

# Dive Planning

## Weather

- Diving occurs in water.
- Water is affected by wind and swell (and currents).
- Dive planning requires you to become a weather geek, in particular wind and swell.
  - Wind: windy.com, windguru, meteye, Willy Weather
    - Concepts of offshore and onshore wind directions.
  - Swell: swellnet, willy weather, windguru
    - Current swell size can be found at BOM Pt Nepean Swell Buoy.
- Dive planning/leading requires you to read water conditions on site.
  - Detecting slack water at dive sites within PPB heads.
  - Detecting currents at sites.

## Tides

- Water is affected by tides.
- Tides are caused by forces generated by the sun and moon.
- Dive planning requires you to become very familiar with tides tables if you plan to dive anywhere with tidal currents. For example PPB heads, San Remo jetty, Cowes jetty.
- *This topic is to be covered in another of Sandrines sessions so doesn't need to be covered here in detail.*

## Choose the Date

### *Two Approaches*

1. Choose a date and watch the forecasts
2. Watch the forecasts and when a window appears decide on a date.

## Choose the Location

### *Two Approaches*

1. Choose the location regardless of the weather but be prepared to change or cancel if the wind and swell don't align.
2. Once the weather window is identified choose an appropriate location.

Continue to watch wind and swell forecasts, make the final call 2 days prior to the stated date.

### *Dive Team*

A factor in choosing a dive site will be who will make up the dive team. In particular their qualifications and experience.

- Experienced...Anywhere
- Mixed or less experienced ...Less challenging locations.

### *Dive Site Possibilities (Victoria)*

- “Outside” (Outside PPB, PI Pinnacles or George Kermode, Inverloch, Beware Reef)
  - <10 knots
  - <1m swell
- Inside PPB or other protected locations (e.g. Inside Cape Woolamai, near shore Inverloch and Cape Patterson)
  - <10 knots on shore.
  - If the wind is offshore, it may be possible to dive with winds 15 knots or even more dependent on location and how close to shore it is.
  - <1.1 m swell depending on the actual location
  - Inside PPB is not greatly affected by swell. (one exception is Portsea Pier where the outside swell needs to be <1m)
- Shore dive or jetties
  - <10 knots onshore,
  - If wind is offshore, up to 15 knots or even 20 knots may be OK.
  - Note that Portsea pier and Queenscliff jetties require swell size at Portsea back beach to be <1m.
  - Note that some jetties can be significantly impacted by tidal currents. For example, San Remo, Cowes, Rhyll on Phillip Island.

### *Dive Sites with Tidal Currents*

Is the proposed dive site affected by currents?

- Many jetties are, and all dives in the PPB heads area are affected by tides.
  - Check tides at the proposed location. Is slack water at a suitable time?
  - What is the tidal range? Is it suitable or does it limit the dive too much.
  - Can the dive site be dived as a current dive or not? Plan accordingly.

### *Local Knowledge*

If you don't know much about a dive site, talk to someone with local experience.

- PPB heads (includes Lonsdale and Nepean walls, Ships Graveyard etc).. Dave Geekie, Pete Beaumont, Ian Scholey, Peter Mosse, ???others
- Inside PPB.. Pete Beaumont, Ian Scholey
- Phillip Island ..Peter Mosse, Pete Beaumont
- Inverloch, Cape Patterson..Pete Galvin, Rowan Salger, Angus Stewart Adams
- Beware Reef.. Peter Mosse

### *Recent Conditions*

If possible, try to access accounts of recent dive conditions, in particular visibility.

- Talk to other divers.
- There is some information on the internet and social media. (I don't know the sites or where on Facebook..need to find out)
- SCUBA Doctor often has recent information relating to dive sites in the Bay particularly southern sites.

### *Emergency Services*

Revise emergency response procedures and relevant contacts.

## Extras for VSAG Club dive

If the dive is to be a formal VSAG dive, there are a number of other requirements. There is a greater duty of care. This doesn't mean these additional considerations shouldn't be applied to non-formal VSAG dives but they don't need to be in place.

For example, running at least one live boat for a boat dive must be in place for a VSAG dive but not necessarily for a non-formal VSAG dive.

### Extras Required

- Dive briefing including allocation of buddies
- Equipment check including tank contents check
- Diver entry/exit recording
- Live boat and driver
- Oxygen
- AED
- First aid kit (minimum necessary for dive related injury)