

FATHOMS

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Safety in Diving

INDEPENDENT DIVING FREEDOM

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

OCT/NOV 86

VSAG

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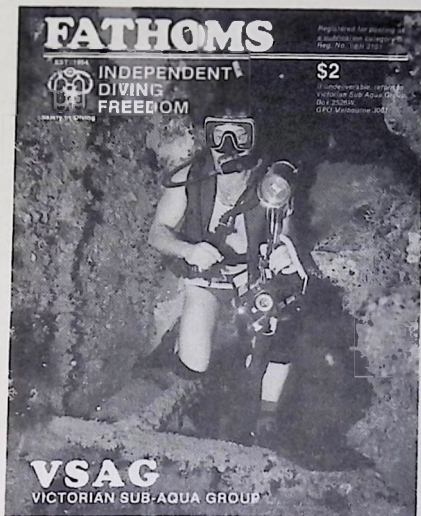
Max Synon - 465 2812

Committee Member & S.D.F. Delegate

Paul Tipping - 387 2027

Committee Member

John Goulding - 890 6634



COVER STORY

This photo taken by Keith Jensen depicts VSAG member Igor Chernishov inside the wreck of the Japanese freighter Yamazuki Maru.

This ship known locally as the "Bonegi 1" was wrecked near Tassalaronga Point, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands during fierce fighting in World War 2. It is one of the wrecks that can be dived from the shore near the 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.

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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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1986

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Next general meeting:

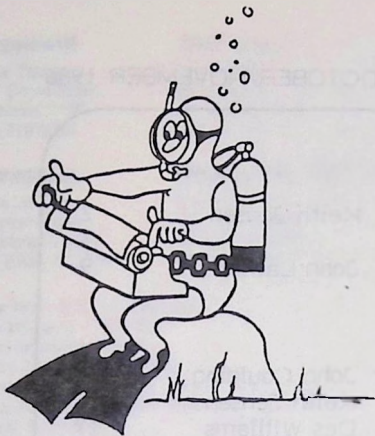
Wednesday, October 15th 1986 and
Wednesday, November 19th 1986 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, October 21st 1986 8.00 p.m.
Mastrowicz residence,
15 Soodan Road, Footscray West.

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

EDITORIAL



Well the September committee meeting has concluded and the positions of the committee have been allocated. First of all we have a new Club President Mick Jeackle a real role reversal as past President Alex Talay has taken over Micks old job as Treasurer. Don Abell is still Secretary, John Lawler is Social Secretary, Max Synon is Points Scorer, Des Williams and Paul Tipping S.D.F. of V. Delegates. Pat Reynolds still Property Officer while I ended up Newsletter Editor once again.

The Committee were concerned about the expense of producing Fathoms which is depleting our funds, after much discussion, the solution that we have

come up with is, that Fathoms will only come out every second month. We shall only be publishing 6 issues per year not 11 issues as previously. This exercise we hope will save us about \$1,000 over the next 12 months.

Another concern of the Committee was the attendance at club functions and meetings. We realise that this winter the water has been particularly cold and that we are getting older, but with the coming of better weather conditions and a full interesting dive/social calendar there will be better attendances.

Our Clubman of the Year Award was won by John Lawler, he was quite surprised when the announcement was made at the last general meeting. His regular attendance at dives and social functions plus his contributions to Fathoms earned him our coveted award. Well done John.

A few of our events on the agenda are:-

1. V.S.A.G. Tennis Day and Mile Race with a spit roast to celebrate Tony's 40th birthday.
2. Melbourne Cup Weekend dive camp at Queenscliff only a short distance from Melbourne so we expect a good turn up.

3. Don Abell suggested a venue for our Christmas function and we have booked in for Friday 19th December and this time we have the whole place to ourselves.

With plenty of regular dives scheduled there is plenty to do. Also keep in touch with the Committee as they can advise what is going on plus extra scheduled dives.

Finally, don't forget there will be no Fathoms next month our next edition will be December/January, so make a note in your diaries regarding general meetings etc. See you at the dives.

Your Newsletter Editor for another year,
Keith Jensen.

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

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

NOVEMBER, 1988.

Month Day		PORT PHILLIP HEADS.																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	Sa	10 18	1.2	23 15	1.3	00 49	0.9	13 15	0.9	03 35	0.7	16 13	0.5	06 56	0.9	19 44	0.9	Sa	1
2	Su	11 10	1.3			02 03	1.0	14 08	0.8	04 52	0.7	17 06	0.4	08 01	1.0	20 40	0.9	Su	2
3	M	00 15	1.5	12 00	1.3	03 06	1.1	14 57	0.8	05 57	0.7	17 54	0.2	08 58	1.0	21 31	0.9	M	3
4	Tu	01 08	1.6	12 48	1.4	04 00	1.2	15 44	0.8	06 53	0.7	18 40	0.1	09 50	1.0	22 19	0.9	Tu	4
5	W	01 58	1.7	13 33	1.4	04 49	1.2	16 29	0.8	07 40	0.6	19 26	0.1	10 36	1.0	23 06	0.9	W	5
6	Th	02 46	1.8	14 18	1.4	05 34	1.2	17 14	0.8	08 23	0.6	20 11	0.1	11 20	1.0	23 51	0.9	Th	6
7	F	03 32	1.8	15 04	1.4	06 17	1.2	18 00	0.8	09 03	0.6	20 57	0.1			12 03	1.0	F	7
8	Sa	04 19	1.7	15 51	1.4	07 00	1.2	18 47	0.8	09 42	0.6	21 43	0.2	00 38	0.9	12 46	1.0	Sa	8
9	Su	05 06	1.6	16 44	1.4	07 45	1.1	19 38	0.8	10 25	0.6	22 32	0.3	01 24	0.9	13 34	1.0	Su	9
10	M	05 55	1.5	17 46	1.3	08 34	1.1	20 35	0.8	11 13	0.6	23 24	0.4	02 13	0.9	14 29	1.0	M	10
11	Tu	06 49	1.4	19 00	1.2	09 29	1.0	21 41	0.9			12 09	0.6	03 06	0.9	15 34	0.9	Tu	11
12	W	07 46	1.3	20 23	1.2	10 32	1.0	22 59	0.9	00 23	0.5	13 19	0.6	04 04	0.9	16 51	0.9	W	12
13	Th	08 46	1.3	21 43	1.2	11 41	0.9			01 36	0.6	14 37	0.5	05 11	1.0	18 10	0.9	Th	13
14	F	09 47	1.2	22 53	1.3	00 20	1.0	12 47	0.8	02 57	0.7	15 48	0.5	06 21	1.0	19 20	0.9	F	14
15	Sa	10 42	1.2	23 53	1.3	01 36	1.0	13 44	0.8	04 20	0.7	16 46	0.3	07 31	1.0	20 19	0.9	Sa	15
16	Su	11 32	1.2			02 43	1.0	14 33	0.7	05 33	0.7	17 34	0.3	08 32	1.0	21 07	0.9	Su	16
17	M	00 41	1.5	12 14	1.2	03 35	1.1	15 14	0.7	06 29	0.7	18 14	0.2	09 21	0.9	21 48	0.9	M	17
18	Tu	01 23	1.5	12 51	1.2	04 17	1.1	15 51	0.7	07 12	0.6	18 52	0.2	10 01	0.9	22 26	0.9	Tu	18
19	W	02 01	1.6	13 23	1.2	04 54	1.1	16 24	0.7	07 47	0.6	19 26	0.2	10 35	0.9	23 00	0.9	W	19
20	Th	02 35	1.6	13 55	1.3	05 27	1.1	16 58	0.7	08 20	0.6	20 01	0.2	11 07	0.9	23 34	0.9	Th	20
21	F	03 07	1.6	14 27	1.3	05 59	1.1	17 31	0.7	08 51	0.6	20 35	0.2	11 39	0.9			F	21
22	Sa	03 38	1.5	15 01	1.3	06 30	1.1	18 04	0.7	09 22	0.6	21 08	0.2	00 06	0.9	12 11	0.9	Sa	22
23	Su	04 12	1.5	15 37	1.2	07 02	1.0	18 38	0.8	09 53	0.6	21 40	0.3	00 40	0.9	12 45	0.9	Su	23
24	M	04 47	1.4	16 16	1.2	07 36	1.0	19 14	0.8	10 25	0.6	22 13	0.3	01 13	0.9	13 20	0.9	M	24
25	Tu	05 23	1.4	17 01	1.1	08 11	1.0	19 55	0.8	10 59	0.6	22 49	0.4	01 48	0.9	14 00	0.9	Tu	25
26	W	06 02	1.3	17 57	1.1	08 50	1.0	20 43	0.8	11 38	0.6	23 30	0.5	02 25	0.9	14 47	0.9	W	26
27	Th	06 43	1.3	19 08	1.1	09 33	0.9	21 45	0.8			12 23	0.6	03 06	0.9	15 45	0.8	Th	27
28	F	07 28	1.2	20 25	1.2	10 23	0.9	22 55	0.9	00 22	0.6	13 18	0.5	03 55	0.9	16 51	0.8	F	28
29	Sa	08 20	1.2	21 41	1.2	11 19	0.8			01 26	0.7	14 19	0.4	04 53	0.9	18 00	0.8	Sa	29
30	Su	09 15	1.2	22 52	1.4	00 13	1.0	12 19	0.8	02 45	0.7	15 23	0.3	06 00	1.0	19 07	0.8	Su	30



COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting of the Committee of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group held at 8 Pine Street, Thomastown on 26th August, 1986 at 8.40 p.m.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from A. Mastrowicz.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the Club has the following funds:

Cash on hand	\$ -
Cash at bank	\$ 761.08
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,075.06
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,836.14
	<hr/> <hr/>

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. John Goulding told the Club that he had attended the meeting at Tidal River on the 22nd August. The meeting had been most cordial and there was no conflict between any of the parties in attendance. John noted that the rangers at Tidal River were most sympathetic to the boat owners cause. As a result boats will be allowed to continue to launch from the beach at Tidal River with certain conditions being imposed. John detailed those conditions and advised that these will be put into guidelines and discussed at a further meeting. At that time all parties will agree to the guidelines or agree on further modifications. In due course John will publish these general conditions for notification of all members.

The Committee thanked John for taking the time to attend this meeting on behalf of all divers.

2. John Lawler asked Mick Jeacle a question in regard to the timing of the New Zealand trip in 1988. At this time the month of the trip has not been set and it will be discussed again once more information has been obtained on the best times to dive in New Zealand.

3. Don Abell conveyed Nicky's thanks to the Committee for their assistance in the presentation of the talk by Lawrie Levy. Nicky also past on her personal thanks to those members of the Committee who had made donations toward the "Save the Whale Fund".
4. Mick Jeacle noted that he had previously been given the authority by the Committee to replace a buoy that had been lost on an earlier dive expedition. He asked the Club how much they would be willing to pay for a new buoy and the Club agreed to reimburse Mick \$40.00 towards the replacement.
5. Paul Tipping advised that he had attended the most recent S.D.F. meeting and noted that there had not been a quorum present at the meeting. Paul did not consider that there were any matters of particular interest which should be raised for the Committee's attention.
6. Don Abell presented the draft financial statements of the Group for the year ended 30th June, 1986 and a draft of the Director's Report and Director's Statement to accompanying the financial statements. These statements had previously been distributed to all Committee Members and a number of items on the statements were discussed at the meeting. All those present reviewed the financial statements and attachments in detail.

It was resolved that, in the opinion of the Directors:

- a) The balance sheet was drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year.
- b) The profit and loss account was drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year.
- c) There were reasonable grounds to believe that the company would be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

It was further resolved that Alex Talay and Mick Jeacle, two of the Directors, be and are hereby authorised and instructed to sign the statement to that effect on behalf of the Directors, pursuant to the requirements of the companies (Victoria) Code. It was further resolved that the accounts be adopted as the accounts of the company.

It was further resolved that the report be adopted as the Directors Report. It was further resolved that the same two Directors be and are hereby authorised and instructed to sign the report on behalf of the Directors of the company.

7. The Committee moved a vote of thanks to Tony Harper for his services in performing an honorary audit of the financial statements. The Secretary was requested to forward a letter of thanks to Mr. Harper.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.00 p.m. with a tasty supper arranged by Pam Synon.*

V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

After rare venues by that downtown gourmet Don Abell we have secured exclusive booking to:

Lonsdale Street Bar & Grille
389 Lonsdale Street
(between Elizabeth & Queen Streets)

Fully licensed, drinks at bar prices.

Dinner: Carvery with Salads \$15.00

Friday 19th December at 7.45 p.m.

Book with John Lawler on 569 9851.

NEW ZEALAND OVERSEAS TRIP

by Mick Jeacle

Well everybody here it is! Sixty-four feet of floating gin palace. Surely if you had any reservations at all about the New Zealand trip, the sight of this luxury craft should help make up your mind.

But be quick! To date we have 8 paying members in the overseas investment fund. Whilst there will be no difficulty accommodating say 20 divers at the Bay of Islands, the boat will only sleep 10/12 comfortably. Therefore preference must be given to the first 12 in the savings fund when we sail for the Poor Knights Islands where it is our intention to live aboard for 3/4 days.

So don't delay or you could find yourself babysitting while the rest of us enjoy some of the finest diving New Zealand has to offer.

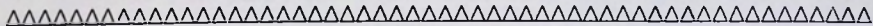


Des Williams has been in contact with John Fitzgerald of Paihia Dive Centre at the Bay of Islands. The plan is to stay at Russell a quiet fishing village situated about 2 kilometres across the water from Paihia. John advises that hire of tanks, weight belts etc. can be arranged and that an air compressor can also be hired for our trip out to the Poor Knights.

The best months to dive the Poor Knights are February, March and April as a plankton bloom is evident during the months of December and January. Accordingly final dates have not yet been decided but it we are to enjoy the best diving it would appear that February will be decided upon.

So come on folks, New Zealand is probably one of the few remaining destinations where you can still get value for the Australian dollar. This promises to be real value as its not too often that our families can join us on the boat. Think of the points you'll rack up towards the next trip!

Watch future issues for more news and remember time passes quickly. ♣



MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

November 1st to 4th.

Camping at Beacon Caravan Park, Queenscliff. Diving at all nearby dive locations depending on weather.

Dive Captain - Paul Tipping. Telephone: 387 2027.

One 6 berth caravan and 5 powered tent sites have been reserved.

First in, first served. Remember it is only two weeks away! Book in now.



PROGRESS REPORT 1986 DOWNLOW MEDAL

by John Lawler

Here we are with September nearly gone and summer just around the corner.

I do not know how you have handled the diving conditions this winter, all I can suggest is it has been the coldest I have experienced - or maybe age has something to do with it!!

Summer will bring an increase in diving and our friends at V.S.A.G. who have been hibernating through winter will surface (pun!?) and become diver active again and so more Downlow points for V.S.A.G.

The Downlow Committee which as you know is made up by myself representing V.S.A.G., Neil McKenzie, President of Marine Divers, Lothar Plos, President of Melbourne Bottom Scratchers and (taking the bias away from clubs), Johnny Gibson, proprietor of John's Dive Shop on St. Kilda Road, St. Kilda.

Our September meeting was held on Monday 22nd and some details follow.

PROGRESS SCORES

INDIVIDUAL DIVES

V.S.A.G.

1st John Lawler
2nd Mick Jeacle
3rd Birtles/Tipping T
4th Scott
5th Reynolds
6th Mastrowicz

31
25 +2
17
16
15
13

MARINE DIVERS

1st Neil McKenzie)
David Wright)
2nd Zyg Poliniak
3rd Russel O'Flynn
4th Les Kriesfeld
5th Isabel McKenzie
6th Sally Davies

60 - 07
60 - 71
42 - 53
34 - 36
27
26
24 - 27

BOTTOM SCRATCHES

1st Eric White
2nd Lothar Plos
3rd John Stevens
4th Brian Counce)
John Milliken)
Glen Murnane)
Tui Murray)

24 - 26
14 - 27
12 - 16
10 -
10 -
10 - 16
10 -

BILL PATTERSON - 20

TOTAL CLUB DIVES

Marine Divers	500	-	530
V.S.A.G.	312	-	
Bottom Scratchers	208	-	253

Within V.S.A.G. the first three places have remained constant. Bobby Scott who has shown a lot of diving consistency of late (when not involved with his pursuit of other "victory's"!!!) has moved into fourth place. Doug moves down to fifth and "Handy Andy" moves down to number six pushing Alex out of the top six.

As I will be overseas for three weeks during which two club dives are programmed "Big M" Jeacle with two dives each can place himself two dives away from the number one place.

As we can see Neil's group have put the foot down and burned ahead to a great lead. This was due mainly to an overseas trip which was naturally a scheduled club dive.

However, V.S.A.G. still have a lot of dives programmed and do not forget we have our Port Lincoln dive during which we have the opportunity to catch up on the (current) leader.

Finally let us review the prizes for the Downlow place getters.

First Prize: A "NEPTUNE" top of the range 7mm Pro "divers ensemble" (we used to call them wetsuits), supplied courtesy of John's Dive Shop and Neptune Aquasuits - value \$380.

Second Prize: An 88 cubic foot alloy cylinder, supplied courtesy of John's Dive Shop and R. Wallace Mitchell - value \$270.

Plus at least 4 runner-up prizes to be provided by the participating clubs, consisting of three 2 dozen packs of beer and one hamper of seafood.

Of course the "Downlow Medal" will be awarded to the diver who records the most club dives.

Good diving - safe diving. *

STANDARD DRESS V.S.A.G.'ERS

by Des Williams

For many years now I have wanted to dive in the traditional "hard hat" equipment, but where does one find such equipment still in working order?

The answer came when Keith Jensen mentioned to my old friend Dick Whitacker, that I would be a starter for his pilot course in Standard Dress Diving.

Dick and Brian of Melbourne Diving Services, have for years wanted to conduct a diving course using the traditional equipment. At last they have got all of the gear together.

During a weekend in July this year, the first course of its kind in Melbourne was run by ex Navy Clearance Diver, Ray Gosper at M.D.S. in Heidelberg.

We were eased into the equipment by firstly doing a dry dress rehearsal on the Friday evening. Then on the Saturday and Sunday we dived in M.D.S. 30 ft deep tank using both a U.S. Navy Mark 5 outfit (CIRCA 1943) and then a Japanese YOKAHAMA dress (CIRCA 1950's).

As you will see by the photographs, M.D.S. were fully equipped with steel cage and winch to lower us to the bottom of the tank. The cage was then raised to the surface after the diver had stepped out on the bottom. For the next half an hour we would adjust our bouyancy by controlling the air valves and exhausts. I recall rising off the bottom like the space shuttle, but managed to dump a load of air before going up too far, then landed with a loud bump on the bottom once again. Finding neutral bouyancy about 10 ft off the bottom and hanging their suspended like a man in space was a great experience.

Both outfits were fitted with radio telephone to the surface which made the dives even more interesting. After 30 minutes, Ray Gosper would say time to come up. The diver then inflated the suit very slowly and controlled the rise to the surface un-assisted. Once on the surface the diver would climb into the cage for the final winch to the floor level of the training room.

All students helped to dress each diver and tend to airlines. There were seven divers in our class, namely:

- Alex Talay
- Des Williams
- Geoff Williams
- Bruce Inasley
- Frank Durksen
- Bob Scott
- Kent Webber

A fantastic experience indeed and we plan to do a sea dive in summer when Dick and Brian can organize all of the necessary equipment. If time allows, I will show a selection of slides taken during the training dives at our September general meeting. *



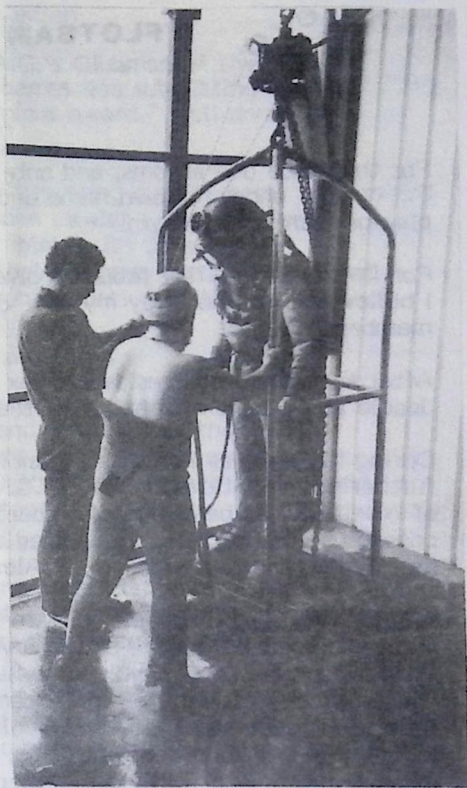
Geoff Williams ready for his first dive.



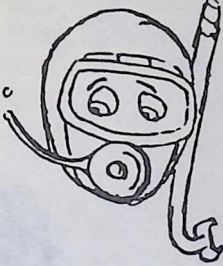
Des Williams being lowered into the drink by Ray Gosper.



Alex Talay kitting up for the plunge.



Des Williams in lifting platform.



FLOTSAM & JETSAM

For this issue of Fathoms, and only for this issue I write this column under my own name and not some half-corny play-on-words pseudonym.

For in this issue I feel proud to give my name to the comments which I believe reflect not only my own views but the general opinion of all members.

After two terms as President, Alex Talay has been replaced by Mick Jeacle as a result of a ballot by the Committee.

During his term as President, Alex has shown sound leadership in furthering the interests of V.S.A.G. and its members. His chairmanship of meetings has been friendly, courteous and his style based on consensus - a word loosely bandied about by our political leaders, but practiced with great wisdom by Alex.

Within any group of people, differences of opinion are bound to occur and in such situations the Chairman/President, must be sensitive to the issues, the people involved and what is best for the Club. In Alex's two years as President potential conflict situations were resolved by Alex with great diplomacy and in all cases the decisions taken were in the very best interests of the Club, because he worked on the basis that teamwork and working together towards Club goals rather than personal ambitions was the right way to go.

To a very unselfish and modest man, I say thank you Alex for a job well done.

May I also wish Mick success in his role as President, and in saying so make the comment, that ever since Mick gained our attention at Refuge Cove with his Archibald joke he and his little mate Alex have been great for this Club.

John Goulding

DECO STOPS

by Keith Jensen

Congratulations to John Lawler, V.S.A.G.'s Clubman of the Year. Johns participation in all our events, camps and submitting articles to Fathoms has earned him our prestigious award. Well done John.

At the last Committee meeting after discussing our financial predicament. Alex Talay presented John Lawler with our Clubman Shield complete with a paper cut out shield with Johns name emblazoned upon it. Alex explained that finances are tight and that austerity measures are needed. For a brief period of time a worried John thought Alex was serious.

Des Williams deserves a pat on the back for his efforts in putting together the Wineries & Pokies weekend. What with the first scheduled weekend cancelled due to the petrol strike, and problems with bookings and cancellations but Des's perserverance finally paid dividends and a tip top weekend eventuated.

Des must have had a word with the man upstairs, as an especially fine and sunny weekend was provided. Peter Brown ensured that the highlights of the vineyard were shown and all its products enjoyed.

Big Mick was overawed at the size of the huge wine vats and commented that they would be ideal for a night dive, especially if they contained Port, Mick!

Tis said that in spring a young mans fancy turns to love and with the balmy spring weather and a few of Brown Bros. wines under his belt young Stan Medhurst was rearing to go. Some thought that he might not even wait until he reached the motel.

Alex's motor yacht has finally arrived, it is the only thing that he can drive for about 6 weeks or so. As a result of that fast trip to Marlo earlier this year Alex is now on shanks pony.

A few keen campers getting ready for Port Lincoln trip already. Deco Stops has heard that Bob Scott has purchased a new tent and camping gear and Julie Williams has told Des that he has to provide better home comforts this year.

While on the subject of camping comforts our new Clubman of the Year has brought a Webber camp oven and is already practicing the art of roasting legs of pork, lamb etc. to ensure that he is well nourished for his Christmas diving. Deco Stops wants to know if you are tired of curries John?

MEDIA WATCH

The Sun, Tuesday, September 23rd, 1986

Time's up for shark

NEW YORK, Mon., AFP — A digital watch in perfect working order could help identify the owner of a severed hand found in a shark's stomach, police at St Petersburg, Florida, said yesterday.

The shark was caught by three students in Tampa Bay, Florida, but police have had no reports of shark attacks in the area.

They said the shark, about 1.5 metres long, was a "black-tip," not a species that usually attacks people.

They thought the partially-digested hand had been swallowed less than 24 hours earlier.

The Herald, Monday
22nd September, 1986.

Reef fence to keep out starfish

BRISBANE, Mon., AAP — Underwater fences will be built on Queensland's Great Barrier Reef this week in an experiment to control the spread of the Crown of Thorns starfish.

Scientists in north Queensland will test various designs of fences, buoyed nets and tangle nets during the week-long program at John Brewer Reef, a popular tourist stop near Townsville.

Conducted by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the tests would determine whether barriers or nets could protect cleared areas of the reef from being reoccupied by other starfish, chairman Graeme Kelleher said.

Divers would observe the starfish around the clock and underwater videos would be used to monitor their reactions to the barriers, he said.

Scientists from James Cook University at Townsville were helping in the experiment, needed to preserve the future of important tourism and scientific areas," Mr Kelleher said.

The tests will follow recent starfish control exercises on Grab Reef, 70 km off Townsville, conducted by divers from the authority and the Royal Australian Navy in July.

BROWN BROS./YARRAWONGA TRIP

by Des Williams

At last, we made it to Milawa and what a very enjoyable time we all had. There were 23 in our group including the lovely Hayes girls Kylie and Belinda, and the vivacious Miss Truscott, as well as our baby Hannah. Visitors to our party were Patricia Smith (friend of the Scotts) and Tony and Raelea Rossi (friend of the Jeacles).

Peter Brown led our group on a very informative tour of the winery, with a detailed commentary and fielding questions as he went. We then moved to a private room to taste some of the magnificent wines produced by Brown Bros. Peter personally hosted the tasting for us, as he ran through an excellent cross-section of their wines. There was plenty of interest in this part of the proceedings and some of our more experienced wine buff members were seen to be swilling wine like constipated rabbits!!

"A cheeky little wine!" and "This one is pregnant with promise", were some of the comments from the show-offs in our group.

Now seriously, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and by this time (2 p.m.) we were well and truly ready to have some lunch. So, we adjourned to the gas barbeque lawn, bathed in magnificent sunshine and very soon we were sipping beer, sizzling steaks and enjoying a very convivial atmosphere.

Peter's wife Jan had joined us as indeed had our old dive mate Alisdair Stewart and his wife Margaret. I can't remember a more relaxing and enjoyable time. Peter took a couple of our group off to see his new toy, an ultra-light aircraft. Bill Hayes returned with his hair re-arranged "punk" fashion saying that Peter had insisted a trial flight was in order.

After purchasing a supply of wines and a little more tasting, we drove to our motel at Yarrowonga which took only forty minutes through some beautiful countryside.

The Capri Waters Motel, has one of the finest settings of any motel around, as it is on a headland on the edge of beautiful Lake Mulwala. The motel itself is now showing its age but was certainly comfortable enough for our one night stay.

Saturday evening our group repaired to the Mulwala Ski Club for a chinese meal and some serious drinking and poker machine playing. A good night was enjoyed by all.

Sunday dawned clear and sunny, so we all left for Melbourne separately. Igor and Stan went via Rutherglen and Beechworth, the Synons' via all the junk shops, the Truscotts' via Val Soulby's, the Hayes via Shepparton. Julie, Hannah and I stopped at Seven Creeks Run at Euroa for a breather.

For those who missed this outing, I strongly suggest you be in it next year as this could easily become an annual event.

My thanks to all those who participated, as we certainly had a very relaxed time in superb weather. Special thanks also to Peter and Jan Brown who saw to it that we enjoyed ourselves. ✿

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

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

DECEMBER, 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	M	10 13	1.2	23 53	1.5	01 31	1.1	13 18	0.7	04 10	0.8	16 33	0.2	07 11	1.0	20 08	0.9	M	1
2	Tu	11 12	1.2			02 40	1.1	14 15	0.7	05 27	0.8	17 19	0.1	08 19	1.0	21 04	0.9	Tu	2
3	W	00 50	1.6	12 09	1.3	03 39	1.2	15 10	0.7	06 29	0.7	18 12	0.0	09 19	1.0	21 57	0.9	W	3
4	Th	01 42	1.7	13 06	1.3	04 31	1.2	16 05	0.7	07 20	0.7	19 04	0.0	10 13	1.0	22 48	0.9	Th	4
5	F	02 32	1.7	14 01	1.4	05 18	1.2	16 57	0.7	08 05	0.6	19 53	0.0	11 03	1.0	23 36	0.9	F	5
6	Sa	03 20	1.7	14 55	1.4	06 04	1.1	17 48	0.7	08 49	0.6	20 42	0.1	11 52	1.0			Sa	6
7	Su	04 05	1.6	15 51	1.4	06 49	1.1	18 41	0.8	09 34	0.5	21 32	0.2	00 23	0.9	12 42	0.9	Su	7
8	M	04 50	1.6	16 49	1.3	07 36	1.0	19 36	0.8	10 23	0.5	22 23	0.3	01 11	0.9	13 36	0.9	M	8
9	Tu	05 35	1.5	17 51	1.3	08 24	1.0	20 33	0.8	11 14	0.4	23 16	0.4	01 59	0.9	14 32	0.9	Tu	9
10	W	06 20	1.4	18 57	1.2	09 15	0.9	21 34	0.9			12 10	0.4	02 48	0.9	15 33	0.8	W	10
11	Th	07 06	1.3	20 08	1.2	10 07	0.9	22 40	0.9	00 12	0.5	13 08	0.4	03 39	0.9	16 38	0.8	Th	11
12	F	07 53	1.3	21 20	1.2	11 00	0.8	23 50	1.0	01 12	0.6	14 07	0.3	04 32	0.9	17 43	0.8	F	12
13	Sa	08 44	1.2	22 25	1.3	11 54	0.7			02 20	0.7	15 04	0.3	05 32	0.9	18 44	0.8	Sa	13
14	Su	09 36	1.1	23 23	1.3	10 59	1.0	12 47	0.7	03 34	0.7	15 58	0.2	06 35	0.9	19 40	0.8	Su	14
15	M	10 24	1.1			02 06	1.0	13 37	0.6	04 49	0.7	16 49	0.2	07 37	0.9	20 31	0.8	M	15
16	Tu	00 13	1.4	11 16	1.1	03 03	1.0	14 25	0.6	05 53	0.7	17 35	0.2	08 34	0.9	21 16	0.8	Tu	16
17	W	00 58	1.4	12 02	1.1	03 50	1.0	15 09	0.6	06 42	0.7	18 17	0.1	09 22	0.9	21 57	0.8	W	17
18	Th	01 38	1.4	12 45	1.1	04 30	1.0	15 51	0.6	07 23	0.6	18 57	0.1	10 04	0.9	22 35	0.8	Th	18
19	F	02 14	1.4	13 27	1.1	05 06	1.0	16 31	0.6	08 08	0.6	19 35	0.1	10 42	0.8	23 11	0.8	F	19
20	Sa	02 40	1.5	14 08	1.1	05 40	1.0	17 09	0.6	08 33	0.5	20 10	0.1	11 20	0.8	23 45	0.8	Sa	20
21	Su	03 21	1.4	14 49	1.2	06 13	1.0	17 46	0.7	09 05	0.5	20 44	0.2	11 57	0.8			Su	21
22	M	03 53	1.4	15 30	1.2	06 45	1.0	18 23	0.7	09 37	0.5	21 17	0.2	00 18	0.8	12 33	0.8	M	22
23	Tu	04 28	1.4	16 13	1.2	07 17	0.9	19 02	0.7	10 09	0.5	21 52	0.3	00 51	0.8	13 11	0.8	Tu	23
24	W	04 58	1.4	17 00	1.1	07 50	0.9	19 44	0.7	10 42	0.4	22 29	0.3	01 25	0.8	13 51	0.8	W	24
25	Th	05 31	1.4	17 54	1.1	08 25	0.9	20 32	0.8	11 19	0.4	23 11	0.4	02 00	0.8	14 36	0.8	Th	25
26	F	06 06	1.3	18 56	1.2	09 03	0.8	21 28	0.8			12 01	0.3	02 38	0.9	15 28	0.8	F	26
27	Sa	06 43	1.3	20 04	1.2	09 21	0.9	22 30	0.9	00 00	0.5	12 46	0.3	03 21	0.9	16 25	0.7	Sa	27
28	Su	07 26	1.2	21 14	1.3	10 32	0.7	23 39	1.0	00 57	0.6	13 39	0.2	04 11	0.9	17 26	0.7	Su	28
29	M	08 20	1.2	22 24	1.3	11 30	0.7			02 05	0.7	14 40	0.1	05 12	1.0	18 32	0.7	M	29
30	Tu	09 22	1.2	23 30	1.4	00 55	1.1	12 34	0.8	03 26	0.8	15 46	0.1	06 24	1.0	19 38	0.8	Tu	30
31	W	10 31	1.2			02 09	1.1	13 41	0.6	04 49	0.8	16 51	0.0	07 40	1.0	20 41	0.8	W	31

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS KEITH

The accompanying photograph shows our V.S.A.G. Fathoms Editor Keith Jensen relaxing aboard his boat between dives in the Port Phillip Heads area.

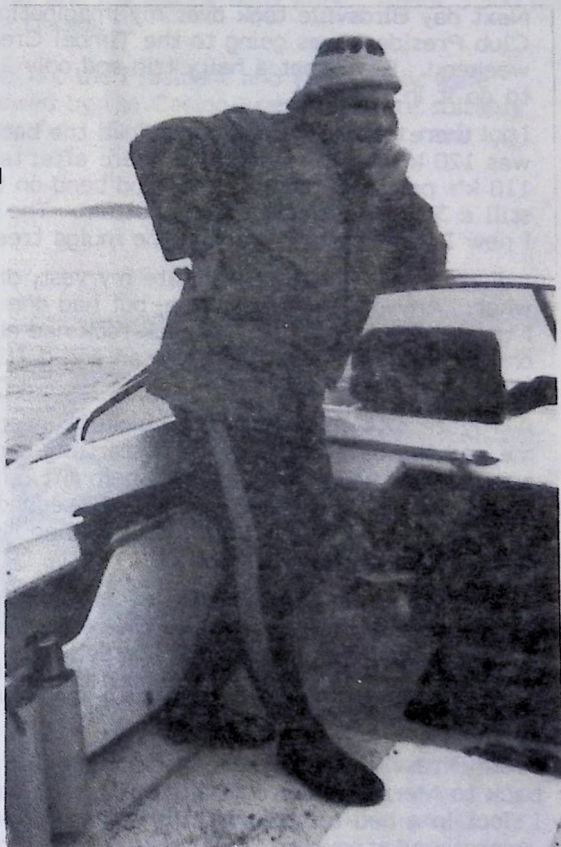
Keith has worked very hard and been totally committed to his position as Editor of Fathoms for the last two years.

Everyone knows that our magazine is one of the most important facets of our Club and we all look forward to receiving our copy by mail.

You have maintained an excellent standard Keith and added your own style without any deliberate intention to focus the spotlight on your efforts. The fact that you received Clubman of the Year Award last year, says it all.

Well done Keith, we have enjoyed every issue of Fathoms during your time as Editor. A true Clubman and asset to V.S.A.G.

Des Williams



September, 1986

The Editor,

I left Melbourne on 1st September and quickly developed hypothermia and by the time Mildura was reached I'd had it. Slippedstreamed behind a bus for the last 250 k's and found it was heading for the Birdsville Races that weekend. After a day in Mildura with friends, Broken Hill was next. There I dived to 450 ft below the surface on an underground mine tour.

Next day Birdsville took over my imagination, particularly as the Club President was going to the Timbel Creek (N.T.) Races the same weekend. Boy, what a hairy trip and only 2 days from Broken Hill to do it in.

I got there via Tibooburra-Innaminka the back way. My first disaster was 120 k's out of Innaminka where after taking a sand dune crest at 110 k's per hour found a left hand bend on the way down and worst still a 3' deep washout at the bottom. The bike hit it and next thing I new I was charging through the mulga trees out of control.

I didn't know whether to inflate my vest, drop my weight belt or what. Anyway I got to a stop, but had one hell of a list to starboard. I turned around to find the pack-rack had aborted the bike save for one connection. The full jerri-can and duffle bag were still secure, but both upside down.

A Toyota 4X4 stopped and the bloke wandered into the bush to inspect me and the bike and came to a startling conclusion, that maybe I had a problem. As he leant over to help lift up the gear, I smelt it. Beer on his breath. He waited at least 40 seconds before asking "would you like a tinny mate", to which I replied "is the Pope a Catholic". Great bloke needless to say.

Birdsville was an experience and a half. Got the pack-rack repaired on the Sunday by Pete the local Mr. Fix It. Whilst there an old Holden wagon rolled in for repairs, but instead Pete offered the owner \$100 for what was left. The owner accepted without much delay (it could only happen in Queensland).

From Birdsville to Marree via the Birdsville track down to Arkaroola back to Marree and onto William Creek, Coober Pedy and Alice Springs. I slept in a bed for the first time since Broken Hill at Coober Pedy, underground of course. Coober Pedy must be seen to be believed.