

FATHOMS

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Safety in Diving

INDEPENDENT DIVING FREEDOM

\$2

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

OCT 85

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 Gouilding - 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 "Bonogi 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 Bonogi 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/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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OCTOBER 1985

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DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR

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Next general meeting:

Wednesday, October 16th 1985 8.00 pm
North Melbourne Football Club
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, October 22nd 1985 8.00 pm
Mastrowicz residence
15 Soudan Road, Footscray West

EDITORIAL



It was very pleasant to be able to receive "Fathoms" in the mail last month. Des Williams took over and compiled the issue while I was diving in New Guinea, thus ensuring that our communication link be maintained; thank you Des from myself and all V.S.A.G. members.

The whether for diving recently has been atrocious, and the times that it was possible to dive visibility and the cold have dampened the ardour of the most enthusiastic diver, still the weather is on the improve (hopefully) and our scheduled dives will be well attended.

But even if it is to cold for some of you, our V.S.A.G. Tennis Day and Mile Handicap will allow you to enjoy an outing without freezing your bum off.

Our sport of diving enables you to meet many new friends, and on my recent sojourn to warmer climes I was fortunate enough to again meet many kindred souls who showed us the best diving available in their locale, and took the time to entertain us and show us points of interest. It would seem that it is this world wide camaraderie among divers that makes our sport so great.

At our Annual General Meeting, John Lawler, was elected onto the Committee, and at his first Committee Meeting found himself with the job of Social Secretary, other office bearers for the next year are Alex Talay - Club President, Des Williams - Vice President, Don Abell - Secretary, Mick Jeacle - Treasurer, Keith Jensen - Newsletter Editor, Barry Truscott - Assistant Newsletter Editor, Pat Reynolds - Property and Safety Officer, Andy Mastrowicz - Point Scorer, Max Synon - Public Relations, S.D.F. Delegates - Des Williams and Paul Tipping.

John Goulding for the first time for many years did not get a job, but he is still in there with his years of knowledge about the club and its constitution. All of these fellows are dedicated to work for you and the club over the next 12 months, so its up to you to take advantage and really make things work by participating in dives and social activities.

We still have some members who have not yet paid their yearly subs, if these dues are not received they will not be receiving their next copy of Fathoms.

Keith Jensen

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

NOVEMBER, 1985.

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting held at Max and Pam Synons' hom on Tuesday, August 25th.

Apologies for non attendance were received from Keith Jensen.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 287.87
Cash on hand	\$ 54.00
Cast at Building Society	\$ 1,556.47
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,898.34
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SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary detailed correspondence which had been received over the previous month. A letter from the Minister of Consumer Affairs was read to the Committee, noting possible faults in the inflator mechanisms on buoyancy vests. A letter of reply from the Marine Archaeological Survey Department had been received during the month, following the letter forwarded to them, complaining of certain statements made by their representative. Copies of the reply were distributed for each Committee Member to read. It was decided to accept the apology, and that it was appropriate to take no further action.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Mick Jeacle had investigated the interest received on the funds of the Group. The bank could offer 9% at call, 12.5% for a period of between 30 or 60 days, 12.75% for a period of 4 - 6 months, and 13% for a period of 9 months. It was agreed that the funds would be invested for a period of 6 months at 12.75%. Should the funds be needed sooner than that time, they can be released and the Club would receive an interest rate appropriate to the term of the deposit.

2. Mick Jeacle told the Group that the recent charge for hire of rooms at the North Melbourne Football Club was \$20.00, and this would indicate that the N.M.F.C. have adjusted the rate down from \$30.00, as charged in the previous month.
3. Des Williams reported on a meeting held between the Ports and Harbours Authority (and other relevant authorities) and the general diving community, representing both private and commercial interests. Des reported that it had been good that all the parties were keen enough to come together and discuss the problems being experienced. It is Des's opinion, that more meetings will be needed before any constructive solutions are determined; however, it is obvious that both divers and the authorities are keen to work together.
4. John Goulding had been contacted by Allan Whitely, to ask whether the Club would consider admitting his son as a member. His son is 15, and has recently completed a diving course. John advised that we would not consider him for membership at his current age, but that if he was interested in joining any suitable dives, Allan should contact us, giving details of his son's experience and we would endeavour to organise for him to dive on a suitable dive with us.
5. Mick Jeacle suggested tha the Club consider more diving at Wilsons Promontory, and all members agreed. It was suggested that dives be scheduled through summer and have these subject to weather conditions, as determined on the Thursday evening.
6. Alex Talay queried the position with Jack Namiota's membership. It was agreed that Jack should still make a check dive with Pat Reynolds and Alex. All efforts will be made to ensure that Jack gets on any dive he requests, so that the check-out dive may be done as soon as possible.
7. Max Synon showed the Committee a video he had taken on the 1985 Easter trip to Tidal River.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.
Committee thanks Pam for the supper provided. *

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is customary at this time of the year, on behalf of our members, to thank all those entrusted with the running of our club.

It is my pleasant duty to do so as I have witnessed first hand over the past few years the efforts put in by our committee to maintain the good fellowship and spirit which, I think, epitomizes our organisation.

To the 2 new members of our front bench, Don Abell and Mick Jeacle I extend our thanks.

Don has tackled his job in a very professional manner and has communicated our views in representations to other organisations and individuals extremely well.

Mick possesses all the attributes of an excellent treasurer and seems to have inherited the necessary miserly nature of his predecessor. He has maintained our financial affairs in a dedicated and professional way.

Keith Jensen has the unenviable task of compiling Fathoms. This vital part of our club is often a thankless and time consuming job. He has managed to maintain the high standard of our magazine under difficult circumstances and I thank him, whole heartedly, on behalf of you all.

Des Williams also does a great job in representing our views to the S.D.F. He keeps us informed of the happenings throughout the diving community and is our vital link with the political occurrences which appear to be becoming more a part of our sport.

If we are to maintain the freedom of choice which we regard as our right in diving then we must be aware of the pressures and decisions that are being made that effect us. Des does this very well and I thank him.

To the rest of our committeemen, Barry Truscott, Andy Mastrowicz, John Goulding, Pat Reynolds, Max Synon and Paul Tipping I extend our thanks. All have a specific function to perform and do so without complaint.

I would also take this opportunity to thank our boat owners without which our club could not function effectively. This group of people provide personal property for our enjoyment and in my opinion are all great clubmen.

Throughout the 30 year history of V.S.A.G. the club has seen fit to honour only 5 men with Life Membership. They are Frank Coustley, Peter Mathews, John Noonan, Alan Cutts and Pat Reynolds. Some 2 months ago we saw fit to nominate 2 more to join their ranks. They are Barry Truscott and John Goulding.

Both these men have given long and valuable service to our club. Both have been members for many years and have served in many capacities at committee level.

Throughout this period they have proved themselves men to be counted on. Nothing is too much trouble for them and their friendship and company is highly prized by all who know them.

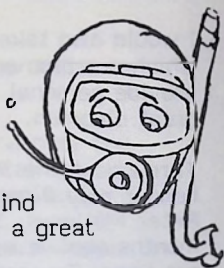
Both men are well known throughout the diving fraternity and it gives me great pleasure to inform all and sundry of the esteem and high regard in which we hold them.

In conclusion I would like to wish all members great diving in the next 12 months. A look at the dive calendar will inform you of some excellent diving and functions in the near future which augers well for our club.

With your continuing support we will only grow stronger and enjoy our sport even more.

Alex Talay

FLOTSAM & JETSAM



September 22nd - Sorrento, 9.30 a.m! Not a breath of wind disturbed the satin shine of the perfectly still sea. What a great day to return to diving after a 4 month winter recess.

There were times years ago when a freezing Melbourne morning splattered with rain and lashed with wind would not deter this scribe from joining the hardy core of divers who would if necessary seek a water filled quarry in order to get in a dive.

Nowadays, like some other oldler, oops, sorry longer term members I let Winter have its way and make no excuses for it.

So I was more than pleased to find a fabulous Spring day for my return to diving.

Dive Captain Goulding, had arranged a suitable venue as well. A nice shallow poke around the old wrecks off Lonsdale Reef in 20 - 30 feet of water followed by a scallop dive off Rye after lunch.

The Lonsdale Reef has claimed many ships over the years. The remains of at least 4 still lie there:

The Sacramento	(1853)
George Roper	(1883)
Gange	(1885)
Holyhead	(1890)

The sea bottom around the reef is scattered with the wreckage of these four ships and it is virtually impossible to identify any peice of wreckage as coming from a particular ship.

The conditions at the wreck site were not ideal. A moderate swell with the occasional big wave rolling made anchoring too risky. Underwater, a very strong surge made diving in water shallower than 15 feet rather uncomfortable.

Still, we all managed to get in for our dive and I even managed a rather nice intact old bottle.

On the way to Rye we were joined by a school of dolphins who played around our boat for about 15 minutes. Darting in front of the boat and surfacing alongside, these magnificent creatures let us quietly cruise around them and with them whilst they and us had a good look at each other.

Catching scallops is no where near as much fun as playing with dolphins however, we soon had enough scallops and headed back to Sorrento, the end of a good days diving.

But was it the end?

I have it on very good advice that John Gouldings boat was seen being towed along the Nepean Highway towards Sorrento that afternoon at 4.15 p.m.

Why was Goulding going away from Melbourne to Sorrento with fellow divers Paul Tipping and Don Abell?

Well our investigations indicate that Paul Tipping is the key to this puzzle.

Seems that Tipping was so busy chatting to anybody within ear shot that he didn't hear his keys deop out of his jeans pocket as he unobstrusively changed into his clothes in the middle of the Sorrento car park. Only when Goulding had driven his passengers half way to Melbourne did Paul realise his loss, so back they went to Sorrento.

December 6th will be the night for our Christmas function. Details are still secret at this stage, however, we are planning something quite different this year so keep this night free.

Nicks Takin

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NOTICE TO UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS

If you have not yet paid up your membership dues, you are reading your last copy of Fathoms.

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DIVING ADVENTURES IN PARADISE

by Keith Jensen

The runabout powered by twin 40Horsepower Evinrude outboards flew across the tranquil waters of Simpson Harbour, this was to be our last dive of the trip. Our tour operator Peter Miller was taking us to dive on the "Kanshin Maru" a 2,000 ton transport vessel that was sunk by allied bombers on January 17th, 1944 and now lies in an upright position the bow 130 feet and the stern 180 feet deep.

As we moored the boat to the bouy that marks the resting place of the "Kanshin" a soft warm breeze carried a strong sulphurous odour from Matupil one of the six extinct and active volcano's that over look the town of Rabaul, indeed Simpson Harbour itself is the crater of a massive volcano formed by a series of early eruptions.

An overcast sky promised rain, and I knew that the tepid sea would provide little relief from the humid conditions. Pulling on my lycra stinger suit we discussed our dive plan, 50 metres for 15 minutes, 5 minutes at 20 foot, 10 minutes at 10 feet and a real slow ascent, we wanted no problems as we were flying out the next day.

As we grouped around the line two Balfish swam in close to us, thumbs up, all OK and we descended soon the top of a mast appeared and schools of small Milk Trevally, (Susu) milled around in the deep blue water then more pelagics moved in this time Rainbow Runners with the odd large Barracouda as escorts. The sea around us was alive, then cleared as the wreck appeared a few large cod swam lazily into their dark refuges within the Kanshin.

We headed toward the bridge area, the deck was littered with munitions of all types, seeing a clip of machine gun bullets. I tried to pick them up but they were cemented to the deck by over 40 years of growth. Entering the bridge and cabin areas it was evident that time, divers and earth tremors were taking their toll on this time capsule in the sea.

Deck plating was rusting away, holes once adorned with brass portholes and now in possession of divers long departed and winchs that had toppled from their mounting during the frequent earth tremors, these things indicated to me that Kanshin's time span beneath the sea is slowly closing and that the remaining cargo of munitions, trucks, army uniforms, weapons etc. will disintergrate to nothing.

My short time, allowed me to quickly see the bridge across the decks over the two dark holds where the beam of a dive torch revealed some trucks, but our 50 metre limit prevented us from venturing down. Into the forcastle area, a tangle of steel cable and debris littered the area, light streaming in from a hole near the bow allowed us to penetrate within and explore, out through the hole back along the foredeck toward the mast a turtle gave us a quick once over and departed down the side of the deck.

We ascended slowly up the mast which was adorned with soft corals sponges and creatures that had found a home here, up the line to our first deco stop and were met by our two friendly Balfish, looking upward. The surface was rippled by a tropical thunder storm and as we decompressed I remembered all the dives and places that we had visited over the last 17 days.

We had left Melbourne at 7.00 a.m. and the temperature was a chilly 3 degrees. In Brisbane at 9.00 a.m. and finally departed on Air New Guinea where in typical Aussie fashion enjoyed the free drinks, Air New Guinea were certainly not stingy in this department and our steward Charles kept the whisky's and beer chasers coming at a fast clip. As we stepped from our plane at Port Moresby I felt the humid heat and within minutes my shirt was clinging to me with perspiration.

Our next leg across the Owen Stanley Ranges to Madang. Our Fokker Fellowship gave little leg room and I thought really very cramped but an hour and a quarter later we arrived at Madang. 13 hours had elapsed since we left cold old Melbourne.

Jais Aben was the resort where we stayed. The lapping of waves only 5 metres from my bedside and the scent from Frangipani trees in the night air soon wafted me into a tranquil sleep. Our first day at Jais Aben we had two dives in the morning on reefs and our afternoon dive on the wreck of the "Henry Leith", this was just a pipe opener for things to come for the next day we were off to "Hansa Bay".

Our 200 km trip to Hansa was pleasant we stopped about 130 km along the road at a small pub, partook vital refreshments and met a gentleman of Belgium origin, Boris who informed us that just a half hour before he had been robbed of K.1630 (about \$2,600 Aust) by some "Rascals".

We arrived at Bogia Hotel about 11.30 a quick lunch then onto Hansa. Our first dive was on the "Shishi Maru" the biggest wreck in the bay, 75 feet down anti aircraft guns point sky ward. In the holds trucks packed tightly against each other and in the forward hold a fire engine, brass valve controls still gleaming brightly.

Our next late afternoon dive was on a smaller and very much shallower wreck in fact I think that we were flat our making 35 feet, this wreck is very much broken up but provides a home for soft corals and many anenomes and anenome fish. As we swam over this wreck, once again brass gleamed brightly there just below me laying flat on the decking was part of a cabin wall completely with 2 nice portholes and one had only two nuts retaining it. All the wrecks at Hansa have these much sought after items but these two are certainly ripe and ready to harvest.

That night at the Bogia Hotel we had a party. Chris, Gordie, Finn and myself had our drinking boots on, we took on our dive master Terry and Tim Rowland from the Melanesian Dive Centre along with the owners of the hotel Ian and Bob, well we bowled out Ian and Bob but the other were of stronger stuff and we finally called a halt at 2.00 a.m. as we had a hard days diving ahead.

Our next days diving at Hansa was quite varied our first dive was onto a Bell Airacobra fighter plane, we were indeed fortunate to be able to dive this location as it is known to only a few locals. The plane is very interesting, sitting upright on the bottom completely intact with twin 50 cal Browning machine guns in the nacelle and a 37mm cannon which fired through the propellor hub. Gauges, oxy cylinder, ammunition etc. just like the day it sank 40 years ago.

Our second dive was on the "Davit Wreck" so called because the life boat davits break the surface of the water. It was the usual type Jap. fighter but if you penetrated her engine and boiler rooms as I did the wreck revealed much of interest.

After a picnic lunch ashore we had our third dive of the day, again on the wreck "Shishi Maru" and as we had dived it the day before we were able to penetrate right into the bowels of the wreck. One could make dives on the Shishi and always see something different.

Our last day at Hansa saw us diving from the shore at Bogia another aeroplane wreck this time on "Oscar" a Japanese fighter built by Nakajima, and known by the Japanese as "Hayabusa". A leisurely drive back to Madang with an esky full of cold stubbies stopping to photograph villages and attend to the calls of nature.

Three more dives at Jais Aben the next day, some were starting to feel that the pace was a bit much. Our morning dive on the Chimney, a reef dive near "Wongal" island was excellent for photography, a second morning reef dive at Barraconta Point and I was ready for another wreck. A Mitchell B25 bomber was our afternoon dive. To me it was one of the highlights of our trip, it lays upright at between 90 and 110 feet almost intact, Browning machine guns bristle from the nose, tunnel and the tail of this bird of war, bins full of 50 cal machine gun bullets and probably a few bombs inside. Soft corals grow abundantly on this wreck and many fish mill about it. The V.S.A.G. trio of Chris, Gordie and Finn, cut short their dive and returned to the "Henry Leith" wreck nearby, even 400 metres away on the bomber I could hear the noise of max hammers and chisels being vigorously applied and when they returned the smiles on their faces showed success.

As time was drawing to a close at Madang we went by bus up to the North Coast, a heavy swell prevented us diving the Boston but we made two dives at the Quarry. This is a large hole through the rocky lava stone on the shore and a cave that leads directly to the sea and beautiful reef areas.

After lunch it was off to Alexishaven where during the war the Japs. had an airfield. Today it is overgrown with jungle and bomb craters filled with stagnant water. Two wrecked planes at this location are worth seeing, the first a Betty bomber, the second an Oscar fighter. One of our stalwart group was stepping backward to photograph this fighter and backed into a bomb crater up to his hips in water a real shock to the system.

That night another dive and a cray hunt over the reefs near Jais Aben.

Our last days diving saw us at Planet Rock which is supposed to be spectacular, but I only saw a few small sharks some of the others swam in the other direction and had a fantastic dive. Our last dive was at Magic Passage and the current brought huge schools of pelagic fish

about us and as we clung to the reef in the current, a kaleidoscope of colourful fish passed before us in a never ending array of colour and variety. Surely a fantastic last dive at Madang.

An afternoon tour of Madang and its environs, an evening at the Coastwatchers Bar where we had farewell drinks with our new found friends. The night went through to early morning and we rolled out of Coasties at 1.30 a.m. a fitting conclusion to the first part of our Dive Adventure in Paradise.

Next issue "We dive Rubuals fabulous wrecks". *

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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.

THREE MEMBERS HONOURED BY V.S.A.G.

by Des Williams

As long as most of us can remember, John Goulding and Barry Truscott have been hard working members of the V.S.A.G. They have always been reliable clubmen and both have received the Club's coveted trophy "Clubman Of The Year Award" over the years.

Far be it for me to list all of the ways in which these two clubmen have contributed their time and energy and money towards V.S.A.G., in fact, I believe it would be an impossible task, because of the many years they have been active members.

As a measure of the high esteem in which John and Barry are held, the Committee and members honoured their services to V.S.A.G., by granting them "Life Member" status at our September Annual General Meeting.

Our president, Alex Talay, said it all when he pointed out that not only were members very grateful to Barry and John for their contribution to V.S.A.G., but their friendships was also something that every member valued very much.

Congratulations to you both and thank you!

Each year in September our Clubman Of The Year Award is given to the member who has supported V.S.A.G. by attending many dives and contributing to entertainment in the form of slides at meetings and journalism in our "Fathoms" magazine - in short the keenest member for the year.

This year our Clubman Of The Year is Keith Jensen. Congratulations Keith. You certainly have been very active around V.S.A.G. this year and your production of "Fathoms" for the last 12 months has produced many hours of pleasure to all members - thanks Keith. ✱

DECO STOPS

by Keith Jensen

Three stalwart V.S.A.G. divers were seen checking sizes of mash hammers and cold chisels in Burns Philps Store in Madang recently. Wonder what they wanted them for?

It would seem that these tools were given a good work out and the results are now being polished up.

Big M and Pat made a late start at the dive to the ships graveyard recently, Alex could not even make it. The attending pair were seen to be burlying up the water after the dive. Must have been a great party the night before.

It would seem that Igor has been mortally wounded by Cupids arrow, he and Karen have announced their engagement. Igor is donating his black book of phone number for a V.S.A.G. raffle.

It was a very tired Max at our Annual General Meeting he only got off the plane from Hong Kong at 2.00 p.m. that afternoon after flying since 9.00 o'clock the evening before.

Secretary, Don Abell had trouble trying to decypher the hyroglyphics that previous secretary Paul Tipping had used to record the Annual General Meeting minutes of the previous year.

Two very surprised guys, in Bazza and Johno when their "Life Memberships" were announced, another close guarded committee secret.

Equally surprised was Deco Stops scribe when Andy announced that I had won Clubman Of The Year. I was almost! lost for words.

Mick Jackiw has been burning the midnight oil studying for his coxswains ticket. V.S.A.G. is surely gaining some expertised amid its ranks. Great work Mick.

S.D.F.-V. SHIPWRECKS SEMINAR

by Des Williams

As there is no Oceans Conference this year the S.D.F.-V. have organised a one day seminar on shipwrecks to be held at Monash University, Lecture Room 6 in the Science Block.

Saturday 26th of October is the date for the seminar which will commence at 10.00 a.m. with lectures during the day by:

- Jack Loney (Historian) - "Researching shipwrecks"
- Mark Staniforth (Archaeologist) - "Historical shipwrecks"
- John Mate (S.A. Diver) - "Tragic South Australian wrecks"
- Peter Rogers (Vic. Diver) - "Locating & identifying wrecks"
- Terry Arnott (Vic. Diver) - "Positioning with charts & sextant"
- Des Williams (Vic. Diver) - "Coramba - The Ship The Sea Swallowed"
- Shirley Lester (Curator Launceston Museum) - "Conservation of relics"

In addition there will be displays by M.A.A.V. and S.D.F. of shipwrecks as well as a relics displayed by Geoff Nayler. Peter Stone will attend with his book sales stand as will Jack Loney.

In the evening three films will be shown from 7.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. approx.

- (1) "The Silent Warrior" - by Al Giddings about the I 169 Japanese Submarine in Truk Lagoon
- (2) "The President Coolidge" - Worlds largest diveable shipwreck at Vanuatu.
- (3) "H.M.S. Pandora" - Historic ship wrecked in Torres Strait.

There will be a prize for a lucky ticket holder of a "full ticket" (Cost \$10.00) for both day and evening attendance.

Day Ticket only is \$7.00

Evening Ticket only is \$6.00

Bookings can be made now, either by writing to Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria at:- G.P.O. Box 2526W,
Melbourne, 3001.

Advanced telephone bookings can be made to Neil McKenzie on (03) 288 7179 and further information can be sought on the same number.

MEDIA WATCH

By GEOFF MASLEN

The wreck of the earliest Australian-built ship to founder in Victorian waters, which was discovered in Port Phillip Bay last year, will be declared historic next week.

A prohibited zone of 200 metres will be declared around the wreck site to protect it from vandals.

The largely intact remains of the two-masted schooner, the Clarence, lie off Indented Head on the Bellarine Peninsula. The Clarence was built on the Williams River, northern New South Wales, in 1841 and was a trading steamer until it went aground in 1850.

One of only four Australian-built vessels to be found in Victorian waters, the Clarence played an important role in the development of the colony by making numerous trading voyages between Port Phillip, Tasmania, and the then newly discovered Port Albert.

The ship was made from the now-rare rose mahogany timber and was inner and outer planked

Historic ship found in good shape in Port Phillip Bay



Australia Post's commemorative cover.

and copper-sheathed. Although only 16 metres long, it weighed 68 tonnes, which was probably why it was impossible to refloat.

According to Mr Peter Harvey, a marine archaeologist with the Victoria Archaeological Survey, the wreck will give valuable clues to early Australian shipbuilding techniques as well as being a source of relics of cultural and historical importance.

"Contemporary salvage of the Clarence was minimal and no looting is known of or evident at the site," Mr Harvey says.

Mr Harvey will lead a "pre-disturbance site survey" early next month to gain as much information as possible from the Clarence without actually excavating it. He says this is necessary to obtain background information around which future excavation can be planned.

Australia Post will release a first day cover on 2 October bearing a postmark commemorating the declaring of the Clarence a historic shipwreck. The cover will be available from the Queenscliff Post Office.

The Age - 24/9/85

Scales Sellers No 50 brass face & cast iron, 12in high \$75 EC also
Sellers No 2 scale hanging, Brass EC \$15 or \$85 both New
8174789

Shipwreck Rustic section of Speke 1906 found at Kitty Miller Bay
Phillip Island, approx 3ft long (Artistic application possible)
\$20 BH 8369452 or AH Canterbury 8369231

Shopping jaags, one 4 wheel \$20, one two wheel \$10 AH, G
Waverley 2323304

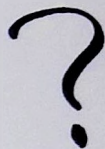
This advert was found in the "Trading Post" I wonder if this artifact was reported to Receiver of Wrecks.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR OCTOBER 1985

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
Oct 16	General Meeting	North Melbourne	F/ball Club 8.00 p.m.
Oct 20	"George Kermode"	Alex Talay 772 3085	Flinders Pier 9.30 a.m.
Nov 2-5	Long Weekend Marlo	Mick Jeacle 059 71 2786	for details
Nov 17	Decapod Reconnaissance	Max Synon 465 2812	Flinder Pier 9.30 a.m.
Nov 20	General Meeting	North Melbourne	F/ball 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	Pat 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/ Christmas Drinks	North Melbourne	F/ball Club 8.00 p.m.
Dec 26	Christmas Trip Byron Bay	Tony Tipping 80 4956	for details
Jan 25, 26, 27	Refuge Cove	John Goulding 890 6634	Details next 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



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, SPILSBY ISLAND, LADY ELLIOT ISLAND

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your world . . .*

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