# FATHOMS

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

EST. 1954

\$2

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VSAG VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

- - AUG 1989

# **VSAG**

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

#### President:

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Pat Reynolds - 789 1092 Points Scoret
Doug Catherali - 758 2690 Committee Members
Fiona Bruce - 589 4996
John Lawler - 569 9851
Igor Chernishov - 306 1393



COVER STORY: This photo of VSAG diver Ross Luxford was taken by Des Williams on the club Christmas trip to Streaky Bay, South Australia, 1988. It shoulding a leather-jacket which he has caught in a most unusual manner, using a snare, which of course are legal in S.A.

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 leglislative 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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August/September 1989

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Next general meetings

Thursday, 17 August 8.00 p.m. Thursday, 21 September North Melbourne Football Club, Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meetings 22 August - J. Goulding's Place. 26 September - D. Abell's Place.

Editorial submissions to: "The Editor" Fathoms C/- 13 BIRDWOOD STREET,
BOX HILL SOUTH, VIC., 3128
TELEPHONE: 890 6634



### **EDITORIAL**

This edition of Fathoms is the last before the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 21st September.

At that meeting financial members the Club will have the opportunity to vote for a number of positions to fill vacancies on the Committee. member of the Committee for the and as one of the four 16 years members who are required to stand down, I can only say that Committee membership is а most Whilst without doubt it experience. does place upon you certain tasks, I believe that all Committee members experience benefit from the

developing a greater appreciation of the Club and the friendships it provides. There is a certain amount of pride that you gain from participating in a role that shapes the direction, culture and the whole scope of activities of the Club.

If anybody had said to me in 1973 that I would still be on the Committee in 1989 I would have said no way. However, like all of those standing down I will look very seriously at my continuation of membership, not that I don't still enjoy it . . . I do . . . but more from the point of whether my involvement and contribution to the Club is still what the members and Club wants.

Each member therefore is encouraged to give serious consideration to whom he or she wants on the Committee. I therefore urge you to use your right to nominate the member you think will do the best job for the Club.

Further details on the election process are contained in this issue of Fathoms.

This month in Fathoms we have a first article from Chris Llewellyn who recently ventured into China with his wife Rhonda. Chris' article and photographs makes for interesting but all too brief reading.

Des Williams and Ross Luxford have come good with new articles, but as for the rest of you, one can only imagine, that either you haven't been doing anything interesting over the last 2 months or else you can't write!!!!

As Editor there is not a lot that I can do to make an interesting magazine if I don't have any material to include. I can usually find plenty of notices or press clippings – but the real purpose of this magazine is to record the  $\underline{\mathsf{ACTIVITIES}}$  of the Club.

So how about it. Regardless of whom is the Editor after the September Committee Meeting lets give FATHOMS some support please.

In the August/September edition of the magazine last year we announced that the Club would equip 6 of the most often used V.S.A.G. members boats with Safety Sausages. The Committee has now decided to take this matter further (see separate article). Once again this demonstrates the very high priority of the Committee on the subject of safety.

For the first time in a number of years we have scheduled a night dive at Flinders Pier on Saturday evening 14th October. For those who haven't been down at night - it's quite a different experience - and whilst Flinders Pier might be a bit tame by day - it's fascinating by night. See Dive Calendar for details.

John Goulding Editor

### **COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Under the terms of V.S.A.G.'s Constitution one third of the existing Committee members, (those longest serving members since last being elected) are required to stand down and may if they wish accept nomination for re-election.

This year the following members will stand down:

Pat Reynolds
Paul Tipping
John Lawler
John Goulding

Any financial member of the Club can be nominated for the Committee, and any financial member can nominate other members to the Committee.

Nomination forms are enclosed with this issue of Fathoms.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THESE ARE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE CLUB SECRETARY BY SEPTEMBER 7TH.

If, by the due date there are more than 4 nominations received for the 4 vacancies then a Committee Election will be called, and ballot papers will be sent to all financial members. These ballot papers must either be brought to the Annual General Meeting on September 21st or posted to the Secretary - V.S.A.G., P.O. Box 2526W to arrive by 21st September.

John Goulding

### MELBOURNE CUP LONG WEEKEND

The Club will try and organize a trip to Inverloch over the Melbourne Cup Weekend from Saturday 4th November to Tuesday 7th November.

More details at August General  $\,$  Meeting or contact Doug Catherall - 758 2690.

# PROPOSED DEAL ISLAND TRIP

We are seeking your support for a 5-6 day trip to the Kent Group of Islands.

### \*\*WRECKS\*\*

"Bulli" 60 foot, and "Karitane".

### \*\*ISLANDS\*\*

With great visibility.

"Deal", "Erith", "Dover", "North East" Islands.

#### \*\*CRAYS\*\*

### \*\*DEEP AND SHALLOW DIVES!!!\*\*

We would plan to leave Port Franklin of the <u>"LYNDA JADE"</u> with DARYL BROSCHE.

It has full accommodation for 10 DIVERS, incl. pillows, mattresses and all food/meals.

### \*\*COSTING BASED ON 10 PEOPLE\*\*

\$60.00 per day/per head. B.Y.O. sleeping bag, drinks. Air fills \$4.00/fill. Extra.

Please let Ross Luxford know, if you are interested in this trip and whether FEBRUARY/MARCH 1990 OR FEBRUARY/MARCH 1991 is your preference. Telephone: (Work) 547 8722 or (Home) (059) 71 1318.

Please advise A.S.A.P. so we can plan accordingly.\*

DIRECT ENQUIRIES PHONE: (056) 862466

# Lynda Jade

(Daryl & Lyn Broache prop.)
CHARTER TOURS

Specialising in:

6 Scuba Groups 6 Fishing Trips 6
6 Sight seeing of Wilsons Promontory 6

Day or overnight trips from Port Franklin

# Kent Group

This group consists of four islands: Deal Island, Erith Island, Dover Island and North East Island. The islands are closely grouped and lie about 45 miles south-east of Refuge Cove.

Deal Island rises to a height of 290 metres and has the highest lighthouse in Australia. Each island is irregular in shape and deeply indented, and the shorelines are generally steep, especially on the southern side.

Murray Pass, which is about 2 miles long and 5 mile wide, separates Deal Island from Erith and Doort Islands.

In the general vicinity of the islands, the flood title sets south-west and the elb tide nonth-east. The set and rate of the tidal streams are greatly affected by the weather. In Murray Pass, the tidal stream flows at 2 to 5 knoss, olten causing a very turbulent see, particularly at the weather entrance to the pass. In winds of significant strength, tide rips occur olf most of the prominent headlands. The tide range is 24 metres springs, and neaps are irregular.
Only two anchorages in the whole of the

group can be regarded as sale, and both are in Murray Pass. They are West Cove on Erith Island and East Cove on Deal Island. West Cove is regarded as the saless

West Cove is regarded as the safest anchorage in the group. It is sheltered from all but north-east gales, and the holding is fair.

East Cove is sheltered from easterly and southerly winds, but it is a dangerous anchorage in south-westerly gales. The bottom is uneven, the holding had and the fidal streams swirf and eddy right into the cove, Fast Cove is the landing point for datand stores and access to the lighthouse and the keeper's cortage.

In either of the above anchorages, it is advisable to stand anchor watches in bad



The jetty at East Cove, Deal Island. There is an excellent barbecue with a plantiful supply of wood adjacent to the jetty.

weather, as heavy squalls funnel through gaps in the high ground of the islands.

Temporary anchorage can be had in any of the various bays around the islands that happen to be well under the lee of the land for the time being. Extreme care should be exercised, and a careful eye kept on the weather. Among the anchorages suitable for a short stay are:

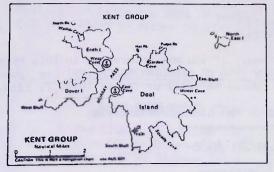
Squally Cove, Deal Island. Close under the lighthouse on the eastern side of South Bluff. Open to the south.

Winter Cove, Deal Island. On the eastern side of the island, south of East Bluff, Fully open to the east, with 14 metres of water at the head of the cove. A dangerous reef lies close to the southern side of the entrance.

Garden Cove, Deal Island. On the northern side of the island, just east of the entrance to Murray Pass. Fully open to the north. A permanent freshwater stream runs into the head of the cove. Hat Rock lies off the western side of the entrance.

Wallibi Cove, Erith Island. On the northwestern end of the island. Overfalls and North Rock are in its approaches. Not recommended as an anchorage.

Erith and Dover Islands, sean from the hill above East Cove on Deal Island. Sean here at its most tranquil, Murray Pass is almost encircled by islands. Be sure to take your glasses when you climb the hill to the lighthouse kaepsr's settlement, as there is an excellent museum setting out the history of Deal Island.





### SAFETY SAUSAGE

A year ago V.S.A.G. equipped 6 of the Club boats with SAFETY SAUSAGES to be used by divers on the surface should they wish to attract attention of boats.

Whilst we have not experienced an occasion when it has been necessary to use this very practical piece of equipment, there is no doubt that a diver using a Safety Sausage will be able to be spotted by a boat far more easily than a diver waving his/her hand.

The Committee encourages the acquisition of SAFETY SAUSAGES and to facilitate the availability of these to members. A list of names will be taken at the August General Meeting of those wishing to have their own.

The Safety Sausage rolls up to a small package (about the size of a cigarette pack) and can easily be carried in a buoyancy vest pocket or wetsuit.

Please indicate your support for this project.

No pricing details are available at time of printing - however at full retail price of \$10.00 each they are good value.\*

# KEEP THIS DATE FREE - 8TH DECEMBER

V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 416 0055-

This year the V.S.A.G. Christmas Party will be held at the famous GRACE DARLING HOTEL at 114 Smith Street, Collingwood (corner Peel Street).

Manager of the hotel and Club member Peter Jones is offering a private room, an excellent 3 course menu, drinks at bar prices, and entry to the hotels dancing area.

Further details available at the August Meeting.\*

### SUBMARINE J2

by Des Williams

Recently, I purchased a copy of a small book titled "Watchdogs of the Deep" by T.M. Jones who served the duration of the First World War aboard H.M. Submarine J2. During that time she patrolled the North Sea seeking German vessels. A flotilla of submarines were based at Blythe on Englands' North Sea coast including the entire fleet of J-class submarines numbers J1 to J7.

In this 1935 publication, Jones recalls many of the adventures he and his comrades shared aboard J2. As we often dive the scuttled submarines outside Port Phillip Heads, it may be of interest to you to read a little of the life of one of these silent warriors. I am sure your next dive to a J-class submarine will mean more as a result.

"To sink a U-boat seemed the only ambition in life. Very early one morning, we were running down our billet, charging our batteries ready for the long dive almost due. On the conningtower our second-in-command was on watch when he sighted a big German submarine just coming to the surface. Immediately, the klaxon sounded all over the boat. At once the engines were stopped, clutches in and in one minute we were submerged.

When the captain looked, the Hun had just broken surface and was blowing her tank ready for a surface run. All torpedoes were ready, but quite a lot of turning and twisting had to be done to get the bearings of the U-boat. Some times submarines were lucky in having the enemy, at once, in a good position for an attack.

Unfortunately for use in almost every attack we made whilst I was on J2, all kinds of manoeuvring had to be done. Here every care had to be taken that the Hun did not see us. We were compelled to have the periscope up and down the whole time to keep our eye on her. The captain would look at his watch, give orders for steering, then glue his eyes to the periscope again. At the back of the captain was Mr. McGuffie, hand on the firing-pistol ready to pull the trigger.

Then the captain said:

"I'm afraid she has seen our periscope. She is certainly keeping her after quarters to us. Then suddenly:

"Stand by! Fire number one tube!" Out went the torpedo on its deadly mission. "Fire number two tube!" Another went. "Fire number three, fire number four!"

Can you imagine our feelings, waiting there, listening for the message that was to tell us if our fish had struck? Then a distant boom. The captain said: "We have hit her in the lower conning-tower. Break surface. Get the engine ready for full speed".

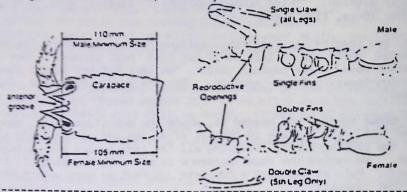
We broke surface and headed for where the U-boat was last seen. When hit, the Hun was in the act of diving and was probably hit in the conning-tower, trapping all the crew inside the sinking boat. We wanted the usual evidence to prove the sinking of the U-boat, but it was such a complete job that we were unfortunate in that respect.

Feeling very satisfied, we submerged again, this success had given us new life".

Jones goes on to relate many other incidents in this rare little book, including the accidental sinking of one of the J-class subs by the British themselves and the voyage out to Australia in convoy after the war when the subs were presented to the Australian Government. Jones then spent some time training Australian Navy men to use the subs and exercised with them quite often outside the Heads. Now, four of these once proud boats make exciting dives for many recreational divers.

### **CRAYFISH REGULATIONS**

Closed season for female crays commenced on 1st June, and continues through to 15th November, both days inclusive. For males, the closed season commences on 1st September and continues through to 15th November, both days inclusive.\*



## YUM CHA

### YUM CHA

### SEPTEMBER 3RD

For a great family lunch Chinese style come to the V.S.A.G. Yum Cha at the:-

IMPERIAL KINGDOM RESTAURANT, Corner Blackburn Road & High Street Road, Syndal.

1.15 P.M.

RING JEANETTE LARGE NOW

TELEPHONE: 354 9820

Bring the kids or your Dad for Fathers Day.

# V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS TRIP

#### BERMAGUI - N.S.W.

10 camp sites have been booked and another 6 sites will now sought at the Wallaga Lake Caravan Park from Boxing Day.

park has excellent facilities and the diving is some of the The best on the N.S.W. coast.

Those who have indicated their attendance are:-

T. Tipping C. Brincat R. Truscott M. Jeacle A. Mastrowicz

T. Rossi

R. Luxford A. Talay

P. Reynolds D. Catherall

D. Ahell

There are still a number of deposits to be paid and space time is running out for those wishing to attend.

For further information come to the August General Meeting call Jack Namiota - 232 2698 or Don Abell - 889 4415.

### V.S.A.G. BLACK LIST

The Treasurer's records show the following members owe money which has long been outstanding.

You are requested to settle these payments by the August General Meeting.

Anthony Finnegan - \$10.00 for air fills at Refuge Cove this year.

Tony John - \$20.00 for camp fees at Warrnambool last year.

### N.S.W. BOAT LICENCES

owners planning to go to Bermaqui please note N.S.W. Boat Boat Licence Regulations. \*



If you're going boating on the Murray River you may need a Boat Driver's Licence. To drive a boat at 10 knots (19 km) or more on any New South Wales waterway you must have such a licence.

Ring (008) 02-3562 if you'd like a copy of our "NSW Safe Boating Handbook". It gives all the information you need to learn to pass the licence test. When you're ready for the test ring again on (008) 02-3562, and we'll make an appointment for you at our Melbourne office. It's at Room 711. 7th Floor, Manchester Unity Building, corner of Collins and Swanston Streets.

Alternatively you can be tested at any of our branch offices, such as:

MILDURA — 159a 8th Street (050) 23-4610

MOAMA — Meninya Street (054) 82-1300

ALBURY — 510 Smollett Street (060) 21-7188

MERIMBULA — Merimbula Plaza (064) 95-1816

If you think you'll need the licence don't leave it until the last minute. Ring now!

### TIDE TABLES

PORT PHILLIP HEADS
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