

FATHOMS

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VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

OCT-NOV 90

FATHOMS

Official journal of the Victorian Sub—Aqua Group

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Next general meetings

Thursday 18th October 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 15th November 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meetings

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



It seems that diving is under threat again! This time it is the Commercial Fishing Lobby who are attacking us. They have put submissions to the State Government suggesting banning the taking of crayfish and abalone by divers using compressed air.

This move together with the Conservation Forests & Lands Department's current work on banning the taking of fish on SCUBA, may well result in divers having no rights at all to take a meal home.

One can understand why the Commercial Fishing Industry might be concerned about the impact of divers on their livelihood. The number of amateur recreational divers has certainly increased in recent years, and the sight of boat loads of evil looking wet suited "underwater plunderers" would certainly disturb me if I had a couple of hundred thousand dollars tied up in a cray boat or abalone licence.

However, I believe that this is largely an emotive issue, but still one that could seriously effect our sport unless handled properly and rationally - and this will be difficult to do because of lack of statistical data.

The taking of crayfish by SCUBA is by no means easy or terribly efficient when compared to the commercial method of "pot trapping". Weather conditions, time availability, bag limitations and the natural ability of crayfish to avoid capture all stack up as obstacles to the diver. True, . . . there are some divers who are more skilled than most in catching crays and in this Club there are 5 or 6 members who fall into this category. The rest, like me, would bloody well starve to death if our life depended on a crayfish diet.

However, the commercial fishermen probably do not understand this. If they are seeing the crayfish stocks being depleted they should look firstly at their own Industry. Its an insult to intelligence to suggest that amateur recreational divers have a significant impact on the crayfish population.

I have no time, nor should any self respecting diver, have any time for the unlicenced poaching of crayfish or abalone. Such practices do give divers a rotten name and offenders deserve to be caught and heavily penalized. Yet the law does not take this matter seriously enough. Several months ago we published in Fathoms the penalties handed out to a number of abalone poachers who had been brought to court. They were each fined the grand amount of \$150.00. What a joke!!!

The SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria will be fighting this issue and let us hope that proper consideration will be given to all of the issues, so that the freedom of recreational divers to "hunt" within the constraints of current laws will be protected.

A matter that concerns me greatly about this whole issue is that it could be a very biased battle. You only have to look at the problem which duck shooters have faced over recent years - and they were only fighting the Conservation Lobby. The issue that we face whilst on first impressions may be against the Commercial Fishing Lobby, however we should not forget that the over zealous conservationists within the Government and public service bodies have already excluded large areas of Victoria's coastline from crayfish and abalone catching. Perhaps the only reason why duck shooting is still permitted in this State is because the duck hunters were very well organized and massed huge demonstrations against the withdrawal of their rights. I can't see divers taking the same action . . .

The Committee elections held at the Annual General Meeting in September returned Don Abell and Ross Luxford to the Committee and produced 3 new Committee Members: Neil Medhurst, Sant Khan and Sally Staddon. At time of going to press the selection process for the Club's Office Bearers had not occurred due to the

1 week postponement of the September Committee Meeting. However without pre-empting any appointments, I would like to add my commendation of Don Abell to Des William's remarks at the A.G.M. Don has served 2 years as a very fine President of the Club and has provided excellent leadership and representation. He has shown good judgement and conducted the Club's business in a professional, yet friendly manner. I am sure that all members would endorse these remarks and on behalf of the members - Well done Don and thanks.

John Goulding

BOAT FEES TO INCREASE

Owing to the recent increasing price of petrol the Committee has increased the boat fees from \$16.00 to \$20.00 effective from 1st October.

This increase is in response to the increases in the Government Fuel Tax.

With the current instability in fuel prices the Committee will again review the boat fee early in the new year.

SAFETY SAUSAGES

A few Safety Sausages are available for sale through the Club.

As these are an excellent safety device, the Club is subsidizing the cost of these Safety Sausages by 50%.

COST TO MEMBERS - JUST \$5.00.

SEE JOHN LAWLER.

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

ACCOUNTS AT 30TH JUNE, 1990

TOGETHER WITH REPORTS OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITOR

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, 1990, 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, 1990 and of its results of operations for the year then ended.

S.M. Rawson - Registered Auditor
Melbourne Victoria
25th August, 1990

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUPDIRECTOR'S REPORT

We present our report on the state of affairs of the Company at 30th June, 1990, and on the surplus for the year then ended.

The net amount of the surplus of the company for the year ended 30th June, 1990 after provision for income tax of Nil was \$1,368.

During the year ended 30th June, 1990 no dividend was paid.

The principal activities of the company in the course of the year ended 30th June, 1990, 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:

Don Abell
Mick Jeacle
Fiona Bruce
Ross Luxford
John Goulding
Pat Reynolds
Jeanette Large
Doug Catherall
Alex Talay
John Lawler
Bob Scott
Peter Jones

Since 30th June, 1989 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, 1990 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 \$1,368 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, 1990.

The directors are not aware of any matters or circumstance arising since 30th June, 1990 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 21st day of August, 1990.

In accordance with a resolution of directors.

D. Abell - Director

M. Jeacle - Director

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

BALANCE SHEET

AT 30TH JUNE, 1990

	1990	1989
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank and On Hand	\$ 501	\$ 553
Bank Term Deposit	9,176	7,607
	<u>9,677</u>	<u>8,160</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Equipment (At Cost)	4,108	4,108
Less Provision for Depreciation	(3,095)	(2,946)
	<u>1,013</u>	<u>1,162</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$10,690</u>	<u>\$ 9,322</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward	\$ 9,322	\$ 6,541
Surplus for the Year	1,368	2,781
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	<u>\$10,690</u>	<u>\$ 9,322</u>

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

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR 30TH JUNE, 1990

	1990	1989
INCOME		
Annual Subscriptions	\$ 1,727	\$ 2,104
Compressor Air Fills	20	205
Donations	35	90
Dive Trips	5,125	1,084
Interest - Bank Account	99	122
- Bank Term Deposit	1,573	609
Joining Fees	30	20
Proceeds from wine sales	-	1,716
Proceeds from sale of safety sausages	95	-
Profit on Sale of Club Products	83	50
Social Functions	1,333	2,804
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$10,120	\$ 8,804
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENSES		
Bank and Government Charges	\$ 51	\$ 51
Depreciation	149	175
Dive Trips	4,232	1,252
Equipment Hire and Equipment Repairs	251	299
Fathoms Production and Distribution	1,971	1,576
General Expense	-	31
Para sale	400	-
Postage, Printing and Stationery	85	23
Rental of Post Office Box	90	70
Rent Meeting Rooms	220	180
Ramp Fees	90	60
Safety Sausages	240	-
S.D.F.V. Membership	30	30
Social Expenses	840	2,276
Sundry	103	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 8,752	\$ 6,023
	<hr/>	<hr/>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	\$ 1,368	\$ 2,781
	*****	*****

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement.

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

30TH JUNE, 1990

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, 1990;
 - (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, 1990;
 - (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

D. Abell - Director

M. Jeacle - Director

Melbourne,
21st August, 1990

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Schomberg Dive Services,
29 Lord Street,
PORT CAMPBELL VIC. 3269

To Sir,

Starting from mid October there will be a Dive Charter Service operating from Port Campbell to all wreck sites along the coast. The service will run weekends and public holidays, but mid week charters can be arranged if you are interested.

A dive master will be supplied and a full range of spare parts and air filling facilities are available. All dives will be undertaken off our fully surveyed dive boat catering for a maximum of six divers plus our dive master and skipper.

Please find below our charter prices:

Single Dive - \$30.00 per person.

Double Dive - \$60.00 per person.

If you require any further information, please give me a call on (055) 985 489 and I will only be to pleased to try and help you. Hope to see you down here this summer.

Yours in diving,

Alistair MacDonald

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Don Abell

We have come to the end of another diving year with our Annual General Meeting held on 20th September. I am pleased to observe that the V.S.A.G. is as strong as it has ever been. We have a good participating membership and we are financially sound. In fact we have Club funds which now exceed \$10,000.00, which for a club like ours is a great achievement.

The strength of interest in Club activities was shown with an attendance of more than 40 at the Annual General Meeting. I hope that this enthusiasm continues and my objective is to have 50 at next years meeting. I remember when we had around 20 at our A.G.M.

We provide supper for all those who attend our A.G.M. No charge. So plan to be there next year.

1989/90 has been a great year of diving. A full calendar of weekly dives with events also run on every long weekend. Inverloch over Melbourne Cup Weekend followed by a record turn up of over 70 at the Christmas trip to Bermagui. Refuge Cove was booked out as it is every year. Port Campbell was a blow out in March, but we made up for it with over 60 people and good diving at Easter.

This years overseas trip was Truk Lagoon and Palau. 15 people had what could only be described as a diving holiday of a lifetime. Des put in much hard work as dive captain and was really too tired to go "cruising for chicks".

The last long weekend was spent gliding and tasting wines out of Benalla.

My thanks goes to all persons organizing dives and weekend trips. I know it takes time and effort and the Committee and members appreciate your work.

A strong club requires a continual flow of new members. This year we welcomed Sally Staddon, Sant Khan, Neville Viapree, Ruth Brown and Herb Epstein. Each of these people will contribute to the Club through their membership. Already we have two new members applications this year and many people expressing interest in joining.

Without doubt one great contributing factor to our strength is the friendly, almost family atmosphere of V.S.A.G. We have no factions in the Club. We should all have similar objectives. Hopefully the prime objectives are safe diving and having fun. I am not sure in which order. Secondly, we will participate to ensure that diving continues to be a sport to be enjoyed by many and will involve ourselves in public forums as necessary to achieve this.

Certain commercial diving groups will always be critical of V.S.A.G. We expect it and understand that it emanates from an envy of our strength. They are in this industry to make as much money as quickly as possible by taking advantage of people wishing to pursue their chosen sport. The objectives of these organisations will always be diametrically opposed to those of V.S.A.G.

Please do not relate these comments to all commercial diving concerns. They are in the minority. Many commercial groups and individuals have a keen love of diving and contribute unselfishly to the promotion of the sport. Our friendships in the industry are many and the Club will continue to support those organisations as they support our Club.

My thanks now goes to those Committee Members who did not re-nominate. Jeanette Large, Fiona Bruce and Peter Jones. Each has been a significant contributor and a hard worker. Jeanette needs her time to pursue an evening lecturing job and Fiona is going to continue her studies which seem to occupy more time than her employment. Peter Jones is living in Venus Bay and commuting to meetings is difficult. Hopefully as their respective situations change they will consider re-nominating for a Committee position.

Luckily we have been able to fill the Committee positions with Sally Staddon, Sant Khan and Neil Medhurst. Sally and Sant are relatively new members but are keen divers who attend most V.S.A.G. events. Neil Medhurst is a longer standing member. He is a qualified advanced diver, has studied for first aid qualifications and has a great knowledge of diving and dive equipment (not to mention spare parts). Neil may be the most qualified diver on the Committee. I am pleased to have all three join our Committee.

Finally the rest of the Committee. Mick Jeacle, Ross Luxford, John Goulding, Alex Talay, Pat Reynolds, John Lawler, Bob Scott and Doug Catherall. If it was not for their hard work not much would happen at all. We seek a commitment from our Committee which they give willingly. My personal thanks for their contribution to the success of V.S.A.G.

So now for a new year. I have no doubt that our fun will continue. The more members that come along to our activities the more we will all benefit.

Read your Fathoms, watch the calendar of events and be in it.*

V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER

7.30 P.M.

MOTHERS BAR & RESTAURANT
CORNER KING & FLINDERS LANE.

3 COURSE MEAL - JUST \$25.00/HEAD.

TICKETS ON SALE AT OCTOBER & NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETINGS.

Medicals can save your life

With your permission, a few words to Jon Mosen who wrote disapprovingly about the necessity of medicals for the over-50s. (*Soundings*, January).

Surely, Jon, you must know that physical ability begins to decline before the age of 53, and with it increased susceptibility to disease? Now is the time to take more care of yourself rather than less. Yes I'm sure you are perfectly fit and healthy and there is nothing to worry about—or is there?

I have always been strong and healthy, but when I started diving eighteen years ago (at your present age), compulsory medical checks were not called for. Nevertheless I underwent them voluntarily and have done so each year since. With satisfying regularity I received glowing reports—"extremely fit", "blood pressure of a child", and so on.

Then in 1981 on my return from a strenuous safari/diving holiday in the Red Sea, my doctor noticed a "minor irregularity" in my heart beat. No problem, he said, but suggested I follow it up.

So after an overnight stay in Herefield Hospital for thorough testing, I complacently awaited the specialist's report.

"If you continue with your present active life style," he said, "I reckon you have a 90% chance of a serious heart failure and possible death within the year."

Surely there's some mistake, I thought, it can't be me he's talking about. I swim, I dive, I take regular exercise with no symptoms whatsoever of heart problems.

Well you pays your money and you takes the advice. Early in 1982 I had a quadruple coronary bypass operation—one artery was completely blocked and the others seriously obstructed. It was only my strong and healthy heart which had kept me going for so long.

Six months later, I returned to Stoney Cove for a shallow dive just to check for leaks. A couple of weeks later I went to the bottom to check both my physical and psychological reactions. Success! I was back to diving again.

Now in my 71st year I can look back on another strenuous year, 53 dives at all depths down to 50 meters and I'm still going strong—entirely due to regular medical examinations, and a recognition that as you get older you *must* take more care.

Jon, I wish you well in your future diving, but with no medicals will you be able to say the same at my age. Don't confuse "a grand old age" with premature senility. Get those medicals done and stay with us. Set a good chairman's example to your club as I have done.

Ronald Ray, Club Instructor,
Elstree & Borehamwood
BS-AC.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF V.S.A.G. RAMBLINGS FROM TURKEY

by Jack Namiota

After about 30 hours flight we arrived at Constantinople (today's Istanbul) in Turkey. Eventually, after short passport and customs control we have been hit by Istanbul's traffic. It was a nightmare, I've driven in a lot of cities in many different countries but it was all child's play compared to Istanbul. They have a saying here which says that red lights are just a dark shade of green. Get in the wrong lane and you're stuck there for ages as you watch your destination go by and wonder how the hell you are going to get back there.

For many countries Constantinople was capital of the civilized world. The city is over 3000 years old in 330 A.D. the Roman Emperor Constantyn named it "New Rome" - capital of Roman Empire. It reached its height in the 1100's A.D. 1453 - Constantinople was conquered by the Turks and became capital of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Without knowing something of its history, a tour of Istanbul's ancient monuments will leave you impressed but bewildered.

The Blue Mosque, Haghia Sophia and Topkapi Palace are three places which everyone should see before they die, it's a sin not to see them and the city as far as I'm concerned is the No. 1 in the world. Lots of books have been written about it and I've read a few, but this is a city you have to experience.

While we were there, we were walking down the street when we saw a sign which said that under the ground there was an ancient water cistern to see. We decided to have a look at it so we paid 50 cents and down we went. What a sight! This used to be the city's water supply built by the Romans. It has been drained so that you can go into it and it has a metre or so of water in it. There are 364 Roman columns holding up an enormous vaulted ceiling and the authorities have built walkways so that you can get around the place and they have illuminated the bottoms, of

two columns and the bases are sculpted into the heads of women. Probably some goddess who I've never heard of, but the point is that being under water for so long, they have escaped the ravages of time and vandals and they are still in perfect condition. There they are staring at you just as they appeared all those years ago without a blemish.

I've seen ancient Greek stuff and I've seen the temples in Mexico and Guatemala, but this is the first time I've seen something of this size completely undamaged for 2000 years and it's so good that the sculptor had even put one pimple on the nose. I read in a guide book that this cistern had been completely forgotten for centuries until a Swiss traveller in the XIX Century noticed that a man near where he was staying used to sell fresh fish every day outside his house and the traveller noticed that they were fresh water fish (Trout) so he asked the man where he got them and was told that they were caught through a hole in the cellar floor which of course turned out to be the cistern.

When I went to the toilet Julie was approached by a slick eleven year old postcard salesman who after losing the sale asked if she had any children. She said that - No, she didn't have any, he must have quickly put two and two together and thought to himself that I couldn't be much of a man because his next sales special was "you, me make sex, you have a baby" and he went on to boast that he had a further two already.

Topkapi Palace is astounding, in it's key day 5000 people lived in it and the jewellery collection, said to be the largest in the world and the most valuable. The various sultans (kings) had presents sent to them from all over the empire and other parts of the world. As you wander around the display you get so blasé about it after a while. Oh, yee, look Julie, there's another one of those diamond encrusted daggers. No kidding it makes the crown jewels in the Tower of London look pretty insignificant. There was a hair from Mahommed's beard and one of his footprints cast in cement on some such substance and the paintings on the wall and ceilings are so intricate as to be indescribable. There was a Cafe there where you can sit with a cup of coffee overlooking the Bospharus and the Golden Horn and watch the ships and ferries go by. For me, I think it's the best place in the world to have a cuppa.

The Blue Mosque and Haghia Sophia - well I've run out of superlatives. West Minster Abbey, Notre Dame in Paris, Cologne Cathedral, eat your heart out. There just isn't anything in Europe to compare with these two places of worship, unless you go to Port Campbell in Victoria and see the wooden church by the wharf.

The grand bazaar is big, almost overwhelmingly huge - it's a great place. It's old, very old (about 500 years old). There are over four thousand shops in it. Have you ever seen a shopping centre with four thousand shops? There are banks and mosques inside it and the most gold jewellery we've ever seen, carpet stores, tea house, guys beating the shit out of bits of tin and copper and making kettles and things - you just have to see it. And it's done in the best possible style and taste.

I can go on about Istanbul for ages. It just seems incredible to me that everyone in the world hasn't been here, everywhere you turn there's history B.C. or A.D.*

V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS TRIP

PORT LINCOLN

10 powered camp sites have been booked.

Rates are: \$10.00/Night - 2 Adults.
\$ 3.00/Night - Extra Adult.
\$ 1.00/Night - Per Child.

Please advise Alex Talay as soon as possible when you are going and how long you will be staying.

DEPOSITS OF \$20.00 ARE REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY.

CANDID CAMERA

SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE, WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT . . .



V.S.A.G. has acquired this exclusive snap via our "bride cam" of what Mrs. Kerry Talay actually saw on the honeymoon night.

We will leave you guessing as to where we actually hid the "bride cam".

For the complete expose' see this weeks forthcoming edition of Womans Day.*