

# FATHOMS

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Safety in Diving

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# VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

APR-MAY 95

# VSAG

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



## Cover photo:

**This colourful photo of Sant Khan was taken by Des Williams on VSAG's 1994 trip to the Solomons & Vanuatu**

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:

Bells Hotel  
157 Moray Street (cnr. Coventry Street)  
South Melbourne - 8pm sharp!  
Thursday 20th April 1995  
Thursday 18th May 1995 ✓

### Next Committee Meetings:

Wednesday 26th April - Don Abell's home  
Tuesday 23rd May - Leo Maybus's home

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### S.D.F. DELEGATES:

Des Williams  
John Lawler

## EDITORIAL



I guess the most exciting news for this issue is the fact that V.S.A.G. now has a "home" for monthly General meetings! We battled on for several years at the North Melbourne Footy Club and have most recently been meeting at the Castle Hotel, which has been less than satisfactory.

Now, the Committee has taken the opportunity of booking our own private room at Bells Hotel in South Melbourne. The facility, I am told, has an excellent meeting room with video equipment and is most suitable for private uninterrupted gatherings. We are celebrating our inaugural meeting at this new venue with a video nostalgia night

on 20th April, so try and be there. Excellent meals are available before the meeting, so come and enjoy an evening with your diving friends. (SEE SEPARATE ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS ISSUE).

Unfortunately, I will have to miss the very first meeting at our venue as I will be away on holidays in Central Australia. I would like to take this opportunity however, to remind all members that it is only a matter of courtesy to keep the noise level down whilst our President conducts meetings. The last meeting in March was a debacle, in my view, with John Lawler constantly being interrupted. Having served a term as President, I know how bloody annoying it is to have the audience attention constantly diverted away from the meeting. So, how about a fair go? Surely there are enough ex- Presidents in the membership to understand my point and assist by reminding others of this simple courtesy.

On a lighter note, this month we welcome John Mills as a member to the good old V.S.A.G. and look forward to him joining us in the water. New members to our great Club are something we should spend more time encouraging, so let's all have a good ponder on the best way to go about this.

## ***EDITORIAL cont.***

I do, however, have a suggestion as to how every member can easily participate in membership expansion and that is to make a special effort to welcome visitors when they turn up to meetings. No need to be standoffish, introduce yourself and make them feel welcome and see that they receive our club profile sheet, available from Sant Khan.

Discussion at the last General and Committee meetings has resulted in the decision to begin making bookings for our Christmas 1995 trip, which this year will be at Robe in South Australia. Robe has been selected for many reasons as there is plenty to do, it is new to the Club and after all isn't the weather at that time of the year always a punt, no matter where we go? More on the Robe plans at the next meeting in April.

I would very much like to retire as Editor of FATHOMS at the next Annual General Meeting in September. So, if there is a member who would like to take on this position I would be very pleased to hear of their interest. This would give me the opportunity to work with the new Editor-elect and explain the short cuts of the position. My commitments both at home and work along with S.D.F.V. and Historic Shipwrecks Advisory Committee these days leave me precious little time for leisure and diving. So, reluctantly I must shed a little load. A new Editor would be able to produce a new style and this would be very good for V.S.A.G. Thanks must go to John Goulding, Chris Llewellyn and John Lawler for their contributions to this issue of FATHOMS.

Editor  
Des Williams

# V.S.A.G.'S NEW MEETING VENUE

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT AS FROM THE APRIL 20TH 1995 GENERAL MEETING, V.S.A.G. WILL HOLD ALL MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS AT:

## BELLS HOTEL

157 MORAY STREET  
SOUTH MELBOURNE  
(Cnr. Coventry St)  
TEL: 690 4511

This venue has been booked by the Committee for the future and has fantastic facilities. No problems getting a good meal here. So, come early and enjoy a meal with fellow members before our 8pm start to the meeting and check out the new "home" of V.S.A.G.!

### APRIL 20TH IS NOSTALGIA NIGHT

To celebrate our new home, Chris Llewellyn will be screening some old video footage of famous V.S.A.G. outings at our first meeting at Bells Hotel, where I am told we have our own private room with video facilities! All V.S.A.G. members should attend to help launch the Club into a new era and don't forget to bring family and friends.

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

JOHN LAWLER

From time to time some interesting facts come along and recently I read a book which contained some surprises which make for interesting reading:

Did you know that tens of thousands of sea birds and marine mammals are killed each year by discarded plastic? Nylon six-pack holders net fish and strangle penguins and can last 400 years in the environment!

Did you that several tagged king prawns released at Lakes Entrance (Victoria) have been recaptured as far north as Harvey Bay in Queensland?

Did you know that most tuna swim constantly to stay alive since that is the way they can force water over their gills! Fish might sleep, they certainly go into a trance-like state of inactivity, but with their eyes always open!

Did you know that recreational saltwater fishing in Japan was illegal until 1972, or that the fastest fish clocked to date is the sailfish with a recorded speed of over 70 KPH.

Did you know that the largest fish in the ocean is the whale shark, which grows to a size of 10 metres and a weight of 4,000 kgs! Fortunately it is harmless and will only eat plankton.

The amount of Orange Roughy caught before 1989 was less than 400 tonnes per annum. This rocketted to 36,000 tonnes in the same year! Did you know that the "sail" of the sailfish is not used for sailing, it is used underwater as a cape to scare baitfish into high balls to make feeding on them easier. Such is the genius of nature.





## Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria Inc.

### 1. Posture for injured divers

Reprinted in part from an article in SPUMS journal, Sept 1994 - "Management of Diving Accidents" by Dr Des Gorman.

The ideal posture for an injured diver is controversial, although some consensus is possible. Van Allen et al. showed that arterial bubbles did not embolise the brain of head-down dogs. These results have been confirmed in both cats and rabbits. Consequently, it was recommended that divers with arterial gas embolism be placed in a (30°) head-down posture.

This advice is challenged by the following: it is often difficult to distinguish cerebral arterial gas embolism from cerebral decompression sickness; significant arterial gas embolism probably occurs in decompression sickness by arterialisation of venous bubbles, and a head-down posture will enhance this by increasing venous return, in small vessels bubbles travel with blood flow; a prolonged head-down posture increases cephalic venous volumes and makes subsequent middle-ear inflation (e.g. during therapeutic compression) difficult, a head down posture limits resuscitation; and, in air embolised dogs recovery of brain function was slower in those nursed head-down (45°) than in those nursed horizontally. These observations must be balanced against the lethal deterioration seen in some divers suspected of arterial gas embolism when they have been sat up; although most will tolerate this procedure.

Consequently, while there may be benefit in a slight head-down posture for those with arterial bubbles, the balance of opinion and data favour a horizontal posture for injured divers. If the diver is unconscious, vomiting, or if airway patency is suspect the diver should be nursed on the side. There are no convincing data favouring either side. Divers who are or have experienced neurological symptoms (the natural history of air embolism of the brain is for spontaneous recovery and then relapse) must not be allowed to sit up until inside a recompression chamber. The only exception is in a diver with isolated inner ear barotrauma where sitting up will reduce perilymph losses. If in doubt, the horizontal posture should be adopted.

### 2. SPUMS policy on Buddy Breathing

The South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS) Policy on buddy breathing is:

Buddy breathing as a form of emergency ascent appears to cause an unacceptable level of risk to participants in either training or an actual emergency. Consequently, the Society advises divers to discontinue buddy breathing and instead practice less risky out-of-air procedures such as the use of alternative air sources. The Society believes that buddy breathing should neither be taught nor practised.

Des Gorman and Drew Richardson, Co-Chairmen,  
Workshop on Emergency Ascent Training 1993,  
Published SPUMS Sept 1994.

## ***COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOTE!***

April Committee meeting will now be held on Wednesday 26th April at Don Abell's home.

We have had to move the meeting from the traditional Tuesday to a Wednesday because the Tuesday is Anzac Day Holiday.

## ***NEW V.S.A.G. MEMBER***

V.S.A.G. welcomes new member John Mills to the Club officially from April 1995.

All members extend to you John, a very warm welcome to V.S.A.G. and we hope to see you out diving with us on a regular basis.

## ***LETTER TO THE EDITOR RE TIDE TABLES***

JOHN GOULDING

Dear Des,

I refer to John Lawler's article "Christmas Diving" in the Feb/March issue of FATHOMS.

In that article, John reported that the tide tables for the 27th December indicated slack water at the heads at 10.19am and subsequently questioned the accuracy of these tables when he observed a dive boat on the Portsea Hole at 9.30am. As a past master of interpreting tide tables, my curiosity was aroused and so I have checked the tables and report accordingly:

Not slack water! The 10.30am in fact indicates the END of slack water at the Heads and the commencement of the outgoing ebb tidal flow. Slack water at the Heads would have commenced 30-40 minutes before hand, i.e. 9.40am to 9.50am depending on the wind and the actual height of the flood tide.

As the tide tables used by John are for Port Phillip Heads, an adjustment needs to be made for other locations in the Bay. In 1994, high and low water at Portsea pier was 1hr and 20 mins later than at the Heads. However, in some previous years, the time difference for Portsea Pier has been as short as 29 mins later than the Heads. One should consult the published book of tide tables to determine the correct time lapse for the particular year or date. The 1995 tables indicate a 1hr 20 mins time difference for the Portsea Pier).

Given this time difference, slack water at the Portsea Hole on 27th December should have commenced at about 11am. There are two possible explanations as to why there are divers at the Portsea Hole at 9.30am.

(a) They had not allowed for the time difference between the Heads and the Hole, believing that slack water at the Hole would start at the same time as the heads; i.e 9.40 - 9.50am.

(b) They had commenced their dive during the late stages of the incoming flood tide when the current is slowing down, so that diver retrieval would occur when the current had slowed even more.

Because of the actual position and "lie" of the Hole drop-off wall, very little current flow is experienced down the wall as the flood tide diminishes.

As a final comment, I always used the "spit test" to judge the current. When the boat was on site and anchored, I would spit into the water at the bow and if it took 10 or more seconds to float to the stern, the current was OK to dive!

However, spit containing carrot or other stomach matter from the night before, could effect the spittle flow and diving should be postponed!

For further information on this matter, refer to "Flotsam & Jetsam" article in FATHOMS of July 1977 written by Argus Tuft.

Yours Sincerely  
John Goulding

P.S. The Golding "spit test" is calculated for a 16ft boat.

P.P.S. Further research on this matter reveals a very easy way to work out slack water at the Heads:

Slack water flood occurs about 3 hours after high water at the Heads.

Slack water ebb occurs about 3 hours after low water at the Heads.

Slack water flood is the best time to dive because it is after the flood tide brings fresh ocean water into the Bay.

Well, I am now totally confused, so I think I will stick to roller blading. Now do I need a head wind or tail wind.

J.G.

## ***THE GREAT SEAFOOD B.B.Q.***

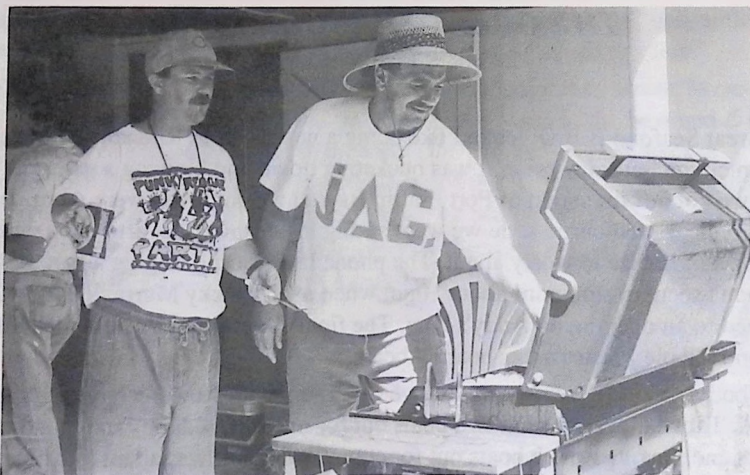
CHRIS LLEWELLYN

The Great Seafood B.B.Q. looked like being a non event as Rhonda and I left Eltham on the Saturday prior, it was bucketing down and blowing a gale, and when we got our first sight of Port Phillip Bay all we could see were white caps. But in typical Melbourne style we were sitting in sunshine that afternoon with only a bit of breeze to worry about. The phone had starting ringing about midday and didn't seem to stop until about 10pm when a very lucky Murray Black was assigned to an opening on Andy's boat. The final count was 22 divers including Gail and Nicole Mastrowicz aboard 5 boats.

Everybody was in fine spirits at the Rye Boatramp with New Years greetings all around. The plan was to send two boats out for mussels, scallops and muddy oysters and the other three boats out for crays/abalone. It was about this time there was mutiny amongst the Vluegal crew who wanted a cray bash instead of a



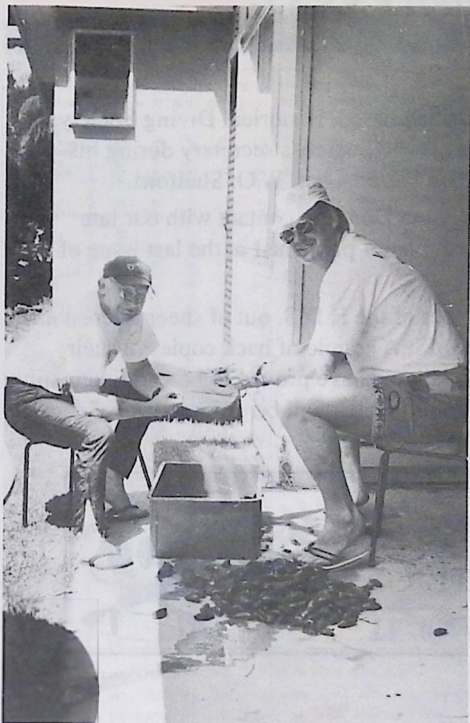
*Gloria Hayes and Marie & Barry Truscott receive the full waiter service from Pat Reynolds.*



*Chris Llewellyn & Doug Catherall ark up the barbie*



*Rhonda's kitchen was soon buzzing. Here Rhonda receives plenty of help from Annie, June & Jessica.*



*Bob Scott and Mick Jeacle comparing mussels!*

included a large tub of scallops and muddy oysters, more mussels than “Arnie Schwarzenackers” could brag about, abalone and a very unlucky cray. The girls had prepared a selection of appetizers and salads that were quickly dispatched as an enthusiastic and thirsty assembly line prepared and cooked the catch.

It was a great family Day with good food enjoyed amongst good company and a day that could easily become a popular annual event.

*Editors Note: Many thanks to Chris & Rhonda for making their holiday home available for the day. And special thanks must go to Priya Cardinaletti for the attached photographs.*

scallop hunt, but an even more startling scene was unfolding as Tony Tipping who had been assigned to a scallop boat and spat the dummy and was packing up his car in disgust. Apparently Tony's annual Christmas Dive was a blow out and the thought of sifting through mud for scallops had become too much for the poor old campaigner. Anyway being a compassionate Club we swapped him over for a berth out to the heads.

Mick and I had an interesting time jousting with a couple of large crays but at the end of the day the wash up from all the cray bashers was a solitary (Jeacle) cray. But the V.S.A.G. boys are a hardy bunch or should that read hungry bunch! After a quick going over by some fisheries officers at the ramp, we proceeded back to the beachhouse with a bounty of seafood that

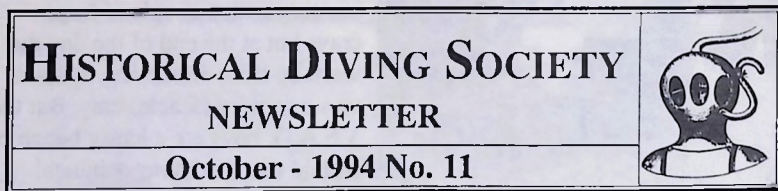
## **HIGH PROFILE V.S.A.G.**

DES WILLIAMS

Recently, I became a member of the British based, Historical Diving Society, after Don Abell had received a letter from the Society's secretary during his correspondence to track down V.S.A.G.'s Patron Capt. W.O. Shelford.

H.D.s Secretary, Nick Baker, eventually put Don into contact with our late patron's wife from whom we received the letter published in the last issue of FATHOMS.

So I wrote to Nick and became a member of the H.D.S. out of sheer interest and desperation for more ideas for FATHOMS. A couple of back copies of their newsletter very quickly arrived by airmail and have proved to be very interesting reading. Set out below, is a copy of an item which will be of interest to V.S.A.Gers:



### **VICTORIAN VALUES**

An enquiry received via Siebe Gorman from the Victorian Sub Aqua Group, Melbourne, Australia, has revealed an interesting fact regarding Captain 'Bill' Shelford.

Don Abell, President of the club, is seeking information on Shelford, who was in Australia in 1954, the year the club was founded. He was Patron of the club from 1956.

The Society has forwarded information on Shelford, who worked in the Admiralty Experimental Diving Unit during the war,

and later for Siebe Gorman, but any specific info. about his Australian tour would be welcomed. Please contact the Secretary, address on page 2.

*Thanks to Don, V.S.A.G.'s name keeps up its high profile overseas!*



# CRAYFISH STATISTICS

## ANNUAL FISH CATCH LANDED COMMERCIALY IN VICTORIA

Finaerial Year	Production (live weight, tonnes)					Value (\$ thousand)				
	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94
<b>Scale-fish:</b>										
Archery, skin	68	49	80	174	658	75	66	94	291	813
Aut salmon	117	225	193	334	139	141	292	529	350	168
Barracouta	27	31	51	18	15	27	36	41	16	14
Bream, black	235	184	140	200	180	1,126	665	722	97	976
Carp	431	625	454	469	411	323	420	285	271	234
- long-finned	21	10	15	22	21	6.2	3.2	6.1	105	103
- short-finned	327	246	235	324	339	721	1,097	860	1,296	655
Flounder										
- dusky	12	10	12	13	5	18	15	19	25	8
- rock	47	53	65	79	112	95	110	143	177	291
- sand	30	34	44	41	33	50	53	74	49	48
- tiger**	100	103	88	147	111	156	136	145	266	238
- unspined	10	11	9	10	6	13	16	12	18	9
Garfish	154	186	168	118	110	574	616	565	435	485
Gemfish**	73	6	15	10		241	17	55	37	2
Leatherjackets	91	35	12	16	11	15	17	19	26	17
Long banded**	40	40	55	245	79	137	131	180	690	285
Luderick	71	60	65	67	68	62	51	54	65	81
Mullet										
- red	4	3	5	11	9	13	9	16	42	37
- sea	27	25	29	35	39	38	41	58	68	84
- yellow eye	215	217	169	172	154	237	173	160	185	153
Pike										
- long finned	11	17	20	19	15	9	14	15	15	12
- short finned	2	1	1	2	1	5	5	5	9	4
- unspined	14	9	8	8	8	11	7	8	29	28
Richard	1,555	2,319	2,441	3,330	2,709	1,720	2,069	2,690	4,148	2,727
Ruff	62	22	3	10	6	51	34	6	12	12
Snapper	155	160	113	88	80	908	904	683	608	588
Trevally										
- blue-eye**	31	101	83	130	137	331	394	341	583	709
- Trival	285	260	156	87	81	353	310	196	119	112
Warehouse										
- spotted**	1,126	1,374	1,043	783	305	1,952	2,076	1,715	1,694	822
- unspined**	4	6	3	108	38	6	8	29	196	107
Whiting										
- King George school	234	159	181	153	124	1,769	1,234	1,327	1,275	1,178
- Other	89	107	93	230	228	113	127	114	310	297
- Other	971	1,066	961	993	706	2,894	2,882	1,920	1,740	2,838
- Sub-total	6,619	7,735	7,236	8,347	6,943	14,244	14,352	13,144	16,282	14,143
<b>Cephalopods:</b>										
- Calappa	123	73	56	50	37	649	397	316	117	230
- Cuttlefish	3	4	3	9	6	6	7	5	17	9
- Octopus	32	25	26	53	34	84	49	68	88	57
- Squid, arrow	127	131	358	417	340	156	149	504	504	551
- Sub-total	264	234	443	529	416	895	603	892	927	849
<b>Shellfish:</b>										
- Abalone*	1,285	1,381	1,355	1,435	23,074	23,655	22,819	30,983	*	
- Mussel	147	102	181	116	35	375	258	432	266	103
- blue (wid) Scallop	273	1,677	4,167	12,546	8,756	240	1,075	7,694	23,161	15,995
- commercial**	64	19	22	21	40	50	14	17	21	42
- Sea urchins	20	10	12	20	16	23	9	10	20	10
- Other										
- Sub-total	1,789	3,091	5,737	14,138	8,847	23,762	27,010	30,972	54,453	16,150
<b>Crustaceans:</b>										
- Prawn	32	17	19	8	8	276	174	188	38	51
- Rock lobster, Sln	397	365	460	439	495	7,130	7,312	9,285	9,805	14,506
- Crab, giant	5	18	55	204	113	20	76	230	999	1,129
- Yabby	31	15	16	10	7	389	277	137	42	30
- Other	7	27	61	48	114	40	91	271	136	799
- Sub-total	472	442	611	705	737	7,954	7,752	10,101	11,130	16,515
<b>Total</b>	9,164	11,502	14,027	23,719	16,943	46,855	49,617	55,109	82,792	47,647

Calendar Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
<b>Sharks:</b>										
- Shark, gummy	995	855	859	1,058	1,140	4,517	4,172	4,441	5,766	6,304
- Shark, school	523	378	432	459	466	2,385	1,857	2,186	2,456	1,572
- Shark, saw	184	154	152	861	194	508	437	485	536	338
- Elephant fish	28	24	36	34	21	30	42	65	54	37
- Other	57	122	33	45	7	#	#	#	#	#
<b>Total</b>	1,786	1,534	1,511	1,757	1,818	7,488	6,506	7,377	8,817	5,831

The Catch and Effort Unit at VF's Victorian Fisheries Research Institute has completed provisional data on landed catches as at 19 October 1994.

These data are based on mandatory returns submitted by commercial fishermen.

Value is estimated from Melbourne Fish Market auction records, except for abalone, scallops, eels, rock lobster and giant crab which are based on fish processor information. Values are therefore estimated wholesale and do not in most cases take into account any further value-adding in processing, retailing, catering and consumption.

The data do not include landings from the demersal trawl component in Commonwealth waters of the South East Fishery. These catches reported to the Commonwealth are mostly not included, however some inshore South East Trawl catches are reported to Victoria.

Shark is reported as carcase weight (beheaded and gutted with fins on). Shark data are from the Southern Shark Fishery Monitoring Database.

\* figures for abalone are by Quota Year (April-March)

\*\* indicates selected trawl species

# incomplete value for 'other' shark for this period

## live weight of scallops is estimated by multiplying the meal weight by 6.5

Recently, some members asked if anyone had access to the figures relating to crayfish caught commercially in Victoria annually. Set out below is a table reprinted from RECFISH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 1994 supplied by Priya Cardinaletti. I am sure you will find it interesting reading.

## *VALE JACK LONEY*

In February 1995 our good friend Jack Loney passed away after a battle with cancer.

I know all V.S.A.Gers will be sorry to hear the news and hopefully you will reflect back on several times we had the great pleasure to have Jack all to ourselves on those wintry afternoons for tales of the famous shipwrecks.

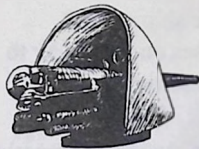
Jack never knocked back an invitation to address our Club, even when I had to make a booking up to 10 months in advance. He always fitted us in somehow. In the average year, Jack gave about 200 lectures to Clubs, Society's, Schools and interested groups for no charge. He was a natural speaker who rarely referred to notes. If you liked a good sea story or yarn no one delivered one better than Jack, he was the ultimate raconteur!

I must say also that V.S.A.G. never let him down when he addressed our Club as I recall some of the largest gatherings of members and friends at Queenscliff to hear Jack just a couple of years ago.

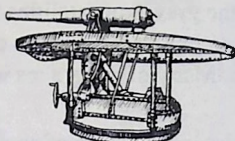
Jack Loney has left his mark on maritime history in this country and over 100 books on the subject for future reference. Our sincerest condolences go to Padge and the family.

## V.S.A.G BIKE & HIKE FAMILY DAY 1994

DES WILLIAMS



Six-inch Mark VII gun  
with steel shield  
1910-1942



Disappearing Gun  
1888-1910



Six-inch Mark VII gun  
with concrete hood  
1942-1946

We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves on this one. Our team of two-wheeled maniacs consisted of: Des, Julie & Hannah Williams, Ross, Chris & Tamara Luxford, Murray Black, Doug & Maxine Catherall, Nick, Annie, Samantha & Jessica Jeacle, Graeme, Jenny, Emma & Mathew Blanchard and John & Yvonne Lawler.

After viewing a Point Nepean video presentation at the orientation centre at about 10.20am on Saturday 24th March, our group gathered up their backpacks and donned helmets and bicycle clips to set off for Fort Nepean. But just then a desperately late Doug and Maxine arrived, so we set off to wait for them at the tiny Nepean Cemetery a little way down the track.

It wasn't long before we were going helter-skelter along the little bitumen road to Point Nepean under a sunny sky. Our first stop was at Gun Junction where we paused to look at the huge 32 tonne Disappearing Gun from the Fort, it was huge. This patch of land is very special to all Victorians as it is a piece of virtually unspoiled land much the way it was 100 years ago. Travelling through this pretty landscape there is much to see such as the cloud of dust raised by Annie Jeacle when her machine failed to negotiate a small gateway. Fortunately, the Scots are a tough lot and Annie was soon back on her mount.

There were plenty of hills and the old Banjo Patterson poem *Mulga Bill's Bicycle* was firmly in my mind as I watched Mick Jeacle zoom down a steep grade with

brake blocks blazing. Mick sure gave his machine a good workout as he and Murray Black seemed to be intent on setting a new land speed record on the 7km trip to the point.

At the Cemetery we inspected the graves of fatalities from the shipwreck CHEVIOT and those who succumbed to the ravages of diseases on their way to colony of Victoria in the 1850's. Many of the graves were of the very young children.

As the weather looked like producing a couple of showers, we cycled on directly to Fort Nepean where we left our bikes to tour the fortifications on foot. The scenery along the way was fantastic, with the bay on our right and Bass Strait on the left. The usual shipping traffic added interest as we watched the tiny pilot boat chasing the large ships into Bass Strait.



*Ross Luxford takes in the magnificent view of the "rip"*



*Lunchtime underground in the bomb-proof room as we listened to the audio interpretation tapes.*

We had just found the battery Observation post when the weather closed in. So, like rabbits, we went underground to the Bomb-proof Room deep in the hill where we unpacked our picnics while the storm blew over. The maze of tunnels is astounding and a lot of fun to explore, the kids were in their element. The fort is very well sign posted with many information and interpretation boards and audio tapes to enjoy.

After our lunch, we emerged from underground to walk around the very point of the Peninsula, taking in all of the familiar landmarks around the Bay. The view across the Rip from this side is very special, simply because it is an angle we very rarely see.

Back to our bicycles, we cycled towards home taking in the maze of tunnel work at Fort Pearce. Recently dug out of the sand after thousands of volunteer hours of shovel work. This attraction had been officially opened by Mark Birrell only the day before our visit. On up the little road, we cycled a bit slower now, to take in the wonderful view at Eagles Nest observation post, the sun was now shining.



*At Cheviot Hill lookout - the whole group save for tree Blanchards*

Next stop was at Cheviot Hill Discovery Walk which is quite steep and there were a few groans as we climbed to the top of the hill. This is surely the most spectacular scenic view on the Peninsula! It encompasses a 360 degree panorama from Cape Schank and Coast to Point Nepean across to Lorne, back past Lonsdale, Queenscliff, the entire Bay and the hinterland to Arthur's seat. On down the slope to our bikes once again and we pedalled back over hill and dale to our last stop at Observatory Point. Once again, we left the bikes in the care of a couple of our now tired offspring to take a pleasant walk to the beach at the old castle jetty. A couple of charter boats were dropping patrons amongst pods of dolphin which were passing by only a hundred metres off the beach.

The last leg of the journey was now ahead of us and calf muscles, knee caps and bum cracks were in our thoughts as we returned to the car park at about 3pm.

My thanks to all who attended and I am sure everyone enjoyed this very little seen strip of land, V.S.A.Gers are a great bunch and we always have a good time together, no matter what we do.



*Mick's grin bravely hides his pain in the butt. Only 11/2 kms from home!*

Highlights of the trip were:

The sight of the "carrot" making the last few kms tenderly resting first one cheek then the other on the saddle.

Annie still plugging along over the hills going home without dismounting to walk, a birthday she will remember for some time I am sure.

Jenny Blanchard yelling "piss off, out of the way" to those slow coaches in front of her as she barrelled up a hill at high speed.

Murray Black snoring off in an armchair back at our beach house after a "reviving" coffee!

Chris Luxford like the Chinese snorkeller (Ah Sup) as she tackled those hills with her head down and Ah Sup!

Most of the group finished of the day with a coffee and a chat at the Williams Beach house at Tootgarook. I have a feeling that we will be taking more bicycle trips in future.

*P.S. The accompanying photographs were personally delivered to my home by Ross Luxford, so they could make this issue of Fathoms - Thanks Ross!*

## MEDIA WATCH

### WHAT IN THE *world*

FOR the third time in three months a Fiji fisherman has choked to death on a live fish.

All three tried to kill their catch by biting its head, but suffocated when struggling fish slipped down their throats, police said.

In at least two of the deaths, spines on the fish prevented friends pulling the creatures free.

Exasperated Fiji police yesterday renewed a warning to fishermen following a death on Tuesday.

Assistant Supt Uma Kant said the fishermen should try putting the fish in their mouth sideways.

Fishermen wading on reefs kill fish with their teeth to stop them squirming and make them easier to carry. Others may hold fish in their mouths while untangling lines.

"It's not a tradition — it's just carelessness," a Department of Fisheries spokeswoman said.

— AAP

## Drake may sail again

### BRITAIN

LONDON: A plan to retrieve the body of British buccaneer Sir Francis Drake from his watery grave in the Caribbean and bring it home for a ceremonial burial has run into trouble with the British Navy.

A British-led team of historians and salvage experts has raised £80,000 (HK\$968,500) to bring Drake to the surface after pin-pointing where they believe the body of the 16th-century explorer lies off the Panamanian coast.

But the Royal Navy is not in favour of the scheme.

A naval spokesman said yesterday: "It's the same thing as grave-snatching. He had an honourable burial at sea and we wish his remains to be undisturbed.

"I would be very hacked off if any-

one came along and nabbed my body if I'd been buried at sea."

But it is the Panamanian authorities who will make the final decision about Drake's body.

British historians backing the scheme believe Drake, who died of yellow fever at 54, was placed in a watertight lead coffin. They believe it can be found in a 2.6 square kilometre area off the Panamanian port of Portobelo.

Supporters of the scheme envisage Drake's coffin being laid to rest either in Westminster Abbey or in the naval college at Greenwich where other famous explorers are buried.

Reuter



Herald Sun, Thursday, March 23, 1995

# Officers seize 1400 abalone in roadblock



Caught: a woman with abalone strapped in her clothes. Picture: PETER WARD.

By PHIL SKEGGS,  
environment reporter

FISHERIES and Wildlife officers have called for a review of daily bag limits for unlawful abalone fishermen poaching on the Mornington Peninsula yesterday.

The poachers were apprehended at a roadblock at Cape Sable Point, Port Phillip National Park during an operation involving Rosedale police and fisheries officers from Mornington and Cowan.

Senior fisheries officer Jo Austin said the operation led to the seizure of 1400 abalone weighing almost 90kg.

He said five people, including a woman, could face court charges for exceeding the daily bag limit of 10 abalone and possessing underrated abalone.

Over 33 people were issued with on-the-spot fines for exceeding the daily bag limit.

The head of investigations for Fisheries and Wildlife, Murray Robinson, said amateur poaching, such as the daily bag limits for amateurs should be halved.

He said the highly-prized abalone is a delicacy between the South Australian border and Cape Cornouailles.

Investigations have revealed a well-organised and sophisticated organisation and association with a particular group and they have been subject to harassment operations which have led to the conviction of offenders, he said.

Mr Donaldson said poachers were believed to be selling illegal catches to pro-



Seized: officers go through poachers' bags.

cessors who were exporting to South-East Asia.

"One would expect some of these abalone would be introduced into the export chain through the use of illegally caught abalone," he said.

Fisheries officers say export quality abalone sells for \$100 a kilo, but the shell meat and \$23 a kg in the shell.

Poached abalone fetches between \$30 and \$35 a kg in the United States.

Under the Fisheries Amendment Act 1994, which took effect on December 6, fisheries officers or police can seize up to 10 kg of abalone in the possession of a person

who commits an offence under the Act.

This includes boats, trailers, aircraft, motor vehicles, communications equipment, diving and electronic gear.

Several cars have been seized in illegal abalone cases as pending before the courts.

A recreational fisherman is allowed to gather up to 10 kg of abalone, including two rare green-lipped mussels.

Size limits also apply depending on where abalone are found. On the Mornington Peninsula, they must be at least 11cm wide.

**DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT/LOCATION</b>	<b>DIVE CAPTAIN</b>	<b>MEET AT</b>
9 April	George Kermodie Wreck	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	9.30am Flinders
EASTER April			
14, 15, 16, 17,	WILSONS PROMONTORY Tidal River	Don Abell 889 4415	Tidal River
20 April	General Meeting at Bells Hotel, cnr. Moray & Coventry Sts, Sth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
30 April	Rotomahana Wreck	Andy Mastrowicz 318 3986	9.30am Sorrento
14 May	Broken Submarine Wreck	Bob Scott 763 6872	9.30am Sorrento
18 May	General Meeting at Bells Hotel, cnr. Moray & Coventry Sts, Sth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
28 may	Deep Submarine	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	9.30am Sorrento
10,11,12 June	Queenscliff Long Weekend at Beacon Caravan Park	Andy Mastrowicz 318 3986	Book early!
15 June	General Meeting at Bells Hotel, cnr. Moray & Coventry Sts, Sth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
25 June	Flinders Outer Nobbies	John Lawler 589 4020	10.00am Flinders
9 July	Heads Dive	Doug Catherall 888 7774	10.00am Sorrento

NOTE: BOAT OWNERS PLEASE RING DIVE CAPTAIN BY 6PM -  
DIVERS PLEASE RING BETWEEN 6.30 AND 7PM

## TIDE TABLES

## PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

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

TIMES OF FLOOD AND EBB TIDES

APRIL - 1995

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0311 ebb	17 0259 ebb	25 0339 flood	0029 1.35	0520 1.24	17 0033 1.35	0032 0.52			
1 0955 flood	17 1005 flood	25 1005 ebb	0623 0.34	1118 0.29	17 0619 0.21	0250 1.28			
SA 1607 ebb	SU 1445 flood	TU 1604 flood	SA 1311 1.43	SU 1804 1.31	MO 1325 1.54	TU 1253 0.45			
2201 flood	2111 ebb	2301 ebb	1851 0.47	2343 0.55	1857 0.51	2009 1.36			
2 0353 ebb	18 0346 ebb	26 0501 flood	0114 1.38	0600 1.19	18 0122 1.41	26 0136 0.53			
2 1035 flood	18 0822 ebb	26 1121 ebb	0709 0.27	1151 0.34	18 0710 0.12	0839 1.26			
SU 1657 ebb	MO 1529 flood	WE 1703 flood	SU 1359 1.49	MO 1847 1.26	TU 1416 1.62	WE 1354 0.56			
2238 flood	2148 ebb	2357 ebb	1934 0.45	1934 0.45	1945 0.48	2106 1.32			
3 0430 ebb	19 0315 flood	27 0628 flood	0152 1.40	0022 0.58	19 0208 1.45	27 0248 0.52			
3 1112 flood	19 0909 ebb	27 1245 ebb	0750 0.22	0548 1.14	19 0800 0.07	0950 1.27			
MO 1740 ebb	TU 1619 flood	TH 1805 flood	MO 1440 1.52	TU 1230 0.40	WE 1504 1.66	TH 1505 0.64			
2310 flood	2233 ebb	2321 flood	2013 0.45	1938 1.21	2031 0.46	2202 1.30			
4 0502 ebb	20 0523 ebb	28 0354 ebb	0227 1.40	0110 0.59	20 0252 1.47	28 0358 0.48			
4 1145 flood	20 1219 flood	28 0735 flood	0828 0.20	0747 1.11	20 0848 0.06	0848 0.06			
TU 1819 ebb	TH 1905 ebb	FR 1410 ebb	TU 1515 1.52	WE 1321 0.47	TH 1550 1.65	FR 1620 0.67			
2341 flood	2325 ebb	1915 flood	2047 0.44	2037 1.19	2116 0.45	2258 1.30			
5 0534 ebb	21 0603 flood	29 0147 ebb	0300 1.39	0210 0.58	21 0337 1.47	29 0459 0.42			
5 1217 flood	21 1614 ebb	29 0832 flood	0904 0.19	0902 1.12	21 0937 0.08	1158 1.40			
WE 1855 ebb	TH 1830 flood	SA 1526 ebb	WE 1546 1.50	TH 1427 0.54	FR 1637 1.61	SA 1729 0.66			
		2017 flood	2122 0.45	2142 1.19	2202 0.45	2349 1.32			
6 0011 flood	14 0021 ebb	30 0234 ebb	0332 1.37	0319 0.53	22 0423 1.44	30 0550 0.36			
6 0505 ebb	14 0725 flood	30 0918 flood	0939 0.17	1023 1.18	22 1025 0.14	1251 1.47			
TH 1252 flood	FR 1302 ebb	SU 1615 ebb	TH 1618 1.47	FR 1543 0.58	SA 1725 1.54	SU 1823 0.64			
1930 ebb	1935 flood	2108 flood	2157 0.46	2245 1.22	2249 0.47				
7 0042 flood	15 0117 ebb	23 0137 flood	0407 1.34	0427 0.44	23 0513 1.39				
7 0537 ebb	15 0827 flood	23 0600 ebb	1013 0.21	1132 1.30	23 1112 0.23				
FR 1328 flood	SA 1423 ebb	SU 1431 flood	FR 1651 1.42	SA 1659 0.57	SU 1816 1.48				
2004 ebb	2030 flood	2122 ebb	2231 0.48	2342 1.28	2338 0.49				
8 0114 flood	16 0209 ebb	24 0232 flood	0443 1.29	0626 0.32	24 0609 1.34				
8 0703 ebb	16 0918 flood	24 0900 ebb	1046 0.25	1232 1.43	24 1200 0.34				
SA 1405 flood	SU 1537 ebb	MO 1516 flood	SA 1726 1.37	SU 1803 0.55	MO 1912 1.41				
2037 ebb	2117 flood	2210 ebb							

## PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

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

TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

APRIL - 1995