

FATHOMS

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Safety in Diving

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VSAG

APR-MAY 92

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

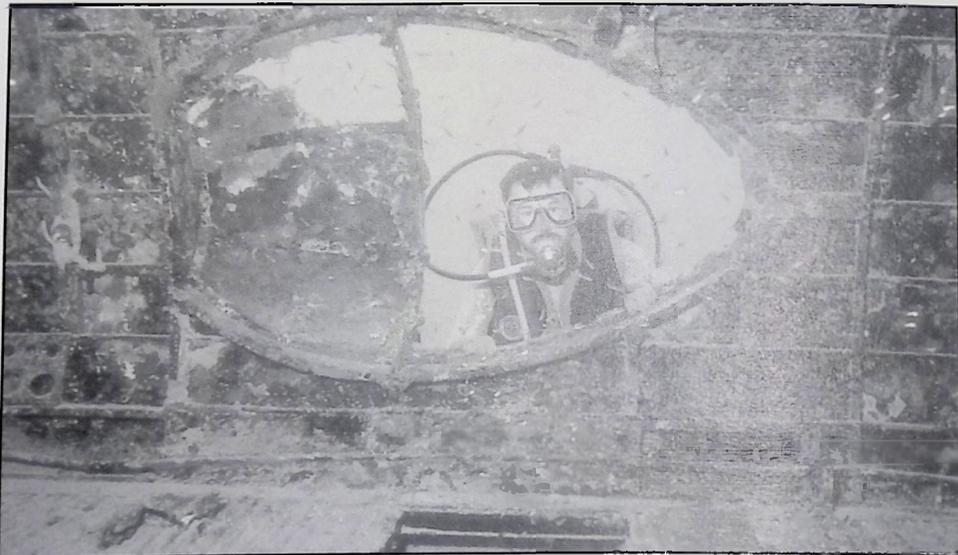
VSAG

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 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, 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 21st May 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 18th June 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meetings

28th April - Sally & Sant's Place.
26th May - John Lawler's Place.

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

**13 BIRDWOOD STREET, BOX HILL SOUTH.
TELEPHONE: 890 6634 (H) 829 2213 (W)
FACSIMILE: 829 2505**

V.S.A.G. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A.C.N. 004 591 575

PRESIDENT:

Don Abell
80 Liston Street,
Burwood, 3125.
Telephone: 889 4415 (H)
288 6548 (W)

VICE PRESIDENT:

Mick Jeacle
5 Donn Close,
Frankston, 3199.
Telephone: (059) 71 2786 (H)
807 0533 (W)

SECRETARY:

Sally Staddon
3/4 Wall Street,
Richmond, 3121.
Telephone: 429 9948 (H)
565 2184 (W)

TREASURER:

Doug Catherall
22C Station Street,
Ferntree Gully, 3156.
Telephone: 758 2690 (H)
898 6766 (W)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

John Goulding
13 Birdwood Street,
Box Hill South, 3128.
Telephone: 890 6634 (H)
829 2213 (W)

PROPERTY OFFICER:

Pat Reynolds
14 Nurla Court,
Frankston, 3199.
Telephone: 789 1092 (H)

SAFETY OFFICER &
ASSISTANT EDITOR:

John Lawler
1 Katrina Avenue,
Murrumbeena, 3163.
Telephone: 569 9851 (H)
794 8611 (W)
(018) 39 5428 (Mobile)

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

Alex Talay
1/56 Leopold Street,
South Yarra, 3141.
Telephone: 867 8492 (H)
565 1666 (W)

POINTS SCORER:

Sant Khan
3/4 Wall Street,
Richmond, 3121.
Telephone: 429 9948 (H)
342 7122 (W)

SOCIAL SECRETARY:

Charlie Brincat
2/14 Florence Road,
Surrey Hills, 3127.
Telephone: 898 6683

ASSISTANT TREASURER:

Mick Jeacle

S.D.F. DELEGATES:

Don Abell
John Lawler

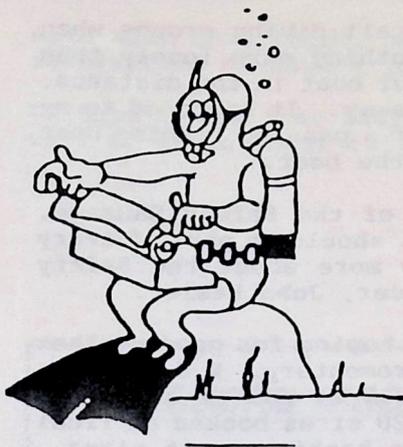
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

Charlie Brincat

COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Bob Scott
21 Eildon Parade,
Rowville, 3178.
Telephone: 763 6872 (H)
706 7100 (W)

EDITORIAL



I recall some years ago the controversy regarding diving in and around Port Phillip Heads. Whilst there were various accusations and counter-accusations being thrown by different groups, I think it's fair to say that V.S.A.G. did act responsibly, by tightening up on procedures when diving in this area. Not so it seems did others . . . An extract from the Black Rock Underwater Diving Group's recent magazine reads as follows:-

"After the dive it was interesting to watch the charter boat nearby retrieve their divers. The clones must have found it too hard to hang on to a length of rope during the dive, as they were coming up all over the place. The deck-hand was running around the boat like a headless chook looking for divers."

I suppose it's a bit of a catch 22 situation for dive charter operators. They need groups of divers for economic survival, and "The Heads" area presents one of the best locations around. So if you put 10-20 divers in the water during a limited slack water interval, it's on the cards that they are going to surface over a wide area.

For my money I'd rather dive with V.S.A.G., where usually there are several of our boats who will retrieve, rather than waiting your turn for the single charter boat to pick you up . . . if you're spotted!

There have been several incidences over the years where V.S.A.G. boats have retrieved charter boat divers, and without wishing to criticize anyone, there is a need

for general co-operation between all diving groups when diving in this area. There is nothing more lonely than catching a fleeting glimpse of your boat in the distance, as you float further and further away. It happened to me once off Montague Island, however a passing fishing boat picked me up and returned me to the boat.

These days we recommend the use of the Safety Sausage. This simple, easy to carry device, should be part of every divers kit. If you need to know more about the Safety Sausage speak to the Safety Officer, John Lawler.

With Easter coming up, we will be hoping for good weather and excellent diving at Wilsons Promontory. V.S.A.G. has been a regular visitor to the Prom at Easter since the early 1970's. This year we have 20 sites booked at Tidal River, surpassing even last years booking of 16 sites.

History, mystery and intrigue have long been part of the Western Victorian Coast. Whilst most history books regard the Henty family as the first European settlers in the area, there were stories even in those times of fair skinned people living with the aborigines.

Now a scientific search is under way for the mysterious "Mahogany Ship" (see Media Watch). At time of writing, there is indication that the searchers have located a 600 kg. mass of metal buried several metres under the sand dunes. Could this be a cannon, or an anchor, or perhaps even buried treasure?

David Carroll, an ex-member of V.S.A.G., and co-founder of the historic wreck the "Sydney Cove" at Preservation Island in Bass Strait, was once involved in a Monash University search for the "Mahogany Ship". Being somewhat of a practical joker, Dave made up several replicas of Spanish "pieces of eight", from a melted down crankshaft of a B.M.W. motorbike. On the 10th day of the search, and 8 feet down, the 25th hole dug by these aspiring archaeologists, Dave's roar shattered the silence of Kilarney Beach, as he held aloft the 2 brilliantly shining Spanish coins. The Monash Professor, at first

wild with excitement, was less than impressed when the realization of Dave's joke became apparent.

Perhaps by the time that this Fathoms is published, more will be known about this mysterious ship.

John Goulding
Editor

WILSONS PROMONTORY - EASTER

17TH-20TH APRIL, 1992.

V.S.A.G. has booked 20 unpowered camp sites at Tidal River this Easter, for what promises to be the biggest and hopefully the best Prom trip yet.

To dive the fabulous waters around the Prom, Skull Rock and the magnificent Forty Foot Rocks, register your name NOW with Don Abell.

Payment will be required by the March General Meeting, 19th March.

CONTACT: DON ABELL - 889 4415 (HOME), or
288 6548 (WORK).

GET IN EARLY, BECAUSE EVERY YEAR WE BOOK OUT EARLY.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

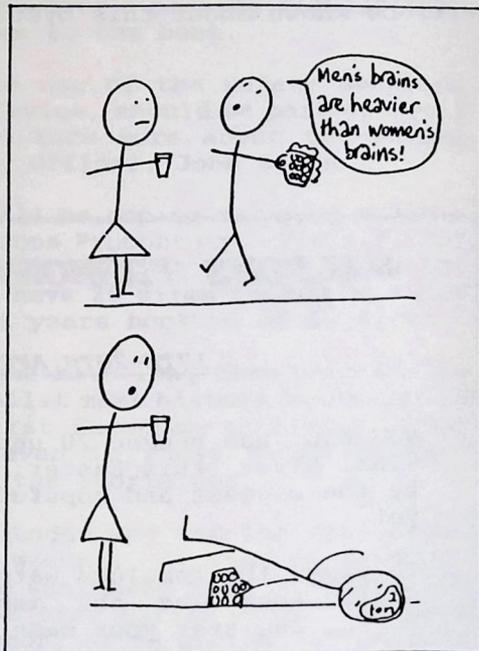
In the last edition of Fathoms, no doubt in a desperate effort to fill up empty space, you devoted two pages of what was meant to be humorous writing about the "fairer" sex. (Some might consider Jack Namiota's re-writing of the Trojan War a lot funnier and less offensive).

Not wishing to waste time, energy and space on a detailed riposte, I merely ask you to reprint this cartoon which, let's face it, says it all.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

A "fairer" V.S.A.G. member.**



EDITOR'S COMMENT:

Apologies for not including this in the last issue of Fathoms. - Just goes to prove what you suggest about men! Mind you, Australian men's brains are not as heavy as what they used to be, thanks to light beer.

Editor

V.S.A.G. COMMITTEE NEWS

The following is a summary of major points raised at the February and March Committee Meetings.

- * C. Brincat reported that the red "Brambles Ship" which often passes through Port Phillip Heads on weekends, seems to come in very close towards the Queenscliff shoreline.

Dive Captains and Boat Captains need to keep a sharp lookout for this vessel, and retrieve divers quickly if this ship seems to be approaching.
- * V.S.A.G.'s financial position as at 24th March, showed cash reserves of \$10,920.67.
- * The Committee discussed various venues for the 1992/93 Christmas/New Year trip. It was agreed that Mick Jeacle would investigate Jervis Bay on the South Central Coast of New South Wales.
- * Jackie Paterson was accepted for membership.
- * An application for membership from Leo Maybus was received, however the Committee is waiting for further paperwork from Leo.**

DIVE REPORT - 22ND MARCH, 1992

by Mick Jeacle

When Alex Talay phoned to book in for this dive, I knew it was going to be a nice day. After all, we don't see Alex diving too often these days. We weren't disappointed, weather-wise at least.

Upon arriving at Sorrento, there was Tony Rossi's new boat - "The Italian Stallion", or is it "Tickety Bo"? Seventeen feet of gleaming white half cabin, with colour co-ordinated 115 H.P. Johnson motor. We had all been hearing about this boat for about 17 months now, and were beginning to think maybe it was a figment of Tony's imagination. Jenny certainly wouldn't confirm either way, as the mere mention of the word "boat", would cause her to beg all and sundry to change the subject. Tony certainly had a big smile on his face at the end of the day - nice one Tone. And it has got a Dunny!

Whilst travelling towards "The Heads" area, Alex commented on the surface visibility, as Barwon Heads and surrounds were clearly visible. Not so on the Point Nepean side, and once through "The Heads" and in the vicinity of the 90 Foot Submarine, Arthur's Seat could not be seen, unfortunately without the aid of this transit bearing, yours truly let down the troops, and we had to bring into action Plan 2.

Andy came to the rescue here, when he recommended a reef he had dived some 3 weeks ago. The reef was situated close to shore, not far from where the 90 Foot Submarine should have been.

Visibility whilst searching for the sub looked excellent, but by the time we hit the reef it had gone right off, to probably 15 feet. The territory here was indeed spectacular. Great deep and dark ledges, bommies and overhangs. Alex and Jackie even sighted two very large Wobbegong Sharks, a unique sight in our local waters.

I was amazed that these idyllic ledges were not packed with crayfish. Just goes to show the damage these professional fishermen do!

Following the dive, conditions in Bass Strait were beautiful, and everyone seemed content to remain there and have lunch in the warm sun.

After lunch we returned to the Point Lonsdale area inside "The Heads", where a few large greenlips were collected by those interested. The water here was somewhat clearer than outside and conditions quite pleasant.

Andy and I took leave of the others at around 4.30 p.m., and took off for Sorrento on relatively smooth seas, which made for a very pleasant trip which seemed to take no time. I understand John Lawler and Bazza sorted out whose boat was the fastest, and it appears that the old "Merc" reigned supreme once again. For a price, John Lawler could tell you how to beat the old bloke, but I'm not sure if anyone would want to go with you on that day.

All in all, it was a good day, even though the sub is not there anymore. Thanks to Andy, John Lawler, Bazza and young Tone for providing your boats, and a very special thanks to Speaking Jack for finding (and handing back) my expensive catch bag.**

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

The April General Meeting, which would normally be held on Thursday 16th, has been cancelled due to Easter.

There will be NO General Meeting in April.

FORTY FOOT CRAZY ON AUSTRALIA DAY

by Des Williams

Forty Foot Rocks at Wilsons Promontory has to be one of the most mystical dives on our Coast, to my mind. Seldom diveable because of their exposure to the elements and slap bang in the middle of an east/west current, these spires of granite rise vertically from Bass Strait in about 200 feet of water, 4½ miles off the Prom lighthouse.

When Ross Luxford, Peter Vleugal, Graeme Blanchard and I arrived in Ross' boat at this site, there were many seals lounging about on top of the western spire. We circled the rock stacks searching for an anchorage and checking out a dive entry point. Forget the anchor! We suspected it would be impossible to hook in, and we were not wrong.

Soon we were joined by Barry & Craig Truscott and deckie Bill Hayes, and Robert Swoffer with Robert Birtles.

Graeme and I were first in very close to the north face of the western stack, and found a strong westerly current and sheer rock face. Now I know how Ulysses felt when he passed by the island of Sirens - this dive has a magnetism which seems to call you down, down to the depths of Bass Strait.

We'll just look over this ledge at 100 feet. Wow! See that cave down there, 115 feet. In we go, it is carpeted with sea whips about half a metre long, big fish and a blanket of yellow zoanths on the ceiling - now, how does this camera work again? Oh, yes - flash!

There is another large cave just below us, let's look inside - now it is 135 feet, and still no end to the sheer downward plunge of the root of Forty Foot Rocks. Feeling a little tense now as the current pulls at us when we fin around a rock corner. We make an exploratory ascent from this point, and there is the bow of the "Eliza

Ramsden"! No, it is the sharp corner of a gigantic boulder, which looks exactly like the bow of a sunken ship as it towered over us. I tried to capture it on film as Graeme posed for scale.

Now we are back into the sunlight again and the current tears at us as we close with the surface, where Ross and Peter await for us in the PT 73.

After Peter and Ross dived, we all motored out to the middle of the westbound shipping channel, to make a quick search for the steamship "Cambridge", which sank in 1940 after hitting a German mine. We didn't waste too much time and fuel on the search, but I did appreciate the effort made by Barry, Ross and Robert in a joint search - no luck, maybe next time.

The rest of the long weekend trip to Refuge Cove was spent in good company with no shortage of things to do. On the Sunday, we on board the PT 73 dived the Brown Head Pinnacle, then investigated the Bat Cave and went around to Sealers Cove to show Peter the remains of the old sealers settlement. This was followed by a short time trawling successfully for cuta in Sealers Bay - delicious entree! Late that afternoon we dived inside Refuge Cove against the eastern shore, where Ross and I found a gigantic rock overhang and cave system in a leisurely 60 minute dive.

Great weekend V.S.A.G.! Thanks to Ross for taking us in his boat full of "creature comforts", and to Graeme and Peter for their company.**

STATE CORONER'S REPORT INTO DIVING DEATHS



ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S
DEPARTMENT
VICTORIA

200 Queen Street
Melbourne, Vic. 3000

Telephone: (03) 603 6777
Telex: AA 152158
Fax: 642 0164

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*Received
15/11*

Mr Darren Salter
Chairman
Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria
GPO Box 1705P
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

13 JAN 1992

Dear Mr Salter,

RE: BRIAN BOTTRELL - DECEASED

Ms Wendy Wilmoth, Deputy State Coroner, recently conducted an inquest into the death of the abovenamed person. Ms Wilmoth forwarded her Inquest Findings to the Attorney-General and has requested that a copy be referred to you for consideration and attention.

The Attorney would be grateful to obtain information on any follow up action taken as a result of the Coroner's recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET PITT
Manager
Executive Co-ordination Unit

Our ref: CW 01/032161

cw.bottrell.0901



STATE
CORONER
VICTORIA

State Coroner's Office
37-83 Kavanagh Street
South Melbourne 3205
Telephone (03) 643 6644
(All Hours)
Toll Free (088) 134 852
(Only Country Victoria)
Fax: (03) 629 1206

9th December 1991

Case No. 1322/91

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH

I, WENDY WILMOTH, Deputy State Coroner -

HAVING INVESTIGATED the death of BRIAN ATHOL BOTTRELL with inquest held at the Coronial Services Centre, South Melbourne on the 6th December 1991

FIND that the identity of the deceased was BRIAN ATHOL BOTTRELL and that the death occurred on 23rd April 1991 at Black Rock Jetty, Black Rock from drowning in the following circumstances.

1. The deceased, aged 51 years, had completed a basic scuba diving course on the 14th April 1991. He had not yet passed one skill component of the course, being the equipment ditch and recovery. He had completed six dives. He had new equipment which when tested after his death, by Senior Constable Wursthorn of the Police Search and Rescue Squad was found to be in good condition and functioning properly.
2. The deceased attended a medical examination for diving purposes on 11th April 1991. He was a triathlete with no history of hypertension, chest pain or shortness of breath and he was a non-smoker. He had a good blood pressure reading, confirming a previous good reading taken some ten months earlier. A recent chest x-ray was normal, and he was booked to have an ECG two days after his death. No exercise tolerance tests had been undertaken or planned as there were no indications for such a need. The doctor who conducted the medical examination discussed with him at great length the importance of not diving if the diver is feeling uncomfortable or anxious.



At autopsy he was found to have coronary heart disease and an associated large heart. This condition would be expected to be accompanied by high blood pressure, but isolated blood pressure readings would not necessarily be high. The pathologist found that a contributing factor to the death by drowning were the conditions of hypertensive heart disease and coronary artery atherosclerosis.

3. On the night of the 23rd April the deceased was paired with his friend Harri Eloranta as his buddy, for the dive. The deceased and Eloranta had completed the diving course together and neither had attempted a night dive before. Shortly after the dive commenced, Eloranta lost sight of the deceased and raised the alarm. A search by experienced divers in the group was organised and the deceased's body was found about thirty minutes later, floating near the bottom of the sea, where the water was about four metres deep. Eloranta has stated that the deceased was a little apprehensive about the dive and later investigations confirmed this. He was known to be determined to complete the scuba diving course and the goal he had set himself of a night dive. The instructor who led the group on the dive did not perceive any anxiety exhibited by the deceased.

I find that all reasonable and proper steps were taken to ensure the safety of the divers.

AND I FURTHER FIND that no person or persons contributed to the cause of death.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The deceased in this case had been assessed as medically fit, even though he was yet to have an ECG. An exercise tolerance test is not included in diving medical tests because of its need to be done in a hospital and because of its need to be done in a hospital and because of the cost involved. It is regarded as being more than is reasonably necessary. It would appear that the deceased was somewhat less fit than he seemed, and indeed investigations suggest he may not have been fit aerobically. It cannot be said that an ECG would have revealed his coronary disease, but an exercise tolerance test would have assessed his aerobic capacity and could have been of assistance to him in assessing his fitness to dive.

I do not propose to make any recommendation concerning any possible restraints being placed on divers on medical grounds, in circumstances where divers have passed a basic diving medical test.

However, it may be useful for divers and potential divers, particularly those over thirty years of age, to know that health risks may still exist, despite a medical test having been passed, and that their own welfare may best be served by undertaking more extensive health tests of their own initiative. For this purpose, I recommend that the finding in

this case be distributed amongst diving organisations so that divers and potential divers may be acquainted with the information resulting from the investigation and inquest.

Wendy Wilmoth

WENDY WILMOTH,
DEPUTY STATE CORONER.

Sergeant Parkes appeared to assist the Coroner **

ROSSI'S BOAT

by Jenny

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!

Yes folks, its finally happened. After almost 15 months of 'trust me mate' . . . Tony Rossi actually took delivery of the new boat.

The excitement was electric as he carefully backed up towards the garage door, being ever so cautious to avoid hitting anything. Well, gaining entry through the first door was easy, we both however forgot that the rear of the garage goes uphill, didn't we?? Yes, it happened . . . we pulled the windscreen off on the very first day, and the bloody thing hadn't even been wet! After much abuse and a kick at the dog (it had to be her fault), the windscreen was fixed and all was well.

The following day we headed off to beautiful Barwon Heads for a couple of quiet days boating. Upon our arrival we once again, ever so carefully, backed the boat into the property, being sure to avoid a rather large lemon tree in our path, unfortunately in so doing, we both once again, forgot about the old post and wire clothes line which has stood tall for some 30 years - well, no longer. It was always in the way anyway.

Following this incident, we agreed to call a friend (at least we hope he's a friend) to ensure some insurance cover for the weekend, he agreed finally to take on the policy after much persuasion on Young Tone's part. I believe he said something like . . . 'trust me mate'.

We ever so carefully, the following morning, motored down to the boat ramp, and without too much fuss the boat was sitting nicely, ready for the days outing. Pushed away from the ramp and off, I wondered why Tony was heading straight back towards shore, why you ask!! Because the bloody steering has been hooked up back to front, that's why! We decided this was number three, and it could be handled for the day and off we went. The river is very shallow in parts, but no problems, we skimmed over sand bars which would have seen the 'Wine and Dine' beached forever.

Having got the feel of things, Tony decided to head out of the rip at Barwon Heads, a decision I must say I did not agree with at all. "We'll just get over these few waves" he said, "and then it will be just Tickety Bo". It was not to be however, the waves became larger, as did my fear. We did turn around and attempt to ride a wave in, but with the steering the way it was, we almost ended up in the waves, not on them. My following screams and cries could be heard some distance away I'm sure. After this incident we decided to put the boat back on the trailer and go to the pub for lunch.

All in all, I suppose it wasn't a bad start to Tone's new boating career. The problem of naming this vessel remains a dilemma. The original of course was 'Tickety Bo', I proposed 'Pandora' after this weekend. It is called a Stejcraft Stallion, so we pondered 'The Italian Stallion', or maybe 'The Stud' . . . or maybe even (but let's hope not) . . . 'The Dud'!!!!**

PALAU DIVES - 1990

by Des Williams

During our trip to Palau back in 1990, we did some very memorable dives, which is why I am suggesting we make a return visit to the place in 1993.

On the 21st May, 1990, we dived the gin-clear site called Blue Corner. We began on the edge of a 1000 foot drop-off, and descended to 80 feet to swim along the vertical wall. We watched a magnificent display of pelagic fish feeding, including a few sharks. There were many gigantic sea fans growing out from the wall, and Ross Luxford photographed me hiding behind several of them, they were as tall as my whole body, and in the most splendid shades of red and yellow. These surely must be the largest sea fans on our planet, and who knows how old they are, maybe they were this size when the battles of World War II raged, not five miles from this site in 1944.

Our dive tapered off to the shallows around 35 feet, arriving on the reef top right at Blue Corner where two ocean currents meet, and it seems fish from all over Micronesia congregate. The variety of fish was impossible to comprehend, and they all seemed to be interested in the divers. After the sheer excitement of diving a different wreck almost everyday in Truk Lagoon, this dive was a real treat for me, as we simply had to relax and take in the brilliant display of tropical fish and stunning viz.

In the afternoon of the same day, we were taken to a shallow reef platform, where just below the boat, we could see a circular navy blue patch in the reef top. This is a Blue Hole, a marine version of the Limestone Sinkholes of the Mt. Gambier district. And there are not too many places in the world you can dive a Blue Hole. The most spectacular ones are in the Caribbean, and to my knowledge Justin Liddy is the only V.S.A.G. diver to have visited them.

So we plunged into the warm clear water once again, and hovered over the gaping abyss before spiralling downward 100 feet into the shaft. There are two exits under the reef platform out to the open sea, but all of the underwater scenery is on a grand scale. This was a dive experience totally different for me. Not since diving The Shaft at Mt. Gambier in the 1960's, have I been able to hang at over 100 feet, and look up to see all my fellow divers descending in groups through the clear waters. Fortunately, Ross Luxford's camera was still operational, and I have some great photos of this brilliant dive.

The dive guide then led us on an unnecessarily long swim along the reef face, when probably we should have spent more time around this magical underwater grotto.

The following day, we were transported way down south once again, to the gin-clear waters to dive the Ngemelis Wall. The dive boat came in close to one of the limestone islands of the Ngemelis group, where the lush green jungle overhung the sea not 20 feet from where we entered the water. As we entered, our group gathered in waist-deep water till we had all assembled, then a two metre swim led us over a breathtaking 1000 feet vertical drop-off, and we plummeted down to 80 feet once again to swim along the reef wall and the wonderland of marine life.

There is a Palauan legend about the Ngemelis Islands, which can be found on many of the wooden story boards that are sold in Palau. It is about a man and woman who had a rendezvous on the beach of Ngemelis. The next morning, the grass skirt of the girl was missing (surprise, surprise!). When they visited the beach again after 15 days, a turtle came up the beach wearing part of the skirt on its back. From then on they kept watching the turtles, and found they come to the beach every 15 days to lay their eggs. So much for the boring old story boards, which probably accounts for the fact that none of our party brought one home as a souvenir!

The other two dives we did in Palau were at the New Drop-Off and incredible Jellyfish Lake. The Palau Pacific was just as a five-star Resort Hotel should be, luxurious, and the food delicious. So you should seriously consider a trip to Palau in 1993. There is even the possibility that we may also take in the great diving in remote Yap Island along the way, by simply rescheduling the proposed itinerary. The dives there are world famous for the chance to dive with schools of manta rays. **INTERESTED?***

FUN IN PALAU IN MAY 1993

by Des Williams

It is already two years since V.S.A.G. left on a diving adventure overseas, so it is probably time to think seriously about a return to the tropical warm waters of distant lands and diving adventure again. At our General Meeting in February, about 15 members expressed interest in a return visit to Palau in May 1993.

At the meeting, I handed out details of the proposed itinerary and information about Palau. If there is anyone who missed this meeting and would like a copy of the handouts, please call me at home on 551 3201, or at work on 597 0777, and I will see that you receive the paperwork.

Our last trip to Truk Lagoon was set off with a quick visit to Palau, and I believe we saw only a small amount of the fantastic potential of this fascinating chain of islands.

There are few places in the world which combine remote unspoilt limestone islands with the chance to dive World War II wrecks, enter an underwater dry cave, dive a dramatic blue hole, and hang over a 700 metre abyss as you swim along a vertical limestone wall less than 20 metres from an island shore. Then there is Blue Corner, where two ocean currents meet in a confusion of small fish and pelagics

all in feeding mode. And if you like weird, then how about Jellyfish Lake - this landlocked ancient marine lake has to be experienced to be believed, just ask any of our group who were in Palau last trip.

This place definitely warrants further investigation, and I believe V.S.A.G.'ers will not be disappointed, especially if we spend time on some of the wrecks, as well as the other reef attractions. Visibility on the outer reefs is sensational. The proposed itinerary at present is:-

THURSDAY: OUT MELBOURNE 1730.
 OUT SYDNEY 2000.

FRIDAY: IN GUAM 0450.
 OUT GUAM 0750.

 IN PALAU 0935.
 Remainder of day to rest.

SATURDAY: 2 Dives.

SUNDAY: 2 Dives.

MONDAY: 2 Dives.

TUESDAY: 2 Dives.

WEDNESDAY: Day tour of war ruins on Peleliu Island.

THURSDAY: 2 Dives.

FRIDAY: 2 Dives.

SATURDAY: 2 Dives.

SUNDAY: OUT PALAU 1015

 IN GUAM 1150
 Day at rest or shop - Overnight.

MONDAY: All day at leisure in Guam.
(Luggage in storage).

TUESDAY: OUT GUAM 0230
IN SYDNEY 1030

Total of 12½ days, with 9 of them in Palau and 2 in Guam on the way home. As per usual with flights in this part of the world, most of the travelling is done in the middle of the night.

We have costing's based on two levels of accommodation at 1992 prices, as a GUIDE ONLY towards the 1993 cost.

Firstly, the magnificent 5-star Palau Pacific Resort, diving package incl. lunch, day trip to Peleliu incl. lunch, transfers and Guam accommodation at \$2,590.00 per diver. (Note: Meals at Palau Pacific and Guam NOT included).

Or, Palau Marina Hotel (not 5-star), diving package incl. lunch, day trip to Peleliu incl. lunch, transfers, and Guam accommodation at \$2,330.00 per diver. Please note that breakfasts at the Marina Hotel ARE INCLUDED in this price.

Non divers package is approximately \$700.00 cheaper on the above costing's.

Now there are bound to be plenty of questions for those of you considering this great trip with your V.S.A.G. friends, so call me. At the June Meeting we will get a little more serious, by taking names of those definitely wanting to go, and at the July Meeting a deposit of about \$200.00 per person will be required so we can commence bookings.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.**

YUPPIE BACKPACKING AT \$27.50 AUSTRALIAN - PER DAY

by Doug Catherall

Yes, that was what it cost Maxi & I to live (not quite in the lap of luxury) over January and February, whilst travelling to DARWIN, BRUNEI, SARBAH, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA and back to DARWIN. Not included was our airfares to Singapore or return from Bali, but was for all internal travel, food, accommodation and shopping sprees.

I'm even confessing to having air conditioning one night, 3 nights of hot water, and a bed (or two) every night bar 3. It really is a change having a travelling companion, some times we even got on with each other. Yes, there were some difficult periods, but at least we survived and grew stronger because of it.

Maxi's diary in brief note form follows:-

31st December - Darwin:

Doug gone for run and my feet are up.

2nd January - Brunei:

Unimpressive. Ferry same day to Labuan Island en-route to Sarbah. 2-3 thousand swallows nestled on the wires outside our room.

4th January - Kota Kinabaru:

We noticed the cloud around the peak of the mountain had broken up. This huge monolith appearing from between the ridges. I'm not even going to entertain the thought of the summit. Well Doug is.

5th January - Mt. Kinabaru:

Awoke to start this unbelievable journey. Beautiful day, can see summit. Summit trail starts at 6,000 feet and reaches 11,000 feet in 5 miles. Longest 5 miles I've ever walked.

6th January - Mt. Kinabaru:

(Summit huts). 7.30 a.m. D.C. back already, must have run. Freezing at peak of highest mountain in South East Asia.

12th January - Singapore:

Go to China Town to view the singing birds. The Chinese spoil their birds, like we do pussies. Get off at Raffles Hotel. Magnificent! Had a drink in the courtyard. Plate is banana leaf - rice, chicken marsala, mutton bhuna, cabbage, hot condiment and yoghurt - fabulous. Walked to bus station and saw Bus No. 170 go sailing past. Hot and sticky. I took deep breath and regained my self control. Good girl. All these Indian blooded men with leering eyes.

14th January - Malaysia (Tidman Island):

Leisurely day strolling, swimming, and helping fisherman push his grounded boat into water. The waves sound like they are coming in the front door - 20 feet away. Diving very expensive - Course \$695.00 (Malay). Dinner at Sri Tidman again. Food in general is quite poor - fish/chicken if your lucky. Thick tropical rain forest and fern gullies most of the way following streams. Stopped at waterfall, had a cool-off swim and refilled water bottles for 2nd time. Plane landed after 4 attempts with side wind. Quick turnaround as excitement builds. Damier 228, flying 6,000 feet, fantastic view when taking off, sharp balk as soon as wheels up.

18th January - Malaysia (Cherating):

Breaky came on time, but no milk, jam, butter or salt. Apart from that, it was fine. We've decided to pull the pin and head for K.L.

19th January - Kuala Lumpur:

How about a crash pad? Mattress on floor in open area. Church bells ringing at 7.30. Going to be a hot noisy day as the Hindu Festival "Thaipusam" starts today. Looking for white faces amongst a sea of suntanned brothers and saris. More like a carnival and not a religious event. Shadow looms over one side of the festival area - there they were - these monstrous limestone pinnacles "The Batu Caves" - 272 steps, 30 feet wide, form this enormous staircase leading to the heart of the caves. The atmosphere is almost impossible to describe. Level of excitement feverish, as we tried to adjust our minds to the sight before us. The spear glistened from both sides of his face. Eyes glazed, green tongue protruding. Hooks in back and chest, with chains attached. Women with newly shaven babies to be blessed. Lines of beggars. Drums, chants, incense, dancing and shouts of "vel, vel", all aided to create an intense and frenzied atmosphere. Even though it was 2.45 a.m. before we were in bed, our eyes were wide open and sleep didn't come easily.

22nd January - Cameron Highlands (Tanah Rata):

I think this is the cleanest and cheapest accommodation I have stayed in, in the whole of Asia. All the restaurants are clean. Looking over the creek and a little jungle. Refreshingly cool after K.L. Very pretty, but not spectacular.

27th January - Penang:

Doug awoke rather grumpily to the singing bird, parading his lobster red body as I write. Ferringi is going to be another Gold Coast. Let's live it up on our last night

in Penang. Music consisted of Happy Jack on the organ, backing 3 solo singers. The last even received some applause. Indonesia next, hope the tolerance level doesn't completely diminish.

28th January - Indonesia (Medan):

Give me air travel any day. Arrive and fight the hordes to retrieve slightly squashed backpacks. We finally get to bus station after much confusion about cost, "Where you come from". I didn't see the chooks which were on the bus. Travel thru rubber and palm oil plantations and jungle. Houses are in better condition than I had imagined. We were so hungry, we over ordered yet again.

29th January - Bukit Lawang:

(Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Centre). Deep in the Sumatran jungle, this idyllic setting is so relaxing. 11 orang-utan's made an appearance this morning. We held hands, played with, and took heaps of photo's, while having to retrieve camera cases, sarongs and other loose items they could get their enormous (yet surprisingly soft) hands on. Privileged to see 2 black Sieaman Apes today.

29th January-3rd February - Bukit Lawang:

(Condensed). A great spot for a holiday with a difference. Only 3½ hours by buses north of Medan. Attractions:- orang-utan's, river, jungle, local villages, market and trekking. Accommodation is good at all levels and food is more than adequate, but it is Indonesia.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE . . .

TOURS ARRANGED BY DOUG CATHERALL.

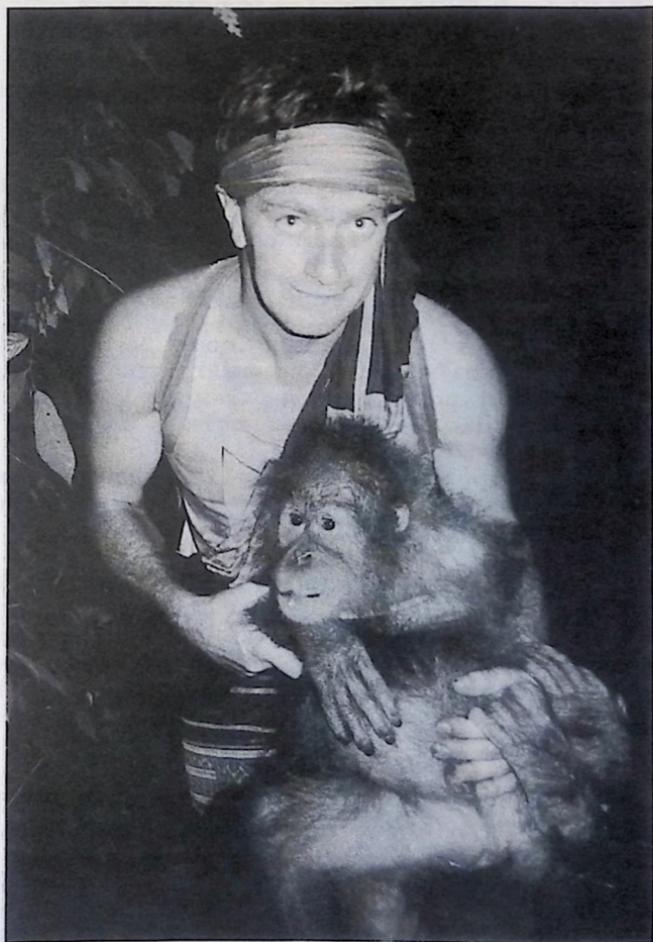




Doug and Maxine
show off their
prize.

Doug bagged this wild orang-utan in the jungles of Sumatra, using a 25mm. Howitzer Anti Aircraft Gun fitted with laser controlled telescopic sights. Range 30 feet. Maxi says . . . "the ears make lovely little purses".

Photo courtesy of Shooters Monthly . . .



Doug Catherall (he's the one wearing the headband), gets acquainted with one of the locals at the Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Centre, Sumatra.**

PORT CAMPBELL DIARIES - LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

1. ELIZA TIPPING - AGED 11:-

That weekend a few people stayed in the "Loch Ard Motel", and some people stayed at the camping ground close by. Both were across the road from the beach.

It looked like everybody had a relaxing weekend. The adults just mainly moseyed around, going to the nearby pub, having a few drinks, coming home to the motel and having some more, while watching telly and talking. But some people went out to go on the "chopper" (as they would refer to it), and did many other things as well.

On Sunday the Tipping's and Julie Namiota went to Warrnambool for the day, while her husband went diving, and saw the Maritime Museum. It was pleasant.

There was a "V.S.A.G. Apartment" in the motel that some divers shared! That was the "Lazy Station" (that was a joke guys, so don't get peeved!). The Tipping monsters came over, and with a little help from Justin, folded Don's double bed bottom sheet in half, so when he got into bed that night Don was annoyed and he knew immediately who had done it. He wasn't too happy with us!

As for diving, the wind wasn't too good and the waves were big! The weather was PERFECT for the non-divers! For the first and second day it started off cloudy, but at midday it went up to about 25°. The last day started perfect at about 5 to 6 o'clock in the morning! Anyway one boat only went diving once, and the divers said that it was all fogged up with sand, so you could see only about four feet in any direction. "It was a lousy dive!". Port Campbell is usually like that!

2. CATHERINE TIPPING - AGED 9:-

The things I liked at Port Campbell with the V.S.A.G. were:-

- ° Going to the beach.
- ° Having a B.B.Q.
- ° My grandmother coming.
- ° Going for walks.
- ° Going to the Museum.
- ° Playing with Nissa and Tamara.
- ° Julie Namiota coming to talk.
- ° Going to Don's motel room.
- ° Looking at the spectacular view.
- ° Driving to Port Campbell and driving back.

3. SOPHIA TIPPING - AGED 5:-

We went to the beach with Nissa, to climb up the big mountain to the Point and saw the surfers.

My Daddy and Mummy took us to the Flagstaff Museum. We had a picnic there, and a ride on a cart pulled along by a horse.

We stayed in a house for the weekend and had a B.B.Q. there with all the people we knew in the Club. Another time we walked to the beach to see the fishermen. On the way home we drove round a windy road. We saw Elephant Rock and the Seven Apostles (Daddy says I can count better than whoever calls them Twelve Apostles). We also went inside a big cave at Loch Ard Gorge. The last stop on our trip home was to see a friend of Daddy's at Apollo Bay, where we had some lunch after a paddle in the sea.

I think the holiday was good fun, and would like to go back to Port Campbell again one day.**

MEDIA WATCH

Aussie treasure ship in 'hijack'

An Australian ship allegedly poaching for sunken treasure in Thai waters has triggered an international incident amid claims of piracy and police brutality.

Seven Australians were on board the vessel, Australian Tide, when its captain radioed an emergency message claiming an act of piracy by Thai officials. Matt Harsley, managing director of the diving company Divcon, said from Singapore the ship was surrounded by a destroyer, frigates and police boats.

Concern was expressed for the safety of an Australian diver who was in a decompression chamber

when the vessel was boarded. His condition was not known late last night.

Associated Press reported the Thai authorities had disembarked after being refused permission to search the Melbourne-owned ship.

Earlier reports from Australian Embassy officials said Thai marine police assaulted crew members, threatened to arrest the captain and took items away.

Singapore-based Divcon had been contracted by an Australian-Malaysian consortium to retrieve porcelain artefacts from a 12th-century Chinese vessel on the seabed. On Thursday night,

armed Thai navy officers and police boarded the vessel alleging the 50 crew was poaching treasure.

Mr Harsley said the crew was still involved in negotiations with the Thais, but the situation was at a "Mexican standoff".

According to the Foreign Affairs Department, seven Australians are among the crew, which included people from New Zealand, the US, Canada, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia.

The vessel had been searching for the porcelain artefacts for two weeks in the middle of the Gulf of Thailand, Mr Harsley said.

The Thai Government yesterday defended its actions, saying it did not like the word "piracy".

In Bangkok, a government spokesman said the ship had "violated the economic zone of Thailand with an intention to bring undersea artefacts out of the country".

But Mr Harsley said that before dives began, the ship had been visited by Thai navy authorities, who seemed to be satisfied they were diving in international waters.

Mr Harsley refused to name the consortium he was working for or identify the salvage area, but he said the porcelain was 73 metres down and "very valuable".

Illegal divers bash officer

ABALONE poachers have bashed a Conservation and Environment Department worker unconscious and hung him by the ankles off a cliff.

The 26-year-old Goulburn Valley man was grabbed and attacked during a patrol at Moonlight Head, near Apollo Bay, on Wednesday.

He was part of a four-man party hunting poachers, but was only "filling in" in the department's wildlife and fisheries section.

The attack was close to where three illegal abalone divers were caught by Conservation and Environment officers last week.

At least three poachers took part in the bashing, which left the victim with two black eyes, an injured nose and extensive cuts and bruising.

The man eventually raised the alarm after regaining consciousness and stumbling several kilometres to a farmhouse.

He is understood to be receiving trauma counselling.

"It was a vicious assault and he certainly feared for his life," Mr Bill Fox, the department's acting regional manager at Colac, said last night.

"But he is in good spirits and coping remarkably well, considering."

He said the victim, who had been with the department for six years, had to walk three kilometres for help.

The victim was taken to hospital after his ordeal, but was later released.

The source said the department believed it knew who the attackers were and had had "previous dealings" with them.

Although some fisheries and wildlife officers are allowed to carry guns, it is understood the four-man abalone poacher patrol was unarmed.

\$250,000 reward

to find the Mahogany Ship

By LYN DUNLEUV

The State Government has posted a \$250,000 reward for discovery of the wreck of the Mahogany Ship, a vessel that some historians believe could prove the Portuguese visited Victoria's west coast in the early 16th Century.

The ship is believed to be a Portuguese caravel lost in the early 1500s. If found, it would mean Australia was visited by Europeans only a few years after Columbus sailed to the Americas.

Announcing the reward yesterday, the Minister for Tourism, Mr Crabb, said that if the caravel was found it could become one of the biggest tourist attractions in Australia. The wreck is thought to be buried in sands along the Great Ocean Road between Port Fairy and Warrnambool.

Mr Crabb said the reward had

been posted to attract highly qualified parties equipped with the most up-to-date technology. A number of people had been in touch with the State Government wanting to search the area.

But any search would have to comply with strict controls to protect the environment, Mr Crabb said. "We don't want the whole thing to turn into a mullock heap."

Searchers hoping to claim some booty from the wreck are likely to be disappointed. Mr Crabb said there was no prospect of it being "laden with diamonds or gold or anything of that sort".

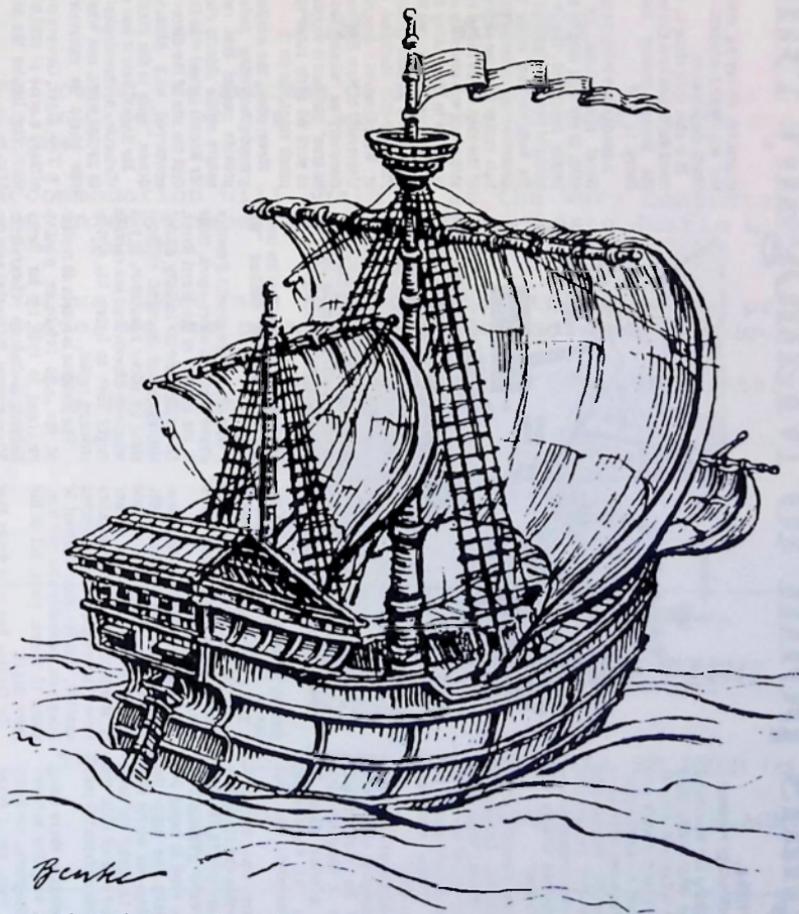
He said it was fair to assume that there was a wreck in the area. The first reported sightings dated back to 1836 and the last in 1880. Changes in the sand dunes

because of grazing are believed to have covered it over.

The state historian, Dr Bernard Barrett, said the reward would be well spent if a Portuguese wreck was found. But he cautioned that the ship sighted by several observers could well have belonged to whalers and sealers from France or America.

Kenneth McIntyre, author of a book that set out to prove the Portuguese were the first Europeans to chart the Australian coast, said he was confident that a Portuguese ship was wrecked on the Victorian coast in 1523.

He said the strongest evidence available that a ship was wrecked near Warrnambool was in Portuguese maps of the eastern Australian coastline that ended near where the city now stands.



Artist's impression of how the Mahogany Ship may have looked.

Signals point to Mahogany Ship

By GRAEME O'NEILL
science and technology reporter

Scientists searching for Warramabool's fabulous Mahogany Ship believe they have found it, deep in a coastal dune where it sank into legend more than a century ago.

If it is Portuguese caravel — and circumstances surrounding the find make this remarkable possibility an even-money bet — Australia's European history will have to be rewritten.

About 3 pm last Saturday afternoon, Mr Malcolm Cattach, a member of a geophysical team from the University of New England, called to the team leader, Dr John Stanley. "Come over and have a listen to this."

Mr Cattach had heard a strong wail from the speaker of his magnetometer as he methodically made a series of 130-metre traverses across a dune about 75 metres from the shoreline, between Warramabool and Port Fairy.

For a person who had first dreamed of finding the Mahogany Ship when he was only 12, Dr Stanley was remarkably phlegmatic.

"We were so used to being led astray that really, we knew the majority of things we would find were going to be junk," he said. "So you don't get excited until you eliminate something from the junk category."

The signal points to there being a metal object weighing between 550 and 600 kilograms, probably made of cast iron, about seven

metres below the surface of the dune.

This depth rules out any possibility that the signal comes from 20th Century junk, such as a dumped car body.

Dr Stanley and his team analysed the signal on Saturday night. They believe the signature could be that of a cannon or an anchor or, less probably, a cast-iron galley stove. The magnetometer detected another, smaller mass of about 30 kilograms, probably also cast iron, about 10 metres away, but at the same depth.

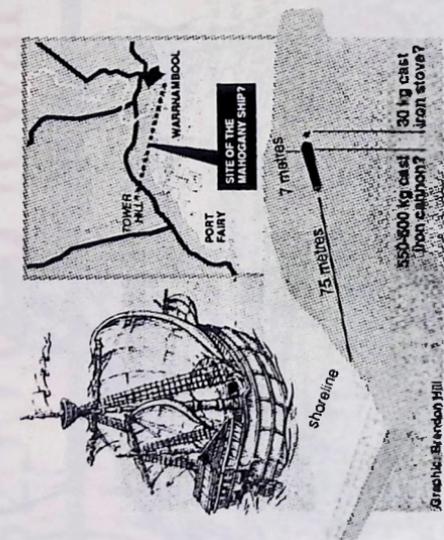
Dr Stanley has little doubt that he has found the ship that his team has affectionately dubbed "the Hog".

The objects are about 1.5 metres above the high-water mark, close to the estuary of the Merri River. Dr Stanley said the locality, a long sloping beach bounded on both sides by rocky headlands, is just where an experienced sea captain might seek to beach his storm-stricken vessel.

The location is within 40 metres of the grid reference position recorded in 1850 by Mr Percy Holden, a Customs officer from Warramabool. Dr Stanley said the

site would be excavated.

The State Government has offered a prize of \$250,000 to the team that locates the Mahogany Ship.



Sketch by Andrew Hill

V.S.A.G. SKIING TRIP - AUGUST

FALLS CREEK

Following the success of last years V.S.A.G. ski trip to Falls Creek, we are planning another week in the snow this August.

Accommodation will again be at the very comfortable and convenient Camber Lodge, with our hosts Justin Liddy and Alice Knight.

Precise dates are not known at the time of printing, however we are planning for the 2nd week of August.

Please contact John Goulding for further details, or Justin Liddy on (053) 447 421.**

APRIL COMMITTEE MEETING

THE APRIL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON:-
TUESDAY 28TH APRIL, AT SALLY & SANT'S PLACE.

WHAT THE STARS REALLY SAY

by Don Abell

Do you really know what drives your fellow members of V.S.A.G. As we drift through 1992 it maybe of interest to find out the directions of members, as determined by a higher power.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

You are the pioneer type and hold most people in contempt. You are quick-tempered, impatient and scornful of advice. You are not very nice.

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

You are practical and persistent. You have a dogged determination and work like hell. Most people think you are stubborn and bull-headed. You are a Communist.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 21)

You are a quick and intelligent thinker. People like you because you are a bisexual. However, you are inclined to expect too much for too little. This means you are cheap. Gemini's are known for incest.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 21)

You are sympathetic and understanding about other people's problems. They think you are a sucker. You are always putting things off. That's why you'll never make anything of yourself. Most welfare recipients are Cancer people.

LEO (JULY 22 - AUGUST 21)

You consider yourself a born leader. Others think you are pushy. Most Leo people are bullies. You are vain and dislike honest criticism. Your arrogance is disgusting. Leo people are thieves.

VIRGO (AUGUST 22 - SEPTEMBER 22)

You are the logical type and hate disorder; this nit-picking is sickening to your friends. You are cold and unemotional, and sometimes fall asleep while making love. Virgo's make good bus drivers.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)

You are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. If you are a man, you are more than likely queer. Chances for employment and monetary gains are excellent. Most Libra women are good prostitutes. All Librans die of venereal disease.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21)

You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. You will achieve the pinnacle of success because of your total lack of ethics. Most Scorpio people are murdered.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21)

You are optimistic and enthusiastic. You have a reckless tendency to rely on luck, since you lack talent. The majority of Sagittarians are drunks and dope fiends. People laugh at you a great deal.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 20)

You are conservative and afraid of taking risks. You don't do much of anything and are lazy. There has never been a Capricorn of any great importance. Capricorn's should avoid standing still too long, as they take root and become trees.



AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

You have an inventive mind and are ingenious and possessive. You lie a great deal. On the other hand you are inclined to be reckless and impractical, therefore you make the same mistake over and over again. People think you are stupid.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

You have a vivid imagination and often think you are being followed by the CIA or FBI. You have minor influences over your associates, and people resent you for flaunting your power. You lack confidence and are generally a coward. Pisceans do terrible things to small animals.

And just by the way, I note that our members have the following star signs:-

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| AQUARIUS | - MICK JEACLE, IGOR CHERNISHOV. |
| PISCES | - SALLY STADDON, ANDY MASTROWICZ,
MAX SYNON. |
| ARIES | - JOHN LAWLER, JIM TURNER. |
| TAURUS | - TONY ROSSI. |
| GEMINI | - SANT KHAN, NEVILLE VIAPREE. |
| CANCER | - TONY JOHN. |
| LEO | - DES WILLIAMS, BILL HAYES, ROSS LUXFORD,
DAVE MOORE, RUTH BROWN, JACK NAMIOTA. |
| VIRGO | - BRIAN LYNCH. |
| LIBRA | - JOHN GOULDING. |
| SCORPIO | - MICK JACKIW, GAVIN LATIMER, FIONA BRUCE. |
| SAGITTARIUS | - ALEX TALAY, CHARLIE BRINCAT,
JENNY LARGE. |
| CAPRICORN | - DOUG CATHERALL, PAUL TIPPING,
CHRIS LLEWELYN, GRAEME BLANCHARD,
NEIL MEDHURST.** |

CITY OF SANDRINGHAM NOTICE

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE TOWN CLERK
P.O. BOX 87, SANDRINGHAM, 3191

DX 34128 SANDRINGHAM
FAX: 888 4474

TELEPHONE: 899 8111
ENQUIRE TO:

Mr M J Briggs
MTR:ILJG:088
25/40/5

*Municipal Offices,
Royal Avenue,
Sandringham, 3191*

To all Diver's equipment and/or suppliers
list in Pages 749 abd 750 of Yellow Pages
(see attached lists)

February 6, 1992

Dear Sir/s

**HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH HMVS "CERBERUS" - HALF MOON BAY,
BLACK ROCK**

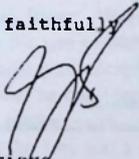
The Council wishes to draw the attention of all members of the public to the dangers associated with entering onto or into the historic vessel HMVS "Carberus" which is located at Half Moon Bay, Black Rock.

Council is aware that, despite the warning notices which have been painted upon the vessel's superstructure, members of the public climb over the vessel or enter it above or below the water line.

The vessel has a weight of 2,200 tonnes. Much of the superstructure is supported by the deteriorated structure below. Therefore members of the public should keep clear of the vessel at all times.

It would be appreciated if you would draw the attention of this letter to your customers.

Yours faithfully



M J Briggs
MANAGER-TECHNICAL SERVICES

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION NEWS

MEETING HELD 4TH FEBRUARY, 1992.

- Minutes:** 4th February 1992
- Meeting Opened:** 7.00 p.m.
- Adoption of Agenda:** all agreed, carried
- Attendance:**
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| D. Salter, R. King | - API |
| J. Bonello | - MRG |
| P. Cardinalletti, A. Leorke | - MBSDC |
| M. Flanagan | - MBSDC |
| J. Lawler, D. Williams | - VSAG |
| T. Geist, | - Monash |
| I. Williams | - VITSC |
- Apologies:** A. Panow, D. Abel, G. Pollack
- Previous Minutes:** moved J. Lawler, seconded R. King
- Correspondence In/Out:** Moved J. Lawler, seconded I. Williams

Correspondence In

Attorney Generals Department
 Land Conservation Council
 Dept of Conservation & Environment
 Dept of Conservation & Environment
 Dept of Conservation & Environment
 Keep Australia Beautiful Council
 Recreational Fisheries Council
 Recreational Fisheries Council
 Recreational Fisheries Council
 Queensland University of Tech
 Aust Recreational & Sport Fishing Conf
 Victoria Police Association
 Vicsport
 Vicsport
 Victorian Public Service Association
 Mahlab P/L
 Sports Federation Foundation
 Vicsport
 Action Badges
 Dept of Conservation & Environment

Coroners investigation of diving fatality April 1991
 Special Investigation of Marine & Coastal areas
 Director Fisheries re Merri River Warnambool
 Regional Manager re Merri River Warnambool
 Bag limits for Snapper & Whiting
 Marine Litter Bags
 Agenda 30th Jan meeting
 Minutes Dec 12th meeting
 Review of Fishing regulations
 Survey of fishing accidents
 Newsletter Nov 1991
 Request for advertising
 Information on GST & Sport
 Minutes Dec 4th meeting
 Info on DCE restructure
 Info on Fund Raising seminars
 December 1991 Bulletin
 Raffle proceeds cheques
 Info on logos, badges, emblems
 Request for public comment on land based state parks

Correspondence Out

40 copies to clubs & delegates
 20 letters to clubs
 Sir Robert Peel Hotel
 Dept of Conservation & Environment
 Corporate Affairs Victoria

Minutes Dec meeting & agenda this meeting
 requests for 1992 subsidy of \$30
 1992 meeting dates
 to Fisheries Director re Merri River Warrnambool
 Application for incorporation

Matters arising:

1. **Incorporation** - D. Salter advised that the SDF was not incorporated yet as the paperwork is still being processed by the corporate affairs office.
2. **FishVic** - R. King (VRFAC Delegate) advised that Fishvic are still trying to become the peak angling body here in Victoria. D. Salter & R. King attended a meeting of Fishvic in Dec and advise that they feel Fishvic is not properly constituted (although they are trying to rectify this) and that Mr Terry Minear is now the EO of the group. R. King also advised that there is some concern on how the group is operating their financial affairs, ie no set of rules therefore the EO has complete control over the finances. Also Fishvic is trying hard to get on side with the Government in order to become the peak body and to obtain funding. This would mean that VRFAC would most probably be disbanded. R. King and D. Salter feel that VRFAC is our best mechanism for getting a proper hearing on scuba related fishing matters and therefore we should support the retention of VRFAC and not the growth or dominance of Fishvic. Fishvic would require a \$250 fee from SDF if we were to be a member. This also is not practical.

J. Lawler suggested that we should not totally write off our involvement with Fishvic, just in case they do get what they want, and we would be left without representation.

- Proposals**
1. **Write to Fishvic stating our wish for non-involvement with them for the time being.**
 2. **Write to Minister and any other relevant bodies supporting VRFAC & our non-involvement with Fishvic.**

Agreed by all.

3. **Merri River, Warrnambool** - R. King advised that the issue regarding the reduction in the size of the fishing exclusion zone at Warrnambool was still being dealt with. We have sent correspondence to the Director of Fisheries, C&E Dept, and he responded that he considered it unfair that Divers were still able to take Crayfish in the zone whilst professionals and amateur hoop netters were not. Rod advised that he had thought that the area was a total no go zone for everybody and that it came as a surprise that it was still ok for divers. D. Salter advised that he had talked to S. Bailey from WSAG and that she thought that local divers wanted it as an area only open to them. If

this was true then it would make the job of maintaining the status quo more difficult. T. Geist advised that he thought the local divers wanted it as a total protection zone.

It was decided that we will write to WSAG and seek clarification on just what they wanted from the zone so that we could truly put their point of view across to C&E and the Minister (through VRFAC).

4. **Historic Shipwrecks** - D. Williams from HSAC advised that the "City of Launceston" wreck in Port Phillip will be opened to divers in the near future. Dive guides will have to be trained from the MAAV & SDFV and be used to take divers on tours.

D. Williams also advised that the location of the "City of Launceston" will most likely appear in future issues of the notice to mariners. Also John Donne's chart shop at 372 Little Bourke Street, will provide a Port Phillip chart and will mark the historic "no anchor" shipwreck sites on it.

D. Williams also advises that MAU/VAS will be producing new pamphlets for the shipwreck trail.

5. **Public Relations** - D. Salter advised that the Dec 1991 Dive Log magazine carried an article produced by Rob Kirk of API, showing the SDFV Sausage Sizzle and diving at the Prom over the Nov Cup weekend.

Clubs were also reminded to send in their "Club Census" forms sent out in November. This is the only way the SDF can be kept up to date on changes in Club admins and addresses.

6. **Diving death** - A letter was tabled (and copies distributed to delegates) from the Attorney Generals Dept regarding the inquiry conducted by the State Coroner on the death of a diver at the Cerberus Wreck near Melbourne. The Coroner wanted all divers to be aware of the mans medical condition so that similar incidents may be avoided in the future. Copies to be distributed to clubs.

7. **Land Conservation Council Inquiry** - The LCC is conducting an inquiry into the States Marine coast. The inquiry has been commissioned by the government and its scope is far reaching. The SDF has registered its interest with the LCC and will be kept up to date as the inquiry develops. D. Williams has agreed to keep a watch on the developments and report as appropriate at SDF meetings.

8. **Australian Standard for Diving** - According to SPUMS a new Australian Standard is about to be released covering Minimum Standards for Entry Level Diver Training. It is believed this will set a standard for basic open water diver courses here in Australia.

9. **Handouts** - the following handouts were distributed to delegates
- . Coroners Investigation on a Diving Death
 - . VAS, "Photogrammetry being used for U/W Archaeological surveys"
 - . SPUMS, "Why US Divers died in 1989"
 - . Keep Australia Beautiful Council - Marine Litter Bags
 - . New bag limits Snapper & Whiting
10. **Request for Advertising** - Victoria Police Association requested we advertise in their Journal. Delegates agreed this was outside our financial resources.
11. **Vic Sport Raffle Proceeds** - Proceed Cheques were handed out to respective Club delegates.
- | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| API | \$449 | R. King |
| Marlin | \$52 | T. Geist |
| MDG | \$60 | not present - Priya to sent |
| Bottom Scrat | \$190 | A. Leorke |
| Mount Dist | \$144 | not present - Priya to send |

Meeting Closed 9.45 pm. Next meeting Tuesday 7th April 1992, 8.00 pm. upstairs - Sir Robert Peel Hotel, Nth Melb.

AGENDA

Agenda for the S.D.F.V. General Meeting Tuesday 7th April 1992. Upstairs, Robert Peel Hotel, Cnr Peel St & Queensbury St, North Melbourne, 8.00 p.m.

1. Open Meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Attendance
4. Apologies
5. Previous Minutes
6. Correspondence
7. Matters arising from previous minutes
 - SDFV Incorporation
 - Merri River Warmambool
 - LCC inquiry
8. Reports
 - Statutory, A. Panow
 - Commercial, P. Cardinaletti
 - Public Relations, G. Pollack
 - Historic Shipwrecks, D. Williams
 - MAU Liaison, M. Vanetic
 - Vic Rec Fishermans Council, R. King
9. General Business

10. Next Meeting
12. Close

CONTACT LIST:

The executive members can be contacted on the following phone numbers:

Darren Salter	(AH) 879 2434	(B) 634 7001
Priya Cardinaletti	(AH) 387 2093	(B) 344 8326
Adrian Panow	(AH) 315 1038	(B) 819 8893
George Pollack	(AH) 598 8752	

**SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF VICTORIA 1992
MEETING DATES:**

February 4th
April 7th
June 2nd
August 4th
October 6th
December 1st

Vicsport Raffle - Clubs please note that we have just received word that the Vicsport raffle is being held earlier this year. The raffle is an excellent way of raising funds. Last year API Dive Club raised \$449 and Bottom Scratchers Dive Club raised \$190.

We have decided that clubs wishing to take part in this fund raising program should go direct to the raffle organisers Vicsport (Sports Federation of Victoria). You are all members of Vicsport through your affiliation with S.D.F.V.. The reason for going direct is to speed up the processing of proceeds cheques and to avoid double handling. Attached is an information flier from Vicsport and the raffle book order form.

Darren Salter

DOES YOUR CLUB NEED FUNDS???

HERE'S THE DEAL!

YOUR CLUB/ASSOCIATION CAN COLLECT \$1 FOR EVERY TICKET SOLD. NO WORK IN RAFFLE PERMITS - PRIZE HUNTING - AUDITS - WE DO THE WORK AND YOU SHARE THE RESULTS FOR ANY PURPOSE YOU WISH.

BOOKS OF TEN \$2 TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM VICSPORT CENTRE. 50% OF RAFFLE PROCEEDS GO TO VICSPORT TO MEET COSTS OF MEMBER SERVICES, WHILE 50% GOES TO YOUR CLUB/ASSOCIATION - THAT'S MONEY IN HAND FOR ANY PURPOSE - AFFILIATION FEES, TROPHY FUND, TRAVEL FUND, MAINTENANCE COSTS, ETC.

SUPPORT THE VICSPORT RAFFLE AND HELP YOURSELF TO EASY MONEY AT THE SAME TIME!

CALL IN AT VICSPORT CENTRE TODAY!

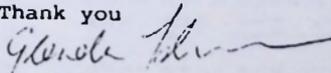
DEAR PARTICIPANTS,

Here it is again. This year the raffle will run for 7 weeks from April 2nd through to May 21st, the drawing date will be June 10th, no later.

The same rules apply as last year. You receive \$1.00 per ticket sold.

Please book your tickets now, by filling out the form below or phone Glenda at Vicsport on 820 0255.

Thank you



Glenda Johnson
Raffle Co-ordinator.

RAFFLE '92

PRIZE LIST:

- 1st Trip for two to West Coast of America for
 10 days. \$3500.
- 2nd Camera Gear \$1500.
- 3rd Remote Control 14" Colour Television.
 \$500.
- 4th Sporting Voucher to the Value of \$500.

Total \$6000 worth of prizes to be won.

No of Tickets 36000.

The prize list may change slightly, but the value will stay the same.

RAFFLE BOOK ORDER FORM:

NAME OF ORGANISATION:

.....

ADDRESS:

.....

PHONE:.....W H.....

NO OF BOOKS:.....

Please send this form back A.S.A.P. to Glenda Johnson, PO Box 7532,
 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, 3004. Or phone 820 0255.