

FATHOMS

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**INDEPENDENT
DIVING
FREEDOM**

Safety In Diving

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Box 2526W,
GPO Melbourne 3001*



VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

VSAG

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FATHOMS



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Mag No. 108 2702

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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.

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, 21st October, 1987 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday, 18th November, 1987 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne
Tuesday, 27th October, 1987 8.00 p.m.

Next committee meeting:

Jeanette Large's home, 60 Shorts Rd., Coburg.
Tuesday 24th November, 1987 8.00 p.m.
Ross Luxford's home, 17 Maberley Cres.,
Frankston.

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

EDITORIAL

On Tuesday 22nd September, 1987 the Deputy Premier of Victoria, Mr. Fordham, officially opened Victoria's latest island tourist attraction - namely the South Channel Fort in Port Phillip Bay.

The island was built over 100 years ago, to protect Melbourne from possible Russian invasion. Now, after a considerable clean up, the island and its underground magazines and barracks are open to the public.

The "Spirit of Victoria" leaves Station Pier daily at 11.00 a.m. for the Fort - adults \$26.00 and children \$17.00.

As far as I am concerned, visiting the Fort won't be as exciting as it used to be when landing was "forbidden". We used to land anyway and stand on the creaking jetty as it swayed in the rush of the tide. The

underground tunnels were half full of sand and dead sea birds, which added to the mystery of the place.

Good to see the Government has decided to preserve this remote piece of Victorian history and ensure it won't just rot away as it has done to date.

My compliments to John Goulding who has taken on the job of Editor of "Fathoms" and I ask all members of V.S.A.G. to assist John in every way possible.

This month we welcome two new members to V.S.A.G. - Raelene Lawson and Amanda Tutton. Terrific to have you with us ladies and we look forward to seeing you on more dives as we know you are very keen on this magic sport. Oops! nearly forgot Tony John, who recently joined V.S.A.G., a warm welcome to you too, Tony.

Des Williams



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1986/87

It is now some 33 years since our great Club was first formed and yet it continues to thrive, thanks to the dedication of some members, and in particular to those who have served on the committee.

Behind every successful club lies a band of willing workers who plan to ensure its smooth running.

Don Abell has been our Secretary for 3 years now and has performed this task in an excellent manner. The Secretary's job can be an onerous one indeed and Don has cheerfully accepted this role without complaint. He also prepares the Club's financial statements at the end of each fiscal year. Well done Don.

Alex Talay, after 2 years as President, reverted to the role of Treasurer. Perhaps we could describe this job as yet another that nobody wants, yet Alex did not hesitate to accept when nominated. We have all come to know Alex for his laid-back style and at times he may have forgotten to complete his report in time for meetings, but at least you could rest assured the money was "in the bank". Thanks for your efforts Alex.

The year 1987 has not been without sadness as April 12 records the tragic and untimely passing of our esteemed colleague Keith Jensen. We all know and appreciate the efforts Keith put in towards compilation of "Fathoms", and I am grateful to Des Williams and Alex for stepping in to ensure that we continue to receive this vital communication link on time.

Des Williams has also volunteered his time to attend regular S.D.F.-V. meetings on our behalf. Through his efforts we have kept abreast of the news on the dive scene, and in particular the ever increasing goings on in Government circles which may threaten our sport, or at least our freedom to enjoy it. Bravo Des.

All clubs are costly to run, and V.S.A.G. is no exception. There is equipment to maintain, postages, magazine expenses etc. etc. John Lawler has seen to it that we cover these expenses following social outings at various venues throughout the year. He has also on 2 occasions organized a delicious spit roast to compliment functions at the Tipping beach house and at the Truscotts' new home. A lot of effort and organization went into these and I thank you John for a job well done.

It is now common knowledge that our most important social event of the year is our Christmas function. It is usually well attended and over the years we have been able to run very successful raffles which contribute enormously toward the costs incurred by the Club throughout the ensuing year. This is entirely due to the generosity of many dive shops and other sponsors who have donated prizes to us for the purpose, and I thank them for their continued support.

To the remainder of our committee, John Goulding, Barry Truscott, Max Synon, Paul Tipping, Andy Mastrowicz and Pat Reynolds, many thanks for your contributions throughout the year.

Many clubs conduct their diving from charter boats, which does not allow their members to enjoy the freedom of choice that we do. This is made possible by the generous support of our boat owners who are only too willing to provide their own personal property for the members convenience and enjoyment. Thanks John, Barry, Alex, Max, Geoff, Scotty and Andy.

In closing I would like to extend my best wishes to the incoming President and committee members for 1987/88 and thank all members for their support and participation during the past 12 months.

Mick Jeacle

COMMITTEE NEWS - JULY & AUGUST 1987

Minutes of the July committee meeting held at Paul & Lesley Tipping's home on 21st July, 1987 at 8.35 p.m.

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 advised that the Club had forwarded a letter to Tony John advising him that his membership application had been accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash on hand	\$ 145.00
Cash at bank	\$ 1,236.22
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,270.26
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,651.48
	<hr/> <hr/>

There were no bills held for payment.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Des Williams asked members to volunteer any slides they may have for the slide night to be held on the 22nd August. Des would speak with each member individually and obtain an appropriate number of slides for the night.

Max Synon reported that he had heard from reliable authorities that the Ports and Harbours Commission were considering blowing up the Eliza Ramsden. Max did not have a date at which this would take place. He has heard that it could be any time within the next twelve months.

The vacancies on the committee were considered. Those standing down at the next annual general meeting are Andy Mastrowicz, Don Abell and Max Synon. In addition there is a further vacancy caused by the death of Keith Jensen. Don and Max indicated their intention to restand for the committee and at this time Andy is still undecided.

Nomination forms will be included in the next issue of Fathoms magazine and these nominations are to be returned by the 2nd September. Voting slips are to be forwarded to all members by the 9th September and these may be returned by mail or personally to the meeting in September.

John Lawler took a final count for numbers of committee members attending the dinner at the Last Laugh on the 7th August. John advised that he had at least 20 people who would be attending that night.

John Goulding advised that he had been looking at the purchase of reflector strip for adhering to the life vests of boat owners. This requirement has now become law. But John and Alex will investigate some sort of a discount price as the retail price works out to be something close to \$10.00 per jacket. John and Alex will report to the next meeting.

Mick Jeacle requested that copies of new membership forms be reproduced and some copies given to each committee member.

John Lawler also noted that Bob Cumberland had recently moved premises and John had undertaken to place a notice of the new address in the next issue of "Fathoms". This action is in recognition of the significant support which Bob has given to the V.S.A.G. over prior years.

Des Williams asked that a copy of the minutes for this committee meeting he prepared and forwarded to him by the weekend so that he was able to include them in the next issue of "Fathoms". He also requested that committee members provide him with any more articles on dives throughout the month.

Des also requested that we consider asking Ian Lewis to give a further presentation to the Club. Ian had given a presentation to the last general meeting and everyone had been very impressed by the quality of the presentation and by Ian's knowledge of diving.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Minutes of the August committee meeting held at Max & Pam Synon's home on 25th August, 1987 at 8.43 p.m.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Des Williams.

MINUTES:

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

MATTERS ARISING:

John Lawler advised that Bob Cumberland has been asked to provide advertising material to be placed in the "Fathoms" magazine. To date this has not happened.

John Goulding advised that he has spoken with Barry Andrewartha from "Sports Diving" and Barry has agreed to place an advertisement for V.S.A.G. in the "Sports Diving" magazine. John and Alex will write the copy and present it at the meeting for discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary detailed correspondence received since the last meeting. This consisted only of advertising material and magazines from other dive clubs.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the Club had the following funds:

Cash at bank	\$ 1,936.62
Cash on deposit	\$ 1,270.26
	<u>\$ 3,206.88</u>

The following bills were held for payment:

Copyquest - printing	\$ 110.00
CIG - Cylinder hire	\$ 113.40

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The nominations to date were tabled at the meeting. Nominations have been received for Jeanette Large, Don Abell and Max Synon. Mick Jeacle advised that he will check with Ross Luxford to determine whether Ross would consent to his nomination.

Mick Jeacle is currently considering whether to use a professional dive charter boat on the diving at the Bay of Islands. Mick will contact all those involved and determine the costs. Mick is also to contact Jan Stone to check the costings of the whole trip.

Through Max Synon, Des Williams asked that a vote of thanks be noted to June Scott for her suggestion to hold the recent function at Barry Truscott's, to John Lawler for making all the arrangements and to Barry for allowing us to use his palatial residence as a venue for the function.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be forwarded to Alan Noonan for his donation of \$30.00 to Club funds.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.12 p.m. *

V.S.A.G. COMMITTEE NEWS

The September meeting of the committee was held at Mick Jeacle's home on 22nd September.

Business raised at this meeting was as follows:-

1. Election of Office Bearers

All positions on the committee were declared vacant and the process of appointing a new committee was undertaken in accordance with the Constitution.

Results were:

President -	Mick Jeacle
Vice President -	Don Abell
Secretary -	Don Abell
Treasurer -	Alex Talay
Newsletter Editor -	John Goulding
Assistant Newsletter Editor -	Barry Truscott
Social Secretary -	John Lawler
Property Officer -	Pat Reynolds
Safety Officer -	Alex Talay
Public Relations Officer -	Des Williams
S.D.F.-V. Delegates -	Des Williams Paul Tipping John Goulding (Reserve)
Points Scorer -	Igor Chernichov
Committee Members -	Jeanette Large Ross Luxford

2. Australia Day Weekend 1988

As the Australia Day Weekend next year will involve a four day holiday, the committee will contact the Wilson's Promontory Rangers to obtain details regarding Refuge Cove camp permits.

3. Reflective Tape for Life Jackets

The committee is still persuing a discount price for a bulk order of retro-reflective tape, which will be required by law to be adhered to life jackets by December 1st, 1987

4. New Members

Raelene Lawson and Amanda Tutton were proposed for membership by Alex Talay and accepted by the committee.

5. V.S.A.G. Christmas Party

The annual V.S.A.G. Christmas Party will be held at the Lonsdale Bar and Grill on Friday 18th December.

6. V.S.A.G. Meetings at North Melbourne Football Club

The North Melbourne Football Club has advised the Club that the room hire price for Wednesday night meetings will increase from the present \$20.00 to \$100.00. This is due to the fact that N.M.F.C. rarely has other functions on Wednesday nights and therefore must open up the club and staff it exclusively for us. They have indicated however, that should we agree to switch our meeting nights from Wednesday's to Thursday's our room rate price would remain at \$20.00.

This matter will be put to the members at the October general meeting.

7. Shipwreck Hunting

It was suggested that the committee approach the Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria to hire their underwater magnetometer for a weekend to look for new shipwrecks.

8. Committee Meeting Venues

Committee meetings for the 1987/88 year will be held on the Tuesday following the general meetings at the following venues:

October -	Jeanette Large
November -	Ross Luxford

January -
 February -
 March -
 April -
 May -
 June -
 July -
 August -
 September -

Barry Truscott
 Pat Reynolds
 Alex Talay
 John Lawler
 Don Abell
 Des Williams
 Paul Tipping
 John Goulding
 Mick Jeacle *

CHRISTMAS PARTY

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

ON

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18TH

AT

THE LONSDALE STREET BAR & GRILL
 389 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE

(YEAH! THE SAME PLACE AS LAST YEAR)

7.00 P.M. START

COST: TO BE ADVISED

(BUT NOT MUCH MORE THAN LAST YEAR)

DRINKS: PAY AS YOU GO

RING JOHN LAWLER - 569 9851

ALMOST A CLAYTONS DIVE - AUGUST 30TH

by Don Abell

We started well. The weather all week had been beautiful and the promise was for first class diving, but controversy came early. We had too many boats, so I gave Mick the option of being a passenger for a change. Mick reminded me that his boat was the mainstay of the Club and always went on dives. Furthermore he had a new trailer which he thought everyone in the Club should see. (The last trailer was literally worn out with over maintenance).

I was really pleased to get a call from Geoff Birtles. It has been too long since I have seen Geoff on a V.S.A.G. dive and that is a loss, as Geoff has been a major contributor to the Club.

Maybe we are seeing a revitalized Birtles contribution with the instigation of the highly acclaimed (and maybe U.N. sponsored) "Save the Eliza" committee. I personally stand in the wings, in excited anticipation, just waiting for the committee to call me to assist in this great quest.

So we lined up with the Birtles Leeder and the Talay Leeder, both led by the Bob Scott flagship. As Dive Captain, I allocated myself to the Scott craft. It worries me that I was perhaps a little selfish. All the divers were queing to be on Bob's boat. Tony Tipping had driven me to Sorrento so I felt obliged to give him some personal preference and he joined us on Bob's boat.

Mick Jeacle had elected to leave his craft at home expecting to be asked to join us on Bob's boat. However, he was relegated to the Birtles craft, but he managed to adjust and seemed to enjoy the day irrespective. This, of course, is Mick's great strength and is why he is a successful President. It is his capacity to adjust from imported silk shirts and Scottish woollen jumpers, and, to be able to mix with the minions by squeezing onto Geoff's boat and partaking of a sip of the good stuff. (No doubt every cupboard was checked for the odd bottle of Dom).

So we went diving. Mick, Geoff, Ross, Reece, Tony, Bob, Alex, Pat and Igor. We took a left at the Heads and went off to the back beaches. Alex searched for the reefs and all in comfortable time we fell over the side. Unfortunately we hit the bottom before we saw the sand.

Bob turned right around and went up. Tony and I played around for 30 minutes and then returned to the boat. Back inside the Heads for lunch and all, but Ross and Reece elected to forget the diving.

Low key day you may say. That is exactly what it was. Totally relaxing - except for the obvious tension created by not being able to get all nine persons onto Bob's boat. The trials of being Dive Captain. *

THANKS - MAX SYNON

Members of the committee and indeed all members of V.S.A.G. owe a big thank you to Max Synon who recently left our committee after 14 years service as a Director of the Club.

I don't know quite where to start to say how much we appreciate Max's fine contribution to the V.S.A.G. over such a long time. Of course four-square behind Max has been Pam, his wife, who has also contributed unselfishly and sincerely to the V.S.A.G. Pam has produced many delicious meals for ravenous committee members after meetings held at their home. Pam also manufactured many divers flags for the Club some time ago and both the Synon's have always been 100% behind the V.S.A.G. in all our events of interest and fundraising. Personally, I don't know two more sincere people than Max and Pam and look forward to continued contact with them at our dives and social events.

Des Williams

MINUTES OF S.D.F.-V. MEETING - AUGUST 4TH

by Des Williams

- (i) Draft Management Plan for the proposed National Park at Inverlock is soon to be released by Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands.
- (ii) Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands are considering a fisheries legislation proposal to be incorporated in a new Fisheries Bill. It is expected that within the next three years a total closed season on both sexes of crays will extend from the 1st June to 15th November. It is believed that females "in berry" during this time are being disturbed, albeit returned to the sea, and thus are miscarrying, thus a drop in the number of young produced. Therefore, a total closed season will effectively mean no disturbance at all. This will most probably be phased in beginning in the West Coast area of Victoria first.
- (iii) Fourteen new fisheries inspectors are currently being trained and seven new boats for their use on patrols have been launched by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.
- (iv) The new recompression chamber facility at the Alfred Hospital will be operational by September. Groups of 10 people per time will be allowed to inspect the facility very soon.
- (v) Neil McKenzie, the S.D.F.-V.'s representative on the V.R.F.A. Committee, will soon be leaving for a three appointment on business to Guam. Thus his position on V.R.F.A.C. will have to be filled.
- (vi) Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands has released a new publication to keep "the whole spectrum of recreational fishing" informed. The first issue of "Recreational Fisheries Newsletter" Vol. 1, No. 1 was released in June 1987 and is available from any Conservation, Forests & Lands outlet. Minutes of meetings held by the Victorian Recreational Fisherman's Advisory Committee (V.R.F.A.C.) are included for your interest.
- (vii) The final draft of the Point Nepean National Park Plan should be available by the end of August 1987. Copies can be obtained from Conservation, Forests & Lands outlets.

(viii) The current members of S.D.F.-V.'s management cell are all due to step down from office in December, this year and replacements will have to be forthcoming or the S.D.F.-V. will cease to operate for you, the diver. Please consider putting something back into diving and contact Des Williams if you are interested in a position of office in S.D.F.-V.

* Next meeting of S.D.F.-V. will be held at North Melbourne Football Club on Tuesday 6th October, 1987.*

CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Yes, this year Mick Jeacle will be hanging the prized trophy on his wall at home. Mick is our 1987 Clubman of the Year!!! Congratulations to you Mick from all your friends at V.S.A.G. Your club spirit is at last rewarded.

Top three contenders results were:

Mick Jeacle	645 Points
Des Williams	610 Points
Pat Reynolds	560 Points

The following article is from DIVE SOUTH PACIFIC UNDER-SEA ANNUAL 1968, For those going to New Zealand with V.S.A.G maybe another item of interest.

THE WRECK OF THE FULL RIGGED LASTINGHAM

By Bob Thynne

This magnificent sailing ship met her end on Cape Jackson almost opposite the "Rangitoto", but on the other side of the peninsula; on the Port Gore side. She came to grief during a violent North-West gale on the night of September 1st, 1884, which makes this wreck now 83 years old, while that of the "Rangitoto" is now 94 years.

LONG SEARCH

Having learned of the "Lastingham" from the book of "New Zealand Shipwrecks", three of us who enjoy that type of exploration, set out to re-locate her position for our own weekend enjoyment. Fortunately for our finances, we had access to the use of three sturdy and powerful launches, for the use of which we clubbed in and paid the running expenses only. We learned that the sea is an awfully big place to search for a shipwreck, even though the ship was over 221 feet long! We searched for seven days over a period of three weeks. We used echo sounders, sea sleds, many tanks of air, snorkelled, climbed up the cliffs and looked down into the water, dragged ropes along the bottom, etc. for several miles, until finally my friend called excitedly "this could be it."

I was aboard the big launch "Pamir" having a snack when he called. I hastily ran along the deck to the bow to hear his story and tripped and fell overboard in the excitement. As I had my suit on it didn't cause me much concern, but I had to return to the boat for my fins and mask and scuba gear.

Sure enough, on going down below I could see that our search was over. From our long research we knew that the ship was carrying general cargo, and a consignment of many tons of railway equipment for the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company. We identified her by the cargo: stacks of rails, rolling-stock tyres to be shrunk onto cast steel wheels, barrels of cement with the wood rotted away; glass sheets still intact as they were embedded in sand, the surrounding crates were eaten away.

This fascinating wreck is frequently unapproachable because of heavy seas pounding over her, so we then go to the other side of Cape Jackson and dive on the 'Rangitoto' which is sheltered when the other is exposed. This plan works either way, of course, for when we cannot enjoy the 'Rangi' we go around the tip of the Cape and its calm on the 'Lastingham' side. Altogether, a very convenient setting for our purposes. After all, when one has travelled about 30 miles from Picton to dive on a wreck, to have to return without doing so would be painful.

BELL

On one of our dives, Lionel Orchard found a beautiful small ship's bell. What could be more appropriate for a souvenir? He has refused several generous offers for it. Of course, I am hoping to find the *main* Ship's bell which would be larger: or maybe if I could only find the Safe which is reputed to contain 400 sovereigns, I'd be reasonably satisfied. The bow anchor, which we recovered is now decorating the front of Wakatahuri boat building yard. It weighs 2½ tons and was transported below a 55 foot launch for the 20 mile journey, and winched ashore, cleaned up and painted to preserve it.

GOLD?

On one memorable occasion, my friend Allan, found a most exciting looking symmetrical block of solid metal, which when scratched with his diving knife, gleamed yellow! He shot to the surface with it, like a rocket, and deposited it in the dinghy above, which held our Hookah outfit, disregarding the fact that it weighed over 14 lbs and that he was ascending faster than a good diver should. Can you imagine his feelings when, after being cleaned, the embossed lettering read — FIRST QUALITY NAVAL BRONZE, J. STONE AND COMPANY, DEPT-FORD ENGLAND!

We subsequently found one or two larger ingots, which weighed 40 lbs and revealed a silver coloured interior — they were made by the same company, but the lettering read — BABBIT'S METAL. The Stone Com. is still in existence, and were most gratified when I sent them an ingot.

I found a small bottle of Worcestershire Sauce, which also has gone to England, as the Manufacturers — Lee and Perrins read about our find in the London Times and asked if they could have it. They sent us £10 through their New Zealand agent Butland Industries of Auckland.

SALVAGE LAW

To keep on the right side of the law, I wrote to the Marine Department in Wellington when we first found the wreck and asked them how we could keep out of trouble. They said that all wrecks belong to someone, by law, and in the case of 'our' ship, their Department is the owner, and if we wished legally to dive on it we must pay them an agreed sum, say £10, suggested by them, and we would be given one year's lease of the rights to dive on the wreck.

Certain stipulations were laid down, such as, anything of value (other than souvenirs, parts of the ship) had to be declared and handed to Customs.

Customs would retain the goods, presumably cargo, for twelve months, after which time we were free to bid for any of it which we wanted, when it was put up for Auction! We did not recover any declarable goods! Although we have dived on 'Lastingham' about six or eight days — there is still much that is interesting.

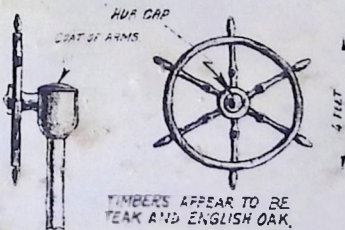


RIGHT: Souvenirs from the *Lastingham*.

In fact each time I've been down to her, I have found more and more interesting and valuable things, than I had found before. There is a whole roll of patterned linoleum for instance which I saw exposed last visit — and I'm sure it wasn't visible on my previous dive! As the storms come and go, I believe more relics are exposed, while the many we leave in place are covered out of sight again. We don't believe in skinning everything in sight from the wreck. In this way, the area of perhaps half an acre, will remain a happy hunting ground for others who may wish to visit the grave of one of the most beautiful ships ever to grace the ocean. A full rigged Clipper Ship.



You will note by the above map that the wreck of the LASTINGHAM is in the general vicinity of the resting place of the MIKHAIL LERMONTOV, which I have marked in for your interest.



TIMBERS APPEAR TO BE TEAK AND ENGLISH OAK.

A VISIT TO SIEBE GORMAN & CO. LTD.

by Des Williams

As most of you know, I am interested in all matters of history concerning diving. Thus, during my recent visit to England I made sure to visit plenty of maritime museums and displays. The "Mary Rose" and "Cutty Sark" were brilliant, but they are another story.

Whilst in Wales on business, I took time out to visit the company which put diving "on the map". Namely, Siebe Gorman & Co. works at Cwmbran out of Cardiff.

Before leaving Australia, I made arrangements with James North Pty. Ltd. (Siebe Gorman's Melbourne agents) to call on Mr. Phillip Morris at the Cwmbran premises.

In true British style, I was warmly welcomed and given a personal tour of the company's private museum of diving products, manufactured by the Siebe Gorman Co. over the last 160 years.

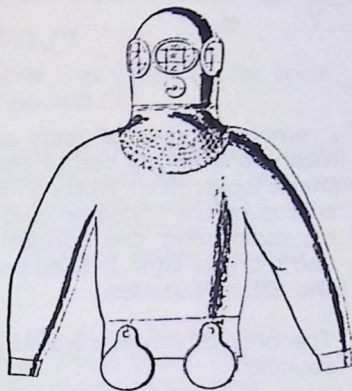
Mr. Morris explained that the company now produces only breathing apparatus, to a world market suitable for emergency service organizations such as the fire brigade. The old "hard hat" diving dress is no longer manufactured by them.

You should see the collection of old "hard hat" diving helmets they have!! Many built especially for a specific use, such as the one for marine magnetic mine disposal personnel. The unit is completely non-magnetic and designed so the diver could see out the top of the helmet as he lay on his chest defusing the mine on the sea bed. Maybe I'll describe the various outfits in more detail another time.

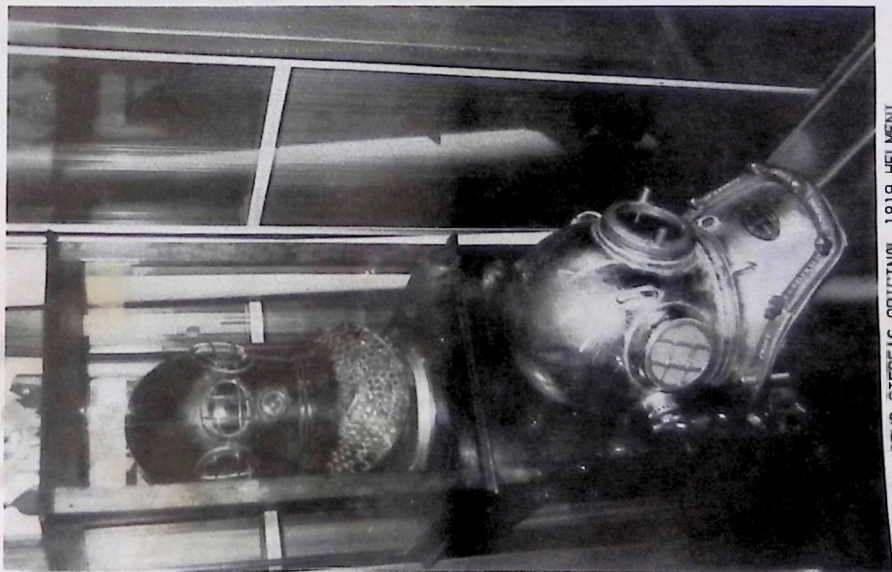
The most fascinating item for me, was the very first deep sea helmet built in 1819 by Augustus Siebe himself. The handmade helmet is displayed in its own glass case and is the most precious item in the company's museum.

In 1819 Augustus Siebe introduced the first pattern of his diving dress and helmet, which, as subsequently improved, became the world's first standard type. His original form was known as the "open" dress, and

consisted of a metal helmet attached to a jacket reaching to the waist, so that air, supplied under pressure to the helmet by means of a force-pump, could escape freely at the diver's waist. It really worked on the principle of the diving-bell. Although, (owing to an abundant air supply) this form was quite adequate to prolonged work in moderate depths, it necessitated its wearer being circumspect in his movements, since if he bent down he ran considerable risk of filling his jacket with water. Still, much good work was done with it, and the "standard dress" outfit was quickly improved and remained largely unaltered for over 100 years. *

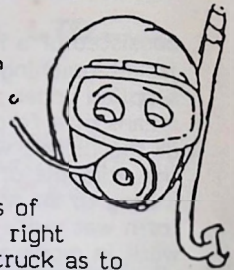


AUGUSTUS SIEBE'S "OPEN"
DRESS OUTFIT - 1819



AUGUSTUS SIEBE'S ORIGINAL 1819 HELMET
AT THE CAMBRAN MUSEUM

FLOTSAM & JETSAM



I remember several years ago when diving the Pinnacles meant chartering one of the boats at San Remo, the skills of the skipper; Stan Watts in being able to drop his shot line right on top of the Pinnacle everytime left me somewhat awestruck as to his seamanship and navigational ability. Barry Truscott used to do it also, and many a time I dived down Barry's anchor line right onto the bow of the Eliza Ramsden.

The only difference was that Barry did it without the aid of a depth sounder.

Being able to locate diving spots through accurate navigation using landmarks is not difficult. The secret is though, not to tell anybody else how you do it or what landmarks and transits you use. In this way those who don't know better get the impression that you have some mystical power or ability.

So when the Club decided to re-visit the Pinnacles, I was called upon to exercise my well known skills in Trained Underwater Recovery Deployment (known as TURD for short or turd head (read shit head) for long!).

For those who have had the privilege of riding in my boat . . . it's the only one of its type in the world!! . . . you may have noticed an old exercise book on the chart table. In that book are the location details of all the famous dive sites visited by V.S.A.G.

So with 5 boats in hand, 15 divers and a great day developing we headed into Bass Strait on course for the Pinnacles.

The marks were lined up, but alas! not all seemed right. Where was the little bush to be lined up between the two big rocks? In the intervening years since I had last visited the Pinnacles, the little bush and a lot more had grown into bloody great trees. But, about 5 miles out from the coast they looked like little bushes and that, boys and girls is why I led the V.S.A.G. to a spot about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from the Pinnacles.

Thank God for Alex, Bob and Mick who did have depth sounders and managed to get us back into the right area.

Eventually we found the Pinnacles and the wait was worth it, for once again we dived one of the best locations in Victoria.

The V.S.A.G. annual snow trip to Mt. Buller was another roaring success with old hands Alex and Pat leading the brigade of Igor and Anthony. By the time Tony and I got there most of the guys were skied-out with only Igor (complete with cameras) and Anthony Finnigan still hilling the slopes - but never mind Alex, we could see where you had been!

Once again a diving fatality has hit the news, this time an Adelaide diver is believed to have been taken by a Great White Shark. Now whilst this is a tragedy and something which all divers must think about from time to time, I would like to refresh your memory about my 6 easy steps to avoid shark attack.

1. Tip fish oil inside your buddy's wet suit before he puts it on with the excuse that it assists in keeping the wearer warmer.
2. Prior to diving, accidently cut your buddy's leg with your knife . . . just enough to draw a little blood.
3. Insert a leaking can of "Snappy Tom" cat food into your buddy's catch bag.
4. On entering the water watch which way your buddy goes and then swim off in the opposite direction.
5. Take 6 shark repelent tablets (available from "Fly by Night Distributors") and wash down with half a bottle of Rum.
6. If uncertain about any of these steps sell your diving gear and take up golf!

Good old Murgatroyd has presented me with another daughter; Eliza born on the 11th September, and no she's not called after the wreck of the "Eliza Ramsden".

The V.S.A.G. committee has taken on 3 new faces with Jeanette Large, Ross Luxford and Igor Chernichov and I wish them luck and enjoyment in their roles on the committee. To Max Synon and Andy Mastrowicz, who have left the committee may I express to you both my appreciation in having worked with you over many years in the administration of the Club. V.S.A.G. like any organization requires some to give up their time and work towards developing the enjoyment for others. The role of a committee member has a major bonus though, in that it enables one to achieve greater satisfaction and a richer feeling of belonging. The Club has benefited through both your efforts in committee and I trust that your membership has been more rewarding as a result.

Signed C. Urchin

V.S.A.G. TENNIS PARTY & INVITATION MILE

Saturday 21st November at Balnarring Beach Tennis Courts from 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. Then back to the Tipping's home at 1 Sandy Court, Somers until late - sleeping bags welcome!

B.Y.O. Barbeque meat etc. and chairs.

Absolutely MUST ring Paul Tipping on 387 2027 or Tony Tipping on 817 4956 prior to or at the November general meeting.

DECO STOPS

by Alex Talay

Pat Reynolds has a richly deserved reputation as a big eater, so you can imagine his delight when he cracked an air-conditioning job at the Hoadley's factory. I can confidently predict that their profits will be down this year, as Pat scoffed everything in sight. He was last seen leaving the premises with his gob full of Smarties and his pockets and everything else stuffed to the hilt with Violet Crumbles. Rumour has it that he sabotaged the unit he installed, so that he has to go back and fix it!

Congratulations to Maree and John Goulding on the arrival of a bouncing baby girl, Eliza. Mum and Babe are both well, but my spies tell me the old man's not too flash. Seems he was having his customary Saturday night BBQ whilst Maree was in hospital and was feeling lonely. He rang a highly placed member of our committee and invited him around. During the serious business of demolishing 30 odd cans John's guest discovered his collection of antique musical instruments. Even though it was 4 o'clock in the morning I thought the Trombone and Trumpet duet was an outstanding musical success and reckon it was pretty poor form of his neighbours to dobb him in when Maree got home.

Congrats also to Jenny Large, Ross Luxford and Igor Chernichov on their election to our committee.

Trip to Mt. Buller went off without a hitch. All the worried ladies left at home had nothing to concern themselves about. The boys behaved in true V.S.A.G. fashion. I swear everyone was in bed by 4 o'clock although in all honesty I can't say whether for the first or second time on any given evening.

Welcome to three new members of V.S.A.G. Rae Lawson, Amanda Tutton and Tony John were inducted at our last meeting. In case you have trouble telling these 3 green divers apart Tony is the good looking one with the beard.

Bazza and Marie Truscott's nostalgia night was a huge success. Well attended and enjoyed by everyone. The spit roast provided by John Lawler was great and Bazza's new Palace is a sight to behold.

TIDE TABLES

PORT PHILLIP HEADS
 TIDES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

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

PORT PHILLIP HEADS
 TIDAL STREAM CHANGE

OCTOBER

	START OF			START OF	
	FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB
1 Th	01 52	08 07	16 Fr	02 24	08 41
	13 44	19 51		14 16	20 21
2 Fr	02 40	08 53	17 Sa	03 07	09 25
	14 27	20 39		15 03	21 07
3 Sa	03 35	09 48	18 Su	03 55	10 18
	16 27	21 44		16 09	22 08
4 Su	04 38	10 55	19 Mo	04 51	11 25
	16 46	23 07		17 23	23 26
5 Mo	05 51	12 14	20 Tu	05 57	12 36
	18 17			18 48	
6 Tu	07 07	00 37	21 We	07 06	00 51
	19 41	13 30		19 53	13 32
7 We	08 16	01 59	22 Th	08 05	02 02
	20 50	14 33		20 42	14 17
8 Th	09 17	03 08	23 Fr	08 55	02 59
	21 46	15 26		21 25	14 57
9 Fr	10 09	04 08	24 Sa	09 40	03 47
	22 34	16 11		22 06	15 36
10 Sa	10 53	04 56	25 Su	10 21	04 31
	23 17	16 52		22 45	16 14
11 Su	11 31	05 39	26 Mo	11 00	05 11
	23 56	17 29		23 26	16 53
12 Mo	12 05	06 17	27 Tu	11 37	05 50
	24 14	18 04		17 32	18 11
13 Tu	00 34	08 52	28 We	00 06	06 29
	12 37	19 36		12 14	18 11
14 We	01 09	07 27	29 Th	00 49	07 09
	13 08	19 09		12 52	18 53
15 Th	01 46	08 03	30 Fr	01 34	07 52
	13 41	19 43		13 35	19 40
			31 Sa	02 23	08 40
				14 29	20 36

OCTOBER — 1987

	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	
1	0832	1 51	0113	1 51	0555	1 39	0051	1 45
	1002	0 26	0706	0 26	0677	0 57	0644	0 64
TH	1846	1 37	FR	1708	1 23	SA	1237	1 32
	2257	0 26	FR	1507	0 18		1836	0 29
2	0624	1 43	10	0202	1 69	10	0540	1 30
	1123	0 73		0751	0 30		1210	0 74
FR	1327	1 21	SA	1943	1 14	SU	1317	1 37
	2347	0 31	SA	1543	0 12		1912	0 22
3	0724	1 35	11	0246	1 73	11	0019	0 46
	1212	0 76		0632	0 51		0732	1 22
SA	1842	1 26	SU	1431	1 47	SU	1304	0 76
			SU	2027	0 10		1903	1 07
4	0046	0 38	12	0808	0 53	12	0113	0 56
	0831	1 29	MO	1503	1 45	MO	1420	0 75
SU	1319	0 77	MO	2105	1 12	TU	1543	0 69
	2013	1 23	TU	2140	0 17		2026	1 04
5	0201	0 45	13	0404	1 67	13	0226	0 62
	0941	1 28		0941	0 55		0929	1 15
MO	1447	0 73	TU	1533	1 42	TU	1543	0 68
	2014	1 26	TU	2140	0 17		2153	1 09
6	0328	1 31	14	0409	1 59	14	0349	0 66
	0814	1 31		0915	0 56		0923	1 16
TU	1614	0 60	WE	1602	1 37	WE	1641	0 60
	2309	1 35	WE	2217	0 24		2305	1 17
7	0450	0 51	15	0516	1 49	15	0459	0 66
	1443	0 35		1633	1 30		1620	1 20
WE	1723	0 43	TH	2254	0 32	TH	1723	0 49
			TH				2238	0 30
8	0017	1 48	23	0002	1 31	23	0608	1 46
	0502	0 50		0556	0 65		1113	0 60
TH	1819	0 30	FR	1800	0 58	FR	1745	1 30
			FR			SA	2331	0 39

**PORT PHILLIP HEADS
TIDAL STREAM CHANGE**

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

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

NOVEMBER

	START OF		FLOOD	START OF	
	FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB
1 Su	03 17	09 35	03 09	09 38	
	15 35	21 47	15 41	21 35	
2 Mo	04 17	10 40	03 54	10 27	16 Mo
	16 53	23 08	16 47	22 43	17 Tu
3 Tu	05 27	11 52	04 47	11 22	18 We
	18 16		17 56	23 59	
4 We	06 40	00 33	05 52		19 Th
	19 30	13 00	19 00	12 18	
5 Th	07 50	01 52	07 01	01 16	20 Fr
	20 31	13 59	19 56	+13 11	
6 Fr	08 52	02 58	08 05	02 24	21 Sa
	21 23	14 51	20 46	14 01	
7 Sa	09 43	03 53	09 00	03 19	22 Su
	22 09	15 35	21 34	14 50	
8 Su	10 26	04 38	09 49	04 08	23 Mo
	22 50	16 18	22 00	15 38	
9 Mo	11 03	05 17	10 34	04 52	24 Tu
	23 28	16 55	23 05	16 24	
10 Tu	11 37	05 54	11 18	05 34	25 We
		17 31	23 50	17 11	
11 We	00 05	06 28	12 02	05 16	26 Th
	12 10	18 05	00 35	06 58	
12 Th	12 44	18 40	12 48	18 48	27 Fr
13 Fr	01 16	07 38	01 21	07 43	28 Sa
	13 19	19 15	13 59	19 41	
14 Sa	01 52	08 14	02 09	08 32	29 Su
	13 59	19 55	14 37	20 41	
15 Su	02 28	08 54	03 00	09 24	30 Mo
	14 45	20 40	15 41	21 47	

NOVEMBER — 1987

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m					
1	0703	1308	9	0925	1700	16	0641	127	0202	165
	1505	0958		0909	0589		0641	024	0742	069
SU	1802	1228	MO	1853	0112	MO	1848	106	TU	1326
										1923
2	0602	0500	10	0324	1688	17	0023	058	0247	168
	0803	1322		0944	0588		0725	121	0621	066
MO	1106	0705	TU	1431	1384	TU	1300	062	WE	1415
	2028	1252		2031	0115		2035	106	TH	2008
3	0148	0600	11	0339	1633	18	0121	067	0333	165
	0906	1229		0918	0577		0814	118	0859	063
TU	1489	0577	WE	1503	1322	WE	1431	056	TH	1505
	2183	1332		2108	0200		2122	112	FR	2053
4	0313	0648	12	0433	1556	19	0237	075	0418	162
	1007	1289		0552	0558		0507	117	0910	150
WE	1554	0445	TH	1535	1288	TH	1529	047	FR	1537
	2306	1422		2144	0226		2232	122	SU	2139
5	0438	0658	13	0448	1488	20	0401	078	0503	155
	1103	1300		1098	0430		0301	117	1024	057
TH	1656	0322	FR	1611	1233	FR	1612	072	SA	1654
				2251	0130		2332	135	TH	2229
6	0006	1533	14	0523	1400	21	0516	078	0549	148
	0551	0672		1105	0633		1054	120	1115	053
FR	1154	0322	SA	1653	1177	SA	1708	027	SU	1759
	1748	0222		2238	0411				TH	2323
7	0058	1633	15	0601	1333	22	0025	148	0637	141
	0648	0644		1148	0614		0614	075	1212	046
SA	1239	1343	SU	1743	1111	SU	1147	124	MO	1911
	1634	0115		2338	0499		1754	016	TH	2323
8	0144	1689					0114	159	0702	072
	1312	0515					1237	129	MO	1839
SU	1915	0112					1839	021		

TIP'S TIT-BITS

by Tony Tipping

With a new committee and only minor changes among its office bearers it doesn't give me much of a chance to stir for quite a while. Congratulations must go to Big Mick for getting the double - being re-elected unopposed (I guess we all knew he had the numbers) and winning the Clubman of the Year Award, thus joining a very distinguished group might I say! I did notice in the fine print that Don Abell has inched his way one step closer to that long term goal of his, the coveted position of power, by combining the Vice Presidency with his efficient secretarial skills. Just let's hope there's no bloodbath next year, because let's face it Johnny Lawler will be breathing down his neck and besides he hasn't put a foot wrong as Social Secretary. All I can suggest Don, is get yourself a good lobbyist and you'll be home and hosed, just ask Igor!

Biggest surprise must be Johnny Goulding accepting the "Fathoms" job, just when we thought he was backing off - remember go easy on your censorship powers otherwise Flotsam & Jetsam and their various staff will start appearing in an opposition magazine. Also good luck and congratulations to Minnie on the new addition - about time you had one that looked like Dad!

Unfortunately there's not too much diving to report of late - the Pinnacles day a couple of months back was a beauty (suggest we go there again soon) and I did go on the scheduled submarine dive which Don changed to Igor's or Alex's reef down towards Sorrento Back Beach. I buddied with Scotty and Don and it was a dive that you hit the bottom at 80 feet before you saw it - best visibility about 6 feet plus one hell of a surge. No crays, but on its day a very interesting spot - unfortunately we split up and after about 35 minutes on air and a 20 minute swim to Scotty's boat I was much relieved to be drinking hot soup. These dives do keep you honest - if it gets too easy all the time one tends to become complacent. It reminded me of the current we had just inside the Rip last year Jenny Warren won't forget that day in a hurry either!

And yes folks the Tennis Party & V.S.A.G. Mile are just around the corner again. We want as many families and competitors as possible this year as it will probably be the last at Somers. (A threat or a promise?)

Alex must rate an equal favourite this year with the Big M because Mick's new job doesn't allow all those two hour lunch times he had at the National and we all know how he used to train at the Kew Courts for weeks on end leading up to the event.

In the mile young Danny John will be defending his title, but watch out Dan, Peter Jensen a former triple winner will be lining up next to you on scratch. As current title holder of the Veterans Mile modestly forbids me to assess this years field, but to all you over forties out there, I'll throw out the challenge here and now. Handicaps will be generous and along with Bazza I'll agree to start as the backmarker. By the way Bazza only squibbed it last year in order to improve his mark, but Marie dopped him in at the recent house warming, she said the sly old fox is improving with age - I assumed she was referring to his athletic ability!

If you intend going to this years Tennis Party contact Paul or myself prior to or at the November general meeting, because Johnny Lawler again has come good with a spit roast. Just bring salads etc., chairs and drinks as per usual. ❄️

SOCIAL REPORT

SPIT ROAST, NOSTALGIA AND FILM EVENING

BARRY AND MARY TRUSCOT'S HOME

One of the biggest events on our social calendar so far this year was held at the Truscot Mansion on Saturday 19th of August.

Barry's house or "Mansion" as we are all affectionately referring to the house, has been under construction for around two years or so.

The upper floor has a staggering view of the countryside but more impressive our city of Melbourne in the distance.

Downstairs in "The Great Hall" stands a big open fireplace and this was part of a very warm atmosphere created by heat thrown out from huge logs of wood burning strongly from the focal point of this great room.

Another form of heat was coming from the (now) famous John Lawler Spit Roast located in the big garage.

A 40 lb. butt of beef was cooked for all to enjoy and so much so that our good friend Pat Reynolds, who arrived late, got only the bone for his dinner.

Guests started to roll in and by 7.00 p.m. "The Great Hall" was full of V.S.A.G. members and friends and the children added a "family" flavour to our evening.

V.S.A.G. divers proudly displayed their pride and joy pieces of bounty which was won from submarines and wrecks over many years.

Portholes all polished bright, spoons, bottles, plates, rigging "Dead Eyes" all displayed in "The Great Hall".

With food consumed and winestill flowing we settled down to several hours of slides and film provided by the photography freaks in V.S.A.G.

Around 2.00 a.m. the lights finally went out at the "Mansion".

It was great to see such a big turn out from V.S.A.G. and very pleasing to see Brian Lynch again. Brian has been away from diving for some time now with other interests.

See you all at our Christmas party on Friday 18th December.

J. Lawler

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of the
Victorian Sub Aqua Group

I have audited the balance sheet of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group at 30th June, 1987, and the related statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended. My audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other accounting procedures as I consider necessary in the circumstances, except for the limitations explained in the following paragraph.

It is not practicable for the Group to establish controls over cash receipts prior to their initial entry in the accounting records, nor is it practicable for me to carry out audit tests to verify that all such amounts have been received and recorded. My audit relating to cash receipts was therefore limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records.

In my opinion, except for the effect of any adjustments that might have resulted had the cash receipts been susceptible to satisfactory audit tests, the accompanying balance sheet and statements of income and expenditure, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group at 30th June, 1987 and of its results of operations for the year then ended.

A.L. Harper - Registered Auditor
Melbourne Victoria
16th September, 1987

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUPDIRECTOR'S REPORT

We present our report on the state of affairs of the Company at 30th June, 1987, and on the deficit for the year then ended.

The net amount of the surplus of the company for the year ended 30th June, 1987 after provision for income tax of Nil was \$365.

During the year ended 30th June, 1987 no dividend was paid.

The principal activities of the company in the course of the year ended 30th June, 1987, were to promote and encourage the sport of scuba diving. There were no significant changes in the company's activities during the year.

The name of the directors in office at the date of this report are:

Mick Jeacle
Alex Talay
Don Abell
Des Williams
John Goulding
Max Synon
Pat Reynolds
Paul Tipping
Barry Truscott
John Lawler
Andy Mastrowicz

Since 30th June, 1986 no director of the company has received or become entitled to receive a benefit by reason of a contract made by the company or a related corporation with the director or with a firm of which he has a substantial financial interest.

Through the year ended 30th June, 1987 the company has organised and run a full program of diving complemented by a number of social activities for members and their friends. It is the company's objective to raise sufficient income to cover its expenditure in pursuing these activities for the members. The directors are satisfied that this objective has been achieved with the company reporting a surplus of income over expenditure of \$365 for the year.

There has been no significant change in the state of affairs of the company that occurred during the year ended 30th June, 1987.

The directors are not aware of any matters or circumstance arising since 30th June, 1987 which will affect the operations of the company. There are no future developments planned which will significantly affect the operations of the company.

Signed at Melbourne on the 16th day of September, 1987.

In accordance with a resolution of directors.

M. Jeacle - Director

A. Talay - Director

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

BALANCE SHEET

AT 30TH JUNE, 1987

	1987	1986
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank and On Hand	\$1,119	\$ 703
Bank Term Deposit	1,270	1,175
	<u>2,389</u>	<u>1,878</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Equipment (At Cost)	3,588	3,688
Less Provision for Depreciation	(2,661)	(2,615)
	<u>927</u>	<u>1,073</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$3,316</u>	<u>\$2,951</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward	\$2,951	\$3,259
Surplus for the Year	365	(308)
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	<u>\$3,316</u>	<u>\$2,951</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Balance Sheet..

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP
 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
 FOR THE YEAR BOTH JUNE, 1987

	1987	1986
INCOME		
Annual Subscriptions	\$1,822	\$1,659
Compressor Air Fills	181	173
Dive Trips	1,002	951
Interest - Bank Account	-	16
- Bank Term Deposit	190	101
- Building Society	-	18
Joining Fees	5	10
Profit from Sale of Assets	31	-
Profit on Sale of Club Products	16	255
Social Functions	1,227	1,465
	<u>\$4,474</u>	<u>\$4,648</u>
EXPENSES		
Air Fills	\$ -	\$ 114
Bank and Government Charges	33	31
Social Expenses	316	427
Depreciation	137	149
Dive Trips	858	997
Equipment Hire and Equipment Repairs	234	213
Fathoms Production and Distribution	1,880	2,501
General Expense	187	92
Postage, Printing and Stationery	47	46
Rental of Post Office Box	33	66
Rent Meeting Rooms	308	230
Ramp Fees	56	60
Donation	20	30
	<u>\$4,109</u>	<u>\$4,956</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ 365</u>	<u>\$ (308)</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement.

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

30TH JUNE, 1987

1. PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIESHistorical Cost Convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Accounting Basis

The accounts have been prepared using a cash accounting basis. Where membership subscriptions remain unpaid at the due date, the member is treated as being unfinancial and the membership status is then reviewed by the committee.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are capitalised in the accounts and depreciation is charged to expenditure annually over the estimated life of the asset. Assets which are considered to have no further useful life are fully depreciated. Any assets which cost below \$100, purchased in the current year, have been fully expensed in the current year.

Income Tax

The company operates as a club. No provision is made for income tax liability as the directors believe the income of the company is excluded from assessment under the 'principle of mutuality' generally applied by the Australian Taxation Office.

2. INCORPORATION

The Victorian Sub Aqua Group was incorporated on 23rd January, 1964 as a company limited by guarantee. Licence was granted for the company to operate without the word 'Limited' in its name.

The main objects of the group are:

- to promote and further the sport of diving in Australia.
- to foster the interests of divers and users of diving apparatus.
- to seek to increase technical and scientific knowledge of all aspects of diving and encourage discussion on all matters and questions relating thereto.
- to co-operate in securing legislation and the formation of proper rules and regulations within Australia, governing the use of diving apparatus and advancing and protecting the interests of divers.

3. MANAGEMENT

The Articles of Association provide that the board of directors will be titled the "General Committee". The general committee consists of twelve honorary members who are elected by the general body of full members.

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

STATEMENT BY DIRECTORS

1. In the opinion of the directors of Victorian Sub Aqua Group:
 - (a) the accompanying statement of income and expenditure is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the surplus of the company for the year ended 30th June, 1987;
 - (b) the accompanying Balance Sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 30th June, 1987;
 - (c) as at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
2. The company's accounts have been made out in accordance with applicable approved Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Standards.

By Order of the Board

M. Jeacle - Director

A. Talay - Director

Melbourne,
16th September, 1987

MEDIA WATCH

Titanic yields jewel fortune

PARIS, Thurs. — A leather satchel containing a fortune in jewels was scooped up early today by treasure hunters salvaging objects from the sunken luxury liner Titanic.

The satchel, which did not have an identity tag,

contained jewels, bank notes and coins, according to expedition leader Robert Chappaz.

He said it was not in good condition.

Divers aboard the high technology minisub Nautile also retrieved a small safe, believed to have belonged to the assistant purser.

Chappaz repeated the

expedition's claim that none of the artifacts would be sold to private individuals.

No estimate has been made of the worth of jewels from the Titanic, which sank on its maiden voyage in April, 1912.

Salvage experts have said that even a cup from the famed wreck would be worth a fortune.

A full account of the satchel's contents was to be made after it was transferred to a preservation laboratory in Paris.

The French Institute for Research and Exploitation of the Sea, owner of the Nautile and support vessel Nadir, has said the artifacts would be displayed during a world tour.

— AP

(The Sun - 21/8/87)

Safety

A READER has sent a clipping from an English newspaper.

It read: "Cautious councillors are to install condom machines in the loos for the 2000 staff at Sutton Borough Council in Surrey.

"Council spokesman Howard Spencer said: 'We are a safety-conscious organisation and it is just one measure to combat the threat of AIDS.

"We issue rubber gloves to our gardeners to protect them from pricks."

Quite right, too.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR OCT./NOV. 1987

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Dive Captain</u>	<u>Meet At</u>
Oct 18	Lonsdale Wall/Ramsden (Be on time to catch the tide).	John Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento 8.30 a.m. Sharp
Oct 21	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Oct 31 - Nov 3	Melbourne Cup Long Weekend - Warrnambool	Contact Mick Jeacle (059) 71 2786	
Nov 15	Crocodile Hunt	John Goulding 890 6634	Sorrento 8.00 a.m.
Nov 18	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club		8.00 p.m.
Nov 21	V.S.A.G. Tennis Party at Balnarring/Somers Family day BBQ Spit Roast. This is a <u>Saturday</u> of fun so mark your diary now. Paul & Tony Tipping are your hosts. Telephone: 387 2027		
Nov 29	Reef Dive	John Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento 8.30 a.m.
Dec 13	BBQ Family Day	Alex Talay 772 3085	Sorrento 8.30 a.m.
Dec 16	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club & End of Year Party		8.00 p.m.
Dec 18	Annual Christmas Function Lonsdale Street Bar & Grill	John Lawler 569 9851	7.00 p.m.
Dec	Christmas Holidays V.S.A.G. Xmas Camp at Byron Bay	Tony Tipping 817 4956	

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.

MINUTES OF S.D.F.-V MEETING - TUES 6th OCT., 1987

Clubs present, V.S.A.G., Ocean Divers, Bottom Scratchers, Black Rock, Aust. Postal Institute & Box Hill Club.

(a) News from attendance at Amateur Fisherman's Consultative Committee is that Dept. of Conservation Forests and Lands hopes to bring in "on the spot fine" through their C.F.&L Act for fisheries regulations infringements. Also, some large corporation has successfully applied for an exploratory licence to mine sand in Port Phillip Bay. A permanent licence will be subject to the Dept of C.F.& Lands final approval. Apparently they plan to dredge the sand from beneath the sea floor to avoid disturbing the wildlife. The amateur fishermen are totally against the idea and are voicing their distain for the idea.

Mussells in Port Phillip at present are tainted with some substance and commercial fishermen have stopped taking them until the staff at Marine Science Laboratories identify the problem. It is believed to be a temporary problem only.

(b) S.D.F.-V appointed a new delegate on the Historic Shipwrecks Advisory Committee, namely Brian Pope of Black Rock Club.

(c) Another insurance company (from Sth Aust) has set up an insurance policy for divers. Contact D. Williams if you are interested.

(d) S.D.F.-A Annual General Meeting will be held in Adelaide on next Australia Day long weekend 1988.

(e) Nth Melb Footy Club wants S.D.F.-V to change meeting night from Tuesday to Thursday or Friday or pay \$100 for room hire. This is to apply after December 1987.

(f) Still there is no release of the Draft Management Plan to Inverloch Marine Reserve.

(h) A whole new executive for S.D.F.-V will be required at February 1988 meeting when all present office bearers step down.

(i) Next S.D.F.-V meeting will be held on Tues 8th December, 1987

- Des Williams -