

FATHOMS

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

-- MAR 1986

VSAG

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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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MARCH 1986

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Next general meeting:

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

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, March 25th, 1986 8.00 p.m.
Mick Jeacle's Home,
5 Donn Close, Frankston

Editorial submissions to: "The Editor" Fathoms C/- 99 The Fairway, KINGSBURY 3083

EDITORIAL



Southerly winds have been the nemesis of divers this summer, on days that we have dives scheduled the proverbial south east winds seem to prevail. We seem to be able to get out on most occasions and only cancel dives when conditions are sever. So it was a little disappointing to see only nine divers turn up at a club dive at Tidal River. Three boats, nine divers in a club as large as ours, sure the dive was not really well advertised because of the Christmas period but if you really want to dive why not phone one of the Committee who can advise on coming events.

Equally important is to advise early your requirements to camp organisers so that they may successfully arrange, co-ordinate and bring to fruition a diving, camping sojourn. A late enquiry often results in disappointment as well as creating potential logistic problems for the organiser.

As reported in the last editorial the move to prohibit boat launching at Tidal River is definitely on, at present only premier times will be subject to bans such as Christmas, Easter and holiday weekends. S.D.F. of V. have scheduled a meeting to discuss this closure, action to be taken may require your assistance so be ready to help.

On a brighter note Alex is busy preparing several itinerary's for the forthcoming overseas trip. Input from divers who have visited the proposed areas recently have been sought and collated. So keep on saving, tropical diving during our cold winter months will soon be a reality.

The Downlow medal is definitely a goer, John Lawler is at present collecting the dive records. Prizes for the winners are dive tank, wet suit and other gear. No cost to enter, just dive with the club and fill out the dive sheet.

Costs to dive are increasing rapidly, so much so that thefts of dive and boating equipment are increasing at an alarming rate. Big Mick recently lost a bouy, rope and anchor that he put down off Queenscliffe, no mistake who the items belong to as Mick's name was emblazened on them. Police have noted increased thefts occurring at camping areas, sporting equipment such as surf boards, water skis as well as wet suits and other dive items. So make sure that you mark your gear with your name etc., record serial numbers, and lock up your gear when not using it, remember it is expensive to replace should it mysteriously disappear.

Thanks to those who have sent in a copy for Fathoms of late, sure helps to make my job easier compiling the magazine. Our scribe of Flotsam and Jetsam has indicated that a copy from that source will only be on special occasions, Flotsam and Jetsam has been a regular in Fathoms for many years and enjoyed by our readers. Thanks to the scurrilous scribe who ever you are.

Our dive calendar has quite a few camping trips away listed as well as a couple of social events that should be enjoyable, as well as that we have some entertainment scheduled at our meetings, so mark the dates in your diary.

K. Jensen

WHAT'S NEW IN THE DIVE TABLES?

Dr. John Knight will be our guest speaker at the April 16th General Meeting.

Dr. Knight will be speaking about the Dive Tables and will be pleased to answer any queries that you may have on the subject.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee meeting held at the Truscott residence on 21st January, 1986.

Apologies for non attendance were received from Andy Mastrowicz.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the club had the following funds:

Cash on hand	\$ -
Cash at bank	793.96
Cash on deposit	1,574.34
	\$2,368.30

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Keith Jensen noted that response to requests for articles for Fathoms had been good.
2. Consideration was given to the Christmas trip for 1986/87. Byron Bay and Port Lincoln will both be evaluated. John Lawler has arranged for John Knight to address the meeting on decompression tables. It was agreed the address should be made at the April meeting.
3. John Lawler advised that he will send out reminders to Dive Captains on the Downlow medal dive recording.
4. John Lawler has suggested that he arrange four social events for members during the 1986 year.
5. Keith Jensen suggested that the club make representation in regard to the banning of boats at Tidal River. The club is to speak to the Rangers to determine when any meeting will be held. The club should attend the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.36 p.m. and a tasty supper put on by Marie.

S.D.F.-VICTORIA REPORT

MEETING HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 1986

by Des Williams
(V.S.A.G. Rep. at S.D.F.-V.)

The new management cell is chaired by Michael Vize (A.P.I. Divers) and other members include:

Peter Flood	- British Sub Aqua Club
Michael Jackson	- British Sub Aqua Club
Pria Carbinetti	- Melbourne Bottomscratchers

- (a) It was agreed that Club membership fees to the S.D.F.-Victoria be increased to \$30.00 per year from \$20.00 which has been the standard fee for several years. Rising costs of postage and administrative costs have made the increase necessary.
- (b) S.D.F.-Victoria are now moving towards a working party with the Sea Pilots, Ports & Harbours, Water Police and dive charter operators to ensure the southern part of Port Phillip remains open to divers.
- (c) S.D.F.-Australia (National body) met in Sydney on Australia Day weekend, business was:
- (i) A Constitution was finally adopted.
 - (ii) Tasmania (S.D.F.-T.) has now joined the S.D.F.-A.
 - (iii) It is hoped Northern Territory will join also this year.
 - (iv) A "Scuba Scene" National Bulletin (hard cover) will be distributed quarterly by S.D.F.-A. to keep all in touch with items of general business in various States.
 - (v) A "Standards and Procedures" manual (hard cover) will also be issued by S.D.F.-A. early this year.
 - (vi) Office Bearers of S.D.F.-A. this year are:

Stuart Boden	- President (2nd year)
Michael Vize	- Secretary
Robert Watson	- Treasurer
Patricia Politz	- Pub. Relations
Neil McKenzie	- Committee Member

- (d) Some talk was held about a possible replacement for the "Cerberus" if she is infact raised for restoration. A few members showed concern that divers would lose a good dive site. This discussion was brief.
- (e) There was much discussion about the recent proposal put forward by the Department of Conservation Forests & Lands re: possible closure of the boat launch "facilities" at Tidal River.
 D. Williams tabled the Departments statement on the proposal for all to view and summarised its contents. The meeting agreed this proposal will need urgent attention by S.D.F.-V. and a special meeting has been arranged for 4th March, 1986 to agree on a reply to the Department. Clubs will be officially advised of the meeting by mail. It is hoped to have representatives from V.E.R.F.A.C., Boating Industry Association and Fishing Club interests at the March meeting. (For more information on the Departments plan see summary in this issue of Fathoms).
- (f) Some discussion also re: forthcoming St. Kilda Fair at which S.D.F.-V. will be represented.

**EASTER CAMP AT TIDAL RIVER
 MARCH 28 TO 31**

Only 10 sites have been allocated to V.S.A.G. Camp Co-ordinator, Don Abell should be contacted on 29 4415 for bookings.

As there is a proposal to prohibit boat launching at Tidal River this may be our last Easter trip.

DON'T MISS OUT!!!!

WILSON'S PROMONTORY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN:

by Des Williams

Part of the W.P.P.M.P. currently being prepared by the Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands is an issue which is very near and dear to us as divers, namely the access to boat launching facilities at Tidal River. The following excerpts are from an Issues Statement obtained from the Department in East Melbourne in early February.

"The Problems - At the mouth of Tidal River a conflict is occurring between use of the beach by vehicles and trailers to launch and retrieve boats and use by swimmers and sunbathers.

Concern for the safety of children (particularly small children) has been expressed by beach users when vehicles and trailers are driven on the beach amongst large numbers of people. Visitors launching and retrieving their boats in the surf may not have full control, and swimmers cannot move quickly out of the way."

The paper then goes on to explain that on a very busy day as many as 35 boats have been launched and retrieved in a day and boat launching at Tidal River has increased over recent years, with fishing and diving being the most popular boat interests. In a recent survey taken "only 3% of visitors ranked fishing and diving as their primary interest in the Park".

A comparison between beach users and boat launchers is then made for the busy times of the year, such as summer school vacation, Labour Day Weekend and Easter. Of course, divers and fishermen using boats are out numbered 1,000's to one by "campers, visitors, family groups, clubs and school groups using the beach for surfing, swimming, wading, sunbathing, sand play and ball games". Maximum daily visitation to the Park is expected to peak at 7,000".

As the Draft Zoning Plan for Wilsons Prom Marine Reserve surrounding the Park prohibits all fishing in the "Reef Protection" Zone, including spearfishing and diving for abalone and crayfish, it is therefore expected that if the Draft is adopted "some of the people involved in boat-based activities will go elsewhere".

Thus the following options are now being considered re: boat launching at the Prom (Tidal River).

- (i) Allow boat launching at present to continue. But "conflicts between beach users would not be resolved".
- (ii) Move boat launching to another area of Norman Bay, marked by flags. Again it is thought this will not resolve the conflicts between boat users and beach goers and would also mean heavy involvement by Park staff moving flags as tides change.
- (iii) Prohibit boat launching from Tidal River during peak use periods and maintain present system at other times. This seems a hot favourite, as it would reduce conflicts with beach goers on very crowded beach days, and would also reduce boat usage at other times because they would not be convenient times for a lot of people who currently use the launch "facilities".
- (iv) Prohibit boat launching at all times at Tidal River. This would be ideal for users of the beach, but the Department believes this would be unfair to water skiers who use Norman Bay and divers and fishermen who would otherwise extend beyond the National Park.
- (v) Close the beach to swimmers and allow boat use. This is not regarded as a realistic option, as it ignores the current pattern of use.

So the Department has chosen its "preferred option" to be (iii), thus the beach would be closed to boat launching:

25th December to 31st January inclusive
Labour Day long weekend
Easter (4 days)

The papers thus finishes: "The closure of Tidal River to boat launching at peak periods and the restriction of activities along the proposed Reef Protection Zone of the Marine Reserve will result in some users going elsewhere along the coast. Promotion of these areas would reduce disappointment".

So, there you have it. The S.D.F.-V. is meeting again especially to discuss the matter on March 4th after seeking participation of all affiliated Clubs and hopefully to have a member of the Conservation Department in attendance. S.D.F.-V. is also to involve fishermen through the Boating Industry Association.

As V.S.A.G. are going to Wilsons Prom at Easter this year, it may well be best to savour every minute of boat launching, as it may well be your last opportunity to dive at Tidal River at Easter, as we have for so many years.

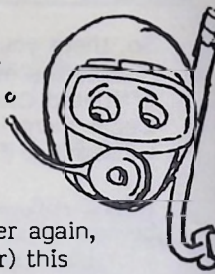
If you wish to comment on the above proposal feel free. Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands at 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

ACTION REQUIRED

The Committee requests that all divers express their concern regarding the closure of the beach at Tidal River for the purpose of boat launching.

Please send a letter to Hon. Joan Kirner, Minister for Conservation Forests & Lands at 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

REMEMBER! IT IS UP TO YOU



FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water again, (there having been no Flotsam and Jetsam since December) this scurrilous and unrepentant scribe reappears to wreak havoc and terror into the hearts and minds of members whose activities come to his notice.

However in due consideration of the vastly improved behaviour of our now ageing member base you can only expect Flotsam and Jetsam's lashings every second month this year - (Editor please take note).

Was it the fact that V.S.A.G. was having its tenth trip on the Mirrabooka, or was it because it was to be Tony Tippings last retreat to Refuge Cove, or some other obscure reason but there was a definite difference on the tone of proceedings over the Australia Day Weekend aboard the good ship Mirrabooka.

For my own belief it was the sight of a local farmer at the Foster pub, dragging his date for the night; - a healthy well endowed merino sheep, out the door, which caused the whole weekend to become a great rort or is it riot? - any'ow it was a load of fun.

Imagine sitting in the salubrious surrounds of the lounge bar of this fine South Gippsland hostelry amongst colleagues discussing the excitement of the next few days. Then suddenly this big woolly jumbuck bounded through the bar chased by Doug, Pat and Alex. Alas none of the lads were to have their delights due to the appearance of the misfortunate sheep's 18 stone owner who ordered the lads - "way back!" and brought the beast down in a flying rugby tackle.

The rest of the evening was definitely an anti climax!

But for the sun rising at 5.30 a.m. and the sound of Des Williams snoring and Paul Sier's grunting I would have probably slept through till midday.

But alas there was a boat to be loaded, a course to be set and crew mates to be fed.

Commander Goulding who acts as the Captain's right hand and middle leg gave us a rousing speech about sharing the work, food, drink, shelter and women (not exactly in that order!) as we effortlessly shipped down through Corner Inlet towards Refuge Cove.

After a hearty lunch and on meeting up with other members who had motored down earlier in their own boats, we headed off to Waterloo Bay for a dive. Alas milky green water greeted us but for some who had come all the way from Brisbane (G'day Kerrie) getting wet was what it was all about.

Saturday night passed and Sunday greeted us with magnificent sharp rays of the sun piercing through the splendid forest cover of our camping spot.

We dived around the Southern area of the Prom, having aborted our attempts to reach Forty-foot Rocks owing to rough seas. The small boats with their faster turn of speed reached the magnificent Rodondo Island and dived in the rich blueness that belongs only to the offshore islands.

Sunday afternoon had its moments of laughter as the Mirrabooka mob were invaded by the small boaties looking for cold beer and hors-d'oeuvres. They were repelled unmercifully which goes to prove that whilst brave young men may go down to the sea in small boats, they just can't measure up when it comes time for a licking!

Sunday night at Refuge Cove is the traditional joke night but perhaps the biggest joke of all was Doug who not only went missing for about half an hour, but left part of his right leg hanging on a tree!

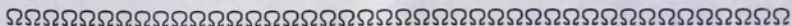
Things looked really bad when big Mick couldn't remember his Archie joke, but like a man born again he jumped to his feet and once again laid us in the isles with this amazing memory and diction test.

Further diving followed on Monday before it was time to head for home.

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

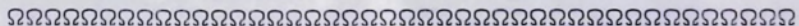


FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH

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:

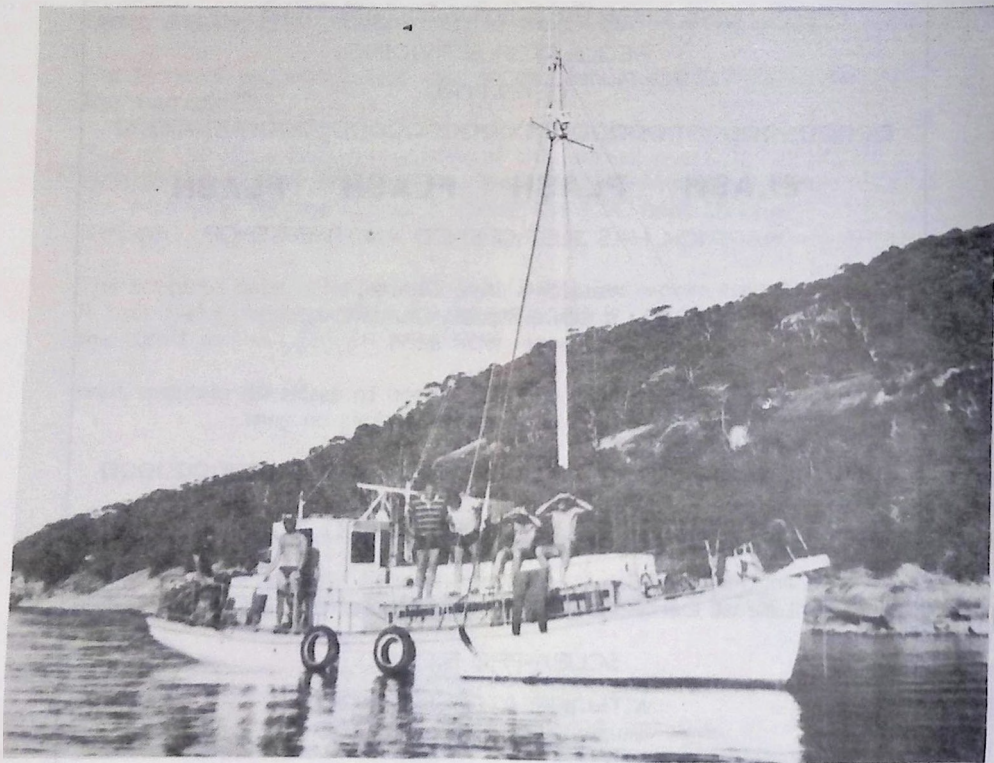
SCUBA-PRO B.C. VEST
WITH INFLATOR INCLUDED

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

REFUGE COVE 1986

by Des Williams

This years trip to Refuge Cove was, as usual, a lot of fun; infact they seem to get better every year. The excitement of arriving at the Foster Hotel and meeting ones friends all with high hopes of a good weekend is a good start.



"MIRRABOOKA" AT ANCHOR IN BEAUTIFUL REFUGE COVE

Our friend Captain Reg Truscott, was preparing his boat "Mirrabooka" at Port Franklin wharf when we arrived in the early hours of Saturday morning. With many willing hands we soon had the boat loaded up with camping-gear, food, tanks, diving-gear, grog and compressors and set off down the Tidal Franklin River.

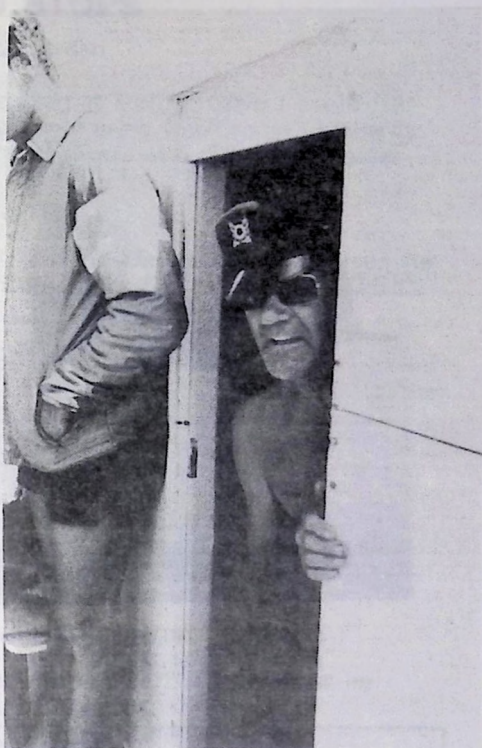
This year we had a very pleasant trip down to that beautiful haven, Refuge Cove. Not a lot of great diving was done this year, because of very strong S.W. winds and we were unable to get out to our favourite Forty-foot Rocks. They lie $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.S.E. of the Promontory lighthouse and consist of three separate and distinct islets of granite, of which the largest and westernmost one is 165 feet long, and 50 feet broad near its centre. This islet is 20 feet high and on its southernmost

extremity there is a granite boulder 20 in height, making the rock in all forty feet high

above high water. When the sea is breaking over, the portion formed by the boulder is probably the only part of these rocks visible, they are steep-to in all directions, and their borders are apparently free from danger.

Forty-foot Rocks rise up out of Bass Strait like three granite fingers from the floor of the sea, which is 70 metres below (230 ft). These sheer pinnacles afford very exciting diving indeed, as V.S.A.G. members found when they dived the rocks two years ago. Well, maybe next year we will have an opportunity to revisit these fascinating rocks.

Hope you enjoy the accompanying photographs.



OUR MODEST CAMERA-SHY CAPT. REG TRUSCOTT ON THE BRIDGE OF "MIRRABOOKA"



MYSTERIOUS FORTY-FOOT ROCKS RISE VERTICALLY FROM THE FLOOR
OF BASS STRAIT 240 FT. BELOW

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Des Williams will show a selection of slides taken at Wilsons Promontory weekend in January when V.S.A.G. visited beautiful Refuge Cove aboard the "Mirrabooka".

DECO STOPS

by Keith Jensen

It would seem that with all that went on at Refuge Cove I could fill Deco Stops with anecdotes, so I shall only bring forth some highlights and not give a blow by blow account of divers who did not measure up when going down at Refuge.

The "Mirrabooka" had a lot of BUMS aboard, Des Williams arranged for these BUMS to salute a rival club aboard Alan Cripps boat "Polperro".

Captain Reg fired a shot from his trusty three-0-three across the bows of "Polperro" to persuade pirates aboard to return V.S.A.G.'s pirate flag that they appropriated in the early morning hours. The flag was returned with alacrity.

The Sunday evening of raunchy tales was going well until Tony Tips began his famous air line joke, this did not take off to well, but the group did when they departed and left Tony on his own. Tony you were Hi-jacked.

Rick Garrettson has returned to the U.S. to live, I will bet that he never finds a club to equal V.S.A.G. in America.

Jack Namiota will soon be off for a six month tour around Europe. He intends to do the odd dive or two. We look forward to a letter or two to tell us about the diving scene in Europe.

A couple of birthdays were celebrated recently. Big Mick put on a bash for his Fortieth that left them all bombed out. Alex drove Pat home, a distance of a kilometre or so, seems that they got lost for some time.

Handy Andy turned Thirty Seven while at our Tidal River camp. Andy was a late starter for the days dive, some one said it was because of Gail's present to him.

Little Mick is now permanently employed by the Marine Archeology Department, Mick has a job we all would like, diving on old wrecks and getting paid for it.

If you have missed Max Synon at dives recently it is because he is devoting his spare time to renovating a Victorian terrace home in Preston.

Rumour has it that a member is looking at a large Bertram boat to dive from, anyone in the market for a used Haines that goes to all the cray spots automatically.

Anyone seen Igor lately, someone said that he was seen piloting a boat up the Yarra to a barbeque on a beaut diving day. What next?

STOP PRESS

Tony and Marg expecting an addition to their family soon. Just goes to show what can happen on a balmy night in a tent at Bryon Bay.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

Once again, I must remind members that I changed address back in September 1985 and thus have a new telephone number: 551 3201

Des Williams

TIDAL RIVER ASSULT

by Mick Jeacle

Bookings for Tidal River were uncharacteristically sparse by Thursday evening, 13th February, 1986. I could only put this down to two factors. We visited the Prom a mere three weeks prior to this on the infamous Australia Day weekend and perhaps the "ragers" had not had sufficient time to fully recover. Alternatively, as there was on January meeting and the February meeting was still a week away, those poor souls who don't read the dive calendar and who did not receive a gentle reminder to entice them along, may have been unaware of the dates.

Nevertheless, nine divers ventured off and had a very good time indeed. Three boats were deployed, those of Keith Jensen, Andy Mastrowicz and yours truly. Divers allocated to respective boats were Keith and Peter Jensen along with Laurie Wherrett, Andy and Gail Mastrowicz and Martin Taliana, myself, Alex Talay and John Lawler.

All divers were present and settled in by Friday evening. The gusty northerly winds were so strong they blew the dandruff out of your hair, and it did not look too promising for the morning at all. Even as we drank our fears away Annie was heard mumbling something about the black dust, the dirty kids, that bloody wind.

However, Saturday morning soon arrived and I soon felt eager to go as Annie reported that she had been for an early morning reconnaissance and that all looked well for the launch. Keith as usual was ready and willing and had his crew organised by 9.00 a.m. I soon followed but Alex was keen to finish a chapter of his latest novel and demolish his tenth fag. Those of you familiar with his customs would know that it is a fruitless exercise indeed to try to hurry him along at times like this. When he was finally ready at around 9.30 a.m. he was treated to thunderous applause by the rest of the troops. Needless to say he took it in fun and all had a good laugh.

The boats were soon launched with a minimum of fuss and we headed for the Glennie Group to dive the much heralded caves around Burn Rock. Upon arrival at this destination we were greeted by smooth seas and visibility of around 50'. The usual rush to drop over the side ensued and Alex, John and myself were soon at the entrance to the

first myriad of caves that abound in this fine location. The territory was somewhat reminiscent of Mount Gambier and the fish life was prolific in and around the caves. We must have swam in and out of some seven or eight cave formations, cluminating in a spectacular overgang alive with skipjacks, boar fish and striped morwong. Later Martin Taliana surfaced with a grin from ear to ear and a catch bag containing enough fish to feed the entire camp.

Upon surfacing, lunch was partaken and we casually discussed the next dive. It was soon decided that a dive on the mainland was the best bet and we headed for a spot about midway between Oberon Point and the Southern tip of the Prom. Many large crays had been taken from this spot on prior visits and naturally we all hoped for a repeat performance.

Not so, although Andy did happen to bag a couple. However, the territory here proved to be even more spectacular than the previous location, with a cave system that had to be seen to be believed. At 70 feet one could enter a cave and not come out of it even at 20 feet. The torch worked overtime here and the excellent ledges encountered should have produced veritable giants.

Ah well, I suppose some great dives can still be had even if you do miss out and I consoled myself with this observation as I once again boarded the boat empty handed.

We were soon on our way back to Tidal River to retrieve the boats. About 300 metres from the beach Keith signalled on the radio that help was required. His outboard motor was uttering a very distressful sound indeed and it was necessary to take him in tow. A later inspection revealed that a new short motor would be required and a very hefty repair bill is in store. You don't have to be a boat owner to feel for Keith and a great weekend was somewhat marred by the uncertainty of his dilemma at the time.

That evening saw the usual comraderie prevail. A visit to Martin Taliana's abode around dinner time found Martin proudly cooking the catch. Or was he? "Looks more like chicken" I say. "Nah" says Alex. "It's rabbit" says Josie. Upon enquiring we found that Martin had this pet white rabbit of the male variety. It looked very lonely you see, so Martin and the kids decide to acquire another male to keep the poor little blighter company. You guessed it! A female snuck in.

Now to us folk, this would produce problems of huge proportions. Not to Martin. As the cute little fellows grow to edible size, Martin bumps them off and serves them up at the table. Anyone for dinner?

Following the odd beer and laugh etc., we all retired to bed at around 10.30 p.m. utterly exhausted from the days activities. Upon awakening on Sunday morning, with no air and no compressor, we were all delighted to find no wind, glassy seas and cloudless skies. We felt like we were stuck up that well known creek without a paddle. Still it was only intended that we dive Saturday and after packing up some of us visited the beach and admired the pink pointers for a couple of hours.

So ended another successful V.S.A.G. trip. Hope to see you all back at Tidal River at Easter.

=====

HIT LIST

The following list is of air fills accrued on Refuge Cove weekend:

Pat Reynolds	1	Jeanette Large	2
Jim Turner	1	Tony Tipping	2
Barry Truscott	1	Paul Sier	2
John Goulding	1	Jack Namiota	2
Des Williams	1	Dave Henty Wilson	2
Chris Lewellyne	1	Alex Talay	2
Paul Tipping	2	Geoff Birtles	3
Max Synon	2	Andy Mastrowicz	3
Anthony Finnigan	2	John Lawler	3
		Bob Scott	3

Payment of fills to be made at next General Meeting or cheque posted to V.S.A.G., Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne 3001, Australia.

V.S.A.G. MEMBER APPOINTED TO M.A.U.

by Des Williams

For some time now V.S.A.G. diver Mick Jackiw has been working with the Maritime Archaeologic Unit of the Victorian Archaeological Survey in Albert Park, Melbourne.

Mick's position was only temporary at the time, whilst the Department advertised the position and screened applicants. In early February, Mick was advised that he was the successful applicant and is now a permanent member of the M.A.U.

In his job, Mick is responsible for the maintenance of all diving gear, airlifts and the large Sharkcat boat. When working in the field Mick takes the boat to the site and is responsible for all gear used in the field.

Since being with the M.A.U., Mick has spent much time involved in work on such shipwrecks as the "Clarence", "Mountain Maid", "William Salthouse" and "Thistle" to name only a few.

Mick has always been very enthusiastic about the job and naturally he is delighted with the news of his appointment.

Congratulations go to you Mick, from all of your friends at V.S.A.G.

THE CAT O' NINE TAILS

by Keith Jensen

During the days of sail, seamen were flogged on their bare backs with an instrument of punishment, known as the cat o' nine tails. It was made of nine lengths of cord each about eighteen inches long and with three knots in each, fixed to the end of a larger rope which served as a handle.

It was used in almost every Navy in the world, on board Royal Navy ships it was kept stored in a red baize bag and brought out at times of punishment. The red colour of the bag concealed the blood stains upon it, a result of the cat being used vigorously.

"To let the cat out of the bag" is derived from when sailors committed acts which required punishment and the cat was brought out in its bag. "No room to swing a cat" also comes from this era because of the limited space aboard ships and the rigging above only short strokes could be used hence if space was short the term no room to swing a cat was used.

In the British Navy a captain was limited by regulations to order a maximum of twelve lashes for any crime but few captains abided by this rule. Sentences entailing a greater number of lashes could in theory be only awarded by sentence of court martial.

The boatswain's mate administered the flogging, after each stroke he was to "Comb the Cat" by running his fingers through the tails of the cat o' nine tails in order to separate them in preparation for the next. After several strokes, when the victims back had begun to bleed, the tails of the cat were apt to become coated with blood and stick together, and a stroke with the tails matted together could inflict serious and permanent damage to the man undergoing punishment. It was necessary therefore, in the victims own interests to separate the tails before inflicting the next stroke.

A court martial for serious offences could hand down the sentence of "Flogging Round the Fleet". The man undergoing this punishment was placed in a boat in which a ships grating had been lashed upright across the Alwarts and rowed alongside each ship lying in harbour, where he was given twelve strokes with the cat by a boatswains mate of the ship which the boat was lying.

After each infliction of a dozen strokes a blanket was thrown across his back while he was being rowed to the next ship. In each ship visited the crews were mustered on deck and in the rigging to witness the punishment drums on board beating out the Rogues March as the boat approached.

The use of the cat o' nine tails was suspended as a means of punishment in the Royal Navy in 1879 but had been falling into disuse long before that, but the saying "No room to swing a cat" and "To let the cat out of the bag" have been adopted into use in the modern idiom.

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

APRIL, 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.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.	h.m.	Ht. M.				
1	Tu	03 54	1.5	17 03	1.7	06 53	0.8	19 45	1.2	09 52	0.1	22 27	0.7	00 51	1.1	13 27	0.9	Tu	1
2	W	04 33	1.5	17 52	1.6	07 34	0.8	20 29	1.2	10 35	0.2	23 07	0.7	01 30	1.1	14 13	0.9	W	2
3	Th	05 16	1.4	18 43	1.5	08 18	0.8	21 17	1.1	11 20	0.2	23 51	0.7	02 11	1.1	15 01	0.9	Th	3
4	F	06 08	1.4	19 42	1.4	09 08	0.9	22 12	1.1	12 09	0.3	12 09	0.3	02 59	1.0	15 55	0.9	F	4
5	Sa	07 14	1.3	20 48	1.4	10 11	0.9	23 20	1.1	00 42	0.8	13 08	0.4	03 58	1.0	16 58	0.9	Sa	5
6	Su	08 40	1.2	21 59	1.3	11 31	0.9			01 53	0.8	14 22	0.5	05 16	1.0	18 10	0.9	Su	6
7	M	10 13	1.2	23 06	1.3	00 41	1.0	12 59	0.9	01 23	0.7	15 46	0.6	06 48	1.0	19 26	1.0	M	7
8	Tu	11 33	1.3			01 59	1.0	14 20	0.9	04 52	0.6	17 08	0.6	08 12	1.0	20 35	1.0	Tu	8
9	W	00 02	1.4	12 35	1.4	03 00	0.9	15 27	1.0	05 58	0.5	18 19	0.6	09 16	1.0	21 33	1.0	W	9
10	Th	00 48	1.4	13 25	1.5	03 46	0.9	16 19	1.0	06 45	0.4	19 13	0.6	10 05	0.9	22 19	1.0	Th	10
11	F	01 25	1.4	14 07	1.6	04 24	0.9	17 01	1.1	07 21	0.3	19 55	0.6	10 45	0.9	22 56	1.0	F	11
12	Sa	01 57	1.4	14 43	1.6	04 56	0.9	17 36	1.1	07 56	0.3	20 30	0.6	11 19	0.9	23 27	1.0	Sa	12
13	Su	02 24	1.4	15 15	1.6	05 25	0.8	18 08	1.1	08 27	0.3	21 02	0.6	11 51	0.9	23 55	1.0	Su	13
14	M	02 49	1.4	15 46	1.6	05 53	0.8	18 39	1.1	08 57	0.3	21 32	0.6			24 21	0.9	M	14
15	W	03 15	1.4	16 18	1.6	06 21	0.9	19 10	1.1	09 28	0.3	22 02	0.6	00 23	1.0	25 03	0.9	W	15
16	Th	03 43	1.4	16 52	1.6	06 50	0.9	19 42	1.1	09 58	0.3	22 32	0.7	00 52	1.0	25 35	0.9	Th	16
17	F	04 13	1.4	17 30	1.5	07 21	0.9	20 16	1.1	10 30	0.3	23 02	0.7	01 22	1.0	26 00	0.9	F	17
18	Sa	04 47	1.4	18 12	1.4	07 55	0.9	20 53	1.1	11 03	0.4	23 35	0.8	01 54	1.0	26 37	0.9	Sa	18
19	Su	05 26	1.3	19 00	1.4	08 32	0.9	21 36	1.1	11 39	0.4			02 30	1.0	25 19	0.9	Su	19
20	M	06 19	1.2	19 53	1.3	09 21	0.9	22 29	1.1	00 13	0.8	12 23	0.5	03 16	1.0	26 08	0.9	M	20
21	W	07 32	1.2	20 51	1.3	10 26	0.9	23 32	1.0	01 05	0.8	13 21	0.6	04 18	1.0	27 06	0.9	M	21
22	Th	08 58	1.2	21 51	1.3	11 46	0.9			02 14	0.8	14 35	0.6	05 16	1.0	28 13	1.0	Th	22
23	F	10 23	1.3	22 49	1.3	00 41	1.0	13 09	1.0	03 31	0.7	15 55	0.7	06 57	1.0	29 22	1.0	W	23
24	Th	11 38	1.4	23 42	1.4	01 42	1.0	14 24	1.1	04 36	0.6	17 10	0.7	08 07	1.0	29 26	1.1	Th	24
25	F			12 40	1.6	02 36	0.9	15 29	1.2	05 31	0.4	18 18	0.7	09 05	1.0	21 25	1.1	F	25
26	Sa	00 32	1.5	13 36	1.8	03 21	0.9	16 26	1.2	06 21	0.3	19 17	0.7	09 58	1.0	22 18	1.1	Sa	26
27	Su	01 19	1.5	14 25	1.8	04 14	0.9	17 16	1.3	07 09	0.2	20 07	0.7	10 47	1.0	23 05	1.1	Su	27
28	M	02 04	1.5	15 13	1.9	05 00	0.9	18 02	1.3	07 56	0.2	20 51	0.7	11 34	1.0	23 49	1.1	M	28
29	Tu	02 48	1.6	16 00	1.9	05 45	0.9	18 45	1.3	08 42	0.2	21 31	0.7			24 21	1.0	Tu	29
30	W	03 32	1.6	16 47	1.8	06 30	0.9	19 29	1.3	09 28	0.2	22 11	0.7	00 31	1.1	25 07	1.0	W	30

MEDIA WATCH

Hyperbaric unit takes the plunge

WITH as many as 5000 new divers in Australia every year the medical problems created by man's inability to adapt to the depths is one of the fastest-growing problem areas in medicine.

The Royal Adelaide Hospital is soon to become a national centre of excellence for treatment, research and teaching of hyperbaric medicine and the problems associated with diving.

Dr Des Gorman, a senior medical officer in the Navy's School of Underwater Medicine who is regarded as one of the world's leading authorities in the subject, has resigned from the Navy to head the new unit, which will be part of the hospital's department of anaesthesia and intensive care.

The project was announced this week by the Minister of Health, Dr Cornwall.

The RAH has installed a large six-person hyperbaric chamber and will also operate a small portable airborne unit which will be available for transferring divers to Adelaide for emergency treatment.

Specially-trained nurses and doctors will operate the unit on a 24-hour basis and two full-time researchers will carry out work on gas embolism in divers and brain damage caused by diving accidents.

Gas embolism is one of the commonest causes of death in divers, Dr Gorman said yesterday.

While most of those who venture into the deep have a healthy respect for the safety tables that dictate time spent under water and rate of ascent, lest they suffer decompression sickness or "the bends," the problem of gas embolism is less amenable to prevention.

It can occur when a diver is in water three to four metres deep should air supply suddenly be lost and the diver forced to surface.

If the diver's mouth is closed, the lungs swell, rupture, and air enters the bloodstream, blocking arteries,



SCIENCE
Barry
Hallistone

most often to the brain, with immediate and fatal results.

Because of the subtlety of the damage most fatalities of this nature are probably recorded as drownings, Dr Gorman said.

The problem also has application in areas of medicine dependent on technology such as heart-lung machines and artificial kidney machines, where gas can enter the circulation.

Dr Gorman is looking at the way blood vessels react and ways of changing blood-vessel behavior to get rid of the gas.

"Gas embolism is a problem throughout diving, flying, submarine service and clinical medicine," Dr Gorman said.

"One person in three who has any form of decompression sickness ends up with brain damage to some degree, ranging from being hardly noticeable to preventing work.

"It is very disturbing that subtle forms of decompression can cause brain damage. These occur in people who when they finish a dive feel slightly unwell — the sorts of things you could easily attribute to sea sickness, being tired, or hung over from the night before.

"When we look at these people we can show they have a certain incidence of brain damage following that dive.

"The question becomes: 'Is diving by itself brain-damaging in the absence of overt decompression sickness?' That is clearly the question our research is beginning to address and I think it should be done with some aggression," Dr Gorman said.

The RA hyperbaric chamber will cost about \$400,000 a year to operate — the National Safety Council of Australia, which has assumed responsibility for diving safety and hyperbaric medicine, foots the bill.

WINERY & POKIES WEEKEND

By May this year, the weather is bound to be a bit cold and miserable, so how many V.S.A.G. members would be interested in a weekend in the country?

We plan to visit the famous Brown Brothers vineyard at Milawa (near Wangaratta), where our good friend Peter Brown will see that we enjoy a tour of the winery. This will be followed by a bar-be-que lunch utilising the facilities at the vineyard and of course taste some of the Brown's magnificent wines prior to purchasing some stock for our cellars at home.

Because of liquor licencing, this will take place on a Saturday. Our plan is then to drive across to Yarrawonga (42 miles) to Motel accommodation and descend upon one of the magnificent services clubs at Milawa for dinner, drinks and of course the poker machines for those who dare.

Everyone can sleep in on Sunday morning and leave for the return trip to Melbourne at their leisure. A well balanced weekend!

Suggested Itinerary:

- * Arrive Brown Bros., Milawa by 11.30 a.m. (3 hours from Melbourne) on the Saturday.
- * Tour the vineyard, bar-be-que and taste and purchase wines.
- * Drive to Yarrawonga late afternoon and check-in to Motel.
- * Enjoy an evening at one of the Clubs for dinner and playing poker machines.
- * Sleep in on the Sunday morning and return to Melbourne at a relaxed speed.

Date: Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June, 1986.

Tour Leader: Des Williams - Telephone: 551 3201.

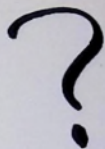
Des will be looking for names of those interested on March meeting, so if you won't be there and wish to book, please ring Des - NOW!!!!

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR MARCH 1986

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
Mar 19	General Meeting North Melbourne Football Club Movie Byron Bay Christmas Trip by Peter Cayman Slides Refuge Cove by Des Williams		8.00 p.m.
Mar 28 to 31	Tidal River Easter Camp	Don Abell 29 4415	Tidal River Camping Ground
April 13	Wreck Dive ✓ "George Kermode"	John Lawler 569 9851	Flinders 9.30 a.m.
April 16	General Meeting North Melbourne Football Club Guest Speaker Dr. John Knight - Dive Tables		8.00 p.m.
April 25, 26, 27	Anzac Day Weekend at Sorrento	Mick Jeacle 059 71 2786	Rose Caravan Pk. Evening of 24th
May 21	General Meeting North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
May 31	Winery & Pokies Weekend Brown Bros. at Milawa	Des Williams 551 3201	Details this months Fathoms
June 28	Social Evening "Olive Tree Restaurant"	John Lawler 569 9851	Details April Fathoms

Intending divers must confirm with the Dive Captain on the evening prior to the dive irrespective of prior booking. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of reservation.

Looking for diving adventure



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISLE OF PINES

SOLOMON ISLANDS

PHILIPPINES

MALDIVE ISLANDS

FIJI

VANUATU

GREAT BARRIER REEF, MADANG, TRUK LAGOON, PHILIPPINES, ISLE OF PINES, RABAU, SOLOMON ISLANDS, BALI, COOK ISLANDS, WESTERN SAMOA, ABROLHOS ISLANDS, LORD HOWE ISLAND, BYRON BAY, HERON ISLAND, HAYMAN ISLAND, POOR KNIGHTS, TAVEUNI, FIJI, MALDIVES, SRI LANKA, PULAU TIOMAN, PUERTO GALERA, CEBU, VANUATU, AITUTAKI, SPILSBY ISLAND, LADY ELLIOT ISLAND.

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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