

FATHOMS

JUNE - JULY 2001

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Our Cover Girl is the infamous Pat 'The Rat' Reynolds. Photo courtesy Des Williams

VSAG

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 19 July
Thursday 16 August
Thursday 20 September

Forthcoming Committee Meetings

Leighoak Hotel
1555 Dandenong Road
Oakleigh
Thursday 12 July
Thursday 9 August
Thursday 13 September

Editorial Submissions To

Josie Maré
PO Box 6618
600 St Kilda Road Central
Melbourne Vic 8008
0418 791 221 mobile
scatcat@ozemail.com.au

ACN 004 591 575

VSAG Committee Members** SDF Delegates***President**

Peter Vleugel*
 22 Bay Road
 Mount Martha 3934
 5974 3191 (home)
 5974 3200 (work)
 0418 315 484 (mobile)
 crest.bco@satllnk.com.au

Newsletter Editor

Josie Maré
 PO Box 6618
 600 St Klida Road Central
 Melbourne Vic 8008
 9529 2218 (home)
 0418 791 221 (mobile)
 scatcat@ozemail.com.au

Vice President

Andy Mastrowicz*
 224 Wattle Valley Road
 Camberwell 3124
 9809 0984 (home)
 9201 7117 (work)
 0402 060 711 (mobile)
 andrew.mastrowicz@agl-vic.com

Assistant Newsletter Editor

Bruce Dart
 12 Alicudi Avenue
 Frankston 3199
 9787 6318 (home)
 0407 331 544 (mobile)
 maritek@peninsula.hotkey.net.au

Secretary

John Mills
 10 Wells Avenue
 Boronia 3155
 9781 0960 (home)
 9369 2377 (work)

Social Secretary

Helen Fryday
 113 Turner Street
 Abbotsford 3067
 9417 7513 (home)
 9329 1077 (work)

Assistant Secretary

Leo Maybus
 2 Olsen Court
 Mooroolbark 3138
 9727 1568 (home)
 0418 375 102 (mobile)

Assistant Social Secretary

John Lawler*
 7 Cloris Avenue
 Beaumaris 3193
 95894020 (home)
 0414 922 916 (mobile)
 jylawler@tpgl.com.au

Treasurer

Priya Cardinaletti
 PO Box 864
 Boronia 3155
 9761 0960 (home)
 0414 310 727
 pcardina@vicnet.net.au

Points Scorer

Gerry DeVries
 16 Vitner Avenue
 Croydon 3136
 9725 2381 (home)
 0417 324 608 (mobile)

Assistant Treasurer

Meg Johnson
 148 Brunswick Road
 Brunswick 3056
 9387 6519 (home)
 0411 253 489 (mobile)

Safety Officer

Pat Reynolds
 14 Nuria Court
 Frankston 3199
 9789 1092 (home)
 0407 334 276 (mobile)

Property Officer

Pat Reynolds
 14 Nuria Court
 Frankston 3199
 9789 1092 (home)
 0497 334 276 (mobile)

PR & Meetings Coordinator

Meg Johnson
 40 Keith Street
 Alphington 3078
 9499 6654 (home)
 0411 253 489 (mobile)

Editorial

As I was checking through my computer files, I noticed that the June - July 2000 edition of Fathoms was the first one I put together with John Lawler as editor. It was an exciting time for everyone concerned and for VSAG as a club.



The role of editor has been really time consuming and sometimes difficult but ultimately rewarding. I realise I nag everyone about sending articles in and the thanks you receive at our meetings may not sound like much - but it is genuine and heartfelt. Without the people who have put an effort into the magazine, we simply wouldn't have one. So on that note, I want to say a really big **THANK YOU** to every one who has sent articles, particularly for this edition. I am completely overwhelmed by the response we've had to date and this has happened quite spontaneously, without any nagging this time.

We have some very important business to attend to soon and that's the election of a new committee. There's more information about this in Fathoms and I hope you will all give some consideration to nominating for committee positions. I won't pretend it's easy. It takes time, commitment, and dedication but knowing that you're doing something to benefit everyone in VSAG and have some influence in the direction of the club, is a great feeling and just like my role as editor, ultimately rewarding.

We have another guest speaker soon, a fabulous wine offer, some very interesting stories and with all the news about marine parks and whales, a mountain of media watch. So please, read on. Your bumper edition of Fathoms awaits

Josie
Editor

**CODE OF PRACTICE
RECOMMENDED FOR RECREATIONAL DIVING
WITHIN THE CHANNELS OF PORT PHILLIP**

Article supplied by Des Williams

No dive boat shall anchor within the confines of a defined shipping channel.

No diving activities shall impede shipping.

No diving activities will commence within 1 hour of the expected arrival of a ship.

No diving activities will commence if a ship is observed approaching the dive site.

All dive boats should be fitted with a communications radio:

- preferably VHF marine, and or 27 Mhz marine.

Shipping arrivals will attempt to be determined by one of the following means:

- By contacting Coast Guard Queenscliff or Melbourne, on 27.880 Mhz, or Ch16 VHF, who can be asked to ascertain shipping traffic details.
- By contacting Dive Radio Relay (DIS1) on Ch72 VHF.
- By monitoring Dive Radio Relay (DIS1) traffic on Ch72 VHF.

No dive boat shall be left unattended.

Person/s attending to the dive boat should be skilled in its use and in diver retrieval, and have experience of the dive area / conditions.

A diver recall signal of 3 short revs of the boat motor should be used to recall divers in the event of approaching ships.

On the imminent approach of a ship, dive boats unable to recover divers should alert the ship of their location and situation:

- via VHF radio Ch16, directly with the ship, or via Lonsdale lighthouse.
- via Coast Guard Queenscliff or Melbourne on 27.880 Mhz or Ch16.

All dive boats should remain within the general area of the divers.

All slack water dives should be conducted on or near a shot line with surface marker.

All drift dives should be conducted on a drift line with surface marker.

All dive boats shall display a dive flag whilst divers are in the water.

All dive boats shall comply with boating regulations and be registered.

All dive boats should be in a seaworthy and reliable condition.

All divers should have experience of the dive area / conditions or be mentored by a diver with such experience.



THE SDF-V SUNKEN ASSETS SEMINAR

on the wreck

CITY of LAUNCESTON

Des Williams

On Wednesday evening, 6th June, the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria held its mini seminar at the fabulous Storey Hall, RMIT.

This excellent evening was co-sponsored very generously by the RMIT Underwater Club, who saw that drinks and food were available as well as marshaled for us. A great group of people!

The three Heritage Victoria staff presenting on the evening were: Peter Harvey, Manager of the Maritime Heritage Unit, Ross Anderson and Jenny Dickens, senior conservator.

I especially want to say thank you to the VSAGers, who made the effort to attend and support your SDF-V. The speakers were very interesting indeed and it is astounding just how much underwater Heritage we have out there for our children to appreciate.

Can I take this opportunity also, to advise of a brilliant website on the Net, if you are still sceptical about the value of underwater heritage sites. Visit:

www.hunley.org

See for yourself, the amazing discoveries being made in "real time" by archaeologists working on the raised American Civil War submarine H. L. Hunley. This was the first ever submarine to successfully torpedo and sink an enemy ship. The sub has been raised completely intact and the archaeologists have now entered the wreck and are recovering the remains of the eight-man crew and their personal belongings. Look for the story about Lt. Dixon's \$20 gold piece lucky charm, you won't believe your eyes. This sub and its story and place in American history is a legend and it is just now all being relived. This is truly, what underwater heritage is all about!!!



A man walks into a chemist shop with his 8-year old son. They walk by the condom display and the boy asks, "What are these Dad?" The man matter-of-factly replies, "Those are called condoms son. Men use them to have safe sex."

"Oh", replied the boy. "Yes, I've heard about that in health class at school." He picks up a pack of 3 and asks "Why are there 3 in this pack?" The father replies "Those are for high-school boys, one for Friday, one for Saturday and one for Sunday."

"Cool" says the boy.

He notices a 6-pack and asks, "Then who are these for?" "Those are for boys at university," the father answers. "Two for Friday, two for Saturday and two for Sunday."

"WOW" exclaimed the boy. "Then who uses these?" he asks, picking up a 12-pack. "Those are for married men. One for January, one for February, one for"



My Blue Heaven

SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2001

John Lawler

From time to time I have written articles for our magazine which have appeared under a heading called "diving in heaven". These are stories about particular dives that are out of the ordinary, or put another way, were extraordinary. Dives that have such an impact, they leave an everlasting impression on ones mind. I'm sure all divers have these memories.

The four that are foremost in my mind are diving with Mick Jeacle off ShortlandBluff in this big round reef area on the slack tide, in water that was so clear I could see Mick and he, me probably 60/70 feet away and we both looked up from the ledges we were working on and could see each others eyes. (We didn't need glasses back then). If we didn't have regs in our mouths, we would have had grins from ear to ear. Diving on the stern of the President Coolidge and dropping free fall into the swimming pool at 190 feet down! Fantastic. Diving with Leo Maybus on the south side of Skull Rock and at a depth of around 100ft looking back up the wall into brilliant sunlight and seeing the area teeming with fish life of all types. Just a most wonderful experience.

More recently, another great adventure, again off the Shortland Bluff area, with Barry Truscott. We had been diving around the various reefs in crystal clear water when just at the end of the dive

we entered an area that was like swimming along the base of a big high canyon. High walls on side, deep ledges and small caves, together with the most stunning beauty imaginable. Now Bazz is not a man known to wax lyrical too often, but after this dive he was full on with excitement and was heard to say it was the best dive he'd had in the bay! All these dive experiences were like diving in heaven and sights never to be forgotten. There are many, many other dives that I can recall, like the time I caught my first 10lb crayfish. I can still see this monster just sitting out on his ledge under an overhang covered with a bit of kelp. It is still there in the picture gallery of my mind. (Lots of other things are not, unfortunately!)

So to the dive on 4 June. Looking ahead on Tuesday the weather pattern for the weekend was very promising and as no club dive was listed I decided to put a private dive on. A few phone calls to the regular divers in this club was a shocker as all were on other missions, which did not include diving! However Bruce Dart met the call of the sea and my mate Charlie Brincat agreed to be the boat captain. A good team! We hit the Sorrento ramp and got underway by 9:15. A brief chat to Ocean Diver captain Adrian Kellett re their dive plans (we may have needed a wreck to dive on and we don't as yet have a GPS on my boat) and we headed for the Rip. The

wind direction had already changed from due North to South West as predicted but it was falling rapidly. The strong Northerly which had been blowing most of the week flattened the swells and the back beaches were ideal so we headed down East of London Bridge where Charlie found some promising reef in record time. Over the side, we fell into water where the vis was around 50ft...nice. We found the reef and started to work the ledges. Bruce was a bit hot and found some crays up on a ledge. We managed two. The rest of the reef was just great, interesting diving with holes and small drop offs.

Back on board we decided to head back into the bay in time to catch the slack water at 11:50. By now the cloud cover had gone letting the wonderful winter sun through clear blue skies. The wind had died right off and the bay was as flat as a pancake...just too good. Charlie again found some promising territory and over the side we fell. The sight below was just fantastic as we could see the bottom of the bay from 60ft. All the reef was visible from the top and we could see precisely where the best territory was and off we went. The next

45minutes was simply diving in heaven! We swam over drop offs, poked into ledge after ledge each producing an assortment of fish life. We saw one deep ledge and upon moving in we were greeted by a very inquisitive cuttle fish which came out to greet us and did a bit of a show for us...great experience! We covered a lot of territory as there was so much to see we didn't want to miss this rare opportunity to see the bay at it's all time best, but time had come and up we came. Interestingly, while the territory was the best cray territory possible, not on feeler was to be seen!

After lunch we decided to collect a few abalone for dinner and completed the day's diving with a twenty-minute splash.

These rare diving days are what it is all about and if divers are in a position to go diving, the advise from the great man of fishing Rex Hunt sums it all up.... "watch the weather and when you can see that quality time is to be had, go for it". We did just that and we were richly rewarded with some diving in heaven!



Threat to parks plan

Proposals for marine parks appear set to fail unless the Victorian Government ditches plans to prevent fishers from seeking compensation.

The minority Bracks Government needs the support of at least two of the three independents on the bill which would set up 12 marine parks and remove fishers' right to sue for lost earnings.

One independent, abalone licence-holder Craig Ingram, cannot vote because of conflict of interest, while Mildura MP Russell Savage has said he would seek to have the no-compensation clause scrapped if necessary.

The Age has learned the Liberals would not support the plan. A source said that while the principle of marine parks would be considered, a blanket ban on compensation claims was out of the question.

National Party leader Peter Ryan accused the government of "hiding" a "wide prohibition" that would stop all fishers from seeking compensation.

GABRIELLE COSTA

GPS Navigation Roto Mahana Case Study

by Steve Jacoby

"I remember the good old days when real divers found their favorite sites using imperceptible marks on a hazy horizon, or looked for a rusty tinge in the sea". Doesn't seem too long ago that this was the case. I'm sure we can all recall many hours spent trolling up and down searching a desert-like bottom or waiting for the mist to clear from the coast so we can get the bearings needed to locate a mark.

The introduction of GPS (Global Positioning System) has certainly changed the way we locate most of our dive locations today, but unless 'Dive Victoria' has already done the hard work for us and has a buoy over our favorite wreck it is not unusual for it to take **"just a few minutes"** for the VSAG Dive Captain to place the anchor in the conning tower or down the funnel.

However, as a privileged passenger on a number of these outings I confess to being alarmed at how quickly the crew can turn nasty when the Captain fails to come up with the goods: this can vary of course, but my experience with VSAG shows that around 2 minutes is the average time allowed before dissent starts to rise.

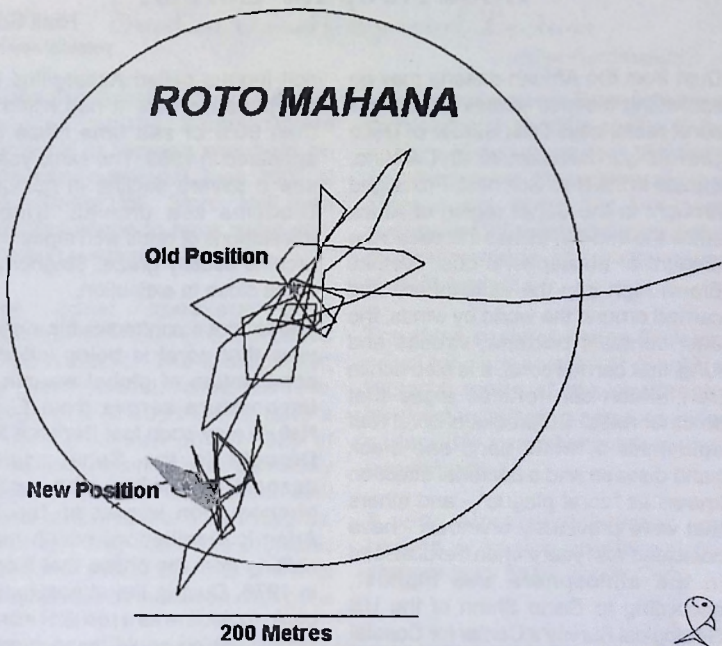
This is of course very unfair, as with only one or two exceptions, the failure to find a wreck first go is explained by science and has nothing to do with the competence or skill of the boat driver. It is true that the days of 'real navigation'

(before GPS) are gone, but there is more to driving a boat to a GPS coordinate and looking down than meets the eye. To explain this further I'd like to use an example from a recent club dive.

The 90' sub was the original plan for 6 May, but a fine day and a loyal crew happy to be placed in Gerry's capable hands saw us head for the Roto Mahana instead. Out through the heads and a course was plotted to the site using the coordinate reference in Gerry's GPS. Now because the computer is a very sophisticated bit of kit it is entirely reasonable for it to be deemed infallible. The other variable in the equation is of course the boat driver and as indicated before they are always given a fair go. I should have mentioned that the other divers on the boat this day were Mick Jeacle and Ian Draper. Suffice to say it took all of 5 seconds once we reached the site before Mick tossed Gerry out of the driver's seat like a broken toy and took charge of the search.

Cutting a very long story short, about 45 minutes later we were nicely anchored over the Roto Mahana and had a terrific dive. But why did it take this long to find the wreck? Is this just the way it is? Was this actually pretty fast? Will Gerry ever be allowed to drive his boat again? So many questions, so few answers...

What took place on the morning of 6 May actually has more to do with science than anything else and can be better understood by looking at the boat track from that day (see next page).



Boats banned as whales visit beach

By RICHARD BAKER

The State Government has enforced an unprecedented ban on boats at a Victorian beach after the arrival of a whale and her calf.

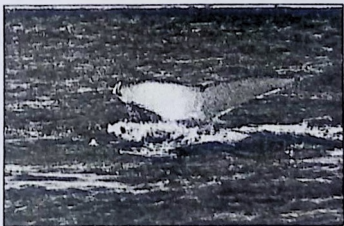
The boating ban at Warrnambool's Logans Beach is the first since legislation to protect southern right whales was introduced this year.

Under the ban, which came into effect on Thursday, boats are required to stay up to six kilometres from the whales.

Environment Minister Sherryl Garbutt said the restriction on all forms of boating activity would be lifted when there was strong evidence whales had left the area.

Whales usually came to Logans Beach only between June and October, Ms Garbutt said.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment's flora and fauna manager for the



Making a splash.

Picture: LIAM DRIVER

south-west, Ian Hastings, said Logans Beach was an important haven for whale cows and their calves.

Although only one pair had been confirmed in the area, there were reports of whale activity along the nearby coastline, suggesting other

pairs could be headed for Logans Beach.

Despite complaints from a few charter boat operators, Warrnambool City Council said yesterday it supported the ban.

The council's economic development officer, David Keenan, said Tourism Victoria data showed the presence of whales was worth more than \$17 million to Warrnambool each year. "Only a very small amount of people actually watch the whales from boats. By far the overwhelm-

ing majority watch from the viewing platforms on Logans Beach."

Despite the boat ban, Mr Keenan said the council still had some concerns about the whales. Along with Deakin University, it had been investigating whether the Basslink electricity project, which will join the Tasmanian and Victorian electricity grids, would have any effects on the mammals.

"We have a few concerns about the impact of Basslink's electromagnetic emissions and what they could or could not do to migrating whales," Mr Keenan said.

● Researchers have reported a big increase in whale sightings off Australia's most easterly point. The annual count of humpback whales migrating past Byron Bay ended yesterday with about 550 sighted in two weeks — up from 336 last year, but still well down on the 1930s, when more than 400 were sighted in one weekend.

Good News for Corals?

Niall Somers

potential new member

Dust from the African deserts may be spreading disease across the world's coral reefs, says Dick Barber of Duke University in Beaufort, North Carolina, quoted in the *New Scientist*. Prolonged drought in the Sahel region of Africa since the mid-1970s has increased the amount of atmospheric dust fivefold. Blown high into the atmosphere and carried around the world by winds, the dust contains bacteria, viruses and fungi that can kill coral. It is also rich in iron, which can fertilise algae that smother reefs. Outbreaks of coral reef epidemics of white band and black band disease and a bacterial infection known as "coral plague" - and others that were previously unknown - have coincided with years when the dust load in the atmosphere was highest, according to Gene Shinn of the US Geological Survey's Center for Coastal Geology at St Petersburg, Florida. The strongest evidence linking African dust and coral disease is the spread of a

soil fungus called *Aspergillus* in the Caribbean, where it has killed more than 90% of sea fans since it first appeared in 1983. The same year also saw a severe decline in numbers of *Diadema* sea urchins, triggering infestations of reefs with algae that the urchins usually graze. Staghorn coral came close to extinction.

These ideas contradict the prevailing view that coral is being killed by a combination of global warming and temperature surges from El Niño. Nature may soon test Barber's theory. Drought in the Sahel region is associated with the climate phenomenon known as the North Atlantic Oscillation, which may be shifting from the phase that it entered in 1976. Dust in the atmosphere may begin to decline as a result of increased rainfall, which could mean a reprieve for the reefs.



Mt Hotham Ski Weekend 31 August - 2 September

for details and bookings,
contact Leo 9727 1568

Deposit required now



Remains may be Donald Campbell's

LONDON. Divers have discovered human remains close to the spot where Donald Campbell's powerboat, *Bluebird*, was recovered in March from Coniston Water in Cumbria. Campbell, 45, died 34 years ago when he spun out of control as he sped across the water at 477.8 kmh. DNA testing will be carried out.

Sunken Assets Special Lecture

Priya Cardinaletti

The Sunken Assets Special Lecture organised by the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria was held on Wednesday evening 6 June 2001 at RMIT's Storey Hall. Storey Hall is an impressive venue to have some very interesting speakers.

Three guest speakers gave presentations on the night, introduced by Des Williams. The first speaker, Peter Harvey, Director of the Maritime Heritage Unit (MHU) Victoria, gave a fascinating lecture on the City of Launceston shipwreck from its history through to artefacts and current work undertaken on this site. It lies in approx. 70 ft of very silty water in a protected zone in Port Phillip Bay and is a time capsule full of information on days gone by.

The second speaker Ross Anderson, archaeologist at MHU spoke of the many wrecks along the Victorian shipwreck coast. The history of these ships is very interesting and many remains are left today under the water, on the coastline and in museums along the coast.

The third speaker Jenny Dickens, principal conservator at Heritage Victoria spoke of the challenges involved in bringing some of those underwater treasures back to their original state.

A very informative evening was enjoyed by all, with snacks supplied afterwards by RMIT Scuba Club.



Marine park law to be rewritten

By STEPHEN CAUCHI
and CLAIRE MILLER

Slippy drafting of marine parks legislation has forced the government to rewrite its laws, attracting criticism from both sides of politics.

The legislation relates to the creation of Victoria's 12 marine national parks, within which fishing will be banned. It includes clauses that ban compensation for fishermen who work within the marine park boundaries.

However, the legislation would also have banned fishermen from seeking compensation for loss of proprietary rights in any legal dispute.

The nine-member scrutiny of acts and regulations committee — five of whom are government backbenchers — reported yesterday that they were "concerned" by the original legislation.

"The no-compensation payable clauses... appear very broad and, on the face of them, may remove any claim for compensation whether or not such a claim touches or concerns the creation of the marine parks and the sanctuaries established by the bill," said the committee's publication, *Alert Digest*.

"If the provisions do have such a wide ambit they may trespass on proprietary rights." The Minister for Energy and Resources, Candy Broad, was forced

to admit in parliament yesterday that the government had stuffed it up, drawing guffaws of delight from the opposition.

"The government has clearly stated what its intentions are in relation to the legislation that is coming before the parliament in regards to compensation," she said.

"The government has also indicated in response to public comment on this matter that the government's intentions have not been translated in accordance with the government's drafting instructions."

Ms Broad said the matter would be corrected "as soon as is possible" so parliament could pass the law.

Also yesterday, Bayside City Council urged the government to reinstate Ricketts Point as a no-take marine sanctuary, saying it had ignored overwhelming community support for the proposal.

Mayor Simon Russell, who led a protest of about 150 people yesterday, said a political decision was made to appease the recreational fishing lobby when Ricketts Point was dropped from a list of recommended marine national parks.

He said a sanctuary at Ricketts Point would deter people illegally collecting shellfish. Marine scientists had advised that the reef's depleted biodiversity would rebound within two years if protected and fishing stocks would be replenished.

TWO SIDES OF THE BRAIN

Niall Somers

Two research studies into whether diving and brain damage are linked have reached contradictory conclusions. One says "yes", the other says "no".

One project, conducted on German Navy divers by Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel, compared 25 non-divers with a similar number of divers averaging more than 15 years' diving activity and over 1500 dives. Brain scans were taken, and tests made for mental abilities and motor skills. The study found no differences between patterns for the two groups, concluding that long-term diving was safe if decompression illness was avoided. It said previous studies which had found links between diving and brain damage had used divers who, unlike the Kiel project volunteers, had suffered from DCI.

Meanwhile, a study by the University of Berne in Switzerland concluded that long-term diving might be a factor in causing brain damage, in addition to the more accepted link between brain

effects and incidences of DCI. Scans were taken of 52 divers and 52 non-divers.

41 lesions [damaged tissue] were found in 19 of the divers, compared to seven in six non-divers. The affected divers had not performed more or deeper dives than those unaffected. The incidence of lesions in divers thus rose fivefold - more than could be accounted for by the percentage of divers calculated to suffer bends. The conclusion is that either more divers suffer mild bends, with subsequent brain damage, without realising they have suffered a hit, or that diving over time is a factor in causing brain damage.

"It goes to show that DCI is not fully understood, and that we still have much to learn," said Dr Phil Bryson of the Diving Diseases Research Centre. "Anyone who says otherwise is talking rubbish. These studies represent food for thought, but I'd put them into the 'interesting but a long way to go' category."

Stgwgd Rabbit

A little rabbit is happily running through the forest when he stumbles upon a giraffe rolling a joint. The rabbit looks at her and says "Giraffe my friend, why do you do this? Come with me running through the forest and you'll see, you'll feel so much better!"

The giraffe looks at him, looks at the joint, tosses it and goes off running with the rabbit. Then they come across an elephant snorting coke so the rabbit says "my friend, why do you do this? Think about your health. Come running with us through the pretty forest, you'll feel so good!" The elephant looks at them, looks at his razor, mirror and all, then tosses them and starts running with the rabbit and giraffe. The three animals then come across a lion about to shoot up. "Lion my friend, why do you do this? Think about your health!... Come running with us through the sunny forest, you'll feel so good!" The lion looks at him, puts down his needle and starts to beat the daylight out of the little rabbit. As the giraffe and elephant watch in horror, they ask "Lion, why did you do that? He was merely trying to help us all". The lion answers, "that little bastard! He makes me run around the forest like an idiot for hours every time he's on ecstasy".

VSAG Guest Speaker

Thursday 16 August

Dr Mary-Anne Shir

will discuss

Undaria

its life cycle and introduction to Port Phillip Bay
its effects on native marine flora and fauna
the implications of its introduction
and much more

Please support your club and our guest speakers.
Come along to these interesting and informative evenings.



Car Rally and BBQ

Sunday 23 September



11am check-in to pick up RALLY PACKAGE
at McDonald's Car Park
Nepean Highway, Mornington (near Cnr Tyabb Road)
(note changed check-in venue)

Come along and enjoy a picturesque drive through the beautiful
Mornington Peninsula, including Arthurs Seat, Red Hill,
Merricks and Mt. Martha

Then join us at Joseph Harris Park for a BYO BBQ lunch.
There's a pavilion, some seats, a (kids) play ground and room to run around.

Fun day for everyone. Prizes for the winners
Contact Peter Vleugel on 9787 1284 or 5974 3191

Submarine Life With a Difference

Circa 1969

A letter from OEM1 Davy Jones, a new Submariner, to his brother Paul at home

Niall Somers

Dear Paul,

Now that we have settled down after returning from our first patrol I am writing, as promised, to give an account of the sort of life on board a Polaris Submarine during patrol.

When we left in June, the summer appeared to have ended and we were going to miss all the bad weather, so morale was good! It didn't take long for us to look forward to any kind of weather, good or bad! It's surprising how pale everyone looks after a few weeks under a fluorescent sun. After a while the medical technician had a very good attendance for his daily sun lamp treatment, but enthusiasm waned and eventually he was the only one on board with a ruddy complexion! Even he wrapped it in and never bothered again until we were on our way back in after the nine weeks submerged.

Everything is so new for those of us newly qualified submariners, so different from surface ships. On the surface at least you can see the horizon in daytime, and the stars at night, but here on the Boat the most you can see is about twenty feet, maximum. It is strange to think that there is only three inches of steel between you and the ocean. Most of us never think about it as there is no point. If you let yourself ponder too much on things like that, or your home life, girlfriend, etc., you would probably go crazy in the end. 'Don't let it get to you,' is the attitude you make yourself keep up.

Most days during the patrol are taken up with routine maintenance and watchkeeping, broken from time to time with a major evolution or a Weapons System check. A Weapon System check is initiated by the Operational Commander. The reason for these drills is to get everybody used to

getting the boat ready to fire missiles at a moment's notice. Funnily enough, firing the missiles for real is a thing that is never mentioned in the Mess, as there would be nothing to come back to then, I suppose. The general attitude is one of just doing the job for which you are trained. The most popular points of discussion were whether rum should be done away with (hotly contested by the old salts!), the new pay rise and what we were all going to do during the off-crew period. As we are the Starboard Crew, the Port Crew take over when we return to base, for the next 4 months or so.

Evenings on board consist of a film show on most nights; we carry a very good selection of feature films on board. Wednesday evening was Quiz night with a three cornered contest between the wardroom, senior rates and junior rates. Based on the style of 'University Challenge,' it is very popular and draws an enthusiastic audience. For those who didn't wish to watch the evening film there was always the senior rates' annexe, later known as the 'Uckers' room, or the recreation space in the fore ends. ('Uckers' by the way, is like Ludo with slightly different rules and terminology, like 'blobs' and 'mixiblobs'. I'll show you when I get home). Below the Rec. space is the Torpedo compartment, commandeered during patrol as the ship's gymnasium with a rowing machine (almost worn out by the Skipper) and an assortment of chest expanders. The biggest fad during patrol was to lose weight, which aim was accomplished by most without any artificial aid. (No reflection on the Chefs' culinary delights which remained good throughout the two months or so at sea.) Another favourite was a 'Weird Beard' competition, which was judged by the Skipper the day before we surfaced and a prize awarded.

The SRE system - (Ship's Radio) - kept us entertained all throughout the day with taped music, pre-recorded by one of the Radio Operators, who worked very hard to put on a varied selection of shows and music. We were also able to receive BBC programs for some of the patrol, and heard the account of the Apollo 11 moon landing on the 20th July, the day after my 21st birthday.

Although cut off from the outside world we kept up with world news, either through the BBC broadcasts, or the ship's daily newspaper - the 'Daily Reptile'. Sunday was a bumper publication. Personal messages were received regularly on our 'Familygram' scheme which enables the next of kin to send a short message to the crew whilst on patrol. We can receive messages, but can't transmit any, all to maintain this nuclear deterrent thing. It's surprising the effect a few words from home can have, even on the most hardened of characters. As a whole the crew works as one, and helped by experienced submariners of long standing, the remainder of the crew have moulded into one fairly happy family. No major incidents of hard feeling and a cheerful atmosphere has made our first patrol one which few will forget for some time. Not only for that but also the feeling of coming home again to family and friends, and smelling fresh air! On the way in after we surfaced, the smell of that so-called 'fresh sea air' was enough to make you throw up. It was like being dumped on a pile of rotten seaweed. After breathing pure, clean air for nine-and-a-half weeks the smell was awful!

Although a very sketchy outline of the sort of life we lead on board, I hope this tells you a little of how we have to live in a very abnormal environment. See you when we get our leave after the Port Crew go to sea. Glad to hear your Dance has eventually caught on well.

Love, Davy.



CAVE DIVING COURSE

Are you interested in refining your diving skills?

Would you like to perfect your buoyancy and finning techniques so you can swim through wrecks without creating havoc?

Would you like to enter sea caves and wrecks and be able to take photographs of the sea life without disturbing them?

Would you like to learn how to use a reel and tether for those dangerous 'no viz' situations?

If you answered YES to any of the above, it's time to do a 'Cave Diving Course'.

Dates and costs are dependent on numbers. Course is usually run over 2 weekends and a theory evening. The first weekend is local, the second at Mt Gambier.

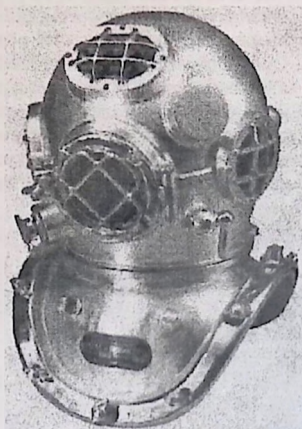
For further details, please contact Priya on 0414 310 727 or pcardina@vicnet.net.au



Lobsters back on menu

The South Australian Government has said it will lift restrictions on rock lobster fishing in local waters. After taking extensive submissions on the future of the rock lobster fishery, Primary Industries Minister Rob Kerin said all recreational fishers would be allowed to have two lobster pots. But those granted licences must keep a log book to monitor their activity.

V.S.A.G
HELMET DIVING
EXHIBITION
on
Saturday 21st July
at
Flinders Jetty



9:30 am
to catch the tide

Des Williams will dip his 1943 US Navy Standard Diving outfit and some other V.S.A.Gers will also take a plunge. Members are invited to join the standard dress divers in the water and photographers will have a unique opportunity to record how diving was done before scuba was invented.

Members are requested to be on time to assist with the set up for this event, as there is a lot of heavy gear to put in place and many hands make light work. Take part in the diver "dressing in and out" procedure on the jetty and/or bring your scuba gear if you wish to observe the divers in the water. This will be an educational, fun event for all the family.

Dive captain: Des Williams
Tel: 9551 3201 Friday evening 20th July
BYO Lunch



Special Wine Offer



Valid July / August 2001

VSAG has again been offered a special purchase of quality wines from **RL Buller & Sons Cleanskins**

Only \$72 per dozen

(sorry no mixed dozens)

1998 Dry Red - North Western Victoria

This blend of three grape varieties is a flavorsome red, ideal for everyday drinking, barbecues and picnics. Fruit flavours of cherry with some berry fruit nuances - blackberry and raspberry. Mild tannins on the finish with a soft mouth feel and bright ruby colour.

Fruit Monvede (66%) Shiraz (23%) Grenache (11%)
750ml 15% alc **Code CSDRED 98**



1998 Dry White- North Western Victoria

Attractive lime and citrus flavours combine with a touch of honey resulting in medium length of flavour with a finish that emphasises the ripeness of the grapes. Straw gold in colour with a bouquet of perfumed orange blossom makes this product an exceptional value for money quaffing wine.

Fruit Chenin Blanc

750ml 13.5% alc **Code CSDWHI 98**



1998 Riesling - North Western Victoria

A dry white wine showing some developed characters which will appeal to those who find younger wines too acidic. Pale gold in appearance, floral nose and with broad flavours with a tropical fruit character, combine to make this a most appealing wine.

Fruit Riesling

750ml 12.5% alc **Code CSDRIES 98**

ORDER FORM ON INSIDE OF BACK COVER

Bay looters described as Wreck plun

By **VANESSA
WILLIAMS,**
science reporter

COWBOY looters are plundering Victoria's most valuable shipwreck of its sunken treasure.

Maritime archeologists despair relics have been removed from the wreck of the *City of Launceston*, an iron-hulled ship on the way to Melbourne that sank in the middle of Port Phillip Bay in 1865.

It fell intact 21m to the seabed, with its cargo and the belongings of all the passengers, although no lives were lost.

The luxuriously appointed ship, with brass curtain rings, gilt lamp fittings and intricately carved furniture, is one of the best-preserved shipwrecks in Australia because mud from the bay covered and filled it.

Since excavation began in 1997, archeologists have recovered perfectly preserved crockery, recorded the location of bottles of whisky, soft drink, schnapps and wine, fabrics and water-logged sideboards.

Heritage Victoria's maritime unit director, Mr Peter Harvey, said looters were selfish cowboys in a saloon who, in an act of destruction, were depriving Victorians of their history.

Crockery, bottles of alcohol and other objects have been stolen from the surface of the wreck as part of at least 10 lootings since the ship was discovered in 1980.

Last week, police questioned two men in relation to breaching the prohibited zone around the *City of Launceston*, a police spokesman said.

And only last year, sometime between April and November, looters are believed to have made a serious attempt to excavate.

"We spotted the remains of a looting attempt when we saw someone had dug an excavation trench next to one of ours. Someone had put their arms in to the mud (covering the ship) looking for objects inside the ship and tossing aside unwanted relics to the sea floor nearby," Mr Harvey said.

"We don't know how many items are missing. It could be tens or it could be hundreds because they got to that part of the ship before we did. There was a full-on intent to recover materials."

Mr Harvey said some of the objects could be worth money and others would only have "mantel-piece" value. But the loss to Victoria's history would be priceless, he said.

The Heritage Victoria team was also forced to save two toilets, with a blue and white willow



HG Herald Sun 7/5/01

pattern, after receiving word they were the target of looters.

And when looters or the curious move objects, archeologists lose valuable information such as where an object was in relation to every other object in the ship, Mr Harvey said.

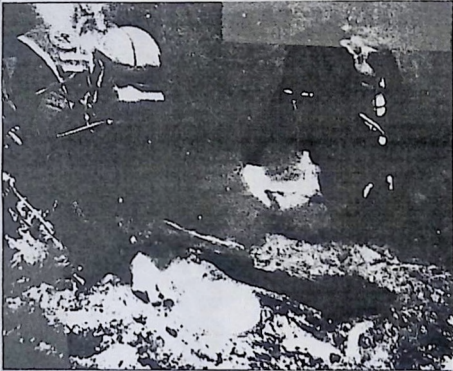
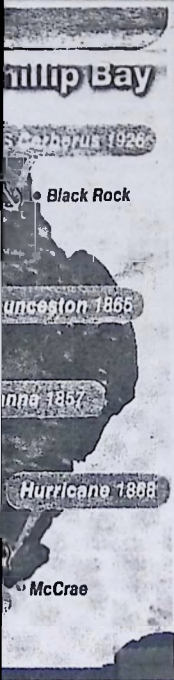
This makes it almost impossible to recreate

what the inside of the ship looked like.

The archeologists are in a race against time to record the original location of every object before seawater finally claims the corroding hull and spills the contents into the bay.

It is illegal for anyone to enter one of the prohibited zones for eight

selfish cowboys — ndered



Under the water: Divers search for historic relics from the *City of Launceston*.



Rough sailing ahead: The *City of Launceston*.



Deep waters: A rivet swims towards the ship.

TREASURE HUNTERS ANCHOR THEIR BALLS

Australians searching for sunken treasure worth \$1 billion have discovered an anchor from a Spanish galleon off the Guam coast. Several musket balls were also discovered by a search party from Adelaide-based company Maritime Archaeological Investments Limited. The company has been searching for treasure from the wreck of the Manila galleon *Pilar*, which sank off the Guam coast in the South Pacific in 1690. The searchers now hope to uncover the main cargo.



AAP

Shipwrecks or remove or
side in any object from
y of Victoria's 700-plus
shipwrecks.
Any ship that sank
ore than 75 years ago is
automatically protected.
The *City of Launceston*
considered the jewel in
e crown of Victoria's
wrecks because it so well
reserved.



Mussels are able to thrive in polluted water because of their ability to purify bacteria, fungi and viruses.

BIOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH

Seafood mussels in on AIDS

Protein-rich compounds found in green mussels could hold the key to developing an effective, low-cost anti-AIDS drug, Indian scientists said.

Anil Chatterji, the head of the Project at the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa, said India had applied for a US patent in March after discovering mussel extracts had "tremendous potential". "We have spent 10 years

studying, testing and isolating the bioactive chemical compounds found in the composition of green mussel hydrolyzate extracts," he said. "And our studies show that, in addition to being an inexpensive source of proteins, green mussels hold the key to developing effective anti-HIV/AIDS drugs."

The institute, which has 650 scientists, collaborated with

Russian scientists from the Pasteur Institute, as well as western India's Pune-based National Centre for Cell Sciences, to achieve the breakthrough.

"When you prise open a mussel you find mantle (fluid) and tissue," he said.

"This hydrolyzate extracted from Indian green mussels was analysed at the Russian Pasteur Institute. The

experiments showed encouraging results.

"This spurred us to keep testing until we isolated anti-retroviral and anti-HIV properties in mussel hydrolyzates."

An Indian health ministry report found as many as 3.5 million Indians were HIV positive by mid-1998, although unofficial estimates put it closer to five million.

APP

Whale given something to blubber about

Clara Harvey

HOW to survive a hit-and-run? Grow a 15cm layer of blubber and watch out for careless cabin cruisers.

The enormous open wound, looking like a giant tyre mark tattooed deep into the whale's back, was caused by the propeller of a boat, probably about 30m long, that ran over it.

But the juvenile whale, which is about 18m long (the same size as your average semitrailer), was protected by the thick coating of fat that keeps it warm in icy Antarctic water.

"It will survive, but it has had a very nasty whack," National Parks and Wildlife Service whale expert Geoffrey Ross said yesterday.

As the injured humpback swam around in circles in Sydney's Middle Harbour, four other whales from its pod kept singing. Eventually, the humpback appeared to respond to their call and late yesterday began swimming out into the Tasman Sea.

"What may have happened is there were two or three boats in the area, the whale got confused about which boat was closer, came up for air, and whack," Mr Ross said. While the crew of the boat would have felt the impact, they may not have realised they had struck a whale, he said. Boats and surfers are not allowed within 100m of whales. Jet skis must keep 300m away.

Injured whale finds new haven

Vanessa Walker

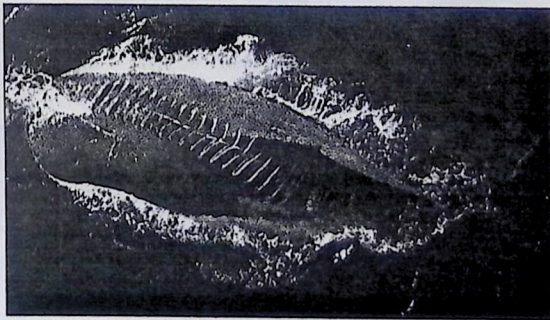
THE injured humpback whale that took shelter in Sydney Harbour on Wednesday sought refuge again yesterday, this time in Broken Bay, the next harbour north.

The 18m whale, thought to have headed out into the Tasman Sea, spent the day swimming in deep water 1km north of Lion Island.

A National Parks and Wildlife Service patrol kept watch over the solitary whale, which spent the day resting and occasionally surfacing.

The whale is suffering from gigantic open wounds — reminiscent of tyre tracks — on its back, probably inflicted by a boat propeller.

"It's best if it moves off, as sharks can zero in on injured



Refuge: The whale in Broken Bay yesterday

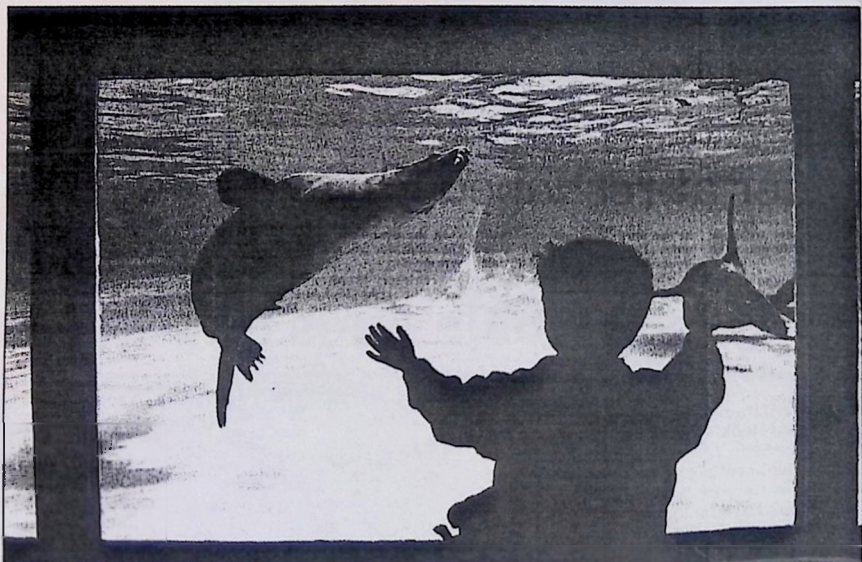
Picture: Brad Newman

animals," parks service whale expert Geoffrey Ross said. "It's obviously had a bit of a fright, and is still recovering."

Mr Ross said the wounds appeared to have penetrated the whale's muscles.

Parks staff hope the humpback will soon join the annual whale migration from Antarctica north to the tropical waters of northern Queensland's Coral Sea, in time for the calving season.

Seals of approval



Australian fur seals frolic in their newly renovated pool at the Melbourne Zoo yesterday. The nine-week, corporate-sponsored refurbishment includes improvements to the popular underwater viewing gallery.

Picture: CRAIG SILLITOE

Seahorse discovery

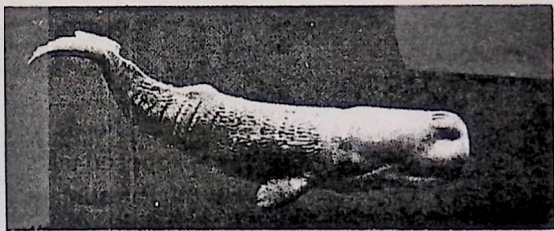
Researchers have found a new species of seahorse, but few people will get the chance to see one in the wild.

Paul Southgate, head of aquaculture at James Cook University, Townsville, said the new species was confirmed last Wednesday by the Queensland Museum, which will publish the researchers' findings.

Called *hippocampus queenslandica*, the creature lives at around 70 metres depth and suffers decompression sickness if brought to the surface too quickly.

Dr Southgate said few seahorses survived a trip to the surface and those put in an aquarium had lived for only a few days.

He said the new red and yellow species was about 10 centimetres long with its tail uncurled. AAP



Entering with a splash

GUAM

Underwater photographer Chris Bangs has captured remarkably intimate moments between a giant sperm whale and her newborn calf off the coast of Guam.

Mr Bangs, of the Micronesian Divers Association, saw the calf swimming with the umbilical cord still attached to the mother.

"The mother and baby were very close, but the baby did break off

and swam right to me," he said.

He said the mother and calf were in a pod of at least eight whales.

While taking photographs Mr Bangs heard the whales talking to one another. "The most amazing thing was listening to the communication, the clicking," he said.

He said the mother nursed the calf while she and the newborn swam with the other adults. AFP

Grief for Reef

The Federal Government yesterday advised Queensland to accept responsibility for land management after a report found cane farms were hurting the Great Barrier Reef.

Fertiliser from cane farms was being dumped into the inshore waters of the Whitsundays at a rate equivalent to 31,000 bags of nitrogen each year, a new World Wide Fund for Nature report said.

The report also found the Fitzroy River dumped more sediment into the Great Barrier Reef than any other river and inshore corals were suffering under a load of mud, nutrients and pesticides. AAP

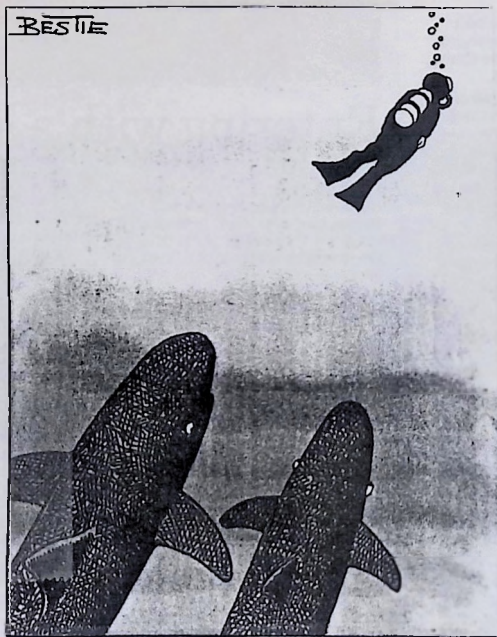


Lava lake found

British marine scientists have discovered a frozen expanse of lava the size of the city of London on the floor of the Indian Ocean during a research cruise. The lava flows, thought to be only a few years old, have spread across more than 10 kilometres of sea bed after a massive eruption, which would have had the heating power of 10,000 nuclear power stations.

Dutch to raise sub

A Dutch consortium hopes to raise the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and the remaining bodies of its 118-man crew from the seabed next September. Russia will pay a \$A30.33 million advance to Mammoet Transport BV to lift the 18,300-tonne Kursk from a depth of 108 metres in the Barents Sea, about 300km north of the Norwegian coast.



"DON'T EAT THE HARD BIT ON ITS BACK,
THEY MAKE YOU FART!"



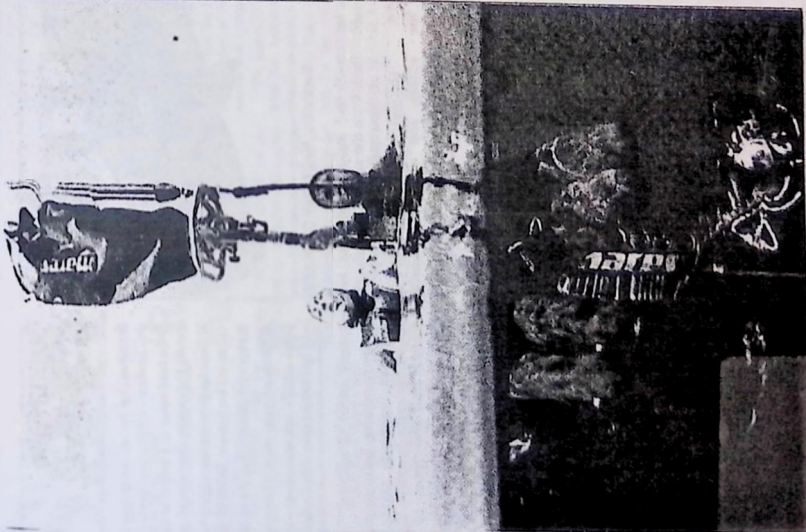
HOLD YOUR BREATH

Frenchwoman Audrey Mestre Ferreras, left, and her husband Pipin start their dive to set a world record in the mixed tandem free dive no limits category.

The pair reached a record 103 metres in a time of two minutes 10 seconds off the coast of Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Friday.

Mestre Ferreras later tried to break her own free diving world record of 125.7 metres. She is pictured (top) being congratulated by her husband moments after she successfully completed a dive to a depth of 130 metres with one breath.

PICTURES: AFP PHOTO/Tim Cahner (left); AFP PHOTO/Roberto Schmidt (top)



Rare specimen: Museum Victoria staff prepare remains of the whale for burial and decomposition.

Picture: JOE CASTRO

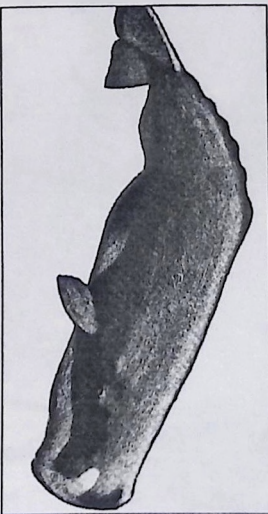
By PENNY FANNIN

An 11-metre-long sperm whale yesterday, two weeks after it was found floating lifeless in waters off Port Fairy.

The 15-tonne whale is believed to be only the second complete sperm whale at the museum, and staff will spend up to two years preparing the skeleton for public display or a place in the museum's research collection.

Its age and sex are unknown. "We don't know (its sex) because a shark had attacked the genital region quite severely," said Peter Swinhele, the manager of the museum's preparation department. Its size indicated it was female but further testing, including DNA analysis, was needed.

Mr Swinhele said the whale was dead when it washed up. "It could have been a natural death or a



A sperm whale.

Illustration: MATTHEW DAVIDSON

ship may have hit it — it had a lot of damage to its head so it could have been a ship's propeller — or it could have been a shark attack."

Within days of its discovery, the whale had been moved to the Hawksdale tip, where museum

staff had stripped blubber and flesh from the animal, with the aid of an excavator.

On arrival at the museum yesterday, the whale was buried under several tonnes of river sand. Decomposition is expected

Sperm whales

- Made famous by Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*
- Are the largest toothed whale
- Named after the valuable spermacet oil they produce — a high-grade lubricant
- The head makes up a third of its length and the brain weighs about nine kilograms
- Grow up to 18 metres, weigh up to 40 tonnes and live between 50 and 70 years
- Main food source is deep-sea squid
- Newborns weigh about 900 kilograms
- Are usually a dark brownish grey color with light streaks, spots and scratches

to take about 12 months.

Sperm whales, because they are deep-sea creatures, rarely wash up on Victorian beaches. The last known find was about 11 years ago, and is now at the Maritime Discovery Centre in Portland.

Sanctuary sunk

by MARTIN BOULTON

PLANS for the Ricketts Point marine sanctuary have been scrapped by the State Government.

Minister for Environment and Conservation Sherryl Garbutt made the announcement in a recent response to the Environment Conservation Council's (ECC) 10-year marine parks investigation.

"The Government has listened to the views of recreational fishers and will not establish a marine sanctuary at Ricketts Point," Ms Garbutt said. She said the Government had

'Ricketts' ruled out

accepted "the broad thrust" of the ECC's final report and that 12 marine parks and 10 smaller marine sanctuaries, covering 5.2 per cent of Victoria's coastal waters, would be implemented from mid-November.

Bayside Mayor Simon Russell said he was disappointed with the Government's decision to exclude Ricketts

Point from the system of marine sanctuaries.

"After 10 years of research and investigation the ECC recommended the inclusion of Ricketts Point in the marine park system," Cr Russell said.

"We (council) cannot understand what has happened in the last six months to reverse that decision," Bayside Council endorsed its support for the creation of a 315ha marine sanctuary between Quiet Corner and Table Rock Point as part of its Black Rock-Beaumaris Foreshore Masterplan in December 1999.

A council report said the area's

"popularity for recreational fishing, diving, snorkelling and shellfish collection had resulted in pressure on marine life using the reef" (*Advertiser*, December 20, 1999).

"Council and the community worked together to produce the Black Rock-Beaumaris Masterplan and community members were rock solid in their resolve for a marine sanctuary at Ricketts Point," Cr Russell said.

"We are amazed by the minister's decision and will continue to lobby the State Government to protect the coastal environment of Ricketts Point."

Sandringham state Liberal MP Murray Thompson said he was surprised by the Government's decision to ignore the independent recommendations of the ECC and that further negotiation with anglers and shoreline fishers could have achieved an outcome that protected the inter-tidal zone.

"The inter-tidal zone at Ricketts Point represents one of the best areas in Melbourne for marine education," he said. "It will be actively consulted with angling and conservation interests to see whether a proposal that meets the dominant aspirations of all parties can be achieved."

Dead whale a body of evidence

Andrew McGarry

A SOUTH Australian Museum team will make a day-long drive across the state tomorrow in an effort to retrieve the carcass of a Southern right whale whose death has provided scientists with a unique research opportunity.

The whale, which died on Saturday in the Great Australian Bight days after its tail became entangled in a buoy and a fishing net, washed up at Twin Rocks on the state's far west coast on Sunday.

South Australian Museum mammals curator Catherine Kemper said yesterday that the whale's discovery was unique in her 15 to 20 years working in the field.

"It's an opportunity not to be missed," Dr Kemper said.

"I have never had an adult right whale come in (before), we've got to grab it now — we can learn tonnes from it."

After taking measurements and photos, researchers will try to open up the abdominal cavity to do an autopsy.

The whale will then be tested for its genetic material, toxicity levels and its reproductive organs, but the most important target is the mammal's internal ears — particularly the waxy plugs which link the ear and the outside of the head.

"Apparently, the plug lays down layers which can be read when cut to interpret age," Dr Kemper said.

Jet skiers rev up for a fight

Luke McIlveen

□ NSW political reporter

THOSE enemies of the beach picnic, jet skiers, are calling it a breach of human rights. NSW Premier Bob Carr says he doesn't care — he just wants the "aquatic menaces" out of Sydney Harbour.

Days after he moved to take planning control of the NSW coastline, Mr Carr announced yesterday that jet skiers would be banned from the harbour.

He won public support and the backing of a few Greens, but is facing a backlash from 8300 jet skiers statewide who have paid up to \$20,000 each to fly along the water.

Jet skiers have to carry a licence to ride their motorised craft, and the cost will double from \$109 to \$218 under the new regulations, which take effect from October 1. The annual registration fee will

also increase from \$105 to \$210.

"People are entitled to enjoy the harbour without the noise and danger created by irresponsible jet skiers," Mr Carr said yesterday. "Motor bikes don't belong in the Botanic Gardens — jet skis don't belong on the harbour."

Complaints from residents of waterfront suburbs and water police were the justification for the move, but the Boating Industry Association described the crackdown as "draconian" and jet ski riders and dealers said they had no warning their pursuit was about to be outlawed.

Brothers Rod and Warren Baker own \$40,000 of now almost useless fibreglass between them, and ride their three-seater jet skis around the harbour twice a week.

"You have two types of jet skiers — the ones who want to hang around the beach and

show off, and others like me who just want to cruise with my family or by myself," Rod Baker said yesterday. "I'm stunned by this."

The ban follows laws enacted last year restricting jet skiers in the harbour from coming within 200m of the shoreline. Rogue users will be face a maximum \$1500 fine if found inside the exclusion zone, which extends from the Sydney heads to the mouth of the Parramatta River.

The founder of the Australian Personal Watercraft Association, Gary London, said the ban would destroy industry turnover of \$100 million a year in the Sydney area, and about 1000 jobs would be lost.

As the owner of Formula Marine at Castle Hill in Sydney's northwest, Mr London will have to cut staff.

"This will break me completely," he said.

Report highlights dugong perils

By GREG ROBERTS
BAISBANE

Pollution and hunting by Aborigines have been blamed in a new study as key factors in the collapse of the dugong population along the Queensland coast.

The sea mammals are now seriously endangered.

Although an average of 2.6 dugongs were caught each month in shark nets along each of 48 netted Queensland beaches in 1962, very few were being caught by 2000.

This indicated that dugong numbers are only 3 per cent of their population 39 years ago, says the study by marine experts from James Cook University, the Northern Fisheries Centre and the Queensland



Dugongs at play.

Shark Control Program. The study, prepared for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, identifies the destruction of seagrass, the dugongs' food, by mainland-based pollution as a key factor in their demise.

And too many dugongs had been taken by Aboriginal hunters, with the Yarrabah community, near Cairns,

killing 200 a year in the 1960s. Dugongs are now very rare in the region.

Habitat loss and drowning in shark and commercial fishing nets were also major factors.

The marine experts said there needed to be a more comprehensive strategy for managing the recovery of the dugong population, with particular attention paid to catchment management to reduce the influx of nutrients and sediments.

The rate of decline in the dugong population started at 6 per cent in 1962 when shark nets were first used to protect bathers.

The worst-affected areas are around Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and the Sunshine Coast.

Marine park law to be rewritten

By STEPHEN CAUCHI and CLAIRE MILLER

Slippy drafting of marine parks legislation has forced the government to rewrite its laws, attracting criticism from both sides of politics.

The legislation relates to the creation of Victoria's 12 marine national parks, within which fishing will be banned. It includes clauses that ban compensation for fishermen who work within the marine park boundaries.

However, the legislation would also have banned fishermen from seeking compensation for loss of proprietary rights in any legal dispute.

The nine-member scrutiny of acts and regulations committee — five of whom are government backbenchers — reported yesterday that they were "concerned" by the original legislation.

"The no-compensation payable clauses... appear very broad and, on the face of them, may remove any claim for compensation whether or not such a claim touches or concerns the creation of the marine park; any sanctuaries established by the bill," said the committee's publication, *Alert Digest*.

"If the provisions do have such a wide ambit they may trespass on proprietary rights."

The Minister for Energy and Resources, Cathy Broad, was forced

to admit in parliament yesterday that the government had stuffed it up, drawing gasps of delight from the opposition.

"The government has clearly stated what its intentions are in relation to the legislation that is coming before the parliament in regards to compensation," she said.

"The government has also indicated in response to public comment on this matter that the government's intentions have not been translated in accordance with the government's drafting instructions."

Ms Broad said the matter would be corrected "as soon as is possible" so parliament could pass the laws.

Also yesterday, Bayside City Council urged the government to reinstate Ricketts Point as a no-take marine sanctuary, saying it had ignored overwhelming community support for the proposal.

Mayor Simon Russell, who led a protest of about 150 people yesterday, said a political decision was made to appease the recreational fishing lobby when Ricketts Point was dropped from a list of recommended marine national parks.

He said a sanctuary at Ricketts Point would deter people illegally collecting shellfish. Marine scientists had advised that the reef's depleted biodiversity would rebound within two years if protected and fishing stocks would be replenished.

Head in shark may be lost bushwalker's

By DAVID WROE

The discovery of a human head in the stomach of a shark caught off Lord Howe Island last weekend has prompted speculation that it could belong to an elderly bushwalker who disappeared from the island last month.

Scott Wilson and Mark Thompson landed the four-metre, 200-kilogram tiger shark on Saturday morning while fishing off the island, which is 600 kilometres off Port Macquarie in New South Wales.

The bushwalker, Arthur Alpet, 75, believed to be from Queensland, failed to return from a walk on May 7. He was on Lord Howe celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary.

Relatives of another missing man, Ross Symons, fear the remains could be his. Mr Symons went missing on Anzac Day from the Gold Coast, about 700 kilometres from the island.

His brother-in-law, John Kaskabas, said yesterday that Mr Symons had disappeared from his four-metre boat, which had been recovered near Tweed Heads.

Police last night refused to speculate on who the head might belong to.

"Obviously those are two possibilities, but we are not speculating in any way, shape or form," a spokesman said.

Police will not know how the person died until they conduct a post mortem, most likely tomorrow.

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Quotable Quotes ... but not to your boss

I can please only one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow isn't looking good either.

I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.

Am I getting smart with you? How would you know?

I'd explain it to you, but your brain would explode.

Someday we'll look back on all this and plow into a parked car.

There are very few personal problems that cannot be solved through a suitable application of high explosives.

Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.

Needing a man is like needing a parachute. If he isn't there the first time you need him, chances are you won't be needing him again.

I don't have an attitude problem. You have a perception problem.

Last night I lay in bed looking up at the stars in the sky and I thought to myself, "Where the heck is the ceiling?!"

My Reality Check bounced.

On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.

I don't suffer from stress. I'm a carrier.

You're slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.

Do not meddle in the affairs of dragons, for you are crunchy and taste good with ketchup.

Everybody is somebody else's weirdo.

Pun ... ishment

For all you 'clever' folk who enjoy a good pun!

Two vultures board an airplane, each carrying two dead racoons. The stewardess looks at them and says, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Amal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Amal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."

The friars were behind on their belfry payments so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that: Hugh, and only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.

We all know who Gandhi was, right? He was a spiritual man who fasted regularly. Some may not realize that fasting, when practiced regularly and for extended periods, leads not only to weight loss, but can also cause bad breath. No matter, his interests were higher. This great leader hardly ever wore shoes. One might say he was ... a super-calloused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis.

And finally, there was the person who sent ten different puns to friends, in the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.