

# FATHOMS

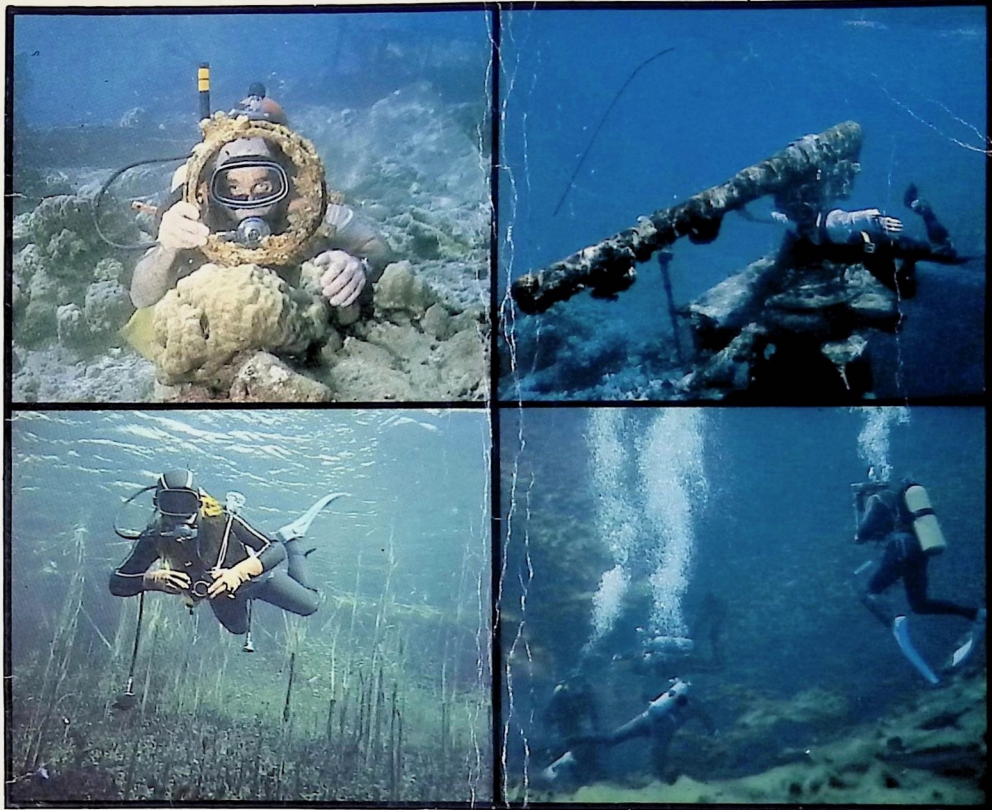
MAY/JUNE 84



## SAFETY IN DIVING

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# 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. (Photo by Tony Tipping). *Bottom left:* VSAG diver Justin Liddy at Ewens Ponds. Mt. Gambier. (Photo by David Carroll). *Bottom right:* VSAG divers Barry Truscott, Tony Tipping, Paul Ster and Justin Liddy at Ewens Ponds. Mt. Gambier. (Photo by David Carroll).

# VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

# VSAG

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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 legislative measures that place prohibitive limitations and restrictions on diving activities.

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

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

# FATHOMS

Official journal of the Victorian, Sub—Aqua Group

## In this issue:

MAY/JUNE 1984

### COMMUNICATION

Editorial	G.R. Birtles	2
Committee Report		5
SDF-V Report	J. Goulding	7
Social News	M. Jeacle	8
Dive/Social Calendar		28
VSAG Overseas Savings Fund	G.R. Birtles	20

### ENTERTAINMENT

Letter to the Editor	D. Abell	9
Flotsam and Jetsam	J. Goulding	13
Reluctant Drifter	M. Jeacle	21
Going Down	A. Talay	24

### TECHNICAL/EDUCATION

Current Diving	G.R. Birtles	16
Now Nikonos V	K. Jensen	19
Knot Craft	G.R. Birtles	23

### FISHY POLITICS

Commercial Round-up	G.R. Birtles	27
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### Next general meeting:

Wednesday, June 20, 8.00 p.m.  
North Melbourne Football Club  
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

### Next committee meeting:

- (i) Tuesday May 22, Paul Tipping's
- (ii) Tuesday June 26, Mick Jeacle's  
8.00 p.m.

## EDITORIAL

Sport diving has certainly taken a media battering over the past month. Two divers bent in very strange circumstances at the Prom and the tragic death of a second pair of divers at Pics.

Diver certification bodies and dive magazines have done much to remove the macho image from SCUBA diving. But! The simple fact remains that diving is potentially dangerous with severe penalties for bad luck, incompetence or carelessness. Death, Paralysis, Osteo-bone necrosis, Brain and Lung damage.



Dive industry gurus would argue that this needn't be and they are probably right. But for any physical sport to have any sustaining interest and/or challenge it must have an element of danger, i.e. be potentially life threatening, e.g. rock climbing, hang gliding, water ski racing, motor cross etc.

An important reason for the growing popularity of SCUBA diving is its flexibility. It does have something to offer everyone that loves the water. Be they timid self styled marine biologists, newly emergent females or genuine adventurers prepared to take calculated risks.

Diving deaths are tragic but it is important to keep one's perspective. "Ultimate" safety cannot be a common denominator for all divers in all situations (this does not condone foolish risk taking). One hopes that these unfortunate occurrences will not throw the CDAA executive and S.A. Government into a paranoic frenzy of further regulatory bureaucracy. The CDAA have done a good job (any one of their publications will tell you so - over and over again).

Zero caving fatalities for a decade are tribute to a system that is working. It couldn't go on, the odds were too high. Odds that multiplied daily with the ever increasing number of cave diving graduates being churned out in the fiercely competitive diver education business.

This is not an attempt to be a portent of doom but I suggest that we will see more caving deaths and more bends incidences in the future. A situation that we will not get used to but will have to accept. There is always a price to pay in a physical contest against nature. The only way to avoid it is not to make the challenge. Such a situation is simply not acceptable to many sportsmen. And no amount of regulation is going to change this!

\* \* \* \* \*

Rumour has it that the Prom divers suffered bends because they could not maintain depth during a mandatory decompression stop. This is a timely reminder to VSAG divers to watch their technique on the deep sub dives. Time and again I have seen positively buoyant divers lifting the deco line during decompression. I have twice seen divers decompressing on the surface (!!) whilst looking down at a deco line or anchor rope that they have lifted 10 ft. as a result of poor buoyancy control. (True story).

The message here is clear. Wear sufficient weight to be slightly negatively buoyant at 10 ft. with an empty tank. Wear a good BC to completely counter the effect of this excess weight at depth. Practise good buoyancy control technique at all times. Be aware that strong surface currents will sweep you and a deco line sideways and upwards (and we get them on the subs). Do not attempt mandatory decompression unless you are confident of relocating and ascending the anchor (and have plenty of air).

\* \* \* \* \*

It is my sad duty to report that Bob Scott has resigned (for personal reasons) from the VSAG committee after 6 hard working years. During that time he has served as Social Secretary, Point Scorer and Safety Officer. We will miss your friendly and valuable contribution Bob, but still look forward to seeing you on club dives.

Welcome to new members Charles Brincat and Digby Stanhope Thackeray. (Couldn't resist the full name). Charles has been diving with the club for some time now and it's interesting to watch his clone habits gradually fade away. Digby is very much on probation! A good friend of mine he spent an entire dive knocking my boat and saying how much more comfortable clone charters were. His checkout dive will be on the "Bill Boat". We'll soon discover if he has any heart!

Our President, Des Williams, has also asked me to formally welcome Keith Jensen to the committee. No doubt he's already wondering what he's got himself into after the fisticuffs at the last committee meeting. Welcome Keith.

This month Fathoms is very lucky to have plenty of interest on a diverse range of topics and issues. My thanks to Don Abell for an excellent contribution (he does this about once a year), I think it's an attempt at humour, Alex Talay for reporting on our Easter sortie, Mick Jeacle for his pack of lies about me, Keith Jensen for an interesting and informative product review and Dinah Mite for her highly entertaining gossip. Thank you, thank you!

There will not be a June issue of Fathoms as all editorial staff will be in Fiji - plenty of time for would be scribes to put pen to paper, but no letters to the editor, I can't take any more!

Geoff Birtles \*

## CLUB 'T'SHIRTS

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

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

"Surf shirt" style (soft collar and sleeves) in pale blue with stunning 3 colour logo \$7.00 each. (+ postage \$2.00). All sizes including children from 8 years up.

Limited quantity only.

See Treasurer

## XMAS '84

Eden it is! Mick survived a shark attack and I survived the booze on an exhaustive (or exhausting) check-out trip and can report that this years camp promises to be a boomer.

Local Ab diver "Jarva" Jervis & his deckie Johny Morrel have given us the inside running on many local wrecks, secret cray haunts and local watering holes. Great family spot with many picturesque beaches, water skiing & Yachting.

Ten camp sites have been booked at Two Fold Beach Caravan Park (first class facilities). These will be allocated to those who make a firm commitment for 14 days with a \$25 deposit at the June meeting.

Contact Geoff Birtles/Mick Jeacle.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting held at John and Maree Goulding's home. Tuesday May 1, 1984.  
All committee present.

### Treasurer's Report

Cash at Bank	\$1,343.43
Cash on Hand	190.00
Building Society	<u>779.64</u>
	\$2,313.24
Bills for payment:	
Mick Jackiw - Air	\$ 22.00
Annual Post Box	\$ 57.00

### Dive Calendar

No changes to previous.

### New Members

Charles Brincat	Accepted
Digby Thackeray	Accepted - subject to check out dive

### Business

- (i) Letter of committee resignation from Bob Scott. Accepted with regret by President and committee.
- (ii) Discussion on Associations Incorporation Act. Birtles reported that Isaac Appel (a solicitor specialising in this area) saw many advantages to VSAG and no penalties arising out of discontinuing present situation. Action P. Tipping
- (iii) Treasurer reported total outgoings for compressor maintenance of \$637.18 for past 12 months.

Net income from airfills \$51 after payments to Mick Jackiw of \$213.

It was suggested by Birtles that the 2:1 ratio (i.e. Mick Jackiw \$2, Club \$1) for air receipts was inequitable, given that both compressors ran for similar duration and that boat owners (with a significantly larger investment and much higher running costs) did not expect commercial rates of return on club dives or a return related to H.P. and capacity. Much heated debate and nothing resolved. To be discussed next meeting.

Members should note that present ratio is effectively 4:1 (i.e. \$4 MJ, \$1 club) because of \$1 prepaid fill list dating back to compressor purchase. i.e. 2:1 ratio is applied to nett receipts not total air fills.

- (iv) SDF have not paid their share of P.O. box costs for past two years.  
Action Goulding
- (v) Editor reported that late committee meeting meant that Fathoms could not be ready for the May General meeting.
- (vi) Keith Jensen volunteered to take over point scoring role vacated by Bob Scott - accepted.
- (vii) A draft submission on the proposed Wilsons Prom Marine Reserve has now been released. Effectively it prohibits any diving for fish or crayfish anywhere. Obviously individual submissions, submissions by the SDF, AUF and VSAG have not been noted - nor has a copy of the draft been forwarded to interested parties in opposition to the move.

It was also noted that commercial interests have been "brought off" with the right to "fish for life" subject to holding an existing licence.

Obviously the invitation for submissions from interested parties was a bureaucratic exercise in "public snowing" and as predicted the Reserve will go ahead, in spite of considerable opposition from the interested public and local residents/businessmen. No doubt Prom crays will be parading little billboards proclaiming they are reserved for commercial fishermen!  
Action Goulding and every interested diver

Fisticuffs finished at 11.00 p.m. Thanks to Maree for a calor-terrific supper. (Her "sniggers" in the background provided refreshing moments of sanity to an emotive night). \*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Would the member presently holding the "points book" please return it to Des Williams or Keith Jensen urgently!

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## S.D.F-V REPORT

by J. Goulding - VSAG SDF Delegate

The April meeting of the Scuba Divers Federation was attended by John Goulding.

The following major points were discussed at the meeting.

1. Russell Hooper from the Sports Federation of Victoria will attend the next SDF-V meeting in June to discuss the subject of Incorporation. This meeting will be held on 5th June.
2. There are currently 15 financial clubs in SDF-V, and a follow-up is to be made with all diving clubs to build up SDF-V to its former strength of over 30 clubs.
3. An SDF-V newsletter is to be commenced which will be distributed to member clubs.
4. A grant of \$700 has been obtained from the Government for the purpose of conducting seminars.
5. Two seminars are planned:
  - (a) May 15th at North Melbourne Football Club -  
Understanding Underwater  
Neville Coleman  
Mark Stanforth  
Cost \$3.00 per head  
Time: 8.00 p.m.
  - (b) June 23rd North Melbourne Football Club  
Sex and the Sea/Sex and the Diver  
Reg Lipson  
Dr. Janene Mannerhein  
Dr. John Knight  
Cost - no charge  
Time: 8.00 p.m.
6. SDF-V have been granted \$1000 for support of Victoria's 150th Year Celebrations.
7. C.A.S. Insurances Limited are putting together a diver's insurance proposal. Cost will be \$7.00/head/annum.
8. Speed limits around Marine Reserves have been lifted. (the limit was 8 knots).

## CARVERY A CARVE-UP!

Social News - by Big Mick Jeacle

Well, our first social night for 1984 was somewhat of a failure. Only 19 people attended and as a result one wonders whether to persevere with the concept, or merely run say 2 or 3 functions per year.

The main reason for these functions is to create a feeling of well being in the club, and to provide an opportunity for those partners who do not dive to meet and/or mix socially in a pleasant atmosphere.

Do we want these social outings?

Is the cost excessive?

Are the drink drive laws preventing attendance?

Was there not enough notice given for the first engagement?

As a consequence, it has been decided to cancel the night planned for May 26th. This decision was not made lightly, and was largely due to the overseas trip set down for June 5th. Those going on the trip would no doubt prefer to save their money for that special outing in Fiji.

The next outing will be at North Melbourne Football Club Social Club on 14th July, 1984. Details are as follows:

Time: 7.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m.

Cost: \$19.00 per head, plus drinks at bar prices

Features: 3 course meal, dancing and floor show

Entertainment: Peter Kaye, English comedian, singer, impressionist and star of the show "The Comedians".

Peter has been support artist to international acts like Gene Pitney and Dionne Warwick, and operates out of Sydney. This is a great opportunity to see an artist not ordinarily seen in Melbourne.

Please note that we have only been allocated 60 tickets, so distribution will be on a "first in" basis. A deposit of \$10 per head is payable at the May/June General meetings; for those not attending these meetings, please telephone me to reserve a spot and forward your cheque in the mail. The night represents excellent value as the food is great and the floor show spans some 2 hours.

So what about it? Let's make this a good night, your Social Secretary needs a boost in confidence. (Poor M! Ed.)

Keep an eye on future dates (page 28 March Fathoms). Venues will be advised progressively. Note: 20 tickets have already been placed with the committee. First in - best dressed! Visitors welcome. \*

## LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Mr. Birtles,

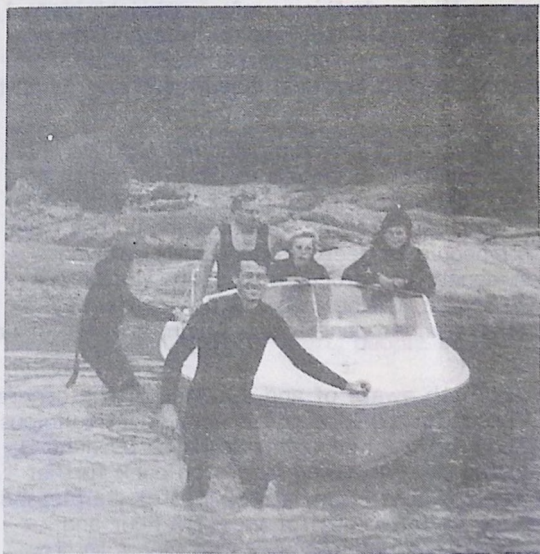
It is with concern that I feel the necessity for this letter to be written. I wonder at the quality and content of the material being printed in Fathoms and ask - is it not time that those responsible for the publication took a firm stand to protect the reader from the less desirable articles being written.

As one example I must refer to the recent "Flotsam and Jetsam" article on buddy diving. Should a club of the reputation of V.S.A.G. with "Safety in Diving" as its motto, be seen to treat with disdain one of the basic rules for safe diving.

More importantly, I do not believe this to be the general opinion of the club. The buddy system appears to be followed rigidly by many members

in the club. At our recent Easter dive trip it was quite obvious that those men who did not take wives or girlfriends buddied up very early in the weekend. As the days passed and the dives and women were few to be had, it was pleasing to see the buddy system growing and developing into sincere and meaningful relationships.

I have no doubt that Flotsam and Jetsam is just another piece of frivolous journalism structured with the sole intent of selling magazines. The writer does not even show the strength of character to sign his own name and I ask where will



Author of this letter, Don Abell beaching Bazza's boat. Keith (in boat) still looking tense, son Peter looking relieved, Gary's daughter, Rachelle looking beautiful (watch out Dad!) and Tony looking saintly (his "after church" look). Photo Credit: Nicki Abell. Thanks.

this end. If the club aim is merely to sell magazines, should we next resort to (God forbid) "Fathoms Bingo". Higher levels of publication would surely make the club a prime takeover target for the Murdochs and Holmes a Courts of this world. From there to the ultimate defiling of page 3, a resuscitation doll without a single technical instruction.

The immediate future would appear to be the right time to adopt a more stringent editorial policy. Having just spent four or five days on the Easter sojourn, many of the participants will be tempted to write articles which are both defamatory and lack common decency.

It is not necessary to bring to the attention of all readers, Keith Jensen's personal problems with navigation, a problem exemplified when Keith dropped Mick and Doug overboard after our dive, to get Keith's car and guide the boat to shore, only to have Doug swim back to the boat explaining that we were at the wrong beach. Furthermore, Keith's description of a policeman escorting a gentleman of questionable sexual preferences (i.e. he was bent) to jail with the captive following very close BEHIND, is not the sort of material for general publication in Fathoms, a magazine once compared to National Geographic and found to weigh considerably less.

All those present at Easter suspect that Igor did a lot more diving than the other club members. Igor regularly disappeared, only to return 45 minutes later with a grin resembling a Steinway piano. Surely this is Igor's private business and I consider that Pat Reynolds should not have been renting out that box for people to peer through Igor's caravan window. Pat should at least donate the proceeds of \$640 (alternative forms of entertainment were scarce) to the club. Gone are the days of Igor surviving in his fully self-contained panel van. Again, an item of no merit for the magazine.

Perhaps we should all be made both aware of and ashamed of the general derision suffered by Tony Tipping for sticking to his very strict religious beliefs. We all know that Tony has a lot of points to catch up if he is to make the big cray dive in the sky (where no ledges go back further than 12 inches). Other members should, especially at Easter, be pleased to stand on the beach twiddling their thumbs for an extra hour and using up valuable fuel waiting for the only member who elects to stay behind vigorously rubbing his rosary beads.

As far as Alex and Pat are concerned, I recommend that the editor destroys all correspondence he receives which deals with these two.

Comments from Pat like "I know Alex is ugly but I couldn't find a wombat" are definitely out of line. I am sure I am not the only person who, when passing Pat and Alex's tent, heard Alex yell: "Take the paper bag off Pat, I want to kiss you". We know this is not the first time Pat has been used and callously cast aside, but material like this could ruin the future of these men or, even worse, make them a lot more popular next Easter.

I would want it known that I do have a sense of humour, but some jokes should be left to selective company only. Anyone reporting jokes told about nurses and camels (as the night wore on) should be ignored. Although Alex won the joke of the night award for explaining that a corgi in a state of sexual euphoria would need to walk up stairs backwards, I question whether this material is appropriate for Fathoms.

I could continue but my point should be made. It is surely the editor's responsibility to require some standards. Some people are apt to be carried away in a camping environment. I am sure, Mr. Editor, that you would understand, as a person who used to go camping in his younger days.

Trusting you will give your serious consideration to printing articles of a serious technical and discussion nature, rather than cheap journalism of questionable literary worth.

Yours truly,

DON ABELL

Or, to cut a long story short, people in two-storey houses shouldn't keep corgis.

EDITOR'S RESPONSE \* \*

(Written from the study of his two storey house guarded by corgis).

Don baby - I'm glad I'm not in your shoes. By the time "Howard Doyoudo" finishes mincing you up in the July issue, you won't be good enough for cat's meat!

Actually, I'm wondering what Howard said to provoke this vitriol. I thought he defended the buddy system pretty well - one of this

anonymous but highly respected writer's better efforts. In any event I'm glad it took the flak off me - or perhaps you didn't catch that issue.

As editor it would be nice to be in a position to protect readers from less desirable articles. Unfortunately, I do not get enough contributions to exercise this kind of discretion. So I've published your letter for want of something better! Occasionally the editorial axe does fall - see if you can find the scars.

In regard to your suggestion on the need for more serious Fathoms contributions, you will be pleased to know that I am currently preparing a definitive paper on "Beards, K'rki & Underwater Tourism at the Prom" or "Paint me black and kill a Dugong". (If our readers can catch onto your sense of humour, maybe they'll catch onto mine!)

On a more serious note; thank you for your annual contribution - can we make it a bi-annual joust?

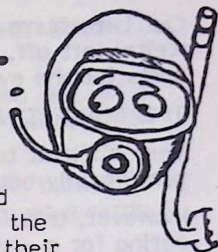
GRB \*

### TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP HEADS. JUNE, 1984.

Month Day	Week Day	High Water.				Slack Water Flood (Stream Turns).				Low Water.				Slack Water Ebb (Stream Turns).				Week Day	Month Day
		h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.				
1	F	01 09	1.3	13 33	1.6	03 20	0.8	16 23	1.1	06 21	0.3	19 13	0.7	09 57	0.9	22 08	1.0	F.	1
2	Sa	01 12	1.3	14 15	1.6	04 01	0.8	17 06	1.1	07 00	0.2	19 57	0.7	10 38	0.9	22 51	1.0	Su.	2
3	Su	01 44	1.3	14 57	1.6	04 43	0.7	17 49	1.1	07 41	0.2	20 40	0.7	11 19	0.9	23 34	1.0	Su.	3
4	M	02 27	1.3	15 41	1.6	05 27	0.7	18 33	1.1	08 27	0.1	21 25	0.6	12 04	0.9	24 09	M.	4	
5	Tu	03 15	1.3	16 27	1.6	06 16	0.7	19 18	1.1	09 17	0.2	22 09	0.6	00 20	1.0	12 52	0.9	Tu.	5
6	W	04 12	1.3	17 15	1.6	07 08	0.8	20 03	1.1	10 04	0.2	22 51	0.6	01 11	1.0	13 40	0.9	W.	6
7	Th	05 13	1.3	18 03	1.6	08 03	0.8	20 49	1.0	10 52	0.3	23 34	0.5	02 02	1.0	14 28	0.9	Th.	7
8	Fa	06 18	1.4	18 50	1.5	08 59	0.9	21 35	1.0	11 40	0.5	24 18	0.5	02 56	1.0	15 15	1.0	F.	8
9	Sa	07 24	1.4	19 38	1.5	09 57	1.0	22 25	1.0	00 19	0.5	12 29	0.6	03 52	1.0	16 04	1.0	Sa.	9
10	Su	08 32	1.4	20 30	1.5	11 00	1.1	23 22	1.0	01 12	0.5	13 27	0.8	04 52	1.0	16 59	1.1	Su.	10
11	M	09 43	1.5	21 29	1.5	12 13	1.2	24 13	1.2	02 13	0.5	14 42	0.9	05 58	1.0	18 06	1.2	M.	11
12	Tu	10 52	1.6	22 31	1.4	00 28	1.0	13 34	1.3	03 27	0.5	16 16	0.9	07 10	1.0	19 24	1.2	Tu.	12
13	W	11 53	1.7	23 29	1.4	01 33	0.9	14 40	1.3	04 35	0.4	17 27	0.9	08 14	1.1	20 28	1.2	W.	13
14	Th	12 48	1.7	24 21	1.3	02 31	0.9	15 37	1.3	05 32	0.4	18 25	0.9	09 10	1.1	21 25	1.2	Th.	14
15	F	00 24	1.5	13 37	1.8	03 23	0.9	16 27	1.3	06 22	0.3	19 17	0.8	10 00	1.0	22 15	1.1	F.	15
16	Sa	01 12	1.4	14 20	1.7	04 11	0.9	17 15	1.2	07 09	0.3	20 09	0.8	10 45	1.0	23 03	1.1	Sa.	16
17	Su	01 57	1.4	15 03	1.7	04 57	0.8	18 00	1.2	07 57	0.3	20 57	0.7	11 30	1.0	23 49	1.0	Su.	17
18	M	02 40	1.4	15 41	1.6	05 42	0.8	18 40	1.1	08 43	0.3	21 39	0.6	12 12	1.0	24 12	1.0	M.	18
19	Tu	03 22	1.3	16 16	1.6	06 25	0.8	19 18	1.1	09 27	0.3	22 19	0.6	00 31	1.0	12 52	0.9	Tu.	19
20	W	04 04	1.3	16 51	1.5	07 06	0.8	19 53	1.0	10 07	0.4	22 55	0.5	01 12	0.9	13 29	0.9	W.	20
21	Th	04 49	1.3	17 23	1.5	07 47	0.8	20 27	1.0	10 45	0.4	23 30	0.5	01 52	0.9	14 04	1.0	Th.	21
22	F	05 37	1.2	17 56	1.5	08 30	0.9	21 01	1.0	11 22	0.5	24 12	0.5	02 34	0.9	14 39	1.0	F.	22
23	Sa	06 27	1.2	18 31	1.4	09 13	0.9	21 37	1.0	00 05	0.5	11 38	0.6	03 16	0.9	15 18	1.0	Sa.	23
24	Su	07 17	1.3	19 06	1.4	09 58	1.0	22 15	1.0	00 42	0.5	12 56	0.7	04 00	0.9	15 52	1.0	Su.	24
25	M	08 13	1.3	19 45	1.4	10 48	1.0	22 59	0.9	01 24	0.5	13 23	0.8	04 49	0.9	16 34	1.1	M.	25
26	Tu	09 17	1.3	20 30	1.3	11 50	1.1	23 51	0.9	02 13	0.5	14 23	0.9	05 45	0.9	17 27	1.1	Tu.	26
27	W	10 23	1.4	21 24	1.3	13 05	1.1	24 58	0.9	03 12	0.5	15 46	0.9	06 48	0.9	18 35	1.1	W.	27
28	Th	11 25	1.4	22 28	1.3	00 47	0.9	14 10	1.2	04 10	0.4	16 55	0.9	07 48	0.9	19 42	1.1	Th.	28
29	F	12 18	1.5	23 30	1.3	01 43	0.8	15 03	1.2	04 58	0.3	17 47	0.9	08 38	0.9	20 39	1.1	F.	29
30	Sa	13 06	1.6	24 37	1.6	02 37	0.8	15 51	1.2	05 44	0.3	18 35	0.8	09 25	0.9	21 31	1.1	Sa.	30



## FLOTSAM & JETSAM



Well, it's that time again when F & J announces the coveted Easter awards. These awards were first introduced by this column in 1973. Now 11 years later they represent the highest honours which can be bestowed on VSAG members, their families and their friends.

But before leaping into the awards let's first set the scene. Picture in your mind the blue haze of a sun drenched ocean shimmering in the stillness of a windless autumn day. Along endless golden beaches gentle wavelets barely kiss the shore whilst behind the sand dunes the tranquility of the elements is disturbed by the hustle of divers preparing for the day's activities. That's the way we would have liked to describe Easter. Unfortunately Easter at Wilson's Prom this year would be better described as wind, rain and storms.

Still, while this drenched most people on the outside it's remarkable that most spirits were not dampened - I never saw Alex add water to his scotch or Doug dilute his rum with coke!

With only one day's diving possible, there was plenty of non-diving activity which needed to be assessed for the Awards competition.

Finally, after careful consideration of all entrants it is with pleasure that Flotsam and Jetsam announces the following 1984 Easter Award Winners:

### THE CUDDLY COUPLE AWARD

There were several entrants in this category with the odds-on favourites being Terry and Sally Brooks. Terry's recent promotion to head pornography watcher has meant his transfer to Canberra, whilst Sally has been tidying up the family affairs in Melbourne. So there was plenty of money riding on a Brooks victory. However a win by the Brooks would set a precedent. It is believed that the "Cuddly Couple" award has never been won by a husband and wife team, although many prize winners have ended up as marrieds. Also in the running were Igor and Emma, and the father and son team of Tony Tipping and young Marcus. Unfortunately none of these entrants took off the prize. In true V.S.A.G. spirit the Cuddly Couple award goes to Alex Talay and Pat Reynolds.

Our two chums seem to be taking over where the odd couple (Max and Keith) left off. The lads were a perfect match and were excellent hosts for the evening get togethers.

#### THE MALE CHAUVINIST AWARD

Very difficult to pick a clear winner in this category owing to the gentlemanly behaviour of all the lads (and the absence of Geoff Birtles)!

However, there is one man amongst us who by his actions and lack of caring for a woman's point of view forced his will upon her with complete indifference to her own desires. That beast of a man who brought his own brand of chauvinism from a far-off land is Brian Lynch.

In an eruption of male chauvinistic mastery Brian insisted that Di and the kids pack up at first light on Easter Saturday morning and head home. Apparently Di, and the family were just getting used to the complete saturation when Brian pulled the pin, spat the dummy and sought the comforts of home.

#### THE SUPERMAN AWARD

It is said that Igor Chernishov has his own set of weights and each night spends about 30 minutes "pumping iron".

Well, it seems he forgot to take the iron down to the prom but he did take Emma! For poor Igor, iron pumping will never be the same again.

It is said that people's behaviour is influenced by the work they do. Most people know that Terry Brooks is chief film censor and spends a good part of his time watching films like "JUICY LUCY, THE SEX GODDESS OF MANANGATANG" - In keeping with his image and the things he learns from such highly intellectual programmes, Terry argued at camp with not only wife Sally but also a little number from Canberra called Kate.

So at the close of counting the two contestants were Igor and Terry and unfortunately there is no clear winner. Igor put up a strong and consistent performance, however it was perhaps unfair to pit him as a first year trier against Terry and his twosome.

It is therefore the judges decision to award both Igor and Terry with the Superman award.

#### THE MOST USELESS AWARD

Mum always used to say, "don't pick on little kids and old ladies!" - no sense of daring! Anyway - with more of the club members



encouraging their children to dive, here comes our first "Hit a Kid" complaint.

But the most useless award goes to young Peter Jensen who fell off a bike and went foot first into a tree trunk and thus caused father Keith to miss one of the night's great entertainment sessions.

Never mind Pete, you've made it into the record books, and before your'e much older you might take off some of the other great awards.

#### THE EASTER MAIDEN AWARD

This eagerly sought-after award is presented to the fairest maiden within the camp, yet it is the one award which has the judge on tenderhooks for weeks afterwards as once, fair maidens released their revenge on finding out that they missed out.

Several times the award has been presented to all the ladies, then on other occasions in a completely fair and unbiased way I have presented my own sweet little (98 kg) MURGATROYD with the prize.

However this year, at the risk of again being attacked and mugged in the streets, I must make the award to one individual.

Nicki Abell is the 1984 Easter Maid and wins this award by impressing the judge with her total honesty in describing Easter at Wilson's Promontory as a "Real Cultural Experience".

Signed

DINAH MITE \*

\* \* \* \* \*

#### S.D.F.-V (Contd.) from p.7

9. SDF-V and AUF have agreed to work closely on matters relating to :
  - \* Port Rule 62A (which bans anchoring and diving in certain parts of the Bay)
  - \* Wilsons Prom Marine Reserves.
10. SDF-V are seeking an information sheet about each club for display purposes at Oceans '84. \*

## CURRENT DIVING

### EQUIPMENT and TECHNIQUES

By Geoff Birtles - Safety Officer

There is little doubt that the Port Phillip Heads area offers some of the best diving in the world. Steep drop-offs, abundant corals, big fish, small fish, crayfish, sharks, dolphins, seals, old bottles and of course clones - who needs to travel?!

Unfortunately all of the good diving is subject to extraordinarily strong currents, like 8 - 10 knots. Slack water (between the turn of the tidal flow) occurs on 3 to 4 occasions in each 24 hours but only for 15-25 minutes. Usually in the middle of the night - or at least it seems that way.

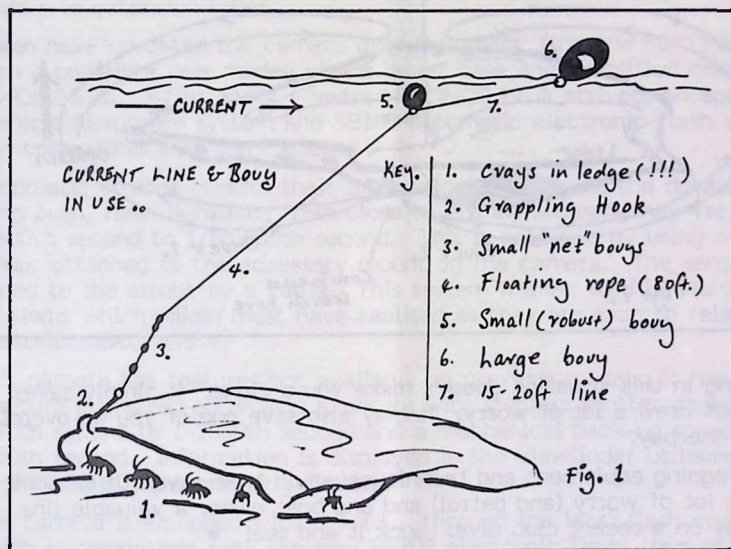
To dive the Heads area with any degree of flexibility or regularity means current diving - more often than not in strong winds with short sloppy seas.

With appropriate preparation and proper execution, current diving is rewarding, a lot of fun and very safe. Mishandle the situation and there is much drama - usually for the boat crew who seemingly spend endless hours rehearsing various alibis for the coroners court as they search for missing divers - who also spend seemingly endless hours contemplating overnight hypothermia on the high seas and giant sharks nipping off the lower half of their torso.

Current diving requires special equipment and special technique. A current line and buoy is essential, both to your safety and the peace of mind of your crew. Properly constructed, it will indicate your location to the boat crew at any given time. Make it wrong and it's a pain in the butt. It will snag in rocks and/or disappear beneath the seas each time you shelter in the lee of a ledge.

Figure 1. illustrates a workable design. It should be constructed from floating line (e.g. ski-rope) be about 30-40% longer than the deepest depth, have a light grappling hook at one end and two buoys at the other, spaced about 10-12 ft. apart. The lower buoy should be reasonably small (about 8") and robust, the end buoy large and colourful. A small reef anchor (perhaps with two of the four prongs cut off) makes an ideal grappling hook because it can easily be freed from the bottom by boat crew when necessary. Further flotation should be provided to the first 10 ft. of line by way of small net buoys - this helps prevent snagging on overhangs and ledges.

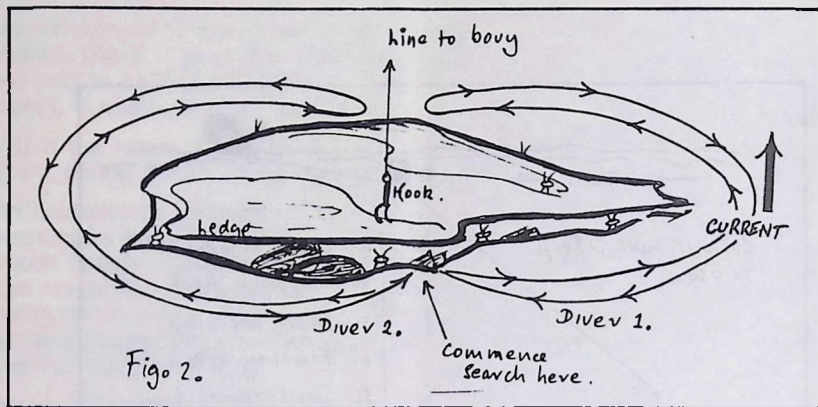
Fig. 1 also illustrates the line in action. It is temporarily secured to the sea bed by the grappling hook in a strong current. (Beats tearing your arms out). Note that in these circumstances the current pulls the first buoy under water. This happens with any single buoy, irrespective of its size, hence the second buoy. Notice how it remains afloat (because of the shallower angle of line). This means that a boat crew need never lose sight of it's divers irrespective of long stationary periods by divers working a ledge.



(It also means the buoy can easily be located when the hook is accidentally dropped from the boat or lost by divers in poor visibility).

Figure 2 illustrates a practical method whereby two independent thinking divers (who would rather dive alone) can make use of the same line and yet conduct independent search patterns.

Each time a likely ledge is located, the line is anchored and two independent searches commenced. It is most important that the line not be released by one diver without the knowledge of the other. If your buddy does not return to the grappling hook within a reasonable time span, it is important that you leave the line anchored, follow it to the surface and await your buddy - who should surface within 20 - 30 yards (because he has been unable to relocate the line).



Surfacing in this situation doesn't make you a clone. It simply saves your boat crew a lot of worry. It may also save one of you an overnight stay in the bay.

The foregoing equipment and techniques would have saved three boat crews a lot of worry (and petrol!) and one boat owner a valuable line and buoy on a recent club dive. Suck it and see! \*

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"Now Nikonos V" Cont. from p.19

If you are color conscious, you can have matte black and orange or matte black and moss green trim just to match the rest of your gear. Cost of this little item will be about \$695 but should be cheaper duty free overseas. \*

## "NOW NIKONOS V"

by Keith Jensen

The world's first integral (amphibious) camera was designed in the late fifties by Jean de Wouters, a Belgium optical engineer, his camera was known as the CALYPSO-PHOT. The Japanese NIKON company acquired the right to make these cameras and renamed it NIKONOS.

Standard lenses are 35mm and 80mm which can be used above and below the water, 28mm and 15mm can only be used underwater. Also available an incredible number of interchangeable accessories from optical view finders to extension tubes.

Nikon have up-dated the camera over the years, first the NIKONOS II, then a complete new model with a larger case and simplified controls NIKONOS III. After about 4 years NIKONOS IV A arrived, an aperture preferred exposure system and SB101 automatic electronic flash which was compatible with the camera.

Automatic strobes control their light output by varying the duration of lamp burn, flash durations from close to distant subjects may vary from 1/500th second to 1/50,000th second. This is achieved by using a light sensor attached to the accessory mount on the camera. The sensor is joined to the strobe by a cable. This system worked well but had some problems which Nikon must have realised as they are soon to release in Australia NIKONOS V.

This camera has features not available on previous models; it has aperture preferred automatic exposure with stepless shutter speeds from 1-30th second to 1-1000th second and a mechanical back-up speed of 1-90th second. Information is displayed in the viewfinder utilising bright LED's (light emitting diodes).

The camera is equipped with a T.T.L. (through the lens) flash control which is compatible with the new SB102 electronic flash, thus doing away with the accessory mount light sensor and cable. The Nikonos V has a multi pin flash socket to handle this facility and cannot accept the old III or IV A flash plugs. A flash ready light in the camera's viewfinder indicates flash status.

The Nikonos V will operate with all existing lenses available, but auto exposure will only operate on the newest model 15mm lens. A parallel compensating optical viewfinder is now offered as an accessory.

## V.S.A.G. OVERSEAS SAVINGS FUND

This has now been concluded with all subscribers completing the scheme without forfeiture of Joining Fee.

Accrued Principal and Interest is detailed below. The complex interest calculations were handled by our banker Mick Jeacle who applied the old savings bank system of "Interest Products" for allocation of accrued interest. Couldn't be fairer and more accurate.

Early monies were invested on the short term money market (Cash Management Trusts) by Isabel Birtles. This ensured maximum earnings whilst market interest rates were inflated. Lately interest rates have been down and Mick's bank has provided the best return through an investment account. Subscribers can rest assured that their money worked very hard and earned maximum return.

Fixed costs were minimal (\$42) due to significant print and photocopy donations by Alex and myself.

Interestingly, we note that the Marine Diving Group have copied our idea and launched a 24 month \$65 scheme. (We also note that much of the administrative detail that ensured the success of our fund and security of subscribers' funds is missing). We wish them luck.

There is no doubt that the scheme was a huge success and even those subscribers who cannot make the trip have a very welcome windfall. We finally ended up with \$18,775 to distribute (less disbursements).

Subscribers principal and interest is listed below. Fund records are available for inspection by all interested subscribers. An audit has been conducted by Isabel Birtles AASA.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
B. TRUSCOTT	1568	125	1693	B. SCOTT	1470	97	1566
M. JEACLE	833	64	899	N. STEWART	1666	118	1784
D.H. WILSON	833	61	894	P. TIPPING	784	61	845
A. TALAY	833	61	894	B. SOULSBY	784	61	845
M. JACKIW	980	81	1061	B. HAYS	833	82	915
G. BIRTLES	1666	118	1824	P. HARKIN	931	73	1003
M. SYNON	1764	135	1899	I. CHERNISHOV	833	65	898
D. WILLIAMS	1666	128	1793				

My thanks to Mick for excellent bookkeeping, Isabel for cash management, Alex for printing of subscriber booklets and Paul for "legalising" fund rules.

GEOFF BIRTLES \*

## RELUCTANT DRIFTER

GOSSIP, LIBEL & DIVE REPORT  
by "Big M"

Sunday 8th April at 7.30 a.m. was one of those typically still autumn days that a diver can so often wait weeks for. Clear skies, a good weather report for the heads area, and the promise of a great day's diving ahead.

Time passed very quickly whilst I went about the normal chores which one has so to undertake prior to departing the homefront; e.g. awake the wife to make the breakfast and pack the lunchbox, check the dive gear and load the vehicle. (Suck!!! Ed.)

Before long Pat Reynolds and Alex Talay were banging on the front door as we had arranged to go down to Sorrento together on this occasion. Upon arrival we found we had plenty of time to allow Alex to visit Marty's cafe for breakfast. You'd think after all these years he would have his mum organised in this regard, but worse still, she doesn't even pack his lunch.

By 9.30 we were soon organised and some 12 divers were allocated between the boats of Birtles, Swoffer and Jensen. It was about this time that our plans for the day began to fall apart. The weather was starting to turn sour as a stiff breeze appeared from nowhere and the "Yellow Peril" again refused to start for some 20 minutes. Geoff was about to return to the ramp to assist when suddenly the black beast roared into life and we were on our way.

Upon arrival at the heads Geoff was quick to sum up the situation, the 9 foot waves would present no problem to the Haines at all and since all 3 boats were Haines we would all easily negotiate this slight turbulence and dive one of the submarines. So as normal, he was keen to show the way & after about 10 minutes we were almost through. A quick look around soon confirmed our suspicions - no-one was following. Geoff was last heard mumbling something about "the club is getting old", "no heart", "I wonder how he goes in a fire", etc., but it was eventually agreed that discretion was the better part of valour as far as the Yellow Peril was concerned.

By this time the water was quite choppy in the bay itself, and it was decided we'd do a drift dive off Queenscliff for the odd bottle or two. "You must be joking!" cried Birtles, for we all know that the self-appointed cray king literally hates this spot for some unknown reason. However, it got the better of him after he'd reasoned that if he dived with the Big M his chances of finding that elusive prize would quadruple at least, having regard to M's success in the area of late.

Those of us who have dived this area would have to agree that the ledges and caves and scenery in general can be quite spectacular. Not our Geoff.