# **FATHOMS**



## SAFETY IN DIVING

50c

Registered for posting as a publication category B Reg. No. VBH 2101 If undeliverable, return to Victorian Sub Aqua Group, Box 2526W, GPO Melbourne 3001



VSAG

Top left: VSAG President Max Synon, diving Solomon Islands, (Photo by Keith Jensen), Top right: VSAG diver Paul Tipping on the bow area and gun of the "Dai Na Hino Maru" in Truk Lagoon, (Pholo by Yony 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

## **VSAG**

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

### President & S.D.F. Delegate

Des Williams, 29 Valerie Street, Boronia, 3155 Ph. 762 1623

#### **Treasurer**

Alex Talay 3/7 Cross Road, Chelsea, 3196 Ph. 772 3085

#### Secretary

Paul Tipping, 521 Lygon Street, North Carlton, 3054 Ph. 387 2027

### Newsletter Editor & Safety Officer

Geoff Birtles, 8 Newlyn Close, Templestowe, 3106 Ph. 846, 1983

Max Synon Vice Pres. & S.D.F. Del. - 465 2812 John Goulding P.R., Asst. Sec. & S.D.F. Del. - 890 6634 Barry Truscott Asst. 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

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 leglislative 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 the Collingwood Football Club where bar facilities are available prior to and after the General Meeting. Visitors are very welcome - smart casual wear essential

## **FATHOMS**

Official journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

### In this issue:

FEBRUARY 1984

		TOO BEIL	1
COMMUNICATION			
Editorial Committee Report Big M Flavours Dive/Social Calendar	M. Jeacle	2 4 12 28	
ENTERTAINMENT			
Flotsam & Jetsam Scuba-Cat! Going Down - Jervis Bay 1984 Pictorial - VSAG Xmas function Pictorial - Marty's Barrel	J. Goulding D. Williams A. Talay/M. Jeacle	5 6 21 14-15 20	
EDUCATION			
Steamer "Kakariki" Going Down - Without Aids!	D. Williams W. McDonald	24 16	
TRAVEL			
Heron Island	D. Twine	10	
TECHNICAL			
Equipment Review V.S.A.G. Admission Procedure	G.R. Birtles G.R. Birtles	8 17	/

Next general meeting:

Wednesday February 15, 8.00 p.m.
Collingwood Football Club
Lulie Street, Abbotsford

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday February 21, 8.00 p.m.
The Reynolds
14 Nurla Court, Frankston

#### EDITORIAL

The festive season has certainly been a social time for VSAG divers; Big Mart's annual "barrel" at the Aquarium with the unveiling of Tony and Maargs new son Marcus, (incidentally Marti rung in "light" on us - not fair - we all bought drivers!); Xmas party at Hunters Lodge, a complete sell out with over 100 guests including some old and some new faces and of course our annual Xmas camp; this time at Jervis Bay (much excitement, Maree "spat the dummy" - or was it lipstick, and heaped much opprobrium on poor old John!)

All are fully reported in this issue and (more excitement) we have lots of pictures! A centre page spread on Hunters Lodge, a full page on "the barrel" complete with proud father Tips and Son (a collector's item this one) and a half on Jervis. Quality will not be so hot but they do have lots of interest. If you have any photos that you feel are currently relevant to our magazine and have good general interest, send them to the editor. A word of warning though - if printed they will not be returned. "The Knife" will probably have got to them!

A warm welcome to three new members. Tom Avery (who has a boat and is not afraid to use it), "animal" Doug Catheril (who lived up to expectations at Refuge) and the "quiet one" Gary Thorn (a dab hand at extracting very large crayfish). All fit well into the VSAG mould; like the odd beer (?) and believe in the buddy system (i.e. buddy up to leave the boat and buddy up to re-enter).

Editorial thanks to the Big M (Mick Jeacle) who just about recovered the entire annual cost of Fathoms with a first rate Xmas social. \$1,200 plus is no mean effort for a one night stand!

VSAG has just returned from its annual pilgrimage to Refuge Cove at Wilsons Promontory. A bumper turn out this year with 18 heads on the good ship Mirrabooka accompanied by 4 small boats with a further 11 divers. Highlight of the trip was a "drop off" dive amongst the seals at Forty Foot Rocks. These are located 4 nautical miles out to sea and due south of the lighthouse at South East Point. (The most southerly tip of the mainland). 100+ft. visibility, many fish and inquisitive seals, the odd crayfish and a 200+ft. bottom made this a very exciting dive. Organiser John Goulding did a typically efficient job and once again entertained the troops with his Doug & Mabel routine. More news and pictures on this next issue.

FEBRUARY 1984 PAGE 3

Our resident spy in the "greenie camp" (code name "J") informs us that apart from a "Mickey Mouse" on spot survey of visiting boatowners, very little real research is being done on the impact of divers, tourists, commercial and amateur fishermen on Wilsons Promontory waters and marine life. The hot word is that all the fishing zones suggested in a joint submission by the AUF and SDF will have prohibitions banning the taking of fish (or crayfish) and in some instances a complete prohibition on diving.

Please, if you have not already done so, put pen to paper and lodge your protest with the Secretary, South Gippsland Marine & Wildlife Reserves, 240 Victoria Pde., East Melbourne, 3000. One could not help but notice that the questionnaire presented to our group at Refuge was not only totally inadequate and inappropriate, it was completely biased against divers and was incapable of providing a balanced and impartial perspective to the issue.

It seems that Victorian divers have a lot to thank (?) our new socialist government for. A 49% increase in State taxes (including substantially increased boat registration and fishing licence fees), the highest inflation rate in the country, further restrictions on diving access and rights and a competition with our Federal Government to see who can hand our land back to aboriginal interests fastest! (Even Bazza's thinking of changing his vote!)

On this depressing note Fathoms wishers its readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year with much diving.

Geoff Birtles

#### STOP PRESS!!!

Annie & Mick Jeacle have done it again. A 7 lb. 11½ oz. bonnie wee lassie. Mother and daughter fine, Mick not sure of his condition. But he is taking 6 weeks long service to celebrate. Anyone looking for a mid week dive?!

STOP. STOP. PRESS!! Name is Jessica.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Meeting held at Maree and Barry Truscott's home Tuesday Jan 24, 1984.

Present: D. Williams, P. Reynolds, P. Tipping, J. Goulding, B. Scott, B. Truscott, A. Talay, G. Birtles, M. Synon, M. Jeacle, M. Jackiw.

#### Business Arising:

Birtles suggested that Robert Swaffer be made a member subject to the quidelines of the new procedure, when ratified. Agreed.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Cash at Bank	\$1,293.34
Cash on Hand	227.00
Invested	779.64
TOTAL	\$2,299.98
Bills for payment:	\$ 113.80

#### Dive Calendar:

Planned to April, including trips to Port Campbell and Tidal River.

#### Business:

- New membership procedure proposed by G.R. Birtles at extraordinary committee meeting of Dec. 20 '83 ratified by unanimous decision. (See report this issue)
- New membership application from John Lawler, Torn Avery, Doug Catheril and Gary Thorn. All accepted.
- Mick Jackiw advised the imminent possibility of permits being available to dive the William Salthouse.
- Discussion on the need for better communication between boats on official club dives.
- Discussion on the need to inform all divers of proposed Wilson Prom Marine Reserve.



V.S.A.G. members and friends got together at Hunter's Lodge prior to Christmas for what was undoubtedly the most successful function the club has ever held. Not only was it a great night sociably, it also provided the opportunity for the club to raise around \$1,200. There was most generous support from many Dive shop owners who donated prizes for the two raffles. In no small way the success of the night was due to Social Secretary Mick Jeacle who organised the night and did a truly professional job as M.C.

Once again V.S.A.G. demonstrated that there is not a dive club around that can touch us when it comes to doing something well.

Another example of V.S.A.G. providing good service to members was the dive boat arrangements at Jervis Bay for the Christmas New Year Trip. Thanks to the efforts of Mick Jeacle's brother Peter from Canberra, we had exclusive unlimited use of a 24 foot Marlin Shark Cat. This boat which was fitted out for divers and appropriately named Scuba Cat, included such equipment as a sea water temperature gauge, tank racks, dive entry/exit platform, stereo and toilet! With this boat we were all able to go diving as a single group and there was plenty of room for everyone. (One hardly noticed Andy and Terry spewing over the side as we tossed around in a bit of slop.)

Some of the diving highlights of the trip were at last finding the famed underwater arch. In two previous trips to Jervis Bay we had never found this top dive spot. With Peter Jeacle's local knowledge he was able to drop the shot line right on top.

Paul Tipping is probably still talking about the shark he saw off Bowen Island. Paul had told everybody it was at least 10 foot long but immediately after Peter had told him that it was probably the long time resident White Pointer of the area - Paul's shark was metricated to at least 5 metres!

Even Mick and Alex saw a shark in the Middle Ground area.

Some of the new diving highlights of the trip were:

#### SCUBA-CAT!

Diving with V.S.A.G. at Jervis Bay by Des Williams

Keith Jensen was first on the site at Huskisson, followed by Julie and myself on Christmas Eve. The camping sites were reasonably comfortable, although a  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilometre walk to the amenities block to queue for a shower, did detract from the holiday a little.

Keith, his son Peter and I dived together for a couple of days from Keith's boat and enjoyed ourselves. Peter at 12 years of age proved himself a very competant diver, one which his dad is justifiably proud of.

We dived the "Docks" on Christmas Day, entering a large sea cave and exploring the terrain accompanied by schools of yellowtail and a couple of large Blue Groper. It seems that a fresh water spring enters Jervis Bay at this point and we swam into a very cold thermocline on a couple of occasions. Visibility in this area ranged from 50 ft to 15 ft in the thermocline area.

Boxing Day was dull and light rain was falling, but we put the boat in at Vincentia and went down to "Longnose Point" where we dived interesting terrain sighting lots of fish and exploring underwater caves. Peter got his first real taste of good sized caves and certainly enjoyed himself. By the 28th most of our crew had arrived and erected enormous capitalistic mansions of canyas.

Paul Tipping's residence was fresh out of its box and the inaugural erection was a sight to behold as light rain fell and the twilight faded into blackness. Paul was last seen that evening rubbing a couple of boy scouts together to start a fire and calling for Lesley (with two babes to look after) to commence cooking him a steak!! A level headed approach to the situation was displayed by Lesley who suggested a take-away meal would be more convenient after 5½ hours of tent assembly lessons.

Alex and Gay displayed great teamwork in erecting Alex's brand new triple fronted tent complete with rose garden and triple burner stove. All of Alex's equipment was bearing price tags and had to be unpacked from the purchase cartons. Alex was soon adjusting the last guy rope and with a shout of "Job's right!" he was quickly moving towards the fridge for a chilled can.

Darkness was approaching and those in residence Mastrowicz, Williams, Jensen, Truscott, Quail, Brooks, Catherall and Tipping were becoming

concerned for the Gouldings.

Problems with their trailer had caused much delay and they arrived to a heroes welcome. Everyone helped to set up their brand new tent and they were soon tucked in for the evening.

Mick and Annie Jeacle were resident in Huskisson itself and Mick's brother Peter was also in town to begin diving on the 28th. Peter has heaps of enthusiasm and arranged a very large shark-cat as our dive boat for the duration, at a price per engine hour. And what a monster the boat turned out to be!! Named "Scuba-Cat", it was powered by twin 140 H.P. outboards, had stereo cassette music and FM radio, depth-sounder, water-temperature gauges, radio etc. etc. etc.

With the throttle opened up "Scuba Cat" turned into a real beast and made the 8 mile trip to Point Perpendicular in no time at all, with a full compliment of 15 divers.

Undoubtedly, you will read more of the dives enjoyed by other members elsewhere in Fathoms, so I will leave it to them. I have included a few photos for your enjoyment especially processed for Fathoms by Julie.

CONT. P.2



Igor Chernichov & other VSAG divers at Jervis Bay. Photo: D. Williams

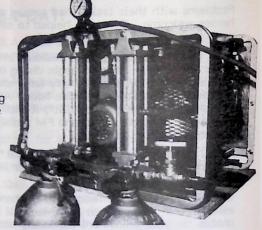
#### **EQUIPMENT REVIEW**

by Geoff Birtles

H.P. Compressor - Dependable Distributors

It was the rumour of air fills rising to \$5.00 that finally motivated me to remove myself from this very lucrative market.

Inevitably the rumour will become fact - already dive shop proprietors are girding their loins in anticipation of a 25% increase. If you don't believe it try complaining about \$4.00, but



have plenty of time and lay a towel across your shoulder. (Incidentally the air fill station at Flinders is charging \$5.00 - most divers are boycotting the store in protest.)

I bought my compressor in response to an SIA advertisement from Des Folland of Dependable Distributors, 58 Rundle Street, Kent Town, (08)427 648 or 332 2665. I was understandably nervous about buying sight unseen but a couple of friendly chats on the telephone (and local pricing!!) made the decision somewhat easier.

Dependable Distributors have been in business for 10 years and are primarily into Hydraulics for farm machinery. During a recession some 5 years ago they decided to diversify into compressors - placed one advertisement in SIA and sold 200 compressors off it! They have been in the business ever since. Price a Bauer locally (around \$5,000 for a similar capacity) and you will soon understand why.

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

Compressor: Walter Kirby (N.J. USA)

Balanced 4 stage

Rated at 4.0 cfm/2800 RPM

Power: Optional 5 or 7 HP Kawasaki Petrol.

Single or three phase electric.

My choice: 2 KW (2.77 HP) Betts

15 amp single phase electric motor

Price: \$2,250 delivered

Extra Yoke and Hose \$100

For some inexplicable reason there is an industry rumour that these units are second-hand. Not so! The compressors are brand new armed force's "surplus", imported directly from the States. All we need to know is that this saves a heap of sales tax. The power source (petrol or electric) is also brand new. The units are assembled locally.

My compressor arrived some two weeks after paying a 10% deposit. It was securely packaged and strapped. After 5 anxious minutes cutting away the strapping and excellent cartoning, I was delighted to find a far more professionally presented unit than expected. I was particularly impressed with the high quality glycerine filled pressure gauge. Calibrated both imperially and metrically it is an expensive and accurate unit.

The instructions were rather sketchy and, in fact, were a home typed original! Des reassures me a comprehensive manual with instructions and trouble shooting procedures will reach me shortly. (A bit of a smooth talker the old Des!)

Commissioning the unit simply consisted of screwing a breather cap onto the oil reservoir and attaching the two filling hoses. It was also necessary to remove (illegally) the 15 amp plug and replace it with a 10 amp version (smaller earth pin). Providing you do not start the compressor under load the 10 amp domestic circuit handles the situation O.K., albeit with some light dimming.

Dependable's advertising claimed, "Will fill an empty 88 cu.ft. tank in approx. 20 mins, i.e. 4 cu.ft. a min." It also claimed 3500 psi capability and I had been informed that it could just as easily go to 4000 psi with the chosen power source. Time to find out.

My test tank has an 11.55 kg water capacity. At 3,250 psi this computes to 90.12 cu.ft. Empty tank (the sheer luxury of being able to squander air!) connect hoses and power on! A full scale consumer report is underway.

Test Results: Empty to 3,250 psi 500 psi to 3,250 500 psi to 3,800 30M.33secs. <u>2.95</u> cu.ft.min. 25M.19secs. 30M.09secs.

CONT. P.26

#### FEBRUARY 1984

#### HERON ISLAND

by David Twine

Heron Island is one of only two resort islands that are actually on the Great Barrier Reef. The island is 72 km from the mainland port of Gladstone and is situated on the Tropic of Capricorn. At its highest point it is 3.3 metres above sea level.

Heron Island first became known to European explorers in 1843 when the H.M.S. "Fly", a 485 ton corvette anchored off the island. The island was seen to be covered with a dense growth of Pisonia Trees and large numbers of Herons; consequently the island was named "Heron Island". Mr. L. Marsh was granted the first lease on the 1st July, 1923 for the establishment of a turtle soup factory at an annual rental of ten pounds per annum. Mr. Percy Friend purchased the lease on the 10th January 1928. However the turtle business did not prosper.

In 1932, Captain Christian Poulson who had previously held a lease over North West Island obtained a sub-lease from Mr. Friend. On the 16th September 1936 the lease and all its improvements valued at 290 pounds was transferred to Captain Poulson.

He was the first person to recognise the tourist potential of the island. Transport to the island had always been by boat. However, in 1947 Capt. Poulson in partnership with Captain S.C. Middlemiss purchased three RAAF Catalina Flying Boats. From these, they produced one operational aircraft with a capacity of 28 seats. A regular passenger service commenced on the 12th July 1947, flight time from Brisbane was 2 hours 10 minutes.

Tragedy struck on the evening of 28th November 1947 when Capt. Poulson was lost at sea. The Poulson family continued to be associated with Heron Island until 1980 when the resort on the Island became fully owned by the P. & O. group.

Heron Island is a National Park. All marine life, including coral and shells on Heron Island and Wistari Reefs are totally protected. The spearing of fish is prohibited by law. Fines up to \$1,000 can be imposed.

The island has a large resident sea bird population, the presence of which you are often made aware of when you walk under the trees, in which White Capped Noddy Terns are nesting. There is approximately a population of 17,000 on Heron Island. The terns remain on the island for the entire year. Adults and young birds leave the island early in the morning to feed. White Capped Noddy terns feed by skimming the surface water where they capture

PAGE 11

the small schooling hardy heads that frequent the Capricorn and Bunker groups. Another bird equally as populous as the Noddy Tern is the Mutton Bird which unlike the tern, nests on the island from October to May. The Mutton Bird nests by burrowing into the ground. The courting of the adults prior to egg-laying occurs at night. Guests often awake to weird wailing noises and could be forgiven for thinking that a mass orgy is in progress.

Walks around the island are an interesting experience - messages from heaven, feet in Mutton bird holes and returning Mutton birds pancaking alongside you or on you during the early hours of the evening.

Heron Island is one of thirty places in the world where the Green Turtle will lay their eggs. Nesting turtles can be seen coming ashore at any time during the October to March nesting season. At night the turtles can be seen nesting. When the eggs hatch, the hatchlings can be observed making their way to the sea, through their natural enemies – gulls and crabs.

Accommodation ranges from Heron suites, with a balcony overlooking the beach, private bathroom, double and single bed and a refrigerator, 44 Reef suites with private facilities and refrigerators and the Lodges with share facilities. The lodges are bunkhouses with four beds, while all facilities are located in a shower/toilet block. Accommodation charges include three full meals a day. The meals are more than adequate. They would satisfy most pallets. Heron Island is a place for relaxing.

The night life consists of diving movies, a bingo night and one dance per week. The movies are a good medium for learning about the marine life observed during the day's diving.

Diving on the resort is controlled from the dive shop operated by the resort. All diving equipment can be hired from the shop. A current "C" class diver's ticket is required. There are two dives per day. Unfortunately, there is no night diving. Dive trips leave at 9.00 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. The dive boats are 11 metre catamarans with a large beam. There is adequate room for large dive parties. The maximum travel to any dive site is 20 minutes. There are 14 dive sites where the boats secure to permanent moorings. The maximum depth of any dive would be 23 metres while the average is 15 metres.

The reef of these lower latitudes is not as spectacular as that in Papua New Guinea or other locations further north. The major feature of these sites, is the marine life made famous by Ron and Valerie Taylor in numerous movies. This includes Moray eels, green turtles, red emperor, golden trevally, coral trout, yellowfin, tuna, Maori Wrasse and manta rays. The creation of the Marine Park has encouraged the growth of large numbers of CONT. P.27

#### BIG M FLAVOURS

Social News by Mick Jeacle

Boy, am I pleased, our Christmas function at Hunter's Lodge was a resounding success and net profit to the Club far exceeded my expectations. The function was attended by 100 people, the maximum number the room could take, and I actually had to refuse admittance to a few late starters.

I take this opportunity to thank all who attended and in particular those members who invited friends and relatives along to make up the numbers. It was good to see old friends Marty and Sandy (our smiling hosts from the Sorrento Cafe/Aquarium), Dr. John Knight and Dr. Janine Mannerheim, and prospective new members Gary Thorn, Doug Catherall, Paul Crellin, Robert Swoffer and Jane Thompson.

The venue was excellent and fellowship on the night outstanding, with everybody mixing freely and happily as they enjoyed the Christmas spirit.

A net profit of \$1,223.40 was achieved. Needless to say your committee is ecstatic with the result. Details of how this sum was accumulated follow. A loading of \$3 per head was made on tickets and this accounts for the door profits first mentioned.

Door Profits 98 x \$3 Less guests (2 x \$19)	\$294 	\$256.00
Raffle (Swindle?) No. 1 Takings Less costs (Hamper & door prizes)	\$512 74	\$438.00
Raffle No.2 Takings	de selle sylb al en	\$379.40
Auction No.1 Auction No.2 Less 50%to donor Auction No.3	\$ 70 	\$ 90.00 \$ 35.00 \$ 25.00
	TOTAL	\$1,223.40

Of course these sort of figures could not have been achieved without the great support given by our various prize donors. The array of prizes was fantastic and it would be remiss of me if I did not find some space in this

article to once again thank them for their most generous support.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Dick Whittaker & Brian Williams - Melbourne Dive, Heidelberg Russell & Robyn Kitt - Southern Cross Divers, Burwood John Gibson - John's Dive Shop, St. Kilda Bob Cumberland - Bob Cumberland's Dive Shop, Beaumaris Peter & Janis Stone Warrick & Angie McDonald - Warrick's Dive Shop, Moorabbin Geoff & Isabel Birtles - Healthworks, Waverley

As you can see a large proportion of our profits was made from our raffles (called swindles when Geoff Birtles is selling tickets) and auctions. made possible by the abovenamed. Please support the dive shop in your area and it wouldn't hurt to casually mention to the proprietor that you are a member of V.S.A.G. and that the club appreciates his fine cesture.

To those of you who could not attend for some reason or another, make sure you do not miss our next super night, which will probably be staged sometime in July. To those who missed out through a late booking, there is nobody to blame but yourselves; be early next time and ensure deposit payment by the due date.

Social functions and the planning thereof are at a bit of a standstill at the moment. You see, things are somewhat chaotic in the Jeacle household at present. Annie is due to give birth to No.2 on 12/2/84 and we are due to move house on 11/2/84. Poor planning you might say? Not really; just poor weather for diving last May!

Ah well, things should start getting back to normal sometime in March when I shall be looking closely at compiling a Social Calendar for the remainder of the year. To this end dates will be chosen initially, with venues to be advised through "Fathoms" progressively. It is suggested you all reserve the dates mentioned when announced to ensure you are able to attend the various functions and get-togethers if they appeal to you.

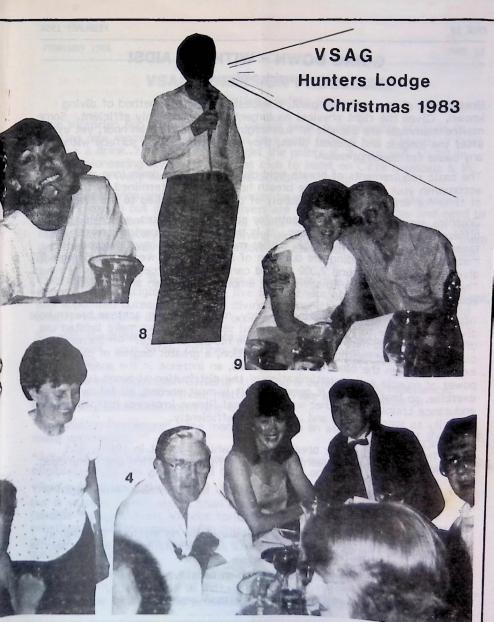
More views next issue. \*\*

#### PHOTOS, CENTRE PAGES

- 1. ALEX TALEY WITH FELLOW "DEB", PAT REYNOLDS. 5. PAUL CRELLIN.
- 2. THE BIG M HOST MICK JEACLE.
- 3. MAREE TRUSCOTT WITH JUNE SCOTT.
- 4. JOHN KNIGHT, NICKI & DON ABEL, PAUL TIPPING.
- 6. SANDIE & MARTY MULLIE
- 7. KAY.
- 8. PRESIDENT, DES WILLIAMS.
- 9. DI & BRIAN LYNCH.

Isabel & Geoff Birtles Photos.





#### **GOING DOWN - WITHOUT AIDS!**

by Warrick McDonald

Breath hold diving is the simplest, cheapest, and safest method of diving known. Given the right physical equipment, it is also highly efficient. Some marine mammals are capable of submerging for well over an hour, yet even after the longest and deepest dives, they can return to the surface without any pause for decompression.

The basic requirements of breath hold diving is to stay down long enough to accomplish your objective. The breath hold time is determined by the length of time for which an adequate supply of oxygen is supplied to the brain.

Dolphins generally hold their breath for about five minutes, which is not too different from the ability of man. It is the dolphin's superior strength and speed which gives him the edge. Other marine animals have evolved mechanisms for extending the duration of apnoea. The weddell seal regularly gives to depths of around 2,000 ft. and can stay submerged for over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The seal has the ability to store large amounts of oxygen and use it economically.

Without extensively re-designing his body, man will never achieve breath hold gives comparable to those of the Weddell seal, but he can make limited use of the same basic mechanisms to improve his performance. An increase in place volume and haemoglobin concentration, a greater degree of oxygen extraction from the blood (aerobic fitness), an increase in the anaerobic power of muscle and an optimisation of the distribution of blood flow during exercise, so that most of it goes where it is most needed, all follow prolonged endurance training. In other words physical fitness improves both the body's capacity to store oxygen and use it more efficiently.

#### FOOTNOTES:

- (1) The record time for breath holding, which was set in 1942 20.1 minutes. (This was achieved through hyperventilation and three deep breaths of oxygen).
- (2) The deepest breath hold dive is 323 ft. (although this could have been already bettered). \*\*

#### EDS. NOTE:

- (i) Warrick is the proprietor of and chief instructor for Warrick's Dive Shop at Moorabbin. Thanks for responding to our plea for outside contributions Warrick and thanks for the Xmas Social donations.
- (ii) Apnoea. 1. Suspension of respiration.

  2. Asphyxia.
- (iii) Anearobic Power. Ability to function without oxygen.

FEBRUARY 1984 PAGE 17

#### **VSAG ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

by G.R. Birtles - Safety Officer

The Victorian Sub Aqua Group has always taken a responsible attitude to vetting new member applicants. "Is he a good fellow? Not a trendy..? Does he like a drink..? Will she..? Do I get the points if..? Not so!! VSAG in typical pioneering style was the first club to insist on CZ18 medicals & in the old days (very old days) provided SCUBA training.

But times change and the days of water toughened ex spearos and rock hoppers are all but gone. "Puss" divers are the order of the day and need to be protected from themselves. And VSAG needs to be protected from their follies. (Fortunately our style of diving usually proves all too much for them and they slip quietly away and comfortably back into the role of "shop club clone").

Even ownership of SCUBA gear and a check out dive are no longer good enough. It's a litigious world we live in and there are a lot of self important, self appointed bureaucrats in the diving community who would be happy to crucify VSAG if a diving fatality occured to a "non certified" new member.

So, with these depressing thoughts in mind & the fresh enthusiasm of a new appointment, your Safety Officer set about drafting a "New Membership Procedure".

This included: "Admission Criteria" (training & certification, experience, medical & nomination) - those matters which are a pre-requisite to membership consideration by the committee.

"Application Procedure" - the manner in which an aspirant member should make application.

"Admission Procedure" - the committee role in evaluation of an applicant's eligibility and rules governing a formal vote on admission.

The foregoing adequately dealt with the current crop of certified divers but it seemed to this writer than there are many experienced and very capable "Senior" divers without formal qualification that would make excellent VSAG members. With this in mind a "Grandfather Clause" was drafted which provides exemption on certification subject to stringent qualifying conditions.

This new procedure necessitated re-drafting of the Application Form and the opportunity was taken to include a "Warranty" and "Terms of Agreement" which provide much needed protection both to the club and its members.

The draft was presented to the committee at an extraordinary committee meeting in December 1983 and amended following construction suggestion from Paul Tipping (gratefully acknowledged). It was formally ratified at our January 1984 committee meeting and now operates as a club by-law. The procedure follows and the new application is included as a loose leaf insert in this issue. This can be used when "crunching" a likely candidate!

#### NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE

#### 1. ADMISSION CRITERIA

PAGE 18

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

- 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).
- 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 preceeding 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 competant 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 competance, 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 of veto 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. \*\*



FEBRUARY 1984 PAGE 21

#### **GOING DOWN**

Jervis Bay 1984 - by Alex Talay & Mick Jeacle

By 27 Dec. 24 adults and 11 children had found their way to Jervis Bay on the NSW coast some 100 miles south of Sydney for the annual VSAG Xmas jaunt. As each family arrived at different times, this day was entirely devoted to setting up camp & settling in with a view to hassle-free diving from thereon. Fair dinkum, the place looked like the showroom for Tent City with sparkling new tents seeing the light of day for the first time as Goulding, Catherall, Tipping and Talay scratched their heads trying to fathom the instructions. Any thoughts of diving this day were quickly dispelled as some of the lesser known "boy scouts" took all of three hours to gain an erection.

We were all eagerly looking forward to 8 a.m. the next day (note the time Geoff) when we would board the 23 ft. Scuba Cat for our first dive. For those members not fortunate enough to make the trip, this boat was at our complete disposal & was organized for us by Peter Jeacle to whom the club is indebted for his assistance. It was powered by twin 140 HF Suzuki outboards, featured piped music and at one stage easily accommodated 15 divers.

Unfortunately the area is prone to strong winds at this time of year which invariably come up by 11 am each day, so our diving sites were limited. However, we now attempt to summarise briefly those spots we were able to visit during our stay.

The next day whilst appearing quite calm at the wharf proved to be quite rough outside. Accordingly upon arriving at the heads we made our way to the inside of Bowen Is. Where we met up with Keith Jensen and Des Williams In Keith's boat. This dive was in about 90 ft. with visibility of around 80 ft. There was not much to be seen but a few fish and the odd Blue Grouper. However Paul Tipping on returning to the boat had a pulse rate of 200 as he described the biggest fish he had encountered underwater. All we could get out of him was "White Pointer" and we all eventually agreed that this must have been the truth, as his wetsuit was definitely blue in colour when he entered the water.

The next day we were fortunate enough to clear the heads and we found with Peter's help the famous "Arch". This would have to rate as our best dive for the trip as there is quite a variety of scenery and life in this area. Visibility was again good and some large Wobbegong sharks were in residence for all to enjoy. And speaking of wetsuits the "Big M's" almost changed colour as he encountered one of these sharks at point blank range before he managed to notice its presence. Naturally, he couldn't help

PAGE 22 FEBRUARY 1984

himself and as he monstered it, naturally it swam directly at Alex who back-peddled furiously, nearly belting into Bazza in his haste to escape. On the way back from the Arch we had a second dive the "Docks". This seemed to be the most popular inside dive judging by the number of boats in the area. It has a couple of good caves and swim-throughs and small fish are plentiful. We could probably best describe it as a dive for the novice diver comparable to the Portsea Hole or Popes Eye.

The next day we decided to meet a little earlier at the wharf at 7.30 to try and beat the winds. The "Big M" was thankful that brother Peter enjoyed his early morning swims as once again he swam out in the wee small hours to retrieve the boat from its mooring and bring it to the wharf for the waiting divers. We were soon loaded up and on our way to Point Perpendicular which was to be the site for the day. This spot proved to be a disappointment as it did not live up to our expectations, nor the descriptions offered by those members who had dived it in previous years. Typical NSW scenery greeted us as we descended to 100 ft. Bald rocks and sea urchins with very little growth. At this point we all began to appreciate our home diving, however Point Perpendicular offers a vast area for diving and we did manage to find some good spots later in the trip to compensate for this poor first impression.

Next day we dived Middle Ground. As its name suggests, it is a reef smack bang in the middle of the Bay. It proved to be a very good dive with large fish in abundance. We noticed anchors everywhere caught in the rocks and it would be a fair bet to say that the area had copped a fair bit of abuse over the years from disgruntled fishermen trying to raise them to no avail. Alex and Mick had the best dive here. Mick as usual, was monstering a large Port Jackson when Alex about 10 ft. away from him spotted a 10 ft. Grey is urse heading in their direction. He did a fair imitation of the Picnic Advertisement as he shouted "Shark" as loud as he could to no avail. He swam over and grabbed Mick and pointed. The poor old Port Jackson sailed over his head in a welter of bubbles as he eyeballed the Nurse from about 20 ft. away. It looked magnificent as it cruised past a Bommie giving them a perfect view from side on. They swam after it and it turned slowly in an arc to keep them in view as it speeded up to disappear Into the blue.

Meanwhile back at the camp Igor was proving to be a gannet of the Pat Reynolds mould as he was discovered eating 10 sausages in one go along with various other continental delicacies. Another day he was spotted scoffing 14 fish fingers and even had another couple down the beach that night with a Yank sheila he'd met up with. He then had the gall to claim he had them in his pants pocket and didn't want to bring them home, we all smelt a rat at this but let it pass.

FEBRUARY 1984 PAGE 23

Paul Tipping proved to be the clown prince of the camp constantly visiting the other tents with bluey in hand and keeping us up to date with world events and any other subject that entered his head. One day we heard Andy ask him to get him some block ice and naturally Paul agreed. On arrival back at the camp with 2 bags of crushed he countered Andy's angry reaction by claiming that it was definitely block when he bought it but dropped it when getting into the car. Incidently, if anyone's looking for a baby sitter give Paul a miss, he's definitely not the full guid in this regard.

Talking of babies it seems John Goulding's lad, the famous Capt. Ben Jarmin, has already picked out a career for himself. He was seen talking to one of the local Avon ladies whilst John was having a nap and seemed quite knowledgeable in the application of various types of make-up. He took a real shine to lipstick and Paul's kid looked a million dollars after he'd finished with her. Incidently there's a whisper going around that John's dissatisfied with his brand new tent, so keep your eyes peeled for the ad in Fathoms.

We'd met up with Adrian Cookson who runs a dive charter business at Jervis with Sea Life III, a magnificent 40 ft. plus dive boat with all americies one could wish for. Adrian is an extremely likeable and competent bloke & knows Jervis like the back of his hand. He offered to take up on a booze cruise & naturally we accepted. We met at 7.30pm & set off for Bowen is. Everyone, including children, went & we had a great night swapping lies and scoffing coldies left right & centre. Our last day at Jervis was spent with Adrian and he took us to the front side of Bowen. His no-nonsense approach to dive leadership and briefing was right up our alley as he told us the access would be right on the drop-off. Unfortunately the vis. had deteriorated due to a warm current but was still good enough to see that he'd dropped us on a very nice spot and right on the drop-off to boot. We then travelled across to Smuggler's Cave and attempted to enter with Adrian in the lead. It proved to be too rough and surgy so he took us on a tour for a couple of hundred yards, which was quite a ride in the surge between bommies. Naturally he brought us up right under the boat after an exhilirating dive. If anyone's going up that way, we'd recommend Adrian to show you the best spots at the right price.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the trip. We dived most areas that we'd read about including Drum & Drumsticks which turned out to be a top dive. Big fish, including Kingies, were to be seen on most dives & the water temp. was around 20°C which we all appreciated particularly Bazza who hates the cold as we all know. There was plenty to do out of the water and good shopping facilities at Nowra about 20 k's up the road. All in all a good trip was had by all. \*\*

FEBRUARY 1984

#### STEAMER "KAKARIKI"

Port Phillip History - by Des Williams

The story of the wreck of the "Kakariki" is a most interesting one because she proved to be one vessel which refused to leave the Bay despite many attempts to move her hull. Older residents of Williamstown will remember her very well, as her funnel and mast protruded above the waterline behind the town for many years.

"Kakariki" was owned by Union Steamship Co-op New Zealand Ltd. and carried ore from Tasmania's west coast for some time before being run down off Williamstown in 1937.

On the evening of 29 Jan. 1937, the "Kakariki" collided with the SS "Caradale" which was outbound. The "Kakariki" sank in three minutes, after being struck between the forecastle and the mess room. She took with her five crew members who didn't have a chance as they lay in their bunks.

The next dawn revealed the wreck sitting upright in 36 ft. of water just west of the Gellibrand pile light, right in the channel. Diver Jack Johnstone descended the next morning & recovered one of the bodies. The search continued during the day with Johnstone reporting the vessel was almost cut in two by the impact. He recovered instruments & charts from the bridge. Another body was recovered the following day from the forecastle and a yachtsman found a third body floating off Williamstown.

The vessel lay unattended until a letter from the Port Phillip Pilots Assoc. pointed out the danger the wreck constituted and requested she be removed. Six months after the collision with the "Caradale", the "Kakariki" was at the centre of an argument between the State & Federal Govts. as to who was to pay for the vessel's removal.

In Feb. 1938, a salvage syndicate decided to sink two large barges beside the vessel and attach cables to the "Kakariki". Then both barges were to be filled with air and thus bring "Kakariki" up. Two suitable barges were inspected in dry dock by the syndicate members before an attempt was made to lift the "Kakariki". The idea was a good one, but proved unsuccessful and the syndicate cleared out at a huge loss.

In April 1939, another syndicate was soon hard at work. They sealed off all hatches and filled the vessel with air as they pumped out the water. But the "Kakariki" refused to budge, she had built up a tremendous suction in the mud. Exit the second syndicate minus several thousand dollars.

World War II then delayed any further interest in salvage attempts until May 1943 when a third syndicate made new plans. This time two barges with

#### Cont. from p.4 (COMMITTEE NEWS)

- 6. M. Jeacle promised to compile a social calendar.
- 7. D. Williams advised CFC intention to increase General Meeting room rental to \$50 (from \$10). New venue will be sought if this in fact happens.
- 8. Planning for Refuge.
- G. Birtles reported on possible locations for '84 overseas trip and advised that arrangements will be finalised in February.

Committee retired at 11.00 p.m. to scoff Maree's home made pizzas and dim sims washed down with copious quantities of ale.\*\*

#### From p.5 (FLOTSAM & JETSAM)

- I. Kissing all the girls to herald in the New Year.
- 2. Waking up each morning to the sound of 50,000 cicaders.
- 3. Having home movies in Andy and Gail's tent.

For Murgatroyd the real highlight of the trip was sitting beside the Hume Highway at 6.30 in the morning out in the middle of nowhere whilst I went to find a tow truck to tow away my borrowed trailer.

All in all it was a great time and remains one of my favourite spots on the New South Wales coast.

Signed MINNIE APPLEUS

#### From p.7 SCUBA-CAT

As I had to return to melbourne on New Years Day, I was particularly pleased to get in one dive on the now famous "Arch", before I left. Keith and I dived this remarkable formation with young Peter Jensen, who did his first sea dive below 80 ft. and descended with us to 120 ft. to pass under the spectacular Archway. In this fantastic dive we saw all sorts of fish in large schools as well as a couple of blue groper, a small school of kingies, and a thick mass of "white ear" fishes.

Peter must have wondered what had happened, as the dive was totally action-packed and to be his first dive below 80 ft. as well, must surely have made an impression he won't forget in a lifetime. Peter and I stuck close together whilst Keith recorded our dive on film.

Thanks for being very cool and very competent Peter; stay that way and you are going to really enjoy every dive. \*\*

FEBRUARY 1984

#### Cont. from p.9 EQUIPMENT REVIEW

Readers who know my fiery nature will now expect the worst! Not so. Des (smooth talking Des) had explained prior to purchase that 4 cu.ft/min. was only possible with a 5 HP petrol driven motor or 3 phase electric power. Single phase (2.7 HP) requires pulley ratios which drop the rated compressor revs from 2800 to 2400 rpm. He said to expect approx. 3.5 cu.ft/min. This did not seem too high a price to pay for the dual conveniences of quiet running and caravan park "plug-in" capability.

As a salesman myself I figured a ½ cuft/min. exaggeration to be nearly within acceptable limits, but I thought I'd give the smooth talker an opportunity to talk his way out of this one. He did! The test was all wrong. (This guy should go into the Health Club business, selling monthly terms!)

I was informed that the hose and filtration system holds roughly 7 cu.ft. I should have bought the system up to rated pressure before opening the tank valve and prior to commencement of timing. Seems reasonable. On this basis we have a 3.18 cu.ft./min. capability on single phase power.

Des finally agreed that this is where it's at.

I like:

- Value for money excellent
- Prompt delivery excellent packing
- Simple commissioning
  Spare Carbon and Oil
- High quality yokes (Nemrod) and gauge
- Generous intake hose with noise suppressor
- Nylocks for all moving parts. Sturdy construction.
- Reasonably quiet operation. (Although the ethnic next door stopped yelling at his ethnic neighbour long enough to have a winge.)

Not so keen - Silver frost paint job on frame (will last about 5 minutes)

- Unnecessarily large bulky frame

- Poor instructions (no trouble shooting manual)

#### SUMMARY:

Highly recommended. A group of 2 or 3 keen divers using 100 tanks each per annum would achieve pay-back in 18 to 24 months - with a lot of convenience and big fat fills! And of course, you can forget about this nonsensical yearly Hydrostatic testing business.

P.S.: This review was drafted last November. At time of publishing the manual still has not been written. On the other hand, it hasn't been needed.\*\*

FEBRUARY 1984 PAGE 27

Cont. from p.11 HERON ISLAND

fish. For the marine photographer, the conditions are ideal for candid fish shots. When not diving, the large surrounding reef offers splendid opportunities for viewing the myriad reef life at close quarters - staghorn corals, brain coral and tubastra.

To conclude, Heron Island offers the opportunity to view the Great Barrier Reef at close quarters without the inconvenience of a long boat trip or expensive flight to reach the outer reef. This is attested to by the large number of Americans who visit Heron Island. The diving is not the most challenging one could discover, but does offer a unique learning experience where the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef are continually at the visitor's doorstep. \*\*

EDS. NOTE: A well researched and informative article. Good one, Dave! Any new scribes?

Cont. from p.25 STEAMER "KAKARIKI"

winches to take up tension at low tide along one side of the "Kakariki" & at the same time fill the wreck with air to assist breaking the suction between the vessel & the mud. This attempt was led by A.A. Summerhayes, an expert in lifting heavy weights from the sea floor. He was assisted by F.W. Barrett-Wood, who had had valuable experience in salvage of German warships at Scapa Flow.

But, no luck!! The "Kakariki" seemed to like her spot off Williamstown and refused to go! The Fourth salvage crew had the answer to this difficult salvage job, but it was to take them almost two years to clear the "Kakariki". A huge winch was erected on a specially prepared concrete base on the shore opposite the wreck & a cable was taken out. The wreck was then slowly cut up by means of oxy torch & strips peeled out & torn away by means of the shore winch. Larger sections were floated with air drums & towed to a spot behind Williamstown Rifle Range & dumped.

A sad end to this little vessel of 800 tons, which refused to move even for salvage experts. It was now almost nine years since she had gone down! And what is left today? Well, the concrete winch pad can still be seen on the beach front between the old Pt. Gellibrand lighthouse & the W'town football ground. At the scene of the wreck, there are large sections of steel & boiler parts. And in a direct line from the wreck to the shore winch pad are several large chunks of the vessel which were dragged no further.

The wreck's remains are almost certainly the object mistaken recently to be a German submarine off Williamstown. The "Kakariki's" ship's bell can be seen aboard H.M.A.S. "Castlemaine" museum moored at Gem Pier. \*\*

#### DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDER

FEBRUARY 1984

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	DIVE CAPTAIN	MEET AT
Feb 12	Dive George Kamode & Reef Dive	John Goulding 890 6634	Flinders Pier 9.30 a.m.
Feb 15	General Meeting - Collingwood F Note: Films on Fiji diving courte	8.00 p.m. y	
Feb 19	Dive Broken Sub & Wyrallah	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Sorrento Ram 9.30 a.m.
Feb 21	Committee Meeting		The Reynolds
Feb 26	Dive Slack water - "drop-off" dive	Max Synon 465 2812	Sorrento Ram 9.00 a.m.
March 10/ 11/12	Dive Trip Port Campbell Note: Those requiring camp site	Paul Tipping 387 2027 s should contact (	Paul ASAP
March 25	Dive Flinders Area	Geoff Birtles 846 1983	Flinders Pier 9.30 a.m.
April 8	Dive Details next issue - Sorrento		
April 20-23	Dive Trip Tidal River Note: Those requiring camp site	Bob Scott 367 2261 es should contact	Camp Site Bob ASAP

\*\* CHRISTMAS 1984

Your committee wish to finalise dive venue and accommodation arrangements at its next meeting (Feb 21). Members are invited to make submissions at our next General Meeting (Wed. Feb. 15).

NOTE:

It is important that intending divers book and/or confirm with the Dive Captain on the evening prior to the dive.





#### Southern Cross Divers

1368 Toorak Rd., Burwood, 3125. - 299 1111, a.h. 233 9841

- \* Fast, efficient air fills, open 9.00 am - 5.30 pm Monday to Thurday, 9.00 am - 9.00 pm Friday and 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Saturdays.
- \* Crayfish licences available, and small compressor for hire.
- \* Overseas dive holidays Fiji next September, diving the Yasawa Group.
- \* Cave Diving Courses two weekends in February, or a seven day trip to Mount Gambier, commencing on April 2nd.
- \* Neville Coleman coming to Melbourne for an Underwater Naturalist Course, March 10, 11, 12 in conjunction with Reg and Kaye Lipson.
- \* An evening with Neville, Friday 9th March, RSL Hall Burwood "Eat and be Eaten".
- \* More information on any of the above is available from both our Burwood and Geelong stores:-

1368 Toorak Rd. Burwood, Vic. 3125 Ph. (03) 299 1111 92 Pakington St Geelong West 3218 Ph. (052) 22 4899



