

FATHOMS

EST. 1954



Safety in Diving

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DIVING
FREEDOM**

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Victorian Sub Aqua Group,
Box 2526W,
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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

VSAG

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group. Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne. 3001 Australia

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COVER STORY



This brilliant photograph was taken by Kieth Jensen in May 1983 when diving the U.S. Destroyer Y.P.284 off Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. The divers from bottom to top are Alex Talay, Geoff Birtles and Steve Gardiner (dive guide). Reg Thomas' dive boat can be seen on the surface. The ship lies in 120 ft. of water and was sunk on Sunday 25th October 1942 when attacked by 3 Japanese Destroyers (Akatsuki, Ikazuchi and Shiratsuyu). TECHNICAL DETAILS: Kieth used a Nikonos 3 with a 15 m/m lens. The photo was taken using natural light and Fujichrome 100 A.S.A. film.

The Victorian Sub-Aqua Group was founded in 1954 and has continued as a strong and active diving club since that time. It is incorporated as a non profit company and has no commercial affiliation with any organisation.

VSAG is committed to the preservation of independant diving freedom. It believes that divers must take a responsible attitude toward the protection and preservation of the marine environment but as a general rule is opposed to legislative measures that place prohibitive limitations and restrictions on diving activities.

Local diving is organised on a bi-monthly basis, generally out of participating member's boats. This is supported by weekend camps, charters to more remote locations and annual overseas trips. The club has a considerable investment in diving equipment.

Regular functions provide an opportunity for members, friends and families to socialise. Each month VSAG meets at North Melbourne Football Club where bar facilities are available prior to and after the General Meetings. Visitors are very welcome - smart casual wear essential.

FATHOMS

Official journal of the Victorian Sub—Aqua Group

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Next general meeting:

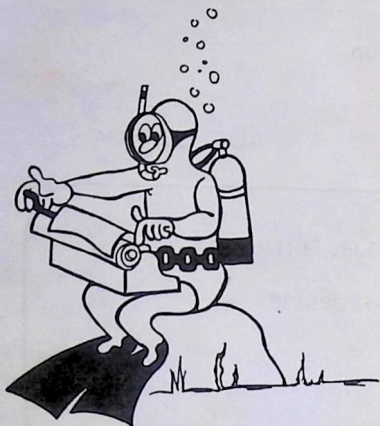
Wednesday August 15 8.00 pm
North Melbourne Football Club
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, August 21 8.00 pm
Max Synon's Place,
8 Pine Street, Thomastown

Editorial submissions to: "The Editor" Fathoms C/- 8 Newlyn Close, Templestowe. 3106

EDITORIAL



With an Annual General Meeting looming in September (19/9/84) this issue has something of an administrative bias.

This year we have three committee members standing down by rotation (Goulding, Jackiw & Birtles) together with the two committee men appointed to fill casual vacancies throughout the year (Jensen and Abell). As this is just under half the entire 12 man committee it is important that as many active members as possible participate in the electoral process. All retiring committee men are offering themselves for re-election.

Paul Tipping has written an explanation on VSAG election procedure and this is followed by two nomination forms. Those standing for committee must be proposed and seconded and sign their acceptance of the nomination. This must reach VSAG's P.O. Box no later than September 5.

With an election just 4 - 5 weeks away, it is timely for those intending to nominate for committee to reflect on just how much they are prepared to put in. With over 50 organised events a year, club property, 80 members, substantial funds and a monthly newsletter, the administrative task is reasonably formidable. The club needs workers!

Traditionally the more onerous and important tasks of Secretary, Treasurer and Editor are not eagerly sought. The simple fact is that they must be done and carried out properly if the club is to remain strong and active. So spare a little thought before accepting a nomination - "Are you prepared to work?"

Whilst on this particular subject, I should mention that this is my second last issue of Fathoms. Therefore we will need at least one capable "committee person" willing to carry out this monthly task. I firmly believe that Fathoms is a vital intra-club communication link and is (next to our members) the single most important contributor to our strength, unity and standing in the independent diving community. At this stage I know of no-one willing to undertake the task so the matter needs some heavy consideration prior to closing of nominations. Anyone willing to contemplate the task can phone me for details - and perhaps a nomination!

Annual subs are now overdue, so if you wish to vote and continue to remain a member of this proudly independent club - put your money up, soon!

Included with this issue is a new member application. VSAG is anxious to update its records and it is necessary for present members to sign the current "Terms of Agreement" governing participation in club events and diving from member's private boats. These also include a "warranty" on medical diving eligibility. Simply cross out the word "application" on the top right hand corner of the form and substitute "update". Complete all sections and sign where indicated at foot of "Terms of Agreement". Naturally a proposer and seconder is not required nor is it necessary for present members to include a photocopy of SCUBA qualifications. Membership of those experienced and established present members without SCUBA certification is not affected by this "membership update".

Our President has asked me to draw members' attention to some "slack practices" creeping in on club dive events. Some of these relate to poor clubmanship, others to safety and others to sheer bad manners.

- * If you book in for a dive - turn up! (On Sunday 8/7 10 of 14 showed). A few harsh words would be said if boat owners started this practice.
- * Boat owners should inform DC if they have personal non club guests in boat. Overloaded boats are a safety hazard and probably unnecessary, given proper planning.
- * If, as a boat owner, you book in for a club event and have club divers on board you should remain in contact with and dive with the club. If you have no radio, stay in sight of DC. The second dive location of the day is optional, subject to consensus of your crew and signing off with DC.
- * Buddies should stick together (!!!)
- * Members and their visitors are expected to assist the boat owner with launch and retrieval of the boat.
- * Members are expected to be on time for club dive events. A 9.30 start means just that. You should be geared up and loading boats at this time. An 8.30 launching is also self explanatory. Obviously there is slack water to catch and tardiness by boat owners or crew is unreasonable.
- * Visitors have second priority to members on club dives - right up to the evening prior to the event. Do not book visitors during the preceding week. Ask if a spot is available on the evening prior to the dive.

* Do not book visitors for events where their experience and/or certification is obviously inappropriate.

If this issue did not reach you by the August general meeting, it is because our type setter, printer and collator could not cope with the unreasonably short lead time given them by the Editor. (Occasioned by work priorities - sorry!) If it did reach you in time it's a minor miracle and we owe these people a debt of gratitude. **

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP. SEPTEMBER, 1984.

Month Day		PORT PHILLIP HEADS.																Week Day Month Day	
		High Water.				Slack Water Flood (Stream Turns)				Low Water.				Slack Water Ebb (Stream Turns)					
		h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.		
1	Sa.	03 56	1.6	16 04	1.6	06 50	1.0	19 04	0.9	09 43	0.4	22 04	0.2	00 38	0.9	12 54	1.0	Sa	1
2	Su.	04 48	1.6	16 47	1.6	07 38	1.0	19 47	0.9	10 27	0.4	22 47	0.2	01 26	0.9	13 37	1.0	Su	2
3	M.	05 40	1.6	17 29	1.5	08 25	1.1	20 28	0.8	11 09	0.5	23 27	0.2	02 14	0.9	14 19	1.0	M.	3
4	Tu.	06 34	1.5	18 11	1.4	09 12	1.1	21 11	0.8	11 49	0.7			03 01	0.9	15 00	1.0	Tu	4
5	W.	07 28	1.5	18 56	1.4	10 00	1.1	21 56	0.9	00 10	0.3	13 21	0.8	03 49	0.9	15 44	1.1	W	5
6	Th.	08 27	1.4	19 48	1.3	10 54	1.1	22 50	0.9	00 56	0.4	13 21	0.8	04 42	0.9	16 35	1.1	Th	6
7	F.	09 28	1.4	20 54	1.2	11 59	1.1	23 57	0.9	01 52	0.4	14 29	0.9	05 40	0.9	17 42	1.0	F.	7
8	Sa.	10 33	1.3	22 12	1.2			13 11	1.1	03 00	0.5	15 49	0.9	06 47	0.9	19 01	1.0	Sa.	8
9	Su.	11 36	1.3	23 27	1.2	01 11	0.9	14 20	1.1	04 10	0.5	17 04	0.8	07 53	0.9	20 16	1.0	Su.	9
10	M.			12 29	1.4	02 20	0.8	15 17	1.0	05 13	0.5	18 05	0.7	08 51	0.9	21 19	1.0	M.	10
11	Tu.	00 32	1.2	13 12	1.4	03 22	0.9	16 04	1.0	06 11	0.5	18 56	0.6	09 42	0.9	22 08	0.9	Tu	11
12	W.	01 20	1.3	13 45	1.4	04 12	0.9	16 43	0.9	07 03	0.4	19 40	0.5	10 34	0.9	22 50	0.9	W	12
13	Th.	01 59	1.3	14 16	1.4	04 54	0.9	17 17	0.9	07 48	0.4	20 18	0.4	11 02	0.9	23 26	0.9	Th	13
14	F.	02 34	1.4	14 43	1.4	05 32	0.9	17 47	0.8	08 29	0.4	20 51	0.4	11 36	0.9	23 60	0.8	F.	14
15	Sa.	03 08	1.4	15 10	1.4	06 07	0.9	18 16	0.8	09 05	0.4	21 21	0.1			12 08	0.9	Sa	15
16	Su.	03 43	1.4	15 38	1.3	06 41	0.9	18 44	0.8	09 38	0.4	21 50	0.2	00 22	0.9	12 38	0.4	Su	16
17	M.	04 20	1.4	16 06	1.3	07 15	0.9	19 17	0.8	10 09	0.4	22 19	0.2	01 05	0.8	13 08	0.9	M.	17
18	Tu.	05 01	1.4	16 37	1.3	07 50	0.9	19 43	0.7	10 38	0.5	22 48	0.2	01 40	0.8	13 38	0.9	Tu	18
19	W.	05 44	1.3	17 08	1.3	08 26	1.0	20 15	0.7	11 08	0.6	23 22	0.2	02 16	0.8	14 08	0.9	W	19
20	Th.	06 32	1.3	17 44	1.2	09 06	1.0	20 52	0.7	11 40	0.6	24 00	0.2	02 57	0.8	14 42	0.9	Th	20
21	F.	07 24	1.3	18 34	1.2	09 53	1.0	21 42	0.8			12 21	0.7	03 42	0.8	15 28	1.0	F.	21
22	Sa.	08 23	1.3	19 45	1.2	10 50	1.0	22 50	0.8	00 19	0.3	13 17	0.7	04 36	0.8	16 31	1.0	Sa	22
23	Su.	09 28	1.2	21 10	1.2			12 02	1.0	01 55	0.4	14 36	0.8	05 42	0.8	17 53	1.0	Su	23
24	M.	10 37	1.3	22 38	1.3	00 13	0.8	13 18	1.0	03 15	0.4	15 59	0.7	06 56	0.8	19 19	1.0	M.	24
25	W.	11 43	1.3	23 58	1.4	01 35	0.8	14 26	1.0	04 31	0.4	17 08	0.6	08 07	0.9	20 33	1.0	W	25
26	Th.			12 38	1.4	02 49	0.9	15 24	0.9	05 40	0.4	18 10	0.4	09 09	0.9	21 37	1.0	Th	26
27	F.	01 03	1.5	13 27	1.5	03 54	0.9	16 17	0.9	06 45	0.4	19 07	0.3	10 06	0.9	22 33	1.0	F.	27
28	Sa.	01 58	1.6	14 11	1.5	04 52	1.0	17 06	0.9	07 45	0.4	20 01	0.2	10 58	1.0	23 25	0.9	Sa.	28
29	Su.	02 49	1.7	14 53	1.5	05 45	1.0	17 52	0.8	08 40	0.4	20 51	0.1	11 47	1.0			Su	29
30	Su.	03 36	1.7	15 34	1.5	06 32	1.1	18 36	0.8	09 28	0.4	21 38	0.1	00 14	0.9	12 31	1.0	Su	30

COMMITTEE REPORT

July 24, 1984 - Birtles' residence.

Present: Truscott, Synon, Jackiw, Abell, Reynolds, Jeacle, Williams, Tipping, Birtles

Apologies: Goulding, Jensen, Talay

President welcomed Don Abell to the committee and thanked him for filling the casual vacancy.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash at Bank	\$1,160.46
Building Society	<u>845.08</u>
Total	\$2,005.54

Business:

- i) Pat Reynolds to action 30 year commemorative medallion.
- ii) Geoff Birtles advised windcheaters purchased below anticipated price - Notes this issue.
- iii) Vote of thanks to Alex Talay for donation for new Fathoms cover.
- iv) Geoff Birtles presented work sheets for calculation of Clubman award - Action Keith Jensen.
- v) Dive Calendar to September 23. Back page.
- vi) Discussion on GM and election of office bearers. Paul Tipping to prepare notes for Fathoms - this issue.
- vii) Decision to sell excess/redundant property - see SCUBA Market, this issue.
- viii) Decision to purchase new motor for compressor, \$250.
- ix) Don Abell produced a letter from Lewis, Orr & Gibson - solicitors (23/3/64), outlining the provision of our registration as a limited company and our exemption from the normal requirements of using "limited" with our name and the lodging of Annual Returns and of Returns of Particulars of Directors, Managers and Secretaries and publication of Accounts.

(Interestingly these privileges could change if our membership exceeds 100!)

- x) Discussion on necessity of a check out dive for new members, guest procedure (one dive) and admittance procedure. Consensus to "tighten up" on rules and procedures given the "experienced diver" bias of VSAG diving. New member procedure to be reprinted in August Fathoms - see this issue.
- xi) Fiji film night at Birtles scheduled for July 27.

Meeting closed 10.20 with no fisticuffs!!! **

VSAG WINDCHEATERS by G. R. Birtles

Our T-shirts are already an outstanding success, in spite of the weather. No doubt the beautiful Celeste (back cover) played no small part in our record July sales. The problem is that our female buyers are demanding a guarantee that they too will look just as beautiful if they put down their dollars! (Pat Reynolds thought she came with the shirt).

Spurred on by this success, your editor has organised medium weight windcheaters, white with stunning 3 colour VSAG logo. Perfect for spring and a snap at \$16 each.

The following members have placed a firm order (Number x size follows each name) and are expected to put up their money promptly on receipt of tops. Only ten extras have been purchased (4 x #18, 4 x #20 & 2 x #22) - first in best dressed! Contact Treasurer to reserve yours.

Goulding	1x18	Cannon	1x12
Lynch	1x14		2x20
	1x22	Talay	1x14c
Reynolds	2x20		1x18
Tipping P.	1x20	Jensen	1x22
Abell	1x14c	Truscott	2x12
	1x12		1x16
	1x18	Lawler	1x20
Moore	1x20	Jeacle	1x22
Olorenshaw	1x12	Stuart	1x22
	2x20	Salsbury	1x22
Swaffer	1x18	Chernishov	1x18
		Hayes	1x18

**

WHALE HUNT AT QUEENSLIFFE

Elitist dive report by Igor Chernishov (KGB)

Sorrento June 1, 84. The Big M with boat, Pat, "Jump-Suit Lawler" and myself. Mick suggested a cray bash (novel idea), Jump-suit wanted to play hero and harpoon a couple of whales and I was just anxious to avoid the deckie duties.

A decision was soon made (mainly by the boat owner) for a 2 tank Queenscliffe dive (surprise!!!) On arriving the captain, as his practise, nominated a slack water entry for he and his bum boy (sorry editor!) and left "jump-suit" and I to ride the tide. On being questioned on the fairness of this arbitrary decision Mick immediately cracked his "dark M" act - i.e. like it or swim home, a . . . hole! Oh, well - situation normal.

Ten minutes later the "dark M" act takes on a darker shade of blue - it's "angry M" time. After cloning (read clowning) around for most of the slack water time trying to penetrate the depths, he finally asks whats wrong (plaintive cry - "I've dumped all my air!") Immediately I pull my Dive-master act (you'd be proud of me Birtles) and suggest we have a weight belt on board that might just fit him. Deep breath and try again.

One tank was enough and a beer was starting to sound pretty good. We dumped "jump-suit" on Portsea Pier (he's fast getting a reputation as an executive diver - others suggest a "puss" diver) and headed for Annie's ranch via Sorrento. (Pat and I got the boat out - there's a message here for someone!)

Whilst sipping tinnies and nibbling green lips (abs - not female martians) Annie breaks the news of a \$90 on the spot. Mick is gently (read - broodingly) digesting this news when Pat calls his attention to the driverless vehicle accelerating backwards down the steep drive (must have decided to relieve its tension!)

Mick was not impressed and immediately snapped back into his "dark M" act as he contemplated his Commodore across the vacant block down the street. An angry and brooding (!) giant is not a pretty sight and Annie made herself pretty scarce as she no doubt contemplated the consequences of her double ~~double~~ follies for the day.

Pat and I also decided it was time to exit - after all, who'd be game to laugh in his face? * *

A very brave piece of journalism from our KGB reporter. Ed.

OVERSEAS SAVINGS FUND - ON AGAIN !

VSAG GEARS UP FOR MID '86
by Geoff Birtles

Our last fund was an outstanding success, both for the 21 members/wives who travelled to Fiji and those who did not. Either way the fund maturity was a very welcome nest egg nicely inflated by optimal interest rates.

It is now time to start planning our next trip and getting a savings fund underway. Trip objective is mid 1986 and the saving program kicks off at the September GM. Plenty of time to plan, organise and accumulate the funds - without any real hardship.

Our last fund was clearly aimed at Fiji with a holiday/family emphasis and reef diving. This time its wreck bashing - any reefs will only be incidental sightings as we swim over them on the way to rape a wreck!

Fiji taught us that non-diving wives can enjoy themselves on a diving holiday and once again it is proposed to include them in our planning if this is the desire of the group.

Vanuatu and The Coolidge probably offer good balance and the Solomons are a definite possibility. But, there must be wrecks, warm clear water and arrangements for non divers will not compromise this clear cut objective.

Both the Solomons and Vanuatu will be more expensive than Fiji but we have more time to accumulate more funds. With the first payment scheduled for September '84 and the last in May '86 we have 21 months to accumulate a very substantial portion of a very worthwhile trip. Realistically we have to be looking at a "diver" package cost in the order of \$1,500 and a non Diver at about \$1,200 - for two full weeks. I am inclined to the view that mandatory monthly payments should be kept as low as possible so that the least possible hardship is imposed during those odd lean months. After all it shouldn't be too hard to find an extra \$200 or \$300 at time of departure, if the necessity arises. With this in mind the monthly subscription has been arbitrarily struck at \$59. 21 times \$59 = \$1,239 which with cumulative interest should nearly reach \$1,300.

Full details will be in September Fathoms. But, remember. 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!) So be in it.

Those who can't wait for more information should refer back to our December '82 Fathoms which contained Fiji fund details. Those who were sceptical last time (and missed the trip) might also like to re-read this back issue.

For some, June '86 is too far away. A number of our lads have expressed a desire for a wreck bashing sortie next year ('85). With this in mind I am organising a Rabaul or Solomon Islands trip for May/June of next year. To minimise costs we need to get about ten divers. Would those interested in this short term objective please phone me as soon as possible so that I can firm up location and costs. If required, I will also organise a short term savings fund - possibly \$120/month. Phone 846 1983. **

SCUBA MARKET PLACE

Now that VSAG is no longer involved in SCUBA training it has surplus equipment to quit at cheap, cheap prices. Some members also have excess or superseded gear, so take your pick and make an offer.

REGULATORS 2 off	US Divers Calypso "Balanced" EC	\$90 ea.
DECO METERS 2 off	GC	\$49 ea.
FENZY 1 off	Includes inflator & bottle EC (Collectors item!)	\$60
BACKPACK 1 off	US Divers/Straps GC	\$29
4 STROKE MOTOR	6.8 HP Honda GC	\$125

** Contact Property Officer, Pat Reynolds for any of the above (AH) 789 1092

DEPTH SOUNDER	Royal 160 RE Chart/Flasher with manual GC	\$275 ono
27 MH RADIO	AWA AC516 - 6 channel GC	\$58 ono
COMBO GAUGE + HOSE	Pressure & Depth - Imperial GC	\$58 ono
SPRING SUIT	38" Regular - blue GC	\$38 ono

** Contact Geoff Birtles 846 1983 for any of the above. Both Depth sounder and radio will be sold subject to satisfactory check out by club communications engineer, Andy Mastrovitch

27 MH RADIO	Tandy 6 channel FC	\$35
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** Contact Mick Jeacle (059) 71 2786.

PORT LINCOLN Xmas '83



VSAG CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR

Established members will know that September not only heralds a fresh committee but also the cabalistic (thanks again Keith) ritual of electing VSAG's Clubman of the Year.

Now if you think dive planning is mysterious you've seen nothing. To many "Clubman" implies popular vote for "contribution" or "putting it in" above and beyond the norm of routine club membership and/or participation. Occasionally it works out that way. Last year Bazza Truscott was a very deserving (& long overdue) recipient. By way of example: On one club diving day Bazza has a severe case of the flu. The club was short of boats. In response to an early morning plea, Bazza hooked boat to car and towed it to Phillip Island (in spite of his inability to dive) in a typically selfless display of club spirit.

The "Clubman" award is determined on the basis of collective points accrued by participation in club events. E.g. . . points for a day dive, . . . points for a trip away, and so on. Our club forefathers, in their infinite wisdom, set the scheme up so that committee members and/or boat owners were not unfairly(?) advantaged for their efforts. e.g. Bazza's selfless act at Phillip Island had no bearing on his very deserving win. The points system is detailed below - as you can see everyone has a chance, even the tourists.

Unfortunately our Club attendance book was mislaid some months ago. As a result of this, and a change of points scorer, we now require those who consider themselves on the short list to detach the following club event list, indicate their attendance or otherwise and return it to Keith Jensen at the September GM. On receipt of these lists the committee will then review (and vet) the returns for accuracy and award appropriate points. _____ cntd. next page

PHOTO PIC - PORT LINCOLN

VSAG strikes gold at Port Lincoln.

1. Former club president Max Synon displaying that "ring of confidence".
2. Current president Des Williams with Max with two trophies (could have been "three" if they had been quicker).
3. Max, Bob & June Scott outside local dive centre, Bazza's "yella terra" in the background.
4. "Hunter One" with big Black Max and the beautifully clear waters of Port Lincoln in the background. Portholes were taken off the Dee Gee, a 70 ft. steel & wood fishing trawler lying in shallow water just off Dennington Island. Rumour has it that certain clones swam through the portholes without seeing them!

Photo Credit: Max Synon - Hereto unpublished photos - for obvious reasons!

Please complete and return by the September GM, but only if you think you've got a chance.

Ed.

POINTS TABLE

Holidays away	40 points	Working bees	10 points
W/E dives	30 "	Social events	10 "
Single day dives	20 "	Fathoms contributions	10 "
Introduction of new member	15 "	Guests at Gen.Meetings	5 "
Dive training assistance	10 "	Lectures or talks	5 "
Attendance at Gen. Meetings	10 "		

CLUB EVENT LIST 83/84

Your name.....MICK JEACLE.....Attendance...Y.....Non attendance.....N..... Indicate which

DATE	VENUE	DC	YES NO	DATE	VENUE	DC	YES NO
25/9	HEADS GEOFF NAYL.	DES W.	Y	10/3	PORT CAMPBELL TRIP	PAUL T.	Y
2/10	SORRENTO	ALEX T.	Y	25/3	FLINDERS	GEOFF B.	N
7/10	SDF DINNER DANCE		Y	8/4	HEADS	MICK JAC.	Y
16/10	CAPE WOOLAMI	BOB SC.	Y	13/4	VICTORIA HOTEL	MICK J.	Y
19/10	GENERAL MEETING		Y	18/4	GENERAL MEETING		Y
29/10	MT. GAMBIER TRIP	KEITH J.	Y	20/4	TIOAL RIVER TRIP	BOB SC.	N
6/11	GEOFF NAYLOR DIVE	DES.W.	Y	6/5	GEORGE KERMODE	BOB SC.	Y
16/11	GENERAL MEETING		Y	20/5	WYRALLAH	BARRY T.	Y
20/11	TENNIS/VSAG MILE	TONY T.	Y	16/5	GENERAL MEETING		Y
26/11	WILSONS PROM TRIP	JOHN G.	Y	5/6	FIJI TRIP	GEOFF B.	N
12/12	FLINDERS	MICK J.	Y	20/6	GENERAL MEETING		Y
16/12	XMAS FUNCTION H/L	MICK J.	Y	24/6	SLACK WATER	GEOFF B.	Y
18/12	SORRENTO	?	Y	8/7	SLACK WATER	PAT R.	Y
20/12	G.M. YARRA BANK		Y	14/7	SOCIAL NIGHT CAB.	MICK J.	Y
26/12	JERVIS BAY TRIP	JOHN G.	Y	18/7	G.M. FIJI FILMS		Y
22/1	BROKEN SUB	GEOFF B.	Y	4/8	ONE DAY SNOW	JOHN G.	N
28/1	REFUGE COVE TRIP	JOHN G.	Y	12/8	KAKARIKI	DES W.	C
12/2	GEORGE KERMODE	JOHN G.	Y	15/8	GENERAL MEETING		Y
15/2	G.M. FIJI FILMS		Y	26/8	OUTSIDE HEADS	MICK J.	
19/2	BROKEN SUB	PAT R.	Y	1/9	SOCIAL NTH MELB	MICK J.	
26/2	SLACK WATER	MAX S.	Y	9/9	FLINDERS	DON A.	
				19/9	ANNUAL GEN. MEET.		

VSAG PLANS EDEN WRECK SORTIE

Notes & Observations by Keith Jensen

VSAG has again, in my opinion picked a great venue for it's Christmas Camp. Eden, half way between Sydney and Melbourne. Staying at the Fountain Caravan Park with electric power sites (oh, the luxury of it all!) but some wimps (read Birtles & Thackeray) have opted for flats; no sense of adventure at all.

Diving at Eden must be amongst the best available on the Eastern Coast of Australia; deep water, big fish, schools of tuna, kingfish and large wobblygong sharks (the Big M can testify to this!). It even has shipwrecks, or what remains after blasting by local lads.

The Empire Gladstone, a steel motor vessel of 7090 tons hit Haystack Rock off Pambula on the night of Sept. 5th, 1950 and became a total wreck. Now is a favourite with divers who visit the area.

Two other wrecks that I have heard about are a steam trawler sunk on the southern side of Mowarry Rock and a mystery submarine found in the early 1960's by abalone divers. I can remember the headlines in the Herald at the time. Reports were received that pilots from Jervis Bay found the sub on the surface at night, apparently recharging its batteries. They sank this submarine. The reports in the paper ceased abruptly, I could get no further information. A few months later I was told that the sub may have been an American sub that went missing in the area during the war.

The most famous wreck of all is the Ly-ee-moon wreck off the Green Cape which will be a must dive at Xmas. With the help of our President Des Williams I have researched it at the State Library and details follow to whet your appetite.

THE LY-EE-MOON . . . IT'S SINKING

The Ly-ee-moon left Melbourne at noon on Saturday May 29th, 1886 under the command of captain Webber, 41 crew members, 23 adults and 3 infants as saloon passengers, 19 steerage passengers aboard and a mixed cargo bound for Sydney.

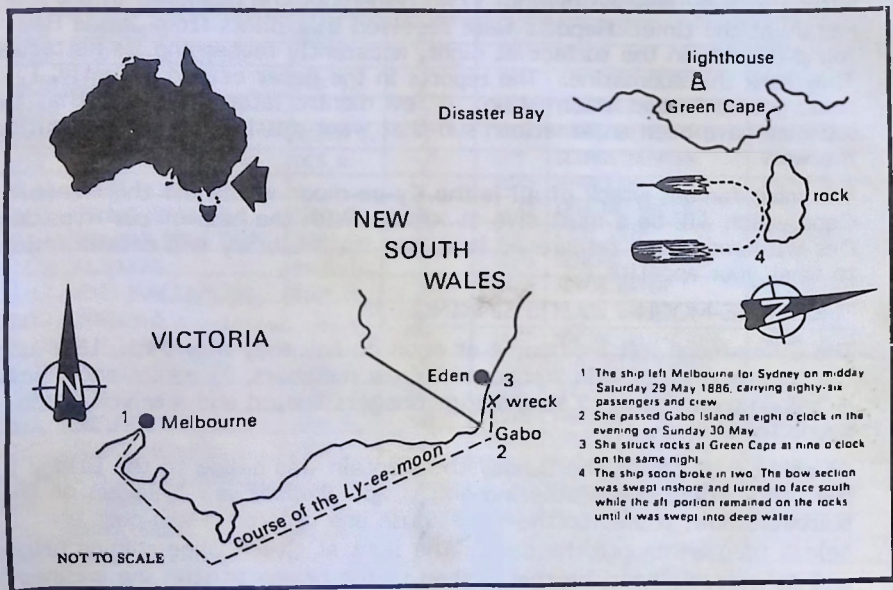
At about 9.00 pm on the Sunday the Captain was called to the Bridge by the third officer, Mr. Fotheringham. Capt. Webber saw breakers on the starboard bow, rushed to the wheelhouse and ordered "Hard port the helm", then went onto the deck. The light at Green Cape shining brightly and dangerously near, he then rushed to the bridge to stop the engines but

this had already been done by the third officer while the Captain was in the wheelhouse.

The ship struck heavily on the reef, she struck on a ledge of the outer rock abreast of the Cape. She broke in half in about 10 minutes, the aft section remained on the reef, the forepart drifted northwards and then towards the shore where it now lies.

The saloon was in the forward section and only a steward who climbed through a porthole was saved from this part of the wreck. The after part of the ship with the engineers, firemen and all the steerage passengers stuck on the reef until the seas broke it up, until only the main mast stood above the surges to mark the grave of the Ly-ee-moon. At last the top mast toppled and formed a slender bridge with the shore, and the boatswain and three sailors managed to cross to safety.

By morning the ship had disappeared leaving wreckage and bodies floating in the surf. Only sixteen people survived the wreck. At a small cemetery near the lighthouse 24 victims of the wreck are buried, a grim reminder of the wreck of the Ly-ee-moon.



THE LY-EE-MOON - IT'S CONSTRUCTION

The Ly-ee-moon was especially built for the opium trade by the Thames Ship Building Co., Blackwall, England in 1859 to designs prepared by Mr. James Ash. During her trials she attained the speed of 17 knots an hour, the greatest speed made up to that time in British waters.

Her hull was modelled exclusively for speed, the internal fittings of the vessel was done in white enamel and gold, were at this time superior in the way of ship decoration.

She had very sharp clipper lines, originally she was engined for a paddle steamer, and during the balmy days of the opium trade was employed as a despatch boat by her owners, Jardine Matheson and Co. of Hong Kong and was used to convey information in advance of Mail Steamers. Ly-ee-moon's consumption of coal at that time was 75 tons a day at a speed of 16 knots.

After the advent of telegraphy she had a varied career in Cantonese waters and was sunk and raised again. In 1874 new engines and boilers were installed and the paddles exchanged for the modern screw propellor and the clean lines and beautiful run of hull were seen to greater advantage than ever.

Ly-ee-moon was brought to Australia by Capt. W. R. Stevens and became the property of the Australian Steam Navigation Co. She had then a saloon on the upper deck forward, a very light and airy compartment and very elegantly decorated. The panels were all works of art and considered very valuable. All of this, however, was utterly destroyed by fire while the steamer was being fitted with new engines at the A.S.N. company's workshops at Pyremont in Sydney Harbour.

The company spared no expense on her, engines and boilers were kept in thorough order. On account of her speed she was for years a favourite boat in the intercolonial trade.

Ly-ee-moon: Length	282 feet 4 inches
Beam	27 feet 2 inches
Depth of Hold	16 feet 6 inches
Tonnage	1001 tons

and constructed of the best quality iron. **

ANNUAL SUBS NOW DUE!

NORTH MELBOURNE A WINNER!

SOCIAL NEWS by Mick Jeacle

Well I am pleased to report a resurgence in the social scene. Our social night of July 14 was a great success and a vast improvement on our previous outing to the Victoria Hotel.

Fifty-eight people wined and dined in the cosy surroundings of the North Melbourne Football Club social club. The food was befitting of many a fine restaurant and we had entertainment and dancing to boot.

North Melbourne Football Club has again demonstrated to us its truly professional approach and no doubt future outings will be organized for this venue.

Thank you one and all for the excellent response; it seems a social get-together every 6-8 weeks has got appeal.

A quick look at the annual social calendar (March Fathoms) reveals three more dates for 1984; Saturday September 1st, Friday October 19th and Friday December 14th.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST:

Venue: Windsor Hotel, 111 Victoria Avenue, Albert Park
 Time: 7.30 p.m.
 R.S.V.P.: Mick Jeacle, 18/8/84 (059) 71 2786

The menu at this hotel is a la carte and accordingly it is proposed that each person pays for his/her own selections. An average 3 course meal will cost in the vicinity of \$17 per head and there is a cover charge of \$5 per head for the jazzy entertainment featuring Judy Jacques. Drinks are reasonably priced and the food is prepared by well known chef Paul Strawbridge. Please ring me by the cut off date in order that our reservations can be made.

It is envisaged that October 19th will be a special night commemorating the club's 30th birthday. Details and venue to be advised in September issue. **

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Apologises for its absence but like Deekers will be back!

N. HIBERNASHION

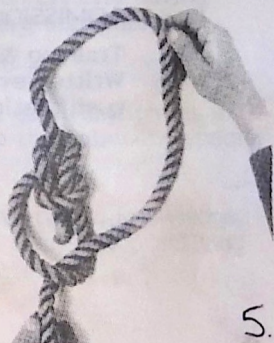
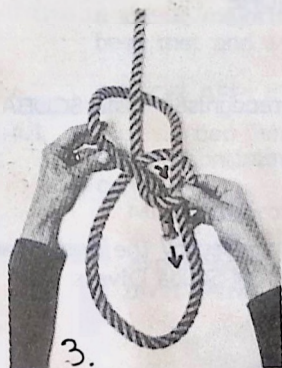
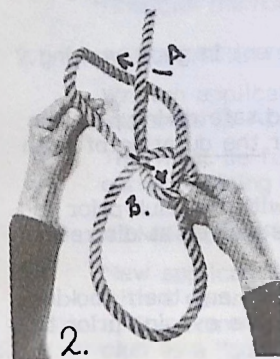
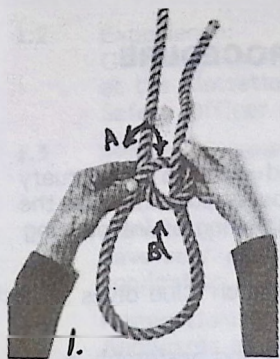
BOWLINE

by Geoff Birtles

A bowline makes a loop, large or small in the end of a rope. It is a positive and absolutely secure knot that is easily untied by "breaking its back".

I have found the easiest way to learn and remember a bowline is to first form a mental picture of the finished but untightened knot (Step 4) then form the loop shown in Fig. 1A, push the tail up and through this loop (1B), now pass the tail under the standing part (2A) and back through the loop (2B and 3). Pull the tail to tighten it (4). This is not the purists way but then they don't need this kind of instruction.

Fig. 5 is a "running bowline" tied as above but around its own standing part to form a noose. **



NEW MEMBERSHIP VSAG PROCEDURE

by Safety Officer

This was first published together with background scenario in February '84 Fathoms. The committee has asked that it be re-published for the benefit of our many new members who may be thinking of introducing a friend to the club.

Incidentally members are welcome to bring a guest on Club dives subject to the following:

- (i) Guest diver must be currently experienced and preferably a certified diver.
- (ii) Guest diver must have appropriate equipment in good working order and be familiar with its use.
- (iii) Member is responsible for the conduct and safe diving practice of his guest and must act as his buddy for the duration of each and every dive on the day.
- (iv) Guests are generally permitted one dive with the club prior to application for membership. (This may be waived at discretion of DC.)
- (v) Guests have second priority to club members and their booking is subject to confirmation with the DC on the evening prior to the dive.

NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE

1. ADMISSION CRITERIA

1.1 Training &/Or Qualifications:

Written evidence of a current nationally recognised basic SCUBA qualification, i.e. PADI Open Water
FAUI NQS Scuba Diver
NAUI Open Water
CMAS 2 Star diver

or "equivalent" as recognised by the Australian Underwater Federation or Scuba Divers Federation of Australia.

- 1.2 Experience:
Generally six months "active" experience. (This may be waived at the discretion of the committee with the President and/or Safety Officer having the power of veto).
- 1.3 Medical Clearance:
Written evidence of a medical examination for diving eligibility that meets the requirements of either PADI, FAUI or NAUI standard procedure at time of application. Such examination to have been carried out within the 3 years immediately preceding application.
- 1.4 Nomination:
Applicants must be nominated and seconded by current VSAG financial members.

2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Written application to be made on the official VSAG "New Membership Application" form.

This must be fully completed, signed and accompanied by the current joining fee and annual subscription.

3. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

- 3.1 New applicants will be required to undertake a "check-out" dive with a committee member. (This may be "waived" at the discretion of the committee if the applicant has previously dived with the club as a "guest").
- 3.2 The committee will grant membership to the club on the basis of a simple majority vote - subject to all admission criteria having been met and a competent check-out dive (where applicable).

4. SENIOR APPLICANTS WITHOUT CERTIFICATION

- 4.1 Experienced "senior" applicants without formal qualification (as 1.1) will be considered by the committee subject to the following special conditions:
 - Minimum proven active experience 5 years.
 - A written reference in regard to diving competence, knowledge, experience and recent activity level from a currently practising diver known to and respected by the committee.

- Written evidence of an appropriate medical clearance to dive (see 1.3) performed within the 12 months immediately preceeding application.
- Inspection of equipment and satisfactory check-out dive by "Safety Officer".

4.2 Entry to the club will be subject to a majority committee vote with the Safety Officer and/or President having the right to vote if any one of the foregoing special conditions are not satisfied.

A closing note on medicals:

A medical examination which satisfies PADI standard procedure can be carried out by a local GP. It is necessary to provide the doctor with an appropriate PADI medical questionnaire at time of examination. (Obtainable from the Secretary or Treasurer courtesy of Dick Whittaker, Melbourne Dive). Should this highlight any suspect areas applicants will be referred to a "diving doctor" (such as Janine Mannerheim or John Knight) for a sport divers equivalent to an AS2299. **

TYPIST'S NOTE:

Rhonda would just like to express her appreciation to everyone concerned for a terrific evening at North Melbourne Football Club. Hope it is repeated in the future.

JAZZ, JUDY, FOOD & BOOZE

Its all happening at the Windsor Hotel, Victoria Ave,
Albert Park, 7.30pm Saturday September 1.

Judy Jaques supplies the music and chef Paul Strawbridge
looks after the food department.

RSVP MICK (059)712786

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 19 - Notes by Paul Tipping, Secretary

Once more the September AGM is almost upon us and yours truly in his role as "Hon Sec" must shake off his lassitude and forget his dreams of Truk Lagoon and other tropical delights to attend to the more mundane task of readying the Club for its Annual General Meeting.

Because of the large number (five) of committee vacancies this year, there is an unusual amount of interest by members in the formalities which must be followed in the lead-up to and conduct of the annual election of the Group's office bearers.

To satisfy these curious minds, I am moved to set out the way in which we use our basic membership right to select from our ranks those who will join the committee which will manage the affairs of the Group for the next year. Among the joys of office are the opportunities for divers to trade lies, to become company directors and to partake in the unusual privilege of attending no less than a dozen gourmet banquets put on by the wives at the monthly committee meetings.

A step-by-step precis of the position now follows:-

- . Generally, one-third of the 12-member committee stands down but, under the Articles of Association, this can be reduced to three in some cases, such as where two casual vacancies have arisen in the course of the year before the election - eg, Terry Brooks and Bob Scott stood down this year, paving the way for Keith Jensen and Don Abell who have filled the casual vacancies.
- . Those standing down by rotation are those who are longest serving (this year Geoff Birtles, Mick Jackiw and John Goulding).
- . Any person appointed by the committee to fill a casual vacancy arising in the year prior to the AGM automatically stands down (i.e. Jensen and Abell).
- . Nominations for membership (see centrepiece in copies of this issue) must be signed by two financial members and lodged with the secretary not less than fourteen days before the September AGM.
- . If a ballot is required, ballot papers are sent out seven days before the AGM.
- . A returning officer and scrutineers should be appointed at the August general meeting prior to AGM.

Tear & post to P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001
to arrive prior to September 5th, 1984

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: 1984-85
NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being full members of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group,
hereby nominate:

.....
for the position of Director of the Group.

Signed:.....Date / /1984

Signed:.....Date / /1984

I,hereby accept the above
nomination for Director of the Group.

Signed:.....Date / /1984

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** Tear here* →

- Ballot papers must be returned to the secretary who then initials and places each one in the ballot box, with the ballot (and the right to vote) ending at 8.30 p.m. on the night of the AGM.
- Voting is effected by striking out a name or names so that the number of names left is equal to the number of positions to be filled.
- A Balance Sheet with Auditor's Report is to be sent out to all financial members fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

Although 'Hon Sec' understands the need for some formality in any bureaucracy and willingly accepts the responsibilities of his office, he wistfully mourns the passing of his youth and the days when that state of lost innocence allowed him to snorkel and scuba dive without a care in the world. **

O/SEAS WRECK BASHING SORTIE

MID '85

Rabaul or the Solomons - by popular vote.

Warm clear water, minimal reef diving, maximum wreck bashing. Probably your last chance to get a real live porthole, or ships binnacle before the trendies really stuff it all up!

Would all interested parties contact G.Birtles urgently so that venue and package can be finalised. Numbers will be limited in the interest of flexibility - so first in gets the metal.

Phone: 846 1983/232 1433

Note: Do not confuse this with our Mid '86 O/Seas fund and trip - details this issue.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR AUGUST '84

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT/LOCATION</u>	<u>DIVE CAPTAIN</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>
August 12	Dive - "Kakariki"	Des Williams 762 1730	9.30 a.m. St. Kilda Marina
August 15	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
August 26	Dive Outside Heads (Sub)	Mick Jeacle (059)712786	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
September 1	Social Night A La Carte/ Jazz/Judy Jaques	Mick Jeacle (059)712786	Windsor Hotel Albert Park
Sept. 5	Closing date for nominations VSAG Office Bearers		P.O. Box 2526W G.P.O. 3001
Sept. 9	Dive - Flinders "Break In" new DC	Don Abell 294415	9.30 Pier
Sept. 19	"Annual" General Meeting - North Melbourne Election of office bearers		Football Club 8.00 p.m.
Sept. 23	Dive Slack Water (12.02)	Pat Reynolds	10.30 Sorrento
Nov. 3 (Melb Cup W/E)	Dive Weekend Mt. Gambier	Geoff Birtles 846 1983	Queen Elizabeth Caravan Park
Nov. 23	Dive Weekend Victoria Towers/Inverloch	Keith Jensen 460 3672	T.B.A. Queenscliffe
Xmas	Dive Holiday Eden	Geoff Birtles 846 1983	

* * * * *

It is important that intending divers confirm with the Dive Captain on the evening prior to the dive, irrespective of prior booking. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of reservation.





TRY THIS FOR SIZE!

A fashion shirt with brand new logo proudly
proclaiming our independant diving freedom!

Would have to be the best looking dive
shirt in the country.

"Surf shirt" style (soft collar & sleeves)
in pale blue with stunning 3 colour logo.
All sizes including Children from 8 years up.

\$7

See Treasurer
Ph. 7723085