

THE VICTORIAN AQUALUNG CLUB

C/- Flat 20, 14 Springfield Ave.,
Toorak, Vic.

Ever since our Christmas trip to Seal Island, Tasmania, diving has not been the same since. Boy, what a place for skindiving. 26 members attended, including three female cooks. WOW!

After a nine-hour trip out into Bass Strait, we arrived at Seal Island at 5.00 a.m. God, were we glad to get ashore. We set up camp on Erith Island, which is opposite Seal Island. No sooner was the camp up than we were off diving from our 65ft. launch. All I can say is that Seal was a truly wonderful place for diving.

After the 14 days of diving in crystal-clear water with visibility up to 100ft., exploring several wrecks, diving around all the sheltered bays which are just loaded with thousands of fish and crayfish, and to top things off we had a very smooth trip home across the Strait (we did the trip by daylight and passed the Hogan group of islands and also Clifty Island), Seal will always remain a wonderful memory of some of the best diving we ever had.

Last year the club bought a compressor mounted on wheels, which pumps at the rate of 15 cubic ft. per min. The cost of the compressor was nearly £600, but I am happy to say that we have paid for it in full and still have quite a healthy amount in the bank. The compressor has proved to be a wonderful asset to the club, as we now take the compressor on all dives with us. Air is now at a very reduced rate for all members.

So far this year diving conditions have been very poor. The bay seems to be getting dirtier and you can never strike the weather right on the ocean. These days you've got to travel if you want good diving, as did about 12 members at Easter when they headed up to Eden, N.S.W.

Let's hope the winter's better this year, as we have many boat trips planned and a trip up to Piccaninny and Ewens Ponds, S.A.

Membership is now open to all divers or non-divers. If you don't dive we will train you. Full inquiries may be made to the Secretary, or phone 87-2887.

Cheers for now.

— Warren Warburton,
Secretary.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

Sec.: Bob Scott, 30 Burgess Street,
Kogarah. 58-6033.

EASTER WEEKEND

Joan and Prof headed for Shoal Bay and got as far as Brooklyn Bridge, but the traffic was so ridiculous they turned around and dived on the South Coast. Also down that way were Bob Nicholls and the boys.

Alan Moule, John Allen and "Fidel" Allen spent Easter at Piccaninny Ponds. It's as good as they say and more. Advice to anyone going that way — don't use public holidays, as half of Victoria arrived just as we were leaving. Guide lines and torches are a necessity.

Also met Rodney Fox down there. He must be the luckiest man alive.

APRIL ACTIVITIES

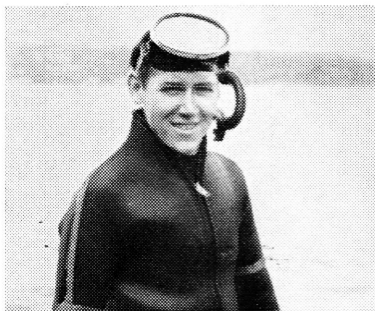
20th April — Club Meeting. Financial membership now stands at 110 members. After-meeting slides were shown of the Ponds, Blow-hole and Katoomba. (How did they get in?)

25th April—Ten-pin bowls elimination heat.

Denis Robinson — Highest Score, single game.

Bob Nicholls—Highest Score, overall. John Cameron—Second-highest Score.

26th April—Trawler Day. Those ugly vicious rumours about Denis being seen in the water are definitely true.



• Bob Nicholls (S.P.D.).

MAY ACTIVITIES

18th May—Club Meeting.

24th May — Clean-up day at Brighton Baths in conjunction with Brighton Underwater Club.

31st May—Trawler day.

JUNE ACTIVITIES

15th June—Annual General Club Meeting.

21st June—Spearfishing comp. at Boat Harbour.

28th June—Trawler day.

Club members requiring information on any club activities please ring Bob Scott at 58-6033.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Inter-club spearfishing competition in July; Photo competition in September—this year's will be better than ever.

Thought for the Month

A boat is a necessity for diving, especially somebody else's. — John Allen.

— Hard Hat

NEWCASTLE UNDERWATER RESEARCH GROUP

C/- P. Armstrong, Secretary,
30 Adelaide St., East Gosford.

The Pacific Coast Scuba Titles were a disappointment as far as the number of visiting clubs and competitors were concerned. Only one other club, North Shore, entered competitors besides our own, although there are at least five other supposedly active Scuba groups on the eastern seaboard.

Owen Drew is the new champion and the runner-up was Les Simon, who proved to be a bit of a "dark horse". North Shore have a very competent young diver in Bob Delander, who took out the junior title and finished second over-all. Nev Croese of our own club is an up-and-coming junior.

The outing at Fingal Bay last month was a wipe-out as far as conditions were concerned. Poor visibility has hampered our last two club dives.

Lectures on physiology, the problems associated with diving, and on current affairs in the diving world are included in our general meeting programmes and are proving popular. Last month, Peter Armstrong spoke about the finding of the U.S. submarine "Thresher" and on Jacques Cousteau's "Conshelf" projects, which began in 1963 and will be continued for the next two years, culminating with his plan for men to live on the drop-off of the Continental Shelf at about 590 ft. and to work at a depth of 1,300 ft. with conventional Scuba equipment.

Two completely new locations have been chosen for this month's dive outings — Mooni Beach and the Merewether Reefs. These two spots are usually out for Scuba diving during the summer months because of the prevailing winds, but now the westerlies are here we should be able to have some really good dives on virtually (as far as the club is concerned) untouched territory.

The night dive in Swansea Channel under the bridge was scheduled for May 22, when the tides would have been most suitable.

— Patricia Dunning,
Publicity Officer.