

FATHOMS

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

FEB - MAR 95

VSAG

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



Cover photo:

This colourful photo of Sant Khan was taken by Des Williams on VSAG's 1994 trip to the Solomons & Vanuatu

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:

The Castle Hotel
Cnr. Arden & Courtney Sts
North Melbourne - 8pm sharp!
Thursday 16th February 1995
Thursday 16th March 1995

Next Committee Meetings:

Tuesday 21st February - Reynold's home
Tuesday 21st March - Llewellyn's home

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EDITORIAL



Happy New Year to all V.S.A.Gers and families, have you made your new year's resolution yet? Hope to hear plenty of great dive reports at our February General Meeting, as the weather over the Christmas break was fantastic down on the Mornington Peninsula where I was at least!

As V.S.A.G. enters its 41st year, please keep in mind it is up to ALL members to ensure our great Club continues as the powerful organisation it has been for four decades. So, make it one of your new year's resolutions to "put in" for V.S.A.G. and don't leave to the usual few "workhorse" members.

In this issue of FATHOMS, Don Abell has included a letter from Jean Shelford who is the widow of Capt. W. O. Shelford, V.S.A.G. Patron, Hopefully we will have further correspondence with Mrs. Shelford in future and learn a bit more about Capt. Shelford. Don's contact with Mrs. Shelford, since we learned that V.S.A.G. had such a world famous Patron, has certainly increased my pride in V.S.A.G. and admiration for our founding members.

Have you taken a trip on the new Queenscliff/Sorrento vehicular ferry yet? What a brilliant vessel! Julie, Hannah and I took a day visit to Queenscliff on the vessel over Christmas. Absolutely fantastic way to cross the lower end of Port Phillip in real comfort as the ferry is of world class standard and a great tourist facility. if you havn't made a voyage yet, do yourself and the family a favour SOON.

Good to see so many familiar faces at the V.S.A.G. Christmas party held at Minka Restaurant on 3rd December and organised by Mick Jeacle. Thanks must go to our members who so generously donated gifts for our annual raffle, Bob and June Scott, Sant Khan, Andy Mastrowicz and John Lawler. Hope I remembered them all as it all seems so long ago. Mick Jeacle won the coveted SONAR wetsuit, so

EDITORIAL cont.

Scotty will need BULK neoprene to fashion a new suit for "the carrot"! Other winners were: Mick Jackiw, Murray Black, Andy mastrowicz, Robert Birtles and Bill Hayes.

Had a chance to catch up with Jim Turner on the evening and discovered he now has a traditional Japanese Restaurant at 304A Lygon Street carlton. If you are into Jap food, you can call the carlton Teppanyaki on 349 3411. Many thanks to Chris Llewellyn for the photos taken on the night of our christmas party, we have included some in this issue.

The very severe storms we experienced during November '94 seem to have taken their toll on at least one of the ship's graveyard wrecks. According to an article in the January issue of "DIVE LOG" magazine, the JI submarine which has the distinctive bridge structure (like a verandah) now no longer has its verandah! Not bad when you consider the wreck is in 120ft of water! I must admit I can't help think that the storm was not completely responsible for the damage. Enough dive boats of all sizes regularly visit this sub, so it is possible that a fouled anchor may have helped to contribute to the damage. When we were in truk lagoon, we saw first-hand, the great damage done to the destroyer "FUMITSUKI". When discovered, she was completely intact, but the intact bridge was soon completely flattened by an anchor chain from a dive charter vessel.

We all have to accept that these very old vessels will not always be with us, so enjoy them while you can.

This issue of FATHOMS may well set a record for the biggest issue ever, so hope you enjoy. My thanks to all contributors, see you at the February meeting.

Editor
Des Williams



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MURRAY BLACK & NIKKI CRAZE
WE HAVE MOVED TO A NEW ADDRESS
450 HIGH STREET KEW 3101
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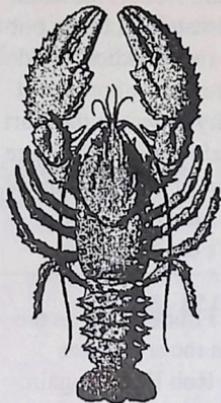
***SCENES FROM V.S.A.G. CHRISTMAS PARTY
AT MINKA RESTAURANT***





CHRISTMAS DIVING

JOHN LAWLER



While Mick Jeacle and other V.S.A.G members were on the annual Christmas dive holiday at Forster, there were still a lot of V.S.A.G members at home in Melbourne who were on holidays and naturally eager to dive.

With Christmas and Boxing Day over, my crew for the dive on the 27th were Robert Birtles and Gavin Latimer. The tide tables for the day showed slack water at 10.19am and it was agreed to do a cray dive. As we came around the point towards Portsea, we noticed a few charter boats on the Portsea Hole already and it was only 9.30am, which

makes me wonder about the accuracy of the tide tables.

We motored quickly over to the Lonsdale Wall area and by the time Rob and Gavin had kitted up the current had started to run. The weather was definitely in our favour and the cloud was lifting to make what ultimately turned out to be brilliant Melbourne day, with little wind and calm conditions.

The two divers had about 35 minutes in the water in good territory, but despite this came up with empty catch bags, I decided to try a run off Queenscliff and dropped into 50ft of brilliant territory with viz around 30ft and a comfortable current. My first find got my adrenaline pumping and was a bit of a challenge, but after persevering for a while, the 6 pounder was in the bag! The fish life around where I was diving was exceptional and brilliant and it was while I was watching two Old Wives disappear into a low swim through, that my curiosity was aroused.

At the entrance to this hole I shone the torch light in and my eyes nearly popped out at the sight of the huge cray sitting on a ledge two feet away from me! Like most of these big crustaceans he made moves towards me to ward me away, and so the game began to bag it, but the big ones generally come easily and it was only minutes and this one was in the bag. It weighed in at 9.5lbs!

Back in the Haines the excitement was at fever pitch, Gavin and Robert broke all records to kit up and I dropped them into the area where I estimated I'd been, but it was off the mark and the territory was unproductive for my two buddies. We'd all had a lot of laughs and as the day wore on the Melbourne to Devonport yacht race was getting underway off Portsea. We took the opportunity to watch the start of the race first hand. It was spectacular, with helicopters buzzing about and huge motor cruisers all over the place, mingling with masses of smaller boats all under the eyes of the water police. As the yachts headed for the Rip under full race trim, we could not have wished for a better end to a great day's diving, as we headed back to Sorrento.

On the 28th, Bob Scott and I had put a dive plan into place at Flinders and as the wind was north, the dive was set. A strong wind warning from the south was forecast, so the dive was scheduled for 8.30am. My crew was Rob Birtles again, Murray Black and Greg Boyles, Bobby had three divers and one guest non-diver as boat handler. The northerly was strong, so Cape Schank was out, in favour of safer diving about three kilometres past the golf course reef. Greg and Murray splashed in first and had around 40 minutes, however despite the area which looked promising, their dive was not very exciting or productive. Bob and I dived around the same area, but the bottom was very ordinary.

During the time we were underwater, a very selfish cray boat operator, who felt he owned the sea we were in, ran over our buoy line at the same time hurling abuse at the men on my boat for being in the area his pots were in. We had made a big effort not to go near these pots, but this nut wasn't appreciative of this at all. We'll keep this in mind the next time we are asked to pull up a snagged pot!!

Bobby and his divers had been diving near the golf course for the first dive and came up to our area too, Greg, in the meantime, was quite seasick and as my depth sounder had picked up some big dropoffs, Murray decided to explore. About this time the north wind stopped and a hot lull came over the sea. After about twenty minutes, out of nowhere, a strong southerly and big swell built up within about fifteen minutes. We collected Murray and headed back, in very swelly conditions. Up until this time we had had a good day despite the odd incident and after washing the boat and gear at Flinders, it was an early trip back to Melbourne.

This article was written in Adelaide, where Yvonne and I are spending a few relaxing days. On the drive over, we checked out a few possible dive locations for Christmas 95/96, but more about these places later on in FATHOMS.

Editors Note: John, did you add an hour to your tide tables to allow for Daylight Saving? Sounds like the tide was about an hour early!

BOX HILL SKINDIVING CLUB RE-UNION

DES WILLIAMS

Former members of the now defunct Box Hill Skindiving Club are being sought to attend a re-union about March or April 1995. If you know the whereabouts of old members of this once very strong dive club, please ask them to contact Mr. Keith Batchelor on (03) 546 4243 for further information.

V.S.A.G. NO LONGER MEETS AT THE NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

INSTEAD OUR NEW VENUE FOR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS IS:

The Castle Hotel
Crn. Arden & Courtney Streets
North Melbourne
Tel: 328 2365

Commencement time is 8pm sharp!

(A stones throw from the Melbourne Meat market)

You should also note that NO MEALS are served at the hotel, so you must eat elsewhere before the meeting.

CAPTAIN W. O. SHELFORD

DON ABELL

“Joined the Royal Navy in 1925 and served as a cadet in the battleship HMS MALAYA. He became a submariner in 1929 and served in HM Submarines XI, OTWAY, H31, and H33. He completed the Commanding Officers' Course and took command of HM Submarine L27 in 1938.

He was promoted Commander in 1943, when in charge of the Escape Tank at HMS DOLPHIN (Davis Safety Escape Apparatus). When in the Department of the Director of Torpedoes and Mines in 1944, he was the driving force in the beach clearance before the “D” Day landings. He became the first HMS VERNON based Superintendent of Diving in 1945.

He was the Commanding Officer of HMS DEEPWATER in 1946 and HMS RECLAIM in 1948. He commissioned HMS RECLAIM in June 1948 and two months later the ship made the world record deep dive to 535 feet.

He was promoted Captain in 1950 when the Executive Officer of the submarine depot ship HMS FORTH.

Captain Shelford retired from the Royal Navy in 1953 to become the Underwater Products manager for Siebe Gorman. He was made the first chairman of the Association of British Oceanographic Industries in 1970.”

The above passage is from the inscribed Commemorative plaque in the SHELFORD BUILDING at HMS VERNON at Portsmouth, UK. This Royal Navy Divers' Training building was named in honour of Capt. W. O. Shelford and opened in November 1979.

The following letter from Mrs. Jean Shelford in the U.K., comes to us after Don Abell decided to track down V.S.A.G's Patron of some years ago.....

24th October 1994

Mr Don Abell
Victorian Sub Aqua Group
P.O. Box 2526 W
G.P.O. Melbourne 3001

Dear Don Abell

I had a telephone call from John Hilton last week in connexion with your letter to him of 3rd October regarding news of my late husband, Captain W.O. Shelford; I've since received a copy of this letter.

Unfortunately my husband died in April 1979 of Emphysema. He regaled me with stories of his visit to Australia and apart from his contacts with the Australian diving fraternity - including a horrendous 7 day trip on a pearling lugger off Thursday Island - he had a great affection for your country. I share this feeling having visited Australia five times in the last 9 years.

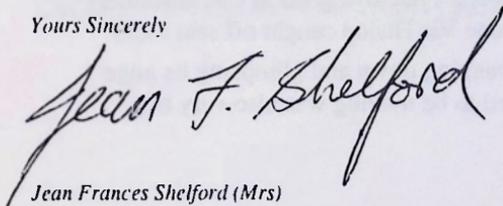
I am enclosing a few photostats giving information about the Captain, one of these is a letter from Lt. Cdr. Bartlett on the subject of the Shelford Building at Vernon in Portsmouth, together with a copy of the plaque which I unveiled at the opening of the building in November 1979. I rang the Shelford Building this morning and spoke to C.P.O. Kerr who tells me the building is in great shape, well maintained and is "processing" 300 divers a year. Warrant Officer Colin Kidman is to be the new Project Manager for the next three years. (If you would like an original print of the Captain's photograph on this plaque and the unveiling ceremony, please let me know).

After his retirement from Siebe Gorman my husband established Shelford Marine Projects Ltd. - a copy of the explanatory leaflet is enclosed. Unfortunately illness overtook him before the company reached the stature it deserved.

As you probably know, my husband was the author of the book "Subsunk - the history of submarine escape from 1851 - 1951". I have acquired the literary rights of this unique work and hope to have the book reprinted. If this comes to fruition I shall make sure it is professionally publicised world-wide.

Your interest in my husband is gratifying and, as a founder member of the British Sub-Aqua Club myself, I extend my best wishes to the Victorian Sub Aqua Group.

Yours Sincerely



Jean Frances Shelford (Mrs)

POINTER AT THE PINNACLE

ALEX TALAY

January 2nd 1995 will be the day I will never forget. Diving at the Pinnacle on our Xmas trip to Forster-Tuncurry Mick Jeacle, Barry Truscott and I had an experience few divers will ever have.

We anchored Micks boat over the Pinnacle and kitted up anticipating a good dive such as the one we'd had there a couple of days previously. On that day we had seen numerous Grey Nurse sharks along with Kingfish and other species. So we entered the water expecting much the same.

On this particular day it was overcast and the visibility was not as good as our first dive. I would estimate the vis at about 50ft. As we slowly descended our anchor line and as we reached about 70ft I glanced across and froze. At first I thought it was a large Grey Nurse. Then I realized we were still a good 30ft from the bottom.

It suddenly dawned on me what I was actually seeing. It was a Great White and it was massive. As we hung awestruck on the anchor line the great fish slowly cruised past us. We were side on so we got a great view of it as it went past.

Senses reeling with an adrenaline rush I was curiously unafraid. I always thought that if I ever saw one, that I would be scared witless but this was not the case. I suppose I would have been if it was coming straight at us but it wasn't.

It had obviously detected our presence well before we knew it was there and had come over to have a look at us.

I remember it's great black eye staring at us without a flicker. It was hard to judge just how big it was but I will be conservative and say 12ft. The thing that struck the 3 of us as we talked about it later, was it's massive girth. It was absolutely huge and brings back memories of the one Vic Hislop caught off seal rocks.

I also remember gazing at its pectoral hanging down and glimpsing its huge dorsal fin. It's tail which hardly appeared to be moving was also very big.

We watched it as it disappeared into the gloom. Mick removed his mouthpiece and shouted underwater "Great White". Both Bazza and I didn't need to be told, we knew what we had seen.

We continued our dive as we figured he wasn't hungry and as he had already seen us and left us alone we would be safer on the bottom anyway.

As we swam over the gutters we saw many Grey Nurse but not many other fish were about. Certainly no Kingfish were there so maybe they know when a large predator is about. We were naturally glancing around for the White but didn't see it again. The Grey Nurse had certainly lost a bit of their charm for us and seemed a bit uninteresting after what we had seen.

After 20 mins bottom time we decided to head up. This was when I became a little nervous. We headed slowly up and hung on the anchor line doing deco. I can assure you my head was swiveling everywhere.

When we hit the surface we all started talking at once. You could say that we were a little excited. We didn't muck about getting out of the water but once on the boat we all began to compare notes. We all came up with the same conclusion. It was a White Pointer. It was huge. It had looked at us and it had left us alone.

I decided, on the spot, that discretion is the better part of valour and have crossed off the pinnacle as a dive for me, I don't want to chance my luck again. I wish the creature no ill will at all and hope it cruises the ocean for many years to come. I just don't want to bump into it again.

I hope, for me anyway, that it was a once in a lifetime experience. In many ways, and under the same circumstances, I would love to see it again. But we all know that those circumstances can change and just what these creatures are capable of.

We have formed a club within a club. Its called the "VSAG GREAT WHITE ENCOUNTER CLUB". Line up and join, if you are game.

SCUBA DIVERS
FEDERATION OF VICTORIA REPORT
DES WILLIAMS

On Tuesday 6th December 1994, the S.D.F.V held its last meeting for the year on what was a very hot evening indeed. Points of interest from that meeting were:

- 1) John Davies of Black Rock Club once again offered to pay the annual subscription fee of \$150 to keep the S.D.F.V a financial member of Vic - Sport organisation. This very generous donation by John means that should the S.D.F.V need some real clout to fight some crazy new legislation to take away our rights as divers, we have a very powerful organisation to go into bat for us.
- 2) A report was given on the very successful long weekend combined scuba clubs gathering at the Prom over the Melb. Cup weekend. Another reminder to all dive clubs that speeding vehicles on the beach at tidal river will not be tolerated. If ever divers are to get into trouble at Tidal it will be over speeding recovery vehicles on the beach. Always keep this in mind when you use this launching facility in future.
- 3) S.D.F.V. is to hand out leaflets to divers over the Summer holidays advertising the advantages of non-commercial dive clubs in an attempt to increase membership of affiliated clubs. V.S.A.G could do well to encourage some new "blood" in 1995. How about some suggestions from V.S.A.Gers as to how we can increase our membership in 1995.
- 4) John Lawler expressed a motion of sincere thanks from V.S.A.G to Rod King and John Hawkins for their recent attendance at workshops on crayfish and abalone to put the case for recreational divers. Without their combined effort there could easily have been a very different and unsatisfactory result for recreational divers. Just another reminder to us all how important our continued support of the S.D.F.V is for our diving freedom.

DOLPHIN ENCOUNTER

DOUG CATHERALL

On Sunday 27th November, Bob Scott led three boats with twelve divers to the Point Nepean corner of the Bay. The weather had gone from calm to choppy in a matter of minutes and the worst was still coming according to Andy who had crossed from Queenscliff. So the dive was to be a drift from near the Quarantine barracks to whenever.

I'd started the day by pulling on my wetsuit backwards (not that easy when you are carrying a few extra kilos) and now with that rectified, P.J., Bobs, Jeff and myself jumped into the rather cool drink where we sank to 16M to see sand, sand and more sand. P.J. agreed to giving it five fingers more and with Jeff and myself either side, we drifted over sand, sand and more sand. To break the monotony, I'd look across to P.J. and then up the drift line he was carrying, about 8M viz I was estimating, when out the corner of my right eye a big dark shadow appeared.

Too late to worry was my immediate thought and then into view came a pod of dolphins, well, six anyway. They cruised across in front of us by 4M and then they were gone. Once the reality set in, we all looked at each other and signalled our delight, but before we had time to finish we were buzzed by four more. They came from behind and above and we got the real eyeball from them. Once 4M ahead they turned around and headed straight for us and the fun started.

The one closest to me I called "Scarface", for he had an obvious large scar about three inches behind its right eye, I drifted off to the right with him and I'd swear we swam together for a few seconds, then off again, We closed ranks again and blow me down if it didn't return again and again.

We estimated about 20 minutes swimming with them as they came and went at will. "Scarface" kept returning to me and each time we would swim together a bit longer to the point where I was making flipper noises underwater and rolling, turning and circling with it for what seemed a considerable time.

Their size surprised me, definitely longer than us by far, maybe three of them were 2.2M long and the fourth 2.6M, it didn't get so close and came in last each time.

As P.J. said, "Not bad for a boring dive!" Above the water was also spectacular, but others can tell that one. Back at Sorrento, I changed into my track-suit, pulling my pants on backwards!

XMAS TRIP 1994/95
FORSTER-TUNCURRY, N.S.W.
MICK JEACLE

Following a fairly easy drive of about 1½ hour duration, and only one disintegrated boat trailer bearing, we arrived at Tuncurry around mid-day on Friday 23rd December.

I had been assuring Annie that it never rains in Tuncurry and we chose what we thought to be a choice site in Shangri la Caravan Park.

Hindsight is a marvellous thing and in future I shall endeavour to select the high spots upon which to erect the tent.

You see, the next day it rained virtually non stop, as it did on Christmas Day. We were once again ankle deep and had the dubious pleasure of watching ducks paddle in our very own lake at the rear of the tent. Annie took all this quite calmly really, and in fact she almost forgot the episode entirely after 6 or 7 days of beautiful sunshine that followed. More on that later.

On Christmas morning I called at the Forster Ddive Centre to meet up with Sue Proudfoot with whom I had corresponded prior to arrival. Sue introduced me to Ari Braak and we discussed the various dive sites around the area.

I informed Ari that the rest of the crew would be arriving within the next 3 days and that I would appreciate it if he would show me where the sites were. Not only was Ari very obliging and helpful, he even gave me the co-ordinates for our GPS unit.

Not bad, considering we were diving out of our boats and all we could offer in return was for all of our divers to purchase air from Ari and Sue, although they did get some extra business in servicing Alex's 'green' regulator which I suspect lives in the car boot. Thanks folks for your co-operation, I hope we can return the favour if ever you visit Melbourne.

Divers in attendance:

Peter Vleugel	Mick Jeacle
Jerry De Vries	Barry Truscott
Alex Talay	Pat Reynolds
Gail Mastrowicz	Nicole Mastrowicz
Andy Mastrowicz	Doug Catherall
Tony Tipping	

Doug did not intend diving during his short stay due to his broken wrist. However, he did manage a 5 minute dive to explore a shallow wreck off Old bar in about 20 feet of water, to use up about 800 psi in my tank. No wet suit either, what a man!

As usual Tony Tipping arrived after the rest of us were already there for a week. I reckon he's got a bird in Coffs Harbour or Marg's got a bloke, as a visit there seems to be a must every Christmas. This time he paid the penalty as we did not dive after his arrival on 2/1/95 due to all the rain which wiped out the visibility.

The first dive we did as a group was the much heralded "Pinnacles". As it turned out this spot is easy to find as you just look for the fishing boats. The spot is also regularly buoyed with fish traps as Kingfish frequent the area.

We anchored in about 26 metres of water and quickly dropped over the side, (after Alex finished his fag that is). The anchor was ideally placed just on a rise of rock that fell away on the other side to form a deep gutter. It was here that I met up with bazza from Peter's boat who gave the familiar shark sign and pointed in the direction of the gutter. As I made off in that direction I could hear Alex screaming my name and upon turning observed a large grey nurse shark that was only a few feet away. Whilst the visibility was good, the day was overcast and it was fairly dark at 100 feet. We were to see about 6 sharks on this dive but they were difficult to make out against the gloomy background at times. There were also a few King Fish but these were not in great numbers.

We all agreed upon surfacing that we would re visit this spot again, hopefully when the skies were sunny to light up the bottom.

Some of us then dived Latitude Rock on the way back. Here fish are prolific and the usual blue groper abounds, demanding to be fed. Moray eels come from everywhere once you cut up the odd sea urchin. Depth is around 60 feet and it was quite colourful with growth on the rocks for a change, not unlike parts of Wilson Prom. This area does not have the same "feel" as the deep dive at the Pinnacles, but it is quite enjoyable.

The next day was a "pearler" with bright sunshine and glassy seas. We decided to head North to Snapper Rock which can also be a shark dive, and then dive the wreck off Old Bar Surf Club or drop in somewhere else on the way back.

On the way up the coast we came across a large pod of dolphins, but it was difficult to maintain their interest in the boats. A great sight indeed and one which we shall never tire of.

We anchored on the GPS mark but upon descending there seemed to be nothing but rocks and sea urchins. I dived with Peter Vleugel and we spent much of the dive feeding/stroking/cuddling a large and very tame blue groper. It wasn't until near the end of the dive that we in fact came across Snapper Rock. Fish life was very prolific and in fact difficult to see through. We came across a foreign anchor which turned out to belong to the boat of a couple of spearos who arrived after us.

When we surfaced 5 minutes later they were already on their way with a Kingfish that must have weighed 50 pounds. Our other divers missed the rock and its teeming fish life.

We then moved to the wreck site which we easily located thanks to Ari. Once over the site, we could see parts of the wreck from the boats. It was here that Doug donned my gear and surveyed the scene. Visibility was fairly poor but he reported it would be worth a look on a clear day. Most of us then didn't bother, although the old bazza couldn't help himself and just had to have a look.

As the next day was New Year's Day, we all rested after the frivolities, and planned a return to the Pinnacles on Monday, 2/1/95. This dive I shall never forget for as long as I live.

DEJA-VU

Most of you will remember that at about this time last year I wrote about a fantasy dive that encompassed virtually everything a diver would like to see or do in his/her diving life. Here is a small quote from that article:-

“But onward I went. It was here that I almost aborted the dive, as from out of nowhere appeared a 14 foot White Pointer, which on first impression was about to spoil my day. To this day, I don't know if he had just eaten his fill or whether the sight of the big “carrot” was just not appealing to him, as he just afforded me a cursory glance and disappeared into the blue”.

Folks, let me tell you that this is exactly what happened. The only departure from the ‘fantasy’ was that I was accompanied by Barry Truscott and Alex Talay on the real dive. Upon entering the water, it was evident that visibility was somewhat down on the previous dive here, and I would estimate it to be about 40/50 feet. We commenced descent down the anchor line, with Bazza leading, yours truly close behind, and Alex bringing up the rear. At 70 feet Bazza came to an abrupt stop, and was seen to be pointing at something rising from the depths. At this point we all simply froze and watched in awe as this huge Great White Shark glided past a mere 12 feet away from us at a speed of about 1 knot. There was no mistaking the species as we were afforded an excellent side on view of this monster, which had to be 13/14 feet. It was difficult to estimate the length though because of its huge girth, and this clearly stuck in our minds as the most predominant feature and was the main topic of our later numerous discussions.

As you will read more about the shark in this issue in an article written by Alex, all I will now add is that the amazing thing was that there was no fear on our part. we also discussed this later at length and a number of conclusions/views were aired viz:-

- The shark came in to check us out and showed no interest or aggressive characteristics
- We were in its natural habitat and it had not been “chummed” or berley'd to the area.
- The size of its girth indicated that perhaps it had just swallowed a volkswagon and was therefore not hungry.
- It had eaten a diver before and didn't like the taste.

Therefore we watched it fin slowly out of sight, and then went and did the dive. The sight of the grey nurse sharks after this was indeed a non event and we couldn't wait to surface and tell the others. As it turned out Peter had lost his anchor off his chain and he and Pat ended up jiggling up and down on the anchor line at about 130 feet and completely missed the Pinnacle. When we informed them what great bait they would have made to the Great White, they didn't know whether to laugh, or freak out. Nicole Mastrowicz only got to about 60 feet due to ear trouble and had to abort the dive. Hope she was not put off for good by our extremely rare sighting. Stick with it Nicole.

Well that was it for the diving, as we had further deluges in the following days. I won't bore you with the details but it totalled a further 9 inches or so, causing:-

- Peter Vleugel and me to move our tents
- Almost everybody sleeping in the recreation Hall for a night.
- Andy and Gail pulling up camp a day early due to the mud in everything (Gail reduced to tears).
- The lovely blue ocean being reduced to a colour resembling the Yarra River.

It was disappointing that we did not get to dive the Seal Rocks area. Maybe next time.

Forster Tuncurry townships are ideally situated and have everything that the tourist could hope to find. There are plenty of shops and eating establishments and the Lake system is superb.

The dive shop is situated right on the water, and after the diving all we had to do was tie up at the jetty at the rear of the shop and drop off the tanks to be filled.

It is certainly worth another trip in future.

Thanks to all those in attendance, and especially to Andy and Peter for bringing their boats.



***ON V.S.A.G'S BIKE AND HIKE FAMILY DAY
AT POINT NEPEAN***

ON SATURDAY MARCH 25TH 1995

**RIDE TO THE END OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA
AND VISIT HISTORIC FORT NEPEAN**

The Department of Conversation and natural Resources invites cyclists and walkers to travel to Point Nepean on the 4th weekend of each month. on this day NO public transport is available. The 6km scenic roadway to Point Nepean is sealed and along the way there are three interpretative walking trails to take giving us a break from the bikes. Each walk is approx. 1km and bicycles are not permitted on the interpretative trails.

Park Entrance fees: Adults \$5.00, Children \$2.50, Family \$12.00 payable at the Orientation Centre a short distance inside the national park gates where we will meet at 10am.

All bicycle riders **MUST WEAR A HELMET** and are asked to carry a suitable bike lock. No food is available for purchase in the park, so you will need to B.Y.O. for a picnic. Wear comfortable walking shoes and take a hat and suncream in hot weather and/or araincoat in wet weather as the point is very exposed and there is little shelter.

This is intended to be a fun family day, so beg, borrow or steal a bicycle and enjoy the mix of good clean sea air, exercise and brilliant coastal scenery on our picnic bike and hike day.

WHEN: Saturday 25th March 1995

MEET AT: Point Nepean Orientation Centre just inside the entrance to the park.

TIME: 10am

ORGANISER: Des Williams Tel: 551 3201 BEFORE the 24th or on 018 319454 on the evening of the 24th

We will be covering the 12 kms of road and 3kms of walking tracks at a very leisurely pace, **IT WON'T BE A RACE!** Bring a backpack to carry your drinks and picnic lunch and don't forget the camera. A good bike lock is recommended.

This park was opened to the public in December 1988. Before that, it had been out of bounds to most people for more than 100 years. It still has an air of mystery and it is a very special place. Its associations with early settlement, shipping quarantine and defence give it great significance in Victoria's history, its coastal scenery is spectacular. The whole family will enjoy this outing.

AND FOLLOW THIS GREAT FAMILY DAY
SATURDAY EVENING NIGHT DIVE
25TH MARCH

For those V.S.A.Gers who would like a dive with a difference, how about a night dive from Sorrento with Leo Maybus as Dive captain. Depending on the weather, Leo will decide on the dive site on the day during our bike trip. So, if you wish to contact Leo to book in ring him on his mobile 018 375 102. You will be **EXPECTED** to have cyalume lights **PLUS** a torch for this dive. More information at the February and March meetings.

And for those of you who are still looking for a dive on the next day, Sunday, John Lawler will be your D.C. for a Heads Area dive leaving from Sorrento at 10am. Please ring John on his mobile 018 395 428 on the Saturday evening (25th) **ONLY BETWEEN 6 & 7 PM.**

V.S.A.G TENNIS DAY 1994

TONY TIPPING

The 23rd V.S.A.G Tennis Day was held on Sunday 20th November at Cranbourne South Tennis Courts. It started off a perfect day from 10am and did not rain until the 3.30pm downpour just after the completion of the infamous Mile race.

The speeches/presentations were then conducted in the pavilion and the stayers remained until about 6pm.

Special thanks must go to Marie Truscott for organising the courts, June Scott for entertaining the young kids with their events and Paul Tipping for bringing the prizes along and being the M.C. for the day.

The Results:

Tennis Doubles: Herb/Robyn Def. Tony /Marcus (6-2)

Singles: Marie Def. Herb (6-2)

The Mile:

Veterans: 1. Sant, 2. Tony, 3. Doug/Paul/Bazza (Equal)

Age14-39: 1. Bryce, 2. Andrew, 3. Murray

10-14 Boys: 1. Simon, 2. Marcus, 3. Jason

Girls: 1. Jessica, 2. Sam, 3. Melanie

Under 10: 1. Laura, 2. Emma, 3. Leora

Forty people had a very enjoyable family day as usual. The Vleugals and Luxfords always get there after the exercise sessions and the Moore family (minus Dad) still have the record of 22 consecutive Tennis Parties!

MARY ROSE EXHIBITION - WARRNAMBOOL

DES WILLIAMS

On Sunday the 11th December last, I journeyed to Warrnambool for an Historic Shipwrecks Advisory Committee Meeting and had the good fortune to see the newly opened Mary Rose Exhibition. In the afternoon, we listened to a public lecture given by Dr. Margaret Rule, Director of Research and Interpretation for the "Mary Rose", which was really fascinating. I have had the opportunity to hear Dr. Rule speak before, but since that time more detailed information has come to light from examination of the items recovered with Henry VIII's warship at Portsmouth, England.

A tour of the exhibition in the Warrnambool gallery then followed. The exhibition will only be in Warrnambool until 26th February 1995. Admission is \$7.50 Adults and children \$4.00 for a very detailed look at life as it was in Tudor England. I can recommend a visit to Warrnambool for the exhibition. Why not make a weekend of it and return along the Great Ocean Road's "Shipwreck Coast".

In the evening, I had the pleasure of joining Dr. Rule for dinner and learn first hand a little more of the 30 odd years she has spent on this shipwreck. All monies were raised publicly and by corporate sponsorship to carry out the salvage of the "Mary Rose", there was no contribution by the Government. This of course makes Dr. Rule's work even more remarkable. There were many other hurdles to scale along the way. Like when the Government decided that items of antiquity should be taxable! It was also interesting to hear Dr. Rule say that she considered the Australian Shipwreck Legislation to be the best of its kind in the world. In the U.K. shipwreck sites can be declared historic, but that is as far as protection of the valuable site goes. The government provides no money to patrol the site or save it from looters and no legal requirement to report the finding of the new wreck. So, much of the antiquities and information to be gleaned from the remains is lost.

CLOSED SEASON ON GREEN LIP ABALONE

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT BETWEEN 1ST OCTOBER AND 31ST MARCH INCLUSIVE IT IS ILLEGAL TO TAKE GREEN LIP ABALONE. IT IS A VERY SERIOUS OFFENCE AND THE LAW IS ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENFORCED.

SPECIAL NOTE!

Please note that there are some dives sceduled for a Saturday and not the traditional Sunday which we are all used to. So make sure you look very carefully at the dive calandar ans use the telephone numbers provided. Mick Jeacle's dive to Shellback Island on the 18th February is on a Saturday, so is the Bike and Hike at Point Nepean

V.S.A.G.'s MARVELLOUS MONTH OF MARCH

Traditionally, March is the most stable month for good weather in our part of the world. So, your committee has decided to capitalise on this by sceduling a whole week - end of diving and family activity on the 25th and 26th for your enjoyment. Something for everyone!

Read the Dive Calendar very carefully as Dive Captains for that weekend have listed their mobile telephone numbers for contract. All D.C's will be on the Peninsula that weekend.

New Boating Safety Rules



New rules were introduced on 10 October 1994 to improve recreational boating safety. The new rules were developed after consultation with the marine community.

EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon)

From 10 October 1995 all vessels venturing more than two (2) nautical miles off the coast (excluding embayments, eg. Port Phillip and Western Port Bays) will be required to carry an approved EPIRB.

EPIRBs are radio transmitters designed to radiate a signal skywards that can be detected by either passing aircraft or polar orbiting satellites.

EPIRBs will greatly enhance the chances of finding a vessel/crew in distress and reduce the high cost of search & rescue operations. Once the distress signal is detected the approximate location of the vessel is relayed to the appropriate rescue co-ordinator so that rescuers can be dispatched.

Approved EPIRBs operate on 121.5/243MHz or 406MHz and the approval by the Department of Transport & Communications will be marked on the unit.

New On the Spot Infringements

Six (6) new "on the spot" infringements have been introduced for recreational boating -

- Equipment not readily accessible and in good order \$60
- Vessel moored or secured to navigation marker or buoy \$60
- Vessel anchored in navigation channel \$60
- Fail to comply with section 15(1) Notice (operating rules) \$80
- Operate vessel without EPIRB \$80
- Be in charge of a vessel underway with unlawful blood alcohol level of more than .05 but less than .10g/100ml \$300
- Be in charge of a vessel underway with unlawful blood alcohol level of more than .10 or more but less than .15g/100ml \$420

RABAUL RUBBLE

DES WILLIAMS

During the second world war, my father was a members of 3rd div Signals based at various parts of the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

In a recent newsletter from 3 Div Sigs, I found the following article about the situation at Rabaul, once again in rubble. Remember, that Rabaul had been evacuated in 1937 when her volcanoes blew up, then along came the Japanese who attracted the attention of the U.S.A. and their powerful airforce and navy and Rabaul was blown to pieces. Now, in 1994, poor old Rabaul has once again been razed. The item from 3 div Sigs newsletter goes like this:

"The following article brings memories flooding back of our final days of the war, all together at Torokina and providing communications for that base area. All those lucky men with high points because of dependents were preparing to return to Australia for discharge, whilst the remainder of us were posted to units far and wide. I, with many others, went to Rabaul which became the holding area for thousands of Japanese P.O.W's awaiting shipping to take them home to Japan.

"A copy of the first communique dispatched from Rabaul, through Lae, upon the Japanese surrender in 1945 is set out below. It was cleared by the Censor and authorised for transmission as a press release, this is the text:

"From the moment four officers stood on Rabaul beach and Australian flag raised there for the first time in four years, all Japs have co-operated fully with Australian 11th division occupation forces. Everything has gone according to the book and apart from liaison officers and wharf working parties, the 89,000 Japs are now concentrated in Gazelle Peninsula awaiting shipment home. But, to say we have reoccupied Rabaul is only a half truth. Rabaul does not exist. American and allied bombers have blasted it into a heap of rubble and jungle up to 20ft high has covered the ruins. Scores of wrecked ships from 10,000 tonners with only funnels showing down to shot up barges, line the waterfront for miles. But also lining waterfront for miles are ominous looking gun emplacements suggesting that Rabaul would have been a tough nut to crack had the Japs

resisted. Rabaul is almost surrounded by steep hills and many active volcanoes and every one has its miles of tunnelling. Recently a Jap prisoner of war estimated they had dug out 150 miles. From what I have seen it is an understatement. They have burrowed in all directions like rabbits and no amount of aerial bombing could possibly have disturbed them. From the nauseating smell several of these tunnels, complete with electric light and various installations, had been lived in recently, but judging by the neglect of their extensive waterfront gardens most Japs retired long ago to the safety of the hills south of the old town. They took with them 8,000 allied prisoners, mostly Indians from Malaya and lodged them in a valley 15 miles away. Twenty-eight white men including seven American airmen were daringly rescued on Sept 8th, two days before our main forces landed, by the new Guinea naval Commander Capt. F.B. Morris, who came ashore unarmed and ordered the immediate production of the prisoners. The Japs argued, but Morris told them he would stand no nonsense. He got his prisoners and took them in the destroyer Vendetta to an Australian hospital. Some of the Americans were emaciated and generally in worse condition than the few coloured allied prisoners I have seen since landing. A few Javanese, Indians and Chinese escaped into our lines yesterday and have been enjoying their first good meals for years. We have learned that twenty miles from Rabaul the Japs also hold 158 white internee, including 78 women, mostly Roman Catholic nuns. There is a high percentage of illness and catalina flying boats are ready in Rabaul harbour to fly out the worse cases to Australian hospitals. In the meantime, the Japs have been ordered to increase the prisoners daily rice ration from 150 grams to 500 grams, they readily complied. Since Pearl harbour days, they have reverted to their old national politeness throwing salutes and bows in all directions and working any jobs we give them. End message”.

MEDIA WATCH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Letters to the Editor" of DIVE Log Australia are welcome from our readers. They may be posted to PO Box 167, Narre Warren, Vic 3805 or you can Fax them to: (059) 44 4024.

Victorian Sub Aqua Group
PO Box 2526W,
GPO Melbourne 3001

Dear Barry,

This year has marked the 40th Anniversary of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group. In conjunction with the club celebrations I have undertaken some research into the club history and have enclosed some extracts which I hope you think are worth printing.

The fascination of delving into the club's archives is the realisation that the members who formed the early scuba clubs were breaking new ground every time they dived and were literally experimenting with and developing the sport.

This was pre the days of PADI and FAUI, Dive Charters and vests that inflate on the push of a button. Diving was started at club level by dedicated enthusiasts and in VSAG that enthusiasm has been passed down to others now for 40 years.

Kind regards,
Don Abell
President

• Don, congratulations to VSAG on 40 great years – sorry I couldn't join you at the Celebration Ball but I had to go to Sydney as a judge on the SPD Photo Comp. We've printed your report this issue!

Carload tops .05

FIVE drivers travelling on a four-hour trip on the east coast were all charged with drink-driving yesterday.

The journey started at 6.57pm outside Batemans Bay on the south coast of New South Wales when police stopped them for speeding.

The driver was charged with exceeding the drink-driving limit of .05.

At 7.30pm the same car was pulled over east of Bungendore. A second man was charged after registering .130.

Two hours and about 30km later, the car was stopped for a third time, in Queanbeyan. Driver three failed the test at .130.

Then at 11.10pm police spotted the car on Canberra Ave — with no lights on.

Police found a learner behind the wheel with a supervising driver beside him.

The learner registered .05 and the supervisor .09. Both were charged.

1994 30th November
"Commercial News"

MEDIA WATCH

Abalone fit for a wedding banquet

WHEN guests sit down at the wedding banquet in Tokyo's leading hotel, they eat Australian abalone, produced by the Abalone Fishermen's Co-op Ltd, based at Mallacoota in Victoria, to the Hotel Okura's specifications.

The Co-op and the hotel — regarded as the best in Tokyo for wedding and ceremonial banquets — developed the new style abalone in an exclusive arrangement.

Japan now represents a \$7.8 million market for the Co-op, with \$1 million sold to Hong Kong, \$4.3 million to Singapore and \$3 million to Taiwan.

The Co-op expects the Asian market for its canned, frozen and boiled abalone to expand next year to \$18 million.

Abalone Fishermen's Co-op was the winner of the agricultural products award in the Victorian Export Awards and a finalist in the Austrade Agricultural Products Award in the Australian Export Awards.

Over the past 12 months the Co-op has begun shipping abalone in a more highly value added form — including trial shipments of boiled abalone to the Taiwanese market.

Given that abalone fishing is the most regulated in Australia — with each state imposing catch quotas — the Co-op has concentrated on targeting niche markets to return a higher margin from the same catch.

The Co-op is recognised as one of the country's most successful groups of fishermen and its members have enjoyed an above average return compared to their peers.

Car ferry 'should not be salvaged'

STOCKHOLM: The Estonia car ferry should be left on the Baltic seabed with about 900 bodies entombed inside it, an advisory committee to the Swedish government said yesterday.

An ethics committee established by Stockholm after the 28 September disaster said in a report that the sunken car and passenger ferry should be permanently sealed to avoid criminals plundering the ship's wreckage.

The government is due to announce its final decision tomorrow on whether the ferry should be salvaged or whether the victims should be brought to the surface for burial. About 500 of the victims were Swedish.

Swedish relatives have called for a salvage operation to bring the ship and the bodies of their loved-ones home.

The Estonia sank during a storm halfway through a 12-hour voyage from Tallinn to Stockholm, in international waters off south-west Finland. Only 137 people survived and 94 bodies were recovered.

VSAG CELEBRATES 40 YEARS ACTIVITY

THE Victorian Sub Aqua Group was formed in June of 1954. The first club meeting was held in the Railway Buildings in Melbourne and was attended by 16 members. The club was born from and continued to be affiliated with the Underwater Spear Fishing Association to cater for the growing interest of people in the new scuba devices which were becoming available on the market. VSAG was possibly the first club of its kind. This new sport was creating much interest in many areas so finding members was not a problem. Understanding the capabilities of humans staying underwater was a problem and this was a "learn as you go" time for scuba diving.

The club was fortunate enough to obtain the services of Captain W O Shelford (Royal Navy) as its patron. Shelford had been in charge of the Admiralty Experimenting

Diving Unit for the Royal Navy in Tolworth London and was responsible for developing the underwater equipment used by the famed British Frogmen in World War II.



1 Also pictured at the 40th Year VSAG Dinner was: Don Abell, President; Jim and Fran Ager, of Aldrive Equipment; Mick Jaacle, Vice President and Des Williams. 1994 November "Dive Log"

Items such as underwater suits, fins and masks were developed in conjunction with Dunlop Rubber Co (in 1943 no swim fins were known to be in existence in Great Britain). Shelford's unit undertook an exhaustive programme of human experiments in diving, many pushing the divers to the point of unconsciousness. The following paragraphs are from a letter written by Shelford to the club in December 1958:

"Above all, steer clear of these ridiculous 'depth records'. An American has recently made much play of a so-called record dive to 370 feet and has described it in an article called 'Death and I at 60 fathoms'. This makes shocking reading and as it was a straightforward test dive, the presence of 'Death' at 60 fathoms or any other depth simply shows that this foolish fellow was unfit to undertake the dive and he was using the wrong equipment for the job. The Royal Navy established the present depth record at 600 feet without incident by using the right man and the proper gear, so what is remarkable about 370 feet, a depth to which the Navy regularly trains all its Deep Divers as a matter of routine?"

The qualification of our divers in the early days and up to the 1970s was a VSAG 'C' card. The training was undertaken by our members in the City Baths in Swanston Street and was basically along lines similar to the testing standards of the British Sub Aqua Group.

The club had its own medical form which was to be completed by a doctor before members could be trained. In these early days of diving the club was concerned that doctors may not be familiar with the physiological affects of diving, so a letter was prepared and titled 'To the Physician'. The letter explained the doctors



40th Year Dinner of the VSAG (Victorian Sub Aqua Group) the life members line up L to R Bob Scott, Pat Reynolds, John Noonan, Tony Tipping, John Goulding, Alan Cuts and Barry Truscott.

functions in the medical test and provided reference to medical journals which should be consulted before the test was undertaken.

The club also had a research sub committee which was active in developing both the sport and the knowledge gained through our underwater activities. Our archives still have copies of correspondence with CSIRO, Museum of Victoria, Melbourne University and Department of Agriculture, on these diving related issues.

The minutes of our meeting also give insight into the development of diving. In the late 50s and 1960 there was much discussion in regard to developing a divers flag to give notice to boats that divers were underwater. Correspondence on this matter was not limited to Australia. Opinions were sought again from BSAC regarding the flags used in Britain and USA.

In September 1961 it was decided by the club committee to establish a Federation of scuba clubs to represent diving in Victoria. Five pounds was subscribed to establish the new body and the Federation held its

first meeting in December 1961. The SDFV still continues to represent diving at club level in Victoria.

The media was also interested in this new sport. In 1958 the club was called upon by the relatively new GTV9 to help promote its new television series of 'Sea Hunt' starring Lloyd Bridges as underwater hero Mike Nelson. Our members spent some hours at St Kilda Beach running in and out of the water in full scuba gear as part of this promotion.

In 1960 we wrote to the Australian Women's Weekly regarding an article published on diving. The article gave the following tip for diving 'always hold your breath as you rise to the surface'. The magazine retracted in a subsequent issue.

Other correspondence still on archive, show the interest of other organisations such as HSV 7 and Argus Newspaper, and the Organising Committee for the XVI Olympiad Melbourne 1956.

Membership of our club has always been strong. It appears that in the early 1960s diving was particularly popular. The demand for people to partic-

ipate was high and scuba clubs were common. The archives list clubs such as: Kew Underwater Club, Moorabbin Underwater Club, Footscray Underwater Club, Brighton Sea Devils, Brunswick Sea Hunters and Victoria Divers Club.

VSAG has had 2 major 40th year celebrations through 1994 so far. In May 15 members toured the best diving locations of Solomon Islands and finished with a week of diving on the President Coolidge in Vanuatu. In June we had a dinner attended by over a hundred present and past members. We hope celebrations will continue for a few months yet.

The strength of VSAG has always been in its strong membership base and the close friendships developed over many years. It has over 70 current members and schedules dives from club boats every 2 weeks throughout every year. In addition, dives are scheduled for every holiday weekend and overseas dives are organised to suit the favoured destinations of members.

Scuba diving had its roots in the many clubs established by keen members. As VSAG celebrates 40 years of diving we wish all scuba clubs safe and enjoyable diving for many years to come.

1994 November "Dive Log"

AFRIKANER LINK TO ABORIGINES

Over 280 years ago 50 shipwreck survivors struggled ashore on to this desolate piece of land... to live and love with the local tribes

By MIKE VAN NIEKERK
in Perth

THE possibility that an 18th-century Afrikaner called Jensz was among the first white inhabitants of Australia may be confirmed after genetic testing of Aborigines in the country's remote north-west.

A select committee of Western Australia's state parliament this week launched an inquiry it hopes will end speculation that about 50 survivors of the 1722 Dutch wreck Zuytdorp intermarried with local tribes and lived out their lives in a desolate and arid region 300km north of modern Perth.

"Generations of Australian children have been taught that European settlement took place in 1788 on the eastern seaboard," said committee chairman and state MP Phillip Pendal.

"These theories about the Zuytdorp challenge one of the most fundamental



PHILLIP PENDAL
Chairman of committee

of our early history." The most tantalising revelation that the metropolitan survivors intermarried with Aborigines was an American woman, who contacted West Australian geologist Phillip Pindal, author of a book on the Zuytdorp wreck.

The woman described how her husband, an Aborigine, had died some years before in the US of the rare metabolic disease porphyria variegata.

In the 60s she visited his birthplace in the Shark Bay region, site of the Zuytdorp wreck. The woman had then picked up a copy of Dr Pindal's book. In 1988 it occurred to her that her husband's disease could be a useful clue to the past.

Acting on this unlikely suggestion, Dr Pindal conducted a leading international expert on porphyria variegata.

He was told that the genetically linked disease was largely confined to Afrikaners, and all cases in South Africa could be traced back to Gerrit Janz and Aranzanje Jacobs, who had married in the Cape in 1688.

Excited by the possibilities of this revelation, Dr Pindal conducted archival research in Amsterdam and Cape Town.

He discovered that the Zuytdorp had arrived at the Cape in March 1712 after a disastrous voyage down the west coast of Africa. The ship had 100 new fate on more than 100 new

crew to replace those who had died of scurvy and malaria.

One of the Kaapenaars who went on board could have been a son of Gerrit Janz.

On April 24, 1712, the Zuytdorp left the Cape for the Dutch East India Company's eastern headquarter in Java, and sailed into apparent oblivion.

In 1927 a cattle stockman named Shark Bay and south of Shark Bay, and saw the Zuytdorp's wreckage and other wrecks, some scattered on the rocks below. The significance of these relics wasn't fully recognised until Dr Pindal visited the almost inaccessible site in the early 80s on geological fieldwork.

It appears the ship sailed

into the cliff under full sail, driven in poor visibility by a north-west gale.

Relics on the land show that at least 50 sailors managed to struggle to the cliff-top, where they lit bonfires in vain attempts to attract the attention of following ships.

Hinges and metal parts were found in ancient ashes of old fires, while skeletons were found buried in European style at a nearby waterhole along with cowrie shells and other aboriginal artefacts.

The tribes who lived in the area have fragmented and scattered in the wake of systematic European settlement since the end of the last century, but ab-

original folklore recalls that in fairly recent times members of the tribes had fair hair and skin and European facial characteristics.

"The speculation has really gone on long enough," Mr Pendal said. "I think it's time to come up with incontrovertible evidence."

Researchers at the University of Western Australia are scheduled to be asked to conduct genetic testing of Aborigines in the Shark Bay region.

Further tests will be made on the discovered skeletons and a comprehensive archaeological survey will be undertaken in the hope of discovering more relics and grave sites.

MEDIA WATCH

1994 Australian Export Awards 31

Ausindustry New Exporter Award

Lobster fishermen 'in red'

LOBSTER fishermen in Western Australia are doing better than for many years, says Ausindustry, as the industry looks when they say business is booming and profits are up, but that they are also right in the face that financially they are very much in the pink, thanks to technology developed by Aussea Lobsters of Hamilton Hill. From and exporter Aussea Lobsters developed methods of storing live lobsters all year round. Western fishermen and exporters were surprised to learn that there was no shortage of supply and demand.

But by taking advantage of out-of-season demand and shortages that occur when they fall asleep, Aussea Lobsters has helped to stabilize prices for WA rock lobster and meet higher returns for its lobster fishermen.

Aussea Lobsters' bright idea and intensive research and development has helped to make it the winner of the new exporter category in the Western Australian Export Awards and the Ausindustry Aussea Lobsters the Australian Export Awards. The financial implications of the live lobster holding

The deeper color occurs naturally later in the season due to the higher temperatures.

Export earnings are booming as a result, with \$9.5 million turnover notched up in the 1993-94 financial years. Aussea Lobsters, matched by an increase in exports of more than 110 per cent over last year.

The company is the first to employ a range of technologies to develop handling and live storage techniques and specially equipped boats, spray tanks and storage devices to keep live lobsters in peak condition prior to being flown live to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the United States.

Aussea Lobsters began exporting live lobsters to Japan only in 1981 but its willingness to take the risky step of investing in expensive market research and technological development transformed it into a leading exporter of 95 per cent of its product overseas.

The company has not lost the personal touch. It may be the preferred supplier to the Japanese Royal Palace but Aussea Lobsters is also growing plants and a rock lobster and have it delivered live to their homes.



1994

AUSTRALIAN

EXPORT AWARDS

WINNER

technology are enormous. In the main market, Japan, demand for live lobsters peaks along with prices — in the peak of the WA lobster catching season.

Until recently that meant a big hole in profits for Aussea Lobsters. But now they can keep the live crustaceans over the end of the season and receive the profitable Japanese market prices the Japanese lobster exporters show their fondness for the color red —

the color of money.

The Japanese market pays a premium for live rock lobster which is the same success as pink lobster and successful in flavor and color.



In the pink: Red lobsters are big money-earners for Aussea Lobsters in Japan.

MEDIA WATCH

Sunday Times WA 27 Nov 1994

Wreck names live on

PARLIAMENTARY history will be made next year when 17 WA people's names will be incorporated in an Act of Parliament recognising their work in locating historic shipwrecks.

Arts Minister Peter Foss and Cabinet have endorsed the historic recommendation in the final report of the select committee into ancient shipwrecks off the WA coast.

Further history will be made because the bill to amend the Maritime Archaeology Act to embody the 17 names will be sponsored by the select committee, chaired by Liberal MP Philip Pendal, which identified the 17 West Australians.

Mr Pendal said the idea of creating a register of discoverers of ancient shipwrecks and its inclusion in an Act was put to him by Mr Foss last year.

"Our select committee concluded that all 17 were shabbily treated in terms of adequate recognition," Mr Pendal said.

Other members of the committee were Independent Liz Constable, Opposition Leader Jim McInty, ALP deputy leader Geoff Gallop and Bunbury MLA Ian Osborne.

4 nabbed with 1100 undersized crayfish

By NICK TAYLOR

MORE than 1100 illegally caught undersized crayfish were found in holding tanks in Geraldton by Fisheries Department officers.

They believe the crays were part of a haul being held to cash in on an impending change in the legal size limit.

The crays were found in tanks belonging to four of the city's commercial fishermen.

More than 800 were held by Paul Starling, who was fined \$7209 in Geraldton Magistrate's Court this week. He was also ordered to pay \$233 costs.

Ken Lovedee was found with 476 undersized crays and was fined \$5636 with \$233 costs.

Don Lane, who had 57 undersized crays, was fined \$1027 with \$150 costs and James O'Byrne, who had 20 undersized, was fined \$450 with \$233 costs.

All pleaded guilty to offences under the Fisheries Act covering the illegal taking of undersized rock lobsters.

The court was told the men were all caught with 76mm crays last January.

The legal minimum size was raised to 71mm between the opening of the season on Novem-

ber 15 and the end of January to conserve breeding stocks.

Fisheries Operations director Ernie Little said: "It is our belief that these fishermen were attempting to stockpile smaller rock lobsters to consign them after the minimum legal size reverted to 76mm on February 1.

"We regard these offences as serious. Despite record prices for rock lobster, the industry is facing one of the toughest periods in its development, and the rebuilding of the breeding stock is of paramount importance.

"It seems a significant number of fishermen on certain stretches of coast have been taking undersized rock lobsters.

"They must realise they are not doing themselves or their mates any favours.

"Any fisherman found attempting to hold undersized rock lobsters this season for consignment after the end of January will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

• Dongara fisherman David Hand, convicted of having 87 undersized crays in a separate prosecution, was fined \$859 and ordered to pay \$183 costs.

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	DIVE CAPTAIN	MEET AT
5 Feb	Heads Drift Dive	Leo Maybus 727 1568	Sorrento 9.30am
16 Feb	General Meeting at the Castle Hotel, cnr. Arden & Courtney Sts, Nth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
18 Feb	Shellback Is. Walkerville Sth. Saturday	Mick Jeacle (059) 71 2786 Ring Friday 17th	Walkerville South 10am
5 Mar	Flinders Area	Bob Scott 763 6872	Flinders 9.30am
11, 12, 13	Apolla Bay long Weekend - Cabins or Tents at Pisces Caravan Park - Limited Cabins, Book Now! - Andy Mastrowicz 318 3986		
16 Mar	General Meeting at the Castle Hotel, cnr. Arden & Courtney Sts, Nth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
25 Mar Saturday	Bike & Hike tour of Point Nepean - Meet at 10am at Park Entrance. Ring Des Williams on 551 3201 before 24th or 018 319 454 on the evening of Friday the 24th		
25 Mar Saturday Evening	Night Dive from Sorrento. Ring Leo Maybus on 727 1568 before the 24th or 018 375 102 during Saturday 24th.		
26 Mar Sunday	Sorrento/Heads Area Ring John on 018 395 428 on 26th only between 6 & 7pm - No later	John Lawler	10am
9 April	George Kermodie Wreck	Pat Reynolds 789 1092	9.30am Flinders

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR CONT.

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	DIVE CAPTAIN	MEET AT
EASTER April			
14, 15,	WILSONS PROMONTORY	Don Abell	Tidal River
16, 17,	Tidal River	889 4415	
20 April	General Meeting at the Castle Hotel, cnr. Arden & Courtney Sts, Nth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
30 April	Rotomahana Wreck	Andy mastrowicz 318 3986	9.30am Sorrento
14 May	Broken Submarine Wreck	Bob Scott 763 6872	9.30am Sorrento
18 May	General Meeting at the Castle Hotel, cnr. Arden & Courtney Sts, Nth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!

FOR SALE

A mint condition copy of Robert Ballard's magnificent book

“The lost ships of Guadalcanal”.

If you took the V.S.A.G. trip to the Solomon Islands and you don't have a copy of this beautiful book, here is a chance to buy a copy at dollars off the retail price - Ring Sant Khan on 817 3214 (Home).

By chance Sant has a surplus copy.

TIDE TABLES

PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000

TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

FEBRUARY - 1995

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1	0036 1.43	9	0545 1.32	17	0107 1.32	25	0623 1.32
	0603 0.54		1156 0.21		0700 0.45		1230 0.14
WE	1230 1.31	TH	1845 1.22	FR	1314 1.24	SA	1948 1.28
	1829 0.17		1910 0.26		1910 0.26		
2	0130 1.49	10	0001 0.54	18	0148 1.39	26	0049 0.57
	0707 0.43		0620 1.25		0742 0.34		0719 1.25
TH	1330 1.37	FR	1234 0.25	SA	1402 1.33	MO	1326 0.21
	1924 0.17		1933 1.17		1950 0.25		2059 1.25
3	0217 1.53	11	0044 0.61	19	0227 1.43	27	0152 0.62
	0801 0.33		0701 1.17		0820 0.24		0832 1.20
FR	1426 1.41	SA	1316 0.29	SU	1448 1.39	MO	1435 0.27
	2013 0.19		2029 1.12		2030 0.26		2205 1.25
4	0300 1.55	12	0132 0.67	20	0304 1.46	28	0313 0.63
	0849 0.25		0750 1.11		0900 0.16		0959 1.19
SA	1516 1.43	SU	1409 0.32	MO	1532 1.43	TU	1555 0.31
	2056 0.23		2131 1.11		2110 0.28		2311 1.29
5	0336 1.53	13	0236 0.72	21	0341 1.46		
	0930 0.20		0853 1.06		0938 0.11		
SU	1602 1.42	MO	1515 0.35	TU	1615 1.44		
	2135 0.28		2235 1.13		2150 0.32		
6	0410 1.49	14	0354 0.71	22	0416 1.44		
	1009 0.18		1037 1.04		1018 0.47		
MO	1645 1.39	TU	1628 0.34	WE	1700 1.42		
	2212 0.34		2333 1.18		2231 0.37		
7	0441 1.45	15	0512 0.65	23	0455 1.42		
	1045 0.17		1118 1.07		1100 0.47		
TU	1724 1.34	WE	1734 0.32	TH	1748 1.38		
	2246 0.40		2314 1.43		2314 1.43		
8	0512 1.39	16	0023 1.25	24	0536 1.37		
	1120 0.19		0614 0.56		1144 0.09		
WE	1803 1.28	TH	1220 1.15	FR	1843 1.33		
	2323 0.47		1827 0.28		2359 0.30		

© N.T.F. ADD 1 HOUR TO TIMES SHOWN FOR OFFICIAL "SUMMER TIME"

PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000

TIMES OF FLOOD AND EBB TIDES

FEBRUARY - 1995

Time	Start	Time	Start	Time	Start	Time	Start
1	0338 ebb	9	0207 flood	17	0357 ebb	25	0237 flood
	0929 flood		0824 ebb		1033 flood		0859 ebb
WE	1454 ebb	TH	1542 flood	FR	1531 ebb	SA	1643 flood
	2218 flood		2133 ebb		2251 flood		2236 ebb
2	0425 ebb	10	0236 flood	18	0430 ebb	26	0327 flood
	1032 flood		0855 ebb		1114 flood		0953 ebb
TH	1601 ebb	FR	1636 flood	SA	1629 ebb	SU	1753 flood
	2301 flood		2221 ebb		2329 ebb		2343 ebb
3	0506 ebb	11	0311 flood	19	0504 ebb	27	0439 flood
	1126 flood		0928 ebb		1152 flood		1058 ebb
FR	1700 ebb	SA	1742 flood	SU	1721 ebb	MO	1905 flood
	2338 flood		2318 ebb		2354 flood		
4	0545 ebb	12	0357 flood	20	0538 ebb	28	0055 ebb
	1213 flood		1007 ebb		1231 flood		0629 flood
SA	1751 ebb	SU	1851 flood	MO	1812 ebb	TU	1215 ebb
							2012 flood
5	0011 flood	13	0029 ebb	21	0023 flood		
	0620 ebb		0511 flood		0613 ebb		
SU	1254 flood	MO	1057 ebb	TU	1313 flood		
	1839 ebb		1956 flood		1901 ebb		
6	0041 flood	14	0141 ebb	22	0054 flood		
	0853 ebb		0719 flood		0649 ebb		
MO	1333 flood	TU	1200 ebb	WE	1357 flood		
	1923 ebb		2050 flood		1951 ebb		
7	0110 flood	15	0238 ebb	23	0125 flood		
	0725 ebb		0849 flood		0729 ebb		
TU	1413 flood	WE	1314 ebb	TH	1445 flood		
	2006 ebb		2135 flood		2043 ebb		
8	0139 flood	16	0321 ebb	24	0159 flood		
	0755 ebb		0947 flood		0811 ebb		
WE	1455 flood	TH	1427 ebb	FR	1540 flood		
	2049 ebb		2216 flood		2137 ebb		

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TIDE TABLES

PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)
 LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000
 TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

MARCH - 1995

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0436 0.57	9 0438 1.38	17 0521 1.39	25 0522 1.39	
WE 1115 1.23	TH 1045 0.17	FR 1157 1.20	SA 1127 0.13	
WE 1711 0.92	TH 1724 1.35	FR 1745 0.42	SA 1829 1.39	
	2257 0.45		2346 0.49	
2 0510 1.35	10 0512 1.30	18 0627 1.28	26 0613 1.32	
TH 1223 1.31	FR 1120 0.20	SA 1205 0.38	TH 1215 0.22	
1816 0.31	FR 1800 1.28	SA 1255 1.32	SU 1930 1.33	
	2332 0.50	1840 0.39		
3 0102 1.41	11 0547 1.24	19 0113 1.35	27 0038 0.54	
3 0650 0.37	11 55 0.25	19 0701 0.26	10715 1.25	
FR 1323 1.38	SA 1842 1.22	SU 1345 1.43	MO 1309 0.32	
1911 0.30		1926 0.36	2035 1.28	
4 0148 1.45	12 0011 0.56	20 0155 1.41	28 0142 0.58	
4 0740 0.28	SU 1231 0.29	MO 1433 1.51	TU 1416 0.41	
SA 1415 1.44	1930 1.16	2009 0.35	2138 1.27	
1956 0.31				
5 0228 1.46	13 0053 0.61	21 0236 1.44	29 0302 0.57	
5 0823 0.21	13 0715 1.11	21 0830 0.09	0957 1.21	
SU 1500 1.47	MO 1315 0.35	TU 1519 1.55	WE 1534 0.47	
2036 0.32	2029 1.13	2052 0.35	2240 1.28	
6 0302 1.46	14 0146 0.65	22 0315 1.45	30 0421 0.52	
6 0901 0.17	14 0815 1.06	22 0914 1.05	1109 1.27	
MO 1541 1.47	TU 1409 0.40	WE 1603 1.55	TH 1651 0.49	
2112 0.35	2134 1.12	2134 0.37	2337 1.31	
7 0334 1.44	15 0257 0.65	23 0356 1.45	31 0529 1.43	
7 0937 0.16	15 0930 1.05	23 0958 1.04	1215 1.35	
TU 1616 1.45	WE 1519 0.44	TH 1648 1.52	FR 1758 0.48	
2146 0.37	2239 1.15	2216 0.40		
8 0405 1.40	16 0413 0.60	24 0437 1.42		
8 1012 0.16	16 1050 1.10	24 1042 0.07		
WE 1649 1.40	TH 1636 0.44	FR 1736 1.46		
2221 0.41	2336 1.21	2300 0.44		

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PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)
 LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000
 TIMES OF FLOOD AND EBB TIDES

MARCH - 1995

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0203 ebb	9 0113 flood	17 0216 ebb	25 0216 ebb	
0813 flood	0713 ebb	0913 flood	0900 ebb	
WE 1339 ebb	TH 1411 flood	FR 1423 ebb	SA 1508 flood	
2109 flood	2022 ebb	2135 flood	2130 ebb	
2 0300 ebb	10 0143 flood	18 0301 ebb	26 0234 flood	
0926 flood	0743 ebb	10 0010 flood	0853 ebb	
TH 1457 ebb	FR 1453 flood	SA 1531 ebb	SU 1603 flood	
2157 flood	2059 ebb	2215 flood	2222 ebb	
3 0348 ebb	11 0213 flood	19 0343 ebb	27 0334 flood	
1022 flood	0814 ebb	1042 ebb	0953 ebb	
FR 1601 ebb	SA 1540 flood	SU 1630 flood	MO 1707 flood	
2238 flood	2137 ebb	2249 flood	2319 ebb	
4 0430 ebb	12 0249 flood	20 0423 ebb	28 0458 flood	
1108 flood	0848 ebb	1123 flood	1103 ebb	
SA 1656 ebb	SU 1637 flood	MO 1725 ebb	TU 1817 flood	
2314 flood	2220 ebb	2323 flood		
5 0507 ebb	13 0336 flood	21 0503 ebb	29 0023 ebb	
1147 flood	0930 ebb	1204 flood	0541 flood	
SU 1744 ebb	MO 1745 flood	TU 1815 ebb	WE 1227 ebb	
2345 flood	2315 ebb	2355 flood	1927 flood	
6 0541 ebb	14 0449 flood	22 0545 ebb	30 0127 ebb	
1223 flood	1022 ebb	1247 flood	0804 flood	
MO 1827 ebb	TU 1857 flood	WE 1904 ebb	TH 1352 ebb	
			2028 flood	
7 0015 flood	15 0019 ebb	23 0020 flood	31 0223 ebb	
0613 ebb	16 0645 flood	0627 ebb	0907 flood	
TU 1907 ebb	WE 1133 ebb	TH 1331 flood	FR 1506 ebb	
	2000 flood	1952 ebb	2119 flood	
8 0643 ebb	16 0123 ebb	24 0106 flood		
WE 1300 ebb	TH 1300 ebb	FR 1418 flood		
1945 ebb	2052 flood	2040 ebb		

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S. O'P

TIDE TABLES

PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 144° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000

TIMES OF FLOOD AND EBB TIDES

APRIL - 1995

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0311 ebb	17 0147 flood	25 0339 flood	1 0029 1.35	9 0520 1.24	17 0033 1.35	25 0032 0.52			
SA 0956 flood	0744 ebb	1005 flood	0623 0.34	1118 0.29	0619 0.21	0720 1.28			
SA 1607 ebb	SU 1445 flood	MO 1636 ebb	SA 1311 1.43	SU 1804 1.31	MO 1326 1.54	TU 1253 0.45			
2201 flood	2111 ebb	2200 flood	1951 0.47	2343 0.55	1857 0.51	2009 1.36			
2 0353 ebb	10 0226 flood	0346 ebb	0114 1.38	10 0600 1.19	18 0122 1.41	26 0136 0.53			
10 1056 flood	0822 ebb	1050 flood	0709 0.27	1151 0.34	0710 0.12	26 0839 1.26			
SU 1637 ebb	MO 1529 flood	TU 1729 ebb	SU 1359 1.49	MO 1847 1.26	TU 1416 1.62	WE 1354 0.56			
2238 flood	2148 ebb	2241 flood	1934 0.45	2357 ebb	1945 0.48	2106 1.32			
3 0430 ebb	11 0315 flood	0434 ebb	0152 1.40	11 0022 0.58	19 0208 1.45	27 0248 0.52			
10 1112 flood	0908 ebb	1135 flood	0750 0.22	0648 1.14	0800 0.07	27 0950 1.27			
MO 1740 ebb	TU 1619 flood	WE 1817 ebb	MO 1440 1.52	TU 1230 0.40	WE 1504 1.66	TH 1505 0.64			
2310 flood	2233 ebb	2321 flood	2013 0.45	1938 1.21	2031 0.46	2202 1.30			
4 0502 ebb	12 0428 flood	0523 ebb	0227 1.40	12 0110 0.59	20 0252 1.47	28 0358 0.48			
11 1145 flood	1009 ebb	1219 flood	0828 0.20	0747 1.11	0848 0.06	1057 1.33			
TU 1819 ebb	WE 1721 flood	TH 1905 ebb	TU 1515 1.52	WE 1321 0.47	TH 1550 1.65	FR 1620 0.67			
2341 flood	2325 ebb	1915 flood	2047 0.44	2037 1.19	2116 0.45	2258 1.30			
5 0534 ebb	13 0603 flood	0003 flood	0300 1.39	13 0210 0.58	21 0337 1.47	29 0459 0.42			
12 1710 flood	1129 ebb	0614 ebb	0504 0.19	0902 1.12	0937 0.08	1158 1.40			
WE 1856 ebb	TH 1830 flood	SA 1520 ebb	WE 1546 1.50	TH 1427 0.54	FR 1637 1.61	SA 1729 0.66			
		2017 flood	2122 0.45	2142 1.19	2202 0.45	2349 1.32			
6 0011 flood	14 0021 ebb	0048 flood	0332 1.37	14 0319 0.53	22 0423 1.44	30 0650 0.36			
0605 ebb	0725 flood	0705 ebb	0939 0.19	1023 1.18	1025 0.14	1251 1.47			
TH 1252 flood	FR 1352 ebb	SA 1347 flood	TH 1518 1.47	FR 1543 0.58	SA 1725 1.54	SU 1823 0.64			
1930 ebb	1936 flood	2036 ebb	2157 0.46	2245 1.22	2249 0.47				
7 0042 flood	15 0117 ebb	0137 flood	0407 1.34	15 0427 1.30	23 0513 1.39				
0637 ebb	0827 flood	0800 ebb	7 1013 0.21	1132 0.40	1112 0.23				
FR 1328 flood	SA 1431 flood	SU 1431 flood	FR 1651 1.42	SA 1659 0.57	SU 1816 1.48				
2044 ebb	2030 flood	2122 ebb	2231 0.48	2342 1.28	2338 0.49				
8 0114 flood	16 0209 ebb	0232 flood	8 0443 1.29	16 0526 0.32	0609 1.33				
0709 ebb	0916 flood	0900 ebb	SA 1026 1.35	1232 1.43	1200 0.34				
SA 1405 flood	SU 1537 ebb	MO 1516 flood	SA 1746 1.37	SU 1803 0.55	MO 1912 1.41				
2037 ebb	2117 flood	2210 ebb	2307 0.51	2307 0.51					

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