

FATHOMS

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**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

-- FEB 1987

VSAG

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VSAG

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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.Şub—Aqua Group

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COMING EVENTS

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Next general meeting:

Wednesday, February 18th, 1987
and Wednesday, March 18th, 1987 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting:

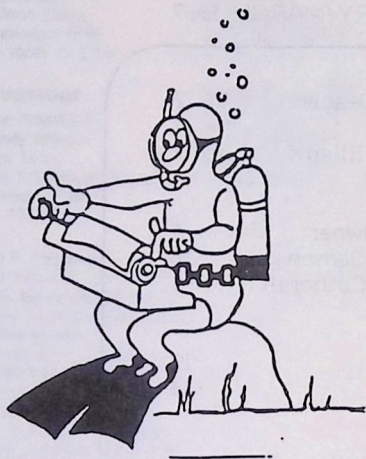
Tuesday, February 24th, 1987 8.00 p.m.
Reynold's Residence, 14 Nurla Ct., Frankston.
Tuesday, March 24th, 1987 8.00 p.m.
Talay Residence, Unit 1/3 Winborne Lane, Chelsea.

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

EDITORIAL

Well here we are, well into the year 1987 already. How time flies!

The last few weeks has seen us enjoying great diving at Port Lincoln and of course our own Wilsons Promontory. Your Committee is always conscious of the need to explore different dive destinations and accordingly you will note the inclusion of forthcoming trips to Apollo Bay and Warrnambool in our Dive Calendar.



With February and March traditionally being the warmer months, we can look forward to some excellent local dives as well. Weather of course dictates our activity, so therefore what appears on the Dive Calendar may not necessarily be the order of the day.

Therefore if a submarine dive is listed and this does not appeal to you, don't stay at home, it could well be that we cannot get out through the Heads and a drift or scallop dive could be substituted which may appeal to you.

It would seem that cave dives are not without their problems these days. Noticed in my latest copy of Guidelines (No. 26, November 1986) the following depressing information:-

1. Piccaninnie Ponds has been closed to divers until 31/7/88.
2. Barnoolut Station has been closed to divers until further notice. This includes holes such as Ten Eighty, The Black Hole and Bullock Hole.
3. Department of Weeds and Forests are to issue Permits to control activities and use of its land. Popular sites such as Pines will be affected.

I fail to see the necessity to close Pics for a further 2 years and I for one would not be bothered making the long trip to Mount Gambier while this excellent dive is out of bounds.

It appears Mr. Reg Watson has a bee in his bonnet over independent examinings and until the C.D.A.A. can convince Mr. Watson that the person carrying out the testing is not the same person as the one who trained the candidate, the station will remain closed. Who says Government Departments are the only bodies making lives miserable for the lonely diver?

Mick Jeacle

AIR FILLS HIT LIST

The following members received air fills at Rufuge Cove and are now required to pay the Club by the February General Meeting. Fills are \$3.00 each.

One Fill

I. Chernischov
J. Turner
J. Goulding
P. Jones
M. Jeacle

Two Fills

A. Baxter
J. Namiota
P. Griffiths
A. Mastrowicz
W. Hayes
B. Truscott
C. Brincat

"COPY WANTED"

Photos, articles, newspaper clippings, gossip, cartoons etc.

Fathoms needs these items to survive. Please forward all material to the Editor.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting of the Committee of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group held at 1 Katrina Street, Murrumbena on the 25th November, 1986.

Apologies for non attendance were received from John Goulding and Paul Tipping.

The Committee was pleased to welcome Bob Scott as a visitor.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 626.33
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,175.06
	\$ 1,801.39
	\$ 1,801.39

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. John Lawler listed the donations which have been received by the Club for the yearly raffles at Christmas. It was agreed that two raffles would be run.
2. Des Williams advised the Club of a seminar to be held at Deakin University on 21st February, 1987. The title of the seminar is "Scuba Downunder" and the cost is \$10.00 per head. A number of very interesting speakers will be attending the seminar.
3. The Committee Meetings for the 1987 year were scheduled as follows:

January - Barry Truscott	June - John Goulding
February - Pat Reynolds	July - Paul Tipping
March - Alex Talay	August - Max Synon
April - Des Williams	September - Mick Jeacle
May - Don Abell	October - Andy Mastrowicz
	November - John Lawler
4. John Lawler advised the meeting that a presentation night had been scheduled for the "Downlow" Medal. The presentation will be over a dinner to be held on the 21st February at the Stoke House in St. Kilda. Further details will be advised later.

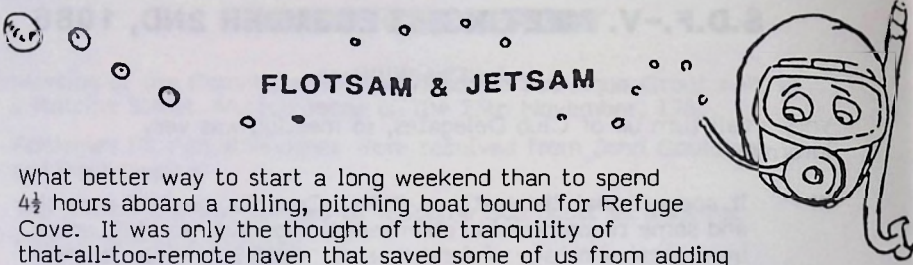
There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.26 p.m. The Committee thanked John Lawler for making his residence available and for the tasty supper. ✱

S.D.F.-V. MEETING - DECEMBER 2ND, 1986

by Des Williams

Very small turn up of Club Delegates, so meeting was very informal.

- (i) It appears that the National Safety Councils move of expertise and some recompression chambers to Adelaide was influenced by a great shortage of funds here in Victoria. Their contract with oil companies operating in Bass Strait had also expired. The oil rigs now have access to their own recompression chamber which is set up on a large barge of some sort. Apparently, there are still two of the 12 man recompression chambers, used by N.S.C., still in Victoria and it is hoped that with Government help these will soon be operating at the Alfred Hospital. The medical divers amongst us (S.P.U.M.S.) have put in some very intense lobbying which has warmed the Government on the idea. As yet nothing has been locked in though S.D.F.-V. will also be lending their support to S.P.U.M.S.
- (ii) The move of venue to Sydney of "OCEANS" Festival was a huge success if crowd attendance is anything to go by. Maybe we won't see OCEANS in Victoria again for a while. Rumour has it that Robert D. Ballard from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in the U.S.A. will be at the next "OCEANS" seminar. R.D. Ballard recently discovered and photographed the "Titanic", two miles deep in the Atlantic.
- (iii) Next years meeting dates were announced:
3rd February, 1987
7th April, 1987
2nd June, 1987
4th August, 1987
6th October, 1987
1st December, 1987 *



FLOTSAM & JETSAM

What better way to start a long weekend than to spend 4½ hours aboard a rolling, pitching boat bound for Refuge Cove. It was only the thought of the tranquility of that-all-too-remote haven that saved some of us from adding to the pitching motion by lurching further over the rails to practice that old seafarer habit of "chundering to the four winds".

In the best tradition of V.S.A.G. so aptly demonstrated in previous years by Tony Tipping who never gets seasick, several unfortunate members demonstrated the same ability to turn white as a sheet, and then lime green without any relationship with seasickness. All I can say, is that it must have been the ice blocks at the Foster pub the night before.

Several first timers on the trip this year were new member Tony Baxter and visitors Gail, Chris and Grant.

Grant actually is a Dive Instructor with Warwick McDonald's Dive Shops and has spent the last few years at Heron Island.

Base camp was erected at Refuge Cove with little fuss and bother as old skills were remembered about erecting the camp tents. Steve Voros the Chief Ranger at Refuge Cove gave great assistance by moving the gear from the beach to the camp site by trolley.

Barry, Alex, Geoff, Andy and Igor had arrived in their boats earlier and those who were not living "on board" had set up camp and had joined the others looking for a dive.

Saturday's weather was not the best so the "Mirrabooka" mob stayed dry and enjoyed a few quiet ales out of the wind.

The scene was certainly different on Sunday with improving weather and an eager bunch of divers wanting to go below. We had 2 good dives on Sunday in the Waterloo Bay area which were followed by the now famous joke night.



CHRIS BOURIER, PAT REYNOLDS, ROB McLACHLIN AND BOB SCOTT AT SMITH ISLAND.



PAT, ALEX, PETER AND BOB ABOARD THE CHARTER BOAT AT PORT LINCOLN AFTER THE RIDE BACK FROM SMITH ISLAND.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR FEBRUARY/MARCH 1987

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
Feb 18	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Feb 22	Flinders Reef Dive	Don Abell 29 4415	Finders 9.30 a.m.
March 7, 8, 9	Labour Day Weekend Cape Conran	Alex Talay 772 3085	Burbang Caravan Park
March 18	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
March 22	Wreck Dive "George Kermode"	Mick Jeacle (059) 71 2786	Flinders 9.30 a.m.
April 5	Wreck Dive Submarine	John Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento 9.30 a.m.
April 15	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
April 17 - 21	Easter Camp	Don Abell 29 4415	Details this months Fathoms
May 3	Eliza Ramsden Spectacular Reef	Alex Talay 772 3085	Sorrento 9.30 a.m.
May 24	Cape Schank	John Lawler 569 9851	Flinders 9.30 a.m.
June 6, 7, 8	Queens Birthday Weekend Apollo Bay		Details to be arranged.
Oct 31 - Nov 1,2,3	Melbourne Cup Weekend Warrnambool		Details to be arranged.

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.