

FATHOMS

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Safety in Diving

INDEPENDENT DIVING FREEDOM

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

MAY 1986

VSAG

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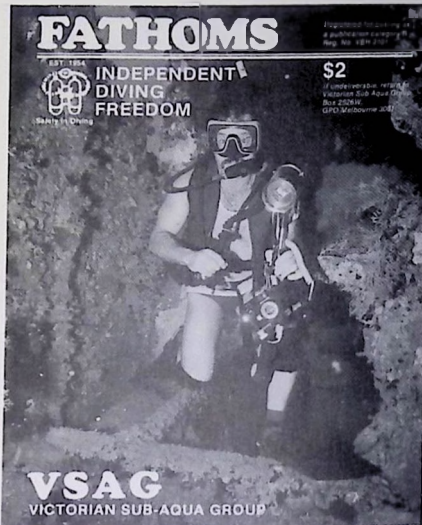
Paul Tipping - 387 2027

Committee Member

John Goulding - 890 6634

The Victorian Sub-Aqua Group was founded in 1954 and has continued as a strong and active diving club since that time. It is incorporated as a non profit company and has no commercial affiliation with any organisation.

VSAG is committed to the preservation of 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

722-5055

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Next general meeting:

Wednesday May 21st, 1986 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday May 27th, 1986 8.00 p.m.
Paul Tipping's Residence,
521 Lygon Street, Carlton

Editorial submissions to: "The Editor" Fathoms C/- 99 The Fairway, KINGSBURY 308

EDITORIAL



The committee believe our magazine to be the best of its type and we would hope that you would wish us to continue the high standard set by Des Williams, Geoff Birtles and Keith Jensen over the past few years.

These fellows, along with all those that contribute, have put a great deal of effort into our magazine and are justifiably proud of its success not only within our club but with the diving community as a whole.

During the past twelve months the club has spent an average of \$205.00 per month a total of \$2,460.00 on Fathoms.

Currently we have 7 life members, 50 city members paying \$27.00 and 11 country members paying \$15.00. This represents a revenue of \$1,515.00. Thus we are faced with a shortfall of \$945.00 which in the past has been covered by social functions.

Consequently, as we have not had an increase in membership fees since 1983, we have decided to increase our annual fees, due in June, to \$35.00 inclusive of country members.

We are not trying to alienate our country friends but feel they as well as us city slickers enjoy the benefits our club provides.

If we retain our membership of 61 we will generate \$2,135.00. This of course is still a shortfall of \$325.00 but not as big as before. We will recover the balance with social functions as before.

We feel we need some money in the bank for a rainy day. There has been discussion about purchasing a new compressor to supplement the one we already own. As you are aware our compressor fills one tank at a time and takes 15 minutes. We are lucky to have members such as Mick Jackiw who recently agreed to provide his compressor for our use even when he is not present. Imagine attempting to fill 30 or 40 tanks on a Refuge or Tidal River trip without Mick's compressor.

Eventually we will have to purchase a second compressor which will benefit us all. When you consider that a suitable one costs 8 or \$9,000 you can understand the difficulties we face.

On a brighter note I would like to congratulate all members and especially the dive captains for all the trips we have so far done this year. Xmas, Refuge, Tidal River, Marlo and the recent Sorrento trips have all been outstanding successes. Big attendances, great diving and heaps of fun have all combined to make this year the best I can recall since I joined the club.

Alex Talay

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

JUNE, 1986.

Month 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	h m	Ht M				
1	Su	06 15	1.3	18 50	1.5	08 58	0.9	21 44	1.1	11 42	0.5			02 58	1.0	15 16	1.0	Su	1		
2	M	07 23	1.3	19 38	1.4	10 01	1.0	22 39	1.0	00 39	0.6	12 39	0.6	04 01	0.9	16 08	1.0	M	2		
3	Tu	08 36	1.3	20 27	1.4	11 08	1.0	23 34	0.9	01 41	0.6	13 41	0.7	05 08	0.9	17 04	1.1	Tu	3		
4	W	09 47	1.3	21 17	1.3			12 19	1.1	02 41	0.5	14 51	0.8	06 14	0.9	18 04	1.1	W	4		
5	Th	10 50	1.3	22 05	1.3	00 27	0.9	13 26	1.1	03 38	0.5	16 03	0.8	07 14	0.9	19 04	1.1	Th	5		
6	F	11 44	1.4	22 51	1.2	01 17	0.8	14 27	1.1	04 29	0.4	17 11	0.8	08 06	0.9	20 01	1.0	F	6		
7	Sa	12 31	1.5	23 34	1.2	02 03	0.8	15 19	1.1	05 15	0.3	18 08	0.8	08 53	0.9	20 51	1.0	Sa	7		
8	Su			24 12	1.5	02 45	0.8	16 03	1.2	05 56	0.3	18 54	0.8	09 34	0.9	21 34	1.0	Su	8		
9	M	00 15	1.2	13 50	1.6	03 25	0.8	16 41	1.2	06 36	0.3	19 33	0.8	10 13	0.9	22 14	1.0	M	9		
10	Tu	00 56	1.3	14 25	1.6	04 04	0.8	17 16	1.2	07 13	0.3	20 08	0.7	10 49	0.9	22 53	1.0	Tu	10		
11	W	01 38	1.3	15 00	1.6	04 43	0.8	17 50	1.1	07 49	0.3	20 41	0.7	11 24	0.9	23 30	1.0	W	11		
12	Th	02 19	1.3	15 35	1.6	05 21	0.8	18 24	1.1	08 23	0.3	21 13	0.7	11 59	0.9			Th	12		
13	F	03 00	1.3	16 10	1.6	05 58	0.8	18 58	1.1	08 57	0.3	21 46	0.7	00 06	1.0	12 33	0.9	F	13		
14	Sa	03 42	1.3	16 46	1.5	06 36	0.8	19 32	1.1	09 31	0.3	22 19	0.7	00 44	1.0	13 08	0.9	Sa	14		
15	Su	04 27	1.3	17 23	1.5	07 17	0.8	20 09	1.1	10 08	0.4	22 55	0.6	01 23	1.0	13 45	1.0	Su	15		
16	M	05 18	1.3	18 00	1.5	08 03	0.9	20 49	1.0	10 49	0.5	23 38	0.6	02 06	1.0	14 24	1.0	M	16		
17	Tu	06 18	1.3	18 38	1.4	08 57	0.9	21 31	1.0	11 36	0.6	24 08	0.6	02 58	0.9	15 07	1.0	Tu	17		
18	W	07 25	1.3	19 22	1.4	09 57	1.0	22 19	0.9	00 24	0.5	12 30	0.7	03 54	0.9	15 56	1.0	W	18		
19	Th	08 37	1.4	20 09	1.4	11 05	1.1	23 12	0.9	01 17	0.4	13 33	0.8	04 57	0.9	16 51	1.1	Th	19		
20	F	09 48	1.4	21 04	1.3			12 17	1.1	02 15	0.3	14 47	0.8	06 01	0.9	17 58	1.1	F	20		
21	Sa	10 56	1.5	22 05	1.3	00 11	0.8	13 11	1.2	03 18	0.3	16 07	0.9	07 07	0.9	19 06	1.1	Sa	21		
22	Su	11 59	1.6	23 08	1.3	01 13	0.8	14 00	1.2	04 22	0.2	17 21	0.9	08 10	0.9	20 14	1.1	Su	22		
23	M			24 58	1.2	02 15	0.7	15 41	1.3	05 22	0.1	18 24	0.8	09 10	0.9	21 19	1.1	M	23		
24	Tu	00 14	1.4	13 51	1.7	03 16	0.7	16 36	1.2	06 19	0.1	19 20	0.7	10 06	0.9	22 19	1.1	Tu	24		
25	W	01 18	1.4	14 42	1.7	04 15	0.8	17 26	1.2	07 13	0.1	20 11	0.7	10 57	0.9	23 15	1.0	W	25		
26	Th	02 19	1.4	15 29	1.7	05 13	0.8	18 15	1.2	08 07	0.1	21 02	0.6	11 48	0.9			Th	26		
27	F	03 17	1.4	16 13	1.7	06 07	0.8	19 03	1.1	08 58	0.2	21 53	0.5	00 09	1.0	12 35	0.9	F	27		
28	Sa	04 13	1.4	16 54	1.6	07 01	0.9	19 48	1.0	09 50	0.3	22 43	0.5	01 03	1.0	13 22	1.0	Sa	28		
29	Su	05 08	1.4	17 34	1.6	07 54	0.9	20 33	1.0	10 40	0.4	23 33	0.4	01 55	0.9	14 07	1.0	Su	29		
30	M	06 05	1.3	18 12	1.5	08 47	0.9	21 17	0.9	11 30	0.5			02 49	0.9	14 51	1.0	M	30		

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee meeting held at 5 Donne Close, Frankston on 26th March, 1986.

Apologies for non attendance were received from Keith Jensen.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 608.35
Cash on deposit	1,675.06
Total	<u>\$ 2,283.41</u>

Bills for payment:

D. Abell - postage & stationery	\$ 23.02
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GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. The Secretary tabled letters to the Department of Conservation, Forest and Lands from Geoff Birtles and John Goulding. It was agreed that, where possible, the club would like to have a copy of the submission by individual members for its files.
2. Des Williams submitted details of quotes he had obtained for the purchase of a new compressor. The general reaction of members was that the cost of a new compressor was fairly expensive, however it was agreed that we should proceed with plans to ensure that we obtain a second compressor in the near future.
3. The main problem to be overcome is the method by which the club raises sufficient funds to pay for the unit. Considerations offered by members were a raffle, bank loan, donations from members, a garage sale of items which members no longer require, a combination of a raffle and function, increasing the charge for each dive with the increase going to club funds, prepayment of air fills by members and prepayment of members' subscriptions.

4. At the same time as considering all these options for raising capital, the members agreed to consider other options available for the acquisition of a compressor.
5. Des Williams also reported that he had contacted the Dive Shop at Port Lincoln to clarify a number of matters in regard to a possible camp for Christmas 1986. The boat operators had confirmed that the boat would go as far down the channel as the divers require for the purpose of getting to the best dive locations. The boat operator also believed that it would be possible to get the use of a second boat if that was required.
6. John Lawler told members that he had contacted a business associate in South Australia who had a charter boat operating from Port Lincoln. At the request of the committee John will follow up the details of the charter boat and whether it might suit the requirements of the club on a Christmas trip.
7. Des Williams also noted his personal congratulations on the submission to the Department of Conservation, Forest and Lands by the club in regard to the proposals for launching boats at Tidal River.
8. Des Williams also suggested that the club instigate a general night of slides and request all members to bring along their 10 or 20 favourite slides for showing to the meeting.
9. Paul Tipping suggested that the club might consider a media campaign against the proposals to prohibit boat launching from Tidal River. Paul suggested that although the club may not consider this option immediately, it should be aware of the possibility of utilising the media for its purposes.
10. Mick Jeacle moved that the club pay \$51.00 to Mick Jackiw being 50% of compressor fees changed out by the club. At Mick's request this amount is to be paid into his overseas travel fund.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.31 p.m.
Committee members thank Annie for the supper provided.✱

DOWNLOW MEDAL REPORT

by John Lawler
"Downlow" Committee

With the first quarter of 1986 well behind us the 1986 "Downlow Medal" is producing some very strong competition.

The leading club currently on top of the "Downlow" ladder is our very own V.S.A.G. led by Club President, Alex Talay. V.S.A.G. have logged a total of 231 recorded club dives to date.

Second club in the Downlow Competition is the Marine Diving Group led by Neil McKenzie and Neil's club divers have recorded 156 dives so far.

Lothar Ploss, President of the famous Melbourne Bottom Scratchers has not yet fully completed their totals so are third on the ladder on that basis.

The individual leaders in the Downlow Competition are:-

V.S.A.G.

John Lawler	- 20	1
Mick Jeacle	- 17	2
Doug Catherill	- 15	3
Geoff Birtles	- 14	4
Andy Mastrowicz	- 13	5
Tony Tipping	- 13	5
Keith Jensen	- 12	6
Bobby Scott	- 11	7
Bazza Truscot	- 10	8
Pat Reynolds	- 10	8

MARINE DIVING GROUP

Neil McKenzie	- 20	1
Isabel Henbest	- 16	2
Steward Dall	- 13	3
David Wright	- 12	4
Bev Bernhardt	- 11	5
Heather Dall	- 10	6

MELBOURNE BOTTOM SCRATCHERS

Tui Murray	- 10	1
Brian Counce	- 6	2

The race is certainly on both on an individual basis and club basis - Neil and his divers are not to be underestimated as a little bird tells me their club has a lot of activity ahead. Look out V.S.A.G.!

Lothar will face the challenge in true presidential style to "crack the whip" over his divers. The Bottom Scratchers are known far and wide for surprises and have been known to "come up" with all sorts of surprises.

Maybe this laid back start is Lothar's ploy to lull us into a false sense of security for a big run to the finish in December, 1986. Go for it Scratchers!

The "Downlow" steering committee meets again in June after which we will print another competition update and thereafter a monthly progress report will be available.

V.S.A.G. divers will win this competition but only if V.S.A.G. divers go diving!

Finally thanks to all dive captains who to date have taken time to put dives to paper - your efforts are appreciated.

Good diving - safe diving. *

INVITATION TO DIVE VANUATU

by Keith Jensen

Diving August/September, 1983, I was fortunate enough to dive the Solomons and Vanuatu, previous trips to the Solomons had proved to me that it was a great place to dive and was good value for money. At the conclusion of the Solomons tour Alex Talay and myself journeyed on to Vanuata, after 17 days diving the Solomons we thought that we had seen it all, but not so, for we were soon to dive the "President Coolidge".

After thirty years of diving I have many pleasant memories, and have filed away in my mind the top ten dives, my first dive on the Coolidge is one of the top ten and it shall remain vividly in my memory.

We had geared up in a small jungle clearing adjacent to the shore of the Segond Channel on the island of Espertu Santo. As I checked the air pressure in the cylinder the needle of the gauge swung around to show a very heavy fill of air as I looked at Alex a pleased look revealed to me that his fill was also good. Alan Power the dive operator at Santo had been observing us and the other divers as we geared up, he explained that his fills were always maximum pressure and the air sweet, the reason?, the wreck is huge and dives can be deep.

Wading out through a cleared section of the coral rubble beach to a steel post about 150 metres out this is the point the dive commences, a rope leads one down to the Coolidge. The water was exceptionally clear but a little cooler than the Solomons but we still dived in a T-shirt and shorts only. Balfish swam up the rope from the wreck to greet us, we commenced at the bow and along the railing toward the bridge of the ship, the clear blue water allowed us to view a great expanse of the wreck as I glanced at a gun and mounting just forward of the bridge I observed three tiger sharks gliding along in unison just clear of the wreck and on the same course as ourselves. We ascended toward the starboard companionway and a huge turtle rose to meet us. Alan sheperded us along the companionway through some openings and into the Stateroom. A ceramic mural of a Spanish lady on horseback is just above the fire place in this lounge. I observed what appear as huge mushrooms on the wall but then realised the ship is on its side and these are lightfittings attached to what was once the ceiling.

Alan led us out of this area through another opening to reveal three rows of toilet bowls fourteen in each row and forty two in total - enough for 5,000 troops to do their thing cheek by cheek. I am then aware that a huge cod is following us through the wreck, I am later to find out that he is known as Calvin and Alan Power feeds him regularly. Our guide is motioning to us that it is time to surface.

Up past the bridge along the foredeck and ascend to the 10 metre level where Alan has several deco tanks and regulators positioned, additional tanks at the 6 metre level too. We watched with amusement as Alan feeds the fish that abound in the coral garden he has constructed here and after ample decompression time we emerged from a fantastic dive.

The following week we explored the wreck twice daily, probing into the secrets that she holds. Such fascination of this wreck compelled me to return again in 1984 for another great weeks diving and I introduced Igor to The President and the lady on horseback and again dived and explored this great wreck.

V.S.A.G. for a variety of reasons has cancelled their overseas trip this year, and again the urge to visit the Coolidge is within me, so for those that were going overseas with the club why not join me to visit Vanuatu for two weeks diving in October.

Aquarius has again made all the arrangements for me and we depart Melbourne at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, October 5th and arrive at 7.15 p.m. in Vila, our accommodation is in double storeyed apartments at Teoma Village Resort. The apartments are self contained with separate kitchen and lounge facilities. Teoma Village is on the shores of a lagoon and has its own pool, bar and barbeque facilities.

Vila has many excellent places to eat and the cuisine of many nationalities available. Meat and groceries also are available and facilities at Teoma to cook are excellent. Eat out or dine at home, the cost is not excessive either way.

A weeks unlimited diving with dive action is included and the best of Vila's wrecks and reefs will be dived. On Tuesday, October 14th we depart early for Santo where we shall be staying at Bokissa Island. Twin bungalows, pool and restaurant are features on this small beautiful island and continental breakfasts included for the duration of our stay here.

Alan Power is again our dive guide and six dives are scheduled here and Alan will reveal all the best things of interest on the Coolidge and Million Dollar Point. We depart Santo on Saturday, October 18th for Vila, connect with flight to Noumea and stay overnight at the Noumea Beach Hotel, breakfast is included at this hotel. We have a chance to have a quick look at Noumea as our flight home to Melbourne does not depart till 6.30 p.m. arriving Melbourne at 11.35 p.m.

The fourteen day dive tour is costed at \$1,848 and non diver cost is \$1,435. The group will be only 10 to 12 persons. Several divers who have joined me on other trips have already booked but we have room for a few V.S.A.G. wreck divers. So extend the invitation to join me as I renew my memories of "President Coolidge" the worlds largest accessible shipwreck.

For further information contact Keith on 460 3672 or Aquarius Dive Travel on 25 8863. *

HIT LIST

Payment for air fills from Refuge Cove Trip:

Jim Turner	1 fill
Chris Llewellyn	1 fill
Paul Sier	2 fills
Jack Namiota	2 fills
Dave Henty Wilson	2 fills

Please send cheque to V.S.A.G., Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001. A.S.A.P.

MEDIA WATCH

Kirner launches ban-the-boat

By GARTH MORRISON

Having robbed boaties blind on services the Victorian government is busy with ban-the-boat-programs.

Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands, Joan Kirner, has been forced out into the open rather earlier than her department planned on the anti-boating aspects of the "Wilson's Promontory National Park Draft Management Plan."

The 97 page Plan will cost you \$5 from 240 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy. With it, if you ask, is an issues statement on "Boat Launching at Wilsons Promontory."

It beats around the bush for three and a half pages of options and then comes out with the kick in the teeth.

Boat launching will be prohibited at Tidal River during peak beach use periods.

The "peak" periods are December 25 to January 31, the Labour Day Long weekend, Easter - Good Friday to Easter Monday.

The benefits are the conflict between swimmers, surfers and boaties will be reduced. Children will be safer and the department won't have to use its staff to direct boats and look after beach users.

This is we hasten to add, the "preferred option".

It is suggested alternative launching facilities - in other areas - along the coast be upgraded. We have some experience of the coast in the area and regard the suggestion as either stupid or cynical.

In any event at the rate funds are being allocated to boating facilities Noah will have built another Ark before anything gets done.

Just think of the wonders which could be worked on upgrading with \$500,000. But not to worry if all else fails the government can do some landscaping in front of some lucky boat club.

No kidding that's the plan at busy Warneet where there's one over-worked ramp and a growing boating demand for access to Westernport Bay. How to spend the \$14,000 allocation? Landscaping of course, it keeps the kids employed, looks good at voting time and does nothing practical about the state's major tourist attraction - boating.

Damn right!

Like 10 years ago, before the pressures of population and boating demand so outstripped facilities in popular centres that boaties will launch across beaches and down cliffs to enjoy their chosen recreation where they want to and in peace.

The Prom Draft Plan has added a new term to marine matters ... it's called "boat camping".

It's even provided for after what sounds like more "conflict" with some "boat camping" space at Tidal River.

And, of course, the "boat campers" are to be regulated at all cost. You know it's not all that long ago that a majority of Australians ran the risk of getting themselves killed over an issue called freedom.

Kiwis fear SA divers will harm old wreck

HISTORY buffs are alarmed that Australian divers could damage a sunken ship in New Zealand waters.

Two of the six South Australian divers, John Mate and Alan Hale, will try to soothe the Kiwi protesters at a meeting on Wednesday.

Heritage supporters at Buffalo Beach in Mercury Bay, New Zealand, fear the Australian expedition will damage the entire deck of the HMS Buffalo, which has been under water since 1840.

They have accused the divers of unnecessarily excavating the ship.

The ship, which was rediscovered in 1983, was one of the first vessels to take settlers to SA in 1836.

Four years later the HMS Buffalo, while at dock in Mercury Bay, was sunk during a storm, taking with it items of historical value to SA.

The expedition is the first Australian party to be approved by the New Zealand Government, which has been extremely protective about heritage sites.

The HMS Buffalo lies in about five metres of water, and so far divers have only begun to dredge around it.

Expedition leader Bill Jeffrey has reported the discovery of minor artifacts such as an ivory knife and pieces of wood with iron bolts in them.

He said it was hoped the ship's anchor would be found soon, although it is believed to be further out to sea.

Abalone poachers make a killing

By MARK BRICKWELL

YOUNG unemployed people are making up to \$5000 a week in an abalone poaching operation run off Phillip Island.

Local fisheries officers said many were using the proceeds to sponsor alternative lifestyles — diving for two or three days and then lazing on the beach for the rest of the week.

The Cowes fisheries and wildlife office has doubled its enforcement strength in an attempt to curb the problem, which has reached "epidemic" proportions.

Officers catch an average of three poachers a week.

The price of abalone meat has risen to \$30 a kilogram, and the number of poachers is skyrocket-

ing, fisheries officer Mr Kevin Brown said yesterday.

"It is possible for poachers to make \$2000 in a day's diving.

"The profits are so appealing that unemployed people develop a lifestyle around them. Many still get social security benefits."

Under Victorian law it is a crime to take more than 10 abalone without first paying \$5000 to the government for a licence.

Offenders face steep fines and confiscation of their boats and diving gear.

"But poaching is hard to police and some consider the risks worth the rewards," Mr Brown said.

The Abalone Divers' Association said yesterday the poaching problem was not confined to Phillip Island.

"It extends all along the Victorian coast and is making professional divers increasingly angry," association spokesman Mr Clark Espie said.

He said there were often violent confrontations when professional divers met poachers.

"Poachers take undersized abalone and ruin carefully prepared abalone beds," he said. "They are only in the game for their short-term gain."

Mr Espie said he believed the majority of poached abalone were sold on the sly to the restaurant trade. Others were smuggled overseas.

Boating sold out

A miserable \$500,000 'dole' of funds to Victorian boating must rank as one of the bigger sell-outs by a state government, particularly as the Victorian politicians promised direct application of all funds collected from boating to boating facilities.

Which proves there are liars, damn liars and politicians.

Having robbed boaties blind on services the Victorian Government through its minister for Conservation Forests and Lands, Joan Kirner, has been forced out in the open earlier than it would have liked on the anti-boating aspects of the "Wilson's Promontory Draft Management Plan."

The Government plans to prohibit boat launching at popular Tidal River

from December 25 to January 31 over the Labour Day long weekend and at Easter from Good Friday to Easter Monday.

At Williamstown, plans for a \$1.2 m boat ramp and bird haven have been scrapped by Victoria's Minister for Planning, Evan Walker, after his department gave initial approval for the scheme to go ahead.

No fishing

And back at the Prom South Gippsland fishermen are looking at a ban on fishing in the waters around Wilson's Promontory.

The government plans to give a high degree of protection to rocky reef areas in the Promontory waters.

The proposals don't need to be legislated according to one report they can be declared under the Fisheries Act.

The bans are expected to include the phasing out of crayfishing and abalone diving in the Prom area.

Fishermen from Port Albert, Port Welshpool, Port Franklin, San Remo and Inverloch work the Prom waters.

The member for South Gippsland Tom Wallace, said he believed a Prom fishing ban was in the wind and could well develop into an issue as big as the Dutson Downs N-waste dumping issue.

Certainly boating has the bucket tipped on it.

S.S. MILORA & THE SHIPS' GRAVEYARD:

by Des Williams

The year 1934 was a year of extremely bad weather in Victoria. Whilst the people of Victoria were trying to celebrate their 100th year since John Batman landed at a spot on the Yarra River, the organised events were constantly plagued by bad weather.

In September 1934, the S.S. "Malora" received a severe battering in Bass Strait on the last leg of her voyage from Newcastle to Melbourne with a load of coal.

On the 21st September she attempted to enter Port Phillip with a damaged rudder, but went ashore on Rondella Reef, between Point Lonsdale and Queenscliffe at about 10.00 p.m.

Over 1,500 tons of coal was thrown overboard to lighten the vessel, before she was refloated on the 23rd. The tugs "Eagle", "James Paterson" and "Tooronga" took her up to Melbourne, where she was surveyed.

The cost of repairing her hull was found to be excessive, so she was sold to Penguin Ltd. of Sydney for breaking up. All fittings of value were removed and on the 8th March, 1935 she passed through Port Phillip Heads for the last time in tow, on her way to the Ships' Graveyard off Barwon Heads.

A string of charges were set on her port side deep inside her hull and detonated at a safe distance. The 331 ft. long and 3,347 ton "Milora" took some 20 minutes to roll onto her port side and sink in 160 ft. of water in the S.W. corner of the Ships' Graveyard.

The photograph shows the "Milora" on her way to join the other members of the "Silent Fleet" off Barwon Heads as the men who layed the charges in her hull watch her final plunge.

In the very early 1970's, Geoff Nayler of Geelong became very interested in the Ships' Graveyard and set out to be the first to dive this gloomy deep hole in Bass Strait. In 1972, Geoff and a crew of fellow local divers descended on the first vessel within the Graveyard to be visited by divers; she was the small steamer "Batman" sitting upright in 170 ft. of water.

Some weeks later, I joined Geoff on his second visit to the Graveyard and we located the old Geelong Harbour Trust dredge "Beverwijk 19", at 175 ft. That dive is still crystal clear in my mind even today.

Then I moved to Queensland, and about six months later I received a photograph of the "Milora" in the mail with the following poem scribbled on the reverse side by Geoff:

"This is a special card
and it belongs to you
and it didn't cost \$5.00
but it ought to make you spew!
The message that this card contains
will make your day I know
for she lies with portholes all intact
160 ft. below.
But don't despair old mate old salt
and don't be sad and blue
for the next time I grace her decks
my heart will bleed for you!"



"S.S. MILORA" - SCUTTLED IN SHIPS' GRAVEYARD - 1935

As you can see Geoff has a weird sense of humour, when it come to rubbing salt into the wound. Needless to say I was spewing to think I was 1500 miles away and couldn't get out to see the "Milora".

If a few keen members of V.S.A.G. could get together, we certainly have a very good chance of re-locating the "Milora" at any time we want to. In fact, that applies to any of the undived vessels within the Graveyard.

Maybe one day when everyone has become tired of chasing crayfish we will make a concerted effort to locate some new wreck sites. They are certainly very plentiful off Barwon Heads although everyone is waiting for someone else to put in the initial effort.

Anyone interested!! *

CHARTER BOAT DIVE

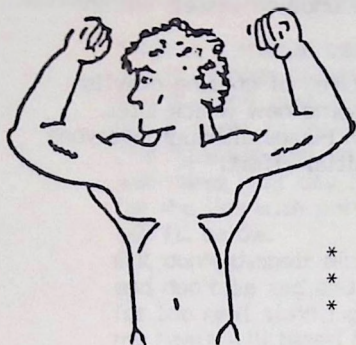
Dive Captain Extraordinaire John Lawler has again arranged a trip aboard Warrick's Dive Boat.

May 18th departing Sorrento Pier at 10.00 a.m.

Book with John on 569 9851

WANTED THE WORKING GIRL'S DOODLE DIVER

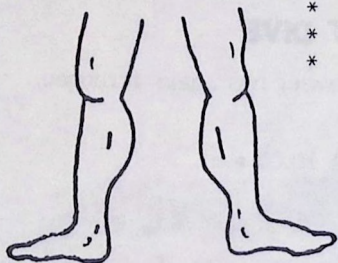
by Kerry Joyce



A MAN THAT CAN -

- * PITCH A TENT
- * DRINK xxxx - or at the worst a Carlton
- * THROW down a CAPTAIN MORGAN

- * REG UP IN 4 MINS.
- * USE A 69 - sorry 66 TANK
- * STAY DOWN AT LEAST 1½ HOURS
- * WRESTLE with a 8LB CRAY



just like the one KAY & ANDY
got at EASTER on the PROM
GREAT ONE KAY!

- * WASH DOWN HIS BUDDIES GEAR
- * COOK TEA
- * AND NEVER GETS A HEADACHE
(or a sore back)

IF SUCH A DIVER IS AVAILABLE - COMET HIM TO QUEENSLAND! *

REHABILITATION PROGRAM

by Chrissy Johnston

C.D. Johnston,
Education Age,
MELBOURNE 3000

17th April, 1986

Minister for Education,
Rialto,
Collins Street,
MELBOURNE 3000

Dear Sir,

re: Rehabilitation Program V.S.A.G.

I would like to draw your attention to the fine work of a volunteer organisation which planned and implemented an extraordinary rehabilitation program for the very sick alcoholic group (V.S.A.G.).

This year through the determined efforts of the Medical Administration of the Road Traffic Authority, it was decided that the V.S.A.G. would attend Wilson's Promontory National Park (a State resource) to initiate and participate in an intergration program which is aimed at re-establishing the party into normal society.

The objectives of the model program were to have each member (group based) participate in a similar program to that of the average secondary student.

As you can see from the drawing that I have included for your personal viewing the party certainly gained practical experience from the activities.

I must say that such a program is a pre runner to Education Rehabilitation and I am sure this will have far reaching effects on similar organisations.

I faithfully leave this information in your capable hands.

Yours sincerely,

C. Johnston

P.S. The Easter program cannot be understated, I have been informed that the group are now heading for Sorrento on a field study. ✱

2. WORLD EVENTS

WHAM!

GALLIPOLI - Peninsula between the Dardanelles and the Aegean where Allied Troops were landed on the 25th April 1915

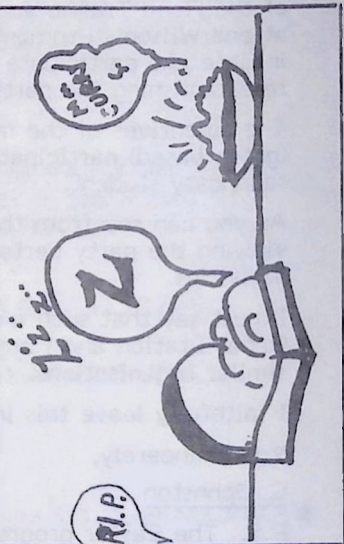
BANG

CIRCA 1986
WILSONS PLAN

1. THE STUDY OF SCIENCE + GEOGRAPHY



3. HUMAN RELATIONS



4. CONSUMER ED.

THIS IS MY BEST SUBJECT

MINE TOO

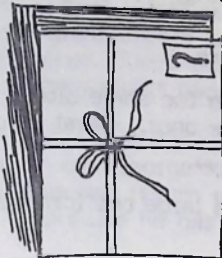


HELP!

STUPID

6. LITERATURE

WHO CAN READ
OR WRITE!



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!



HA! HA!

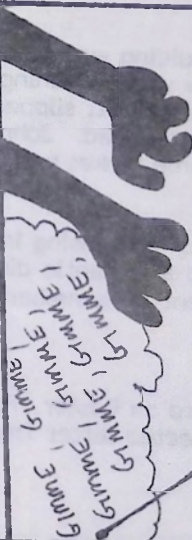
5. E.S.L.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

TODAY WE WILL
... WHAT THE ...
... !

BETTER
KNOWING AS
ENGLISH

7. COMMUNICAT'N.



Grime, Grime!
Grime, Grime!
Grime, Grime!
Grime, Grime!



8. PHYSICAL. Ed



DECO STOPS

by Keith Jensen

Easter Trip

Big pat on the back to Don Abell for the effort in organising the Easter Tidal River Camp. Three days diving, three nights raging. One of the best Easter trips ever.

June Scott made herself very popular with the ankle biters, June arranged an Easter Egg Hunt for the little ones. Great effort June.

Not a lot of crays taken, but Kay found a large one (crayfish that is) and Handy Andy extracted it for her.

Our last day's diving was a buzz, deep clear water with seals everywhere, my son Peter had his flippers nibbled at by a young bull seal. Better a seal than a white pointer Pete!

John Goulding was absolutely knocked out by the days events, as the crew were winching John's boat onto the trailer the winch hook straightened out, slipped from the eye and flew at great force hitting John on the head. John was laid out on the sand for about a minute or so, some blokes will do anything to get out of hard work.

Plenty of socialising in the tents on the last night, John L. entertained a lady to a romantic dinner, complete with wine waiter, Tony Tips resplendent in cummberbund, bow tie and gloves. John likes to do it in style.

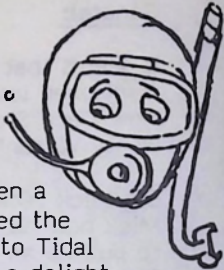
Final word on Easter, Tony don't cry over spilt milk, you may get an unexpected letter from Tidal River one day.

General:

It seems that the stork will be busy visiting V.S.A.G. members, mentioned last month Tony & Marg Tipping are scheduled for a visit. Now Deco Stops has been informed that the Brookes, Goulding's and Henty Wilson's are on the visiting list. Congratulations to you all.

Big Mick reckons that Geoff selling his boat was a good idea. Mick now has a great deckie as Geoff shows that he does know how to pull up an anchor. Deco Stops has observed a huge grin on Reeces face as he watch's dad do his thing.

Mike Webber thinks that his luck may have changed, Mike dived from my boat on the George Kermode trip, not only did we get to the dive site, dive and return safely Mike managed to get a seven pound cray. Looks like he has broken his jinx ✱



FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Since 1973 the Flotsam and Jetsam Easter Awards have been a feature of Fathoms. In all but 2 years this scribe has picked the highlights and low lights of our now traditional Easter trip to Tidal River. With unbending attention to detail and truth we have delight in revealing such goings-on that sometimes even the unwitting participants expressed alarm at what they read.

Aaah, but alas, they were different times! These days its so quiet and respectable around V.S.A.G. that some of today's award winners would not last 5 minutes with yesterdays heroes. Who will ever forget the absolute grinding marathon effort by Rob Adamson who pulled off the Superman Award for the entire four days. Rob appeared from his tent only twice and even then his wanderings from the love nest was just long enough to check whether the gale had subsided. There was more blowing inside Rob's tent than outside that Easter.

But let us not dwell too much on the past, instead let us seek this year's champions.

The Assistant Erector Award

The award is shared by four willing assistants who despite severe handicaps caused by imbibing copious quantities of blue cans of erection depressant, provided capable assistance to John and Maree in assisting them erect their tent late on Thursday night.

To Pat, Keith, Max and John (Lawler) thank you for showing true clubmanship in helping another . . .

The Cuddly Couple Award

This award was one of the original 1973 presentations, and has been awarded in most years. However, for a while it looked as if the Cuddly Couple Award would be forfeited this year.

Normally I would be a certainty to win it, but Murgatroyd is in calf again and is right off men particularly me!

Alex and Pat, conscious of the mounting rumours surrounding their regular cohabitation carryings-on were guarded about their obvious fondness for enjoying camp life together, and did their best to avoid nomination for this award.

In fact you could say that with the exception of the married couples who displayed normal loving tenderness towards each other there was a significant lack of affection. That is until Doug's charming friend Maxine arrived on the scene on Saturday evening and joined him for a quiet candle light dinner. The next day Maxine graced the front of Keith's boat as Doug showed his prowess in diving with the sea lions at Skull Rock to find her a shell.

So it is to Doug and Maxine that we bestow the Cuddly Couple Award.

(Mind you I didn't actually see them cuddling all that much but after a romantic dinner under the stars, . . a little wine (preferably drunk not worn) and stimulating conversation - well who knows!?? . .)

The Diplomatic Service Award

No second guessing on this one! Paul Tipping firmly established his credentials of high diplomacy during the 1970's when confronted with a less than amicable Ranger at Port Campbell insinuated that the Ranger and Adolf Hitler shared some common characteristics. This year on the beach on Easter Sunday night Paul complete with tape deck under one arm promptly told one of the Rangers that turning off or even down his music was not on his agenda that evening.

Guest Star Award

Difficult to judge this one but on recent past performance i.e. Marlo in November, Barry, Marie and Samantha Truscott win on their effort of slipping down for a very quick visit. Bazza has perfected his technique by bringing just one air bed. Reckons its the only time he can snuggle up to his wife!

Blast from the Past Award

Chrissy Rathgeber now Johnston made a surprise comeback, which we understand was primarily motivated by her desire to get a good look at Halley's Comet. Despite plenty of star gazing all she finished up with was a pain in the neck. . .

And now to the coveted Superman Award!

The Easter Superman Award

There is a time in every man's life when the mood, the desire and the whole setting is just right. And so it was for John Lawler on Easter Sunday. His birthday was celebrated with Tony Tipping making him breakfast in bed. His day was spent diving and his evening was almost spent with a comely gal from Las Vegas. But before John's plans could be finally implemented his caring mates arrived to wish him well and succeeded in wrecking his whole day. Poor old Johnno he looked like a fireman splendid in uniform but without a fire to attend. However like a good fireman John was at all times prepared and there on the beach whilst Paul Tipping was practicing his negotiating skills, and Alex was leading a commando attack on an imaginary enemy John and an unnamed beach belle went on a different type of sortie.

Now normally I wouldn't worry about this, however on returning to the single mens quarters the noise emanating from John's rather luxurious abode was enough even to disturb the wombats.

It became obvious that we had a real live Superman at work, and a close encounter would be necessary to confirm his eligibility for this award.

Congratulations John on a superb effort, executed with ultimate precision and definitely rates with some of the best excursions into the unknown experience by this club.

Signed Mike Rafone

OBITUARY

It is with regret that Geoff & Reece Birtles advise of the sale of their beloved Hunter Too (it is now a twice a year ski boat residing in Geelong).

The new Leader One (brand of boat, not a leadership claim!) is under construction in Perth and should be launched just in time to catch the worst of Melbourne's winter.

Meanwhile we are having a "deceased to me" sale of "Hunter Too's" accessories.

1 Large diameter pneumatic jockey wheel with bearings (Retails at about \$125.00)	\$ 55.00
2 x 30 ft. lengths S/S cable with eyes (for launching at Flinders)	\$ 50.00 (will split)
1 "False bottom" 5 gal. outboard tank	\$ 10.00
1 S/S O.M.C. prop 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 21	\$ 200.00
1 Set of Port Campbell launching gear (tested & proven) H.D. S/S guys and shackles (Worth \$ 60 - 70)	\$ 25.00
1 High speed marine gimball mount compass (Retails at \$85.00)	\$ 35.00
15 litres Valvoline O/B oil (with tap and drum)	\$ 20.00

The Best For Last!

8 S/S tank racks the envy of every diver who has seen them. Worth \$500 - 600 to replace. 2 sets of 3 and 1 set of 2	\$ 250.00
--	-----------

Phone Geoff or Reece on (03) 846 1983

IN SYMPATHY

by Don Abell

From all those who were at Tidal River for Easter to all those who didn't attend I can only offer sympathy. You missed the best Easter I can remember at Tidal River, but that is only if you enjoy

- beautiful sunny days
- warm evenings
- two dives everyday
- warm waters
- visibility in excess of 50 feet
- plenty of socialising every night

If you don't go for these attributes you may like to take up Backgammon.

Special mention goes to Big Mick Jeacle for his Sunday morning effort. Having been out of action with a virus on Saturday he had a very low profile Saturday night. Having fully recovered by Sunday he took delight in strutting the compound demanding a 9.00 o'clock dive start. He was observed kicking a few badly beaten bodies not to mention some bruised egos.

So Big Mick managed to split the divers into two groups while announcing that the real divers shouldn't have to suffer because some people over indulge. Mick is obviously going for Clubman of the Year as Dive Captain I can assure you that the late starting boats filled first.

I must mention the girls who joined us for the weekend. It does wonders to the boys. Its amazing how they manage to find that extra inch of character when its needed. Everyone seemed to be making plays for the girls, but it was realised at about midnight that all efforts were in vain. When Tony turned up in his spotter "Jammies" the girls went weak at the knees. All the other guys gave up, knowing that they were beaten. Tony told me that he was later raped by the girls on the beach. Next year will probably see a pyjama party.

What a weekend! When you get back to work and people ask "how was your Easter", what do you tell them? All those who attended know that no one would believe the answer we want to give. It really was across the top. If it was for play we would now all be deadmen.*

AN EASTER ESSAY

by Nicky Abell

The trip this year to Tidal River was one of lifes highlights, surpassed only be that memorable trip to Refuge Cove on the Mirrabooka 5 years ago (yes I still remember, and have a soft spot in my heart for that wonderous weekend.)

We left home horribly early on Friday, whizzing down in the limo, and setting up our modest abode in the shadows of Lawler masions. This year we were careful to pitch the tent in such a possie so as to get maximum "trip up" points on the guy ropes. (I think we scored ten when Max sliced his big toe, sorry Max.)

The illustrious Dive Captain soon had the days diving organised, and I was able to enjoy the highlight of my Easter break, riding down to the launch site in John Goulding's baot.

You know I go quite weak at the knees when I see our macho muscular heros braving the bitter sea and huge waves to launch the boats, before disappearing to mere specs on the horizon.

Now you may well wonder what a divers wife does when she has been abandoned for the day with hours to spend. Well you can go on wondering. one thing I did do on the Saturday was to go bushwalking (real healthy). I was able to get very close to the roos in Kanagaroo Valley, I did this at midday when they were having a kip, crawling downwind to a cluster of trees over thistles and animal droppings and in fear of snake attack. I was rewarded by getting as close as 10 feet from about 40 roos before they bounded away, a great sight. I thought this was pretty good until Igor cheerily informed me he had just walked up to one (roo) with a piece of bread, thanks Igor.

Saturday night John Lawler, after seeing the meagre curry I'd made for Don and Jenny the night before, invited us to a real curry at his place, not eating red meat I panicked thinking I would starve, however Don and Jenny caught me my very own cray which was jolly decent of them. Actually John's curry looked so good I did try some, it was indeed a culinary triumph.

We were then drawn like magnets to the "animal tent" with its beerqundy, buttminster carpet, ghetto blaster and cute little president! (Eat your heart out Klinger.) From there human nature took that strange and myserious course to total decline . . .

Later, led by one John Goulding, we went in search of the elusive Halley's Comet but to no avail. Tony Tipping however endeavoured to prove to the women that the Comet answered to a strange pagan dance, and ripping of his spotted jimjams, threw them in wild abandon, where we could only catch them in stunned innocence. John Goulding then tried to impress with him commando crawl. All I can say is that, it is just as well Marie more than makes up for the Goulding familys share of class and decorum.

Sunday I hear the diving was very good and you enjoyed diving with the seals which would have been great. Sunday night was much the same as Saturday night except we celebrated John Lawler's birthday. The general decorum declined once more with the din of the ghetto blaster. The Ranger kindly extended an invitation to a party by the sea. Was he really hoping for a tidal wave? His hopes were dashed as the intrepid party goers crept home in the small hours. Peace gradually descended the camp, punctuated by the strange crys of the night. By morning it was good to see that none of our trusty lusty club members had been slain in their slumbers by any irate neighbours, due to their night forays.

This was Monday and Tidal River was returning to near normal with the departure of several club members.

Once home I had plenty of time to reflect on the past happenings as I unpacked the car, and washed all Don's dive gear. Hopefully we shall be there next year notwithstanding any bureaucratic process which may well prevent The Tidal River Easter Bunny from smiling upon us once again.*

TIP'S TIT-BITS

by Tony Tipping

It now looks as though we'll have to find an alternative to Wilson's Promontory for our Easter trips i.e. if this new legislation regarding launching of boats at Tidal River during peak holidays and long weekends goes through, not to mention the Marine Reserve business which comes into effect very soon. I for one, along with most members of this club, am very much against the increasing number of rules and regulations restricting the divers from doing this or that, or taking such and such, or having to be tested in order to dive somewhere. (I do concede that cave divers have probably saved a life or two and although I was against it all initially I weakened and eventually did my Category II test).

Having been on all but two of the V.S.A.G. Easter trips since they started in 1973 including the first and the last I have to say I'm left with many fond recollections. Who could forget the Great Robbies inaugural Superman Award when Rob Adamson and his now wife Cheryl never left the tent that 1976 Easter - that boy really had stamina - John Lawler's 10 minute fireworks display this year doesn't even rate unless you take into consideration how old he is! I could go on recalling prized moments at Tidal River but I'm sure Flotsam and Jetsam is far more qualified here as its authors invented the Easter awards.

About half of those Easter trips the diving would have been excellent - in other words at least three successful days diving like this year, one year we didn't get in at all and the others either washouts or getting one or two ordinary dives in - not bad really because Victorian weather in a punt just about anytime and I still reckon the Prom has the best in this State to offer the diver.

This years trip was terrific both in and out of the water, plenty of families, plenty of singles, plenty of beer not to mention plenty of pop wine! I must admit though speaking of pop wine it's not a terrific idea to line your stomach with ten cans then get into the pop wine, then nine hours later do a dive at Skull Rock, is it Alex? In my own case just as well I had a swim before I hit the sack. After hearing John Knight's latest lecture on the bends I promise I'll never carry on like that again i.e. unless Marg strips off my polka dot pyjamas!

Speaking of Skull Rock it ceases to amaze me why some members of V.S.A.G. look upon this site - one of the top three dive locations in Victoria as just another cray spot. There they were (not many I'm pleased to say) saying "no good, I didn't see one", or "great spot look at this size pounder I got at ninety feet!" Alex and I had a superb 10 minutes at 130 feet just hovering looking down at the clearer water (much clearer than near the surface) and watching literally thousands of fish swimming around us, the majority of which were butterfly perch plus about fifteen other species mingled in with them. Even the seals were getting down close to this depth to play chicken with us! By the way I've always enjoyed a cray dive myself and the second dive at places like Oberon Point after Skull Rock is always a good idea.

Sometimes I do think too many club dives are just cray bashes - mind you there have been recent rumblings within, that all V.S.A.G. is interested in is cray bashing - I'd hate to see that day, but I feel sorry for anyone who only enjoys catching crays - my priorities, before catching crays (and mind you I still catch a few BY HAND!!) would be diving for the sheer thrill of diving i.e. just looking or exploring, diving on wrecks and cave diving. I joke about taking crays by hand but with the penalties the way they are today I'd be scared stiff to try any other way. I've had my warning about five years ago when I was caught with too many crays and abs, soft shell, undersize, snairs, you name it - ask Geoff Birtles or Bruce Soulsby they were at Flinders that day - since then I haven't pushed my luck and consequently haven't caught as many crays either.

Looks like another baby boom in this club later this year - I know of five members wives in calf at this very moment! Even found out about poor old Maaarrggg in the March Fathoms. I thought that would be it 2½ years ago when Marcus showed up - several members have explained to me what causes the little blighters so we've since had separate bedrooms. Looks like I'll have to throw my dirty undies into a separate dirty clothes basket from now on! *

DIVE REPORT

"GEORGE KERMODE"

by D.C.: John Lawler

I had spent Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th at Smiths Beach on Phillip Island which is more or less in line the "Kermode" dive site planned for Sunday 13th April.

On Saturday the conditions in the general area were improving however a fairly pushy swell was moving onto the coast which carried it's own message for "Kermode" diving.

By early Saturday evening Mick Jeacle's boat was the only boat available. An anxious dive captain did a quick ring around and ended up with an "O.K. I'll come" from a not too well but ever reliable Keith Jensen. The anxiety was premature as did the phone ring hot with our divers wanting to dive what surely must be one of the best (wreck) dives available to Melbournians? No it did not! With two boats available the berths were filled by "core" V.S.A.G. divers.

Sunday 13th April turned out to be a dream day for divers and 9.30 a.m. at Flinders saw Keith and his crew kitted up and ready to launch. The blatant pressure was noted by "Big Mick" who was mumbling words like "give him five minutes and he'll be in there revving the bloody motor" which was followed by the typical infectious laugh we've heard so often from Mick.

In record launch time, 9.30 a.m. arrival, kitting up, launch and away in 20 minutes Phillip Island was our destination - the crossing was swelly and so it did continue for the rest of the day much to the concern of Geoff Birtles who unfortunately suffers "frailty" in these conditions. On the dive site of the "George Kermode" Big Mick had the pick down along side the 70 foot deep wreck in typical style.

Mick's crew consisted of Jumpsuit Jack, Geoff Birtles and impressive diver son Reece Birtles and Warren Cannan.

Keith's crew were Mike Weber, Dough Catherill and Mick Jackiw. Mick, Geoff and Warren buddied up for a penetration dive and Reece and self enjoyed a top to bottom stem to stern coverage of the wreck.

At one point it was a bit like Bourke Street when from the top of the wreck Keith's crew were observed.

Conditions were somewhat swelly and a comment by Reece that whilst looking through a hole he felt a blast of water which hit him at 50 km an hour, sort of sums it up. Vis. was down to around 10 feet.

Overall the dive was brilliant and for those who have yet to dive the "Kermode" don't miss the next opportunity.

General comment from Mick and Geoff is that some movement has occurred within the internals of "George" and perhaps the finding of new areas where light is now penetrating raises some interesting questions!!

Lunch was on the Agenda and this was proceeding still on location when a yellow shark cat was noticed heading in our direction from Cape Woolamai. Despite some degree of anxiety it turned out to be an ex surf rescue cat in full diving flight and operated apparently by a (wealthy?) private owner/s.

Some friendly "clone like" comments from Messers Jeacle and Birtles brought a brilliant response from one of the divers who performed a fantastic 360° body roll into the sea with full diving dress! (Cancel any further clone type comments.) The act brought on a big round of applause.

After lunch break the two boats headed back to the mainland. The swell over the Westernport Bay Channel had increased and with white very predominant along the coast and areas below the golf course diving well out was the only way to go.

Diving was swelly and vis. was not to good, again 10 - 15 feet. Warren Cannan, who just can't miss this season came in with 3 nice crays, Geoff made just one good sized cray and Mick and I NIL.

Mike Weber has broken his spell of bad luck and came on with a vengeance to pull up an eight pounder.

Keith's crew also dived around the same area with mixed success. Back at Flinders the tide was full high and apart from some minor difficulties with waves and weed, both boats were retrieved safely.

Our traditional visit to the Flinders Pub rounded off the day. Mike Weber could not resist the cries from within to "give us a look at it mate" and "bring it in man" etc. and was very proud showing the monster to all.

Doug Catherill broke from tradition and was noted consuming (not beer) but something resembling a lemon squash! Is this a change of style for our Doug I wonder or was he suffering from being a trendy socialite indulging in late night parties! (Call me next time Doug I'm available!)

Thanks to Mick and Keith for making their boats available and to the divers who turned up for yet another great V.S.A.G. diving event. *

WINERY & POKIES WEEKEND

Change of date to: Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th July, 1986.

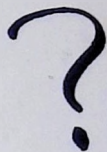
Unfortunately, we have had to re-schedule this social weekend, so we may meet up with our friend Peter Brown of Brown Bros.

Our selected date of May 31st & 1st June coincides with a business trip by Peter Brown to China. Naturally, we would all like to renew our acquaintance with him and he expressed his delight at the chance for us all to meet again.

So, if it isn't too inconvenient for those who have already expressed their wish to enjoy this great weekend, let's make it on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th of July.

Anyone else wishing to enjoy a weekend of winery and poker machines should telephone Des Williams on 551 3201 NOW! Motel accommodation at Yarrawonga must be booked right away.

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, RABAUL, 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.

AQUARIUS/Dive Travel Australia
40-42 Taylor Street, Ashburton, Vic., 3147.
Phone: (03) 25 8863 Telex: AA35411

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