

FATHOMS

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VSAG

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

VSAG member Margot Johnson poses in 30m of clear water at the stern of the wreck "Henry Bonneaud" at Bokissa Island, Vanuatu. Taken during our VSAG trip in May 2000.
Photo by Des Williams. Nikonos V Camera, 17mm lens

FATHOMS

June / July 2000

Official journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

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Forthcoming General Meetings

Bells Hotel
157 Moray Street
(cnr Coventry Street)
Sth Melbourne 8:00 pm
Thursday 20 July
Thursday 17 August
Thursday 21 September

Please note: AGM

Forthcoming Committee Meetings

Leighoak Hotel
1555 Dandenong Road
Oakleigh
Thursday 13 July
Thursday 10 August
Thursday 14 September

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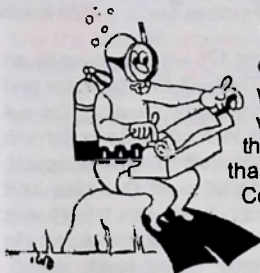
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Editorial

Welcome to our new look Fathoms. This colour version will be the new format from here on. Alex Talay has to be thanked for his printing of the magazine for more years than anyone cares to admit to and on behalf of the Committee and all VSAG members, thank you very much Alex for your valued input.

Also, Fathoms has a new editor. It will be my goal to maintain the very high standard set by the past Fathoms editors. In that context, what a great edition we have for you. The articles herein come from many members and will prove interesting reading.

During May, Santo witnessed the return of a large number of VSAG divers and partners and already, we have some wonderful tales of the diving on the President Coolidge and other sites. Another article, courtesy of Alan Beckhurst, highlights some good humoured snipes at VSAG from a high profile member of another club. Would Darren Salter care to visit us and repeat his slur? I think not!! Seriously, it was great humour from a great diver and SDFV member. Thanks for the free plug highlighting our club's versatility Darren!

My Haines Hunter "Hunter Three" features in this edition and I hope I haven't been too self-indulgent with my long-winded story. On a more serious note, I've taken the liberty of offering some guidelines on safety and dive procedures along with this edition of Fathoms. There is a message here for everyone.

Our "Media Watch" is crammed with quite a few articles and again, should provide some good reading.

Easter at the Prom! Don Abell has thrown all past attendance records out the window and created a new record of 126 VSAG bodies at the Prom. It appears to be the place VSAG people just keep coming back to year after year ... despite the weather and limited diving. It's a magic place. Don will provide us with another article for Fathoms. Thanks Don for a great effort in putting it all together. Still on the Easter break, Gerry DeVries combined his "fashion" and "sales" skills to provide polo shirts in a variety of sizes and colours at a very reasonable price. If you missed out, contact Gerry.

On behalf of this editor and members, thanks to all of you for your contributions to Fathoms. *It's a bumper issue but Remember No articles No Fathoms !!!*

Winter is here but as always, the VSAG calendar is full, including night dives and lots of social events. *Let's see you there !!!*

John Lawler

Editor

Farewell "Hunter Three"

John Lawler

Around Easter 1981, I found myself on my first visit to Tidal River. Little did I know how significant this place was to be in my life! Poorly equipped, with borrowed camping gear, the stay lasted one night as the heavens opened up and it poured all night. Next day, saturated and miserable, we packed the gear and headed home. Around this time, I had started a course in SCUBA diving with John Gibson. I figured that diving and boats went together and I always remembered the sight of those magnificent boats which were parked all around our camp site at Tidal River.

Next Easter, back at Tidal River, better equipped and certified, I decided to talk to the boat owners and Gary Thorn told me all about VSAG. The social secretary was Max Synon and I duly contacted him and went to my first meeting. At that meeting, I was enlightened about the boats. They were all "Haines Hunters".

I joined VSAG and my first dive was memorable. Arriving at Flinders, the dive captain, Mick Jeacle, called me aside and said "listen mate, I've put you on Geoff Birtles boat. Now don't worry too much about this bloke, his bark's worse than his bite but be bloody careful on the boat with your gear because he's a bit fussy". Guess what? The boat was a Haines Hunter. I introduced myself to Geoff and he put me at ease instantly with an opening line of "Hi, another old bastard, you'll fit in well here mate". "Old" he'd said, and I was only about 40!! One of the greatest boating thrills of my life was about to happen. This

Haines Hunter 17L was powered by an Evinrude 150HP V6 Sports motor and Birtles knew only two speeds - flat out and stop. We took off for Cape Schank in flat out mode. By the time we stopped, I was shaking all over. Over the next five years, my diving with VSAG was done from numerous Haines Hunters in the Club, Andy, Barry, Keith, Geoff, Robert and Bob all owned mighty Hunter 17L's. But there was another.

I had known Paul King from the food industry for some time and it was only on a trip to Refuge Cove that we met as members of VSAG. I had no idea Paul was involved in diving/boating. I also dived from Paul's Haines and had my first "drive" in this boat. As time moved on, my knowledge of diving and to a lesser degree, boating, advanced rapidly. Most of what I learnt, all the nitty gritty, all the safety tricks, all the smart stuff, came from my mentor, Mick Jeacle. Most of what I know today, over and above the basics, came from the sound advice of Mick. To be fair, boating influences came from all the boat owners but I seemed to be always falling over the side of Mick's old "brick".

I had been a member of VSAG for several years when word got around that Paul King's boat was for sale and he needed money quickly for a business venture. Always an opportunist, I gave a quick thought to this on a business trip to Tasmania and on the way home, called in at Paul's office to talk money. We settled on a price but I was short. Enter the bank manager, Mick. I ran the deal past Mick and told him I had two options - use the funds to add a new

room to my home or borrow some and buy the boat. Mick's reply "How many bloody rooms to you need to live in? Buy the boat. How much do you want and when do you want it?"

Five days later, Paul delivered the Haines to my home. Eighteen months later, I met John Stav, MD of JV Marine, at the boat show. My boat was very underpowered with it's Mercury 90HP so John called in at my home and had a look at the setup, put an offer to me and after some negotiations, I had JV Marine strip the boat completely, rewire, install new electronics, twin batteries and a new Yamaha 140HP motor. It was a very exciting time for me.

Over the next ten years or so, "Hunter Three" was trailered as far west as Streaky Bay and Port Lincoln in South Australia, up the coast to Narooma and many places in between.

In the year 2000, the boat is well over twenty years old and the motor over ten years old. Both had passed their use-

by dates. In April, John Stav called at our home and again, we started negotiations to replace the trusty old Haines. In May, we said farewell to "Hunter Three".

We are now the proud owners of a Haines Signature 610 Cruiser, powered by a Yamaha 175 Saltwater Series motor. Call sign is "**Signature One**", boat name is "**Miles Ahead**". The 610 is fitted with both VHF and 27MH radios, all mandatory safety gear, is set up for SCUBA diving incorporating 2 x 4 stainless steel tank racks, for fishing, rod holders and bait boards etc, and it is a family boat as well with lool Without doubt, VSAG boat owners provide members with some of the most modern, safe and sophisticated vessels available today from which to dive. **Signature One** joins that fleet. Thanks again Mick for directing me to your "decal" printer. The 610 now features a SCUBA diver, on each side, in green, matching the boat colour.



Dive Report - Exmouth WA

28 March - 6 April 2000

Mary and I needed a honeymoon, so we looked for something different (Mary has dived almost everywhere). We had never seen a whale shark and we were assured that the season was close to the time of our nuptials, so we flew off the Exmouth.

Our excitement was dulled as we flew over the recently outback, dotted with water filled holes, and saw a large river spewing mud into the sea at Coral Bay. It just meant we would have to get closer to the whale sharks for good shots.

We booked the weeks diving with Exmouth Diving Centre, and stayed in a comfy unit at Potshot Resort. The pattern for each day was to be picked up at our unit in the minibus, briefed at the dive centre, buses to our dive site, dive, then reverse back to our unit. All the sites / departure points were over 30 minutes away from Exmouth. (They need to shift the town). Over the week, we visited the Muiron Islands, Ningaloo Reef and the Navy Pier.

Our introduction to northwest diving was at the Muirons, where we dived Fraggie Rock, The Block, The Spit and Turtle Mound. The diving was on a variety of coral bommies, ridges and a mound, all between 15 and 20 metres, with 12 metre viz and lots of caves and swim thrus and canyons. The fish were tropical and in good numbers, with some of the swim thrus choc a block with bait fish. The larger fish includes potato cod and white tip reef sharks. The coral was best on top of the reefs, with healthy growths of most coral

varieties, but evidence of recent cyclone damage in patches. At Turtle Mound, I noticed a couple of feelers sticking out of a ledge, and they were a couple of metres apart! The cray attached was at least 5 kg and after a couple of photos, was coaxed out of the ledge for some more photos. The next ledge had a white tip shark on it and as I moved above the ledge, a leopard shark came over for a look. Between the dives we would throw the pick onto some pretty coral reef close to shore (they don't worry about anchor damage here, it's insignificant compared to what the cyclones do) and lunch, then snorkel. These snorkels were some of the prettiest dives we did, with fish life equal to the deeper reefs, including sharks.

Whale sharks were our target, but the reports were not good. Few sharks and they were timid, diving as the boats approached. Still, a couple of boats had good encounters in the last couple days so we remained hopeful. Shark charters run outside Ningaloo Reef for a SCUBA dive, then the spotter plane takes off at 10:00 am and the boat goes to snorkel sites in the general area of the plane search until a shark is spotted. The plane remains aloft until 1:00 pm when it goes back to refuel, recommencing the search around 2:00 pm. We did a lot of snorkeling!

We went on 3 whale shark trips (at \$230 each per day!!!) and saw none. We had a couple of close calls, were on the duckboard ready to roll in when they

cancelled because the big shark they spotted had stripes instead of spots. We booked only to snorkel, but the first site each day "Three Fins" maximum depth 21 metres! I have free dived that deep before – but it was nineteen seventy something! After a few drops, I made it to the top of the reef, then into the swim thrus, then the holy grail – sand. Old fat blokes don't lose that much ability after 20 years – I might take up surfing again.

Point Murat Navy pier was built by the Yanks as a submarine tracking station supply pier, then handed over to our Oz navy a few years ago (because our subs are the only ones noisy enough for the station to track) and a permit is required to dive it. It is of tubular steel construction, a couple of hundred metres long, "T" shaped with a couple of detached sections to extend the "T". Jutting out into the fairly barren Exmouth Gulf, it is an oasis for marine life. Recent cyclone damage meant we had to shore dive, but it was worth the effort. Our first dive had 12 metre viz, a bit ordinary, but you can't see too far anyway with the shoals of lined snapper, trevally, threadfin pearl perch, flutemouths and buffalo bream blocking the midwater. The bottom belonged to wobbys, white tip sharks, cod, lionfish and catfish. The pylons were covered in sharp oysters, and home to bannerfish, moorish idols, chaetodons and octopus. Rubble on the bottom was home to frogfish, morays, crocodile fish and painted crays.

Mary took 2 housed Nikon F801s systems and a Nikonos 5 (I was the caddy) and ran out of film (that's right, she shot 108 frames in a 60 minute

dive). A Japanese couple with a Sea & Sea housed system were so taken by Mary's camera's they took photos of her with all the gear so the rest of Japan would believe them. We dived the pier 4 more times, 2 night and 2 day, but the viz had dropped back to the customary 3–4 metres, making navigation at night difficult, but still good dives. After a night dive we went out to the end of the pier to watch huge trevally cruising by, interrupted by large tail splashes from feeding fish / sharks further out – this would be an awesome fishing pier!

We had a look at Ningaloo Reef in numerous snorkeling sessions, but heard some divers raving about a site called "Blizzard Ridge" which is actually not part of the reef, but available with another reef dive, so we booked on. The reef site was "The Floats", nice coral reef with gullies and swim thrus, and Mary found a good sized potato cod at a cleaning station. I was able to get some great video of cleaner wrasse working inside the cod's gaping mouth. "Blizzard Ridge" however, was different. The edge of a barren reef flat which was crumbling to form a series of cracks, providing homes for the greatest concentration of fish other than the pier. Showing skepticism for reports, Mary had gone with a macro setup to be confronted by large schools of perch, snapper and bigeyes. There was plenty of macro too, but that look of despair as we spent time with a large thorny tail ray My video was great, it was hard to edit any footage (if we ever do this dive again, Mary will take ALL her cameras).

So we missed out on whale sharks and were a little disappointed with the viz (the water was still full of coral spawn and jellyfish) but we enjoyed diving in 28° water and our free diving. We have plenty of slides and video to keep, but as this was more expensive than most tropical dive locations, we will probably chase whale sharks in the Coral Sea next time.

Alan Beckhurst



Comedy Quickies

At the end of a tiny, deserted bar is a huge Kiwi bloke - 6ft 5 and 350lbs. He's having a few beers when a short, well-dressed, obviously gay man walks in and sits beside him.

After three or four beers the gay guy finally plucks up the courage to say something to the big New Zealander.

Leaning over towards the Kiwi he whispers, "Do you want a blow-job?" At this the massive Kiwi leaps up with fire in his eyes and smacks the man in the face, knocking him swiftly off the stool. He proceeds to beat him all the way out of the bar before leaving him bruised and battered in the car park and returning to his seat.

Amazed, the barman quickly brings over another beer. "I've never seen you react like that," he says, "what did he say?"

"I'm not sure", the big Kiwi replies, "something about a job"



Quote taken from actual work performance evaluations:

"This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot."

Poetry With Grace & Style

A computer was something on TV
From a sci-fi. show of note
A window was something you hated to clean

And ram was the cousin of a goal.

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
And gig was a job for the nights
Now they all mean different things
And that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something you lost with age

A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3 inch floppy
You hoped nobody found out.

Compress was something you did to the garbage
Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to the fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they wish they were dead.



Dive Report

March

J1 Sub and Surf Club Reef

(off Pt Lonsdale)

Boats - Sub-Seeker and SaltSpray

Divers - Mary, Alan, Rob, Darren, Frances, Mark and ???

(This article has been plagiarized - to a point)

As usual, it was a rush to get out of bed, travel from North Ringwood to Glen Waverley to pick up Rob, travel to Blairgowrie, get the boat out of storage, and finally have it readied for a days outing. But to put icing on the cake, it was the annual Sorrento festival and that meant travelling all the way back to Rye to get fuel for the boat before retracing our tracks and heading back to Sorrento to launch the boat. But what a wonderful day! Next to no wind and flat sea's had us speeding across the water at 35 knots and straight out through the heads to rendezvous with Sub-Seeker, who by 9:00 am was already anchored over the J1 (or is that J4) sub.

As we arrived, Alan's first crew was all ready to roll back into the water. Rob donned his gear and joined up with them - keen to be the first on the sub. The viz looked great and the only problem looked to be the charter boat full of divers heading towards us. As it turned out the charter was actually the VSAG diving club, who for once had chartered one of the larger commercial boats for the day. What a bunch of woosers, couldn't they use their own boats? Anyway, we had shotted the wreck for them and before you could say Jeronomoe, bloody dozens of VSAGers were plunging off the boat in the most disorderly fashion you've seen

on a charter in years. All the VSAG (senior citz) were like a bunch of rowdy school kids, they just couldn't wait to hit the sub.

Rob and our crew soon returned to the surface - the 33+m depth only gave them a 15 minute bottom time. Alan, Mary, Frances and myself got geared up and entered the water with the professionalism that only the API club could muster. By this time, the VSAG group (15+ divers) had surfaced and for the next ten minutes, the water above the wreck became a social chitchat with us and the VSAG divers renewing old acquaintances. With the chatter behind us, we ventured down Sub-Seekers anchor to be greeted by the and the story dragged on but as VSAG doesn't rate another mention, we really don't care about the rest of it.

Editors Note

At least the VSAG "senior citz" can still rustle up some enthusiasm and enjoy every dive as if it was their first. Let's see what happens to the API-balls when they've been on the planet a few more years.



Big Fish, Little Fish, Divers

Melbourne Aquarium

In spite of Australia's worst Legionnaire's disaster, the Melbourne Aquarium dive went ahead as scheduled on Sunday 4 June. With the water cooling towers now defunct, it seems as if all of Melbourne is keen to visit the aquarium. The crowds seemed quite large (or was it just stage fright?)

We had nine divers and God alone knows how many friends and family – they got lost completely in the large crowd of customers at the aquarium that day. It was also difficult to know if the onlookers were waving to us in the tank because they knew one of us or if they just thought we were good value entertainment.

Still, we met in the foyer at about 2:00 pm and shuffled off for our introductory briefing. Then it was down to the nether regions of the aquarium for a dive briefing and paper shuffling. Once all the forms were complete, it was time for the first divers to get wet. I got quite a bit wetter than I'd planned because I forgot to turn down the neck seal of my *dry* suit. Thank heavens for electric hand driers.

None of the fish were at all concerned about us being in the water although one of the new grey nurse sharks (a youngster), got a little too inquisitive when the first group of divers were standing on the entry ledge and was allegedly nudged by a "pink fin". This is apparently a major faux pas although neither of the pink finned divers were

aware that the shark was there much less that they had nudged it. Still, it didn't seem to be greatly disturbed and went off to its cruising without so much as a backward glance.

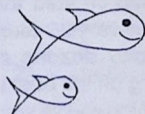
I spent quite a bit of time looking along the sand for a spare shark tooth for my mum – to match the one I got for her from my dive at the Manly aquarium – but didn't manage to find one. I didn't think it would be a good idea to try and extract one from a cruising shark so mum will just have to go without.

One of the good things about diving in an aquarium is that I don't need to write about what type of fish I saw. Everyone who was there saw the same things, either from inside or outside the tank and those of you who weren't there – shame, shame, shame.

It was a pleasant, easy dive in relatively warm water with lots of things to look at, including some pretty daggy humans. The stayers finished up at Café Greco over at Southbank and headed off home at about 7:30.

Thanks to all who came along – either diving or supporting the divers. With winter now upon us, it may be the last dive some of us do for several months.

See you in the drink!



Josie

VANUATU 2000

DON ABELL

Tullamarine welcomed 23 intrepid VSAG adventurers on May 13 for the Club's 3rd trip to Vanuatu to dive the superb wreck of the President Coolidge - known as the best accessible shipwreck in the world. Most of the group had dived it previously but we had a good number of members who were venturing to Santo for the first time. First timers included;

Bob Scott, Peter Jones, Ian Draper, Margot Johnson, Ian Springall, Roger Ward, Sarah Bucknell and Gail Mastrowicz. It was also good to have a few non divers in the form of Marie Truscott, Chris Vleugel, Kerry Jones, June Scott and Nicky Abell. Put these together with Andy, Mick, Ted, Des, Doug, Barry, Peter, Chris, Darren and yours truly and we had a great group to party.

Chris Llewellyn made up the welcoming party at the airport and presented each traveller with a complimentary lead weight to carry over for Kevin Green. Not as hard as Chris thought it would be. All weight loaded we had plenty of time for a few quiet drinks before the flight.

The flight was relaxing and everyone was presented with a souvenir cap for "Vanuatu 2000" Sorry to those who were not there. Only enough were done for the trippers. Ian Draper managed to introduce himself to everyone on the flight - most before we had taken off. Ted Cornish forged his boarding pass and sat next to me for most of the flight. My protestations to the flight attendant were ignored and I was stuck with him. I saw the pass later on. He was not even

supposed to be on our flight let alone next to me. And there was no way Mick was going to claim him back.

A few hours sleep at Port Vila and we were shunted back to the airport for the flight to Santo. A very nice Dash 8 aircraft awaited us and Bazza received a presentation of sick bags on boarding. VSAGers never let you forget any little slip up do they Baz? The new plane has reduced the flight time to 45 minutes so we were soon welcomed at the Santo airport by Malcolm from the Bouganville resort.

Those of us who couldn't care less about unpacking or recovering from a hangover lined up for an immediate morning dive. Let's not waste time - we came to dive. 12 of the 18 divers grabbed gear and formed the A team. We left the Sleepers team to settle in to the resort. It was good to see Kevin Green and Mayumi again. They are one of the reasons we enjoy coming back to Santo.

I remembered very quickly why I have done 3 trips to this wreck. It is outstanding diving and nothing that I write here could start to describe it. And every time I dive somewhere I see something different. The Lady has of course been moved after her little fall from grace. She has now been cleaned and smiles down from the ceiling - which means she is looking at you from the side because the ship is on its side.

I did the usual dives to warm up and then we went to the engine room. Always exciting and a different route

meant more to see. My light went out with 5 minutes to go while in the inside ballroom. I sure stuck with my buddies for those 5 minutes. The Galley was a highlight. I hadn't been there before and it was an impressive 56 meter dive. There was a lot to see from food preparing machines to fine crockery. Thanks to Mick for volunteering to give up his spot on the dive. Des and I appreciated the gesture. We needed a 55 minute deco stop. It reminded me of similar stops diving with Ross Luxford on my first visit.

We also dived the Henri Bonneaud and Million Dollar Point, both of them good dives by any measure but the highlight of all the dives was without doubt the night dive on the Coolidge. We took a small group of 5 and the rest went the following night. This was a lights out night dive. The full moon provided enough light to see where we were on the wreck and there was no penetration involved.

Just seeing the outline of the wreck in the moonlight was a special sight and you could look up at the moon above us through 60ft of water. We stopped at the hold and looked in at the Flashlight fish looking like a waterfall of light. I had never seen a sight like it. But I soon looked behind me to see a spectacle. The whole of the Bridge of the ship was alight. We were at least 50ft away and it looked like the lights were on for the Captain's cocktail party. It seemed inexplicable and I couldn't take my eyes off it. It didn't dissipate at all and we eventually swam across to look more closely. Time passed very quickly and we had to ascend. On top of the ship it was lights on and we saw

the extensive array of nightlife fish and other assorted marine creatures. What a dive. Even Gary our dive guide told us he had not seen a better night dive in the last 7 years and I could believe it.

Diving finished on Thursday and it was time for the Jungle Party. Everyone had received their invitations some weeks before so the outfits were just great. Hopefully you will see the photographs. Outfits ranged from the wild native to the great white hunter. First prize however went to Doug and Peter Jones who made their costumes at the resort and came as two terrorists to kidnap the unsuspecting dive group. Very original. Special mention to Ian Draper for his native outfit although Nicky is still thinking of a way to get even for the shaving cream all over her special leopard skin PJ's.

The night rocked on in the jungle atmosphere created for us by Michael and the other staff at Bouganville. The decorations were brilliant and helped make it the great night that it was always going to be. A sumptuous BBQ dinner, a few quiet drinks, some good and bad jokes and just a little bit of singing to take the night through until 3.30am. And I almost had Baz convinced that the Bee Gees had done a version of North To Alaska on their 3rd album.

These things usually slow down as the grog runs out. Darren being the considerate soul that he is thought he would help by giving some of us a sip of his duty free scotch. A look of horror crossed his face when Kevin Green took the top off the scotch and threw it into the jungle. Alas the contents are only a distant memory for Darren.

Mick had arranged a tour for the next day. A village visit, and a good look at the island. The rain had flooded the cave that we were going to snorkel but we did get to swim the Blue Holes. The tour did involve a large amount of 4 wheel driving which is not my scene but a lot of the group enjoyed the day. I thought the stops were worth the trip but I have had more fun at a funeral than I had on the driving parts of the trip. I am not into 4w driving and should have read the brochure more carefully.

The final day saw us leave Peter and Chris in Santo to sail back to Port Vila in a yacht and we flew back on our Dash 8. We dumped the bags at the airport and took a relaxing stroll around the town getting into any air-conditioned shop we could. It was raining so the humidity was high. We left Mick in the main street and hit the airport for the final leg home. Just a few more drinks and we were home. This time I checked Ted's boarding pass before he got on the plane.

I had a fabulous time and I hope everyone else did too. Thanks to all who came and made it such a good time. Thanks also to my diving buddies (Des, Mick, Ted, Sarah, Roger and Peter) who are so good at diving I could enjoy every minute.



Quote taken from actual work performance evaluations:

"He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle."

VANUATU 2000

Meg
Johnson

I feel refreshed, rejuvenated and uncharacteristically happy. Vanuatu 2000 was a great trip. We dived, we drank, we partied and I've gotten to know some of my fellow VSAGers more intimately than had hitherto been the case. I hope that the memories of Vanuatu will sustain me through a cold Melbourne winter until my next diving adventure in October when Josie and I and a few select friends head to the Cook Islands for fun, sun and the perfect dive.

We departed on Saturday 13 May. A few delays gave us ample time for shopping and drinking. The happy troupe of 23 were – Don & Nicky Abell, Peter & Chris Vleugel, Barry & Marie Truscott, Bob & June Scott, Sarah & Roger, Ian Springall & Kerry Jones, Andy & Gail, Big Mick, Peter Jones, Dougie Catherall, Ian Draper, Des Williams, Darren Pearce, Chris Llewellyn, Ted Comish and me.

Poor Ted complained bitterly about Big Mick's snoring and spent most nights kipping in the plastic lounges by the pool. Chris was served with Notice of Impending Divorce Proceedings during the course of the week and was left to mount his own defence (the only lawyer in the group was on holidays and unable to be contacted). We found out about June Scott's secret past as a bikie moll (her term, not mine) and we saw Marie Truscott wrestle alligators (she's in training for the next James Bond movie), and we discovered that Nicky Abell is a closet drug pusher with a vast array of pharmaceutical preparations secreted in her luggage. I personally witnessed her

pressing vitamin C tablets and Sudafed onto the two unfortunate divers who suffered a bout of congestion mid-week (Gail & Mick). Despite the drugs, Gail was "on the bench" for much of the week.

Bougainville Resort was hospitable and comfortable. The food was good and the company unsurpassed. We arrived on Sunday morning and most divers were keen to get in the water. I was in the group dubbed "the sleepers". We wisely decided to have a kip on Sunday morning and start our diving adventures after a cup of tea, a bex and a good lie down.

I'm pleased to report that "The Lady" had been returned to her watery abode by the time we arrived. Although, as all the old hands told me, it's not quite the same. As reported in a recent "Fathoms", The Lady fell down. A joint effort by the various dive operators in Santo saw her raised, cleaned, repaired and relocated. Due to the deterioration of the Smoking Room, she's been moved to an area off the Continental Lounge. Her new home is shallower and more accessible, and disorientatingly, she's positioned 'right way up' despite the ship itself not being so. Odd, but still a beautiful piece of Art.

The Art Deco features of the ship are quite gorgeous and evocative of a hopeful 'modern' age. I loved the tiling on the swimming pool, the light fittings, The Lady. The contrast between the beauty of the luxury liner fittings and the grim reality of the war artefacts, the magnificent 5 inch gun on the stern, the scatterings of shells and gas masks, stray boots, personal things, impersonal things. Diving the Coolidge was a great experience.

The first thing I saw on my first dive on the Coolidge was a magnificent turtle. It augured well..... it was a week of magical dives in warm (29°) tropical waters.

The night dive on the Coolidge was a wonderful experience. A shore dive under a full moon. About 12 divers went to the Cargo Hold, *EVENTUALLY* got all the torches off and were transfixed by the flashlight fish. It's the closest thing to a space walk you'll ever get on planet earth. Pitch black with a 3-D kaleidoscope of flashing lights – fluid, synchronised, chaotic. It was just magic. I didn't want to leave.

The dive on the Henry Bonneaud was another highlight. It's an old inter-island trader sunk off Bokkissa Island for divers. Viz was great, weather was perfect, it was a great dive. And Des took some great photos that I'm sure we're all looking forward to seeing.

Although, even after only a week, you do slip into "island time", the delays with Aquamarine were annoying (there's piss-offs even in paradise). The buses were usually late, the boat was always late, occasionally they'd not take enough tanks, one day one of the dive guides nicked my mask, our dive to The Lady was "eventful" (ask Chris Llewellyn).... But, we were in paradise and there were up-sides. Diving in a club with a significant proportion of "boy scouts", who take the motto "Be Prepared" very seriously indeed, was a major bonus. Mick had a spare mask for me the day that mine was nicked (and worse, it was more comfortable than my own!), and when my computer "low battery" sign came on, Andy had a spare battery to suit my computer and the tools and know-how to replace it – what a great bunch of guys to go diving with !! **And** because the dive operator was always late, we usually had these magnificent dusk deco stops after the "afternoon" dive. The "afternoon" dives for my group bordered on night dives. The ship was looking decidedly gloomy by the time we began the descent

for our second dives, often at 4.30pm or so. But, as I said, the deco stops were great. Everything was happening, the hermit crabs were out, the crinoids were hunting, shuffling over the coral, the lionfish were dancing..... a great time to watch the garden – the planting of which is a credit to the divers who have built and maintained it. In the mornings there was Boris..... a truly majestic fish with an entourage befitting such a regal individual.

Sunday to Thursday we dived, well mostly. I'll leave the adventures of the non-divers for them to relate. Thursday night was party night, jungle party. There were some creative costumes. Ian Draper was a picture, quite indescribable really - you had to be there, and I'm sure you'll all see the photos. Don was, I thought, typecast as the Pythonesque Great White Hunter (or maybe The Goodies would be a better image), Mick reminded me of an overgrown Bam-Bam from the Flintstones, Jonesy and Dougie took it upon themselves to provide us all with some indigenous culture by befriending the locals and arranging some Kava for the party. They later made a topical appearance as terrorists and kidnapped their new friends in a shocking display of betrayal and duplicity. Chris Lewellyn, the organiser of this extravaganza, felt a bit upstaged, I think, by the supreme effort made by most to dress for the occasion. Friday was a non-diving day for most of us. We went bush-bashing in the jungle in some really clapped out 4 wheel drives. It was a lot of fun. I loved Nicky Abell's "Edina from Ab-Fab" impersonations as she trekked through the jungle. I loved the look on Sarah's face as she clung to the back of the 4 wheel drive behind us. We finished up at a Blue Hole near an old Airfield (Fighter 1?), where we had lunch and washed off the mud in the gin-

clear water. It was a great day.

Saturday it was home again for most of us. Peter & Chris were met by a yacht at Luganville and sailed off for another week of diving in paradise. Mick stayed on in Port Vila where he was to be met later that day by Annie for a romantic tropical holiday without the dive yobbo's.

We had a few hours to kill in Vila on the way home. Sarah, Roger, Andy, Gail & I got the ferry out to Irinki Island for a leisurely lunch and a few drinks in a luxurious setting with panoramic views. The flight home seemed to me to pass in a flash. Before I knew it we were back in Melbourne. Someone must have poured me out of the plane and I somehow managed to arrive home with all my luggage (thanks no doubt in large part to my sister, Alison, who gathered me up and drove me home, stopping on the way to collect my dog, Rosie, who had been fostered out for the week). Rosie and Jezebel, as always, were pleased to see me return. Back to reality. It was a memorable trip and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's photos at future dive club meetings.

Where are we going next year?



Quote taken from actual work performance evaluations:

"He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them."

Vanuatu 2000

Des Williams

As I said in my thank you speech at Santo, "God bless America for being long on harbour defence and so short on navigational information during World War 2", because as a result, we now have the wreck of the "President Coolidge" as a dive destination.

Don Abell led 23 VSAGers and families on our third trip to Vanuatu and again, we dived with Kevin and Mayumi Green's Aquamarine dive charter. With wonderful hosts such as Yvan and Elaine Charles and staff and the Bougainville Resort, we knew our stay would be memorable. We weren't disappointed!

Our dives were mostly on the "Coolidge" but we did do Million Dollar Point and the wreck of the 'Henry Bonneaud' at Bokissa Island. The weather was superb and the food magnificent. Unfortunately, we did have a strain of flu hit some members of our team at various stages of the trip and some missed a few dives as a result. Others like Mick and Don managed to continue to descend despite some difficulty clearing ears.

Without exception, we had a wonderful trip and enjoyed the usual VSAG comradere and fun. At the end of our diving program, our Minister for Entertainment, Chris Llewellyn, organised a jungle party and Bougainville Resort accommodated with heavy tropical foliage in the dining area to set the atmosphere. Just how Don Abell managed to fit a pith-helmet and tommy gun in his luggage out of Australia, to arrive at the jungle party

as Dr Livingstone, will remain a mystery. June Scott, Marie Truscott, Chris Vleugal and Nicki Abell were in very fine colourful jungle outfits, whilst husbands, Bob, Barry and Peter were decorated with a variety of jungle growths. Bob Scott's fig-leaf was most impressive, but the rear view was a sight for sore eyes! Ian Draper took the group by surprise, when he leapt out of the garden clad in a banana leaf, a frond and shaving cream, chanting what sounded more like a Maori haka. Unfortunately, I was behind him in the queue for the BBQ dinner and his rear view almost put me off my meal!

It wasn't until our group had sat down for a meal that Peter Jones and Doug Catherall arrived as jungle terrorists and rounded up a group of local natives (hands in the air), and marched them to the pool. It was a brilliant display and won them 1st prize for the evening. Kevin and Mayumi Green joined us and made a presentation of dive souvenir certificates. I believe Kevin left around 3:00 am when the stayers in our group decided to call it a night. Mayumi had departed earlier, as she is pregnant, not a bad decision I must say.

Despite our very large group (18 divers), and more divers booked with Aquamarine, Kevin managed to provide us with some memorable dives, albeit some finishing very late in total darkness.

As I unpack my suitcase and air the damp dive gear, I am reminded of some of the spectacular dives we had, especially the "Coolidge" night dive

Don, Roger, Sarah and I did with guide Garry. A full tropical moon lit our way and even at 25M, we really didn't need our torches and we had the wreck to ourselves. This dive had been suggested as a "must do" by one of my mates in Sydney, before I left Australia and WOW! was he right.

We hung at the entrance to hold No. 2 for at least four minutes with our torches off and were entertained by thousands of flashlight fish, sweeping, swirling and schooling around the yawing hold cavity in front of us. We then turned towards the bridge without torches, as our eyes were now accustomed to the moonlight glow, and were confronted with a Disneyland spectacular of swirling flashlight fish through every window of the bridge structure – unbelievable! This dive I will never forget. Our return to the decompression area took us up and along the outside of the hull, past napping fish and drowsy schools of quite large, colourful fish.

Whilst decompressing, Garry blew air smoke rings, as we watched them increase in size towards the moonlight. We waded ashore breathless with excitement at the scene we had just witnessed, even Garry thought it was the best night dive conditions he had experienced.

On the last dive day, as usual, we all had a chance to try some of the deeper dive sites. One group dived the stern, another the swimming pool, whilst Don, Peter V and I were escorted by Kevin Green through the Galley and butchers shop. Our bottom time was to be 20 minutes, as we plummeted to 55M to enter the rear hold, then through a huge iron door in the bulkhead into the Galley

where our torches were the only source of light in this inky compartment. We could see huge stainless steel cooking cauldrons and very long food preparation benches. There was a huge mix-master arrangement in one corner as we swam on to the butcher's shop, noting the large meat band-saw and the magnificent tiled floor. This had been the very heart of the meal preparation area of this wonderful ocean liner in her heyday. Kevin led us on through along corridor littered with tons of crockery and cookware, light fittings and cooling fans, he paused to clean 58 years of grime off a pyrex dish, as we hung around him. I can still remember the excitement at this stage as I looked at my depth gauge with its needle jammed past the 180ft (55M) mark. It only goes to 160ft, and wondering how long Kevin was going to spend "doing the dishes".

Our return took us through the Grand Dining Room and out through the hull at Ewarts seadoor, where Kevin handed Peter V a bottle of Nitrox – his chosen decompression gas. We then spend the next 55 minutes at various levels of decompressions, which must be the longest hang-off I have ever done, but Boris was swimming about and there were plenty of other VSAGers to keep us company. We were like prunes when we returned to the boat.

I am sure other divers will write reports of our trip for Fathoms and supply more tall tales and true from the legendary past, but thanks Don and all the others in our group for a wonderful week's diving.



VSAG Songbook

THEY SAY THAT TRAVEL BROADENS YOUR MIND

THE VANUATU TRIP CONVINCED ME
 THAT WE ALL FIND IT HARD TO REMEMBER
 THE WORDS OF OUR FAVOURITE SINGALONGS
 AT 2AM

SOLUTION ?

A VSAG SONGBOOK

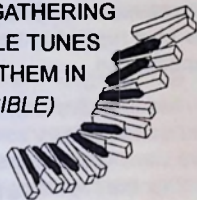
PLEASE LET ME HAVE THE WORDS TO YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS
 AND I WILL COLLABORATE THEM INTO A USER FRIENDLY FORMAT

THEY MUST BE GOOD OLD FAVOURITES
 THAT EVERYONE KNOWS THE TUNE TO

NO MUSIC NEEDED.
 LIKE SEVERAL OF OUR MEMBERS,
 I WOULDN'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
 BETWEEN A CROTCH AND A CROTCHET,
 OR A TREMOLO
 AND A KNEE TREMBLER



SO START GATHERING
 THOSE CATCHY LITTLE TUNES
 AND SEND THEM IN
 (ON DISK IF POSSIBLE)
 BUT ANY WHICH WAY YOU CAN



TO
DON ABELL 80 LISTON ST GLEN IRIS 3146

FAX 9889 9412

email dkabell@kpmg.com.au

BOKISSA SHARK FEED DIVE

John. When I went over to Vanuatu this year one dive I was really looking forward to was a shark feed dive and found out later by Kevin and Mayumi, there were only about three sharks left as they had been fished out and killed by the owner of Bokissa resort. I was appalled by the decimation of these friendly reef sharks went ahead. As a dive club I thought maybe we could send a strong message to the owner of Bokissa resort letting him know of our strong disapproval anyway I thought I would share with you this article I got out of the Neapean dive newsletter.

P.S. John I have also inserted into this document some pictures of the 1997 shark feed the club did at Vanuatu, which you will see at the bottom of the second page....

Kind regards

Darren Pearce

Dear friends,

If you enjoy our shark feeding and if you love to see sharks, please take time to read this. We have a sad story to tell. Almost all the sharks at our shark feeding spot have been fished and killed. About four months ago, Quinton the manager at Bokissa Island resort and Peter Payne who was setting up the dive operation asked Aquamarine to stop feeding sharks at the shark feeding spot as it was putting people off swimming off the beach at Bokissa and they were concerned for their business and safety of guest. Kevin had explained that he had started the shark feed dive in 1988 from Bokissa Island resort and has built it up to one of the top shark feed dives in the world, attracting many tourist divers. He also explained that the sharks have never caused a problem in the last twelve years. As we lived and worked from Bokissa resort from 1988 to 1994 we

knew. No other operation have had a problem either, even though they do not feed the sharks. Bokissa suggested to him to shift the dive spot and offered to help us find a new location when they were bringing in the helicopter. Kevin welcomed this suggestion and said he would consider this if and when they could find an alternative, however in the meantime he wanted to continue running the shark feed dive. He also said he dived all around the place, and he didn't think they will find other places with the amount of sharks the current spot had. The shark-feeding reef was the natural home for these sharks and they were not attracted to the area. About two weeks from the phone call, Kevin did a couple of shark feeds and noticed a reduced number of sharks and those there were not feeding well. We had noticed once a year, around May/June there were always much fewer sharks to feed, so

he thought just the season had changed. Then Kevin was away on a working on a liveboard called "Nai'a" from Fiji for two weeks during mid March traveling from Port Villa to Santo. The guest on "Nai'a" were Americans, and Kevin did another shark feeding dive for them when they got to Santo they noticed only two sharks then, and they did not come near the feed. A family member of Bokissa staff advised me that Bokissa are killing the sharks. That time we were not sure why, and by who. I told Kevin as soon as he got off "Nai'a" and he rang Bokissa Island resort straightaway, and asked Quinton if he knows anything about it. He sounded confused, and said " I will find out from the staff" Kevin called back a couple of hours later and asked the same question. Quinton said, "yes, staff are doing it, but anything they do on their private time is their problem and nothing to do with the resort " was the answer. Bokissa Island resort is trying to promote as a "Eco" resort to protect marine life around Bokissa, and ignored their staff fishing on a popular dive site. Can you imagine how upset we were. We've been feeding them for the last twelve years. They always came to the feeding spot when we arrived, and wait to get fed, and disappear soon after feed is over. They never show interest in divers, they are only interested in fish. We sent a e-mail to a few people to advised them on what had happened, and trying to get their support on this, two days later we received a letter from Bokissa Island resort accusing us of suggesting that the Bokissa resort instructed their staff to kill sharks which we never said and that they are getting cancellations from it. They wanted us to apologise to them within 48hours,

otherwise they will take us to court to get compensation. Can you believe it? Their staff killed a lot of sharks, and we have to stop shark feeding and losing income from it and they want to get money from us because of what their staff did. Santo Tourism was concerned about this matter and had a public and had a public meeting and had a public meeting on the 29th of March and had a public meeting. Aquamarine, Allan Power dive tours, Deco stop lodge, Hotel Santo, Pro dive Santo and other business were present. Representatives from Bokissa Island resort were Allan Cort who is the owner son of Bokissa Island resort, and about thirty NI-Vanuatu resort staff. After Kevin explained to the people what had happened and a few other comments from other business. Patis Bani who is foreman of Bokissa island resort stood up and he apologised for what he and staff did, but Bokissa resort is now developed and having lots of guest staff and family and they are frighten of the sharks and one day one of them might get hurt and Allan Cort is well aware of it. Then Kevin tried to explain to Bokissa staff that the shark were always their before we started feeding, and the number of sharks has not changed since then and the shark feed was not attracting more sharks. Also we don't feed them on a regular basis sometimes twice a week, some time once a month so they are not relying on our feed. Also the shark feeding spot was not located on Bokissa Island reef it's a separate reef about five hundred metres away. Allan cort said sharks are natural to reef and oceans but what is not natural is humans going into the water and feeding them. He said once you people have left after feeding (talking to Kevin)

the sharks may be still looking for a free feed. He also said that it is the locals fishing for sharks and they do it all over the country and have done it for a long time. He also said for the last five or so years there has been no one coming to the island because the place was basically a dump, hence not many people living on the island, now with the new resort they have a lot of people staying as well as 50 to 60 locals living there. He also said the sharks might always be there if the feeding stopped but maybe they would not be so aggressive????) Bokissa Island also confirmed at the same meeting if aquamarine continue to feed sharks they would continue to kill them. Since then Kevin, set a time with Allan Cort to have another meeting to sort out the problem. But Allan Cort Canceled and was to call us to make another time, and he never called back to us. As many of you know we use to work on Bokissa Island resort for six years and had lots of diver's and non-diver's while we were there. But not once did the Staff at Bokissa (about 40staff including Patis Bani and their family) or guest comment that they don't want to swim of the beach because we conducted shark feeding on the near by reef. We would not conduct shark feeding if ever feeling any danger to any divers or staff and family of Bokissa. We were very surprised to hear Patis comments. We are still friends with Patis and all the staff we use to work with on Bokissa. We had never been told that the staffs on Bokissa were concerned about the danger of shark feeding until the meeting night after they killed all the sharks. I don't know why they came to see us and tell us when they started to be concerned about it. The only contact

and request we had was from the manager of Bokissa resort and he only spoke of concern for guest and business. The shark feed can not be relocated as the reef was the shark natural home and almost all the sharks have been killed. If left alone Possibly in a long time the sharks may return if we continue to feed them there, Bokissa has confirmed the sharks will be killed. That's why we must stop our shark feeding. Our concern now is if we stop feeding these sharks will they stop killing them? If the sharks naturally increase in numbers, will they be killed again? We don't want to give up shark feeding, it was a unique attraction for Vanuatu, not just aquamarine. How ever that reef was the natural home for those sharks. Sharks are randomly seen at other reefs but there are no other reefs in the immediate area where sharks gather naturally in numbers. We hope you understand why the shark feed has stopped, we welcome support or any ideas you may have.....As rumours run quickly around the diving industry we thought we owed you an explanation of what has occurred we welcome your comments.

Aquamarine



Beechworth 2000

It was a quieter group at Lake Sambal Caravan Park this year, The Truscotts, Brincatts, Michelle, Kellie and me. We were to be joined on Sunday by the Luxford party of 4 for the winery tour but until then, it was a very relaxing, peaceful time.... until Charlie started drinking the wine he'd bought on Saturday. This stuff was supposed to be heading for Melbourne - needless to say, not much of it did. The day was beautiful, with glorious sunshine and clear skies - just perfect for sipping a glass or two whilst sitting overlooking the lake. When the sun set and the weather became coolish, we headed for my cabin where the heating had been on all day. Everyone got so hot they had to take their clothes off. *I must remember that strategy !!*

A booking had been made for dinner at the pub and eventually we all trundled off to get ready. Unfortunately, the toil of the day took its toll on Charlie and he flaked out at 6:00 pm. Didn't even make it to the pub. Even his girls stayed up later than he did.

After dinner, it was off to our respective homes to get an early night in preparation for Sunday. The Luxfords met us at the park and the bus duly arrived at 9:30am to collect our motley crew. We gathered up another small group from the pub and headed off for what was to be the first of many wineries that day. I think we ended up at eight and the markets as well, so it was a very full day.

The weather was just perfect, unlike last year when it rained all day and everyone got covered in mud.

Our first stop was Buller's where the drinkers bought their wine glasses and proceeded with the wine tasting.

After that, it was Stantone and Kelleen's where a few vain souls tried for the "hole-in-one" but failed to win the prize. Judy

consoled Charlie by being the first to start the wine purchases..

At Campbells, there was much food, wine and music and some purchases were made by the Luxfords. However, they let the VSAG side down by only buying bread. Remember what the big book says "*man cannot live by bread alone*" so where was the wine? Good thing I bought some. Not to be outdone though, Judy arrived back at the bus with a box full of bottles.

Then it was off to the Rutherglen market for some real spending. I wish I could earn money as fast as I spend it. Two hours pay gone in half an hour. Not bad!

Our next winery was Pfeiffers. By this stage the day was quite warm and many layers of clothing had been shed. This had nothing to do with the amount of alcohol imbibed. By the time we'd finished at Cofields, the Brincatts were keeping the VSAG reputation afloat and the local economy buoyant with all the wine they'd purchased.

The rest of the afternoon became quite a blur although I do remember All Saints and making a last minute dash through Gehrigs after they'd closed for the day. How separate are we?

The trip back to Beechworth was a lot rowdier than the morning trip and although I promised not to write anything too rude, I can't help but comment on the appalling behaviour of one VSAG member who was offering young men a screw for \$5.00. Her husband was shocked. *He thought she was worth at least \$10.00.*

Hopefully, next year will see a few more VSAG'ers join in this wonderful weekend but if they don't, those of us who have already booked again will enjoy another "quiet" year.

Josie

Dive Into History

Queen's Birthday Weekend - June 2000

Judy Brincatt

The area now including Beechworth used to be known as Mayday Hills and was primarily used for grazing by a settler named David Reid. In February 1852, gold was discovered. By the end of 1852, the population had grown to 8,000. With the arrival of miners' families, and businesses to support the growing community, the makeshift timber and canvas gave way to more permanent buildings. The town was renamed Beechworth in 1853. More than four million ounces of gold were found in the first 14 years after it was discovered.

The townspeople realized that the gold wouldn't last forever, and considerable investment was made in public services such as an aged care hospital, general hospital, gaol, and a lunatic asylum. Beechworth's economic strength has subsequently lasted far longer than other gold rush settlements.

The buildings in Beechworth are substantial, and solidly built of the local stone, with many of them maintaining their original function. More than a day can be spent investigating the legacy of the 19th century in Beechworth.

I have visited Beechworth several times over the last 20 years, staying at The Old Priory and Tanswell's Commercial Hotel. More recently, the Brincats have stayed at Lake Sambell Caravan Park, in our own van, in one of their on-site vans, and this time we scored a cabin. A true home away from home, especially as it had snowed in Beechworth 2 weeks previously.

We arrived at about 6.00pm, after approximately 3 1/2 hours of Jane saying "Are we there yet?" Unpacking was achieved in record time (many hands make light work) and then it was off to Tanswell's Commercial Hotel for dinner. There is a wonderful cosy atmosphere here, with open fires in most rooms, and nice food.

Saturday dawned FROSTY, clear and sunny. I drew the short straw to defrost the car and collect breakfast from the Bakery. Beechworth Bakery enjoys a national reputation of excellence. There is such a huge variety that it would take many, many visits to sample everything. The girls enjoyed cinnamon donuts, and we had croissants that were better than any I had in France. Saturday's agenda was pretty busy: a drive through the University to see the beautiful gardens, followed by several hours poking around in the great variety of shops e.g. gem stones, home decorator and antique shops, and the Sweet Shop is something else! After lunch at the bakery, it was off to Pennyweight Winery, owned by Stephen Morris (of the Morris's of Rutherglen family). They have a small but excellent range of wines for tasting, as well as Pennyweight Dry Red, available in 1 litre refillable bottles (not for cellaring!). After travelling along the Gorge Scenic Drive, we returned to Lake Sambell. It was necessary to conduct quality assurance on some of our acquisitions

of the day, notably the PDR, which fell well within the normal range of acceptability. We were joined by Marie, Barry and Josie for the standard afternoon niceties, after which we adjourned to the Commercial for dinner. A good meal was had by all, and Jane found that the floor in a corner was as good a place as any to fall asleep with the help of Josie's jacket and scarf, and Barry's muscles to carry her to the car later.

Sunday dawned fine and frosty and after breakfast (from the bakery of course) our bus arrived to take us on the Winery Walkabout in Rutherglen. VSAG numbers were down on last year's, but not the enthusiasm of those who participated (Ross and Chris Luxford and Tamara, Jamima, Barrie and Marie, Josie, Michelle and Kellie). The perfect weather brought the wine tasters out in droves to enjoy the carnival atmosphere at historic places like Bullers, Campbells, Stanton and Killeen, Pfeiffers, All Saints, Cofields, Morriss's and Gehrigs. Most wineries had food available, many had jazz bands and various stalls, and there were free camel rides for the kids at All Saints. Unfortunately, we ran out of time for that, but promises have been made for the future. It was a tired and soggy crew that arrived back in Beechworth at about 6.00 pm, after a very enjoyable day. It was a fairly quiet night on Sunday.

After one last visit to the bakery, for morning tea, and Pennyweight Winery, for more Dry Red, we headed back to Melbourne.

We can thoroughly recommend a visit to Beechworth at any time of the year,

but especially for the VSAG Winery Walkabout Weekend. There is plenty to do in and around Beechworth, and a short drive to Chiltern or Yackandandah or El Dorado for a change of scene. There are good food venues, the Hibernian might be a pub to try next time, as well as several restaurants. All types of accommodation are available, but Lake Sambell Caravan Park is excellent, and camp fires can be organized with the help of the proprietor. Book early for next year, and secure your booking with a deposit, to avoid disappointment.

Christine rated the weekend 9 out of 10 (if it had snowed it would have been a 10), so it must have been good.



A WOMAN'S RANDOM THOUGHTS

Insanity is my only means of relaxation.

Reason to smile: Every 7 minutes of every day, someone in an aerobics class pulls a hamstring.

Women over 50 don't have babies because they would put them down and forget where they left them.

My mind not only wanders, it sometime leaves completely.

The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.

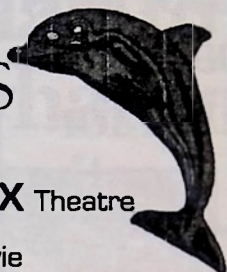
The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then, your body and your fat are really good friends.

I gave up jogging for my health when my thighs kept rubbing together and setting my pantyhose on fire.

You hang something in your closet for awhile and it shrinks two sizes!

COMING SOON

DOLPHINS



Join VSAG

Friday 28 July at the **IMAX** Theatre

for this spectacular movie

Contact Helen Fryday 9417 7513

"encounter dolphins in the wild"

Social Scene

FATHERS DAY

-- Bring Your Dad --

3 September

Lunch

Sophias Pizza House

857 Burke Road

Camberwell

12:30

\$16.00 pp

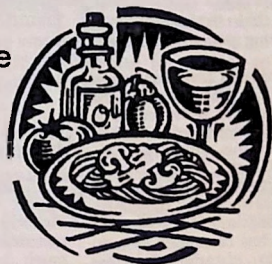
includes

Garlic Bread, Pizza, Pasta

Dessert & Coffee

Contact Helen Fryday

9417 7513



Notorious poacher jailed for 27 months

By ANDREW DARBY
HOBART

Notorious Victorian abalone poacher David Campbell Strachan was jailed for two years and three months yesterday after being described as a plunderer who had flagrantly defied the law.

The penalties are the latest in convictions spanning three decades against Strachan, who last year became the first person to be banned from Tasmania's waters on anything smaller than a 90-metre ship.

In March, he was caught with 2436 abalone on board his vessel in a dawn swoop by Tasmanian police at Deal Island in north-east Bass Strait.

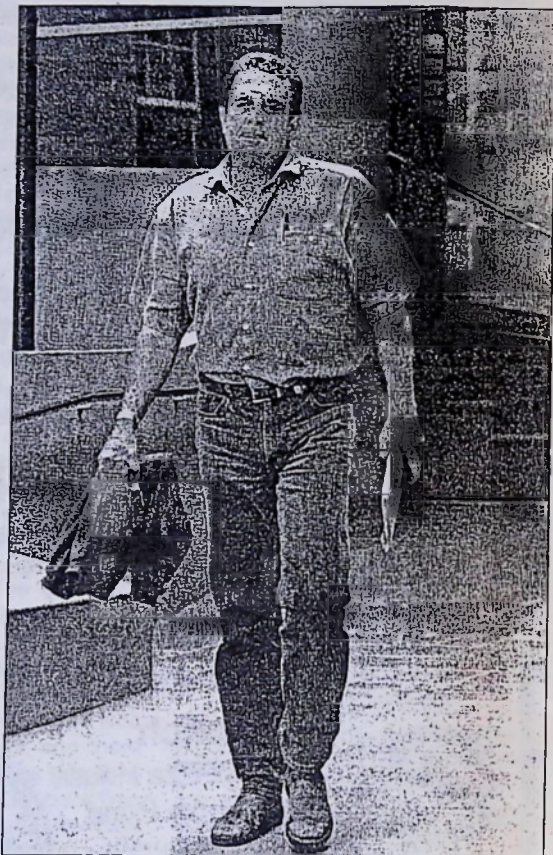
Last week, the 40-year-old bankrupt from Brighton East pleaded guilty to nine charges in the Hobart Magistrates Court, including three of failing to comply with a control order issued by the Supreme Court in January and one of hindering police and fisheries officers.

Tasmania's Chief Magistrate, Arnold Shott, said yesterday that breaches of the order could be properly characterised as flagrant defiance of the authority of the Supreme Court.

"It is apparent that in spite of court orders made and substantial penalties imposed in the past, the defendant has continued systematically to plunder fisheries resources for his own benefit, in clear violation of the law."

He sentenced Strachan to two years and three months' jail, and ordered to pay \$393,275 in fines, special penalties and costs at a rate of \$20,000 per year after he is released from prison.

Since 1972, poaching convictions have been recorded against Strachan in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.



Jail term: Convicted poacher David Strachan. Picture: ROGER LOVELL

A leading abalone diver in Tasmania, Scott McKibben, said although there were other poachers in Bass Strait who did as much damage, none were quite like Strachan.

"This particular individual has been quite open in the way he's operated," said Mr McKibben, vice-president of the Tasmanian Abalone Council.

"People were a little bewildered as to why he would pull up beside a legal diver and hop into the water. There are other operators as big, but they tend to be a bit more discreet."



Japanese plan to kill more whales

By **ANDREW DARBY**
TOKYO

Japan has confirmed for the first time plans to expand its controversial "scientific whaling" program to hunt more and bigger whales.

Sperm and Bryde's whales will be targeted in the hunt, which is condemned by environment groups and anti-whaling nations such as Australia.

Japanese Government officials disclosed that the program could start within months but said they would wait for comment from scientists at the upcoming meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Adelaide.

They admitted that their decision to raise the proposal at the Adelaide meeting in July could be seen as provocative because of its location in Australia, but said that was unfortunate.

They also denied having any intention to go after other whales, such as the blue or the humpback, but claimed there were large numbers of sperm and Bryde's whales.

Since a global moratorium on whaling began, Japan has confined its whaling to the minke, the smallest and most abundant of the baleen whales. Gradually its annual catch of this species has grown to more than 500.

The Japanese officials declined to comment on the proposal's details, but Greenpeace said Japan planned to take 10 sperm whales annually and 50 Bryde's whales, a catch that would significantly boost whale meat products in Japanese fish markets.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs fisheries division director Yoshiaki Ito said under special permit whaling, IWC rules let Japan set its own quotas for scientific research



Japanese whalers at work.

"We have no intention to resume big-scale commercial whaling any more. For example, we have no intention to catch a blue whale. The population is quite small, and a hunchback (humpback) also."

When the expansion was first reported earlier this month, Federal Environment Minister Robert Hill said he was astounded. "There is no scientific justification for whales to be killed in order to be studied," he said.

Mr Ito said it was a pity that the proposal was timed for Adelaide but that was because a five-year program in the North Pacific had ended and 2000 was the first year of a new program.

Japan is apprehensive about the Adelaide meeting, hosted by a vocal anti-whaling country. "We don't want to see unnecessary emotional discussions which may effect the bilateral relationship," said Akio Miyajima, director of the Oceania Division of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Most agree with rules

The 1998/99 survey asked recreational lobster licence holders for their views on some management regulations. Here are the responses:

- The current legal size limit for western rock lobster: too small 4.9%; too large 2.7%; about right 88.5%; don't know 3.7%
 - The current daily bag limit of eight lobsters a day: too low 5.3%; too high 10.6%; about right 83.6%; don't know 0.6% (Interestingly, fewer than 17% of respondents who fished managed to catch the bag limit more than 20% of the time during the 1998/99 season)
 - The current pot limit of two pots per person a day: too few 12.9%; too many 1.0%; about right 83.1%; don't know 3.0%
 - Percentage of respondents agreeing with suggested acceptable methods for fishing for rock lobsters: free diving 79%; SCUBA 61%; pots 94%; Hookah 41%; spears* 3%; loops 63%; shepherd's crook 35%
- (* spears are not a legal means for catching lobster in WA)

Seal numbers take dive

By **ANDREW DARBY**
HOBART

Once they were considered the most abundant large wild mammal in the world, but Antarctica's crabeater seal numbers are declining, a multi-nation survey has found.

Scientists say the crabeater, a predator of the shrimp-like krill, was thought to number 70 million.

But in building a picture of

the ecosystem before possible large-scale krill fishing, they say numbers of the two-metre silvery grey seals are now a fraction of earlier predictions.

In an attempt to solve the problem, a six-nation Antarctic Pack Ice Seal Survey was undertaken around much of Antarctica last summer.

Biologist Colin Southwell, who led an Australian survey, said: "The actual population level remains uncertain and is a major gap in the building of

models of the krill-based ecosystem."

An early estimate of numbers from the Australian survey found about one million in the region.

Crabeater seals are thought to spend almost their entire lives in the pack ice zone of Antarctica.

Dr Southwell said one factor affecting an accurate count was the unknown number of absent young seals that had gone foraging in the open sea.

DIVE CALENDAR

Date	Event Location	DC	Phone	Meeting Point	Time
JULY					
9	Nepean Wall	Andy	TBA	Sorrento	10:30am
15	Night Dive	Shane	9772 8881	TBA	TBA
20	General Meeting	<i>Guest Speaker - State Boating Council</i>			8:00pm
23	Mystery Dive	Gerry	9725 2381	Sorrento	9:30am
28	IMAX Theatre	Helen	9417 7513	IMAX	7:00pm
AUGUST					
6	Wreck Dive	Priya	9761 0960	Sorrento	9:30am
17	General Meeting	<i>Guest Speaker - Flinders Is. Crayfisher</i>			8:00pm
19	Night Dive	Shane	9772 8881	TBA	TBA
20	The Links	John L	9589 4020	Sorrento	9:30am
SEPTEMBER					
3	Fathers Day Lunch	Helen	9417 7513	Sophias	12:30pm
10	Kilcunda Drop Off	Shane	9772 8881		10:30am
9-10	Ski Weekend	Leo	9727 1568	Mt Hotham	
17	South Channel Wall	Gerry	9725 2381	Sorrento	9:00am
21	Annual General Meeting				8:00pm sharp
OCTOBER					
1	90' Sub	Pat	9789 1092	Sorrento	10:00am
15	Reubens Cave	John L	9589 4020	Sorrento	8:30am
19	General Meeting	<i>Guest Speaker - Barry Heard</i>			8:00pm
		<i>All boat owners should attend</i>			
NOVEMBER					
4-7	Ocean Grove	Andy	TBA	Ocean Grove	
19	Cape Schank	Shane	9772 8881	Flinders	9:30am
DECEMBER					
27	Batemans Bay	TBA			

Port Phillip Heads (Pt.Lonsdale) - Tides

Lat 38° 18'

Long 144° 37'

Time Zone -1000

Times and Heights of High and Low Waters.

July - 2000

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0331 1.47	17 0556 0.33	25 0524 1.31	Time m
SA 1110 1.47	SU 1301 1.44	TU 1057 0.50	25 0157 flood
2618 0.82	MO 1830 0.75	TU 1738 1.43	TU 0755 ebb
2238 1.32		2330 0.37	SU 1337 flood
2 0439 0.22	18 0026 1.24		2016 ebb
2 1213 1.55	SU 0641 0.30	26 0615 1.31	10 0306 flood
SU 1726 0.78	TU 1340 1.47	WE 1816 1.39	MO 1401 ebb
● 2346 1.36	1915 0.69		MO 0915 flood
3 0543 0.16	19 0111 1.27		2050 ebb
3 1310 1.63	WE 0722 0.29	27 0012 0.34	11 0400 flood
MO 1828 0.71	WE 1449 1.51	TH 1230 0.66	MO 1014 ebb
	1957 0.63	1901 1.35	TU 1458 flood
4 0048 1.41	20 0154 1.29		2126 ebb
4 0643 0.13	WE 0837 1.32	28 0100 0.30	12 0451 flood
TU 1404 1.67	TH 1449 1.51	FR 0822 1.32	12 1127 ebb
1925 0.64	2035 0.58	FR 1325 0.74	WE 1547 flood
5 0145 1.45	21 0235 1.31	1954 1.31	2205 ebb
5 0740 0.13	FR 0934 1.35	29 0156 0.27	13 0541 flood
WE 1455 1.56	FR 1523 0.80	SA 1430 0.80	13 1239 ebb
2019 0.56	2112 0.53	2057 1.29	TH 1654 flood
6 0239 1.47	22 0315 1.31		2251 ebb
6 0834 0.17	FR 0907 0.34	30 0302 0.25	14 0455 flood
TH 1544 1.68	SA 1556 1.52	SU 1545 0.81	14 1129 flood
2114 0.49	2146 0.49	2210 1.29	FR 1826 flood
7 0332 1.46	23 0356 1.31		2343 ebb
7 0927 0.23	SU 0940 0.38	31 0416 0.21	15 0715 flood
FR 1630 1.65	SU 1630 1.50	MO 1700 0.75	15 1443 ebb
2206 0.44	2220 0.45	● 2327 1.32	SA 1959 flood
8 0428 1.44	16 0505 0.36		1902 ebb
8 1016 0.32	SU 1217 1.40	24 0438 1.31	16 0041 ebb
SA 1714 1.60	SU 1737 0.80	MO 1703 1.47	16 0654 ebb
● 2258 0.40	○ 2337 1.23	● 2254 0.41	SU 1530 ebb
			○ 2102 flood

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Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams

Lat 38° 18'

Long 144° 37'

Time Zone -1000

Times of Start of Flood and Ebb (Slack) Water.

July - 2000

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0211 flood	9 0211 flood	17 0139 ebb	25 0157 flood
SA 1433 ebb	SU 0755 ebb	MO 0843 flood	TU 0755 ebb
SA 1929 flood	SU 1337 flood	MO 1609 ebb	TU 1317 flood
	2016 ebb	MO 2147 flood	1950 ebb
2 0021 ebb	10 0306 flood	18 0234 ebb	26 0235 flood
SU 1532 ebb	MO 0915 ebb	TU 0926 flood	WE 0857 ebb
● 2053 flood	MO 1401 flood	TU 1844 ebb	WE 1352 flood
3 0131 ebb	11 0400 flood	18 2224 flood	2017 ebb
MO 0853 flood	MO 1014 ebb	19 0324 ebb	27 0319 flood
MO 1623 ebb	TU 1458 flood	WE 1005 flood	TH 1012 ebb
2148 flood	2126 ebb	WE 1715 ebb	TH 1432 flood
4 0243 ebb	12 0451 flood	20 0410 ebb	2051 ebb
TU 0947 flood	12 1127 ebb	TH 1043 flood	28 0414 flood
TU 1708 ebb	WE 1547 flood	TH 1744 ebb	FR 1134 ebb
2237 flood	2205 ebb	FR 1811 ebb	FR 1527 flood
5 0351 ebb	13 0541 flood	21 0452 ebb	2135 ebb
WE 1751 ebb	13 1239 ebb	FR 1116 flood	29 0517 flood
2327 flood	TH 1654 flood	FR 1811 ebb	SA 1547 flood
6 0455 ebb	14 0629 flood	22 0014 flood	2234 ebb
TH 1830 ebb	FR 1826 flood	SA 0534 ebb	30 0629 flood
7 0830 ebb	2343 ebb	SA 1147 flood	SU 1840 flood
8 0115 flood	15 0715 flood	SA 1837 ebb	2350 ebb
FR 0555 ebb	15 1443 ebb	23 0047 flood	31 0739 flood
FR 1215 flood	SA 1959 flood	SU 1216 flood	MO 1512 ebb
1908 ebb	16 0041 ebb	○ 1902 ebb	MO 2024 flood
8 0115 flood	16 0654 ebb	24 0121 flood	
SA 1257 flood	○ 1943 ebb	MO 0703 flood	
○ 1943 ebb		MO 1246 flood	
		○ 1926 ebb	

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Port Phillip Heads (Pt. Lonsdale) - Tides

Lat 38° 18' Long 144° 37' Time Zone -1000

Times and Heights of High and Low Water. Add one hour for Official Summer Time

August - 2000

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m																																				
1 0528 0.17 1251 1.54 TU 1808 0.66	9 0001 0.30 0705 1.34 WE 1203 0.60 1837 1.36	17 0050 1.23 0702 0.30 TH 1345 1.42 1935 0.55	25 0652 1.33 1212 0.63 FR 1832 1.31	2 0033 1.38 0631 0.15 WE 1345 1.59 1909 0.56	10 0043 0.33 0759 1.30 TH 1247 0.68 1918 1.29	3 0134 1.44 0729 0.16 TH 1435 1.62 2006 0.46	11 0129 0.36 0853 1.26 FR 1336 0.75 2006 1.22	19 0219 1.32 0815 0.31 SA 1455 1.48 2047 0.41	27 0911 1.30 SU 1406 0.74 2036 1.23	26 0035 0.23 0758 1.30 SA 1303 0.69 1928 1.26	18 0136 1.28 FR 1420 1.45 2013 0.48	4 0230 1.47 0822 0.20 FR 1521 1.63 2100 0.37	12 0221 0.39 0948 1.25 SA 1436 0.79 2101 1.17	20 0301 1.36 0849 0.33 SU 1529 1.48 2121 0.36	28 1023 1.32 MO 1524 0.73 2159 1.23	28 0241 0.26 1023 1.32 MO 1524 0.73 2159 1.23	20 0301 1.36 0849 0.33 SU 1529 1.48 2121 0.36	5 0326 1.48 0912 0.26 SA 1603 1.61 2150 0.31	13 0324 1.38 1045 1.25 SU 1548 0.80 2202 1.14	21 0342 1.38 0926 0.37 MO 1601 1.46 2155 0.31	29 1130 1.37 TU 1645 0.66 ● 2319 1.28	29 0402 0.25 1130 1.37 TU 1645 0.66 ● 2319 1.28	21 0342 1.38 0926 0.37 MO 1601 1.46 2155 0.31	6 0421 1.47 0958 0.34 SU 1643 1.56 2236 0.28	14 0430 0.38 1140 1.28 MO 1701 0.77 2304 1.15	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	7 0516 1.43 1041 0.42 MO 1721 1.51 ● 2320 0.28	15 0529 0.35 1228 1.32 TU 1804 0.70 ○	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	8 0612 1.39 1122 0.51 TU 1759 1.44	16 0000 1.18 0619 0.32 WE 1309 1.37 1853 0.63	24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23			24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23
3 0134 1.44 0729 0.16 TH 1435 1.62 2006 0.46	11 0129 0.36 0853 1.26 FR 1336 0.75 2006 1.22	19 0219 1.32 0815 0.31 SA 1455 1.48 2047 0.41	27 0911 1.30 SU 1406 0.74 2036 1.23	26 0035 0.23 0758 1.30 SA 1303 0.69 1928 1.26	18 0136 1.28 FR 1420 1.45 2013 0.48	4 0230 1.47 0822 0.20 FR 1521 1.63 2100 0.37	12 0221 0.39 0948 1.25 SA 1436 0.79 2101 1.17	20 0301 1.36 0849 0.33 SU 1529 1.48 2121 0.36	28 1023 1.32 MO 1524 0.73 2159 1.23	28 0241 0.26 1023 1.32 MO 1524 0.73 2159 1.23	20 0301 1.36 0849 0.33 SU 1529 1.48 2121 0.36	5 0326 1.48 0912 0.26 SA 1603 1.61 2150 0.31	13 0324 1.38 1045 1.25 SU 1548 0.80 2202 1.14	21 0342 1.38 0926 0.37 MO 1601 1.46 2155 0.31	29 1130 1.37 TU 1645 0.66 ● 2319 1.28	29 0402 0.25 1130 1.37 TU 1645 0.66 ● 2319 1.28	21 0342 1.38 0926 0.37 MO 1601 1.46 2155 0.31	6 0421 1.47 0958 0.34 SU 1643 1.56 2236 0.28	14 0430 0.38 1140 1.28 MO 1701 0.77 2304 1.15	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	7 0516 1.43 1041 0.42 MO 1721 1.51 ● 2320 0.28	15 0529 0.35 1228 1.32 TU 1804 0.70 ○	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	8 0612 1.39 1122 0.51 TU 1759 1.44	16 0000 1.18 0619 0.32 WE 1309 1.37 1853 0.63	24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23			24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23						
4 0230 1.47 0822 0.20 FR 1521 1.63 2100 0.37	12 0221 0.39 0948 1.25 SA 1436 0.79 2101 1.17	20 0301 1.36 0849 0.33 SU 1529 1.48 2121 0.36	28 1023 1.32 MO 1524 0.73 2159 1.23	28 0241 0.26 1023 1.32 MO 1524 0.73 2159 1.23	20 0301 1.36 0849 0.33 SU 1529 1.48 2121 0.36	5 0326 1.48 0912 0.26 SA 1603 1.61 2150 0.31	13 0324 1.38 1045 1.25 SU 1548 0.80 2202 1.14	21 0342 1.38 0926 0.37 MO 1601 1.46 2155 0.31	29 1130 1.37 TU 1645 0.66 ● 2319 1.28	29 0402 0.25 1130 1.37 TU 1645 0.66 ● 2319 1.28	21 0342 1.38 0926 0.37 MO 1601 1.46 2155 0.31	6 0421 1.47 0958 0.34 SU 1643 1.56 2236 0.28	14 0430 0.38 1140 1.28 MO 1701 0.77 2304 1.15	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	7 0516 1.43 1041 0.42 MO 1721 1.51 ● 2320 0.28	15 0529 0.35 1228 1.32 TU 1804 0.70 ○	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	8 0612 1.39 1122 0.51 TU 1759 1.44	16 0000 1.18 0619 0.32 WE 1309 1.37 1853 0.63	24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23			24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23												
5 0326 1.48 0912 0.26 SA 1603 1.61 2150 0.31	13 0324 1.38 1045 1.25 SU 1548 0.80 2202 1.14	21 0342 1.38 0926 0.37 MO 1601 1.46 2155 0.31	29 1130 1.37 TU 1645 0.66 ● 2319 1.28	29 0402 0.25 1130 1.37 TU 1645 0.66 ● 2319 1.28	21 0342 1.38 0926 0.37 MO 1601 1.46 2155 0.31	6 0421 1.47 0958 0.34 SU 1643 1.56 2236 0.28	14 0430 0.38 1140 1.28 MO 1701 0.77 2304 1.15	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	7 0516 1.43 1041 0.42 MO 1721 1.51 ● 2320 0.28	15 0529 0.35 1228 1.32 TU 1804 0.70 ○	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	8 0612 1.39 1122 0.51 TU 1759 1.44	16 0000 1.18 0619 0.32 WE 1309 1.37 1853 0.63	24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23			24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23																		
6 0421 1.47 0958 0.34 SU 1643 1.56 2236 0.28	14 0430 0.38 1140 1.28 MO 1701 0.77 2304 1.15	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	30 0519 0.23 WE 1229 1.44 WE 1757 0.55	22 0424 1.39 1003 0.42 TU 1635 1.43 2230 0.27	7 0516 1.43 1041 0.42 MO 1721 1.51 ● 2320 0.28	15 0529 0.35 1228 1.32 TU 1804 0.70 ○	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	8 0612 1.39 1122 0.51 TU 1759 1.44	16 0000 1.18 0619 0.32 WE 1309 1.37 1853 0.63	24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23			24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23																								
7 0516 1.43 1041 0.42 MO 1721 1.51 ● 2320 0.28	15 0529 0.35 1228 1.32 TU 1804 0.70 ○	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	31 0624 0.36 TH 1321 1.50 1857 0.42	23 0507 1.38 1044 0.48 WE 1710 1.40 ● 2307 0.24	8 0612 1.39 1122 0.51 TU 1759 1.44	16 0000 1.18 0619 0.32 WE 1309 1.37 1853 0.63	24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23			24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23																														
8 0612 1.39 1122 0.51 TU 1759 1.44	16 0000 1.18 0619 0.32 WE 1309 1.37 1853 0.63	24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23			24 1126 0.55 TH 1747 1.35 2348 0.23																																				

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Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams

Lat 38° 18' Long 144° 37' Time Zone -1000

Times of Start of Flood and Ebb (Slack) Water. Add one hour for Official Summer Time

August - 2000

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start																		
1 0115 ebb 0843 flood TU 1600 ebb 2129 flood	9 0312 flood 0543 ebb WE 1430 flood 2042 ebb	17 0311 ebb 0950 flood TH 1641 ebb 2238 flood	25 0252 flood 0954 ebb FR 1421 flood 2017 ebb	2 0240 ebb 0940 flood WE 1644 ebb 2222 flood	10 0353 flood 1044 ebb TH 1513 flood 2115 ebb	3 0353 ebb 1030 flood TH 1723 ebb 2315 flood	11 0437 flood 1148 ebb FR 1607 flood 2154 ebb	19 0445 ebb 1101 flood SA 1733 ebb 2343 flood	27 0452 flood 1227 ebb SU 1628 flood 2214 ebb	4 0456 ebb 1117 flood FR 1800 ebb	12 0530 flood 1256 ebb SA 1725 flood 2242 ebb	5 0006 flood 0555 ebb SA 1200 flood 1835 ebb	13 0628 flood 1400 ebb SU 1912 flood 2348 ebb	21 0615 flood 0613 ebb MO 1203 flood 1824 ebb	29 0730 flood 1442 ebb TU 2014 flood ●	6 0057 flood 0651 ebb SU 1239 flood 1908 ebb	14 0727 flood 1455 ebb MO 2030 flood	7 0145 flood 0747 ebb MO 1315 flood 1939 ebb	15 0105 ebb 0820 flood TU 1537 ebb ○ 1913 ebb	23 0127 flood 0750 ebb WE 1309 flood 1913 ebb	31 0249 ebb 0933 flood TH 1610 ebb 2208 flood	8 0230 flood 0845 ebb TU 1351 flood 2010 ebb	16 0214 ebb 0908 flood WE 1611 ebb 2201 flood
3 0353 ebb 1030 flood TH 1723 ebb 2315 flood	11 0437 flood 1148 ebb FR 1607 flood 2154 ebb	19 0445 ebb 1101 flood SA 1733 ebb 2343 flood	27 0452 flood 1227 ebb SU 1628 flood 2214 ebb	4 0456 ebb 1117 flood FR 1800 ebb	12 0530 flood 1256 ebb SA 1725 flood 2242 ebb	5 0006 flood 0555 ebb SA 1200 flood 1835 ebb	13 0628 flood 1400 ebb SU 1912 flood 2348 ebb	21 0615 flood 0613 ebb MO 1203 flood 1824 ebb	29 0730 flood 1442 ebb TU 2014 flood ●	6 0057 flood 0651 ebb SU 1239 flood 1908 ebb	14 0727 flood 1455 ebb MO 2030 flood	7 0145 flood 0747 ebb MO 1315 flood 1939 ebb	15 0105 ebb 0820 flood TU 1537 ebb ○ 1913 ebb	23 0127 flood 0750 ebb WE 1309 flood 1913 ebb	31 0249 ebb 0933 flood TH 1610 ebb 2208 flood	8 0230 flood 0845 ebb TU 1351 flood 2010 ebb	16 0214 ebb 0908 flood WE 1611 ebb 2201 flood						
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EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**MORNINGTON PENINSULA AREA**

POLICE - AMBULANCE - FIRE	000
ROSEBUD HOSPITAL 1527 NEPEAN HWY ROSEBUD	5986 0666
FRANKSTON HOSPITAL HASTINGS ROAD FRANKSTON	9784 7777
THE BAYS HOSPITAL MAIN STREET MORNINGTON	5975 2009
MORNINGTON BAY RESCUE SERVICE	0419 233 999
SOUTHERN PENINSULA RESCUE	5984 4555
DIVING EMERGENCY SERVICE	1800 088 200
COAST GUARD (HASTINGS)	5979 3322
COAST GUARD (SAFETY BEACH)	5981 4443
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (SES)	26 14 68
WATER POLICE	9534 2983
MELBOURNE AMBULANCE	11 44 0

DOCTORS DIVING MEDICINE

DR GUY WILLIAMS	ROSEBUD	5981 1555
DR J DE BJ DADE	MORNINGTON	5975 5288

RECENT VANUATU TRIP

Some
happy
party
goers



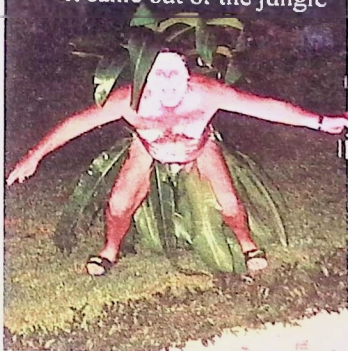
Who
are these
men in
white



Most of the Vanuatu crew



It came out of the jungle



ooh! It
really
is a gum



The
truth
revealed

