

FATHOMS

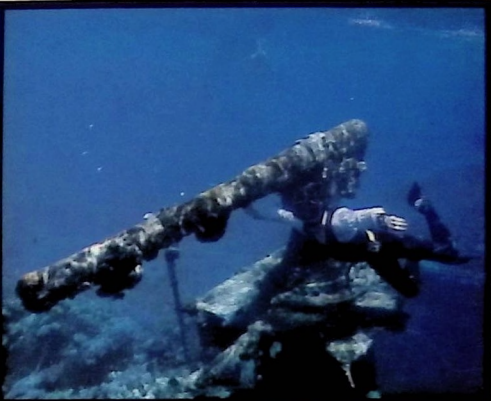
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SAFETY IN DIVING

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VSAG

Top left: VSAG President Max Syden, 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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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Geoff Birtles	- Vice President, Asslst. Secretary & S.D.F. Delegate	- 346 1983
Bob Scott	- Social Secretary	- 367 2261
Pat Reynolds	- Property Officer	- 789 1092
Gaul Tipping	- Public Relations Officer	- 387 2027
Jack Jackiw	- Points Scorer (Res. S.D.F. Deleg.)	- 736 1730
Harry Truscott	- Safety Officer	- 789 6395
David Carroll	- S.D.F. Delegate	- 397 2317
Harry Brooks	- Assistant Editor	- 435 3749

JOB MEETING:

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on the Wednesday 20th October at 8.00 p.m. at the Collingwood Football Club, Lurie 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

A very active last four weeks, has produced a considerable amount of news for our readers.

Firstly, our sincere best wishes to Hilary Brew and Wayne Hatch and also WINSOME BARNES & DON McBEAN who recently became engaged. Seems ages since we had engagement news, and now two in a month!

Don Abel produced a most comprehensive audit of V.S.A.G.'s books, this year, for which we are most grateful. Terrific work Don, thanks for your expertise.

At our Annual General Meeting in September, we saw Alex Talay join the V.S.A.G. Committee. Great to have you with us Alex, congratulations, and we look forward to your maiden speech at our next Committee meeting!

Unfortunately, our retiring Committee members, this year, is Tony Tipping, who leaves the bench after several years of hard work for V.S.A.G. It will certainly take a while to get used to not having Tony around at our monthly Committee meetings. We have all had a lot of good times, both diving and in our social life as a direct result of Tony's personal drive. It is difficult to express thanks for years of work supplied gratis, but as I have lost count of how many times Tony has won V.S.A.G.'s Clubman of the Year Award, this in itself is proof of Tony's total commitment to diving and V.S.A.G. in particular. It says it all.

The reshuffle of Committee key positions will become evident by simply looking at Page One of this issue of "Fathoms". And all members are asked to help the Committee help you in 1983; after all, you get out of a Club what you put in.

Our "veteran" Solomons diver, Keith Jensen has submitted a fine report on his recent visit to remote GIZO in the Solomons, for "Fathoms". This article I'm sure you will enjoy.

Christmas isn't very far off now and if you haven't paid your deposit of \$10 for a campsite at Port Lincoln you had better ring Barry Truscott now, it will probably be your last chance.

My thanks to those who contributed to this month's "Fathoms": Keith Jensen, Bob Scott & Pierre Cardingo. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite other members to put pen to paper for our Magazine.

Like our new-look "Fathoms" covers? All Alex Talay's work I might add; so when next you see Alex, don't forget to remind him that his excellent effort is appreciated.

One member of V.S.A.G., who said he has got a lot out of the Club over many years and now wishes to put something back is Alan Whitely. Alan has very generously sponsored V.S.A.G. by way of purchasing advertising space on "Fathoms" back cover for the next twelve months.

Our sincere thanks Alan, for your very generous offer and I am sure any V.S.A.G.'ers looking for a new or second-hand vehicle will certainly give some thought to supporting those who support V.S.A.G. I know that there are already a few members who have done just that.

EDITOR

COMMITTEE NEWS:

Annual Committee meeting held at Max & Pam Synon's home on Tuesday 21st September, 1982.

- (1) All Director's positions were declared vacant and nominations and votes were taken for the following twelve months under the direction of Paul Tipping. Nominations were as follows:-

President:

Max Synon, Des Williams & Geoff Birtles
D. Williams declined nomination.

<u>Secretary:</u>	John Goulding & Terry Brooks T. Brooks declined nomination.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Barry Truscott & Alex Talay B. Truscott declined nomination.
<u>N/Letter Editor:</u>	D. Williams
<u>S.D.F. Delegates:</u>	Geoff Birtles, David Carroll & Mick Jackiw.
<u>Social Secretary:</u>	Bob Scott
<u>Property Officer:</u>	Pat Reynolds
<u>Points Scorer:</u>	Mick Jackiw & David Carroll
<u>Safety Officer:</u>	Barry Truscott & Geoff Birtles
<u>Assist. Editor:</u>	Terry Brooks
<u>Public Relations Officer:</u>	Paul Tipping.

* A new position was also created, that of "Assistant Secretary", to aid our talented Secretary, John Goulding, during his exceptionally busy time ahead with impending fatherhood.

For results of votes taken, where necessary, for the above positions please refer to page one of this issue.

Our President for 1982-83 Max Synon then opened the September Committee Meeting:

- (I) G. Birtles requested Editor reprint corrected minute from last Committee meeting in this issue of "Fathoms".
- (II) Bob Scott reported over \$100 was raised at V.S.A.G. Annual Dinner and gave thanks to G. Birtles - auctioneer.
- (III) G. Birtles, J. Goulding & Max Synon to complete written survey forms for S.D.F. re Divers Impact

on marine ecology.

- (iv) S.D.F. Diving Officers Conference on 23/10/82 to be attended by Barry Truscott and either G. Birtles or M. Synon.
- (v) Legal Liability Conference arranged by the Sports Federation to be attended by P. Tipping or T. Brooks.
- (vi) D. Williams suggested production of V.S.A.G. calendars for 1983. This idea rejected.
- (vii) G. Birtles suggested savings plan for V.S.A.G. overseas trips to be refined by a sub-committee consisting of G. Birtles, T. Brooks & P. Tipping.
- (viii) D. Williams suggested V.S.A.G. search for new dive sites by simply echo sounding bottom on return trips from dive sites, with of course boat owners agreement.
- (ix) D. Williams advised Alan Whitely wishes to advertise in Fathoms. D. Williams to follow up.

* On behalf of the Committee and members I would like to welcome our new Treasurer, Alex Talay and say congratulations on your appointment Alex.

Next Committee Meeting to be held at Geoff & Isobel Birtles' home at 8 Newlyn Close, Templestowe on Thursday 28th October - Please NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE TO A THURSDAY.

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The correct minute from Committee Meeting held on August 24th is set out below. Please be sure to compare this very important change to Club Policy, with that incorrectly reported in "Fathoms" September issue:

John Goulding (Absent thru country business commitments)-
A motion was proposed on JG's behalf by Bob Scott - Seconded Barry Truscott.

Proposed - That we scrap renewing of medicals for members providing they have a CZ18 within 3 years prior to joining V.S.A.G.

A further CZ18 would be requested if a member has undergone an operation or has detected a fault or problem which may affect their diving.

T. Tipping argued strongly against the motion and the following amendment was suggested by G.R. Birtles.

"New members are required to provide proof of a CZ18 diving medical clearance that has been carried out within the 3 years immediately proceeding application for membership to V.S.A.G.

Members who subsequently suffer an injury or condition that may contra-indicate future diving should notify the committee in writing who may then require the member to provide a current CZ18 diving clearance.

Current members are no longer required to renew CZ18s subject to the foregoing qualifications".

Bob Scott proposed that this wording be substituted for his original motion - seconded by Barry Truscott - The substitution and motion was carried.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>
Oct.9	Yarrawonga Weekend		Bruce Soulsby (057) 26 8241	
Oct.17	Sorrento	9.00am	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Sorrento B/Ramp
Oct.20	General Meeting - Collingwood Football Club			

OCTOBER 1982

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIVE CAPT.</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>
Nov.2	(Tues. Cup Day) Flinders Cray Dive Barry Truscott - 789 6395 Meet at Flinders Pier 9.00 a.m.			
Nov.14	Submarines	9.30am	Geoff Birtles 846 1983	Sorrento B/Ramp
Nov.17	General Meeting		Collingwood Football Club	
Nov.21	Tennis Party		Balnarring - Tony Tipping 80 4956	
Nov.26/27/28	Wilson's Prom. - Names to be given at next General Meeting in October if you wish to go.			
Dec.12	Heads-Slack Water	10.00am	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Sorrento B/Ramp

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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CHRISTMAS DIVE TRIP TO PORT LINCOLN S. AUST.

If you wish to join V.S.A.G. this summer at fabulous Port Lincoln, then don't delay, ring BARRY TRUSCOTT now on 789 6395 and reserve your campsite.

SEPTEMBER 19TH - V.S.A.G. DIVE - By Bob Scott

Sunday morning it's blowing a gale at Kellor (Windy Passage) and it doesn't look good outside, and even the weather report sounds lousy. But, undaunted, I head off to Captain a mishap-stricken dive.

Nineteen divers with four boats, arrive at Sorrento car park around 8.30 a.m. They don't seem too over-enthusiased about diving as we are all locked into deep conversation with Marty.

"All right you guys, get your gear on!" I shout. And they did!! We launched the boats in short time and away we go heading for the NEPEAN WALL. The blue flyer heads off at "Break a Back" speed over the chop with words of great wisdom - "Mr. Dive Captain, I'll check the dive location". And before he has had time to leave he's back! Mr. Dive Captain, its a blow out! So, its off to the Lonsdale Wall.

There are boats galore on one part of the wall, so we elect to go a little further south and dive in peace. All the divers proceed to kit up, I am dive Captain on "Coaster 1" with Big M, Alex and Chris. Its heads down and bums up while all divers scratch around in dive bags (not rubbish bins) and all of a sudden all hell breaks loose!

"The missus hasn't packed me back-pack!!!" (You should know, Big M, that letting a non-diver pack diving gear is like trying to build a snowman in Hades).

Anyway, generous Digby lends him his brand new Sea Quest, and over they go all divers in the drink leaving yours-truly, Reece & Digby, to scan the horizon for their return.

A minute later, Vic is back with a broken mask strap, a quick change-over and he's away again. Twenty five minutes later, all divers are back aboard and it's down to Pope's Eye for lunch and a reasonable surface interval. Then off to the popular second dive site near a certain pier for you all know what.

And disaster, fumble-fingers Reynolds, drops his tank, pack and regulator into Neptune's locker!!! After many attempts to find it, the search was abandoned. Then it was back to the boat ramp, load the boats onto trailers and home.

FOOTNOTE: It seems to me there could be a lesson learned

here: maybe we should check our Buddie's gear before leaving the boat ramp in future, to see it is all present and in a serviceable condition.

BOB SCOTT

FOR SALE:

ONE ONLY U.S. DIVERS SEA OTTER BOUYANCY
COMPENSATOR - BLUE - EXCELLENT CONDITION

... .. \$120.00

ONE ONLY U.S. DIVERS BOUYANCY COMPENSATOR
COLLAR TYPE USED ONLY ONCE IN FRESH WATER

... .. \$100.00

TELEPHONE: 367 2261

VIC OLIVERA WINS 12 MONTHS FREE AIR:

The Southern Cross Divers Prize of 12 months free air was won by Victor Olivera at the V.S.A.G. Annual Dinner. At the retail price of \$4.00 per fill, this represents a huge saving on diving costs. So if you want top gear, and professional service, you may not be as lucky as Victor, but you will get a good deal.

See RUSSELL or ROBYN KITT - Southern Cross Divers,
1368 Toorak Road, Burwood
(near Warrigal Road)

PHONE: 299 1111

3 MONTHS GYM COURSE WINNERS:

Debbie McPherson and Terry Brooks won a three months gymnasium course each at "HEALTHWORKS", during our Grand V.S.A.G. Raffle at the dinner dance.

These very generous prizes were donated by Geoff Birtles, who will very soon have Debbie and Terry in top shape for Christmas, at his gymnasium, "HEALTHWORKS", at 554 High Street Road, Mt. Waverley.

* * * * *

SUBMARINE NO. 3 - BY DES WILLIAMS

Geoff Birtles was dive captain on August 29th and on our arrival at Sorrento boat ramp, there weren't too many interested in diving, as the N.W. Wind was blowing, straight up the boat ramp. But, Geoff motivated the disinterested (like TIP used to do) and we were soon punching our way across to Queenscliff in boats belonging to Geoff, Johnny and Bazza.

Out through the Heads with shouts of "Geronlmo" and down the coast to the area where the "new" submarine lies. Geoff was just settling in on his marks, when Ocean Divers arrived en mass in Lance Steven's boat from Barwon Heads. Lance soon bouyed the submarine and V.S.A.G. boats were then anchored, while we waited for Ocean Divers to drop in. Then more speed boats arrived from everywhere, it looked like Myers store on the first day of their Spring Sale!!

I dived with John Goulding and Bob Scott and we descended the anchor line in poor visibility, maybe 25ft, and soon the dark hull of the submarine loomed up. We made our way along the hull to the bow, where the ship is snapped in two. The bow section lies over on its starboard side having broken off just forward of the first bulkhead. We swam into the bow section to look down the berre is of the four torpedo tubes.

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We then turned and inspected a large brass sea-lock, which is ready to be raised, as some divers have carefully removed all the nuts holding it in place! I looked into the dark hull through the doorway only to be bowled over by a wall of water coming out of the sub. The surge and ground swell on the wreck is quite amazing considering it is in 90ft of water.

The three of us then moved along the port side of the hull towards the stern and entered the first hatchway aft. This led into what was the engine-room and it proved to be very large indeed, we could see the light coming through the second hatchway some 40ft aft. We found the room very interesting, as there is plenty of daylight and only a slight surge. Everywhere there were mountings which gave evidence of freshly removed brass-ware, souvenired by divers over the last couple of months since the submarine was found by members of Melbourne Bottom Scratchers Club.

Bob, John and myself slowly cruised around the engine room inspecting compartments with our torches and just taking in the feeling of diving a new spot. This submarine certainly seems a lot bigger than the other two we have dived, but I can find no historical evidence to suggest any of the six subs we had, were any different in size to one another. They were all around 1200 tons each.

Our dive was rounded off by a quick look at the stern, which is flattened out and partially buried in sand; the rudder is lying bent around to the port side.

We surfaced to find more boats bouncing on the white-caps and divers kitting up everywhere.

Being the cautious type, I would like to warn any diver who hasn't dived this sub yet, that the surge on this wreck is treacherous and this spot has all the right ingredients to become the scene of yet another diving fatality. Please exercise great caution when entering or leaving the hull as the surge will very easily tear your facemask away. I suggest you hold on to your facemask at this point and keep a sharp eye out for your buddy. Loss of a facemask followed by a clout against this

steel submarine will make for a very nasty experience for even the most competent diver.

It is a very exciting dive indeed and I am sure V.S.A.G. will have many enjoyable dives on this old warrior of the deep; so let's make them safe dives folks.

Thanks Geoff, John and Barry for the journey to the dive site.

V.S.A.G. BOOZE-UP

Its Friday night and the wife and I are all dressed up and smelling lovely in our drinking clobber. We arrive at the watering hole at 7.30 p.m., ready to drink it dry.

All the boozers and gannetts dribble in, in ones and twos. And a good time had begun until our illustrious Treasurer arrives and tells me "I've left the cheque book at home". "Cripes", I say, "Now I need a bloody drink" because all I have is about \$20 in my pocket. Anyway, I go back to work for my cheque book and we are all soon boozing up again.

The food arrives and it is great, TONY PONGRASS has done us proud. Hot schnitzels, fresh oysters, giant king prawns, chicken pieces, ham, pork, you name it, and it was there. The booze flowed freely and the girls kept it coming until 1.00am "stumps", and the music, to me, was pleasant background stuff.

There was a raffle run and I mean a RAFFLE run! I must thank my wife June, and friends Jim and Geoff Birtles for doing a great job of persuading you lot out of some pocket money.

Now while I am on about raffles, I would like to thank the sports stores for their donations and support, and I think as divers we should show our appreciation for their support, and where possible patronise these business houses:

- * BOB CUMBERLANDS DIVE SHOP - (20 Air Fills Donation)
34 East Concourse, Beaumaris

PUDDING ISLAND. This is the island where John F. Kennedy landed when his PT 109 was cut in half by a Jap destroyer during the war. We dived on an area known as GORGONIAN SHOAL, a coral reef that is literally covered in gorgonian fans, each fan a host to two or three feather stars. It was easy to shoot a whole roll of film in this area. The second dive was a drift dive along a drop-off known as WRASSE REEF, a really electrifying dive. School fish of all types and size including kinglets, Napoleon wrasse, barracuda and sharks.

The next day I had to fly out at 7.00 p.m., but MAX was on the afternoon flight and he managed to get a dive on a Japanese Zero, just near the wharf.

The plane is partially broken up and the water in the area is not the clearest, but a good interesting dive.

HONIARA - staying at the MENDANA HOTEL, it was good to see all our friends that we had made last year.

Our first dive was onto a wreck called "SOLSEA", a large 150 ft. fishing boat that has sunk on the edge of a coral drop-off. As I sighted the wreck I was amazed at how the cyclone had moved it from its location where we dived it last year. It still has its resident school of MOORISH IDOLS, which set the wreck off for photographers. The afternoon's dive was on a B17 Bomber, just off the shore; divers grovelled on the floor of the plane looking for 50 calibre machine gun bullets. Bill found a large clump of them and shared them around. I spent most of the dive trying to find some sort of identifying feature that might help me find out the history of the plane.

Dives on the "KYUSHU MARU" and "SUSUKI MARU" the following day, checked out a few portholes, photographing divers and the stern gun with a picnic on the beach and a swim in the river nearby between dives.