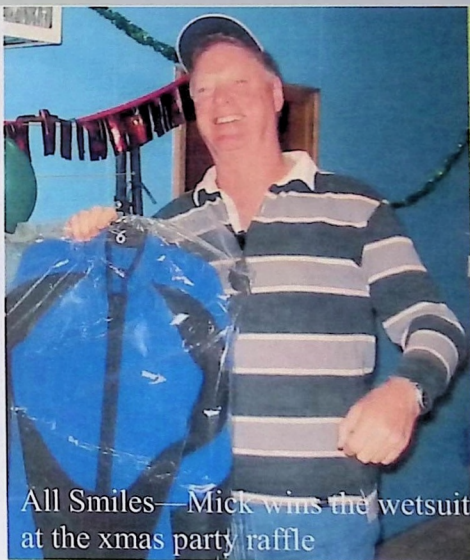


# FATHOMS

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

DECEMBER 2009-JANUARY 2010



All Smiles—Mick wins the wetsuit at the xmas party raffle



[www.vsag.org.au](http://www.vsag.org.au)

Postal Address:

VSAG

145 Johnston St

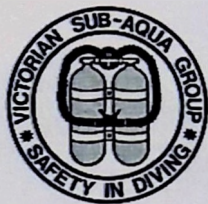
Newport VIC 3015





VSAG XMAS PARTY 2009

# FATHOMS



*Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group*

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**VSAG General Meetings**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month

**Editorial Submissions to:**

Bell's Hotel  
157 Moray Street (cnr Coventry Street)  
South Melbourne, 8.00 pm  
Alan Storen  
15 Regal Court Vermont South Vic 3133  
storens@bigpond.nct.au



# Editorial

*With Greg now taking over as President the editorial will take more of a traditional format and Greg has been given his own page called, what else, "President's Page". I did have some other suggestions: Greg's Grumblings, President's Procrastinations, Richard's Rants and a few others I could not put in print. (see page 7)*

*Some great articles this month as well as the usual contributors. We report on the VARS Ball, the SDFV Cup Weekend, and local diving – all these were all fantastic events and obviously the call is – come and join us!*

*There is always room for more articles, stories and photos in the magazine so don't hesitate to forward them to me – there is little I will not publish if in good taste. The rest I forward to the President for information.*

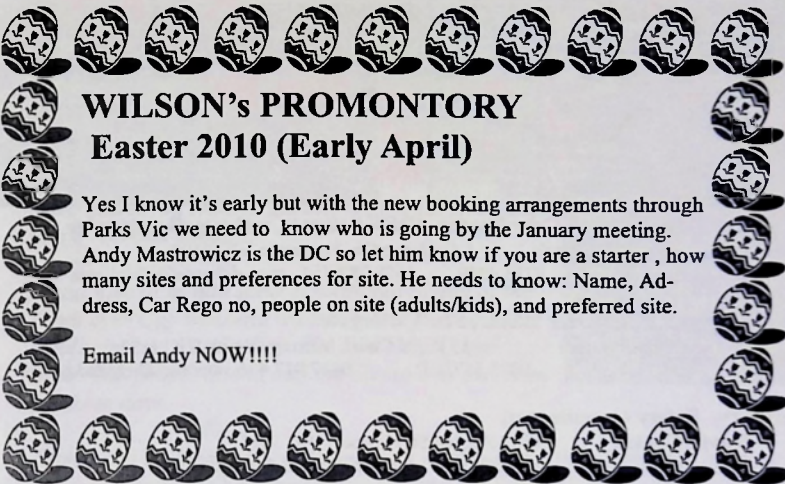
*With Summer upon us, it is now time for the annual checks. First and most important is your medical checkup – when was your last? Second check is whether the tanks are in service – note there has been a lot of discussion on the pre-1990 Aluminium tanks and most places will not fill. VSAG member, Robin Woods will fill if you are going past Mooroolbark but he is one of the very few. If you go interstate do not take tanks hoping they can be filled at the local dive shop – probably they will not be! The next check up is more difficult – when did you have your gear (Reg and BC) serviced. Not a good look if they fail at 30m. VSAG motto is 'Safety in Diving' – we have not had a serious accident in the past – let's keep it that way.*

*Greg Breese is arranging a photo competition so all you camera buffs out there start shooting and enter a photo in the comp. Details are on page 13. Please note I reserve the right to publish any or all of the photos in Fathoms.*

*I have been asked several times what the numbers at the bottom of the page stand for and it is simply my code for the edition—ie the 912 below is: 2009 hence the 9 and December edition hence the 12—now the secret is revealed!*

*All the best for the festive season and have a merry xmas and happy new year. I hope santa brings you all the scuba toys you want and you come out diving with us more often. next year—make this a new year resolution—and keep it!*

Cheers  
Keep blowing bubbles  
Alan



## WILSON's PROMONTORY Easter 2010 (Early April)

Yes I know it's early but with the new booking arrangements through Parks Vic we need to know who is going by the January meeting. Andy Mastrowicz is the DC so let him know if you are a starter, how many sites and preferences for site. He needs to know: Name, Address, Car Rego no, people on site (adults/kids), and preferred site.

Email Andy NOW!!!!


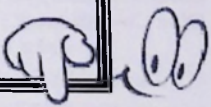
### Clothes for sale

VSAG still have the following club garments for sale

Caps; T-shirts — size xL

Polos - size L; size xL; and size xxL

Peter Briggs



**Reports on dives and other activities are urgently needed. Please submit to the editor. Photos also needed of club trips and social activities.**

**[storens@bigpond.net.au](mailto:storens@bigpond.net.au)**

# Committee 2009 - 2010



**President, New Member Coordinator, SDFV delegate, web/email responder**  
**Greg Richards** 5 Oakhurst Crt, Frankston VIC 3199  
9783 4249 0408 287 754 greg.richards@albint.com

**Vice President, Newsletter Editor, SDFV delegate**  
**Alan Storen** 15 Regal Court, Vermont South VIC 3133  
9803 3573(H) 0417 017 446 storens@bigpond.net.au

**Secretary, Safety Coordinator,**  
**David Geekie** 145 Johnston St, Newport VIC 3015  
0419 300 686 dgeekie@bigpond.net.au

**Treasurer Peter Briggs** 37 Blue Ridge Drive, Mooroolbark VIC 3138  
9727 3947 0412 585 546 pcbiggs@bigpond.net.au

**Asst Treasurer Andy Mastrowicz** 224 Wattle Valley Road, Camberwell VIC 3124  
9809 0984(H) 0402 060 711 gails@bigpond.net.au

**Social Secretary refer all matters to John Lawler**  
**Dive Co-ordinator, New Member Coordinator,**  
**John Lawler** 7 Cloris Avenue, Beaumaris VIC 3193  
9589 4020(H) 0414 922 916 jlawler@aapt.net.au

**Points socrer Greg Breese** 161 Hudsons Rd, Spotswood VIC  
0431 832 344 gregfabreese@optusnet.com.au

**Equipment officer Michael Kakafikas** 16 Goodwood Cres, Gladstone Park VIC 3043  
93381996 0439 044 122 didgipus@hotmail.com

**Webmaster, Assistant Newsletter Editor**  
**Lloyd Borrett'** 35 Courtenay Ave, Cranbourne North VIC 3977  
5996 0033 0418 170 044 lloyd@borrett.id.au

**General David Ujinoto** 79 Raglan St, South Melbourne Vic 3205 0416 316 450

Committee meets 2nd Thursday of the month (except in January)  
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME  
Leighoah Hotel 1555 Dandenong Rd Oakleigh.

# President's Page

*Well the Cup Weekend has come and gone for another year, Christmas is nearly on us and the water is warming up. The dive calendar has plenty of dives listed and if you want to get into it give the Dive Captain a call and book in!*

*About nine of us had some sensational diving at the Prom over Cup weekend whilst quite a few went out locally in Port Phillip Bay. The SDFV BBQ had about 200 people attend and the diving was excellent for three days.*

*Since then we have had boats out each weekend and the diving has been as good as it gets. We have had people diving the Subs (J1 J2 J4) The Coogee, The Ramsden, Twin Bommies, Lonsdale Wall and drift dives on the Sponge Gardens.*

*Over Christmas we are going to have John Lawler organizing day dives on a needs basis- give him a call in the week/days before to secure a spot. Some of us are heading off interstate to places like Adelaide, Nelson Bay, The Phillipines and Eden. Look forward to hearing some reports after Christmas!*

*We have had two new members join in the last month: Dickon Roddie and Tony Van Denblink. Please make them feel welcome and I hope they enjoy years of diving with us.*

*Don't forget there is no formal meeting in December- but we do have a social get together at Bells Hotel at the usual time. See you all there.*

*Greg Richards*



# HIMAS Canberra

And what a ball we had!!



Historical

## Sinking Ball

Saturday 17 October 2009

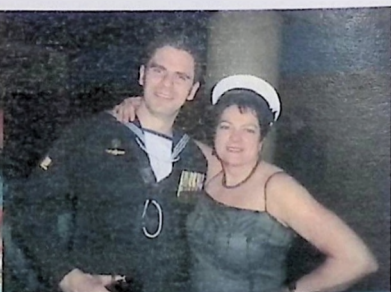
Melbourne Aquarium - Coral Wall Room

eventally presented by  
Melbourne Aquarium  
Melbourne Aquarium

There were 141 guests and VSAG made up almost 20% of the numbers.

What a spectacular night it turned out to be. With Jackie Storen, the nominated MC for the night, doing a fantastic job.

I know I am biased but everyone else seemed to also agree! Even saw many of the old and bold, and no-so old and bold up for a dance to the music of the 7 piece "Fabulous Fate Brothers" band. The auction, very capably run by Mick Jeacle, was also a feature of the night and several VSAGers were successful bidders on some items.







**Congratulations to:**

**Mick Jeacle—Coordinator/ Organiser (VARS), Auctioneer  
Josie Mares and Lloyd Borrett - Tickets, organisation, web site  
Jackie Storen—MC**

**And John Lawler (President) and the committee of VARS.**

**Alan Storen**

**[more photos page 10,11 and 59]**

**See also December DIVELOG page 20**





## What is generation Y?

Hmm, I've always wondered this myself.. Now I know.

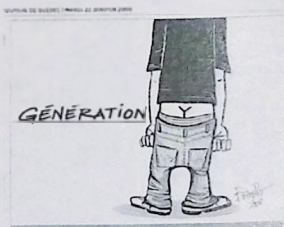
**The Silent generation**, people born before 1946.

**The Baby Boomers**, people born between 1946 and 1959.

**Generation X**, people born between 1960 and 1979.

**Generation Y**, people born between 1980 and 2009

Why do we call the last one generation Y? I did not know, but a cartoonist explains it eloquently Learned something new today!



## **VSAG PHOTO COMPETITION**

**14/11/2009—1/03/2010**

**VSAG will run another members photo competition during the time frame above.**

**Send your photo submissions to the competition coordinator - GREG BREESE: [gregfabreese@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gregfabreese@optusnet.com.au)**

### **YOU COULD WIN:**

**A Prize of 2 Gold Theatre Passes OR the winning photo printed on canvas ...it's the winner's choice!**

**First Prize will be judged by Dave Bryant from Seapics. Second and third place getters will each receive a prize.**

**Photos should be diving or VSAG related, feel free to provide your own funny or informative caption for each photo! Minimum two pics per entrant.**

**A slide show of entrant's photos will be shown at the March meeting 2010 and a special members' choice award voted on the night!**



**A Sea Horse**

# Enemy Submarine Activity off the Australian Coast in WW2

by Mackenzie J. Gregory.

## Introduction.

When Japan made her sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on Sunday December 7th. 1941, not only did she precipitate the United States into WW2, but they probably decided their own fate in the war they had started in the Pacific.

On a personal note, I had been at sea in the North Atlantic in HMAS *Australia* from just after Dunkirk in 1940 for about a year, my ship was in Colombo on her way home, I had been promoted to Acting Sub-Lieutenant, and off I went back to UK for my courses in Royal Navy Schools, to qualify in Torpedoes, Gunnery, Signals, and Navigation.

The RN had taken over the rather toffy Girl's School *RODEAN* in Brighton for its Torpedo training school, forced out of Portsmouth by German bombing raids. When we moved in for our classes, we found notices in some rooms which read " Should you need a Mistress during the night please ring." I assure you we rang long and hard, but alas, no response.

It has passed into Naval lore that before the Navy moved into the school the Captain insisted that all of the female students should leave, it was rumoured that some of the 6th. formers were still in residence. The mistress in charge reportedly replied " My girls will be alright, they've got it up here" tapping her head- to which the Captain answered "Madam it matters not where your girls have it, rest assured my Sailors will find it."

But I digress, I travelled to Melbourne in the Blue Star freighter *Tuscan Star*, flogging across the North Atlantic, then down the East coast of the US to the island of Aruba to bunker there, thence to passage the Panama Canal, an interesting experience.

The canal consists of artificially created lakes, channels, and a series of locks, or water-filled chambers, that raise and lower ships through the mountainous terrain of central Panama. Built by the United States from 1904 to 1914, the Panama Canal posed major engineering challenges, such as damming a major river and digging a channel through a mountain ridge. It was the largest and most complex project of this kind ever undertaken at that time, employing tens of thousands of workers and costing \$350 million.

The canal cuts through the central and most populated region of Panama, and it has been a point of dispute between the governments of Panama and the United States through most of its existence. Under a 1903 treaty, the United States controlled both the waterway and a large section of the surrounding land, known as the Panama Canal Zone, as if they were U.S. territory. Panamanians resented this arrangement and argued that their country was unfairly denied benefits from the canal. Eventually, riots and international pressure led the United States to negotiate two new treaties, which were signed in 1977 and took effect in 1979. The treaties recognized Panama's ultimate ownership of the canal and all the surrounding lands. More than half of the former Canal Zone came under Panamanian control shortly after the treaties were ratified. Control of the canal was turned over to Panama on December 31, 1999.

The long haul across the Pacific followed to arrive in Melbourne on Pearl Harbor Day. I gave a big sigh of relief when the US declared war on Japan, and then Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

I thought, IN THE LONG HAUL, WE ARE GOING TO WIN THIS WAR.