

# FATHOMS

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# VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

OCT/NOV 99

# FATHOMS

Official journal of the *Victorian Sub - Aqua Group*

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Bells Hotel  
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Thursday 18th November 1999  
Thursday 16th December 1999

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& Shane Martin

## EDITORIAL



A funny thing happened to me at the last committee meeting - I was booted out of the job as newsletter editor. Having put my heart and soul into this role over the year I have been cast aside like a used tea bag off a dive boat. Of course I knew this would happen when I backed the Josie Mare article. I think the observation that the club is getting too old was my undoing. So I am now relegated to the back row of the members meetings with all the other oldies.

As from next issue Priya is taking over the Editor role. I can only suggest that she sets her standards on the one that preceded me. Mick always had everything done and ready on time . I can't work out how he did it and still kept the ANZ afloat.

The support I have been given in my short time in the role has been magnificent. I have never lacked articles for an issue , even if some came in a little past the targeted close off. Please continue to produce for Priya. I have always considered Fathoms to be the backbone and the most important product of our club. It keeps us together even when we cannot make dives or meetings.

I have now been in the club 20 years and have seen many changes. The magazine has been the most impressive production of any club in this country. In part it is as a result of members effort to write regularly. But the production quality comes from Alex Talay. I remember the first colour cover. It makes our magazine stand out and that is one of our strongest promotional tools for prospective members. I do expect that , in my time with the club I will see the magazine distributed by e-mail but perhaps not in the next couple of years. In am sure that we will also have our own expanded full production web page that will keep the world at large up to date with VSAG activities and dive news generally.

So now the club starts another year. Some of the oldies have left the committee and not before time. I remember when I joined the ANZ committee I thought I would

give it 2 terms. After 5 or 6 terms I have passed it on to the next group to drive it forward. Not that the longer standing people don't contribute. Mick Jeacle has given an outstanding contribution to VSAG that would be hard for anyone to match. But I am sure Mick would agree that the strength of the club will come from new blood with new ideas continuing to expand our horizons. This is a club that will benefit from the large base of members and I can recommend the experience of being a committee member and guiding the future of the club.

This months magazine is another example of reports on a chock-a-block calendar of events. A late article on the Queens Birthday weekend. Although it wasn't a dive weekend Kellie seems to suggest that weekend was a bit of a dive. Peter Vleugel has provided a second article on Truk Lagoon and I think Peter is right - we should consider another trip before the wrecks are too damaged by the currents and divers.

I have also reported on the Coogee. A great winters dive. I keep telling you about getting wet in August so I hope you remember next year. And I have put in an article on South America. It is amazing ho much I can pad out an article that only revolves around 1 dive.

After a long break I have also included 2 pages on safety procedures and dive procedures. These will continue to be reviewed by the committee and I hope we decide to print them annually so that old and new members can keep up to date with how the club operates.

Of course it would be remiss of me not to leave you with a film tip for the next blockbuster that should not be missed. The third of the great trilogy produced by Groucho Films has just been released. "The Deep Blue Sea" is not so good for divers because you will find all the flaws in underwater logic. However it will still sell to the less educated great unwashed who have never pulled on rubber gear. The best laugh is the flimsy and technically questionable reason the director uses to get the heroine out of her clothes. He obviously concluded the audience needed flesh and he had to find a way to bring it into the movie. So you should have spent a bundle on seeing Matrix at least 3 times. Now unload your wallet on The Deep Blue Sea and ,when it finally sees a screen in Australia, "Walk On The Moon".

Keep on diving - and remember to leave out some Chrissy cake for Santa.

*Editor - Don Abell.*

## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

Well, it's that time of year again - the VSAG Annual General Meeting - The last one this Century !!!

The next Committee will take VSAG into the new millennium, bugs and all. Let's hope they're the red 8-legged variety and not the much publicised computer type. Although I have my doubts given the new legislation we've seen introduced, imposing new harsher restriction on divers yet again and none on the professional fishermen, the illusive Y2K bugs might be all we'll be catching next year. If a fraction of the money being spent on Y2K was spent on decent fisheries and conservation we wouldn't have a problem with poachers.

As we move towards 50 years of VSAG in 2004, one has stop to look at the Club and ask what we will look like as a Club in 5, 10 or even 15 years time. The majority of the club members will be well into retirement and/or into their 50's. Will we still be diving? - I for one certainly hope so

Although membership has remained steady at around 60, the new Committee and to some extent each of us will need to think about and look at how we can hand over the reigns to younger members so our Club will not only be viable at its 50th but still be around in 2054 to celebrate its 100th. It's a perennial question, but we ain't getting younger

The year as it was:

Again, another great year for VSAG. There were some 60 meetings, social and diving events scheduled during 1998-99. One more than last year and again well attended by VSAG members and friends

Some Highlights:-

Christmas this year was at Bermagui on the Southern NSW Coast and although the numbers were down on the previous year record trip to Robe, the 28 members and families who went had a great time.

It seems Easter at the Tidal River keeps getting better and better. Thanks to Don

Abel's continuing efforts this year we had 91 members and 5 boats crammed onto a record 24 sites. To top that the weather was exceptional as well and the diving was a bonus. Who said we should look at going elsewhere for Easter?

Two other trips to the Prom saw some of the best diving locations in Victoria receiving some of its past patronage. The March long weekend had a number of small boats heading back to Refuge Cove for a nostalgic reunion with one of the clubs favourite dive locations after a five year absence. The November Cup weekend had some of us back at Tidal River mixing with other clubs for the annual SDF bash.

Pat Reynolds again took a number of VSAGers and partners on a 2-week trip in May back to dive the famous wrecks of Truk Lagoon.

Hardly a year goes by now without some junket overseas to warmer waters and it looks like continuing next year with a trip planned back to Vanuatu and the President Coolidge .

Helen Friday, our social secretary, has had a busy first year on the committee organising many functions included a well attended visit to the Hyperbaric Chamber at Prince Henry's Hospital, an IMAX Theatre night, a King Neptune night which saw members dress up for a convivial gathering at the Melliti restaurant in the city, and the upcoming Winery Tour to the Yarra Valley and Christmas functions. Helen also instigated and looks after the now popular raffle for prizes such as wine, books and diving paraphernalia, held during each months general meeting.

Other popular events saw VSAGers head off to Warrnambool to watch the whales, Beechworth to drink the wine, Llewellyns famous catch and cook at Rosebud to eat seafood , a Tennis Day to get some exercise, a ski trip to Mt Hotham where we actually got to see some snow and the Garage Sale to get rid of some old junk.

On the financial side, the Club has once again had a bonanza year with a record surplus over last year due to three major fund-raisers that were held - The Garage Sale raised \$1200, the Christmas function over \$2000 and the recent Wine sales \$1380.

We have Mick Jeacle to thank once again for his effort in organising the Garage Sale and his innate ability to sell wine. It must be his imposing presence that makes people want to buy something from him. John Goulding again surprised us by donating the 2 airline tickets to Fiji auctioned off at last years Christmas function. Apart from a few stragglers that seem intent on holding onto their membership fees to the very last, our coffers are looking good for next year.

This year I am very happy to say that there were not many dives cancelled due to bad weather, and those that were cancelled were mainly due to poor attendance. It looks as though we're getting more attendance at social events than dives. I know we're all getting older and have come to enjoy a more leisurely lifestyle, but come on, we are after all supposed to be a dive club!

I would like to sincerely thank each and every Member of the VSAG Committee who have put in both their valuable time and considerable effort over the past 12 months in organising not only the diving, but also the social aspects that we have again enjoyed over this past year. A special vote of thanks to boat owners who have selflessly supplied their boats for club members throughout the year, for without their support and commitment each weekend we would not have such a strong club let alone be diving.

The Committee has had 5 members stand down this year - Robert Birtles, Don Abell., Mick Jeacle., Priya Cardinaletti. and Leo Maybus.

So on a sad note tonight we lose 3 highly regarded members from the committee, Mick Jeacle, Don Abel have not renominated and Robert Birtles has tendered his resignation.

Mick Jeacle, I can safely say we all have a soft spot for the "old Carrot" as he's affectionately known by most club members will be sorely missed at committee meetings. Mick has been on the committee since I started with VSAG back in 1981 and as a boat owner is the only guy I know that can put an anchor down the conning tower of the 120ft sub. And apart from John Goulding the only boat owner I know who could still find most dive locations inside and outside the bay using markers. Although these days he does tend to use his new GPS more and more, "must be a memory problem".



Mick for the last 18 or so years has been one of the cornerstones of the club. If there was a dive or trip on that Mick hadn't organised then he and his boat could always be counted on to be there come rain or shine. Can't think of any occasion where Mick has let the club down. During his time on the committee he spent 3 years as secretary, a year as president and 3 years as editor and we all know what a top job he did there, Mick always put 110% into whatever task needed doing. He has taken out numerous clubman of the year awards and also the inaugural literary award 2 years ago. Mick's other achievements are too numerous to mention, however his forte does appear to be fundraising, The mammoth wine sale of the 80s and the record Xmas function at the Hunters Lodge, spring to mind, not to mention the current wine sale. As befitting Mick's commitment to the club he is also winner of this year's "Clubman of The Year" award.

Don Abel leaves the committee with an enviable record. Having been on the committee since 1983 Don was never far from the front line. He served as secretary from 1984-88, two stints as president, a record 6 years from 1988-94 and again in 1996 and finally as editor this last year. He has kept the club on the straight and narrow financially for the past 16 years by keeping close eye on the audit of club books- an unenviable juggling act if you ask me, but then he is an accountant extraordinaire.

He has won clubman of the year on numerous occasions and with his witty and in-depth writing skills kept us well entertained over the years with many an enjoyable article and recently editorials in the club magazine. His managerial and organisational skills have kept most of us going back to tidal every Easter as well as his professionalism and commitment in running some memorable overseas trips. And who can forget Don's mammoth effort in bringing together the 40th year celebration at the Bruce County Motel back in 1994.

Robert Birtles after a three stint also leaves the committee due to business commitments, he says. We will miss his well thought through inputs and much mullied over responses at committee meetings. Robert was the instigator of the recent club survey into which he put a lot of time and effort and although never holding any lead positions always came to the fore when there was a task that needed doing. I hope Robert will continue to support the club with his sensitive

critiques and articles for along time to come. Robert is of course the incumbent literary prize winner for 98-99

After some 35 years of committee service between them they have finally called it a day and we can only thank them for their commitment to the club and hope they will continue to be active members into the future - thank you.

There being only three nominations for committee no vote is required and I welcome Leo and Priya onto the committee and on a brighter note welcome Shane Martin as the third nomination onto the committee and we know he will do his utmost to some how fill Mick and Dons shoes,

*Thank you*

*Andy Mastrowicz*

## *QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND AT BEECHWORTH*

BY KELLIE

When Michelle asked me if I'd like to go to Beechworth for the long weekend, I said "yeah" with very little thought. Then she mentioned that a winery tour had been organised on the Sunday and I thought "fantastic".

Michelle and I took off on the Sunday morning and flew up the Hume Freeway. Our first destination, the Beechworth Bakery! A friend had mentioned to me that the Bakery was legendary and I mustn't miss it. When we arrived around 2pm, the queues were six deep with people. I must admit it crossed my mind the food might not be worth the wait but I wasn't disappointed once we ate.

We then took off to find the caravan park and we followed the signs straight to the Silver Creek Caravan Park! So where was the Sambal Caravan Park? After driving around and around for 20 minutes or so, we finally found the caravan park, located on Sambal Lake (so logically named that we missed it!)

After unpacking the car (we seemed to bring enough to last us weeks) Michelle declared that she was pretty exhausted so decided to have a sleep. Mind you, I drove from Melbourne to Beechworth but obviously Michelle's navigation efforts just tired her out terribly!

We thought we'd risk finding a place for dinner that night and came across a restaurant that had been open for one day. Most of the menu was unavailable because they'd run out of food or the pizza oven was on fire so we compromised with a lasagna (that looked out of a packet) and a chicken schnitzel that was average, to say the least. Quite understandably, Michelle was pretty exhausted and so we decided to head back to the cabin for an early night.

Sunday morning, it was rise and rain, ready to catch the minibus for the winery tour. Our first stop was the Rutherglen market and Michelle and I spent all our time in the Bendigo Hat Shop stall, trying on hats, gloves, scarves and buying nothing. Our remark to each other was that we needed more time to do "more serious shopping". Then it was off to our first winery - I think our first stop was Campbell's Winery (though my mind is still a blur from the day!) after deliberating if we should buy the passbook or just the glass, we entered a room that seemed to contain thousands of people. I had no idea the Winery Walk About Weekend was so popular. The atmosphere was similar to the spring carnival of racing with many weird and wonderful outfits and lots of very happy people. And it was only 11am!!!

The next stop was Stanton and Killeen Wines with some more tasting of the fine Rutherglen reds. Michelle and I still hadn't been swayed to purchase yet but that was still to come. Cofield Wines came next and then the driver asked who wanted to go to All Saints Estate. A few called out "yes" and in we went. Wow -what a place. After fighting to get a few drinks, Michele and i decided to pay to taste the vintage wines. We told the wine servers that we were "serious wine drinkers". The truth is that we're just plain serious drinkers. Here we made our first purchase of the day and a fine purchase it was - a 1993 and a 1996 Cabernet Sauvignon.

Then we had stops at Morris Wines and finally Gehrig Estate winery. It was at one of these stops that Michelle declared that we were coming back every year (even if we were nine months pregnant), just so we can collect a wine glass and get a set of six. As you can probably gather, Michelle and I had a pretty good time on the winery tour. Most people got up Monday and headed for Melbourne but Michelle and i had an extra day at Beechworth. it was still raining so we decided to go back and visit a few more wineries. it was quite different to the hustle and bustle of the day before. We visited Chambers and found about 10 people there. We tried reds, ports, tokays, made a few purchases and then had homemade cakes and cappuccinos - very civilised indeed! We then visited Pfeiffer's (we had to skip this the day before) and a few more tastings and purchases were made. We ended the evening by dining at the Bank's restaurant and sampling more of the region's famous produce!

Thanks to VSAG for a great weekend and i look forward to seeing you all again soon (definitely at the next Winery Walk About Weekend where we can deliberate over whether we should get the passbook or the glass).

#### *POSTSCRIPT (by anonymous)*

*It may seem, from the contents of the above "trip report" that nobody else actually attended the weekend. This is not the case and all the VSAGers, their families and friends also had a wonderful time - in spite of the rain, mud, slush and absolute freezing temperature. However, no names have been mentioned - to protect the innocent!!*

*It should also be noted that a club president (past or present?) now has "Legend" status at the El Dorado pub which itself is a bit of a legend as it's the second smallest pub in Victoria.*

#### *POST-POSTSCRIPT*

*The real reason there are no names in the trip report is because Michelle and Kellie were just too pissed to remember who was there and who wasn't.*

## *VSAG TRUK LAGOON MICRONESIA*

BY PETER VLEUGEL

Our crew for this years trip -

Pat our trusty leader and tour organizer, Neville Viapree, Bob Scott, Ian Springall (Bob's minder) Wayne Hibbert the Queenslander, Peter Vleugel (myself) and Christine Vleugel the lady that looked after us all - or was she being minded by 6 blokes?

Leaving Tullamarine at 4.00pm Thursday, we headed to Brisbane where we met up with Curley (Wayne) and met his lady Pam and her children. We spent about half an hour with them and boarded for our flight to Cairns.

Arriving at Cairns, we met up with the crew from Warricks Dive Shop who were heading to Palau. We all went into town to a nice little Irish pub, spent a few hours there socializing with the locals and had a great time. Our flight to Guam left Cairns at 12.30, the plane was only half full which enabled everyone to grab a seat x 3 and catch up on some sleep.

Guam at 4.30am is a good time to get the duty free shopping done..as you can imagine... have you every tried it? It's impossible when you are tired.

After coffee, eats and lounging on a few vacant couches, and locating Curl's bags, we were then on the flight to Chook (Truk) which left at 8am.

Arriving at Chook is the same experience every time. They go through your bags, give you the "evil-eye" at customs and finally let you through - it takes quite some time. The hotel had a bus waiting for us and off to the Blue Lagoon Resort we went. It hasn't changed at all except Clarke Graham wasn't there. It had been taken over by the Blue Lagoon Dive operation and they run quite a good dive charter business. We were meant to dive on the first day but no boats were available, so we didn't start till the following day.

The weather was about mid 30's and windy as usual.

Day 2 Dive Fujikawa Maru. It reminded you why you put up with the long trip when you fell into the water. There it was...the wreck lying in gin-clear water. Water temp of 29 and fantastic! This is what diving is all about!!! After lunch on an island, we headed for the Fumizuke - another great dive.

Day 3 We dived the Nippo Maru and Heian Maru

Day 4 The one I have been waiting for, the San Fransisco Maru - WOW! what a wreck. It's real deep and there is so much on it to see, it would take 4 or 5 dives just to cover it all. We only did one dive but just to see the tanks on the deck and other vehicles in the cargo holds. Curly and I exceeded our bottom time by a few minutes and my computer shut down because of violated bottom times. So we worked off Curly's Shunto computer and notched up just over 1 hours deco. We were both set up with twin tank systems so there was sufficient air for the dive but bloody boring at 3meters for that amount of time. But then there was Diane, a lovely lady from Guam that we met, with her friend John. They were diving at the same time, so they kept us entertained. Curly got the fright of his life when Diane had a slate board and wrote messages on it. Curly removed his reg to give her a smiling gesture and when he did, she latched onto him and gave him the biggest KISS. She thought it was fantastic and when she came up "Ya-hoo, I did it". The crew thought she was nuts. Curly wasn't impressed. The afternoon dive was on the Shinkoko Maru . We also dived this one on a terrific night dive.

Day 5 Deep dive on Aikoku Maru. Up to 73 metres on the sand. This wreck has the front half of it blown away and as you go to the bottom and swim away to look back at the wreck, it makes you realize the destructive force that put this ship on the bottom. This one is rated as the most magnificent wreck at Truk. The ship was a freighter /passenger liner. The front half was missing but the rest of the ship is in excellent condition. Great accessible superstructure with anti-aircraft guns on the boat deck and a large stern gun in excellent condition. The cargo holds had the best kept trucks inside them, almost perfectly preserved. The aft holds still have the remains of Japanese soldiers in them. Bones everywhere, it was quite eery to dive amongst them and see so many human remains which were in quite good condition, including a skull which someone had placed up on

the deck. The ship sat upright, the bridge is at 40m and deck at 49m, stern hold 52m and the bottom about 73m. Bloody deep but very exciting wreck to dive. The bottom time was quite limited but we still managed to notch up over an hours deco...well it goes like that and we had fun. Afternoon dive was on Kansho Maru.

Day 6 Nagano Maru. This was the last of the deep dives which is 50m to the stern. A medium size freighter with guns and anti-aircraft weapons still intact. Later that day was the Yamagiri Maru.

Day 7 Unkal Maru and Gosei Maru and a night dive on the Shinkoko Maru (the tanker).

Day 8 The last day of diving. Nippo Maru and Rio De Janero Maru. This dive we decided it was time for Chris to get wet so we strapped the tank on and we did 15metres for 15 mins. on Wayne's tank leaving enough air for him to have a dive. It was quite an experience for her as she has only had one intro dive before with basically no experience.

The diving was great and after 16 dives in a row, you feel the pinch. I would like to thank the crew for putting up with Curly and myself on our deep dives with the deco times that we had to do. We didn't get too much abuse when we finally arrived at the surface. It was now time to dry out the smelly gear and wait the 24 hours before flying out. We flew out to Guam the following evening and saw the sights of Guam, eating out and being entertained at a club was fun. Chris and I left the rest of the boys and checked into a terrific new small hotel on the other side of the bay. We rented a convertible Chevy and we saw the sights of Guam and shopped until we dropped and had a great time. The following evening, we flew to Cairns and stayed overnight. The next day flying to Brisbane, we said good-bye to Curly and then back to Melbourne at 4.30.

We were away for 12 days and had 16 dives. We all had a great time and there are many tales to tell. Thanks to Pat Reynolds (alias DON) for arranging the trip and thanks to Bob, Ian, Nev, Wayne, and Chris for making it an enjoyable and memorable trip for all of us. Perhaps we should do it again next year.

## *THE COOGEE AUGUST 22*

BY DON ABELL

Those of you that actually bother to read my rivetting editorials will have noted that I have been continually advocating the pleasures of winter diving in Melbourne. Even if you did read my words of wisdom I have obviously not convinced the masses. The dive on Sunday August 22 drew only 5 of the club's membership on the 2 Haines owned by Messers Jeacle and Lawler. The passengers were Ted Cornish, Darren Pearce and yours truly.

The dive was scheduled for a single tank so we had the leisurely launch time of 10.30. Even my optimism for diving in August was a little cautious because the wind had been blowing through the week and there was every chance that the visibility would be less than ideal. However the forecast was for no wind so it would be a good day irrespective.

We decided to use the good conditions and head out to the graveyard and check out one of the wrecks. Mick gave me the choice so I opted for the Coogee as it was a wreck that I had not dived before. Well at least that's what I thought. Des Williams has reminded me that he actually has a photo of me on the wreck and I would never challenge the authenticity of a Williams' full glossy.

It took us a little time to find the marks but Mick came through as always and dropped the pick right in the wreck. Such a well placed shot that it nearly caused that decky of renown ( TC ) to do a quick bounce to retrieve it at the end of the dive.

The Jeacle boat stayed aboard with a cup of hot tea while those on the Lawler craft descended. They surfaced 20 minutes later to advise that the conditions were just perfect for the dive. Our boat kitted up and fell over into water that was just a fraction chilly. I was assured later that I was doing a Truscott and that the temperature was not a problem at all. Maybe I am phsyching myself up for Vanuatu next year.

Well JL and Darren were not kidding us - the visibility was about 60 ft. and there was no water movement to affect our dive . We cruised around the wreck with ease and took a relaxed look at all there was to see. It is a good dive at only 100



fit deep so there was plenty of time to enjoy the sights and then head to the surface. We made a deco. stop although I was keen for a wrestle with a warm towel and a cup of that hot tea. Even before the wet suit was off Ted had the jubes on offer . We all dried off and changed on the Jeacle boat while JL headed off to find a couple of abalone . The sun was pounding down on us and , yes , we slapped on a layer of the 15+ to protect our winter complexions.

Lunch off the beach at Point Lonsdale was as relaxing as you could ask for. We waited for John to join us and we slipped back to Sorrento across flat seas. So far it was a great day but it still had more to offer.

Mick and Ted insisted that we have a debrief at Tony's Bar on the way home. I am always a bit reluctant to imbibe on a Sunday but since I was dive captain I felt an obligation so I stayed for only 4 pots and some hot chips. The temptation is to stay for another 4 . It would be a good reason to have a holiday house around the corner from this pleasant oasis on the peninsular.

Well if this does not convince you about winter diving in Melbourne then you can't be convinced. It was simply a top day with the best of company.

## *SOUTH AMERICAN GETAWAY*

BY DON ABELL

In my last editorial I made mention of a recent trip I made to South America. While there was not much diving done I will throw it in to fill up an otherwise depleted Fathoms. There were four major destinations on the trip. Machupiccu, the lost Inca city; the Amazon Basin; the Galapagos Islands and Buenos Aires. I am happy to recommend the whole trip to anyone who might be considering it.

The Qantas flight takes you from Melbourne to Auckland and on to Buenos Aires. We transitted at the airport here for 8 hours on our way to Lima in Peru. I do not recommend the transit. The airport at BA can be circumnavigated in about 15 minutes which then only leaves 7 + hours to kill. We went to the Qantas lounge and slept. The flight to Lima I another 5 hours. I forgot to mention that the time to BA is 16 hours plus the ground time in NZ.

We met our friends in Lima. They had flown in from London and Mexico. The next day we flew to Cusco the 2nd city of Peru and the capital of the Inca kingdom. It has 400,000 people. The flights around Sth. America were a challenge. The aircraft were old and rattling. The Cusco flight was on an old 727-100 which was probably phased out of Australia in the early 70's. We may well have sold them to Sth. America. The plane did the job although the oxygen masks did drop out when the learner pilot slammed down on the runway.

We did tour Cusco but it was just a stop off on the way to the lost ( but now found ) city of Macchupiccu; a 3 hour train ride away. This was the best part of our trip. A sophisticated city , well designed and layed out to house 5000 people but abandoned for an unknown reason. the other very interesting fact was that about 75% of the people were women. Again - reason unknown. This city is on a peak with shear cliffs on all sides. You need to be a daredevil to take the bus trip up the mountain.

We stayed overnight in the small 20 room hotel. It's also the only hotel. The next morning I was the first person in the city and walked around for a couple of hours before the other tourists started filtering through. This place is fascinating. There are terraced fields for farming. Each field has soil from a different part of the local area to grow the most suitable crops. Hundreds of tons of soil must have

been carted on the backs of the Incas for many miles up the sides of the mountains. Sounds like very hard work to an accountant.

There is a river if you need a dive but since the city is at 8000 ft there is not a lot of water.

We went back to Cusco and then across the Andes to the Amazon basin. We landed on a grass strip and then took a 4 hour canoe trip to the lodge. There is no other way in or out. They acknowledged that to be a problem if you are bitten by a snake so it is a good idea to keep a look out. We had 5 days observing the birds and animals of the rainforest. If that's not what you want then there is not much else. There is a cold beer at the end of each day but they were not icy because they do not use the generator all the time. Any way we were so stuffed at the end of each day we hardly cared. So we saw as many monkeys as you would want, more cayman ( like crocodiles ) than you could count, 5 of the 200 remaining giant otters in the world, over 100 types of birds etc. But we did not see a Jaguar which was my great hope. After 5 days back to Cusco and airconditioning. Then to Lima, to Quito , the capital of Equador and out to the Galapagos Islands.

We did not dive in the Amazon. We were told that we were in the area where the Pirahna fish (if that's the spelling ) were not aggressive. They only bite if you have a cut exposed. I figured that I did not want to be the person to prove the naturalists to be wrong.

We did plan to dive in Islas Galapagos. Our trip here was 5 days on a yacht sailing around the islands. It's the only way to do it because most of the islands have no accommodation or facilities. The yacht was comfortable clean and the beer was cold. The problem was we all forgot that the fee for landing in the islands is US\$100. Having scraped around we paid our way but only had US\$25 left between 7 of us. Not enough for beer money for 5 days. Luckily auto. tellers even work in these remote places. In Equador we withdrew in multiple of millions of the local currency @ 12,000 to the \$. You too can be a millionaire for a day.

The islands are extraordinary. Animal and bird life have no fear of humans. We had to step over birds and animals because they certainly would not get out of our way. We did get a good opportunity to get into the water. From the yacht it was just snorkelling but that was a good chance to see what we wanted. We did

one snorkel with seals which was great fun . They are exactly the same in behaviour as they are here. It was interesting that some of the other people on the yacht had never seen a seal before let alone been in the water with them. The normal seal play made them quite scared until they understood the game.

In the last port we did a scuba dive . To start with I have to say this is not cheap. The dive with the basic gear cost US\$100. That is about A\$150. Never complain about the price of diving with VSAG. But when you are there you have to do it even if you feel you are being ripped off. To justify the cost we had 1 30 ft dive boat, the captain, a decky ( not up to the standard of TC ),and 2 dive instructors.

Even though this place is on the equator the water is not too warm - about 18C. The currents have a big influence. I had originally expected 25C+ but Barry Andrewatha made me wiser so I had taken at least my short wetsuit . A good idea for the snorkelling and the dive.

When I hit 60ft. I sat on a ledge next to a large turtle. We looked at each other for about a minute before he saw how ugly I was and left. Saw another turtle, about a dozen rays including a small manta. Lots of fish life. The visibility was about 40ft. We were at the edge of the bay for the town so it was not deep enough to flush out properly. I have been assured that the visibility is better further out and that was certainly the case when we snorkelled on the outer islands.

The Galapagos were beautiful and worth the commuting to get there. So now only Buenos Aires to go. A big and sophisticated city . Very European. We could have been in the centre of Paris or London except the roads were wider. The main boulevarde is 500ft across and that is no mistake. It is not possible to cross on one light change even if you run. 3 million people live in the city centre so it is fairly busy most of the time. A great place for a steak - the biggest I have ever seen and I recommend seeing a Tango show. Just the look in the eyes of those girls would be enough to melt me instantly.

Qantas back to Melbourne had so few people on it we could actually lie across the seats and sleep for 7 hours. I don't remember that for 20 years. South America is just opening up so some facilities are still developing. A bit of Spanish would be of help too. But the prices are still low with the exception of BA which costs the same as Melbourne for food , drinks and hotels.

I would go back and would include Rio which is apparently an unbelievable city.

**VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP**  
**DIVE PROCEDURES AND DUTIES OF DIVE**  
**CAPTAIN/BOAT CAPTAIN**

**Dive Captain**

1. Dive Captain is to plan dive - weather conditions, currents, tides distances to travel and any particular dangers.
2. Dive buddies to be allocated by Dive Captain and boat complement agreed upon.
3. Briefing before dive - outline of probable dive procedure and area by Dive captain.
4. Dive Captain to compile article for "Fathoms".
5. Dive Captain/Boat Captain to check out each diver's equipment.
6. Dive Captain to check capacity of boats for particular day and conditions.
7. Where there are more divers than spaces in boats, Dive captain will allocate spaces, having regard to who contacted Dive captain prior to dive.
8. Dive Captain to select alternative dive site if primary dive site is unsuitable.
9. Dive Captain will ensure that New divers are buddied with experienced divers.
10. If divers intend continuing diving after the day's planned diving, then they will notify the Dive Captain of their intentions.
11. If the diver is advised against the dive but still does so, he shall be reported to the Committee by the Dive Captain/Boat Captain.

**Responsibilities of Diver**

1. Contact the Dive Captain prior to dive.
2. Be ready at the advertised time - the advertising time will be on the briefing time. If the diver misses the briefing, then he may not be assured of a dive. Ensure scuba tanks are filled prior to day's diving.

3. Obey all instructions of the Dive Captain.
  4. Make payments to the Boat Captain any moneys agreed upon.
  5. Make any criticism he feels necessary directly to the Dive Captain at the time, if no satisfaction is obtained then matter can be reported to Committee.
  6. Stay in the boat he is allocated to.
  7. Ensure gear is in good condition.
  8. Report to Dive Captain, on leaving water, any abnormalities.
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### **BEST NEWSPAPER HEADLINES OF 1998**

1. Include Your Children When Baking Cookies.
2. Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Experts Say.
3. Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
4. Drunks Get Nine Months in Violin Case
5. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
6. Prostitutes Appeal to Pope
7. Panda Mating Fails, Veterinarian Takes Over
8. British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands
9. Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
10. Clinton Wins Budget; More Lies Ahead
11. Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told
12. Miners Refuse to Work After Death
13. Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
14. Stolen Painting Found by Tree
15. Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Years in Checkout Counter
16. War Dims Hope for Peace
17. If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last a While
18. Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
19. Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge
20. New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
21. Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Space
22. Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

## ***SAFETY PROCEDURES***

**The Committee of the V.S.A.G. has determined the following safety procedures, which are to be adhered to by all Members on Club dives.**

- 1.The Dive Captain is to oversee all arrangements and safety procedures for the day-s diving activities. The Club Safety officer is to act in the role of an observer and advisor to the Dive Captain and has the right of veto.
- 2..For each Club dive the plan is to be announced and adhered to unless alteration is cleared by the Dive Captain.
- 3.When diving as a group of boats under anchor, one or more boats should be manned to aid any calls of distress from divers and ensure the safety of the other boats.
- 4.The Club advocates that divers use the “buddy” system whenever possible.
- 5.When diving in and around the Rip, shipping movements should be checked out. No divers to submerge if any ship is within sight.
- 6.When problems arise on the surface and divers are on a bouy line they should be pulled up by the surface craft. The person holding the bouy is to control the diving of his/her buddy and they should therefore surface on his/her instruction.
- 7.At least one dive boat on the day should carry a Club oxygen cylinder with adapter.
- 8.New members should always be paired with experienced divers in the Club. This procedure should be carried out for a considerable period after membership to ensure that the committee is satisfied with their capabilities and that they are given every confidence in their own ability and the ability of other members.
- 9.The Boat Captain is to take responsibility in his boat to brief the divers on procedures to be adopted for the day’s diving.

### **N.B: Definition of a “Boat Captain”**

The person responsible for/in control of the boat and becomes Captain/Safety officer for that boat.

10. Desirable that all boats remain together in a group but in certain circumstances and conditions a Boat Captain may seek the Dive Captain's clearance if early departure is necessary (i.e. need to go home early). No boat should be left on its own when it still has divers in the water. No boat should go off alone during a club dive to go scallop or abalone diving. If this happens the boat is considered not to be diving with the club.

**11. Boat Captain - deputy Dive Captain and Safety Officer for his/her boat.** When the Boat captain is diving this duty is transferred to someone else in the boat. A proforma for logging dives should be kept on the boat to be completed if there is a diving incident.

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## NOW HERE'S ONE FOR JIM -

### Dilemma of Guilt

Howard had felt guilty all day long. No matter how much he tried to forget about it, he couldn't. The guilt and sense of shame was overwhelming.

But every once in a while he'd hear that soothing voice trying to reassure him - "Howard, don't worry about it. You're not the first doctor to sleep with one of your patients and you won't be the last. And, you're single. So just let it go."

variably the other voice would bring him back to reality.....

Howard, you're not the first..."



## SPUMS DIVING DOCTOR LIST MARCH 1999 - VICTORIA

**ASCOT VALE**

Dr Michael Skehan  
Ascot Vale Medical Centre  
63 Union Road  
(03) 9370 5977

**ASHWOOD**

Dr Gary Zimmerman  
Malvern Sports Medical Centre  
330 High Street  
(02) 9385 8961

**BALLARAT**

Dr Robert J Karmouche  
706 Snurt Street  
(03) 5332 1521

**BALLARAT NORTH**

Dr Michael Condous  
Ballarat Surgical Clinic  
106 Drummond Street  
(03) 5332 7241

**BALWYN**

Dr Barbara Y H Bloch  
The Clinic Belmont  
4 Belmont Road  
(03) 9859 4188

**BARWON HEADS**

Dr Elizabeth Christie  
16 Punt Road  
(03) 5254 2345

**BENALLA**

Dr Rowena Mann  
Carrier Street Medical Clinic  
30 Carrier Street  
(03) 5762 4629

**BOX HILL**

Dr Phillip Susman  
Killara Medical Centre  
6 Bruce Street  
(03) 9890 0781

**BRIGHTON**

Dr Fiona Cochrane  
2 Church St  
(03) 9592 6622

Dr Kenneth F Shepherd

"Medisport"  
7 Young Street  
(03) 9592 1231

**BRUNSWICK**

Dr Martin Hodgson  
76-90 Moreland Street  
(03) 9383 1155

**CARLTON**

Dr Margaret Bullen  
251 Grattan Street  
(03) 9344 6904

Dr Michael D Paszylka

251 Grattan Street  
(03) 9344 6904

Dr Vani Reddi

251 Grattan Street  
(03) 9344 6904

**CARNEGIE**

Dr Mark Lipzker  
Carnegie Medical Centre  
232 Koornang Road  
(03) 9568 5300

**CARRUM DOWNS**

Dr Vanessa Haller  
Southern Medical Centre  
119 Hall Road  
(03) 9782 0676

**CHELSEA**

Dr T A Dillon  
Bonbeach and Chelsea Medical Centre  
363 Station Street  
(03) 9772 1111

**CLAYTON**

Dr Vincent W Griffith  
Monash University Health Service  
Union Building  
Wellington Road  
(03) 9905 3175

**DIAMOND CREEK**

Dr A McCleary  
St Helena Mediplex  
212 Aqueduct Road

**DIMBOOLA**

Dr John A Pickering  
The Medical Centre  
Dimboola Hospital  
Cnr Lloyd and Anderson Streets  
(03) 5389 1604

**DINGLEY**

Dr John Lange  
Interhealth Industrial Clinic  
110 Centre Dandenong Road  
(03) 9558 2155

**EAST MELBOURNE**

Dr Rhyll Black  
Police Clinic  
Freemasons Hospital  
166 Clarendon St

**ELTHAM**

Dr David Lester  
1170 Main Road  
(03) 9439 2222

**FRANKSTON**

Dr C J Lourey  
25 Hastings Road  
(03) 9770 1388

**GEELONG**

Dr Ian Blair-Holt  
Coro Village Medical Practice  
83D Purnell Road  
(03) 5275 4568

**GEELONG NORTH**

Dr Cindy Nelson  
252 Church Street  
(03) 5277 0907

**HAWTHORN**

Dr John H Silver  
105 Riversdale Road  
(03) 9818 3233

**KEYSBOROUGH**

Dr Nicholas Demediuk  
323 Cheltenham Road  
(03) 9798 6244

**LILYDALE**

Dr Michael Lum  
355 Main St

## SPUMS Diving Doctor List March 1999 - Victoria

**LILYDALE**

Dr Stan Osman  
316 Main Street  
(03) 9735 5877

**MALVERN**

Dr Barbara Y H Bloch  
199 Waverley Rd  
(03) 9571 5800

**McKINNON**

Dr George Janko  
McKinnon Sports Medicine  
227 McKinnon Rd

**MELBOURNE**

Dr Bruce Hamilton  
Olympic Park Sports Medicine Clinic  
Swan Street  
(03) 9427 0766

Dr Sonny Lau

Travellers Medical and Vaccination  
Centre  
Level 2, 393 Little Bourke St.  
(03) 9602 5788

Dr Paul McCrory

Olympic Park Sports Medicine Centre  
Swan Street  
(03) 9427 0366

Dr Charles Okraglik

Central Travel and Vaccination Clinic  
3rd Floor, 114 William Street  
(03) 9670 2020

**MITCHAM**

Dr Geoff Feben  
478 Mitcham Road  
(03) 9873 4143

**MOE**

Dr S T Grigoleit  
Moe Medical Centre  
5-7 Lloyd Street  
(03) 5127 3333

**MOUNT ELIZA**

Dr David E Kosenko  
Ti Tree Family Doctors  
118 Mount Eliza Way  
(03) 9787 8033

**MOUNT MARTHA**

Dr Vanessa Haller  
55 Two Bays Crescent  
(03) 5974 8123

**MOUNT WAVERLEY**

Dr Robert R Molnar  
Pinewood Medical Clinic  
63 Centreway  
(03) 9802 9898

**MULGRAVE**

Dr Peter a Giles  
Valewood Clinic  
1-3 Wanda Street  
(03) 9560 6655

Dr F G Tighe

Valewood Clinic  
1-3 Wanda Street  
(03) 9560 6655

**NEWPORT**

Dr Janene Mannerheim  
16 Gordon Street  
0412 586 271

**NORTH MELBOURNE**

Dr Ronald Suss  
North Melbourne Medical Centre  
448 Victoria Street  
(03) 9328 1151 or 1526

**NUNA WADING**

Dr Martin Hodgson  
353 Whitehorse Road  
(03) 9872 3044

**OLINDA**

Dr Geoff Broomhall  
8 Broompark Crescent  
(03) 9751 2084

**PARKVILLE**

Dr Anthony Gherardin  
Travellers Medical and Vacc. Centre  
Royal Melbourne Hospital  
Royal Parade  
(03) 9347 7132

**POINT LONSDALE**

Dr Michael W Birrell  
Queenscliff District Community Health  
Centre  
Grimes Road  
(03) 5252 1944

**PORT MELBOURNE**

Dr Ken Shepherd  
Melbourne Hyperbaric Centre  
119 Rouse Street  
(03) 9646 1724

**PORTLAND**

Dr C M Lee  
Seaport Medical Centre  
6 Fern Street  
(03) 5523 2322

**PORTSEA**

Dr George Westlake  
Billabong  
36 Marnas Road  
(03) 5984 4620

**PRAHRAN**

Dr Ian Millar  
Alfred Hospital  
Commercial Road  
(03) 9510 3733

Dr Carlos Scheinkestel

Alfred Hospital  
Commercial Road  
(03) 9276 2269 or 3036

Dr Aubrey Seknow

704 High Street  
(03) 9510 8834 or 9529 7863

Dr Gary Zimmerman

Prahran Sports Medicine Centre  
316 Malvern Road  
(03) 9529 8899

**RICHMOND**

Dr Woon C Chen  
36 Church Street  
(03) 9428 7309

Dr Richard D Shields

Epworth Hospital  
89 Bridge Road  
(03) 9426 6470

**RESEARCH**

Dr A McCleary  
318 Reynolds Rd  
(03) 9431 1106