

# FATHOMS

August - September 2002

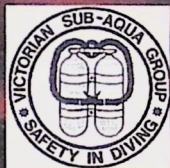
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- Marine Emblems
- Diving Into the Past
- VSAG AGM!

**VSAG**  
Victorian Sub-Aqua Group



**VSAG Committee Members (2001 – 2002)****President**

Peter Vleugel\*  
 PO Box 304 Mornington 3931  
 9787 1298 (home)  
 9787 1284 (work)  
 9787 1285 (fax)  
 0418 315 484 (mobile)  
[crestbco@satlink.com.au](mailto:crestbco@satlink.com.au)

**Vice President**

Andy Mastrowicz\*  
 224 Wattle Valley Road Camberwell  
 3124  
 9809 0984 (home)  
 9201 7117 (work)  
 0402 060 711 (mobile)  
[amastrow@agl.com.au](mailto:amastrow@agl.com.au)

**Secretary**

John Mills  
 10 Wells Avenue Boronia 3155  
 9761 0960 (home)  
 9369 2377 (work)

**Assistant Secretary**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Newsletter Editor,  
Assistant Social Secretary**

John Lawler\*  
 7 Cloris Avenue Beaumaris 3193  
 9589 4020 (home)  
 0414 922 916 (mobile)  
[jylawler@tpgi.com.au](mailto:jylawler@tpgi.com.au)

**Assistant Newsletter Editor**

Bruce Dart\*  
 12 Alicudi Avenue Frankston  
 3199  
 9787 6318 (home)  
 0407 331 544 (mobile)  
[maritek@peninsula.hotkev.net.au](mailto:maritek@peninsula.hotkev.net.au)

**Assistant Newsletter Editor**

Steve Jacoby  
 529 Station St Carrum 3197  
 9772 2635 (home)  
 0412 352 617 (mobile)  
[steve.jacoby@nre.vic.gov.au](mailto:steve.jacoby@nre.vic.gov.au)

**Points Scorer,  
Social Secretary**

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

**Property Officer,  
Safety Officer**

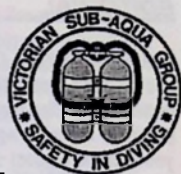
Pat Reynolds  
 14 Nurla Court Frankston 3199  
 9789 1092 (home)  
 0407 334 276 (mobile)

*Committee meets the Second  
 Monday in the Month at the Leighoak Hotel (8PM)*

# FATHOMS

Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

*In this August / September issue...*



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## VSAG General Meetings

Bell's Hotel  
157 Moray Street (cnr Coventry Street)  
South Melbourne, 8.00 pm  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month

## Committee Meetings

Leighoak Hotel  
1555 Dandenong Road Oakleigh,  
8.00 pm - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month

## Editorial Submissions to:

John Lawler  
7 Cloris Avenue, Beaumaris 3193  
[ivlawler@tnei.com.au](mailto:ivlawler@tnei.com.au)

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**EDITORIAL****- JOHN LAWLER.**

A question from the Editor. What will be the biggest event of 2004? Carlton thrashing Collingwood in the Grand Final? Mick Jeacle bagging a 15lb cray? The Grand Prix moving to Darwin? No, none of those! Isn't the statement "how time flies" one we hear almost daily, and it seems Christmas was just here a minute ago and here we are now into September. So with all this in mind, I can advise you that the biggest event in 2004 will be the VSAG celebrating it's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday! While the event is still two years away, the planning for this great event has already been put into place with the selection of a planning committee headed by Don Abell and Mick Jeacle.

Both these men will be assisted by the VSAG Committee and life members. Mick and Don have already initiated some base ideas for the big event and as we get closer to 2004, members will be informed of the plans. At this point in time it is expected the party will be held mid year. A big event for our great Club, and one which all members will be eagerly looking forward to.

The VSAG Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September, and all members are urged to attend. Our President has written his annual report which appears elsewhere in this magazine.

There has been some really good diving enjoyed over the past two months, despite some really savage Northerly winds playing havoc on the bays. The windows of opportunity were taken by brave optimists and those who did take up those opportunities were richly rewarded.

The Committee and members wish to congratulate two new members, Tim Broking and his partner Karen, who have completed their processes into the club, and we look forward to seeing both on the water as the warmer weather draws nearer. Tim and Karen hail from Ballarat and have their own dive boat. Welcome to you both.

The planned trip to W.A., in March 2003 to dive the former HMAS Perth and Swan, is receiving strong interest. Some 14 members and partners have indicated their intentions to do the trip so far. The sinking of the former HMAS Hobart in SA, is still in the dark as far the timing goes and whilst the indicators still suggest early November, no one can yet confirm this.

The committee has again put together a balanced dive calendar for members as we move into warmer weather and it is hoped to see a return to diving by many members who seem to have gone into hibernation for longer than I can recall occurs. We have some of the best and most exciting diving right in our backyard, so come on all, get the gear out and go diving. We have some of the best boats to dive from, so come on and remind yourself what great fun it can be diving with lads and lasses of VSAG on the walls and the great wrecks around the Southern end of our great bay.

Safe and happy diving to all.

John Lawler  
EDITOR.

**IT WENT SO QUICKLY...****By Peter Vleugel**

This is the end of my second year as President of VSAG. The last 12 months has flown for me as it may have for all of you. It is September again, and time for the elections. The big move around for us all. Perhaps new jobs, new positions and some are going to leave the committee. It's a great honor to be on the committee and I have enjoyed the past years that I have been involved, but it's time for me to move on and make space for others that may like to have valuable input into the running of our club. Perhaps some new blood as we could do with a change.

The club has had an interesting year but the activities don't change a lot between the years and I guess that's the way people like it. I would like to high light a few events that stood out in the last year. The first one was the car rally in September, we hadn't tried this one before and it worked out quite good. A great afternoon was had by all. It promises to be bigger and better this year with the next rally on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2002. The Christmas party at Milano's which was well attended by our members and guests with lots of fellowship, dancing and fun. The trip to Jervis Bay was unfortunately cut short due to the bush fires, and some members couldn't get there due to road blocks. But in true VSAG style, the ones that went had a great time although a little nervous of smoke. The Easter trip to the Prom, was well attended and divers even managed to get wet this year. That was a bonus! We had the usual lack of attendance at dives, due to cold weather but I suppose that's normal. The only hardened diver seems to be J.L. who goes out all the time and it's nice to see.

Probably the high light of the year was the trip to PNG for the boys as they re-educated the locals in Australian etiquette and the pictures tell a thousand stories. The other people that need to be thanked by me are our trusty committee, the hard workers. Priya and John who work hard with the treasury and the secretaries – it's a job that doesn't get recognized but still needs to be done. Thanks guys! The others are the three that put the magazine together, John Lawier, Steve Jacoby, and Bruce Dart. Well done for the year and thanks. To all the other committee members, thanks for your input also, it's been a great year and perhaps a greater year to come.

Thanks to all who entrusted me as your President but I really didn't do much and by the time you read this report, you can call me Past President Pete.

Thank you.

**VSAG EVENTS, NOTICES & REMINDERS**

- **VSAG Subs:** Annual Subs for 2002 / 2003 are now due. \$55.00 made payable to VSAG.
- **Annual General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September!!!**
- **Guest Speaker – October General Meeting:** Mark Harris will present on the J class submarines – not to be missed!
- **HMAS Hobart Trip:** Late October / Early November – see JL
- **Wilson's Prom Cup Weekend:** 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November – see Priya to book.
- **XMAS Party:** VSAG Xmas party will again be at Milano's, 7.00pm Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## DIVING INTO THE PAST

BY JOHN LAWLER.

From time to time and a long time ago it seems, Fathoms has carried articles under the heading "Diving Into The Past".

The format was chosen to replace the legendary "Flotsam and Jetsam" and "Tips Titbits" when these wonderful forums for "having a go" at member's antics and anecdotes about our great club and some of the more colourful members and events ceased. I would select the articles from Fathoms for their high degree of interest, perhaps for the humour and sometimes because it was just a good yarn. Some of the stories have made fascinating reading as well as demonstrating the literary skills of many of the members and their ability to write good stories.

With the recent bad winter conditions preventing our Sunday diving, I again went into the old back issues of Fathoms and strangely found more and more great stories that I had not previously noted. More to the point, whilst there have been far too many great contributors to our magazine to mention at this stage, there are a few stand out scribes whose articles are rated as a must to repeat in this revived format.

In the edition of May/June 1984 (yes 18 years ago folks) one article had me rolling around with laughter and I rate this article as one of the classics. It was written by Don Abell to the then club President Geoff Birtles (Robert Birtles brother) re the quality of material in Fathoms. I having a suspicion our Don is most likely a Goon fan!

Following on from the 1984 efforts, comes another classic from the March 1985 edition on what is the expected protocol at Tidal River "a la Don Abell"... wonderful tongue in cheek humour!

Whilst Don has been a great contributor to Fathoms, Don is a Life Member, a past President of VSAG, a position he held longer than I can recall, has won more club member awards than I can recall and was a committee member for more etc, etc,.

So as the first of many salutes to the contributors to Fathoms, read, laugh, learn and wonder as we go "Diving Into The Past" with the articles of Don Abell.....



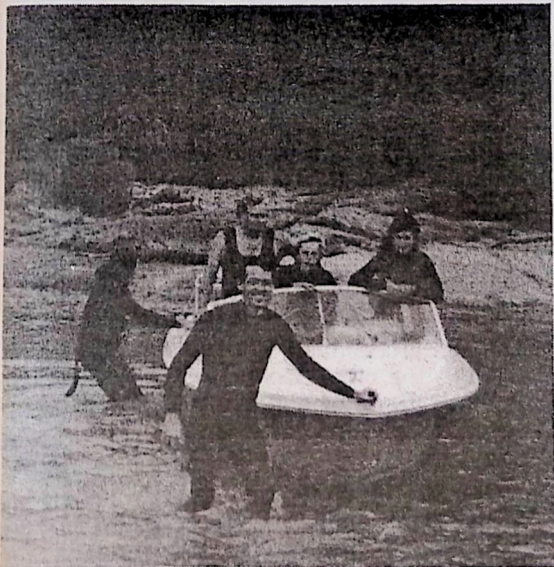
It is with concern that I feel the necessity for this letter to be written. I wonder at the quality and content of the material being printed in Fathoms and ask - is it not time that those responsible for the publication took a firm stand to protect the reader from the less desirable articles being written.

As one example I must refer to the recent "Flotsam and Jetsam" article on buddy diving. Should a club of the reputation of V.S.A.G. with "Safety in Diving" as its motto, be seen to treat with disdain one of the basic rules for safe diving.

More importantly, I do not believe this to be the general opinion of the club. The buddy system appears to be followed rigidly by many members

in the club. At our recent Easter dive trip it was quite obvious that those men who did not take wives or girlfriends buddied up very early in the weekend. As the days passed and the dives and women were few to be had, it was pleasing to see the buddy system growing and developing into sincere and meaningful relationships.

I have no doubt that Flotsam and Jetsam is just another piece of frivolous journalism structured with the sole intent of selling magazines. The writer does not even show the strength of character to sign his own name and I ask where will



Author of this letter, Don Abell beaching Bazza's boat. Keith (in boat) still looking tense, son Peter looking relieved, Gary's daughter, Rachelle looking beautiful (watch out Dad!) and Tony looking saintly (his "after church" look). Photo Credit: Nicki Abell. Thanks.

MAY/JUNE 1984

this end. If the club aim is merely to sell magazines, should we next resort to (God forbid) "Fathoms Bingo". Higher levels of publication would surely make the club a prime takeover target for the Murdochs and Holmes a Courts of this world. From there to the ultimate defiling of page 3, a resuscitation doll without a single technical instruction.

The immediate future would appear to be the right time to adopt a more stringent editorial policy. Having just spent four or five days on the Easter sojourn, many of the participants will be tempted to write articles which are both defamatory and lack common decency.

It is not necessary to bring to the attention of all readers, Keith Jensen's personal problems with navigation, a problem exemplified when Keith dropped Mick and Doug overboard after our dive, to get Keith's car and guide the boat to shore, only to have Doug swim back to the boat explaining that we were at the wrong beach. Furthermore, Keith's description of a policeman escorting a gentleman of questionable sexual preferences (i.e. he was bent) to jail with the captive following very close BEHIND, is not the sort of material for general publication in Fathoms, a magazine once compared to National Geographic and found to weigh considerably less.

All those present at Easter suspect that Igor did a lot more diving than the other club members. Igor regularly disappeared, only to return 45 minutes later with a grin resembling a Steinway piano. Surely this is Igor's private business and I consider that Pat Reynolds should not have been renting out that box for people to peer through Igor's caravan window. Pat should at least donate the proceeds of \$640 (alternative forms of entertainment were scarce) to the club. Gone are the days of Igor surviving in his fully self-contained panel van. Again, an item of no merit for the magazine.

Perhaps we should all be made both aware of and ashamed of the general derision suffered by Tony Tipping for sticking to his very strict religious beliefs. We all know that Tony has a lot of points to catch up if he is to make the big cray dive in the sky (where no ledges go back further than 12 inches). Other members should, especially at Easter, be pleased to stand on the beach twiddling their thumbs for an extra hour and using up valuable fuel waiting for the only member who elects to stay behind vigorously rubbing his rosary beads.

As far as Alex and Pat are concerned, I recommend that the editor destroys all correspondence he receives which deals with these two.



MAY/JUNE 1984

Comments from Pat like "I know Alex is ugly but I couldn't find a wombat" are definitely out of line. I am sure I am not the only person who, when passing Pat and Alex's tent, heard Alex yell: "Take the paper bag off Pat, I want to kiss you". We know this is not the first time Pat has been used and callously cast aside, but material like this could ruin the future of these men or, even worse, make them a lot more popular next Easter.

I would want it known that I do have a sense of humour, but some jokes should be left to selective company only. Anyone reporting jokes told about nurses and camels (as the night wore on) should be ignored. Although Alex won the joke of the night award for explaining that a corgi in a state of sexual euphoria would need to walk up stairs backwards, I question whether this material is appropriate for Fathoms.

I could continue but my point should be made. It is surely the editor's responsibility to require some standards. Some people are apt to be carried away in a camping environment. I am sure, Mr. Editor, that you would understand, as a person who used to go camping in his younger days.

Trusting you will give your serious consideration to printing articles of a serious technical and discussion nature, rather than cheap journalism of questionable literary worth.

Yours truly,

DON ABELL

Or, to cut a long story short, people in two-storey houses shouldn't keep corgis.

EDITOR'S RESPONSE \* \*

(Written from the study of his two storey house guarded by corgis).

Don baby - I'm glad I'm not in your shoes. By the time "Howard Doyoudo" finishes mincing you up in the July issue, you won't be good enough for cat's meat!

## EASTER 1985

Don Abell

I thought that, for a change, I would write an article on the plans and arrangements for a dive trip, rather than a subsequent report.

The Club has been spending Easter at Tidal River for a number of years and it has become a highlight of the annual dive calendar. It promises the possibility of 3 days excellent diving in Bass Strait. There is, however, also the possibility that we may not be able to dive on some days and toward that end I shall give details, in this article, of the contingency plans in the event of poor weather.

Firstly, I thought that the trip should have a theme. This cast me back to my Sunday School days with ideas such as "Fun, Fellowship and Freedom" or the feeling of a Broadway show such as "The Pleasure of our Company". I finally decided on a theme with a nautical flavour (and perhaps more topical). So the theme for the trip is to be:

### "ESCAPING THE 10 KNOT TIDAL WAVE OF LIFE"

Now the diving plans. Diving will potentially occur on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Most people start packing up on Monday and any dives will be by private arrangement. All persons wishing to dive on the following day **MUST** report to me the night before so that proper planning is able to be made with boat owners. This system is essential to the smooth running of all dives. Of course, it will not be able to be applied on the Thursday night because most people will not have arrived. Saturday night will also be a problem because I plan to see a film at the local theatre and will not be available. The system will work well on Friday, however, on the understanding that most divers feel considerably different on the Saturday morning after a convivial Friday night, I will not record names and will re-check with everyone again on Saturday morning. Anyone not understanding this should read it again, because it is most important that the system operate smoothly.

Before diving, we need to get a feel for the water. Barry Truscott has insisted on making hourly checks on the water beginning at 5.00 a.m. Barry's tent will be fairly hectic at that time each morning (details later) and he will be pleased to be out and about. The hourly checks will be primarily to hang a thermometer in the water and determine the temperature. Barry does not mind swells or even white water, but he refuses to dive if the water is below 68°F.

Barry will confer with all the boat owners. Meetings are to determine the viability of diving, locations, boat crews, starting time, etc. Should the worst situation occur and we decide to dive, then I should be wakened gently but definitely not before 8.45 a.m.

All dives are to start punctually at 9.45 a.m. This starting time is fixed and cannot and will not be varied, unless, of course, someone sleeps in when the dive can be delayed until 11.00 a.m. but not later. That is except on Sunday when Tony Tipping desperately pleads for the cleansing of previous sins at the religious service. Someone should tell Tony that for all the forgiveness he requires, he should be on his knees 7 days a week and twice on Grand Final day. The once a year effort, just because he has witnesses, won't even get him up to the ozone layer.

Now the major problem in prior years has been the delays of people getting through breakfast. To overcome this, Maria and Samantha Truscott are running a breakfast bar each morning from 7.00 to 9.00 a.m. It will be the normal cereal, toast, coffee and a choice of five cooked breakfasts. Since the menu changes monthly only, you will be able to order in advance. Marie has requested that the delivery of breakfasts to tents be dispensed with because Sam does not bring her bicycle anymore. For those requiring crumpet for breakfast, we will meet you at the boats.

Now the extra curricular activities. John Lawler, fresh from the success of similar events, has insisted that pre-dinner drinks be held at his tent each evening. It is intended that the function will commence at 6.30 and finish between 7.30 and 11.00. Saturday night is recognized as the main evening of the holiday and John requests that gentlemen wear black tie (which leaves it fairly flexible for VSAG members). The other evenings, in recognition of the generally informal nature of the trip, will be lounge suit affairs. (RSVP each evening by 6.25).

Should the diving be aborted for any reason, there are a number of alternative activities. Pat Reynolds has volunteered to run a morning creche for the kiddies. This will allow the mothers flexibility in their day. We do feel that we should warn mothers that Pat has planned on taking a number of paper bags filled with boiled sweets to Tidal River for unknown purposes.

Paul Tipping and Geoff Birtles have been elected to guide morning nature walks through the many paths laid out by the National Parks. Both Paul and Geoff have been selected for this because of their abilities to quietly blend in with their surroundings and remain unnoticed by those



around them. Paul will of course be issuing a full disclaimer from liability for all advice and notes provided.

Unfortunately, Keith Jensen is not likely to attend the trip and we have had to cancel his practical session on how to fight a major forest fire in a National Park.

We are not sure about Geoff Birtles' attendance, however, if he is available, Keith's session will be substituted by Geoff's lecture on boat handling.

The Sunday morning will be taken over by Tony Tipping who has been told by Marg that she was told by the priest who knows the Pope who was told by Kevin Sheedy that Tony has a mission in this life. The message may not be exact because Marg told Tony into his bad ear. Nevertheless, should diving be out, Tony will take Chapel. Everyone should gather in Tony's new tent at 8.00 a.m. To avoid the crude necessity of passing a collection plate, Marcus will be selling entry tickets at \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child or \$5.00 for a family. As an added incentive, all tickets will be numbered and a raffle run at the end of the service. First prize is a pasta dinner at an exclusive cafe in Deepdene. Second prize is 6 months free supply of anti sea sickness tablets. Tony is not able to vouch for the quality as he never gets sea sick ("it must be the grog"). Third prize is a free ticket to next year's service at Tidal River.

To finish the days we will have a story read to us by our fearless leader Alex. This is by public demand following Queenscliffe. Alex will read a classic over the three nights - "The Fall of Troy". This is a very topical story about a young diver - Troy, who gets kidnapped by the contestants in a Miss Beach Girl contest and is held captive on a Whitsunday island and used solely for the pleasures of his captors.

So, once again, we should have a good trip to Tidal River. As dive captain, I would like to thank all those members who unselfishly offered their time and talents. \*



## Dive Report – 21st July

John Lawler

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Greetings All,

So the phone to DC Pat Reynolds last Sat night was from one diver, Alan Storen. Pat pulled out as he didn't want to "dive in that S...t. I had made up my mind that unless the weather was just impossible, I was going to dive. A new diver from Robin Woods called me and he was immediately nailed to my boat. Tim Broking and his partner from Bendigo wanted to do their checkout dive and they too were immediately nailed for the dive and coming out from Q'cliff.

The weather man had got it wrong and the strong wind warning didn't happen, sun patches and well below 10knots would you believe! By late afternoon it was almost flat on the bay.

The crew were all on time, the Bendigo team arrived off Sorrento where we were waiting and a scallop dive was the go. Alan and Sam in first and came up with a good catch. Then Tim and I ditto..great dive, quite clear, heaps of scallops.

Off to Popes for a quick lunch and then to catch the slack off Q'Cliff. Alan and Sam in again. 40 mins dive and they were thrilled with the territory and the vis of around 7mtrs.Then Karen and me into the drink and right into brilliant territory. Current was running just right to take us over some good spots. Looking hard as one hunter does, we approached a bommie with a small tunnel running north /south. I was sure looking through I saw some feelers at the other end and dropped over the south side. Peering in to a dark hole there he was...all 10lbs of him just sitting there..he was no trouble to get out but a bugger to get into the bag. He's in the freezer. Into the boat, farewells to the Bendigo crew.

Back to the ramp and off home. None but the brave would have anticipated going out on the bay on this day, but the punt paid off better that I could have expected...after six weeks out of the water, the smile is still on my face today. We noted no private dive boats on the water and only one charter. As Don Abell says.."you'll never know if you don't go! Everything went so well considering we were all new apart from Alan. He was most obliging in looking after the new young diver Sam.

Cheers All,  
JL

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## Dive Report – 18 August

by Stev

The scheduled VSAG dive for this particular Sunday was Phillip Island and the DC was listed as Gerry. Therefore this report will outline a day's diving in the Heads under John Lawler's able captainship.

Gerry was indisposed having injured himself on a particularly sharp pleat on his tennis dress. Possibly just as well for the day was made for hardier souls with overcast skies and a breeze: it was possible that we may even get wet during the course of our outing.

The new plan was for the two boats (JL's & Mick's) to take divers diving in the southern part of the bay. Did I mention that there was confusion as to the start time of our rendezvous? This was first hinted at when JL (towing his boat and nearing the Sorrento ramp) rang and woke up Mick – anyway – we needed to go over to Q'cliffe to pick up Mary & Alan and their mate Mark. Fast forward and Mick, Ted, Alan Storen & Darren caught up with us on the North Wall just in time for slack flood around 10.30am – not a problem!

I think we all enjoyed a good dive on the wall (80' – 110') although it was a little dirty and cold (12C), although swimming close to Mary and Mark is highly recommended with the water temperature a good five degrees warmer around their lights!

The day started getting better weather wise as we nosied around Pt Nepean over lunch where there was a salvage effort under way to refloat a flybridge cruiser which had mistaken the rock shelf for rack 26B at the St.Kilda Marina. Fortunately for the salvage crews there was a significant concentration of VSAG expertise on hand to provide free and gratuitous advice and opinion on their technique and chances of refloating this vessel. I was certainly impressed with the willingness of VSAG members to offer such intellectual property and amazed at the dexterity and speed with which these views changed when the effort was ultimately successful. Watching one of the old ferries haul the boat off the shelf with a 400m tow rope was pretty impressive – even if it did take a few goes! Maybe something for the Prom?

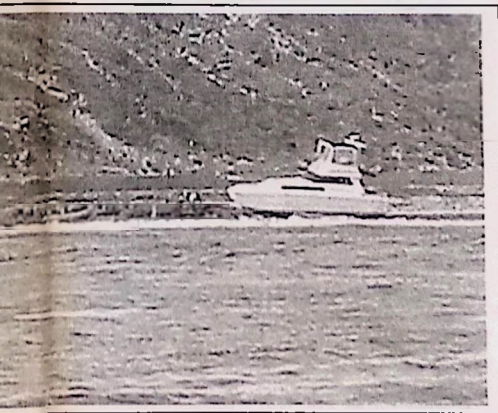
After we'd helped out, JL's boat crew went over to Queenscliffe for a bottle drift on the outgoing tide and Mick's lot headed up the bay for some scallops. The drift was terrific, fast and over some great ground. The sun was out and viz seemed better than our first dive, most notable was the large number of banjo sharks we encountered. All were around the same size and according to Alan all male (I thought best not to ask).



e Jacoby (photos by Mary Malloy)



*Banjo shark looking very nervous as Alan approaches.... Yes I think that is a torch.*



*Mark heats up the surrounding water (above)*

*Cruiser up on the rocks at Point Nepaen (left)*

ersonally, I scored a beer bottle from early 1997 which I'll cherish - much better than all the old crap the others found. We dropped the Queenscliffe guys off and motored back to Corrento in brilliant sunshine and flat seas - a great way to finish the day. Thanks to all that came along - Look forward to next time.

ve.

*(Postscript...VSAG members be reassured Gerry has made a full recovery)*

## Pinnacles Pose Port Problems *reprinted courtesy of Landmark*

(Landmark is an industry journal published by Land Victoria - SJ)

GPS technology is proving invaluable in measuring The Rip—that spectacular entrance to Port Phillip Bay—as part of the evaluation of the case for channel deepening.

The global trend to larger container and general cargo ships has compelled the Victorian Channels Authority (VCA) to study options for deepening the Melbourne and Geelong shipping channels to protect Victorian seaborne imports and exports worth more than \$6 billion annually.

The authority's economic studies indicate that Victoria's economy will suffer if future container shipping access to Victorian ports is limited.

"To retain Melbourne's position as Australia's leading container port, the bottom line, pun intended, is that we must investigate deepening our channels by up to 2.5 metres to safely accommodate larger container ships," says Kevin Shea, who heads the channel deepening project.

"The feasibility study showed we must plan for larger container ships expected to be in service in the short to medium term," Mr Shea said.

"We are planning for them to be 300 metres long, with 40 metres beam and draft of 13 or possibly 14 metres by 2030. Such ships cannot enter the Heads at the moment.

"Our technical studies show that various deepening options are feasible.

"Now we are focussing on financial strategies for recovering our investment, and preparing environmental impact statements allowing for various channel geometries and dredging technologies, which should conclude by late next year.

"We've also started a community consultation program."

The \$130 million project would involve deepening channels across the entrance to the Bay, 12km along the South Channel, and another 12km through the Port of Melbourne.

"Deepening at The Rip will basically involve dredging away some pinnacles, or higher points, along an uneven, virtually bare sandstone platform," Mr Shea says.

"We're very aware of the environmental significance of the

area and we are examining all implications of channel deepening, including appropriate environmental safeguards for dredging or, should it be necessary, use of small explosive charges to weaken the rock before removal.

"These studies are an important part of our continuing investigations.

"The channel is distant from the coral gardens of Lonsdale Wall and other reefs around the Heads.

"Our studies to date have shown that even the deepest proposed dredging would lift high tide level in the Bay by only 20mm."

Given a satisfactory environmental impact statement, the VCA would invite tenders from overseas dredging companies for work to start in late 2004.

A possible solution for deepening at the Rip would be a floating 'cutter suction dredge' which 'walks' across the site on spudded legs. The balance of channel deepening would be by trailer suction dredge.

GPS technology has been an essential part in the continuing channel surveys by VCA Chief Hydrographic Surveyor, Paul Downie.

The authority's GPS base station on the Portarlington water tower on the

Bellarine Peninsula refines the positioning satellite signals and locates the two surveying craft with an accuracy of around a metre.

Melbourne software company, Geocomp Systems, developed the seafloor mapping systems which combine GPS data and millions of acoustic observations from the echosounders on the survey vessels.

How do you keep a safe distance between keel and sandstone at The Rip?

The clearance depends on available depth of channel, tide height, waves at the Heads, and the ship's draft and speed. (Higher speeds drive ships deeper into the water; they're said to 'squat'. At 20 knots a ship may squat 1.5 metres below normal draft.)

Currently, the Port Phillip Sea Pilots base their Rip passages on such static information combined with surface observations of waves.

In future they may be able to refine clearance options by using real-time tide and wave information, known depths and the stability data from individual ships.

To measure how ships rock n'roll in the unique wave, wind, tide and current effects around the Heads, last year Paul Downie's team 'bugged' a dozen ships with extreme-accuracy GPS units at the



bow and each side of the bridge and recorded their passage through the Heads.

A centimetric RTK GPS system measured ships' roll and pitch in 3D to an accuracy of 50mm. Data showed ships rolling up to 15 degrees, with bow rises and falls up to four or five metres.

Comparisons with the shore-based GPS gave corrections for sea level and tide, and information on 'squat' at different speeds. The results were also used to validate much of the computer modelling of ships' behaviour.

These studies are part of Dynamic Under Keel Clearance (DUKC) investigations which may give pilots an extra 0.4 metres of clearance.

By global engineering standards, the dredging of The Rip is no huge task in volume terms, involving removal of approximately 200,000 cubic metres of dune sandstone for 1.5 metres of deepening.

But in difficulty, it's a four-star rating, a notoriously non-level playing field with its three-metre tides, currents peaking at eight knots (almost 15 km/hr), and turbulence from waves reflecting in all directions.

Dredgers have to work around 3320 ships coming and going annually along or adjacent to the Great Ship Channel only 245 metres wide.

Marine archaeologists can show you the results of errors, or bad luck with an engine, which could leave you as an expensive decoration on Corsair Rock or one of the many other reefs.

The navigational challenges of The Rip were first recorded when the first European sailor cautiously penetrated the entrance to Port Phillip Bay 200 years ago.

'The treacherous waters of The Rip' became a newspaper cliché, and generations of port engineers from the late 1800s battled to deepen the entrance from 10 metres to today's 14 metres.

Post WWII, deepening efforts included exploding numerous Naval mines in a swords-into-ploughshares improvisation that often only shuffled the sandstone.

While almost all Victorians appreciate the scenery and history of The Rip, many sailors know its threats first hand and divers appreciate its wrecks and the beauties of its reefs, few know it as a massive sand exchange funnel.

The VCA's analyses show the looping distribution patterns of

100,000 cubic metres of sand coming through the Heads each year, only half of which leaves again, with the remainder helping to clog shipping channels.

By the way, if you're in the market for clean sand (currently fetching around \$50 a tonne at quarries), or can invent new uses for same, there will be plenty if the project proceeds.

While options for the use of the dredged sand include depositing into the authority's spoil grounds in the Bay, or beach replenishment, the VCA may seek markets for the balance.

A historical note: In this high-tech world, it is comforting to find that the VCA's hydrographers still keep some sounding leads.

Marked in metres instead of fathoms perhaps, but still appropriate lead-weight-on-a line technology for quickly checking depths in confined spaces like the edge of a wharf or under a bridge.

Want to know more?

Lisa Faldon

Victorian Channels Authority

Telephone: (03) 9612 3533

or

email:

[lfaldon@vicchannels.vic.gov.au](mailto:lfaldon@vicchannels.vic.gov.au)

### Important Notice

## **HMAS PERTH TRIP**

A trip is being planned to Albany (WA) in March 2003 to dive the HMAS Perth. Those intending to go at this stage include Des Williams, Gail & Andy, Bazza & Marie, Ted & Jan Cornish, Alan Storen, Nev, Mick & JL.

If you'd like to join your fellow VSAG Members on this trip please contact John Lawler on 9589 4020.

## Help Choose a Marine Emblem for Victoria

### Short-listed candidates

There are nine marine animals on the short list, chosen by an expert panel of Victorian marine scientists and educators, led by Sir Gus Nossal, Chief Scientist for the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

These animals all satisfy the criteria, used by the panel, that the species to be adopted as Victoria's marine emblem should be:

- an animal which lives its whole life in the marine environment;
- native to and spends most of its life in Victorian waters;
- found only in southern Australian waters,
- widely distributed (not a threatened species), impressive and valued for its natural characteristics.

Register your vote on [www.nre.vic.gov.au](http://www.nre.vic.gov.au) (closes 4<sup>th</sup> October 2002)



1. Western Blue Devilfish  
(*Paraplesiops meleagris*)

Photo: William Boyle

You will find the Western Blue Devilfish amongst the 'gardens' of colourful sponges and soft corals at the southern end of Port Phillip. This fish's vivid sapphire body and iridescent blue spots are stunning. The Blue Devilfish is a favourite with scuba divers, and although inquisitive, they rarely venture too far beyond their home ledge, crevice or small cave. It is believed that the male guards the eggs that are laid by the female well back into rock crevices. Western Blue Devilfish grow to around 33 centimetres in length, and are found at depths between 10 and 45 metres. The population of Blue Devilfish at Port Phillip Heads is thought to be the largest in Victoria. They are only found in southern Australian waters.



2. Southern Pot-bellied  
Seahorse  
(*Hippocampus abdominalis*)

Photo: William Boyle

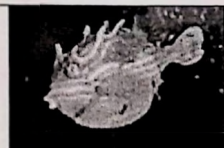
The Southern Pot-bellied Seahorse is the largest seahorse found in southern Australian waters and is commonly seen in Port Phillip Bay and other sheltered marine areas along the Victorian coast. Seahorses use their tail to hold onto things like seaweeds and sponges. They feed on small shrimp. Male Pot-bellied Seahorses attempt to impress potential female partners by inflating their bellies with water. When the female accepts the advances of a male, she swims with him and lays her eggs in his stomach pouch. The male then holds the eggs, and after about a month the young seahorses, mini replicas of adults, are released to fend for themselves. The Southern Pot-bellied Seahorse reaches a length of 25 centimetres and is found at depths to 12 metres. They are only found in southern Australian waters.





3. Giant Cuttlefish  
(*Sepia apama*)  
Photo: Jon Bryan

Curious and charismatic, Giant Cuttlefish are one of the most fascinating marine creatures of southern Australia. Large and generally solitary, they tend to hide in caves and seaweed during the day. Giant Cuttlefish are masterful quick-change artists, able to adjust their skin colouration at a split second to match their background. When feeding, they hover just off the seafloor, slowly stalking shrimp, crabs or fish. Giant Cuttlefish attempt to overwhelm their prey's attention by vibrant colour changes, yellow, orange or red. Two long tentacles shoot out when the animal moves close enough to make a strike. Colour also plays an important part in cuttlefish communication. After laying their eggs on reefs, the female Giant Cuttlefish dies. Next time you find a cuttlefish 'bone', the animal's internal buoyancy device, see if you can detect the recipients of the easy meal; dolphins, birds, fish, or seals. Giant Cuttlefish are only found in southern Australian waters.



4. Shaw's Cowfish  
(*Araucana aurita*)  
Photo: William Boyle

The beautiful orb-shaped Shaw's Cowfish are found in seagrass meadows and on sheltered and moderately exposed reefs. Divers often come across cowfish while they are feeding, their head down, and tail up, puffing water bursts over sand grains in an attempt to expose tiny animals. The males and females are easy to distinguish from their colour patterns; the males being a combination of yellows, blue and white, the females being largely brownish and cream. Although relatively slow swimmers, they can feed without fear of predators as their bodies are tough. Shaw's Cowfish are only found in southern Australian waters.



5. Weedy Seadragon  
(*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*)

Photo: William Boyle

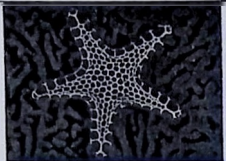
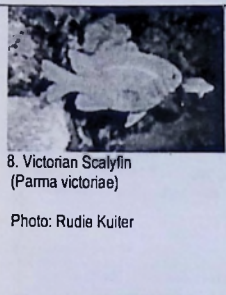
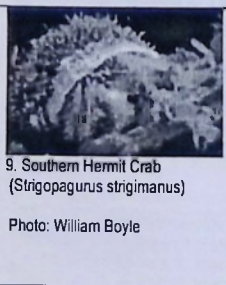
Weedy Seadragons are beautifully coloured, dainty, timid animals that swim slowly and gracefully over the kelp forests and seagrass meadows where they shelter. Growing up to 46 centimetres, the long leaf-shaped flaps of skin that project out at intervals along the top and bottom of the fish enable them to easily camouflage amongst marine vegetation. Seadragons are related to pipefishes and seahorses, and like them, it is the male that broods the eggs. With Weedy Seadragons, the tiny pink eggs can be seen stuck to the tail where they are brooded for two months. They hatch as miniature versions of the adults, but grow to 7 centimetres in three weeks. Weedy Seadragons are only found in southern Australian waters.



6. Verco's Nudibranch  
(*Tambja verconis*)

Photo: Jon Bryan

Verco's Nudibranch is one of the most striking of the 400 species of nudibranchs found in Australian waters. The name of the group means bare gills, and Verco's Nudibranch displays these as feathery plumes on its back. The animal's striking colouration signals its distasteful characteristics to fish; acidic defence glands in the skin making it unpalatable or even poisonous. Verco's Nudibranch preys almost exclusively upon a small bushy colony of animals known as bryozoa. You can sometimes find the nudibranch's orange eggs in their girdle of jelly near these bryozoan colonies. Verco's Nudibranch reaches 13 centimetres in length and lives at depths between 2 and 36 metres and are found in southern Australian waters.

	<p>One of the most stunning seastars found in Victorian coastal waters is the large, red, five-armed Vermillion Seastar. The Vermillion Seastar is easily recognisable by its brightly coloured body plates that are separated by white lines. The bright colouration warns would-be predators of toxic, soap-like compounds in the seastar's skin. This protection allows the animal to feed openly on exposed reefs, where it searches for lace corals and colonies of animals known as hydroids. With its thousands of suction-cupped tubular feet, the Vermillion Seastar can maintain a sound foothold on the reef in strong currents. They are only found in southern Australian waters.</p>
<p>7. Vermillion Seastar (<i>Pentagonaster dubeni</i>)</p> <p>Photo: Mary Malloy</p>	<p>The Victorian Scalyfin is particularly common on reefs covered in large brown seaweeds. The fish are generally well known to divers because of their feisty behaviour when defending their territories. Territories range in size from 3 to 30 square metres. Scalyfins are a fish that always appear busy, cultivating patches of rock with their favorite red seaweeds and weeding out unwanted species. They protect these 'gardens' from unwanted intruders. During the late spring and summer breeding season, a female will enter the territory of a male to lay her eggs on vertical rock surfaces that have been cleared by the male. Males court the females to enter their nests by swimming in small circles and wagging their tails. Once the eggs are laid, the males fiercely guard them until the eggs hatch about 12 days later. Larval fish are planktonic for about a month before returning to reefs as juveniles. Juveniles are stunningly beautiful with yellow to orange bodies with electric blue stripes and dots over their body. They are only found in southern Australian waters.</p>
 <p>8. Victorian Scalyfin (<i>Parma victoriae</i>)</p> <p>Photo: Rudie Kuitert</p>	<p>With their large bright reddish orange bodies, blue eyes, and hairy legs, the Southern Hermit Crab is the most distinctive of all Victoria's marine hermit crabs. So named because they carry a marine snail shell to protect their soft abdomen, the Southern Hermit Crab will be often found carrying the shell of a large whelk snail. They can partially withdraw into this shell, drawing their hard, spiky claws and legs in together as a barricade to would be predators such as fish and octopus. Southern Hermit Crabs can also produce sound from the palms of each claw although the specific purpose this serves is unclear. As a Southern Hermit Crab grows it needs to periodically change into a larger shell, and often they will try different shells on for size. In some locations where shells are in short supply there can be intense competition and fighting amongst individuals. Southern Hermit Crabs grow to around 13 centimetres in length, and are found at depths to over 200 metres. They are only found in southern Australian waters.</p>
 <p>9. Southern Hermit Crab (<i>Strigopagurus strigimanus</i>)</p> <p>Photo: William Boyle</p>	

### **ARTICLES FOR FATHOMS**

**Please don't be shy – we need your article, story or any item you think may be of interest to other club members!**  
**REMEMBER – NO ARTICLES – NO FATHOMS!**

## Port Phillip Heads (Pt.Lonsdale)

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

Times and Heights of High and Low Waters.

## September - 2002

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
0545 1.30	0051 1.35	0220 1.38	0254 1.42
1 1123 0.57	9 0639 0.23	25 0808 0.38	0841 0.40
SU 1733 1.27	MO 1333 1.45	WE 1424 1.35	TH 1454 1.36
2338 0.27	1910 0.33	2024 0.24	2055 0.21
0633 1.27	10 0148 1.46	0254 1.42	0328 1.44
2 1200 0.64	0707 0.24	0841 0.40	0915 0.42
MO 1809 1.22	TU 1416 1.49	TH 1454 1.36	FR 1525 1.35
	2000 0.20	2055 0.21	2127 0.19
0015 0.27	11 0242 1.54	0242 0.38	0401 1.44
3 0728 1.23	10 0821 0.27	1011 1.19	0948 0.45
TU 1242 0.70	WE 1457 1.51	TH 1518 0.70	SA 1557 1.32
1853 0.17	2047 0.11	2153 1.09	2158 0.19
0059 0.28	12 0333 1.58	0400 0.40	0401 1.44
4 0831 1.20	11 0908 0.32	1112 1.20	0948 0.45
WE 1334 0.75	TH 1536 1.50	FR 1645 0.65	SA 1557 1.32
1951 1.13	2133 0.06	2304 1.11	2158 0.19
0156 0.29	13 0425 1.57	0511 0.40	0438 1.41
5 0943 1.20	FR 1615 1.47	1206 1.24	1022 0.49
TH 1442 0.77	2219 0.05	SA 1752 0.56	SU 1629 1.27
2105 1.11	0516 1.52	0511 0.40	2229 0.20
0307 0.29	14 1037 0.44	0007 1.17	0517 1.36
6 1053 1.24	SA 1656 1.42	22 0608 0.38	1057 0.54
FR 1600 0.73	2305 0.08	SU 1250 1.26	MO 1702 1.22
2230 1.14	0610 1.44	1841 0.46	2300 0.21
0425 0.27	15 1120 0.51	0100 1.24	
7 1154 1.31	SU 1739 1.35	0654 0.37	
SA 1715 0.62	2350 0.15	MO 1325 1.31	
2346 1.23	0706 1.35	1918 0.37	
0537 0.25	16 1205 0.58	0143 1.32	
8 1246 1.38	MO 1828 1.27	0733 0.37	
SU 1816 0.48		TU 1356 1.34	
		1952 0.30	

## Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams

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

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

September - 2002 *Supp ebb - flood*

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
0159 ebb	0312 flood	0343 ebb	0459 flood
1 0832 flood	0950 ebb	17 1045 flood	25 1100 ebb
SU 1346 ebb	MO 1613 flood	TU 1538 ebb	WE 1651 flood
1933 flood	2220 ebb	2114 flood	2313 ebb
0236 ebb	0416 flood	0439 ebb	0536 flood
2 0925 flood	1035 ebb	1147 flood	1131 ebb
MO 1423 ebb	TU 1647 flood	WE 1653 ebb	TH 1715 flood
2002 flood	2304 ebb	2221 flood	2344 ebb
0318 ebb	0515 flood	0548 ebb	0613 flood
3 1032 flood	1117 ebb	1254 flood	1200 ebb
TU 1505 ebb	WE 1722 flood	TH 1846 ebb	FR 1738 flood
2038 flood	2349 ebb	2354 flood	
0411 ebb	0611 flood	0707 ebb	0015 ebb
4 1154 flood	1158 ebb	1356 flood	0649 flood
WE 1601 ebb	TH 1756 flood	FR 2010 ebb	SA 1229 ebb
2129 flood			1802 flood
0518 ebb	0035 ebb	0126 flood	0048 ebb
5 1309 flood	0705 flood	0814 ebb	29 0727 flood
TH 1726 ebb	FR 1237 ebb	SA 1446 flood	SU 1258 ebb
2246 flood	1830 flood	2103 ebb	1828 flood
0639 ebb	0121 ebb	0237 flood	30 0122 ebb
6 1409 flood	0800 flood	0906 ebb	MO 0907 flood
FR 1930 ebb	SA 1317 ebb	SU 1525 flood	MO 1329 ebb
	1904 flood	2142 ebb	1855 flood
0022 flood	0207 ebb	0332 flood	
7 0755 ebb	MO 0950 ebb	0950 ebb	
SA 1456 flood	SU 1359 ebb	MO 1557 flood	
2044 ebb	1942 flood	2214 ebb	
0154 flood	0253 ebb	0417 flood	
8 0858 ebb	MO 1444 ebb	1625 flood	
SU 1536 flood	2023 flood	2244 ebb	
2134 ebb			



# Port Phillip Heads (Pt.Lonsdale)

Lat 38° 13'

Long 144° 37'

Time Zone 1000

Times and Heights of High and Low Waters.

## October - 2002

Time	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	
<b>1</b>	0601 1.30	<b>17</b>	0100 0.37	<b>25</b>	0231 1.50
	1131 0.59		0831 1.18		0818 0.45
TU	1739 1.18	TH	1333 0.61	FR	1420 1.30
	2337 0.22		2023 1.05		2021 0.14
<b>2</b>	0653 1.24	<b>18</b>	0204 0.46	<b>26</b>	0305 1.52
	1212 0.63		0930 1.14		0945 1.29
WE	1826 1.13	FR	1456 0.61	SA	1455 1.29
			2144 1.05		2053 0.14
<b>3</b>	0023 0.26	<b>19</b>	0320 0.51	<b>27</b>	0340 1.50
	0754 1.19		1028 1.14		0926 0.47
TH	1301 0.66	SA	1620 0.56	SU	1530 1.27
	1930 1.09		2255 1.10		2125 0.14
<b>4</b>	0121 0.30	<b>20</b>	0408 1.63	<b>28</b>	0416 1.46
	0904 1.18		1119 1.16		1000 0.49
FR	1408 0.66	SU	1721 0.47	MO	1603 1.23
	2051 1.09		2355 1.19		2045 1.16
<b>5</b>	0234 0.35	<b>21</b>	0545 1.55	<b>29</b>	0455 1.41
	1014 1.25		1015 0.44		1033 0.52
SA	1529 0.59	SU	1630 1.36	TU	1639 1.19
	2221 1.16		2238 0.08		2230 0.18
<b>6</b>	0359 0.37	<b>22</b>	0545 1.45	<b>30</b>	0538 1.34
	1115 1.25		1059 0.48		1109 0.54
SU	1647 0.46	MO	1715 1.29	WE	1720 1.15
	2338 1.29		2323 0.17		2309 0.22
<b>7</b>	0519 0.36	<b>23</b>	0636 1.35	<b>31</b>	0625 1.28
	1210 1.32		1144 0.53		1050 0.56
MO	1750 0.50	TU	1805 1.20	TH	1812 1.12
					2357 0.28
<b>8</b>	0042 1.44	<b>24</b>	0159 1.45		
	0623 0.35		0745 0.46		
TU	1258 1.39	TH	1346 1.29		
	1844 0.16		1948 0.17		

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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

## October - 2002

*Sweep ebb + flood*

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	
<b>1</b>	0158 ebb	<b>9</b>	1029 ebb	<b>17</b>	0350 ebb
	0818 ebb		0413 ebb		1052 flood
TU	1403 ebb	WE	1602 flood	TH	1645 ebb
	1928 flood		2238 ebb		2310 ebb
<b>2</b>	0238 ebb	<b>10</b>	0515 flood	<b>18</b>	0457 ebb
	0945 flood		1105 ebb		1152 flood
WE	1445 ebb	TH	1640 flood	FR	1827 ebb
	2010 flood		2323 ebb		2344 ebb
<b>3</b>	0327 ebb	<b>11</b>	0606 flood	<b>19</b>	0626 ebb
	1048 flood		1145 ebb		1253 flood
TH	1541 ebb	FR	1717 flood	SA	1939 ebb
	2111 flood				
<b>4</b>	0431 ebb	<b>12</b>	0006 ebb	<b>20</b>	0126 flood
	1157 flood		0656 flood		0745 ebb
FR	1704 ebb	SA	1224 ebb	MO	1246 ebb
	2245 flood		1756 flood		1755 flood
<b>5</b>	0557 ebb	<b>13</b>	0050 ebb	<b>21</b>	0233 flood
	1300 flood		0743 flood		0845 ebb
SA	1856 ebb	SU	1304 ebb	MO	1429 flood
			1836 flood		1828 flood
<b>6</b>	0031 flood	<b>14</b>	0132 ebb	<b>22</b>	0325 flood
	0730 ebb		0828 flood		0930 ebb
SU	1355 flood	MO	1346 ebb	TU	1503 flood
	2013 ebb		1918 flood		2134 ebb
<b>7</b>	0203 flood	<b>15</b>	0215 ebb	<b>23</b>	0409 flood
	0842 ebb		0912 flood		1011 ebb
MO	1442 flood	TU	1432 ebb	WE	1534 flood
	2106 ebb		2004 flood		2206 ebb
<b>8</b>	0317 flood	<b>16</b>	0259 ebb	<b>24</b>	0447 flood
	0937 ebb		0959 flood		1045 ebb
TU	1524 flood	WE	1528 ebb	TH	1602 flood
	2153 ebb		2101 flood		2238 ebb

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## Port Phillip Heads (Pt Lonsdale)

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

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

## November - 2002

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
<b>1</b> 0720 1.23 1240 0.55 FR 1919 1.10	<b>9</b> 0303 1.69 0830 0.44 SA 1441 1.40 2042 -0.03	<b>17</b> 0230 0.61 0929 1.12 SU 1534 0.48 2059 1.24	<b>25</b> 0322 1.52 0904 0.49 MO 1507 1.24 2059 1.24
<b>2</b> 0056 0.36 0824 1.19 SA 1345 0.52 2046 1.12	<b>10</b> 0349 1.64 0914 0.44 SU 1525 1.37 2128 0.03	<b>18</b> 0352 0.65 1019 1.11 MO 1636 0.40 2330 1.21	<b>26</b> 0400 1.49 0940 0.49 TU 1545 1.22 2132 0.13
<b>3</b> 0209 0.45 0930 1.20 SU 1502 0.44 2215 1.22	<b>11</b> 0434 1.55 0957 0.44 MO 1609 1.31 2213 0.11	<b>19</b> 0505 0.65 1107 1.13 TU 1724 0.32	<b>27</b> 0439 1.44 1016 0.48 WE 1625 1.19 2210 0.17
<b>4</b> 0334 0.51 1032 1.23 MO 1619 0.31 2328 1.37	<b>12</b> 0519 1.46 1041 0.46 TU 1655 1.24 2257 0.21	<b>20</b> 0018 1.31 0600 0.63 WE 1150 1.16 1804 0.24	<b>28</b> 0519 1.39 1054 0.47 TH 1711 1.17 2253 0.24
<b>5</b> 0458 0.52 1130 1.28 TU 1722 0.17	<b>13</b> 0606 1.36 1126 0.48 WE 1745 1.15 2342 0.32	<b>21</b> 0643 0.59 TH 1231 1.19 1841 0.18	<b>29</b> 0602 1.34 1137 0.45 FR 1805 1.14 2348 0.33
<b>6</b> 0030 1.52 0603 0.50 WE 1222 1.33 1816 0.05	<b>14</b> 0655 1.27 1215 0.51 TH 1846 1.08	<b>22</b> 0718 0.56 FR 1311 1.22 1916 0.14	<b>30</b> 0650 1.38 1228 0.42 SA 1915 1.14
<b>7</b> 0125 1.63 0657 0.48 TH 1311 1.38 1906 -0.03	<b>15</b> 0029 0.43 0745 1.20 FR 1311 0.53 2006 1.04	<b>23</b> 0209 1.52 0754 0.53 SA 1350 1.24 1951 0.11	
<b>8</b> 0215 1.69 0745 0.46 FR 1357 1.40 1955 -0.05	<b>16</b> 0123 0.53 0836 1.15 SA 1420 0.52 2123 1.05	<b>24</b> 0245 1.54 0829 0.51 SU 1429 1.25 2025 0.11	

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## Port Phillip Heads - Total Streams

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

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

## November - 2002

*Severe ebb + flood*

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
<b>1</b> 0253 ebb FR 1536 ebb 2118 flood	<b>9</b> 0556 flood 1131 ebb SA 1645 flood 2840 ebb	<b>17</b> 0525 ebb 1136 flood SU 1851 ebb	<b>25</b> 0625 flood 1206 ebb MO 1657 flood 2355 ebb
<b>2</b> 0353 ebb 1051 flood SA 1700 ebb 2300 flood	<b>10</b> 0641 flood 1212 ebb SU 1730 flood	<b>18</b> 0702 ebb MO 1229 flood 1939 ebb	<b>26</b> 0700 flood 1238 ebb TU 1735 flood
<b>3</b> 0515 ebb 1149 flood SU 1834 ebb	<b>11</b> 0021 ebb 0721 flood MO 1254 ebb 1815 flood	<b>19</b> 0219 flood 0815 ebb TU 1316 flood 2019 ebb	<b>27</b> 0733 flood WE 1313 ebb 1818 flood
<b>4</b> 0043 flood 0700 ebb MO 1247 flood 1945 ebb	<b>12</b> 0101 ebb 0800 flood TU 1338 ebb 1902 flood	<b>20</b> 0311 flood 0908 ebb WE 1358 flood 2056 ebb	<b>28</b> 0106 ebb 0805 flood TH 1352 ebb 1910 flood
<b>5</b> 0823 ebb TU 1342 flood 2040 ebb	<b>13</b> 0141 ebb 0836 flood WE 1426 ebb 1954 flood	<b>21</b> 0355 flood 0951 ebb TH 1434 flood 2131 ebb	<b>29</b> 0145 ebb FR 1439 ebb 2015 flood
<b>6</b> 0320 flood 0921 ebb WE 1430 flood 2128 ebb	<b>14</b> 0220 ebb 0914 flood TH 1522 ebb 2054 flood	<b>22</b> 0434 flood 1030 ebb FR 1510 flood 2208 ebb	<b>30</b> 0230 ebb 0915 flood SA 1539 ebb 2136 flood
<b>7</b> 0418 flood 1009 ebb TH 1516 flood 2214 ebb	<b>15</b> 0305 ebb 0956 flood FR 1633 ebb 2212 flood	<b>23</b> 1104 ebb SA 1545 flood 2244 ebb	
<b>8</b> 0509 flood 1051 ebb FR 1600 flood 2257 ebb	<b>16</b> 0401 ebb 1044 flood SA 1749 ebb 2347 flood	<b>24</b> 1136 ebb SU 1620 flood 2319 ebb	

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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 .....	11440

### Diving Doctors

Dr Guy Williams (Rosebud).....	5981 1555
Dr J De BJ Dade (Mornington).....	5975 5288

**VHF Emergency Channel.....16**



# VSAG DIVE & MEETING CALENDAR

Date	Location	Dive Captain	Phone	Meeting Point	Time
<b>AUGUST</b>					
4	Deep Wreck Dive	Leo M	9727 1568	Sorrento	9.30
15	<b>General Meeting</b>			<b>Bells Hotel</b>	<b>8PM</b>
18	Pinnacles / Kermode	Gerry DV	9725 2381	Newhaven	9.30
23,24	Whale-Watch Weekend	Andy M	9809 0984	Warrnambool	
30,31	Ski Weekend	Leo M	9727 1568		
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
1	Milora	Leo M	9727 1568	Sorrento	9.30
15	Car Rally Mornington Pen.	Peter V.	9787 1298	McDonalds Mornington	10.00
19	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>			<b>Bells Hotel</b>	<b>8PM</b>
22	Coogee	Steve J	9772 2635	Sorrento	9.30
29	Nepean Wall	Peter V.	9787 1298	Sorrento	9.30
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
6	Boarfish Reef	John L	9589 4020	Sorrento	9.00
13	Courier	Leo M	9727 1568	Sorrento	9.00
17	<b>General Meeting</b>			<b>Bells Hotel</b>	<b>8PM</b>
20	The Links	Pat R	9789 1092	Sorrento	9.30
27	120' Sub	Gerry DV	9725 2381	Sorrento	9.30
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
1-5	Wilson's Prom	Priya C	9761 0960	Tidal River	
17	90' Sub	Pat R	9789 1092	Sorrento	9.30
21	<b>General Meeting</b>			<b>Bells Hotel</b>	<b>8PM</b>
24	Ships' Graveyard	Gerry DV	0417 324 608	Sorrento	9.00
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
1	Cray Dive	Andy M	9809 0984	To be advised	
6	VSAG Xmas Party			Milano's - Brighton Beach	7PM
8	Back Beaches	Bruce D	9787 6318	Sorrento	9.30
15	Pinnacles / Kermode	John L	9589 4020	Newhaven	10.00
19	<b>General Meeting</b>			<b>Bells Hotel</b>	<b>8PM</b>
22	Cray Dive	Gerry DV	0417 324 608	Flinders	9.00

*Dive Calendar is subject to change – Please check details with Dive Captain*

## DIVE CHECK IN TIMES

Boat Owners 5.00 to 6.00pm    Divers 6.00 to 7.00pm

**BOOKINGS CLOSE AT 7.00pm. DO NOT PHONE AFTER THAT TIME. THE DIVE CAPTAIN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF DIVERS TO BOATS**



**Which of  
these will  
be  
Victoria's  
new  
Marine  
Emblem?**



**(For info on how  
you can vote - see  
inside - good luck  
to Mary!)**

