

# FATHOMS

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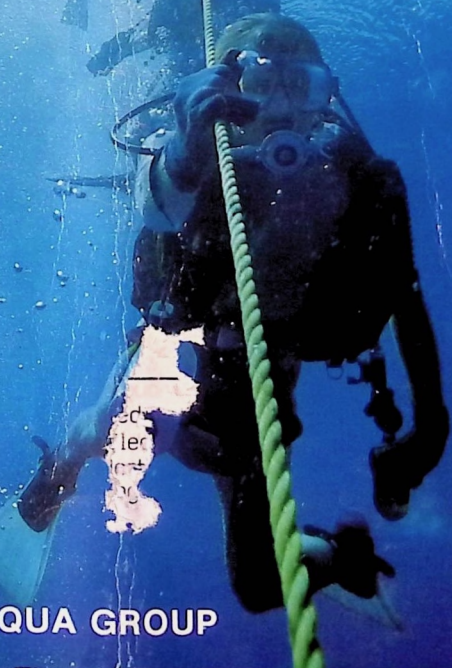
Safety in Diving

**INDEPENDANT  
DIVING  
FREEDOM**

**\$2**

*If undeliverable, return to  
Victorian Sub Aqua Group,  
Box 2526W,  
GPO Melbourne 3001*

1984



**VSAG**

**VICTORIAN-SUB-AQUA GROUP**

# VSAG

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

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P.R., Asst. Sec. & S.D.F. Del. - 890 6634

Barry Truscott

Asst. Newsletter Editor - 789 6395

Kieth Jensen

Points Scorer - 460 3672

Mick Jeacle

Social Secretary - (059) 71 2786

Pat Reynolds

Property Officer - 789 1092

Mick Jackiw

Committee Member - 736 1730

Don Able

Committee Member - 29 4415

## COVER STORY



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

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

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

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

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

# FATHOMS

Official journal of the Victorian Sub—Aqua Group

In this issue:

232 1433

SEPTEMBER 1984

## COMMUNICATION

|                      |              |    |
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## ADMINISTRATION

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| To Snare or not to Snare? | G.R. Birtles | 17 |
|---------------------------|--------------|----|

## TIDE TABLES

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### Next general meeting:

Wednesday, September 19th 8.00 pm  
(Election of Office Bearers)  
North Melbourne Football Club  
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

### Next committee meeting:

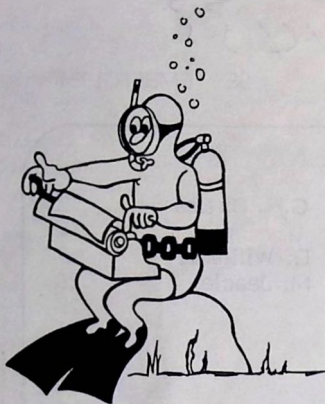
Tuesday, September 25th 8.00 pm  
Des Williams's place  
29 Valerie Street, Boronia



## EDITORIAL

It is tempting when writing one's last editorial to make it long and pontificate on things like club spirit, fellowship and matters near and dear to one's editorial heart - so I will!

It is with considerable reluctance that I relinquish the editorial role. It has been a lot of work, but much more fun. I have unashamedly used Fathoms to promote my single minded views on divers, diving, cloning, dive practice, dive school, greenies, bureaucracy, professional fishing, ship wrecks, marine reserves and so on!



I look back on the past issues with some pride - I would like to think that in some small way the pages of Fathoms have made you think about the state of your sport today and the erosion of your diving independence by increasing bureaucratic intervention. Some of it statutory, but more often than not by "do gooders", "know-it-alls" and self interest groups (including commercial) more interested in politicking than getting into the water.

I just could not resist one last shot (in case the new editor would not publish it). This issue contains an article that has been on my mind for some time. It is a follow-on to my "Expose on the Fisheries Act" (Dec. 82). It is guaranteed to stir the adrenalin of any hot blooded cray basher, or greenie, but for different reasons! It's entitled "To Snare, or not to Snare!" With a bit of luck the controversy may equal the furore caused by my Loch Ard jottings. Hope you enjoy it.

In any event, I no longer have enough hours in the day to continue the editorial role. Another cause beckons. As Vice President and spokesman for the "Victorian Fitness Industry" it now seems I have to do daily battle with Mr. Spyker, State Minister for Consumer Affairs, who with his emotive and highly destabilising comments, seem hell bent on destroying the Health Club business.

My debt of gratitude to regular scribes - John Goulding, Des Williams, Mick Jeacle, Alex Talay, Keith Jensen and Paul Lynch.

Thanks also to others who made individual contributions. Unfortunately these few have not been well supported by other contributors and this has increased the editorial burden of ensuring good mix and balance with each issue.

I would also like to thank the very tolerant and mature dive school operators who didn't mind my little provocations and took them for what they were intended - good fun. Dick and Brian at Melbourne Dive, Russell and Robyn Kitt at Southern Cross (whom we omitted off our Dive School Report - despair and red face!), "Cumbo" at Bob Cumberland's and DIS, and Warrick at Warricks. Others (predictably) took it a little more seriously and this really broke me up!

I should also thank Isabel (my enduring and loving wife, mother of my children, lover, cook, business partner, secretary and mentor!) who has averaged 8 hours typing each issue; Rhonda our typesetter for her good humoured handling of my pedantry; Alex Talay for organising the printing against impossibly short deadlines and Bazza Truscott for looking after the postage.

There is no doubt that Fathoms is vital to the continued success of this proud 30 year old club and we badly need a volunteer to take it forward. My choice is Alex. He's literate, got a good sense of humour, not a greenie, not married and a printer. Let's put it on him!

I will be standing for re-election this GM and if re-elected to the committee intend to remain active in club administration - but hopefully in a little less demanding role.

I would like to close this issue with the same words used by Des Williams in his last editorial "I'm now looking forward to receiving Fathoms in the post."

G.R. Birtles

**RABAU/HANSA BAY**

**june '85**

Organisation now underway!  
Contact Tour Leader Geoff Birtles  
8461983

## COMMITTEE REPORT

August 21, 1984 - Synon Residence.

Present: Birtles, Jeacle, Truscott, Williams, Tipping, Synon,  
Goulding, Jackiw

Apologies: Jensen, Talay, Abell

Guests: White Chinchilla cat

Treasurer's Report:

Carried over in absence of Treasurer.

Business:

- i) M. Jeacle has arranged auditor for club books.
- ii) Dive Calendar - arranged to November 1984.
- iii) Arrangements for 30 year Anniversary Dinner scheduled for Saturday October 13 - Notes this issue.
- iv) Geoff Birtles to try and arrange 30 year commemorative hats with VSAG logo.
- v) Issue of windcheaters to directors who have undertaken to deliver to committed members (see last issue).
- vi) Moved and carried that club boat owners with history of using their boats for the majority of VSAG dives should have their 84/85 Sorrento launching fees reimbursed. New boat owners to be approached by President who will make a decision on their eligibility.
- vii) Discussion on Eden camp sites. Decision to cancel one site if deposit not received shortly.
- viii) Report on SDF meeting. Notes by D. Williams this issue. Committee generally "teed off" with antics of current management "cell".



ix) Discussion on Wilsons Prom. issue. Paul Tipping to investigate and advise.

Meeting closed at 10.50 p.m. Again with no fisticuffs! Thanks to Pam for her hospitality and very nice supper.\*

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP. OCTOBER, 1984.

|           |          | PORT PHILLIP HEADS. |        |       |        |                                  |        |       |        |           |        |       |        |                                |        |       |     |          |           |
|-----------|----------|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|-------|-----|----------|-----------|
| 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         | M        | 04 26               | 1.7    | 16 16 | 1.5    | 07 18                            | 1.1    | 19 18 | 0.8    | 10 10     | 0.5    | 22 20 | 0.1    | 01 02                          | 0.9    | 13 13 | 1.0 | M        | 1         |
| 2         | Tu       | 05 15               | 1.6    | 16 57 | 1.4    | 08 03                            | 1.1    | 19 59 | 0.8    | 10 51     | 0.5    | 23 01 | 0.2    | 01 48                          | 0.8    | 13 54 | 1.0 | Tu       | 2         |
| 3         | W        | 06 04               | 1.5    | 17 40 | 1.3    | 08 47                            | 1.0    | 20 42 | 0.8    | 11 30     | 0.6    | 23 43 | 0.2    | 02 33                          | 0.8    | 14 35 | 0.9 | W        | 3         |
| 4         | Th       | 06 56               | 1.4    | 18 28 | 1.2    | 09 34                            | 1.0    | 21 28 | 0.8    |           |        | 12 11 | 0.7    | 03 20                          | 0.8    | 15 20 | 0.9 | Th       | 4         |
| 5         | F        | 07 49               | 1.3    | 19 27 | 1.2    | 10 23                            | 1.0    | 22 22 | 0.8    | 00 27     | 0.3    | 12 57 | 0.7    | 04 08                          | 0.8    | 16 12 | 0.9 | F        | 5         |
| 6         | Sa       | 08 46               | 1.3    | 20 37 | 1.1    | 11 22                            | 1.0    | 23 29 | 0.8    | 01 16     | 0.5    | 13 58 | 0.7    | 05 01                          | 0.9    | 17 18 | 0.9 | Sa       | 6         |
| 7         | Su       | 09 48               | 1.2    | 22 00 | 1.1    |                                  |        | 12 32 | 1.0    | 02 20     | 0.5    | 15 15 | 0.7    | 06 04                          | 0.9    | 18 38 | 0.9 | Su       | 7         |
| 8         | M        | 10 52               | 1.2    | 23 18 | 1.2    | 00 49                            | 0.8    | 13 43 | 0.9    | 03 38     | 0.6    | 16 34 | 0.6    | 07 15                          | 0.9    | 19 56 | 0.9 | M        | 8         |
| 9         | Tu       | 11 47               | 1.2    |       |        | 02 06                            | 0.9    | 14 41 | 0.9    | 04 54     | 0.6    | 17 34 | 0.5    | 08 21                          | 0.9    | 20 55 | 0.9 | Tu       | 9         |
| 10        | W        | 00 15               | 1.2    | 12 31 | 1.1    | 03 06                            | 0.9    | 15 26 | 0.9    | 05 56     | 0.5    | 18 21 | 0.4    | 09 14                          | 0.9    | 21 41 | 0.9 | W        | 10        |
| 11        | Th       | 01 00               | 1.3    | 13 06 | 1.1    | 03 53                            | 0.9    | 16 03 | 0.8    | 06 45     | 0.5    | 19 00 | 0.4    | 09 56                          | 0.9    | 22 19 | 0.9 | Th       | 11        |
| 12        | F        | 01 37               | 1.4    | 13 37 | 1.1    | 04 32                            | 0.9    | 16 36 | 0.8    | 07 27     | 0.5    | 19 34 | 0.3    | 10 32                          | 0.9    | 22 53 | 0.8 | F        | 12        |
| 13        | Sa       | 02 11               | 1.4    | 14 05 | 1.3    | 05 08                            | 0.9    | 17 06 | 0.7    | 08 05     | 0.4    | 20 06 | 0.2    | 11 05                          | 0.9    | 23 25 | 0.8 | Sa       | 13        |
| 14        | Su       | 02 44               | 1.4    | 14 33 | 1.3    | 05 43                            | 0.9    | 17 35 | 0.7    | 08 42     | 0.4    | 20 37 | 0.2    | 11 38                          | 0.8    | 23 58 | 0.8 | Su       | 14        |
| 15        | M        | 03 18               | 1.4    | 15 01 | 1.3    | 06 16                            | 0.9    | 18 05 | 0.7    | 09 14     | 0.4    | 21 08 | 0.1    |                                |        | 12 08 | 0.8 | M        | 15        |
| 16        | Tu       | 03 56               | 1.4    | 15 32 | 1.2    | 06 51                            | 0.9    | 18 37 | 0.7    | 09 45     | 0.5    | 21 41 | 0.1    | 00 32                          | 0.8    | 12 39 | 0.8 | Tu       | 16        |
| 17        | W        | 04 35               | 1.4    | 16 03 | 1.2    | 07 26                            | 0.9    | 19 09 | 0.6    | 10 16     | 0.5    | 22 14 | 0.1    | 01 08                          | 0.8    | 13 10 | 0.8 | W        | 17        |
| 18        | Th       | 05 20               | 1.4    | 16 41 | 1.2    | 08 04                            | 0.9    | 19 47 | 0.7    | 10 48     | 0.5    | 22 52 | 0.1    | 01 47                          | 0.7    | 13 45 | 0.8 | Th       | 18        |
| 19        | F        | 06 07               | 1.3    | 17 29 | 1.2    | 08 46                            | 0.9    | 20 32 | 0.7    | 11 25     | 0.6    | 23 34 | 0.2    | 02 30                          | 0.7    | 14 27 | 0.9 | F        | 19        |
| 20        | Sa       | 06 59               | 1.3    | 18 35 | 1.2    | 09 33                            | 0.9    | 21 30 | 0.7    |           |        | 12 07 | 0.6    | 03 17                          | 0.7    | 15 21 | 0.9 | Sa       | 20        |
| 21        | Su       | 07 54               | 1.2    | 19 52 | 1.2    | 10 28                            | 0.9    | 22 40 | 0.8    | 00 25     | 0.3    | 13 02 | 0.6    | 04 10                          | 0.8    | 16 27 | 0.9 | Su       | 21        |
| 22        | M        | 08 54               | 1.2    | 21 17 | 1.2    | 11 33                            | 0.9    |       |        | 01 28     | 0.4    | 14 11 | 0.6    | 05 11                          | 0.8    | 17 44 | 0.9 | M        | 22        |
| 23        | Tu       | 10 00               | 1.3    | 22 41 | 1.3    | 00 02                            | 0.9    | 12 46 | 0.9    | 02 47     | 0.5    | 15 32 | 0.5    | 06 24                          | 0.9    | 19 07 | 0.9 | Tu       | 23        |
| 24        | W        | 11 06               | 1.3    | 23 54 | 1.5    | 01 28                            | 0.9    | 13 57 | 0.9    | 04 14     | 0.6    | 16 47 | 0.4    | 07 40                          | 0.9    | 20 21 | 0.9 | W        | 24        |
| 25        | Th       |                     |        | 12 05 | 1.4    | 02 44                            | 1.0    | 14 57 | 0.8    | 05 33     | 0.5    | 17 49 | 0.3    | 08 49                          | 1.0    | 21 21 | 0.9 | Th       | 25        |
| 26        | F        | 00 52               | 1.6    | 12 55 | 1.4    | 03 44                            | 1.0    | 15 49 | 0.8    | 06 36     | 0.5    | 18 42 | 0.2    | 09 46                          | 1.0    | 22 13 | 0.9 | F        | 26        |
| 27        | Sa       | 01 44               | 1.7    | 13 40 | 1.5    | 04 38                            | 1.1    | 16 37 | 0.8    | 07 31     | 0.5    | 19 34 | 0.1    | 10 36                          | 1.0    | 23 03 | 0.9 | Sa       | 27        |
| 28        | Su       | 02 32               | 1.7    | 14 23 | 1.5    | 05 27                            | 1.1    | 17 23 | 0.7    | 08 22     | 0.5    | 20 22 | 0.0    | 11 23                          | 1.0    | 23 50 | 0.9 | Su       | 28*       |
| *29       | M        | 03 17               | 1.7    | 15 04 | 1.4    | 06 13                            | 1.1    | 18 06 | 0.7    | 09 08     | 0.5    | 21 08 | 0.0    |                                |        | 12 06 | 0.9 | M        | 29*       |
| *30       | Tu       | 04 03               | 1.7    | 15 46 | 1.4    | 06 58                            | 1.1    | 18 50 | 0.7    | 09 52     | 0.5    | 21 53 | 0.1    | 00 36                          | 0.8    | 12 49 | 0.9 | Tu       | 30*       |
| *31       | W        | 04 48               | 1.6    | 16 28 | 1.3    | 07 41                            | 1.0    | 19 31 | 0.7    | 10 33     | 0.5    | 22 34 | 0.2    | 01 21                          | 0.8    | 13 31 | 0.9 | W        | 31*       |

## S.D.F.V. MEETING - AUGUST

report by D. Williams

The S.D.F.V. is once again beginning to show form after a lot of time of inactivity. The three members of the management cell are working very hard. A position on the management cell for a Public Relations Officer is still open. Any one interested in this position should discuss with Des Williams.

- i) S.D.F.V.'s Constitution is now receiving full attention to be altered to suit the restructured management.
- ii) An equipment register sheet has been drawn up and all Clubs will soon be able to make their own copies from a master sheet. It includes facility to record all serial numbers of dive equipment and description so owners may have one full record of their gear for safe keeping.
- iii) The official journal of the S.D.F.V. has been re-issued with revised cover and will be mailed to Club secretaries to keep divers informed of events and policies - "Scuba Scene".
- iv) The S.D.F.V.'s official letter to the Dept. of Conservation of Forests and Lands re Wilsons Prom. proposed Marine Park will be printed in next "Scuba Scene" and thus read out to various Clubs' members.
- v) Windcheaters (\$15) and T-shirts (\$7) bearing S.D.F.V.'s new revised logo are about to be printed.
- vi) The National Safety Council facility at Morwell has invited S.D.F.V. to supply 40-50 Club representatives to attend an Underwater Training Seminar of Oct. 27th. Each Club to supply two delegates. There will be a small charge for a coach to take members to Morwell. The seminar will include underwater explosives, professional diving equipment, decompression etc. and a tour of N.S.C. facilities.
- vii) S.D.F.V. are seeking membership of the Port Phillip Authority so it may achieve better relations with those who make the rules on our Bay.



- viii) More lectures and talks are planned by S.D.F.V. for the future.
- ix) S.D.F.V. will have a stand at Oceans this year and will be handing out information sheets to divers who would like to join non commercial diving clubs. V.S.A.G. must prepare such a sheet urgently advising how to join and include photographs, Club badge, list of dive sites and how we operate, etc. etc. to promote our Club at Oceans Congress.
- x) S.D.F.V. hopes to have a quarter page in each issue of Neville Coleman's new magazine "Underwater" to broadcast news and events. Coleman has offered this space free if S.D.F.V. can sign up 40 annual subscriptions for "Underwater". Application forms for the magazine - see Des Williams. Cost is \$15.25 year (4 issues). Your help to achieve this goal is requested.
- xi) C.A.S. Insurances Pty. Ltd. have an insurance policy for divers of S.D.F.V. member Clubs - see Des Williams for Policy details.

The summary, above, may be too brief for some members, so you are invited to telephone or discuss in further detail with the writer at any time on 762 1623.\*

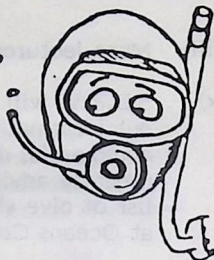
### **CLUB WINDCHEATERS**

Now arrived! Please make arrangements to pick your order up quickly. If you haven't reserved yours, a very few extras are available. Max Synon is handling sales pending return of our Treasurer, Alex Talay, from overseas.

Phone: 465 2812

HELP

## FLOTŞAM & JETŞAM



I remember the days when I used to can all the sunshine divers who used to hang up the diving gear at the end of March and not bring it out until November.

Was it the weather, or home duties or perhaps even the dreaded disease of Channel 7's "World of Sport" show that used to keep them away. Recently I find myself asking the same question; not about other people but about me. The situation became so bad that last month I couldn't even write an F & J column. Well folks, I'll tell you the answer!

It's a combination of forgetting the great times we have on club dives and lazy Sunday mornings playing with the kids. But Murgatroyd has finally put her foot down, and said that if I don't get out of the house and go diving I'll drive her round the bend. So to take her up I've had the boat tuned up; built an upper level on the fly bridge (for nude sunbathing) installed and temprite cooling system to chill the on-tap beer and switched over the Mercury outboard for 3 sets of 16 foot oars. We maybe a little slow getting to the dive spot, but we'll sure have fun getting there.

This year the usual V.S.A.G. ski trip had to be abandoned because of lack of accommodation however I know of a few members who managed a few days at Mt. Buller and others who went to Falls Creek.

Despite the relatively poor early snow season, the Buller brigade found plenty of action and the skiing wasn't bad either.

As I write this little piece Keith Jensen, Igor Chernichov and Alex Talay are splashing around the Solomons and no doubt will come back with wild stories about the fantastic diving up there.

Dave Carroll and family are making their annual pilgrimage to Ireland and Jeanette Large and husband Mick have slipped over to Europe to buy a new motor bike.

It must be great to have money!

And talking about money, poor old Peter Gimbel! He spent \$2 million salvaging a safe from the wreck of the Italian liner the "Andrea Doria" and then amongst the cameras of worldwide television opened it to find stacks of useless paper money in both U.S. and Italian currency. It seems that the rumoured fortune in diamonds was either in the other safe (not found) or else did not exist.

Now that winter is over and we are in the midst of Melbourne's notoriously unpredictable Spring, lets hope we can look forward to some great diving prior to summer. There's plenty of new members about and should anyone feel sluggish about getting back into the water, then go over and look after my lot.

Signed C.U. Bello

## FLOTSAM & JETSAM



By BEACHCOMBERS

HOW humiliating, says *Daily Mail* columnist in America, Dermot Purgavic.

The New York Court of Appeals has ruled that journalism is not a profession.

Journalists wouldn't ordinarily care much but this is not merely a matter of principle, there's money involved.

Columnist William Frye is arguing that since he's in a profession he is exempt, like those in other professions, from New York unincorporated business tax but the court has said that since journalists are not licensed, like architects and doctors, they are not professionals.

Clipped by editor from Fiji Times.

I wonder how C.U. Bello feels about this blatant piece of Pacific Island plagiarism.



## OVERSEAS SAVINGS FUND

STARTS THIS MONTH

Trip Organiser - Geoff Birtles  
Fund Treasurer - Mick Jeacle

Objective:

Warm water wreck diving safari  
e.g. Rabaul, Solomons, Coolidge  
Venue to be decided by popular vote  
approx. 6 months prior to departure date

Departure Date:

Approx. June 1986

Tour Cost:

Depends on venue - approx. \$1,500 with  
SCUBA package; \$1,200 per non diver

Monthly Subscription:

\$59 (x 21 months)

### HOW IT HAPPENS

- i) A common investment fund is established to which unit holders make 21 monthly subscriptions of \$59.00 (\$1,239).
- ii) Additional "discretionary" subscriptions (in multiples of \$59) may be made to provide for a travelling companion.
- iii) A ledger card is maintained both for the common fund and individual unit holders.
- iv) Accrued funds and accrued interest are allocated and distributed to unit holders (who complete the term) at the close of the fund (June 1986) on the basis of 100% return of all subscriptions, plus pro rated share of interest (calculated quarterly) - less expenses associated with setting up and maintaining the fund.

Important Note: This happens irrespective of whether unit holders actually participate in the trip.

- v) Participating unit holders will meet 6 months prior to trip to decide on a venue by consensus. Failing consensus by 60% of subscribers the sub-committee's decision will be final. In any event it is to be a wreck bashing sortie.

- vi) Venue, departure date and bookings will be finalised at least 4 months prior to fund maturity. Unit holders will then be individually responsible for any costs arising out of cancellation.
- vii) The group purchasing power of an influential and large number of divers will be complimented by old fashioned bartering to obtain the best deal, lowest cost, value for money trip available from the industry. All bulk buying perks will be pro-rated back to those who participate in the tour.

#### MECHANICS OF THE SCHEME

- i) To be managed by a Sub-committee who will periodically report to the General meeting.

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Chairman & Tour Organiser      | Geoff Birtles |
| Treasurer                      | Mick Jeacle   |
| Legal Officer/Deputy Treasurer | Paul Tipping  |

- ii) Disincentives!

We have spelt out the incentives but there has to be disincentives to stop people chopping and changing their minds in the interests of making the scheme workable.

A: The first \$59.00 subscription is a "joining fee" and is not refundable if a unit holder fails to see out the fund maturity date i.e. make 21 x \$59 monthly payments.

B: Subsequent contributions are refundable without interest if a member elects to discontinue participation in the fund prior to maturity. A further \$59 joining fee is applicable should a member wish to rejoin the fund.

Note: Forfeited joining fees and interest are pro-rated amongst those who actually make the trip as distinct from those who simply participate in the savings scheme without making the trip.

C: The Sub-committee may, in its sole discretion, cancel participation of any member who is in arrears for 60 days or more. Joining fee and interest to be forfeited.

- iii) Formal rules governing the "Overseas Trip Savings Scheme" and individual participation will be provided to participating members. This article covers "the spirit" of the scheme. Disputes, arbitration and so on are governed by the rules. The Sub-committee's decision is final on all questions relating to the construction of these rules.

At this stage we suggest to members that there has to be some trust. We can't cover every eventuality in a 100 page document! Your committee consists of a marketing entrepreneur, a bank manager and a public service solicitor. It has reasonable balance and conservatism. Have faith and don't be too critical. Its a lot of "honorary" work for a worthwhile cause. It could easily be undone by petty politics.

- iv) The fund commences at the September General Meeting - at which Joining Fees should be paid. (The next subscription is due in 30 days).
- v) Members may subsequently join the fund at any time by "back paying" past subscriptions (but will not share in unearned interest).
- vi) Unit holders will receive a "Savings Booklet" containing 42 two part perforated coupons - each coupon representing a \$59.00 subscription.

The first coupon "receipts" the joining fee. The next 20 represent the following 20 mandatory monthly subscriptions required to complete the scheme.

An additional "optional" 21 coupons are included for those who would like to provide for a travelling companion and may be used on a discretionary basis as funds permit.

- vii) Postal subscriptions must be made by cheque and accompanied by a "deposit slip". The appropriate "butt" can be receipted (if required) at your next General Meeting attendance.
- viii) Cash subscriptions must be made in person at a General or Committee meeting. The appropriate butt will be receipted by the "Fund Treasurer" immediately the money is received.



- ix) The common interest fund will be established within 30 days of receipt of initial joining fees. Sound and prudent business and investment principles will apply.

## SUMMARY

We hope members will respond as positively to this fund as they did last time. The 21 members and wives who travelled to Fiji earlier this year will testify to its outstanding success.

Remember - if you subscribe and complete the fund, but cannot travel with the group for some unforeseen reason - you will still get your money back, plus interest - and we make the money work hard!

If you intend to participate, clip out one of the two attached deposit slips and hand to Fund Treasurer, Mick Jeacle at the September General Meeting. Make your cheque out to "VSAG Overseas Investment Fund".

If you can't make the General Meeting, post it to Mick C/- The National Australia Bank, Kew, Vic. \*

### **VSAG 30TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

WHEN: Saturday, 13th October, 1984.  
See full details in Social News this issue.

It's not every day a milestone such as this is achieved;  
be part of it.

Good surroundings, excellent meal, cheap drinks. Nice,  
quiet band.

Make new friends, meet old ones.

Swap lies, etc. and generally have a good time.

Mick Jeacle - (059) 712 786  
John Goulding - 890 6634

---

**VSAG Overseas Investment Fund**  
RECORD OF PAYMENT

**\$59**

Date:  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cash  
 Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Posted  
 Personal payment

Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Cumulative Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
NB: This is your personal payment record and is not a receipt.

**VSAG Overseas Investment Fund**  
RECORD OF PAYMENT

**\$59**

Date:  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cash  
 Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Posted  
 Personal payment

Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Cumulative Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
NB: This is your personal payment record and is not a receipt.

This Voucher must be presented with each subscription of **\$59**  
**VSAG Overseas Investment Fund**  
DEPOSIT VOUCHER

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
**AMOUNT \$59**       Cheque       Cash herewith  
Folio No. \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:** Monthly instalments are due by the third Wednesday of each month, i.e. General Meeting time. They may be posted to Mick Jeacle at the National Australia Bank, 178 High Street, Kew, 3101, or presented to a Sub-Committee Member (with this Voucher), at a monthly General Meeting.

◀ NOTE - FOLD AND TEAR OFF CAREFULLY

This Voucher must be presented with each subscription of **\$59**  
**VSAG Overseas Investment Fund**  
DEPOSIT VOUCHER

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
**AMOUNT \$59**       Cheque       Cash herewith  
Folio No. \_\_\_\_\_

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◀ NOTE - FOLD AND TEAR OFF CAREFULLY

## SPECTACULAR DIVING

A report on one of VSAG's better winter dives  
by Mick Jeacle

The time is 6.30 p.m., Saturday 25/8/84. There is a club dive on tomorrow and yours truly is the Dive Captain. Or is he? A quick check of "Fathoms" confirms this, but why hasn't anyone phoned in?

6.35 p.m. The phone rings. Tony Tipping books a place. I congratulate him on being the one and only and he displays a mild form of panic. "Yer not callin' it off are you? I'll be there rain, hail or shine!" Relax Tony, I tell him, after all it is only 6.35. They're bound to be jumping over themselves to phone after the 7 o'clock news and weather report. After all, the weather looks promising after 4 disastrous weekends in a row.

7.10 p.m. Geoff Birtles phones. Thank goodness; ever reliable Geoff. More good news, Reece has a new winter wetsuit - 4 divers now; crapes we can fill one boat.

7.15 p.m. The phone rings again. This is more like it I say to myself; they'll really start now. No such luck. A long lost auntie I hadn't seen nor heard of for 13 years telephones to request my old man's new address. Annie is rubbing her hands together in the background hoping the dive will be called off through lack of interest. Nay, I say, there's plenty of time yet.

Well folks, you may be interested to know there were no more calls that night. I couldn't believe it; a V.S.A.G. club dive and only 3 adult divers. Don't tell me we are beginning to listen to the weatherman?

10.15 p.m. I telephone Tony to suggest he calls in to my place in the morning and we go together, seeing we are the only ones going. (Geoff was staying at Point Lonsdale "accumulating points" with the family.) I lived to regret this decision as my ears are still recovering.

Sunday, 8.55 a.m. Tony arrives. The weather looks fair to good. Whilst he's inspecting the house, and my wife laying back in bed feeding Jessica, the phone rings. Geoff reports its looking good and we arrange to make radio contact upon our arrival at Sorrento.



10.45 a.m. Boat launched, after minor hassle of shovelling 2 feet of sand off the boat ramp to retrieve car and trailer. Geoff going beserk on the CB, mumbling something about the dive captain being three quarters of an hour late, (situation normal) and threatening seasickness if I do not hurry up, etc. etc. Ignore it and it'll go away, I tell Tony.

A few minutes later we arrive just inside Pt. Lonsdale and met up with Geoff and Reece. The Heads looked particularly flat and we decided to dive the intact submarine. However, by this time light rain began to fall and by the time we got to our approximate destination we could not identify our marks through poor visibility.

Undaunted, we proceeded back through the Heads and on to Queenscliff pier, after an unsuccessful attempt to dive the Lonsdale wall due to an exceptionally strong current, and Geoff "pulling the pin". (Lies! Ed.)

There we lunched in the shed out of the rain and it was at this point we first noticed Reece's wet suit; obviously a Bob Scott special. Fair dinkum he looked like a cross between a canary and a blue wren. (And Mick looked like his father in his "Ming blue" job - another Scotty special. - Ed.) Geoff had all but knocked himself out climbing on to the pier and once again tried to pull the pin. However Tony insisted and this was too much for Geoff, and Spectacular Reef was agreed upon.

The diving here was unbelievable. Calm seas, blue water, 100 ft. plus visibility and female crays everywhere (all 6/7 lbs.). Had to tap on Tony's tank twice to get him up as he had never seen anything like this before.

So you puss divers out there, you just don't know what the conditions will be like until you see for yourselves. Next time, don't listen to the weatherman, you may be truly surprised. \*

It's a sad day when VSAG fields two boats and 3½ divers (No - the ½ diver is not you Tony, it's Reece!) We noticed the weather did not stop 3 "clone charters" who all had full boats. Come summertime, it's first priority to "the regulars".

Ed.

## TO SNARE OR NOT TO SNARE?

An examination of crayfishing equipment and techniques available to sport divers.

by Geoff Birtles

Statutory Rules 1983 No. 205 Fisheries Act 1968.  
Fishing (General) (Amendment No.1) Regulation 1983.

"24. For Regulation 128 of the Principal Regulations, substitute the following Regulation:

'128. (1) Subject to sub-regulation (2) the use of any spear gun, spear, gaff, hook, snare, probe device or contrivance whatsoever other than hoop or drop nets as specified in Regulation 63 (1) of these Regulations for the purpose of taking or attempting to take southern crayfish is prohibited.'

Fisheries Act 1968, No. 7780

"52. Any person who in fishing for or taking fish uses any equipment the use of which is prohibited either absolutely or in relation to the kind of species of fish concerned or in waters in which the use of that equipment is prohibited for the time being by the regulations shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Penalty: \$1000 or imprisonment for six months."

The purpose of this article is to look at the various options available to a SCUBA diver for the taking of crayfish for private consumption and to express the personal opinions of the writer.

### OPTION #1 - By hand

Unless you are a commercial fisherman (who seem to be exempt from most fishing regulations affecting amateurs - including fishing in marine reserves) this is now the only legal system to obtain a feed of crayfish, apart from buying an undersize product from a well known hostelry on

the Peninsula or local "Chinese" both of whom seem to have a stranglehold on undersize and/or out of season crays.

Given the incredible overfishing of local resources by commercial interests most SCUBA divers will confirm that you are very lucky to even see a cray, let alone reach one by hand. In any event anyone familiar with the skeletal structure of crays is aware that their "feelers" are extraordinarily brittle and will not withstand any tugging, bending or otherwise man (oops!) female handling at all. Trying to reach past the brittle delicate part of a cray's feelers without it retreating is something akin to an attempt to remove a ladies panties back in the early 60's. Ask Tony - he didn't have much luck with women in the 60's and he's not doing too good with the crays right now!

#### OPTION #2 - Spear Gun

This has been frowned upon by the purists for many years now. After all there is very little sport in the leisurely lining up of a cray in spear gun sights and hammering shit out of it.

On the other hand if you are hungry, cannot afford the exorbitant commercial price of crays (given the artificial boosting by export efforts) and do not have the skill, patience or luck to risk losing a rare sighting, it is this writer's opinion that you should probably go for it! With two provisos - 1. You are breaking the law and deserve the consequences if caught (not because the law, as written, is reasonable it's just that there are more sporting and almost as effective ways) and 2. it is only done on an exceptional and special occasion - you do not make a habit of it.

It is very difficult to legislate habits and frequency, therefore the writer has no wish to see the present regulations, as they relate to spearing crays (with SCUBA) change.

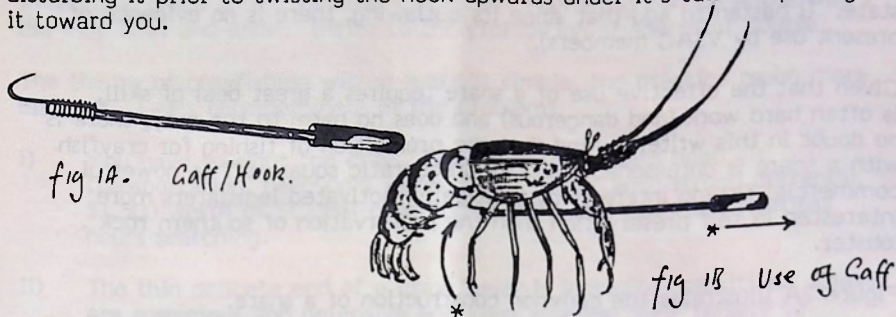
#### OPTION #3 - Gaff and/or Hook

This system has been popular with SCUBA divers for many years. It's no longer smart because it puts a hole in the cray and this is clear evidence to an FWO of an illegal catch. Fig. 1 illustrates a typical Gaff construction and Fig. 1A attempts to illustrate its use.

Use of a gaff requires a great deal more skill than a gun and is far less certain - but then it's more fun. Certainly it's easier to use than a



snare. Basically you must be able to reach under the cray without disturbing it prior to twisting the hook upwards under it's tail and pulling it toward you.



Having achieved this (no easy feat considering that the slightest detection of your presence by the crays feelers means immediate retreat) one attempts to grab the cray across its back and bag it. Not too hard if you are quick and have big hands but good luck or a lot of skill to the ladies.

The writer used this system extensively for many years but does not condone it any longer because: (i) it is illegal (!! ) and (ii) you may damage a female out of season or worse, a female in berry. There are better ways i.e. by hand (!?)

#### OPTION #4 - Silk stocking

This hardly bears comment. Strictly for puss divers and/or clones and the mental image of a clone attempting to disentangle a stocking from a spiky stalk eyed snapping decapod out of sight of an authoritarian commercial divemaster makes the mind boggle. An FWO shouldn't have too much trouble detecting the odd nylon twist either!

#### OPTION #5 - Detergent

I have it on good authority but not personal experience that this works well - particularly if the cray has no retreat. Problem is, it wrecks the taste and texture of the cray. Not sporting, illegal and not very smart.

#### OPTION #6 - The Snare

This is a relatively recent invention. If VSAG members didn't invent it

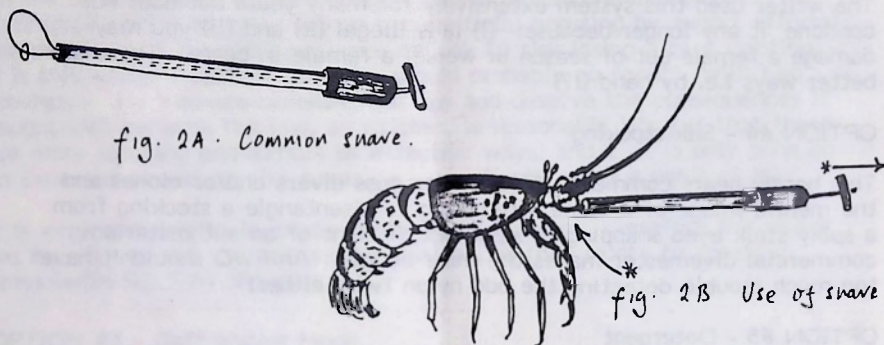
they certainly popularised and refined it to its present highly efficient state. (I hasten to add that since its outlawing, there is no evidence of present use by VSAG members).

Given that the effective use of a snare requires a great deal of skill, is often hard work (and dangerous) and does no harm to the cray, there is no doubt in this writer's mind that the prohibition of fishing for crayfish with a snare is unreasonable and a bureaucratic square off to powerful commercial fishing interests by politically motivated legislators more interested in self preservation than the preservation of southern rock lobster.

Figure 2A illustrates the common construction of a snare.

Typically a snare is constructed from a 500mm length of hollow 13mm OD aluminium tube. A loop of flexible s/s wire is fed down the middle. A s/s key ring is attached to this loop to prevent it pulling back into the tube on a missed strike and a T handle attached to the other end.

Figure 2B illustrates its use.



The loop of wire is carefully placed around a cray feeler and slid down to surround the thick horny base. At this stage the loop is pulled tight to prevent the cray's retreat thereby allowing the diver to grab and bag their prize!

Perhaps I should mention at this stage that this is not meant to be a definitive text on technique or equipment construction. Those interested

in learning more about the subtle skills of crayfishing can do it the way I did - by trial and error. (Prior to the prohibition of snares of course).

The theory of crayfishing with a snare is simple, the practice much more difficult. Let's consider some of the problems.

- i) You have to sight the cray. Generally this means boat transportation, deep cold water (often rough, with strong currents), \$1,500 worth of SCUBA gear and training and countless fruitless hours searching.
- ii) The thin delicate end of a cray feeler is incredibly sensitive. Crays are suspicious and defensive and keep weaving their feelers to detect aggression and/or danger. Somehow you have to place the loop around this delicate weaving membrane and slide it down and around the thick insensitive horny base - without touching the feeler. If the cray detects the loop it will immediately retreat. Pull the loop tight when this happens and you will break the feeler off - not smart as the cray will then become easy meat to a marauding octopus or seal.
- iii) Generally air bubbles, light and movement spook the cray. It moves backwards into the greater protection of a narrowing ledge. Perhaps it's there in the first place! Usually this means out of immediate reach. Some divers literally risk life and limb by removing tanks (strong case for hookah) and squirming under impossibly tight dark ledges, with almost zero visibility, restriction of movement and difficulty of exit. Depth and a limited air supply make this a highly dangerous practice.

(The writer suggests that the sheer effort and risk of snaring crays is in stark contrast to the leisurely pursuit of commercial potting - but then, commercial fishermen have been "snowing" government for years now - they even believe their own rhetoric).

- iv) Having drawn the loop tight around the insensitive base of the feeler, the cray is prevented from retreat and the diver reaches forward with his free hand to pull the cray out by the base of its feelers. (Note: do not attempt to pull the cray out with a snare - almost certainly the feeler base will be severed).

Again, the theory is simple, the practice often painful - as the many permanent scars of this writer will testify.



One vividly remembers trying to dislodge the "killer claw" of a ten pounder from around an index finger at 70 feet. Forced extension of the claw was impossible, breaking the claw free from the body was impossible (in any event the claw would still maintain grip), the cray had a firm grip of my thigh through 7mm of neoprene with eight sharply spiked legs (keep in mind that a good 10 lb male has at least a 600mm spread) and I was trying hard not to faint (let alone panic) from sheer pain. Eventually by good luck rather than good management, the cray was torn from the finger (baring it to the bone) and immediately proceeded to latch onto the other hand. Meanwhile I'm ascending trailing green blood and trying to work my way out of this very painful and humiliating mess with honour. (This was one of the few times when I wish<sup>ed</sup> I did have a buddy!)

Yes, I did keep the cray (pictured here held by son Reece) but I still bear the scars and vividly remember shaking from shock in a pitching boat whilst attempting to patch a bloodied and torn hand and enduring the seemingly interminable wait for dive buddies.

Any serious SCUBA diving crayfisherman who has shared similar experiences in a "sporting" and dangerous quest for crays will find it difficult to accept the reasonableness of the present Fisheries Regulations and Act as they pertain to the taking of crays by amateur fishermen. This article is not going to change anything so we will (tongue in cheek) move onto a more legal use for obsolete snares.



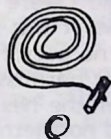
Given that these are no longer legal for crayfishing (just having them on your boat - with no crays on board - attracts severe penallties) they can easily be converted to a highly effective "Shark Billy". i.e. for protection from marauding Port Jacksons. Anyone who has dived Flinders regularly has encountered these vicious monsters and often wished for some means of self defence (other than a strong heart and knife).

Refer back to Figure 2A. Note the s/s key ring preventing the wire from being inadvertently pulled back through the aluminium pole. Remove this and remove the wire. Throw it away - you have no further use for it now that snares are illegal!

Now you have a perfectly legal "Shark Billy" (Figure 3) to poke in the eyes of marauding Port Jacksons (or perhaps obstreperous FWO's - Fine \$500 or 3 months imprisonment). \*



fig 3. "Shark Billy"



s/s Wire & Key Ring  
"Throw away"

Footnote: Anyone interested in an exposition of the Fisheries Act as it pertains to sport diving for crays should refer back to Fathoms Nov. 3/1983. It makes frightening and enlightening reading. Permission will be granted to other clubs for reprinting subject to acknowledgement of source and author. Copies obtainable from Editor.

## RABAU/ HANSA BAY

june '85

Organisation now underway!  
Contact Tour Leader Geoff Birtles

8461983

## LETTER TO MEMBERS

Popular female member Jeanette Large is currently holidaying in Europe with husband Mick. I think that's her on the pillion behind Mick, but it may be the other way round given Jeanette's well known views on the weaker sex (men!). With Fiji, Caribbean, Solomon Island and European Safaris V.S.A.G. members certainly seem to be a very international lot. Must be hard for Valley Divers trying to keep up! Thanks for the letter and pic Jeanette.

Ed.

Dear Alex and V.S.A.G. members,

Mick and I are now in England and to date we've had a great time. We started off in northern Italy where we picked up our brand new "Moto Guzzi" motor bike. We got there a bit later than expected, as there was a baggage handlers strike in Rome, resulting in our baggage staying in Rome, while Mick and I were flying to Milan. However, it did arrive only a few hours later. Mick was more upset about the petrol strike. A brand new motor bike and no petrol to put in it. We eventually milked someone else's bike (with their permission) and got a petrol station that was open in another town. For the next three weeks, things ran fairly smoothly and we toured all around northern Italy taking in Lake Como, Lake Muggiure, the mountains around Cortina, and beach resorts on the Adriatic coast and last but certainly not least Venice, which was all that I expected and hoped for. I love Northern Italy, it's all so beautiful. I can't wait to go back.



At the end of this touring we had three to four days to get across the continent and England in order to get to the Isle of Man for the T.T. (Tourist Trophy) motor bike races. The Isle of Man is in between England and Ireland in the Irish Sea. It shouldn't have been too hard to do this, but we had continual rain, bank holidays and Ferry strikes. I won't go into details here, but at one stage, I thought if Mick had seen an airport he would have ridden in and



got on the first plane to Australia - men are so weak! Well we got to the Isle of Man, saw a week of motor bike races, and had a terrific time. It was a fantastic atmosphere, with the whole island being taken over by motor bikes and their riders. Entertainment was put on every day that there weren't races, and every night. Everyone was extremely well behaved (not always expected from bikers) and the locals couldn't do enough for us.

After the Isle of Man we went to Ireland and travelled around there for a couple of weeks. This was really pretty, and the weather was starting to fine up, which makes things more enjoyable, especially when you are riding and camping. Unfortunately we missed out on some sights in Dublin, but we were warned that we would no longer have a motor bike if we left it for any length of time in Dublin. The looks we got as we rode through the city were enough to convince us to keep riding.

After Ireland we went to Wales, which had far more spectacular scenery than I expected. Then to England, where we have been for the last 3 weeks. There is so much to see over here, and 6½ months isn't nearly long enough to do it properly. We are certainly on the move all the time. We have done over 12,000 km so far, and we are not even half way through. In England we spent quite a bit of time in London, which is a terrific city, much better than I expected. I certainly could have stayed longer. In fact everywhere we've been, we would liked to have stayed longer. Cornwall was also a beautiful spot that we would have liked to have spent more time. The weather in England has been superb, a heat wave, and drought conditions for the English, but just pleasant for us. It even got to 30°C one day in Cornwall.

We are now north of London at Stratford on Avon, and tomorrow we head for the Lakes country, and from there to Scotland. From Scotland we will catch a ferry to Norway (presuming they are not on strike) in fact we haven't been affected by a strike for weeks now. From Scandinavia we will go back to the continent and then hopefully down to Egypt.

I have enclosed a photo of Mick and myself on the motor bike, as promised, and also a couple of pamphlets I have picked up along the way about diving. I've been carrying the Isle of Man one for a while, so its a bit shabby. If we have enough money left, I'm hoping we will go on the 'sojourn', the 5 day trip in the Red Sea.

Well thats all my news. I hope everyone is well and doing plenty of good diving. I've heard its been quite cold.

See you when I return.

Jeanette

## SOCIAL NEWS

by Mick Jeacle

Well it's all go at the top as we gear ourselves towards our next major social event - V.S.A.G.'s 30th year birthday celebration.

By the time you read this you will have received a letter from John Goulding advising details of this exciting event.

This night is considered a must for all members and past members alike. It is a chance to renew old acquaintances and relive the days and dives of yesteryear. Letters have gone out to many past members who, for various reasons, are not active divers today, but no doubt formed the nucleus of our great club years ago.

Thirty years of active diving is truly a milestone worth shouting about. So come on, complete that tear-off slip now if you have not already done so, to ensure your admittance to the gala(h) event of the year.

Full details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, 13th October, 1984 (note date change).

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per head plus drinks at bar prices.

Venue: North Melbourne Football club Social Club,  
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

R.S.V.P. Mick Jeacle, (059) 712 786 or John Goulding 890 6634 or  
24/9/84 complete Tear-Off slip on John's letter.

Social events throughout the year have been well supported, so let's now cap off a good year with record attendances at the abovementioned function and our Christmas Party in December. \*

## EDEN XMAS DIVE HOLIDAY

The following 9 divers have booked and secured sites with a \$20 deposit.

Lawler, Jeacle, Jensen, Mastrovitch, Olorenshaw, Talay, Brincat, Synon & Jackiw. The club has booked 10 sights. The outstanding site will be available to the first person to secure it with a \$20 deposit (promises are not good enough).

Given that camp sites at Eden are getting scarcer than hens teeth right now and the diving is excellent the smart move is to cough up the dollars quickly. If the remaining site is not placed prior to the next Committee Meeting (Sept. 25) it will be cancelled so that a refund of deposit can be obtained.

It is important for those who have booked sites to understand that they will be responsible for their camp fees and are committed to pay for 14 days minimum. (The club will not be handling any monies other than deposits.)

Those who have booked sites should also indicate to Mick Jeacle their intended arrival and departing dates. Sites have been booked from Boxing Day for 14 days - but, it is possible to arrive earlier and/or leave later. With Boxing Day falling mid week (Wed.) some including myself will arrive on the prior Sunday.

At this stage we have approx. 5 or 6 boats and 23 to 26 divers.

Social events include a "booze tour" of the bay on a very luxurious motor yacht, a snooker tournament, a BBQ on the bluff overlooking Twofold Bay, water skiing and a tour of Green Cape Lighthouse. No doubt some picnic lunches on the more remote little inlets down toward the Cape will also be well attended by participating families.

This is the last reminder on Eden arrangements so if you are intending to go make your move quickly.

Dive Captain is Geoff Birtles 846 1983  
Camp Co-ordinator is Mick Jeacle (059) 71 2786



## HIT LIST!

The following members and/or guests of members owe the club for air fills. Some of these debts are nearly one year old, so it's a little bit "off".

Air fills have now been increased to \$3.00. If the following debts ~~are not~~ paid are prior to 30/4/84 the old price of \$2 applies. After this its \$3 - so money up chaps.

|                  |                 |   |         |              |              |   |
|------------------|-----------------|---|---------|--------------|--------------|---|
| TIDAL RIVER '83  | D. Twine        | 1 | fill(s) | EASTER '84   | D. Catherill | 2 |
| REFUGE COVE JAN. | P. Jones        | 3 |         |              | R. Thorn     | 1 |
| 1984             | P. Sier         | 4 |         |              | T. Tipping   | 2 |
|                  | G. Thorn        | 3 |         | PORT         | T. Avery     | 1 |
|                  | D. Henty-Wilson | 2 |         | CAMPBELL '84 |              |   |
|                  | W. McDonald     | 3 |         |              |              |   |
|                  | T. Tipping      | 3 |         |              |              |   |
|                  | T. Avery        | 4 |         |              |              |   |
|                  | R. Thorn        | 3 |         |              |              |   |

We note that the following members appear more than once - THORN, TIPPING, AVERY and CATHERILL (responsible for guest W. McDonald's fills). \*

### MT. GAMBIER CAVE DIVING

Nov. 3,4,5 & 6 - Melbourne Cup Weekend

Four sites have been booked at the Queen Elizabeth Caravan Park. So far we have only two definite starters - Alex Talay & myself. It is now necessary to start arranging dive venues/dates & seeking permission from property owners. This is impossible without some idea of numbers and Cat. ratings.

Last year we enjoyed brilliant diving and great socialising - there is no reason to think we can't build on this and do better again.

Unless I can fill the caravans with firm commitments at the Sept. G.M. they will be cancelled so that the club does not forfeit its deposits.

The trip will also be cancelled if no more interest is shown at the September General Meeting.

Enquiries to Geoff Birtles  
846 1983

**DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR SEPT. '84**

| <u>DATE</u>                    | <u>EVENT/LOCATION</u>  | <u>DIVE CAPTAIN</u>         | <u>MEET AT</u>                        |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sept. 19                       | Annual General Meeting<br>Election of Office Bearers                 | North Melbourne             | Football Club<br>8.00 p.m.            |
| Sept. 23                       | Dive<br>Slack Water (12.02)  | Pat Reynolds<br>789 1092    | 10.30 a.m.<br>Sorrento                |
| Oct. 7                         | Dive<br>Slack Water (12.32)  | Geoff Birtles<br>846 1983   | 10.30 a.m.<br>Sorrento                |
| **Oct. 13<br>(Saturday)        | 30th Anniversary Celebrations<br>Cabaret Night, Notice this<br>issue | Mick Jeacle<br>(059)712 786 | 8.00 p.m.<br>Nth Melb. F/Ball<br>Club |
| Oct. 17                        | General Meeting  | North Melbourne             | Football Club<br>8.00 p.m.            |
| Oct. 21                        | Dive<br>"Kakariki" (\$11.00 diver)                                   | Des Williams<br>762 1623    | 10.00 a.m.<br>St. Kilda Marina        |
| Nov. 3<br>(Melb. Cup<br>W/End) | Dive Weekend<br>Mt. Gambier<br>(Subject to confirmation)             | Geoff Birtles<br>846 1983   | Notes this<br>issue                   |
| Nov. 23                        | Dive Weekend<br>Victoria Towers/ Inverlorchie                        | Keith Jensen<br>460 3672    | T.B.A.<br>Queenscliffe                |
| Xmas                           | Dive Holiday<br>Eden   | Geoff Birtles<br>846 1983   | Notes this<br>issue                   |

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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.



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