

FATHOMS

EST. 1954



Safety in Diving

**INDEPENDENT
DIVING
FREEDOM**

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FEB 1986

VSAG

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Committee Member

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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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Next general meeting:

Wednesday February 19, 1986 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday February 25, 1986 8.00 p.m.
Pat Reynolds Home,
14 Nurla Court, Frankston

EDITORIAL



A happy New Year to you all, perhaps not to be so for divers who launched their boats to dive at Tidal River. Rumour has it, that launching of boats is to be prohibited at this location. The reason why, is obscure, tis said some cars are being driven in a dangerous manner along the river and beach.

Conservation Minister, Joan Kirner was on TV recently and said Wilsons Promontary was to be the subject of a management plan as the demands on the area were being increased year by year. She stated that, "the Prom is in danger of being loved to death".

We all enjoy the right to dive at this premier location and boating around the offshore islands and remote bays to dive and partake the magnificent scenery, to swim with seals and simply enjoy one's self is the right we may soon be denied.

Des Williams is to bring the matter to the notice of the S.D.F. of Victoria, but should any reader see or hear any thing further on this restriction of access to divers please let Fathoms know, unless we do something now the matter may be fait accompli.

On a happier note our recent events, the dinner at Barbarino's, Christmas Camp at Byron Bay were well attended and well organised and our calendar of future events looks good. It is pleasing to me to receive a copy of these events to fill out the pages of Fathoms and I hope pleasing to you to read about these anecdotes.

We receive in the mail literature from various sources on many subjects, one recent mailing was from Marine Study Services regarding marine nature study courses conducted by Reg Lipson, two such courses are scheduled for 1986 over weekend periods at a cost of \$180.00 but should a group of eight participate a group discount of \$20.00 applies.

Keith Jensen

COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting of the Committee of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group, held at 1 Katrina Avenue, Murrumbeena on Thursday 26th November, 1985 at 8.30 p.m.

Apologies for non attendance were received from Alex Talay and Max Synon.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Correspondence had been received from Project Jonah requesting details of any sightings of whales or dolphins during our diving. The letter will be reprinted in Fathoms. Details were also received from Aquarius Travel of a photographic school for underwater photography to be held in February, 1986.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the club had the following funds:-

Cash at bank	\$ 1,261.17
Cash on hand	\$ 30.00
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,574.34
	\$ 2,865.51

Accounts for payment:-

Pat Reynolds - compressor	\$ 15.00
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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. It was decided that the venue for Christmas 1986 should be discussed at the next general meeting. Bicheno was considered as a possibility.
2. The Committee confirmed that V.S.A.G. would participate in the Downlow Medal.
3. Keith Jensen reported that he is still having trouble getting articles for Fathoms. The Committee agreed that dive captains were responsible for writing a report on the dive. This was to be announced at the next general meeting and specific persons are to be nominated for contributions.
4. John Goulding admitted to not having renewed the Club insurance policy. He will attend to this and include the compressor, depth sounder and 4 tanks.

5. Andy has arranged for Bass Breathing Apparatus to test club tanks for \$14.00 or \$11.00 for a sight test only. Extra \$4.00 for a valve test and \$4.00 for a rumberl.
6. Des told the Committee that he thought that V.S.A.G.'s letter to V.A.S. had its desired affect and Nick Clarke was being more thoughtful in his comments.
7. Des also has spoken to Peter Brown and will arrange a club trip to the winery in April, 1986.
8. Des gave a report in the S.D.F. activities.
9. The Secretary was requested to write to S.D.F. thanking the outgoing Committee for their efforts toward the improvement of conditions for divers.

The meeting closed at 10.25 p.m. with a tasty savoury supper prepared by John Lawler. *

EASTER CAMP AT TIDAL RIVER

Only 10 sites have been allocated to V.S.A.G., a \$25.00 deposit from each diver will be accepted at the February General Meeting to secure a site.

Monies to be paid to Don Abell at the February General Meeting.

"Might be your last change to dive at Tidal River".

TIP'S TIT-BITS

by Tony Tipping

Byron Bay - Christmas Trip 1985

The following personnel attended the trip:- Maureen & Gus Belanski with Beth, Danny, Gusty & Alexander; Marie, Barry & Sam Truscott; Liz, Sarah & Doug Catherall; Kerry Joyce, Pat Reynolds, His Worship Alex Talay, Marg & Marcus Tipping and myself, Pam & Peter Kamen with Anthony, Matthew & Christopher. We also had along Sheila & Tony John with Ruth, Rowena & Danny - they were last minute replacements for the Jeacle family who scratched along with Mick Jackiw and Igor Chernichov. Chris Bourier popped in for a couple of days diving too, so all up we could boast a total of 29.

As usual we left Melbourne about a week before everyone else on 18th December - my company has this strange policy of finishing up a week prior to Christmas Day. We motelled it as Gilgandra the first night and Grafton on the second - I didn't fancy putting the tent up in the dark like last year. We soon arrived at Globetrotters, Byron Bay Beach Resort the next morning and were settled in by 11.00 a.m. This was not your average camping ground, it had fully sealed roads, flat sites, its own private surf beach, a pool, shop, snack bar, TV lounge, games room, plenty of amenities blocks and even bingo nights and discos. We all had powered sites with more shade than anyone else, about 300 metres from the beach or a five minute walk. The cost was probably higher than we'd previously encountered but I do think it was well worth it.

The first week we had a real holiday - plenty of sleep, good meals, swimming, jogging, tennis and two dives, The Cod Holes and Hugo's Trench both out at Julian Rocks. It was also great to get re-acquainted with Bill Sillvester and Greg Blackburn who I'd dived with a year ago. They honoured our handshake deal of a particularly good rate per dive despite the lack of numbers which I had tentatively guaranteed earlier on. One thing I am sure of is that there is no better or more efficiently run dive shop or dive charter on the N.S.W. coast than the Byron Bay Dive Centre in Lawson Street.

No real highlights before the mob arrived except for Christmas Eve dinner at the Julian Rocks Restaurant - excellent meal but too pricy, for a small coastal town, and of course Santas visit to our tent.

Marcus thought this was terrific, he even left our beer and biscuits for the old fat gutted bludger in the red suit who gets away with doing only one honest day's work per year!

The others arrived on Boxing Day and the 27th except the Kamens, New Years Day. Most timed it well because Boxing night we had a mini twister and a couple of inches of rain - most tents blew down but with 28 ropes hanging on, mine was safe - likewise Gus's. The rest of the time we had light winds, and tropical showers on only two evenings - the weather was close to excellent about 30° days and 20° nights. We didn't mind the lack of wind for diving - Peter Kamen complained, he had hoped to windsurf each afternoon and was disappointed when it didn't blow. He did get out a couple of times later on and stayed out six hours at a time. No doubt he deserved the beltings from Pam - another week and she would have divorced him.

We must all thank Peter for lining up all the divers for an ear clinic one morning, Pat still hasn't shut up about what a wonderful pair he has (ears that is!) Gus just happened to have anotoscope in his glove box. Most others were fairly good except Bazza and myself (two deafest in V.S.A.G.) so Peter took over casualty at the local hospital and syringed our ears. Note too, that he suggests all divers have their ears checked twice per year. You should have seen the rubbish that came out of Bazza!

Another highlight was Bazza's hair cut, my, does he love to be pampered. Honestly between them, Marg with scissors and Pat with cut-throat razor (he loves to strop the razor) took three hours to do what Luigi the barber could do in ten minutes - have you had the damage repaired yet Bazza? But still, a gallery of about thirty people enjoyed the entertainment - reckon it was a six can performance, eh Alex! Now there's a bloke who really knows how to enjoy a holiday and slow down, our Supremo El Presidente Alex Talay, but the bastard never sleeps. Every time I had to get up to attend to a problem of an extremely personal nature during the "wee" small hours Alex would still be up reading one stick book after another. One other point, he was always so well attired the dark Speedos and the white singlet didn't he give those a helluva hammering!

New Years Eve was pretty good - we all went to the Razzle Club (R.S.L.) at six, had a huge meal, downed a few schooners, cultivated our N.S.W. beer drinking voices - some do it better than others - dropped a few dollars on the one armed bandits and got kicked out by nine o'clock the curfew for kids. Then it was back to camp for the

champers where Sheila John, a true bonnie Scots lassie showed us how to celebrate the arrival of the New Year just like they do in Scotland. I'll take this opportunity to apologise on Sheila's behalf to all those strange men who were attacked and to anyone who found cane toads in their beds or salt in their tea.

Poor old Marg did an excellent job arranging a day trip to Sea World and a finale night out at Il Duamos Restaurant just before the trip back. The day at Sea World was seven fun packed hours highlighted by rides on the Wild Wave, listening to a bird screaming in a male voice next to me on the Corkscrew (I sat next to Kerry), watching the sharks in the aquarium and most of all seeing Peter Kamen complete with pink shirt, pink board shorts, pink tennis shade and lime green zinc cream!

Apart from the diving, the remainder of the holiday consisted of surfing at the local beach, listening to Gus playing music or singing or whipping Alexander when he was naughty, having the legs run off us by Doug, playing cricket, both the young Danny's excelled here, an afternoon at Ninbin near the alternative lifestyle commune, and seeing Marcus charge out yelling applause to the four choo-choo trains per day that passed behind the camp. A select clique organised by Doug spent a night and, I believe heaps of money at the new Conrad Casino on the Gold Coast playing Roulette and Black Jack - with Marg gone for the night, I was quite content to have an early night with a few of Pat's magazines.

The Diving

I managed to dive ten days out of 21 which was a good balance with plenty of lay days in between. Conditions and visibility varied somewhat - we had poor visibility about 10 feet deep on the bottom of the Pinnacle despite being in blue water around about 90 feet down. Kendrick's Reef gave us 120 feet visibility on the last dive and the Cod Hole close to it the previous day. We dived several spots more than once: Mackerel Bowl, Cod Hole, Kendricks Reef and The Pinnacle. Alex seems to be a magical attraction for sharks - he saw four bronze whalers and two grey nurse on successive Pinnacle dives. Pat wasn't a bad sight either when an eight footer followed him up to his seven minute deco stop. The same day proved disaster for me my old Drager reg. finally gave up at 120 feet (with a strong current) not much fun when suddenly you've got no air. Disasterous not because of what could have happened but because I've since had to spend a fortune on a new Conshelf SE Reg. and the latest U.S. Divers B.C. He's a bloody smooth talker my old mate Russell Kit. Does anyone want to buy a Fenzy?

We did have heaps of fun diving, especially Doug where there are wobbies about - I preferred to play with Doug like pushing him head first into an eight footer. The fish were prolific - schools of kingies, jewfish (mulloway), red morwong, Douglas morwong, snapper as well as plenty of pretty little tropicals and moray eels etc. When conditions are right these spots are as good as anywhere along the N.S.W. coast particularly considering their close proximity to shore only about 10 minutes from the boat ramp.

Greg & Penny Blackburn did a great job organising us to dive within our own group at the spots we selected and when and where we wanted to go, so thanks to them along with Bill, Hugo, Ross and Peter who was forever manning the compressor.

I would also like to thank all of you who drove over 1000 miles and made the Christmas 1985 V.S.A.G. holiday a beauty. I've been on ten of the fourteen trips since 1971 and I would really have to scratch my head to come up with one better. No doubt we'll get back to Byron Bay a few years from now after we've copped cold, southern, miserable weather like Eden last year. I'm now looking forward to Peter Kamen's underwater films together with spontaneous interviews from the likes of Doug and Gus (old Bazza's as camera shy as ever) along with slides at the V.S.A.G. meeting in February. *



PETER KAMEN
WITH PINK SHADE
AND WAR PAINT.



LAST NIGHT OUT A IL DUAMO'S

HATS ARE IN,
TONY & MARCUS



V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS PARTY

BARBARINO'S 6TH DECEMBER, 1985

by John Lawler

Our Christmas party was held at Barbarino's Restaurant on St. Kilda Road. and it really was a great night of good food and good fun.

The turn up was excellent with 67 persons attending and it was again pleasing to see our members bringing some non club friends along to help in making the night the success it was.

I took some time off from keeping the bottle of Tisdall Red company to cast an eye over our audience and I could not help but be impressed with the way our ladies presented themselves - magnificent to say the least.

It seems our men opted for a more laid back approach to their dress for the evening with one notable exception and I refer to Igor Chernicov who turned up looking very splendid indeed.

The raffle ticket sellers went out with great determination to ensure the response was up to standard and of note, Geoff Birtles, who seemed to be all over everyone again after he paid up but applying cut price offers for the very last dollar. Good one Geoff.

The standard of donations by our friends and associates continues to improve and this year was certainly no exception.

Our sincere thanks go to the following for their generous support:-

John's Dive Shop - Underwater torch.

Southern Cross Divers - Years free air.

Warrick McDonald - Diving Enterprises - Two pairs of fins.

- Two free air fill cards.

Bob Cumberland's Dive Shop - Gift voucher - \$100.00.

Mr. Jack Namiota - One picture - \$50.00 (Club Member).

McWilliams Wine - Assorted high quality wines.

Seakist Foods Ltd. - Assorted canned seafoods.

Bushells Ltd. - Coffee/Tea canister.

T.A.A. - Return air ticket for two - Melbourne - Sydney (Thanks Johnno!).

Financially the night was also very successful and following is the state of affairs from the night.

Profit from door	\$ 201.00
Profit from raffles	\$ 761.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 962.00
	<hr/>

Your social secretary has around four events in mind for 1986 and Christmas 1986 will be again the major highlight of V.S.A.G. "Social Calendar".

Jeanette Large was noticed looking rather concerned towards husband Mick whose response after winning the return air tickets was "I'll take Doug Catherill with me!!!!".

Also of interest was the way Paul Sier's eyes lit up at the sight of the picture (donated by Jack Narniota) being shown around the room. (For those who did not attend last years Christmas function at Hunters Lodge please ignore this observation).

In conclusion sincere thanks to "Life Member" and past Social Secretary Johnny Goulding for his great contribution during '84/'85 and personal thanks for helping with the Barbarino's Christmas party venue arrangement. *

CHARTER BOAT DIVE SUNDAY MARCH 2

Departing Sorrento Pier At 9.00 a.m. Sharp

Two single tank dives, at venues applicable to conditions on the day. Intending divers are requested to submit their names to Dive Captain, John Lawler A.S.A.P.

SORRENTO DIVE REPORT

By Mick Jeacle, Photos by Annie Jeacle

Sunday, December 15th was one of those peculiar days when one could not be certain if the weather would even permit the launching of the boats. The wind was blowing at about 15 - 20 knots at Frankston and I got the feeling it could be a lot worse at Sorrento as the big trees I use as a yardstick were fairly dancing all over the place.

My fears were not unfounded as I arrived at the ramp at 9.25 a.m. to find Keith Jensen with a scowl on his face. "What do ya reckon Keith?" I enquired. "Don't think I'll even bother taking the chairs off the back of the boat", he replied. I did not hasten to agree with his summation as we had aborted the previous dive due to inclement weather.

Accordingly I had already made up my mind that I was going no matter what. In any case Annie had arranged to come on this trip and was anxious to show what a good sailor she was.



PETER JENSEN, REECE & GEOFF BIRTLES ENJOYING A BARBEQUED SNACK,
KEITH JENSEN IN A THOUGHTFUL MOOD.

Geoff Birtles arrived shortly afterwards and after a quick meeting the decision was made to go diving. He couldn't wait to see Annie hanging over the side of the boat, but of course this did not eventuate.

After launching the boats, we decided to head over to the Queenscliffe side and drift over the reef. Slack water was only about an hour away and the vis from the surface looked to be about 60 feet. Being a boat owner, one gets to choose when and where to dive and as I chose to dive on the slack tide, John Lawler was ordered over first. John dived with Dave Henty-Wilson out of Geoff's boat but had trouble with his new mask and came up after 20 minutes feeling pretty crook. After some expert medical attention from Pat, Alex and myself, we left the poor bugger in Annie's care whilst we took our turn in the drink.

The current was non existent upon reaching the bottom, and remained that way for the duration of the dive. Visibility was indeed 60 feet but ledges were scarce and far apart. After 20 minutes I found myself wishing the current would commence as we must have covered some 500 metres or so which was exhausting work. However, it was all worthwhile as 3 nice trophies were in the bag.



V.S.A.G. GROUP ENJOYING THE APRES DIVE FUN AT SORRENTO

By the completion of the dive the sea was fairly flat and the sun was shining brilliantly, just goes to show that unless it is really bad, decisions should not be made from the bedroom. Following the mandatory surface interval of some 2 hours, during which we had lunch near Point Lonsdale pier, we again hit the water. John still felt a little off colour and readily agreed he should not dive again that day.

With John in the boat, Pat, Alex and myself again dived as a threesome the current was fairly strong on this dive and Pat was keen for Alex or myself to take the bouy line. Once again the boat owners rules were quoted and Alex pulled rank. Pat mumbled something in his regulator as he dropped over the side, but this was indecipherable. Even on the bottom he didn't give up as he was observed to offer the pick to Alex who promptly ignored same.

Visibility had reduced to around 35 feet but the reef area was very extensive. After about 15 minutes I came across one of those deep dark ledges that one dreams about and sure enough there was an eight pounder. As I was enticing him out of his hole a big Eoarfish came over my right shoulder and "spooked" the cray and he was never to be seen again, having disappeared in a cloud of silt.



ALEX & BOB DISCUSS THE DAYS DIVE

DECO STOPS

By Keith Jensen

First arrivals at our Christmas party turn out at Barbarino's were Bob & Jane Scott, seems as though Bob was a very late last to receive his meal, to say the least Bob was not very impressed with the service.

T.A.A. donated a return trip for 2 to Sydney as a prize for our raffle. Congratulations to Jeanette Large on winning the trip. Thanks to T.A.A. for the prize.

Also many thanks to all who provided gifts of products and services in aid of our raffle. Thanks to all who bought tickets, hope you won something!

Big pat on the back for the two Johns, Messrs Gouiding and Lawler who arranged the evening and ensured that it went off well.

Handy Andy was diving near Cape Schank recently and was checked out by F.W.O.'s. It would seem that these F.W.O.'s sneaked up in an inflatable boat in the guise of fishermen and boarded Andy's boat like pirates. Andy copped it all very politely, others I know may have repelled the boarders.

"Big M" reports that he was surrounded by a school of very large Kingfish, while he was diving near Queenscliffe over Xmas. Mick was delighted with the dive, especially when he pulled a couple of crays on the dive also.

Geoff and Mick had a good catch of crays recently, placed them in a bag and hung it over the stern of the boat, seems that they somehow came off while at anchor near Point Nepean, it was a very pleasant Italian gentleman that found them.

Des and Julie Williams were noted absentees from our Christmas Gala, no doubt looking after their new arrival, baby daughter Hannah, congratulations to Julie and Des, also welcome to Hannah.

Tony Tipping has finally pensioned off some of the old old antique dive gear that he used, now sporting some of the latest state of the art equipment. Rumour has it that the Museum of Applied Science wants his old Fenzy on display.

It has been reported to Deco Stops that Tony has acquired a new dive suit also. Wonder if Marg knows about this?, if not Tony is in for another whipping.

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

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

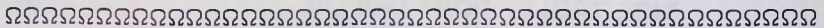
FEBRUARY, 1986.

Month Day	Week Day	PORT PHILLIP HEADS.																Week Day	Month Day
		High Water				Stack Water Flood (Stream Turns)				Low Water				Stack Water Ebb (Stream Turns)					
		h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.				
1	Sa	14 15	1.5	16 41	1.4	07 07	0.8	19 24	0.8	09 59	0.2	22 08	0.3	00 49	0.8	13 20	0.8	Sa	1
2	Su	14 49	1.4	17 33	1.4	07 43	0.8	20 12	0.9	10 38	0.2	22 52	0.4	01 28	0.9	14 05	0.8	Su	2
3	M	15 23	1.4	18 27	1.4	08 22	0.8	21 05	0.9	11 21	0.1	23 38	0.5	02 07	0.9	14 54	0.7	M	3
4	Tu	15 59	1.3	19 25	1.4	09 02	0.7	21 55	1.0			12 05	0.1	02 48	0.9	15 45	0.7	Tu	4
5	W	16 39	1.3	20 30	1.3	09 46	0.7	22 55	1.0	00 25	0.6	12 54	0.1	03 32	0.9	16 42	0.7	W	5
6	Th	17 31	1.2	21 38	1.3	10 41	0.7			01 20	0.7	13 52	0.1	04 25	0.9	17 45	0.7	Th	6
7	F	18 38	1.1	22 50	1.3	00 03	1.0	11 49	0.6	02 28	0.7	15 00	0.1	05 33	0.9	18 55	0.7	F	7
8	Sa	10 01	1.1	23 57	1.3	01 21	1.0	13 07	0.6	03 53	0.7	16 13	0.1	06 57	0.9	20 05	0.7	Sa	8
9	Su	11 26	1.1			02 37	1.0	14 24	0.6	05 17	0.7	17 23	0.1	08 21	0.9	21 09	0.8	Su	9
10	M	10 56	1.4	12 41	1.2	03 43	1.0	15 33	0.7	06 30	0.6	18 26	0.1	09 35	0.8	22 06	0.8	M	10
11	Tu	01 47	1.4	13 44	1.2	04 39	0.9	16 34	0.7	07 31	0.4	19 25	0.1	10 37	0.8	22 57	0.8	Tu	11
12	W	02 30	1.5	14 38	1.3	05 25	0.9	17 28	0.7	08 21	0.3	20 19	0.2	11 29	0.8	23 43	0.8	W	12
13	Th	03 07	1.5	15 23	1.3	06 05	0.8	18 14	0.8	09 03	0.2	21 05	0.2			12 13	0.8	Th	13
14	Th	03 39	1.5	16 05	1.4	06 40	0.8	18 55	0.8	09 41	0.2	21 45	0.3	00 22	0.8	12 53	0.8	Th	14
15	Sa	04 08	1.4	16 43	1.3	07 12	0.8	19 33	0.8	10 16	0.1	22 21	0.3	00 56	0.9	13 29	0.6	Sa	15
16	Su	04 34	1.4	17 21	1.3	07 41	0.8	20 09	0.9	10 49	0.1	22 57	0.4	01 28	0.9	14 05	0.7	Su	16
17	M	04 58	1.3	17 59	1.3	08 09	0.7	20 45	0.9	11 21	0.1	23 32	0.5	01 57	0.9	14 40	0.7	M	17
18	Tu	05 23	1.3	18 40	1.3	08 38	0.7	21 23	0.9	11 53	0.2			02 27	0.9	15 16	0.7	Tu	18
19	W	05 53	1.2	19 27	1.2	09 11	0.7	22 06	0.9	00 07	0.6	12 29	0.2	03 00	0.9	15 58	0.7	W	19
20	Th	06 28	1.2	20 23	1.2	09 48	0.7	22 57	0.9	00 45	0.6	13 09	0.2	03 36	0.9	16 46	0.7	Th	20
21	F	07 15	1.1	21 25	1.1	10 37	0.7			01 32	0.7	13 49	0.3	04 23	0.9	17 42	0.7	F	21
22	Sa	08 18	1.0	22 34	1.1	00 01	1.0	11 41	0.7	02 38	0.8	15 04	0.3	05 28	0.9	18 49	0.7	Sa	22
23	Su	09 35	1.0	23 38	1.2	01 21	1.0	12 44	0.7	04 08	0.8	16 14	0.3	06 51	0.9	19 56	0.7	Su	23
24	M	10 55	1.0			02 30	0.9	14 05	0.7	05 22	0.7	17 15	0.3	08 08	0.9	20 53	0.8	M	24
25	Tu	00 32	1.2	12 08	1.1	03 24	0.9	15 08	0.7	06 16	0.6	18 08	0.3	09 12	0.9	21 42	0.8	Tu	25
26	W	01 17	1.3	13 11	1.2	04 08	0.9	16 04	0.7	06 59	0.5	18 58	0.2	10 05	0.9	22 27	0.8	W	26
27	Th	01 56	1.4	14 06	1.4	04 47	0.9	16 56	0.8	07 38	0.4	19 47	0.3	10 52	0.9	23 10	0.9	Th	27
28	F	02 34	1.5	14 55	1.5	05 25	0.9	17 44	0.9	08 17	0.3	20 34	0.3	11 36	0.9	23 52	0.9	F	28

WARRICK'S DIVE CENTRE

34 Station Street, Moorabbin,
Phone: 555 9128

P.A.D.I. DIVE INSTRUCTION
DIVE CHARTERS, HYDRO'S, AIR FILLS
REGULATOR SERVICING
GEAR HIRE

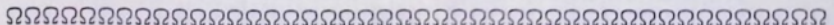


FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH

WARRICK HAS JUST OPENED ANOTHER SHOP

Warrick's Dive Centre,
167 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong,
Phone: 794 8136

Manager Warren Jones will be pleased to assist all divers
with super service and competitive prices on gear.



SUPER SPECIAL OFFER TO V.S.A.G.

To encourage V.S.A.G. members to visit Warrick's new
venture at Dandenong, a super opening offer:

SCUBA-PRO B.C. VEST
WITH INFLATOR INCLUDED

***** \$ 450 *****

GOING DOWN: BYRON BAY

by Alex Talay

- * Byron Bay was an outstanding success. Good camp, plenty of warm weather, good diving and plenty of fun. Rumour has it Tony Tipping jumped the beads for a month praying everything would go well. Well done Tony.
- * Pinnacle Dive at Byron was excellent, 44 metres at the bottom. Bazza and Alex were escorted all the way up by 3 bronze whalers. No truth in the rumour that Alex was dizzy from spinning around keeping an eye on them.
- * Pat Reynolds was buzzed by an 8 ft. whaler on the Pinnacle Dive whilst ascending alone. He was really worried he didn't have a buddy to stab in the leg.
- * Pat, forgetting about deco, yelled "shark" when surfacing. Gus Belanski enquired as to its whereabouts, he replied "I'm nearly standing on the bloody things back", squeaked Pat. Needless to say he floated back to the boat with a minimum use of flippers.
- * Byron is a Bird Watchers Paradise. No white pointers in the water but heaps of pinks on the beach.
- * Peter Kamen, Resident V.S.A.G. Medico, held an ear clinic at the camp, said Bazza had the worst set he'd ever seen. Took him down to the local hospital and removed a couple of pounds of rubbish from each one. No need to shout at him any more.
- * Marie Truscott was pulled up for a breath test on New Years Eve. She passed and I'll bet the copper was spewing he couldn't get his hands on the 3 drunks giggling in the back seat. Bazza, Pat and Alex were glad she drove. *

MESSAGE FROM DES WILLIAMS

by Des Williams

For the past six years now, I have regularly been writing notes for "Fathoms" and I have enjoyed contributing to our excellent magazine. Coming up with new items each month is now becoming increasingly difficult and I ask each member to consider putting pen to paper to help Keith assemble our newsletter. You do not have to write every month if you don't wish, but some contribution about your most memorable dive or diving experience should not be too hard to write about, so why not give it a go, as we are all interested.

My contribution this month comes from a book put out by Siebe Gorman & Co. over 30 years ago. It is an absolute wealth of information (mainly hard hat diving) on every possible venture beneath the sea. I was fortunate enough to get a copy of this rare book just recently, and thought you may be interested in some of the true under sea adventures it contains.

The following story is about an escape from a submarine, which I feel is topical, as we often dive on the old J class subs outside the Heads.

ESCAPE FROM THE U.S. SUBMARINE "SQUALUS":

The rescue of 33 members of the crew of the United States submarine "Squalus" in 1939, and the subsequent raising of the ship herself, constitute two of the most noteworthy feats in the annals of submarine life-saving and marine salvage operations. The men were rescued by means of a diving chamber and the vessel was raised by securing huge pontoons to the hull and filling them with air to lift the ship.

The "Squalus" went to the bottom because her high induction valve - designed to feed large supplies of air into the vessel when on the surface - failed to close, with the result that a great volume of water rushed through the portal and flooded the after part of the craft. The "Squalus" had dived to 80 feet, and was straightening out horizontally, when the control room officer was warned that water was coming into the ship. Blowing the ballast tanks was instantly ordered, but failed to give sufficient buoyancy to offset the dead weight of the water that flooded the four compartments. She sank stern first at an angle of about 45°, and settled on the sea bed at a depth of 240 feet, her plunge driving her stern well into the muddy bottom where she came to rest on an even keel and with her bow pointed upward at 11°.

But for the quick and desperate effort of one of the crew in closing the door in the watertight bulkhead at the after end on the control room, the entire interior of the vessel would have been flooded.

When the "Squalus" was reported overdue, a sister ship, the Submarine "Sculpin", was sent to investigate, and found a smoke bomb floating on the surface. She then located the marker buoy containing a telephone, which had been released from a well in the forward deck of the "Squalus". This allowed the Commanding Officer of the "Sculpin" to communicate with the survivors in the forward compartments. Suddenly, the telephone cable parted and communication ceased.

Rescue operations were in hand the next day when the U.S.S. "Falcon" a rescue and salvage ship arrived. Boatswains' mate Sabitzky made the first dive and in a few minutes telephoned that he had landed on the Squalus' forward deck and that men inside her were tapping on her hull as they heard him walking overhead.

The "Squalus" was the first serious case where a rescue chamber was brought into use for life saving. No time was lost in getting the chamber down to the wreck. Sabitzky shackled the down-haul line of the chamber to the forward escape hatch, and in about an hour the chamber pulled itself down to the hatch. Seven men were enabled to leave the vessel and to be returned to the surface, the upward journey taking about 21 minutes. Three more descents were made before the remaining 26 men were saved.

The chamber which was devised in 1927 by Cmr. Allen McCann, of the U.S. Navy, was pear-shaped and weighed 9 tons. It was 10 feet high, 8 feet in diameter and tapered to a base diameter of 5 feet. A large rubber flange served as a watertight joint between the chamber and a machined flange which surrounded each escape hatch at deck level on the submarine.

The chamber was divided into an upper compartment which housed the control apparatus, and a lower smaller compartment which was open at the bottom and around which was a ballast tank. Between them was a submarine hatch similar to that on the domed top of the chamber, both hatches being designed to be opened or closed from either side. A winch sited in the lower compartment driven by a pneumatic motor, held 450 feet of steel cable. The lower end of the cable was first secured to the escape hatch of the submarine by a diver, then the winch wound the chamber downwards against positive buoyancy. When paid out, the cable allowed the chamber to rise by its own buoyancy. The cable remaining attached to the escape hatch, so that the operation could be repeated for successive descents. *

"SHAKE A LEG, YOU SON OF A GUN"

by Keith Jensen

In our every day speech we often use sayings that have origins going back over hundreds of years and their original meaning has been lost.

The phrase to "shake a leg" was a term that had its beginnings in the Royal Navy at around the time of Admiral Lord Nelson.

It arose from the old days when seamen who were signed on for the duration of the ship's commission, were always refused shore leave when in harbour for fear that they would desert. Instead of shore leave, women, ostensibly wives, were allowed to live on board while the ship remained in harbour, and of course joined the men in their hammocks at night.

When men's hands were called in the morning, the women were allowed to go on shore leave, and the boatswain's mates, when they saw a hammock still occupied, would check the sex of the occupant by requiring him/her to shake a leg over the edge of the hammock. If it was hairy it was probably male, if hairless probably female.

The saying that had its origin in that era and is still in current use is "Son of a gun", as the gangways on the ships had to be clear the only place on board where women in labour could produce children was in the spaces between the guns on the gundecks. Probably any male child born on board was known as a "Son of a gun". The saying gave rise to the saying; Begotten in the galley and born on a gun. Every hair a rope yarn, every tooth a marlin spike, every finger a fish hook, and his blood right good Stockholm tar. *

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR FEBRUARY '86

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet at</u>
Feb 15	Tidal River Weekend	Mick Jeacie 059 71 2786	Contact Mick for details
Feb 19	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Mar 2	Charter Boat Warricks Dive Boat	John Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento Pier 9.00 a.m.
Mar 8, 9, 10	Cape Conran Camp Labour Day Weekend	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Burbang Caravan Park
Mar 19	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Mar 28-31	Camp at Tidal River Easter	Don Abell 29 4415	Tidal River Camping Ground

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.

- STOP PRESS -

- CLOSE TIDAL RIVER TO DIVERS?

If you enjoy diving from Tidal River at Wilsons Promontory, at either Christmas time, Labour Day weekend or Easter each year, you MUST read on.....

The Dept. of Conservation Forests & Lands is on the brink of making a decision to close off boat launching at Tidal River on the above mentioned dates, forever!!

If you are prepared to lose your diving from the Prom. at the best times of the year, then don't read any further. Only YOU can reverse the Dept's. plan by writing to them now, not tomorrow or in a week's time, but NOW.

The closing date for submissions from the public is Thursday 27th of March 1986. They MUST have your letter in their hands by then or you only have yourself to blame if their plan goes ahead.

Firstly, here are the minutes of the special S.D.F-V meeting convened on Tuesday 4/3/1986 to discuss the planned closure to boats. This will help you plan your reply.

Representatives from the following Clubs attended:

Melb. Bottomscratchers	V.S.A.G	A.P.I
Marine Diving Group	Geelong Scuba Club	Black Rock Club
Frankston Sub-Marriners	Box Hill Diving Club	Bass Strait Club
Monash U/water Group	Marlin Divers	S.D.F- Australia

Dr. Jeffrey Parr-Smith representing Dept. of Conservation, Forests & Lands was present to take note of divers alternative ideas to the Plan. He explained that the Park Management Plan, currently being prepared, is to ensure the Prom. remains in its current beautiful state for the people forever. They are going to manage the Prom. in much the same way as at present, with the emphasis on an absolute minimum of further development which could ruin the Promontory.

All recommendations for the Park Management Plan have come from the Government staff at the Prom. and NOT specifically by surveying public opinion. The Staff at Tidal River have expressed their concern that boat launching is dangerous to public health on busy days at Tidal River, thus their recommendation that boat launching be closed off at busy times of the year.

Dr. Parr-Smith pointed out that submissions from the public, re the Plan, close on April 1st next (Easter is in the way, so make that 27th March!) after which they will be examined by Park staff at Tidal River, then on to the Dept's Head Office at Yarram, where they will be collated and a recommendation made to the Minister, Joan Kirner, in Canberra. It will be the Minister's ultimate choice whether to restrict boat launching or not and there will be NO chance to reverse the decision.

Most of the questions put to Dr. Parr-Smith could not be answered as he said he was attending our meeting instead of Mr. Peter Lawson from the Dept. A good "cop-out" indeed, but apparently Lawson is the only one with knowledge of the Prom. enough to field our questions. To Parr-Smith's credit, he did make copious notes to present to the Dept. and promised to voice our feelings in the strongest terms, but would give no guarantee of the Dept's final decision. He suggested the best form of attack to support our disapproval of the Plan is to send plenty of letters from Clubs and individuals to the Dept.

We believe large fishing clubs are on to this stupid plan and will also be writing against the idea. Dr. Parr-Smith admitted he didn't realise the proposal would effect so many people and attract so much disapproval, so I guess that, in itself, is some what encouraging.

F.T.O

He did say they expected plenty of letters from people supporting the ban on boats as proposed!

So now it is up to YOU. Our letters must out-weigh those from the extremist 'Greenie' mongrels who think a vehicle on the beach is aesthetically out of place in such a beautiful place as Wilsons' Promontory! Don't laugh, this is actually one argument being used.

A letter expressing your feelings and suggestions is all that is required - in your own words, it doesn't have to be written by your solicitor! The following notes will help you:

(a) The Prom. is for everyone, including people with boats.

(b) The suggested closing dates are the best times of the year to launch boats and people with a family must have holiday times to enjoy the Prom. with their boats.

(c) There has never been an accident involving boat launchers and others members of the public (a fact from Dr. Parr-Smith) so what facts are there to support the recommendation that boats be totally banned at the best times of the year?

(d) The fact that a total ban on boats during the suggested times is even being entertained is outrageous, without some attempt by the Government to arrive at a compromise. Imposing the ban is the easy way out and it discriminates against one group who also love the Prom. as much as other people.

(e) What is being done to police and enforce the current speed limit on the beach?

Suggested alternatives to the Closure Plan:

(a) Impose a boat launching fee (as well as the refundable key deposit money). Funds raised will pay for Park Staff to make an appearance on the beach at early morning, noon and late afternoon, when most boats are being launched or retrieved. Their presence on the beach will be enough.

(b) Leaflet be issued with the boat ramp gate key, specifically pointing out the beach speed limit and even a few launching hints. It should contain a stern warning that Park Staff will enforce the law during their regular patrols.

(c) Safety signs be clearly displayed to explain to members of the public to beware of boats and cars on the beach and suggest adults should supervise children away from boats and cars.

My suggestion is that you say you have never seen any dangerous incidents in all the time you have visited the Prom. and that such incidents must be very rare indeed. To ban all boats on a "hunch" that an accident will occur (especially in the light of the accident-free record to date) is unreasonable without first trying the above suggested alternatives.

As a long standing member of V.S.A.G, I am begging all members to write to the Dept. NOW. We can't afford to lose the Prom. at the best periods of the year. You have less than one week to act, so do it NOW.

Please address your letter to:

The Regional Manager,
Dept. of Conservation, Forests & Lands
31 Campbell Street,
YARRAM, Vic., 3971

I have spent much time in preparing this important insert for 'Fathoms' so please don't let the Club down.

DES WILLIAMS