

FATHOMS

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

EST. 1954



Safety in Diving

\$2

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

OCT - NOV 91

VSAG

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

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

I 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 them 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.
6. 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 independent 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, friends and families to socialise. Each month VSAG meets at North Melbourne Football Club where bar facilities are available prior to and after the General Meetings. Visitors are very welcome - smart casual wear essential.

FATHOMS

Official journal of the Victorian Sub—Aqua Group

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Next general meetings

Thursday 17th October 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 21st November 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meetings

22nd October - Charlie Brincat's
Place.
26th November - Bob Scott's Place.

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EDITORIAL



Thank God, Winter is over. Maybe it's because I'm getting older, or perhaps the weather conditions are becoming more extreme, but this year we've had a Winter that's been lousy for diving. Storms, gales and flooded rivers, certainly reduced our diving activity over recent months.

In fact, this year Winter was good for only one thing:- skiing. And what a ski trip we had. One week at Falls Creek in a very

comfortable lodge, settled amongst 3 metres of snow. - And whilst the waters of Port Phillip Bay were muddied by the swollen Yarra, we skied in brilliant sunshine.

Such is the variety of enjoyment offered by V.S.A.G.

However, all that is behind us now. Over the next few months we can look forward to better diving weather; and there are some great trips planned:-

TIDAL RIVER - WILSONS PROMONTORY IN NOVEMBER.

NAROOMA - N.S.W. COAST OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR.

REFUGE COVE - WILSONS PROMONTORY ON AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND.

During September, members would have received the revised V.S.A.G. Safety Procedures.

Over the past year the committee has spent a great deal of time examining safety issues within the Club. I have also devoted considerable editorial space to the subject of safety in diving.

I commend all members to be familiar with these Safety Procedures, and ensure that they are adhered too.

Safety at sea can never be taken for granted. Even the most experienced of seamen have met treacherous ends, as was recently brought home to us with the loss of one of the Port Phillip Pilot Boats and its crew of three. For those of us who go under the water there is added risk, and whilst no rules or procedures can ever make diving risk free, obeying the rules and using common sense will certainly make your diving safer.

I'm sure all members were impressed with the new cover design for Fathoms. Alex Talay has done yet another magnificent job of using his design talents and industry skill, to provide us with more than just a cover for our "Newsletter".

This cover of Fathoms, projects an image of V.S.A.G. that sets it apart from all other diving clubs. This cover communicates a certain dedication and seriousness about how V.S.A.G. regards its diving. It projects adventure, yet captures the serenity which diving provides to us. It's a **BOLD** statement about V.S.A.G. Credit of course must also go to Des Williams, who's underwater photography is first class.

To see more of Des' work, don't miss the November General Meeting (21st November), when he and Pria Cardinaletti will present a slide show of V.S.A.G.'s 1990 trip to Truk Lagoon.

John Goulding

V.S.A.G. COMMITTEE NEWS

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

- * The Alexandra Tavern has been booked for the V.S.A.G. Christmas Function, to be held on 30th November. Cost:- \$30.00/Per Head.
- * The Club will investigate the purchase of proper oxygen adapters.
- * The financial position of the Club as at 30th September was \$11,258.82 in accounts.
- * Unfinancial members to be identified in Fathoms, and advised that they will be struck off the mailing list.
- * It was reported that the maximum penalties for abalone poaching has risen to \$30,000 and 6 months imprisonment.
- * Investigation of a GSP Personal Navigation System (similar to Satellite Navigation), revealed a cost of \$3,500, and will not be pursued.
- * John Goulding reported that the draft report on fish resources in bays and inlets specifically excluded shellfish and crustaceans. As such V.S.A.G. will not respond.
- * Concern expressed about the lack of attendance at meetings and dives. Consideration be given to a member survey.**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I wish to congratulate V.S.A.G. on the new cover, both back and front, appearing on the August/September edition of Fathoms.

I am sure that a certain degree of credit must go to the photographer, a Mr. D. Williams, who was lucky enough to be in that position at that particular time, and also to the printer for a fine colour reproduction.

However, it is without doubt that the major contribution to the photographs, is the subject matter, one only has to look at the serene, composed look, of the fine looking diver on the front cover, to make this assessment. Mr. D. Williams could obviously comb the bowels of underwater wrecks, camera at the ready, for the rest of his life, and never again stumble upon such a majestic sight, as what he did that day near the port side gun of the Betty Bomber Wreck at Truk Lagoon.

To further prove my theory on "subject matter in photographs", one merely has to inspect the six captions on the back cover, and can instantly see that pictures 2 & 3, which by chance show the same fearless diver as the cover shot, immediately attract the eye, and even though picture 6 deserves an honourable mention, the others pale into insignificance.

Yes, congratulations V.S.A.G. on the finest cover ever produced on a Fathoms magazine, it certainly will be adorning my walls for years to come. Keep up the good work.

Yours most sincerely,

ANONYMOUS DISCERNING DIVER.

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

I do agree that the choice of subject on the front cover is indeed well selected. In fact, had it not been for this photo, I might well have forgotten what Chris Llewellyn looked like, I don't think I've seen him on a dive since Truk - so if you should see him around - tell him he's required for the Refuge trip, and a few other dives as well!

Editor

NON FINANCIAL MEMBERS

We regret to advise that the following members who had not paid their 1991/1992 subscription of \$45.00 as at 2nd October, will be reading their last Fathoms, unless payment is made by the November General Meeting (21st November).

Darryl Whitehill
Jim Turner
Geoff Birtles
Warren Cannan
Tom Avery
Garry Thorn
Jack Namiota
Rae Lawson
Neil Medhurst
Cheryl Cooksey
Dave Cowan

Note: Members who may not be able to pay the subscription at the present time, should contact the Treasurer, Doug Catherall on 758 2690 (Home).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1991

by Don Abell

V.S.A.G. has had a year which is a little different from the last few. Firstly, there was no overseas diving expedition and no other grand diving or social event, which we try to have each year if possible. Many members are not immune from the recession currently being experienced in Victoria. In fact, few people in the State are unaffected.

Despite this, the Club has not been inactive. It has been 12 months of re-assessment in the Club, looking again at our procedures and policies. Some of the results of this process have been:-

- A re-writing of the Club's Safety and Boating Regulations.
- Each core boat (6), has been equipped with a First Aid Kit.
- The Club is looking at the safety procedures in oxygen delivery.
- Each person diving with the Club is now required to use an Octopus Regulator from 1st October, 1991.
- We have had a number of people speak to the Club on "Safety In Diving", also updating us on current matters relevant to our diving procedures.

We should all note that these revised procedures are not revolutionary. They generally bring V.S.A.G. in line with the procedures adopted by other diving organizations, and recognized diving authorities.

We have also instigated a new boat launching procedure for launching and retrieving over beaches. This system works well and will make us more efficient in these situations.

Our diving schedule for 1991 was full. We had dives scheduled for every long weekend, and generally on every second Sunday. While we may remember some ordinary diving days, there has also been some exceptional days.

Our two trips to Tidal River on the Melbourne Cup Weekend and Easter were great successes, and the diving very good. The Christmas trip was a great success, and while Portland was not good, some of us made it to Ewen Ponds and that dive made the trip worthwhile.

I remember two exceptional dives on the submarines in Bass Strait with visibility the length of the submarines. I also remember Mick putting me onto the Eliza Ramsden in perfect conditions. In addition, the scallops are back and growing to a good eating size.

We will continue to have a comprehensive dive schedule for members. We also welcome any suggestions for new sites or club activities.

We had a special function during the year, when Jack Loney spoke to the Club on a Sunday afternoon at the Royal Hotel in Queenscliff. This function had a commendable turn up of members. It encourages us to have similar functions in the future.

The success of our Club in years to come will depend on a continual inflow of new members. The current year saw nine new members admitted to the Club, and our membership is as strong as it has ever been. I would like to see a better patronage on dives, but I am sure that will come as the weather improves.

Second to membership, the committee contributes to the success of the Club. Without the significant personal contribution of the committee members, much of the Club infrastructure would just not happen. A look at the new magazine cover is just one example of the efforts of individual committee members to benefit the Club.

My personal thanks to all committee members:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| - Mick Jeacle | - Sant Khan |
| - Ross Luxford | - Sally Staddon |
| - Doug Catherall | - Pat Reynolds |
| - John Goulding | - Bob Scott |
| - Alex Talay | - Neil Medhurst |
| - John Lawler | |

Both Ross Luxford and Neil Medhurst have decided to step down from the committee to address their business commitments. I regret, but accept their decision.

Ross has been on the committee for five years, and has given nothing but 100% effort in that time. Ross has contributed greatly to V.S.A.G., and knowing Ross as I do, I have no doubt that he will continue to be a great club member, and an asset for V.S.A.G. in the years to come.

Neil's time on the committee was shorter. In his year, Neil assisted us with his knowledge towards the re-assessment of Club Safety Procedures and Boat Rules.

Charlie Brincat has been elected to the committee, and we look forward to his contribution. The lack of nominations leaves a committee of only eleven - one less than previous years. The existing committee are quite comfortable with the lesser number, and look forward to new nominations in one year's time.

In conclusion, I feel that 1991 has been a good year for V.S.A.G. A year which has consolidated a lot of matters that the Club has pursued over recent years. I have no doubt that the strength and success of the Club will continue. I encourage all members to participate in diving and other club activities, and thus make the most of the companionship the Club offers.

I do also encourage that the Club maintains a balance, never sacrificing the enjoyment and freedom of diving offered by the Club structure of V.S.A.G. (which we want), while also ensuring that we pursue our Club motto "Safety In Diving".**

DES' CHRISTMAS CAKE

by Des Williams

For all you members who will soon be preparing your Christmas cakes, Des Williams has submitted his own recipe. Try it if you dare!

You'll need a cup of butter, a cup of dried fruit, a cup of sugar, four large eggs, a teaspoon of baking soda, a teaspoon of salt, a cup of brown sugar, lemon juice, nuts and a bottle of whisky.

Sample the whisky to check for quality.

Take a large bowl, check the whisky again, to be sure it is the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink.

Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl, add one spoonful of sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whisky is still OK, cry another tup.

Turn off the mixer, break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a drowscriber. Sample the whisky again to check for consistency.

Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares? Check the whisky.

Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one tablespoon of brown sugar, or whatever colour you can find. Wix mel. Grease the oven. Turn the cake pan to 350 gredeees.

Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out the window, check the whisky again and bo to ged.

*Merry Christmas.***

FEW CHANGES IN NEW COMMITTEE LINE UP

by John Goulding

Despite the stepping down of Ross Luxford and Neil Medhurst from the V.S.A.G. committee, the appointment of executive positions on the new committee saw little change, which was really no surprise.

Don Abell was unanimously voted as President for the fourth consecutive year. This could well be a milestone in V.S.A.G.'s history. Congratulations to Don on the fine job he has done over the past 3 years, and I'm sure that he can count on the support of all committee members in the year ahead.

Sally Staddon was appointed Secretary, to fill the role so capably done by Ross over the past couple of years.

Committee newcomer, Charlie Brincat, won't be slacking. He's picked up the jobs of Social Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

Most of the other positions on the committee remain as for the last year - however, the committee is operating with one casual vacancy. In other words, the Club's Constitution allows for a committee of 12, however for the present time we only have 11.

Any member wishing to seek nomination to fill the casual vacancy should contact Don Abell.**

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES/VENUES 1991/1992

OCTOBER 22ND	C. Brincat
NOVEMBER 26TH	B. Scott
DECEMBER	No Meeting
JANUARY 21ST	A. Talay
FEBRUARY 25TH	P. Reynolds
MARCH 24TH	M. Jeacle
APRIL 21ST	D. Catherall
MAY 26TH	J. Lawler
JUNE 23RD	Sally & Sant
JULY 21ST	J. Goulding
AUGUST 25TH	J. Lawler
SEPTEMBER 22ND	D. Abell**

SLIDE SHOW TRUK LAGOON TRIP BY V.S.A.G. 1990

SEE A SELECTION OF SLIDES TAKEN BY PRIA
CARDINALETTI AND DES WILLIAMS

AT

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 21ST.

BRING FAMILY OR FRIENDS AND ENJOY A DIVING
"FEAST" FROM YOUR CHAIR.

DIVE REPORT - 1ST SEPTEMBER

FATHERS DAY/WATTLE DAY/WIMPS DAY

by Doug Catherall

The Three Musketeers. That's all the starters, but what a trio, the President, the Safety Officer, the Treasurer. No one to lift the anchor, so we decided not to.

Breakfast was taken on the seaside at Marty's. Where Don took hold of himself (with others around), and limited himself to crumpets and honey, because of his latest cholesterol count. I can vouch for the bacon and egg.

With little ease the boat was launched, and it was all aboard the "Born Again" Haines of J.L.'s. Not far along the coast we came across a school of dolphins, who were quite happy to have us around for a while.

Across "The Heads" to the Queenscliff abalone beds, where John and myself descended, only to find 2 foot visibility, and very cold conditions. Three minutes was enough, then back in the boat and across to Quarantine Point, where the visibility was 30 foot, and the bottom interesting and rewarding. John stayed down for well over 45 minutes, so the cold didn't worry him. Quite amazing, the difference from one side to the other.

Don was feeling adventurous and announced he'd like to be put ashore below any old army building along Quarantine Point. After climbing to Concrete Break Water, we had to contend with rather steep cliffs covered in thick 't'-tree, that lead us up a hundred feet or so, to where several smaller buildings were also found. We were looking for a suitable V.S.A.G. headquarters, but unfortunately none were suitable, so we returned to the "Born Again", and visited Warrick McDonald at Pope's Eye, en-route to the scallop beds.

It did not take long to get there, because John is running the motor in, and you have to do 7000 revs. every 10 minutes, or something like that.

Anyway it took no time at all for us to fill J.L.'s air bag plus half of another.

Cold and satisfied, we flew back to Sorrento where we were soon to be joined by two gammets, who descended on our scallops. Hope you liked them Marie & Bazza.

A good day in good company.**

DIVING FIRST AID

Warrick McDonald and Jane Bowman gave a most interesting talk at the August General Meeting about DIVING FIRST AID.

Following that presentation, the committee has investigated various types of equipment to update our oxygen adapters, and it is expected that the Club will acquire new, more efficient and safer oxygen dispenses, in the coming months.

Warrick also advised that a Diving First Aid Course conducted by P.A.D.I. is available at a cost of \$90.00, comprising four, 2 and a half hour, sessions.

**ENQUIRIES DIRECT TO WARRICK ON
571 6215 or 579 2851
OR TO JOHN LAWLER.**

Our thanks to Warrick and Jane for providing this presentation. →

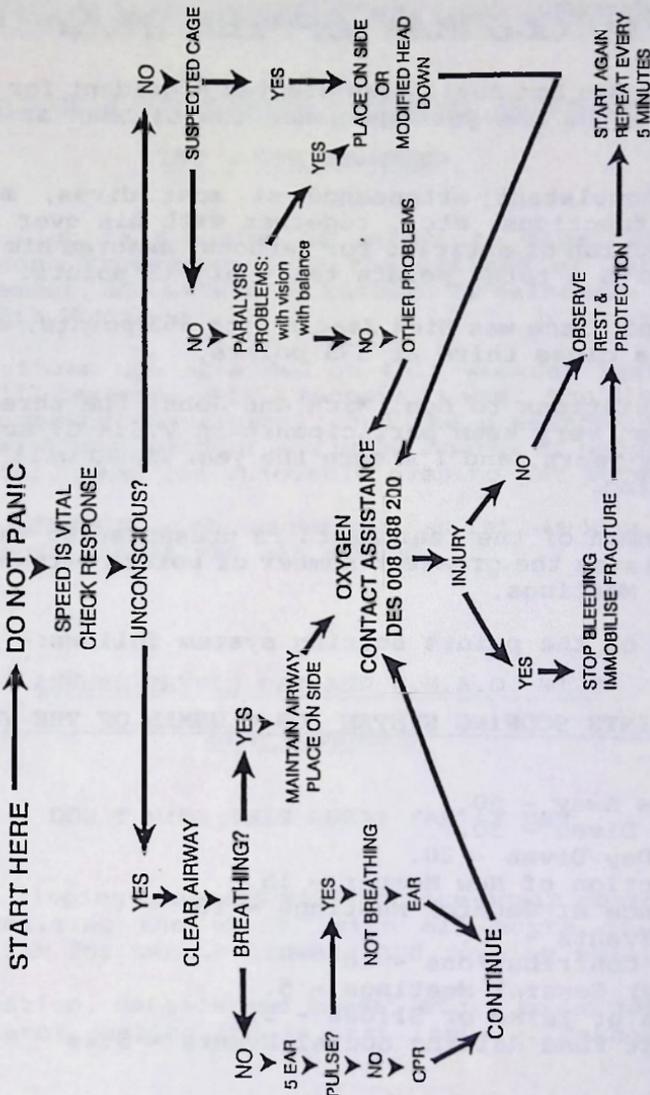
HOW TO GET DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS

1. Be physically unfit
2. Be overweight
3. Put absolute trust in decompression tables and dive computers, and dive them to the limit.
4. Do multiple dives in one day.
5. Do multiple days non-stop diving (without a rest day).
6. Do multiple ascents on each dive.
7. Do the deepest dive last.
8. Booze heavily between and after dives.
9. Fly home soon after completing your last dive (or go to altitude > 300m soon after a dive).
10. Dive whenever possible, even if you feel unwell, have a hangover, are dehydrated or have had a recent illness.
11. Ascend quickly (rate greater than 60' (18m) per minute).
12. Do a minimum depth of 25-30 MSW on each dive.
* MSW = METRES OF SALT WATER
13. Do deep bounce dives.

DIVER EMERGENCY SERVICE
008 088 200

ALFRED HOSPITAL HYPERBARIC
5202811

FIRST AID FOR DIVING ACCIDENTS



SECURE EQUIPMENT FOR INSPECTION

CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR

Not only has Don Abell been elected President for a fourth term, but he has yet again won the Clubman of the Year Award.

Don's consistent attendance at most dives, meetings, social functions, etc., together with his ever reliable contribution of articles for Fathoms, assured him of first place with a total points tally of 715 points.

In second place was Mick Jeacle with 555 points, with John Lawler a close third at 535 points.

Congratulations to Don, Mick and John; the three of you have been very keen participants in V.S.A.G. activities for many years, and I'm sure the year ahead will see this continuing.

The Clubman of the Year Award is presented to the member who achieves the greatest number of points between Annual General Meetings.

A table of the points scoring system follows:-

POINTS SCORING SYSTEM FOR CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR

Holidays Away - 60.
Weekend Dives - 30.
Single Day Dives - 20.
Introduction of New Member - 15.
Attendance at General Meetings - 10.
Social Events - 10.
Fathoms Contributions - 10.
Guests at General Meetings - 5.
Lectures or Talks or Slides - 5.
Guests at Fund Raising Social Events - 5.**

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 Meeting and in next issue of Fathoms.

NEPEAN WALL DIVE - 18TH AUGUST

by Sant Khan

I would rather have gone skiing, but five V.S.A.G. stalwarts wanted to dive, and as D.C. I felt obliged to turn up. The recent bad weather had abated and Sunday was a beautiful sunny Winters day. The sort of day you dream about when skiing Mount Buller.

Bob Scott and J.L. provided the boats, and Jeanette, Doug and Sally were the intrepid divers. The Bay was calm enough to tempt us outside in search of better visibility, but enormous Bass Strait rollers soon put paid to that idea.

The tide was not suitable for a Nepean Wall dive. Four of us dived Pope's Eye, and Bob & John had a Queenscliff Channel dive.

The murky visibility below was amply compensated for by the fine weather up top. There was not much enthusiasm for a second dive.

On the way out we saw several Pilot Boats searching for wreckage of the recently sunk pilot vessel - a reminder of the treacherous nature of "The Heads", and the courage of the Port Phillip Pilots.

Our return to Sorrento was uneventful.

I gather the skiing had been very good.**

V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS PARTY

TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

AT

ALEXANDRA TAVERN,
22 POWELL STREET, SOUTH YARRA.

COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

We have booked the entire restaurant for the evening. The pub is a lovely little place, with an excellent atmosphere. Entertainment is provided in the form of "The Brown Brothers", I believe they are very good, although I haven't seen them.

Kerry and I recently dined at the pub with the Manager, who is a personal friend, and I can report that the food is outstanding.

I am printing some tickets and they will be available at the October Meeting. A deposit will be required (\$20.00/Per Head).

This will be an excellent evening, as Powell Street is just off Toorak Road, right in the heart of South Yarra, and is very close to some great nightspots if you want to kick on afterwards.

Contact Alex Talay if you require more details on 772 3085 (Home) or 585 0277 (Work).

BIG PRIZES TO BE WON, INCLUDING:-

AIR TICKETS.

DIVING EQUIPMENT.

HAMPERS.**

FALLING AROUND AT FALLS CREEK

by Marita Wilcox

This year's ski trip was definitely an action packed event on the V.S.A.G. calendar. In fact, we all came home to recuperate, especially Justin, who took 2 days to get home to Linton, due to his many rest stops!!

The weather was brilliant, and the snow fantastic. It was almost too good to be true, although we did have one "lay" day when it got really windy. So we went out for lunch at Winterhaven which was the beginning of a marathon event, we only left the restaurant because we drank their cellar dry. So in true V.S.A.G. fashion, this was not going to stop us. Justin, who's been knocking around Falls Creek for longer than he (and many others) care to remember, then took us to "Christies" one of his "best favourite" cocktail bars, a den of hot rock 'n' roll, where we stayed until they too ran into the same problem as Winterhaven. So at about 2.00 a.m. we all floated back to Camber. Lunch having taken 12 hours!!

The crisp mountain air does wonders for hangovers, as does Justin's wonderful 7.00 a.m. breakfasts in bed. Camber Lodge where we stayed was extremely comfortable, 14 beds, and plenty of room to swing cats and other things. Apart from its great location, which enabled us to ski in and out, the lodge has a wonderful balcony overlooking spectacular scenery. After a full days skiing we would spend many happy hours soaking up the last rays of sun, taking in the views, and indulging in mouth watering hors-d'oeuvres, while sipping liquid refreshments, plucked from the natural outside bar. My only complaint about Camber, was the underground laundry, the skinny, skinny bunks, the snoring and wind in the sleeping quarters, and the outside toilets.

Our wonderful hostess, Alice Knight, made everyone feel at home, and she kept us all well stocked with yummy nibblies and superb meals. She did have her peculiarities though, particularly after the Winterhaven lunch, when

she ended up wearing odd shoes, belonging to some strangers feet. This resulted in an incredible lack of co-ordination, and the ability to speak in tongues.

On the first day we all rallied around to cheer John, who was competing in the Business Review Weekly Ski Races. John was Captain of his team, he acquired this status by a deal with the Australian Airlines Ski Club, when he told them he would only fund this escapade if he was included in the team. John certainly stood out, through his unique style of paralleling through the course like a real *piste-cutter extraordinaire. Although on my video replay his paralleling looked remarkably like advanced snow-plowing, John assured me it was just the angle of the camera. In one event he beat his other 2 team members through the course, the fact that they fell over was incidental. Anyway they came in 14th out of 40, thanks too 13 teams being disqualified.

That night we were taken on a tour of the "in places", a la Justin. He has certainly gained quite a reputation around the mountain. Anyway towards the end of this jaunt, while in the bar at the Falls Creek Motel, Justin was trying to work out the shortest way to get to the next venue. The bartender said the quickest way was to get onto the high road, through the exit door on the 4th floor. But . . . unfortunately we got a little disorientated, so we started knocking on doors, asking sleepy looking zombies directions. Finally we encountered a good looking brunette, who took about 10 minutes to tell us she didn't know where the door was. As we trooped onwards, I muttered loudly that she must have been a blonde *bint in disguise. Five minutes later we were surrounded by the establishments bouncers, and some disgruntled residents, luckily in the nick of time, we stumbled on the door and got the hell out of there. Justin was cringing with embarrassment. "Well how was I to know that the woman was the managers girlfriend!!!". We didn't go back there!!!

Bright and early the next morning we hit the slopes. Everyone was showing their style to the *extreme point. We varied from *wally's, *punter's, *Gorbachov's and *mad hooter's to *piste-cutters. Yours truly, spending ages capturing the action on my video camera, (later I found it had a flat battery and wasn't working!!!). We covered the mountain from top to bottom, skiing our butts off, not to mention, legs, knees, faces, chests, etc.

Pat won the best wipe-out award of the week, by inventing a new way of getting down a run - you let your ski's go first then slide on your belly, while groping the snow with frenetic waving arms and legs, a bit like a turtle on its back!!!

John entertained us at the summit by demonstrating his version of an anxiety attack, apparently due to the lack of oxygen, and not (he claimed) the altitude, or his fear of heights!!

We ended up at the Valley of the Moons (Black Run) and the breathtaking views were exhilarating, we could see Hotham, Buffalo, Feather Top and the curve of the earth. We were all on a 'high', literally speaking, (except John, who was still behaving like a real *wally). Pat led the way with great gusto, and one by one we ventured forth, but little did we realize what lay before us . . . the narrow, steep, winding track, revealed frightening ravines at every twist, some of us managed to negotiate the monstrous trees, and jagged rocks, the yeti's, and the *mach 10 and *vixer skiers, but when the avalanche hit we all bit the dust (snow), in a variety of individual styles. We hobbled, limped and crawled back to Camber, desperately groping for the Deep Heat, Panadols and schooners of schnapps, ceremoniously licking our wounded pride.

The next few days were filled with similar activities. The fantastic skiing conditions made it a must to hit the slopes by 9.00 a.m., this was followed by morning coffee at 9.30 a.m., then hard skiing till midday, when we would stop for *pigg fodder at the caravans. While deep into our hot-dogs at one of these haute-cuisine luncheons, Paul

Sier managed to entertain the crowds. He needed sun screen for his already over burnt face, and being somewhat flustered and in a frantic mood, becoming increasingly incensed with rage at the blocked nozzle of his block out, he put the tube into his mouth and gave it one almighty deep throated suck, and thus filled his mouth and gullet full of 15+. Then in front of the astounded onlookers, he regurgitated the cream into his hands and proceeded to rub it into his face, simultaneously splattering half a dozen others. Realizing this, he immediately apologized, and offered to rub it in for them, the rest of the cream oozed from his mouth, and as he spoke he was spitting it all over the place. Things settled for a few seconds, then all of a sudden Paul threw another wobbly, when he saw that his 1965 calf-dag coloured flared ski suit had also been splattered, and he would finally have to get it dry cleaned. In true V.S.A.G. style we reacted with the appropriate disgust, and made it clear to everyone involved that he was a poor, unfortunate *mad-hooter, relative from Tasmania, who was on weekend leave from the asylum.

No skiing trip would be complete without impressing tracks on virgin powder snow. Justin gave us this opportunity one day, when we skied down a shoot in crouch style, and *fanged up the side of a steep pinnacle. From our isolated vantage point we looked down on the valley of ant sized skiers, and like Sir Edmund Hillary or Jacques Cousteau, the adrenalin pumped in our veins, and we were filled with incredible desire to conquer the death defying virgin powder before us. John bellowed to me, "Midge, *push your bush, go first and follow me". Well!! I narrowed my eyes, put my stocks to my hips and said, "John, you don't know *jack shit, you *vixer", turned and ventured forth, into a puff of powder. We were all progressing nicely, when suddenly this earth shattering roar knocked me over, it was John, screaming "Heellp, I caaann't dooo ittt. Ahhhh." The others threw themselves to the ground to dodge the avalanche that John had started. That is, all except Ruth, the 13 day old skier, who nimbly tacked her way through the powder to the applause of the spectators below. We veteran skiers picked up our bruised egos,

and then continued to fall all the way down to the bottom, where we found Ruth sipping coffee at the caravan, hmmm!!! If she had dared said "What kept you", she would have been history.

That evening we were guests of the new owner of Pheferkorn Lodge for a festive "Hat Party". Well . . . I spent hours turning two waste paper bins, coat hangers and Alfoil into creative masterpieces for Justin and John, but their delight was short lived when none of the guests had any idea of who "Bill & Ben The Flowerpot Men" were!! (Generation gap!). The boys were shattered, especially when I won the 'Best Hat' prize for my 30 second construction of a phallic head symbol. But in V.S.A.G. style we managed to party on.

We ended our holiday with a gourmet dinner party at Camber. The guests of honour being Justin's ski instructor and niece, and her friend, (why didn't he arrange this earlier, so we could have had some free lessons!!!). Justin exposed us to his unique style of pancake throwing, proving the theory that you have to throw-up before you eat. His niece also instructed us on the correct ski jargon to use on the slopes, which I have included in this article, and documented the terms in the following glossary. This will be of great use for V.S.A.G. members on their next ski trip. Hopefully we'll see a lot more members at Falls Creek next year, for a great memorable holiday.

Now I would like to announce the V.S.A.G. Ski Trip Awards, which like the Easter ones, would be great to keep going.

PAUL SIER

THE BEST DRESSED AWARD

For

- (a) 1965 ski suit.
- (b) Stretching womens underwear (See Video).

THE ANIMAL ACT AWARD

For

- (a) Least sunburnt tongue or suntan lotion sucker.
- (b) Wind expulsion in the sleeping quarters.

PATRICK REYNOLDSTHE SECOND BEST DRESSED AWARD

For

- (a) 1975 ski suit with rip.
- (b) Same clothes as last year.

THE BIGGEST SKID AWARD

For

- (a) Sliding down a run on his stomach.

JUSTIN LIDDYTHE TRUST ME AWARD

For

- (a) Its O.K., follow me.
- (b) Trying to seduce anyone (See Video).

THE BIGGEST SPLAT AWARD

For

- (a) Total wipe-out on a beginners slope in front of thousands.

THE BREAKFAST AWARD

For

- (a) Coffee and toast every morning.

RUTH BROWNTHE DUNNY CLEANER AWARD

For

- (a) Superb cleaning of the loo's while wearing leather pants, silk shirt and high heels (See Video).

THE 15 DAYS ON SKI'S AWARD

For

- (a) Most improved skier, even though she is a blonde.
- (b) Passing everyone on the powder.

JOHN GOULDINGTHE BEST QUOTE AWARD

For

- (a) You go ahead and follow me.
- (b) Wait for me, your going too slow.

THE SKI CHAMPION AWARD

For

- (a) Coming 14th in the B.R.W. Races (See Video).

RHONDA ?THE COMPLETE WASTE OF A DAY TICKET AWARD

For

- (a) Ripping her knee muscles at 9.30 a.m.

MARION ?THE CHIP 'N' DALE AWARD

For

- (a) The most found squirrels (See Photo's).

ALICE KNIGHTTHE FALLS AWARD

For

- (a) Crawling back to Camber after lunch.
- (b) Collapsing in her bunk after lunch.

THE BEST COOK AWARD

For

- (a) Superb meals, and no one else could cook.

GAYLE B.THE QUICKEST ENTRY INTO V.S.A.G. AWARD

For

- (a) Exotic, provocative table top dancing (See Photo's).
- (b) Banana eating (See Video).

THE QUICKEST ENTRY ONTO V.S.A.G. COMMITTEE AWARD

For

- (a) See Above.

DOUGLAS ?THE BEST MASSEUSE AWARD

For

- (a) Who else would like me to do it! (See Video).

MARITA WILCOXTHE GREW 15" AWARD

For

- (a) Going from 170's to 185's in 3 days.

THE FASTEST SKIER AWARD

For

- (a) Leaving everyone else for dead.

ALEX TALAYTHE NO-FRONT AWARD

For

- (a) Yes, I'll be there, No I won't, Yes I will, oh err I don't know! If I'm there, I'm there, If I'm not, I'm not!!!!!!

EVERYONETHE SHORT, LONG BUDGET LUNCH AWARD

\$\$\$\$ For private viewings of incriminating video scenes, please see the author.

* GLOSSARY OF TERMS *

MACH 10	Really fast.
FANG	Go fast.
PISTE-CUTTER	Really good skier.
WALLY	Hopeless skier.
PUNTER	Above average hopeless skier.
GORBECHOV	Hopeless tourist skier.
MAD HOOTER	Lunatic.
BINT	Silly girl/air head.
PIG FODDER	Cheap basic food.
VIXER	Wanker.

**EXTREME
PUSH THE BUSH**

**JACK SHIT
CHIP 'N' DALE**

**Exaggeration.
Telling a female skier to ski
fast.
Nothing/empty head.
Boobs.**

Well cheers, from V.S.A.G. Ski Troop 1991.**

MEDIA WATCH



● A replica of the *Santa Maria* built in 1892.

Found: the old ship to the New World

An underwater explorer says he has found the wreck of Christopher Columbus's flagship, *Santa Maria*.

Daniel Koski-Karell, a professional archeologist and underwater explorer, says he found the *Santa Maria* while diving in five metres of water off the northern coast of Haiti in 1987.

A private salvage ship will this week sail to the coral-encrusted timbers Mr Koski-Karell believes are of the *Santa Maria*, the ship that took Columbus on his voyage to prove the world was not flat in 1492.

The *Santa Maria* was wrecked by strong tidal currents on a barrier reef at Christmas 1492. Columbus moved on to the smaller *Nina* and returned to Spain leaving most of the *Santa Maria*'s crew on Haiti to build Fort Navidad with the timber from the shipwreck.

When Columbus returned a year later, local Indians had destroyed Fort Navidad. Its exact location has remained a mystery, but Mr Koski-Karell hopes his find of the *Santa Maria* will also uncover Fort Navidad.

V.S.A.G. member David Cowan, who recently returned to Adelaide to live, has sent across copies of press articles concerning the recent fatal shark attack on an Adelaide diver. We have reproduced a couple of these articles which will fit into the Fathoms format. However, some of the other articles Dave sent across are absolutely chilling in describing the attack, which was witnessed by the victims buddy. →

Shark victim's parents thank rescue workers

By DAVID WASHINGTON

The parents of shark victim Jonathan Lee have thanked all those involved in attempts to rescue their son.

In a letter to *The Advertiser*, Dr Chin Lee and Mrs Beth Lee expressed their love for their son and their gratitude to police and rescue workers.

Also yesterday, several of Jonathan's friends said he was a man of energy and enthusiasm who was always caring and considerate and never ceased to express his individuality.

Jonathan was attacked by a white pointer shark on Sunday while diving near Snapper Point at Aidinga Beach with members of the Adelaide University Skindiving Club.

One of five children, Jonathan, 19, was studying for an arts degree and was a resident of St Marks College.

A memorial service for Jonathan was held at St Mark's chapel at North Adelaide last night.

Students of St Mark's College, members of the skindiving club and the university's vice-chancellor, Professor Kevin Marjoribanks, shared the family's sorrow at the service.

Two of Jonathan's friends from St Mark's contacted *The Advertiser* yesterday to clear up what they said was a misconception about Jonathan's character.

Letter of gratitude

The text of the Lees' letter to the Editor:

Dear Sir,

My wife and I would like to thank everyone involved in the attempted rescue of our son, and later, the attempted retrieval of his body at Aidinga reef.

We are grateful to all those on land, sea and air and to the Police Underwater Squad for their efforts.

I think the Greeks used to say that 'those whom the Gods love most, die young'.

So it seems to us.

Beth and Chin Lee,
One Tree Hill



Jonathan Lee: "Energetic and enthusiasm".

It was reported on Tuesday that residents of One Tree Hill, where Jonathan's parents own a hobby farm, had described him as a quiet boy.

But a letter from fellow St Mark's residents, Campbell Thompson and Rosalind Sheat, says many students at the college were disturbed that he had been portrayed in such a way.

"We feel that some of the statements printed, specifically that Jon was a quiet boy whose only apparent interest outside university was scuba diving, do not give a fair representation of who Jon Lee really was," the letter says.

"... It is our wish to write about

the Jon Lee that we knew and will remember.

"During his two years at St Mark's College, Jon participated in college life with an energy and enthusiasm surpassing that of all other collegians.

"He readily shared his many talents and the commitment with which he supported all college events was exceptional.

"The unwavering care and consideration he showed to members of college was indicative of his true nature.

"Jon never ceased to express his individuality, and for those of us who knew him, this is one of the things we will value the most."

'ADVERTISER'

12TH SEPTEMBER, 1991.

SA shark haven

Sunday's tragic Aldinga shark attack again has stirred the emotions of all South Australians — emotions which often tend to cloud the facts when a human is taken by the creature which terrifies us more than any other.

SA is the undisputed worldwide home of the great white, the largest carnivorous shark on Earth. Although there has been very little scientific research done on the great white, its numbers appear at least to be stable in our waters.

SA's relatively shallow gulfs provide it with the perfect environment as it prefers cool water, likes to hunt in depths of 12m or less and is able to locate food in many areas with a minimum of effort.

Barring some unforeseen environmental upheaval, it is a fact of life that we will always have the largest population of great white sharks in

By SHANE MENSFORTH

the world. This doesn't mean, of course, that we should all panic and avoid going near our favourite swimming beach this summer.

Snorkellers and scuba divers are definitely in the highest risk group, particularly those who dive around reefs and other underwater features which attract and hold fish.

If they are spearfishing, that risk is multiplied dramatically.

Surfers also belong to this group, especially West Coast surfers based at places such as Cactus Beach or Point Sinclair.

However, for most South Australians who use the beaches regularly, the chances of an encounter with a great white are comparable to the likelihood of being struck by lightning.

Contrary to what the creators of the farcical Jaws movies would have

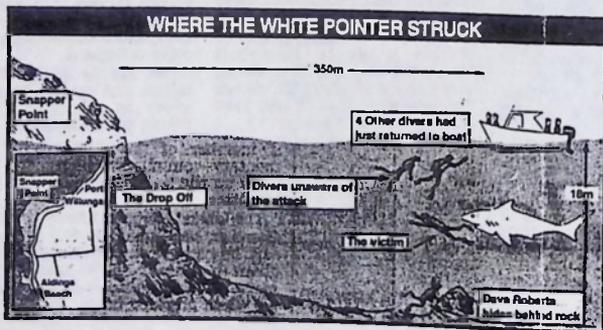
us believe, the great white is not a vindictive creature, hell-bent on taking out as many human beings as it can. In fact, there is no doubt a big shark would prefer a meal of snapper or sea-lion to human flesh.

Those who are part of the high risk groups mentioned should consider avoiding proven trouble spots such as the Aldinga Reef, regardless of how attractive these locations are.

Despite what some of the experts say, we have no idea whether the shark responsible for Sunday's attack will return to the area. However, only a foolish person would dive in the general vicinity while the possibility of its return exists.

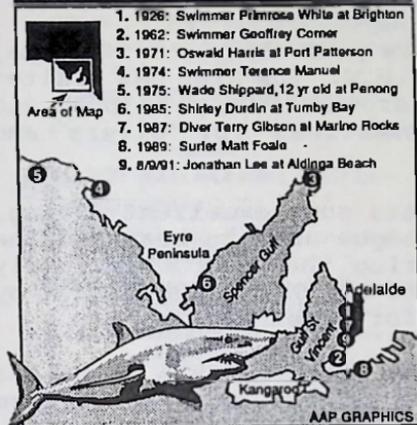
There will undoubtedly be a high level of media coverage for a week or so until public emotion begins to subside and last Sunday's fatal attack fades to become but another statistic.

Like it or not, the great white shark is as much a part of SA as we are. If we choose to enter its domain, we do so on its terms, not ours.



"THE NEWS"
10TH SEPTEMBER, 1991.

Shark Deaths in South Australia



Search goes on for shark victim

POLICE will continue a ground search at Aldinga Beach today for remains of shark attack victim Jonathan Lee (pictured).

A sea search was yesterday called off because of bad weather and poor underwater visibility that hampered police divers.

It was possible the divers would return to the area for a further sea search when conditions improved.

Yesterday's brief search failed to find any further remains of Mr Lee, 19, an Adelaide University student who was attacked by a white pointer on

Sunday afternoon. He was scuba-diving with four others when he was attacked about 350m off Snapper Point.

Police have recovered several small portions of his body and some of his diving equipment.

Fisheries Department of

ficers were today expecting to maintain a strong presence in the area to stop people who may try to catch the killer shark.

The last fatal attack was in March, 1989, when surfer Matt Foale, 27, was killed at Walpinga Beach, near Victor Harbor, 80km south of Adelaide.

"THE NEWS"

10TH SEPTEMBER, 1991.

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.

V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS TRIP, NAROOMA

by John Goulding

The V.S.A.G. Christmas trip this year will be to Narooma, on the south central coast of N.S.W. The Club has visited Narooma at least once before (around 1975, I think), and the area has plenty of attractions for divers and families.

Offshore, Montague Island offers some excellent diving, with plenty of sea life. Montague used to boast of the famous Shark Gully, which during the 1960's and early 1970's, saw massive slaughter of the Grey Nurse Sharks by indiscriminate "spearas" out for some "killing".

By the time V.S.A.G. visited the area in 1975 there was hardly a Nurse in sight, however the seal population seemed quite content about that!

Divers visiting the area should see blue groupers and schools of kingfish, however getting through the Narooma Bar can be a problem.

On the following pages we have reproduced the boating guidelines for navigating the Narooma Bar. Boat owners wanting further copies should see John Goulding.

Our thanks to Judy Brincat for providing these guidelines and map.

Mick Jeacle is in charge of arrangements for the Christmas trip, and any member wishing to attend should contact Mick on (059) 71 2786 (Home) or 807 0533 (Work). →

NAROOMA BAR BOATING GUIDELINES

COMMON SENSE plays an important part in all travel at sea. Keep all boating equipment, motors, steering, radios etc. in first class condition and **USE** life jackets when crossing any unknown "bar" or estuary inlet.

BEFORE PROCEEDING TO SEA

- DO** listen to or watch the weather forecasts. Take note of winds, types of seas and tidal information.
- DO NOT** put to sea if strong or gale force winds are forecast or if seas and swell are large.

ON PUTTING TO SEA

- DO** put to sea, if possible, on an incoming tide. Even small waves break at the entrance on an outgoing (ebb) tide.
- DO NOT** proceed if in any doubt. Watch other boats or talk to locals about the conditions. A good view of the bar can be had from Bar Rock Lookout.
- DO** study wave patterns. Watch the size of waves. See which are the biggest and how spaced out they are. Watch for "lulls".
- DO NOT** rush out over the bar without pausing to look first. Be wary of a swell from the east or north-east, especially on an ebb tide.
- DO** proceed from a point near the northern breakwater wall towards the end of the southern breakwater wall as indicated on the map on the reverse side of this pamphlet. It is shorter, and once clear of the wall turn slightly south east towards Montague Island. You will clear the rougher water more quickly (this applies at most times, however conditions can vary so be prepared for all eventualities).
- DO NOT** allow your boat to become airborne over a wave. If a big wave is building up, keep well back and allow it to break well in front of you or get to it before it curls, cutting back your throttle as you crest over the top.
- DO** travel swiftly once clear to get away from the wave build-ups, watching at all times for an unexpected "big one".

ON COMING IN

- DO** approach from the south-east. Stop in deep water and watch the wave pattern, keeping clear of steep or breaking waves. Keep the bow of the boat pointing north or east (never allow the stern to point to the incoming sea).
- DO NOT** follow in the first big wave. Wait for a smaller wave towards the end of the set.
- DO** keep the bow of the boat at the back of the wave you are following.
- DO NOT** allow your speed to take you over the crest of the wave you are riding.
- DO** reduce speed quickly if cavitation occurs in the white water of a breaking wave in front of you then gradually open up the throttle to keep ahead of any following wave.
- DO NOT** start our fishing in a big swell from the east or north-east if an ebb tide is due.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
 ROYAL VOLUNTEER COASTAL PATROL
 NAROOMA 761379
 RADIO 27.86 MHZ

