

# 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

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## VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

AUG 1986

# VSAG

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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 independent 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 "Bonagi 1" was wrecked near Tassalaronga 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 Bonagi 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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AUGUST 1986

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**Next general meeting:** Wednesday, August 20th, 1986 8.00 p.m.  
North Melbourne Football Club  
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

**Next committee meeting:** Tuesday, August 26th, 1986 8.00 p.m.  
Synon Residence,  
8 Pine Street, Thomastown

Editorial submissions to: "The Editor" Fathoms C/- 99 The Fairway, KINGSBURY 300

## EDITORIAL



Recently a young girl who was SCUBA diving at night near the "Cerebus" wreck went missing and was later found dead. She had been diving with a group of divers when this accident occurred. We are all aware that our sport can be dangerous and the above event brings this message home.

Even when taking care unexpected events can occur which may lead to a serious accident. Over the last couple of years the club has had a few experiences which, thank God have resolved themselves without injury or loss of life.

Our club logo bears the words "Safety in Diving" and I think we practice what we preach. Safe diving procedures, well maintained equipment are mandatory, knowledge of first aid procedures, actions to be taken should a diver have a decompression related incident and basic boat handling are things that we should all know and are all part of being a good dive buddy.

While we hope that we never have to use this knowledge it is comforting to know that your dive companions are competent to assist you or you can help them should the need arise. Remember "Safety in Diving"!

Our dive and social calendar certainly is jam packed, plenty to do, it was unfortunate that the weekend to the wineries and pokies had to be called off at the last moment due to the petrol strike. Des put in plenty of time and effort to ensure that nothing was left to chance but was thwarted at the last moment. Des has re-scheduled the weekend lets hope that this time we have better luck. It looks like the New Zealand trip is a goer with Big Mick at the helm organising things, all you need to do is send in the money and in no time at all we will be diving in overseas waters.

Finally, thanks to all those members who sent in material for Fathoms it is sure appreciated and helps make my job easier.

Keith Jensen

## COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Meeting held at 3 Anita Avenue, Dingley on 24th June, 1986 at 8.21 p.m.

Apologies for non attendance were received from John Goulding.

### SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary noted that the only correspondence received was in the form of club magazines from other dive clubs and advertising material. The outward correspondence consisted of a follow up letter on boat launching at Tidal River sent to the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 524.47
Cash on deposit	1,175.06
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 1,699.53
	<hr/> <hr/>

There were no bills for payment.

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Max Synon raised the matter of the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting. After a quick review of the procedures it was noted that all arrangements are to be discussed and finalised at the July Committee Meeting.
2. Mick Jeacle advised the group that he plans to commence a savings plan for those persons wishing to attend the trip to New Zealand in 1988. The savings plan will commence from July meeting.
3. Des Williams reported on the S.D.F. Meeting held on the 3rd June. Des also produced a questionnaire which has been distributed to the dive clubs from S.D.F. The purpose of the questionnaire is to determine the interests and requirements of the respective clubs so that they may be better serviced by S.D.F.

4. John Lawler reported on the Downlow Medal. Marine Divers are currently in front of the V.S.A.G. on account of total dives. In the V.S.A.G. club John Lawler leads with 25 dives followed by Mick Jeacle on 21. Divers from Marine Divers currently lead the individual tally.
5. Don Abell noted that the club had received a request for a donation from the Southern Peninsula Rescue Operation which runs a helicopter rescue service from Portsea. The service plans to purchase a new twin engine helicopter for approximately \$2 million. The committee agreed that the club should make a donation of \$30.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m. \*

## TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

SEPTEMBER, 1986.

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

**MEDIA  
WATCH**

# Restored cruiser is re-launched

**A FIBREGLASS cabin cruiser launched in Sorrento recently is the only one of its kind in Port Phillip Bay.**

*Moonraker, a 42 foot Randell was lowered by crane into the bay on Sunday, June 15.*

Owned by Marty McKinnon, it was made by Precision Mouldings in Western Australia and originally belonged to the government.

The boat was damaged and bought by Mr McKinnon.

"It took about three years to complete the boat."

Moonraker will now be used for charter work around Port Phillip Bay and in Victoria Coastal Waters.

"The boat is powered by two Caterpillar 300hp engines and has a range of 600 nautical miles.

"It has a cruising speed of 17 knots and a maximum speed of 23 knots.

Fitted in the boat is a Volvo 240 volt generator, refrigeration and hot water service.

The galley is equipped with an electric stove and

conventional and microwave oven.

"There are two showers, one on the aft deck and one below, with accommodation for 10 people.

"For navigation we have three radios, a 64 mile radar, sounder and automatic pilot."

Mr McKinnon hopes in the next few months to start using the boat for charter work.

"We have just put the boat into the Marine Board Survey and it should be licensed soon.

"We will be able to carry 35 people around the bay and eight people into the coastal waters.

"One of the trips we are looking at is taking people to Wilson's Promontory for a week.

"We will also be taking groups out for business luncheons and conventions on the bay."

Southern Peninsula Gazette  
2nd July, 1986



• The only one of its kind in Port Phillip Bay, the Moonraker is ready to be launched after three years of work.



# Boat owners condemn fishing regulations

A MEETING at Knoxfield of nearly 300 boat owners has strongly condemned the State Government's recent ban on recreational fishing at Wilson's Promontory.

The meeting, attended by a wide range of boating and fishing organisations in the Eastern suburbs, also demanded the Government's failure to provide safe and adequate launching facilities for boating enthusiasts.

It was the first meeting called by the Boat Owners Association of Victoria Inc. which has been formed to campaign for a better deal for boating.

After hearing a detailed briefing by BOAV

president, Mr Ted Madden, and executive manager of the Boating Industry Association, Mr Ken Hore, the meeting carried a resolution strongly critical of the government. Detailed figures produced by Mr Hore showed that, of \$2.3 million a year collected in boat registration fees, \$605,000 was charged by the Ministry of Transport for merely collecting the money, \$601,000 went to finance the Water Police, \$450,000 was claimed by the Ministry for Tourism for general promotion.

Only \$248,000 was being spent on new facilities. "Of this, a mere \$43,000 has been allocated to improving facilities

on Port Phillip Bay, while \$90,000 is being spent on one ramp in a remote area of the state for which there is virtually no public demand," Mr Hore said.

The meeting unanimously passed a resolution deploring "the attitude of the government in failing to provide safe, serviceable and adequate ramps and associated facilities for the benefit of the 750,000 boat users throughout Victoria".

It also took exception to the ban on recreational fishing on the coast of Wilson's Promontory, between Tidal River and Refuge Cove, which came into force on June 1.

Speakers pointed out that the ban had been imposed, not after debate in the democratic parliamentary process, but by an administrative act by the Minister for Conser-

vation, Forests and Lands, Ms Joan Kirner, proclaiming the area a marine reserve. Mr Madden said no research had been carried out to establish whether any such ban was desirable or necessary and the representatives on recreational fishermen had been ignored.

The meeting unanimously carried another resolution calling on the government to proclaim no further marine reserves unless and until research clearly established that the action was necessary to preserve marine life, and only after sympathetic consideration of the interests of all user groups.

It also called on the government to rescind the Wilson's Promontory regulations pending an adequate program of research to establish whether or not such ac-

tion was necessary.

Mr Madden said it was pointed out that all the public launching ramps on the eastern shore of Port Phillip Bay were unsafe to use in adverse weather and that this scandalous situation was due to the failure of the government to spend an adequate proportion of the boat registration funds on facilities.

He said the situation also was due to obstruction by vested interests in b a y s i d e municipalities.

"The safety of boat owners who live in the eastern suburbs, who are the principal users of the bay, is in serious jeopardy as a result.

For more information about the BOAV, call the eastern suburban committee chairman, Mr Maurice Irvine on 763 9771.

Knox-Sherbrooke News, Tuesday, July 15, 1986

It would seem that our fishermen friends have been asleep and not aware of what is going on. The above is a case of closing the door after the horse has bolted.

Editor

## OUR HARD-HEADED PRESIDENT:

by Des Williams

Ever wondered what it would be like to dive in the old traditional diving equipment of lead boots, twill suit and helmet? Well, Dick Whitaker of Melbourne Diving Services is now running courses in Standard Dress Diving to give those interested the chance to use such historical equipment.

By the time you read this item, your club President Alex Talay and Vice President Des Williams will have completed the very first course run by Melbourne Diving Services.

The accompanying photograph shows Alex trying on Des William's U.S. Navy helmet at a recent committee meeting. Alex is now working on a method of secreting a bottle of beer inside the suit, so he can enjoy both of his favourite pastimes together! \*



### NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Membership fees are now well overdue. If you have not paid you are now reading your last fathoms.

Please ensure payment is made at the next general meeting or send a remittance to V.S.A.G., G.P.O. Box No. 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, immediately.

Your club needs you!

## SORRENTO DIVE REPORT



by Mick Jeacle

The last thing a man needs to do is set the clock radio for 8 a.m. as he is preparing to hit the sack at 3.30 p.m. However, such was the case for yours truly in the wee small hours on Sunday 20/7/86 after arriving home from a superb dinner party hosted by the Birtles'.

But the call of D.C. duty was there and once out of bed the pain gradually subsided. A frantic rush ensued as I drove around Frankston looking for L.P.G. for the car, rolls for lunch and then set about making my own breakfast. You see Annie is hopeless without her 8 hours and refused to get up.

Pat arrived around 9 a.m. and Alex about 9.15. They were both crook also for one reason or another and were looking for any excuse to abort the dive. Needless to say we pushed on and arrived at Sorrento a little late to find everyone else in full attire and ready to board the boats.

The bay was feat calm and the water seemed very clear from the ramp. Nearing the heads it looked somewhat choppy outside so we elected to do a drift in the rip area. The time was about 11 o'clock by this stage and with slack water flood due at 1.04 p.m. everyone seemed happy to sit around and wait. It seems the troops are a little more wary of strong currents these days.

However, Alex and I exerted an authority and ordered Pat and John Lawler over the side at 12.15 when the current was flowing at an acceptable rate. After 30 minutes they re-appeared looking decidedly blue in colour, stating that the water was absolutely freezing. Of course Alex and I laughed and were convinced they must be exaggerating but we soon realised they were not.

Visibility was excellent under the circumstances around 50 feet. We dived between the lighthouses off Queenscliffe amongst some fantastic scenery, large bommies and ledges but the crays were somewhere else. After 25 minutes Alex motioned it was time to go up before we froze to death, but of course with plenty of air and an empty bag I signalled another two minutes much to his dismay. The effort proved fruitless and we ascended anxious to get out of the cold.

After climbing on board we again met up with Rob Swoffer's boat and sat around for the usual surface interval. Pat, Alex and myself had already decided there was no chance of going in again that day. Fair dinkum a bloke must be getting old as I cannot recall feeling the cold so much or passing up on a second dive because of it. (Are you laughing at this Bazza?) In any case the tide was now on the ebb and the water looked pretty dirty, didn't it Alex?

Now we all know John Lawler wants to win this "Downlow Medal", so we agreed to wait for him to notch his second dive. This he did with 4 others from Robert's boat and while they were down we discussed the days in the not too distant future of sitting undercover listening to stereo music and feeling very warm. "Perhaps we won't even go diving in the winter then," I suggested, "Yeah, I think we could all be in for a bout of Marinaitis" suggests Pat, at this point I should point out that I think we were only joking.

Good to see Bob Scott back on the dive scene again. Bob brought workmate Paul Griffiths with him, a relatively new diver. From all reports he is a competent diver who enjoyed the day very much. Hope to see you on future outings, Paul.

It was good also to see Robert Swoffer on a dive (and his boat) as it must be over 12 months since his previous outing. Well done Bob, why not make it more often?

And what about Igor? Didn't see him for months either, and all of a sudden he comes to the meetings and has been on the last 2 dives! Must be doing the right thing at home at last to be allowed out again.

Come On Summer! \*

## NEW ZEALAND OVERSEAS TRIP

by Mick Jeacle

The Overseas Investment Fund was launched at the July general meeting as planned and the following members have indicated their intention to participate:-

- Keith Jensen
- Des Williams
- Max Synon
- \* Bob Scott
- John Lawler
- Pat Reynolds
- Don Abell
- Alex Talay
- \* Warren Cannan
- Anthony Finnigan
- \* Mick Jeacle
- \* Geoff Birtles

of those listed only those marked with an asterisk have paid so far.

To have 12 names listed for the fund is a tremendous opening but what about a few more? Funds put away relatively painlessly each month soon accumulate into big dollars, thus relieving the strain considerably when the time for the trip comes around.

What about Bruce? Alisdair? Just put your cheques in the mail and we will look after the rest.

So its not too late. But the sooner you start, the more dollars at the end.

Watch for more news in future issues of Fathoms.\*

## DIVING MANUAL OF 1905

Article submitted by Des Williams

At one auction in California recently, a book was offered for sale that was produced as a 'Handbook for Seaman Gunners' produced by the U.S. version of R.A.N.T.E. in 1905.

2. The book was small, (4" x 5") but it was full of a lot of stuff that still applies to this day, and it also points out why helmet diving has never achieved any great popularity and why there aren't two hard hats in every garage. In Chapter 1, under "Requirements for Divers", it states that divers are:-

- (a) To be cool-headed, calm, and of a phlegmatic temperament.
- (b) To be in good health, have a strong constitution, and the action of the lungs to be normal.
- (c) Not to be shortnecked, full-blooded, or with a tendency to nosebleed.
- (d) Not to have bloodshot eyes, or a high colour of the cheeks, caused by the interlacement of numerous small but distinct blood vessels.
- (e) Not to be very pale, nor to have lips more blue than red, nor be subject to cold hands or feet.
- (f) Not to perspire freely.
- (g) Not to be affected with cough, asthma or catarrh.
- (h) Not to be subject to headaches or dizziness, or affected with deafness.
- (i) Not to be hard drinkers, never have suffered frequently or severely from venereal disease, or have had sunstroke or rheumatism.
- (j) Not to have been subject to palpitation of the heart or fainting spells.
- (k) Not to have spat or coughed up blood at any time.

3. The only guys I know who could possibly pass all those requirements are Scott Carpenter and Lloyd Bridges. I feel that it would be unfair to list all the guys I know who couldn't pass. The page concluded with this disclosure: "Men who have long trunks with well developed chests and loins generally make good divers". (Men with long trunks with well developed loins have always been in demand).
4. Under "Equipment", the book lists an item called the "Crinoline" with this explanation: "The Crinoline is a sort of wicker ring covered with cloth, and goes around the waist inside the suit to support the body in opposing the oressure of water when diving at considerable depths. The diver himself is the best judge as to whether he needs it or not. It is not generally used in the United States". So, if you're wondering why you have never seen a diver wearing a "Crinoline", that must be the reason.
5. In Chapter 2, under the heading of "Accidents that May Happen", we have "Drowning", with these instructions: "Do not stand the diver on his head. If weather permits, lay him face downward in the open air with a pad of clothes under his stomach. Clear his mouth and palate and loosen all tight clothing, especially around the neck and chest. Turn him on one side, supporting his head, and excite the nostrils with snuff or ammonia, or tickle the palate with a feather. Chafe and rub the breast and face, and sprinkle both with cold water".
6. This is just the preliminary stuff. If the diver is still unconscious, the book outlines an abusive form of artificial respiration, accomplished by rolling the diver back and forth while he is laying on the bundle of clothes. The book says to support the head during this operation which is probably to prevent him from getting knocked unconscious if he happens to come to.
7. If all this doesn't work, the book says to turn him on his back and "pull his tongue forward and keep it there, tying a string around the tongue and chin if necessary. Get behind his head; grasp both his arms just above the elbows and steadily but gently bring them extended above his head, holding them there about two seconds, then shove them down alongside his body again for two seconds, and keep this up about tentimes a minute."

8. Suffocation calls for some additional instruction: "Lay the diver on his back with his head raised, clean the mouth and palate, and thoroughly sprinkle the head and face with cold water. Give cold douche and proceed as in case of drowning". Now this is some strong medicine. None of the divers I know would sit still for it. And that isn't all: it continues: "If a doctor or apothecary is present let him bleed the patient".

9. The chapter ends with this word of encouragement, "As long as there are no pronounced indications of death the efforts at resuscitation must be continued", (I guess until he runs out of blood).

10. In Chapter 3, under the heading "Signals", the book says: "Different methods of communicating with the surface are now in use, such as the telephone, acoustic tube, and the slate. These have all been tried with more or less success, but are not regarded with much favour by practical divers . . . The life line and the air hose are the means generally used in the service for making signals and are found quite sufficient for all requirements". (Apparently divers' telephones haven't changed a great deal in 65 years).

11. Further on, under the heading "The Diver", is the following earthy advice: "Coolness and courage are the necessary qualifications for good divers. (Almost every diver I know would agree with that). A diver should not go down for at least one and one-half hours after eating a hearty meal, or for two hours after drinking spirituous liquors. He should empty his bladder and, if the diving is to continue for any length of time, relieve his bowels before going down, as the increased pressure will not only cause great inconvenience but, probably, disagreeable consequences if this precaution is neglected".

12. Underwater, "The diver should habitually walk backwards; if he strikes an obstacle he should turn around and feel, as there is danger of the glasses in the helmet being broken by spikes or other objects, especially if working on a wreck . . . The diver must not lose courage or become frightened if he does, or if he feels the want of air, or if his nose bleeds, or if he feels sick, he should immediately give the signal for coming up, but should not come up too quickly, about one fathom a minute if possible".



13. The (My 60 dollar) book didn't mention the bends at all, but ended with the cautionary note: "As a rule diving should not be carried on much below 20 fathoms, although experienced divers have gone as deep as 34 fathoms".

14. Frankly, I think the diver would have been better off at 34 fathoms than on deck with the apothecary.✱



## WINERIES & POKIES WEEKEND

How about the weather on the 12th and 13th of July, it was fantastic, beautiful sunny Winter days. Did we have a great weekend? No! The Storeman and Packers Union in the oil industry saw to that.

So, there we were all ready to go but not all of our group had petrol and the reports from the country areas ranged from plenty of petrol to only \$5.00 maximum purchase on the odds and evens system.

What a "balls up", tour organiser Des Williams had to contend with, but we at least waited till the very last minute and only cancelled at 8 p.m. on Friday 11th.

So we have rescheduled this weekend away for Saturday 20th and 21st September.

For those who could not make a booking on the July dates and now feel they would like to join us at Brown Bros. Vineyard and the Yarrowonga please ring Des Williams now on 551 3201



# PROGRESS REPORT 1986 DOWNLOW MEDAL

by John Lawler

In our previous progress report for the Downlow Medal we indicated that more detail of dives and divers would be printed in August Fathoms.

With seven months diving gone, the race is quickening.

Here are progress scores:

## INDIVIDUAL DIVES

### V.S.A.G.

1st J. Lawler	27
2nd M. Jeacle	22
3rd Birtles/Tipping	16
4th Catherill	15
5th Matrowicz/Reynolds/Scott	13
6th Alex Talay	12

### MARINE DIVERS

Neil McKenzie	31
Isabel Henbest	24
Dave Wright	23
Les Kriesfeld	14
Heather Dall	13
Russ O'Flynn	13

## BOTTOM SCRATCHERS

1st Eric White	20
2nd Lothar Plos	11
3rd Counce/Milliken	10
4th Murray/Murnane	9
5th Braun/Patterson/ Williamson	7

## CLUB DIVES

1. V.S.A.G.	282
2. Marine Divers	269
3. Melbourne Bottom Scratchers	169

The results to date were calculated on dives (official) by Marine Divers to June 20th, Bottom Scratchers the same, and V.S.A.G. to our last dive on 20th July.

It could well be that Marine Divers, whose club dives have been fairly numerous, could in fact be in front but let's see how we stand in the next issue of Fathoms.

Winter will soon be gone and the V.S.A.G. divers who are hibernating will get into their diving again and this will help to pick up points for the run to close down in December.

V.S.A.G. can win the competition but competition is getting very strong.

Your committee has planned a great dive itinerary for members so why not support the club by coming for a dive.

More news on the "Downlow" in September Fathoms.

Happy diving - safe diving. \*

## ATTENTION

At this months meeting Mr. Laurie Levy from the Whale Rescue Centre will give a film and talk on whale rescue.

Mr. Levy has been involved in the successful rescue of over seventy whales around the Tasmainian Coastline, he was also instrumental in the original Project Jonah Reports.

The film will include details of a whale rescue in Crowdy Heads, N.S.W. an experience which prompted two dive shop owners to sell their businesses to become involved with the Whale Rescue Centre.

Mr. Levy is actively involved with the Whale Rescue Centre in many aspects including the protection and preservation of whales overseas.

The film and talk promises to be very interesting, and I'm sure question time more so. So, please come along and give your support for a topic which will appeal to you all, divers or not.

## THE OLIVE TREE SOCIAL NIGHT

by John Lawler

V.S.A.G. members and friends arrived en masse at the Olive Tree Bistro on Friday 27th June.

The occasion was our V.S.A.G. social night and what an excellent evening it turned out to be.

Around fifty people donned the "glad rags" and with various assortments of liquids - mostly alcohol - found seats to their liking and the feast was fairly soon under way.

Entrees ranged from seafood cocktail, the likes of which are rarely seen for quantity, quality and freshness, pasta, oysters and Soup De Jour.

Main courses ranged from huge steaks done in various ways, spaghetti marinara, rack of lamb and fresh fish of the day.

Judging by the volume of noise mid evening everybody was in fine form with vocal cords continually oiled with good wines.

The old charmer himself, "Harry" wandered through our tables serenading the guests with a wide repertoire of tunes played superbly on his violin.

Time goes quickly when one is having fun and soon the midnight hour had arrived.

But did we all head off home to warm beds? not on your Nelly. The taste of fun had grabbed many and an entourage of V.S.A.G. "stayers" took over the upper dance floor at Lazars Disco in William Street.

I hear that some of the guys and gals were still enjoying Lazars at 4.00 a.m.

The Olive Tree and Lazars night was great fun and thanks to all who turned up to make the night a huge success.

On a final note - the time and effort by the Social Secretary in planning these events is quite considerable and it is a pleasure to carry out the function on behalf of V.S.A.G. members and friends.

The Social Secretary gives no thanks to those inconsiderate people who indicate their intention to attend such functions and who not only fail to turn up but more to the point cannot at least pay the courtesy of a phone call or message of their wish not to attend.\*

## DECO STOPS

by Keith Jensen

Deco Stops received a postcard from Jack and Julie Namiota. At the time the card was posted they were in Turkey having visited 11 countries and were still to visit Greece, Yugoslavia and Italy. Jack reports that he is enjoying the sub-tropical weather on the Aegean Coast and says that there are excellent opportunities to dive.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ian and Jane Scholes are off to U.S.A. for a couple of years. Ians job requires him to take up residence in the Big Apple. Lucky we got the marks of the Milora from him, perhaps he will be generous enough to leave us the marks for the "Carpentaria" before he departs. V.S.A.G. wish them all the best.

\*\*\*\*\*

Doug Catherall is also off overseas, he is taking 12 months or so to look at some of the exotic locations of the world. Doug invites V.S.A.G. members to join him for a farewell drink at his home on August 23rd.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our night out to the Olive Tree Restaurant was most enjoyable, good food and company, even a few faces that we have not seen for some time. Ten points to John Lawler for organising a good night out.

\*\*\*\*\*

Someone who did not enjoy the convivial atmosphere was Stan Medhurst, Stan turned up at the Olive Tree on the Saturday night and tried to convince the Mailre-D that he was joining the V.S.A.G. group. Karolos informed Stan that he was 24 hours late that the dinner was booked for Friday.

\*\*\*\*\*

We all know how hard Bob Scott works, he recently had to work two full weekends overtime. June said that Bob arrived home in an excited and agitated state after this overtime. What was this work you may ask? It seems that Bob had to help a buxom young lass dress in a wetsuit for a photo session advertising wetsuits. Nice work if you can get it.

\*\*\*\*\*



## DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR AUGUST 1986

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Capt.</u>	<u>Meet at</u>
July 20	Dive Heads Area	Mick Jeacle 059 71 2786	Sorrento Boat Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Aug 3	Reef Dive Flinders	Tony Tipping 817 4956	Flinders Jetty 9.30 a.m.
Aug 10	Snow Trip Mt. Buller	Contact John Goulding for details on 890 6634.	
Aug 17	Dive Heads Area	John Lawler 569 9811	Sorrento Boat Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Aug 20	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club Guest Speaker, Laurie Levy from the Whale Rescue Association		8.00 p.m.
Aug 31	Mystery Dive (CANCELLED)	Don Abell 29 4415	Sorrento Boat Ramp 10.00 a.m.
Sept 14	"George Kermodé" Wreck Dive	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Flinders Jetty 9.30 a.m.
Sept 17	Annual General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Sept 20 & 21	Wineries & Pokies Weekend	Des Williams 551 3201	
Oct 5	"Milora" Wreck Dive	Alex Talay 772 3085	Sorrento Boat Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Oct 19	Charter Boat Dive	John Lawler 569 9811	Sorrento Pier 9.00 a.m.
Oct 25	Social Evening, venue to be arranged.		
Nov 22	Tennis Day & V.S.A.G. Mile		Full details Sept. Fathoms.
Dec 12	Christmas Social Function, venue to be arranged.		
Dec/Jan	Christmas Camp	Des Williams 551 3201	Details in June 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.

Tear & post to The Secretary V.S.A.G.,  
P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001  
to arrive prior to September 3rd, 1986

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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: 1986-87

NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being full members of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group,  
hereby nominate:

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for the position of Director of the Group.

Signed:.....Date / /1986

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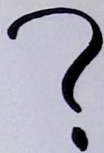
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**VANUATU**

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