

FATHOMS

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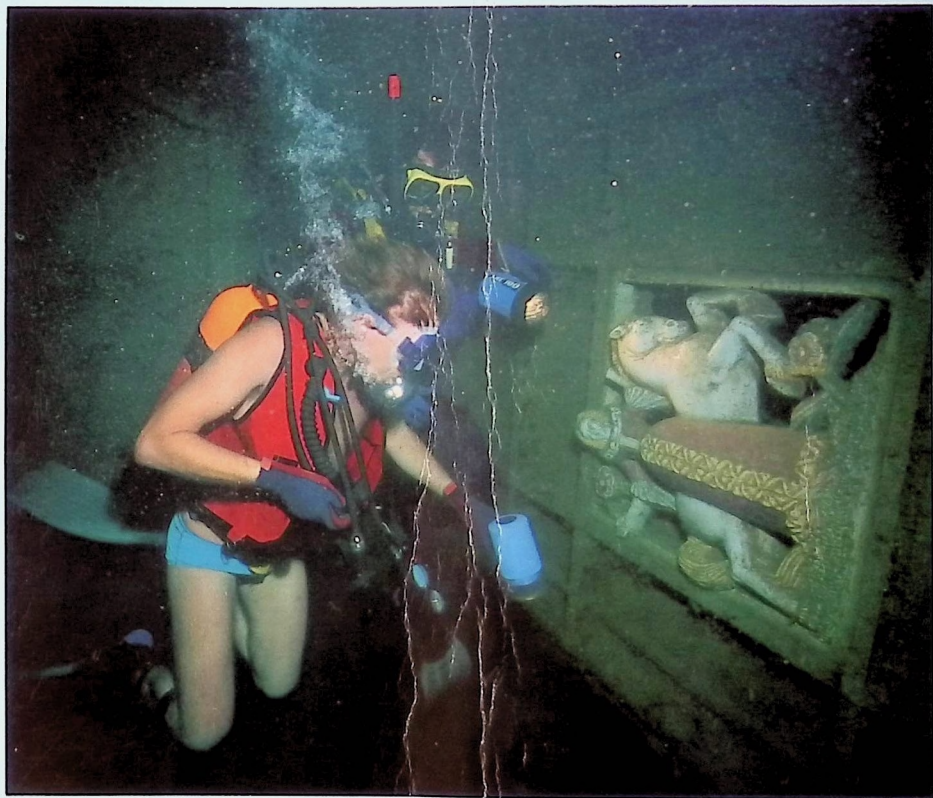


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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

3 - JUN 1987

VSAG

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group. Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne. 3001 Australia

President

Mick Jeacle
5 Donn Close,
Frankston. 3199
Ph. (059) 71 2786

Secretary

Don Abell
80 Liston St.,
Burwood. 3125
Ph. 29 4415

Treasurer

Vice President
Safety Officer
Alex Talay
Unit 1/3 Wimborne Lane,
Chelsea. 3196
Ph. 772 3085

Newsletter Editor

Keith Jensen
99 The Fairway,
Kingsbury. 3083
Ph. 460 3672

S.D.F. Delegate

Des Williams - 551 3201

Asst. Newsletter Editor

Barry Truscott - 789 6395

Points Scorer

Max Synon - 465 2812

Social Secretary

John Lawler - 569 9851

Property Officer

Pat Reynolds - 789 1092

S.D.F. & Public Relations

Paul Tipping - 387 2027

S.D.F. Reserve

John Goulding - 890 6634

Committee Member

Andy Mastrowicz - 318 3986

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.

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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.

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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JUNE/JULY 1987

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Next general meeting:

Wednesday, June 17th, 1987 &
Wednesday, July 15th, 1987 at 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meeting:

Tuesday, June 23rd, 1987 8.00 p.m.
Goulding's Residence, 13 Birdwood Ave., Box Hill
Tuesday, July 21st, 1987 8.00 p.m.
Tipping's Residence, 521 Lygon St.,
North Carlton

Editorial submissions to: "The Editor" Fathoms C/- Unit 1/3 Wimborne Lane, Chelsea

EDITORIAL

There have been many very happy moments for members of V.S.A.G. over the years and very few sad times. On Sunday 12th April, we received the very sad news that our esteemed friend and diving companion Keith Jensen passed away suddenly after a minor cancer operation.

The magnitude of his loss is felt every time we venture out diving, as Keith had become an institution in V.S.A.G. and it was very rare indeed not to see him on a Club dive or trip away.

Certainly one of the keenest members of our Club, Keith was not adverse to working for V.S.A.G. He took on the job of newsletter editor (the job no-one

else wanted) producing about 25 issues for members enjoyment over 2½ years. Keith's photography has adorned our newsletter cover for the last five years, as he was a brilliant photographer of the underwater world.

Keith will always be special memories for each and everyone of us and I leave you to reflect on those happy times.

He was certainly a NAMBA WAN DIVER BELOG V.S.A.G., and this issue of "Fathoms" is respectfully dedicated to his memory.

Des Williams

MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

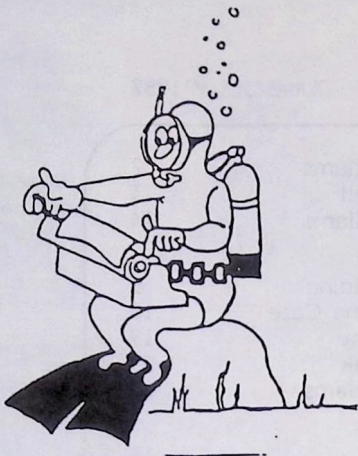
OCTOBER 31ST to NOVEMBER 3RD

Alex Talay is organising this long weekend at Warrnambool.

"NEW SITE'S TO DIVE"

"CRAY SEASON OPENS NOVEMBER 1ST"

A weekend not to be missed! Contact Alex on 772 3085 to secure your booking.



COMMITTEE NEWS - MARCH/APRIL 1987

Minutes of March meeting held at Alex Talay's home on 24th March, 1987.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from John Goulding.

MINUTES:

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

MATTERS ARISING:

Tony Tipping has been told that the committee has accepted his offer to arrange the 1987 Christmas trip to Northern New South Wales.

John Lawler has spoken to John McCormack and he has agreed to match the Club price from B.A.S. for tank testing. The committee also requested that John speak to John McCormack to see if he is interested in arranging for servicing of our Club equipment.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary tabled a bill for \$95.00 being the V.S.A.G. contribution to striking the Downlow Medal.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the Club has the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 1,472.93
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,175.06
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,647.99
	<hr/> <hr/>

Bills for payment:

Marine Divers - Downlow Medal	\$ 95.00
Australia Post - Rental of Post Box	\$ 66.00
Alex Talay - Reimbursement for Marlo expenses	\$ 12.00

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Des Williams advised that he is continuing to follow up the draft management plan for the Point Nepean area. At present it does not seem that much is known about the progress of the plan.
2. Andy Mastrowicz advised that he had booked the sites at Apollo Bay. The booking will consist of 4 on-site vans and 2 tent sites. If this is excessive to the final requirements, attempts will be made to cancel excess sites.
3. John Lawler advised that he had done a check out dive on Ross Luxford. He considered that Ross handled himself well on the boats and that he had also dived well. John noted that Ross used his air very fast and this was put down to inexperience.

Alex Talay advised that he had proposed Ross for membership of the Club. In making the proposal he noted that Ross is inexperienced but also that Ross has proved to be a clear thinking and sensible person who he believed would be an enthusiastic Club member. Ross is now quite well known by both Alex and Mike Jeacle and both were of the opinion that the membership should be passed. All committee members agreed and the Secretary was asked to inform Ross of the decision and request a membership fee of \$5.00 and prorata subscription of \$17.50.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Minutes of April meeting held at William's residence on 21st April, 1987.

MINUTES:

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

MATTERS ARISING:

Andy Mastrowicz advised that he had successfully cancelled the booking at Apollo Bay for the Queens Birthday in June. The deposit had been returned less a \$5.00 charge for paperwork.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary advised that he had been unable to clear the mail box since the previous general meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash on hand	\$ 525.00
Cash at bank	\$ 856.75
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,175.06
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,556.81
	<hr/>

The following bills were held for payment:

B. Truscott - postage	\$ 18.44
Wreath for Keith Jensen's funeral	\$ 40.00

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Des followed up the query at the previous general meeting and the Treasurer confirmed that the Club had not paid their membership to the Scuba Diving Federation of Victoria.
- Des Williams volunteered to produce the June issue of the Fathoms magazine. Alex volunteered to take over the August issue in Des's absence and Paul Tipping volunteered to give any assistance which may be required.

Des advised that following the August issue he would take on the role of magazine editor for an indefinite period.

3. Des also advised that problems were brewing in regard to Cave Diving in the Mount Gambier area. Problems with land owners had existed for some time but now the government was looking to close off sites on government land. A meeting was to be called for all interested parties and Des advised that members of the Bottom Scratchers Club would be attending that meeting.
4. Des also raised a suggestion made by June Scott that the Club hold a slide night for members and friends. The committee agreed to this and a night was scheduled for the 22nd August at Barry Truscott's new house.
5. The Secretary advised that the Club had realised a surplus of \$119.00 on the Tidal River weekend. It was acknowledged that the event was not held with the intention of making a surplus, but that various occurrences had led to receipts exceeding expenditure. One of the main reasons for this was that John Goulding, Barry Truscott and Max Synon had all refused to accept a full boat levy for the weekend and they were thanked for their effective donation to Club funds.
6. It was also noted on Des Williams own admission that good weather followed where he was not. It was agreed that Des Williams attendance at any future V.S.A.G. long weekends would be considered by the committee on a case by case basis.
7. Mick Jeacle reported to the Club that some investigation had been given to new camp sites for the 1988 Tidal River trip. The sites we have previously booked are dusty and when the wind is blowing the dust causes some annoyance. Also when rain falls it creates a muddy situation. Both Mick Jeacle and John Goulding had independently checked more appropriate sites and had agreed that the sites in Second Avenue at the eastern end were more appropriate as they were well grassed. Andy Mastrowicz suggested that we book sites on two Avenues so that the Clubs tents can be situated in a back-to-back situation. It was therefore agreed that the sites for the 1988 year should be Second Avenue sites 1-10 and Third Avenue sites 28-37.
8. Max Synon moved a vote of thanks to Don Abell for his efforts in organising the Tidal River weekend.

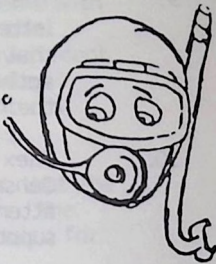
9. The committee agreed that the Secretary should write a letter to Peter Jensen on behalf of the Club advising him that we are keen to ensure that he keeps up his diving activities and invite his to attend any future dives with the Club.
10. Alex Talay advised that he had been contacted by Mary Jensen and asked to thank all V.S.A.G. members for attending Keith's funeral and for the other help and support they had given to her.
11. John Lawler raised the question on whether the Club should consider a perpetual tribute to Keith's memory. The matter was discussed at some length and although there was unanimous agreement that the Club should consider such a tribute, no consensus was reached on the most appropriate way of achieving the objective. It was agreed that the matter be considered over the next few months.
12. Paul Tipping raised the situation of the vacancy now created on the committee by Keith's death and suggested that the vacancy be left until the next annual general meeting. All members agreed to this suggestion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.09 p.m.
Members adjourned to a tasty supper provided by Julie.*

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

All V.S.A.G. members are reminded that your Annual Club Membership Fees are due from June 30th. Please pay at June meeting or send your cheque to:-

"The Treasurer - V.S.A.G.,
P.O. Box 2526W,
G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001."



FLOTSAM & JETSAM

PART I

KEITH JENSEN

In the 14 years that I have been writing Flotsam and Jetsam, I have tried to avoid two things:-

- (1) Revealing myself as the true author (although I suspect that one or two members have known the identity of the writer for a couple of issues!?)
- (2) Getting too serious about any one subject or any one person. This has allowed me to express a light-hearted view on most topics and to be totally uncomplimentary and sometimes downright rude about members.

For this issue I want to break with my past practices to pay a tribute to Keith Jensen, who died after a short illness on April 12th.

Many times Keith was the target of my scurrilous comments because his personality was infectious, and so, often when I would sit down to write this column, it would not be too long before a memory of and incident involving Keith would fuel the old pen to shoot off a couple of lines.

Keith expressed the spirit of V.S.A.G. to the full. His friendship, comraderie, generosity and helpfulness that he gave to his Club and the members epitomized the spirit that is so necessary to keep an organisation going. In committee he worked extremely hard, taking on one of the most onerous tasks of all, editor of "Fathoms". In doing that job he continued to improve the standard of our newsletter, where it is undisputedly the best presented amateur diving publication we have around. As I used to say to him "Not bad for a boy from Collingwood Tech", that was probably the only compliment I ever gave him. But then, I don't think Keith ever looked for compliments - he just did his best for his Club, and his best was the best.

He fought hard for issues he believed in and was never backward in putting forward new ideas, or opposing views that he did not agree with. In doing that, his objective was always to try and achieve the best result for the Club and its members.

Diving presented Keith with the opportunity to express his artistic creativity through underwater photography. His photographic record of diving expeditions in Australia and overseas brought him great acclaim, and his photos, stories and dive leader skills were eagerly sought after by magazine publishers, dive tour operators, dive clubs and he was a regular presenter at diving seminars. But as much as he was a professional in underwater photography he was equally at home when it came to wrecks or crays. In every sense he was a universal diver.

He has a healthy respect for diver safety and through his efforts our on-board oxygen facilities were made possible. In the water he was a good buddy, and perhaps the person who would know this best of all is his own son Peter, who under Keith's guidance has become a very competent diver. This special relationship that Keith shared with his son gave him immense pride and joy.

In closing this reflection on Keith Jensen, it can be said that Keith gave us two of the most precious commodities of all:- His friendship and his time; Time that was sadly cut short, but friendship which we will remember.

To his wife, Mary and children Peter, Cathy and Janine, Flotsam and Jetsam extends sincere sympathy and as writer of this regular feature I am thankful to have known and written about Keith Jensen.

John Goulding

NOTE

Apollo Bay - Queen's Birthday Weekend, June 6th, 7th & 8th has been cancelled due to lack of support and interest.



FLOTSAM & JETSAM



PART II

EASTER TRIP 1987

My association with V.S.A.G. goes back to late 1972 and every Easter since then (except in 1980) V.S.A.G. has made Wilson's Promontory its Easter base.

If you went back through the "Fathoms" over that time I'm sure you would find a wealth of stories about the great, and sometimes not so great diving and the after dive get-togethers.

On very few of our many trips to the Prom has the weather been totally against us, and when daylight announced the birth of another day on the last Good Friday, it looked as if we were going to enjoy great weather for yet another Easter.

To make a great start for Easter, we headed towards Dannevig Island for a dive around Bum Rock. Just a little to the north of the "Bum" we dived into a wonderland of caves, gullies, boulders and chimneys. The home of many species of fish who watches us with interest as we paid an all too short visit. The bottom in this area, straight off the cliff face, is about 120 feet deep, so it was not difficult to find yourself at 90, 100, 110 feet ever pursuing the interest and beauty of this place.

A shallower mainland coast dive followed in the afternoon, and despite not being as exciting a location as Bum Rock had its own rewards which ensured we did not consume any meat on Good Friday night!

Saturday yielded a day which looked even better than the day before. So it was decided to head for Forty-Foot Rocks. I was looking forward to returning to these isolated rocks, some 22 km. from Tidal River and about 8 km. due south of the lighthouse. These three rocks standing all alone amidst an often wild sea, stand as testimony to the traps that can capture the unwary in Bass Strait. As we got closer to the rocks and out of the shelter of the mainland, the

wind stiffened and the seas helped by a usually ever present current began to rise. Reluctantly we turned back, some venturing to Rodondo Island, and other returning to the mainland coast.

In all, though, we had some pleasant diving a relaxing lunch and a visit to our old mate Reg Truscott, who was (as usual) going around in circles whilst his passengers wondered why everybody (or so it seemed that way) in Bass Strait that day came over to say G'Day and swap a few rude remarks with the old sea captain.

It is traditional at Easter to make the V.S.A.G. Easter Awards. It is therefore mine and Murgatroyd's privilege to award the following:-

The "Slowest Person in Camp" Award

Bazza Truscott pulled this one off. By the time he got his boat launched and his car unbogged on Saturday the Easter Rabbit had started making his rounds.

Seems like there's an opportunity for a beach captain to assist boat owners and allocate man-power to push boats and cars.

The "Day I Should Have Stayed in Bed" Award

This is the first time this award is presented and goes to the poor guy who;

- (i) was allocated into Goulding's boat.
- (ii) had to drive Goulding's car back to the car park and run back to the beach just in time to push Barry's boat and car (see previous award).
- (iii) did not pack the top of his wet suit.
- (iv) having borrowed Stan's top and was about to start his dive broke his mask.
- (v) having borrowed a mask and a torch, lost the latter (value \$120.00).
- (vi) on returning to shore, was requested by Goulding to help him wash his boat.

Johnny Lawler, after your great fortune last year, for which you won a Superman Award, this must be somewhat of a let down. But consider yourself fortunate that this was just a "day" in your life and not "This Is Your Life"!

Other close runners up for this Award were:-

- * Barry Truscott - Worn trailer bearing.
- * Andy Mastrowicz - Left tent poles at home.
- * Bob Scott - Truck broke down.

The "Who Brought the Bad Weather" Award

Everything was fine weather-wise until Sunday morning and then who should arrive but Darryl Whitehill and Bill Hayes. The judges had a difficult job choosing between these two but on a count back gave it to Darryl who won by a whisker . . . get it whisker - beard stupid!

The "Florence Nightingale" Award

The untiring efforts of June Scott in erecting the Scott tent, whilst Bob enjoyed a night out with the Police and the Fish Creek low truck driver, was an outstanding example of skill, tolerance of others who got in the way, and dedication to her man. Then, by day June was nursemaid, playmate and Easter bunny to all the kids - even those who were lost. As parents of some of those kids June, Murgatroyd and I say "thanks".

The "Cuddly Couple" Award

This one is a bit of a problem as is the next award. However I have it on good authority that Mick Jeacle and Annie must win this one. It was revealed during a discussion about men's pyjamas that the Big M doesn't possess any - preferring as he says "to snuggle into those bristols" - Now I've no idea what he meant but from the muffled snores coming from Mick's tent one night, the bristols sounded a better place to be than the flanelettes!

The "Superman" Award

The notorious nocturnal nookies of V.S.A.G'ers have usually provided plenty of scope for this award - but this year the prize goes to Don Abell whose feat of catching a monster cray earned him this enviable award. As Don approached the boat with the huge cray, he exclaimed that he was "well and truly stuffed" - so whatever the judging criteria, Don is well deserved of this award.

So this was Easter 1987 - a well organised and fun time. Our thanks go to Don for making all the arrangements, Mick Jackiw, who again loaned his compressor, Igor for towing it, Mick Jeacle and Alex, who organised the filling roster, the boat owners and all who attended for making it again another memorable V.S.A.G. trip.

Signed MAHATMA COTE
The Indian Cloak Room
Attendant - courtesy of
Keith.

=====

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 Al Giddings & Colemans here's your chance to "Strut your 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/Hastings Road, South
Cranbourne.
500 metres on left heading South from
Cranbourne/Frankston Road intersection.

MINUTES OF S.D.F.-V. MEETING

TUESDAY 7TH APRIL, 1987

by Des Williams

Apologies: Bendigo Scuba Club.

- (i) S.D.F.-V. will be holding a diving Seminar at Scotch College on Saturday 16th May this year. Over ten speakers will talk on many varied subjects of interest to all divers. A circular advertising this event will be sent to all clubs.

Such Seminars are a classic example of private dive clubs. receiving the benefit of their Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria. Please support the Seminar by attending on 16th May. More details as they come to hand.

- (ii) At last, the Victorian Recreational Fishermen's Advisory Council has selected a representative from your S.D.F.-V. We can now attend and input the diver's view on decisions made regarding marine fishes and cray limits, before V.R.F.A.C. advise the Minister which course to steer. Neil McKenzie is to be our S.D.F.-V. representative - a perfect choice!

- (iii) Dorothy Whitehead (P.R. Officer) at the Alfred Hospital advises that Hyperbaric facilities will be operational by the end of July 1987.

- (iv) Some discussion on the proposed marina at Sorrento. S.D.F.-V. would like to be sure that a public boat ramp is to be part of the proposed plan. There is vehement opposition to the marina from local residents on one hand and on the other most of the pens have already been pre-sold. So when and if the plan will go ahead is still not known.

- (v) The Draft Management Plan for the new Marina Park at Point Nepean (to be opened to the public in 1988) was considered and discussed. It was agreed that there is nothing in the plan which changes the current situation of divers in the area.

Michael Vize thought perhaps access to the beaches for scuba diving from the shore may be desirable and worth discussing with the government. Michael will follow this up. V.S.A.G. felt that this request may be more of an annoyance than constructive.

- (vi) S.D.F.-V. still need the services of a Secretary to publish minutes of meeting once every two months and if you feel you would like to assist, please contact Des Williams now.

* Next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd June. *

Pirates in Port Phillip Bay

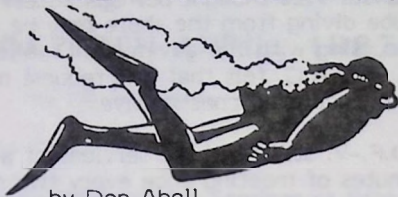
In 1852 Melbourne was agog with the business of gold discoveries made in many parts of Victoria in the previous year. A large number of police had resigned their positions to join the gold rush. Criminals were seldom punished and the atmosphere in and around Melbourne was fairly much out of control.

On April Fool's Day 1852, the ship Nelson arrived in Hobson's Bay from Geelong carrying 14,000 ounces of gold from the nearby goldfields. Eight men met in a tavern that night on the corner of Queen and Collins Streets and worked out a method to steal the gold and, if they could, the ship. Next night when it was very dark, the ship was moored in Hobson's Bay preparing for its sail to England the next day.

But most of the sailors and passengers were ashore, celebrating their last night in the city and there were only three sailors and three passengers on board. The pirates took a boat from Port Melbourne and rowed out to the Nelson and climbed aboard. They quickly rounded up the crew and passengers and locked them in cabins.

The gold was in 14 strong wooden boxes. The booty was hurriedly removed from the ship and never seen again. The police suspected that the robbers were met on the beach by a Melbourne store keeper who had arranged to buy the gold at 30 shillings an ounce, but he was never prosecuted as by the time this was found out he had sailed for England. Four men were convicted of the robbery and sentenced to serve long sentences on the hulks of Williamstown and at Pentridge.

EASTER PARADE - WE DID IT AGAIN



by Don Abell

Those who did not attend the annual Easter Parade at Tidal River this year may be forgiven for expecting that the weather would take its toll in 1987. The holiday period was about as late in April as it ever gets and to add to that the weather in 1985/86 had been excellent. What were our chances for a 1987 repeat performance? But, as the weekend approached and Rob Gel (the Channel 10 weather man) kept pointing to a high pressure approaching the optimism grew.

Sure enough, we got the weather we wanted, sunshine and calm waters. It was so warm that shorts and T-shirts were the order of the day. The weather brought out the crowds of V.S.A.G. divers too. Friday saw 22 board the boats, 10 of whom were divers. The number of divers increased on Saturday as more arrived. We had 32 adults squeezed in around our 10 sites.

Obviously, the warm weather brought out the lazy side of everyone and it was hard to get them started. Boats did not hit the water until 11.00 a.m. Oh, for the good old days when Geoff Birtles would razz everybody into a punctual start.

Nevertheless, the dives were first class, calm waters, 50 foot visibility and good diving country. Tony Tipping and I spent a great joint effort one crayfish. There was no way we could get our hands on him at the back of the ledge, so a little directed poking convinced him that he should retreat. However, the retreat that we directed was conveniently within reach for Tony and our cray was soon bagged.

Now, in normal circumstances, modesty would prevent me discussing who caught the biggest cray and how big it was, but everyone has a limit on modesty and the monster I caught on the second dive deserves some self indulgence. There is no doubt it was the biggest I have ever caught and I doubt if I will ever do better.

The problem was that after Jeanette, Nicky, Tony and I had devoured the first cray (with some help from Max) we could not look at any more. I must therefore thank the two little lovelies, brought along by Alex, who managed to scoff almost all of what would otherwise have served at least 10 gourmets.

And speaking of Alex's friends I feel that Amanda must get some award for not throwing Tony overboard on the first day. Amanda was enjoying a great day on the boat, soaking up a few ultra-violets, when Tony raised the subject of sea sickness. No problem, Amanda felt fine. But, Tony was not to be defeated. Through the next three hours Tony kept on the subject, bringing it up and bringing it up, until finally Amanda did!!!

Back at camp Tony suggested to Amanda that she had made the big spit. Amanda in a very ladylike way replied that it wasn't all that big!

The second day had two highlights that magazine articles are made of. I won't mention names because both Andy and Bazza embarrass easily. The former was fussing about like an old woman, before the dive and had a queue of boats and divers waiting behind him for 10 minutes before moving his boat to let the real divers hit the waves.

The latter drove onto the beach and as he passed the "launch boats here" signs, asked Marie what the signs said. Both had missed the instruction and the final endeavour to launch 'Hunter One' consisted of digging down through the sand until reaching water level. This novel approach was proving to be a long process, so we finally resorted to the conventional approach of pushing the boat into the waves. The skipper was not a happy man at this time, obviously disappointed at the failure of his new method of boat launching. Poor Bazz had probably forgotten how to launch after all this time.

No need to talk of the dives. They were good and everyone had a great day. By Sunday, most were dived out except for speaking Jack who was making a valiant effort to get some boat owners into action. Jack observed that if the boats were not in by 11.00 a.m. the weather would turn and the dive would be lost. The boat owners raised themselves by 12.30 p.m. and headed for the water. However, the weather turned and the dive was lost. Jack is practising to be the Channel 10 weather man - and looks like he is on target.

So, that was about it. However, the best part of this whole thing is that we know how to get the good weather and every Easter should now be as good as the last three years. We have observed that the bad weather follows Des Williams on the Club weekends. The committee has now resolved that any request by Des to attend weekend dives will be considered at committee level on a case by case basis. Des will of course be required to make a written submission for each weekend.

I would like to list all the divers at Easter, but the list would be too long. Suggest you look for those with that contented, well dived look. Tony Tipping is the only person in the Club who remembers when we have had a better Easter. Coincidentally, Tony was the Dive Captain at the time.*

FERRET'S WIFE & THE EASTER TRIP

by Ferret's Wife

I would like to thank Tony, John, Ross, Mick and Alex for the help they gave us when we broke down at Easter, on the way to the Prom.

We spent about 4 hours in the bush; it seemed like all day! Ferret said "Get out and shine the torch". It didn't help. Passing motorists thought I was trying to pick them up. After one look they kept going.

Mick towed the boat back, then the boys erected the tent whilst Mick pumped up the airbed. When Ferret arrived back, after seeing the truck towed away, everything was completed. Thanks again boys!

We just made it home. Anyone for a bonfire?

P.S. I would also like to thank Brian the policeman who stayed with us and helped us through a bad spell. He was a great guy and nothing was too much trouble. Also a garage mechanic at Fish Creek who worked on the car all day, only charged us \$10.00. They don't do that in Melbourne.*

DECO STOPS

by Alex Talay

Comical to see new diver and member Ross Luxford come out of the water. All his brand new gear has it's own little bag and is meticulously wiped down and put away. How long will this go on Ross? As Werner Wolf would say "C'mon give us a break".

Fearless hunter of the deep, Don Abell, made the unfortunate mistake of bringing his freshly cooked 10 lb. cray into Alex's tent on our Easter trip. Alex's friends Rae and Amanda after scoffing a sumptuous banquet prepared by him fell upon Don's catch like women possessed and demolished the bloody lot. "Catch your own" bleated Don. The reply was inaudible, as they never talk with their mouths full.

Bob Scott was spotted sitting in his new boat in the pouring rain at one in the morning! Seem he really loves his new toy. June reckons its great because now she knows where to find him when he goes missing.

Stan Medhurst, notorious as a skinflint, really ought to buy a new tent. The one he has is far too small. During Easter, both his and his girlfriend's legs stuck out at a crazy angle. They seemed to be fighting for the most comfortable spot.

Overheard a conversation between Jack Namiota and Mick Jeacle. It went something like this:-

Jack: "Meeek, Meeek, I saw zee 15 lb. crayfish".

Mick: "Oh yeah Jack, where the bloody hell is it?"

Jack: "Down there Meeek, down there".

Mick: "Wanker"

Chris Luxford, wife of new member Ross, is very dirty on Pat Reynolds. Seems Pat jumped in her spa, then had a shower and used her \$18.00 bottle skin care cream as Shampoo! Heard it took him 3/4 hour to wash it out and it still looked shithouse.

Bob Scott's V8 truck will soon be part of an artificial reef in the Bay, after the Easter fiasco! But, have you seen the luxury Ford Fairlane in which Bob arrived at the May meeting? It is a beauty and Bob and Jean will certainly be very comfortable on future Easter trips.

TIDE TABLES

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

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

TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

TIDAL STREAM CHANGE

JUNE

JUNE — 1987

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1	0216	1.34	9	0154	0.51	0230	1.46
MO	0823	0.28	TU	0908	1.31	0819	0.18
	1534	1.63	TU	1406	0.83	TU	1545
	2113	0.70	TU	2037	1.33	TU	2111
						WE	2152
2	0859	0.32	10	0262	0.42	0328	1.47
TU	1808	1.59	WE	1523	0.89	WE	1629
	2147	0.70	WE	2131	1.32	TH	1708
						TH	2344
3	0930	1.32	11	0351	0.33	0437	1.45
WE	1640	1.55	TH	1122	1.32	TH	1206
	2223	0.70	TH	1643	0.91	FR	1808
						FR	2336
4	0409	1.29	12	0449	0.35	0537	1.43
TH	1036	0.45	FR	1223	1.22	FR	1356
	1714	1.51	FR	1752	0.89	SA	1857
	2238	0.70	FR	2330	1.35	SA	2346
5	0454	1.26	13	0544	0.18	0630	1.47
FR	1249	1.45	SA	1347	0.82	SA	1630
	2337	0.68	SA	1848	0.85	SU	1939
						SU	2017
6	0547	1.23	14	0631	1.39	0720	1.20
SA	1122	1.43	SU	1406	1.14	SU	1402
	1825	0.56	SU	1937	0.72	MO	1939
						MO	2017
7	0018	0.64	15	0132	1.43	0134	0.37
SU	0648	1.23	MO	0728	0.14	MO	0758
	1207	0.64	MO	1458	1.75	TU	1512
	1904	1.35	MO	2023	0.73	TU	2053
						WE	2152
8	0103	0.58	23	0227	0.34	0237	0.34
MO	0756	1.25	TU	0548	1.40	TU	0548
	1300	0.74	TU	1450	0.83	WE	1630
	1948	1.36	WE	2100	1.30	WE	2152

	START OF			START OF			START OF	
	FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB
1 Mo	11 58	05 19	16 Tu	12 02	05 24	23 Tu	17 55	12 19
2 Tu	06 03	18 23	17 We	00 19	18 26	24 We	06 07	17 55
3 We	12 33	05 56	18 Th	12 49	06 19	25 Th	07 06	00 11
4 Th	00 38	18 57	19 Fr	01 14	07 15	26 Fr	18 56	13 24
5 Fr	13 07	06 32	20 Sa	13 38	20 03	27 Sa	08 00	01 04
6 Sa	13 07	19 31	21 Su	02 10	08 11	28 Su	19 56	14 26
7 Su	01 16	20 06	22 Mo	03 20	20 51	29 Mo	05 08	11 13
8 Mo	13 41	07 48	23 Tu	14 26	09 10	30 Tu	16 58	23 19
9 Tu	01 56	21 40	24 We	03 08	21 40			
10 We	14 16	20 43	25 Th	15 15	21 40			
11 Th	02 42	08 34	26 Fr	04 08	10 11			
12 Fr	14 53	21 21	27 Sa	16 05	22 29			
13 Sa	03 33	09 27	28 Su	05 08	11 13			
14 Su	15 35	22 03	29 Mo	16 58	23 19			
15 Mo	04 29	10 28	30 Tu	17 55	12 19			
	16 24	26 51						
	05 31	11 37						
	17 21	23 44						
	06 34	12 50						
	18 27	09 41						
	07 36	20 41						
	19 36	15 02						
	08 35	01 39						
	20 41	15 07						
	09 30	03 37						
	21 39	15 02						
	10 23	03 34						
	22 34	16 52						
	11 13	04 30						
	23 26	17 40						

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

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

TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

JULY — 1987

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1	0238	1.24	9	0209	0.26	0327	1.47
	0835	0.28		0548	1.35	16	0335
	1543	1.51		1241	0.87		1108
	2125	0.60		2045	1.27		1909
							1322
							0200
							1106
							0855
							2107
							0945
							2148
							1039
							2232
							1137
							2320
							1241
							0014
							1348
							0113
							1451
							0212
							1544
							0307
							1628
							0357
							1705
							0441
							1739
							0522
							1810
							0601
							1840

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

TIDAL STREAM CHANGE

JULY

START OF FLOOD		START OF EBB		FLOOD	EBB	START OF FLOOD	START OF EBB
FLOOD	EBB	FLOOD	EBB				
1	12 05	05 37	18 36	00 14	06 16	16	Th
2	00 25	06 15	19 09	01 08	07 11	17	Fr
3	01 03	06 54	19 41	02 00	08 04	18	Sa
4	01 43	07 35	20 13	02 51	08 55	19	Su
5	02 24	08 19	20 48	03 41	09 46	20	Mo
6	03 11	09 09	21 25	04 33	10 39	21	Tu
7	04 01	10 04	22 08	05 26	11 37	22	We
8	04 57	11 05	22 58	06 23	12 41	23	Th
9	05 56	12 14	23 58	07 21	00 14	24	Fr
10	07 03	13 28	01 03	08 20	01 13	25	Sa
11	08 08	14 57	01 04	09 26	02 12	26	Su
12	09 09	16 33	02 12	10 37	03 17	27	Mo
13	10 05	18 18	03 17	11 52	04 31	28	Tu
14	10 57	19 58	04 19	13 28	05 45	29	We
15	11 47	21 43	05 19	15 28	06 59	30	Th
		23 31	06 08	17 31	08 12	31	Fr

NEW ZEALAND V.S.A.G. TRIP 1988

by Mick Jeacle (President)
(059) 71 2768

Arrangements are now being finalized for this exciting Club trip. Some important details are listed below so that holidays can be arranged by those intending to go.

Departure date has been set down for Saturday 5th March, 1988. We fly to Auckland where we stay overnight, before travelling on to Pahia to the Bay of Islands the next morning.

Accommodation at Pahia has been looked at the Casabella Motel. Units are fully self-contained including kitchen facilities and they accommodate 4 people. There are 21 units and we have tentatively booked the whole building until we confirm numbers by 1st August this year. If you wish to be on this V.S.A.G. trip you must be prepared to advise Mick Jeacle by 1st August.

The great news is that we will be diving the "Mikhail Lermontov", only just recently opened up to divers. This luxury Russian cruise ship is larger than the famous "President Coolidge" wreck in Vanuatu. The Lermontor sank after striking a rock off the north end of the south island only 18 - 24 months ago and no doubt you will remember the news reports at the time.

So, from Pahia we will dive the Bay of Islands area with a few nights living on the boat when we go out to the famous Poor Knights for mind-blowing dives. From the Bay of Islands we then journey to Wellington and it is from there that divers only will catch a ½ hour flight to join a 70 foot catamaran which will be our home for the next 3 or 4 days over the "Mikhail Lermontov".

So, if you had any doubts about making the trip, maybe second thoughts are beginning. Don't delay! As stated, we need to confirm numbers for accommodation purposes by 1st August, 1987.

If intending to make the whole trip, you will need to apply for 3 weeks leave.

I hope to have more news next issue, which will include complete costing.

Editor Note: I think Mick Jeacle is working towards a Knighthood for his brilliant efforts with this one. *

As Mick Jeacle's plans for the forthcoming New Zealand trip get more spectacular by the moment, perhaps a few notes on some of the diving we can expect are now relevant.

The following article by famous New Zealand diver, Wade Doak, is from an old magazine I have: "Dive South Pacific - Underwater Magazine", Volume 9, No. 5, (1969).

THE GIANT SEA SOCK:

by Wade Doak

Able Seaman Kane and I were swimming along a cliff face at 50 feet. I was acting as tourist guide to the Poor Knights' scenery. I pointed out a large Porae sitting in a cup sponge. The English sailor gave an excited start and to my surprise, chased it down a steep gully. Just as I started after him, a weird shape loomed just ahead on the edge of vision: a huge white cylindrical form. I had no time to stop and examine it. My diving mate was heading deeper. I grabbed his fin at 110 feet. He gave a startled shudder. The Porae was fifty feet further down. Signalling "ascend", I urged my partner up the gully to where I knew something fantastic awaited us.

Soon, silhouetted against the surface, it came into view. Kane moved faster now. Wafting gently on the swells at 50 feet held out the cliff face by back pressure was a giant salp. Ghostly white, almost four times as long as my body, and as round, this huge mass of gelatinous tissue looked too frail to withstand touch. Fish were nibbling holes in it and Kane saw a leather jacket right inside the cylinder, gorging itself on the jelly. When I grabbed one end I was surprised to find the exterior felt rough and fibrous. Transparent prickles were embedded in the tissues to strengthen them. The body wall was half an inch thick, and the interior, as smooth as glass. Signalling Kane, we prepared to swim the huge tube up to the "Matira" tethered nearby.

As the surface light approached the salp was transformed into a delicate lolly pink, dotted with billions of scarlet nuclei.

The team of British Navy divers on the "Matira" were startled out of their wits when "Sugar" Kane and I swam up with the huge undulating sea monster. We had already boated a 15 pound packhorse cray, to their delight. Now cameras clicked and more film whirred as we manoeuvred it into position. Then Peter Doherty of the Whangarei Club swapped places with me so I could snap some underwater shots of it.

Samples of its tissues were taken for preservation and scientific examination.

The Salp is a compound ascidian related to the familiar sea squirt of sea shore or jetty piling.

In this case millions of tiny "tunicate" like animals have combined to produce a huge deep sea diving vehicle for life support purposes. The ascidian occupies an amazing place in the evolutionary chain. It is much more advanced than the invertebrate packhorse cray, having the beginning of a backbone. In fact, the ascidian belongs to the same chordate phylum as Man himself. However, the ascidian has forsaken locomotion. For it, all life offers is a constant flow of nutrient water.

Which reminds me of the city-dweller of tomorrow, legless before his battery of T.V. consoles, his every need supplied by electronics. The octopus is a mere mollusc, like the pipi, but a thousand times more intelligent than an ascidian. Whatever rung of the evolutionary scale an animal occupies, there is always the possibility of his finding a comfy backwater to stagnate in. And so our brother the deep ocean salp.

A few days later diving friends, Roger Grace and Tony Ayling were diving in the same area when they sighted a monstrous salp. Thirty feet long and four feet in diameter at one end, it tapered toward the other. From the wide end a thirty foot long filamentous tail trailed behind. Nearby was another salp with a body length of forty feet.

There does not seem to be any real limit to the size such a creature could attain.

Footnote: "Sugar" Kane and the British Navy divers were static about New Zealand skindiving "I've dived in Kenya, the Med., South Africa, Hong Kong and the U.K., I've never seen anything half as good as the Poor Knights", said "Sugar." •

CAVE DIVING PRESENTATION

by Mick Jeacle (President)

We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Ian Lewis to give us a talk on cave diving, especially in the Mount Gambier area, at our July meeting on 15th July, 1987. Ian will also show a selection of slides from his excellent collection.

Ian Lewis was born in Mount Gambier and began cave exploring as a teenager. He took up cave diving in 1971 and was a member of the South Australian Government Advisory Committee in 1973 when the sport was under review following a series of cave diving fatalities.

He is considered an expert in this field, and was co-author of the book "Cave Diving in Australia" published in 1980.

Ian has been good enough to give-up his time for us, so let's not let him down. It would be most embarrassing for the Club if we only had a handful of members present.

Be sure not to miss this interesting presentation and bring your family or friends.*

ON THE LOOKOUT!



Your editor is always on the lookout for submissions for this newsletter. So lend a hand mateys! Send your submissions to: "The Editor", Unit 1/3 Wimborne Lane, Chelsea, Vic. 3196

"ALEX'S REEF" DIVE



by John Lawler

Sunday April 5th was one of those days that we all dream of as scuba divers . . . warm, little wind, clear blue sky and flat seas.

And so it was as Pat Reynolds, Igor Chernichov, Jack Namiota, Chris Bourier and myself joined Alex Talay on board the mighty "Leeder" at Currum.

Alex had been out on the Bay the day before with a "New Recruit" for V.S.A.G. showing his friend the dive sights we often visit.

It seems a lot of enthusiasm was generated by this day on the Bay and celebrations at the Talay Beachside Home Unit lasted well into the early hours of Sunday morning.

The submarines were scheduled for our dive but mist did not allow for accurate marks to be taken and a reef dive along the back beach area was agreed to.

Alex had the cruiser moving slowly in the area with colour depth sounder on when all of a sudden pandamonium broke loose at the drop offs and bommies showing up on the screen. "Hold it Alex, back up Alex", and Alex did all of that.

Divers quickly into dive gear and over into water with approximately 30 feet visibility.

It was too good to be true . . . at around 70 feet swim throughs, big bommies, little bommies, fish like abs and guess what else . . . you got it!

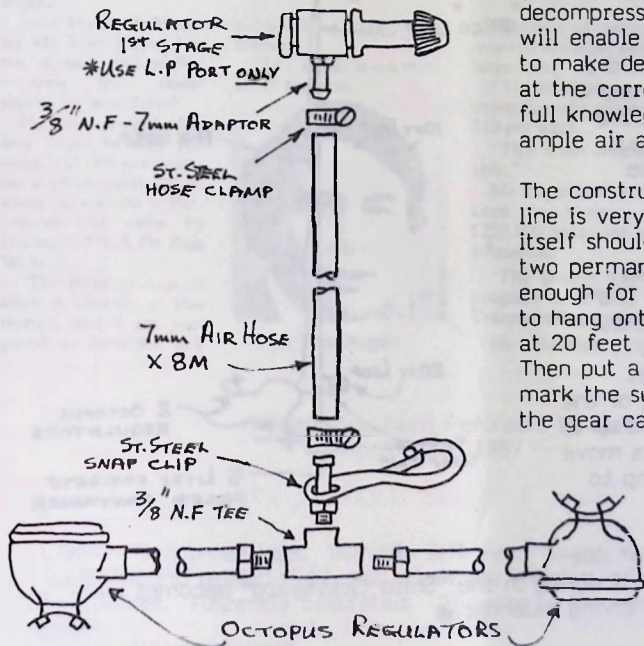
It is a very exciting reef with all the ingredients we need to feed the scuba diving addiction and then some.

IS YOUR BOAT READY FOR "DECO" DIVING?

by Des Williams

Many decompression (Bends) accidents in diving are caused by divers going close to the no decompression limits or into decompression times and then with insufficient air remaining in their tanks they make a rapid ascent to the surface.

If you intend to do decompression dives or even go close to the decompression limits it is a good idea to make up a decompression line. This will enable surfacing divers to make decompression stops at the correct depths with the full knowledge that there is ample air available.



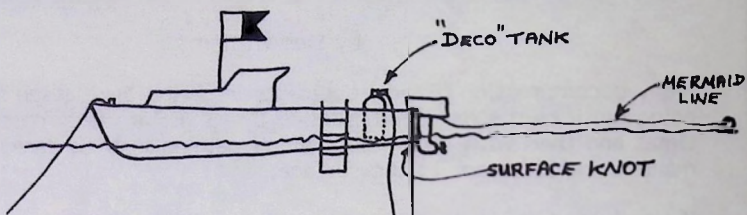
The construction of a "deco" line is very simple. The rope itself should be made up with two permanent loops, big enough for two or three divers to hang onto, one positioned at 20 feet and one at 10 feet. Then put a knot in the rope to mark the surface, in this way the gear can be assured of

being at the correct depth each time.

A heavy weight is made by cutting the bottom from a five litre plastic container and filling it with concrete.

This gives a smooth cover to the weight and does far less damage to your vessel when being hauled aboard and stowed.

Air is provided by using a standard diving regulator and octopus, but with about eight metres of air hose fitted between the first and second stages. Having the first stage at the surface will of course, reduce the efficiency of the demand regulators at 20 feet, but this reduction is acceptable.



For additional safety, a non-return valve could be fitted at the lower end of the air hose, just above the 3/4" N.F. Tee, but the chance of a hose fracturing in this service is remote.

A stainless steel snap clip is fitted at the 3/8" N.F. Tee. This enables the air supply to be placed at the 20 feet stop at the beginning of the dive, but then moved up to 10 feet as the divers move from the 20 feet stop to the 10 feet stop.

Perhaps such a "deco" line should be considered if diving in the "Ships Graveyard" becomes a regular event in our diving calendar.*

MEDIA WATCH

Boat owners face Roper slug

BOAT owners with beach moorings on the Southern Peninsula face a new State Government impost.

State Transport Minister Mr Tom Roper has not denied that public mooring fees could shortly be introduced.

He did not deny that fees could be \$10 per week - \$5,000 per year - for a small family boat, when questioned in Parliament last week by Dromana MLA Dr Ron Wells.

"The Boating Association is looking at this matter, and I am prepared to consider any

proposal," said Mr Roper.

"In a sense, it is a matter of fairness.



• Tom Roper

"Owners of privately moored boats are paying large fees.

"The fees they pay are more than the suggested \$10 per week.

"That is not unreasonable."

Mr Roper said he was keen to replace the \$250,000 spent on boat education.

"The money for this program came from the Transport Department."

He said money from



• Dr Ron Wells

consolidated revenue, to which the money from boat registration fees is directed, was spent on "various things"

Dr Wells requested a list of expenditure of the "various things" over the last two years.

Mr Roper undertook to itemise this expenditure in writing.

From: Southern Peninsula "Gazette"
April 15th, 1987

LOST - Dog three legs. Blind in left eye. Large scar on throat. Bullet wound behind right ear. Left ear missing. Tail broken in two places. Recently castrated. Answers to the name Lucky.

Phone _____

From: Sydney "Advocate"

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR JUNE/JULY 1987

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
June 17	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
June 21	Wreck Dive "George Kermode"	Don Abell 29 4415	Flinders 10.00 a.m.
July 5	Wreck Dive "Coogee" or "Milora"	Alex Talay 772 3085	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
July 15	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
July 19	Pinnacles & Channel Drift	John Goulding 890 6634	Newhaven Boat Ramp 10.00 a.m.
Aug 2	Sorrento	John Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
Aug 16 &	Snow Trip Mt. Buller	Alex Talay 772 3085	Fully Booked.
Aug 16	Sorrento <i>Cancelled</i>	Paul Tipping 387 2027	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
Aug 19	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Aug 22	Saturday Evening Spit Roast & Nostalgia Slide Night - for all the family. Venue - Barry Truscott's <u>new</u> home. See next "Fathoms" for details or John Lawler on 569 9851.		
Oct 31 -	Melbourne Cup Weekend Warrnambool	Mick Jeacle (059) 71 2786	
Dec 25	Christmas Trip Northern N.S.W.	Tony Tipping	Details being 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.