

FATHOMS

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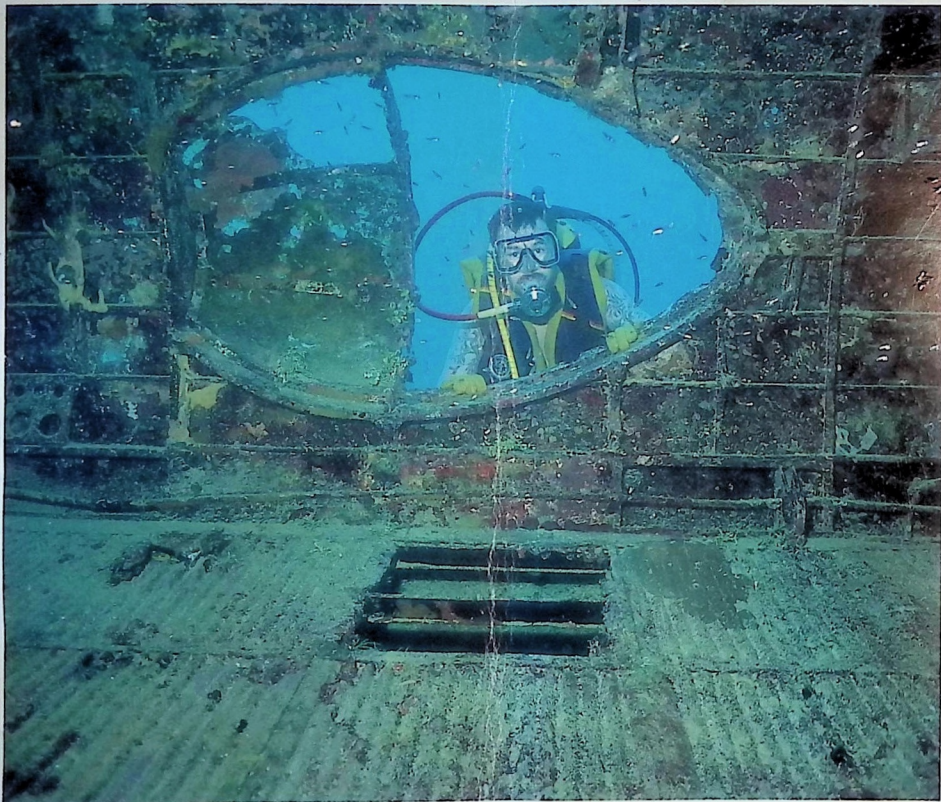
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Safety in Diving

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

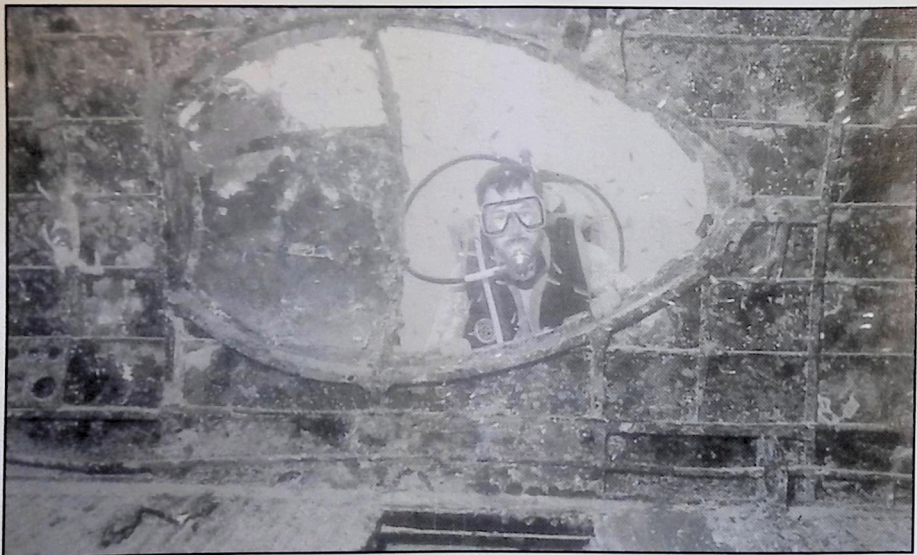
VSAG

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group. Box 2526W, G.P.O., Melbourne. 3001 Australia

These magnificent photographs are all examples of Des Williams' work taken on the VSAG trip to Truk Lagoon 1990.

I am sure you will agree that they are all outstanding, so good in fact that I couldn't decide what to keep or reject, so I've used the back cover as well and reproduced them all.

*Yours in Diving,
Alex Talay*



Front Cover:

1. Chris Llewellyn at Port-Side Gun Port. Betty Bomber Wreck. Truk Lagoon.

Back Cover:

1. Alex Talay with Ships Telegraph inside bridge of "Nippo Maru" Truk Lagoon.
2. Chris Llewellyn with lamp on "Nippo Maru" Truk Lagoon.

3. Chris Llewellyn on bridge of "Nippo Maru" Truk Lagoon.

4. Stern of "Gosei Maru" Truk Lagoon, divers from left to right: Neil Medhurst, Justin Liddy, Pat Reynolds & Bob Scott (standing), Ross Luxford, Andy Mastrowicz (back)

5. Alex Talay inside fuselage of Betty Bomber Truk Lagoon.

6. Stern mast of "Gosei Maru". Truk Lagoon divers left to right Chris Llewellyn, Alex Talay, Justin Liddy, Pat Reynolds and Neil Medhurst.

The Victorian Sub-Aqua Group was founded in 1954 and has continued as a strong and active diving club since that time. It is incorporated as a non profit company and has no commercial affiliation with any organisation.

VSAG is committed to the preservation of independent diving freedom. It believes that divers must take a responsible attitude toward the protection and preservation of the marine environment but as a general rule is opposed to legislative measures that place prohibitive limitations and restrictions in diving activities.

Local diving is organised on a bi-monthly basis, generally out of participating member's boats. This is supported by weekend camps, charters to more remote locations and annual overseas trips. The club has a considerable investment in diving equipment.

Regular functions provide an opportunity for members, friends and families to socialise. Each month VSAG meets at North Melbourne Football Club where bar facilities are available prior to and after the General Meetings. Visitors are very welcome - smart casual wear essential.

FATHOMS

Official Journal of the Victorian Sub—Aqua Group

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Next general meetings

Thursday 17th December 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 18th February 8.00 p.m.
North Melbourne Football Club,
Fogarty Street, North Melbourne.

Next committee meetings

26th January - Pat Reynold's
Place.
23rd February - Mick Jeacle's
Place.

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EDITORIAL



It was only a few years ago when Satellite Navigation was the new toy that people were installing on their boats . . . that is if you had a \$200,000 cruiser and could outlay the \$20-\$25,000 for a "small" unit. Within a few years, both the price and the size of Satellite Navigation sets came down, and they became more accessible to occasional offshore sailors.

With the advancement of technology, the accuracy of Satellite Navigation devices improved, to the point where they could be used for a wide range of

commercial and recreational purposes, in addition to their already well proven military uses.

The Global Positioning System enables the user to accurately "pinpoint" his position on the worlds surface. Whilst accuracy can vary from model to model, pinpointing to within 10 metres is now possible.

Imagine the applications that such a system will provide to V.S.A.G. No more engaging in ever circling patterns looking for submarines, pinnacles, drop-off's, etc. A Global Positioning System will enable us to virtually head directly to any spot, which has been previously stored in the units memory.

Presently the Committee is examining a range of issues relating to Global Positioning System units, and it is likely that the Committee will purchase one of these units in the new year.

Anybody with information about the Global Positioning System, should contact Andy Mastrowicz.

As most members will now know, the V.S.A.G. Christmas Trip to Forster-Tuncurry has been cancelled. Whilst this is disappointing in itself, there is sure to be plenty of good diving locally. Several of the boat owners have indicated their keenness to get wet over Christmas/New Year. So if you're looking for a dive - ring around. (See separate notice).

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a safe and happy Christmas and an excellent 1993 . . . and please keep the articles for Fathoms coming.

John Goulding
Editor

MEMBERS - PLEASE NOTE:

THERE WILL BE NO
GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY.

The next 3 meetings will be:-
December 17th.
February 18th.
March 18th.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

by Don Abell

This is very much a repeat of the speech I gave at the Annual General Meeting in September. I would normally suggest that those who attended the meeting may prefer to move on and read some of the dive articles. However, this unbelievable weather will have rendered the magazine very low on actual diving reports.

For the ensuing year, the Club Committee will again operate with only eleven members. We had one nomination standing for the Committee this year, and unfortunately we had one of our Committee Members who found it necessary to stand-down from Committee duties. As in the prior year, the Committee will continue to operate with only eleven members and will not seek to second a twelfth person. All club members, however, should be aware that Committee Meetings are not closed events and everyone is welcome to attend. I only ask that you provide some notice of your attendance, primarily so that we have enough supper at the end of the Committee Meeting. The Committee Members are a ravenous group, who do not like to share their "little boys" too sparsely.

I have the pleasure of welcoming Andy Mastrowicz back to the V.S.A.G. Committee. Andy has served with the Committee previously, so I am pleased that he has again agreed to return and assist us with the organization of club activities.

On a sadder note, I am very sorry that Sally Staddon has decided to stand-off the Committee. Sally joined the Committee in 1990 and has been a contributor and of great assistance from the time she joined. She took on the role of Assistant Secretary from the day she joined, and moved on to become Club Secretary following the resignation of Ross Luxford. While I accept the birth of Sally's baby girl, Joanna, as a more than justifiable reason for leaving the Committee, Sally is a very good example of

the hard workers that I refer to on our Committee, and I am sorry that she is leaving (hopefully only temporary).

I always spend some time thanking all the members of the Committee. For those who have organized a club activity they will be aware that it takes hours of someone's time, plus considerable effort. All the Committee Members are hard workers and I have no doubt in my mind that Victorian Sub-Aqua Group would not be as strong and successful as it is, without the enormous contribution made by past and present Committee Members. I am grateful for the support they give to me, but more important, the support that they give to the Club.

We were active on almost all scheduled dives until June of this year. From June until the Annual General Meeting the weather has caused the cancellation of all diving. I have been diving, and in the Club for probably twelve years, and I do not remember ever having this many cancellations.

I have been assured by reliable weather sources that this is a result of the Elnino factor, which has changed the weather patterns all around the world in 1992. Typical examples have been the hurricanes which recently effected Florida and Hawaii in the United States. The same reliable sources assured me, that the Elnino factor is unlikely to affect us more than once every three or four years.

Although we had a full dive calendar planned, this was not the most successful of years. Diving at Narooma was only good for part of the time that members were there. We did our normal dive to Refuge Cove in January and the Club ventured, optimistically, to Port Campbell for the March long weekend. Although we attempted some diving on that weekend, the conditions were against us and most people resorted to partying and helicopter riding. The June weekend was scheduled for Sorrento and again, although we dived, the weekend would not have been considered a success.

Fortunately Easter was excellent. Four days of good weather and good diving. We had 70 people attending. This was perhaps the highlight of our diving year.

So if we are not diving, what are we doing? The Club's achievements in the last few years have been very much safety oriented, but I am convinced that in good V.S.A.G. style we have managed to balance our safety achievements with the feeling of diving freedom, which is very important to the basis of our Club and an enormous number of fun times.

Under the Committee direction the Club has jumped light years in its safety considerations. I confidently feel that safety is now a major consideration every time we prepare to fall into the water. This consideration extends from club activities to the competence of individuals. It is our objective to complement the capabilities of our divers, so that all the appropriate safety action is taken, without the necessity to restrict the diving activities of any of our members.

The Club now has:-

- ° Set safety procedures.
- ° Oxygen cylinders available on all dives.
- ° Appropriate specialized regulators for attachment to our oxygen cylinders.
- ° First aid kits in attendance on all dives.
- ° Improved requirements of the diving equipment for our members.

In addition, ten of our members have completed a PADI First Aid Training Course in the last few months. These people were encouraged to attend and complete the course by the Club, and this should ensure that there will be three or more first aid trained divers in attendance on all club dives.

When we compare our recent achievements with the experience, history and operating structure of V.S.A.G., we should all be confident that we have a strong Club that will continue forever.

Over the last four years the Club has concentrated its efforts internally, to ensure that our operating structure is the right one. In my opinion, the Club should now focus externally, to ensure that we maintain our diving and membership strengths. The three areas that should be concentrated on through the next two or three years are:-

- **Membership**

It is important that we not only keep our membership numbers up, but ensure that we have the right balance of members. A continual inflow of new members, will ensure that we have the right proportion of those who are committed to the Club and its continued success.

- **Dive Sites**

We need to ensure that we are aware of all the possible dive sites available to us. Although we probably dive on the best areas around Victoria, we should ensure that we are continually looking for new sites. As an observation, I feel that since the area around Tidal River has been declared a Marine Park, we seem to find a new and beautiful dive location almost every year. I am sure that there are plenty of new areas for us to find, and we should always be willing to dive somewhere new.

- **Club Profile**

I expect that V.S.A.G. has more combined diving experience and knowledge than most other commercial or non-commercial organizations. I would like to see the Club direct that knowledge

and experience for the benefit of the diving community and diving industry generally, and lift the profile of the Club. That activity should not be restricted to Victoria only, and I would like to see our Club expand its associations to interstate.

Each of these areas has been addressed in some way at Committee level and we will continue to go ahead. This should not limit the input of any member who has an opinion or view on these matters. The input of members is always sought after and greatly appreciated.

I made the statement at the Annual General Meeting that I would not stand again for President if there was another Committee Member supported for that position. I am aware that there may be other members who feel that they have something to contribute to the Club and may be better placed to do this in the role as President.

At the Committee Meeting on the 22nd September, I was re-appointed as President of the Club. This is not a situation that I had expected. I am happy to continue to work in any position on the Committee, but I do not think I could explain in this article how pleased, or perhaps proud, I am that the Committee has requested me to continue as President for a further term.

I look forward to another year of achievements which continue to strengthen our Club.***

TONY TIPPING - LIFE MEMBER

by Don Abell

The Annual General Meeting in September, presented me with my second opportunity to propose a Life Member of the V.S.A.G.

For me, Tony Tipping has always been synonymous with V.S.A.G. At the time I joined the Club, Tony was one of the most active members and a major shaker and mover within our ranks. It wasn't until I spoke to some of the older members of the Club, that I fully appreciated the contribution that Tony has made over the period of his membership.

Tony joined the Club in 1972 and therefore celebrates 20 years of membership this year. The first meeting he attended as a member was on the 18th July, 1972.

Many of the current members of the Club do not go back far enough to remember everything that Tony has contributed. Through his membership, he has held almost all positions in the Club and participated in almost all club activities. In his earlier days, Tony attended almost every function that the Club organized. In many cases it was Tony who undertook the organization. Tony dived every club dive. Since diving every fortnight was not enough, Tony was a regular diver in the "off" weekends.

Tony had his own boat named "Lil Ab". This was a ski boat which was certainly not designed for travelling in Port Phillip Bay or Bass Strait. I suspect that putting new members onto Tony's boat was seen by the Club as some sort of initiation test. Any new divers that returned to the Club after experiencing a days diving on Tony's boat, were considered to have what it took to make them a V.S.A.G. member. Tony later upgraded to an aluminium boat which he owned for only a short time.

Tony was involved in the training of divers when V.S.A.G. undertook this responsibility. When our Club first started, there were very few ways in which divers could

train to a standard of proficiency, so the Club undertook to train prospective club members.

Tony held almost all of the positions on the Committee. He served as President, and also the much sought after role of Newsletter Editor.

Tony was also a Foundation Member of the M.A.A.V. (The Marine Archaeological Association of Victoria), which was commenced very much through the efforts of a number of V.S.A.G. members.

Tony was also the organizer of the first V.S.A.G. overseas trip to Truk Lagoon. This was undertaken when Truk was first opened to divers and I suspect was a very different diving experience, to the experience shared by those members of the Club that joined the 1990 Truk expedition.

Tony was Clubman of the Year for three successive years, being 1978/79, 1979/80 and 1980/81. At the time of presentation, Tony was the only member of the Club to achieve the feat of three consecutive awards. John Goulding has also won the Clubman of the Year on three occasions.

Tony had a bad accident in which he damaged his ear while diving at Refuge Cove. While most other members would consider such an event significant enough to terminate their diving activities, Tony's love of diving and V.S.A.G. has kept him as a regular, if not so frequent, diver.

After 20 years in the Club, Tony is still active, he still has a lot to say and contribute to the Club, and is still always willing to organize events and dive trips.

Life Membership is not something that the Club awards easily. There are no set criteria for Life Membership and the Committee gave much consideration to Tony's nomination.

In Tony Tipping we have a member who has demonstrated longevity with the Club through 20 years of membership, an enormous contribution toward, and hard work in ensuring, V.S.A.G. is what it is today. Furthermore, he has given sustained and continuing support to the Club and activities through every year of his membership.

My congratulations go again to Tony with the honour of his Life Membership. For those members who have not had the opportunity to see Tony since the Annual General Meeting, I am sure he would be pleased to show you the gold lapel badge which has been presented to him by the Club.

As one of the great supporters of V.S.A.G., I know Tony will be pleased to speak in favour of the forthcoming recommendation, that all Life Members be asked to make an annual donation to the Club of twice the annual subscription of standard (non Life Member) members.***

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR DIVING

In addition to the scheduled dives listed in the Dive Calendar, several boat owners have indicated their availability for diving during the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

If you're looking for a dive, contact one of the following during their holidays:-

MICK JEACLE:	1 January	- 11 January.
JOHN LAWLER:	4 January	- 25 January.
ANDY MASTROWICZ:	11 January	- 25 January.
ALEX TALAY:	26 December	- 10 January.

NEW MEMBER

At the November Committee Meeting, Paul Stemson was nominated and accepted for membership to V.S.A.G.

Some relevant information about Paul follows:-

- ° **PROFESSION:** Food Service Manager.
Glenway Food Brokers.
- ° **INTERESTS:** Diving Courses.
- ° **HOBBIES:** Sewing diver qualification
badges on his wetsuit.
- ° **LIKES:** Diving.
Dive Courses.
Reading About Diving.
Watching Dive Movies.
- ° **DISLIKES:** Divers who have just a 'C'
Card.
Swimming around in circles.
- ° **PARTNER:** Mandy.
- ° **RESIDES:** Hallam.
- ° **TELEPHONE:** 702 3737.

Note: A quick check of Paul's credentials reveals the following qualifications:-

Night Diver.
Certified Equipment Specialist.
Rescue Diver.
Medic First Aid.
Master Scuba Diver.
Coastal Navigation.
Deep Diver.
Underwater Photography.
Underwater Navigation.
Wreck Diver.***

TIDAL RIVER - CUP WEEKEND

by Pat Reynolds

On arriving at Tidal River around 7.00 p.m., I was greeted by Mick Jeacle and John Lawler needing help with the new tent. Finally getting the job done we had dinner, a chat, a few beers and then fell into bed.

Noticed on rising Saturday morning around 7.30 a.m., that the wind was already 20 km./hour. John, myself and Murray Black checked conditions deciding to cancel the days diving. Our group began organizing their own activities for the day, including bush-walking, surfing and catching (or trying to catch) Lorikeets and Rosellas.

When night fell, entertainment centred on the Jeacle tent, home brew only, none of the commercial rubbish, a pleasant chat and off to bed.

Unfortunately, Sunday was also blowy, so Mick, Annie, Pat, Leo, Dave, Andy, Gale, John, Kim and Nicole piled into Leo's and Andy's new 4 wheel-drives and proceeded down the mountain to the flat low plains to check out the wildlife. Turning off the main road we drove along the old airstrip for about 2 km., then a bit of bush-walking and sightseeing. It became a very interesting afternoon before heading back to camp. Sunday night became a barbecue with 60 people from various clubs.

On waking Monday morning the air was still and it looked like good diving weather, dressed quickly and met John Lawler outside his tent. Organized ourselves and launched the boats with no problems. Soon we were heading for the Glennies. Diving first at Little Glennie, the island nearest Skull Rock, 60 feet depth and good visibility, a few fish and 2 crays.

Before commencing our second dive, we came upon boats and divers from Marlin Dive Group, they had their depth sounder on looking for a good dive spot. They found two good pinnacles, one rising from 140 feet to 30 feet,

the other from 60 feet to 20 feet, certainly worth a look in the future. Andrew and Leo checked one out and found ledges, fish and plenty of colour.

Headed back to shore and camp, after washing boats and gear, showered and got into the nibblies and beer. It gets better with every batch Mick! Had a great get together at Leo's camper-van till midnight, then off to bed.

Packed up Tuesday around 9.30 a.m. and headed home. A great four day break. Thanks to all who participated.***

*OPEN INVITATION
TO ALL V.S.A.G. 'ers AND FAMILIES*

RUTH'S FAREWELL PARTY

THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER (Chrissy Eve)

*721 FERNTREE GULLY ROAD, GLEN WAVERLEY.
TELEPHONE: 561 2828.*

Open House from 3.00 p.m. to whenever.

*Call through for an hour, an afternoon or an evening,
to say farewell to Ruth, Kate and Michelle
who are off to sunny Queensland.*

B.Y.O. Drinks and something to throw on the Barbie.

DIVING REVISITED

by Don Abell

I made the very rash prediction in June that the Club may dive on every scheduled dive through to the Annual General Meeting. The dive on the George Kermode on 27th September, was to be the next time the Club ventured onto the high seas.

The boats of Mick Jeacle, John Lawler and Neville Viapree arrived at Flinders on a glorious morning. A group of ten divers joined into an important information session, as part of the pre-dive briefing. How do you adjust the backpack to fit the tank? Which part do you breathe through? How long do you stay on the surface between dives? All this and more was discussed by our hardy group of members, who had all but forgotten how to dive.

When we come back to diving, we do it well. The sun was shining and the water was flat.

The three boats travelled down to the wreck together, and when we arrived we found the wreck marked by another boat diving on the spot. When their divers came up, we went down.

I had forgotten that a bright sunny day does not necessarily warm the water. There were a few of us that got a small dose of the Truscott's, as we descended to 60 feet.

The dive was easy and visibility was not great, but okay. While John Lawler looked for something to go with his chips for dinner, I took David Machen on a circumnavigation.

As we headed toward the surface I could feel the Celsius rising, and once on the boat the sun quickly warmed us through.

We stopped at Seal Rocks for a paddle en-route to Flinders. Two of the boats then decided to collect a couple of Abalone in "The Heads" area. Apparently there were also a few good looking crayfish in "The Heads", all confident that they were saved by the off season.

Thankfully, Leo Maybus had the 4 wheel-drive, Maverick, to pull the boats out of the water. It is very welcome after a long day on the water.

I am sure that all ten divers felt greatly relieved after their diving fix. Lucky too. The next scheduled dive on 11th October was again windy and rained out. As I write this on 18th October, the wind is blowing outside at a little less than gale force. Hopefully it will not be another 3 months until we get wet.***

LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND

6TH, 7TH & 8TH MARCH.

Tentative arrangements are being made to re-visit Cape Conran on the Victorian East Coast over the March long weekend.

Cape Conran is not far from Beware Reef, which offers excellent diving, including 2 wrecks.

Travelling Time: About 4 hours from Melbourne.

BUBANG CARAVAN PARK
TELEPHONE: (051) 548 219

TIP'S TIT-BITS

by Tony Tipping

It's not often that this column devotes a paragraph to thank anyone for anything - it's normally lighter and even occasionally more humorous than that. I suppose I was quite moved by Don Abell's speech at the Annual General Meeting, when I received (quite unexpectedly) Life Membership of the Club, and even more so, when I read John Goulding's article in the last issue of Fathoms. On both counts, I guess I was stuck for words (a rare occurrence) some would say. Thanks very much - it's great to join a privileged group, names like, Pat Reynolds, Barry Truscott, Bob Scott, John Goulding, there are a couple of others who we rarely see now. One of the highlights of my 21 years with the Club has to be the great Truk Lagoon Trip of 1980, while the saddest note was the loss of our old mate Keith Jensen. All in all, I've made many friendships, and had some great times and trips away with members and families of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group.

The November 15th dive at Flinders was pretty ordinary - firstly it was a day too early for crayfish, secondly the visibility was only about 20 feet and thirdly, I had to dive with a guest of the Club - his name Bob Barrow! So what's wrong with that? Funnily enough it was Bob (Bags) Barrow who was the assistant instructor to the late Fred Tidman, when I did my original "Third Class Diver's Certificate" almost 25 years ago! Bob went on to become a journalist, and wrote a column called "Dive Scene" in the Melbourne "Herald" for several years. He has many years of diving experience, both around Australia and overseas, and because he helped me get through my original dive course, I had to pass him on his V.S.A.G. check-out dive at Flinders! Welcome to the Club Bob, and I hope you pass the medical - every middle aged divers nightmare!

Tennis Party:

The 1992 Tennis Party was held again at Cranbourne South Courts on 22nd November. As usual we had a huge turn out, except for the Des Williams' and the Blanchards. Des rang at 7.30 a.m. to say it would be a wash-out and that he better let Graham know. Sure enough when we arrived at 9.30 a.m. it was drizzling, but by 10.00 a.m. clear skies and fine weather prevailed, and did so until 6.30 p.m. when we packed up. Better luck next time Des, and make sure you tell me, not Maarrg, when you're trying to make excuses. I would have really got stuck into you!

The 60 people who did turn up all had a ball, especially during the Doubles Final, with all those disputed line calls between us and the Truscotts - I only hope you go it all on video Dave.

Out of the 21 Annual Tennis Days, the Moores, Scotts and Truscotts still dominate the attendances with 20 appearances each (although Bob & June didn't actually play this year), nevertheless June is a stalwart when it comes to looking after the kids - as she does every year, she managed all sorts of games and competitions.

Thanks again to Marie, firstly for organizing the courts and secondly for letting Maarrg and I win the Doubles. Thanks to Mick for arranging Zodo again, the kids favourite clown - I reckon he'd do a great bucks/adult night, just like those other two at Don's 40th last year.

Apart from the rigging of the events, no-one ever complains about this fun day, and first timers Leo Maybus and kids, and the Khans, gave it their nod of approval. My only gaffe was letting Johnny Lawler bluff me into a 60 second handicap in "The Mile".

The Results:

Tennis Doubles

Tony & Marg defeated Bazza & Marie in a cliffhanger.

Singles Alex Talay defeated Marg Tipping.
Veterans Mile: Johnny Lawler.
Fastest Time Overall: Sant Khan.
First Girl: Rowena John.
First Boy: Marcus Tipping.

There were some pretty good performances in the run, too numerous to name, especially among the kids. Why didn't an adult woman run? Never mind, I'll keep the prize for the Christmas raffle.

Tip's Tit-Bits wishes you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. If you get this before mid January and you're anywhere near Coffs Harbour, call in and see us at Park Beach Caravan Park - no problems in getting a dive up there.***

**FOR SALE
LADIES WETSUIT**

AS NEW ABALONE LADIES WETSUIT - SIZE 2.

ONLY USED FOR 6 DIVES.

LYCRA LINED AND IN PERFECT CONDITION.

ONLY \$225.00

CONTACT NICKY ABELL ON 889 4415.

SOCIAL ROUND UP

by Cilly Ann Flank

During November V.S.A.G. members wined, dined, played a spot of tennis and generally had fun, as the V.S.A.G. social season got into full swing. And there to record it all was your Social Reporter: Cilly Ann Flank.

On 27th November, 40 odd V.S.A.G.'ers celebrated the on set of Summer at Guilfoyles Restaurant in South Yarra.

Various prizes donated by Bob Scott (Wetsuit), John Lawler (Hamper) and John Goulding (Air Travel) helped to raise over \$600.00 on the night.



Tony, Bob, Marie, Barry, June, Dave and Pat settle in for the evening at Guilfoyles.



The Jeacles and the Vleugels had the last laugh on Chris Llewellyn, who unknowingly was being "fingered" during this photo.



"A ROSE BETWEEN 2 THORNS"

***Julie Williams is flanked on either side by
husband Des and Ross Luxford.***



*Smiling Alex Talay and Debbie Finnegan
get their heads together.*



LIFE MEMBERS

***Bob Scott, Pat Reynolds and Tony Tipping
gather round Barry Truscott to remember
the "good old days".***



*Nicky Abell, Lesley Tipping, June Scott,
Maxine Whittaker and John Lawler seem
to be laughing at something.*

*Was it Tony Tipping's unusual serve?
Or!! →*

"ZODO THE CLOWN"



GONE FISHING

by Don Abell

In early November I was fortunate to join a Game Fishing Expedition to the Upper Barrier Reef. It's a busy time at work, but I hate to turn down an invitation. I am sure that someone in V.S.A.G. once told me, that once you miss one, you will never get invited again.

My friend Bob met me at Cairns Airport on Sunday November 8th. He had a hire car and showed me around a town that I have not been to in 15 years. There have been one or two changes in that time, believe it or not! The main change is the pushing of residential to the suburbs, so that the town centre is able to develop with future casinos, etc.

I was interested to find out that a town of 100,000 people has 110 international flights landing weekly.

We took a small plane to Cooktown in the afternoon, where I hired 2 scuba tanks for the trip. 2 tanks for 4 days, and the shop owner apologized for charging me \$10.00 per tank (due to the long hire).

We boarded the Shoki Maru at 9.00 a.m. on the Monday. This was a novelty for me, because it was the first "Maru" I have been on which is still afloat. The boat was only 3 months in the water and was state of the art. For those who like detail:-

Length:	46 Feet.
Beam:	15 Feet.
Draft:	3 Feet.
Accommodation:	Sleeps 9 People.
Engines:	Twin 500 H.P. Detroit.
Top Speed:	28 Knots.
Fuel Capacity:	2500 Litres.
Range:	500 Kilometers.

Naturally it was fitted with Satellite Navigation radar, etc. The bridge was like an aircraft cockpit. Interestingly, the Skipper told me that the Satellite Navigation could be inaccurate by up to 100 metres, so he still kept a good visual lookout as he went through the reefs. I can't help wondering how Cook made it in and out again.

The boat had a crew of 4 - Skipper, 1st Mate, Decky and Cook. It seemed a little bit too much for only 2 passengers.

We dropped the lines as soon as we got through the reef and started trawling. The lines are baited with lures or fish. A fish bait is bigger than anything I have every caught in my life. They are 12-18 inches long Tuna, Trevally or whatever else they have. Attaching them to the line is an art form. The bait must appear to swim through the water and not be dragged.

First day - 3 Black Marlin. These are unbelievable to pull in. It seemed that for every one foot of line I would wind in, it would then swim away and pull out two foot of line. However, in the fullness of time I landed 2 and Bob landed 1. The fish are released as soon as they reach the boat.

On the next morning I was transferred to another boat for an hour, to dive with a group of Americans on Pixie Reef. Not deep, but we fed the fish and it made a great spectacle. The Dive Master got very worried when I removed my vest to adjust my tank. I am sure he thought he was about to record his first fatality.

Hopefully, I got some good photos of 4 Butterfly Cod - yet to be processed.

The fishing on day 2 was without success. It can get pretty tiring to trawl for 7 hours without a catch.

Day 3 - The Skipper put me on the Cod Hole near Lizard Island. Everything Mr. Luxford had told me was true. Only 40 foot of water, but the activity was incredible. I stood back and photographed while the same American divers fed fish and Morays.

The Morays were a highlight. I had not seen them out of their holes before, and these Morays were 6 foot long. At one time I turned my head to see a Moray on my shoulder. His pearly whites only inches from my mask. If you can jump under water - I certainly did. In the face of adversity I did not remain cool, whereas I am sure that I could easily have pushed him away without sacrificing a digit.

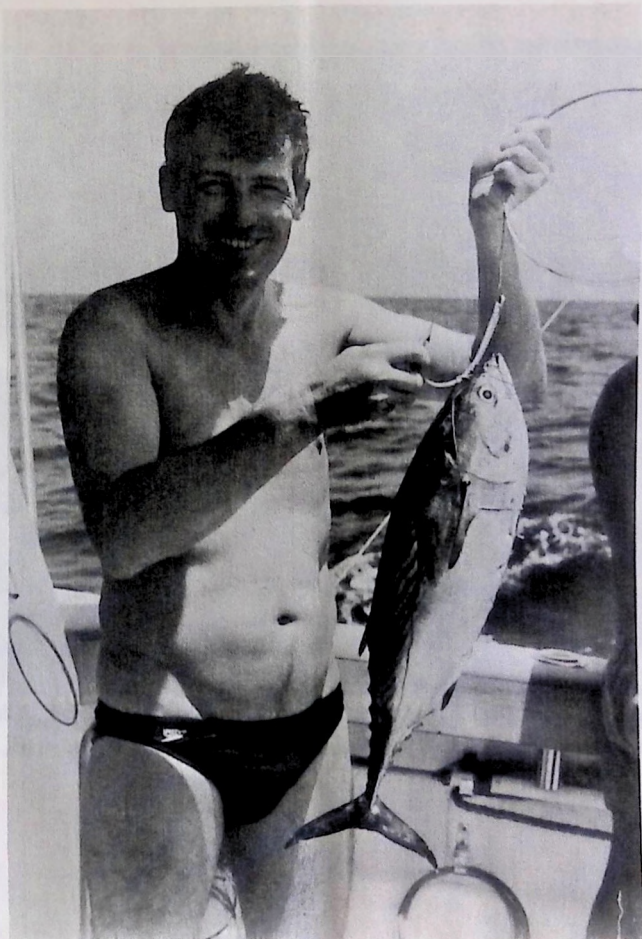
The Cod Hole was a wonderful dive.

I caught Black Marlin No. 3 on this day. He was approximately 350 lb. and fought for ages. After about 3 minutes to land him, I was exhausted and dripping in sweat. However, I gather the Marlin was not too pleased either.

Day 4 - Another dive and another Black Marlin (approximately 400 lb.) was caught by Bob.

This was a great experience. My first effort at game fishing and my first dive on the Outer Barrier Reef. The divers I spoke to, tell me that the diving improves as you go further into the Coral Sea. It would be interesting to see, but I have other diving priorities first.

From the Barrier Reef I flew to the Solomon's for a week, and dived at Gizo, Vepi and Honiara. See the next magazine for my article.

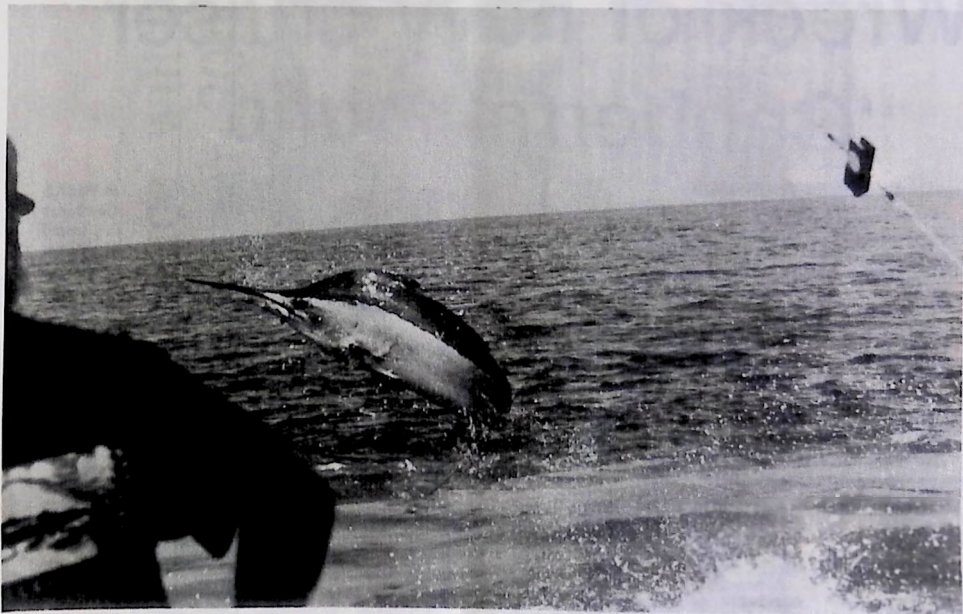


"DON BAITING UP"

Don admitted that the bait fish was bigger than anything he'd caught before.



*The bait is taken, and this old man of the sea
has one hell of a fish that will fight him
all the way.*



*At last the mighty fish explodes from the ocean depths,
to reveal its majestic beauty and strength.****

MEDIA WATCH

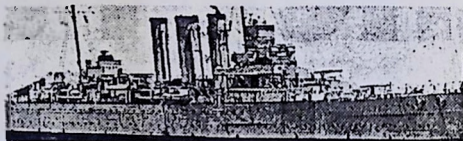
Wreck of navy cruiser 'Canberra' found

By ROGER HIGHFIELD
in London

THE wreck of the Australian heavy cruiser *Canberra* has been found during an underwater search of one of World War II's bloodiest naval battlegrounds.

The ship was found during a two-year expedition led by Dr Robert Ballard, whose team found the *Titanic* and the *Bismarck*.

Dr Ballard's team used the US naval submarine *Sea Cliff DSV-4* and remote-controlled subs to survey the graveyard from the Battle of Guadalcanal, the part of the Solo-



● HMAS
Canberra
... found
at 1000m
in Iron
Bottom
Sound.

mon Islands that saw the turning point of the Pacific campaign.

At Guadalcanal were veterans from America, Japan and Australia. The conflict lasted six months and is said to be as significant as D-Day or the Battle of Britain.

Selected veterans accompanied Dr Ballard in *Sea Cliff* to help

identify ships. Preliminary searches of Iron Bottom Sound revealed about 11 US and Japanese ships.

The expedition then went in search of the US cruisers *Astoria* and *Vincennes*, the *Canberra*, the Japanese destroyers *Akatsuki* and *Udachi*, and the battleships *Kirishima* and *Hiei*.

The *Canberra* was found in 1000 metres of water. It was in surprisingly good condition, sitting upright, with the guns still aimed at their last target, Dr Ballard said.

A bronze plaque provided by the survivors of the *Canberra* was placed on the ship's forward turret.

Dr Ballard, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, is working with the US National Geographic Society and Britain's Central Television on a documentary to be broadcast next year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle's end.

© The Telegraph pic,
London 1992



"HERALD-SUN"

Sunday 15th November, 1992.

Ships 'missing without trace' will be a thing of the past by year 2000

THE use of satellite communications for maritime safety in the 21st century is the subject tackled by Graham Mapplebeck, manager of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre within the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

While the concept of utilising satellites for communica-

tion was first mooted back in the mid 1940s, it was not until the '60s that the concept became reality.

Satellites are now providing continuous global distress monitoring and communications.

Theoretically, Mr Mapplebeck says, by the end of the 90s, ships should no longer be

"missing without trace"; the various satellite distress alerts should ensure shore authorities are notified of impending or sudden disaster at sea.

Where a ship's primary safety communications equipment cannot be actuated in time in a distress situation, he forecasts that the satellite beacons will perform the distress alerting function.

The ability of the satellite system to locate the distressed ship accurately and consequently the ability of the Rescue Coordination Centres to coordinate effective rescue, will significantly enhance the chances of rescuing survivors.

Satellites have already proven their worth many times over to distressed mariners, Mr Mapplebeck says. The almost immediate notification to rescue authorities is time and again saving lives, often in cases where no other alert has been transmitted — thus saving rescue authorities being alerted to the distress perhaps days later by concerning relatives, by which



Graham Mapplebeck

time the potential search area is usually enormous and the chances of survival consequently reduced.

For example, satellite communication was instrumental in saving 173 lives in one incident last year when the oil support barge *DB 29* capsized in a typhoon off Hong Kong.

Satellite technology is enabling the "search" to be taken out of search and rescue.

TIDE TABLES

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

PORT PHILLIP HEADS
TIDAL STREAM CHANGE
DECEMBER 1992

DECEMBER - 1992

Time m	Time m	Time m	START OF		DAY	START OF	
			FLOOD	EBB		FLOOD	EBB
0425 1.48	0415 0.81	0449 1.52	0100	0715	18 FR	0208	0831
1 1004 0.46	9 1014 1.15	17 1044 0.29	1308	1911		1454	2055
TU 1111 1.25	WE 1630 0.29	TH 1712 1.35	0130	0749	19 SA	0255	1011
2 2210 0.31	2347 1.36	2246 0.34	1347	1948		1557	2158
0455 1.43	0519 0.77	0530 1.48	0205	0822	20 SU	0345	1011
WE 1042 0.45	10 1115 1.17	18 1132 0.25	1427	2027		1659	2302
WE 1651 1.21	TH 1724 0.22	FR 1815 1.33	0239	0858	21 MO	0442	1109
2245 0.36		FR 1815 1.33	1427	2027		1659	2302
0525 1.37	11 0637 1.44	0615 1.43	0217	0937	22 TU	0548	1214
3 1119 0.44	FR 1212 1.21	SA 1930 1.32	1624	2207		1907	0009
TH 1734 1.17	FR 1812 0.16	SA 1930 1.32	0403	1023	23 WE	0659	0118
2320 0.47		SA 1930 1.32	1700	2312		2008	1319
0557 1.33	12 0123 1.50	0026 0.59	0459	1118	24 TH	0806	0224
FR 1158 0.43	SA 1304 1.26	SU 1318 0.24	1626	2307		2105	1420
FR 1825 1.15	SA 1859 0.11	2039 1.33	0605	1910	25 FR	0907	0323
3000 0.56	0207 1.55	0124 0.70	0615	1910		2155	1515
SA 2634 1.28	0342 0.36	21 0704 1.37	0715	0133	26 SA	1001	0415
SA 1240 0.42	SU 1553 1.30	MC 1419 0.25	2009	1322		2243	1607
1927 1.14	1944 0.09	2145 1.36	0817	0233	27 SU	1051	0503
0047 0.66	0249 1.57	0232 0.77	2101	1420		2225	1654
6 0718 1.23	0327 0.45	0903 1.28	0912	0325	28 MO	1135	0544
SU 1328 0.41	MC 1441 1.34	TU 1525 0.24	2148	1512		1315	1756
2038 1.15	1944 0.09	2145 1.36	0817	0233	29 TU	0002	0621
0145 0.75	0330 1.57	0348 0.79	2203	0411		1815	1025
7 0812 1.18	0511 0.40	1009 1.25	1048	0455	30 WE	0215	0653
MC 1424 0.39	TU 1529 1.36	WE 1628 0.22	2317	1649		1252	1850
2147 1.20	2115 0.16	2347 1.45	1134	0539	31 TH	0143	0723
0257 0.81	0409 1.55	0500 0.75	0000	0621		1327	1823
8 0912 1.15	0957 0.34	1112 1.25	1220	1822			
TU 1528 0.35	WE 1617 1.36	TH 1727 0.19	0042	0700			
2251 1.27	2200 0.24		1307	1909			
			1358	1959			

ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL 'SUMMER TIME'

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ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL 'SUMMER TIME'

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE - 1000
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

JANUARY - 1993

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0453 1.40	9 0009 1.34	17 0551 1.45	25 0152 1.42	
FR 1057 1.32	SA 0530 0.71	SU 1206 0.12	MO 0740 0.50	
2255 0.44	SA 1143 1.16	SU 1913 1.35	MO 1338 1.23	
	1741 0.14		1941 0.23	
0523 1.36	10 0100 1.42	18 0008 0.55	26 0227 1.44	
SA 1130 0.30	SU 0629 0.61	MO 0658 1.38	MO 0620 0.42	
SA 1757 1.20	SU 1245 1.20	MO 1253 0.15	TU 1422 1.28	
2331 0.52	1837 0.10	MO 2015 1.32	MO 2020 0.24	
0558 1.31	11 0148 1.49	19 0059 0.64	27 0258 1.45	
3 1205 0.29	MO 0721 0.49	MO 0728 1.30	MO 0656 0.35	
SU 1648 1.18	MO 1341 1.32	TU 1349 0.20	WE 1501 1.29	
	1930 0.10	2116 1.29	MO 2055 0.27	
0012 0.60	12 0232 1.54	20 0158 0.72	28 0325 1.45	
4 0634 1.28	TU 0412 0.37	MO 0626 0.24	TH 0529 0.29	
MO 1244 0.28	TU 1432 1.30	WE 1451 0.54	TH 1538 1.31	
1946 1.16	2019 0.12	2219 1.28	TH 2128 0.31	
0058 0.69	13 0314 1.56	21 0937 1.17	29 0353 1.44	
5 0718 1.19	WE 0900 0.26	TH 1558 0.26	FR 1614 1.31	
TU 1329 0.28	WE 1526 1.42	TH 2322 1.30	FR 2200 0.36	
2054 1.17	2107 0.18			
0156 0.76	14 0353 1.58	22 0430 0.74	30 0422 1.41	
6 0812 1.14	TH 0947 0.18	FR 1704 0.28	SA 1650 1.30	
WE 1425 0.26	TH 2153 0.45		SA 2233 0.42	
2204 1.20	2153 0.25			
0308 0.80	15 0431 1.54	0021 1.34	0453 1.37	
7 0917 1.11	MO 1033 0.12	0547 0.67	1101 0.21	
TH 1531 0.24	FR 1713 1.43	SA 1150 1.16	SU 1730 1.27	
2310 1.26	2238 0.35	1603 0.24	TU 2307 0.48	
0423 0.78	16 0510 1.31	0111 1.38		
8 1031 1.12	MO 1118 0.10	0650 0.59		
FR 1639 0.19	SA 1812 1.40	SU 1247 1.19		
	2352 0.45	1856 0.23		

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ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL "SUMMER TIME"

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

TIDAL STREAM CHANGE

JANUARY 1993

	START OF		FLOOD	EBB		START OF	
	FLOOD	EBB				FLOOD	EBB
1 FR	0137 1405	0755 2004	0322 1635	18 MO		0322 1635	0946 2237
2 SA	0209 0827	2044 2044	0414 1733	19 TU		0414 1733	1039 2337
3 SU	0244 1528	0901 2129	0514 1835	20 WE		0514 1835	1140
4 MO	0323 1018	0939 1615	0624 1940	21 TH		0624 1940	0045 1248
5 TU	0408 1712	1024 2222	0738 2043	22 FR		0738 2043	0166 1385
6 WE	0504 1815	1119	0849 2137	23 SA		0849 2137	0304 1457
7 TH	0613 1921	0836 1224	0949 2224	24 SU		0949 2224	0401 1552
8 FR	0727 1335	0147 1335	1039 2304	25 MO		1039 2304	0446 1640
9 SA	0837 1442	0250 1442	1121 2339	26 TU		1121 2339	0524 1721
10 SU	0937 2213	0345 1541	1159	27 WE		1159	0557 1738
11 MO	1031 2301	0435 1636	0010 1234	28 TH		0010 1234	0627 1833
12 TU	1123 2347	0522 1727	0041 1307	29 FR		0041 1307	0657 1907
13 WE	1213	0607 1817	0111 1340	30 SA		0111 1340	0726 1942
14 TH	0030 1303	0650 1906	0143 1416	31 SU		0143 1416	0757 2019
15 FR	0112 1353	0732 1956					
16 SA	0154 1446	0815 2047					
17 SU	0237 1540	0859 2141					

ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL "SUMMER TIME"

PORT PHILLIP HEADS

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

FEBRUARY - 1993

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0525 1.32	0121 1.44	17 0033 0.59	0221 1.38
MO 1814 1.24	0658 0.39	0701 1.28	25 0828 0.28
2343 0.55	TU 1330 1.38	WE 1317 0.23	TH 1444 1.35
0600 1.27	1916 0.18	2045 1.24	2033 0.34
2 1206 0.20	0207 1.50	0127 0.67	0251 1.40
TU 1904 1.21	0752 0.25	0800 1.18	0859 0.23
	WE 1427 1.47	TH 1416 0.30	FR 1518 1.39
	2008 0.20	2145 1.21	2107 0.35
3 0023 0.62	0249 1.54	0237 0.71	0321 1.40
WE 1246 0.20	TH 0842 0.13	FR 0912 1.12	27 0930 0.19
2006 1.18	TU 1520 1.30	FR 1525 0.35	SA 1553 1.40
	2055 0.24	2248 1.20	2140 0.38
4 0112 0.69	0329 1.56	0402 0.70	0353 1.39
TH 0730 1.16	0929 0.05	1026 1.08	1000 0.17
TH 1337 0.21	FR 1612 1.54	SA 1537 0.37	SU 1628 1.38
2117 1.17	2139 0.30	2346 1.23	2212 0.42
5 0215 0.74	0408 1.54	0528 0.64	
FR 0634 1.12	TU 1014 0.02	1135 1.11	
FR 1443 0.22	SA 1703 1.52	SU 1743 0.35	
2230 1.20	2222 0.36		
6 0334 0.73	0447 1.51	0039 1.28	
SA 0958 1.11	1059 0.03	0629 0.34	
SA 1559 1.27	SU 1755 1.46	MO 1235 1.17	
2335 0.22	2304 0.44	1838 0.34	
7 0449 0.66	0528 1.45	0118 1.32	
SU 1121 1.17	MO 1849 1.38	0715 0.44	
SU 1712 0.20	2347 0.51	TU 1325 1.24	
		1922 0.33	
8 0031 1.35	0612 1.37	0151 1.36	
MO 0558 0.53	0728 0.15	0753 0.36	
MO 1230 1.27	TU 1845 1.31	WE 1407 1.30	
1817 0.18	2000 0.33		

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PORT PHILLIP HEADS
TIDAL STREAM CHANGE
FEBRUARY 1993

START OF		START OF		START OF	
FLOOD	EBB	FLOOD	EBB	FLOOD	EBB
1 MO	0216 1453	0828 2059	18 TH	0444 1801	1108
2 TU	0252 1535	0903 2144	19 FR	0555 1907	0011 1219
3 WE	0332 1626	0944 2239	20 SA	0714 2013	0125 1332
4 TH	0421 1727	1034 2346	21 SU	0831 2111	0237 1459
5 FR	0525 1837	1139	22 MO	0932 2188	0334 1587
6 SA	0646 1947	1259	23 TU	1020 2237	0417 1624
7 SU	0805 2052	1417	24 WE	1100 2311	0452 1764
8 MO	0914 2149	1524	25 TH	1135 2342	0524 1739
9 TU	1014 2242	1628	26 FR	1209	0555 1813
10 WE	1110 2329	1718	27 SA	0014 1242	0626 1847
11 TH	1201	1808	28 SU	0047 1314	0657 1920
12 FR	0012 1251	1858			
13 SA	0054 1339	1943			
14 SU	0135 1427	2030			
15 MO	0216 1516	2118			
16 TU	0300 1607	2209			
17 WE	0347 1701	2308			

ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL "SUMMER TIME"

ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL "SUMMER TIME"

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

30TH/31ST JANUARY - 1ST FEBRUARY, 1993.

REFUGE COVE

Places are filling fast for the trip to Refuge Cove aboard the luxurious classic cruiser "Rosalia".

To be amongst the lucky dozen, contact **John Goulding** on 829 2213 (Work) or 803 9262 (Home).

Deposits of \$50.00 are required immediately.

Note: Refund of full deposits for late cancellation may not be possible, once provisions have been purchased.

For members wishing to take their own boats to Refuge Cove, camp permits must be pre-booked from the **Wilson's Promontory Ranger** - Telephone: (056) 808 538.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT/LOCATION</u>	<u>DIVE CAPTAIN</u>	<u>MEET AT</u>
13 Dec	Annual Treasure Hunt & B.B.Q.	D. Catherall 890 6493	Sorrento 9.00 a.m.
17 Dec	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club (Meet beforehand for dinner at the Football Club).		8.00 p.m.
27 Dec	Flinders Dive	D. Abell 889 4415	Flinders 9.30 a.m.
3 Jan	Flinders Dive	D. Catherall 890 6493	Flinders 9.30 a.m.
17 Jan	Spectacular Reef	M. Jeacle 059 712 786	Sorrento 8.30 a.m.
24 Jan	Heads Area	J. Lawler 569 9851	Sorrento 9.00 a.m.
30/31 Jan - 1 Feb	Refuge Cove Australia Day Long Weekend. (See separate notice).	J. Goulding 829 2213 (W) 803 9262 (H)	Foster Hotel on Friday Night.
14 Feb	Flinders	A. Mastrowicz 318 3986	Flinders 9.30 a.m.
18 Feb	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club (Guest Speaker - Barry Heard). (Meet beforehand for dinner at the Football Club).		8.00 p.m.
21 Feb	Submarine Dive	B. Scott 763 6872	Sorrento 9.30 a.m.
March Labour Day Weekend	Cape Conran - Marlo (051) 548 219 (See separate notice).	S. Khan	
18 Mar	General Meeting - North Melbourne Football Club (Meet beforehand for dinner at the Football Club).		8.00 p.m.



1



2



3



4



5



6