

FATHOMS

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

EST. 1954



Safety In Diving

INDEPENDENT DIVING FREEDOM

\$2

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Victorian Sub Aqua Group,
Box 2526W,
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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

SEP 1986

VSAG

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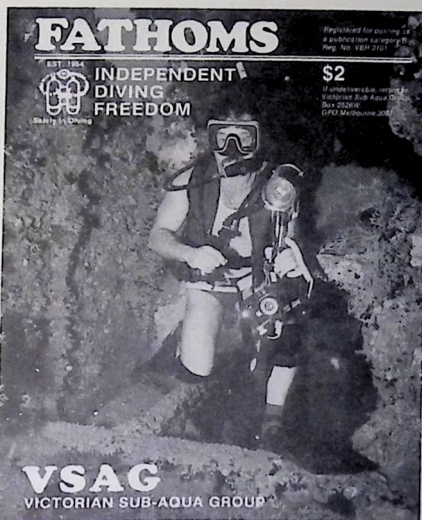
Paul Tipping - 387 2027

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

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SEPTEMBER 1986

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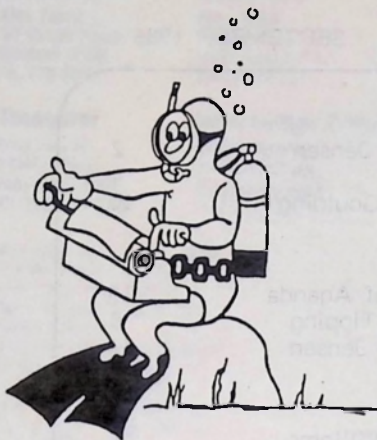
Next general meeting:

Wednesday, September 17th, 1986 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, September 23rd, 1986 8.00 p.m.
Talay Residence,
Unit 1, 3 Wimborne Lane, Chelsea

EDITORIAL



Fathoms is a bit light on content this issue, not because the contributors have been tardy, but as Alex is away in sunny Darwin we are not able to get our photographs reproduced, so the couple of articles complete with photos have been held over till next issue.

Also no S.D.F. of V. report, our delegate Paul Tipping attended the last meeting but the meeting was unable to proceed due to the lack of a quorum. Just shows how apathetic some of the other clubs have become and how interested they are about issues that affect diving. I'll bet they will be the first and loudest to scream when our rights are endangered or limited.

One victory that has been won, and I feel that V.S.A.G. played a major role, is the boat launching issue at Tidal River. We will be allowed to launch our boats at this spot at all times of the year, John Goulding has provided us with a detailed report in this issue of Fathoms.

It is also the time of year when we renew our committee members, all those whose time is up are prepared to stand again, and at the time of writing this editorial we have an additional nomination so an election is necessary. So make sure that you fill out those voting slips and bring them along to the A.G.M. Should you be unable to attend make sure you post them in with sufficient time to reach the mail box.

Over the past two years V.S.A.G. has granted me the honour to be editor of Fathoms, it was with some trepidation that I accepted the post considering the excellent performances of past editors. I have derived pleasure and self satisfaction from the results, but am not egotistical to assume that I did it all on my own. At this point in time I wish to thank all of those who had input in putting together and getting Fathoms to you.

Firstly, to those who regularly contributed articles of interest in particular Des Williams who featured in nearly all issues over the past two years. Other regulars are the scurrilous scribe of Flotsam and Jetsam, Tony Tipping with Tips Tit-Bits, Cameos from Don Abell, Chrissy Johnson and Nicki Abell, dive reports from Mick Jeacle, John Lawler and even Pat Reynolds.

These jottings came in various forms, from well set out and typed to others that were scribbled on order forms from a pharmaceutical company, and it fell to myself and Lyn the typist at Auld Secretarial Services to decipher it all. Lyn has really put in to make our magazine a success, deadlines were always met and her telephone enquiries made sure that items and names were typed correctly.

Organizing the printing, photographs and covers, the kud'os go go Alex Talay, whom when I enquired about difficulties, his reply was always, "jobs right". Picking it up from the printers and posting it out fell to the Truscott family who ensured that it arrived at your home just prior to our general meetings.

To all of the above people on behalf of myself and readers of Fathoms, thank you and hope you continue to support our magazine in future issues.

K. Jensen

WANTED

COVER PHOTO FOR FATHOM'S
GOOD QUALITY UNDERWATER SLIDE
PREFERABLY VERTICAL FORMAT
MUST BE GOOD SHARP FOCUS
SUBMIT TO ALEX TALAY, A.S.A.P.
USUAL FATHOM COVER FEE APPLIES.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee meeting held at Unit 1, 3 Winborne Street, Chelsea, on the 23rd July, 1986 at no specified starting time.

Apologies for non attendance were received from Max Synon, Andy Mastrowicz and Keith Jensen.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary noted that the Club had received an acceptance from Australia Post of the registration of "Fathoms". The Club had also received an invoice from C.I.G. for the rent of the oxygen cylinders.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Cash on hand	\$ 72.00
Cash at bank	\$ 882.10
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,175.06
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 2,129.16
	<hr/> <hr/>

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Don Abell raised the matter of Laurie Levy's talk to the August general meeting of the Club. This meeting is being arranged by Nicky Abell who has requested that the Club consider whether they would be able to make a donation to the Whale Rescue Centre following the August meeting. The matter was generally discussed by the committee members who agreed that the Club had limited funds for this sort of donation. Des Williams told the meeting that he would be unable to attend the August meeting but was very interested in the topic and would donate \$10.00 personally to the Whale Rescue Centre. A number of other committee members also agreed to make personal donations to supplement any donation made by the Club.

2. John Lawler proposed that the Club hold another social function before its Christmas dinner. Mike Jeacle suggested that John consider a train trip as Mike had heard people who had recently attended a similar function and who had had a great evening. John Lawler will investigate this activity and proposes that it be held on the 25th October.
3. John also proposed that the Christmas function be held on Friday 12th December.
4. Des Williams told the meeting that he would be unable to attend the next S.D.F.V. meeting and requested that someone attend in his place. Paul Tipping agreed that he would attend as the Club's S.D.F. delegate.
5. Alex Talay tabled a membership application from Paul Griffiths and noted that Paul was an experienced diver having been diving for approximately 12 months. Paul had recently dived with John Lawler and John told the committee meeting that he considered Paul had dived competently and safely. The committee agreed to accept the membership application and the Secretary was asked to advise Paul accordingly, requesting payment of \$40.00 for a joining fee and annual subscription.
6. The proceedings for the annual general meeting were discussed. Those committee members standing down are Pat Reynolds, Paul Tipping, Mike Jeacle and John Goulding. All members advised that they would stand for re-election to the committee.
7. The next Club magazine would include nomination forms for any persons wishing to nominate for the committee. These nomination forms need to be received by the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the A.G.M. If more nominations were received than vacancies existed a ballot would need to be held. In such a situation, ballot papers need to be distributed to all members 7 days prior to the A.G.M.
8. The August general meeting should appoint a returning officer and two scrutineers to oversee the elections for the committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 p.m. Supper of little boys, pies and pasties from Alex was supplemented by some excellent video films.✱

BOOK REVIEW

by Des Williams

For those of you who have a deep interest in the history of the Port Phillip Heads area, don't go without a copy of "Craft & Craftsman Of Australian Fishing 1870 - 1970" by Garry Kerr of Portland.

The book is an oral, illustrated history of fishing and fishing craft in Australia. The interviews with fishermen are absolutely fantastic reading, presented exactly as they were recorded, with colourful language and seafaring terms.

Some excerpts below display the rugged nature of the early fishermen in Port Phillip.

From Cliff Thwaits (fourth generation fishermen at Queenscliff) . . .

"My Great Grandfather came here from England in 1859. Those days they didn't fish outside the Heads, they could catch all they wanted inside, snapper, whiting, flathead there was plenty of flathead. The problem was marketing them. There were many singlehanded boats and if they had a good catch they would double up - two of them would put their fish in one boat, and row to bloody Melbourne with 'em. Of course if there was wind they would sail, if there wasn't they rowed."

George (JOCCA) Todd's description of fishing boats used at Queenscliff in the 1870's . . .

"In my father's time they had small boats about 13 or 14 foot long, and they used to go outside the Heads after 'couta. They were practically flatbottomed boats and they carried stones or bags of sand for ballast out and then the fish would ballast them on the way home."

Cliff Thwaits again . . .

"Motors came in not long before I started fishing in 1923 . . . They reckoned those days they only needed a motor to save them rowing. See, they had to row a lot when they got becalmed. Several times they had to row back here (Queenscliff) from Torquay. Those boats always had a pair of paddles in them - never without them. We had a pair of paddles when I started, then they got down to one paddle, with the engines they reckoned one would do."

... "Before engines they used to get up early in the morning to catch the tide out the Rip, hours before it was necessary to be there . . . when they were coming home with the sea, the smaller boats would pick up on the sea when rowed and run away on the bigger boats. If they were three or four mile off they'd beat the bigger boats home by half a mile."

It is possible to go on quoting from this unique book, but I am afraid you will have to buy your own copy of you want to learn more of the rough life fishing off our coastline in the early days.

I am sure you will enjoy this solid volume immensely. The price . . . \$27.50. *

V.S.A.G. TENNIS DAY

SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER, 1986

BALNARRING TENNIS COURTS
FROM 10.00 A.M. ONWARDS

FOLLOWED BY -

V.S.A.G. MILE TO BE RUN AT SOMERS

FOLLOWED BY -

BEEF ON A SPIT,
AT THE TIPPING RESIDENCE, SOMERS

FOLLOWED BY -

TONY TIPPING'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

Cost of beef on spit is \$5.00 per person. B.Y.O. salads, grog, soft drinks, chairs etc.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION
PHONE TONY ON 80 4956

TIP'S TIT-BITS

by Tony Tipping

It was a pleasant change to see a non-committee member as Dive Captain on 3rd August, wasn't it? Yes folks, I was it! But then I was also Dive Captain on the 10 days dived last Christmas. So I guess it's hardly a problem task. The point I'm making is that other members should put their names up once in a while - how else can the other members gauge their performance when selecting a future committee. The elections come up this month and there may well be one or two aspiring newer members who would be worth pushing up to committee level, but unfortunately the ones standing down this year are too important and should all be re-elected. That doesn't mean that a couple of others who have had a good go and are not as active as they used to be couldn't volunteer to step down. No names mentioned here but I can think of two (both close friends of mine) who ought to make way for some young blood - otherwise this Club will become too geriatric and eventually just fade away into oblivion.

The dive on 3rd August turned out to be pretty good after a terrible weather forecast - you could not have had a worse one! That's why I switched it from Flinders to Sorrento after checking with Robert Swoffer on Saturday night. We managed to get 3 boats, Robert's, Mick Jeacle's and Keith Jensen's - other divers were Paul Griffiths, Chris Bourier, Paul Tipping, John Lawler, Robert Birtles, his friend Peter and myself. We quickly motored outside the Heads as it was still quite calm then Mick spent about 2½ hours searching for various submarines which we intended diving - unsuccessful, he kept blaming Pat & Alex for the nonsense that went on until after 3.00 a.m. that morning at his place. Poor Annie, I don't know how she puts up with those bloody free loaders all the time!

We soon gave up on account of Mick's deteriorating health and slipped over the side of each boat at Nepean Shelf (outside) right on slack tide. Visibility 20 - 30 feet very little surge or current and the usual impressive spot at 70 - 100 feet. Some of us even caught crays! Back inside Point Nepean for lunch where Mick had gone so far downhill by now that he couldn't even throw a coil of rope accurately - he's no eighteen stone weakling when he throws a wet rope in your face!

The second dive was not enthused by all, only Keith, John and Paul Griffiths bothered to cool off for a feed of abalone near the Point Lonsdale Pier. So Keith said to Paul Griffiths (who previously had logged only nine dives) "if you can dive in that soup you can dive anywhere!"

Thanks again to the boat owners and all those who attended, we finished the day on a rather pleasant note in front of the log fire at the Dromana Pub.

The ski trip (or ski day in my own case) was a beauty once again but loyalty to my mates prevents me from saying what really did go on behind the scenes at Mt. Buller. The snow was excellent and just as I was starting to get into the swing of things at the Apres Ski Venue it was time to go home to Marg - half your luck fellas - mum's the word!

A brief word about the Tennis Day and V.S.A.G. Mile, don't forget it's a Saturday this year. Costs will be up no doubt because Lawler's getting more involved in the catering.

Three famous V.S.A.G. sons Abell, Talay and yours truly celebrate birthdays, that'll be three presents from everyone! Doug-Doug has gone overseas to get a better handicap for next year! All others running in the mile please let me know for your handicap. *



"Next time we pull him up when I say!"

BOAT LAUNCHING AT TIDAL RIVER TO CONTINUE

by John Goulding

The attempt by the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands to prohibit beach boat launching at Tidal River (Wilson's Promontory) during peak holiday periods between Christmas and Easter has been squashed following widespread protests by divers, fishermen and boating industry groups.

In January of this year the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands issued a statement that a conflict was occurring between the use of the Tidal River (Norman Bay) beach by vehicles and trailers to launch and retrieve boats and use by swimmers and sunbathers.

In a typically bureaucratic overkill approach the Department decided that the only way to solve the conflict was to ban the vehicles and boats from the beach.

Interested parties were asked to express views and a total of 132 submissions were received relating to all facets of the Wilson's Promontory Draft Management Plan. Of these submissions 70 related specifically to the boat launching issue and 98% were opposed to the ban on boat launching.

The Department then called a meeting at Tidal River on August 22nd and invited a representative from each of the following interested groups:

Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria,
Victorian Recreation Fishermens Advisory Committee,
Boating Industry Association,
Victorian National Parks Association,
and John Goulding representing the many individuals
who had written in private submissions.

The meeting was held in a congenial atmosphere with representatives of the Department and senior management of the Wilson's Promontory National Park.

The outcome of that meeting is as follows:-

1. Boat launching will continue to be permitted at Tidal River with no restrictions being imposed during peak holiday periods.

2. A gate key will be required for each boat owner with a deposit of \$20.00 being paid on the key, refundable when the key is returned. (The present deposit is \$10.00 - but non return of keys is the reason for the proposed increase in deposit).
3. Each boat owner will be required to provide details of boat and car registration and must agree to conditions relating to access onto the beach:-
 - (i) The key is not transferable.
 - (ii) The access gate must be locked after use.
 - (iii) The speed of the vehicle on the beach will be "walking pace" (presently 10 KPH).
 - (iv) The fee for towing service on the beach will be retained at \$50.00 indexed as appropriate.
 - (v) Vehicles and trailers are to be parked in the designated area of the beach located to the seaward side of the access gate. If that area is full then the boat and trailer must be removed to either the carpark or the camp site.
 - (vi) Vehicles are to be driven as close as possible to the river-bank where the sand is firm.
 - (vii) Vehicles must give way to people at all times.
4. Designated areas will be set aside on the beach where boats maybe launched and retrieved.

There was some debate on this point as tides and surf conditions influence the best site for launching and retrieval. However, on days when large numbers of people are on the beach or are expected on the beach, the rangers will erect moveable markers to designate boat launching/retrieval areas and to warn sunbathers and swimmers to keep clear of the area during such activity.

5. Steel cables for pulling out trailers are totally banned - owing to the potential hazard of these should the cable break.

6. Boat owners will be either advised or perhaps required to carry a long rope to a required strength/breaking strain specification in which to pull out trailers. Should the boat owner not have such a rope, launching will not be prohibited, but the Rangers Office will provide suitable ropes for a small fee if required.
7. Boats in the water will be required to give way to swimmers and surfers, however it was agreed that a boat returning to shore through the surf would not be able to manoeuvre around people in the water. Thus it will be on the onus of the boat driver to avoid people in the water and to operate his boat in accordance with the Motor Boat Regulations.

The signs on the beach at the launch/retrieval areas will warn people of the dangers associated with swimming or surfing in the area reserved for boats.

8. A ranger will be stationed on the beach at certain times during peak holiday periods - however boat launching and retrieval will not be limited to the patrolled times.
9. Permanent signs will be erected at the boat access gate and at least one other major walking access path to the beach advising beach goers of likely vehicle/boat activity on the beach.
10. Consideration will be given to imposition of penalties other than loss of key for vehicle/boat drivers/owners who infringe any of the conditions.

Following this meeting the Department will draft new guidelines for boat launching as agreed to at the meeting, whereupon the group will meet again to modify or ratify the guidelines, so that the whole issue can be introduced by December 1st.

The outcome of this issue was a victory for commonsense, and it will only be by commonsense, patience and courtesy on the part of boat users that will ensure that our freedom to launch boats at this place will continue.

An interesting aspect of the meeting was that representatives from the Department and the management at Tidal River were opposed to the ban and whilst officially documented complaints were few, there have been a growing number of verbal complaints made to the rangers particularly about seemingly reckless behaviour of vehicle and boat drivers.

It is in our interests to be aware of the sensitivity of this issue and to think ourselves lucky that rangers like Steve Voros (our old friend from Refuge Cove) and Scott Campbell (Head Ranger Tidal River) took a level headed approach on this matter.

My thanks to Don Abell and Paul tipping who prepared the very influential V.S.A.G. submission and to other members who wrote in individual submissions. ✿

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

TIDE TABLE, PORT PHILLIP.

OCTOBER, 1986.

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

DECO STOPS

by Keith Jensen

Deco Stops attempts to keep up with the storks visits to club members. One we missed recently was the arrival of Ashleigh Swoffer, Desiree and Robert are delighted with the arrival of a sister for Emmaline.

New diver Paul Griffiths getting into the water on every chance available. Bob Scott remarked that, "you can tell that Paul is very new to diving as he still puts the inserts into his fins after each dive."

Tales that have been told about the snow trip seem hard to believe, especially when we know that V.S.A.G. members act with discretion and decorum, but Deco Stops wants to know the following:-

Who made the late night raid on the fridge, cooked and ate the fish and replaced the bones on a plate back in the fridge?

Was it the same ravenous person who eats womens stockings?

And was it Doug who mis-cued on the billiard table or did he pot a few?

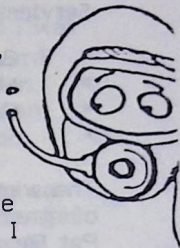
Not many divers turning up these winter months, seems that we are starting to feel the cold, Alex is off to Darwin, John Lawler to Club Med in Tahiti and Doug is off overseas for a short while.

We all enjoyed Laurie Levy's talk on Whale Rescue at the August general meeting. Poor Laurie did not know what he was letting himself in for when he asked, "are there any questions?" As we all know our legal eagle Paul Tipping can take some time to propound a question, on this occasion it was a conservative 4 minutes. Laurie's reply to Paul, "what was the question?"

Hard acts to follow, recent 40 th birthday party by "Big M" and subsequent going away party by Doug saw copious amounts of FREE BEER being quaffed at a great rate. Tony's 40th birthday should really be something great as we all know how competative Tony is and how he hates to be beaten.

HELP

FLOTŞAM & JETSAM



Talk about a well orchestrated Presidential re-election campaign. Two year President, Alex Talay is coming to the end of his second successful term as our leader, and whilst I have no idea as to whether or not Alex will stand again for President, his publicity is certainly doing a great job in giving him a high profile.

Why! Last month gazing out at us on page 7 of Fathoms was President Alex complete with hard hat, grinning like a cheshire cat and showing the true macho spirit of divers of old, by commenting how practical the full hard hat diving suit is, in that it allows the wearer to knock off a stubby or two if they are placed at strategic points within the suit and connected into the helmet by means of a long straw.

As if this wasn't going a bit to the extreme what about his other major headline grabbing stunt by popping along to the Boat Show and purchasing one of the fabulous LEEDER cabin cruisers.

Now I'd never heard of Leeder boats until Geoff Birtles announced the arrival of his 21 footer. "But jeez Geoff!", exclaimed Alex, "it hasn't even got a bloody stove. How will I keep the boys' soup warm?" So good old Alex whose done his fair share of anchor pulling for all of us has bought himself a 23 footer complete with stove, dunny, shower and cop this . . . a flamin' telephone.

So now when my dear Murgatroyd is pacing the floor boards waiting for me to arrive home from a dive to do the ironing, I'll now just call her on Alex's phone and tell her to start without me!

No doubt Alex's boat will overshadow all others in the Club so I've decided to provide new services on my little dinghy to attract those people who still have the spirit of adventure and seek the excitement of venturing to sea in small ships.

Services to be provided at no charge include:-

- * Bailing out the bilge.
- * Manning the oars (or is it whores?).
- * Grinding the winches (or is it wenches?).
- * Splicing the mainbrace.

The winter months have seen this diver hang up his wetsuit in pursuit of other pleasures. It was my good fortune to join Doug Catherall, Pat Reynolds, Igor Chernishov, Anthony Finnegan, Jim Turner and President Alex for 6 days at Mount Buller for some fabulous skiing amongst brilliant sunshine.

Murgatroyd and the billy lids came up for 3 days but lack of baby sitter volunteers (don't blame you guys) forced her into early retirement from the slopes.

Amazing to see Finnegan who'd never been on ski's before tackle the slopes with great gusto. Finnegan who had been so unkindly given the nickname earlier this year of IN-AGAIN FINNEGAN is now known as TREE BENDER.

Igor displayed considerable balancing skill by never going out skiing without eating 3 helpings of food and attaching to various parts of his body at least 3 cameras and 40 rolls of film.

Don't miss out on Igor's snow films at the September general meeting.

Jim Turner and Doug Catherall tried really hard and also managed to get in quite a bit of skiing. Although I think Doug may have won an uphill battle as well.

Pat and Alex - the odd couple, seemed to cope quite well with the rest of us guys sharing their bunk room. As most of us know Pat and Alex have been a twosome on many trips away in recent years and I guess Pat must be looking pretty good right now to be appointed permanent leading hand on Alex's new boat.

As for me - well I did my normal thing - kept decorum amongst the lads and created good relations with the chef and the lodges other guests!

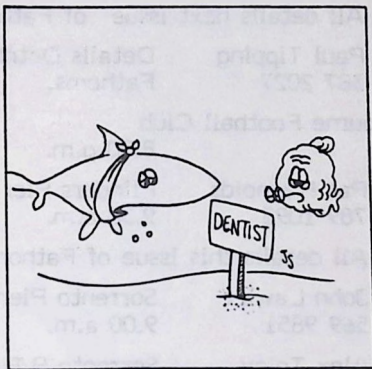
I dropped in to see Captain Reg Truscott the other day when I was wandering through Port Franklin I'm sure Reg is looking forward again to seeing us next Australia Day down at the Prom - even though he did say - he'd rather sell his boat than have us aboard again.

Murgatroyd met him for the very first time - and Reg, if you can still read - she thought you were most charming and much younger looking than your photographs indicated. Shows you how bloody stupid women are!

Well that's Flotsam & Jetsam for another issue - not so regular as they used to be (thank Christ you say) - but then neither am I.

Don't forget the September general meeting is the annual general meeting and committee elections will be held.

Signed MUSTAF AGANDA
(-The Indian Pervert)



"I think I need some offshore drilling!"



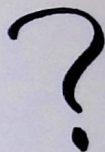
"You said we'd dive near an old wreck. I didn't know it was your mother-in-law."

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 1986

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
Sept 14	Wreck Dive "George Kermode"	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Flinders Jetty 9.30 a.m.
Sept 17	Annual General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club 8.00 p.m.		
Sept 20	Wineries & Pokies Weekend	Des Williams 551 3201	
Oct 5	Wreck Dive "Milora"	Alex Talay 772 3085	Sorrento B/Ramp 9.30 a.m.
Oct 15	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club 8.00 p.m.		
Oct 19	Charter Boat Dive	Paul Tipping 387 2027	Sorrento Pier 9.00 a.m.
Oct 25	Fun Bus Night	All details next issue of Fathoms.	
Nov 1 to 4	Camp at Apollo Bay Melbourne Cup Weekend	Paul Tipping 387 2027	Details October Fathoms.
Nov 19	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club 8.00 p.m.		
Nov 16	Reef Dive, Flinders	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	Flinders Pier 9.30 a.m.
Nov 22	Tennis Day & V.S.A.G. Mile	All details this issue of Fathoms	
Dec 7	Charter Boat	John Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento Pier 9.00 a.m.
Dec 14	Dive & Social Barbeque	Alex Talay 772 3085	Sorrento B/Ramp 10.00 a.m.
Dec 17	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club 8.00 p.m.		
Dec/Jan	Christmas Camp Port Lincoln	Des Williams 551 3201	Details June Fathoms.

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

Looking for diving adventure



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISLE OF PINES

SOLOMON ISLANDS

PHILIPPINES

MALDIVE ISLANDS

FIJI

VANUATU

GREAT BARRIER REEF, MADANG, TRUK LAGOON, PHILIPPINES, ISLE OF PINES, 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.

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