

# FATHOMS

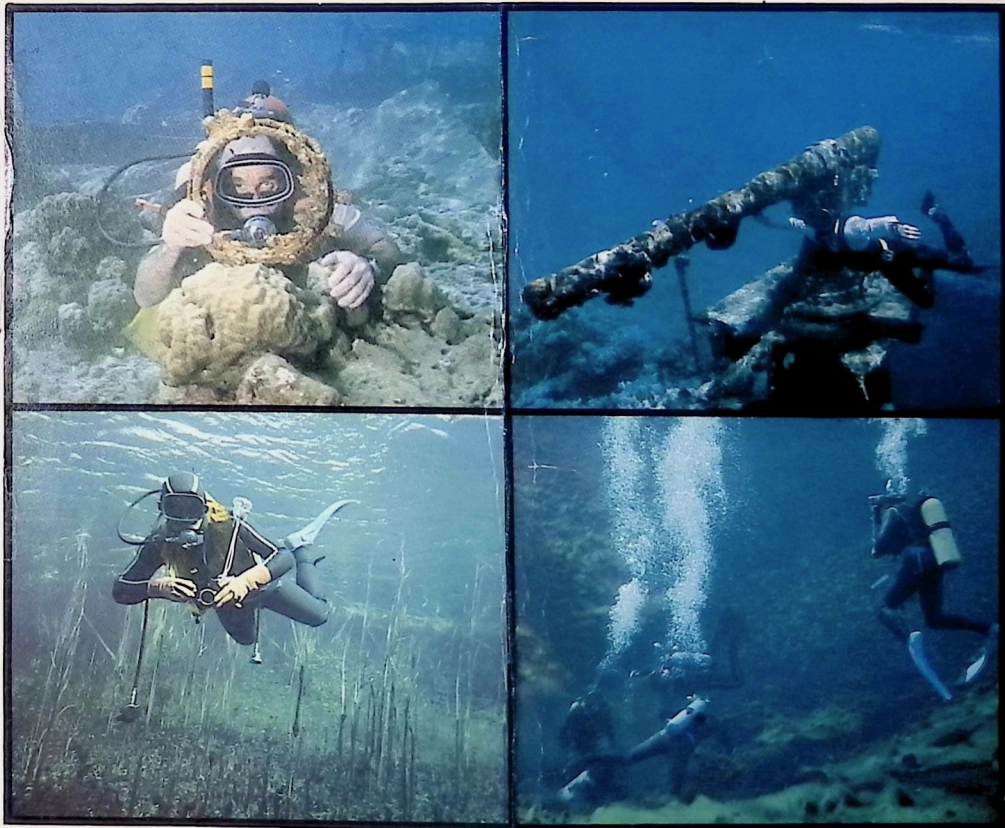
OCT 83



## SAFETY IN DIVING

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# VSAG

*Top left:* VSAG President Max Symon 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, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001)

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### Committee Members & Office Bearers

Max Synon	Vice President & S.D.F. Delegate	- 465 2812
John Goulding	Public Relations, Asst. Sec. & SDF Delegate	- 890 6634
Barry Truscott	Assist Newsletter Editor	- 789 6395
Bob Scott	Points Scorer	- 367 2261
Mick Jeacle	Social Secretary	- 772 6820
Pat Reynolds	Property Officer	- 789 1092
Mick Jackiw	Committee Member	- 736 1730
Terry Brooks	Committee Member	- 435 7794

### Club Meeting:

The next meeting of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group will be held on Wednesday 19th October at 8.00 p.m. at the Collingwood Football Club, Lulie Street, Abbotsford. Bar facilities are available to V.S.A.G. Members prior to and after the General Meeting and meals are served from 6.00 pm until about 9.00 pm. A list of V.S.A.G. members will be provided at the Football Club thereby eliminating the requirement to sign the visitors' book at the entrance. An alternative eating house prior to the meeting is Wrigleys Hotel, 66 Victoria Street, Richmond North.

VISITORS ARE VERY WELCOME - neat casual wear is essential - no shorts or thongs and old jeans are acceptable.

EDITORIAL

Our last month has been very busy, with elections for V.S.A.G. Committee members and then a re-shuffle of Committee members for positions of responsibility.

Firstly, our Annual General Meeting took in 33 votes, (including postal votes) for the five vacant positions on the V.S.A.G. Committee. Successful were Barry Truscott, Paul Tipping, Pat Reynolds, Mick Jeacle and Des Williams.

Congratulations go to Mick Jeacle on his appointment to the Committee and your fellow members look forward to working with you for V.S.A.G., Mick.

Our retiring Committee member David Carroll, has spent many years working for V.S.A.G. and we are all most grateful to you Dave for the time and effort put into V.S.A.G., over a long period of time. Our best wishes go to you and Deborah over the next months whilst you await the arrival of your baby.

Once again, Tony Tipping assisted our General election by acting as returning officer and we thank him for his efforts.

This month's "Fathoms" has received the support of the usual scribes, to whom I am most grateful. Geoff Birtles returns to "Fathoms" with a new "Julius Sumner Miller" observation, which will prove to be food for thought. Geoff has certainly been giving his calculator a hiding this month! And it is not an easy subject to put into print without becoming too foggy, you can be sure.

Actually, as retiring Newsletter Editor I am pleased to finish off the last three year's work with this professionally printed issue of "Fathoms" arranged by Alex Talay. My personal thanks to you Alex, for making a difficult job just that much easier and more interesting over the last two of the three years.

"Fathoms" is now in the capable hands of Geoff Birtles and I look forward to receiving my next copy in the mail, by way of change.

Des Williams

COMMITTEE NEWS

Annual Committee Meeting held at Max & Pam Synon's home on Tuesday 27th September, 1983.

Max Synon declared all Committee positions vacant and appointed Pat Reynolds to chair voting procedures for the election of office bearers for 1983-84. Voting, nominations and results were:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>NOMINATED BY</u>	<u>SECONDED</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
<u>President:</u>	D. Williams	T. Brooks	A. Talay	Carried unanimously
	M. Synon	B. Scott	--	Declined
<u>Secretary:</u>	G. Birtles	B. Scott	--	Declined
	A. Talay	M. Synon	--	Declined
	P. Tipping	D. Williams	M. Jeacle	Carried unanimously
	M. Jeacle	M. Jackiw	--	Declined
<u>Vice President:</u>	Max Synon	(as per Constitution)		Carried
<u>Treasurer:</u>	M. Jeacle	P. Reynolds	D. Williams	--
	A. Talay	B. Scott	G. Birtles	Voted by majority
<u>Asst. Secretary:</u>	J. Goulding	P. Reynolds	M. Jeacle	Accepted
	G. Birtles	A. Talay	--	Declined
<u>N/Letter Editor:</u>	D. Williams	A. Talay	--	Declined
	G. Birtles	B. Scott	--	Declined
	J. Goulding	A. Talay	--	Declined
	P. Reynolds	G. Birtles	--	Declined
	M. Jackiw	G. Birtles	--	Declined
	M. Jeacle	J. Goulding	--	Declined
*G. Birtles reconsidered and accepted the nomination made again				
	G. Birtles	P. Tipping	P. Reynolds	Accepted
<u>Asst. Editor:</u>	B. Truscott	G. Birtles	J. Goulding	Accepted
<u>Social Secretary:</u>	M. Jeacle	D. Williams	B. Scott	Accepted
<u>Property Officer:</u>	P. Reynolds	A. Talay	M. Synon	Accepted
<u>Safety Officer:</u>	B. Scott	M. Synon	P. Reynolds	
	G. Birtles	A. Talay	M. Jeacle	Voted by majority
	J. Goulding	B. Truscott	--	Declined
	B. Truscott	B. Scott	--	Declined
<u>Points Scorer:</u>	B. Scott	G. Birtles	J. Goulding	Accepted

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>NOMINATED BY</u>	<u>SECONDED</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
<u>Public Relations:</u>	J. Goulding	D. Williams	M. Synon	Voted by majority
	M. Jeacle	J. Goulding	--	Declined
	M. Synon	P. Tipping	B. Scott	
<u>SDF Delegates:</u>	D. Williams	J. Goulding	G. Birtles	Accepted
	G. Birtles	B. Scott	--	Declined
	M. Synon	B. Scott	P. Reynolds	Accepted
	P. Tipping	J. Goulding	--	Declined
	J. Goulding	G. Birtles	P. Reynolds	Accepted

\* Many thanks to K. Jensen for acting as Returning Officer for the night.

After the election of office bearers, the new President opened the General Committee meeting for September 1983.

- (i) Dive calendar discussion. Hopes are held out for involving Geoff Naylor on a "Ships Graveyard" new wreck sortie. D. Williams to follow up.
- (ii) Further interest in S.D.F. Dinner Dance at "Tudor Court" on 7/9/1983.
- (iii) Mt. Gambier weekend - to be arranged for 29, 30, 31st October and November 1st (Cup Day) by K. Jensen.
- (iv) The annual Tennis Party and V.S.A.G. Mile to be arranged by Tipping brothers for November.
- (v) J. Goulding to arrange accomodation at Wilson's Promontory (Tidal River) for weekend of 25-27th November.
- (vi) Escalating costs of petrol have made it necessary for the Committee to raise boat fee to \$10 per member.
- (vii) Each country or long trip to be subject to a surcharge on dives, to be fixed before the trip to assist boat-owners with cost of towing boats long distances.

\* Next Committee Meeting to be held at Geoff & Isobel Birtles home on a date to be fixed at next Club General Meeting due to a clash with S.D.F. meeting.

DIVE CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Dive Capt.</u>	<u>Meet at</u>
Oct 7	S.D.F. Dinner Dance - Tudor Court (See advertisement this issue)			
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Oct 16	Cape Woolamai	9.00 am	Bob Scott 367 2261	San Remo Pier
	New dive site exploration and channel run at San Remo			
-----				
Oct 19	General Meeting - Collingwood Football Club			
-----				
Oct 29	Mt. Gambier		Keith Jensen	
30,31	Note: You will need to take Monday		460 3672	
Nov. 1	31st off to make long weekend.			
	Ring Keith now to book your accomodation.			
-----				
Nov. 6	New Wreck providing conditions are right.	9.00 am sharp	Des Williams 762 1623	Queenscliff
	Aboard Geoff Naylor's boat.		after 6.30pm 5/11/83	
-----				
Nov.16	General Meeting - Collingwood Football Club			
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Nov.20	Tennis Party & VSAG Mile.		Tony Tipping	
	Venue: Balnarring		80 4956	
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Nov.26	Wilsons Prom. Weekend, set up on Friday 25th evening.		John Goulding 890 6634	
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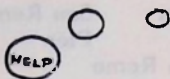
NOTE: Those wishing to dive on above dates must confirm with the Dive Captain the evening before the dive, to arrange boat accommodation.

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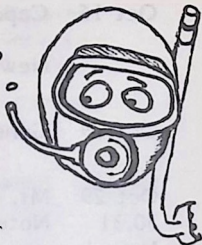
**\*\* DON'T MISS THE DIVING LONG WEEKEND AT MT. GAMBIER -  
SEE AVERT. IN THIS ISSUE OF "FATHOMS" \*\***

## FOR SALE

KITCHEN SETTING - WHITE WOODEN TABLE WITH BLACK LAMINEX TOP, SIZE 2'6" x 4'6" PLUS 4 WHITE WOODEN CHAIRS WITH BLACK VINYL SEATS AND BACKS. EXCELLENT CONDITION - \$80 O.N.O.  
PHONE: JOHN GOULDING 890 6634



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FLOTSAM and JETSAM



I sometimes feel sorry for today's new divers who miss out on some of the diving highlights we used to enjoy in the old days. How many of you will remember the shore dives at Pearce's Road, Diamond Bay and other now unheard of places around the Sorrento-Rye ocean shores. Then there were those unforgettable pier crawls at Flinders and Portsea, when there would be more divers than boat spaces, and somehow the dive captains would have to allocate the few spaces available, whilst the unlucky ones would wind their way through the tangled mess of fishing lines. But, one of the great dives in those days was the wreck of the "Eliza Ramsden". She was an iron barque 151 feet long and 395 tons. With only one year's sailing to her record, she crashed onto Corsair Rock in July 1875. Drifting off on the high tide she finally settled in the fairway close to the south channel. And that's where the problem is. The Ports and Harbours Department, now restrict diving activities in the area of the shipping channels, and so we no longer list the "Ramsden" as a dive location. However, on August 28th we once again dived this grand old lady of the bay. Our dive intentions were to go outside the Bay, but the Rip was quite impossible. We then moved to an area back inside the Bay for a cray and bottle dive in the current. For those who remained on the boats during this first dive, the dive captain offered the opportunity to dive the Ramsden, providing certain precautions were taken to comply with Ports and Harbour requirements. Already on site was a commercial diving club and the area was as crowded as Bourke Street on Christmas Eve.

This edition of Flotsam and Jetsam is coming to you direct from the lounge room table at 6.25 a.m., on the 27th September as Australia II has just passed Liberty in one of the greatest sporting spectacles of all time - the seventh and deciding race of the America's cup. By the time you read

this, the result will well and truly be known, and regardless of the outcome I think every true spirited Aussie will be terribly proud of those boys who went to Newport.

On September 24, the Hawks romped home to win the Grand Final and there was some heavy celebrating around town. This was evidenced the next morning, when Mick Jeacle and Barry Turcott let all that excitement well up inside them and spill forth with great gusto!

- "Was it the Booze that made them spew or Jeacle's Wet Suit - bright shade of blue?" -

Well this yacht race is drawing to a close with Australia II still in front by 30 seconds - and I'm going to watch --

Signed  
CARNA - AUSSY

### MT. GAMBIER DIVING LONG WEEK-END

DON'T MISS IT.  
SEE ADVERT IN THIS ISSUE OF "FATHOMS"

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### FANCY DRESS HALLOWEEN PARTY

Gail and Andy Mastrowicz invite V.S.A.G. members to join them at 6.00 p.m. on Saturday 29th October at 15 Soodan Street, West Footscray for a fancy dress Halloween Party.

Barbeque will be available. B.Y.O. meat and grog. This is a great chance for a lot of fun for all the family. See you there.

R.S.V.P. 22/10/83  
Telephone: 318 3986

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### MULTI LEVEL DIVE HYSTERIA

Its on again! VSAG's Andy Redwood started it some two years ago, NAUI Technical Director Reg Boar fanned the flames in SIA issue 12/4 (in



support of the concept) and FAUI Technical Director Dr. Peter Harper totally condemned the procedure with an emotive and self important letter/article, SIA issue 13/4.

What is multi-level procedure (ML)? Is it safe for sports divers? Let's deal with the procedure first (that's the easy part!) and argue the pros and cons later.

Simply put, Multi Level is a procedure whereby the USN tables are used to extend total dive duration in a situation where successively shallower depths are encountered. This is done by determining the group designation applicable to time spent at each depth and only charging that amount of nitrogen uptake against ourselves.

Now, if you are lost already, do not read on. You do not have sufficient knowledge of the USN tables and their use to grasp the more advanced concepts which follow. If you are with me so far, pull out your tables and read on. I suggest you use the PADI plastic card version (or DACOR) as these are the easiest to use for ML procedure.

Let us first consider the problem by way of example. A dive is planned on the Lonsdale drop-off. Depth options range from 300 ft. (if you are silly enough) up to 40 ft. at the drop off. We decide on 10 minutes at 100 ft. for a bit of a look, followed by a cray bash at 60 ft. (Sound familiar!)

If we follow the decompression table rule of "greatest depth/Total Bottom Time" (TBT) to calculate our dive profile we are faced with three choices.

- a) Limit our TBT to 25 minutes to avoid decompression.
- b) Decompression if more than 15 minutes is spent at the 60 ft. level. (Obviously impractical at this location), or
- c) Extend our dive by "pushing" the tables because we "figure" that no decompression will be required if the dive is completed at 60 ft.

The practical solution to this problem is to "charge" ourselves only for that amount of time spent at each successively shallower depth. This is done by determining the repetitive Group designation for the time spent

at 100 ft. and then 60 ft. and only charging this amount of nitrogen uptake against ourselves.

Check Table 1 (No decompression limits and group designation table) of your PADI (or DACOR) dive tables and let's plan the above dive on a Multi Level basis.

- (i) 10 minutes at 100 ft. puts us into Group D.
- (ii) Now convert this into an "equivalent" amount of time spent at 60 ft. Just follow the unshaded horizontal white line along to your left and read off the "equivalent 60 ft. depth time" i.e. 20 minutes. (100 ft. for 10 mins. = Group D.  
60 ft. for 20 mins. = Group D.)
- (iii) To calculate our maximum permissible Total Bottom Time (inclusive of 90 and 60 feet levels) we first deduct this 60 ft. equivalent BT of 20 minutes from the no decompression limit of 60 ft./60 mins. We are left with 40 minutes.
- (iv) We then simply subtract a ML bottom time Safety factor of 5 minutes (applicable to all ML dives) which provides us with a permissible no decompression TBT of 35 minutes. Our dive duration has now been extended by a full 10 minutes without the need for decompression and without pushing the tables!! (i.e. 10 mins./100 ft. and 25 mins./60 ft.)

No big deal. Simple, straightforward, commonsense application of the tables. But the procedure has even more going for it where a repetitive dive is planned.

Use of this procedure enables us to properly determine our group designation (on ascent) for accurate calculation of surface interval credit.

Example:

- Dive profile - 100 ft. for 10 mins.
- 60 ft. for 15 mins.
- TBT 25 minutes

Without knowledge of ML procedure a sport diver is faced with no choice

but to work on Greatest depth/TBT. Therefore, ascent group designation is H (100 ft./25 mins.). Now let us apply our new found knowledge to practically and safely minimise our surface interval requirement.

- (i) 100 ft. for 10 mins = Group D
- (ii) BT Equivalent at 60 ft. = 20 mins.
- (iii) Time at 60 ft. = 15 mins.
- (iv) Therefore TBT = 35 mins.
- (v) Group designation for 40 minutes at 60 ft. = G

We are one whole letter group better off! We can use this to either reduce our surface interval or extend our repetitive dive.

Let's work through a more complex example by way of checking comprehension.

Two divers spend 15 mins. at 100 ft., ascend to 50 ft. for 25 mins., ascend to 30 ft. for 5 mins., then surface.

- Q: 1. What decompression is needed?
- Q: 2. What are the diver's Group designations following the dive?

If we use Greatest depth/TBT (100 ft./50 mins.) the divers would need to decompress for 2 mins. at 20 ft., 24 mins. at 10 ft. and would have a Group designation of L!!

Let's try again using ML procedure.

- (i) 15 min./100 ft. Group Designation E
- (ii) Equivalent BT for Group E at 50 ft. = 30 mins.
- (iii) 30 mins. plus 25 mins. (at 50 ft.) = 55 mins. BT
- (iv) 55 mins. at 50 ft. = Group Designation H
- (v) Equivalent BT for Group H at 30 ft. = 145 mins.
- (vi) 145 mins. plus 5 mins. (at 30 ft.) = 150 mins.

Therefore: Divers surface as Group I divers with a decompression requirement.

Beats the hell out of Greatest Depth/TBT!! The foregoing procedure is PADI ML as presented by Dennis Graver, PADI Director of Training at a seminar "Decompression in Depth" (USA).

How safe?

Dennis Graver "This method of multi level diving has been shown to be as safe as the tables themselves. You are not pushing the tables, or overextending your stay. You are only using the no decompression limits in a way which is very practical for sport diving - a way of diving which is quite common."

Graver does recommend a few simple additional rules for ML procedure.

1. Limit ML dives to 130 ft. or less.  
(A conservative approach! GRB)
2. Depths must become progressively shallower during the dive.
3. Subtract 5 minutes off Table 1, no decompression limits for all dives from 40 ft. to 120 ft. At 80 ft. (only) he recommends a TBT of 30 mins. (40 mins. minus 10 mins. safety factor).
4. Include the time taken to ascend from one depth to the next in the BT applicable to the previous depth.

Are there potential physiological problems associated with Graver's multi level diving concept?

This question was put to the highly qualified group of individuals who addressed the seminar to clear up the many myths and misconceptions associated with dive tables and decompression.

Speakers included - Bruce E. Basset, Ph.D., U.S.A.F. School of Aerospace Medicine; Richard Bell, Ph.D. University of California at Davis; Andrew Pilmanis, M.D., U.S.C. Catalina Marine Science Centre; and Charles V. Brown, M.D., Medical Editor for Skin Diver magazine. Basset's answer typified the panel response "No. They are within the



## CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR 1983

It is a great pleasure to announce that this year's Clubman of the Year Award will be presented to BARRY TRUSCOTT, at the next General Meeting in October. Barry managed to take off this coveted trophy by a narrow margin to Alex Talay.

Congratulations, Barry from all V.S.A.G. members and Committee.

The top six contenders were:

Barry Truscott	750 points
Alex Talay	720 "
Pat Reynolds	690 "
Des Williams	630 "
Mick Jeacle	580 "
John Goulding	565 "

### MT. GAMBIER DIVE TRIP

OCTOBER 29, 30 & 31 & 1ST NOVEMBER (Cup Day)

For all those members who have been anxious to dive Mt. Gambier on their newly acquired Cat. Cards, now is the time.

Keith Jensen has booked 6 x 6 berth caravans at the Queen Elizabeth Caravan Park - Mt. Gambier. Expected cost is to be approx. \$5.00 per head per night with four people per van. You will need to arrange to take Monday 31st October off work, to make the long weekend and you had better ring Keith right NOW!! He has several bookings already - so, phone on 460 3672 to book with Keith and get more details.

## VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1983

My closing two year term as President of V.S.A.G. has been a most enjoyable time and my personal gratitude is added to thanks given on members behalf, to many hard working V.S.A.G. members, with special emphasis on Committee members and their wives.

Firstly, our aim of making the most out of diving opportunities around our coastline would not have been realised, without the enthusiasm shown by boat-owner members and visitors. After all, good dives make the Club what it is and we wouldn't do a lot of exciting diving if it wasn't for the courtesy of Club members' private boats.

Over the last two years, I have had the assistance of able Committee members like John Goulding, who has attended to Secretarial duties with enthusiasm and skill as have the two Club Treasurers, David Carrol and Alex Talay. Bob Scott has provided us all with some excellent venues for our evenings out and really put in some leg-work to be sure we got value for money.

Together with our evenings out, we have enjoyed the generosity of many local dive shop owners and past and present members, who have donated prizes for raffles, etc. V.S.A.G. is most grateful to all concerned for their considerate donations.

Our grateful thanks go to all those people who have added interest to Meeting Nights by showing of slides, giving lectures and demonstrations, etc. on various aspects of our sport.

In March, 1982, Alex Talay really sparked up our "Fathoms" magazine with professionally printed covers to compliment the hard work done by Des Williams, mostly behind the scenes each month in preparation of our magazine. Next to diving, our magazine rates as number two priority for members' enjoyment. I am sure Des would wish that I extend thanks to all regular and irregular contributors who have helped to provide so much enjoyment from reading "Fathoms". Actually, over the past two years we have seen the disappearance of one of our favourite columns - "TIPS TIT BITS". This used to be full of juicy news and always good for a laugh. We saw the emergence of red-blooded journalistic combat, when G.B. used to monthly pop his "PERISCOPE" column on

unsuspecting "Fathoms" readers, and believe me there are plenty. More recently unfortunately though, the "Periscope" has remained well and truly submerged, let's hope it will be up for air again soon.

During the past two years, V.S.A.G. has been most fortunate to have received the professional services of our Chartered Accountant, Don Abell, who has produced two very detailed audits for us all. Many thanks to you, Don.

We have had Tennis Parties and V.S.A.G. Annual Mile arranged by Tony Tipping each year, which always proves to be lots of fun and a chance for everyone to enjoy a day of friendly competition. There were two excellent Christmas interstate holidays organised by Des Williams and Barry Truscott at Ulladulla and Port Lincoln. This year, we are set to go to Jervis Bay under the leadership of John Goulding.

Captain Reg Truscott has taken us to Wilson's Promontory each Australia Day weekend and let's not forget those who organised the many complicated details for all who attended.

Probably the most worthwhile idea of the year came from Geoff Birtles, who co-ordinated the establishment of the V.S.A.G. Overseas Trip Savings Fund earlier this year. Many members are now saving their way to a lot of good memories, when we travel far off to an exotic dive holiday location in June 1984.

With the hard work of all Committee members and devoted V.S.A.G.ers it isn't any wonder that V.S.A.G. is still thriving after almost 30 years.

So, to every V.S.A.G. member, my thanks for the last two years and I ask that you may continue to support V.S.A.G. for many years to come.

Max Synon

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Attention VSAG Members

Dear Member,

Advantages of Incorporation

I have recently had occasion to discuss incorporation of sporting clubs



with a colleague in the legal profession, Mr. Isaac Apel, who is well known for his interest and expertise in the law as it affects clubs and their members.

Mr. Apel has told me he has had recent input into an 'incorporation kit' which is put out by the Sports Federation of Victoria and sells for \$15. The kit provides for a relatively simple method of stream-lining a club's administrative structure and processes. It is said to contain an explanation of the nature and advantages of incorporation as well as a set of model rules and samples of the various forms for use by a group seeking incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. This Act commenced operation on 1 July 1983.

One of the advantages of incorporation of course is the separation of group funds from the funds of members as well as the reduction of the potential liability of individual members to dig into their own personal resources in the event of their group's liquidation.

Our group was incorporated about 20 years ago under Victorian company law then in force. The group still retains the characteristics and advantages of a company limited by guarantee under certain transitional provisions contained in the new companies code which has replaced the old uniform company laws.

The incorporation kit is not designed for lawyers. It is not primarily for the limited number of groups like ours that are companies. However, although we are incorporated under company law, it might be a good idea for members to get their committee to examine the kit and the new law to consider if we should stick with our present status as a company limited by guarantee or whether we ought to go for a changed arrangement under the new law. In very plain terms that means we would be looking at a set up which had some of the benefits but not all of the burdens imposed on companies.

If we are to alter our status from company to incorporated association there are, for example, likely to be some advantages such as the simplification of the fairly complex annual auditing and financial statements which now bedevil us along with related and other obligations on our directors. On the debit side, in theory we put ourselves at potential risk on the corporate taxation issue. We would not want, for instance, to get ourselves into a position where we would be

likely to provoke a review of our tax exempt status in the course of changeover from a company to the new kind of incorporated body. Even if short-term tax liability was minimal or non-existent, we would want to avoid being a target for 'public enemy number one' later on.

If members want me to, and are serious and interested enough in the subject, I would be happy to look at the kit and the law and practice to see what is in our best interests: do we retain our incorporation as a company limited by guarantee or go for change under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981?

Yours faithfully,  
Paul Tipping

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#### Book Review - "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE"

I am sure that anyone who dives has at one time or other read or perused this prestigious publication that has been around since 1899. It surprises me that few divers read it on a regular basis. It is rare indeed if there is not an article of interest, in any edition, to those with diving interests or a love of the sea.

The last few months have provided a smorgasbord for the reader with salt water in his veins. The MAY edition covered the full story of Henry VIII's lost warship "MARY ROSE", its beginnings, sinking, salvage attempts and subsequent re-discovery and raising. Also how it will be treated to preserve and prevent its further deterioration now that it has been raised from its 500 year resting place.

MARCH '83 had an excellent story "Ghost Ships of the War of 1812", about two recently discovered sunken ships, "SCOURGE" and "HAMILTON" which met their demise on August 8th, 1813. Twenty-six pages of facts, line drawings, and underwater photographs, showing cannons, carronades, cutlasses and fittings all intact as the day they went down. Photographs of the figureheads on these vessels are quite amazing.

JUNE '83 "Warriors from a Watery Grave", the discovery under the IONIAN SEA near Reggio, Calabria, Italy, of Grecian bronze statues, that have been 25 ft. below the surface since 146 B.C. The story tells of their discovery by an amateur diver and the subsequent events leading to the

raising and restoration.

JULY '83 tells about the wreck of a British barque "BREADALBANE" lost in 1853 in the ice in Canadian waters. This is the northernmost shipwreck ever discovered on the sea floor, it lies under six feet of ice and 340 ft. of water. The only way you or I could ever hope to enjoy the thrill discovery is by reading the story by Joe McINNIS and poring over the photographs by EMORY KRISTOFF.

Maybe your appetite has been whetted to enjoy this magazine, it is available on subscription or at your local newsagents. All good municipal libraries have back copies available on loan. I recommend this magazine as it is one that all the family will enjoy.

by OSCAR

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### AUSTRALIA DAY LONG WEEKEND

Our famous trip to Wilson's Promontory - Refuge Cove is now open for booking, as only a limited number of places are available. Names and money must be into the Club by December General Meeting. The all-up cost (including food) this year is expected to be \$70.00 per person.

The trip aboard Reg Truscott's "MIRRABOOKA" needs no introduction, so be quick with your booking.

### THE ELUSIVE SUBMARINE

On Saturday evening 25th September I rang the dive captain to learn that our scheduled dive had been aborted and instead we were leaving from Sorrento to dive where we could. So once again on a very cool Sunday morning I motored down to Frankston to join Bazza and head for Sorrento. Upon our arrival there, we were first of all treated to a fashion parade, with Geoff complete with racing stripes setting the pace, closely followed by the Big M, in iridescent blue who complained that he couldn't find a phone booth to change in. We were next entertained by Mick, who must have learnt to launch his boat at Calder race-way. Whilst attempting the launch fifty yards from the water, his abrupt stop aged Des a couple of years. Mick's car must be the only one fitted with a parachute stopping device on the radiator.

Imagine all this excitement before we even entered the water, the diving could only be an anti-climax. Anyway, off we went, push-starting Barry's boat. The Bay was quite calm, but as we neared the Rip the rollers began coming in and increased in size as we progressed. The macho men meanwhile headed out straight through the white water. Bazza shaking his head took us out along a quiet section close into the Lonsdale side. Once outside, we radioed the other boats, who after some misgivings, some back-tracking and a couple of nervous breakdowns joined us outside. We set off in a search pattern to locate the somewhat newly discovered submarine. Just as we were all ready to give it away, the mean machine struck. They dropped anchor, and Robert, who descended into the deep to authenticate the discovery.

By this time all of us in Barry's boat, with the notable exception of the clean living Don Abell were feeling a little less than well. We kitted up in stages, gratefully falling into the water one by one. I was the last to go, the water felt cool, but at least it wasn't heaving up and down like the boat. Down the anchor line I went, to discover the anchor, no submarine. I began to move the anchor towards where I thought the sub lay; luckily I was interrupted by Bazza who pointed out the way to go. I arrived at the sub which lays adjacent to a reef area. Swimming along the top in about eighty feet of water, I found that there were several large entrances into the old man of war. I dropped into a couple, but having no torch, no line, and being faced with a Birtles-displaced sedimentary barrier, I only ventured my head in and seeing no light backed out. Maintaining my way along the decking I came to the conning-tower, like all the other submarines we have dived on, this one had also settled on its base, and the conning tower sits at right angles to the deck, so that even on its final plunge into the oblivion of Bass Strait the submarine had landed in true naval fashion right side up.

I made my way back along the deck of the submarine until I arrived at Geoff's anchor. I made a leisurely ascent into sunshine and a flattening sea. Once aboard I found that everyone else had enjoyed the dive, despite the very poor viz, only about ten to twelve feet, and Barry had recovered an anchor, left for him by some obliging soul. It was easy to see why, when we came to pull up our anchors, both Barry's and Geoff's had somehow become very attached to the bottom. Luckily Mick Jackiw came to the rescue and with a couple of descents unglued the lines and enabled us to head back towards the Bay and a very flat and welcoming stretch of water.

Arriving off Queenscliff, we settled down for a rest, some food, and some surface interval periods.

Soon it was time to kit up again, the macho men to search for the odd marine decapod, and those in our boat to make a leisurely search for bottles. Descending the line again, this time attached to a buoy I again found the bottom very dark, with poor visibility around 15-20 feet. The buoy took off with the wind and the tide and I raced over the bottom. Unfortunately not too many antique bottles lay on my route, there were plenty of sponges, the odd, rather large spider crab, and suspicious large Morwong investigated me, in fact I had to have a double look as this large grey fish slipped by behind me. I passed several old wives who took no notice of me at all passing just in front of my mask as if I wasn't there. I found one old beer bottle, nothing to brag about this trip. I surfaced reluctantly but I had come to the conclusion that it wasn't my day for exciting finds. I waited on the surface whilst Barry collected Don and his sister Jeanette, and then aboard and off to Sorrento. First in, I suspect that Bazza wanted to be well clear of the ramp before Big Mick arrived.

We changed and waited for the others to arrive. When all the boats were up and we had sorted out the gear, Alex presented the three boat captains with their official captains' hats in a simple ceremony captured for posterity by the editor with his underwater camera; we had to pour a bucket of water over him whilst he snapped happily away. So we had a good outing, my commiserations to Jack in our boat who had trouble with his sinuses, and thank you to the three Captains Courageous without whom we would have had to swim there, and back. In all there were fourteen divers, and Nicki and Bruno guarded the cars for us while we were away. For those who didn't come, I can only say that you missed an interesting day. Just a word about the gleaming new wetsuits, I have a feeling it could be a case of back to the drawing board for one or two of them - that's all folks!

by B. LYNCH

STOP PRESS !!!

V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

Venue: Hunters Lodge  
Dorset Rd,  
CROYDON

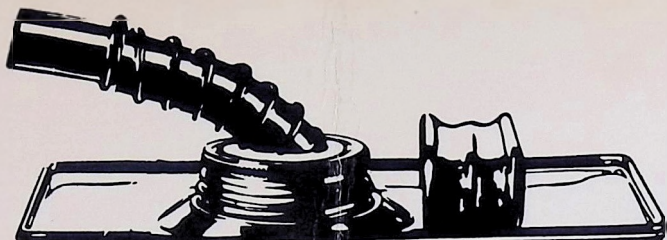
Cost: \$22.00 per head  
\* Cost includes an excellent four course  
meal, beer, red & white wine & champagne

Date: Friday 16th December, 1983

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Extras: Full bar service for those who wish to  
purchase mixed drinks

- \*\* V.S.A.G. will have their own separate room for our Christmas celebrations, so come and enjoy our own private party.
- \*\* Members are asked to invite as many of their friends as they wish
- \*\* There will be lucky prizes and raffles to add to the fun
- \*\* Of course Hunters Lodge has a terrific band too, so come and join us
- \*\* Our social secretary Mick Jeacle, has produced an excellent night out at a very reasonable cost so be sure to support V.S.A.G. and enjoy the Christmas spirit with your friends.



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