

# FATHOMS

Registered for posting  
as a publication Category B  
Print Post Approved  
PP332873/0035

EST. 1954



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# VSAG

JUN-JUL 96

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

# 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 Willams 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 independant 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:

Bells Hotel  
157 Moray Street (cnr. Coventry Street)  
South Melbourne - 8pm sharp!  
Thursday 20th June 1996  
Thursday 18th July 1996

### Next Committee Meetings:

Tuesday 25th June - Leo Maybus's home  
Tuesday 23rd July - Sant Khan's home

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John Lawler  
Leo Maybus

## EDITORIAL



This month VSAG again welcomes four new members; Gerry Dammer, Ted Cornish, Kate Caine and Darren Pearce. Welcome folks, and thank you for providing your profiles which have been featured in this issue.

On a recent dive scheduled to meet at 8.30am, one member expressed concern that he would not be able to fill his tanks and still make the meeting time. Now I am not intending to single out this member, (I've done that in deco stops). As many of us have been guilty of this. I am only bringing this up as surely we can ensure our tanks are full prior to our fortnightly dives. This will ensure speedy departure from the ramp if everyone arrives on time.

By the time you all receive this, those members who went overseas to Truk and Palau will have returned with many fine memories of their trip. Let us hope that more than one of these fortunate few will have been motivated to put pen to paper to share with us their experiences.

Where were all you keen divers on the night of 11 May? This was the scheduled night dive at Portsea Pier. That even yours truly attending with only three other members. The night was perfect and the water quite warm. Should we continue with these on our dive calendar?

Don't forget to fill out your club questionnaire (blue paper) and return to John Lawler by 28 June, 1996. As members, I know you will all show an interest in your club and help your elected committee to plan activities around your varied interests.

On Sunday 19 may we dived "The Courier" Courtesy of our GPS unit. The Co-ordinates were plugged into the unit at the last minute (at the ramp) and we found the wreck with a minimum of fuss Don! This promises to open up our diving horizons considerably in future as long as we know the Co-ordinates. See you on the Goorangai.

The editor, Mick Jeacle



## V.S.A.G. PROFILE

This month's diver profile features  
**Graeme Blanchard**

**AGE:** 42

**OCCUPATION:** Welder

**FAMILY:** Married to Jenny for 18yrs and have a daughter, Emma aged 13 and a son Matthew aged 11.

### **HOW, WHY & WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INTO DIVING?**

With living close to Port Phillip Bay and going fishing with my father in his home made boat at the early age of 4, it wasn't long before I wanted to get in with those fish that we had no trouble in catching. So at the age of 12 I started spearfishing, every weekend and even after school. The next step was to go deeper, and at 18 and with a bit of money and 4 wheels to get me around a scuba dive course was the next adventure.

### **WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE UNDERWATER INTERESTS & DIVE SITES?**

I would have to say big fish are the No. 1 choice. A close second would be wrecks that still look like ships, to swim through the inside corridors where people once walked is a great thrill. Diving reef with deep walls and swim through's would be the next choice of dive site's. Coral reef's are OK but it all starts to look the same to me when diving it to often and shark's I love, they add that extra thrill to a fantastic sport.

### **TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR MORE MEMORABLE DIVES?**

With this question I had no trouble in choosing the dive location "Truk", but which of the dive's was the best, was a harder choice.

After checking through my log book which I very rarely enter my dives, I see 24 dives entries, 22 being ship wreck's and 2 plane wreck's. To me all were memorable

dives, and then there was Palau, with its unbelievable visibility and drop off's, with fish every where you look, even one's that bite.

Then there's the President Coolidge dives which were all as good as Truk and Palau, so to pick the one most memorable dive, I can't!

### **HAS YOUR HEALTH EVER BEEN EFFECTED BY DIVING?**

Diving has not affected my health as far as I know, in fact the more I dive the better I feel, and with it being 18 month's since I've struggled into my wet suit, it's time I got fit again, and got wet.

### **HOW DID A NICE BLOKE LIKE YOU GET TO MAKE GO-KARTS FOR A LIVING?**

Not only do I like the adventure of under water but I love speed and motors that make it possible. So at 14 I made my first go-kart, started racing at 15, and by the age of 20 and being more involved in kart's I started manufacturing. And 22 Years and 15,000 kart later I'm still going, and with my son Matthew racing now, it's hard to find a spare weekend for a dive.

### **HOW CAN YOU STILL ENJOY YOUR FISHING AFTER BEING DOWN AMONGST THE REAL THING?**

Mixing both fishing and diving together has been a real eye opener over the year's. To see how few fish there are around today compared to 20 year's ago.

And I'm finding it hard to keep up the enthusiasm I once had in fishing.

With pollution and overfishing all playing a big role in there declining numbers.

But fishing still get's it's share of my spare time.

### **TELL US ABOUT YOUR DIVE/FISHING BOAT AND WHY YOU CHOSE IT?**

Boat's are the next best thing to "you know what", if I had money I'd have a 60 footer.

But that's a dream so I'll have to settle with my 20 foot Yamaha. It's not the best dive boat or even the best fishing boat, but it is hard to find a boat that fits every purpose.

It handles rough water very well, goes quick enough to get you to the dive sites while not being to thirsty with it's 175 HP. I can handle it by myself at the boat ramp.

## **WILL YOU ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO DIVE AND JOIN THE CLUB?**

Both Emma and Matthew have been snorkling on the Barrier Reef and Fiji, and are keen to do more. But the water temperature down in Melbourne isn't very tempting, so they will have to wait till we holiday again up north. And if they decide to try scuba, which I'm sure they will, I'll give them all the support they need.

## **AS A CLUB MEMBER IS VSAG MEETING YOUR EXPECTATIONS /REQUIREMENTS?**

VSAG suits my type of diving, the odd oversea's trip and the local diving is as good as I think you will get out of our coast line. So I don't think any other club out there can do anymore for me.

## **WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE DIVING AMBITIONS?**

I love diving and I don't think I will ever give it up, and even with it on the shelf at the moment, I know I will always find time. But if only that water up North would move down South I know my boat and dive gear would get a flogging.

# **SPECIAL NOTICE**

At the general Meeting on July 18 VSAG will have the pleasure of the company of Ray Campbell.

Ray is the Squadron Leader of the Royal Victorian Volunteer Coastguard who will give us a presentation and video on the activities of this organisation.

I am sure Ray will have some interesting stories to tell and his presentation should not be missed!

We have endeavoured to secure Ray's services for some months now. Please diarise to ensure your attendance now, and don't wimp out if it's a cold night! These speakers are arranged for your enjoyment; show them the support they deserve.





## NEW MEMBER PROFILE

### Gerry Dammer



**AGE:** 59 - younger as I made my job my hobby.

**MARITAL STATUS:** married 30 odd years (you get less for murder) to Eva. Two daughters and one son, all diving except Eva, who swims like a house brick.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Welding consultant and small (6'4") manufacturer.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DIVING?** I have been diving since 1952 and am a co-founder of OJC Dive Club in the Netherlands which had its 40th Anniversary in 1992.

I worked as a diver second class in Amsterdam, and was enlisted with the Dutch Royal Engineers as a diver for two hard years (National Service). I spent 83 days altogether in detention for being a naughty boy, but eventually graduated.

I arrived here via Africa with one cubic metre of dive gear and an 18 year old girl (Eva) whom I met on board.

I've dived since for a living, first with the Public Works Department, (1957 to 1959) then via Arabia back to the North sea etc. etc.

**FAVOURITE DIVE SITES:** Wilsons Promontory, Cape Liptrap

**WHY DID I JOIN VSAG?** At a reunion in Amsterdam last November with OJC I was with people with a common interest. Very much like VSAG. Also to learn more about sports diving and improve my shocking bad standard of underwater photography. DES WILLIAMS PLEASE HELP!!!



## NEW MEMBER PROFILE

### Ted Cornish



**AGE:** 43 years young

**EMPLOYMENT:** Owner Big Shot Bins (Environmental Engineer) 2-3c.m. skips, del & p/up anywhere, anytime, just call me 9568 0934.

Married to "the lucky one" Jan, & have a daughter, Tara, 12

**HOW DID YOU COME TO JOIN VSAG?** After being pushed into deep icy water at Tidal River, Easter '95, wrapped up like a mummy, and a snorkel attached, I had what was a memorable swim with the seals.

After a lot of persuasion (nagging) from my mates Mick & Bob, they booked me in to do a Dive Course, which I passed and have now come to love the sport immensely. I have been diving for the past 5 months, and every dive seems better than the last one. I have yet to get to my depth, but with experience and my buddy I look forward to a wreck/sub dive in deep waters.

My ultimate dive would be to BAG A CRAY!

Good dive site: Cape Woolami, and many more I have yet to visit.

I'm very happy to now be a member of VSAG, already having had a lot of fun, great dives, great camping holidays (Wilson's Prom), plenty of beer and friendly folk who have lots of interesting experiences to share, and I might add, good jokes! I can only envisage Jan, Tara and myself tripping around on great diving holidays yet to come. What a way to go!

Jan is hesitant about diving herself, but Tara will definitely be joining me underwater, she can't wait.

*Ed Note: Thanks Ted (or was it Jan?) I'm happy to report that Ted has since "found his depth" on the courier, 140" in visibility of 8 ft well done teddy, I'm proud of ya!*



## NEW MEMBER PROFILE

### Kate Caine



#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DIVING?

I did my open water course 18 mths ago. Since then I have been to the SolomOn Islands and have enjoyed a few dives at various sites around the bay. I loved the wreck and reef diving in the solomons and have enjoyed the reefs I've dived in the bay although I'm yet to dive any wrecks here.

#### AGE?

Just entering my prime at 26!

#### MARITAL STATUS?

Open to negotiation - all offers will be given due consideration!

#### OTHER SPORTING INTERESTS/HOBBIES?

I love anything outdoors or to do with water, preferably both!! Swimming, diving, underwater hockey, skiing, iceskating, tennis, sailing. Basically, I'll have a go at anything.

I also like to cook, travel, listen to music (loudly) and would love to learn Italian and live in Italy for a while.

#### EMPLOYMENT DETAILS?

I am a medical Scientist and i work at Dorevitch Pathology in Camberwell in their diagnostic Histopathology Lab.

#### FAVOURITE DIVE SITES?

Toa Maru in the solomon Islands and a dive I did at Easter this year at Wilson's prom. The sheer rocks, cavems and swim throughs were very different from the terrain I've covered before. It was great to see the beauty of the prom is not just "skin deep".

#### NEW DIVE SITES/PLANS YOU COULD SUGGEST TO VSAG?

My family have always enjoyed diving on the NSW coast - Jervis Bay, Montague Island, Narooma etc. It would be great if the Club could organise a trip up the NSW

coast, up to Bryon bay or even up to the Great Barrier Reef. Also, as I've never been to WA it would be a great introduction to the state to go diving there. I also read with interest Andrew Marshall's new diver profile where he advocates getting wholesale prices on tanks and getting discounts from dive shops. this would be a great help to new divers who don't own their own gear as it is the cost of renting and the inconvenience & unreliability of hire that keeps people out of the water.

Andrew also raised the question of scuba skills reviews. This is very important aspect of maintaining our "safety in diving" ethos. It could also be extended to include rescue and first aid skills.

### **HOW DID YOU COME TO JOIN VSAG?**

I discovered that Sant Kahn was a diver and asked him if he was interested in joining our small (but exclusive) dive club (Melbourne Waterdragons). It was at that moment he told me he was the secretary of VSAG!. Once I got my foot out of my mouth I asked him if he was interested in new members joining VSAG - and here I am! My first dive was with John Lawler on his boat and Murray Black - with bruises like that, who could resist?

### **WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A DIVE CLUB?**

I'm looking for a dive club that can offer regular dives both here and overseas, a good social programme and a sense of humour, wisdom and experience that can be passed on to new members and a club that values and treats all its divers with equal respect - not as male or female divers, but just divers who all share the same passions - diving and having fun. I hope I'll find that at VSAG.

*Ed Note:*

*Many thanks Kate,*

*VSAG has dived many local wrecks of late. Come & join us to discover these.*

*VSAG will be visiting Coff's harbour this Christmas. See separate notice this issue and contact Tony Tipping if you are interested.*



## NEW MEMBER PROFILE

### Darren Pearce



#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DIVING?

I completed my PADI course on September 17 1995 and have been diving as much as I can ever since (I can't get enough of it and Mum says I'm driving everyone crazy).

#### AGE?

I'm 21 but my parents still won't give me the key to the door (because I always lose it)

#### MARITAL STATUS?

I am currently still single because I need all my money for diving.

#### OTHER SPORTING INTERESTS/HOBBIES?

Fishing, surfing, sailing, rock climbing, skydiving, camping, 4WDiving and gliding.

#### EMPLOYMENT DETAILS?

My current job is a cook at the Parkroyal on St Kilda Road. You might have heard of it. Great meals especially when I am there!

#### FAVOURITE DIVE SITES?

I have not done enough dives yet to make up my mind. But my best dive so far was the Tasman Hauler up at Eden. I found this very challenging but I also like Deep dropoffs and walls with lots of marine life.

#### NEW DIVE SITES/PLANS YOU COULD SUGGEST TO VSAG?

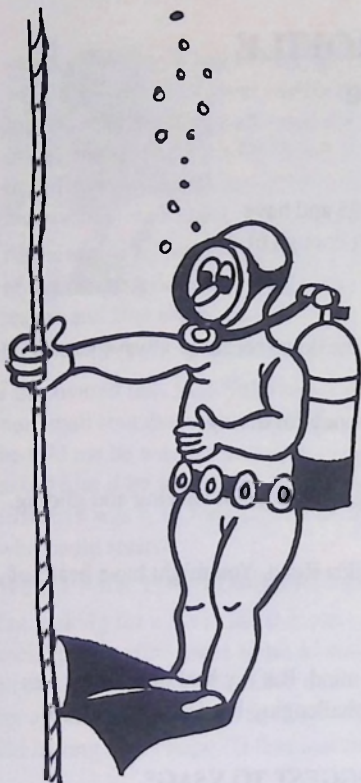
I am looking forward to going diving with VSAG Interstate and later on, maybe overseas.

#### HOW DID YOU COME TO JOIN VSAG?

I heard about VSAG from a friend of my Dad's and when I did my first dive with the club on the George Kermodie I could hardly wait for the next.

#### WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A DIVE CLUB?

I would like to go on challenging and adventurous dives with a nice lot of friendly people. To make friends, meet new people, have fun and maybe one day be able to find someone to support my diving habit (just joking).



## DECO STOPS

BY MICK JEACLE

Down at Tidal River at Easter time, VSAG members and families tend to own Second Avenue. On one particular day I was standing in the middle of the road, talking to other members, when along came Robert Van Fleet (Helen Fryday's bloke).

Conversation followed:-

**Robert:** You're in the way!

**Big M:** Walk around Arsehole!

**Robert:** Not me, you! poking me in the chest)

**Big M:** You're new around here, aren't you?

**Robert:** Sidesteps, walks away!

\*\*\*\*\*

On another occasion, and on one of these balmy nights, we were sitting around (in the middle of the road) telling a few lies, when along came a vehicle. We all got up to allow it to pass, except for Paul Sier who would not budge, at the same time

pulling a weird face at the driver. You should have seen him move when the driver momentarily turned on the flashing red and blue lights.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just after this incident, we were discussing new members of VSAG (and prospective members) when Ted Cornish was mentioned. Annie Jeacle then enquired as to Ted's whereabouts, followed by a boisterous yell "TED!". "WHAT?" came the reply from ted, seated only two feet from her right! She wasn't drunk though, just ask her.

\*\*\*\*\*

Again one day, I was standing in the middle of the road talking to Alex Talay. Along comes Paul Sier. "What have you got there, Paul?" I say. "ya know" he said, "I only agreed to bring Gail down here so long as I didn't have to do anything". That said, he threw the pot of hot water over his shoulder muttering, "She can get her own bloody hot water!". Don't worry Gail; I know he's a real softie at heart.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jack Namiota rang on the Saturday evening prior to the Eliza Ramsden dive to book in. When I informed him of the meeting time of 8.30am at Sorrento he was horrified. "But Meeeeeek, how can I fill my tanks?"

This prompted a few expletives on my part and a comment in my current editorial as Jack's not the only one.

\*\*\*\*\*

I heard on the radio the other day that a dive club in Scotland sought permission from a property owner to dive in a Loch on his property. permission was granted, so they set off on a seven hundred mile journey to reach the property and then trekked some 3,000 feet up hills and through bush to reach the Loch. Can you imagine their disappointment (among other things) when they discovered the Loch was only six inches deep!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **REMEMBER!**

**V.S.A.G GENERAL MEETINGS**

are on the

**THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH!**

**AT BELLS HOTEL**

**CNR. MORAY & COVENTRY STREETS, SOUTH MELBOURNE**

*Make a note of these dates in your diary or calendar now.*

Thursday 20 June

Thursday 18th July

Come and enjoy a delicious meal before the meeting which commences at 8pm sharp.

## ***GEORGE KERMODE***

BY DOUG CATHERALL

Hey, What a Day!

Four boats and eighteen divers made for a couple of crowded craft, but boy was it worth it.

After Andy got a jump start from J.L. all boats checked radio's and guess what. Good clear reception by all.

Our route took us out the Western Port Channel past Cowes, Ventnor and around the Nobbies where only a moderate swell was running. The trip along the southern coast of Phillip Island was most scenic and as the boats were only cruising it was very enjoyable. Two charter craft were already above the wreck, so no problem finding it. Visibility was only 20ft we were told, but for me I'd say more like 35 and not much surge.

Jim and Darren, our visiting divers were treated to an excellent dive and as always plenty of fish life and wreckage to explore.

No breaches of regulations or safety came to my attention and apart from some gear swapping and borrowing all was normal.

The second dive was further along the coast (east) past Pyramid rock where each boat chose a likely site and dived at leisure.

Some crays were bagged but mainly good sight seeing was done as the vic had improved to 40+ft and the water temp was mild.

The return tour was under San Remo bridge then north to north west past Newhaven, Rhyll and French Island to Stony Point.

Big M and Andy were low on fuel but otherwise no worries.

Andy was a good samaritan and towed a broken down craft back to base.

Priya and John were 30mins plus late to arrive.

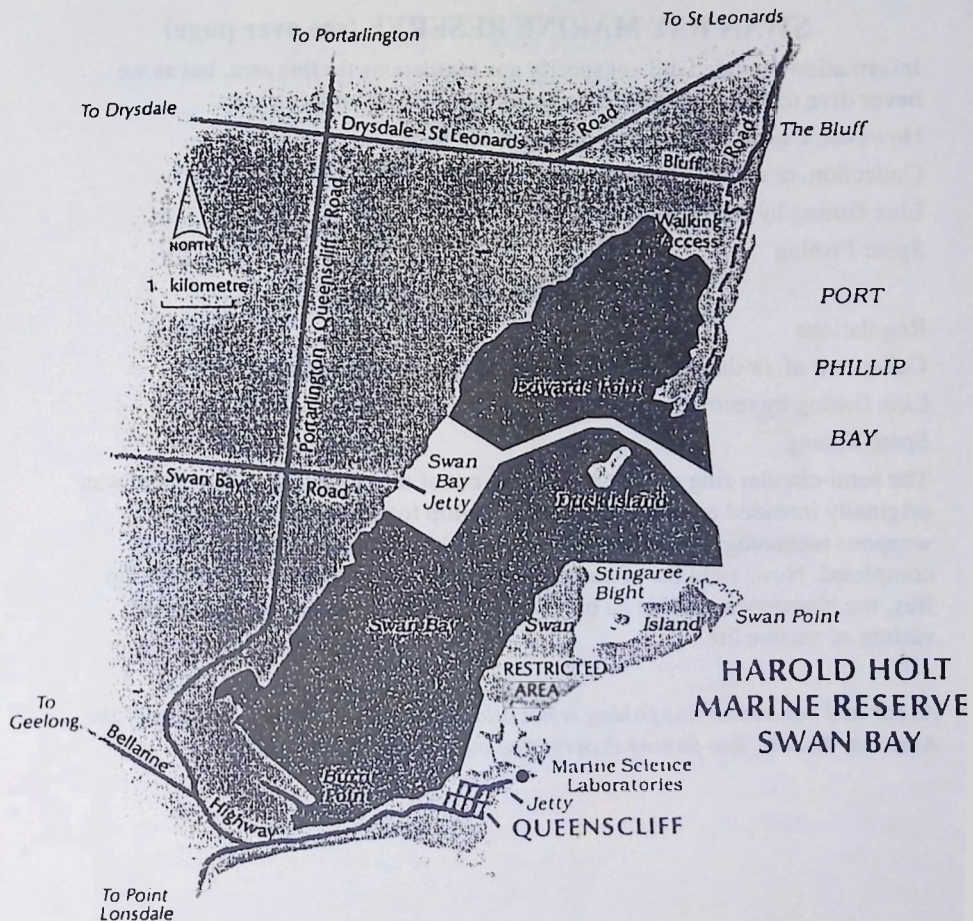
Jack arrived without a reg. Big M arrived without a weight belt. Pat left a large deposit behind which was last seen floating south of Pyramid Rock, much to P.J.'s disgust.



# KNOW YOUR MARINE RESERVES

BY MICK JEACLE

## SWAN BAY MARINE RESERVE



In the last edition of FATHOMS I covered the two main Harold Holt Marine Reserves, as far as VSAG is concerned viz:

Point Nepean and Point Lonsdale. The remaining two reserves are Swan Bay and Popes Eye.

### SWAN BAY MARINE RESERVE (see over page)

Information provided did not specify any regulations for this area, but as we never dive this area I have not bothered to follow up on this aspect.

However, I would suspect it would read as follows:-

Collection, or damage to, plants, animals, rocks & sand	NO
Line fishing by recreational anglers	YES
Spear Fishing	NO

### POPES EYE (see over page)

Regulations

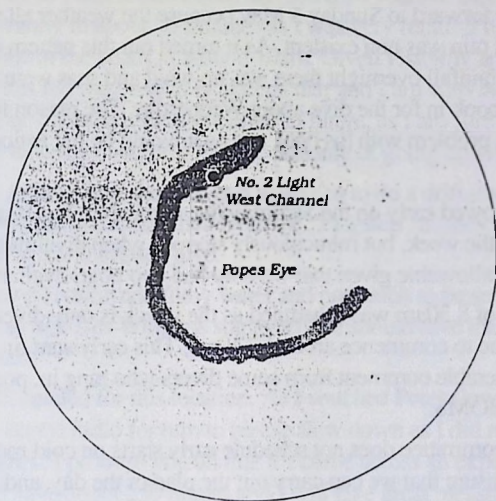
Collection of, or damage to, plants, animals, rocks and sand	NO
Line fishing by recreational anglers	NO
Spear fishing	NO

The semi-circular ring of bluestone rising out of the bay at Popes Eye shoal was originally intended to be part of the Port Phillip fortifications. Advances in weapons technology made the defence plan obsolete and the fort was never completed. Now, amid the often heavy seas and strong currents of Port Phillip Bay, the bluestones provide an excellent reef substrate and home for a wide variety of marine life.

*As far as I can recall line fishing is not allowed within a 100 metre radius of the Annulus. That is, line fishing is permitted outside the circle. Editor.*

# POPES EYE

## HAROLD HOLT MARINE RESERVES POPES EYE



FORT PHILLIP BAY

100 metres

## *ELIZA RAMSDEN*

BY MICK JEACLE

I was really looking forward to Sunday 5 May because the weather all week was somewhat calm and rain was non-existent. As it turned out this pattern continued into the day and despite rainfall overnight there was no wind and seas were "glassy". John Lawler was first to book in for the dive about Wednesday. The reason for this, was that he had discovered a problem with his boat, and as it would be out of action he did not want to miss out.

The phone calls followed early on the Saturday due to the excellent weather pattern experienced during the week, but miraculously stopped when diver numbers reached nine, the maximum allowable given that we only had two boats available.

An early meet time of 8.30am was scheduled as the wreck is only diveable during slack water, which was due to commence around 9.40am. This early start time at this time of year brought considerable comment from some divers who rang in, possibly due to the non-receipt of FATHOMS.

Rest assured, your committee does not schedule early starts on cold mornings just for fun. Rather it is to ensure that we can carry out the plan of the day, and if this includes diving in a shipping channel in a tide-prone area, then we must ensure we can be ready to dive at the scheduled spot during slack water.

Enough said. I'm sure you all get my drift!

In a short of time, the wreck was located and marked with a shot line and surface buoy. As there was very little surface current evident by 9.30am, the occupants of the "flagship" entered the water but were unable to descend, reporting that the current was still running. At this point I decided that the best thing to do would be to motor up tide about 50 metres and jump in and descend, with the view that the tide would carry us to the wreck by the time we reached the bottom. Wrong!

Visibility on the day was only about 15 feet, for reasons unknown. Due to this fact, by the time we reached the bottom we were probably about 25 feet from the wreck, and due to the slight current, drifted right on past. After about 10 minutes, yours truly was

about to call it quits, when Paul Tipping took off in another direction. Jack and I decided to follow and in no time we came across the wreck. Well done Paul!

The wreck was just as I had remembered her, some 10 years or more ago. We examined every nook and cranny in about 10 minutes as I was very mindful of another incoming ship which was due at the heads at around 10am. Given visibility approaching 60/70 feet, the sight of this old lady would be spectacular and I am convinced we should schedule her on our calendar a bit more often in future, as I am sure there are still many VSAG members who may not have had the pleasure of going down on Eliza!

Bob Scott kindly looked after the boat and was keen to do a drift dive. He was soon joined by Pat Reynolds and Don Abell from the "Flagship" as they looked after the Vleugel craft during the Ramsden dive.

Reports that followed confirmed filthy water and not much to be seen. Early lunch was the order of the day and Des Williams suggested we should dive the HURRICANE wreck off Rosebud.

Soon we were off, headed for this location. As I watched Peter slowly disappearing into the haze, I called on the radio for him to please slow down as I did not know the location of the wreck. I promise you all that if I come across an expected "windfall", my next boat will have about 250 horses and I will take great pleasure in leading the pack for once.

Des located the wreck after a short time and those wanting to dive were soon in the water. I soon discovered that to dive this wreck one needs to do so during slack water and accordingly I was content to simply drift along in the current and collect a bag of scallops with Paul and Jack.

After about half an hour we all had enough, including a feed for Scotty up above, so we returned to the boat and proceeded back to the ramp, still on oily seas. A great day, despite the poor visibility.

## ***FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945***

BY BILL HAYES

WE ARE THE SURVIVORS!!!! Consider the changes we have seen.

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastics, contact lenses, frisbees, and the pill.

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens, before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes, AND before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and THEN lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time closets were for clothes, not for coming out of. Bunnies were small rabbits they were not Volks wagons. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast foods were eaten during Lent, and outer space was the back of Bourke. We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, duel careers and commuter marriages, we were before day care centres, group therapy & nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriter, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and guys wearing earrings. For us time sharing meant togetherness, NOT computers or condominium, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "Made in Japan, meant junk, and the term "making out", referred to how you went in your exams. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene with coles and Woolworths, we brought goods for under 2/6. For two pennies we could ride on a tram, make a phone call, buy a stamp for a letter and a postcard. You could buy a Chevrolet or Ford for 465 pounds, but also who could afford one? Pity petrol was only 1/6 a gallon.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink, and POT was something you cooked in, rock music was grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the principal's office.

We were certainly NOT before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change, we made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb to think that you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are confused, and that there is such a generation gap today.

**BUT WE SURVIVED !!!!!**

## ***SPECIAL NOTICE***

BY MICK JEACLE

On Sunday 11th August VSAG will dive the GOORANGAI wreck. Since I have been in the club I cannot recall this dive being included on our calendar. also, the day may appeal to those members who do not wish to spend a whole day on the bay, as only one dive is scheduled. Therefore, you should only bring one tank. Slack water flood on that day will occur around 12.30pm, hence the later than normal meeting time of 10.30am..

### ***HISTORY***

One of the more recent wrecks in Port Phillip Bay is the HMAS GOORANGAI. She was originally a fishing trawler, but was commissioned by the Federal Government at the outbreak of World War Two and was used for mine sweeping exercises around Bass Strait.

The Goorangai collided with the Duntroon on the night of 20th November 1940, while crossing from Queenscliff to Portsea without lights. The Goorangai's crew of 24 were all lost.

The sinking occurred in the South Channel, and because the Goorangai constituted a hazard to navigation, the wreck was blasted in 1941.

The Goorangai's sinking is one of Victoria's greatest maritime disasters. A monument has been erected at Queenscliff to commemorate those who died in this tragic event.

### ***THE WRECK TODAY***

The Goorangai lies in 15 metres of water in the South Channel, on a sandy bottom. She is now host to a myriad of plant and animal life. The wreckage is scattered and provides an excellent dive for the photographer. Many divers begin wreck diving careers on the Goorangai.

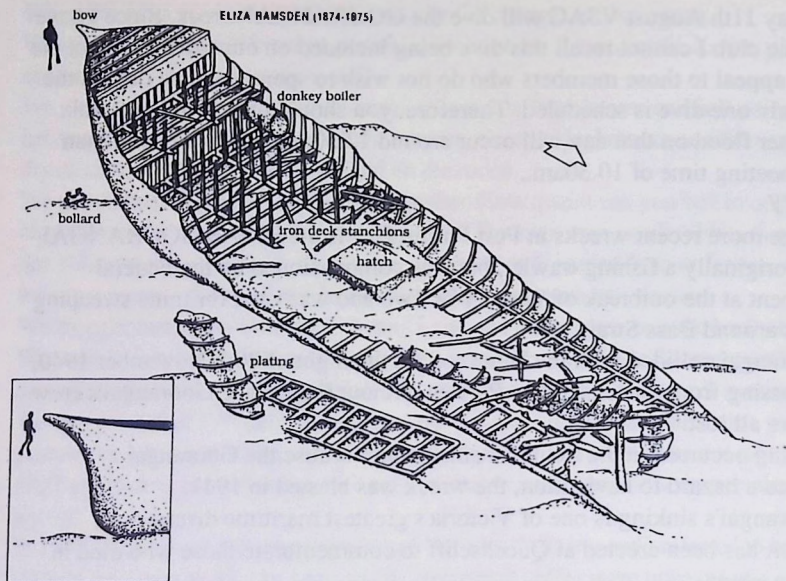
The Goorangai is a designated war grave, and should be treated as such. The remains of the 24 crew members were never recovered. Divers are urged to respect any bones found on the wreck, and to leave them in place.

The wreck was declared a Historic Shipwreck on 17 November 1995 after many requests by relatives of the lost crew.

A memorial service is still held each year at Queenscliff.

## ***ELIZA RAMSDEN DIVE 5.5.96***

BY DES WILLIAMS



After about six days of windless weather, the Bay was as flat as a tack and it looked promising for the scheduled "Eliza Ramsden" dive.

Our D.C. Mick had us launching boats before 9am and by 9 we were skimming flat out across a mirror surface in Mick and Peter's boats.

We were 9 divers: Mick, Don, Jack, Bob, Pat, Des, John, Peter & Paul. Bob called D.I.S. for shipping information and we were soon over the old wreck gearing up.

Well, what a disappointment to drop into murky dark water after all those days of calm weather! John, Peter and I swam down to the wreck in what couldn't have been more than 15 ft viz where I found the "Ramsden" to be



much more dilapidated than the last time I dived it, several years ago.

Many of her hull plates are loose and will soon fall off, but her huge upright bow still makes a wonderful sight.

The "Ramsden" was leaving Melbourne in 1875 when she hit CORSAIR ROCK and returned to the Bay in an attempt to beach on Point Nepean, but the damage was too great and she sunk in her current position. Aboard her at the time was Tom PEARCE, who survived only to be wrecked at Port Campbell a few years later in the "LOCH ARD", where he again escaped death.

CORSAIR ROCK was responsible also for the next dive of the day, namely the "HURRICANE".

In 1869 the "HURRICANE" hit CORSAIR ROCK but thought she might make it to Melbourne in a leaking condition. Wrong! The "HURRICANE" sank off Chinamans' Creek at ROSEBUD.

So, after some of the boys had a drift dive off Queenscliff, we took off for Rosebud in foggy conditions and not a ripple on the Bay.

Don Abell and I descended against an incoming tide, which kept us pedalling very busily until we could hang on to the wreck itself. Again the visibility was very poor and I had some trouble trying to use my camera in these conditions. This very old wreck is normally a great dive if you like varied marine life such as seahorses, blue devils, rays, old wife, sponges, starfish, urchins etc. etc. Slack water is the best time to dive here.

Well, the day finished with Mick and his team gathering some scallops and we rocketted back to Sorrento ramp on the oily sea.

Very pleasant day's diving indeed, great company, calm conditions and a ride in Peter Vleugals magnificent boat.

Thanks Mick and Peter for the transport.

## *DIVE REPORT*

### *SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 1996 FLINDERS*

BY JOHN LAWLER

On Sunday April 21st, VSAG arranged for a Charter Boat dive out of Flinders to dive in an area that we had not dived before. The place is known as "The Dungeons", and is almost down to Cape Schank.

VSAG divers hauled the gear onto the charter boat and we moved of to the dive site with a strongy Northerly following wind. The condition under the lee of the mainland were so absolutely flat and calm, no swell whatsoever, that the large charter boat was able to reverse into the mouth of a cave allowing for the divers to jump off the stern into the cave opening! Amazing.

We were given directions to swim to the top of a bommie and drop down the side to a slit which then led to an opening up inside the bommie and some light could be seen filtering down from the top. Quite an amazing and somewhat errie spectacle but a great experience. As the depth around the area was only about 14 mts we had plenty of bottom time to explore the territory around the dive site. We found an abundance of abalone, probably due to the fact that this area would be very rare to dive in as most of the time it would be far too rough. We didn't see any crayfish which was unusual, but there was a lot of the usual fish life around. The visibility was excellent and as there was no swell it was a perfect dive.

Back on board we were treated to hot coffee and tea, all very nice. The boat Captain suggested that we should stay in this area due to the rare and excellent conditions and so another dive was put underway in a little bay surrounded by some reefs and walls. This area was quite interesting as we seemed to be swimming along long valleys of clean stone at the base and weed closer to the surface. Where there was a ledge we did see some crayfish resting and again there was lots abalone and general fish life.

The wind had picked up and was blowing quite hard away from the land shelter and the trip back to Flinders was a little wet.

This dive was memorable for all who attended and no doubt when the conditions are in our favour we can return to "The Dungeons" of Cape Schank.

# VSAG CHRISTMAS TRIP

This year VSAG will travel to Coffs Harbour on the North Coast of NSW, this is a dream come true for Tony Tipping, and seeing he is so happy about it, we have handed over the organisation to him. Tony has provided the following information:

**Dates:** Anytime from a couple of days before Christmas day until about 12 January. You only pay for the nights you stay.

**Sites:** Lush & grassy - paved roads & gutters - Despite heavy sub tropical showers - you won't get flooded out.

**Venue:** Park Beach Caravan Park Coffs Harbour, NSW.

**Cost:** Powdered sites for vans on tents \$13 per day per double plus \$2 extra per child on \$3 per adult.

**Bookings Nil!** But they have guaranteed we'll get in - This place is huge & they've never turned anyone away even at Christmas!

**Amenities:** Clean & plenty of them.

**General:** This park is only about 100m from one of NSW best surf beaches - patrolled every day. There's plenty to do at Coff's Harbour & Shopping is cheap & easy.

**Diving:** Main dive sites are the Solitary Islands. We can get the local charter from the Jetty Dive services for \$50 per day (2 dives) or take two boats - that would be up to the boat owners to decide.

**Weather:** Hot & humid - most days about 30° C, a few late afternoon storms at that time of year - hopefully no floods.

**Best Route:** Newell Highway to Armidale - down the mountain to Coffs harbour. Arrive 2-3 pm on the second day.

**CONTACT: TONY TIPPING**

# SCUBA MARKET

## **FOR SALE**

### WETSUITS

LOTS OF MENS SIZE 6

AND ONE ONLY SIZE 5

ALSO A FEW LADIES SUITS AND ODD WOMEN'S &  
CHILDRENS PIECES.

PRICES RANGE FROM \$20 - \$200

Contact : Kate Caine 9888 0291(h) 9244 0354(w)

## *VSAG BOAT & BIKE RIDE*

BY CHRIS LLEWELLYN

A sunny Sunday and a VSAG club activity, I'd like to see that! Well it actually did happen on April the 28th 1996 when the club met at the Historic Fairfield Park boathouse.

I was expecting a big roll up with all the previous washouts we've experienced but unfortunately VSAGers must have lost faith in the weather bureaus forecasting ability as despite the prediction of fine weather we only had a moderate turnout of 24 (including kids).

Early riser Tony Tipping had already reserved a large table by the mighty Yarra River where we could enjoy our picnic lunches as people fed the ducks, fished, pedalled and rowed on by. The big table also came in handy to set out the homemade apple crumble and chocolate cakes that Kate Cain had kindly whipped up for the hungry mob.

The old picturesque boathouse is certainly worth a look around but don't expect express service, some waited up to 20 minutes for a coffee.

After lunch Tippo volunteered to lead the expedition of bikers along the riverside track downstream towards the city. The other more fit members of the club decided to go rowing. Now a word of warning here just in case you ever end up in a row boat with the Jeacle clan. Don't! Annie did her utmost to capsize the boat just as we were getting aboard, so you can imagine the crowds delight when they saw that the show wasn't over yet as the 7ft tall carrot had yet to make his way on board. But to their frustration the big fella tiptoed on board with all the poise of a ballerina. But when it came to the two of us rowing the damn boat he showed all the brutish behaviour of a sumo wrestler. Every one big deep stroke from Mick meant four quick dainty ones from me, and of course every time he ripped that oar through the water the boat violently veered towards the bank. It was not a pretty sight I can assure you, but at least we had the enjoyment of drifting back with the current after a most eventful piece of exercise.

By the time we arrived at the boathouse the bikers had arrived back and a few smart ones hitched a boat ride before our hire time was up. It was pleasant and enjoyable way to spend a day even through the denco rub was out that night, truth is I just love to get Rhonda to give me a good denco rub anytime!



*Kate & Ross under instructions from Chris, Tamara and the "Cox" Pat.*



*VSAG Duck Feeders! A rare breed*



*VSAG - Down by the Riverside.*

## *TIDAL RIVER EASTER 1996*

BY DON ABELL

Every year at Tidal River is different as was the 1996 trip. I could say that the main difference was that Andy Mastrowicz did not (to my knowledge) have a flat tyre, car accident or breakdown, siezed boat engine, broken windscreen or flooded tent. It is the first year I remember Andy having a problem free trip.

Still Andy keeps coming back as did 82 members and family for this year. Although the diving was not the best we have had the weather was mild and, apart from some brief morning showers, delightful and perfect for the other activities pursued by everyone.

I arrived early on Friday for a day's diving and was confronted by a group not focused on the main issue of the trip. Consequently there was no diving which with the benefit of hindsight was probably a mistake. However I did adjust very easily to a day with feet up taking it easy.

The major problem we faced was a lack of boats. We had only three available which was bad planning on my part. We can all remember the years when we have had six or seven boats available. This year it would have been good to have five boats on the Saturday. That number would have accommodated all divers and saved having to draw lots.

The three boats were filled and the "volunteers" stayed behind. When divers returned they told us of the flat seas, perfect weather, beautiful dives, good visibilty and everything else we didn't want to hear about. But even if we couldn't all dive it was good to know that conditions were good for the lucky ones.

A few frustrated divers who couldn't fit on the boat took to shore diving. This group included Sant who arrived on Saturday morning just after the boats had left. It also included Lesley Tipping who hadn't been in the rubber gear for some years. Unfortunately the shore dive was a whirlpool job but a dive is a dive for some.

All those who missed Saturday were scheduled for Sunday thanks to boat owners who agreed to take 5 divers per boat. But Sunday morning was not as promising as Saturday and although we could have launched it would not have been a good



day to be on the water. Decision made - we planned a shore itinerary.

A few of us decided on a leisurely stroll around Lily Pilly Gully. This easy activity found a few of our members wanting a little better fitness. The odd bead of perspiration was seen.

Our new member Kate Caine had been convinced by Chris Maddie to jog to the top of Oberon. After seeing Kate tested by Lily Pilly I can only conclude that Chris has that rare sadistic sense of humour that we at VSAG love to see. If he had dragged Kate to the top it would have almost been worth an honorary membership.

We also saw Jim Greenwood (new member) and family and Helen Fryday (new member and Rob with us for their first Tidal River trip. I was pleased that they dived on Saturday and could see the fabulous underwater territory and great location that has made this venue a tradition firmly fixed into our annual calendar.

Sadly Bob and June had to leave early on Sunday and we had the first Easter Egg Hunt which was not run by June. This is now part of the tradition of Easter and it was June who initiated this some years ago. For those who have not participated in the Easter Egg Hunt I will provide a few tips.

- The kids are generally faster than us older members so we need to resort to the old VSAG traits of cunning, intuition and basic cheating.
- A good shirt front will usually put the kids out of action with only minor effect on the member.
- Tripping is very effective
- If they are wearing strong clothing, hanging them from a tree branch will be effective for about a third of the hunt time.
- If one child has too many eggs a good tickling will cause them to be dropped and there is a fair chance that a member will pick up at least 40 per cent.
- Failing all else bend their tiny fingers back and take them directly from their hand.
- Final tip. Never, repeat never do any of the above while in direct vision of the mother, and when accused deny any knowledge. This of course comes from the

well established VSAG motto "Never confess until you are on the rack".

Easter 1996 also saw the end of a tidal river tradition. John Lawler for the first time in my memory did not cook a curry. A big surprise. I almost starved on the weekend and needed to resort to fighting the parrots for some seed.

As a consolation I enjoyed a very relaxing Saturday evening knocking off an 8 year old penfolds red with Terry Brooks while the family soaked up some culture at the Tidal River Palace Cinema complex. It's amazing how quickly that red went.

Now guess who arrived in the newly purchased family Mercedes. Yes, the Jeacles have now set the VSAG vehicle benchmark since Alex parted with the famous and over-serviced Jaguar.

Annie is now the proud owner of a merc. 280 complete with first aid kit never before opened. That's because everything in the kit is written in German and it is easier just to let the patient die.

And now for a final Trivial Pursuit question. Why is it that after the sun goes down the only voice that Yvonne Lawler can hear is mine.

I spent one night in the Truscotts van enjoying a beer a coffee and Marie's after dinner snacks. Even from the van we could hear the party from Ted and Jan's tent which was directly opposite John and Yvonne.

After leaving Bazza's I wander down to say goodnight. I get monstered by Big Mick, almost kill myself stumbling on a pile of empties and could not understand anything they were trying to say. I stay for 5 minutes, do not have anything to drink but Yvonne hears me say goodnight and then can't sleep for the rest of the night.

It must be like sleeping through the London Blitz and then complaining when the surrender is signed.

Only 10 months to go for Tidal River 1997.

# VSAG

presents

## “STORIES OF THE SHIP'S GRAVEYARD”

by

### GEOFF NAYLER

### SUNDAY 7TH JULY 1996

Come and join us for another Winter family luncheon/lecture in the Grand Dining Room at the Ozone Hotel, Gellibrand Street, Queenscliff, when pioneer diver, Geoff Nayler, will present a talk accompanied by slides on the earliest dives made to the Ship's Graveyard.

**Please note the revised starting time for this luncheon will be 12.30pm,** so those travelling to Queenscliff by ferry will need to take the 10.00am ferry from Sorrento.

**TIME:** Drinks served at NOON - LUNCHEON STARTS AT 12.30PM SHARP!

**COST:** \$15.00 PER ADULT & \$8.00 PER CHILD (12-13 YEARS)

**MEAL:** Set menu with choice of two main courses and a choice of soup or sweets, with coffee and chocolates.

**LECTURE:** Commences at 2pm to finish about 3.30pm.

Members are reminded that family and friends are warmly welcomed. Anyone not wishing to stay during the lecture will be more than welcome to depart for the tourist attractions of the town just prior to geoff's lecture at about 2pm.

**To confirm your attendance, Des Williams must have \$10.00 deposit per adult by no later than the June 20th General Meeting. This is to lock in catering arrangements and everyone is expected to abide by this requirement.**

**Contact Des Williams on 9551 3201 (h) or 9597 0777 (w)**

## ***NIGHT DIVE AT PORTSEA PIER 11TH MAY***

BY DES WILLIAMS

**Divers present:** D. Williams, R. Luxford, T. Cornish and M. Jeacle.

I had assumed the mantle of dive captain, as Gerry deVries had another engagement and had forgotten about the dive, and we all had an enjoyable evening. I must admit I never thought I would live to see the day when Mick Jeacle would be doing a night dive under a pier and I am sure he enjoyed himself.

We met at the pier at 5.30pm and had our gear on and hit the water in darkness at 6pm. It was a cool evening, but the water was calm and reasonably clear for high tide giving us 20ft of water at the end of the pier. Julie and Hannah came along the pier to see the action, which I particularly appreciated, as Hannah is simply bursting to try out diving, so at last she was able to see her Dad in the swim.

Great to see Ted Cornish join us and every time I turned around there he was peering into our light beams, as he didn't have a light of his own - a very cool diver is Ted and we are very fortunate to have him join the good old VSAG recently. We cruised along under the pier flashing our lights at one another as we found items of interest and huddled around to see what had been found.

Ross Luxford's powerful light and eagle eye were certainly very effective in spotting some of the small creatures in and around the pylons. I was firing away with my camera, which is certainly a hand full when you are trying to juggle a torch at nighttime. Starfish were silently gorging themselves on the remains of fish dropped over the pier by anglers. We cornered a tiny South Australian Cobbler fish which seemed groggy in the torch light and allowed me to photography up very close - its dorsal spines which were raised in defence, can inflict quite a painful sting.

Further along, we spotted a couple of small leather jackets which were trying to sleep in their tiny red sponge beds. Then a pair of seahorses clamped to seaweed on a pylon and a very vivid coloured purple and yellow nudibranc (*Tamja verconis*) as a small crab scuttled for cover from the bright torch beam. Then came the highlight, even for Mick, when Ross pointed out a tiny crayfish absolutely perfect in every way as the large ones we often see on dives. This one

was only 60mm long and quite friendly. Mick put out his gloved hand and the baby cray perched on his finger tips like a cricket as we all gathered around for a very close look. What a stunning photograph for a close up lens and I was out of film!

Next Ross discovered a Blue-Ringed Octopus which was entertaining at the end of the dive. By this time we had been underwater 60 minutes, so we surfaced and returned to our cars to get changed. If this is an indication, the marine life in the Bay still seems to be in good condition, which is amazing when you think of all the crap which has been pumped into it over the last 150 years.

The best thing about night diving is that one can concentrate on the tiny creatures more closely and marvel at nature rather than barrelling past the small stuff which we all do during the day. I personally enjoyed the dive and hope we can do another very soon. After changing back into warm clothes, we walked up to the Portsea Hotel, where our wives and families were waiting in the warmth of the lounge. A few beers, sherries and wines with a delicious meal rounded off a very pleasant evening indeed. Thanks for the company Ross, Mick and Ted.

## MEDIA

# Going nowhere, then ordered to Vietnam

**R**OBERT Birtles defies the stereotype of a Vietnam War conscript. Movies, TV, songs and books on the war have created an image of the veterans as wretched victims of an unpopular war everyone wanted to forget.

But Mr Birtles doesn't carry any emotional scars and doesn't use the war as a crutch to gain sympathy.

He was a 20-year-old grocery merchandiser when his number came up for national service.

"When my number came out I just shrugged my shoulders and said 'so be it'," he said.

"My career didn't seem to be all that exciting and I suppose it was illustrative of the times that I just accepted it when decisions were made by the powers that be."

He did basic training at Puckapunyal and jungle training at Cunungra, Queensland.

He was posted to the 5th Battalion, C Company, where he served as a rifleman-scout on the unit's first tour of duty in Phuoc Tuy province in 1966-67.

He said regulars and conscripts alike were tense and apprehensive during their first operation to secure the Nui Dat base area.

News of their first casualties heightened feelings of mortality.

"In the end, casualties were taken silently and it was generally not discussed," he said.

As part of the unit's counter-revolutionary work, villages and hamlets suspected of being sympathetic or controlled by the Viet Cong were searched and in some cases razed and moved away from the Australian base.



*Safe: Mr Birtles made the front page on his return.*

Mr Birtles said his comrades treated villagers with respect and paid compensation for any property destroyed.

He believes this approach kept the Australians in high regard, despite the presence of several enemy regiments north of their position.

Mr Birtles said his platoon did not lose a man in action during his stint. In fact, he was never confronted by an enemy soldier when acting as a forward scout.

He said none of the "nashos" in his platoon accepted the army's invitation to sign up for a second tour of duty.

He doesn't subscribe to the notion that national service makes a man of you. Nor does he advocate it as a cure for youth unemployment.

## MEDIA

Cont. from previous page



**Philosophical:** Robert Birtles, on national service, with his family.

*Ed Note:*

VSAG Member Robert Birtles again enjoys the limelight in this article featured in the Herald Sun on Saturday April 20, 1996

Check out the old man on the extreme left.

Talk about a chip off the old block!  
On ya Robert.

## MEDIA

Bayside Times 13/3/96

# Sea parasite in bay - diver

AN infectious marine parasite which has the potential to decimate sea life has been found at Half Moon Bay by research diver Glen Agnew.

Mr Agnew, previously commissioned by the Conservation Department to study sealife, believes marine life in the area is already under threat from silt pollution, but the parasite - the sabella worm - could effectively deprive other marine life in the area of food.

The sabella worm, a native of the Mediter-

ranean, came to Australia in polluted ballast water in visiting ships.

It is a tube like creature, about 30cm long which lives on the bottom of the sea floor and sucks all food and oxygen out of the water.

"It sucks everything out of the water, and blankets the bottom so other invertebrates can't get any food or oxygen. It takes over. It is the rabbit plague of the seafloor," Mr Agnew said.

He found four sabella worms in the Half Moon bay area.

The Independent March 1996

## Shark protection bid

The great white shark and grey nurse shark have been nominated for protection under federal endangered species legislation as part of a campaign to make better use of the laws to conserve marine species. The listing would mean the sharks were protected in Commonwealth waters and the Federal Government would be required to consult states and territories to develop a national recovery plan and provide funds for the species.

and  
finally...

...Recreational scuba divers may be at higher risk of brain degeneration than the general public, according to a report in the Lancet. A study of 52 divers found that 27 of them had changes in the white matter of the brain and in the cartilage of the cervical discs of the neck, a much higher percentage than in the control group. Symptoms include depression and memory loss.

Financial Review Magazine  
March 96



# DEATH TRAP FOR DIVERS

A NEW, US made fishing line is taking the Australian market by storm. Called "Spider Wire" this invisible, unbreakable line is being picked up by commercial fishermen and anglers. Spider Wire is 30% stronger than Kevlar. Almost indestructible, not biodegradable and can't be cut with a knife.

Divers in the USA have quickly become aware of the danger that Spider Wire can become. According to the Eastern Dive Boat Association, Spider Wire is now being used by commercial fishermen, net and long line fishing interests and recreational fishermen. The EDDBA advises divers that the new line is nearly invisible and cannot be cut by a knife.

So seriously does the Dive Industry take this threat that the US based Dive Gear Manufacturer Aqua Explorers, Inc. announced the release of a new product - "Divers Multi Shears". These shears have been designed to address the increasing problem of divers getting entangled in Spider Wire.

As well as acknowledging the danger to divers the danger to marine life is evident. Spider Wire has an indefinite shelf life, it is UV Resistant and not affected by battery acid. Another property it has which affects divers is that it is almost neutrally buoyant and floats on the surface or if tangled or

snagged on the bottom the loose ends will float toward the surface.

Can you begin to imagine the numbers of seals, dolphins, sea turtles, sea birds and even whales that would, and could become entangled in this silent, invisible killer, it will rip and cut to pieces marine animals and mammals - we just can't believe the short sightedness of some commercial companies.

Reports from the Complete Anglers shop in Melbourne say that Spider Wire is selling like hot cakes. Can you begin to imagine what a disaster/time bomb this is going to create along our coasts and throughout our waterways? A nearly invisible line that lasts forever and is virtually indestructible and can't be cut with a knife! We personally can't believe that this product was allowed to be imported into this country. We are going to show our protest by bringing this to the attention of the Ministers for the Environment, both Federally and State wise. We hope you do the same!

## MEDIA

*Ed Note:  
How could this happen? We should all voice our strong objection to the relevant ministers as suggested in this article. Someone might consider getting a petition going for circulation amongst all dive clubs?*

**DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT/LOCATION</b>	<b>DIVE CAPTAIN</b>	<b>MEET AT</b>
20 Jun	General Meeting Bells Hotel Cnr. Moray & Coventry Streets, Sth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
30 Jun	Coogee	Mick Jeacle 059 712786	Sorrento 10.00am
7 July	Queenscliff Talk Geoff Naylor	Des Williams 9551 3201	Noon Sharp Ozone Hotel
14 July	New Sub (130')	Gerry Devries 9725 2351	Sorrento 9.30am
18 July	General Meeting Bells Hotel Cnr. Moray & Coventry Streets, Sth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
28 July	Spectacular Reef	Sant Khan 9817 3214	Sorrento 10.00am
11 Aug	Goorangai Wreck (one tank dive) see separate notice	Pat Reynolds	Sorrento 10.30am
15 Aug	General Meeting Bells Hotel Cnr. Moray & Coventry Streets, Sth Melbourne		8.00pm Sharp!
25 Aug	Heads Area (Slack water 10.00am)	Andy Mastrowicz 9318 3986	Sorrento 8.45am Sharp!

NOTICE: BOAT OWNERS INTENDING TO BRING THEIR BOATS PLEASE RING DIVE CAPTAIN BEFORE 6PM ON EVENING PRIOR TO DIVE.

DIVERS PLEASE RING BETWEEN 6PM - 7PM.

THOSE ATTENDING NIGHT DIVES (SATURDAYS) PLEASE RING BY 8PM ON EVENING PRIOR TO DIVE.

## TIDE TABLES

TIMES OF FLOOD AND EBB - The tables of Times of Flood and Ebb give the times when the rate of change in the sea level at Point Lonsdale (Port Phillip Heads) is a maximum, each time approximately one hour before high water and one hour after low water. The direction of this flow is indicated by the words "flood" and "ebb" in the column "Start" at the entrance to port Phillip bay changes direction, this time is given in the column marked "Time". The direction of this flow is indicated by the words "flood" and "ebb" in the column "Start". Thus the word "flood" indicates that the tide starts to flow into the bay, at the given time in the "Time" column. The word "ebb" indicates that the tide starts to flow out of the bay at that time.

## PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 143° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000

## TIMES OF SLACK WATERS

JULY - 1996

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0049 ebb	9 0230 flood	17 0302 ebb	25 0244 flood
MO 1544 ebb	TU 1358 flood	WE 1708 ebb	TH 1345 ebb
1830 flood	2115 ebb	2142 flood	2050 ebb
2 0152 ebb	10 0330 flood	18 0347 ebb	26 0337 flood
2 0913 ebb	10 1015 ebb	18 1030 flood	26 1000 ebb
TU 1628 ebb	WE 1426 flood	TH 1735 ebb	FR 1412 flood
2009 flood	2200 ebb	2232 flood	2130 ebb
3 0257 ebb	11 0430 flood	19 0430 ebb	27 0439 flood
3 1003 flood	11 1125 ebb	19 1103 flood	27 1114 ebb
WE 1708 ebb	TH 1452 flood	FR 1800 ebb	SA 1444 flood
2134 flood	2245 ebb	2315 ebb	2216 ebb
4 0401 ebb	12 0530 flood	20 0510 ebb	28 0548 flood
4 1051 flood	12 1241 ebb	20 1135 flood	28 1235 ebb
TH 1748 ebb	FR 1519 ebb	SA 1824 ebb	SU 1529 flood
2244 flood	2334 ebb	2357 flood	2312 ebb
5 0503 ebb	13 0331 flood	21 0550 ebb	29 0658 flood
5 1134 flood	13 1004 ebb	21 1204 flood	29 1355 ebb
FR 1829 ebb	SA 1558 flood	SU 1849 ebb	MO 1641 flood
2345 flood			
6 0503 ebb	14 0326 ebb	22 0035 flood	30 0917 ebb
6 1215 flood	14 0729 flood	22 0632 ebb	30 0801 flood
SA 1909 ebb	SU 1516 ebb	MO 1231 flood	TU 1457 ebb
	1709 flood	1916 ebb	1828 flood
7 0642 flood	15 0119 ebb	23 0715 flood	31 0130 ebb
7 0703 ebb	15 0822 flood	23 0716 ebb	31 0900 flood
SU 1252 flood	MO 1602 ebb	TU 1258 flood	WE 1545 ebb
1950 ebb	1859 flood	1945 ebb	2018 flood
8 0137 flood	16 0213 ebb	24 0158 flood	0908 ebb
8 0804 ebb	16 0909 flood	24 0804 ebb	1015 ebb
MO 1326 flood	TU 1637 ebb	WE 1332 flood	2015 ebb
2033 ebb	2037 flood		

## PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

LAT 38° 18' S LONG 143° 37' E TIME ZONE -1000

## TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

JULY - 1996

Time	Time	Time	Time
1 0415 0.29	9 0612 1.46	17 0029 1.28	25 0558 1.33
MO 1545 1.49	11 07 0.52	WE 1630 0.35	25 1127 0.58
1830 1.58	19 0812 1.55	TH 1370 1.48	TH 1759 1.41
2323 1.36	19 07 0.35	19 07 0.69	2357 0.35
2 0518 0.23	10 0711 0.41	18 0107 1.30	26 0651 1.32
2 1244 1.59	10 0715 1.42	18 0715 0.34	26 1211 0.65
TU 1601 0.72	WE 1213 0.62	TH 1406 1.50	FR 1841 1.37
	19 07 0.46	19 09 0.62	
3 0536 1.41	11 0819 0.38	19 0149 1.32	27 0040 0.33
3 0618 0.19	11 0814 1.29	19 0753 0.34	27 0752 1.31
WE 1358 1.64	TH 1300 0.72	FR 1438 1.52	SA 1301 0.72
1900 0.63	19 05 1.41	20 02 0.95	19 30 1.33
4 0127 1.46	12 0151 0.41	20 0230 1.34	28 0132 0.32
4 0715 0.18	12 0812 1.38	20 0839 0.36	28 0901 1.33
TH 1429 1.68	TH 1354 0.69	SA 1510 1.53	SU 1401 0.78
1955 0.54	20 38 1.35	21 05 0.51	20 30 1.30
5 0232 1.50	13 0047 0.43	21 0310 1.36	29 0235 0.30
5 0810 0.70	13 0903 1.37	21 0933 0.38	29 0913 1.37
FR 1516 1.60	SA 1657 0.84	SA 1642 1.53	MO 1513 0.79
2049 0.46	21 41 1.30	21 40 0.46	21 43 1.30
6 0315 1.62	14 0316 0.43	22 0348 1.35	30 0345 0.27
6 0902 0.25	14 1106 1.39	22 0937 0.42	30 1130 0.24
SA 1601 1.60	SA 1649 0.85	MO 1615 1.52	TU 1628 0.75
2142 0.40	22 32 1.27	22 14 0.43	23 01 1.33
7 0410 1.51	15 0147 0.41	23 0429 1.35	31 0450 0.24
7 0953 0.33	15 1300 1.42	23 1011 0.47	31 1220 1.50
SU 1615 1.66	MO 1717 0.81	TU 1648 1.49	WE 1738 0.66
2242 0.36	22 39 1.27	22 35 0.40	
8 0908 1.49	16 0647 0.38	05 11 1.34	
8 1041 0.42	16 1340 1.46	10 17 0.52	
MO 1728 1.61	TU 1916 0.76	VA 17 2 1.45	
2322 0.34		23 19 0.38	

## TIDE TABLES

TIMES OF FLOOD AND EBB - The tables of Times of Flood and Ebb give the times when the rate of change in the sea level at Point Lonsdale (Port Phillip Heads) is a maximum. Each time approximates the time when the tidal flow at the entrance to port Phillip bay changes direction, this time is given in the column marked "Time". The direction of this flow is indicated by the words "flood" and "ebb" in the column "dir". Thus the word "flood" indicates that the tide starts to flow into the bay, at the given time in the "Time" column. The word "ebb" indicates that the tide starts to flow out of the bay at that time.

## PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

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

TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

AUGUST - 1996

Time	m	dir	m	Time	m	Time	m
1	0042	1.34	9	0038	0.32	0131	1.30
	0062	0.23		0733	1.36	0733	1.30
TH	1315	1.57	FR	1210	0.67	SA	1406
	1841	0.56		1907	1.36		2004
	0115	1.47		0114	0.37	0213	1.35
2	0702	0.21	17	0837	1.31	0809	0.35
FR	1407	1.63	SA	1318	0.74	SU	1440
	1939	0.41		1958	1.28		2039
	0213	1.52	11	0206	0.42	0252	1.37
3	0757	0.23		0843	1.28	0945	1.30
SA	1454	1.65	SU	1416	0.79	MO	1514
	2033	0.35		2055	1.22		2113
	0308	1.55		0306	0.44	0331	1.40
4	0847	0.28	12	0920	0.80	0916	0.39
SU	1539	1.65	W	1629	1.27	WE	1607
	2125	0.28		2157	1.19		2145
	0402	1.55		0415	0.43	0411	1.40
5	0935	0.34	13	1115	1.29	0952	0.43
MO	1519	1.63	TH	1645	0.77	WE	1621
	2214	0.25		2259	1.18		2217
	0457	1.52		0516	0.41	0451	1.39
6	1021	0.42	14	1215	1.33	1029	0.48
TU	1700	1.58	WE	1751	0.70	TH	1655
	2300	0.25		2356	1.21		2252
	0553	1.47		0510	0.38	0535	1.35
7	1104	0.50	15	1247	1.37	1108	0.51
WE	1741	1.59	TH	1841	0.62	FR	1732
	2341	0.23		2330	1.26		2330
	0547	1.42		0646	1.25	0626	1.33
8	1146	0.59	16	0855	0.36	1150	0.60
TH	1822	1.44	FR	1333	1.41	SA	1815

## PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

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

TIMES OF SLACK WATERS

AUGUST - 1996

Time	dir	Time	dir	Time	dir	Time	dir
1	0043	ebb	9	0400	flood	17	0709
	0043	ebb		1043	flood	1049	flood
TH	1629	ebb	FR	1438	flood	SA	1708
	2202	ebb		2202	ebb		2310
	0143	flood		0459	ebb	18	0452
2	0352	ebb	10	1146	ebb	1120	flood
FR	1711	ebb	SA	1510	flood	SU	1734
	2248	flood		2247	ebb		2347
	0456	ebb		0602	flood	19	0543
3	1121	flood	11	1256	ebb	1149	flood
SA	1752	ebb	SU	1555	flood	MO	1801
	2345	flood		2337	ebb		2357
	0555	ebb		0705	flood	20	0023
4	1200	flood	12	1406	ebb	1215	flood
SU	1833	ebb	MO	1711	flood		1830
	0532	ebb		0604	flood	21	0100
5	1234	flood	TU	1502	ebb	WE	1242
MO	1915	ebb		1915	ebb		1900
	0128	flood		0133	ebb	22	0141
6	0749	ebb	WE	1543	ebb	TH	1307
TU	1307	flood	WE	2045	flood	FR	1544
	1956	ebb		1956	ebb		2150
	0117	flood		0231	ebb	23	0225
7	0845	ebb	TH	1615	ebb	FR	1333
WE	1339	flood	TH	1615	ebb	FR	1333
	2038	ebb		2144	flood		2010
	0308	ebb		0323	ebb	24	0315
8	0943	ebb	FR	1642	ebb	SA	1404
TH	1409	flood		2120	ebb		2052

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION MORNINGTON PENINSULA AREA

	PHONE
POLICE - AMBULANCE - FIRE	(000)
PENINSULA AMBULANCE (ROSEBUD, SORRENTO) (MORNINGTON)	(008) 137333 (03) 783 2222
SOUTHERN PENINSULA HOSPITAL 1527 NEPEAN ROSEBUD	(059) 86 8444
FRANKSTON HOSPITAL HASTINGS ROAD FRANKSTON	(03) 781 3111
MORNINGTON BUSH NURSING HOSPITAL MAIN ST MORNINGTON	(059) 75 2009
MORNINGTON BAY RESCUE SERVICE	(059) 75 2733
SOUTHERN PENINSULA RESCUE	(059) 84 2000
DIVING EMERGENCY SERVICE	1800 088 200
COAST GUARD	(03) 598 7003
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (S.E.S)	(03) 26 1468
WATER POLICE	(03) 662 0911
MELBOURNE AMBULANCE	(03) 662 2533
<b>DOCTORS DIVING MEDICINE</b>	
DR. GUY WILLIAMS	ROSEBUD (059) 81 1555
DR. J De B.J. DADE	MORNINGTON (059) 75 5288
DIVING EMERGENCY SERVICE	1800 088 200

V.H.F. EMERGENCY CHANNEL..... (16)