FATHOMS

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VSAG VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

AUG-SEP 91

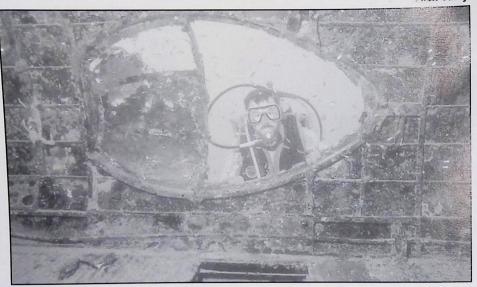
VSAG

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

These magnificent photographs are all examples of Des Williams' work taken on the ISAG trip to Truk Lagoon 1990.

am sure you will agree that they are all outstanding, so good in fact that I couldn't decide what to keep or reject, so I've used the back cover as well and reproduced from all.

Yours in Diving, Alex Talay



Front Cover:

Chris Llewellyn at Port-Side Gun Port. Betty Bomber Wreck. Truk Lagoon.

Back Cover:

- 1. Alex Talay with Ships Telegraph inside bridge of "Nippo Maru" Truk Lagoon.
- 2. Chris Llewellyn with lamp on "Nippo Maru" Truk Lagoon.

- 3. Chris Llewellyn on bridge of "Nippo Maru" Truk Lagoon.
- 4. Stern of "Gosei Maru" Truk Lagoon, divers from left to right: Neil Medhurst, Justin Liddy, Pat Reynolds &Bob Scott (standing), Ross Luxford, Andy Mastrowicz (back)
- 5. Alex Talay inside fuselage of Betty Bomber Truk Lagoon.
- Stern mast of "Gosei Maru". Truk Lagoon divers left to right Chris Llewellyn, Alex Talay, Justin Liddy, Pat Reynolds and Neil Medhurst.

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 in 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, triends 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 1991

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Next general meetings

Thursday 15th August 8.00 p.m. Thursday 19th September 8.00 p.m. North Melbourne Football Club, Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meetings 20th August - Sally & Sant's

20th August - Sally & Sant's Place. lst October - Don Abell's Place.

Editorial submissions to "The Editor" Fathoms C/- JOHN GOULDING,

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Don Abell Ross Luxford

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EDITORIAL



After all of the hoo-haa and on again/off again debate about scallop fishing in Port Phillip Bay, the 84 boats licenced to harvest scallops in the Bay are now allowed to do so, but must do it on a roster system, such that only 63 boats can work at the one time. The boats will be allowed the full 6 crate quota per day, but the fishermen claim that at this rate they will only take about half of the available scallops. HALF! They should be so lucky! Why, it was only just over 3 years ago that they depleted the scallops to such an extent, that there insufficient stock left for a

viable industry for the 3 following years.

Then the President of the Victorian Fishing Industry Federation, made the startling claim that there had never been any scientific data to prove that scallop fishing damaged marine ecology - What absolute and utter rubbish! If depletion of the scallop population through over fishing is not damage to the ecology, then tell me . . . What is? This is the same federation that wants the taking of crayfish by amateur sport scuba divers banned . . .

Now, I've always thought of fishermen as being the "salt of the earth" - Good, honest, hard working folk, who pit their wits and skills against the merciless seas. They are the stuff that legends are made of. Unfortunately this image of mine seems no longer valid. I tell you lads and lassies, there is a bloody conspiracy afloat, that gathers momentum in the dark corners inhabited by "poofters", "lefties", "greenies", "whackos" and the great unwashed ranks of the naive bureaucrats, to put a stop to our licenced right to take crayfish, rather than to realize the minimal effect that sport divers have on the crayfish population . . .

S.D.F.-V. has done some work on fighting the issue, and we can only give them our full support in resisting further restrictions on divers.

On a brighter note, the recently published Management Plan for the Wilsons Promontory Marine Rescue takes into account diver related issues such as, boat launching, air filling and prohibited catch areas, and does not place further restrictions upon diving activities. Albeit though, they did not take into account my own input, which included a sheltered area at the Tidal River tip site for air filling. Perhaps it was the suggestion that a bar be set up at the site which put them off!

V.S.A.G. elections are on again in September, and at time of printing there are 5 vacancies, with 4 of the members offering themselves for re-election. Please ensure to submit your nomination forms, and if an election is called, financial members will receive ballot papers.

The continuation of a good working and active Committee is essential for the future of the Club. The duties are not onerous, although they are responsible, and the time required for committee work is fairly minimal. Besides it's also a lot of fun.

With Spring just about upon us, there hopefully will be plenty of active diving amongst members.

John Lawler has had his boat re-engined, and will now be amongst the leaders as we streak off to our dive sites.

Finally, may I make a plea for more articles, particularly dive reports from all Dive Captains.

John Goulding Editor

IMPORTANT FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND - WILSONS PROMONTORY 1ST - 5TH NOVEMBER.

The Club is planning to return to Tidal River at Wilsons Promontory over the weekend of 1st - 3rd November, and extending through to Melbourne Cup Day on 5th November.

For those who attended on this weekend last year, you'll remember what a success it was. The diving and the weather were great, and the presence of a few other clubs, without the usual hoards of people as at Easter, made for enjoyable evening get-togethers.

PAT REYNOLDS is the organizer, so let him know as soon as possible if you can attend.

2. ANNUAL TENNIS DAY AND V.S.A.G. MILE 24TH NOVEMBER.

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT FAMILY DAY.

The Tipping brothers will be once again coerced into organizing the event, with all sorts of special prizes for tennis prowess and running skills.

Location, details and times, etc., to be advised at General Meetings and in next issue of Fathoms.

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

19TH SEPTEMBER, 1991

Members, please note that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the North Melbourne Football Club, on Thursday 19th September.

A SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting is an important event in the Club's 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 Club's constitution, the following members will be standing down, and all offer themselves for re-election:-

DOUG CATHERALL.
PAT REYNOLDS.

MICK JEACLE. ALEX TALAY.

In addition, Ross Luxford will also be standing down due to other commitments, and is not offering himself for reelection.

All members are asked to seriously consider the matter of whom they believe to be best suited to be on the Committee, and to complete the enclosed nomination form, and return these to the V.S.A.G. Secretary NO later than the 5th September.

As there are 5 vacancies, an election will be required if more than 5 nominations are received by the 5th September, in which case, voting slips will be forwarded to all financial members. The voting slips must be returned by $8.30~\mathrm{p.m.}$ on the night of the Annual General Meeting (19th September). \wp

V.S.A.G. COMMITTEE NEWS

The following is a summary of main points raised at the June and July Committee Meetings.

- * 6 First Aid Kits have been purchased, and allocated to 6 of the most frequently used dive boats.
- * Club funds as at 23rd July were \$9,062.93.
- * It was reported that wine sales had reached 79 dozen, but that extra effort was required to sell the remaining 41 dozen.
- * A supper for members and visitors will be served after the Annual General Meeting in September.
- * The matter of Club equipment was discussed, and it was re-emphasized that tanks are available on a hire basis - not on a free loan basis.
- * Priya Cardinaletti's application for membership was approved, following lodgement of her medical certificate.
- * V.S.A.G. has been issued with an Australian Corporate Number. The A.C.N. is 004 591 575.0

V.S.A.G. SKIING TRIP

The V.S.A.G. skiing trip will be held this year at Falls Creek, from 6th - 13th September.

COST IS \$40.00 PER NIGHT.

CONTACT JOHN GOULDING ON 829 2213 (BUSINESS).

SCALLOP DIVE - 26TH MAY, 1991

by Mick Jeacle

Following a week of calm weather, with no rain and little or no wind, I was eagerly awaiting the forthcoming dive on Sunday 26th May.

On Saturday evening the weather report was looking good, and reports of excellent visibility were being received from a number of reliable sources. Obviously many of our members had heard the news, as come Sunday morning we had 6 boats and 22 divers meet at the beautifully laid out Rye boat ramp.

The plan was to proceed to The Heads area and assess the situation there, and this we did on very smooth seas. From there it was decided to dive the new sub, as I had found the marks written down whilst rummaging through some papers earlier in the week.

The conditions outside the Bay were even better than inside. The water was oily smooth and it stayed that way for the rest of the day. The only trouble was, that two of the three marks used to locate the sub were obliterated by the smog and haze, which made one's job extremely difficult. However, patience won through in the end, and after about 30 minutes the marker buoy was in place, and the site was abuzz with excitement due to the conditions and visibility.

Once on the wreck the visibility was a little disappointing, but this was mainly attributable to the cloudy conditions. I would have estimated it at 80 feet, and you can't expect much better than that in this area. The wreck itself is in very good condition, and as such it is pitch black inside, and a powerful torch is essential if you desire to do the full length inside. There is however plenty to see outside, including a brass plaque placed near the conning tower to commemorate the death of a

diver there in 1985. A close inspection of her rear end would seem to indicate that she had three screws in her day. (I thought you might like to learn that snippet of information, if you haven't already seen for yourself).

Following the dive, nobody seemed in a hurry to leave the site, and we all sat around and had lunch in absolutely perfect conditions. It was so peaceful and quiet that Tippo could be heard saying, that one day in 1971 there were 23 divers and the conditions were even better!

Some of the boats then opted to dive for abalone, whilst the others made their way back to Rye for the scallop dive. The water at Rye was possibly the cleanest I could remember, and the scallops are definitely back. The bag limit of 100 per diver is once again achievable, and the new way of cleaning them takes the worry out of thinking about the arduous task ahead when you get home.

All in all it was a fantastic day. To my knowledge it was the first time the Club had officially launched at Rye. I think all would agree that it definitely should not be the last. $\ensuremath{\omega}$

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

Top Day Mick.

Editor

JACK LONEY PRESENTATION -14TH JULY, 1991

by Des Williams

One of the most highly successful lectures given to the members of V.S.A.G., was held at the historic ROYAL HOTEL at Queenscliff on Sunday 14th of July. There were at least 55 people who stayed for the lecture, whilst some wives and friends went down-town to spend some time in the shops. Jack soon cut loose into one of his very entertaining lectures, this time about the "Sea War in Bass Strait".



To have over 60 people turn out for a lecture down at Queenscliff, is certainly a reflection on the strength of the mighty V.S.A.G., and indeed the high regard we have for Jack Loney. My personal thanks to everyone who journeyed down to the Royal Hotel, for what was a very pleasant day for all.

For the very few members of V.S.A.G. who didn't attend, most of us met at the Royal about 1.00 p.m., enjoyed a few drinks around the log fire in the bar, then sat down to a very acceptable three course meal and vino, followed by Jack's entertaining lecture in the historic cellar around another log fire.

Many people travelled by ferry from Sorrento, and there were some very contented bods on the last ferry at 5.00 p.m., which arrived at Sorrento about 5.40 p.m.

Our very special thanks go to Jack, for his time in what is another very busy year of lectures for him. Our President, Don Abell, closed the proceedings with thanks to Jack, followed by warm applause from the audience.

With the kind of support shown by members and friends on this particular day, we will have no trouble in enticing Jack or other speakers of interest to entertain us in the future. Thank you all once more!

Some books by Jack Loney:-

Australian Shipwrecks Volume 4, 1901-1986	\$42.00
Australian Shipwrecks Volume 5, Update	(H.B.)\$37.95
	(P.B.)\$29.95
Not Enough Grass to Feed a Single Bullock	\$15.00
Wreckers, Smugglers and Pirates	\$12.00
Australian Sea Stories	\$12.00
Australian Sea Mysteries	\$10.00
Australia's Shipwreck Coast	\$12.00
Bay Steamers and Coastal Ferries	\$10.00
Wrecks Along the Great Ocean Road	\$10.00
Famous Wrecks	\$10.00
The Otway	\$ 8.00

Mysteries of the Bass Strait Triangle Otway and its Coast in Retrospect Wreck and Rescue at Port Phillip Heads Notes on the Otway The Clipper LIGHTNING in Geelong Wreck of the Ship ERIC THE RED Pocket Guide to the Great Ocean Road The LOCK ARD Disaster Early Shipping in the Port of Geelong The Sea Horse Inn The Price of Admiralty An Era at Port Phillip Heads The Historic Barwon Port Fairy Tourist Guide Wrecks at Hells Gates The SCHOMBERG Incident The MAHOGANY SHIP Wrecks on Phillip Island Wrecks on King Island Wrecks on Flinders Island Wreck of the FIJI		8.00 8.00 6.00 6.00 6.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 4.00 4.00 4.00 4
Wrecks on King Island	***	4.00

TO ORDER ANY OF THE ABOVE BOOKS, CONTACT DES WILLIAMS ON 551 3201.⊕

CRAYFISH LICENCES

Crayfish Licences can be purchased from fishing tackle shops.

NOTE: The taking of all crayfish is banned between 1ST SEPTEMBER AND 16TH NOVEMBER.

MEDIA WATCH



ABALONE -ILLEGAL FISHING CRACKDOWN

A crackdown on illegal abalone fishing in Victoria by the Department of Conservation—and Environment (DCE) in 1990 resulted in \$55,000 worth of court fines. The maximum fine imposed on an abalone fisherman during the year was \$5,000 (taking fish without a licence), and the maximum penalty imposed was a six month jall sentence.

A minimum fine of \$200 was Imposed on a fisherman who used commercial fishing equipment to take abalone, and under current legislation up to \$10,000 in fines can be imposed on fishermen for the unlicensed sale of fish.

According to DCE's Director of Fisheries, Dr. Wayne Chamley, "Abaione is Victoria's most valuable fishery, with an annual commercial catch of about \$30,000,000."

Abalone - Sub Committee

The Abalone Sub Committee is developing a paper on Penaltles within Victoria. The paper highlights the need to increase penaltles within Victoria, which has the lowest penalties compared to other States. A very simple example of the inappropriateness of fisheries penalties was the recent conviction of an abalone poacher caught with 600 abalone and fined a mere \$500, yet under the National Parks. Act a \$2000 fine would apply to anyone found littering the Park.

The paper is in draft form awaiting final approval of the VFIF Sub Committee and will be presented to Minister Crabb once approved.

V.S.A.G. AND LEGISLATION

by Don Abell

To keep you up-to-date with what is going on, on the business side of the Club, I have detailed below a brief summary of one current matter affecting the Club.

If this sort of thing bores you, and I can well appreciate that it might, I suggest that you move to the next article.

AUSTRALIAN COMPANY NUMBER.

Everybody should be well aware that V.S.A.G. is an Incorporated Body. Former members showed much foresight and Incorporated V.S.A.G. as a Company Limited, by guarantee back on 24th May, 1963.

As an aside, for those not old enough to remember, the original subscribers were recorded as:-

William John Kunert Edward Neil Street Ronald Addison

Robert Albert Bicker Brian Charles Heather Leslie Albert Frederick Grant Francis William Coustley

Representative
Photographer
Commonwealth Car
Driver
Mechanical Engineer
Cost Clerk
Pharmacist
Aircraft Engineer

Now back to 1991, where the administration of Corporate Legislation has now been transferred to the Australian Securities Commission. One of the new requirements is that all Companies must use an Australian Company Number or A.C.N.

The V.S.A.G. has A.C.N. 004 591 575.

We need to affix the number to all our operating documents. For our purpose that really means, our letterheads, our cheques and the receipts we issue.

Mick Jeacle has arranged for the new number to be affixed to all the Club's cheques. For other documents we have a stamp each for the, Club Secretary and Club Treasurer.

So from now you will see:-

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP A.C.N. 004 591 575

WINE SALE

V.S.A.G. members are reminded that we still have quantities of HICKINBOTHAM'S 1983 CABERNET SHIRAZ for sale at \$96.00 a dozen.

This wine, which has been rated very highly, would normally cost about twice that amount if it could still be purchased through the trade, and compares very favourable with wines selling in the \$14.00-\$18.00 a bottle range.

We need to move this stock over the next couple of months, and I would ask you to try and promote it to friends, relatives, work colleagues, etc.

For stock enquiries contact Bob Scott on 763 6872 (H) or 706 3766(W).

JOHN LIPPMANN ADDRESSES V.S.A.G. ON SAFETY

by John Goulding

At the June General Meeting, John Lippmann, author of:-

The Essentials of Deep Diving. Deeper into Diving. The D.E.S. Emergency Handbook.

gave a most interesting address on a number of safety issues effecting divers.

A report of his address follows:

Over the next 12 months, some 80,000 divers are expected to become qualified throughout Australia. With the increasing numbers of divers, the incidence of diver accidents will almost certainly increase. The clear message coming from John, was to dive cautiously.

Whilst diving itself is a relatively new science, diving medicine is even newer and is still evolving. But one thing is certain - It's not a good idea to get "bent".

Bends can cause long term or permanent impairment, even though no residual problems may be apparent after treatment in the short term. This impairment can effect sight, hearing and balance, through damage caused to the brain and spinal chord.

And the big danger is, that there is a risk in getting "bent" just about everytime we go diving!

Whilst a lot of people might put their faith in staying within the limits of various dive tables, John's advice was not only to use the dive tables with respectable caution, but also to carefully plan your dive profile and stick to your plan. The best dive profile is to do

the deepest part of your dive first, and then gradually work your way into shallower water. This helps reduce the nitrogen content in the blood as you near the end of your dive, and also reduces the overall pressure changes during your final ascent. Whilst this sort of profile can be practiced on wall dives and drop offs, etc., John did acknowledge its difficulty with dives on submarines, and in other areas where there really wasn't anything to dive on, between the bottom and the surface.

John pointed out that diving in Victoria could be quite conducive to the risk of bends, as much of the diving was below 24 metres (80 feet), and many popular dive locations had no shallower or mid range depths, in which to achieve a gradual ascent during the course of the dive. For this reason, he was skeptical about the reliance of computers, preferring their use for multi depth dives.

Regardless of whether you are using dive tables or computers, his advice was to remain well within the limitations.

Some practical guidelines he gave were:-

- * Ascend at no greater than 10 metres (33 feet/minute) not 60 feet a minute, or at the speed of your smallest bubble, as we were taught in the 1960's and '70's.
- * If you're planning to dive to 30 metres (100 feet), reduce 10% of the no decompression limit for every factor you believe could increase the risk of bends, e.g.:-

UNFITNESS OR OBESITY	10%
COLD WATER	10%
ALCOHOL NIGHT BEFORE	10%
	30%

Thus, if the no decompression limit for 30 metres is 25 minutes, less 30% (7.5 minutes) - Make your new limit 25 - 7.5 = 17.5 minutes.

- * For a normal dive, when you might consider that there are no factors that could increase the risk of bends, he still recommended a 10% safety factor. So if you were planning a dive to 30 metres (100 feet), plan your dive as if it were 10% greater, i.e. 33 metres (110 feet). Your no decompression time in this situation would reduce from 25 minutes to 20 minutes (based on U.S. Navy Tables).
- John recommended safety stops for all dives over 24 metres (80 feet).
- * 9 metres (30 feet) for 1 minute.
- * 6 metres (20 feet) for the balance of the recommended time.

Whilst some of his comments may sound too over cautious, he did point out that permanent impairment is being found in sports divers, who have never shown physical symptoms or signs of the bends. Some easily recognized signs to watch for, that may indicate some signs of the bends are:-

Balance problems. Memory loss. Some blurring of vision.

These symptoms may be present without the more "traditional" symptoms of pain in the joints, or "pins and needles".

On the matter of alcohol, John's advice was that it doesn't go well with diving, as apart from any hangover effect, alcohol does cause body dehydration. His recommendation was that if you've had a few grogs the night before a dive, drink plenty of water before going to sleep and again before your dive.

For long periods of repetitive diving, he recommended a break from diving every fourth day, as most dive tables break down after 3 days.

Should a diver miss a planned decompression stop and surface, it was best \underline{not} to descend to do the decompression stop, but rather, get into the boat, lie down, breathe oxygen, block you nose and drink water.

For members wishing to improve their knowledge of advanced diving first aid, two Oxygen Therapy and Resuscitation Courses will be held in September.

DATES: 6TH - 8TH SEPTEMBER.

CONTACT: JOHN LIPPMANN,

TELEPHONE: 270 1782 (BUSINESS).

569 4803 (PRIVATE).

COST: \$230.00.₺

FOUNDATION MEMBER OF V.S.A.G. PRESENTED SCUBA EXCELLENCE AWARD -JAMES ROBERT AGER-

One of V.S.A.G.'s foundation members, way back in the diving pioneering days of 1954, was recently acknowledged for his contribution to the diving industry, at the World SCUBA Expo, held on the Gold Coast in July.

Jim Ager is now head of the successful AIRDIVE Company, and his history in the diving business is an interesting story of how a hobby became a way of life.

JAMES ROBERT AGER

systems before turning to air demand units in 1954. Formed "Seabon Marine Sport & Diving", Installed system and started to make "Seabeo" units in 1954. Foundation Member of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group (Diving Part of the U.S. F.A.) (1954). Designed and made his own stundard 1st stage in 1955. Accountant, Design Engineer, Computer Programmer, Inventor, Jim Agur started Aving in 1952 after assisting in the first exygen rebreathing sets made in Australia. Legged ever 1000 hours on exygen the largest air compressor for divers in Victoria. Designed the expansion Oritice and diaphragm exhaust

Formed Airdive Equipment in 1956, produced cylindor valves and medu the 1st tactile gauges for nigh pressure.

Imported the first Bauer compressors in 1956. Built the first hydrotest station in the industry in 1956, and later when standards started licensing test stations was the first to obtain approval in 1962. (No.

Started the Victorian Aqua Lung School in 1957 - the major training facility in Victoria until 1966. Produced a Venturi assisted demand system and started distribution in all states in 1956. Wrote his own manual and trained over 7000 divers without a mishap.

a flow through piston type was designed. Was instrumental in having the first wel suits made under the Invented the balanced 1st stage in 1957 and had several advancements in design until 1962 when

Started the Victorian Aqua Lung Club in 1959, and this was to become the most active club in Australia in that era, 1962 - produced a standard piston type first stage and started valve production Seabee and Airdive brands.

Formed Airdive Equipment and Victorian Aqualung Contro Into Pty Ltd Companies and expanded the company to start importing such agency lines as Champion, Marin, SOS, National Pro, then Mares, that same year.

In 1964 Airdive went into its own wet suit manufacture, and this was the major part of Airdive's business until there were serious material problems in 1974 to 1976. Airdive then changed direction due to many problems with faults in overseas imports and in 1979 wont back into major projection of its own and in 1965 Scubapro, most of which liaisons lasted for 12 - 14 yours.

engineering products in that year, limiting its imports to a low selected items.

1980, 1982, 1984 saw more advances in Airdives designs, many of which were soon copied by overseas companies. In 1985 Airdive moved into CNC Airdive applied and was approved in record time to defence quality assurance cerdication in July 1988, and has since designed special gear and won tenders for many items. In 1989 Airdive took over Assembly and then preduction of an eil free air compressor, and after 12 months of re-design has revamped Equipment and started a new era in Australian made dive gear. Further purchases of CNC machines were made in 1987.

September 1990 - Airdive purchased remaining unfinished stocks and tools of Australian breathing systems LP compressor and breathing equipment the oil free air compressor to Airdive standards.

Australian Defence Forces now use Airdive's Enviro Regulator, cylinder valves and cylinders - testimony to Airdive's perseverence with quality control and performance. Airdive is now in larger modern premises in South Oakleigh, Victoria with room for expansion of "A-Dive-Oil Free" Air Compressor Production under the direction of Jim Ager.





Tear & post to The Secretary, V.S.A.G., P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001, to arrive by 5th September, 1991.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: 1991-92 NOMINATION FORM

	undersigned, being full members of the Group, hereby nominate:	
for the	position of Director of the Group.	
Signed:	Date:/	/
Signed:	Date:/	/
	nereby accept on for Director of the Group.	
Sub-Aqua	ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: 1991-92 NOMINATION FORM undersigned, being full members of the Group, hereby nominate:	
	position of Director of the Group.	
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returned to the Secretary, personally or by mail to "The Secretary", V.S.A.G., P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne,

3001, by no later than 5/9/91

Tear & post to The Secretary, V.S.A.G., P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001, to arrive by 5th September, 1991.

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RED CROSS BLOOD BANK

Submitted by Peter Jones

Found this in Warrick's Club Magazine, thought it might be useful information for V.S.A.G. members.



Rec Cross Blood Bank Victoria

11 April 1991

The Manager A B Ocean Divers 237 East Boundary Rd BENTLEIGH EAST 3165

Dear Str / Madam

On behalf of the Red Cross Blood Bank I am writing to see if your organisation can assist us and your members in a very special way.

You would be aware that without proper care, equipment and knowledge a diver can easily fall victim to 'the bends'. You may not be aware that there are also risks involved for divers if they give blood up to 48hrs before a dive.

Accordingly the Red Cross Blood Bank requests your help in advising all divers to referain from donating blood for ABhrs before deep-sea diving. Also if divers have been treated in a Hyperbaric Chamber they should not donate for 6 months. If they wish to continue donating after this period a letter from the treating Doctor is required indicating that their condition is now satisfactory.

Whales and seals are great divers and they don't get "the bends", but unfortunately they don't make good blood donors! So we really do need your divers to continue on as regular donors. But I'm sure you understand it is in everyone's best interest that divers be advised to schedule their Blood Bank appointments well before their diving expeditions.

I would be grateful for any assistance you can give in publicising this matter to your members or readers of your magazines and newsletters.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further truormation.

Yours stncerely.

PETER CAROLAN
MANAGER PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ph: 616 0263

PC:DH

(scuba2)

THE QUEENSCLIFF LIFEBOAT

by Des Williams

As most of us were at Queenscliff in July to hear Jack Loney talk about the Sea War in Bass Strait, a number of our members went to view the beautifully prepared lifeboat at the Maritime Centre.

The Queenscliff Maritime Centre is one of the most active maritime museums in this State, with regular displays pertaining to the rich history of the southern end of Port Phillip. Later this year, there will be an exhibition of items and interpretive material from the wreck "William Salthouse", which should not be missed by anyone who is interested in Victorian shipwrecks.

The lifeboat currently on display, is the fourth and last of the Queenscliff lifeboats - she is a Watson Class boat built by McFarlane & Sons of Adelaide, to plans submitted by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. She received a thorough testing when she steamed around from Adelaide to Queenscliff, to be officially launched on 9th April 1926.

The boat normally carried a crew of 8 and could accommodate thirty persons. It was fitted with every modern navigational device, capable of 8 knots, and sails could be rigged in case of an engine breakdown. Housed in a special shed at the end of a pier with its own slipway, launching from its cradle in the shed was a spectacular sight.

After the crew climbed into the boat, the engine was started and two seamen went to the bow. At the command from the coxwain, two more joined them. As a third pair moved forward, the balancing cradle on which the boat rested, tilted and moved the boat forward on to rollers. The crew crouched ready for the shock as the boat gathered momentum and hit the water in a smother of spray and foam, at a speed of about 48 kilometers per hour.

The boat rose on an even keel, while the water shipped in the launching raced through the valves and it became dry once more. As the coxwain steered out to sea, lifelines were made ready, the line-throwing gun was prepared and the mast was raised. After returning from a practice or call, the boat was hauled back into its shed stern first, using a powerful petrol driven motor winch and steel cable. The winch is also on display at the museum.

While at sea, the boat and crew were in the charge of the coxwains, who were local fishermen. All the boat crew were paid a retainer by the Government.

In the years prior to World War Two, the boat attended few major calls, the most colourful being the stranding of the steamer "MILORA" on the Rondella Reef near Point Lonsdale on 21st September 1934. After being alerted by the lighthouse keeper at Point Lonsdale, the lifeboat was launched and stood by the stranded steamer throughout the night until tugs arrived to tow her free. In the bitterly cold conditions some of the crew boarded the "MILORA" and removed food and drinks from the galley. Imagine their surprise when the cost of items was deducted from the cheque received as payment for the call!

In the following years the lifeboat attended several wrecks:-

On the 20th November 1940, the effects of War struck close to Queenscliff, when the mine sweeper "GOORANGI" was run down and sunk by the "DUNTROON" outward bound. The lifeboat searched in vain for the crew of twenty-four.

The lifeboat was out again the very next night, when the passenger steamer "ORUNGAL" ran onto Formby Reef at Barwon Heads. The lifeboat conveyed all on board safely to shore the next morning when the rough seas subsided.

The yacht "MERLAN" was tossed high on a reef near the Lonsdale Light on 16th January 1949, after returning to Melbourne from the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. The lifeboat turned out only to find that the crew of the

yacht could not be reached. They were eventually rescued by local fishermen, who rowed out in a small boat and transferred them to the waiting lifeboat.

Other attendances were to the wreck of the "TIME" on Corsair Rock on 27th August 1949, which was her last major wreck call. She continued to answer many calls from disabled fishing and pleasure craft, as well as the stranding of the "WARANGA" in 1961, and the "BELTANA" and "KAROON" in 1963.

The lifeboat was also involved in the intensive search for the missing Prime Minister, Harold Holt, off Cheviot Beach in December 1967. Her last official call was to the "M.V. BRISBANE TRADER" in September 1974, which was seen to be on fire in the Rip, but her services were not required.

A colourful history, and now the vessel is preserved for all to see and reflect on her seagoing days.

For further reading on the Queenscliff Lifeboat, I recommend another of Jack Loney's books "WRECK AND RESCUE at Port Phillip Heads", and if you would like a copy please contact me on 551 3201.00

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SUPPER 19TH SEPTEMBER

A delicious mouth watering supper will be served after the Annual General Meeting, to be held on 19th September.

Would all members please make an effort to attend.

V.S.A.G. WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

V.S.A.G. welcomes Priya Cardinaletti as a new member to V.S.A.G.

Priya, who is well known to V.S.A.G. members from her sojourn with us to Truk Lagoon, is a very keen underwater photographer, and has been involved with the Melbourne Bottom Scratchers Club, and the Scuba Divers Federation Executive for several years. ©



FROM JANE BOWMAN - A.B. OCEAN DIVERS.

FLYING COMPASS TO CAIRNS

(with apologies to the Editor, but it was the cheapest deal at the time).

by Sally Staddon

A good Melbourne Winter day, may be as warm as an average English Summer day, but after two years here, we've become sufficiently acclimatized to want to escape for two weeks in July. And with Compass, Australian and Ansett trying to bankrupt each other, it seemed like a good time to visit the tropical North.

We've now flown Compass three times, and have no cause for complaint (sorry John). It you want headphones you have to pay \$2.00 for them, but you get to keep them for next time. Mind you, why anyone would want to pay for the dubious pleasure of watching repeats of Mother & Son is beyond me. The food was OK. - well, as OK. as it ever is in-flight, and the crew friendly and super-smart (perhaps it's time Australian gave Maxine and colleagues a re-vamped uniform?).

Not only did we not fly Australian, neither did we have a dive! "What's new?", I hear Don ask. We wanted to explore the rainforest and do some bird-watching - of the feathered variety, or so Sant assured me. In Cairns itself, of course, you can combine both types of observation, since the Esplanade is liberally sprinkled with attractive bodies (male and female), in various stages of un-featheredness and is also a world famous bird-watching site - the mud flats may not look much to you, but the birds love them.

We stayed in the rainforest near Kuranda, then at the Crocodylus Hostel just north of the Daintree River (thanks to Doug and Maxine for recommending it), at the Cape Tribulation Village (average age 20, we felt ancient) and finally in Cooktown. The Lonely Planet Guide Book describes Crocodylus as the best youth hostel in

Australia. I couldn't say, since it's the only one I've been to, but we'd go back any time. We were supposed to have a cabin to ourselves, as opposed to dormitory accommodation, but in practice found ourselves sharing with a tree frog, a melomys rat and assorted huge spiders. On a guided night walk we were introduced to the joys of magic mushrooms - no, not that sort, these just glowed in the dark - but we didn't see much, it was dark after all. Another highlight (honestly), was getting up before dawn to paddle out to sea by surf canoe as the sun rose, and then round to the next bay for a damper and tea breakfast. We were told we might see turtles and dugongs, but you should never believe the publicity material, should you?

In our hired 4WD, we drove up the notorious Bloomfield Track to Cooktown. Crossing the Bloomfield River (a causeway under nearly a metre of water in places) was an interesting experience. Once we got safely to the other side, we realized that we had an audience of those hoping to see something go wrong, or picking up tips for their own crossing in the opposite direction. We too hung around hoping for drama, but were disappointed. Cooktown (population 950) is a wonderful place - not a lot going on, but some nice colonial-style buildings from the gold rush days, plenty of hotels and some wonderful scenery.

Our last spot of bird-watching was in the car park at Cairns airport at midnight (well, yes, there is one disadvantage to flying Compass), where we saw several Bush thick-knees (no, I'm not joking and yes, their legs do look like this:

All in all, a great holiday from beginning to end. Anyone fancy a V.S.A.G. expedition right up to Cape York - Compass Air flight optional?

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

Thanks for the most interesting article Sal. I don't know what you paid on Compass Airlines, but the price from Australian today is \$420.00 return to Cairns, and this

includes full complimentary meals, drinks <u>and</u> headphones. Plus you fly with the comfort of knowing that wonderful people like me, are working behind the scenes, around the clock, pushing the pedals and flapping the wings to make sure you have a wonderful flight!

Signed Editor

OCTOPUS REGULATORS MANDATORY EQUIPMENT BY 1ST OCTOBER, 1991.

ONLY A SHORT TIME REMAINS BEFORE 1ST OCTOBER, WHEN V.S.A.G. WILL INTRODUCE A RULING THAT ALL DIVERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE AN OCTOPUS REGULATOR, TO DIVE WITH THE CLUB.

IF YOU STILL HAVE NOT OBTAINED ONE, V.S.A.G. CAN ARRANGE A SPECIAL PRICE.

CONTACT JOHN LAWLER - 569 9851 (HOME); OR 794 8611 (WORK).

S.D.F.-V. NEWS

PUSH TO BAN CRAYFISH ON SCUBA

Delegates at the June meeting of the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria (S.D.F.-V.), were told how the Director of Fisheries, Victorian Conservation and Environment Department, was considering banning the recreational capture of crayfish (Southern Rock Lobster) whilst on Scuba or Hooka, and reducing the bag limit of crayfish from 4 per person per day, to 2. Also under consideration was the introduction of a boat limit of 8 crayfish per day.

These moves were outlined in a letter to the Governments' Recreational Fishermans Advisory Committee. The letter stated that the subject was raised after concerns were expressed by the Commercial Fishing Industry, as to the apparent decline in commercial crayfish catches.

The S.D.F.-V. believes, that the recreational Scuba Diver is being singled out as a cause of declining crayfish populations, and is being implicated only on the heresay of the Commercial Fisherman. No data or studies exist to support that the Scuba Diver is even related to such declines.

The S.D.F.-V. will be pursuing this matter most vigorously, to ensure the Victorian Scuba Diver is properly represented.

NEW DIVE CLUB JOINS S.D.F.-V.

Also at the June meeting, the affiliation of the Mountain Districts Scuba Club was formally endorsed. The club operates in the Rowville/Ferntree Gully area of Melbourne, an outer eastern suburb, and the S.D.F.-V. welcomes them into the ranks.

The Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria always invites the membership of Victorian Dive Clubs who are properly constituted, and don't participate in competitive spear fishing. The Federation aims to promote and protect the interests of Scuba Divers in the State of Victoria, and can be contacted by writing to G.P.O. Box 1705P, Melbourne, or telephoning (03) 879 2434.

REPORTS

STATUTORY:

D. Salter advises that a meeting was held with Conservation & Environment Department, regarding Aqua Culture Zones off Rye, and at this stage it looks as if the project will be put on hold, because of general opposition received by Port Phillip Bay users.

Department of Sport & Recreation, have contacted D. Salter regarding the formation of a Code of Practice for Vic. Scuba Diving. D.S.R. were under the impression that S.D.F.-V. wanted such a code of practice. They were informed that this was not the case, but that if one was to be formulated, then we would want to have input on behalf of recreational divers. D.S.R. will investigate further if this code is required and will advise S.D.F.-V.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

G. Pollack absent. D. Salter advises that letters were sent to some clubs interested in joining S.D.F.-V. Also a few letters were sent to individuals interested in diving generally. Also a copy of S.D.F.-V. News was published in "Dive Log Aust.", May issue, which outlined new committee and V.F.I.F. activities.

A pamphlet was handed out to delegates, which outlined the rules governing jet skies and similar craft. As expected they must obey normal rules for power boats, including keeping clear of diving flags. An interesting note was

that they are not required to carry normal safety equipment if the driver and passenger are wearing life jackets.

V.R.F.A.C.:

R. King advised that the Bunurong Marine Park rules are likely to be amended, after considerable public response to the C. & E. Dept. R.I.S. More to be advised on this later.

A letter was received by V.R.F.A.C. from the Director of Fisheries, asking for V.R.F.A.C. to comment on:-

- A reduction in crayfish bag limit from 4 to 2 per day.
- 2. The creation of a crayfish boat limit of 8 per day.
- 3. Banning the taking of crayfish on Scuba or Hooka.

It stated in the letter that these proposals were instigated after meeting with the Commercial Fisheries (V.F.I.F.).

On this issue S.D.F.-V. delegates had much discussion. A clear message was given to Rod, that any change in fishing on Scuba was not warranted until proper investigations were done by C. & E. Rod to make this message clear to V.R.F.A.C.

D. Salter to contact the Director of Fisheries to discuss his intentions with such proposals.

HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS:

D. Williams advised last meeting that H.S.A.C. was at Queenscliff Lifeboat Museum. At the meeting they were advised that the Protected Zones, City of Launceston, William Salthouse, Clarence, will be opened up to divers under the permit system. It may be that a "dive guide" might be provided for tours of the wrecks. M. Vanetie questioned whether private clubs will get access to these wrecks, Des will follow this up and report later.

S.D.F.-V. delegates were given Historic Shipwrecks leaflet produced by V.A.S. Delegates were also given an updated list of Vic. Historic Shipwrecks. M. Vanetie advised that a glossy brochure was soon to be released by V.A.S. on Historic Shipwreck trail.

During November the Queenscliff Lifeboat Museum will be holding a special exhibition of "Wrecks of the Bay".

V.A.S. produce a magazine called "Site" which often has good articles on shipwrecks. Clubs might want to try to get on the mailing list, V.A.S. telephone number is 690 5322.

Des advised that a letter was sent by S.D.F.-V. to the Minister, Mr. Crabb, to try and stop a rumoured shift of M.A.U. from South Melbourne to Wodonga. It seemed ludicrous that a shipwreck unit like M.A.U. should be moved inland away from the coast to Wodonga. The letter was sent prior to the meeting after discussions by D. Salter and D. Williams. The content was read at this S.D.F.-V. meeting, and accepted by M. Vanetie, seconded by T. Geist. Accordingly all S.D.F.-V. correspondence out was accepted, R. King, seconded D. Williams.

S.P.U.M.S.:

A. Panow - A report extracted from S.P.U.M.S. was presented to delegates for inclusion in Club Newsletters. See copy attached.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. FISHVIC - D. Salter attended meeting of FISHVIC at Monash University. Simultaneously R. King investigated FISHVIC. Findings were that FISHVIC aims to represent anglers as a professional lobby organization. At this stage they do not have a constitution, or rules governing their operation. The yearly membership fee is \$500.00 for State Bodies (FISHVIC requires \$50,000.00 annually).

At the FISHVIC meeting, points raised by State Angling Bodies were:-

- Lack of adequate fisheries enforcement.
- 2. Need for general angling licence.
- 3. Basic disintegration of Fisheries Management.

Darren & Rod recommended that at this stage S.D.F.-V. not join FISHVIC, because of lack of governing rules, expensive membership fees, and because S.D.F.-V. is already over represented in fishing circles, and that fishing is only one part of diving.

A motion was put forward that "S.D.F.-V. not join FISHVIC at this stage, but we would be interested in continuing correspondence", D. Salter to write a letter to FISHVIC. Moved D. Williams, seconded J. Davis.

- 2. Mountain Districts Scuba Club. An application was received from M.D.S.C. to affiliate with the S.D.F.-V. D. Salter has studied their constitution, and briefly read this to the meeting. They aim to pursue the same interests as S.D.F.-V. Two members from M.D.S.C. were present at the meeting. D. Williams proposed their application be accepted, agreed to by all delegates.
- 3. Dive Travel Australia has opened a Melbourne branch, staffed by Bruce McEvoy, telephone number 305 3062 or (018) 367 776. S.D.F.-V. has copies of travel specials being offered by D.T.A. Clubs will receive the same shortly.
- 4. A diving death was reported at the meeting. Apparently a 57 year old male had difficulties (possibly heart), whilst swimming out to the Cerberus Wreck. Delegates advised that the diver was not a member of dive clubs represented at the meeting.

- 5. It was raised at the meeting that a diver was swept out through Port Phillip Heads after diving near, or on Portsea Hole. The Able Tasman picked up this diver during the night, after seeing his flashlight. It was reported that the captain of the ship had no idea a diver was even lost. This is considered a bit disconcerting, in that it may happen to anyone of us.
 - D. Salter to contact Police Search & Rescue, and ask if ships are normally notified of such searches.
- 6. M. Vanetie suggested organizing an activity for the Saturday night of Cup Weekend at the Prom. Names of those who might help out are:-

Helen Salsbury - B.R.U.D.G. Alan Beckhurst - A.P.I.

- S.D.F.-V. Committee to propose some activity for 30th Birthday celebration at next meeting.
- 8. Incorporation of S.D.F.-V., A. Panow and D. Salter purchased an incorporation kit, and will undertake activities to follow this aim through.

APOLOGY

The June/July issue carried a notice that SAFETY DIE MARKERS were available from JOHN'S DIVE SHOP at \$12.50.

SORRY WE GOT THE PRICE WRONG.

They are more expensive than this, but JOHN GIBSON will still give you a good price at his new shop at:-

294 ST. KILDA ROAD, ST. KILDA. TELEPHONE: 534 1471

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Copyright. Tidal Laboratory - FIAMS, Flinders University of South Australia ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL "SUMMER TIME"

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DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	DIVE CAPTAIN	MEET AT	
15 Aug	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club 8.00 p.m.			
	(Meet before for dinner at Black Prince Hotel, 99 Curzon Street, North Melbourne).			
18 Aug	Nepean Wall	S. Khan 429 9948	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.	
1 Sept	Slack Water Dive Heads Area Slack water will be a Note: Bring along a between 9.15 a	758 2690 about 12.20. B.B.Q. breakfas	9.15 a.m.	
15 Sept	Slack Water Dive Heads Area	R. Luxford (059) 711 318	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.	
19 Sept	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club & Supper 8.00 p.m. (Meet beforehand at Black Prince Hotel, 99 Curzon Street, North Melbourne).			
29 Sept	90 Foot Submarine	J. Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento 9.30 a.m.	
13 Oct	Pinnacles	B. Scott 763 6872	Stony Point 9.30 a.m.	
·17 Oct	General Meeting - Nor	rth Melbourne Fo	otball Club 8.00 p.m.	
	(Meet beforehand at Black Prince Hotel, 99 Curzon Street, North Melbourne).			
27 Oct	Nepean Wall	D. Abell 889 4415	Sorrento 9.30 a.m.	

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	DIVE CAPTAIN	MEET AT
1-5 Nov	Melbourne Cup Weekend Tidal River Wilsons Promontory More details at Gener	P. Reynolds 789 1092	Tidal River
17 Nov	Flinders	J. Lawler 569 9851	Flinders 9.30 a.m.
21 Nov	General Meeting - Nor	th Melbourne Fo	otball Club 8.00 p.m.
	(Meet beforehand at Black Prince Hotel, 99 Curzon Street, North Melbourne).		
24 Nov	Tennis Party & V.S.A. Details to be advised (See separate notice)		











