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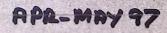
Safety in Diving

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FATHOMS Official journal of the Victorian Sub - Aqua Group

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EDITORIAL

Well I have just finished packing the boat in readiness for the annual Easter sojourn to Tidal River at fabulous Wilsons Promontory.

This was a relatively easy task as last Sunday Sant Khan, Ted Cornish and I travelled to Tidal River and erected our tents. You see we thought this was the smart thing to do as it would save time on Thursday evening and definitely save a certain blue with the wives whilst attempting to erect the tent in the dark. Well I don't know whether I'll be rushing back to do the same thing next year as we had to pay the full camp site fees for the four days . This despite the fact that we would not be using the facilities and that there were hundreds of vacant sites. Ah well, I suppose

when I arrive tomorrow evening and move straight in, I'll soon forget the seemingly wasted \$54.40.

It seems the very hot summer is now behind us, bit I feel that there are still a few good days ahead for us to take advantage of. After all, I've always maintained that April is one of the best months of the year with its still, clear sunny days. This should ensure that we have the chance to enjoy some excellent diving before winter arrives.

The President Coolidge trip is fast approaching and you will note in the dive calendar that we are hopeful of doing some deep dives during April to help acclimatise to the deep dive environment. Most of you will be aware that the Coolidge reaches a depth of some two hundred and forty feet; a long way down in anyones language. This is not to say that it is mandatory to go to this depth and individuals should not attempt to go any deeper than their comfort zone allows. I can assure you that there will be no prizes for the deepest diver, and accordingly I urge all members to keep in mind the VSAG motto - Safety in Diving.

On the Queen's birthday weekend in June, VSAG will revisit Port Campbell on Victoria's rugged and beautiful west coast. I don't think we have been there for about seven or eight years. I won't be attending this time around, as I'll be in Wangaratta with Bill & Gloria Hayes on our annual non-diving weekend. (Bill has one of these about 51 weekends of the year.) Let's hope good weather prevails and you all get the chance to dive the Loch Ard.

MICK JEACLE





V.S.A.G. PROFILE

This month's diver profile featuresAnthony FinneganAGE: 40

OCCUPATION: Construction Manager for Graham Andrews Builders & Golf Range Proprietor

> FAMILY: Wife Debbie, 2 kids, Spencer 2, Taylor 7.

HOW WHY & WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INTO DIVING?

Lewie & myself decided to try it in about 1980 and basically hit the O/S trips immediately : Yassawas, New Guinea, Solomons. Actually we were at Sydney Airport on our way to Guadalcanal when this bloke came up to us and said "Gidday my name's Alex, whats' yours". That was our introduction to VSAG, we've never looked back since.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE UNDERWATER INTERESTS & DIVE SITES?

My favourite dives are on the ships Sunik during WW2 in he South Pacific. The aura of it. The history of it. The scale of destruction is awesome. I like to read about it and then dive on it.

TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE DIVES?

I've been very fortunate and have been involved in some amazing diving experiences and have collected quite a range of artifacts from portholes to plates.

From: diving in the Russell Islands in shark infested waters where the local abattoirs regularly throw carcasses in the water.

To: After losing a packet of cigarettes. T-shirt & shoes to the local chief at Wickham Harbour he directed us to a his "good fishing" location. After a couple of hours of depth sounding we found in 200ft of water a large supply vessel full of very big bombs. Alex also relieved from the bridge "The Bell" which now resides in Honiara engraved on it in Japanese is "Kiku Maru 1935".

HAS YOUR HEALTH EVER BEEN EFFECTED BY DIVING?

As most of you are aware I got the bends a few years ago. It took me about 6 mths to get over it. It was pretty brain snapping and I'm still very cautious because of it.

NOW THAT YOUR 40 YEAR OLD STIFF HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY CONSIDERATION TO JOINING THE VSAG "DRY SUIT BRIGADE"? Haven't looked at it yet, maybe.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO YOUR INFAMOUS "YELLOW SHARKCAT" AND WILL YOU EVER GET A BOAT AGAIN?

I sold it to a bloke who said he was going to sail it from Sydney to Cairns. He's never been seen since. As for another boat I am Lewies full time boat moll now so keep your eyes off Pat.

WILL YOU ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO DIVE AND JOIN THE CLUB? Of course. My whole family enjoys the complete VSAG scene.

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

Yes, I have no complaints, I think the committee is doing a great job.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE DIVING AMBITIONS?

More overseas trips and Refuge Cove trips.



AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

BY ANDY MASTROWICZ

This weekend should have been a VSAG return trip to Refuge Cove. I, for one, was looking forward to returning to the peace and tranquillity of one of my favourite dive and camping spots. Need I say more, by the time we found out we had the Monday off, it was too late to get a trip together - "Jeffed again!!!". Plan No. 2 - an alternative was a quick trip to Robe for some of those easy shore dives experienced the previous year and a need to fill the freezer. Put to the General Meeting on the Thursday found only a few interested. Plan No. 3 - a good old faithful fallback dive, the Heads area (hopefully a dive on the "Courier") got the most response.

Saturday night brought more calls from divers than boat owners, however with a bit of juggling and my brother-in-law bringing his boat along, we ended up with 22 divers and non-divers on 5 boats.

Sunday saw two boats out of Sorrento, two out of Queenscliff, and one out of Mornington. A fine day was forecast with mid to strengthening North-Easterly tending Northerly winds and temperatures into the 30's. Yet again we changed the dive location to Queenscliff to catch the slack-water flood. This I expected to be a poor visibility dive, and was pleasantly surprised as Gail, Martin and I descended to 70 feet just as the slack was starting and found the visibility to be 40 feet plus. The area we were diving was full of bommies, overhangs and ledges with all the varieties of colour one comes to marvel at each time I dive this area. With the tide change being held off by the stiff Northerly, slack water lasted for nearly 40 minutes and this allowed us to freely explore the many ledges and overhands in perfect comfort and ease.

The slack water also seems to bring out all the fish life, with a school of King George Whiting, the odd giant Boar-fish, and a dozen or so large Butterfish keeping us company for part of the dive. After some of the dives last year and the barren rocks of South Solitary (missed the dive on North Solitary!), this dive makes up for the time and effort put to dive one of the best dive locations in Victoria, if not Australia. I think so anyway!

We returned to the boat empty-handed, but it didn't matter. With 3 divers on board wanting to do a shallower dive, two boats headed for Lonsdale backbeach. With a 1 metre rolling swell we moored about 1 Km. directly off the surf beach in 10 metres of water where Jim, Joe and brother Mike explored some extensive caves and reef area in the hope of finding a cray or two. No luck here either, but Mike did bring up a nice length of anchor line. By the time we retrieved them, the swell had gotten to some of the other passengers, including myself, and it was a relief to get back inside the Heads and in the lee of the wind for lunch.

We moored off the Cottage-by-the-Sea for lunch with the Vleugels and Luxfords, while Neville and crew dived the ab beds and Mick's divers finished off their second dive on a racing drift past Queenscliff. About three o'clock the storm clouds started building up over Point Lonsdale so any thoughts I had of a second dive went overboard as we packed up and headed for the boat ramp. On the way home, we managed to keep ahead of the storm as it followed us down Geelong Road back to Melbourne.

Thanks to Neville (for taking 5 divers), Mick, Peter and Jim for the use of their boats. It makes for a very enjoyable and satisfying day to get 5 VSAG boats on the water to enjoy themselves.

DIVE REPORT UN-OFFICIAL VSAG DIVE SUNDAY 9TH MARCH BY DES WILLIAMS

Bob Scott had the opportunity to take a few divers out with the commercial dive operation, Wild Cat Adventures. So, at short notice he phoned around to assemble a few divers to fill the boat. Present were: Neville, Priya, Don, Bob, Pat, Gerry, Ted and myself. This was the Labour Day long-weekend, where the Club had had to cancel the planned trip to Port Albert due to lack of accommodation.

This turned out to be a relaxing dive, with a departure from the Sorrento pier at 2pm, which is an unheard of time for the good old V.S.A.G. Now, this was a long weekend as I said earlier and what with the usual holiday crowd at Sorrento on a warm sunny afternoon and the impending departure of the Queenscliff vehicular ferry at 2pm, the car park was a bun fight. But, with a little team work we all managed to find a park for our cars with the exception of Priya who had to park at the Koonya Hotel!

Carrying all of one's dive gear long distances is something V.S.A.Gers do very rarely these days and I for one paid with a very sore back the following week after making four trips along the pier in all with two tanks etc. But, it was well worth it to meet our skipper Steve and cruise down the Bay to meet up with the flood tide slack water at the Heads. We paused until a ship had steamed through the Rip, before donning our gear and following Steve's shot line to the top of the Lonsdale Wall. What a brilliant and unique place this really is! Don, Priya and myself descended through the tepid water (21 deg.C) to the top of the dropoff and over the edge to see the craggy wall tumble down vertically to the abyss below. We levelled off at 33M and swarn northward through some enormous caves and crevices, peering deep into the back of the towering overhangs to spot fish of many varieties, the most common being the blue devil fish. There were trumpeter, sweep, old wives, boarfish and some huge leather jackets.

The visibility was about 12M and this was a very leisurely dive as we stay close together squeezing through the occasional crevice to reappear back on top of the Wall. We were below for about 20 minutes and were quickly picked up by Steve once back on the surface. Thanks Don and Priya for a very comfortable dive. And a very special thanks to Bob Scott for taking us out for the day.

Our second dive was at about 5PM off Queenscliff, where we did a drift dive looking for souvenirs as we tumbled along in the raging ebb tide as we held onto the markers bouy line like so many flags in a used car yard.

Back to the pier about 6PM, where we hauled our gear back to the cars and said our goodbyes. GOOD ONE BOB, THANKS!

VSAG CATCH 'N COOK BBQ

BY CHRIS LLEWELLYN

The forecast thunder storms rolled in just as Finn and I were filling tanks at Rye, things were not looking good for the next days planned Seafood Catch and Cook Barby.

Incredibly by the time we got back to Rosebud not only had the gloom rolled on through but the phone was ringing off the hook with divers keen to ensure a berth for the Catch 'n Cook.

The next day a healthy contingent of five boats and 21 divers assembled at the Rye boatramp, all keen to satisfy those primeval hunter gatherer instincts.

The plan was for two boats to head over to the Queenscliff side for abs and cray and the other three for scallops and mussels. However Nev and Andy reported quite a chop out near the fort, so all five boats ended up down at the scallop beds.

With Scotty on board as Captain, Finn and I dropped into a very promising spot with plenty of scallops in sight and it wasn't long before we were inflating our bag with a full catch.

A one tank dive ensured we were soon back at Elwers Road unloading the catch and enjoying a cold stubby or two, with warm sunny BBQ weather as a bonus.

There's no doubt about VSAG divers, give 'em a task and they'll take to it with gusto! Without any exaggeration there must have been about 1000 scallops and a handy feed of mussels brought back to feed the hungry mob of about fifty that had now gathered for the feast.

With equal zeal we soon had a slick assembly line in operation cleaning and cooking our piscatorial harvest (thanks Rex) with plenty of salads to accompany a choice of garlic or plain scallops and steamed mussels expertly prepared by Chef Jack Namiota, we soon had a very happy contented lot enjoying a great Melbourne summers day.

Thanks to everyone who brought along salads and desserts and helped clean up afterwards. Lets do it again next year!



"Hunters gather" Pat and Pete showing off the catch.



Finn, Scotty & Llewy on the assembly line



Doug, Charlie, Pat & Andy "Cookin' the Catch!.



This hungry mob made short work of the big catch!



Blake bolts to get "More Scallops" at the VSAG Catch 'n Cook.



Judy has this bunch of "Junior VSAGERS" well in control.



The Blanchard & Williams clans combined for a great day.



Trying to convince Doug & Pete about the "Giant Killer Scallop" he tangled with.

s.

SEAFOOD CATCH AND COOK DAY

BY BOB SCOTT

All I can say is Chris and Rhonda must be blessed or the they have a direct line to the man up stairs the weather was ideal the water was a little choppy, choppy enough to be to uncomfortable to send boats down to the heads area for crays, so it was scallops, mussels flounder and flatheads.

But wait a minute I'm getting ahead of myself, Saturday night June and myself pat and the Finnigan family were invited to stay over night Chris and Rhonda's beach house for a couple of heart starters and a bull session, only as my wife says as divers can do ,anyway it was a good night and we retired reasonably early.

Sunday morning arrives and I get up and do all the usual things like getting the misuses a cuppa in bed (don't we all do that) I thought we did anyway all except Chris that is ! anyway I get the little lady a cuppa and I get all the whoppees and blurts from the guys, but I'm sure someone else will have a bit say about that in another article.

With breakfast over the intending divers started to arrive,

Peter & Chris. Plus boat	Jack Namiota
Nifty Nev & boat	Andy & troop & boat
John & Priya & family	Dessie & family
Graeme Blanchard & tribe & boat	Murray ,Kate & Chris
Leo Maybus and Clan	

If I've forgotten anybody sorry, any with twenty odd divers and their families plus friends we had a real good turn out, this catch and cook day is becoming one of the high lights of V.S.A.G.s social calendar and it is a credit to Chris and Rhonda not only for their organising of the day but to all the hard work that is required and also the hospitality that they extend to us all, so on the day there was plenty of scallops & mussels, and couple of flounder collected plus salads provided by the families that were in attendance and heaps of food that was laid on by Rhonda plus steaks chops snags etc. There was heaps to eat and drink and

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if you went hungry to bad. I'm sure everybody had a GREAT DAY day so I would like to thank our dive captain and his wife for a great day and all the other ladies that pitched in June Debbie to name just a few and all the others that came to make this day such a success.

But there is always a down turn which seams to be occurring all to often as of late DIVERS TURNING UP TO DIVES WITH EMPTY TANKS NOW COME ON GUYS DIVES ARE WELL ADVERTISED AND THERE IS NO NEED TO COME WITH EMPTY TANKS .Now I will not name those responsible now, but I will have quite word in the ear of those concerned and I don't care if they are bigger than me.

Yours in diving BOB SCOTT

SEAFOOD CATCH AND COOK DAY

BY DES WILLIAMS

This is not a detailed report of the wonderful day we had at Rhonda and Chris Llewellyn's beach house at Rosebud, on the 9th February, but simply a huge

THANK YOU.

What a great family day, I can't remember such a pleasant time spent with VSAG families and the weather was brilliant. And make no mistake, we all had such a good time due to the generosity and shear hard work put in by Rhonda and Chris. it is a big job to have such a huge crowd at your home and of course there is the dive to organise as well!

THANK YOU Rhonda and Chris for being so hospitable and letting us all enjoy the comforts of your beach house. Looks like you had several VSAG quests over the weekend as well, the ranch certainly has some accommodation. A thank you to all the families who brought extra food to compliment the additional catering done by Rhonda. It was a team effort, no doubt, and the extra chefs, scallopshellers, waiters and waitresses turned the whole operation into a finely tuned feast. The food was brilliant!

One thing I must agree with Rhonda on was her suggestion that next time we hold this get together on a Saturday, which would give us more time and there would be less pressure to be watching the clock. This is especially important for the clean up, as many families have to be back in Melbourne earlier than others. I for one, would be pleased to hang about for hours for the clean u, if I didn't have to rush back to the city at the end of the day. Something to consider for the next year.

Great day VSAG and God bless the Llewellyns.

WHY WORRY

BY MICK JEACLE

There are only two things to worry about; Either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well, then there is nothing to worry about;

But if you are sick there are only two things to worry about;

Whether you will get well, or whether you will die;

If you get well, there is nothing to worry about;

But if you die, there are only two things to worry about;

Whether you go to heaven or hell.

If you go to heaven, there is nothing to worry about,

And if you go to hell, you'll be so busy shaking hands with old friends, you won't have time to worry.

SO WHY WORRY?

DIVE REPORT - REACH FOR THE SKY



BY ROBERT BIRTLES

Phon. ran hot on the evening of the 31st Jan 97 with distressed divers looking for a saturday private dive so as to

ease the tensions form the previous week.

As luck would have it there were two independent dives being planned thus it seemed locical to combine as one, this was agreed and John Lawler headed with his boat to the Inverloch boat ramp to meet with Gerry Dammer and crew which consisted of Gerry Devries, Big Mick, Ted Cornish and myself.

Before the meet, Mick and Ted were met by Gerry Devries at the Inverloch shopping centre. It wasn't hard to find Mick as all one had to do was zero in on the moans and groans caused by Mick's hunger pains and impression of the conditions. The weather looked OK but by MIck's salty instincts were advising him to return home too family eager to spoil him for the remainder of the day.

After some gentle if not tactful coaxing (who would risk any other way) Gerry DV got him as far as Gerry DM's residence where he had coffee, relaxed and we would like to think saw some reason.

The boat was prepared with no help from Mick as he was too busy campaigning for a single tank dive. In hind sight that was a big concession on behalf of Mick and the deckies on Gerry DM's boat would like to extend their appreciation.

We headed for the ramp where we met with John Lawler, Tony Tipping, Neville Viapree & Jack Namiota. All went well with the launch and we headed for the entrance. From a distance it looked OK even though we knew the sand bar can be an obstacle. On reaching the bar it was choppy but not a problem for Gerry DM's boat which had twin 200's hanging off the back. Gerry dropped into low gear and away we went. As I was one of the slack deckies in Gerry DM's boat I was able to watch JL (who 300 mtrs behind) punch his way through the bar. There he was in his 17L with four grinning faces peering over the screen, all taking on the might of the sand bar. However JL must have at some stage upset the Sea Witch as she saw fit to create 3 special waves designed to test JL's boating skills. One small wave just to set the scene, the second being larger so as to cause tension

and the third to create havoc as it positioned them at the base of the dumper which was already breaking at the top.

From Gerry DM's boat all looked OK even though I'm sure I heard words of repentance, begging for forgiveness and second chances etc. JL, now out of sight (obviously exploring the territory at the base of the dumper) suddenly appeared mid air. Like I mean really mid air. It was a photographers photographic dream and the medical picture still remain clear in my mind which I can assure you is some feat.

JL had quickly assessed the situation and not wanting to get wet, gunned his boat straight up the side of the aggressor, reached the white water crest then proceeded onto heaven. His slack crew had obviously not briefed him regarding JC's mood which was not receptive to new members on the day.

Somehow JL (whilst in mid air) put all this together thus proceeded to loose altitude skillfully down the back of the dumper. Observers in Gerry's boat were speechless - even Big Mick. For what we saw from the seaward side was JL's boat, then no boat, then JL and crew airborne at no less than 75% vertical and the prop one meter above the crest. Shame on JL as he knows that stuffs the engines cooling system.

Most people at this point would require some R & R but JL not to be out done managed a cool appearance then proceeded to our dive point. Conditions were not good and vis was RS. This made the Mick look good as he couldn't help saying, "I told you so". We tossed the pick and over we went following the anchor line to a bottom we couldn't see. Within 20 min all had returned confirming this was to be a one tank dive.

JL's crew dived on a drift line thus covered more territory. They saw a few red backs but that was it. Our next problem was to get JL back through the bar then onto the boat in one piece. No one was saying much even though the thought was in our minds. As luck would have it the sea had settled and JL navigated the bar as if nothing had happened. Boats were tailored and we proceeded to Gerry DM's place for a debrief and heavy refreshments.

In summary we have to award the day to JL. He was close to heaven but skillfully manoeuvred his way out. The only injury was a small bump on his forehead. His crew - well they don't say much. A great day.



Two big guys and one big boat.



One little guy and one big stomach.



DIVE REPORT - KING ISLAND BY BOB SCOTT

This was my second trip to King Island ,the first being a few years ago now. On that trip the weather unlike this trip was lousy .

So we will totally disregard that trip and get on with this currant sortie a cross Bass Straight.

I went in the company of seven divers from Paradise Divers dive club. I won't mention names as they will not mean much to you VASAGER'S but they were a great bunch of guys. The dive captain for the weekend was Jari Stienbeck who was also my dive buddy on most dives.

We left Melbourne Friday 24th. Jan at about 3pm. from Moorabbin airport for 45 min. flight. Neil Batte of King Island Dive Charters was there to meet us and after collecting our luggage, he took us to our new home for the next few days, which I might add was very comfortable. It was a 3 bedroom cottage fully furnished, including all linen blankets and towels. We all threw in \$10. for breakfast provisions which were duly purchased, down to the local pup for a cleansing ale or two and dinner.

Saturday morning Neil picked us up in his troop carrier with boat in tow. The boat is a 23ft tri hull Solo Craft built in Tassie, powered by twin 200 h.p. counter spun Yammies . Boy does it get up and boogie and it carries 8 divers 16 tanks and all other gear that is required ,plus 300lt. fuel and can still cruise at around 50kph . I'm sure glad that I'm not paying the fuel bill, which I might add costs 95 cents per litre, and just a point of interest for us LPG burners it costs 64 cents per litre.

The boat was launched and boarded and it was a fast 45 min. trip down the coast to a spectacular dive site. I'm not sure what it was called the depth

varied from 15m to 50 m approx. Vis.was about 15 to 20 m with huge bombies, ledges full of you know what. There was plenty of local fish life... My bottom time was about 35 mins. at around 25 m of peaceful cruising round bombies, through ledges & gutters. I totally forgot Neil's warning (righto boys see you in 25mins) and back on board it was sandwiches and soft drinks all round.

Both Saturday and Sunday were three dive days, all of which were equal in quality and Monday was a lay day so as we could fly around 2 p.m. There were 40 bugs taken for the weekend, the diving was great, and Neil and his wife did us proud. And I would highly recommend that if you get the chance to go to K.I. go, in fact I wouldn't mind organising a trip next year if there are any interested bodies wanting to go.

Now I would like to thank Neil for the great diving, accommodation and hospitality. Thanks Neil and also Jari for inviting me along.

Yours in diving, Bob Scott

THE BERMONDSEY-SURDOC BRANCH OF THE BRITISH SUB AQUA CLUB

BY SALLY STADDON

When Sant and I walked into our first VSAG general meeting nearly eight years ago, our first reaction was "this is just like Bermondsey Branch." Same characters, same jokes (more or less), same moans and groans, same obsession with crustaceans (lobster and edible crabs in the UK).....

We still keep in touch with our old club and last year we sent them a birthday card to mark their 40th anniversary. Dave Rankin, a Bermondsey club stalwart and good friend, sent us these newspaper clippings at Christmas and added the following comments which may be of interest to VSAG>

"As you can see from the article in the local paper, we have been trying to push our name forward in an endeavour to gain new members. We did a publicity/April Fools day stunt in March. Basically, we were approached by a publicity company which wanted to take photos of divers in the Thames "shark the hunting." Mattell, the toy company, were supposed to be launching a new range of toys with a shark theme and the photos were to be used in the advertising material and also as an April Fools stunt in the national press. We never did see the outcome of the photos, but as we were paid five hundred pounds for a morning's work, who's complaining? We also won one hundred pounds for a project to raise a car from the Surrey Docks. This was part of the British Telecom environment tidy up. Although we were refused permission from the Docks authorities at the last minute, we were allowed to keep the money, presumably because the idea was unusual."

he man who has spent to years in a different world

JOHN KELLY's first diving suit was a pair of long johns and a sweater which were then sprayed with latex.

Although it kept out the water reasonably well, it did have one major disadvantage: it could be used only once because the only way to take it off was to cut yourself out.

That was in 1956 when, inspired by Jacques Cousteau's film, Silent World, he was one of 10 people to form a dive club at the old Grange Road baths, Bermiondsey.

Using mainly donated equipment and Government surplus took, they gradually mastened the skills of what was then a brand new past-tume in Britain.

Today, as Bermondsey-SURDOC Dive Club propares to each brate its 40th anniversary this summer, John is the only original member left.

Now aged 57, he still drives from his home in Welling to the club's weekly training sessions at Rotherluthe, and he regularly dives off Britana's

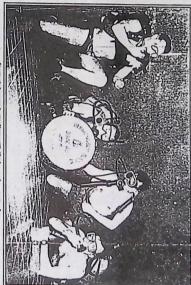
"Diving now is a far cry fron those early days "Diving now is a far cry fron those early days back in the 1950s, but I still enjoy it as much as ever and I plan to earry on for many years to come,"

"When I started, diving as an antaleur sport was stall in its infan sy and very little in the way of equip ment for divers such as ourselves was available.

"Fortunately for the elub, a notable dive equipment manufacturer, CE Humle, who had a workshop in Grange Road, gave us some suits, fins, maska and anothels.

Home made

"But we made a lot of our equipment ourselves, generally from government surplus. Air cylinders



Four club members dive with their anniversary plaque

came from aircraft and ships with support harnesses made from ex-Army webbing.

"Musks were converted Army gas musks and the demand valves or air regulators were Calor gas valves drilled out to increase the air flow

"Today, it's all so dafferent: there is a vasit range of lighteet specialist equipment available, and you new have sports divers using computer based instruments."

When Grange Road Baths were demolished,

Ile club switched to Cambervell Bulls before noving in the mid 1970s to its present home at Sever Island Leisure Centre, Rotherhithe.

Apart from training, the club enganises holiday trips to Cornwall and Scotland, including dives at Scipa Flow to see the German Grand Floet scutfied at the end of fac First World War.

And at weekends, there are trips to explore wreaks of the South Coast using the branch's unjutable boat or to quarries as well as the occasional

чр

dive in Greenland Dock where the club is trying to obtain regular permission to dive. Peter Byfueld club dive officer, said: "In recent

Peter Byfueld, club dive officer, said: "In recent years, the club has suffered a drop in numbers. We've got 26 members at present—and 1 have in ade it a

"It's a fascinating sport, once you are down below you enter a different world. I've been doing it for many years and I still get the same buzz each tine. I dive.

 There are many other facets to diving you have to know about scamanship and have some knowledge of coastal navigation and weather situations."

A tribute to the club's comprehensive training programme is 'hat only one member has ever been involved in a mishap—and that was John Kelly, who suffered a pulmonary ordema at Scapa Flow in 1987.

John, a City insurance worker, recalled -'It happened when I was ascending, although still no-one knows what caused it. Thanks to my treining, however, I did not panks and I talked myself to the sur-

Hospital visit

"The shipper saw that I was panting and organised for me to flow a immediately to bospital at

Aberdeen where I was kept in overnight. "Fortunately, I suffered no lasting ill effects and I was later passed fit to dive again. It certainly did

not put me off." Indeed John is encouraging his 18-year-old

Indeed John is encouraging his 18-year-old daughter, Robyn, to take up the sport

"She's been to a few training sessions with ine to see what it's like. I certainly won't push her, but I will be delighted if she does decide to take it

SPECIAL NOTICE VSAG TO VISIT PORT CAMPBELL

WHEN:

June long weekend. 7th to 9th June, 1997

WHY:

To dive the famous Loch Ard wreck which went down at the tip of Mutton Bird Island in early June, 1878.

CONTACT:

John Lawler - Telephone 9589 4020

ACCOMMODATION: Motels, Caravan Park (Cabins, tent sites.)

Those wishing to attend should ring John as soon as possible and advise preferred accommodation. In the past we have tended to choose motel accommodation due to the likelihood of cold weather. However, in those years cabins were not available in the caravan park.

The West Coast offers spectacular scenery, and if inclement weather prevails there is plenty of good places to visit including Warrnambool, Portland and even Mt Gambier for those intrepid cave divers.

by PETA TOMLINSON

A DOLPHIN sanctuary proposed for the southern peninsula would be of world significance, according to the Dolphin Research Institute.

The sanctuary would protect the Port Phillip Bay population of 100 bottlenose dolphins in their favorite breeding ground – the waters off Portsea and Sorrento.

Dolphin Research Institute director Jeff Weir said the area around Nepean Bay was known as a nursery area for dolphins and their calves.

Last January during the birthing scason, mothers and their calves were "harassed to the point of panic", spuring the Dolphin Research Institute to renew is calls for a sanctuary zone.

MEDIA WATCH

The Land Conservation Council now supports the proposal, which was launched at the Cultural Centre, Frankston, last Tuesday.

"We have been lobbying for this since 1990 and are pleased the Land Conservation Council has now given it its backing." Mr Weir said.

At the faunch, Mr Weir told how dolphins were an endangered species in many parts of the world, with dolphinbased tourism posing a new threat.

"Are we at risk of loving these animals to death?"

Mr Weir said Port Phillip's 100 dolphins share the bay with more than three million people. The proposed sanctuary would provide "a place where we can let them be".

The sanctuary zone would be desig-

nated by markers and cover an area around 600m wide and 3km long. Power boats would be allowed in if

they observe a 5-knot speed limit. However, dolphin tour operators

would be excluded because of their propensity to attract other boats.

The Dolphin Research Institute will study the proposed sanctuary zone this summer, colleging valuable data that may later be used to evaluate the impact of the sanctuary.

Mr Weir said such research would be unique in the world.

McDonald's restaurants has sponsored four university students to undertake the research. The scholarships were presented at last Thesday's launch by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch.



Happy home: Neputan Bay on the southern peninsula is a favorite brooding ground for Port Phillip's 100 bottlenese folghins.

Mornington Peninsula Loador 3, 12.96

by DIETER LEHMANN

ROSEBUD'S controversial marina and recreation complex would create hundreds of iobs and inject 56 million annually into the local economy according to a regional strategist.

Rosebud Regional Development Committee president Ken Healey said the Rosebud Boat Harbor, expected to cost about \$27 million. would also improve a "disgrateful" area of Rosebud foreshore. Plans include more than 400 boat moorings. serviced apartments, shops, a boat ramp, upgraded public 'amenities and a convention centre. Mr Healey was responding to criticism from Residents Against Marinas (RAMs) spokeswoman Eunice Cain, who said the marina

would degrade the coastline and accelerate erosion.

"The marina will create 520 jobs over the two years of construction and 103 jobs when finished. They are jobs for electricians, plumbers and bricklayers and they have to cat and stay somewhere." Mr Healey said.

"The site will be in an area of the Rosebud foreshore that is a diagrace to the community has filthy beaches and rundown buildings."

Mr Healey said the project would change the face of Rosebud and help lower the town's 14 per cent unemployment rate.

"Rosebud has always been a fishing village and this (the marina) will be the calalyst for it to change. The shops will change and you will see a Mornington-type town."

On public display since December 2. the Rosebud Boat Harbor would be built between Rosebud pier and Third Ave within five years.

Momington Peninsula Leader - Feb '97

Mr Healey said he hoped the Melbourne to Hobart yacht race would also start from Rosebud instead of Portsea.

"At Portsea you only see the start and they're through the heads. From Rossbud you could see the spinnaker run off shore through Rye. Blairgowrie, Portsea and Sorrento."

But Ms Cain said the marina would ruin the beach and deter seasonal visitors.

"Parents bring their children to Rosebud because it's the shallowest and safest basch. It has to stay as it is because if you dig a great big hole in it you stop those people coming here.

"I want to see Rosebud flower like it did 20 rears ago when we were attracted to the place. We fell in love with it the way it was."

Mr Healey said he welcomed criticism on the project but encouraged alternatives.

"I don't mind the anti-marina group knocking it but anyote can just knock something. I say to them find something else for the area. something as positive as this. "About 70 per cent of Rosebud residents are on welfare. There is nothing wrong with that because 38 per cent are retirees but we need a better balance like 50 per cent working and 50 per cent welfare."

. Ms Cain said the foreshore could be cleaned up and improved for passive use.

"Why would low income people need a marina. Are they going to put their yachts in there?" she said.

RAMs will hold a public meeting and information night to discuss the Rosebud Boat Harbor project at the Memorial Hall. Point Nepean Rd. Rosebud. tomorrow (Thursday) from 7.30pm. Speakers will include Alan Clark from the Port Phillip Conservation Council.



Gerald Rauch Shark victim in surgery

BRISBANE — Italian tourist Gerald Rauch had surgery on the weekend to repair tendon and nerve damage in his left arm — the result of a shark attack in the Whitsundays on Friday.

The 30-year-old from northern Italy was attacked by a two-metre shark while completing a snorkelling navigation exercise as part of a fourday dive course.

Mr Rauch said he did not see the shark attack him, but had felt a tug on his arm and assumed it was his dive instructor trying to attract his attention.

"But when I turned around, I came face to face with a very large shark," Mr Rauch said.

MEDIA WATCH

Galleon's £4bn bounty found

A SPANISH galleon which sank in the 16th century has been discovered, complete with her £4 billion bounty of gold, silver and precious stones. Norwegian diver Anton Smith found the flagship La Capitana Jesus Maria off the coast of Ecuador — using a combination of 17th century maps and 20th century seismic technology. The proceeds will be shared between the search team and the Ecuadorian government. It is the biggest haul of its kind found at sea.

Scallops washed up

SCALLOP fishing in Port Phillip Bay will cease forever at the end of the month, with 84 licence holders each to receive \$120,000 compensation.

Bay-only scallopers last night said they were relieved the issue was ending, but said individual claims could be made.

Herald-Sun 26.3.97

DIVE/SOCIAL CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	DIVE CAPTAIN	MEET AT
17 Apr	General Meeting Bell's Hotel Cnr. Moray & Coventry Streets,	Sth. Melbourne	8.00 pm
20 Apr	Werribee Park Family Day	Gerry Devries 9725 2381	11.00 am
25 Apr Friday	Ship's Graveyard	Priya Cardinaletti 9761 0960	9.30 am Sorrento
25 Apr Friday	Night Dive	Leo Maybus 9727 1568	6.30 pm Portsea Pier
26 Apr Saturday	Ship's Graveyard	Doug Catherall 9888 7774	9.30 am Sorrento
11 May	New wreck dive	Bob Scott 0359 712206	9.30 am Sorrento
11-18 May	Overseas Trip President Coolidge, Vanuatu	Don Abell 9889 4415	Fully booked
15 May	General Meeting Bell's Hotel Cnr. Moray & Coventry Streets,	Sth. Melbourne	8.00 pm
25 May	Heads Area	Pat Reynolds 9789 1092	Sorrento 9.00am
7-9 June	Port Campbell long weekend	John Lawler 9589 4020	See Notice
19 June	General Meeting Bell's Hotel Cnr. Moray & Coventry Streets,	Sth. Melbourne	8.00 pm

22 June	90 ft submarine	Andy Mastrowicz 9318 3986	Sorrento 9.00am
6 July	Coogee wreck	Gerry Devries 9725 2381	Sorrento 9.00am
17 July	General Meeting Bell's Hotel Cnr. Moray & Coventry Streets,	Sth. Melbourne	8.00 pm
20 July	Courier wreck (one tank dive)	Doug Catherall 9888 7774	Sorrento 11.00am
Dec/Jan	Christmas trip Robe, S.A.	Andy Mastrowicz 9318 3986	

NOTICE: BOAT OWNERS INTENDING TO BRING THEIR BOATS PLEASE RING THE DIVE CAPTAIN BEFORE 6.00 PM ON EVENING PRIOR TO THE DIVE.

DIVERS PLEASE RING BETWEEN 6.00 PM - 7.00 PM.

FOR NIGHT DIVES (USUALLY SATURDAYS) PLEASE RING BY 8.00 PM ON EVENING PRIOR TO DIVE.

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PORT PHILLIP HEADS

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TIME ZONE -1000

TIME ZONE -1000 PORT PHILLIP HEADS LONG 144" 37" LAT 38° 18'

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APRIL/MAY 1997

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EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION MORNINGTON PENINSULA AREA

	PHONE
POLICE - AMBULANCE - FIRE	(000)
PENINSULA AMBULANCE (ROSEBUD, SORRENTO)	(008) 137333
(MORNINGTON)	(03) 9783 2222
SOUTHERN PENINSULA HOSPITAL	
1527 NEPEAN ROSEBUD	(0359) 86 8444
FRANKSTON HOSPITAL	
HASTINGS ROAD FRANKSTON	(03) 9781 3111
MORNINGTON BUSH NURSING HOSPITAL	
MAIN ST MORNINGTON	(0359) 75 2009
MORNINGTON BAY RESCUE SERVICE	(0359) 75 2733
SOUTHERN PENINSULA RESCUE	(0359) 84 2000
DIVING EMERGENCY SERVICE	1800 088 200
COAST GUARD	(03) 9598 7003
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (S.E.S)	(03) 26 1468
WATER POLICE	(03) 9662 0911
MELBOURNE AMBULANCE	(03) 9662 2533

DR. GUY WILLIAMS	
DR. J De B.J. DADE	
DIVING EMERGENCY SER	VICE

DOCTORS DIVING MEDICINE ROSEBUD MORNINGTON

(0359) 81 1555 (0359) 75 5288 1800 088 200

V.H.F. EMERGENCY CHANNEL (16)