

# FATHOMS

EST. 1954



Safety In Diving

## INDEPENDENT DIVING FREEDOM

Registered for posting as  
a publication category B  
Reg. No. VBH 2101

### \$2

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

# VSAG

## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

JUN 1985

# VSAG

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

## President & S.D.F. Delegate

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

## Treasurer

Mick Jeacle  
5 Donn Close  
Frankston. 3199  
Ph. (059) 71 2786

## Vice Pres. & S.D.F. Delegate

Des Williams - 762 1623  
Asst. Newsletter Editor  
Barry Truscott - 789 6395  
Points Scorer  
Andy Mastrowicz - 318 3986  
Social Secretary  
John Goulding - 890 6634  
Property & Safety Officer  
Pat Reynolds - 789 1092  
Public Relations  
Max Synon - 465 2812  
Committee Member  
Paul Tipping - 387 2027

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.

## Secretary

Don Abell,  
80 Liston St.,  
Burwood, 3125  
Ph. 29 4415

## Newsletter Editor

Kieth Jensen  
99 The Fairway,  
Kingsbury. 3083  
Ph. 460 3672



## 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.

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:

JUNE 1985

### COMMUNICATION

Editorial	Alex Talay	2
Committee Report		4
Letter To The Editor	John Lawler	9
Family Day	Des Williams	10
Media Watch		16
Tide Tables		8

### ENTERTAINMENT

Flotsam and Jetsam	Des Truccion	6
Deco Stops	Keith Jensen	15
Dive Report	Keith Jensen	11
Tidal River Limericks	Don Abell	21
Easter Camp Photos		12

### EDUCATIONAL

Hard Hat Diving	Des Williams	17
Diveproof Your Fins	Keith Jensen	20

<u>DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR</u>		23
-----------------------------	--	----

## Next general meeting:

Wednesday, June 19th, 1985 8.00 p.m.  
North Melbourne Football Club  
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

## Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, June 25th, 1985 8.00 p.m.  
Goulding Residence  
13 Birdwood Street, Box Hill

## EDITORIAL



As you no doubt have noticed we have a new cover for Fathoms. I think you will all agree it is an excellent shot.

Many slides were submitted for consideration but only a few were suitable.

To help those who intend submitting slides for future covers I have set out a few of the qualities that I look for when deciding.

1. **Content:** I prefer a shot with V.S.A.G. divers. Fish shots are nice but I believe a diver or divers creates more interest within and without our club.
2. **Colour:** The more colour variations in the shot the better. Colourful shots reproduce much better and give a more pleasing result.
3. **Clarity:** The shot must be sharp. Slides that are not in focus will not be considered as they reproduce poorly and lose even more in the printing process.
4. **Contrast:** The more contrast between light and dark there is the better it will reproduce. Contrasty shots (provided they are in focus) result in better detail and definition.

Full details about the cover photo are on the inside front cover of this issue, please read them if you haven't already as it is a very interesting ship.

I have dived the ship on many occasions and know a bit about its history, so look for an article in next month's edition accompanied by photos.

The club has some interesting events coming up in the near future. Des Williams is organising a family day the venue of which appears elsewhere in this issue.

On Saturday June 29th the club will once again be at Tidal River. The object is to dive the Bum Rock area where Pat Reynolds and I had a great dive last time we were there. Some of us will be going down Friday afternoon to set up our tents. The object being to have a minimum of tents and everyone to bunk in together. It will be a Saturday dive (weather permitting) and no pressure for the boat owners to dive on Sunday. I am the D.C. and will be checking with the lighthouse and Ranger on the Thursday to ascertain the weather and conditions.

As you are no doubt aware, there is a Club Overseas trip scheduled for sometime next year. I have taken over from Geoff, the responsibility of organizing the trip and will keep you regularly posted. Anyone interested in coming along should contact me as soon as possible. There is a fund administered by Mick Jeacle in operation, so in order to gain the maximum benefit of interest etc, you should join now.

The trip will definitely be a wreck sortie and the venue will be by popular choice. Truk, New Guinea, Solomons, Coolidge are some of the possibilities.

Those already going are: Mick Jackiw, Andy Mastrowicz and Gail, Warren Connan and wife, John Lawler and myself. Several others have also expressed interest and I would hope from 10 to 15 will make the trip.

At our last committee meeting it was decided to raise the boat fees from \$10 to \$14 to take effect from this edition.

As you know we are not a commercial club and do not expect our boat owners to make a profit. Nor do we want to see them lose money by providing us with the enjoyment and priviledge of using their facilities.

It is to be hoped that you will understand that the operating costs of running a boat these days are high. Fuel used both in the boat and in towing is high and servicing fees are not cheap.

When you consider that using 40 litres of fuel or more with 2 paying guests on board is not uncommon you don't need to be Einstein to work out who's behind the eight ball do you?

Regards Alex

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting held at Des and Julie Williams' home on Tuesday April 23rd, 1985.

Apologies were received from Keith Jensen and John Goulding. Visitors - Mick Jackiw and Ian Truscott.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 928.34
Cash on hand	Nil
Cash at Building Society	\$ 1,445.08
Total	<u>\$ 2,373.42</u>

The following bills were noted for payment:

M. Jackiw - air fills	\$ 36.00
-----------------------	----------

It was also noted that we have received a cheque from S.D.F. for their contribution to the post box rental. A cheque had also been received for \$60.00 from Peter Stone for advertising in the "Fathoms" magazine. This advertisement needs to be referred to John Goulding to determine whether we had agreed to advertise in the inside or outside of the back cover of the magazine. We also need to consider whether this advertisement would have any effect on our postal registration status.

Membership cheques were also received from John Suhr and Paul Roberts.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

List of dives and social events was drawn up until Melbourne Cup weekend in November.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

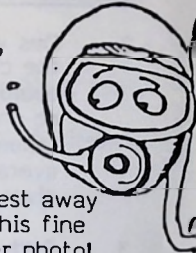
1. Pat Reynolds advised that the compressor motor had been advertised in the "Trading Post" but no sale had been made as yet.







## FLOTŞAM & JETŞAM



Aaah, how refreshing it is to take a holiday. A well earned rest away from the ceaseless pursuit of being a regular columnist with this fine magazine. And speaking of Fathoms, how about the new cover photo! Young Igor, who has earned himself somewhat of a reputation for his staying powers above the water seems to have an equally high endurance under the water! If you have a close inspection of our cover photo you'll see what I mean. . . .

Not only does his contents gauge show empty, also substantiated by the lack of bubbles, bulging eyes and general look of terror, but some sea monster has obviously bitten off his right leg at the knee!

However one good thing about the cover is finally they've corrected the spelling of "INDEPENDENT". When I complimented editor Keith Jensen about the new look magazine he modestly quipped, "Not bad for a kid from Collingwood Tech.!" Funny, I thought Igor went to Preston Tech.!

Not sure how we got onto the subject because I started out mentioning holidays and thought I should just mention one or two things pertinent to diving.

Murgatroyd and I together with the family demolition squad spent 8 days at Great Keppel Island off the Queensland Coast. Dave Moore and Barry Truscott will remember this place when we called in there 10 years ago whilst cruising the reef on board the "Murphy Star". One thing I did notice this trip Dave, and that was the absence of Japanese glass fishing floats. I guess the bloody tourists have pinched them all. How's yours going Dave?

Through clear balmy nights and sun drenched days we relaxed in the splendour of this beautiful island. On one day we took a boat trip around the island and then to another island where there was an underwater observatory nearby. This underwater observatory is located about 200 metres off shore in about 10 metres of water.



It is made of concrete and steel, and has a floating landing pontoon to which boats can offload passengers. From the pontoon you walk up a long wooden walkway to the top of one of two large silo structures rising out of the water. Perched on top of these silos is the living quarters. The silos also serve as the stair-way to the underwater observatory. Walking down the circular stairway you get the feeling that you're entering into the centre of the earth. Then suddenly you arrive at an enormous cavern like room complete with music, souvenirs, T shirts, photos and cold drinks on sale. Around the side of the circular room are windows where visitors gape in awe at the fish and coral. On the day we were there the water visibility looked about 15 feet, but the guy who runs the place who is obviously an expert! (He bought the place last year after being a sheep grazier out west of N.S.W. for 25 years) claimed that sometimes the visibility gets to 30 or 40 feet!!

Murgatroyd quickly recognised the possibilities of this facility and has convinced me to support her idea as follows.

Murg thinks that V.S.A.G. should choose Great Keppel Island as its next overseas trip destination. Instead of taking diving gear and go to all the trouble of getting wet, the club could just go to the underwater observatory each day and sit in comfort looking out at the fish. Not only would this enable more repetitive "dives" without worrying about bends but we could also take our tinnies with us!!

It is a great idea Murgatroyd and I'm sure the members will be very receptive. Interested members should contact Murgatroyd C/- Happy Daze Holiday Farm For Mums.

The graceful art of eating Chinese style was ripped to shreds on May 10th when 37 V.S.A.G.er's assembled at the Beijing Palace Restaurant to gorge their way through about 8 courses and the odd drink. A special shipment of Kevlar enforced P.V.C. chopsticks were imported from Canton to ensure that breakages were kept to a minimum as heavy handed divers thrust their skewer-like eatin' tools into the pork spare-ribs.

Like most social functions run by the V.S.A.G. we did manage to make a nice little profit (\$94.00) after all expenses including lucky prizes were covered.

Social Secretary Goulding advises that a concert night is being planned, with the likely venue being Freddy Cook's pub in Port Melbourne. So as they say in the ads! . . . Be there.

A fabulous congratulations to Des and Julie Williams who are expecting a baby later in the year. I'll get Murgatroyd to use the chopsticks she pinched from the Chinese Dinner to run up a little number. Good luck.

Signed DES TRUCTION

## TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

JULY, 1985.

Month Day		PORT PHILLIP HEADS.																Week Day		Month Day	
		High Water				Slack Water Flood (Stream Turns)				Low Water				Slack Water Ebb (Stream Turns)							
		h:m	H:M	h:m	H:M	h:m	H:M	h:m	H:M	h:m	H:M	h:m	H:M	h:m	H:M	h:m	H:M				
1	M	10 41	1 6	22 00	1 4	11 15	1 1	03 04	0 4	15 50	1 0	06 52	1 0	18 55	1 2	M	1	2			
	Tu	11 44	1 6	21 09	1 4	10 08	0 9	14 26	1 3	04 16	0 4	17 09	1 0	08 00	1 0	20 09	1 2	Tu	2		
	W			20 48	1 7	02 13	0 9	15 27	1 3	05 18	0 3	18 12	0 9	09 00	1 0	21 12	1 2	W	3		
4	Th	08 12	1 4	13 17	1 2	03 12	0 9	16 25	1 3	06 12	0 3	19 13	0 8	09 54	1 0	22 42	1 1	Th	4		
	F	01 12	1 4	14 25	1 2	04 09	0 8	17 20	1 2	07 07	0 3	20 15	0 7	10 46	1 0	23 10	1 1	F	5		
6	Sa	02 06	1 4	15 10	1 2	05 04	0 8	18 09	1 2	08 02	0 3	21 08	0 6	11 36	1 0			Sa	6		
7	Su	03 01	1 4	15 52	1 5	05 59	0 9	18 52	1 1	08 57	0 3	21 51	0 6	00 04	1 0	12 24	1 0	Su	7		
8	M	03 52	1 4	16 10	1 6	06 48	0 9	19 30	1 0	09 45	0 4	22 31	0 5	00 52	1 0	13 07	1 0	M	8		
9	Tu	04 41	1 3	17 04	1 5	07 33	0 9	20 06	1 0	10 26	0 4	23 08	0 5	01 36	0 9	13 45	1 0	Tu	9		
10	W	05 19	1 3	17 46	1 5	08 16	0 9	20 39	1 0	11 04	0 5	23 43	0 4	02 18	0 9	14 20	1 0	W	10		
11	Th	06 14	1 3	18 05	1 5	08 56	0 9	21 11	0 9	11 39	0 6			02 58	0 9	14 52	1 0	Th	11		
12	F	07 00	1 3	18 35	1 4	09 37	1 0	21 45	0 9	00 18	0 4	12 15	0 7	03 39	0 9	15 25	1 1	F	12		
13	Sa	07 49	1 3	19 09	1 4	10 22	1 0	22 25	0 9	00 56	0 4	12 56	0 8	04 22	0 9	16 02	1 1	Sa	13		
14	Su	08 43	1 3	19 47	1 4	11 15	1 1	23 11	0 9	01 41	0 4	13 48	0 9	05 12	0 9	16 47	1 1	Su	14		
15	M	09 43	1 3	20 03	1 3			22 23	1 1	02 16	0 5	15 04	0 9	06 09	0 9	17 48	1 1	M	15		
16	Tu	10 44	1 4	21 15	1 2	00 04	0 9	11 32	1 1	03 35	0 4	16 20	0 9	07 09	0 9	18 57	1 1	Tu	16		
17	W	11 44	1 4	22 41	1 2	01 01	0 8	14 29	1 1	04 28	0 4	17 18	0 9	08 04	0 9	19 59	1 1	W	17		
18	Th	12 12	1 4	23 42	1 2	01 57	0 8	15 18	1 1	05 13	0 3	18 05	0 8	08 52	0 9	20 53	1 0	Th	18		
19	Th																		Th	19	
20	F	00 16	1 2	13 59	1 5	02 49	0 7	16 03	1 1	05 56	0 3	18 49	0 8	09 16	0 9	21 42	1 0	F	20		
21	Sa	01 10	1 2	14 40	1 6	03 37	0 7	16 47	1 1	06 38	0 2	19 15	0 7	10 18	0 9	22 32	1 0	Sa	21		
22	Su	01 40	1 3	15 01	1 6	04 27	0 7	17 31	1 1	07 24	0 2	20 23	0 6	11 02	0 9	23 24	1 0	Su	22		
23	M	02 25	1 3	15 25	1 6	05 19	0 8	18 15	1 0	08 13	0 2	21 08	0 5	11 47	0 9			M	23		
24	Tu	03 21	1 3	16 01	1 6	06 13	0 8	18 57	1 0	09 05	0 3	21 52	0 4	00 14	0 9	12 34	0 9	Tu	24		
25	W	04 17	1 4	16 44	1 6	07 06	0 9	19 38	1 0	09 55	0 3	22 33	0 4	01 04	0 9	13 19	0 9	W	25		
26	Th	05 14	1 5	17 23	1 6	07 56	0 9	20 17	0 9	10 40	0 4	23 12	0 1	01 53	0 9	14 01	1 0	Th	26		
27	F	06 10	1 5	18 03	1 5	08 46	1 0	20 58	0 9	11 22	0 6	23 53	0 1	02 41	0 9	14 42	1 0	F	27		
28	Sa	07 07	1 5	18 45	1 5	09 35	1 1	21 40	0 9			24 04	0 7	03 30	0 9	15 23	1 1	Sa	28		
29	Su	08 06	1 5	19 31	1 5	10 10	1 2	22 29	0 9	00 18	0 1	25 02	0 8	04 24	0 9	16 09	1 2	Su	29		
30	M	09 13	1 5	20 22	1 4	11 13	1 2	23 31	0 9	01 11	0 4	25 54	1 0	05 21	0 9	17 08	1 2	M	30		
31	Tu	10 20	1 5	21 14	1 4			24 51	1 3	02 06	0 4	25 22	1 0	06 30	1 0	18 38	1 2	Tu	31		
	W	11 26	1 5	22 49	1 3	00 43	0 9	24 05	1 3	03 54	0 4	26 45	1 0	07 39	1 0	19 47	1 2	W	11		

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The 1985 "Tidal River Easter Camp Dive" is now part of our diving history. This diver made one or two observations and I take the liberty of asking you to print some.

My first observation was the way in which the dive Captain for the most part, Don Abell, and not forgetting our President, Alex Talay, who conducted the brilliant "Bum Rock" dive on Monday, performed his task in a most pleasant and well planned manner. No gripes, no aggro and diving went ahead at Don's control better than I've witnessed for some time.

Then came one of the better performances of consideration, loyalty and unselfishness by Keith Jensen.

Despite heavy work commitments for Keith (and his assistant at hand Paul Crellin - well done Paul) and pressure to return to work in Melbourne, Keith made an all too brief trip to "Tidal" which provided diving for some who otherwise would have missed out due to a lack of boats. (You get my personal vote of thanks K.J.).

Another observation was the way in which all the "Advisors" pitched in to assist Andy Mastrowicz repair his boat trailer after a couple of U-bolts failed, hence bringing to a complete halt any diving from Andy's mighty Blue Haines. One and a half hours later we were all off to the dive site thanks to the many helpers who pulled Andy out of his crisis.

Maxie Synon, ever reliable, always obliging, provided good safe transport (and beat a going over by a F.W.O.) from his great Alloy boat to the dive sites whilst conducting an on board boat handling school for his son Chris. Max provided us with his fabulous (old style converted copper) cray cooker. With crays ranging from 10lbs, 2's and 4's, this was a most welcome unit to have on hand - Don't quite know how the crays would have been cooked without Max's unit.

The mighty "Taj Mahal" of Jumpsuit Jack again was the venue for some (I'm modest) great curries, spaghetti and would you believe real roast turkey and plum pudding for Easter Sunday dinner, so superbly prepared by my companion Patricia Hilton and friend Jenny. Thanks to all who joined us.

Editor, on behalf of the divers, may we say "Thanks" to all involved in the planning, provision of boats and the all too many to mention factors involved in making the 1985 "Tidal River" Dive the great success it will long be remembered for. (Despite the bloody rain!!)

Jumpsuit Jack (John Lawler)



# FAMILY PICNIC DAY - SUNDAY JUNE 23RD

By Des Williams

VENUE: Emerald Lake, in the Dandenongs

TIME: 10.30 - 11.00 a.m. (be on site for pre dinner drinks)

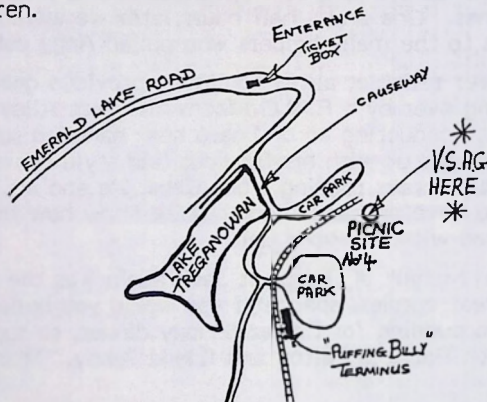
## B.Y.O. DRINKS & B-B-Q MEAL

This is a beautiful place for a B-B-Q picnic with the family. There is lots for the children to do and see such as bush walks, feed ducks (B.Y.O. stale bread) model railway, playground and of course "Puffing Billy".

If the early start surprises you, then let me explain. On site No. 4 there is an excellent B-B-Q cabin, containing two electric and one wood B-B-Q's. There are plenty of tables under shelter here should they be required. To have this site to ourselves I am requesting that everyone be as punctual as possible. Julie and I will be there much earlier and will of course try to reserve the site - so please help us.

Entry to the Emerald Lake Reserve is \$2.00 per car payable at the gate; wood for the fire is supplied.

Please support us by coming along and joining in a relaxed picnic in pleasant surroundings. Just follow the map to site No. 4 on the right over th railway line. Don't forget the grog, your woolly jumper and of course the children.



Ring Des Williams on 762 1623 on Saturday 22nd after 6.30 p.m. to confirm attendance. \*

SEE YOU THERE!!

## DIVE REPORT - HEADS AREA, MAY 5TH

By Keith Jensen

A fine still morning no wind at all, smooth sea which indicated that it was going to be a top diving day. Max and I arrived at about 9.15 a.m. and were met by early birds Warren Connan and Paul Sier others arrived in quick succession. John Goulding and Don Abell with the Bill Boat in tow. Andy Mastrowicz with his Haines and then Big Mick and Pat, and as they alighted they made for their boat trailer a group gathered around. We sauntered over where Mick was examining a large crack in the main frame of the trailer. How he got to Sorrento at all without the lot giving way was a miracle!

A quick cup of coffee at Marty's, divers were allocated to the appropriate boats and we were off. Oh well 10.20 a.m. is not too bad for a 9.30 a.m. V.S.A.G. start. As we cleared the Heads it was obvious to all that the ground swell would make our dive on the Cheviot an impossible task so off to the deep sub.

As we neared the area we sighted several other boats moored, we would not have a clean wreck to dive on this day. Andy and his crew decided that it was not worth the hassle and returned to the bay for a cray hunt. Our boat crew divided into two groups, John Lawler and Igor Chernichov and the other group Max, myself and Jack Namiota. Unfortunately we had a few problems and had to abort the dive, but I have it on good authority that the sub was down there and it was a good dive.

Max and I then decided to have a shallow drift dive in the bay. We found a nice area and got our limit of abalone all nice large green lips.

The afternoon's dive was at slack water right in the Heads near Point Nepean. Mick had the marks, and the depth sounder showed excellent readings. A shot was dropped and we waited for the slack. A few eager beavers dropped in and it was obvious that they had entered too early as they were swept past the shot.

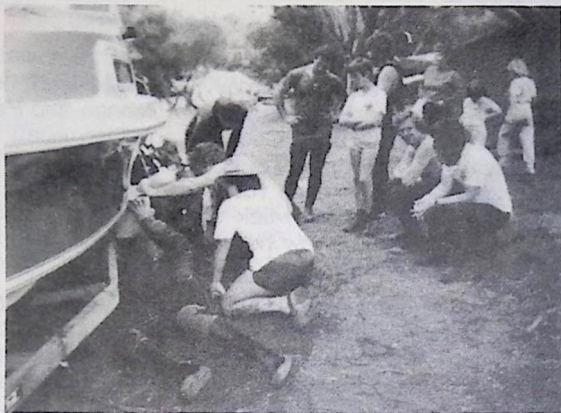
Soon it was time. I dropped my crew overboard Jack Namiota, John Lawler and Igor. I watched their bouyline slowly drift and then stop about 30 metres past the shot line and there it stayed. After about 30 minutes a couple of divers popped up. Mick raced off to pick them up, a torrent of bubbles frothed on the surface and there appeared a grinning Warren Connan holding aloft a huge cray. He could not get it into the bag as it held two other large beasties. Warren's luck was still good, as the cray was hauled into the boat it was observed that his torch was barely caught in a spike on a cray leg.

Cont. p. 14

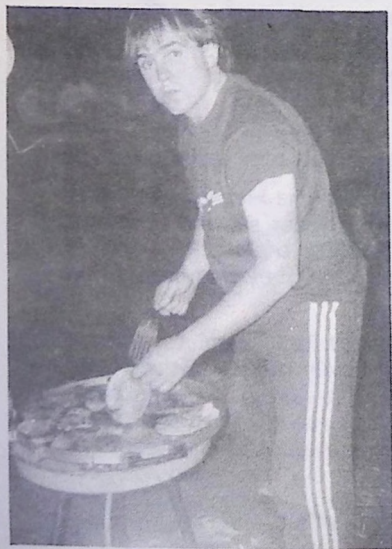
# EASTER CAMP

## TIDAL RIVER

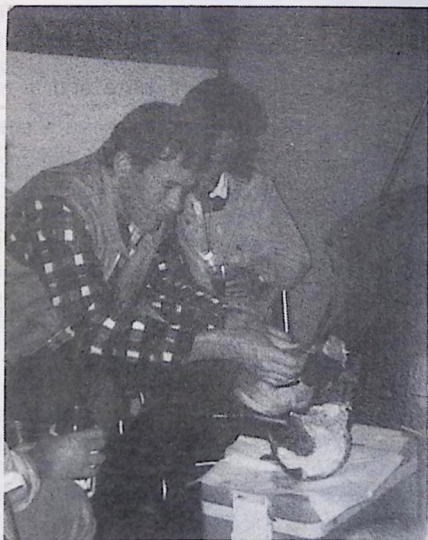
Photo's By  
Chris Lewellyn,  
Anthony Finnigan  
&  
Debbie Ferrall



ALL IN TO REPAIR ANDY'S TRAILER



"MINE CHEF" ANTHONY FINNIGAN



DON & NICKI, TUCKING IN ON THE  
CATCH OF THE DAY



A ROSE BETWEEN  
TWO THORNS  
DEBRA, RHONDA  
AND LITTLE  
MICK



V.S.A.G.  
PARTY NIGHT

My divers surfaced after 40 minutes also with good catches. John and Jack with two each of good size and Igor with a large one. Max and I had to get in on this. So in we went, fantastic ledges, fish everywhere, great visibility but one hell of a current. A brief five minutes and we gave it away. Just not our day.

Back at the ramp Mick was floating his boat onto his trailer so as not to increase the stress on the weak damaged area.

Soon we had all the boats snug on the trailers all set to have a few ales at the Sorrento pub when we received the news the pub was closed. As we set off Big Mick noticed the wheel on his trailer wobbling and as he stopped a wheel nut fell off. It seemed while we were away someone fancied his Mag wheels but must have been disturbed before they could complete the task. Mick did finally get home with his boat, trailer and it looks as if Pat and Mick have a few repairs to carry out before the next dive. \*

### HIT LIST

Air fills Tidal River Easter

Tony Tipping	3 fills
Paul Tipping	2 fills
Igor Chernichov	3 fills
John Lawler	3 fills
Chris Lewellyn	2 fills
Anthony Finnigan	1 fill
Andy Mastrowicz	4 fills
Paul Crellin	1 fill

Prompt payment at next general meeting would be appreciated.

### OVERSEAS TRIP 1986

A savings account is in operation for our next trip planned for 1986. Contributions at the rate of \$49.00 per month. An easy way to save for what may be a trip of a lifetime.

Contact: Mick Jeacle at Next General Meeting

**DECO STOPS**

By Keith Jensen

Our evening at Beijing Palace was very enjoyable. Congratulations to Johno for a good night.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bazza was a picture of sartorial elegance in his Punk Rockers clothes courtesy of his son Chris.

\* \* \* \* \*

I was lucky enough to win a prize, a bottle of Directors Special Port, Big Mick insisted we sample, sorry none left to take home.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bazza issued out Fathoms with our new cover, as usual Alex did us proud.

\* \* \* \* \*

Igor will autograph the cover if you ask him, yes it is Igor on the cover not Henri Bource.

\* \* \* \* \*

Andy Mastrowicz has just had a knee operation recently, hope it heals quickly Andy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Warren Connan bagged five large crays on one dive recently, looks like Bazza's cray title is on the line.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alex Talay finally got his Nikonas V camera assembled. It was a shame the photographic dive was cancelled, better luck next time Alex.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hear Dave Moore has found a bed of GIANT scallops near Sorrento. When are we going Dave?

\* \* \* \* \*

Chris Lewellyn seen cutting a dash around the northern suburbs driving a very late model canary yellow chev Corvette.

\* \* \* \* \*

Igor in rather an agitated state of late his lady love, Karen spent 2 weeks in Bali. Remember Igor, absence makes the heart grow fonder.

\* \* \* \* \*



## MEDIA WATCH

The Sun -  
19.4.85

# Boat flares a must soon

**BOATS** under 20 metres long travelling on Victorian coastal waters will be made to carry distress flares under new State Government legislation.

The Police and Emergency Services Minister, Mr Mathews, said the new legislation, — to come into effect on August 1 — was designed to reduce the number of people lost or stranded in Victorian waters.

"The flares will need to be imported and so I want to give stockists and the public ample notice of the new regulations" he said.

"The discharge of flares is an effective means by which a boat operator can indicate

By **MICHAEL ROBERTS**

that the boat is in difficulties.

"Carriage of flares, by assisting in the location of disabled boats, will help to reduce the time and expense of extensive search and rescue operations and save lives."

The flares which will become mandatory on August 1 include two hand-held red flares capable of showing a brilliant, continuous red signal.

Two hand-held orange



● **MR MATHEWS**

smoke flares capable of emitting dense orange smoke for at least 30 seconds will also be required.

Some boats, such as boat tenders, canoes, kayaks and sailing boats with permanently enclosed hulls, will be exempt from the new regulations.

Sailing boats under five metres taking part in daylight racing are also exempt.

**THERE** will be underwater blasting near Port Phillip Heads and the South and West Channels over the next five months.

The movement of all traffic through the Heads will be prohibited during blasting. It might also be restricted or prohibited in the South and West Channels.

If you plan to use your boat in the area, you must be familiar the signals and obey instructions given by the blasting vessel or by radio from the Point Lonsdale Signal Station.

The Sun - 6.5.85



"Watch out! There's a Ms-eating shark!"

## HARD HAT DIVING - THE PIONEERS

By Des Williams

I have always been interested in the history and development of diving which has ultimately led to the refinement of today's diving equipment used both commercially and in sport diving.

Many years ago, I was diving beneath Portsea Pier, when I came across a diver using the old conventional helmet and twill suit. He was obviously giving the antique a try out, but I was fascinated by the cumbersome nature of the equipment. Those heavy lead boots would only allow him to walk, or at best leap like one of the lunar explorers, whilst I was able to move with so much freedom in a scuba outfit. From that day, I have always wanted to have a go at helmet diving and experience the way so much salvage work was done beneath the sea, years ago.

A description of the diving dress now follows, so you may compare with your own scuba gear outfit:

### The Diving Dress:

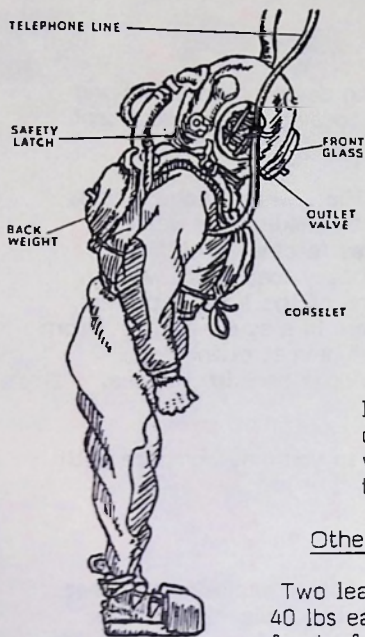
This is made of vulcanised proofed twill in one piece enclosing the feet. It has a double collar of which the outer is of thick vulcanised rubber to take the corselet. Vulcanised rubber cuffs fit tightly round the wrists and additional rubber bands are needed to make them watertight.

### The Corselet:

A padded oval collar is worn to protect the shoulders from the corselet or breast-plate which like the helmet, is made of tinned copper. This is clamped on to the outer collar of the dress by brass strips which are firmly bolted down. The life-line and air hoses are secured with a lanyard to the neck of the corselet.

### The Helmet:

It is screwed on to a thread in the neck of the corselet by one-eighth of a twine. (Rather like the lid of a domestic pressure cooker). A small catch on the back is turned down into a recess to secure it.



The helmet has three windows of 12mm thick glass; fixed oval ones either side protected by guards and a circular central one in front, which can be unscrewed.

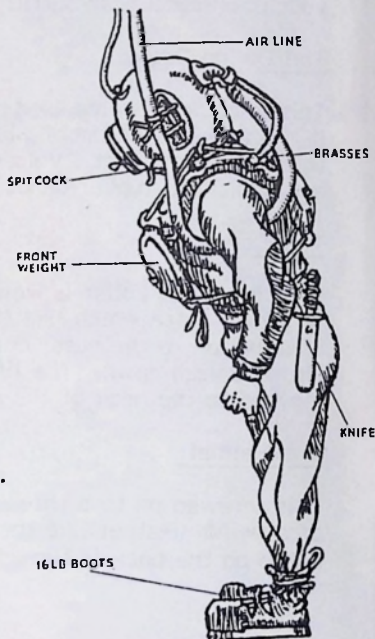
The air pipe is attached to an inlet valve on the back of the helmet. A non-return valve ensures air pressure is maintained in the suit if the supply fails. Just behind the right hand window, the outlet valve is sited so that bubbles do not interfere with vision. By tightening a screw in this valve, the diver can increase the air volume in the suit or by releasing it he can get rid of surplus air.

In the front of the helmet is a small "spit-cock" which enables the diver to suck in water and blow it over the misted glass face to clear it.

#### Other Equipment:

Two lead weights of 40 lbs each are slung in front of and behind the corselet, with facilities for quick release in emergencies. A leather adjustable "jock strap" passing between the legs from front to back of the corselet prevents the helmet raising too far off the diver's shoulders. A sheath knife and waist belt are always worn. The boots are of tough leather with brass toe caps and wooden weighted soles each weighing 18 lbs.

A breast rope of plaited hemp, with or without telephone wires links the diver with the surface. It is usually marked every 10 ft. with a symbol indicating the depth.





After climbing into the twill suit a diver then sits on a stool, whilst attendants dress him. As a fully dressed diver weighs in the region of 380 lbs in air it is essential he be provided with a means to enter the water. The most popular is a steel ladder extending well below the surface, or a mesh steel platform lowered into the water by a crane whilst the diver stands on it.

### Surface Air Supply

The most common source of air was the manually operated pumps, although banks of air cylinders were utilised when mixed gas diving was done below 165 ft.

The manual pump had to be kept in perfect condition and was thus serviced very regularly. It consisted of a two cylinder double-action pump. The pistons were driven by rotating the two wheels on either side of the pump casing, usually operated by two men on each wheel. The deeper the diver went, the faster the pump had to be operated to maintain the pressure needed. Sometimes two pumps were coupled together to enable a diver to go below 130 feet. The following chart shows details of operating the pump at different depths.

Depth	Cu. Ft. Per Min. Of Air	No. Of Cylinders Needed	Revs. Per Min. Of Pump
0	1.5	1	15
16	2.2	1	22
33	3.0	1	30
66	4.5	2	22
99	6.0	2	30
132	7.5	4	21
165	9.0	4	27

Despite the limitations of this cumbersome diving gear, some remarkable work was done by divers over the decades. During the times of World War, clearance divers removed sunken block shops, scuttled by the enemy in the entrance to important harbours. Reading of their work and coverage has left me incredulous at the results they achieved enclosed in that twill and "hard hat" in zero visibility at most times. The courage and skill almost makes a mockery of the scuba diving "badge-bandit" of the 1980's! \*

## DIVEPROOF YOUR FINS

By Keith Jensen

Nearly every diver you encounter has made some minor modification to his equipment. I have always believed your gear should be as comfortable, safe and easy to handle as possible. This allows you to pay less attention to a slipping strap, for example and more attention to the objective of your dive.

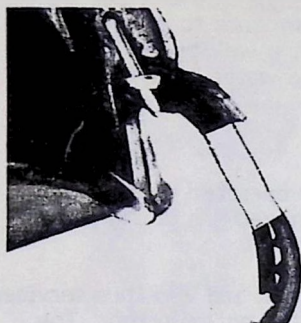
What improvements can be made on fins? Have you ever had adjustable heel straps slip? Had a foot pocket full of sand, discovered you were carrying water filled fins. Diving is fun, but little things as these detract from the enjoyment. Once a problem is identified, a solution is not far behind. Here are several suggested improvements for adjustable heel strap fins.

The threading of the strap as it comes from the manufacturer leaves the free end on the outside where it can snag. Many divers reverse the threading to make the free end wind up inside - an improvement. But, there is an even better way to thread the strap which results in much less slippage. Even though the straps will not slip, the adjustment will change over a

period of several dives. The straps creep under tension. To prevent this, tape straps with black electricians tape.

Very few fin foot pockets have holes in the ends. But holes certainly aid draining water and

pumping out sand as you kick. A couple of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch holes drilled in the foot pocket will do the job nicely. A reversing of straps and taping are also applicable to masks to prevent slippage and retain adjustment. \*



**MORE LIMERICKS ABOUT V.S.A.G.'S EASTER TRIP**

By Don Abell

Young Bazza felt like a treat,  
So he came to Tidal for a peak.  
But he bunked in with Pat,  
And two ugly wombats.  
And wasn't game to roll over to sleep.

Igor never goes to Tidal to sleep.  
He treats the trip more like a feast,  
To be more of a bore.  
He's been known to keep score,  
He'd make a man feel like a priest.

Now there's a story about young Tony Tipping,  
His feats underwater are gripping.  
But when diving is done,  
He can't wait to get home  
Cause if he's lucky Marg gives him a whipping.

Were Olive's intentions sincere,  
At least they were certainly clear.  
But dive captail Abell,  
Dragged her off the table.  
Cause the boys preferred to drink beer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Final acceptances for limericks about Tidal River must be in by June General Meeting.

REMEMBER THE PRIZE IS TWO DOZEN CANS OF BEER.



## CONTRATULATIONS - MICK JACKIW

Just recently, one of our V.S.A.G. members and former committee member Mick Jackiw, was appointed to assist the State Maritime Archaeologist.

Our congratulations go to Mick, as we know that the Victorian Archaeological Survey now have a very able and willing worker and diver in Mick.

Mick's tasks will be many, but amongst them he will be responsible for care of the 22 ft. sharkcat diving boat and equipment as well as taking care of transportation of the boat and equipment to dive sites. He will be the fourth member of the diving team assisting archaeologists Mark Staniforth and Nic Clark.

We wish you well Mick, but hope you will still have time to attend V.S.A.G. dives.

---

### 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 & Compressed Air Bottle

Price \$95.00

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

---

### NOTICE

To all those V.S.A.G. Members who are in the habit of phoning John Goulding at work to get a great discounts on travel, please note new phone work number is 666 3543

---

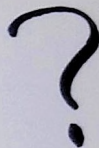
**DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR - MAY 1985**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
June 8/10	Queens Birthday Weekend Accommodation was unable to be arranged at Sorrento or Queenscliff for this period <u>No Club Dive</u>		
June 19	General Meeting	North Melbourne F/ball Club	8.00 p.m.
June 23	Family Fun Day	Des Williams 762 1623	Emerald Lake 10.30 - 11.00 a.m.
June 28/30	Tidal River	Alex Talay 772 3085	Tidal River Camp Friday 28th p.m.
July 17	General Meeting	North Melbourne F/ball Club	8.00 p.m.
Aug 4	Charter Boat Wreck Dive	Don Abell 29 4415	Queenscliff 9.00 a.m.
Aug 10/14	Snow Trip	Dave Moore 547 2791	Mt. Buller Sat. Aug. 10th
Aug 25	Wreck Dive "Eliza Ramsden"	Don Abell 29 4415	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
Nov 2/5	Melb. Cup Weekend	Mick Jeacle 059 71 2786	Marlo
Dec 26	Christmas Camp	Tony Tipping	Globetrotters
Jan 7	Byron Bay	80 4956	Caravan Park Byron Bay

\* \* \* \* \*

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.

# Looking for diving adventure



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**ISLE OF PINES**

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**

**PHILIPPINES**

**MALDIVE ISLANDS**

**FIJI**

**VANUATU**

GREAT BARRIER REEF, MADANG, TRUK LAGOON, PHILIPPINES, ISLE OF PINES, RABAU, SOLOMON ISLANDS, BALI, COOK ISLANDS, WESTERN SAMOA, ABROLHOS ISLANDS, LORD HOWE ISLAND, BYRON BAY, HERON ISLAND, HAYMAN ISLAND, POOR KNIGHTS, TAVEUNI, FIJI, MALDIVES, SRI LANKA, PULAU TIOMAN, PUERTO GALERA, CEBU, VANUATU, AITUTAKI, SPILSEY ISLAND, LADY ELLIOT ISLAND

*Talk to the divers who have been there. One phone call could open up your world . . .*

For personal and professional service, discuss your holiday plans with Janis, Diana, Phil or Pete.

**AQUARIUS/Dive Travel Australia**  
40-42 Taylor Street, Ashburton, Vic., 3147.  
Phone: (03) 25 8863 Telex: AA35411

***The Scuba Diving Holiday Specialists***

General holiday and flight bookings for all interstate and overseas destinations available with same personal service.

Full members of Australian Federation of Travel Agents.  
Ansett accredited. We support the V.S.A.G.