

FATHOMS

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

EST. 1954



**INDEPENDENT
DIVING
FREEDOM**

Safety in Diving

\$2

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Victorian Sub Aqua Group,
Box 2526W,
GPO Melbourne 3001*



VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

AUG / SEP 87

VSAG

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FATHOMS



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Registered for printing as
a publication operated by
Reg. No. 999 2107

S2

Published monthly, except the
September, July, August, March,
April, October,
1993, Melbourne 3007



VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

COVER STORY: VSAG diver Alex Talay along with proprietor of Melbourne Dive Services, Dick Whittaker, seen diving the famous Lady on the Wreck of the President Coolidge. This photo was taken by Keith Jensen whilst visiting the Island of Espirito Santo, Vanuatu 1983.

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

VSAG is committed to the preservation of independant diving freedom. It believes that divers must take a responsible attitude toward the protection and preservation of the marine environment but as a general rule is opposed to legislative measures that place prohibitive limitations and restrictions on diving activities.

Local diving is organised on a bi-monthly basis, generally out of participating member's boats. This is supported by weekend camps, charters to more remote locations and annual overseas trips. The club has a considerable investment in diving equipment.

Regular functions provide an opportunity for members, friends and families to socialise. Each month VSAG meets at North Melbourne Football Club where bar facilities are available prior to and after the General Meetings. Visitors are very welcome - smart casual wear essential.

FATHOMS

Official journal of the Victorian Sub—Aqua Group

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Next general meeting:

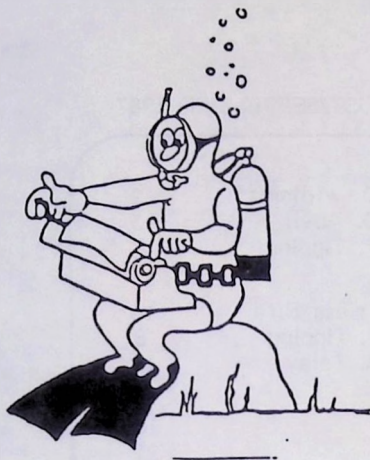
Wednesday, August 19th, 1987 8.00 p.m.
(Film Night on New Zealand) &
Wednesday, September 16th, 1987 8.00 p.m.
(A.G.M.) at North Melb. Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, August 25th, 1987 8.00 p.m.
Synon Residence.
Tuesday, September 22nd, 1987 8.00 p.m.
Jeacle Residence.

Editorial submissions to: "The Editor" Fathoms C/- 3 Anita Avenue, Dingley, Vic, 3172

EDITORIAL



I wonder how many people have enjoyed diving the wreck of the "Eliza Ramsden" over the years, and how many in the future will see this spectacular wreck. The "Ramsden" is famous for its intact clipper bow which towers over the divers who visit her on slack water.

It has recently become general knowledge that one day this wreck will be blasted into oblivion by the Ports and Harbours Department, as the vessel is smack in the middle of the main shipping lane. As ships which visit our port of Melbourne get larger, the likelihood of the "Ramsden" being blown up becomes a real possibility. In fact, she could go today, tomorrow or even yesterday.

Whilst the threat of her destruction is not good grounds for a State Declaration of her as an Historic Shipwreck, the fact that she is an educational, recreation and certainly historic shipwreck is in itself sufficient for her to be Declared.

Should the "Eliza Ramsden" ever be declared Historic, it would not totally protect her from removal by dynamite, as the Ports & Harbours could over-ride the Historic Declaration if it meant a threat to the shipping flow to Melbourne. But, such Declaration would mean notice would have to be given before she was dynamited, thus giving time for the wreck to be documented on film or even moved bodily out of the way and preserved.

So, if you feel strongly about the possible over-night loss of the "Ramsden", why not drop a line to the Minister for Planning & Environment, Mr. Jim Kennan, asking him to consider the vessel for declaration as an Historic Shipwreck because she is so popular with divers.

Des Williams

COMMITTEE NEWS - MAY & JUNE 1987

Minutes of May meeting held at Don Abell's Burwood home on 26th May, 1987.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting, copies of which had been distributed to all committee members, were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary tabled the inward correspondence which consisted mainly of commercial dive literature and magazines from other clubs. The inward correspondence also included a letter requesting information on our dive club for a students school project. Alex Talay agreed to respond to the request. There was notice from the National Australia bank that our term deposit currently stood at \$1,270 and a bill from the Herald and Weekly Times in regard to the funeral notice for Keith Jensen.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 1,275.31
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,175.06
	\$ 2,450.37
	\$ 2,450.37

The following bills were held for payment:

Herald and Weekly Times	\$ 19.25
-------------------------	----------

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Secretary suggested that the committee consider holding a dinner for members and wives. There is general consensus to this suggestion and it was agreed that possible locations would be discussed at the June committee meeting. The Social Secretary was absent from the meeting and is to be informed on his return.

Des Williams advised that we would require a projector for the July meeting as we have a guest speaker who will be showing some slides of interest.

Des also thanked all contributors to the current Fathoms magazine and advised that the magazine will be one of the largest issues of recent times.

Des also advised that the Maritime Museum at Queenscliffe is open and suggested that V.S.A.G. support the museum. John Goulding suggested that we may visit it after a dive in the Queenscliffe area.

Des also reviewed the postage changes for the registration of the Fathoms magazine. Des is to look into this matter further before advising the committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18 p.m. Nicki provided a delicious "feast" to round off the evening.

Minutes of June meeting held at John Goulding's Box Hill home on 23rd June, 1987.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mick Jeacle and Des Williams.

VISITORS:

The acting President welcomed Marie Goulding as a visitor to the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting, copies of which had been distributed to all committee members were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary noted that the Club had received subscriptions from two members and a confirmation of the registration of Fathoms by Australia Post. Other incoming correspondence consisted of advertising material and magazines from other dive clubs.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported the the Club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 918.22
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,270.26
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,188.48
	<hr/> <hr/>

There were no bills held for payment.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Secretary noted that consideration would need to be given to the election for vacancies on the committee. It was noted that all procedures for the election would have to be finalised at the July committee meeting to ensure that they were dealt with in the August issue of Fathoms. Matters to be discussed were:

- who was to stand down, who is available for re-election, nomination forms to be placed in the next issue of Fathoms and to be returned 14 days prior to the September meeting.

John Goulding asked whether it would be possible to have the members vote at the Annual General Meeting to remove the formalities in regard to the distribution of financial statements to members. Paul Tipping and Don Abell both noted that the requirement to distribute accounts is a provision of the company's legislation and is not a constitutional requirement of the Club. Paul also suggested that the Club has a relatively informal existence due to early dispositions made in favour of the Club by the Corporate Affairs Office, however, Paul would duly consider the legalities of the question.

John Goulding then suggested that perhaps it was good to uphold the standards of documentation to ensure that future committees were required to make similar disclosures to those currently made.

John Goulding suggested that it may be possible for the Club to place an advertisement in an issue of Sports Diver at no cost. This would be done in conjunction with the magazines listing of dive clubs available in each state for divers to join and pursue their sport. John has contact with the editor of the magazine and will make contact to determine whether such an advertisement is possible, if so he will make the necessary arrangements.

Alex Talay tabled a nomination for membership from Tony John. Alex noted that Tony had dived with committee members on a number of occasions and that no problems had been noted during these dives. Although Tony is only recently qualified he has been diving for some time prior to the formal qualification. The nomination for membership was passed by the committee and the Secretary requested to formally advise Tony of the acceptance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.53 p.m.

V.S.A.G. SOCIAL NIGHT

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST, 1987

FILM & SLIDE EVENING
AND
SPIT ROAST AT

"THE GREAT HALL"

Barry Truscott has made the nearly completed family mansion available to V.S.A.G. members and friends to hold a Film & Slide Night in "The Great Hall".

So all you budding A1 Giddings & Colemans here's your chance to "Strut you Stuff" at our Film & Slide Night.

Any person who has slides, film, pictures, memoirs, please bring them along. All contributions are welcome.

The famous John Lawler Spit Roast will provide hot succulent roast beef at a nominal price of \$5.00 per head.

All you need to bring: Refreshments, Chairs, Glasses, & Esky.

DATE: Saturday 22nd August.

TIME: 5.30 p.m.

ADDRESS: Lot 4, Dandenong/Hasting Road, South Cranbourne.
1000 metres on left heading south from
Cranbourne/Frankston Road intersection.

* Barry asks those wishing to avoid driving home after a few drinks to bring your own bedding & Li-Lo to stay overnight.

MINUTES OF S.D.F.-V. MEETING - 2ND JUNE, 1987

Attended by Paul Tipping for V.S.A.G.

Apologies: Various (10 delegates in attendance).

General Business:

There is a suggestion of lobbying by professional fishermen for the imposition of controls by government on amateur fishing. The Department of Conservation spokesman contacted on this, indicated that there is no present proposal to limit the activities of amateurs. S.D.F.-V.'s advice to affiliated clubs is to be aware of a potential difficulty. Contact will be maintained with people who have proved helpful in the Department.

Only 19 people attended the recent S.D.F.-V. Seminar at Scotch College. Despite the difficulties with some late notices to clubs, people who attended the last S.D.F.-V. meeting were in a position to inform members. Michael Vize expressed disappointment at the failure to patronize the seminar.

A meeting on 24th June at 8.00 p.m. is being held by the Cardinia Boat Club at Dandenong City Hall and will be addressed by the Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands, Ms. Joan Kirner. The theme of the meeting will enable anglers to advance arguments to the Minister on issues relating to marine fishing interests as well as to put questions to her.

Port Phillip Safety Council has been pushing for licensing of private boat owners and is still active in pursuing this aim.

There are unfilled positions of Secretary and Administration Officer on the S.D.F.-V. management cell. Michael invited clubs to consider providing volunteers to fill the vacancies. Michael may be contacted on 783 2023 if anyone is interested. He emphasised that matters were becoming quite serious with current levels of apathy being comparable to the near-disaster of three years ago. He stressed that the workload of typing minutes and attending to correspondence was not great, but was too much if not spread around.

Currently affiliated, fully paid-up clubs number eleven while 30 remain on the books.

Meeting ended 9.32 p.m. Next meeting on 4th August, 1987 at North Melbourne Football Club.

TIP'S TIT-BITS

by Tony Tipping

Hot on the heels of one election campaign (no Max, I didn't vote Labor again, nor the Libs for what it's worth) looms the choice of a new V.S.A.G. Committee. This year more than any in the past decade our Club is at the crossroads mainly because the majority of the members are getting older and less enthusiastic about getting wet in a Victorian winter - the average age of members being near enough to forty. (The above applies to myself too, incidentally).

Congratulations must go out to all the present committee members - they have done a fine job collectively and looking back particularly over the past ten or fifteen years there has been excellent, spirit within this Club. But some of you shouldn't wait to be pushed - no names mentioned, you got my bag full of hot air last year, as to who I think should step down - three new faces including a female are essential in my opinion. What I'm attempting to do is motivate newer members to stand for the September elections i.e. those who have benefitted from being part of V.S.A.G. and think that it's time they put a bit back into it with a few fresh ideas, particularly with regard to bringing in a few new younger members, females included.

Darrell Whitehill stood unsuccessfully last year - unfortunately to be beaten by several long term committee members all in the twilight of their diving careers. I certainly hope you have another go Darrell, along with the like of Jeanette Large, Igor Chernichov and hopefully a few other aspirants. For those wondering why I won't be standing, I'll just point out that after seven years on committee I realized I was getting stale and besides I'm still happy to organize a Christmas Trip, a Tennis Party or even write for "Fathoms".

Speaking of recruiting new members this year, two that spring to mind are Ross Luxford and Tony John, both outgoing personalities with a touch of ratbaggery about them - funny how V.S.A.G. seems to attract that element. Incidentally fellas if you haven't been warned don't take this column too seriously, if I tip the bucket it's all done tongue in cheek. That Luxford, does he still talk underwater? Can't wait to buddy up with him to find out! As for Tony John, he's a little more cautious, obvious legacy of resulting past beltings from his beloved Sheila - I'd do anything for a belting from Sheila!!!

I'm writing this the day Johnno cancelled the scheduled Pinnacles dive - just as well it's wet, windy and miserable outside. At this stage though he intends rolling over the dive to next Sunday or whenever conditions prevail - a good idea. Why not always do this particularly if it's a dive we don't often plan, besides Johnny Lawler has been trying to get on the Pinnacles for five years - every time it's been planned bad weather has intervened and the trip is scrubbed for another year.

Congratulations to Don Abell regarding his new appointment at Touche Ross. If you get the double this year Don by grovelling your way to the V.S.A.G. Presidency (a position in your sights now for some time) I'll certainly be happy to present you with a carton of gravel rash ointment and a pair of gold embroidered knee-pads at the October meeting.

As usual the highlight of the Social Calendar will again be the Tennis Party at Somers on Saturday 21st November. No surprises and I hope no fortieth birthday celebrations this year to take the gloss off what has been the longest running family outing in the Club's history. Just let me issue one warning regarding the V.S.A.G. Handicap Mile: I don't intend relinquishing the Veteran's title without a fight; nor does Big Mick re the singles!

Christmas '87 at Byron Bay is all signed and sealed although the camp manager assures me that if we do have any late inclusions make sure he knows by the end of August - fewer tent sites this year with the addition of new tennis courts and a nine hole golf course. I'm especially looking forward to the reaction when Mr. & Mrs. Alex and Pat Talay arrive at the camp!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not paid your Annual Subscription Fees by now, please mail your remittance immediately to our Treasurer, V.S.A.G., P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001.

Your Club needs your support and of course to be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting in September you must be a financial member.

TIDE TABLES

 PORT PHILLIP HEADS
 TIDAL STREAM CHANGE
 AUGUST

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

 Lat 38°18' S Long 144°37' E Time Zone—1000
 TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

AUGUST — 1987

	START OF		FLOOD	START OF		FLOOD
	FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB	
1 Sa	00:45	06:40	01:37	07:45	16 Su	01:37
2 Su	01:22	12:49	02:21	13:40	17 Mo	02:21
3 Mo	02:01	13:58	03:05	14:17	18 Tu	03:05
4 Tu	02:44	15:14	03:50	15:30	19 We	03:50
5 We	03:32	16:30	04:39	16:16	20 Th	04:39
6 Th	04:26	17:46	05:35	17:15	21 Fr	05:35
7 Fr	05:28	19:02	06:40	18:32	22 Sa	06:40
8 Sa	06:36	20:18	07:48	19:49	23 Su	07:48
9 Su	07:48	21:34	08:45	20:56	24 Mo	08:45
10 Mo	08:51	22:50	09:31	21:48	25 Tu	09:31
11 Tu	09:49	24:06	10:10	22:31	26 We	10:10
12 We	10:42	25:22	10:45	23:08	27 Th	10:45
13 Th	11:32	26:38	11:19	23:43	28 Fr	11:19
14 Fr	12:19	27:54	11:53	24:17	29 Sa	11:53
15 Sa	13:01	29:10	12:25	24:50	30 Su	12:25
			12:59	25:22	31 Mo	12:59

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1	0353	1:30	9	0355	0:17	16	0658
SA	0928	0:37	SU	1138	1:30	MO	1810
	2208	0:37	SU	1648	1:51	MO	2343
2	0436	1:33	10	0505	0:15	17	0546
SU	1641	1:45	MO	1757	0:67	MO	2337
	2240	0:32		1757	0:67		2337
3	0523	1:34	11	0015	1:30	18	0633
MO	1044	0:51	TU	1331	0:11	TU	1753
	2315	0:28	TU	1650	0:52		2337
4	0524	1:35	12	0124	1:39	19	0017
TU	1744	1:37	WE	1417	1:56	WE	1284
	2354	0:23	WE	1954	0:38		1829
5	0710	1:34	13	0225	1:48	20	0100
WE	1821	1:32	TH	2046	0:26	TH	1323
				2046	0:26		1909
6	0940	0:21	14	0320	1:54	21	0161
TH	1300	0:76	FR	1537	1:59	FR	1426
	1908	1:27	FR	2134	0:16		2005
7	0136	0:19	15	0410	1:56	22	0253
FR	1404	0:83	SA	0849	0:35	SA	1028
	2012	1:23	SA	2217	0:11		2415
8	0242	0:18	23	0402	0:34	30	0337
SA	1030	1:35	SU	1708	0:74	SU	1914
	1526	0:64	MO	2231	1:02		2415
9	0342	0:18	24	0402	0:34	31	0402
	1030	1:35	MO	1708	0:74	MO	1608
	1526	0:64	MO	2231	1:02		2415

**PORT PHILLIP HEADS
TIDAL STREAM CHANGE**

SEPTEMBER

	START OF		DAY	START OF	
	FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB
1 Tu	01:34	07:44	16 We	02:24	08:36
2 We	02:17	08:27	17 Th	03:05	09:17
3 Th	03:04	09:14	18 Fr	03:51	10:04
4 Fr	03:58	10:09	19 Sa	04:45	11:03
5 Sa	05:01	11:14	20 Su	05:52	12:22
6 Su	06:13	12:33	21 Mo	07:03	13:40
7 Mo	07:27	13:51	22 Tu	08:07	14:57
8 Tu	08:34	15:08	23 We	09:58	16:31
9 We	09:34	16:25	24 Th	11:27	18:04
10 Th	10:28	17:41	25 Fr	12:58	19:27
11 Fr	11:15	18:57	26 Sa	14:24	20:51
12 Sa	11:57	20:14	27 Su	15:51	22:15
13 Su	12:34	21:31	28 Mo	17:21	23:40
14 Mo	13:08	22:48	29 Tu	18:56	25:06
15 Tu	13:41	24:05	30 We	20:32	26:33

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

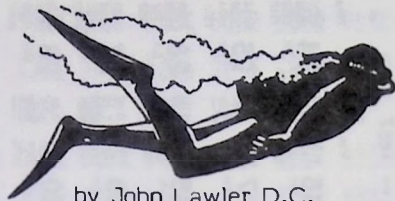
Lat 38°18' S Long 144°37' E Time Zone—1000

TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

SEPTEMBER — 1987

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m				
1	0503	1.38	9	0319	1.48	16	0553	1.48	24	0026	1.21
TU	1638	1.41	WE	1305	1.45	WE	1120	1.40	TH	0623	0.47
	2242	0.21		1841	0.35		2334	0.24		1850	0.44
2	0552	1.44	10	0122	1.50	17	0535	1.36	25	0113	1.33
WE	1103	0.62	TH	0549	1.31	TH	1159	0.66	FR	0705	0.47
	2323	0.21		1334	0.25		1742	1.25		1324	1.36
3	0144	1.39	11	0217	1.60	18	0016	0.32	26	0155	1.45
TH	1747	1.32	FR	1038	0.34	FR	1243	0.73	SA	1357	1.41
				2021	0.14		1825	1.16		1952	0.29
4	0010	0.22	12	0305	1.66	19	0105	0.30	27	0238	1.54
FR	1232	0.76	SA	0850	0.38	SA	1341	0.78	SU	1431	1.45
	1841	1.27		2103	0.05		1927	1.08		2023	0.24
5	0109	0.25	13	0350	1.65	20	0008	0.45	28	0319	1.60
SA	1335	0.31	SU	0931	0.44	SU	1506	0.79	MO	0638	0.52
	2001	1.22		2142	0.08		2048	1.03		1505	1.46
6	0219	0.28	14	0432	1.63	21	0324	1.63	29	0401	1.61
SU	1409	0.60	MO	1009	0.40	MO	1630	1.15	TU	0903	0.46
	2133	1.21		2219	0.11		2219	1.03		1538	1.49
7	0339	0.30	15	0512	1.55	22	0437	1.63	30	0444	1.58
MO	1628	0.71	TU	1043	0.54	TU	1137	1.18	WE	1600	0.53
	2302	1.27		2255	0.17		2328	1.10		1670	0.52
8	0455	0.20	16	0628	1.52	23	0535	0.48	31	0535	0.48
TU	1214	0.58	WE	1618	1.32	WE	1618	1.32		1618	1.32
	1741	1.38		2323	0.23		2323	0.23		2323	0.23

"GEORGE KERMODE" PHILLIP ISLAND



by John Lawler D.C.

Sunday 21st June was one out of the box and almost perfect for our journey over to Phillip Island to the site of the "George Kermode" Wreck.

The "George Kermode" is probably one of the best wreck dives available to Victorian divers.

She lies in approximately 20 metres of water, is open enough for penetration diving and the depth allows for lengthy exploration of the old dredge.

We had a great turn out of V.S.A.G. Divers, the best we've had for some time.

Alisdair Stewart was down from Wangaratta - an all too rare visit from our country friend.

We also had the pleasure of an international diving guest from Japan. Kyoishi Tanaka is a P.A.D.I. instructor on holidays down-under. It seems he was diving over in W.A. without underwater camera. (What, a Japanese with no camera I hear you say?!!) He was so fascinated with the playful seal there, wanted to get some on film.

We obliged by putting him in very clear water at Seal Rocks and I would say half of Japan has probably seen the Aussie seals by now!

At the "Kermode" dive site Mike Slorach had his diving club in the water so we waited until they completed their dive and moved on.

Over the side and down the line the wreck was visible from around 50 feet. Great visibility hardly any swell, magic diving.

Warren Cannan wasted no time in exploring the timbers and aided by Bob Scott and yours truly extracted a fine male cray. Someone said it had Jeacle's name on it, but that's the luck of the game.

Daryl Whitehill has dived this wreck a few times and he claimed it the best dive he'd had . . . all would agree it was a buzz.

After a break for lunch we headed back to the western port channel for more diving.

Some chose the area below the golf course to dive and Daryl, Bob Scott and I did a drift.

Warren Cannan could not miss on this day and ended up with additional crays in the bag.

The rest of us saw none, or left what we caught being female in berry.

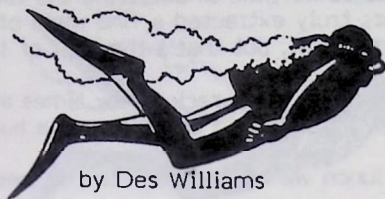
Boats out, the thirsty divers headed for the Flinders Watering Hole, whilst the rest headed for home . . . all except Kyoishi that is - he had a shower and a meal and drove Direct to Mount Gambier to dive the caves!!

Thanks to Mick, Scottie and Ross Luxford for providing the boats for yet another great V.S.A.G. dive.

THANKS TO IAN LEWIS

At our July 15th general meeting, we were entertained by Ian Lewis who took us on adventure in the sink holes of Mount Gambier. Ian's collection of underwater slides of the various caves were certainly magnificent viewing. Thank you for your time Ian and we hope you will return another times to tell us of your diving in U.S. sink holes and the ocean blue holes of the Caribbean.

THE PINNACLES DIVE



by Des Williams

If you thought diving in mid winter was only for the penguins, then you should have been with the 15 divers and 5 boats who visited the "Pinnacles" on Sunday 26th July, 1987. It was a brilliant day - sunshine, flat sea and very light N.W. breeze.

With plenty of woolen clothes and hot soups our group of four boats (Dary Whitehill, Bob Scott, John Goulding and Mick Jeacle) launched at Newhaven ramp on Phillip Island. We were soon joined by Alex Talay in his big Leeder having made the journey through Western Port after launching at Stoney Point.

Soon, all boats were speeding under the San Remo Bridge towards Cape Woolamai and the submerged "Pinnacles". A magnificent geological formation, these fingers of rock rise vertically from the flat sea floor at 140 ft. and are only 30 ft. below the surface.

John Goulding, our dive captain, soon had his book of marks out and we slowly moved in towards the, rugged cliffs of Cape Woolamai until Bob Scott's sounder confirmed Mick Jeacle's similar reading of a sheer rise of rock from 140 ft. Mick dropped his anchor right on top of the formation and soon all divers were preparing to get wet.

Well, you wouldn't believe it, the visibility was about 40 ft. which enabled us to get a really good view of the vertical sides of the rock tower. The S.W. lower peak is really beautiful with a brilliant carpet of yellow anemone and plenty of fish drifting slowly all around us.

John and I descended to 90 ft. and could still see the vertical drop below us, where less marine growth was evident. On the N.W. cliff face a huge rock overhang at 100 ft. required investigation and I dropped down only to bump into Pat, Alex, Rae, Amanda and Igor on

their way out. So the viz inside the cave was somewhat reduced after their sortie inside. There were plenty of ledges and crevices to explore, but mainly we adjusted our compensators to glide a short distance out from the sheer wall to take it all in.

After 25 minutes, we leisurely ascended the anchor line to spend one minute at 10 ft. as a precautionary measure against the cold water.

This was only my second dive on the "Pinnacles", the first being in poor vizibility many years ago. It really is a great dive in good conditions.

We then adjourned inside the Cape to eat lunch and inhale the aroma of bacon being cooked in Alex's galley! After lunch we shot across a glassy sea to Kilcunda to look for male crays, where everyone reported very cold water as the sun dropped low in the west. I know John Lawler took a good sized male, but the others returned with empty bags.

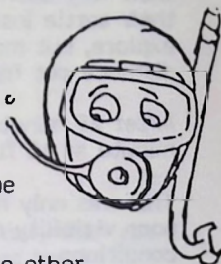
There wasn't a ripple on the surface as we sped back up the eastern channel past San Remo to the ramp at Newhaven.

A great day - thanks John Goulding.

XMAS CAMP BYRON BAY

Once again V.S.A.G. will be enjoying the delights of magnificent Byron Bay.

Co-ordinator is Tony Tipping and he will be pleased to answer your enquiries. Telephone: 817 4956.



FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Older members of V.S.A.G. may recall the story of intrigue about the mysterious "BARABOOGIE BELL", which came into the possession of John Goulding. It seems that on a private diving trip to N.S.W. many years ago, John and two other members (at the time) Dave Carroll and Rob Adamson, made a detour on their way home and came across this prized find. Recently John's office high in the tower of the Australian Airlines building has been adorned with a gleaming port-hole. The tales he relates about this object D'art are just as amazing as the legendary bell - much to the awe of his work colleagues. There is a saying that "sometimes truth is stranger than fiction" - but we hear that the saga surrounding the appearance of this port-hole is unbelievable!

Winter in Melbourne has never been my favourite diving season. You know the story:- Howling winds that chill the chill underneath your wetsuit. Water temperature that wouldn't dissolve an ice-cube, and above all a spray soaked bath home in an open boat fighting a shivering and shaking body to keep the craft on course. Blimey, I could see it all happening as I confirmed my availability to Alex for the next days dive one wintery day in June. But what a relief, Alex said Johnny, you can ride in my boat.

Well, I tell you its quite an experience! From the carpeted cabin interior to the hot soup cooking on the stove. This was definitely the way to travel.

I must say, that launching was bit of a problem at Patterson River. There was I, loading tanks "down forward" (that's a nautical term for the sharp-end of the boat) when all of a sudden the unmistakable motion of a boat rocking on the water signalled that the Leeder has been gently placed in the water by its tow-tractor Captain Alex set his course for 240 degrees to the west channel pile light before heading south to the "Rip". On cue big Mick's unmistakable voice crackled over the radio "V.S.A.G. LEADER TO V.S.A.G. LEEDER, - do you copy Alex - over . . .

Roger Leader this is Leader Leader I copy you roger - over . . .
Roger leader leader - will you lead roger - over?"

Well in the next 5 minutes there were more leaders than in the Liberal Party, more rogers than in a Bangkok brothel and more overs than in a 5 day pommie cricket match. The ensuing, dive was bloody freezing and nothing on Alex's boat could take the chill off that. But, it was well worth while, as the after dive hot lunch was about as fresh as you could possibly get it.

Relative new comer to the Club, Ross Luxford, demonstrated great patience whilst he waited in the almost sub zero temperature water whilst big Mick, muttering obscenities clambered back on his boat to put on his weight belt!

Alex was noted to take great care of his buddy - Raelene; drawing his plastic divers knife to protect her against an all devouring pigmy sting-ray. Yes Rae - they are the most dangerous type.

And Don Abell came in very handy by accidently turning off Goulding's air tank at 70 feet! Goulding claims that this was only a measure to preserve his own air supply and enable him to gobble up Don's from his octopus regulator - but on later consideration, this could have been a deliberate attempt by the Club Secretary to take advantage of Goulding's refreshments chilling in Alex's ice box!!

So, you see winter diving can be full of the unexpected - just when you thought it was safe to hang up your wet suit - you might just take the plunge and have a great day!

Signed FRIESA BIRD

DECO STOPS

by Alex Talay

Mick "Captain Bligh alias the Carrot" Jeacle arrived at a very promising dive site the other week and forcefully ordered his crew to wait whilst he kitted up. No doubt he wanted first crack at the Crustaceans. Three of them jumped in together. Mick made the fastest exit I have ever seen, seems the big fella forgot his weightbelt. As Safety Officer, I will recommend he does a refresher course as the sight of the angry giant bellowing his head off tends to frighten other divers within a mile radius.

Don Abell was diving with John Goulding when John motioned for him to turn his air on properly. Of course Don did the right thing and turned it off instead and looked perplexed when John frantically made a grab for his octopus. They executed a perfect buddy breathe all the way to the top. With friends like Don who needs enemies.

Bob Scott, John Lawler and Ross Luxford must have all drunk out of the same cup as they were all struck down by a mystery 24 hour illness a couple of weeks ago. It happened to coincide with perfect mid week weather. In his delerium Lawler reckons he dreamed he saw 7 crays in one ledge but just like "Speaking Jack Namiota", came up empty handed.

Had a Japanese guest diving with us on the "George Kermode" not long ago. Kyoshi was staying with Warrick McDonald and Warrick asked us to look after him for the day. Mick Jeacle has trouble with names at the best of times and our little mate was re-christened about twenty times before Mick got it right. He'd picked up a few Australianism's and when I asked him how he enjoyed the dive he replied that it was "Velly F*****G cold" and that his camera was "Tottory F*****D". We took him to Seal Rocks and noticed that not many seals were in the water. He asked us if there were any sharks there. "No worries mate, in you go" said we. Naturally he dived alone!

Congratulations to Don Abell who has recently been promoted to a partnership in the International firm of Touche Ross. Don is now a true Dinkie (Double income, no kids).

Paul Tipping would have to be the worst cook I've ever struck. Unfortunately for us, Paul's lovely wife Leslie went to the ballet on the very night our last committee meeting was held at their place. The "little boys" were stone cold, pies, pasties and sausage rolls burn't beyond recognition and the fried rice was enough to turn a Chinaman black. I only hope Paul does a better job at Australia Post than he does in the kitchen.

If you ever get invited to his place when Leslie is not present, take my tip and order a pizza!!

MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

OCTOBER 31ST to NOVEMBER 3RD

Alex Talay is organizing this long weekend at Warnambool.

"NEW SITE'S TO DIVE"

"CRAY SEASON OPENS NOVEMBER 1ST"

A weekend not to be missed! Contact Mick on (059) 71 2786 to secure your booking.

Would you trust this man with your wife or money????



One of the 16 new banking entrants, National Mutual Royal Bank, officially opened its new Branch and Area Office last week at 19 Thompson Street, Frankston.

The two-storey building was opened by the Mayor of Frankston, Cr David Triplo, and the Bank, which is jointly owned by National Mutual Life Association of Australasia and the Royal Bank of Canada, has paid up capital of \$30 million and is the only new bank to have offices in the City of Frankston. Mr Bruce Darnell, General Manager Branch Banking, explained that National Royal was committed to providing an unrivalled level of Retail Banking services to both personal and business clients and he invited existing and potential clients to discuss their needs with Area Manager Mick Jeacle and his friendly staff.

"Efficient, friendly service will be the hallmark of our bank," said Mr Darnell. Cr Triplo in response wished the new bank every success and praised the bank on the high quality of the premises. He said that the City of Frankston offered excellent facilities for business and he was sure that the bank would prosper and offer competition to the major banks.

NA ROYAL BANK

NEW REGULATIONS FOR WATER SAFETY

From 1 December this year, it will be compulsory for all lifejackets and buoyancy vests to be fitted with retro-reflective tape.

Announcing the new regulation today, Transport Minister, Mr. Tom Roper, said that the tape would greatly help rescuers to see a person in the water.

"The tape is a material which reflects light back to the source of the light by very small glass spheres built into the material, not unlike the 'cats eyes' used on the roads", Mr. Roper said.

"The tape will make night time rescue operations easier by increasing the likelihood of a person being seen in a beam of light".

Under the new regulations, the SOLAS grade high-intensity retro-reflective tape must be fitted as high up as possible on both lifejackets and buoyancy vests.

Lifejackets to be worn by people heavier than 25kg must have at least six strips of tape on both the inside and outside of the jacket so that it is visible whichever way the jacket is worn. Other lifejackets must have at least four strips inside and out.

On buoyancy vests, there must be at least two pieces on the front and back and inside as well if the vest is reversible.

Mr. Roper explained that by giving eight months notice of the new regulations people would have time to arrange for the fitting of the tape.

"It also provides retailers and manufacturers time to make provision for the tape", he said.

"It is estimated that more than 300,000 lifejackets and buoyancy vests will need to be modified to meet the new regulations. It is expected to cost between \$7 and \$14 to fit the tape, depending on whether the garments are reversible."

As the tape mentioned on the previous page will be quite expensive for boat owners, the V.S.A.G. committee has decided to try to organize a bulk buy of tape. If you own a boat please fill in the attached form and hand it to the Secretary, Don Abell by our October meeting so we may purchase on your behalf at the best possible price. Regular price at present is \$10.50 per jacket. We'll do better!!

Name: JOHN HANLEY

Address: 1 KATRINA AVE MURRUMBEENA

Telephone: 544 5166 (Home) 569 9951 (Work)

Number of Adult Lifejackets: 2

Number of Juvenile Lifejackets: -

Please order enough retro-reflective tape to fit to the above listed jackets.

Signed: [Signature]

DON'T MISS OUR AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

At our general meeting on August 19th, Jan Stone from Aquarius Travel will present us with details of diving in New Zealand, complimented by slides and film.

In fact, one of the tour operators will be flying from New Zealand just for our meeting, to show film of diving on the Russian cruise liner "Michael Lermentov".

Don't miss this meeting whether you plan to go on the V.S.A.G. New Zealand dive tour in March 1988 or not.

RESCUE OF THE CREW OF SUBMARINE K.13

by Des Williams

One of the luckiest escapes from death in a disabled submarine was that of 47 members of the crew of the British K.13 - 330 ft. long, about 1850 tons displacement - which, owing to certain ventilators being left open on her last diving trial in the Gareloch, during the first World War, was carried involuntarily, stern downwards, to the bottom, a depth of about 60 feet. Thirty-two men in the after-part of the vessel were instantly drowned. The remainder in the fore-part owed their lives to the prompt action of the Admiralty Salvage Authorities, who employed unique methods in the rescue of the entombed men.

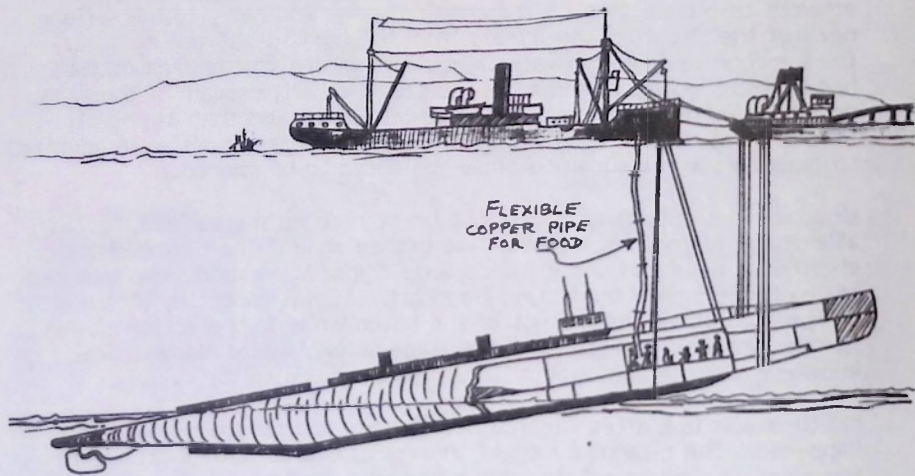
Despite all efforts of the officers and crew to bring the vessel to the surface again, she remained immovable. Realizing that the promptest possible action was necessary if the rescue of the entombed men was to be realised, it was arranged that Commander F.H.M. Goodhart (the captain of a sister submarine) who was on board as a guest, should attempt to escape through the conning tower and carry to the surface news of the situation and letters from the men. As it was necessary for someone to shut the watertight doors after Commander Goodhart had passed through, Commander Godfrey Herbert, captain of the K.13, accompanied him into the conning tower, which was then sealed off from the rest of the boat while water and compressed air were admitted to balance the pressure and allow the hatch to be opened.

Goodhart got out, as arranged, but never reached the surface, for, as afterwards transpired, his head was bashed against the beams of the charthouse overhead and his dead body trapped. Herbert, who intended to rejoin his men after letting Goodhart out, was caught by a rush of compressed air and blown out of the hatch while in the act of closing it. Fortunately, he reached the surface safely, where his technical knowledge of the boat was of the utmost service to the salvors.

No time was lost after Commander Herbert had reported what had happened. The disappearance of the vessel had already given rise to some anxiety, and a salvage ship had been sent for. Divers were sent down without a moment's unnecessary delay. They hammered on the vessel's side, and received reassuring knocks in return. The submarine's stern was 20 feet lower than her bow, and was embedded in many feet

of mud; this, coupled with the fact that her stern was full of water as a result of the accident, made it impossible to lift her bodily. It was, therefore decided to raise the bow above the surface. While preparations were being made for this, divers, after many hours of strenuous work, contrived to connect to a valve in the vessel's hull a tube led from the surface through which fresh air and refreshments were passed to the entombed men.

It says much for the cool courage of the British sailor in time of danger that these 46 men appeared to be less concerned about their fate than those who were fighting so valiantly to save them. "Send us down a pack of cards", was one request made through the tube. The cards were sent down. In order to secure the co-operation of the crew in the fixing of the tube to the surface and to explain what was being done, Commander Kay, R.N., who was in charge of the salvage operations, had rigged up in front of the periscope a submarine lamp, with which messages in morse code were flashed to them from time to time.



Powerful cables, led up to the salvage craft, were secured to the forepart of the K.13 and helped by the blowing of her forward tanks in order to increase her buoyancy, her bow emerged above the surface

about 50 hours after the commencement of the operations Oxy-acetylene blowpipe was used to cut a hole through the outer and inner shells large enough for the 46 men to pass through, after 56 hours imprisonment.

The hole was only just above the water, which lapped into it, and a few hours later the extra weight caused the cables to break away from the vessel, which sank to the bottom again. She was ultimately salvaged by means of compressed air.

Note: The K-Class submarines followed our well known J-Class submarines outside Port Phillip Heads.

*
* **SEPTEMBER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** *
* * * * *

(16TH SEPTEMBER)

The most important meeting of the years is our A.G.M. in September, your presence is requested to help vote in members of your choice to vacancies on the V.S.A.G. Executive Committee. This year, four vacancies will be open to members on the committee - those vacated by Andy Mastrowicz, Don Abell, Max Synon and Keith Jensen.

Nomination forms are in this issue of "Fathoms" and you are requested to have them to our Secretary by the 2nd of September, 1987 and no later.

Please be sure to play your part in the future of your Club.

MORE "POOR KNIGHTS" ADVENTURE

by Des Williams

Once again, I have been going through my collection of old dive magazines and found another article to whet your appetite for our forthcoming dive trip to New Zealand. Our tour to the fabulous "Poor Knights" islands should be real high if the following article by Wade Doak is any indication. It comes from "Dive - South Pacific Magazine", Vol. 11, No. 2 from the early 1970's. Get a load of this lads!!

"AIR BUBBLE CAVE"

"Hi Wade", wrote N.S.W. diver Roland Pouw, "The long awaited dive on the Poor Knights was well worth waiting for. I would surely say that it was the most beautiful dive of my lifetime . . ."

Roland was a pro diver who'd come through hours of underwater work and abalone diving with his love and awe for the sea intact. On holiday in New Zealand, a phone call to "Dive" soon had him at Tutukaka, aboard the charter boat "Matira", on his way to the Poor Knights. First I took him to the Pinnacles Cave where he held my big diving light on the vivid tapestry walls while I took some zoanthid pictures and chased around a shoal of golden snapper. We then swam round to Tie Dye Arch, and explored the vast labyrinth of tunnels and archways festooned with brilliant marine growths and seething with pink maomao, golden snapper, trevally and stingrays. His smile was getting broader.

Our next dive was at Hope Point, on the Northern Knight. We swam in from the boat to an inlet in the rocks where a reef cuts off a deep basin. Fins up over the reef and we glided down into the quiet, shaded waters of the basin. A low archway some forty feet across opens in the cliff face. Holding my big torch Roland swam through into the cave, with the sure fin strokes of an old hand. A few signals from me and he found his way to the first big air bubble.

Like a lake of mercury suspended overhead, the bubble shimmers and jellies with our exhaust bubbles. We surface through the mirror. Not much clearance overhead in this low dome, but a glance back down at the way we'd come in offers a rare sight for the skindiver; turquoise blue light filters up through the water. It has come bouncing down from the surface to the cave floor and then up into the air bubble.

A mysterious blue radiance flickering with schools of fish moving around the cave entrance. The closest in our experience was seeing the Cousteau film "The Living Sea", where he had an onion-domed garage for his flying saucer. One of Cousteau's "Sea Fleas" could easily surface in Air Bubble Cave.

I signalled Roland to come further back into the cave. The big torch pencilled through the clear, cave waters picking up schools of bigeyes like copper sculptures. The water in sea caves can be very, very clear as no plant plankton can live in these sunless, secret places. We headed right to the back of the cave and then upwards. Our heads burst through into the second air bubble. This one has formed in a much higher dome, so that there is plenty of clearance overhead. On the far side the water shallows over the cave floor, forming a handy seat we could rest on waist deep in the water. A muted blue light filters in from below. We remove our mouth pieces and start talking in the echoing chamber. Our breath forms vapour clouds, joining with the water vapour from the edge of the bubble which is produced each time a surge outside the cave causes a small ear clicking change in air pressure. This is the "cloud chamber effect" known in meteorology.

"Have a look at your depth gauge, Roland." It seems crazy to lift your arm out of the water and look at a depth gauge - "Hell - we're 25 feet down, mate" says Roland. We were in a natural undersea habitat. To stop and think about it for a few minutes produces a lasting impression in the mind.

This air bubble is one of the deepest at the Poor Knights. The air does not come from divers' exhausts. My theory is that it gets there naturally: this side of the island is the most exposed to heavy weather. Powerful wave action in the basin outside produces tremendous surges and the whole area becomes one seething mass of white water. For days the cave is filled with tiny bubbles and these gradually percolate up to the roof which slopes rearwards towards the air bubble.

The air is sweet to breath but it is under high pressure. On another occasion an expert snorkeller accompanied us down into the cave and each time he needed a breath, he pinched one from the air bubble, just as seals have been known to do during Sea Lab experiments. When the snorkeller came to leave for the surface he had to remember to breathe out on the way up or the high pressure air in his lungs would have caused an embolism.

Using a new 20 mm wideangle lens on my Pentax, inside its Sea Glove housing, I took a series of colour shots of Roland in the cave, standing in the air bubble, and silhouetted at the entrance against a deep blue backdrop.

Just as we were leaving I saw, in the farthest recesses, a good sized packhorse cray. I signalled to Roland. He had no gloves so it was just for interest value. The Aussie handed me the torch. The cray retreated behind some rocks, into a narrow V shaped recess. Dust clouds erupted as Roland began to take the cave apart, lifting the boulders aside until he could grab the big bug. Out of the murk he came with the packhorse clutched to his chest.

"Hey", I thought, - "That's a borrowed buoyancy compensator he's wearing!" compensators are compulsory on the charter boats as a safety measure and Roland had been lent one by Bill Wong. Aboard "Matira" we sorted out the excited Aussie from the cray. Not a scratch on Roland and not the least abrasion on the compensator. The latest model compensators are the toughest construction ever - we'll vouch for that!

To the diver contemplating a first visit to the Poor Knights Islands, I have one bit of advice: bring a diving torch. For this is a diving area with a difference. You don't just dive over rocks and bottom you get into it. This is another dimension of skindiving - like exploring a submerged city with brilliantly adorned cathedrals, archways, halls and passages. There are so many cave systems out there it would take weeks to explore them all, and you would really need some local knowledge to find most of them. To the photographer they offer endless opportunities, but a light is essential. So is a contents gauge, and D.C.P., but you'll agree, the adventure is worth it and to take it on without the gear is foolhardy in the extreme.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR AUG./SEPT. 1987

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
Aug 16	Snow Trip	Alex Talay	Fully Booked.
&	Mt. Buller	772 3085	
Aug 16	Sorrento	Paul Tipping	Sorrento
		387 2027	10.00 a.m.
Aug 19	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		
	Film and slides of diving in New Zealand.		8.00 p.m.
Aug 22	Saturday Evening Spit Roast & Nostalgia Slide Night - for all the family.		
	Venue - Barry Truscott's new home. See separate advert in this issue for directions to the Truscotts.		
Aug 30	Submarines	Don Abell	Sorrento
		29 4415	10.00 a.m.
Sept 13	Spectacular Reef	Pat Reynolds	Sorrento
		789 1092	10.00 a.m.
Sept 16	Annual General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		
	Election of committee.		8.00 p.m. Sharp
Sept 27	Flinders/Cape Schank	Mick Jeacle	Flinders
		(059) 71 2786	9.30 a.m.
Oct 18	Lonsdale Wall/Ramsden	John Lawler	Sorrento
	(Be on time to catch the tide).	569 9851	8.30 a.m. Sharp
Nov 21	V.S.A.G. Tennis Party at Balnarring/Somers		
	Family day B.B.Q. Spit Roast. This is a Saturday of fun so mark your diary now. Paul & Tony Tipping are your hosts.		
Oct 31	Melbourne Cup Weekend	Mick Jeacle	
	Warrnambool	(059) 71 2786	
Dec 25	Christmas Trip	Tony Tipping	Details being arranged.
	Northern N.S.W.		

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.

Tear & post to The Secretary V.S.A.G.,
P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001
to arrive prior to September 2nd, 1987

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: 1987-88
NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being full members of the Victorian
Sub-Aqua Group, hereby nominate:

.....
for the position of Director of the Group.

Signed:.....Date / /1987

Signed:.....Date / /1987

I,.....hereby accept the above
nomination for Director of the Group.

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