

FATHOMS

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Safety in Diving

INDEPENDENT
DIVING
FREEDOM

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Victorian Sub Aqua Group,
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1985

VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

E-NSV 1985

VSAG

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

President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Newsletter Editor

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

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 Lawler - 569 9851

Property & Safety Officer

Pat Reynolds - 789 1092

Public Relations

Max Synon - 465 2812

Committee Member & S.D.F. Delegate

Paul Tipping - 387 2027

Committee Member

John Goulding - 890 6634

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.



COVER STORY

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

This ship known locally as the "Bonegi 1" 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: Keith 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

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NOVEMBER 1985

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Next general meeting: Wednesday, November 20th, 1985 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting: Tuesday, November 26th, 1985 8.00 p.m.
1 Katrina Avenue, Murrumbeena

EDITORIAL



As the tide rises and falls, so do our membership numbers, this months Fathoms welcomes Jack Namiota and Chris Bourior to the fold and hope that they may dive with us for many years to come. In the debit side a few have failed to renew memberships for the current year, perhaps they have just forgotten to send in their dues. A list of these people has been published, a gentle reminder from their friends may jog their memory.

No need to tell you that the cost of diving is increasing, I wonder if you realise the current value, of the diving gear that you own. The high replacement costs were bought home to me recently

when some of my diving gear was stolen. A ring around the dive shops for prices of gear and I was astounded. The current value of the Aussie dollar is not buying very much these days. The message is clear, lock up and look after your gear. Keep serial numbers, receipts etc. and upgrade your insurance policy and the trauma of lost gear will be reduced.

Our Christmas get together this year is at Barbarinos, John Goulding and John Lawler are the organisers. Keep December 6th free, book in and help make the night another V.S.A.G. night to remember.

Just a couple of weeks away is our Marlo trip Big Mick has organised the trip well, 6 dive boats, 24 divers and 40 people attending. So I guess next months Fathoms should have plenty of stories of that event.

Keith Jensen

COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting of Committee of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group held at Unit 2, 13 Melrose Street, Mordialloc on Tuesday, 24th September 1985, at 8.30 p.m.

Apology for non attendance was received from A. Mastrowicz.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The President declared all positions on the Committee vacant and requested Paul Tipping to preside over the meeting during the elections for Committee positions. The following persons were elected to the respective positions.

President	Alex Talay
Vice President	Des Williams
Secretary	Don Abell
Treasurer	Mick Jeacle
Newsletter Editor	Keith Jensen
Assistant Editor	Barry Truscott
Social Secretary	John Lawler
Property Officer	Pat Reynolds
Safety Officer	Pat Reynolds
Points Scorer	Andy Mastrowicz
Public Relations Officer	Max Synon
S.D.F. Delegates	Des Williams, Paul Tipping & Alex Talay

SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary noted an outgoing letter to Mr. A.L. Harper, thanking him for his assistance as auditor of the Group's financial statement, and forwarding him a copy of those statements for the year ended 30th June, 1985.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 584.50
Cash on term deposit	1,574.34
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,158.90
	<hr/>

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Keith Jensen raised the matter of the 1986 Christmas trip and suggested that the facilities at Kangaroo Island were perhaps not as good as the Club might require. Furthermore, it would be expensive to take cars and boats across to the island by ferry. The Committee agreed that the location should be considered within the next couple of months, to ensure that we are able to book a suitable location. Port Lincoln was suggested as a venue, as those who had attended the last trip to Port Lincoln thought the diving was of a high standard.
2. John Goulding took names of persons who would contact various organisations, requesting donations towards our Club's raffle for the Christmas dinner.
3. Mick Jeacle suggested that private boats should make arrangements to book their position at Refuge Cove for the Australia Day Weekend. Mick will attend to this matter. It was suggested that some different names be used for booking the private boat sites at Refuge Cove.
4. Barry Truscott thanked the Committee for their nomination of his life membership, and was assured by all those present that the life memberships for both himself and John Goulding were considered to be well deserved.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 10.31 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Don Abell

This is my answer to the Annual Presidential Report. No one has asked me to write it but I refuse to let that stop me. It reminds me of the time Prime Minister Fraser asked his Secretary to send his apologies for not attending a Heads of State Meeting in Europe. When his Secretary advised that he had not actually been invited, he retorted that is he waited to be invited he would never go anywhere.

Alex has included most of the less important aspects of the year into his annual report. He agreed to leave the most important announcement to me, that is the "Meeting Member of the Year Award". (Not to be confused with the Clubmen of the Year Award). This award from my point of view as Club Secretary, is for outstanding contributions to the general meetings. This is the Secretary's equivalent to man of the match award.

The method of determining the award, was made in the only way documented. Points are given for moving and seconding motions at meetings. Two points are awarded to the member moving a motion and one point to the member who seconds the motion.

During the year there were eleven general meetings at which twenty eight motions were passed, all moved but not all seconded. The participants in order of the award are as follows.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Moved</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
John Lawler	4	14	22
Keith Jensen	8	1	17
Andy Mastrowicz	8		16
Des Williams	4	4	12
Pat Reynolds	3		6
Max Synon		2	2
Mick Jeacle	1		2
John Goulding		1	1
Dave Moore		1	1
Dave Henty-Wilson		1	1
Mike Weber		1	1

So congratulations to John Lawler who has been involved in 18 of the 28 motions through the last year.

But what are we able to analyse from all this? Starting from the bottom up.

Mike Weber

We are now able to prove that Mike did attend one meeting over the 12 months.

Dave Henty-Wilson

We know that Dave has attended one meeting in February and we can't remember seeing him since!

Dave Moore

I think Dave has been to more than one meeting, but we are now able to verify that he left the bar at least once.

John Goulding

Obviously planning for his effort at Refuge Cove, John had a low profile up to Refuge and after. John's only contribution was in the first meeting of the 1984/5 year, obviously to ensure he received a mention in the Meeting Member Award.

Mick Jeacle

What we can tell from this, is that Mick felt obliged to nominate his friend as auditor for the next year, to make sure an auditor wasn't appointed who would actually look at the books. (Apologies to our auditor who really does a great job for us).

Max Synon

Max really wanted to win this award this year. He tried hard. He thought two seconds could be a winning score. Max's problem is that he sits next to Barry Truscott too often.

Pat Reynolds

Pat is a numbers man who has his position clearly weighed up. Three moving of motions is the minimum permissible under club rules, before a life membership can be revoked. Truscott and Goulding better not attach their badges to anything permanently.

Des Williams

A definite club man through and through. A good contribution to meetings as to all other areas of the club. There is a potential problem here with 4 movings and 4 seconds. Is there an identity crisis showing through or is Des a fence sitter not wishing to be seen to predominately favour moving as opposed to secondary motions?

Andy Mastrowicz

Here we see a man of strong character. Moving 8 motions and not seconding any. Definitely leadership qualities. Could well be trying to show us his potential for the Presidents position. Then again there is a definite reluctance to accept the ideas of others or support anyone else who may have a good idea. Definitely a potential troublemaker.

Keith Jensen

Has similar traits to Andy with one exception. Keith slipped in one second to ensure that he beat Andy. The killer instinct. To add insult to injury the only second made by Keith was seconding a motion by Andy. A definite show of gamesmanship.

John Lawler

What can we say. There is enough material here for a phsycologists convention. John was involved in 64 per cent of the year's motions. When it comes to striving for a committee position even Paul Tipping couldn't top this effort.

Is John desperate for recognition? An inferiority complex which leads to high profiles and strong curries. And why 14 seconds and only 4 movings, maybe a follower rather than a leader. Or maybe John is one of those very supportive persons who prefers to let others take the limelight.

As a supportive person how does he rate. John supported 4 of Keith's motions, 4 of Andy's, 3 of Des', 2 of Pat's and Mick Jeacle's motion. Since John supported 100 per cent of Mick's motions this indicates the incredibly high regard John must have for Mick. What a great ally Mick has found.

Tony Tipping

And what does this tell us about Tony Tipping. Tony would have liked to participate but didn't hear any of the motions over the 12 months.

Postscript

You may have found wonderful insight in these observations. Having read it all Nick observed that the motions and seconds depend solely on who Alex picks out. Many hands rise for each motion and Alex selects the mover and seconder.

If that is the case it all depends on who Alex has his eye on. So why is Alex's eye on John Lawler so much? Why did Alex give Keith Jensen one more point than Andy? Why does Alex persist in ignoring Barry Truscott (ex diver). Does Alex realize that people see him as a "Kingmaker".

All this and more will be revealed in the next Secretary's report this time next year. *

Add 1 hour to times shown for official "Summer Time".

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

DECEMBER, 1985.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This letter was forwarded anonymously, perhaps by the supplier of the recent photograph of "Angel!" I wonder if he has a copy of the photo submitted to cleo so that we might publish it.

Cleo

Magazine
CENTREFOLD DEPARTMENT

Ref: NS 69R

President V.S.A.G.,
Mr. Alex Talay,

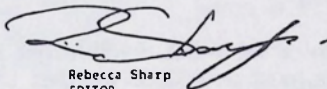
Dear Sir,

Your name has been submitted to us with your photo, and I regret to inform you that we will be unable to use your body in our centrefold.

On a scale of 0-10 your body was rated -2 by our panel of women ranging in ages from 60 - 75 years. We tried to assemble a panel in the 21 - 35 years age bracket, but we couldn't get them to stop laughing long enough to reach a decision.

Should the taste of women ever change so drastically that bodies such as yours should be appreciated in our centrefold, you will be notified by this office. In the meantime, don't call us, we will call you.

Sympathetically,
CLOE MAGAZINE



Rebecca Sharp
EDITOR

P.S. We do commend you on your unusual pose. Were you wounded playing sport, or do you ride a bike a lot?

TIP'S TIT-BITS

by Tony Tipping

Well folks, it's on again this year on Sunday 24th November - the famous V.S.A.G. Tennis Party and Handicap Mile. This will be the fourteenth time we've staged the tennis party, originally at Jack Liddy's East Hawthorn mansion when it was a small mixed doubles competition followed and preceded by a monstrous booz-up! The Handicap Mile was added when we moved to the Balnarring/Somers area in 1977 and has become even more popular than the booz-up. Perhaps we've mellowed somewhat, too. Past winners of the mile have been John Goulding, Simon Whiteley, Revel Scott, Tony Tipping, Sam Truscott, Paul King and the current champion Peter Jensen who has won the last two. No doubt Peter will be back to defend his title!

This years handicaps are:

- 120 seconds All married women over 30 plus Dave Carroll, Dave Moore, Alex Talay and Keith Jensen.
- 90 seconds Sam Truscott, John Goulding, Cathy Jensen, Don Abell, Bob Scott, John Lawler and Paul Sier.
- 60 seconds Paul Tipping, Des Williams, Andy Mastrowicz, Mick Jackiw and Mick Large.
- 45 seconds Igor Chervichov, Tony Tipping and Reece Birtles.
- 30 seconds Barry Truscott, Geoff Britles and Peter Jensen.
- 20 seconds Doug Catherall and Jim Turner.
- Scratch Bill Hayes and Brian Lynch.

Top seeds in the tennis will be equally split between Mick Jeacle and last years winner Alex Talay with myself slipping to a close seventeenth spot! Still the pressure is off so watch out. Barry and Marie are solid favorites to take out the doubles.

As usual it will be a great day hail, rain or shine but don't forget it is an official fund raising event and all adults must pay \$2.00 whether they compete or not - we don't want any more scenes like we had last year!

A reminder about Byron Bay this Christmas. All sites are organized but there are still two spares, so if anyone still isn't quite sure what to do please contact me on 817 4956 for a really great live/family trip. Dates booked are 27th December to 11th January. Just think of that beautiful warm clear water, sub tropical and tropical fish by the thousands grey nurse sharks and of course the best night dive you'll even have at the Julian Rocks.

As I write this I notice that it's nearly five months since I've actually dived with V.S.A.G. - a disgraceful effort for a former triple Clubman of the Year. But if you think I've become a winter wimp I'll straighten the record - I have been fortunate enough to do a couple of dives on the Clarence, Victoria's most recently declared Historical Shipwreck plus one trip to Mt. Gambier and a dive in the Warrnambool area. Still, I guess it's not much of an effort for a bloke who logged over a thousand dives for 1981 which incidently is nothing compared to what Pat and Keith could claim. *



V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

DEC 6th

DEC 6th

DEC 6th

V.S.A.G. has come back to Town.

THE FABULOUS BARBARINO'S

THE PLACE FOR RIBS

474 St. Kilda Road, (Cnr. Leopold Street)

V.S.A.G. has planned a great night at this magnificent restaurant.

We have booked the whole of the Mezzanine floor and need 70 people.

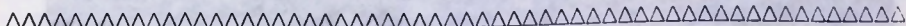
There will be raffles and special prizes.

Price is \$25.00 per head

Drinks charged per table. Prices reasonable!

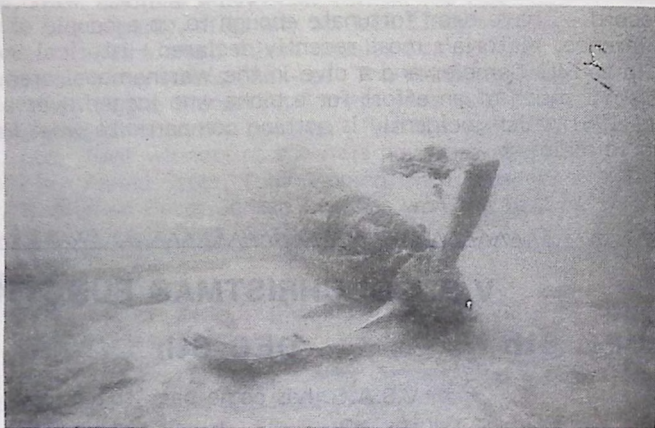
Please contact John Goulding (H) 890 6634 or (B) 666 3543 or new Social Secretary, John Lawler (H) 569 9852 or (B) 544 5166.

Each booking to pay \$10.00 per head deposit. All money and names to be finalised by November General Meeting November 20th. Group bookings welcome.

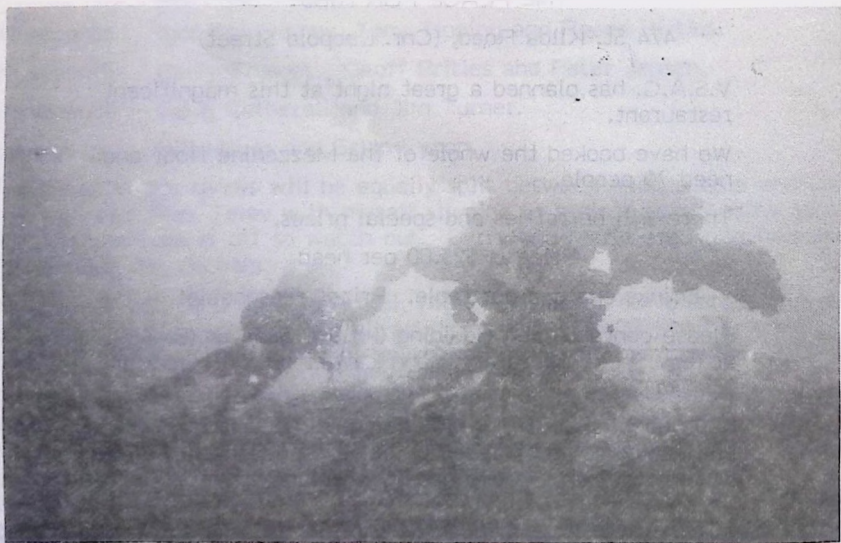


DIVE ADVENTURE IN PARADISE

by
Keith Jensen



BELL AIRACOBRA FIGHTER HANSA BAY



GORDON BROWN EXAMINES BOW GUN ON "SHISHI MARU", HANSA BAY

Our departure from Madang to Rabaul was fraught with problems, after arriving at Madang air terminal, weighing in our luggage and getting seat allocations I found out that our plane was not servicable and that there would be a considerable delay, thus causing us to miss our Lae connection through to Rabaul. After many phone calls and much negotiation we left for Port Moresby via Lae to stay over night at Moresby then on to Rabaul early the next day.

Air New Guinea paid for our meals and accommodation at the Gateway Motel in Port Moresby, but only after pressure was applied by Aquarius Travel in Australia and myself at the airport. Our next days travelling went without a hitch at 7.00 a.m. flight and arrival at Rabaul at 8.15 a.m. I even scored a visit into the cockpit on our approach into Rabaul and photographed Simpson Harbour in the still morning light.

We were met by Robin from Rabaul Dive Tours and Bob from Kaivuna Motel quickly transferred to our accommodation and by 11.00 a.m. were zooming across the water for our first dive in Rabaul. The usual check out dive 80' onto the Barge wreck, reasonably clear with many lionfish and balfish about, the Barge is fairly intact allowing some penetration but really a safe dive. Our afternoon dive was on the Manko Maru a 1500 ton refrigeration transport sitting upright on the bottom, intact but with a gaping hole at the bow that had obviously been blown up from inside possibly to recover non ferrous metals. Many relics lie about, medicine bottles, ampoules gas masks etc. and penetrations through the made a really nice dive.

Late that afternoon we adjourned to the Yacht Club, found some very convivial company and learnt a lot about the diving and the area in general. Rabaul Yacht Club provides good cheap meals and the drinks were the cheapest we found.

Up very early the next day (Saturday) and visited the local market, it is said to be the biggest and best in the South Pacific, tropical fruits, vegetables, shells, artifacts, fish and almost reasonably priced. I ended up toting a large bunch of bananas back to the motel. A quick breakfast then off to our dive on the Hakki Maru.

At depths of 100 ft. to the bridge and 130 ft. at the bow the Hakki is a huge wreck in excess of 5,000 tons and 420 foot long and is almost intact. We dived this wreck on two occasions once from the stern to the bridge and the next day from the bow to the bridge. The bow has one large



CHRIS LEWELLYNE AND ANTHONY FINNIGAN
DIVING ON TWO OR RABAULS WELL KNOWN
DIVE AREAS AT LEFT THE MITSUBISHI
BI-PLANE.

BELOW, "YAMPI LASS". BOTH LIE NEAR
GOOD REEFS AND ARE GENERALLY IN
CLEAR WATER.



deck gun and twin anti aircraft guns pointing toward the surface, spent ammunition lie beneath these weapons. The stern has a similar deck gun. The holds have machine lathes and similar equipment as the Hakki was a maintenance ship for the Japanese Navy. A visit to the engine room and up to the bridge area where a tiled bathroom can be visited. This wreck is home for many fish and one could put in dozens of dives and never lose interest.

An afternoon dive from the shore onto the Takabar Wreck which is about half an hours drive from Rabaul, through beautiful scenic areas and villages. The Takabar is a Japanese freighter badly broken up and not really very deep but an interesting dive all the same.

Our Sunday in Rabaul was our second dive on the "Hakki" and afternoon dive onto Yampi Lass this was a wooden wreck sunk recently by the Rabaul Dive Club close to the beautiful Matulau Reef. Visibility was the best encountered on our whole trip. The wreck lies on a slight angle bow pointing seaward, at present there is not a lot of growth on the ship but the fish are beginning to use it as a haven, this wreck provides an ideal backdrop for photos the adjacent reef was colourful and abounded with fish.

That night we visited the New Guinea Club, this was the bastion of the old planters who pioneered the area and one could see that at one time that it would have been very PUCKA. The walls were covered with photographs of early days in Rabaul and the war time era.

Our next dive was on a plane wreck, the famous Bi Plane that I had heard about. A short boat ride from Peter Millers house at Nonga and 80 feet down on a sandy bottom sits a Mitsubishi Bi Plane. Code named "Pete" by the allies. These float planes powered by a single engine carried a pilot and an observer and were used for long range reconnaissance. Visibility in the area is generally good and the day we dived was no exception, I was surprised at how intact the plane is, it still has twin 7.7mm machine guns fitted. Soft corals growing on the struts and wires between the wings and crinoids of all hues have attached themselves to all parts of the plane. A photographers dream, and at this stage my underwater flash died so it was natural light photography from there on.

Our afternoon dive was on Harry Greens Reef and after the Bi Plane dive, a bit of a let down, not even a lot of fish about. The next day we dived "Italy Maru" a 5859 ton cargo transport vessel one of the largest ships sunk in the harbour laying on its side at 100 foot a tremendous wreck to explore

a large hole in the side allows entry into the engine room. Brass portholes completely intact are to be seen throughout the wreck and again the fish have made this sunken ship home. Our afternoon dive was a disaster, Timbersales Reef, devoid of fish life and broken coral everywhere obviously the use of explosives has been utilised here as a method of fishing.

Our evenings were spent trying a couple of eating places, Queen Emmas Dining Room at the Travelodge was excellent and reasonably priced.

The Kaivuna, where we stayed the meals were of a high standard, very large servings but perhaps a little expensive. Kaivuna has several bars the largest was at the side of the main hotel area. We frequented this bar listening to the juke box that played non stop and watching the "locals" as the natives are called. We later found that this was the largest GAY bar in New Guinea.

Our trip was fast coming to a finish. We did an early morning helicopter ride over Rabaul which gave us a look at the crater of the active volcano and a great perspective of the town and harbour. The outline of a sunken wreck can be seen also the remains of a MAVIS sea plane lying just beneath the surface of the water near the airfield.

Our second last diving day and onto the Georges Wreck sunk very close to the shore, the bow at 50 feet points towards the shore while the stern slopes down the reef to 190 feet. Visibility was over 100 feet and fish and plant life prolific on the shallower portions of the wreck. At the conclusion of the dive we boarded a yacht and had a leisurely ride back to Peter Millers house for a barbeque lunch.

The sub base was our second dive that day not far from the "Georges Wreck". A cliff face with tunnels dug into it, barges would supply submarines with stores from these tunnels. The submarines were able to get very close in as there is a 240 feet drop off and this was our dive venue.

We waded out in knee deep water for about 75 metres then the water deepened and only 100 metres off shore the sub base wall, straight down sea fans and soft corals growing on the wall with crinoids of all colours and reef fish abounding. Mind blowing, might describe it out in the deep blue water pelagic fish such as barracouda, kingfish swam into view, then came sharks 5 to 7 foot in length in close then out into the blue again, reappearing again and again. Chris and Finn found a torpedo wedged into the wall, a relic of the war.

We had packed in 29 dives so far, and our last full day in Rabaul we went sightseeing Robin our guide led us to the Japanese accommodation tunnels, there are over 300 miles of tunnels that the Japanese had dug for them by Indian prisoners of war. One tunnel had many barges inside these had apparently been dragged up the hill into the tunnels to save them from air raids.

Bitu Paka War cemetery where there are graves of over 1,000 allied war dead. The grounds are kept in immaculate condition, off to a war museum, then to Queen Emmas steps and then to the near by Ralum Club for a pie and a beer for lunch.

Hot and humid I felt like another dive, just to make it 30 dives for the trip, I hate odd numbers. Only 3 starters for the dive, all the rest were tired and dived out. Our final dive was on Kanshin Maru and was a memorable way to conclude our diving activities.

That night we held a "Toga Party" adorned with bed sheets and cartons of beer we adjourned to the pool. Chris produced a large box of cigars, we were joined by many of the staff from the hotel and drank on to the wee small hours.

Our trip home was uneventful, the leg from Moresby to Sydney was in Qantas Jumbo, where Gordon met a school friend who was a steward, guess who got super service. Transfer at Sydney and it was a very tired group who arrived at Melbourne at midnight. 17 days away from home 30 magic dives, many new friends made. Certainly New Guinea can provide adventures in paradise.*

**WINDCHEATERS, T-SHIRTS, CAPS
WITH V.S.A.G. CLUB LOGO**

These will be available at the November General Meeting supplies limited. To order contact Mick Jeacle, phone: (059) 71 2786.

GRAVEYARD DIVE REPORT

by Andy Mastrowicz

Well, my first dive captaincy (on Sunday, 8th September) wasn't looking too good - only one boat, mine, and the forecast looking excellent. But the big 'M' came to the rescue, foregoing a day at the football to participation in the day's diving.

Jumpsuit Jack and I arrived at the Sorrento Boat Ramp about 9.15 a.m. to find Warren Cannon, Rick Garretson and Doug Catheral all poised to go. When 10.00 a.m. arrived with no big 'M' and Pat, it again looked like it might be back to a one boat dive. However, the big 'M' finally turned up complaining bitterly that he was there for the good of the club (at great personal sacrifice). He and Pat had decided the night before that seeing as they weren't going to the footy, and encouraged by Alex, took to downing a few ales until 3.00 a.m. in the morning. What a sorry looking pair they looked as we launched the boats and headed towards the rip.

At the rip we stopped and I consulted with Mick as to where the graveyard was, and all Mick could do was point towards Barwon Heads, mumbling something like "you need a bloody compass". By this time we had drifted out into the centre of the rip where the swell was in the order of 3 - 4 metres high. So it was decided to dive the "Coogee" as we were just about there anyway.

The dive site found about 4 other boats gearing up to dive this wreck with the weather clear, only a slight swell out there and the sun nudging the temperature up to about 15°C. After dropping the anchor onto the wreck just forward of the boilers, Warren, Doug and myself geared up and went over the side. From the boat we could see the dark outline of the wreck, however as we descended down the visibility decreased to about 10 ft. - not to mention the water temperature, which felt like 0°C! At about 100 ft. a mass of rusting steel that once was a ship appeared in the gloom. We proceeded forward, stopping at the boiler for a brief look, saw plenty of "rusting steel", then onto the fordeck "more rusting steel".

We then headed back to the rear section. By this time I was starting to shiver uncontrollably and decided I had had enough of the cold, as well as all that "rusting steel". On surfacing it took about 15 minutes and some hot coffee before I could speak without shivering.

In the meantime, big 'M', Pat and Rick had also surfaced and clambered back aboard the coaster. Looking over and remembering Pat's often spoken words about a good deep dive clearing out that fuzzy head feeling - this dive was clearing Mick's, and Pat's stomach contents! Mick raising his head just long enough to restate that he only came for the good of the club, not to mention any hungry fish below!

Taking pity on the poor condition of the clubs two most avid divers we loaded Rick's gear onto my boat and sent Mick and Pat on their way home. To bed we thought, however finding out later that they ended up at the footy anyway - looking for the proverbial hair of the dog to fix the fuzzy head and also the empty tummy feeling!

The rest of us then decided to head back inside the heads for lunch while John Lawler did a drift across 'sholes reef', as he had not dived the Coogee. Meanwhile we all had lunch and enjoyed the sunshine - gradually building up that body heat that had been left on the Coogee. After about 20 minutes John surfaced clutching a fairly old port bottle which would look proud in any collection!

The next dive was had by Warren and myself on the same reef. However, we fell in right on slack tide which meant we had to swim under our own steam, no much fun when you're hunting cray, however we both soon found one each. After about 20 minutes of trying to "extract" my find, I gave up in disgust and again surfaced seeling very cold indeed. I now know what Bazza feels like on a dive! Warren's cray turned out to be a female, which he promptly returned to the ledge.

After warming up some we headed back for a scallop run off the end of Rye pier where the previous dive had yielded some 30 dozen scallops. With Doug, John and Rick in the water we managed only about 5 dozen, and one plate-sized flounder which had found its way into Rick's catch bag.

After that we headed back to the boat ramp where we packed up and headed home. Overall a good day was had by 5 divers, and a not-so-good morning by two.

In closing I would like to thank Mick for making the effort.

With summer coming on, the shortage of boats is going to be more critical as more divers come out of hibernation expecting a dive. I can now well understand the Dive Captain's dilemma when there are more divers than boats available. So with a bit of luck we'll also see more boats in the months to come.*

HAUNTING IMAGES OF THE "TITANIC"

by Des Williams

A silver tray nestled in sediment. Bottles of vintage Bordeaux wine scattered on the ocean floor. A gaping hole where once a giant smokestack had stood. The ship's bridge, damaged by a falling boom. These and other poignant images of disaster, all in picasso blue, were distributed by Marine Geologist, Robert Ballard, at a Washington news conference shortly after his expedition located and photographed the sunken liner "Titanic" early in September this year.

They were only a few of the 12,000 photos shot at the bottom of the Atlantic by the unmanned submersibles "Angus" and "Argo" after they had been lowered 13,000 feet beneath the waves from their mother ship, the U.S. Navy research vessel "Knorr".

During the 90 minute conference Ballard took his captivated audience on a guided tour of the "Titanic", running video tapes shot by the "Argo". The dramatic tapes clearly showed the great ship sitting upright covered with a fine layer of silt. The port and starboard anchor chains are wrapped around their capstans, still holding the anchors in place, and in the top deck there is a gaping hole that was once a skylight. Through it, Ballard told his viewers, "you can see right down the grand staircase". The railings and wooden deck are intact, the individual planks clearly visible.

Although the expedition shortly after the discovery that the "Titanic" was in "museum shape", the video tape shows that the stern is missing, and still photos show wreckage, including a giant crane and a ships' telegraph, littering the ocean floor. Why the stern disintegrated remains a mystery. Ballard pointed out that there is not evidence on the ocean floor of any great impact, which suggests that the huge ship settled gently to the bottom. Only two of the "Titanic's" four mighty smokestacks remain in place, the other collapsed, perhaps when the ships boilers exploded as they sank into the icy waters.

While the "Argo" was being manoeuvred around the "Titanic", Ballard revealed, it had a couple of close calls, one hitting the bridge, another time brushing against a smokestack. Despite his initial alarm, neither the "Argo" nor the "Titanic" was damaged in these encounters. But, in the process, the submersible collected the only artifact so far brought up from the "Titanic", a smudge of paint scraped from the smokestack.

Ballard also disclosed that after "moving the lawn" with highly advanced technological gear (sweeping his sonar back and forth and checking its soundings with a magnetometer), the expedition has actually located the "Titanic" with a 25 year old echo sounder!

Ballard is vehemently opposed to any plans to raise the "Titanic". As he said on his return to the mainland, "There is no light at that depth, and little life can be found. It is a quiet peaceful place for the remains of this greatest of sea tragedies to rest. Forever may it remain that way. And may God bless those now found souls".

(an extract from "TIME" magazine Sept. 23, 1985)

Note: I suggest a close eye be kept on following issues of National Geographic Magazine as a collection of photos from the expedition are bound to be published very shortly.*

#####

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS

The following members are currently unfinancial if you are interested in remaining with the club please send your fees before the next meeting.

- Neil Knight
- Leo Canteri
- Peter Kamen
- Gus Belanski
- Geoff Williams
- Stan Medhurst
- Charlie Brinkatt

- Don McBean
- Fred Ferrante
- Terry Brooks
- Kaye Poyner
- Lyndal King
- John Suhr

#####

"APOLOGY"

In last months Fathoms it was advertised that a film and slides on New Guinea would be shown. Unforeseen circumstances prevented the presentation of the show. It is now scheduled for the November Annual General Meeting.

DIVE REPORT - GEORGE KERMODE

by Keith Jensen

Well the dive calendar said October 20 wreck dive George Kermode with Captain Talay presiding, well there we were 9.30 in the morning at Flinders (no one was late). The sea had a dirty green look about it, it was very lumpy with white caps. It was obvious we would not be diving the George Kermode this day.

After a brief conference we decided on Sorrento and made a detour there. The boat ramp was not at all busy, not surprising considering the weather conditions. The boats were soon launched and divers loaded, 3 boats, 13 divers, our first dive was on Spectacular Reef.

As this area is close to the shipping channel we dived in two groups and had a boat covering each group of divers. Shortly after the dive commenced Paul Crellin surfaced, I motored over Paul handed me a rope he had found an anchor, hauling it aboard I realised what a good find it was, a nice large Danforth with a good length of chain attached. Paul also told me that the visability was terrific then disappeared down the buoy line to join Warren who was waiting below.

A radio call for V.S.A.G. boats was heard, it was Andy, he had launched at Queenscliff and was on his way out. My divers had surfaced, both pleased with the dive and Warren reporting that he had seen a large cray about 7lb but as it was out of season the cray remained below.

Peter and I were soon in the water, just a little current and very clear, fish life was profuse and we poked around ledges at the 100' level no crays sighted by us, but a very enjoyable dive. In surfacing a cold wind was blowing, warm jackets were donned and mugs of hot soup consumed.

Our next dive was on the "Eliza Ramsden", we soon had it marked and while we were gearing up a few other dive boats arrived on scene including our old friend Warwick McDonald, Warwick decided it was a little crowded and went elsewhere.

Again we dived in two groups, it would seem that the cold had taken its toll, my son Peter decided not to dive and Alex, Pat and Mick spent only a short time on the Ramsden. I enjoyed my dive onto this old wreck poking around its twisted metal and even sighted a couple of very small crays. As I freed the shot line the current carried me away from the wreck.

All divers aboard we headed back to the ramp then adjourned to Dromana hotel for a convivial ale or two.*

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JANUARY 1986
AUSTRALIA DAY LONG WEEKEND
JANUARY 25 - 27

Come Aboard The Fabulous Charter Vessel
'Mirrabooka'

For A 3 Day Diving Safari To Wilsons Promontory.

Mirrabooka will depart Port Franklin 7.30 a.m. Saturday 25th January.
Safari base will be Refuge Cove.

Cost for weekend is \$80.00 per head. Includes food, charter costs and accommodation.

Deposit of \$30.00 to John Goulding by November General Meeting (November 20th).

Balance of \$50.00 to John Goulding by December General Meeting (December 18th).

Late cancellations after January 1st may forfeit deposit and part balance if minimum number of 10 passengers is not achieved.

Definite maximum of passengers is 16.

FIRST 16 TO PAY GET TO GO

The following members have already signed on: J. Goulding, J. Turner, P. Sier, T. Tipping, J. Large, J. Namiota, M. Synon & M. Large.

Hurry to avoid disappointment.

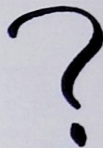
Phone John Goulding on (Bus.) 666 3543 or (Home) 890 6634

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR NOVEMBER 1985

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
Nov 17	Decapod Reconnaissance	Max Synon 465 2812	Flinders Pier 9.30 a.m.
Nov 20	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club 8.00 p.m.		
Nov 24	Tennis Day/V.S.A.G. Mile	Paul Tipping 387 2027	Balnarring Tennis Court - 9.30 a.m.
Dec 1	"Coogee Wreck"	Pay Reynolds 789 1092	Sorrento B/Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Dec 6	Christmas Function (Details this months Fathoms)	John Goulding 890 6634	Barbarino's 7.00 p.m.
Dec 15	Reef Dive Heads Area	Mick Jeacle 059 71 2786	Sorrento B/Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Dec 18	General Meeting North Melbourne Football Club & Christmas Drinks 8.00 p.m.		
Dec 26	Christmas Trip Byron Bay	Tony Tipping for details 80 4956	
Jan 25, 26, 27	Refuge Cove	John Goulding 890 6634	Details this months Fathoms

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



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ISLE OF PINES

SOLOMON ISLANDS

PHILIPPINES

MALDIVE ISLANDS

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VANUATU

GREAT BARRIER REEF, MADANG, TRUK LAGOON, PHILIPPINES, ISLE OF PINES, RABAUL, 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, SPILSBY ISLAND, LADY ELLIOT ISLAND.

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