

FATHOMS

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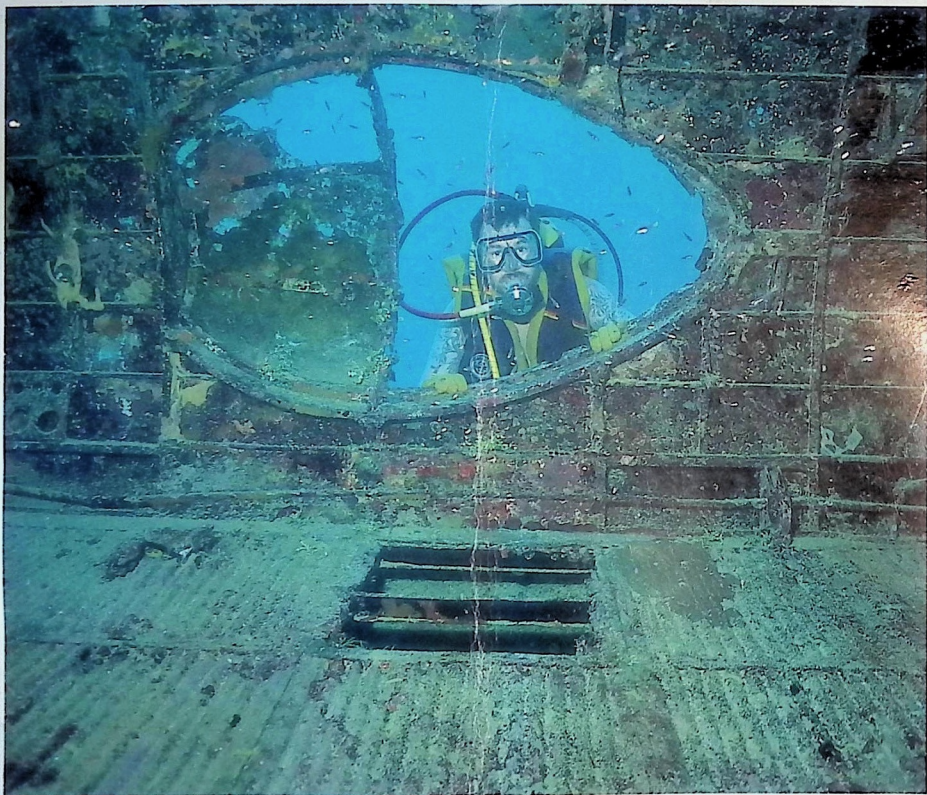
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Safety in Diving

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

AUG/SEP 92

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:

1. 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 20th August 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 17th September 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meetings 25th August - John Lawler's Place.

22nd September - Don Abell's Place.

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

**13 BIRDWOOD STREET, BOX HILL SOUTH.
TELEPHONE: 890 6634 (H) 829 2213 (W)
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2/14 Florence Road,
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S.D.F. DELEGATES:

Don Abell
John Lawler

EDITORIAL



September 17th is the date of the V.S.A.G. Annual General Meeting and the Committee Elections. Elsewhere in this edition there are details about who's standing down and who is eligible to nominate, so please read this information and be sure to attend this important meeting.

However, the 17th September is also an important date for another reason. It will almost bring to an end Don Abell's fourth consecutive term as Club President. Whilst Don may well stand again for President and be nominated, I would like to take

this opportunity on behalf of the Committee and all members, to congratulate him and thank him for his outstanding and tireless efforts for V.S.A.G.

We all know that Don is a busy person, and has many requirements of his all too little free time. Yet throughout his years as President, and even before, he has been a most active and effective contributor to the Club.

His article in this edition of Fathoms on the tax implications for the Club, is just one example of the many things he does for V.S.A.G. Even now as I sit in my office, Don is with other V.S.A.G. members undertaking a Diving First Aid Course.

Our meetings are run with the proper balance of seriousness and fun, which is very typical of the man himself.

In considering this article, I wondered whether to wait until after the Committee positions had been decided . . . and decided against it.

This is a "pat on the back" Don. You are doing a great job and I feel sure that the Club endorses these remarks.

Over the years I have often written in Fathoms about the events of V.S.A.G. in bygone days. In this edition of Fathoms, we include an interesting article about some early cave diving, written by one of the founding members, Peter Matthews, in January 1960. The article was found in our archives by John Lawler, who promises to find more material so that we can all "DIVE INTO THE PAST".

To all members, please keep the articles coming.

John Goulding
Editor

A NEW BABY ARRIVES

On 16th June, Sally and Sant became the proud parents of a new baby girl.

Joanna weighed in at 6lb./3ozs. at 11.47 a.m. This is a damn good catch in anyone's terms, especially as the ebb tide at Port Phillip Heads had started flowing exactly one hour earlier??

Latest reports are that mum and daughter are doing just fine.

CONGRATULATIONS

COMMITTEE NEWS

Extracts from the June and July Committee Meetings are as follows:-

- ° Dive Calendar to be brought forward.
- ° The Club will stage a Wine Bottling Function/B.B.Q. Suitable wines and venue/date is yet to be determined.
- ° The Australian Securities Commission now require V.S.A.G. to lodge an annual return with the audited accounts.
- ° Cash reserves of V.S.A.G. as at 21st July showed a total of \$12,047.22.
- ° A matter was discussed regarding a recommendation from the Diving Industry Travel Association Retailers Committee, that dive boats operating outside Port Phillip Heads be in a marine survey.
- ° Diving First Aid Courses will be conducted, commencing on 27th July.
- ° The Committee Elections and vacancies were discussed.
- ° Sant Khan will demonstrate use of the Club Oxygen Breathing Equipment at the August General Meeting. **

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

17th September - 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club.

THE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 17TH SEPTEMBER.

In accordance with the Constitution, the following
Committee Members are standing down:-

JOHN GOULDING,
JOHN LAWLER,
BOB SCOTT,
SALLY STADDON.

GOULDING, LAWLER and SCOTT are offering themselves for re-
nomination.

SALLY STADDON is not seeking re-nomination, due to her
parental and other duties.

Any Financial Member of V.S.A.G. can seek nomination to
the Committee by having the enclosed Nomination Form
completed and returned to:-

"THE SECRETARY" - V.S.A.G.,
BOX 2526W,
G.P.O. MELBOURNE, 3001.

TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 3RD SEPTEMBER.

Alternatively, completed Nomination Forms can be given to
the Secretary or Acting Secretary, Charlie Brincat, prior
to this date.

With the 4 members standing down plus the existing single vacancy, there will be a total of 5 vacancies on the Committee.

If more than 5 nominations are received prior to 3rd September, an election at the Annual General Meeting will be held. Voting slips will be posted to Financial Members, and these will be required to be returned to the Secretary before the start of the Annual General Meeting.

PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND TO THIS MATTER,
AND TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

**SUPPER WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

17TH SEPTEMBER, 1992.

FOR SALE

2 - 90 CUBIC FEET ALUMINIUM TANKS.

3 - 4 YEARS OLD.

LAST TESTED - NOVEMBER 1991.

PRICE: \$150.00 EACH

CONTACT MIKE - TELEPHONE: 704 9055.

THE TAXMAN COMETH?

by Don Abell

At about this time every year the question is raised at a V.S.A.G. meeting as to whether the Club is subject to, or will have to pay, tax on any of its income. Certainly an appropriate question, considering the increasing difficulty in avoiding the ever extending tentacles of the taxman's power to swell the public coffers.

The financial statements of the Club have always referred to the "Principle of Mutuality", as the reason for the non assessability of the Club.

The principle applies in cases where a number of persons associate together for a common purpose and contribute to a common fund, in which all of the members are interested. In that event, any surplus of contributions remaining after the fund has been applied to the common purpose, is in essence, the members own money, and is therefore not a "profit". As a result, where the principle of mutuality applies, the receipt of such income by the organization is not normally regarded as assessable for taxation purposes.

The problem with the principle, is that it does not apply to non member income, such as interest. Since the Club has had substantial interest over the last few years, that could be a concern.

Fortunately, there is a Section of the Income Tax Act which exempts from assessable income, any income earned by non profit sporting bodies. That's us! As a result, all of the Clubs income is exempt from income tax.

As a side issue, a small uproar arose a few years ago when the Taxation Department taxed the interest income on the bank account of a pony club. I suspect that you can imagine the emotive arguments that followed.

The problem was that the legislation previously exempted clubs for an: "athletic sport in which human beings are the sole participants". So pony clubs were out. No comment will be made regarding V.S.A.G. members. No problem now, the legislation was changed to delete the offending reference to human beings.

Whichever way you look at it, V.S.A.G. income will be exempt from taxation.**

FOR SALE

LADIES WETSUIT

AS NEW ABALONE LADIES WETSUIT - SIZE 2.

ONLY USED FOR 6 DIVES.

LYCRA LINED AND IN PERFECT CONDITION.

ONLY \$225.00

CONTACT NICKY ABELL ON 889 4415.

PALAU DIVING: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

by Des Williams

As John Goulding said in his Editorial in the last issue of Fathoms, we all seem to be twice as busy as we used to be. This is either a symptom of getting older, or just the way to survive the current economic recession. Whatever it is, I have also found myself in the same situation of having very little time for anything else, but work these days. The reward is success in business, but little leisure time, thus my lack of appearance at V.S.A.G. dives these days.

In all this rush and bustle, I believe I have let my friends down, by not pushing our planned Palau Trip much more vigorously. Back in April, we had the following members interested:

Des Williams, Ross Luxford, Graeme Blanchard, Peter Vlugal, Bob Scott, John Goulding, Sant Khan, Andy Mastrowicz, Pat Reynolds, Justin Liddy, Priya Cardinaletti, Jim Turner & Jackie.

Now another year of economic hard times has gone by, and other priorities and family have taken precedence over dive trips overseas for some members. These sort of things are unavoidable, and remember that no monies have yet been collected for the Palau Trip planned for May 1993, so if your name is listed above, I must now know of your intention by the next General Meeting in August, at the latest. You can ring me at home on 551 3201 and leave a message with Julie if I am not home, or see me in person at the August Meeting.

It is now decision time, but remember, if we don't go in 1993 there is always the next year. Mick Jeacle has a great Christmas Trip planned at Forster/Tuncurry for us to enjoy.

My apologies to Pat Reynolds, who had his deposit money for me at the July Meeting, and is ready and eager to go.**

2 IMPORTANT DIVE CALENDAR DATES

1.

MELBOURNE CUP LONG WEEKEND

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER - TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

V.S.A.G. will be once again heading down to Tidal River at Wilsons Promontory.

Camp sites and other arrangements are being organized by Pat Reynolds - Telephone: 789 1092.

This year, as in past years, quite a number of diving clubs will be down at Tidal River, so space may be limited.

Get your names in early to Pat.

Further details at the August General Meeting.

2.

V.S.A.G. ANNUAL TENNIS PARTY & HANDICAP MILE

22ND NOVEMBER.

This very popular V.S.A.G. event is now in its 20 or 21st year.

Usually the Tipping brothers come out of Winter hibernation at this time, to organize this fun family day.

Further details will be advised as we get a little closer to the date.**

V.S.A.G. THEATRE NIGHT
4TH SEPTEMBER- 7.45 P.M.

Carringbush Theatre,
415 Church Street, Richmond.
(AT RICHMOND LIBRARY)

MRS. X

V.S.A.G. members are invited to attend this sensitive, dramatic and humorous play, about the confusing world of an ALZHEIMERS SUFFERER.

Written and directed by V.S.A.G. member, Marita Wilcox, this play, in its second Melbourne season, is being staged as one of the highlights of National Alzheimers Awareness Week.

Refreshments to the V.S.A.G. party will be served afterwards.

COST \$15.00 PER HEAD (Including Refreshments).

For further details contact Marita Wilcox on 803 9262.



4 SEPTEMBER - DON'T FORGET!



A sensitive insight
into the confusing
world of an
"Alzheimer's Sufferer"

Mrs. X

and the dilemma
faced by her family

Written by Maria Wilcox

Larringbush Theatre
415 Church St Richmond
Sept 1st to 5th at 8:00 p.m.
\$15.00 .. con \$ 10.00
bx... 803-9262

La Mama
205 Faraday St
Carlton
Sept 8th to 13th
and 16th to 20th
at 6:00 p.m.
\$10.00 : con \$ 7.00
bx... 347-6142

DIVING INTO THE PAST

submitted by John Lawler

THE VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP
NEWSLETTER

19th January, 1960

Fellow Member,

The item of note concerning the Club over Christmas was the discovery and mapping by our cave-divers of a huge cavern on the underground course of the Murrindal River near Buchan. The existence of caves there had always been suspected, but no one had been able to enter and explore them until now. The only way in, is by diving in the river and swimming underwater upstream for about 50 feet until the cavern is reached.

On surfacing, the diver sees a long low cavern arching over the river stretching before him. Further upstream, the water becomes shallower until it is knee deep over most of its 30 feet width. Further on, the roof opens out forming a canyon with a ceiling of about 100 feet. On the right is an impressive flowstone formation rising 50 feet from the river, and resembling a frozen waterfall. This was a particularly spectacular discovery, and is the main formation readily visible in the cave. Just opposite this formation on the left, is the gravel beach where the diving gear was left while members, now in caving equipment, explored the cavern. Behind the beach, the cave opened out considerable to about a 70 foot diameter chamber, the floor consisting of massive boulders from an ancient rockfall. Beyond this point we have not yet been able to go, as the fall blocks the way both above and below the water. We feel confident that we will eventually find a way through, and continue the exploration on the other side.

There is considerable draught in the cavern and there were moths flying around too; this proves the existence of other entrances, but even after filling the entire cavern with smoke on two occasions, and searching the outside

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1992

Tear & post to "The Secretary", V.S.A.G.,
P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001,
to arrive by 3rd September, 1992.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: 1992/93
NOMINATION FORM

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

_____ for the position of Director of the Group.

Signed: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Signed: _____ Date: ___/___/___

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

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Members are reminded that Nomination Forms must be returned
to the Secretary, personally or by mail to "The Secretary",
V.S.A.G., P.O. Box 2526W, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001, by no
later than 03/09/92.

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hillsides and cliffs for several days, no alternative entrances could be found. One place we know which definitely 'goes' is where the river enters the ground, but we will have to use explosives to blast a big enough entrance.

The discovery of this cavern is the most important in the area, since Frank Moon found and opened the present Show Caves in 1907, so it is not surprising that we made headlines for several issues in the main Gippsland newspaper, the Bairnsdale Advertiser. Besides this, we were mentioned in the local news service, The Sun, The Age, and on the National News. We may yet be on TV if the movie film proves suitable.

It is interesting to note that all the equipment has been supplied at personal expense by those interested - things like 1800 feet of two-core electric cable, and £25 worth of lightweight flexible ladders, etc. The venture also involved a great deal of hard work, such as carrying gear through rugged country, building equipment, suspending several miles of telephone wire, clearing boulders and piles of flood debris from possible alternative openings and so on. If nothing else, everyone was certainly fit when it came time to return home.

Those who were up there at one time or another were: Fred Storey, Owen Mashford, myself, Bill Kunert, John Driscoll, John Skepper, Charlie Ballantyne, Frank Coustley, Kevin Brandie, Ron Addison, Brian Moroney, and Peter Duncan. Work in the area is still far from finished, so anyone else interested is welcome to come along; however it must be said now, that unless you are interested enough not to be discouraged by the plain hard work involved and are prepared to do a job when it needs doing, you had best not come. It is only an intense interest that will keep you going.

Following on from the Buchan trip, we received a letter from a farmer in Daylesford reporting a cave which had been found there while sinking a well, and asking if we were interested in exploring it, as no one had yet been able

to get down into it. We are accepting the 'challenge', but will be well prepared for pockets of carbon dioxide and the like, which are prevalent in the Spa Country.

Immediately on getting home from Buchan, some of the boys were called on to salvage the 42 foot yacht which sank in the channel at San Remo. In a race against the tide they managed to fasten chains and ropes around the hull, to enable it to be hauled out of the water and beached.

DIVERS FLAG:

Another interesting item, is that the original Divers Flag we suggested has now become Law in Victoria. An addition has been made to Rule 61 of the Rules and Regulations governing Ports in Victoria, that a red flag with a white diagonal cross signifies a diver below. This is the same flag used by the British Admiralty and the NATO Navies for the purpose. The American skin-divers flag with the single diagonal stripe is not allowed in the U.K.

LAST MEETING:

The first meeting for the year was taken up with a discussion of what was done over Christmas by various parties: Ian Beeson, and cronies Arch and Lew, spent their time diving in Bass Strait around Kangaroo Island with some S.A. divers aboard a fishing boat, and came back with wild tales of huge crays, bottomless depths and fantastic visibility. Some cameras work quite all right at 149 feet, but are useless at 150.

The U.S.F.A.V. has made to us the proposal that an Association be formed between our two clubs, however no comments are being made until we receive the proposal in writing and a couple of their delegates first come to our next Committee Meeting, so we can be sure of what it is all about.

OUTINGS:

It is strange that people should complain of not enough outings, when the good ones we do have are so poorly attended. There have been outings every two weeks since October, and the attendance was so poor on one boat

trip that it had to be cancelled. This is stupid! If you think you could bring yourself to take advantage of the fact that you are a member of THE Victorian Sub Aqua Group, we would be glad to see you on the next outing. This is a camping trip over the long weekend of the 30th January to the 1st February and will be to relatively new ground to most, down along the Great Ocean Road. From all reports, it is a case of: "How big a cray would you like, Sir?", and the territory down there around Cape Otway and beyond is really worth looking at. Meet in the camping area on the foreshore at Apollo Bay, where we will have lunch on the Saturday before deciding just where to camp and dive. Just keep an eye out for the club banner and signs, and the club pennants on the cars (the pennants by the way are available at 2/6 each). Latecomers can find out where the rest have gone by referring to a notice which will be left at the camping area, or failing this, by asking at the Police Station.

The next outing after that will be on the 14th February at Point Lonsdale near the jetty at 9.30 a.m. The tides are very critical here, as it is right on the Rip:- Slack water ebb 9.58 a.m., and slack water flood 4.00 p.m. The 'flood' slack water would be the clearest, due to the presence of ocean water. This area is said to be excellent for underwater photography.

TRAINING:

Training and testing will resume as usual on Sunday 24th January and every alternate Sunday after that, at Half Moon Bay Pier, Black Rock. Time: 9.30 a.m.

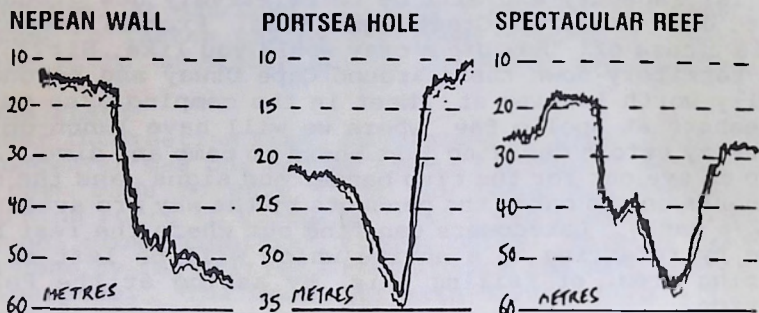
NEXT MEETING:

This will be held at the usual Room 2, Savoy Theatre on Friday 19th February. Mark this date as there will be no further reminder. A good way to remember the date for those who don't know yet, is that it is always the third Friday of each month.

Peter Matthews

. . . AND WHO SAID WE DON'T HAVE GOOD REEFS!

by John Goulding



Depth sounder readings of 3 of Melbourne's most frequently dived reefs.

The May edition of Dive Log Australia included a brief, but interesting article, about some of the fabulous reef formations that exist in Port Phillip Bay.

The article, which promoted the services of Diver Instructor Services, included the above depth sounder charts, which shows the readings of three of the better known reefs. Whilst these reefs will be well known to many V.S.A.G. divers, the "drop-off" profiles are certainly impressive, and on a clear day are hard to beat as far as a local dive is concerned.

Ideally, these sites are best dived at slack water after a flood tide, when the water is clearest. Needless to say however, that on so many of our Sunday dives the times for slack water flood are unsuitable. However, with Winter well under way and Spring just around the corner, we'll be watching the Tide Tables to plan dives at these and other great spots around the southern parts of the Bay.**

THE HURRICANE

THIS ARTICLE WAS REPRODUCED FROM MELBOURNE DIVING SERVICES DIVE JOURNAL, VOLUME 11, NO.: 2.

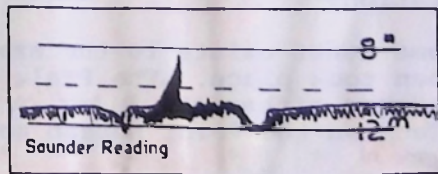
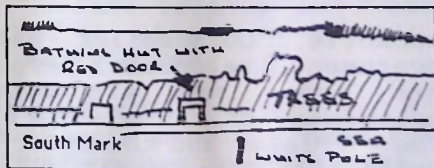
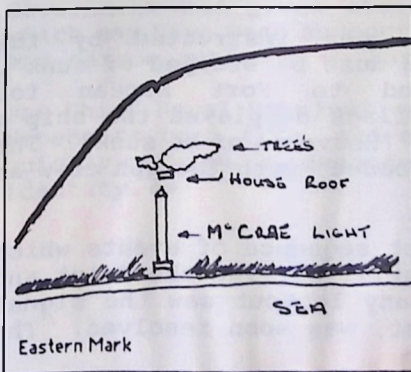
The wreck of the Hurricane is one of the surprise wrecks of Port Phillip Bay. An easy dive, it boasts a prolific fish life. The most common animals to be found include cuttlefish, scollops, mackerel, hermit crabs, and boarfish - with the occasional sleeping wobbegong shark to be found under the sheltering plates of the wreck.

On her last voyage she left Liverpool on the 12th of January, 1869, with nineteen passengers and more than 2000 tons of general cargo, bound for Melbourne.

On arriving at the Heads, at about 8:00 a.m. on the 20th April, she took on a Pilot and proceeded through - in the process grazing what appeared to be a rock at eighteen feet. The

Pilot declared that she was at least 400 yards from the Lonsdale rock, which was the only one in the area. Twenty minutes later as the vessel continued into Port Phillip Bay the forward hold was found to be "at least six feet deep with water", and it was obvious to all that the vessel was going to sink. The passengers took to the boats and were later rescued by ships that were despatched from Melbourne. The Hurricane sank just off Arthur's Seat in 11m of water.

The Hurricane today is a tangle of steel plates and wooden beams occupying quite a large area. It is also a very popular fishing spot, which accounts for the large number of anchors that can be found there.



THE GUNS OF POINT NEPEAN

by Des Williams

World War One officially began at midnight Berlin time, 4th August, 1914, which was 0930 on 5th August Australian Eastern Standard Time. The Australian Government, aware that war was imminent, had issued orders to both Army and Navy that German ships be prevented from sailing out of Australian waters, immediately a declaration of war was made.

Recipients of those orders included the two forts guarding "The Heads" at Queenscliff and Point Nepean, and the Naval Examination Service vessel *Alvina* on duty off Portsea.

The German freighter *Pfalz* was berthed at Victoria Dock, Melbourne, and scheduled to sail on 4th August. *Pfalz* had only sufficient coal for a short voyage, Sydney being the next scheduled port as N.S.W. coal was cheap. So *Pfalz* could not make for the open sea and her Captain delayed departure until 0745 on 5th, in order to load sufficient coal to reach South America. *Pfalz* had just passed the old South Channel Fort when *Alvina*, flying the White Ensign, approached with the command to come aboard. *Pfalz* thought their game was up, but since *Alvina* did not have instructions that war had been declared, and could find no fault with *Pfalz*'s papers, the German was cleared to pass through "The Heads".

Meanwhile, Queenscliff had been instructed by the Government (telephone) "*Pfalz* must be stopped or sunk". This order was transmitted to Fort Nepean for implementation. The signal flags displayed the ship's name - "*Pfalz*" and the order - "Heave to or be sunk". The gun ranging "The Heads" was loaded, with the gun crew at station.

Some doubt exists to the exact sequence of events which then took place. The *Pfalz* still carried the Pilot and whether either the Pilot or any lookout saw the signal flags on the Point Nepean mast, was soon resolved. The

Fort Nepean gun was fired at close range, the 100 lb. projectile, angling in trajectory across the bow of the Pfalz, struck the sea alongside the ship. The Pilot rang for "full speed astern", this was corrected by the Captain, "full speed ahead". A tense situation developed until reality prevailed and Pfalz turned and returned to the Naval Examination anchorage at Portsea, to be taken in charge by a naval party.

It is claimed that the delay in response on the bridge of the Pfalz, had more to do with securing German secret codes than attempts to sail on.

The British claim the first British artillery shot of World War One was fired from a 13 pdr. gun on 22nd August, 1914. This gun is displayed at the Imperial War Museum in London. Quite clearly, Australia does not accept this claim, and this honour belongs to the 6 inch gun of the Point Nepean Battery at Fort Nepean, which is now on display at the entrance to the military complex.

World War Two began for Australia on 4th September, 1939. Again the Naval Examination Service and the same gun at Fort Nepean teamed to fire the first British shot in World War Two.

At 0150 hours on 4th September, 1939, the Australian freighter Woniara tried to pass through "The Heads", ignoring requests to establish her credentials. The Government had given strict orders to stop any vessel which may have been suspected of any attempt to scuttle in the narrow entrance to Port Phillip Bay.

The Chief Naval Examination Service Officer ordered Fort Nepean to open fire, and once again a well-placed shell quickly obtained a response from Woniara, to establish her identity. **

MEDIA WATCH

Coral reefs face end 'in 20 years'

By SUSAN ELLIOTT,
Guam, Monday

A third of the world's coral reefs would disappear within the next 20 years because of climate change and human contamination, an international conference on coral reef preservation was told today.

In a grim start to the 7th International Coral Reef Symposium, where scientists from 40 countries are meeting, Dr Clive Wilkinson, of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, in Townsville, said that one third of the world's coral reefs would be gone within the next 20 years.

He told the meeting of 500 of the world's leading marine scientists that a concerted global effort would be needed to save many threatened coral reefs now facing destruction. Another third, he said, would be lost within 40 years.

Dr Wilkinson raised the alarm on the rapid rate of reef decline, saying scientists might have to consider quick action before detailed planning or scientific assessment could be completed.

"Almost all of the Filipino reefs are going to be gone, reefs in Thailand,

Malaysia, Java, Japan, Caribbean, East Africa, and Florida will also be lost," he said.

Dr Wilkinson said the big threat to the survival of coral reefs would be the combination of climate change with human-related stresses that would accelerate reef decline.

These stresses include pollution from human sewage, agricultural and industrial runoff, sediment from land clearing for domestic and agricultural use, deforestation, and over-fishing.

In response, Dr Bob Buddemeier, from the University of Kansas, proposed that remote, uninhabited, or sparsely inhabited coral reef environments be converted into environmental reserves.

"The program would have similarities to the Antarctic Treaty — it would be a truly international agreement to protect and preserve remote environments for conservation and research," he said.

He said the reserve program would need to be established on islands far from large human populations and land masses.

To encourage participation, nations

or communities might be offered aid agreements, while long-term incentives could provide training, technology, monitoring and protection of the reserves.

Cooperating communities would also receive economic benefits of research visits from external institutions.

The initial response to the proposal came from France's Dr Bernard Salvat who is based at the University of Perpignan and responded for the Central Pacific region.

He said there were already such reserves on a small scale, but agreed it was imperative to establish a global network of coral reef observatories so the state of the world's reefs could be watched and compared.

Dr Ed Gomez, from the Philippine's Marine Science Institute and speaking for the Western Pacific, said cooperation, not competition, was the order of the day between scientists.

Dr Buddemeier did not name any possible sites for conversion to reserve status, but said the plan would need the coordination and support of international agencies.

— AAP

"THE AGE" - 23rd June, 1992.

TIDE TABLES

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE - 1000
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

AUGUST - 1992

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0533 1.40	9 0059 0.31	17 0207 1.33	25 0041 0.28
SA 1048 0.23	MO 0620 0.35	MO 0336 0.33	MO 0810 1.25
SU 1346 1.35	SU 1239 0.74	MO 1433 0.44	TU 1331 1.22
1918 0.58	SU 1930 1.31	MO 2035 0.39	TU 1931 1.22
2 0152 1.48	10 0151 0.35	18 0245 1.37	26 0140 0.28
2 0735 0.25	MO 0916 1.30	MO 0840 0.50	MO 0922 1.25
SU 1431 1.59	MO 1356 0.80	TU 1500 1.45	WE 1416 0.76
2015 0.35	MO 2029 1.23	TU 2108 0.34	WE 2049 1.20
3 0248 1.54	11 0253 0.40	19 0322 1.40	27 0253 0.31
3 0829 0.30	MO 1015 1.28	MO 0914 0.44	MO 1032 1.28
MO 1513 1.61	TU 1508 0.82	WE 1532 1.45	TH 1537 0.72
2106 0.25	TU 2134 1.18	WE 2139 0.30	TH 2222 1.23
4 0344 1.56	12 0358 0.41	20 0359 1.40	28 0412 0.32
4 0917 0.37	MO 1114 1.28	MO 0947 0.48	MO 1134 1.34
TU 1553 1.61	WE 1628 0.79	TH 1804 1.43	FR 1654 0.60
2155 0.19	WE 2242 1.17	TH 2209 0.28	FR 2341 1.38
5 0439 1.56	13 0500 0.40	21 0438 1.39	29 0523 0.31
5 1002 0.44	TH 1208 1.31	FR 1021 0.53	SA 1229 1.42
WE 1632 1.58	TH 1741 0.72	FR 1637 1.40	SA 1600 0.46
2241 0.18	TH 2345 1.19	FR 2239 0.27	
6 0535 1.52	14 0557 0.38	22 0620 1.36	30 0046 1.44
1045 0.24	FR 1253 1.35	FR 1055 0.58	FR 0627 0.32
TH 2329 0.20	FR 1840 0.80	SA 1711 1.35	SU 1317 1.49
		SA 2313 0.25	SU 1900 0.31
7 0630 1.47	15 0639 1.23	23 0609 1.32	31 0145 1.55
7 1128 0.60	SA 1350 0.59	SU 1748 0.87	MO 0722 0.33
FR 1754 1.47	SA 1925 0.54	SU 2305 0.25	MO 1401 1.54
			MO 1953 0.20
8 0011 0.25	16 0725 1.28	24 0704 1.28	
8 0725 1.40	MO 0729 0.37	MO 1217 0.70	
SA 1211 0.67	SU 1401 1.42	MO 1833 1.27	
1839 1.39	MO 2001 0.46		

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PORT PHILLIP HEADS

TIDAL STREAM CHANGE

AUGUST 1992

	START OF			START OF	
	FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB
1 SA	1912	0246	18 TU	1150	0543
	2231	1632			1804
2 SU	1100	0744	19 WE	0015	0618
	2332	1725		1221	1636
3 MO	1151	0339	20 TH	0049	0653
	0925	1810		1256	1607
4 TU	0225	0831	21 FR	0124	0730
	1235	1834		1329	1938
5 WE	0117	0721	22 SA	0200	0808
	1317	1936		1404	2013
6 TH	0208	0810	23 SU	0241	0852
	1359	2020		1441	2051
7 FR	0258	0859	24 MO	0329	0941
	1441	2103		1525	2137
1 SA	0348	0948	25 TU	0426	1040
	1526	2169		1620	2236
9 SU	0440	1040	26 WE	0531	1149
	1614	2241		1753	2351
10 MO	0534	1136	27 TH	0643	1304
	1713	2541		1900	
11 TU	0634	1242	28 FR	0753	0117
	1821	2646		2018	1414
12 WE	0736	1351	29 SA	0856	0232
	1935	2727		2123	1515
13 TH	0834	1455	30 SU	0952	0337
	2043	2827		2227	1592
14 FR	0925	1547	31 MO	1042	0434
	2140	2930		2317	1657
15 SA	1008	1628			
	2226	3028			
16 SU	1045	1701			
	2304	3101			
17 MO	1118	1752			
	2340				

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

LAT 38° 18' S LON 3 144° 37' E TIME ZONE - 1000

TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

SEPTEMBER - 1992

Time m	Time in	Time m	Time m
1 0240 1.61	0210 0.45	0302 1.47	0229 0.41
0912 0.36	0933 1.19	0951 0.46	25 0959 1.24
TU 1444 1.57	WE 1432 0.74	TH 1502 1.40	FR 1519 0.58
2042 0.12	2109 1.10	2105 0.22	2222 1.25
0330 1.63	0321 0.48	0339 1.47	0354 0.45
2 0857 0.40	10 1031 1.16	18 0925 0.48	26 1100 1.30
WE 1523 1.56	TH 1601 0.71	FR 1536 1.38	SA 1637 0.46
2129 0.10	2222 1.11	2135 0.20	2336 1.38
0421 1.60	0433 0.48	0417 1.44	0511 0.45
3 0940 0.45	11 1125 1.21	19 1000 0.51	27 1156 1.37
TH 1602 1.53	FR 1717 0.63	SA 1610 1.35	SU 1742 0.32
2213 0.12	2330 1.16	2208 0.20	
0510 1.53	0535 0.47	0459 1.40	0639 1.52
4 1021 0.50	12 1034 0.55	20 1034 0.55	28 0614 0.45
FR 1642 1.47	SA 1812 0.53	SU 1646 1.31	MO 1245 1.44
2256 0.17	2244 0.20	1837 0.19	
0600 1.45	0625 1.23	0544 1.34	0634 1.82
5 1101 0.55	13 0626 0.45	21 1112 0.59	29 0706 0.44
SA 1723 1.40	SU 1248 1.30	MO 1726 1.27	TU 1330 1.49
2336 0.24	1853 0.44	2326 0.22	1928 0.10
0651 1.26	0711 1.32	0635 1.23	0725 1.68
6 1143 0.51	14 0707 0.44	22 1155 0.53	30 0752 0.44
SU 1806 1.31	MO 1829 0.35	TU 1815 1.23	WE 1414 1.51
0022 0.32	0149 1.39	0449 0.27	
7 0222 0.32	15 0149 1.39	23 0228 0.32	31 0228 0.32
MO 0228 0.67	TU 1365 1.30	WE 1816 0.15	
1856 1.23	TU 2001 0.29	1919 1.19	
0111 0.39	0229 1.44	0114 0.34	
8 0837 0.22	16 0229 1.44	24 0114 0.34	
TH 1921 0.72	WE 1429 1.40	TH 2048 1.18	
1957 1.15	WE 2033 0.24		

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PORT PHILLIP HEADS

TIDAL STREAM CHANGE

SEPTEMBER 1992

	START OF			START OF	
	FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB
1	TU	1128	18	FR	0922
		0526			1231
2	WE	0006	19	SA	0709
		1210			1305
		1826			1909
3	TH	0355	20	SU	0134
		0701			0747
		1051			1340
		1662			1845
4	FR	0162	21	MO	0214
		0382			0914
		0641			1419
		0831			2028
5	SA	1442	22	TU	0301
		2031			0905
		0917			1515
		1455			2115
6	SU	0400	23	WE	0357
		1008			0912
		1542			1512
		2204			2122
7	MO	0454	24	TH	0614
		1059			1239
		1639			1851
8	TU	0552	25	FR	0614
		1203			1239
		1751			1851
9	WE	0656	26	SA	0727
		1912			1349
		0128			1449
10	TH	0759	27	SU	0834
		2024			1449
		0223			2111
11	FR	0853	28	MO	0900
		2119			1541
		0328			2206
12	SA	0937	29	TU	1018
		2202			1629
		1551			2257
13	SU	1015	30	WE	1103
		2239			1715
		1628			2344
14	MO	1049			
		2314			
15	TU	1122			
		2348			
16	WE	1157			
		0357			
17	TH	1157			
		0357			
		1084			

PORT PHILLIP HEADS
TIDAL STREAM CHANGE
OCTOBER 1992

PORT PHILLIP HEADS
LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE - 1000
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS
OCTOBER - 1992

Time m		Time m		Time m		Time m	
1	TH	2	FR	3	SA	4	SU
0313	1:57	0930	0:57	1703	0:21	0321	1:53
0835	0:45	0930	0:57	1703	0:21	0321	1:53
1454	1:50	FR	15:20	0:43	SA	21:07	0:15
2100	0:07	2200	1:10	2308	1:44		
0358	1:52	1005	0:51	1804	0:50	0452	0:52
0840	1:16	1028	1:15	0940	0:51	1120	1:33
1534	0:46	SA	15:49	1:32	SU	17:19	0:23
2144	0:12	SU	23:10	1:17		21:43	0:16
0442	1:54	1105	0:50	1904	1:45	0440	1:45
0958	0:49	1117	1:19	1016	0:52	1207	1:57
1512	0:16	SU	17:32	0:46	MO	16:29	1:29
2223	0:18	2222	0:19	1813	0:14		
0526	1:45	1200	0:57	2005	1:39	0119	1:55
1037	0:52	MO	12:00	1:53	TU	18:13	0:39
1645	0:53	TU	18:15	0:26	WE	19:01	1:43
2305	0:26	WE	19:15	0:37	TH	23:05	0:25
0611	1:35	1304	0:49	2107	1:33	0207	1:59
1118	0:56	1314	1:28	2107	1:33	0207	1:59
1737	1:24	TU	12:41	1:28	WE	16:09	1:22
2346	0:35	2346	0:35	1850	0:29	2305	0:34
0658	1:27	1402	0:18	2207	1:28	0252	1:57
1201	0:51	1402	0:18	2207	1:28	0252	1:57
1825	1:16	WE	13:19	1:32	TH	19:20	1:19
			19:25	0:23		20:34	0:10
0030	0:40	1505	0:25	2305	1:45	0335	1:52
0747	1:23	1505	0:25	2305	1:45	0335	1:52
1251	0:54	TH	13:58	1:34	FR	13:43	0:51
1926	1:10	2000	1:18	2057	1:22	2117	0:15
0122	0:51	1602	0:29	2405	1:53	0208	0:56
0840	1:16	1602	0:29	2405	1:53	0208	0:56
1355	0:55	FR	14:35	1:35	SA	15:04	0:44
2044	1:07	2044	1:07	2033	1:16	2219	1:32

ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL SUMMER TIME

ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL SUMMER TIME

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START OF FLOOD		START OF EBB		FLOOD		EBB	
1	TH	2	FR	3	SA	4	SU
11:45		05:54		00:34		00:34	
00:29		06:38		01:12		01:12	
10:28		16:39		10:23		10:23	
01:13		07:20		01:53		01:53	
01:56		16:20		14:05		14:05	
10:46		06:02		02:39		02:39	
02:38		20:00		14:55		14:55	
14:28		09:44		03:31		03:31	
03:22		20:42		04:34		04:34	
10:13		09:30		17:20		17:20	
04:09		10:19		05:44		05:44	
16:09		22:28		06:59		06:59	
05:01		11:18		18:52		18:52	
17:20		23:37		13:20		13:20	
06:02		12:27		08:06		08:06	
16:40		00:54		20:53		20:53	
07:10		13:33		21:46		21:46	
19:54		02:08		09:54		09:54	
08:11		20:48		22:25		22:25	
09:00		03:03		10:30		10:30	
21:32		15:08		16:48		16:48	
09:41		03:45		11:20		11:20	
22:09		15:46		05:34		05:34	
10:18		04:23		06:17		06:17	
22:45		16:22		09:05		09:05	
10:56		04:59		09:05		09:05	
23:22		16:59		19:25		19:25	
11:32		05:36					
23:57		17:34					
19:09		08:13					
		18:10					

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT/LOCATION</u>	<u>DIVE CAPTAIN</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>
16 Aug	Heads Area/Scallops or even Portsea Hole	J. Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento 9.30 a.m.
20 Aug	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club (Meet beforehand for dinner at The Homebush Hotel, 415 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne).		8.00 p.m.
30 Aug	Heads Area	M. Jeacle 059 71 2786	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
4 Sep	Theatre Night "Mrs. X" Carringbush Theatre, 415 Church Street, Richmond. (See separate notice).	M. Wilcox 803 9262	7.45 p.m.
13 Sep	Limestone Caves	B. Scott 763 6872	Sorrento 9.30 a.m.
17 Sep	Annual General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club (Meet beforehand for dinner at The Homebush Hotel, 415 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne). Supper will be served after the meeting.		8.00 p.m.
27 Sep	George Kermode Phillip Island	D. Catherall 890 6493	Flinders 10.00 a.m.
11 Oct	Submarine Dive	A. Talay 867 8492	Sorrento 10.00 a.m.
15 Oct	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club (Meet beforehand for dinner at The Homebush Hotel, 415 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne).		8.00 p.m.