

FATHOMS

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

OCT 1989

VSAG

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Social Secretary

Jenny Large - 354 9820

Property Officer

Pat Reynolds - 789 1092

Points Scorer

Doug Catherall - 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 shows Ross holding 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 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 meetings

Thursday, 19 October 8.00 p.m.
Thursday, 16 November
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne

Next committee meetings

24 October - R. Luxford's Place.
21 November - J. Large's Place.

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

EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

Well, I'm afraid you've got me again as Fathoms Editor. Not only that, you've got most of the old Committee doing exactly the same jobs as what they were doing prior to the Annual General Meeting in September.

However there are some changes! Bob Scott is back on the Committee after an absence of several years. Bob, who's been a member of V.S.A.G. for 25 years runs the very successful business of Sonar Wetsuits, and brings with him not only a very wide

experience in diving, but also considerable knowledge and insight as to "whats going on" in the diving industry.

Peter Jones is the other new member of the Committee and brings with him the on-going opportunity to develop new ideas from "new blood".

Standing aside are Paul Tipping and Igor Chernishov.

Whilst Igor was only on the Committee for 2 years his contribution in discussion and debate was certainly valuable and his decision to retire from the Committee because of new business pressures was in keeping with his attitude on the Committee to work towards what was best for the Club.

Paul Tipping's history on the Committee expands 13 years, many of which he served as Secretary. It was said of Paul that the only reason he was Secretary was because no one else could find the Post Office Box. However, it's not as simple as that! The Secretary's task is one of the more demanding in any organization and Paul handled it with great flair and tenacity. But perhaps



his time on the Committee will be best remembered by his occasional outbursts when in true "courtroom" fashion he would command the attention of all by elaborating some of the more closeted issues that otherwise would have been overlooked. His contribution to some major issues effecting V.S.A.G. and divers in general has, as a matter of record, benefited us all.

The Annual General Meeting also saw the elevation of Bob Scott to Life Member. This award which is presented quite rarely, (in 35 years there are only about 10 Life Members) recognizes the special contribution of members to the Club. It is indeed very befitting that Bob Scott, who has worked very hard for this Club over the years, both as a Committee Member and as a general member is recognized with the highest honour that the Club can bestow upon a member.

As you will read later in this issue the other Office Bearers have been reappointed, and it would be remiss not to make a special mention of our President, Don Abell. Don's reappointment as President was a unanimous vote of the Committee which I believe reflects the opinion of all the members in the confidence and acceptance that we have of him as President.

V.S.A.G. is truly one of the great diving clubs in Australia. For 35 years we have continued to pursue the interests of our members and the diving community. Don carries on the rich tradition upon which V.S.A.G. is based and through his direction brings about on-going development of the Club.

As a long-time Committee Member of V.S.A.G. I sometimes wonder if at times I tend to have too 'blinker'd' a view about our Club; what it does; and how it performs. However, as Editor I try to divorce myself from the closeness that I have with the organization. In this light I still see V.S.A.G. as a very well run Club that acts for the members enjoyment. The environment that allows that to happen depends on the leadership, and Don certainly provides that environment.

As we go into the year ahead the Committee will keep before it at all times one major objective, and that is "To provide a range of activities that will be acceptable and enjoyable to the members and to conduct those activities in a safe and responsible way".

When I first took over the role as Newsletter Editor 2 years ago, I appealed to members to use Fathoms to report activities and express views and opinions relevant to the Club. I had suggested that one way to do this was by means of sending a letter to the Editor. Regrettably no one has taken me up on this and the only letter to the Editor received to date was one I sent myself. So how about somebody sending in a letter, not about one of our dives or other activities, but more in the line of putting a point of view about an element of our sport or our Club.

During the last financial year Fathoms cost \$1,576 including postage to produce. It is the single biggest expense element that our Club incurs and I would encourage all members to input their view and participate in making Fathoms a more interesting communication medium.

John Goulding
Editor

AUSTRALIA DAY LONG WEEKEND

JANUARY 1990

REFUGE COVE - WILSONS PROMONTORY

Fully catered charter aboard luxury cruiser M.V. Mirrabooka.

Cost will be similar to last year, about \$105 - \$110.

Confirm your space with a deposit of \$50 to John Goulding, Telephone: 890 6634 (A.H.) or 829 2213 (B.H.).

LIMITED NUMBERS SO BOOK EARLY.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The following is a summary of major issues raised at the August and September Committee Meetings:-

- Safety Sausages to be purchased from John Gibson's Dive Shop and sold to members at subsidized price of \$5.00 each.
- Pat Reynolds to arrange for the servicing of the Club compressor.
- Nominations for membership received from Sally Stadem and Sant Khan. These nominations were accepted pending a check out dive with Committee Members.
- Election of Committee Office Bearers:

President	Don Abell
Vice President	Mick Jeacle
Secretary	Fiona Bruce
Treasurer	Ross Luxford
Newsletter Editor &)	John Goulding
Public Relations)	
Assistant Editor	Mick Jeacle
Social Secretary	Jeanette Large
Property Officer	Pat Reynolds
Safety Officer	Alex Talay
Points Scorer	Doug Catherall
S.D.F. Delegates	Don Abell & John Goulding
Committee Members	John Lawler
	Bob Scott
	Peter Jones

- Club funds as at 26/9/89 totalled \$10,187.64 (This amount includes \$800.00 in Truk Lagoon deposits).
- A total of 20 camp sites has now been booked at Bermagui.

INVERLOCH - NOVEMBER 4TH-7THMELBOURNE CUP WEEKENDALL WELCOMEFORESHORE CAMPING GROUND

Ample camp sites are available (with or without power).

Excellent camping ground facilities.

\$20.00 deposit by October General Meeting.

Safe childrens beach and 1 minute walk to town which has most facilities including:

Golf

Tennis

Mini Golf

Hotel (Melbourne Cup Calcutta on Saturday Night)

Day trippers are welcome if you can't get down for the whole time.

For those who don't want to camp, try:

The Hotel - (056) 741 432 \$20.00/Night

The Motel - (056) 741 268 \$48.00/Double

FOR A GREAT SUMMER STARTER WEEKEND BE THERE.

Further details from Doug Catherall on 758 2690.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Don Abell

Not A Bad Year At All

Another 12 months has passed for V.S.A.G. and its members. For those who attended we capped off the year with style at our 1989 Annual General Meeting. After the formal part of the meeting we enjoyed a sumptuous supper in the main bar of the North Melbourne Football Club.

The A.G.M. is a major event on the V.S.A.G. calendar. I hope that future A.G.M.'s will see a greater number of members in attendance. 1989 saw about 35 of us but I would like to see 50 in future years.

For the first time in a number of years we have had a year without problems with Government trying to restrict the freedom of the independent diver. It makes a pleasant change and leaves us free to enjoy doing what we really want to do - dive.

I suspect that things may not be so easy for us in 1990 and where appropriate I am confident that V.S.A.G. will participate with opinion and formal submissions. We have a core of experienced divers with the knowledge and presentation to represent the independent diver in any forum.

So in 1989 we dived:

- Christmas was a great trip to a new dive sight for V.S.A.G., Streaky Bay. Suggested and organized by Alex Talay this turned out to be a top venue, and one we are likely to visit again.
- Australia Day was another Goulding extravaganza. The weather was as good as we are able to remember and the diving first class. Under duress we convinced Reg to take us to 40 Foot Rocks. Other than that, at our request, Reg took us exactly where he wanted us to go.

We were all sad to say goodbye to one of our best friends at Refuge - and I refer to the canned corn beef which has been on more Refuge trips than some members. It really does prove that Reg has an iron constitution.

- Labour Day Weekend was another success. We dived the Loch Ard against what seemed to be all odds. Reminiscent of other V.S.A.G. ventures, our tenacity succeeded and we made it to the wreck. We also discovered a new pub with good food and a friendly reception.

The trip was well organized by Paul Tipping and, like MacArthur, we will return.

- We did it again at Easter. 68 people made it a record V.S.A.G. Easter and for about the fifth year in a row we were all dived out.

Easter continues to be a great family trip for members but how the families change. Some grow older, some grow larger and others change altogether.

- Queen's Birthday was not so successful but Jenny Large arranged a good weekend and as usual V.S.A.G. proved that it can have fun without necessarily diving.
- Two overseas trips were initiated for the Mikhail Lermontov and the Solomons. Both failed to get sufficient numbers, but it is still indicative of the top diving planned for, and offered to V.S.A.G. members.

The Truk Lagoon trip in 1990 organized by Des Williams looks like it will be a boomer and is sure to be well supported.

To really highlight a good V.S.A.G. year we have admitted 5 new members and there are a number of others currently waiting for the paperwork to be completed. New blood in the Club and a strong and active diving group is and will continue to be the strength of V.S.A.G.

I have previously emphasized the importance of the Committee. We need to have a Committee that is willing to and enjoys working for the benefit of members. We continue to get new Committee Members each year and welcome Peter Jones in 1989.

Every other Committee person made their contribution in 1989. Doug Catherall and Fiona Bruce joined us for the first time and both have been quickly into harness. Fiona has supported us as Secretary when Paul had other commitments to attend to.

Alex and Mick moved off the top table after many years of facing the rabble. Now they have joined the rabble and taken to heckling with ease. However both continue to contribute to the Club in many ways not the least of which is organizing many of our diving activities. Alex is also the Club Safety Officer - a position which has ever increasing importance.

Ross Luxford has leapt to hard tasks by taking the Treasurer's job in his second year on Committee. Ross is a first class clubman and gives his time to the Club for many functions.

John Goulding (Life Member) has now run Fathoms for two years. This is one of the hardest and most important roles in the Club. Under John's capable and lateral skills our magazine has been an excellent publication for those two years. For those who haven't noticed John also organizes Refuge Cove.

Paul Tipping, our past Secretary and Legal Eagle has left the Committee after many years of contribution to the Club. I am sure that Paul's skills will be called upon on future matters that effect the Club. My thanks to Paul for the time and contribution he has given while on Committee.

Jeanette has taken on the role of Social Secretary in her second year on Committee. A time consuming job that Jeanette has handled like an expert. As Jen will find out the penalty for a good job is renomination for another term.

John Lawler has continued to put his efforts to the Downlow and I have always said that the strength of independent divers will lie

in the communication between these clubs. John's commitment will serve V.S.A.G. well over the long term. The interclub dives are a natural progression of John's work.

Pat and Igor have also been hard working Committee Members. We need Pat's long memory of the Club having been a member for over 30 years.

Igor has found it necessary to leave the Committee and we all thank him for his contribution and wish him well for future diving activities.

Now last but not least one of my great pleasures for the year was awarding a Life Membership to Bob Scott following a unanimous vote at the A.G.M.

Bob joined V.S.A.G. in 1964 and is recorded as member No. 19. Through 25 years Bob has given much time and support to V.S.A.G. He has served penance on the Committee and having not learned his lesson has been again nominated and voted back on to Committee. Bob has supported the Club activities with many gifts and sponsorships to help us continue to enjoy our sport. A regular diver, Bob now has his own boat and is as keen now as he has ever been. Bob has always been supported by June who is as much a part of V.S.A.G. as Bob. June has also given much of her own time to help and support the Club and its members and their children.

I was proud to present Bob with his Certificate and Life Membership Badge.

It will be great to see other members of V.S.A.G. achieve the same honour in future years.

Let's hope 1990 provides another year of great diving, great fun and everything else we have grown used to at V.S.A.G.*

V.S.A.G. TENNIS PARTY

SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This year the tennis will be played at the LAWTON PARK COURTS.

Off Robinsons Road between McClelland Drive and Warrandyte Road,
Langwarrin.

Commencing at 10.00 a.m.

AFTER TENNIS we will then proceed to the Cranbourne South Tennis Club (last years venue) for a family barbecue and the famous V.S.A.G. Mile.

See Melways guide for general area of Lawton Park Courts.

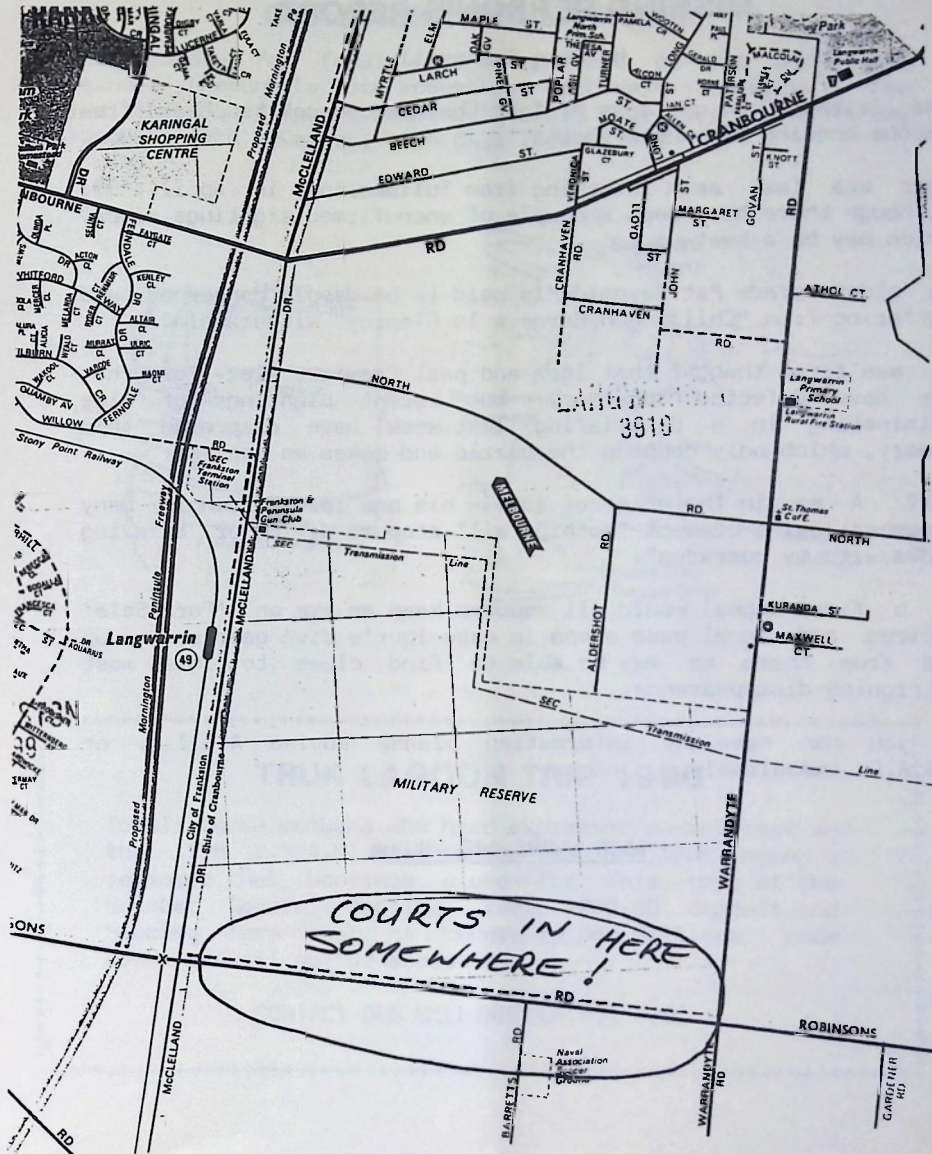
Contact - Tony Tipping on 817 4956
Paul Tipping on 387 2027
for further details.*

SAFETY SAUSAGES

The Club has available for sale a quantity of diver Safety Sausages at half the normal retail price.

These Safety Sausages were purchased by the Club and are being subsidized to Club members to encourage purchase of these very handy safety devices.

For just \$5.00 you can have your own Safety Sausage. Bring your money to the October General Meeting.



COURTS IN HERE
SOMEWHERE!

MISSING PERSON'S REPORT

by Doug Catherall

The friends and comrades of Igor Chernishov seek to hear from anyone knowing his where-abouts.

Igor was last seen returning from Tullamarine in April '89, although there have been a couple of unconfirmed sightings since, which may be a beat-up.

An old comrade Pat Reynolds is said to be deeply concerned and suffering from "Chilli Con Carne a la Glenroy" withdrawals.

It was first thought that Igor and past Premier, Alex Talaychov may have defected together, but recent sightings of Alex culminating in a de-briefing last week have disproved this theory, which only deepens the puzzle and makes me see red.

WHY? A man in the prime of life - his one love diving! Many remember Igor's comment "nothing will stop me diving or drinking Vodka with my comrades".

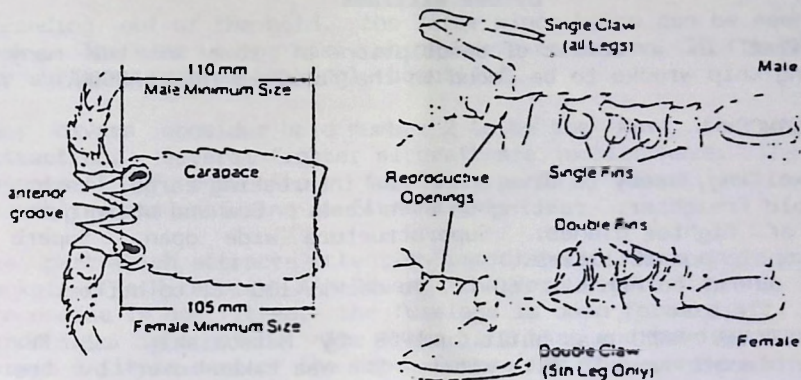
As a final appeal would all readers keep an eye on 'For Sale' notices and local pawn shops in case Igor's dive gear shows up and from there we may be able to find clues to this most intriguing disappearance.

If you can have any information please advise A.S.I.O. or V.S.A.G. immediately.

IGOR WHERE ARE YOU?*

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.*

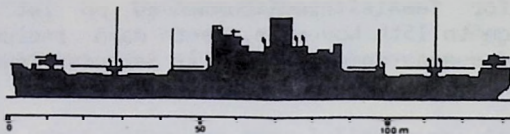


TRUK LAGOON TRIP 1990

To all those members who have expressed an interest in the 1990 V.S.A.G. trip to the fabulous Truk Lagoon a reminder that bookings close for this trip at the October General Meeting. Your \$200.00 deposit and booking form must be handed to Des Williams. Late bookings will not be accepted.

CONTACT DES WILLIAMS ON 551 3201

FUJIKAWA MARU



by Des Williams

The first in a series of descriptions of some of the many exciting ship wrecks to be found in the fabulous TRUK LAGOON.

AT A GLANCE:

Most exciting, easy to dive on. Has interesting cargo. Large, six hold freighter, resting on even keel. Bow and stern guns, cargo of fighter planes. Superstructure wide open. Superb photographic possibilities.

DEPTH: 30 ft. to Funnel. 60 ft. to deck. 110 ft. to bottom.

The FUJIKAWA MARU was built in 1938 by Mitsubishi, 435 ft. overall length and 58 ft. wide. She was taken over by the Imperial Japanese Navy on 9th December 1940, about one year before the attack on Pearl Harbour, and converted to an aircraft ferry. Not to be confused with an aircraft carrier. She was fitted with guns at the bow and stern although they were antiques from the Russian-Japanese War. As a form of passive protection, a degaussing coil was laid around the ship to render her "invisible" to magnetic mines.

Apart from general cargo, she continued to carry aircraft and she was back in Iruk shortly before the American raid and got caught. The FUJIKAWA MARU was sunk by a single torpedo which hit starboard midships, just aft of the superstructure. A photo taken some time after the hit shows the FUJIKAWA sinking slowly by the stern while at anchor. It took her some time to sink and she landed most orderly, almost perfectly on an even keel.

The first forward hold is not too inviting at first glance, because all hatch cover beams on both levels are still in place.

Divers have to manoeuvre around them to get below into the hold proper. It is, however, well worth the effort. A variety of cargoes can be seen. At the bottom of the hold, several drums are scattered around and among them spare propeller blades, three heavy machine-guns and aircraft wings. There are also a number of 6 inch shell casings lying around, expended from the bow gun and evidence that the gun was fired. An outboard engine lies at the bottom of this hold.

Ascending out of the hold, the large winch-house can be seen on deck. The view up the mast, which has a crosstree 10 ft. below the surface, is breathtakingly beautiful.

Many divers consider hold number 2 to be the most fascinating attraction. Several fighter aircraft are jumbled here. The odd assortment of cock-pits, fuselage parts, wings and tail assemblies are confusing at first sight.

The part which attracts attention immediately, however, is the cockpit of a Mitsubishi A6M Risen, the Zero fighter plane. As the engine is not fitted, the fuselage is open forward aft, the windshield is mounted. The frame is intact and hardly dented, except a little dent of the top. Frames for the panorama windows enclose the front piece. The glass was probably not inserted during transportation. Two holes, in front of the windshield, at the fuselage, show where the plane's board weapons were positioned. The cockpit itself contains a very elaborately designed instrument panel. On the right side are flanges mounted, for taking up hoses, probably designed for the oxygen supply of the pilot. The shell of the seat and the stick are prominent in the cockpit. A second set of radio dials and other gauges are located low on the instrument panel. This cockpit is certainly the show piece of this hold, but there is plenty more to see.

For example, the aft part of the fuselage with its tail assembly points up at an awkward angle. The end cap and rudder are missing. There are certainly more than three aircraft in this hold. There are a great number of interesting things to explore on the bridge. The wide open passageways invite the diver to

swim through. However, electrical circuits have dropped and are dangling down. Care must be exercised not to get hung up with the equipment.

After entering on the starboard, however, the first doorway to the left, facing inboard, reveals the ship's very remarkable galley. The centrepiece of the galley is the very large coal stove, which almost extends over the width of the room. A number of kitchen utensils are lying around.

Inside the bridge house, the helm, the engine telegraph and more radio sets are located. Outside, at the bridge wing, the anti-aircraft guns can be seen. Right underneath the starboard gun, a small heap of spent cartridges are located. Hardly anything grows around this heap, because the slowly corroding copper is poison to marine life.

The funnel is stout and substantial. The engine room's skylights are all closed and almost blind due to marine growth. A deck house is abaft of the funnel.

In the last hold, a lot of galley equipment is located on the first 'tween deck. There are many sticks like chopsticks or something similar, packaged originally in a box, and showing in the mud. A little further a number of scattered plates, some rice bowls, a sauce platter, messkits, bottles, and, of all things, a shoe sole can be seen. A great number of bottles litter the deck. Obviously, this area was utilized to stow kitchen supplies and eating utensils. The deck house at the stern can be entered. It is however, very dark inside as well. A bulb dangles from the deckhead. Inside the deck house are a lot of ropes, some of them have blocks attached. They are coiled and come in various sizes. Boxes in various stages of decay are stacked in one doorway. On top of the deck house deck, a platform has been built. The stern gun is mounted on it. Both masts break the surface. As a rule, the dive boat ties up to one of them. Divers have a good point to orient themselves on the way back. They are also ideal for the usual safety decompression stop. From the photographic point, this may be particularly rewarding, as the crosstree thrive with an abundance of marine life. One can find almost everything here, a small moray eel, cockscomb oyster, soft and hard corals and plenty of fish.*

"HOW TO GET BENT AT HOME"

by Finn

I suppose by now that most V.S.A.G. members would be aware that I got "Decompression sickness" better known as the bends a few months ago.

The unexplainable, is how do you get bent in 3 foot of water - in a swimming pool.

Well believe me you can.

My old international and local diving gay buddy, Igor Jerkoff, and self, decided to do a Cave Diving Course held at the Brunswick Swimming Pool. The course went for 2 days of practical and theory sessions.

Before this I had not dived for at least 6 months. The prior diving was a wee bit excessive, in the Solomon Islands, over 30 dives in 3 weeks, some dives at 250 feet (standard diving when buddied with Alex, Mick, Pat, Bazza or Jerkoff).

The 1st day was from 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. and we were in the water for approximately four hours. I found the course very interesting but, very cold.

The 2nd day, same times, but I felt it very cold, and it was effecting my concentration - so it seemed. Eventually it got to a point where after continuous repetitive sessions in the pool, that I spat the dummie and got out of the pool with a terrible headache (BOOM BOOM).

The headache was so painful but different, that I actually thought of the bends, but hey "Who gets bent in a swimming pool". Even at one stage I said to the guys "I have the perfect symptoms of the bends". We all laughed HA HA.

But believe me you know when you have it, whatever form it is in and I hope this letter will make people react to it more cautiously and quicker than what I did.

My concentration was very limited (whats new) and I could not understand the pain of the headache, not believing it as the bends, so therefore thinking of the days theory sessions for the answer - such as:-

1. Fitness - OK
2. Stress - To the max
3. Age - Hey! Looking good - also refer item 2.
4. Fatigue - Refer item 2.
5. Weight - Under control Monday to Wednesday.
6. Illness - ? refer item 2.
7. Alcoholism - 1 bottle of red the night before with wife also refer item 2.
8. Feelings - Cold, also refer item 2.

so therefore after my deduction, I put it down to hypothermia, I never had it before, more logical, and one symptom matched (can you do better assumption under the circumstances?) - not really convinced I went home to a warm bed.

The next day feeling pretty ordinary, I over exerted myself in the workshop, and all of a sudden I felt it come on me, it was like "I shook myself up" like a bottle of coke fizzing in the head.

Anyhow - ended up in the Alfred Hospital Recompression Chamber for approximately sixteen hours over 4 days.

But after that no actual positive reasoning was gained from it.

from - dormant nitrogen reacting
 by - being cold - stressed to the max
 to - playing Russian roulette underwater
 more like - decompression sickness can strike at any time

We as divers are fortunate the Hyperbaric Chambers are in Melbourne and maintained by such competent professional people such as:

Dr. Scheinkestac
Dr. Tuxen Medical Staff
Dr. Hall

Mandy Charge Nurse

Robyn, Kate,
Mark, Leanne, and Staff Nurses
Gabby

Peter W. & Peter A. Technicians

and I hope there is no threat for the continuation of the Alfred's Hyperbaric Unit, because of the N.S.C. downfall.

Some good news - Debra's due 25th October.

Editor's Comment

Dear Finn,

Many thanks for your very interesting and somewhat alarming article.

We have included in this issue some other information about the operation of the Alfred Hospital's Hyperbaric Unit, and your case is probably included in their statistics.

Good luck to Debra and yourself for October 25th.

Signed Editor

P.S. Hey Finn - check out the V.S.A.G. Black List contained in this issue.

Ed.*

TIP'S TIT-BITS

by Tony Tipping

I've been trying to work out what to use for an excuse - you see I have not dived since May! I could say the dives I rang in for were cancelled or the weather has been really lousy or why not blame the work on the Deepdene Construction Site Mark II which commenced 12 months ago. Actually all three are relevant and no I'm not getting softer like you other fair weather divers. For those needing house extensions/renovations just contact me, I know a group of quality tradesmen all within this Club, come and inspect their work. For obvious reasons I can't mention any names, but I'll certainly be of help in negotiating the right price.

Hope you all bought one of those funny red things for safety at the September A.G.M., Safety Sausages or whatever they are called - well worth it too, for \$5.00 each. I would have paid my \$5.00 just to see Johnny Lawler the Prophylactic Prince himself conduct the hard sell, obviously a man well versed in similar items but perhaps different sizes!

It's no doubt advertised elsewhere in this edition of Fathoms, our oldest family day the V.S.A.G. Tennis Party is coming up in November. I'm not sure if it's on Don's, Alex's or my own birthday this year, we seem to take it in turns. Bring the families, watch the Big M thump everyone off the court and yes the day's climax, the V.S.A.G. Mile will be run at 3.00 p.m. sharp. As Chief Handicapper and Steward this year I've decided to lock several seasoned veterans (over 40) on 30 seconds. With youthful vets - Doug Catherall, Tony John and Des Williams all joining the ranks this year, we seasoned performers may have a bit of a battle on our hands (feet!). So far I have the following acceptances with handicaps:-

3 minutes - children under 7 and June Scott (after a tough tennis draw).

2 minutes - all women (except Sheila John).

60 seconds - John Goulding, Paul Tipping, Bob Scott, Sheila, Des Williams and others.

30 seconds - Bazza Truscott, Tony John, Doug Catherall and others including myself.

Scratch - Ross Luxford, Danny John.

Graham Suckling - if he turns up - the last three winners.

Prizes will be awarded to first boy and girl, first veteran and June Scott if she finishes!

You know I've been that busy working on the house lately that it's taken toll on the old body and I've been very tired. Keeping in mind that I'm married to a woman ten years my junior I answered one of those funny adverts in a magazine - "Save your marriage for \$20.00". Well it turned out to be a vibrator and yes you guessed it - she broke two teeth the first time she used it and it's going to cost me a fortune in dental bills!*

FOR SALE

TOSHIBA VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER (BETA)

This near new Video Recorder has been used for professional purposes only, and is offered for sale complete with instruction manual at \$300.00 O.N.O.

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TREATMENT STATISTICS FROM THE ALFRED

SOME TREATMENT STATISTICS FROM THE ALFRED

The following information is extracted from a summary of information presented on 24/07/89 regarding the first 18 months operation of the Hyperbaric Unit at the Alfred Hospital.

In the first 18 months of operation 100 divers with decompression sickness (DCS) have been treated at the Alfred Facility; 85 of these were sport divers and the other 15 were commercial divers (3 Abalone Divers, 2 Oil Rig Divers and 10 Scuba Instructors).

The time required to treat these divers averaged 93.1 hours. A group of 21 divers required an average of 327 hours of treatment per diver. This group (The Late Presenters) arrived at hospital on average more than 120 hours (5 days) after diving.

If there was any doubt as to the presence of DCS the patient was treated as if they had DCS - ie "when in doubt - treat for DCS". Generally in these doubtful cases some improvement in the patients could be measured which proved they did have DCS. The findings upon presentation were as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| (a) Symptoms upon presentation | 72% had Neurological Symptoms
82% had Muscular Symptoms |
| (b) Clinical Examination showed | 81% with Neurological
71% with Muscular
16% with no symptoms. |

As part of the patient's history an attempt was made to identify the possible causes of the DCS injury. The following table is a summary of possible causes for all the divers who presented with DCS.

Multiple Ascent	55%	Rapid Ascent	17%
Outside No-Deco Tables	26%	Altitude	5%
Past DCS Injury	12%	Drugs	6%
None Identifiable	17%		