

# FATHOMS

EST. 1954



Safety in Diving

## INDEPENDENT DIVING FREEDOM

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

### \$2

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# VSAG

## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

JUL 1973

# VSAG

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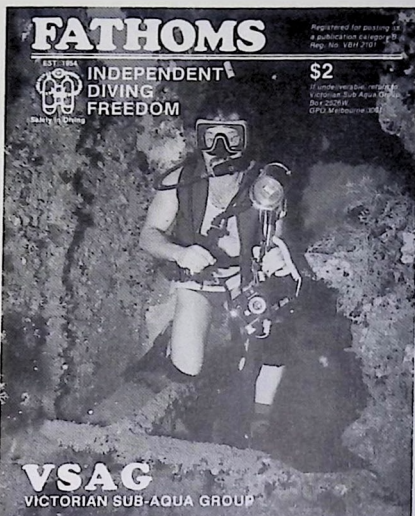
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Committee Member

John Goulding - 890 6634



## 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 lens. Fujichrome 100 film with lighting by a Melbourne made Seastrobe 160.

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.

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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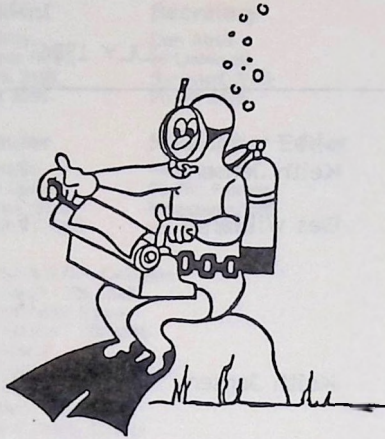
## Next general meeting:

Wednesday, July 16th, 1986 8.00 p.m.  
North Melbourne Football Club  
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

## Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, July 22nd, 1986 8.00 p.m.  
Talay Residence,  
Unit 1, 3 Wimborne Lane, Chelsea

## EDITORIAL



Winter diving as I once said can be very good but also very cold and it would seem that water temperatures are cooler this year, many divers have felt and I recently spent a day diving the heads area the first dive was outside the heads and was not too bad but the second dive inside the heads was to put it mildly bloody freezing.

As the weather has cooled so to it seems has the enthusiasm of many of our members but the V.S.A.G. committee have arranged a few winter months activities which include a snow trip, visit to Brown Bros. Winery and a social evening at the Olive Tree Bistro. We have also

arranged for Mr. Laurie Levy from the Whale Rescue Centre to present a talk and film at our August general meeting. So if we all pitch in and participate our winter months will seem to pass quicker.

It is also reaching that time of the year when we have our Annual General Meeting, so it is now time to think about those committee persons who stand for re-election. A committee means responsibilities are very onerous and time consuming, after thirty two years existence V.S.A.G. would seem to have been lucky enough to have had many very talented and responsible persons at the helm. The infusion of new blood among the ranks of the committee seems to revitalize V.S.A.G. Nominations will be called at the July meeting, let's hope that we can see a few new names nominated so that it is not left to just a few to run your club.

Keith Jensen

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting held at 521 Lygon Street, Carlton on the 27th May, 1986 at 8.40 p.m.

Apologies for non attendance were received from John Lawler.

### SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary noted that the club had received a reply to their Freedom of Information Request. The only other correspondence received was commercial mail or dive magazines from other dive clubs.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 466.18
Cash on deposit	1,175.06
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,641.24

There were no bills held for payment.

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Mick Jeacle proposed that the club consider diving in the Bay of Islands as a scheduled club dive. The main attraction in favour of this is the cheapfare to New Zealand and the low cost of accommodation etc., while there. Mick has made enquiries and can arrange a charter boat which will cater fully for all divers and will include sleeping facilities.

It was agreed that Mick should pursue this trip and that the club would schedule the five for March 1988.

Don Abell advised that Nicki has arranged for Laurie Levy to address the club and talk on the Whale Rescue Programme at the general meeting on the 20th August, 1986.

2. Don Abell raised the matter of the proposed action by the club in regard to the information received under the Freedom of Information Request. It was agreed that Paul Tipping draft a reply to the various relevant people and that the reply should indicate that we intend to distribute the material we have received to a number of groups, which we think would be benefited by the particular information disclosed by our request.

Following the draft of that letter the club approach various news and media groups and issue a press statement on the matter.

3. John Goulding suggested that the club consider a trip on the 'Polperro' in November 1987. The trip would be around the Islands of Bass Strait.

It was agreed that we should schedule the trip for November 1987.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.40 p.m. Committee members adjourned to a sumptuous supper prepared by Leslie Tipping. ✱

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## **ATTENTION!**

For the August meeting we have Mr. Laurie Levy from the Whale Rescue Centre to give a film show and talk on Whale Rescue.

Please come along and give your support for a most interesting night.

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**MINUTES OF S.D.F.-V. MEETING - TUES. 3/6/1986**

by Des Williams  
S.D.F.-V. Delegate for V.S.A.G.

- (i) S.D.F.-V. Annual Subscriptions are now overdue. The sum of \$30.00 is yet to be paid by V.S.A.G. This is probably because we have never officially received an account for same. D. Williams to follow up.
- (ii) The Wilsons Promontory Marine Reserve has now been officially proclaimed as from Sunday 1st June, 1986.
- (iii) There was some discussion further to individual club protests re possible ban on boat launching at Tidal River. D. Williams explained V.S.A.G. results of recent Freedom of Information Request. Everyone was interested in this and D. Williams suggested S.D.F.-V. get another protest letter into the Department of Conservation and request to be present at any decision making meetings by the Department.
- (iv) Alan Cripps has at last sold his boat "Polperro" to a Mr. Tony Muir. Alan will work with Tony for one year.
- (v) A questionnaire was given to each club delegate to be returned to S.D.F.-V. to update their records of club executives and addresses. V.S.A.G. to respond.
- (vi) New National Safety Council phone number at Morwell is (051) 74 9922. It is a direct 24 hour service.
- (vii) S.D.F.-V. will be running a "TRY DIVE" Seminar at the City Baths on October 25th. Minimum age for those people wishing to try scuba diving will be 14 years. There will be displays by Dive Shops, Maritime Archaeology Unit and Boating Industry Association.
- (viii) S. Boden suggested S.D.F.-V. affiliate with Australian Confederation of Sport which will keep us all in touch within the sporting world.

(ix) S.D.F.-V. is still looking for a fourth member to complete its management cell in the capacity of Administration Officer. His or her job is to maintain communication with Clubs and Government Bodies. If anyone from V.S.A.G. is interested in working to put something back into their favourite sport, please contact Des Williams on 551 3201.

(x) At the recent Port Phillip Safety Council meeting there was discussion regarding the Boat Show to be held on 10th to 16th July. S.D.F.-V. will not have a stand at the Show this year because of lack of interest in people needed to run the stand and also the cost factor which is very high.

"National Sea Safety Week" is to be run between 15th to 25th October this year on Port Phillip Bay. There will be all sorts of displays at venues yet to be decided. More news next meeting.

\*\* Next meeting of S.D.F.-V. will be Tuesday 5th August. \*

### TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

AUGUST, 1986.

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



## **SORRENTO DIVE**

by Pat Reynolds

Arrived at Big Micks 9.00 a.m., after loading the boat and hooking it up, kissed the wife and kids, kicked the dog and we're off.

Shocking day, cold, windy and raining, still we arrived at the car park by 10.00. Mick even made it in on the first try. There were plenty of divers cars but no-one in sight. Heading down to Marty's shop, there they were, having brekky, hot chocolate and toast all round. We gave them a hurry up - "Let's go diving!!!"

Finally geared up, launched the boats, and off. Tippo nearly missed his ride - too busy talking to someone on the beach - had to call the boat back to pick him up. First plan of the day was to dive Spectacular Reef, approaching the dive site Mick turned on the depth sounder. "Bloody things not working, he muttered, just paid \$28.00 to have it serviced". He gave it a few light clouts for good measure, but to no avail. As Igor caught up to us we decided to change the dive spot to Micks cray spot.

First to kit up were Warren and Don. Mick motored up to his marks, then over the side into 100' of water with a raging current. With a dive plan of twenty minutes they were back within ten. We moved to pick them up. Removing their gear Don exclaimed, "What a bloody nightmare". It seems the boys had a little bit of strife. Once aboard they told us their story. Going down was OK, said Don, but nearing the bottom visibility was just a blur, we were moving fast with 6' vis. and reefs looming up for nowhere. Don passed over the top of Warren knocking Warren's reg. out of his mouth, Don also noticed Warren's catch bag was snagged on the reef. As the current swept Don on he looked back to see Warren snagged on the reef with reg. streaming in the wild water. Don finally managed to dig the hook in and waited, unable to get back to help. In the meantime Warren cooly managed to free himself, though still unable to reach his reg. By now Warren had caught up to Don who was waiting with his Octopus reg. in hand. Warren, with no air to purge, swallowed air/water. After a pause to regain control, Don retrieved Warren's reg. and they surfaced. Lucky he had a good dive buddy and a cool head. He also lost a fin. After that Mick said, "Bugger going in there - let's have lunch."

(Continued page 11)

## **S.S. "MILORA" AT REST AND REVISITED:**

by Des Williams

It seems my article in May "Fathoms" about S.S. "Milora" and the Ships Graveyard was worth the effort. For the past 13 or 14 years I have dreamed of diving this gigantic ship, deep in the Graveyard.

As the majority of V.S.A.G. dives these days are in the pursuit of marine decapods, my enthusiasm for dropping over the side of a boat has somewhat waned lately. If only a little more time could be devoted to searching for new wrecks, everyone would be happy, even the diehard cray divers.

A few days after the release of May "Fathoms" my prayers were answered when V.S.A.G. member Ian Scholes telephoned me to say he had located the resting place of S.S. "Milora" back in December and would happily show us the site. This was not exactly the response I had expected; at best one or two V.S.A.G.'ers who might have expressed interest in such a search but someone who knew where the "Milora" lay, incredible!!

It was the first day of winter and the sea was as flat as a nightman's cap! Alex Talay was D.C. for what was to have been a submarine dive, but now the location had been altered. We assembled at 10.00 a.m. at Sorrento. There was Mick Jeacle's boat crewed by Alex, Pat and Geoff Birtles - John Goulding's boat crewed by Des, John Lawler and Warren Cannen and Ian Scholes in his boat as guide with friend Wayne.

We were soon skimming over the glassy surface to Point Lonsdale and into Bass Strait via the Four Fingers West Passage, and on down the coast past Barwon Heads towards Torquay; a total of 35 kms from Sorrento. We were now deep into the "Foulground" when we paused for a cup of hot soup. Bass Strait was in a sleepy mood, almost like an endless pond, which was fortunate indeed, as we looked back towards the Heads and could hardly make out Lonsdale lighthouse. No place to be in a rough sea, so far from home.

Ian very quickly lined up his transit marks and we were soon hovering over the 3,300 ton derelict "Milora".

For the next 15 minutes Mick, Geoff, John & Des scribbled away with their crayons, taking transit marks. The atmosphere was perfectly clear (a good day for transits) with no sign of fog at all; in fact we were able to see Mt. Macedon from Sorrento before we set off!!

With the paperwork behind us, we suited up to dive with Geoff and Mick being first to hit the water, followed by Wayne and Ian and Alex and Pat. Our group waited for their return to stay with the boats.

Very soon, all divers were seen clearly staged at 10 ft. hanging off for decompression. All divers did heaps of time on the deco rope, as an added safety factor because of the extreme depth of this wreck.

John G, Warren, John Lawler and myself descended the anchor rope waiting for the bulk of the "Milora" to come into view. At 130 ft. huge steel plates could be seen and John G and I levelled off to take charge of our senses at about 150 ft. We then set off in a westerly direction towards the stern, but not really realising the enormity of this wreck. A huge bollard lay at a crazy angle on the portside, then one the the ship's massive masts was made out leaning out in a northerly direction. The "Milora" seems to be lying at at 60° angle on her port side with the mast now almost lying on the sand. The root of the mast has torn up the deck as it has sagged overboard.

At this point, John and I swam back past the anchor line, which lead back to the surface, to explore the wreck in an easterly direction. We passed over the lip of an enormous hold steering towards the port side of the wreck and went over the twisted safety railing. Some very large steel cables bent around another huge bollard came into view here, as did John Goulding pointing to his watch and motioning time was up, we must ascend.

Unfortunately, the visibility was down to 15 ft. on the wreck this day but the potential is there for better viz in high summer. The Graveyard rarely yields a clear dive, because of the close proximity of the Barwon River and in winter it churns out heaps of mud. Still, there have been some days in mid summer when visibility in this area has been around 80 - 100 ft., so we can look forward to those days ahead.

At present, I am assembling details of the "Milora" including a general arrangement plan of the ship's layout which will hopefully make us more organised on future dives. Time is so limited at this depth, that a sketch plan of the ships attitude and layout will make it easier to see more in the short time available. Keep an eye on future issues of "Fathoms" for more details.

Once again, our thanks for a great dive go to Ian and Wayne. ✱

## **DECO STOPS**

by Keith Jensen

Very competative those Tipping boys, always trying to out do each other, latest is that Leslie and Paul are also expecting an additional to their family, just trying to keep up with Tony & Marg!

\*\*\*\*\*

Couple of sickies of late, Nicki Abell with a sore back (result of man handling a large dog out of their car) also Handy Andy with infected jaw bone resulting from some dental work. Trust that both make a speedy recovery.

\*\*\*\*\*

New boat on club dive recently, Captained by Igor complete with two figure heads at the bow, Stan Medhurst and Mike Webber, believe it was a bit cold up there boys.

\*\*\*\*\*

Same dive Big M allowed Don Abell to steer the boat, the big fella was seen with his hands in his warm jacket pockets while Don's fingers turned blue as he grasped the wheel of the boat.

\*\*\*\*\*

Three club members know how to fill in the winter weekends. Alex Talay and the Williams brothers have signed up to do a hard hat diving course at Melbourne Diving Services.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have not seen Geoff's new boat at a dive yet, but it has impressed a few members as they have entertained themselves at the Marina. One is so impressed that he is going to get a similar boat. Alex said it will be known as Leeder T. T being for Turbo-charged not Talay.

\*\*\*\*\*

SORRENTO DIVE (Continued)

Later it was agreed a scallop dive was in order, so dropping me off at Sorrento Ramp to transfer his car/trailer to Rye pier to save time, we headed off. With Mick as my buddy we dropped down on the scallop bed, with vis. of 20' we worked pretty hard for what we got.

Nearing the end of the dive Mick was shaking his fist in his mock angry giant act to encourage me to take the lift bag, the big fella was getting tired towing it around.

Upon surfacing we noticed the water had chopped up to 3' waves with Mick and I holding our catch and Don & Warren heading over to pick us up. Getting his breath the big carrot did his angry act - barring me from getting scallops with him any more. The reason being I wouldn't tow the catch bag, leaving him free to roam. Funny since every time we do a drift dive he makes me carry the buoy.

We boarded the boat and headed back to Rye Pier, pulled the boats out and had a hot shower in the change rooms, told a few lies and went our separate ways. Good turn out for a very bleak day, ten divers in all. Thanks to Mick and Igor for bringing their boats.✱

**MEDIA WATCH****Fisherman  
over-reacts**

MR HUNT in his fishing column of May 30 seems to be over-reacting to the declaration of marine parks around Wilsons Promontory National Park.

These marine parks mean that only 0.5 per cent of the state's waters are now protected compared to more than 5 per cent of the land area. The area of the parks in which fishing is banned comprises 0.1 per cent of coastal waters. If it is the "thin end of the wedge", it is mighty thin!

There is no threat to recreational fishing from small areas of marine parks — in fact the aim of these areas is to conserve fish so as to ensure that fishermen will have something to catch in the future.

This association proposed the Wilson's Promontory marine park and we can assure Mr Hunt that we certainly would not under any circumstance be suggesting that Ricketts Point be a "marine national park".

I hope that Mr Hunt will check the details of the zoning plans for the Prom marine park and realise such areas are set aside to conserve fishing resources. We would hope fishermen will realise the value of such reserves as have shooters in the past recognised the value of game reserves.

— **Graham Wills-Johnson**,  
president, Victorian National Parks Association

The Herald,  
Monday, June 23rd

Peninsula Independent News,  
Tuesday, June 3, 1986

## PARK TO PUT FISHERMEN ON THE ROCKS?

By DEE WREN

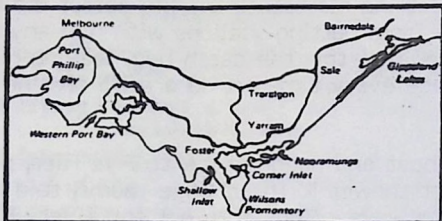
On Sunday, a large southern section of Wilson's Promontory officially became a marine park subject to all the restrictions surrounding a protected area.

The restrictions mean that local rock lobster and abalone fishermen will no longer have access to what have traditionally been their most lucrative fishing grounds in eastern Victoria.

Ross Wellman, a crayfisherman from Flinders and the Victorian representative of the Victorian Professional Fishermen Association - cray-fishing division, said last week that the marine park proclamation had virtually "sounded the death knell" for people in the industry.

"Crayfishermen have fished the waters around Wilson's Prom for 75 years without any detriment to the environment.

"And we've certainly not overfished the area.



● The rocky reefs around the southern tip of Wilson's Promontory have been the main cray fishing grounds in Eastern Victoria for 75 years.

The licence system - which incidentally the association has been largely responsible for initiating to protect our own industry - ensures that every professional fisherman is constantly self-policing the catch," Ross said.

### Vulnerable to poachers

According to Ross Wellman and other local fishermen, proclaiming the southern third of the Prom as a marine park, has virtually meant its inevitable destruction.

Conservation Forest and

Lands Minister, Joan Kirner who has stated she wants the area to remain in 'a pristine condition' has now left the waters around this part of the Prom vulnerable to over-fishing by amateur rock lobster fishermen and divers, Ross said.

"There is no way the area can be policed properly. A boat load of divers will be able to go out, each pulling out the allowed four crays and ten abalone per person, without anyone around to see if these are undersized.

There are only three places where policing boats can be launched, so

the poachers will simply have a spotter able to warn them in ample time."

Ross said that many people had the wrong idea about local professional rock lobster or cray fishermen.

"They seem to think we have the whole Victorian coast to fish in. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"For a start, our licences are for the eastern section of the state and in this area, the rocky reefs which are the crays' habitats, are few and far between.

"By taking away the Prom, where we have fished for 75 years, it has removed 70 percent of our grounds," he said.

Ross Wellman claimed the Minister had given way to pressure from 'greenies' in proclaiming the park.

What was the good of



● Ross Wellman pictured with his empty cray pots says this is a sign of 'things to come' for the industry.

keeping the area (the southern part of Wilson's Promontory) as a marine park, when there were not even tracks to allow it to be enjoyed by people, he asked. It was also a dangerous area in the south for amateur divers without experience, he said.

### Unremarkable

According to local fishermen, the new marine park has few remarkable species. The main species of marine life are reef fish such as leatherjacks, morwong and sea-perch and of course rock lobsters and abalone.

The marine park extends 300 metres from the shore taking in the rocky reefs that forms the rock lobsters' habitat.

It also takes in areas around the small groups of islands such as the

Glennie Group which traditionally has been an emergency refuge for fishermen during bad weather.

Ross said that professional fishing would be phased out in the marine park over the next few years but that the fishermen involved had no other area to turn to as an alternative.

This meant that the expensive licence endorsements which fishermen had to buy would become virtually worthless, he said.

Several local boats were now up for sale as their owners realised their livelihoods were now under threat, Ross said.

"But who is going to buy them?"

"If the government is serious about protecting our coastal waters, what it should be looking at is poaching, rather than professional fishermen

who take care of the environment.

"Off Flinders alone, I have seen 75 divers go out in the space of just over an hour. And each is allowed to take out four crays and ten abalone.

"I've heard of another small group boast about taking out and selling 72kgs of crays just before Christmas.

"There was another group last summer at the Sorrento back beach, who pulled out everything they saw - including undersized crays - and cooked them up for their beach party.

"But while there's money for a marine park, there's no money for extra officers and vessels to police this dangerous type of poaching.

Ross said the main problem was the fact that there were so few profes-

sional fishermen in Victoria. He estimated there were only about 1300 spread throughout the state, too few he said to make an effective lobby group with politicians concerned with votes.

"We're concerned with our livelihood. Already we have people leaving the local industry. Others have their boats up for sale although this is difficult to do with the low catch rates now and the restrictions imposed with the Eastern zone licences.

"And it's not just a few families that are involved. It is also the other small businesses throughout the peninsula who provide support industries for fishermen.

"All we're asking for is limited access to Wilson's Prom and a stepping-up by the government with action against poachers who are destroying the industry and the environment."

## **NEW ZEALAND DIVING - For \$50.00**

by Mick Jeacle

As mentioned in June Fathoms a club overseas diving holiday is planned for March 1988. With the proven success of savings investment funds in the past, in particular the one instigated in 1982 for Fiji, a new savings fund will be commenced on the evening of the July general meeting.

At this point I am thankful for keeping past copies of Fathoms. I am sure Geoff Birtles will not mind me quoting certain information from December 1982 issue to refresh the memories of all members as to the purpose of the scheme.

### Background Thinking

Not every diver has the financial resources to trip overseas as and when his fancy takes him. Some have never been overseas at all and for many such a short term prospect of doing so is zero. Others in better financial shape fail to materialise their planning on the grounds that there's always a more practical use for the money at the time, or perhaps they can't really afford to finance their non-diving spouse (and wish to remain married!).

But this needn't be. Recognized that time passes quickly and small amounts of money diligently accumulated over a lengthy period add up to big dollars. Self indulgent dollars that can be spent free of guilt because they have been accumulated painlessly for a specific purpose.

### How It Happens (In Brief)

- (i) A common investment fund is established into which unit holders make 20 monthly subscriptions of \$50.00 (\$1,000.00).
- (ii) Additional funds over and above the minimum payment of \$50.00 may be made at the discretion of the individual unit holder; e.g. \$70.00 or maybe even \$100.00.
- (iii) A ledger card is maintained both for the common fund and individual unit holders.



- (iv) Accrued funds and accrued interest are allocated and distributed to unit holders at the close of the fund (February 1988) on the basis of 100% return of all subscriptions, plus pro-rata share of all interest - less expenses associated with setting up and maintaining the fund.
- (v) Should a unit holder elect to pull out of the scheme prior to maturity he may do so but any contributions made will not be refundable until maturity viz: February 1988. However normal interest will continue to accrue.
- (vi) The fund commences at the July general meeting when the first payment of at least \$50.00 should be paid. Subsequent subscriptions will be due by general meeting dates. Postal subscriptions may be made by cheque payable V.S.A.G. Overseas Investment Fund accompanied by a short note to ensure accurate identification. These postal subscriptions must be sent to Mick Jeacle, 5 Donn Close, Frankston, 3199.
- (vii) Sound and prudent business and investment principles will apply.

### Summary

We hope members will respond positively to this exciting plan. Remember we have at our disposal a luxurious craft almost 60 feet in length. Wives and children will be able to come out on all dives in the Bay of Islands area so it will be a complete holiday for all attending. I hope to soon have photographs of the boat and will include these in a future magazine. Future issues will also contain more about the venue and its many other attractions. ✱

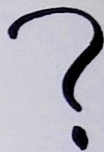
**DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR JULY 1986**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
July 12 & 13	Winery & Pokies Weekend Brown Bros., Milawa	Des Williams 551 3201	Details June Fathoms
July 16	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
July 20	Dive Heads Area	Mick Jeacle (059) 71 2786	Sorrento Boat Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Aug 3	Reef Dive Flinders Area	Tony Tipping 817 4956	Flinders Jetty 9.30 a.m.
Aug 10 - 15	Snow Trip, Mt. Buller	Contact John Goulding 890 6634 for details	
Aug 17	Dive Heads Area	John Lawler 569 9811	Sorrento Boat Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Aug 20	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club Talk by Laurie Levy from the Whale Rescue Association		8.00 p.m.
Aug 31	Mystery Dive	Don Abell 29 4415	Sorrento Boat Ramp 10.00 a.m.
Oct 19	Charter Boat Dive	John Lawler 569 9811	Sorrento Pier 9.00 a.m.
Dec 7	Charter Boat Dive	John Lawler 569 9811	Sorrento Pier 9.00 a.m.
Dec/ Jan	Christmas Camp Port Lincoln	Des Williams 551 3201	Details June Fathoms

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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.

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

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

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