

# FATHOMS

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Safety in Diving

## INDEPENDENT DIVING FREEDOM

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# VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

-- JUL 1985

# VSAG

836 6209

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## COVER STORY

*This photo taken by Kieth Jensen depicts VSAG member Igor Chernishov inside the wreck of the Japanese freighter Yamazuki Maru.*

*This ship known locally as the "Bonegi I" was wrecked near Tassafaronga Point, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands during fierce fighting in World War 2. It is one of the wrecks that can be dived from the shore near the Bonegi River and Copra Plantation.*

*The Yamazuki Maru is always a great dive with part of the wreck above the surface and the stern 100' to the sand.*

**TECHNICAL DETAILS:** Kieth used a Nikonos III 15m/m lens, Fujichrome 100 film with lighting by a Melbourne made Seastrobe 160.

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

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

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

# FATHOMS

Official journal of the Victorian Sub—Aqua Group

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JULY 1985

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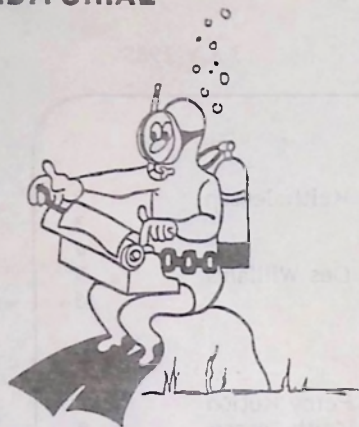
### Next general meeting:

Wednesday July 17th, 1985 8.00 pm  
North Melbourne Football Club  
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

### Next committee meeting:

Tuesday July 23rd, 1985 8.00 p.m.  
Paul Tipping's Residence  
521 Lygon Street, North Carlton

## EDITORIAL



Well, as I write this editorial we are in the midst of our winter months, not the most inviting weather to think about immersing one's body into the briny. But if you think about it, some of the better dives take place during these colder months, generally the seas can be glassy smooth and the visibility excellent, no plankton bloom to worry about.

Preparation is certainly the watchword for diving at this period of time, no need to mention that a good wet suit is mandatory for one's comfort, but other small items can certainly make the difference between being warm,

dry and happy as against being cold, wet and miserable.

As most of our diving is done from small boats waterproof boating jackets will keep the spray from you. Couple this with a woollen pullover beneath it and a woollen beanie on your head and with these few items you will remain warm and dry. A plastic garbag is ideal in which to store these items whilst diving to keep them from becoming wet.

We can assist in preventing our heat loss, with warm drinks and energy giving foods. Stainless steel unbreakable vacuum flasks are terrific items and will ensure that your drink stays hot and not sloshing around in your dive bag. Alcoholic drinks do not assist in keeping you warm, keep them for after the dive back on shore.

A much more satisfactory way to enjoy winter diving is to travel north to warmer climates, a fact that many V.S.A.G. members endorse. In fact, as you read this, some are enjoying diving in Papua New Guinea while others will join me in August (our wet and windy time of year) to dive Madang, Hansa Bay and Rabaul in New Guinea for 17 days. Still a few vacancies left if you feel the urge to dive warm clear waters onto large shipwrecks, planes and colourful coral reefs.

For our less thrifty, V.S.A.G. Holiday Savings Fund is available to you, take advantage of it and as your funds increase you will see the possibility of joining V.S.A.G. divers on their next sojourn overseas.

It will definitely be to a tropical location with shipwrecks and diving our winter months but now is the time to make the effort.

K. Jensen

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

AUGUST, 1985.

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

## COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 1985

Meeting held at Keith Jensen's home on Tuesday May 21st. Apologies for non attendance were received from Pat Reynolds and Andy Mastrowicz.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 505.94
Cash on hand	Nil.
Cash at building society	1,445.08
	<hr/>
	\$1,951.02

The following bills were noted for payment:

Australia Post	\$36.00
- registration of Fathoms	

### General Business

1. The Secretary read a letter which had been sent on behalf of the committee to Geoff Birtles thanking him for his contribution over the period he was a member of the committee.
2. Keith Jensen queried whether it was now appropriate to raise the boat levy fees in recognition of the rise in petrol prices to almost 58¢ a litre. It was agreed that effective immediately the cost for each diver would be \$14.00 per day, irrespective of whether it was a one or two tank dive.
3. The club has received a notice from Australia Post to re-register the Fathoms magazine. Copies of the last two magazines are required to be submitted with the fee of \$36.00. Barry Truscott is to attend to this matter and will refer to Paul Tipping if any difficulties are encountered.
4. Max Synon had prepared a list of members and their addresses and gave the list to Barry Truscott for his review.
5. It was agreed that a list of air fills not yet paid for from the Easter trip would be printed in the next issue of Fathoms.
6. It was also noted that the subscription notices would be included with the June issue of Fathoms.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.16 pm and an enjoyable supper put on by Mary & Cathy Jensen with the help of visitor Sam Truscott.

## S.D.F.-V MEETING

Tuesday 4th June, 1985

1. It was decided that the sale of S.D.F.V. windcheaters would be aided by the production of a sample printed garment, so club delegates could display at Club meetings and take orders for production.
2. S.D.F.V. car stickers will also be available at the next meeting.
3. S.D.F.V. Divers Directory has been printed and delegates were given copies to distribute to their Club members. These directories will be free as they were produced with costs covered by Aquarius Travel and Ocean Divers. Several commercial organisations also placed advertisements in the directory.
4. On August 6th at 8.00 p.m. S.D.F.V. will hold a conference between non-commercial club delegates, Water Police, Port Phillip Pilots, Port Phillip Safety Council, Ports & Harbours and Commercial Club interests. The intent of the meeting is to discuss with these bodies the problems of shipping obstruction caused by divers at the southern end of Port Phillip.  

Divers are causing problems, but no more (and possibly less) than fishermen and so-called professional charter operators who are as guilty as any amateurs of infringements both of rule 62A and boating laws.

Open discussion of the situation will hopefully reduce any further aggravation in this sensitive part of Port Phillip and ensure that the area remains open to divers.
5. S.D.F.V. delegates are to discuss possible re-introduction of scuba training within their Clubs, to boost membership. This can be arranged with Government approval, if it is the wish of a majority of non-commercial Clubs. A recent conference held in Canberra by the Australian Coaching Council on dive instruction agreed to the continuation and acceptance, at Government level of the Instruction program of the S.D.F. of West Aust., under the umbrella of its parent organisation, the S.D.F. of Australia.

For some 20 years the S.D.F. of W.A. have been teaching people to dive (equivalent to F.A.U.I./N.Q.S.) at a time when other states moved out of instruction at non-commercial Club level in favour of professional commercial bodies.

Thus W.A. Clubs, like ours, have enjoyed continued strength and success at a time when amateur Clubs in the east have been declining. Their newly trained members boost their membership.

The A.C.C. approval means that such an instructor program can now be transferred to other states if certain criteria are met.

This involved subject will be explained at June V.S.A.G. meeting by D. Williams for all who are interested.

D. Williams

**FOR SALE**

**FENZY BOUYANCY COMPENSATOR**

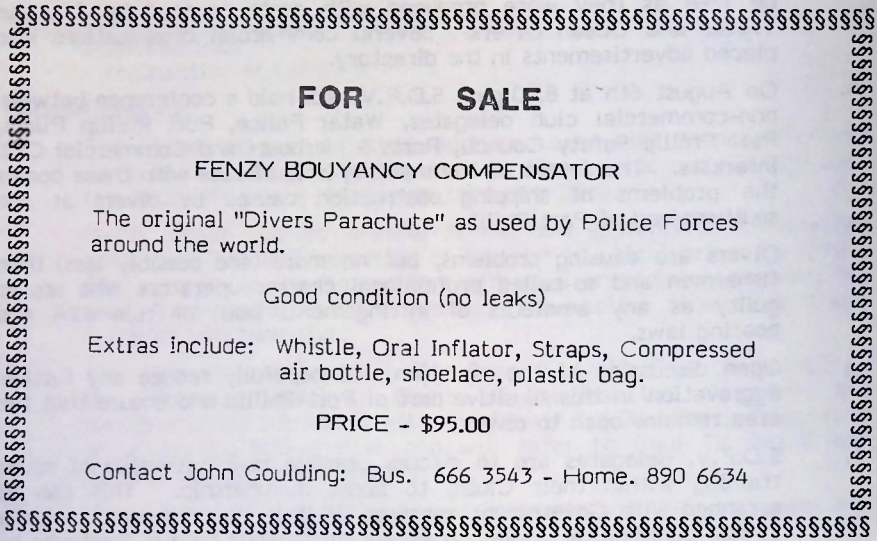
The original "Divers Parachute" as used by Police Forces around the world.

Good condition (no leaks)

Extras include: Whistle, Oral Inflator, Straps, Compressed air bottle, shoelace, plastic bag.

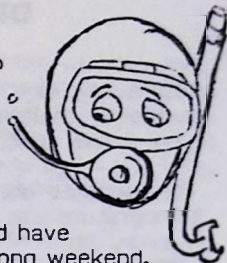
**PRICE - \$95.00**

Contact John Goulding: Bus. 666 3543 - Home. 890 6634





HELP

**FLOTSAM & JETSAM**

Normally at this time of the year this correspondent would have delight in describing V.S.A.G.'s adventures over the June long weekend. No so this year. Due to a difficulty in obtaining bookings V.S.A.G. stayed home, which was not too hard to take seeing as the weather was lousy. However, as is often the case, the sheltered waters between Flinders and Cape Schank were glassy smooth, and despite a poor attendance a few members enjoyed an excellent but cold dive.

Our next outing was the V.S.A.G. Family Picnic day at Lake Emerald. Des and Julie Williams organised the outing and fortunately the weather smiled brilliantly on the little group. Rick and Kathy Garretson, Bob and June Scott, Paul and Lesley Tipping, Andy and Gail Mastrowicz, Alex and Pat, and of course Murgatroyd and I - joined in with the kids to have a fun day.

Murgatroyd thinks its all a bit much. First she went to the Chinese banquet and then to the picnic. That's twice in less than a year I've taken her out, so I should be right for leave passes for Christmas at Byron Bay, Refuge Cove in January, Wilsons Prom next Easter, and probably one or two overseas trips as well - Got to keep the little lady happy haven't you!

News from Canberra is that Tony and Sally Brooks have bought a house and a boat. Brooks reckons its only 2 hours to the coast and 2 hours to the snow, so Brooks thinks he may stay for a while. No doubt Terry will become V.S.A.G.'s resident correspondent in Canberra, and save me the trouble of trying to write this column when there is nothing to report?

Percy Kutison

## DIVE REPORT-FLINDERS MAY 26th

by K. Jensen

Just a few days left in May, June 1st sees the season on crays limited to taking of male crays only. With this thought in mind, it was decided to have a cray bash at Flinders.

The weather on the day was good with slight to smooth seas but surface temperature was rather chilly.

I had a rather rushed trip to Flinders after finishing night shift at 8.00 a.m. that morning. Thankfully a quiet night at work enabled me to sleep from midnight till 6.30 a.m.

When Igor and I arrived the V.S.A.G. crew were just preparing to launch their boats. Robert Swoffer, Andy Mastrowicz, Mick Jeacle and Jack Namiota with friends who were using a Coaster 22 foot inboard outboard.

We were soon heading toward Cape Schank at a fast clip, the smooth sea promising easy diving and good visibility. Passing the Schank we broke off into several groups selecting our favourite areas.

Peter and myself were soon in the water, nice and clear but pretty cool. Only minutes into the dive I had bagged a nice cray, things were looking good. Pete and I searched ledge after ledge but to no avail - only one cray for the dive. On surfacing it appeared that others had met with much the same story - still we had a few crays.

After a few warming drinks and a bite of lunch we headed back toward Flinders. Another dive, this time I watched the boat while Paul and Igor dived. A short while later I heard a shout and saw a diver about 200 metres away obviously needing assistance.

Motoring over I saw Jack Namiota doing battle with a very large cray, whether Jack had caught the cray or the cray had caught Jack was a debatable point, but it appeared that they were fairly well enmeshed with each other.

I began to extricate the cray from Jack, trying to decipher his instructions which, given through his snorkel, were definitely hard to follow. Finally the brute was freed from Jack, most certainly the best catch of the day - a beauty - fully 10 lb. weight.

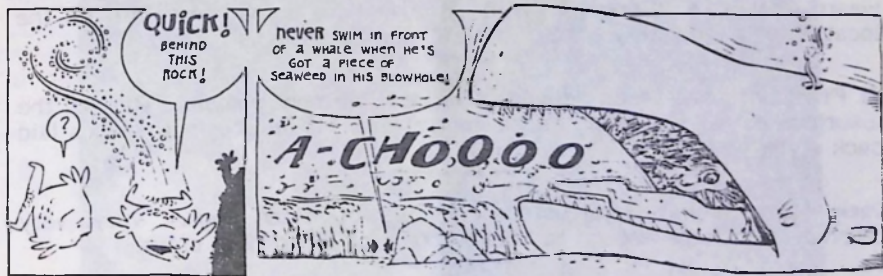
After Jack assured me that he had seen at least two more of that size I instructed Peter to look after the boat while I did battle with these giants of the deep. Once again the cold chilly water seeped in around my wetsuit, but the visibility was terrific, about 70 to 80 feet. Good ledges and once again I had a nice 5 lb. cray bagged, but that was again the total catch. The only others sighted were too small to contemplate getting.

On surfacing it appeared that I was the last diver. Big Mick was intent on getting back to the Pub. But Martin Italiano decided on one last dive. Soon we were back at Flinders, boats trailered, gear stowed and into the pub to revive ourselves.

I was certainly enjoying the convivial glass or two when Igor was champing at the bit to get home. Suddenly the penny dropped - Karen, Igor's lady love was arriving home from Bali that day and he was dying to see her after her 14 days away. I dare not print what Alex said about that situation, but being an easy going chap I left for home with Igor.

Another top V.S.A.G. dive where nearly all got at least one cray and some got several, topped off with the enjoyable ale or two, it makes life worth living.

## FISHTALES



## DECO STOPS

Keith Jensen

Martin Talliana and his family just returned from a diving holiday in Fiji, visiting the remote area of Yasawa Islands. Martin took advantage of duty free prices and purchased a Nikonos V, and I have heard he has some excellent underwater shots. Perhaps we shall see some in Fathoms.

\*\*\*\*\*

Andy & Gail also off to Fiji again this year. Qantas cheap fares for children have allowed them to take their ankle biters along.

\*\*\*\*\*

Max & Pam also on the travel kick. They are off to Hong Kong. Plenty of duty free shopping no doubt.

\*\*\*\*\*

That terrible trio Chris, Finn and Gordon joining with me to visit Papua New Guinea in August. What am I letting myself in for?

\*\*\*\*\*

Our Canberra correspondent Terry has purchased a boat, will be diving the Eden area regularly now. He is sure to see a few Melbourne faces up there.

\*\*\*\*\*

Heard that Des "Coramba" Williams may have some more info on the location of his mystery wreck. We all hope that this is it Des.

\*\*\*\*\*

El Presidento has taken delivery of a new Fairmont complete with all the luxurious extras, including cruise control etc. It all goes with Alex's laid back style.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jack Namiota has constructed a couple of catch bags. Very, very technical and large enough to hold a couple of 10 or 12 lb crays.

\*\*\*\*\*

Couple of new faces at our Flinders dive and at the last meeting Ian McMinn and Chris Bourier. We must try hard to crunch them to join, they have a very nice boat.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PHOTO CREDITS - Igor Chernichov



The Lady on Horseback deep inside the "President Coolidge". The XXXX beer can in the ladies hand courtesy of visiting VSAG divers on last year's trip.



Fathoms editor very deep in the bowels of the wreck, near the pantry. Note pistol in holster among the crockery.

## VANUATU VENUE FOR A V.S.A.G. OVERSEAS TOUR ?

Keith Jensen

As we are all aware, pre-planning and preparation are requisites of a successful dive trip. With this idea in mind I make this suggested venue (Vanuatu) as a location that we may consider for our 1986 overseas trip.

The parameters that have been laid down for the trip are - must have shipwrecks, preferably a tropical location, and to be reasonable in cost. Vanuatu fills all these conditions and offers even more.

Vanuatu, formerly known as the New Hebrides is a 1543 km, three hour flight from Sydney landing at Port Vila. Vanuatu consists of many islands - the largest Espirtu Santo, has the largest accessible shipwreck in the world which lays just beneath the surface in a depth range that allows exploration by divers of all levels of experience. Other well known islands are - Pentecost where during May the famous tree divers perform their ritual dives from tall trees, with vines secured to their ankles. Their fall is arrested only a few feet from the ground. Tanna island is famous for its active volcano and arrangements can be made to stay overnight and view the natural display put on by the volcano.

Port Vila on the island of Efate caters for the tourist trade. Accommodation is varied but my choice would be the Solaise Hotel, small and comfortable, terrific meals and close to the centre of Port Vila. Families are sure to enjoy Port Vila and most sporting activities are catered for. Boutiques, Perfumeries, Jewellery shops - all at duty-free prices, as well as many fine restaurants will ensure that the ladies are kept happy.

The diving around Port Vila is good, with 2 diving operations, Nautilus Dive and Dive Action operating daily. Wrecks that can be dived are "The Star of Russia" an old three masted sailing ship built in 1875. A scuttled island trader, "Kathleen" upside down in 110 feet of water. A Sandringham flying boat is also able to be dived 130 feet down and on a mud bottom. I was very disappointed on the day I dived it, but am assured when the tide is right, it is an excellent dive.

The biggest drawcard has to be the wreck of the U.S.S. President Coolidge, which sank in the Segundo Channel on the island of Santo, after running into an american minefield at the harbour entrance. Carrying

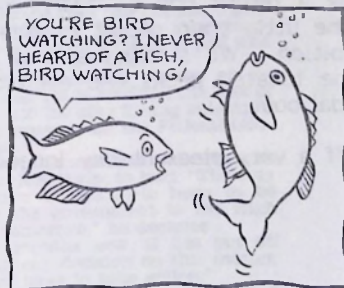
5000 troops, she sank fast with the loss of one life. Today she is home to turtles, several large cod, myriads of tropical fish, whilst pelagic Kingfish, Turriam(?) and sharks cruise her perimeter.

Allan Power runs an efficient dive operation. While I have heard it called a no-frills shoestring operation, I would be of the opinion that it could not be bettered. Allan transports you from the hotel to the dive site in a comfortable mini bus, has modern alloy tanks with heavy fills of good clean air. Allan can show you the quickest way around the wreck to see all the sites including the "Lady on Horseback". He has deco tanks complete with regulators at the 30 foot level and does not object if you have to use them should you be running short of air.

Hotel Santo is comfortable with self contained rooms, but the town of Luganville is beyond description, once apparently flourishing, it is since an uprising shortly after Independence, slowly dying. Several restaurants around the town offer reasonable food and Allan often accompanies the divers and during the course of a meal will relate many of the stories about the Coolidge.

With these things in mind, Vanuatu must surely be a contender for our trip. Oh, and I almost forgot - the Coolidge has intact portholes all over it, big and small ones, but it is a protected wreck - definitely hands off! Still, it will allow divers to see all she has to offer for many more years.

## OCEAN NUTS



## FAMILY DAY AT EMERALD LAKE

Des Williams

Beautiful surroundings, a crisp sunny day, good friends and a blazing wood fire - that was our family day at Emerald Lake of Sunday 23rd June.

Those Club members with families who didn't attend, missed a very relaxed day, as we had an excellent bar-b-que site.

Our gregarious President was of course in attendance, equipped with food and liquid refreshment and arriving in his Presidential limousine. Pat Reynolds and daughter Holly were soon setting up their picnic followed by the Garretson family.

Bob & June Scott were early arrivals and assisted the Williams to build a fire. It wasn't long before the fog had lifted and the sun came out against a blue sky.

With the arrival of the Goulding, Mastrowicz and Paul Tipping families, our group was complete. The smell of bar-b-que meats was soon accompanied by the gulp of hot soup as everyone warmed up.

Needless to say, the children were busy seeing who could get the dirtiest in the shortest time. Benjamin Goulding won this events hands (and feet and arms and bum) down. Whilst Holly Reynolds remained crispy clean throughout the whole day.

After lunch the Garretson family took a return trip on "Puffing Billy", whilst others mooched off to watch the little train depart or took their children into the model railway exhibition. We strolled around in the sunshine visiting the lake to feed the bloated ducks and even took a couple of turns around the lake in a pedal boat.

A couple of glasses of port rounded off a very pleasant day indeed. My thanks to those who attended.



## MEDIA WATCH

# Cray men are feeling the pinch — expert

6—The Sun, Thursday, May 30, 1985

By MATTHEW FYNES-CLINTON

VICTORIANS could well be paying \$2 per kilogram too much for their beloved crayfish.

In fact, the state's rock lobster industry is in a veritable tizz, long-time fisherman John Brockwell says.

Out of a job and awfully frustrated, he exclaims: "We have reached the stage where we can't supply our own state with crayfish.

"So they are being flown in from Tasmania. Yes, imported, if you like — at an extra \$2 a kilo. If that isn't an indirect tax, I'd like to know what is.

"I've just had to sell my boat — I've accumulated so many debts. Yeah, I've shifted out . . . I won't be able to think about fishing again until next summer."

It appears that rather like the currently-disaffected scallop fishing network, the cray has become frightfully vulnerable due to misconceptions over fishing grounds — just who has the right to what.

But Mr Brockwell, 43, has no reservations. He is levelling the loss of his job and the cray-fishing industry's demise squarely on the Federal Government.

Indeed, this man wants the Feds, as he describes them, to hurt. "The cray fishermen of this state hope to be taking the government to the High Court tomorrow," he declares.

"For months now, it has put off making any decision on this matter. We now have to take action."

Mr Brockwell wants to overturn a law. He says that in 1974, the Federal Government granted Tasmania cray-fishing rights to nine-tenths of Bass Strait.

Victoria, with irrefutably more mouths to feed, secured what remained. The inevitable results, Mr Brockwell claims, have finally told.

"This is a clear act of discrimination against the people of Victoria — let alone its cray fishermen," he said.

"The south-east coast cray fishermen — the primary producers for half this state's needs — total around 80. "Only about half of those are now operating owing to the poor state of the catch and insufficient waters from which to supply over two million people.

"Tasmania has 360 licenced fishermen for less than 500,000 people. Yet, governments — past and present — have called this good management. I'd call it playing politics with lives and incomes."

Mr Brockwell, a father-of-three, conceded that Victorian fishermen can obtain a suitably-endorsed Commonwealth boat licence from a current operator to work in the Tasmanian zone.

But they are required to pay \$2000 per pot for their entitlement. And that, he claims, is hardly fair.

"This government has created a rich man-poor man situation," he said. "And on the conservation issue, the 15 or 20 boats that would eventually take advantage of equal rights would not alter the Tasmanian catch rate one digit."

The big plus in fishing the Strait is that Victoria's local grounds would replenish markedly quicker.

"When you consider that by taking 15 to 20 boats off the over-worked local ground, you can turn a depressed fishery into a profitable one, well, you'd think the Commonwealth would be doing everything in its power to employ it," said Mr Brockwell.

At the expense of Victoria, he insists that little Tasmania is on some perk. "The top Tasmanian cray boats earn between \$300,000 and \$400,000 a year," he said.

"The top Victorian east coast cray men get from \$40,000 to \$50,000, with the average bloke receiving around \$27,000.

"If you're unlucky enough to be paying off your boat and licence, you'd probably end up with \$10,000 to \$15,000 and if that isn't discriminatory, I don't know what is."

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We divers wonder what facts and figures are correct; but we are aware that the Cray Fishermen Lobby will distort catch figures and costs to justify their own interests.

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Editor

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The Sun, June 17, 1985

## Cray men

AS secretary of the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association, I answer your item by Matthew Fynes-Clinton (May 30) with these points:

- Tasmanian cray-fishermen make a viable living because they looked after their fishery. Victorians lobbied their authorities to double the number of pots per boat and overfished the resource.

- The first management arrangements let Victorians who had traditionally fished south of 39 deg. 12 min. south retain that right. Since then, many have sold the right back to Tasmanians, or have come to live in Tasmania.

- The Federal Government realises that any extra licences, or effort, in this well managed fishery would doom it to the same fate as many other once profitable fisheries.

- Mr Brockwell is misleading about Tasmania being granted nine-tenths of the Bass Strait crayfishing grounds. Victoria would have nine-tenths as most of the Victorian Bass Strait coast is (or was) productive, whereas the Tasmanian northern coast was never productive. The productive areas are limited to the eastern and western strait islands.

- The population of any state being brought into this question is a red herring.

- Tasmania being an island is disadvantaged in all respects other than its fishing industry

- The problem with the southeast Victorian fishery appears to be too many units within that fishery. Maximum pot allocation to Tasmanian licence holders is 40, ranging down to 15.

- Many Tasmanian cray fishermen would be lucky to clear \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year.

- The Tasmanian effort is being reduced by the Fisheries Department taking one in every five pots every time a licence is split.

- This is a limited entry fishery and Victorian and Tasmanians alike have to pay the going rate for an existing licence if they want to get into the fishery. — Mrs. V.R. Pike (St. Helens, Tas.).

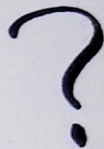
## DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR JULY 1985

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Capt.</u>	<u>Meet at</u>
July 17	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
July 21	Dive on "Sierra Nevada"	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Sorrento Boat Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Aug 4	Wreck Dive from a charter boat	Don Abell 29 4415	Queenscliff 9.00 a.m.
Aug 10-14	Snow Trip	Dave Moore 547 2791	Details June "Fathoms"
Aug 21	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Aug 25	"Eliza Ramsden"	Don Abell 29 4415	Sorrento Boat Ramp 10.00 a.m.
Sept 8	Dive in the Ships Graveyard	Andy Mastrowicz 318 3986	Sorrento Boat Ramp - 9.30 a.m.
Sept 18	Annual General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Sept 22	"Hollyhead"/"George Roper" Dive	John Goulding 890 6634	Sorrento Boat Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Nov. 2-5	Long Weekend at Marlo	Mick Jeacle for details 059 71 2786	

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Intending divers must 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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