

# FATHOMS

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# VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

AVG-SEP 86

# FATHOMS

Official journal of the Victorian Sub—Aqua Group

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1990

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### Next general meetings

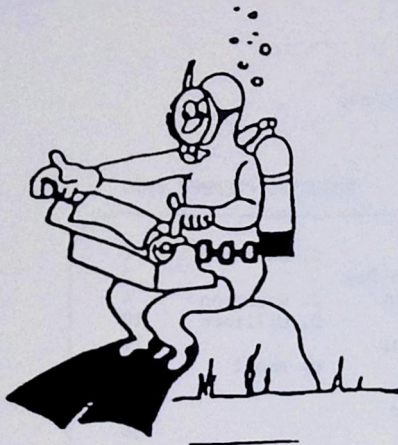
Thursday 16th August 8.00 p.m.  
Thursday 20th September 8.00 p.m.  
North Melbourne Football Club,  
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

### Next committee meetings

21st August - John Goulding's Place.  
2nd October - Don Abell's Place.

Editorial submissions to: "The Editor" Fathoms C/- 13 BIRDWOOD STREET,  
BOX HILL SOUTH, VIC., 3128  
TELEPHONE: 890 6634 (H)  
829 2213 (W)  
FACSIMILE: 829 2120

## EDITORIAL



I almost feel apologetic for this issue of Fathoms for it contains very little of Club activity reports. Moreover it seems to be filled up with various notices about forthcoming activities, together with a couple of reports from Tony Tipping and Don Abell.

Mind you, I'm not really complaining . . . the weather for diving over the last couple of months has been pretty atrocious, so really I guess there isn't a great deal to write about.

One could of course make mention of Bob Scott's 50th Birthday, and that he was taken completely by surprise when he turned up to Monash University to be greeted by many friends and relatives.

I note that Tony Tipping has mentioned in his article about the advancing years of quite a few of our members.

Well I just think its great. There's too many 50 year old layabouts who would no sooner contemplate the magic of diving than jump over the moon. To Bob and all the 50 year olds in this Club - I say "good on you" and may you still be diving for many years.

In this edition of Fathoms you will find a notice about the Annual General Meeting and the Committee Elections. There are also nomination forms for the Committee Election.

The nominations for the election will close this year on September 6 and should there be more nominations received than there are vacancies (5), ballot papers will be sent to all financial members. If this happens the ballot papers must be returned to our mailing address: Box 2526W,

G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001

by 20th September or handed to the Secretary by 8.30 p.m. on the night of the Annual General Meeting (20th September).

This year owing to 3 of the committee members not seeking re-election the number of vacancies are greater than normal.

There is no hard and fast prerequisites for committee membership other than that you be a current financial (or life) member, be at least a reasonably regular diver with the Club and be prepared to do your bit towards making the Club function.

Over the 36 year history of V.S.A.G. it has been fortunate in having committee members who have worked harmoniously to preserve the spirit of the Club and provide the members with an active and enjoyable range of activities. The Club has also been fortunate in not having to contend with internal factions and power struggles which can wreck so many organizations.

Whilst the Club has a very comprehensive and legally drawn up constitution - it has also operated with almost an informal style, only rarely needing to invoke the rules and regulations of the constitution.

From those early days of home made wetsuits in 1954 it has developed into an organization of which the founding fathers and the current members can certainly be proud.

Editor

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## V.S.A.G. ANNUAL TENNIS DAY

The V.S.A.G. Annual Tennis Day will be held this year on either Saturday 24th or Sunday 25th November.

Further details to be announced at the August General Meeting.

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## SOME FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON TRUK

by John Goulding

ROSS LUXFORD: relatively new diver by V.S.A.G. standards, and even newer underwater photographer, has in his possession what I regard as one of the very best collection of underwater photos that I've ever seen. Not only is his total presentation superb, with all the photographs carefully indexed into a bound presentation satchel, but the quality of his work particularly the Truk wreck and the Palau shots are first class.

Ross's only previous experience with the camera was a trial run under Flinders Pier one day. Many of the members would have seen his photos by now as he has kindly brought them along to the last two general meetings. However they are so good that I have ordered about twenty copies of his shots.

We have also been treated to an excellent slide presentation from Des Williams and Priya Cardinaletti, and the July General Meeting was capped off with about an hour of Andy's three hour video of Truk. More of Andy's video will be shown at the August General Meeting.

Whilst on the subject of Truk, the Melbourne "Age" ran a story on Micronesia on 14th July in which the author wrote . . . "The fine looking women of Truk cover themselves in modest Mother Hubbard dresses and cynics say that on Truk the missionaries saved the islanders' souls but destroyed their culture" -

Well I'm blown if I know where the author found the "fine looking women". Whilst the children were pleasant enough to look at, it seemed to me that just about every local female on reaching the age of about 16 turned to fat and cultivated excellent moustaches.

Still perhaps the local females might well have thought that we were less than desirable as the following pictures reveal.\*



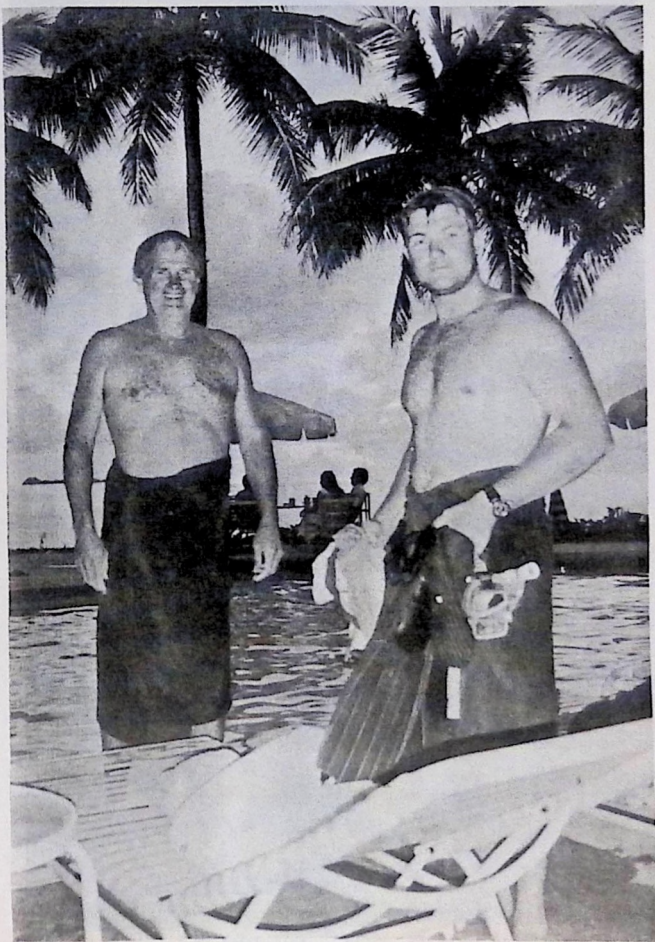
ROSS WAS SO PLEASED WITH HIS 10 DAY OLD BEARD GROWTH THAT HE GOT CHRIS WHO HAD BEEN GROWING HIS FOR 6 MONTHS TO POSE WITH HIM. - ONLY TO BE TOLD BY DON THAT HIS FINE FUR WAS A RESULT OF HIM MISSING A SHAVE THAT MORNING.

- ONE CONSOLING FACTOR, ALL THE WAITRESSES WERE ENVIIOUS OF THE MOUSTACHES!



EASY RIDERS - THESE GUYS AINT!

ROSS & JOHN STOP TO SEEK DIRECTIONS FROM A LOCAL BUDDING SCIENTIST - NOT ONLY DIDN'T THEY KNOW WHERE THEY WERE - THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THEY WERE GOING AND HAD NO IDEA WHERE THEY HAD BEEN.



LOOKING LIKE 2 FREQUENTERS OF A DUBIOUS MEN'S SPA CLUB, PAT AND NEIL PARADE UNDER THE PALMS IN PALAU AFTER A DIP IN THE POOL. - NOTE: NEIL IS CARRYING HIS MASK AND FINS - HE RECKONS HIS POOL ROMP WITH PAT WAS THE MOST EVENTFUL DIVE OF THE WHOLE TRIP!





TOUR LEADER EXTRAORDINAIRE, DES WILLIAMS, WAS OFTEN SEEN TO PARADE IN JUST A PAIR OF JOCKS - NOT THAT DES IS REALLY AN EXHIBITIONIST - IT WAS JUST THAT ALL HIS OTHER CLOTHES WERE ALWAYS IN THE WASH.

MEANWHILE GRAHAM BLANCHARD WAS BUSY EXPLAINING TO PRIYA THAT BOYS ARE DIFFERENT TO GIRLS AND THAT DES WAS NOT TRYING TO CONCEAL A JAP PISTOL IN HIS UNDERWEAR!



GENTLEMAN, JACK LIDDY - THE CULTURAL ATTACHÉ MANAGED A BRIEF RESPITE FROM EXPLORING THE FUJIKAWA TO DOWN A QUICK CAN OF BUDWEISER AT 60 FEET. - HE LATER EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS HIS IDEA OF BUDDY DIVING!

## MINUTES OF S.D.F.-V. MEETING - 5TH JUNE, 1990

by Des Williams

CLUBS PRESENT: Marine Research Group, Marlin Scuba Club, V.S.A.G., Bottom Scratchers, Bass Strait, A.P.I., Monash Uni., Black Rock.

Chairman, Darren Salter, advised all present of the recent tragic death of S.D.F.-V. immediate past President, Michael Vize, during a parachuting competition at Corowa N.S.W.

Fees for clubs affiliation membership are now due and some clubs have already paid.

Commercial report revealed S.D.F.-V. funds at a total of \$213.10 before receipt of membership fees.

S.D.F.-V. to embark on a campaign to promote non-profit diving clubs, as an alternative to the "cattle boat" type diving being done by new students of diving courses run by commercial dive schools. This is to be done through dive magazines in the form of supplied editorial and letters to the Editor.

D. Williams requested delegates find out what direction divers think the Historic Shipwrecks Advisory Committee should take in relation to the protection of our shipwreck heritage. At a recent H.S.A.C. meeting the chairman asked for feedback from representatives and their constituents.

S.D.F.-V. affiliation with Vic Sport is to continue despite the recent steep increase in membership fees to \$100.00. John Davis of Black Rock Club offered to personally contribute \$50.00 towards the fee as he believes Vic Sport to be a very powerful and professional body should S.D.F.-V. every require lobby assistance to fight off some crazy new legislation developed by the government of the day. The new legislation to control diving accidents in Queensland was tabled by D. Williams and discussed

by all present, agreeing we do not want to see a similar deal for divers here in Victoria. Copies of the document are to be taken to all affiliated clubs for discussion.

C.S.I.R.O. says the area of Bay waters around the Mordialloc Creek contain very dangerous levels of pollution. The E. Coli count is over 100,000 times above the safe level. A survey of the offshore reefs is now under way and divers are required to assist researchers with their work - volunteers were not forthcoming at the meeting.

Next meeting of S.D.F.-V. is Tuesday 7th August, 1990.

If you require any further details of the above outline contact Des Williams on 551 3201.\*

## **V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS TRIP - PORT LINCOLN**

This summer the Club will return to Port Lincoln in South Australia.

2 previous trips have been made to Port Lincoln and the area has been again selected because of the variety and very high quality of diving in the area.

Alex Talay will be co-ordinating the trip and members are asked to submit names to Alex by the August General Meeting.

TELEPHONE: 772 3085

## MID WINTER DIVE - JULY 15

by Don Abell

July 15 is exactly mid winter on my calculations. The problems we have at this time of year are all related to wind. I always thought that the wind started from September and went until Christmas. Over the last few years the wind has started around June - must be connected to the ozone layer.

Well, July 15 defied all that. It was back to the calm winter dives of a few years ago. No wind, a foggy morning and calm seas. The water was like glass and when our crew arrived at Sorrento we couldn't believe our luck. Apart from myself we had Mick, John (Lawler), Jack, Jan, Tony (Tipping), Sally and Sant.

Only one boat owner rang on Saturday night, so I had to pick up the phone to Mick. After a Saturday dive Mick was a bit reluctant, but he must have heard the weather report because I only had to ask once.

Boats were driven flat out to the "Heads" without even a ripple on the water. We were scheduled to dive the Nepean Wall, but conditions were too good so we continued down the coast to cray territory.

We weren't disappointed. Crays were plentiful, although females were more plentiful than males. I am sure that male crayfish go north for the winter. When females are out of season every cray you catch seems to be female. I saw enough eggs to make an omelette which would feed the third world.

Boats loaded, we returned to Sorrento across the same glassy waters of the morning trip.

Tony Tipping, not keen to give up his day of freedom, insisted on a debriefing session at the Dromana Hotel. We had a 75% turn up to drain a couple of well earned pots before heading home.

The day was a top example of good winter diving. (A big difference from diving in the tropics).

For those who weren't there on July 15, I made the first showing of my Tekna/Reebok dive boots, kindly picked up for me by Des Williams. (You won't believe it until you see them).\*

## MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

3RD, 4TH, 5TH & 6TH NOVEMBER

2 suggestions have been put forward for an away from home trip over the Melbourne Cup Weekend.

The 2 suggestions are: Wilsons Promontory; and Port Campbell.

Ross Luxford is co-ordinating plans and will announce further details at the August General Meeting.

Members who might want to participate in this weekend but who will not be at the August Meeting are asked to contact Ross on (059) 711 318

## V.S.A.G. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20TH SEPTEMBER

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting and supper to follow.

20TH SEPTEMBER

## RETURN TO THE RED SEA

After organizing a highly successful trip to the Red Sea last year, Brent McCunn, of Passport Travel, Malvern, and the Bottom Scratchers Dive Club, is doing it again this year. Beware, though, the twin charms of the desert and the sea are so beguiling that one Bottom Scratcher failed to return; she got a job and stayed put.

The basic cost of the ten day trip, with 6 days diving and cruising the Red Sea on M.V. Colona 1V is \$2,988.00. This includes flights, overnights en route, transfers, and meals, dives, weights and tanks on Colona 1V. There is only space for 10 lucky divers, so be quick.

Brent can be contacted at Passport Travel, 320B Glenferrie Road, Malvern, or Telephone: 824 7183. Brent will be at the August V.S.A.G. Meeting with slides of this world renowned area, justly famous not only for its unique underwater splendours, but for the beauty and cultural heritage of the Sinai Desert itself.

Take a seat in the front row and wet your appetite for dipping your wetsuit in the magic Red Sea.\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### NON FINANCIAL MEMBERS

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Would all members who have not paid their \$35.00 annual subscription please do so by the August General Meeting.

Members who have not paid their annual subscription will not receive future copies of Fathoms.

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## **NEWS FLASH**

V.S.A.G. TO TRY NEW PUB  
FOR  
PRE-MEETING  
DINNERS

# **Black Prince Hotel**



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**6.30 - 8.00 PM**

99 Curzon St.  
North Melbourne

329 0904

**CNR BAILLIEST.**



## V.S.A.G. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

20TH SEPTEMBER, 1990

Would members please note that the Annual General Meeting will be held on 20th September.

A supper will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting is an important event in the Clubs calendar for it is at this meeting that the elections to the Committee will be held. All financial members are eligible to vote.

In accordance with the Clubs constitution the following members will be standing down:

Don Abell.  
Jeanette Large.  
Ross Luxford.

In addition, two other committee members are standing down and they are:

Peter Jones.  
Fiona Bruce.

Of the five members standing down only Don Abell and Ross Luxford are offering themselves for re-election.

Jeanette Large and Fiona Bruce are not seeking re-election due to work commitments and Peter Jones has moved to the country.

This therefore throws up the opportunity for at least 3 new members to join the Committee.

All members are asked to seriously consider the question of whom they think would be suitable for the Committee and to complete the enclosed nomination forms and return these to the Club no later than 6th September. \*

Tear & post to The Secretary V.S.A.G.  
PO Box 2526W, GPO Melbourne, 3001  
to arrive by 6 September 1990

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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: 1990-91  
NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being full members of the  
Victorian Sub-Aqua Group, hereby nominate:

-----  
for the position of Director of the Group.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby accept the above  
nomination for Director of the Group.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby accept the above  
nomination for Director of the Group.

Members are reminded that Nomination Forms must  
be returned to the Secretary, personally or by  
mail to "The Secretary", V.S.A.G. PO Box, 2526W  
Melbourne 3001 by no later than 6/9/90.

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Melbourne 3001 by no later than 6/9/90.

## FATHOMS

Articles about Club dives and other activities are wanted for the next edition of Fathoms.

I would appreciate it if dive captains could provide me with a written report of their dives. Reports and articles from other members are also wanted.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT COPY OF FATHOMS IS THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 20TH.

Thank you.

John Goulding

## V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

V.S.A.G. will celebrate its Christmas Function this year at:-

MOTHERS BAR & BISTRO  
(Corner King & Flinders Lane)

ON

SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER\*

The swinging night spot in the heart of Melbourne's Night Club Strip will be totally handed over to V.S.A.G. for our Annual Christmas Function.

There will be great prizes and lots of fun, so be prepared.

This year we are aiming for 100 people to attend.

PRICE WILL BE VERY REASONABLE.

\* DATE TO BE CONFIRMED - AUGUST GENERAL MEETING.