

FATHOMS

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FATHOMS

Official journal of the *Victorian Sub - Aqua Group*

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DECEMBER 1998/JANUARY 1999

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Next General Meetings:

Bells Hotel
157 Moray Street (cnr. Coventry Street)
South Melbourne - 8pm sharp!
Thursday 17th December 1998
Thursday 21st January 1999

Next Committee Meetings:

Tuesday 26th January - Pat Reynold's home
Tuesday 23rd February - Peter Vlegel's home

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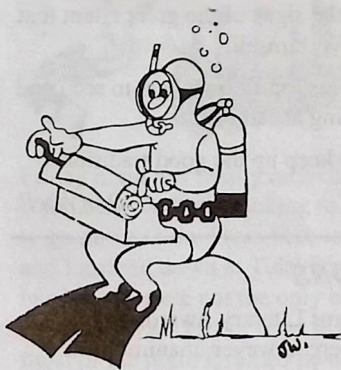
PROPERTY OFFICER:

Pat Reynolds
14 Nurla Court,
Frankston, 3199.
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015 334 276 (W)

S.D.F. DELEGATES:

Andy Mastrowicz, Des Williams & John Lawler

EDITORIAL



Here begins a new role for me that I am really looking forward to. For my 19 years in the Club Fathoms has been the literary bonding that allows all members to be a part of the action even when they are not able to attend all the scheduled functions. I have never underestimated the importance of the magazine in making this club what it is after 44 years.

Despite what some may think, this is a position in VSAG that I have wanted to do but have avoided due to time commitments. Three years ago I was only just beaten to the editorship by a very keen Mick Jeacle. I reluctantly capitulated so that Mick had a chance to lift and consolidate his profile in

the club and help a few people get to know him.

There has been a rumour that there was a great groundswell from the membership for me to get in and fix the magazine after 3 years of neglect. I actually started the rumour and it hasn't really caught on. The real fact is that all editors that preceded me have set such high standards that it is hard for any member to aspire to even maintain the standard. I hope all members will continue to support the magazine and me with their articles, photos, clippings or anecdotes.

Of course there are already some positive signs that will not have gone unnoticed by astute VSAG members. Only a few days after the puff of white smoke rose from the holy window to signify my elevation to high office, Rupert and young Lachlan dropped into town unexpectedly and I am now anticipating an invite to play polo with kerry in the near future.

Thanks to those who have supported this issue. Both JL and Darren Pearce have written about Tidal River over the Cup weekend. I was pleased to read Darren's article of someone who has dived The Prom for the first time. It was the same for

me probably all of us - and the feeling doesn't ever go away. it is a magic place. Thanks to Tony for Tip's Tit-Bits. Tony shows all the signs of the great talent that was handed down from father to son by the old E.W. himself.

I have also published the Club's Financial Statements for all members to read and you will see that we have a loaded calendar of diving ahead of us.

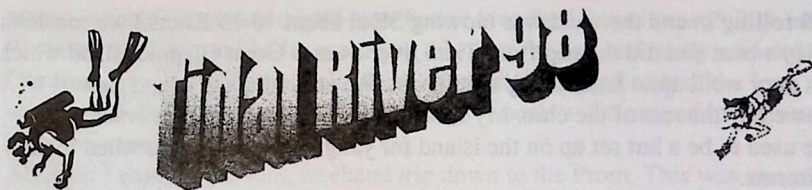
I look forward to your support for the magazine to keep up the good tradition.

Editor - Don Abell.

CONGRATULATIONS

* To Robert Birtles for winning the second Fathoms Literary Award. Acknowledged as a difficult decision the judges were however unanimous in their verdict. Robert's article superbly described the fabulous time experienced by the VSAG team that braved the southern Tasmanian coastline in June of 1998. It is good to see a new face taking off some of the awards in the club (as it was with the Clubman of the Year award to Peter)

* To Debra and Robin Woods now proud parents of a 8lb 2oz (convet it yourself) baby boy on November 18. Both mother and baby are doing well. Apparently Robin did it just to prove VSAG that he does go home sometimes.



Friday night has finally arrived after a busy working week. Although the weather conditions were not looking to be in favour for the long weekend, I was still keen to go down to the Prom because I have not been down there before. John Ashley and I arrived down at Tidal River campsite at about 10pm, which I thought was late but we were not the only ones arriving at this time and setting up camp. We managed to set up our tents just in time before it poured down with rain. For most of the night it rained heavy and was blowing a gale.

In the morning I awoke and was surprised that my tent was still standing and it had not leaked. As I looked outside my tent the weather was looking very overcast and was still windy but i was happy with our campsite because it was very sheltered and was close to the other venues.

After i had breakfast we decided t look around the camping ground where we came across other dive clubs who were scattered through the area. later on that morning we met up with john Lawler who was the dive captain for the weekend and the rest of the club who were also there for that day. We decided that we would not dive and would wait for the next day for the weather to improve. This turned out to be good for me because it gave me a chance to have a look around at the information center which had information on different wrecks and some history. After lunch we caught a bus that takes you half way up to Mt Obrean. After a hectic hours walk I finally reached the top which has spectacular views over the prom and the near by island.

Towards the evening we were the host club for the sausage sizzle in which we all took part. it turned out to be the biggest gathering ever held at Tidal River, there were a least two hundred people all having a great time.

Day two had improved by 9.30am we had boats in water. We then preceded to go and dive the north side of Great Glennie Island because there was two-metre

swell rolling in and the wind was blowing SE at about 10-15 Knots. I was on John Ashley's boat and did the trip from Tidal river over to Great Glennie Island which went very well, apart from being a little wet. We arrived at the island first followed by the rest of the club. My first dive was just around the corner where there used to be a hut set up on the island for yaughties to shelter in when there are storms.

Shortly after I was in the waters I found it to be a lot colder than normal and the viz was over 60 foot Wow!! there nothing that makes a dive better when you have good viz. Through out my dive there were heaps of swim through and I also came across huge boulder's that rose 20 foot from the bottom one part of my dive I came across a 10 pound crayfish which was well back in the ledge i also spotted three smaller crayfish which I guess is common scenery for the Prom. one of the highlights on my dive John pointed out to me an elephant shark asleep in one of the ledges this would have to be one of the biggest i have ever seen at about two foot in length. he end i started to feel cold so I surfaced and had lunch. Shortly after the rest of the group rejoined and had lunch. Later on we decided not to do a second dive partly because it was colder and I had a heavy night and was not feeling 100%. After we arrived back at Tidal River we all helped each other get the boats out of the water which was no problem.

Day 3 the swell and the wind had almost dropped down to nothing so we decided to go out and dive skull rock, the boat ride out was very smooth. Shortly after we arrived John Ashley and i decided to dive first.

When I had hit the water I again was surprised at the vis which was at least 100 foot. As I descended into the crystal clear water I noticed the thick kelp growing of the granite rock as we got deeper the kelp disappeared and I could not get over the fish life and coral. This was one of the most spectacular dives I have ever done. Towards the end of my dive I was doing my safety stop when i came across a huge bull seal which swam around to check us out. I also noticed lots of jellyfish around. After we had surfaced John Lawler and Leo Maybus went in. By the way I heard on the grape vine there was a three meter great white sighted 24 hrs after we had dived the skull rock, from another source, believe it or not. After John and leo had finished their dive we went over to the neighbouring island from Skull Rock where there was a colony of seals. I have never seen so

many seals before even though I have been out to Seal Rocks near Phillip Island. We then had lunch and had a snooze by this time the day had really warmed up. Our final dive was with the seals which I thought was good to end the long weekend of diving. I also enjoyed watching the seals swim around in the water and they were so playful.

All in all I enjoyed the long weekend trip down to the Prom. This was one of my best weekends I had with the club. as well as the spectacular dives I experienced I can not wait to get another chance to dive the prom again. I would also like to thank John Lawler, Leo Maybus and John Ashley for the use of their boats and hope to see you all down the Prom on the next trip.



Three cheers for the cooks (Self Included) without them you would starve!!

Why go to the gym to build up your muscles when you can go diving with VSAG



Typical VSAG campsite



NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Alan Beckhurst

AGE:44 (VSAG & myself were formed in the same year, tho, I think my committee met a bit earlier!!)

OCCUPATION

Technical Officer with Stiles & Hicks, a heavy Truck/Equipment Parts Importer

FAMILY

After more than 140 dives as my buddy, Mary is now my fiance. My days as a single parent of two great kids, Amanda 17 & Lee 14 are growing shorter.

INTERESTS

Swimming, boats, fishing, eating, writing, photography & watching my son play footy. I like to dive fortnightly as well as a bit of free diving. My boat was launched over 30 times last year, would have been more if I hadn't used charters on my trips to Adelaide, Narooma & Bermagui.

WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR IN A CLUB

I have been a member of the API dive club since '84 and have had some great diving in those years, but have been frustrated lately at not having enough divers to make a crew. I have a 5.5 meter boat and a 6 bed shack at Queenscliff, all I need are some more Buddies!!

IDEAS FOR NEW DIVE LOCATION

If I can tempt a few to travel west, we can dive the Victoria Tower, hunt for crays at Torquay, visit the Graveyard, Night dive Pope's Eye, or reefs near the Rip, play with Blue sharks, or be able to get a dive in during those 20 knot Sou' Westerlies which are all too common.

VSAG CATCH' N COOK

THE ANNUAL CATCH 'N COOK IS ON AGAIN
SO MARK YOUR DIARY NOW!

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 1999

ONE TANK DIVE - DIVERS LEAVING RYR RAMP 9AM SHARP
SCALLOPS - MUSSELS - CRAY?

THEN BACK TO THE LLEWELLYN BEACH HOUSE FOR THE
PREPARATION AND COOK UP AROUND 12 TO 1PM

8 ELWERS ROAD ROSEBUD PHONE 5986 7437

PLEASE BOOK IN BY 6PM THE NIGHT BEFORE.

FAMILIES - BYO DRINK, CHAIRS AND A SALAD OR DESSERT
WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

***Note this is a club function and your assistance in the catch preparation,
cooking and cleanup will make it a fun day for all.

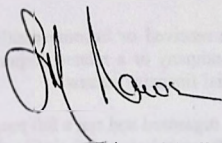
AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of the
Victorian Sub Aqua Group

I have audited the balance sheet of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group at 30th June, 1998, and the related statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended. My audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other accounting procedures as I consider necessary in the circumstances, except for the limitations explained in the following paragraph.

It is not practicable for the Group to establish controls over cash receipts prior to their initial entry in the accounting records, nor is it practicable for me to carry out audit tests to verify that all such amounts have been received and recorded. My audit relating to cash receipts was therefore limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records.

In my opinion, except for the effect of any adjustments that might have resulted had the cash receipts been susceptible to satisfactory audit tests, the accompanying balance sheet and statements of income and expenditure, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group at 30th June, 1998 and of its results of operations for the year then ended.



S.M. Rawson - Registered Auditors
Melbourne Victoria
17th September, 1998

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUPA.C.N. 004 591 575DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We present our report on the state of affairs of the Company at 30th June, 1998, and on the deficit for the year then ended.

The net amount of the deficit of the company for the year ended 30th June, 1998 after provision for income tax of Nil was \$2,955.

During the year ended 30th June, 1998 no dividend was paid.

The principal activities of the company in the course of the year were to promote and encourage the sport of scuba diving. There were no significant changes in the company's activities during the year.

The name of the directors in office at the date of this report are:

Andy Mastrowicz
Don Abell
John Lawler
Mick Jeacle
Pat Reynolds
Bob Scott
Des Williams
Leo Maybus
Gerry Devries
Peter Vleugel
Priya Cardinaletti
Robert Birtles

Since 30th June, 1997 no director of the company has received or become entitled to receive a benefit by reason of a contract made by the company or a related corporation with the director or with a firm of which he has a substantial financial interest.

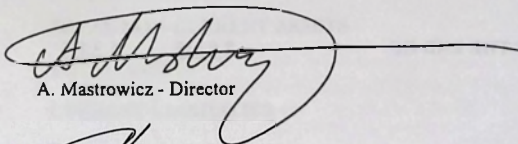
Through the year ended 30th June, 1998 the company has organised and run a full program of diving complemented by a number of social activities for members and their friends. It is the company's objective to raise sufficient income to cover its expenditure in pursuing these activities for the members. The company incurred an operating deficit of \$2,955 in the current year. This deficit is considered an acceptable result by the directors and is in accordance with the expectations following considerable repairs to the club compressor. Measures will continue to be taken to achieve an acceptable result.

There has been no significant change in the state of affairs of the company that occurred during the year ended 30th June, 1998.

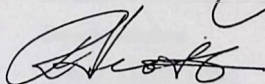
The directors are not aware of any matters or circumstances arising since 30th June, 1998 which will affect the operations of the company. There are no future developments planned which will significantly affect the operations of the company.

Signed at Melbourne on the 17th day of September, 1998.

In accordance with a resolution of directors.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Mastrowicz', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape. A long horizontal line extends from the right side of the signature.

A. Mastrowicz - Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Scott', with a horizontal line underneath.

R Scott - Director

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP**A.C.N. 004 591 575****STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1998**

	Notes	1998	1997
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	4	\$ (2,955)	\$ (1,146)
Income tax attributable to the operating surplus/(deficit)	1	—	—
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) AFTER INCOME TAX		(2,955)	(1,146)
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year		<u>9,573</u>	<u>10,719</u>
RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>\$ 6,618</u>	<u>\$ 9,573</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Balance Sheet.

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP**A.C.N. 004 591 575****BALANCE SHEET****AT 30TH JUNE 1998**

	Notes	1998	1997
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	5	<u>\$ 7,161</u>	<u>\$ 9,097</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>7,161</u>	<u>9,097</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	<u>157</u>	<u>536</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>157</u>	<u>536</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>7,318</u>	<u>9,633</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Owed to members		<u>700</u>	<u>60</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>700</u>	<u>60</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>\$ 6,618</u>	<u>\$ 9,573</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Balance Sheet.

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

A.C.N. 004 591 575

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 19981. PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIESHistorical Cost Convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Accounting Basis

In the opinion of the directors, the company is not a reporting entity. These special purpose financial statements of the company have been drawn up as a special purpose financial report for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Corporations Law.

The accounts have been prepared using a cash accounting basis. Where membership subscriptions remain unpaid at year end, the member is treated as being unfinancial and the membership status is then reviewed by the committee.

Except as stated to the contrary in this note the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with all Australian Accounting Standards other than AASB 1026 Statement of Cash Flows.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are capitalised in the accounts and depreciation is charged to expenditure annually over the estimated life of the asset. Assets purchased in the 1994 and subsequent years will be depreciated on the basis that they have a five year estimated life.

Assets which are considered to have no further useful life are fully depreciated. Any assets which cost below \$100, purchased in the current year, have been fully expensed in the current year.

Income Tax

The company operates as a club. No provision is made for income tax liability as the directors believe the income of the company is excluded from assessment under the provisions of the Income Tax Assessment Act which exempt the income of sporting bodies from income tax.

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

A.C.N. 004 591 575

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1998**2. INCORPORATION**

The Victorian Sub Aqua Group was incorporated on 23rd January, 1964 as a company limited by guarantee. Licence was granted for the company to operate without the word 'Limited' in its name.

The main objects of the group are:

- to promote and further the sport of diving in Australia.
- to foster the interests of divers and users of diving apparatus.
- to seek to increase technical and scientific knowledge of all aspects of diving and encourage discussion on all matters and questions relating thereto.
- to co-operate in securing legislation and the formation of proper rules and regulations within Australia, governing the use of diving apparatus and advancing and protecting the interests of divers.

3. MANAGEMENT

The Articles of Association provide that the board of directors will be titled the "General Committee". The general committee consists of up to twelve honorary members who are elected by the general body of full members.

4. OPERATIONS

The surplus (deficiency) for the year has been arrived at after:

	1988	1997
- Crediting as revenue		
Annual Subscriptions	\$ 2,420	\$ 3,150
Dive Trips	5,523	44,185
Interest - Bank Account	-	101
- Bank Term Deposit	280	467
Joining Fees	210	120
Proceeds on Sale of Club Products	40	379
Social Functions	3,093	1,395
Air fills	60	-
Sundry	<u>83</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$11,709</u>	<u>\$49,797</u>
- Debiting as expenses		
Depreciation	<u>\$ 370</u>	<u>\$ 513</u>

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

A.C.N. 004 591 575

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1998**5. **CASH**

	1998	1997
Cash at bank	\$ 306	\$ 2,522
Cash on deposit	<u>6,855</u>	<u>6,575</u>
	<u>\$ 7,161</u>	<u>\$ 9,097</u>

6. **PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

Equipment at cost	\$ 4,310	\$ 4,310
Provision for depreciation	<u>(4,153)</u>	<u>(3,774)</u>
	<u>\$ 157</u>	<u>\$ 536</u>

7. **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION**

The company has no related entities.

The directors in office during the year were:

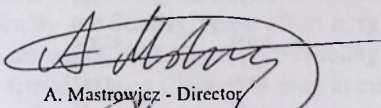
Don Abell	Pat Reynolds
John Lawler	Bob Scott
Mick Jeacle	Des Williams
Andy Mastrowicz	Leo Maybus
Priya Cardinaletti	Gerry Devries
Robert Birtles	Peter Vleugel
Kate Caine	

Robert Birtles, Peter Vleugel and Kate Caine were appointed directors at the Annual General Meeting held in September 1997. Doug Catherall and Chris Llewellyn resigned as directors at the same meeting. Kate Caine resigned as a director during the year. No remuneration has been paid to any director and no material transactions have been entered into with any director during the financial year.

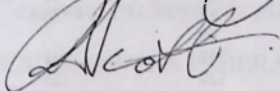
VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP**A.C.N. 004 591 575****STATEMENT BY DIRECTORS**

1. In the opinion of the directors of Victorian Sub Aqua Group:
 - (a) the company is not a reporting entity;
 - (b) the financial statements are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the company for the financial year ended 30th June 1998, and the state of affairs of the company at 30th June 1998 in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1; and
 - (c) as at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
2. The company's accounts have been made out in accordance with applicable approved accounting standards and Australian Accounting Standards.

By Order of the Board



A. Mastrowjcz - Director



R. Scott - Director

Melbourne,
17th September, 1998

VICTORIAN SUB AOUA GROUP

A.C.N. 004 591 575

DETAILED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITUREFOR THE YEAR 30TH JUNE, 1998

	1998	1997
INCOME		
Annual Subscriptions	\$ 2,420	\$ 3,150
Dive Trips	5,523	44,185
Interest - Bank Account	-	101
- Bank Term Deposits	280	467
Joining Fees	210	120
Proceed on Sale of Club Products	40	379
Social Functions	3,093	1,395
Air fills	60	-
Sundry	<u>83</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$11,709</u>	<u>\$ 49,797</u>
EXPENSES		
Advertising	\$ 180	\$ 180
Bank and Government Charges	223	251
Depreciation	379	513
Donation	-	100
Dive Trips	6,038	42,936
Equipment - Hire and Repairs	1,817	2,406
Fathoms Production and Distribution	2,199	2,557
Filing Fees	35	32
Guest Speaker Dinner	34	43
Literary Award	60	-
Postage, Printing and Stationery	339	351
Rental of Post Office Box	120	120
S.D.F.V. Membership	80	-
Sundry	23	40
Social Expenses	2,587	897
Training	-	267
Trophies	<u>550</u>	<u>250</u>
	<u>14,664</u>	<u>50,943</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ (2,955)</u>	<u>\$ (1,146)</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement.



VSAG TIDAL RIVER MELBOURNE CUP LONG WEEKEND

BY JOHN LAWLER DIVE CAPTAIN

Tidal River, in the spectacular Wilsons Promontory national Park, can be a most savage place weatherwise, or if in a good mood is, without any doubt, the most beautiful place in Australia. And so this week end, Tidal river WAS in a great mood and the weather was superb. The Tuesday of this week being Melbourne Cup day and in Melbourne a public holiday, gave some fortunate people the opportunity to take the Monday off and have a four day break. Those from VSAG were Leo, Lauren and Melanie Maybus, Melanie's friend Alan, Leo's father and mother, Leo senior and Hazel, Leo's sister Bernadette (more about this lady later!!!) and husband Bob (more about this man later too) Leo's son Andrew and friend Jacquie, Catherine Orchard, Kristal and Leigh. Whew!! What a band. The came Barry and Mary Truscott, Jack and Julie Namiota (together with their brand new camper van), Priya Cardinaletti and John Mills for Saturday and Sunday, Darren Pearce and John Ashley, (The Cuddly Couple award for this trip goes to these two great guys), Terry Brookes and his family visited for Saturday and Sunday, (great effort Terry), and another great effort was the late arrival of Herb Epstein, completing the group was my wife Yvonne and our friend Allison Clarke, all snug in our "pre delivered, pre set up with annex" caravan. Pat Reynolds please note this new trend!!!

THE SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF VICTORIA SAUSAGE SIZZLE

VSAG was the host club this year for the great tradition (we have managed to escape the job for longer than anyone can remember, maybe 12 years someone said!!) The function organisation committee was Leo Maybus and Priya Cardineletti as the official people, but these two found that at preparation time there were a cast of many who came out of nowhere to

offer assistance. We have to make mention of this event because turned out there was an all time record number of divers and friends at tidal River for this occasion. Darren Pearce, who in normal life is a chef, welded the knife through 5 kgs of onions, Bob Holden turned up the heat on his BBQ and became a go at a million miles an hour chef and next in turn as relief came John Ashley,,putting on a great show of cooking flair (“with a family as big as my I'm used to it”) and all through this was Leo Maybus, also cooking at a million miles a minute and keeping up with persistent questioning about the lack of the all important amber fluid required to keep this level of service up. The atmosphere at this sizzle was fantastic with many old friendships being renewed, great comradre as always when divers get together and many great stories being told. Yes it was an exciting event and near end John Hawkins, President of the SDFV made a brief speech but in another separate speech took time out to congratulate VSAG for the superb effort in looking after the catering for this large number of people, which is estimated to be around 200-230!

For the record the following was consumed 240 sausages, 100 hamburgers, 25 loaves of bread, 3 kg of coleslaw, 5kg of sliced onions, 3 litres of Tomato sauce, assorted mustards. (additional sausages and bread had to be purchased from the local shop to cater for the bigger numbers) For this excellent marathon effort, on behalf of all, many thanks go to Priya, Leo and John Ashley, Bob and Bernadette Holden, John Mills, Darren Pearce, John Hawkins and naturally the 230 “hungry guts divers and friends” who make this a great Tidal River Bash. Without too much bias, VSAG put on a great show. Thanks to you all we made a profit of around \$95 for VSAG.

THE REST AND RECREATIONAL DAY

Saturday turned out to be a bright sunny day, however the effects of the low were still around and the swell was just a little to testy for a boat launch from the beach, so it became a very pleasant rest and recreational day. Many took off for the great walks around the Prom. My wife and I and our friend decided to do the walk over to Norman Bay which is around an hour and a half each way,

but what a brilliant walk it is. As with Mt Oberon, the view out to all the Islands, in particular Skull Rock, was spectacular. Back to camp for the usual drinks and, in my case a wonderful curry, some visiting and planning for the next day as we knew that tomorrow we would be diving!!

THE MAIN EVENT DIVING THE PROM SUNDAY DAY ONE

We had three boats from VSAG, my Haines Hunter, Leo Maybus in his Father's Boat and John Ashley's. We got down to the beach and frankly the only place I've seen more boats in the same place at the same time was the Boat Show!! The beach was packed. The launch went ahead with not too much worry and we headed for the Glennies. The swell on the South side of the island was too strong for diving and most the activities was around the Ramsbottom area and the little bays in that area. My buddy was Barry Truscott and we enjoyed a very relaxed petty dive in our bay and the vis was exceptionally good. Divers who were diving out into deeper water told us they had vis of around 100 feet!!! We had lunch in the lee of the island in the traditional "lunch bay" when the swell is up. Bazza was feeling the cold and we decided to head back. John Ashley had gone on ahead as his boat was slow, but when we set off we noticed he was half way to Oberon Bay and we set off after his boat as he was short on fuel. We eventually caught John and set him on the right course home and he did get there without running out of fuel. The boats were pulled out with the assistance of Leo's sister acting as "Beach Retrieval Director" and what a great job Bernadette did. (Leo tell Bernadette she is hired for easter!!).

MONDAY DAY TWO

Monday turned out to be a great Tidal River day. Bright sunny day, little wind and an almost flat calm sea. The dive was set for Skull Rocks, boats launched in record time and we were soon at the dive sight. What a truly magnificent sight this great place id Darren Pearce had not been to this place before and he was awe struck. he and john Ashley had the first dive and they surfaced full of excitement from their experience.

I teamed up with Leo for our dive and we soon were at 140 feet of absolute heaven. The vis was around 100 feet and looking back up the wall the water was full of school fish, fish of all sizes, shapes and the colour was magnificent to say

the least. this dive aptly titled "Nirvana". Leo was very busy also taking photos and i hope we get to see some of the results some time. After lunch we anchored in a little bay near the Seal colony and we had a very fun dive with these playful creatures who, as always, enjoyed our company and together we had a lot of fun. A quick run along the coast and back at the beach. Boats all came out with no problems. The Fisheries Inspectors conducted their checks in a most polite, professional manner and these two men are to be congratulated for their attitude towards the divers at large. my boat became bogged and these two Officers jumped to the rescue, hooked up the boat and out it came in no time.

TUESDAY, DAY THREE

If yesterday was good then this day was the classics days at Tidal River. Bright sunny day, no wind, and a sea so calm and flat it would be possible to ski to the Glennies. VSAG didn't dive on this day, however many of the other clubs took to the water and all reports were similar to the prior day. By lunch time the camping area was quiet deserted as we returned from a walk to the mountain top. We were also invited by the contractor building the new bridge over Tidal River (the current cement bridge is now demolished) to have a test walk over this great bridge and to be the first people to do so. No ribbons, champagne or Brass Band but Yvonne, our friend Alison Clarke and myself are the first "unoffical" people to cross the bridge.

Tidal River was a lot of fun but the diving was exceptional. When this place is at it's best then it really is the best place to relax and experience some of the best diving in Victoria.

PS.

This report has been deliberately made long winded as it will be part of the first new issue under our new Editor, Don Abel, and I felt it might set some sort of precedent as the last editor did a great job. No doubt Don will continue with the high standard in his unique style.

TIP'S TIT - BITS

1998 VSAG TENNIS PARTY

BY TONY TIPPING

As I sit down to write a report on this year's Tennis Party I feel it's almost a carbon copy of what I've written for the past umteen years! Once again the weather was kind to us with a cool cloudy start at Cranbourne South courts, improving to a fine afternoon and a top of 19°C - the early drizzle forecast did not eventuate.

With five or six doubles pairs whipping through to the final it was Herb and Eytan Epstein who won this years coveted trophy by defeating Bazza & Marie Truscott 6-3 in the final. Far more people had a go in the singles with Marie once again winning by defeating young Eytan in the final. The kids final was won by Sophie Tipping's friend Lena who defeated Laura Tipping for a bag of lollies and a T-shirt.

At 3pm it was the in famous VSAG mile (when speedo checked it appeared that the course is only 1200-1300 metres). This year there were more walkers than runners. The overall winner was Sophie Tipping, the veterans winners were a dead heat between Barry Truscott and Peter Vleugel. As for the walk - well I had to win something - first male Tony Tipping, first female June Scott.

Over 30 people attended - as usual the Luxfords came for the walk and Don and Dougie for the points. As far as the record books go it was the 27th consecutive year and Pat Moore has the record intact (26 in a row). Ian and Kerry were the only newcomers despite my efforts at the last 3 or 4 VSAG meetings to get new blood - after all this is the longest surviving family/social day on the club calendar!

Special thanks to Marie Truscott for booking the courts, June Scott for entertaining the kids with games, Paul Tipping for doing the presentations, Peter and Chris Vleugel for turning up early and playing in the doubles and all the other for just being there.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	DIVE CAPTAIN	
17 Dec	Christmas drinks/Finger food Bell's Hotel, South Melbourne		From 6.00 pm
26 Dec	Christmas Trip 1998/99 Wallaga Lake Caravan Park Bermagui NSW	Gerry DeVries 9725 2381	Details to be advised
26 Dec	Local diving will be arranged	John Lawler 9589 4020	Sorrento
27 Dec		Mick Jeacle 0359 712 786	Sorrento
28 Dec		John Lawler 9589 4020	Sorrento
3 Jan	Pinnacles	Rob Birtles 9725 2816	Rhyll 9.30am
10 Jan	Cape Shank	Don Abell 9889 4415	Flinders 9.00am
16 Jan	Night Dive Mornington Pier	Leo Maybus 9727 1568	M'ton Pier 6.00pm
17 Jan	Back Beaches	Peter Vleugel 0359 743 200	Sorrento 9.30am
21 Jan	General Meeting Cnr. Moray and Coventry Sts. South Melbourne	Bell's Hotel	8.00pm
23 Jan to 26 Jan	King Island weekend (Australia Day on Tuesday)	Bob Scott	
24 Jan	Wreck Dive	Mick Jeacle 0359 712 786	Sorrento 9.00am
30 Jan	Popes Eye Night Dive	Leo Maybus 9727 1568	Sorrento/Q cliff 6.00pm
31 Jan	Heads Area	Andy Mastrowicz 9318 3986	Sorrento 9.30am
6 Feb	Blue Shark Dive	John Mills 9761 0960	Sorrento/Q'cliff 8.00am sharp
14 Feb	Catch & Cook (one tank)	Chris Llewellyn 5986 7437	8 Elwers Rd. Rosebud
18 Feb	General Meeting Cnr. Moray and Coventry Sts. South Melbourne	Bell's Hotel	8.00pm
21 Feb	Pinnacles	Peter Vleugel 0359 743 200	Stoney Point 9.30am
28 Feb	Coramba Search	Des Williams 9551 3201	Flinders 9.00am
5-8 Mar	Refuge Cove (long weekend)	John Goulding	Port Franklin
13 Mar	Victoria Towers	Gerry Devries 9725 2381	Torquay 10.00am
18 Mar.	General Meeting Cnr Moray and Coventry Sts. South Melbourne	Bell's Hotel	8.00pm

2-5 April

Easter at Tidal River

Don Abell
9889 4415

Tidal River

NOTICE: BOAT OWNERS INTENDING TO BRING THEIR BOATS PLEASE RING THE DIVE CAPTAIN BEFORE 6.00 PM ON EVENING PRIOR TO THE DIVE. DIVERS PLEASE RING BETWEEN 6.00 PM - 7.00 PM. FOR NIGHT DIVES (USUALLY SATURDAYS) PLEASE RING BY 8.00 PM ON EVENING PRIOR TO DIVE.

**GREAT DAY? NO DIVE SCHEDULED?
RING NEVILLE VIAPREE - 9551 1547 (H)**

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION MORNINGTON PENINSULA AREA

	PHONE
POLICE - AMBULANCE - FIRE	(000)
PENINSULA AMBULANCE (ROSEBUD, SORRENTO)	(008) 137333
(MORNINGTON)	(03) 9783 2222
SOUTHERN PENINSULA HOSPITAL	
1527 NEPEAN ROSEBUD	(0359) 86 8444
FRANKSTON HOSPITAL	
HASTINGS ROAD FRANKSTON	(03) 9781 3111
MORNINGTON BUSH NURSING HOSPITAL	
MAIN ST MORNINGTON	(0359) 75 2009
MORNINGTON BAY RESCUE SERVICE	(0359) 75 2733
SOUTHERN PENINSULA RESCUE	(0359) 84 2000
DIVING EMERGENCY SERVICE	1800 088 200
COAST GUARD	(03) 9598 7003
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (S.E.S)	(03) 26 1468
WATER POLICE	(03) 9662 0911
MELBOURNE AMBULANCE	(03) 9662 2533
DOCTORS DIVING MEDICINE	
DR. GUY WILLIAMS	ROSEBUD (0359) 81 1555
DR. J De B.J. DADE	MORNINGTON (0359) 75 5288
DIVING EMERGENCY SERVICE	1800 088 200

V.H.F. EMERGENCY CHANNEL..... (16)

