FATHOMS

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INDEPENDANT DIVING
Safety in Diving FREEDOM

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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: Kleth 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-Agua 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 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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JULY 1984

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Next general meeting:

Wednesday, July 18, 8.00 p.m. North Melbourne Football Club Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, July 24, 8.00 p.m. The Birtles,

8 Newlyn Close, Templestowe

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



EDITORIAL

Written at great personal cost with a coral infected arm, legacy of cray fishing in Fiji.

June Scott, Gloria Hayes, Maree Truscott, Julie Williams and Isabel Birtles still haven't stopped purring. Fiji was a great adventure with VSAG once again breaking new ground - non diving wives and kids on a Pacific Diving holiday. And it worked!

Taveuni (1½ hrs flight NE of Nadi) was beautiful. We did it hard diving out of a 50 ft. luxury motor cruiser worth over a ¼ million \$'s. Smorgasbord lunches, cold ones, stereo, sun-deck, gear lackies and

some very good diving. (Once we convinced the dive operator we weren't just another bunch of shop club clones).

Pictured underwater at Taveuni is your very proud editor with 12 year old son Reece who has now notched 38 dives (in 4 months), knocked off mate Peter Jensen's depth record (135 ft.) and certified as a Jnr PADI diver. (I know! I know! But there has to be some privileges to editing).

After 5 nights in Taveuni we moved on to Suva. Watching the girls shopping in this busy duty free city was like watching sharks on a feeding frenzy! Our relatively inexpensive trip started to become fairly expensive for some at this stage – particularly for Bazza who's daughter, Sam is showing real promise as a big spender.

Diving in Suva is terrible & a complete waste of time. We told the local operator to "shove" his second dive & headed back to the shopping. This aside, Suva was very exciting (the Tradewinds is great) and I think we all could have done with another night's stopover.

For many, our 4 days at the "Regent of Fiji" was an unforgettably magic experience. Sheer opulent luxury plus two full days diving and cruising the picturesque Mamanuca Islands in a beautiful old 60 ft. schooner, sipping tinnies and soaking up the sun. The diving was only average but no one cared - it was all just soooo good!

My personal thanks to Anthony Newly & Julie Mitchell of Allways who arranged the itinary & detail to perfection. And very warm thanks to a great bunch of VSAG people who made the tour leader's job very easy indeed.

VSAG has a stunning new cover - courtesy of committee man Alex Talay. Pictured from front to rear - Alex (of course!), Geoff (naturally!) and Steve Gardner (Divemaster) decompressing on the anchor line of Reg Thomas's boat after being the first sport divers to dive the American Destroyer YP284 (sunk in 1942) which lies upside down in 135 ft. of warm clear water off Guadalcanal.

Photo was taken by VSAG's own award winning photographer Keith Jensen, who was tour leader on this very exciting 1983 trip to Gizo and Honiara.

Cover is printed in four colour process on 206GSM Astrolux. Pic was snapped with a Nikonos III using a 15mm Nikon lens and natural light at 1/60 second. Fuji chrome 100ASA.

I think it's fair to claim this as the most outstanding club magazine cover in Australia and frankly I think it's better than anything our local commercial mags have come up with - but perhaps that's because they prefer their own (often out of focus) pics. Total worth is about \$1200. Cost to VSAG? Nil! Thanks Alex, you've done us proud.



Arrangements are now firmed up for our Xmas safari to Eden, NSW. Some will arrive on Sunday December 23 other. Boxing Day, Wednesday December 26 for 2 to 3 weeks. Powered sites have been booked at the East Fountain Van Park (0649)61 798. Only one club booking remains. First in with a deposit gets it. Others will need to make their own arrangements by phoning the Park direct. Request proximity to VSAG group. Do this soon as the Park will shortly be completely booked.

Local contacts for those chasing flats are - Mr. Walters (0649) 61 226, Stuart's (0649) 61 790 and Blue Marlin (0649) 27 3658. Going rate is around \$300 p.w.

Boat owners should note that a NSW Maritime Licence is required. For further details contact Captain Hope in Melbourne - Tuesdays 51 3777, other days 528 3380.

Those of you who missed our last Mt. Gambier assault should start planning now. It's on again next Cup weekend. It is essential that intending divers hold appropriate CDAA certification and a Pics permit. So now is the time to organise these (including category upgrading). Members requiring on site vans should contact me ASAP. Six have been booked with preference to be given to families. Special Note: Guest divers on this trip must have prior approval of dive captain.

It was disappointing not to have received more pics and stories on the Fiji trip for Fathoms publication. Hopefully our many photographers and few scribes will get their act together before the next issue – deadline August 22. My apologies to those whose submissions did not make this issue. They have been held over for publication at a later time.

Welcome to new members Mike Weber, Paul Crellin and Stan Meadhurst. A very warm welcome to Don Abell who has accepted the casual committee vacancy created by Scottie's resignation.

New arrival! On the 31st May last, little Sarah Maree Goulding was born at St. Georges Hospital, Kew. Congratulations Maree and John, we hope Benjamin's new sister will soon be on show for all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

May '84 - Paul & Leslie Tipping's home. Apologies Birtles and Jensen.

Compressor charge policy reviewed and revised. Air fill price increased to \$3.00 per tank effective immediately. Mick Jackiw to receive 50% of <u>actual cash receipts</u> when his compressor is used in conjunction with club compressor. He will also receive a "towing subsidy" for country or interstate trips.

June '84 - Mick & Annie Jeacle's residence - Full house.

Treasurer's Report

Cash at bank	\$1,092.99
Cash on hand	Nil
Building Society	\$779.64
	\$1.872.63

Treasurer to transfer \$600 from Bank to Building Society ASAP.

-Business

- i) Don Abell accepted invitation to join committee.
- ii) Ian Scholes invited to join VSAG.
- iii) New motor needed for compressor. Action Pat and Geoff.
- iv) Club Points Book not found. Keith Jensen to write up a replacement.
- v) Mick Jackiw formally objected to publication of Treasurer's Report in Fathoms. No objection by rest of committee.
- vi) Mick Jackiw lodged an objection to Editors reporting of last committee minutes in regard to air fills receipts. He later acknowledged the report was "factually" correct. Editor has agreed to provide Mick with an opportunity to "state his case".
- vii) Mick Jackiw objected to Fathoms publication of Overseas funds details and noted that one subscriber had received \$40 more than others. Fund treasurer pointed out this covered documented expenses incurred on behalf of the scheme. No other objections.
- viii) Geoff Birtles showed a sample white windcheater printed with stunning VSAG logo. Available at \$16 against firm order.
- ix) Max Synon to investigate and advise on a medallion for VSAG 30th anniversary celebration.

- x) Alex Talay to arrange reprinting of Fathoms cover.
- xi) Unanimous agreement to retain membership fees at present levels.

New Members

- Mike Weber: Accepted subject to check out dive with member of committee.
- Paul Crellin: Accepted subject to proof of NQS certification and satisfactory medical in previous 3 years.
- Stan Meadhurst: Accepted.

Meeting closed at 11.00 p.m. Committee retired to home made pizzas - thanks Annie - sorry about the neighbours! **

S.D.F. V. REPORT

Submitted to Editor unabridged. Too long to include - sorry. * *

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP HEADS. JULY AUGUST																		
	High Water. Slack Water Flood (Stream Turns)			od	Low Water			Slack Water Ebb (Stream Turns)				k Day	Month Day					
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AUGUST,	00 39 01 31 02 15	1.3 1.3 1.3	13 41 14 18 14 49	1.5 1.5 1.5	03 32 04 23 05 10	8.0 8.0 8.0	16 33 17 16 17 52	1.1 1.0 1.0	06 24 07 14 08 04	0.4 0.4 0.4	19 24 20 13 20 54	0.7 0.6 0.5	10 03 10 46 11 27	1.0 0.9 0.9	22 28 23 14 23 54	1.0 0.9 0.9	M. Tu. W.	13 14 15
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oFLOTSAM & JETSAM

Fathoms magazine is becoming so technical I was rather glad that we only had one issue to cover May and June. Having read Geoff Birtles' article on Knot Tying, I thought I should come to grips with the first of Geoff's series of essential knots which the diver should know. What could be simpler than a "round turn and two half hitches"? To emphasise the ease of this much put down knot Geoff suggested it could be perfected whilst watching T.V.

So checking the night's telly programme, I found some appropriate shows which no doubt would be recommended for this pastime.

"Knots Landing" and "Man on a String" proved to be far more interesting but yet had nothing to do with tying pieces of rope together. In a desperate bid to master the art I secured the television leg to the chair arm and had it not been for dear Murgatroyd tripping over the damn rope and flinging the baby into the magazine rack, I still might have been able to while away the hours tying knots in the loungeroom.

In the meantime 15 granny smith knots will have to do the job until Geoff can volunteer to give private tuition, or alternatively, show more detailed photos in Fathoms.

And speaking of Fathoms, I take umbrage at Don Abell's letter to the Editor (see Fathoms May/June). If Mr. Abell thinks that I treated the subject of Buddy Diving with disdain, I should ask him why did he let me buddy dive with his wife Nicki on what was possibly the most recent scuba dive she has had with the club. You will be relieved to know Don, on that particular dive from Reg Truscott's boat I used not only plenty of Snappy Tom, but splashed on heaps of OLD SPLICE after shave lotion so as to be more appealing to his charming lady whilst we explored the great beauty of the underwater world.

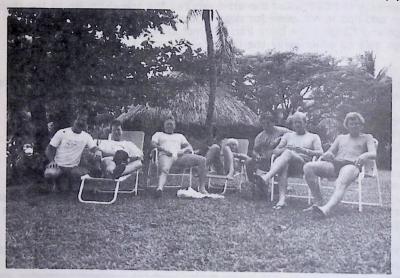
It's all very well Mr. Editor for Don Abell to make suggestive comments about the buddy system being practices both underwater and back at camp. Don's own on-land buddy antics with his constant companion are

well known and his lack of involvement in the Buddy Rotation System is just downright selfish and the height of poor sportsmanship.

In conclusion, F. and J. is anything but frivolous journalism, it is the very opposite. A watchdog on the club, capturing precious moments with clear insight and a rare sensitivity. Perhaps such refinement is lost on Mr. Abell.

VSAG's international diving safari to Fiji was a great success and a tribute to the dedication of Geoff Birtles. There is no doubt that a good trip needs a good organiser and Geoff's attention to ensuring that the group's trip went off without a hitch was a result of looking after all the details that can so often go wrong when you're 2,000 miles from home. No doubt others will write about the trip, all I want to say is VSAG has yet again shown that it is one of the truly great diving clubs offering excellent value and opportunities to members. Well done.

Signed N. HIBERNASHION * *



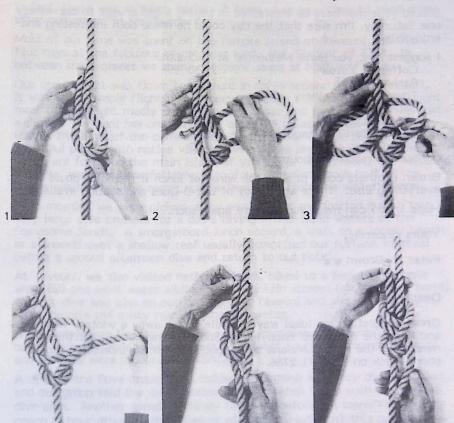
Dive Buddies! Igor, Bill Geoff, Alisdair, Bruce, Peter & Alex "The nervous anticipation of another hard days diving!"

Sheet Bend, Double Sheet Bend

by G. R. Birtles

The most commonly accepted knot for joining two ropes together and probably the best, particularly if the ropes are of different sizes, when the larger rope provides the bight and the smaller, the bends or turns.

The only difference between the sheet bend and the double sheet bend is that two turns are taken around the bight of the main rope for the latter, whilst the former has only one turn. Figs 1 to 5 illustrate the sheet bend and 6 the double sheet bend. This knot is even more efficient if both ropes are of the same size.



LETTER

Dear V.S.A.G. Members,

I am writing to simply say thank you for including me in your dive tour to Fiji. The whole trip was what mind and body needed at that time, especially as I had not taken any time off since October 1983. Thank you for including me into your group the way you did. Your company was greatly appreciated.

Should your members be interested in paying a group visit to our winery one Saturday, I'm sure that the day could be made both interesting and enjoyable.

I suggest that you leave Melbourne at 8.45 a.m.

Coffee at Euroa	10.30
Arrive Milawa	11.20
Tour vineyard/winery	1.00
Bar-B-Que	2.30
Wine tasting	4.00
Adjourn to El Portego	6.15
Dine Cellar 47	8.00
Sunday return Melbourne	

Brown Brothers could provide the wine for lunch if members could B.Y.O. everything else. There are plenty of Bar-B-Ques and seating available.

Hope that I can meet you all here again soon.

Yours sincerely,

Peter R. Brown * *

Dear Pete,

Great suggestion, an ideal way to while (wine) away a wintery weekend - and keep the other half happy! Our Social Secretary will get things moving at the next G.M. and be in touch. All those interested should phone Mick on (059) 71 2786.

Ed. **

V.S.A.G. FUN IN FIJI

by Des Williams

Our trip to Fiji was a journey we will remember for many years to come, and I would like to take this opportunity to say that our Tour Leader, Geoff Birtles, saw to every detail on our group's behalf. There were 21 of us who thoroughly enjoyed every moment of our holiday, sightseeing, diving, relaxing and spending.

In fact, there was so much variety it took us several days to wind down after our return to Melbourne.

Most of our time was spent on the remote island of Taveuni and then four days at the fabulous resort near Nadi, the "Regent of Fiji". In between these places we spent overnight stops at Nadi and Suva.

Our group of 21 was flown to Taveuni in three separate small aircraft. It was an enjoyable flight of $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, although a few in our group spent most of the flight madly chewing barley sugar and pretending it was just a dream. Taveuni has one dirt road about 25 miles in total length and that is the limit of the commercial effects so far on the island. A beautiful place, with native villages everywhere and no tourist pressures, which are found on the main island of Viti Levu. The resort, our home for 5 nights, was most comfortable; our group occupied about half of the rooms available in the resort only a few yards from the water's edge.

Each morning we were picked up by small boats and ferried out to two very large dive cruisers for a day's diving in the tepid waters of the Somosomo Strait. A smorgasbord lunch aboard, a walk on a lonely beach or a snorkel over a shallow reef usually comprised our surface interval before a second afternoon dive and return to our hotel.

At Taveuni, we also visited native villages, hiked to a beautiful jungle waterfall and went water sliding in a mountain stream (oh, my sore bum!) A night dive was also on our itinerary at Taveuni and was enjoyed by most, despite the misty rain and shallow water.

After 5 days, we flew to Suva for a short shopping experience, doing battle with the Indian shop-keepers and street touts. All sorts of goods and services were procured by VSAGers.

A dive on the Suva dropoff the following morning was very disappointing and our group told the dive charter operator what to do with his second dive plan. Another spending frenzy followed before we transferred by coach (3 hour drive) to the "Regent of Fiji" at Nadi. At this point we said goodbye to Alex Talay and Bill and Gloria Hayes, who departed for Melbourne.

JULY 1984

Our stay at the Regent was busy to say the least, as most of us discovered the dreaded "Regent Runs", as well as two more full days of diving and a whole day to shop in Nadi.

The Regent is one of the world's top four resorts and only a stay at the place could explain what it is like. Better still, wait till Andy Mastrowicz shows his video movie of our trip, and a slide night for July meeting is also planned.

Our diving from the Regent turned out to be the highlight of the trip, as we loaded aboard the 60 year old schooner "Seaspray" to dive the islands of Mana, Nggalito and Namotu. The Seaspray was featured in the TV series "Adventures In Paradise", starring Troy Donohue some 20 years ago. Those of you who remember the series can imagine our complete delight at the chance to dive from such a beautiful old vessel.

A Fijian Meke (traditional tribal dancing) was enjoyed by all on our last evening in paradise and rounded off our adventure beautifully.

With cases bulging and arms full of duty free shopping our weary group stepped aboard our Qantas flight at Nadi to return to the Melbourne winter. What a shock!!! What a trip!

A few special moments to remember were:

Bazza in his ballet leotard (coral protection); Peter Brown showing us his Buffalo Bill style on a rent-a-pony at Taveuni; Alisdair's green birthday cake; Two dive cruisers on Taveuni - one for the single guys and one for the married couples; June Scott's spending frenzies; Andy and his video camera with flashing red light; Igor, Bruce & Alex doing a VSAG monster by diving starkers down the white wall drop-opp. OW! That stinging coral! Geoff Birtles lighting his cigar at the wrong end during a meal at Scotts restaurant in Suva! Most uncool!

I will leave descriptions of individual dives to other scribes and ask you all to be present at our July General Meeting where a screening of underwater slides and a video movie will allow you all to enjoy our memories. **

Fiji Pictorial Ps 14 & 15

- 1. Sam, Bazza, Melena, Isabel, Geoff, June, Bob Taveuni airport.
- "Sea Spray" Mamanuca Islands Igor Bruce Russel Geoff Peter &
 Sam, Bazza, Maree dining at The Regent.
- 4. The Sea Spray.
- 5. June & Bob at The Regent.
- 6. The Honeymooners! Igor & Russel.

VALLEY DIVERS SUFFER A BAROTRAUMA

Regular readers may recall our advertisement for new members (Fathoms Dec. '83). This prompted an immediate response from Valley Divers - reprinted below. At the time it was put aside as a reasonably clever little letter deserving of some response when we had nothing better to do - like dive, drink booze and swap lies.

Finally adverse weather conditions provided the opportunity. The rapier wit of John F. Goulding strikes! As is his custom, he keeps smiling while he's delivering the body blows.

Ed.

24th January, 1984 Valley Divers, P.O. Box 302, Heidelberg 3084

To: Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Dear Gentlemen/Ladies,

Re: Offer of Membership

I refer to an item in your most recent periodical, concerning the possibility of enlistment of approximately 35 people in your esteemed association.

The offer itself is most tempting given your organisation's reputation, particularly in relation to the arrangements made for sundry gala(h) events, eg. Xmas functions at Hunters Lodge.

Indeed, it is hardly surprising that a large number of vacancies exist within your group, given the amounts which must be charged in order to accrue such 'healthy', nay, enormous profits from such events.

The various eligibility criteria for prospective members have been duly noted and appraised . . .

Criteria

"... at least 6 months of intensive diving"

Comment

- a laudable aim, although this is slightly 'off the scale' for any dive tables which we believe are currently available.

"... no 'shop-clubclones'." - hardly unique, yet these people need help.
Accordingly, we refer you to our contribution to 'Snorkel to Snorkel' in the Nov. '83 issue of Skindiving in Aust.

Contd. P16





Criteria

"... emphasis upon individual freedom."

Comment (Contd.)

- well, at the prices you must charge, it would certainly be expected.

"...we go down for what we want."

- quite frankly, the Freudian implications left us aghast (and yet, a little interested)!

In regard to the 1983 S.D.F. Ball, this was the third such function arranged by the Valley Divers and, we are exceedingly proud to have a veritable 'cluster' of balls under our belt.

We make no apologies for the 1983 Ball and direct the committee of each club affiliated with the S.D.F. to consider what they did to encourage their own members to attend.

Accordingly, we must unfortunately turn down your generous offer of membership, en masse.

It is submitted, however, that your vast and well publicised experience in arranging 'profitable' functions, makes V.S.A.G. the logical group to be entrusted with the onerous, yet worthwhile task of arranging the 1984 Ball.

Our committee (and no doubt, the S.D.F.) would be most interested in receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully, Richard F. McAliece **

V.S.A.G. P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001 13th June, 1984

To: Valley Divers Club

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 24th January was passed on to me a week ago for reply. Firstly, I should apologise for the 4 month delay in responding to your correspondence, however we have been extremely busy processing applications from new members and attending initiation ceremonies for same.

The general call to the diving population of Australia through our monthly magazine FATHOMS did generate a great deal of response from individuals and clubs, and being mindful of the great traditions with VSAG built up over 30 years of the club's existence, we have had to be very selective in accepting applications to the Group.

In reference to the comments made in your letter, we wish to advise the following -

We do require at least 6 months intensive diving experience and you are quite correct in noting that there are no current dive tables which cater for this. However, by using the reverse coefficient of the multi-level dive table for mixed gases under varying pressures, as detailed in Kronendykes manual on the "Science of Recovering Nuclear Waste Disposal Containers From Depths Exceeding 12000 feet" it is possible to extend dive times in excess of 6 months with complete safety.

I recommend this reading to you as a basic introduction to diving safety.

It is true that we do not accept shop club clones, unless they meet the following criteria

- have a boat of minimum length 25'
- are female
- are male but would like to be female
- love filling tanks on weekend trips
- insist on bring packed lunch & hot soup for entire boat crew

Sorry we missed your article in "Snorkel to Snorkel" but most of us gave up reading that a long time ago.

We place a high emphasis on individual freedom, and this relates to our approach to diving.

We believe that clubs such as ours should have the freedom to dive where we want, for what we want and it is the responsibility of the diver to protect this freedom and preserve the things which make diving so enjoyable. Current moves by the Victorian Government to introduce a Marine Reserve around Wilsons Promontory and still recent restrictions which have prohibited diving in certain areas are just two examples where the bureaucracy is taking away this freedom.

Whilst going down is great, going down and getting it is better!

The S.D.F.V. Ball was disappointing in terms of its financial result, however the 2 tables taken by V.S.A.G. considered that Valley Divers did a good job.

In comparing the loss on the S.D.F. Ball compared to the \$1,223 profit on the V.S.A.G. Xmas function, it would appear that the basic ingredient for success of such a night is only to have people who are filthy rich - that is another pre-requisite of being accepted to V.S.A.G. - you've really got to be loaded! To reinforce this point a little further, the V.S.A.G. 1984

international dive trip takes off on the 5th June and will once again be very heavily patronised due to our progressive way of marketing such trips to the members and establishing special investment financial services which accumulated \$18,775 which enabled them to finance this trip.

Therefore it was never our intention to consider membership from your club en masse, at best it would only have been to pick the eyes out of your group.

We thank you for the offer of arranging the next S.D.F. Ball, however, we have done this some years ago and do not consider the current level of club support (9 clubs represented at last S.D.F. meeting) to warrant a ball this year.

In closing we are truly concerned about the state of the industry, the separatist-like development of dive shops, and the continual intrusion by Government Departments into diving activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to undertake such serious correspondence with you, and should you be looking for members, we can possibly toss a few of our rejects your way.

Yours faithfully,

John F Goulding **

SPECIAL JULY MEETING

Our next General Meeting on July 18th will commence at 8.00 p.m. sharp to allow time for the showing of Andy and Gayle Mastrowicz video movie of the V.S.A.G. Fiji holiday in June.

The movie will be preceded by a showing of slides by Des Williams, including underwater shots of V.S.A.G. divers in action. Fiji photographers who have slides to show should contact me prior to the meeting.

We expect a good turn up of members for what should be a most entertaining night, so please be on time so we can begin our meeting at 8.00 p.m. - See you there.

Visitors most welcome.

Des Williams

V.S.A.G. LEGAL STATUS

CORPORATE AFFAIRS - AN EXPOSE by Don Abell

Well, the editor requested in the May issue of Fathoms, that I contribute two articles a year for this magazine. I have taken his comments as a harsh public rebuke, implying a lack of club spirit on my part. I have consulted my solicitor on the chances of suing Birtles for slander, however having a realistic appreciation of the power of the press, it is probably easier to write a second article. No mean task. A 100 per cent increase in output in a period of two months. Just the sort of statistic which Hawke should use in his next election campaign.

Geoff also asked that I write an article with some humour in it. It seems that "letter to the editor" was a trifle heavy and likely to deter readers who prefer light relief from the day to dayhumdrum which dominates their life. So I thought I would explain the current legal status of VSAG and its implications. You'll really like this. It is the sort of stuff that has them rocking in the aisles at the Corporate Affairs Commission.

QUESTION:

Asked at May general meeting. "Would VSAG be advantaged by incorporating under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981?"

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1981

This Act was passed by the Victorian Parliament in July 1983 and is structured to provide a means by which non-profit making Associations can obtain the benefits of incorporation without having to meet the onerous requirements previously required of all incorporated bodies.

Companies are required to lodge a number of documents with the Corporate Affairs Commission and pay annual charges.

The new Act requires associations incorporated under the Act to lodge the following documents only:

- Application for Incorporation
- Annual Return
- Special Resolutions
- Notification of Public Officer and his address

The charge for each form is small. The benefits are primarily these:-

- Legal Identity

An unincorporated association has no legal identity. Therefore, it must have trustees, purchase property or enter agreements on its behalf.

The new act gives the association legal identity and the ability to enter these arrangements on its own behalf.

Continuity

Without legal identity the association had problems as members changed because the members were the identity. The new Act provides a continuous legal identity. The association will continue unchanged irrespective of changes in members.

Limited Liability

Since the legal identity of an unincorporated association is the individual members of the association, any legal proceedings against the association are taken against the committee. This is worth noting for all community conscious people who are on committees. For example, if the community has a committee to administer the local park (which is the normal situation) the committee members are individually responsible to the public for the park's administration. If a child falls from a broken swing and the parents decide to sue for \$100,000 damages and win the case, each individual on a five man committee must personally pay \$20,000 (in this specific type of situation most local councils have said they would not be able to assist the committee). There are not many examples of such cases in Australia as yet, but who wants to be first.

The new Act provides limited liability to the members and the committee as is the case with a company. Associations are becoming increasingly aware of this and most are seeking incorporation under the new Act.

VSAG POSITION

Now, before you all withdraw your nominations for vacancies on the committee, VSAG has none of the problems listed above. VSAG was incorporated in 1964 as a company limited by guarantee. That means that VSAG is a legal identity, capable of entering contracts, and continues irrespective of turnover of members. The liability of VSAG is limited to a specific amount set out as a guaranteed sum when it incorporated. In our case, the sum is \$20 per member.

Further investigation made two years ago in my capacity as auditor, led me to obtain a copy of the VSAG documents on file at Corporate Affairs. There is one specific document on file which is a certificate issued by the Attorney General of the day, Mr. A. Rylah (later to become Sir Arthur). The document was issued under the provisions of Section 424 of the Act of the day and gives VSAG an automatic exemption from the requirement to lodge documents with the Corporate Affairs Office, other than notification of any change in registered office (currently at the residence of Mr. J. Goulding, Esquire).

The legislation which allowed the exemption changed in 1971, but our exemption continues. This is an interesting position. Very few officers of the Corporate Affairs Commission have come across such an exemption previously. It is no doubt a rare privilege in the current company environment. I would think it also indicates the foresight of those who originally sought incorporation of the club 20 years ago.

COMPARISON

VSAG is required to have an annual audit by law. We have always done this and it should continue irrespective for the benefit of members and the committee, and to give some credibility to Talay's "fly by night" book-keeping. Otherwise the only requirement is to notify changes in registered office.

To change to the new Associations Incorporation Act would cost money. Apart from the change in documentation, there is a \$50 application fee. There is a requirement to lodge a return with the Corporate Affairs Commission annually at a cost of \$20. It is also necessary to notify any change in name and address of the public officer.

The VSAG is incorporated under the Companies (Victoria) Code which is a national legislation. This will be of advantage when we expand VSAG to a national body. The Association Incorporation Act is a state legislation and therefore has cross border problems.

CONCLUSION

VSAG has been given a great deal in its current status. It is administratively easier and cheaper than transferring to the alternative, and provides all the same benefits plus more.

POSTSCRIPT

You can now wipe the tears of laughter from your eyes. It's great to have a good chuckle. Would you believe that all this came from an author who only one month ago was still a literary wasteland following his epic "Letter to the Editor". **

It seems Paulie can now relax - he no longer has to keep his 10 month old election pledge to investigate and advise on this subject.

Fiji Pictorial Ps 14 & 15 Cntd.

- 7. Andy & Gail worn out!
- 8. Sam, Julie, June, Gloria & friends Taveuni village.
- 9. The Chicane 50ft Motor Cruiser, Taveuni.
- 10. Julie, Des, Bill, Alex, Bruce, Gloria Nadi on transit to Taveuni.

GEORGE KERMODE - May 6

Dive Report by Charles Brincat

The official meeting place was Flinders Pier but we unofficially met at Flinders Service Station. Mick (Big M) and his crew pulled in to fill up the boat. John (Jumpsuit) Lawler and I were travelling behind and decided to stop and swap lies. During this exchange Mick's trailer wheel deflated right before our very eyes. "No worries" says Mick, "Got a spare" and wasted no time getting his pit crew (minus Alex) into action. Half an hour later we were still trying to persuade a stubborn wheel nut to let go of its housing.

By this time we had accumulated quite a few club members, most of whom were good on advice but slow on action. Ideas were pooled and we concluded that the operation was similar to the removal of a porthole; 2 sticks of gelly should do the trick! (Just kidding). A hammer and cold chisel was gratefully accepted from the service station attendant (This was prior to the arrival of Birtles and Jensen who each have complete demolition kits on board), and seeing that I was the newest member I was given the nod to start banging away. "Watch your knuckles" advised one of the supervising executives. "No worries" I said. However in my enthusiasm I collected the back of my thumb. "Ah, it's good to see some new blood in the club" said another member as I wiped a tear from the eye. Enough of this initiation, I thought, as I handed the tools to Pat who finished the job in short shift.

We finally reached Flinders Pier. Keith and his crew were in the starting position with motor revving and shouting obsenities. By the time the rest of us got into the water Keith had gone through one tank! I had been assigned to Mick's boat but unfortunately Mick couldn't get it up. (!!! Ed.) The rest of the crew and myself decided to abandon ship and were quickly rescued by the other boats who had responded to our mayday.

As usual G.B. was first on location and had anchored over George in record time in spite of the valuable (?) assistance of his chief navigator/sparring partner.

The weather was beautiful with warm sunshine and smooth seas. Visibility was reasonably good and everybody seemed to enjoy the dive.

Fish life was quite plentiful and Keith demonstrated his skill of catching fish by hand. Unfortunately he seemed to be having some breathing difficulties.

After a bit of lunch we raced back to Flinders and had a second dive pottering around the reefs. However, some members had cooled off and were not quite enthusiastic about a second dive. John came over to my boat and said "How'd you go" which in our language means, did you catch any crays. "Yeh, I got one but it got away." I answered. After the laughter died down I went on to explain that I had actually bagged one but it had escaped through a hole in my bag created by a broken hinge.

The tide was high, with breakers lapping the sea's edge when we reached shore. One enthusiastic captain showed how to surf your boat in and almost landed in the car park without the use of a trailer. However the other captains decided to exit by the conventional method: car engines revving, wheels spinning and 30 metres of rope between car and trailer, ready to slice the legs of any spectator who dared venture near.

By the time all boats had exited it was late in the day, the sun had disappeared and everybody was frozen. No time was wasted in heading off home. **

I think we mentioned in May/June Fathoms that Charles was settling into the club and losing his clone habits fast. It seems the process is faster than we anticipated - he's mixing gossip, lies and innuendo with the best of us. Good one Charles!

Ed.



GEORGE KERMODE - "About to rest". Photo D. Williams

BYRON BAY BECKONS

Interstate Dive Report by Doug Catherill

Take the opportunity if you get it, to travel north (1700 km) to Byron Bay where everything is "go" for great diving.

White and Brown Pointers are common in and <u>out</u> of the water. A steady drive via the Newel Highway will take approx. 18 hours and takes in plenty of scenic countryside.

On arrival your hosts are Greg and Penny Blackburn who are part owners of Byron Bay Dive Centre. They are most helpful and hospitable and can cater for all your dive equipment, hostel or motel accommodation and dive trips at reasonable rates.

Our eleven stayed in the hostel at the dive centre and found it to be quite satisfactory (certainly not luxurous) but for \$6.00 per night (bring your own food and sleeping bag) you don't expect too much.

Byron Bay is alive with restaurants, pubs, shops and an R.S.L., not to mention some of the best surf in Australia. The later of which attracts hundreds of bottle blonds who mix well with a large local yippy community.

Diving at Byron is generally easy and most enjoyable. All our dives were boat dives, launched over the sand, straight into the surf. A well designed dual tilt trailer with 4 wheel drive vehicles makes this operation relatively simple. Dive sites are limited but they've got many names for the same area, so you can log a different name each dive if you are that way inclined.

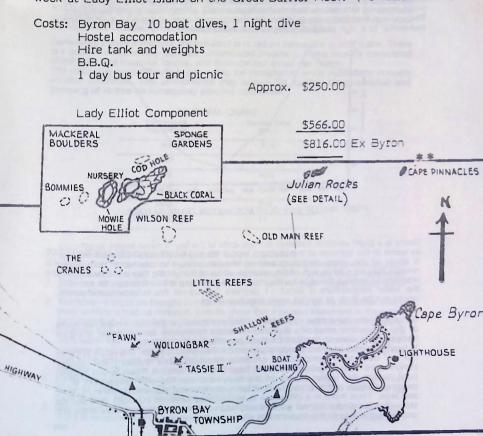
Julian Rocks is the main dive site which is located approx. 2 km off shore and is quite a landmark. A deep and spectacular dive (subject to vis.) is "The Pinnacle", only for experienced divers because it peaks at 90 ft. below sea level and levels off at 150 ft. Big everything is to be seen here. Unfortunately our vis. was only 20 ft. but we did see two 7 ft. rays, 14 ft. grey nurse and part of what looked like an 8 ft. grouper. Great stuff! Apart from some difficulties in finding the anchor line, it was a hassle free dive.

The highlight of our week's diving was a night dive at "The Nursery" which was organised by Greg and Penny and included a school which had just completed their "Open Water".

Boats were launched at sunset on a calm, warm evening and the scene was set for a magic experience.

After dark we slipped into the warm water (long johns only) where we weren't disappointed. The soft corals were very colourful and the fish plentiful. I finished the dive with a ride on an enormous 6 ft. turtle.

Our trip was organized by and booked through Warrick's Dive Centre, Moorabbin and consisted of a week at Byron, followed by a second week at Lady Elliot Island on the Great Barrier Reef. (To follow later).

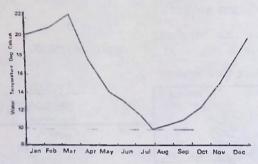


HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is a subject much on the mind of Victorian divers in July. With Bay temperatures at their lowest annual point (10° - 11°C) Hypothermia is a very real possibility for divers who do not take appropriate precautionary measures. The following article was extracted from "A Guide To Safe Boating on Port Phillip Bay" occlished by the Port Philip Authority.

IMMERSION HYPOTHERMIA

The term 'Hypothermia' means lowered deep-body temperature. 'Immersion Hypothermia' is an acute type of hypothermia produced when a person is immersed in cold water. It is of particular interest to those involved with the sea, and it is important that these involved with marine Search and Rescue have an understanding of the subject. The water of Fort Phillip Bay is quite cold. It ranges from a low of 9.5 degrees Celsius in mid-winter to a high of 22 degrees Celsius in the summer.



PORT PHILLIP BAY SURFACE WATER TEMPERATURE

There is a slight variation between the two ends of the bay. It never seems to get quite as warm in the summer at the southern end of the bay as it does in the northern end. A study of the graph depicting survival times in relation to sea water temperature reveals that for a large part of the year the water of Port Phillip Bay is cold enough to represent a serious threat to the life of a person immersed in it. In October, for example, the water temperature is about 11 degrees Celsius—at this temperature a person would not be likely to survive more than four hours.

So as to understand more about this subject and therefore appreciate more fully some of the preventive measures that may be taken to improve survival times, it will be necessary to discuss some of the basic physiology of hypothermia.

In health, normal body temperature is about 36.9 degrees Celsius. This refers to the inner or deep-body temperature which is regulated at a constant and uniform temperature. This is very important for heart and brain function. There is also a superficial region, the outer surface of the body—the skin. The skin temperature is 33 degrees Celsius and it varies, the head being the warmest, followed by the trunk, arms and legs. Thus there is a difference in temperature between the deep core and the skin—this is called a thermal gradient and heat will flow from the deep core to the skin and from the skin to the environment where it will be lost.

"Maintaining the deep core temperature at a constant level is a special centre in the brain. It is sensitive to small changes of deep core temperature and also monitors temperature receptors in the skin. It is also able to put into effect mechanisms necessary to maintain the deep core temperature at a constant level.

Thus the body appears to cope quite well when exposed to cold, heat production keeping up with heat losses. However when the difference in temperature between the cold environment and normal body temperature becomes too great—this is water temperature of 20 degrees Celsius and below—heat losses exceed heat production, the thermo-regulating mechanism is overcome, and the body cools.

EFFECT ON THE BODY AS IT COOLS

Shivering commences almost immediately on immersion and becomes a maximum when the deep core temperature drops to 35 degrees Celsius. Below this temperature mental confusion and disorientation occurs and at 33 degrees shivering is abolished and is replaced by muscular rigidity. Consciousness becomes clouded. At 30 degrees Celsius there is a loss of consciousness, heart and breathing rates become very slow and death from cardiac arrest occurs at about 25 degrees Celsius.

Sometimes a more immediate phenomenon is noted on immersion in cold water. There is a sudden onset of very rapid and uncontrolled breathing. There may be associated chest pains and muscular falique, and even cardiac arrest can occur.

The victim may have difficulty in preventing the inhalation of water particularly in rough weather conditions. This phenomenon may explain the sudden disappearance and drowning of victims on immediately entering cold water.

SURVIVAL CHART

Temperature Deg. Celsius	Survival Time Hours	
9.5	2-3	
11.0	4	
12.0	4-5	
14.0	6	
16.0	7-8	
18.0	10	

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE RATE OF BODY COOLING

It is known that there is considerable variation in the time it takes a body to cool. In other words survival times vary greatly. What are the factors which produce these variations?

 Fat—is a very good insulator and a fat person will survive much longer in cold water than a thin person.

- 2. Exercise—İt might be thought that by increasing heat production by muscular effort, body cooling would be reduced. Results show that a person immersed in the water for longer than 20 minutes at 20 degrees Celsius and below, will increase the rate of heat loss if he exercises. An average person swimming in a life jacket is likely to cool 30% faster than when remaining still. The explanation for this phenomenon is that in exercise the blood flow to the skin, arms and legs is greatly increased allowing the heat to be lost more easily to the environment.
- 3. Alcohol-Cooling rate is Increased by about 20% after drinking alcohol.
- 4. Swimmers—Experienced swimmers are able to survive much longer than the occasional or non-swimmer. They are able to adapt to the cold, and also they build up their fat layer through constant training.
- Clothing—Clothing has a remarkably large effect in the overall rate of heat loss.
 There is no question that a clothed person cools much less rapidly than a nude person.

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PREVENTION OF THE EFFECTS OF IMMERSION HYPOTHERMIA

With the use of infra-red ray techniques it has been possible to define the areas on the body where there is high heat loss. In addition to the head, the sides of the chest (where there is little muscle or fat), the groins and armpits are areas of high heat loss.

Survival time is increased by 50% if a person adopts a posture in the water which protects these areas of high heat loss. It is designated H.E.L.P. (Heat Escape Lessening Posture). The technique involves holding the inner side of the arms tight against the side of the chest. Also the thighs are flexed or raised so as to close off the groin region. The wearing of a specially designed jacket called the 'Thermofloat Jacket' offers the victim the advantages of flotation as well as protection against heat loss from the vital areas and increases chances of survival four-fold.

TREATMENT OF HYPOTHERMIA VICTIM Basic principles:

1. Remove the victim from the cold-inducing environment.

2. Protect from cold wind-a large polythene bag is useful to enclose victim. Cut off

wet clothing, wrap lightly in blankets.

3. Concentrate supplying warmth to the areas of high heat loss, i.e. head and neck, sides of chest, armpits and groins. Depending on equipment available, this may be in the form of placing the victim in a bath of stirred warm water at 40 to 42 degrees Celsius if naked, or water at 44 degrees Celsius if clothed. The arms and legs should not be in the bath, nor should they be rubbed or massaged as part of first aid treatment. The reason for this is that the limbs contain cold blood which will return to the deep core circulation if the limbs are stimulated by warm water immersion or massage. The effect of the return of cold blood is to cause a further drop in the deep core temperature. This is called 'after drop' and may be of the order of 3 degrees Celsius—enough to make a victim's condition deteriorate further. Other methods of applying warmth include the application of specially heated pads to the high heat loss areas, heating the inspired air of the victim, and in the absence of equipment the warmth from a rescuer's body may be used, the rescuer lying against the victim. Victims only mildly affected by hypothermia will need no more than removal of their wet clothes and a hot shower.

4. Unconscious hypothermia victims indicate a serious degree of cooling—deep core temperature of 30 degrees Celsius or less. They require special care. The airway must be kept open and clear and ventilation of the lungs may be necessary using expired air resuscitation, or oxygen if available. The victim must be handled very gently and warmed carefully, as cardiac failure and arrest can easily be precipitated at this

low temperature.

5. A hypothermia victim who is shivering will be conscious and his deep core temperature will not be below 33 degrees Celsius. He may therefore appear to be satisfactory but because of the 'after-drop' phenomenon his condition may suddenly deteriorate as his deep core temperature drops. Constant observation of the hypothermia victim following recovery from the sea is thus of vital importance and the rescuer must be prepared to carry out the principles of management of an unconscious victim and also be able to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation should this become necessary.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENT

- Remove victim from the cold-inducing environment.
- 2. Protect victim from cold wind.
- Warm the areas of high heat loss, i.e. head and neck, sides of chest, armpits and groins. Do not warm, rub or massage the limbs.

4. Observe victim for deterioration in condition.

Manage unconscious victim by placing in the lateral position, making sure airway is clear, and performing cardio-pulmonary resuscitation if necessary. Continue warming procedure.

Seek medical aid.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR JULY '84

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	DIVE CAPTAIN	MEET AT
July 14	Social Night - Caberet	Mick Jeacle (059)712786	7.30 p.m. North Melb. F/C
July 18	General Meeting - North Mel Fiji Slides and Video film	bourne Football	Club 8.00 p.m.
July 22	Dive Flinders Area	Paul Tipping 387 2027	Flinders Pier 9.30 a.m.
August 4 (Saturday)	Snow Trip (One Day) Mt. Buller	J. Goulding 890 6634	
August 12	Dive "Kakariki"	Des Williams 762 1730	9.30 a.m. St. Kilda Marina
August 15	General Meeting - North Melb	oourne Football	Club 8.00 p.m.
August 26	Dive Outside Heads (Sub)	M. Jeacle (059)712786	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
Sept. 1	Social Night	M. Jeacle (059)712786	T.B.A.
Nov. 3 (Melb Cup W/E)	Dive Weekend Mt. Gambier	G. Birtles 846 1983	Queen Elizabeth Caravan Park
Nov. 23	Dive Weekend Victoria Towers/Inverlochie		T.B.A. Queenscliffe
Xmas	Dive Holiday Eden	G. 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.

See Treasurer Ph. 7723085