and down in the Pacific ocean signalling O.Kay.

On reaching ground level, we decided that it was easier pushing Dave's boat in on our own and carrying our tanks and belts to Wilson's Prom. and back than being mountain goats attempting to dive at a ridiculous place called UCLUELIT. (pronounced I COOL IT!).

Looking forward to a dive BELOW seal level.

Robinson & Crusoe

alias Chris & Kaye

APOLLO BAY WEEKEND

Money is still owing for Apollo Bay accommodation from KERRY JOYCE \$5.00. Payable by July General Meeting.

Air Fill Charges - Apollo Bay:

Money owing to MICK JACKIW for air fills as follows:

W. Hatch	3	fills @ \$2.00	=	\$6.00
V. Olivera	1	" "	=	\$2.00
A. Mastrowicz	3	" "	=	\$6.00
B. Truscott	2	" "	=	\$4.00
H. Brew	2	" "	=	\$4.00
T. Brooks	2	" "	=	\$4.00
A. Talay	1	" "	=	\$2.00
K. Joyce	2	" "	=	\$4.00

As Mick was good enough to bring his compressor along, would those owing money please settle up with Mick at the July General Meeting.

V.S.A.G. MONOGRAMMED PULLOVERS:

One last chance to anyone who would like a V.S.A.G. pullover! Ring Alex Talay now for details and place your order. Alex's phone number is 772 3085.

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MARINE BIOLOGY WITH REG LIPSON:

If any members are interested in a basic marine biology course, you have one last chance to enrol in a class for 1982. The course commences on July 28th and is designed to "open the eyes" of divers to the amazing world of the natural history of underwater fauna and flora.

Contact Reg Lipson direct at Sea Studies Services on 818 0631 or A/Hours 277 0773, but you will have to ring immediately to avoid disappointment.

Below is a letter from Alan Wood, our Doctor member, formerly from Donald in Victoria. Those of you who were on the last Australia Day long weekend will remember Alan well. Best of luck Alan and please send us a dive report or two for FATHOMS.

Editor

Dear John,

*Please note my change of address to: Box 39,
Triabunna, 7273 Tasmania. Phone (002) 573125.*

Triabunna is on the East Coast of Tasmania. Maria Island is about 15 miles away, Great Oyster Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula just around the corner. The diving that I have seen up to date is excellent.

I only hope that I manage to fit some work in, here and there. Any V.S.A.G. members visiting Tasmania are welcome to drop in. (I am not too sure about T. Tipping, after all I do have a wife, two daughters and a cat. The cat, now ten years old, is simply not up to strange practices).

I will send over more specific information about the diving, when I know more about the conditions and crays.

It's been a pleasure knowing the club over this last season.

Yours,

Alan Wood

V.S.A.G.'s LINK WITH PEARL HARBOUR by Des Williams

I have been scratching around in history books again, and recently read more about Admiral Yamamoto, who was Japan's brains behind the carefully planned attack on Pearl Harbour, in December 1941.

Yamamoto knew that Japan would be awakening a "sleeping giant" by declaring war on the U.S.A., so he decided the only way to do it was to surprise attack the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The object being to annihilate the bulk of America's fleet in one blow, to bring the "giant" down to the same size as the Jap's navy.

Yamamoto's plan was carefully practised and revised before the Task Force, thirty-one vessels in all, left the Kurile Islands of Japan on November 26th, 1941 under the command of NAGUMO CHUICHI for its radio-silenced creep across the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii.

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On December 7th, one day away from Pearl Harbour, the aircraft carriers and escorting battleships refuelled from four tankers which had remained in their company. The four tankers were "KYOKUTO-MARU", "TENYO-MARU", "KOKUYO-MARU", and "SHINKOKU-MARU".

For all members of the V.S.A.G. dive to TRUK LAGOON, the name "SHINKOKU-MARU" will be familiar.

"SHINKOKU MARU" of course now rests upright on the lagoon floor in 120ft. of water. V.S.A.G. members made two dives on this 10,000 ton oiler which has been peacefully leaking oil ever since its death in February 1944.

It was on the "Shinkoku" that my dive partner, Tony Tipping, along with other members of the dive party, penetrated the crew's living quarters and viewed the skeletal remains of some of the Japanese sailors, who went down with the ships. The following passage is from "Divers Guide To The Truck Lagoon" by Graham and Rosenberg.

"This tanker is in excellent condition and is considered one of the most alive in the lagoon. Tuna, jack, angelfish, grouper, snapper and even a few grey reef sharks are commonly seen here. In the stern area, a large hawks bill sea turtle is usually seen swimming about. The bridge area is well preserved and contains phonograph records, boots, shoes, rifles, china and glassware, an operating table and even a typewriter. Talking tubes, telegraphs and the helm are in the upper level

of the bridge, where the colour and variety of coral growth is magnificent. At the stern, inside the galley, are cooking utensils on top of the silt covered gas stove. There were an estimated 25 casualties on the "SHINKOKU" and some of the crew members remains can be found inside one of the gloomy corridors at the stern."

So much for the "Tourist Guide" outline of the ship, but certainly all the above mentioned relics and wildlife were there. I even had the pleasure of being circled by a reef shark, during our second ascent from the wreck. Tony Tipping said later, "Gee, you were really cool when that shark circled just over your head, Des".

WRONG!!! Tony, I didn't even see the shark, but thanks for not telling me until we were safely back on the dive boat.

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EDITORS' NOTE:

There is some room some room left to type in a little information regarding this month's inclusion of photographs.

Our newsletter stencils are typed by Auld Secretarial Services in Boronia, who make a

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fairly good job of the layout and presentation, I believe it anyway.

The average cost of typed stencils per issue varies according to the number of pages, but an average price is around \$40 per issue. The photographs are made by a special scanning machine and cost \$5 per stencil, this issue required two such stencils. With the permission of members and Committee, I hope to include a double page spread (one stencil) of photographs per issue in future to make Fathoms that little more entertaining. I can't always promise the photos will be of members themselves, as this requires much special effort, but certainly at any special functions or long weekends, Julie and I will endeavour to produce a photographic record.

I also hope that the "new look" Fathoms will generate more member interest and maybe, you, the member might be inspired to write an article for Fathoms.

The subject of the "new look" Fathoms will be raised by myself at July meeting, and I seek your criticisms or ideas then.

DES WILLIAMS