# December - January 20 03 Photo courtesy of Mary Mailoy - Bruce Dart & Steve Jacoby descend on Castle Rock Dec 2002

**VSAG** Victorian Sub-Aqua Group



lf undelivered, return to VSAG, Box 2526W GPO, Melb Vic 3001

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

## FATHOMS

Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group



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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
Editorial Submissions to:	John Lawler 7 Cloris Avenue, Beaumaris 3193 jylawlerrättigi com.au

#### **EDITORIAL.**

## - JOHN LAWLER.

The highlight of the VSAG social calendar was surely the Christmas party on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the fabulous Milanos Brighton Beach Hotel. Some members and families took advantage of the splendid Savoy Motel nearby and booked in for the night, whilst others came in chauffer driven style. Some 50 plus VSAG'ers enjoyed top fare "a la carte" from a great menu arranged by our host, VSAG member and hotel manager Peter Jones. The food was just great, the service excellent and the wines, well...need we say more. Thanks to Peter and his team for looking after us and for going out of their way to make our night the great success it was.Good news is that Milanos is now booked again for Christmas 2003.

A special performance on the dance floor was given by two extraordinary superb dancers as we watched Martin and Josie Talliana enthral all in the room with their dance routine. This unexpected contribution to the night was a great thrill, thanks to both Marty and Josie.

Boat licencing is now another part of our diving life and for those who are not boat owners and who have become boat licence holders, the boat owners extend a "thank you". These people will play a very big role in our boating and diving by being licenced to control a boat when the owner is doing a dive. It is not too late for people who are VSAG'ers to sit for their licence and put something back into the club's boat owners contribution to your diving!

On a concerning note, your editor has been grounded since a dive on November 24<sup>th</sup> where I experienced Pulmonary Edema. The team at the Alfred Hyperbaric Unit have run tests and whilst no unusual conditions were detected, high blood pressure was a concern. I have been placed in the care of a cardiologist, Dr Peter Bergin, who will be conducting more tests late in January 03. Until the results of the tests are finalised I can only "watch from the sidelines", however my boat will be available for local diving and when my role as Dive Captain comes around I will still fill the role. It is with very much regret that I advise that we are to say farewell to another great VSAG member who is to relocate to sunny Brisbane. Steve Jacoby and his family leave Melbourne on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2003.Steve is to take up a new role with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, as their Chief Information Officer.

Steve has been the person behind the Fathoms magazine, and apart from the editorial, print and mail out, has been responsible for the excellent new style and format we have seen over the past year. On behalf of the committee and the members, thank you Steve for your valued contribution to the Fathoms magazine and to the club in general...we wish you and your family all the very best in your new life.

Steve has promised he will return for the VSAG's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday party in 2004, if not before.

Alan Storen will take over Steve's role and the December/January edition of Fathoms will be Alan's first edition and we wish Alan all the best in his new role.

Looking forward to seeing you all on and, hopefully for me, under the water.

Safe and happy diving. John. Lawler. EDITOR.



Verco's Nudibranch

DIVE REPORT - 29th December. BY JOHN LAWLER.

With many of the VSAG'ers away on Christmas vacation, the dive for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December was down to the boats of Neville Viapre's and mine, and eight divers. Neville had Paul and Tony Tipping and Darren Pearce on board and my boat had Bruce Dart, Steve Jacoby, Don Abell and Terry Brooks on board.

(Two boats had decided to pass up the official dive on Sunday and chose the Saturday as this seemed to be the better of the two days for their diving, and in doing so resulted in some divers missing out on the Sunday dive due to lack of boats and spaces. Sorry to those who missed this dive due to this.)

It was suggested that all on board get into their wet suites as the trip out would be a bit on the wet side. This was over and done with by all very quickly however Brooksie was very much on the slow side...was it the glove down the inside bottom of one leg holding up the task, had the gear shrunk, had he put on weight...nah none of this...he had simply put the wet suit on back to front! (sorry Terry, traditionally the send up must stand, and Don would have noted if it didn't get mentioned!)

Eight divers headed out for the rip in a strong Northerly where we were to meet up with Alan and Mary Beckhurst just west of Lonsdale.

On arrival, greetings and general chatter with the Freediver crew were exchanged and our dive plan put into place.

Bruce Dart and Steve Jacoby opted for the first plunge and we decided on a location near to where Freediver was anchored. We have had excellent dive reports from this area in the past and it was therefore locked into my GPS. Around forty five minutes later two very happy divers climbed back onto the boat with stories of vis around 20 mtrs and excellent, exciting territory and with good fish life...no bugs however.

Don and Terry were next to dive, and as these two divers had not dived for quite some time a briefing to both on how to set up the dive gear was undertaken( only joking guys). Both divers were put into an area quite close to the GPS mark but a bit further south. The divers surfaced also around forty five minutes later and it was good to note the contents of the catch bag...some one was going the enjoy a nice meal that night. Don advised however that despite some good ledges the territory was flat not that impressive and quite different from the previous divers territory...none the less they enjoyed getting wet and in good vis.

Neville and his crew were diving well South of our mark, and Darren came into an area with a lot of crays one big, but the dive was terminated before he could get it bagged. It will be there for you next time Darren, and it will be bigger!

The Northerly was still persisting and despite being in the South lee of Lonsdale it was still quite lumpy. As we had to get Terry back to Portsea by 1pm we all agreed to have lunch in the little bay area. We anchored in the bay and had Neville and his crew anchored and within talking range so naturally the banter was full on, particularly as the two Tipping brothers were on board, somewhat of a rare experience to see these two guys on the same dive and on the same boat. just great.

We decided on an early finish and headed back to Sorrento. As always thanks to the divers and the boaties for a top days fun and diving.

PS. This was to be Steve Jacoby's last dive with VSAG as he heads off to Brisbane on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.03. So pleased it was one of the better dives for you to remember Steve. Good luck.

John Lawler. Dive Captain.

## **A VERY SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

## BY

## THE VICTORIA POLICE AIR WING

Members of the Police Air Wing will be joining us at the general meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>

This is one presentation you will not want to miss. Lock this date into your diary now.

THIS MEETING MUST START AT 8PM SHARP.





estern Blue



The former HMAS Hobart ready to go!

UST 24 hours after it was sunk off the South Australian coast this month to form an artificial reef, the former HMAS Hobart welcomed its first divers on board.

Police clearance divers were first on the scene to make sure the 133m-long destroyer had arrived at its correct destination following its scuttling.

Even at its resting place 30m below the surface off Yankalilla Bay, 30km south of Adelaide, the ship lives up to its nickname of the Green Ghost.

Divers described an eerie feeling as they swam through the murky waters to the ship which now offers a maze of exploration, a diver's paradise.

For dive master Geoff Paynter, the Hobart is equal to anything he has seen. He has dived on its sister ships, the Swan and Perth, on hundreds of occasions but said the Hobart was special.

"The fact the engine room is available, not sealed off like the others, sets it apart," he said.

"It's one of the most spectacular parts of the dive. It's a world-class diving attraction, there's no doubt about it."

Crews also spent the day setting up 10 mooring buoys, with dive operators ready to begin charters to the site once the green light is given.

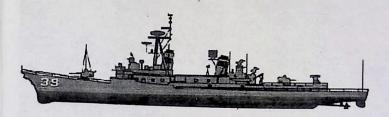
Police have also set up a 1km fishing exclusion zone.

The site is expected to attract about 16,000 divers by its third year of operation, and generate an additional \$10 million in business for the Fleurieu Peninsula.

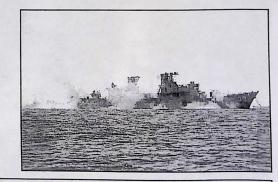
The Hobart gave 35 years of naval service and was regarded as one of the last true destroyers.

The last of four vessels to bear the name Hobart, it was decommissioned in May 2000.

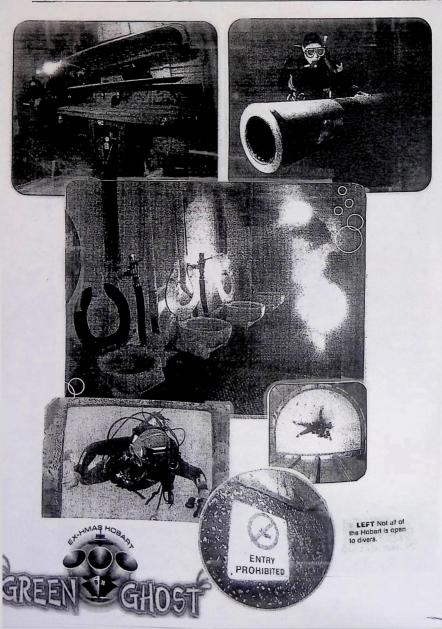
**BACHEL HANCOCK** 



Below: Scuttling charges are detonated.







#### Atheist encounter

An atheist was scuba-diving. "What majestic marine life! What beautiful coral and sponges! What fantastic fish!" he said to himself.

As he was diving through a wreck he saw a shadow in the distance. He turned to look. He saw a 6 metre white pointer swimming towards him.

He finned as fast as he could up towards the surface. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the shark was closing in on him. He finned faster and dropped his weightbelt. He looked over his shoulder again, and the shark was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to fin even faster. He got to the anchorline but his gear got caught on the float. He rolled over to free himself up but saw the shark right on top of him, lunging at him with his jaws open and about to strike him.

At that instant the Atheist cried out: "Oh my God!....." Time stopped. The shark froze. The waves went flat and silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky: "You deny my existence for all of these years, tell others I don't exist, and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to now count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps could you make the SHARK a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice.

The light went out and the waves and sounds resumed.

Then the shark closed his jaws, brought both dorsal fins together, bowed his head and spoke:

"Lord, Bless this food which I am about to receive ... "





#### It's human nature to become complacent. The last couple of years we have enjoyed near perfect weather for our annual divefest at Wilson's Prom, but no this year. As usual hundreds of divers and dozens of boats arrived for four days of fantastic diving as socialising.

A stiff easterly on Saturday had chopped up the sea. But the smarter crews from RMIT and Black Rock clubs thought it was worth a try. Shambles and some Haines' headed out to the Glennies and Norman Islands to be rewarded by protected water on the lee sides. Viz was excellent and these groups enjoyed the steep granite slopes, caves, seals and fish life for which the Prom in renowned, lucky buggers. The rest of us had opted to wait for smoother seas.



Black Rock club hosted this year's SDFV bbq and handled the hoards of hungry divers with aplomb. After a couples of hours the hundreds of snags, burgers and buckets of salads had been consumed and it was time to draw the raffle. Gary Weston from Black Rock club took out the first prize, a slab in a catch bag. Graeme Yeldon from LVSC chose the slab for second and Jonathan Tandy from

Black Rock club scored a bottle of Black Rock port for third prize. (Has anyone noticed a theme here?)

John Hawkins gave a brief rundown of the activities of the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria over the past year including some major contributions to the formation of new fisheries' policies. Each of the clubs posed for group photos with Latrobe Valley SC again dwarfing the others. We noticed a young lady with checked shirt getting into most groups. When asked who she was she simply replied "I'm Wally". The annual bbq has become the highlight of these weekends with many divers coming primarily to catch up with old mates.



The calm night ended with a gust of wind at sunrise that just kept blowing. For the next three days the sea was a washing machine and those who dived on Saturday kept reminding those who didn't just how good it was. On

Sunday night Mary and I presented a slide and video show on behalf of the SDFV to show the general public what the attraction of diving this area is. Parks Victoria theatrette packed out and many more people were disappointed at being unable to get in. We



apologise to everybody who missed out but we had limited space and only one session booked. It was great to see the level of interest in our show.

Most of us persevered with the wind and rain for the four days but didn't get a dive. Despite the disappointing weather I known most divers will return next cup weekend a little wiser about making use of slightly less than ideal conditions. Diving at the Prom is a rare privilege and any opportunity should not be missed.

Clubs participating this year were:

API scuba club, Black Rock Underwater Dive Group, Latrobe Valley Scuba Club,

Valley Diver, RMIT, Victorian Sub Aqua Group, Bairnsdale dive club, Marlin dive club, VUT dive club and Dan from Monash Uni dive club.

More photos from this weekend can be viewed at: http://nitrographics.alphalink.com.au/prom02.htm

# Underwater talk? Sounds fishy

Amanda Hodge
 Environment writer

#### 'Fish have an evening and a dawn chorus, and they're calling for a mate'

Mark Meekan Australian Institute of Marine Science researcher

BIRDS do it, as do the more energetic anong humans. But new research has revealed that the dawn chorus is also popular among fish who have the benefit of Earth's most effective acoustic theatre.

Australian Institute of Marine Science researcher Mark Meekan has found that rather like many human families, fish actually speak to each other in a series of grunts, squeaks and whistles.

Dr Meekan, in collaboration with the University of Kentucky and York University in Britain, has recorded a cacophony of sounds that reach a crescendo "equivalent to the roar of thousands of individual voices in a football stadium" at dawn and dusk.

"A lot like birds, fish have an evening and a dawn chorus, and they're calling to advertise territories and call for a mate," Dr Meekan said.

Sound travelled so efficiently underwater that some fish-talk could be heard up to 15km away.

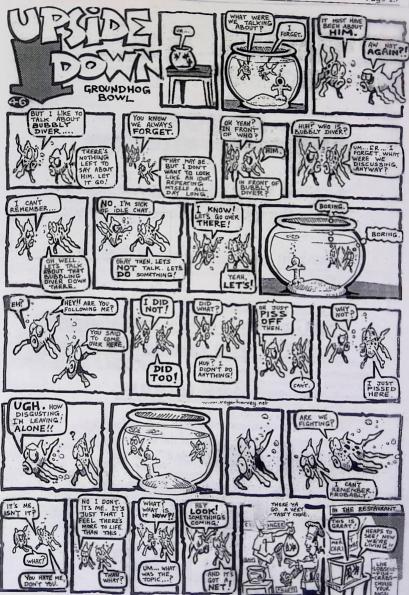
But the research also points to the fact that adult fish use those noises to call their offspring home. Fish larvae hatched on reefs are swept immediately out to sea and away from the myriad of predators. "We know that by the time they hatch, the embryos are sensitive to noises made on the reef by fishes and other organisms. The next question is if the larvae are imprinting their parents' fish-talk in the egg and responding to it when they hatch."

Using electrodes capable of picking up electronic signals when placed near the brain-stem, Dr Meekan has found fish larvae do hear fish noises played to them and respond with a quickened heartbeat.

He believes the fish's response to the reef noise explains how larvae swept out to the open seas manage to find their way back, and says the new research could improve the management of fish resources.

"If larvae are using those sounds to navigate, and we can work out sounds that are attractive to each species, then we can use that to create marine reserves where we attract babies of one species and in five years build a good population there," he said.

But the research raises questions about how to manage background noise levels in the ocean and around reefs that are 10 times greater than they were 30 years ago.



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## THE "J CLASS" SUBMARINES OF MELBOURNE.

Most VSAG divers have enjoyed diving the great "J" class submarines.

Now you can witness these great dive sites on video.

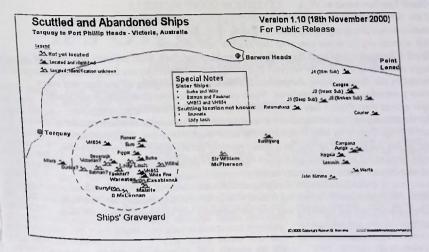
## VSAG presents a very special night as we enjoy a great video presentation by

## MARK HARRIS.

Mark is an exceptionally talented and professional photographer, and his videos of the submarines are exceptional. This presentation is a "must see"

## **GENERAL MEETING**

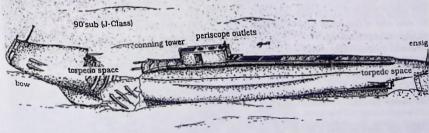
## MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>.



#### Dive standard: Intermediate - Experienced

#### **Dive Conditions**

The Shallow Submarine is an excellent dive for advanced open water divers. However there can be a strong surge in the main body of the submarine which can throw divers against the submarine's walls and hatches with great force. Sand silting can also be a problem. As this is a penetration dive, divers should be experienced and appropriately qualified.



## SHALLOW OR 90 FOOT SUBMARINE

#### VCA maintenance DREDGING in the Bay

- an update from Des Williams

Geoff Sparkes wrote to VCA ATTENTION GEOFF NICHOLLS I am writing on behalf of the Dive Industry Victoria Association Inc regarding the maintenance dredging taking place currently in the South Channel. The Dive Industry has several urgent major concerns that require your attention:

Spoil is being dumped near Popes Eye Marine National Park. Tidal currents are carrying huge amounts of silt into the reserve. Sea plants and invertebrates are being choked and buried in silt. Spoil is being dumped across the scallop beds killing all scallops and every other invertebrate over a huge area. Water quality generally and visibility in particular right across Port Phillip Bay has seriously degenerated since dredging commenced. Our businesses rely on taking divers to and escorting divers in the southern section of Port Phillip. This is no longer viable as the water quality is so low. We are cancelling trips at our busiest time of year as a direct result of the dredging The loss of business could be as much as \$15 million dollars as the Port Phillip Bay is now virtually unusable and may remain that way for many months.

I want you to immediately cease dredging until the silt and spoil problems can be satisfactorily addressed. The diving Industry, dolphin watching industry and recreational fishing industry are all suffering loss and our members will seek compensation if these urgent issues are not addressed.

A prompt response is essential Yours sincerely, Geoffrey Sparkes, President Dive Industry Victoria Association Inc

Des here again:....

Capt Tim Muir (VCA) rang me to inform the SDFV Clubs of the current situation, and this is what he had to say.....

"The VCA are currently conducting urgent dredging works in both Melb-Geelong channels. It has been years since work was carried out and is now urgent. The dredging in the west end of the South Channel is taking up mostly coarse but with some fine sand content and is being dumped in the Symonds Channel designated Spoil Ground, which is NE of Pope's Eye. The fine sand hits the bottom quickly and some of the coarse sand is lighter and tends to drift further - thus the cloudyness in the water. They are also working in the east end of the South Channel, near Capel Sands and taking this spoil to the old Spoil Ground north of the "Hurricane" wreck. This spoil is fine sand with some clay content and thus causing cloudyness in the water. Since the contact from Geoff Sparkes, VCA will try working elsewhere on the weekends, when most of the commercial diving is done, to cause as little inconvenience as possible. VCA have a meeting set up next week with DIVA to discuss further. At any rate, all dredging works will be finished by 15/01/03 and the South Channel should be finished in about 10 days, viz: 28/12/02."

So, there you have it. SDFV are being kept in the loop and I hope you will all appreciate Tim Muir's contact with us.

Jingle bells to you all, DES WILLIAMS

# Down on the farm, it's OK coral

## Amanda Hodge Environment writer

THE debate over whether farmers are killing off the Great Barrier Reef, and even if it is really in decline, could soon be settled by a modelling system that can predict the human toll on corals.

The breakthrough by Australian Institute of Marine Science lead scientist Eric Wolanski, published in this week's American Science journal, coincides with claims in New Scientist that the reef's plight is being exaggerated.

New Scientist quotes a "snall but increasingly vocal group of reef experts" who say campaigners are putting scientific credibility at risk for

## 'You always find major degradation after a big storm or floods'

#### Eric Wolanski

Australian Institute of Marine Science lead scientist

the sake of prompting political action and attracting research dollars.

Those accusations are strenuously denied by Queensland University's Centre for Marine Studies director Ove Hoegh-Guldberg. who says it is still a struggle to get reef research taken seriously by governments and industry.

The story seizes on last month's 2002 Report on the Status of the World's Coral Reefs, which found the Great Barrier Reef was still one of the world's best-preserved coral reef systems. It also used a 2002 report that found it was almost impossible to determine the degree to which humans, storms or floods had caused coral degradation through run-off.

Dr Wolanski said his new model should determine to what degree storms, floods or humans caused coral degradation through run-off.

"You always find major degradation after a big storm or floods, but what we believe we're now able to do is pinpoint within this natural variant what is human impact," he said.

Based on long-term survey results, the model uses algal cover as a barometer of reef health — the more algae the less healthy.

It computes the space used by algae, which forms as a result of sediment run-off into the reef, compared with that used by coral.

"What we find is the rate at which coral can recolonise space depends on the quality of the water." Dr Wolanski said.

"There's effectively a space war going on between the two, and the rate at which they compete for space depends on the quality of water and the rate at which fish can eat the algae."



One of the best: The Great Barrier Reef

### Historic shipwreck's secrets

Excavations on a tiny Bass Strait island are revealing details about one of Australia's earliest shipwrecks, which led to the first epic overland trek by a European. Tasmanian Heritage Office marine archaeologist Mike Nash said yesterday an excavation on Preservation Island found one of Australia's oldest dwellings, which was home to survivors from the wreck of the Sydney Cove. The ship carrying supplies, including large quantities of rum, from Calcutta to Port Jackson in 1797 ran aground in shallow water near Preservation Island, a low island about 3km long and 1km wide in the Furneaux group. Mr Nash said about 50 men landed on the island but some soon died from scurvy. Nearly half the remainder set off for Port Jackson in NSW in a long boat, which was wrecked on the southern Victorian coast. Three months later, after the first epic walk in recorded Australian history, three survivors arrived at Port Jackson. After six months on the island, 20 men were rescued. Another six staved there a further six months to quard cargo that had been recovered from the stricken ship. About 60 per cent of the cargo eventually got to Port Jackson, where it sold for good prices. Mr Nash said the excavations were revealing the final pieces of the Sydney Cove puzzle. The postholes of a dwelling were uncovered but they were in an exposed location and there may be others yet to be found. Other discoveries included a cooking hearth, pottery, broken bottles, coins and the bones of birds, wombats and wallabies. The bones suggested hunting was done on other islands. Mr Nash said the finds were being analysed and he did not know if a more extensive excavation would be mounted.

#### QUEENSLAND Dutch tourist dies snorkelling

A Dutch tourist died yesterday while snorkelling off Caims, diving officials said. The man, in his late 20s. whose name has not been released, was an experienced snorkeller, Dive Queensland spokesman Col McKenzie said. He died in calm conditions during a daytrip to Saxon Reef. Mr McKenzie said so-called shallow water blackout was a possibility. "It occurs normally in proficient snorkellers who have no predisposing medical conditions," he said. "What they do is they stay under the water too long, and when surfacing they run out of oxygen and become unconscious." Mr McKenzie said Workplace Health and Safety officers would investigate but at this stage it did not appear any regulations had been breached. "The operator appears to have done everything it should have done professionally." he said.

## You know you're living in 2003 when . . . .

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.

2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.

3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.

4. You e-mail your mate who works at the desk next to you.

5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have email addresses.

6. When you go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.

7. When you make phone calls from home, you accidentally insert a "0" to get an outside line.

8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.

10. Your CV is on a disk in your pocket.

11. You learn about your redundancy on the 11o'clock news.

12. Your biggest loss from a system crash was when you lost all of your best jokes.

13. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.

14. Contractors outnumber permanent staff and are more likely to get longservice awards.

15. Board members salaries are higher than all the Third World countries annual budgets combined.

16. Interviewees, despite not having the relevant knowledge or experience, terminate the interview when told of the starting salary.

17. Free food left over from meetings is your staple diet.

18. Your boss gets a brand-new state-of-the-art laptop with all the latest features, but you have time to go for lunch while yours boots up.

19. Being sick is defined as you can't walk or you're in hospital.

20. There's no money in the budget for the five permanent staff your

department desperately needs, but they can afford four full-time management consultants advising your boss's boss on strategy.

21. Your relatives and family describe your job as "works with computers". AND THE CLINCHERS ARE...

22. You read this entire list, and kept nodding and smiling.

23. As you read this list, you think about forwarding it to your "friends"

24. You got this email from a friend that never talks to you anymore, except to send you jokes from the net.

25, AND YOU ARE TOO BUSY TO NOTICE THAT THERE WAS NO NO. 9

#### Wanted Urgently

Articles, photos, dive reports, non-dive reports, cartoons, etc send to the editor or Alan Storen

## Finding treasures beneath the surface

Diver uses talents to reunite people with items thought lost at sea

#### By <u>Andrew Dys</u> The Herald (Published November 29, 2002)

Don't call scuba diver for hire Cory Devereau a treasure hunter. Devereau finds watches and rings, coins, false teeth and even cars under water. He charges a fee to do it, but he's not out just for riches. Devereau drops below the waterline to reunite people with their past."The hardest part is finding the people after I find the jewellery or the artefacts," Devereau said. "But it's worth it when I do. You can't put a price on the past."Through decades of diving from New England through the Southeast, Rock Hill's Devereau has found valuable booty. He's found rings worth more than \$13,000, silver coins dating back more than a century that are worth more than \$5,000 apiece and plenty of diamond earrings.He even found an old BMW in Lake Wylie a couple months ago, submerged in 26 feet of water, 70 feet from shore, with catfish inside the car. The car later was found to be stolen in Mecklenburg County In 1988, according to Capt. Glenn Williams of the York County Sheriff's Office."That doesn't even count the stuff like leg braces and false teeth," Devereau said. "I've found three sets of false teeth, and even a single false tooth. About anything that has metal in it, I can find it. "Using sophisticated equipment, Devereau and his dive partner Mike Nichols from Rock Hill's Scuba Ventures on Anderson Road will look for just about anything that is lost. Nichols can certify divers year-round right here in Rock Hill. But you probably won't find him diving for fun in Lake Wylie or anywhere else. "There's too much out there to look for," Devereau said. "Take rope swings. Underneath rope swings is a gold mine. A necklace will come off every time."Devereau has done freelance searching for years, even on land, and now hopes to start a company called Investigative Operations Underwater. Devereau first started to dive in South Carolina to search the Grand Strand near Myrtle Beach. He showed up in the fall of 1989."I was here just more than a day when Hurricane Hugo came," Devereau said. "There was no beach left."Devereau has found trinkets in lakes, rivers, ponds, marshes, bays and inlets. He's hooked rides on sea turtles and come face-to-face with 150-pound snapping turtles with jaws that could snap off an arm.Most divers start with instruction in a swimming pool, or on a tropical vacation. Devereau started in his bathtub at age 11."My father was an old Navy man," Devereau said. "We had just finished watching Sea Hunt on television. He brought the scuba gear over to the bathtub, and there I went."



Cory Devereau displays the equipment he uses to find objects under water, including an underwater metal detector, which he is holding, at Ebenezer Park on Lake Wylie. At right, Devereau holds a gold University of South Carolina watch he found in Lake Wylie near the Allison Creek Landing. In the background are coins and other jewellery he has

## **Oceanic Recalls Scuba Diving Equipment**

WASHINGTON (AP)--A California company is recalling about 24,700 pieces of scuba diving equipment that could leak air, possibly causing divers to drown.

Oceanic USA, of San Leandro, has received six reports of air leaks, along with either noise or vibration, from their Oceanic CDX first stage regulators, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. No injuries have been reported.

CDX regulators included in the recall have serial numbers 9200001 through 9205622, 9800013 through 9801711, 0200001 through 0213294, 0D0001 through 0D3046, and 9D0001 through 9D3273. They were sold with second stage regulators: Alpha 7, Delta 3, Gamma 2 and Zeta.

Authorized dealers sold the equipment worldwide from May 1999 through October 2002.

The commission advises consumers to immediately stop using the equipment and take them to an authorized Oceanic dealer for a free repair.

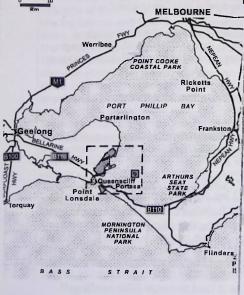
Mine was bought in AUS July 2002 but the serial number started with the numbers 9951xxx and I assume Ok. Who knows with Oceanic, my Data Max Pro computer regularly tells me the water temp is 130°C and it has told me my depth was -10m( yes minus 10m!!) and on more than one occasion (eg under Portsea Pier) I was at 130m.(It must have been the new shovel I bought for the garden) Oceanic tell me not to go under a boat with a depth sounder as it tend to cause false readings!! Alan Storen

## Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park

## - the jewel of the bay



Weedy Seadragon



#### Marine National Park boundaries

Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park (3,580 hectares) is made up of six separate areas: Swan Bay, Mud Islands, Point Lonsdale, Point Nepean, Popes Eye, and Portsea Hole.

The Swan Bay component of the park includes almost the entire bay, Identified by a series of shore markers along the eastern boundary. A 300 metre wide channel, Identified by In-water navigation markers extending from Swan Bay Jetty to the park boundary north end of Duck Island, is not within the park.

The Mud Islands component of the park is a 2.5km by 2.5km square area surrounding Mud Islands.

The Point Lonsdale component of the park extends along and off-shore from Clarkes Beacon to west of Point Lonsdale and excludes the area 50m around the pier. Yellow thangular shore markers Identify the park boundaries at Clarkes Beacon we have been been as the park boundaries at Clarkes Beacon the provide the provide the park boundaries at Clarkes Beacon the pierce of the provide the park boundaries at Clarkes Beacon the pierce of the pier and near the life saving station.

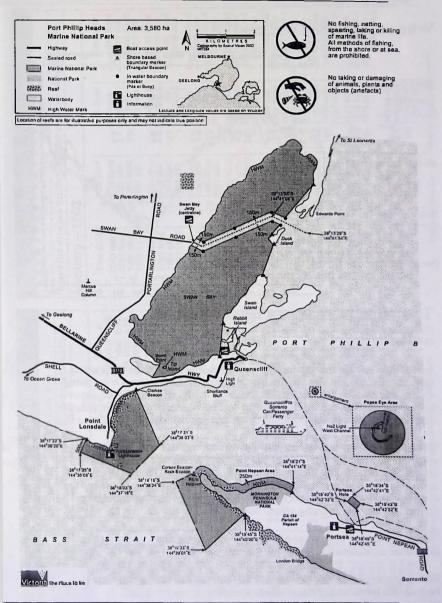
The Point Nepsan component of the park extends along and 250 metres offshore from the Mornington Peninsula National Park to Corsal Rock, and then forms a large wedge to the south until it rejoins the coast. The shore boundary is indicated by yellow triangular shore markers.

The boundary of the park at Popes Eye extends in a circle of 100 metres radius from its centre.

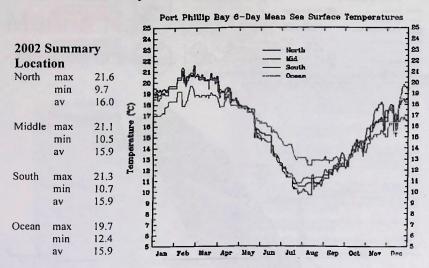
The boundary of the park is a rectangular area around Portsea Hole offshore from Portsea Pier.

Activity	What can I do?
Recreational activities	
<ul> <li>nature observation and sightseeing</li> <li>snorkelling and scube diving</li> <li>swimming, surfing</li> <li>windsurfing, salling, boating</li> <li>filming and photography</li> </ul>	yas yas yas yas (1) yas
Recreational fishing and harvesting	
<ul> <li>all forms of fishing - line, spear, netting, Iraj</li> <li>shellfish collection, including abalone and rock lobster collection</li> <li>bait collection</li> </ul>	ps no no
catch and release fishing	no
Commercial fishing and marine aquaculture	NO PERSO
<ul> <li>abalone fishing</li> <li>rock lobster fishing</li> <li>netting, line fishing and trapping</li> <li>marine aquaculture</li> </ul>	по по по по
Education and research	1.570 A 12
educational excursions     scientific research	yes yes (2)
Other uses	
<ul> <li>licensed lour oparators</li> <li>liming and photography (commercial)</li> <li>removal or disturbance of plants or animals</li> <li>dredging and spoil dispersal</li> <li>activutes that disturb the seafloor</li> <li>waste and ballast discharge</li> </ul>	yes (2) yes (2) no no no no
Restrictions may apply to high-speed boar or the use of personal watercraft where th is a conflict with natural values or other us Subject to permit	ero

ember 2002 – January 2003



#### Who said the bay was cold??



## (Tour firms dredge up legal threat

By Richard Baker December 17 2002

Port Phillip Bay tourism operators are considering launching a class action against the company hired to dredge shipping channels because it is driving away customers. The operators claim that the dredging, which began about two weeks ago, has caused the water to become so murky that it is impossible and unsafe to take people scuba diving, fishing or swimming with marine life.

The owner of Portsea dive company Dive Victoria, Peter Fear, said he had sought legal advice about taking action against Westham Dredging, the company contracted by Victorian Channels Authority. "That advice said that a class action would probably succeed," he said. With dredging in the bay to continue until January 13, Mr Fear said bay tourism operators faced huge financial losses by not being able to take clients out.

"We've had to pull people out of the water and cancel dives, visibility has gone from 25 metres to virtually nil," he said.

VCA manager of marine operations, Tim Muir, said dredging had to be done because silt levels had reached unsafe levels for incoming vessels. A spokeswoman for Westham said the company had no comment to make.

Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams	Lat 38* 18' Long 144* 37' Time Zone 1000	time Times of Start of Plood and Ebb (Stack) Water. Add one hour for Official Summer	January – 2003	m     Time Start     Time Start       3.1.46     Time Start     Time Start       6.0.19     0.019 flood     9.019 flood       6.1.33     1.0501 hood     9.019 ebb
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Lal 38° 16'	Long 144 37	Time Zone 1000	000	Lat 38* 18'	Long 144° 37	Time Zone 1000	00
Times and Heights of High and Low	of High and Low Waters.	s. Add one hour for Official Summer Time	cial Summer Time	Times of Start of Flo	od and Ebb (Stack) Wat	Imas of Start of Flood and Ebb (Stack) Water. Add one hour for Official Summer Time	icial Summer Time
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WE 2253 1.37		2348		WE 1052 abb			SA 1342 Rood
2 0357 0.72		-	26 0519 1.42 21 1120 0.14	0200	0052		0123 flood
1630	0 2252	0 1727	2330	TH 1154 ebb	FR 1359 flood	SA 1239 ebb	SU 1430 flood
3 0512 0.69 1118 1.21 FR 1733 0.06	11 0532 1.34 SA 1131 0.32	19 0040 1.32 SU 0615 0.68 SU 1206 1.10	27 0558 1.37 MO 1204 0.12 MO 1006 1.30	0303	11 0755 ebb	0054	27 0203 flood dd9 ebb
22/1	2330	1818		1301	1436	1345	1520
4 0062 1.49 SA 1210 1.24	12 0602 1.29 SU 1208 0.31 SU 1848 1 13	20 0126 1.39 MO 0703 0.60	28 0017 0.51 70 0641 1.31 70 1759 0.13	0357	12 0200 flood 12 0821 abb		28 0843 ebb
008	20	1903	2013	1411	SU 1515 flood 2120 ebb	1450	
5 0145 1.53 0710 0.56 SU 1315 1.26	13 0010 0.53 MO 1246 0.31	<b>21</b> 0210 1.44 TU 0746 0.51 TU 1352 1.22	29 0109 0.61 WE 1346 0.14	5 1028 flood	13 0236 flood 13 0845 ebb		29 0343 flood 29 0924 ebb
1922	1945	1946	2121	2224	2231	2250	-
6 0233 1.54 MO 1405 1.27	14 0054 0.63 TU 1330 0.30	WE 1440 1.27	<b>30</b> 0210 0.09 TH 0832 1.19 TH 1451 0.16	6 1114 flood	14 0320 hood 14 0918 ebb	22 0542 ebb	30 0454 flood
2010	2047	2030	-	MO 1616 ebb 2305 flood	2353	2330	TH 1015 600
7 0317 1.52 TU 0850 0.43 TU 1454 1.26	15 0145 0.71 WE 0759 1.12 WE 1419 0.30	23 0330 1.49 TH 1527 1.31	31 0325 0.72 FR 0945 1.15 FR 1607 0.17	7 0600 ebb	15 0417 flood 15 0952 ebb	23 0613 ebb	31 0134 ebb
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Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams	Long 144° 37' TI	food and Ebb (Slack) Water. Add	- 2003	Time Start		SU 1354	10 0136 flood	MO 1428 flood	11 0209 11 0803 701 1504	2142 ebb	12 0245 lood 20 WE 1546 flood 7H	13 0859 ebb	TH 1638	FR 0939 600 SA	15 : SA	16 0809 8bb SU 1209 8bb SU 1200 8bb MC	Donal Tidal Facility - The Pindans L
Por Phi	Lat 38* 18'	Times of Start of F	February - 2003	Time Start	1 0817 flood	SA 1243 ebb 2033 flood	2 0926 (bood	SU 1408 ebb 2128 floor	3 1019 flood MO 1521 ebb	2215	4 1104 flood TU 1619 ebb	1144	WE 1,00 800	6 1219 flood TH 1754 ebb	7 0004 Hood 7 0627 ebb FR 1251 flood 1836 ebb	<b>B</b> 0035 (lood <b>B</b> 0651 ebb SA 1323 (hood 1918 ebb	EZ O
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VSAG Newsletter

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Emergency Contact Informa Mornington Peninsula Ar	
Police – Ambulance – Fire	
Rosebud Hospital 1527 Nepean hwy Rosebud	5986 0666
Frankston Hospital Hastings Road Frankston	9784 7777
The Bays Hospital Main Street Mornington	
Mornington Bay Rescue Service	0419 233 999
Southern Peninsula Rescue	5984 4555
Diving Emergency Service	1800 088 200
Coast Guard (Hastings)	
Coast Guard (Safety Beach)	5981 4443
State Emergency Service (SES)	
Water Police	9534 2983
Melbourne Ambulance	

## **Diving Doctors**

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

## VHF Emergency Channel.....16

## **VSAG DIVE & MEETING CALENDAR**

Dete	Lastian	Dive	Phone	Meeting Point Tim	
Date	Location	Captain	Fnone	Point I im	e
DECEN					
	Cray Dive				
6	VSAG Xmas Party	·····	Milano's - Br	ighton Beach 7PN	Λ
8	Back Beaches	Bruce D	9787 6318	Sorrento 9.30	)
	Pinnacles / Kermode				
19	General Meeting			Bells Hotel 8PM	N
22	Cray Dive	Gerry DV	0417 324 60	8 Flinders 9.00	)
26	Local Diving	Andy M	9809 0984	To be advised	
29	Local Diving	Jonn L	9589 4020	I O DE advised	
JANU					
4	Diving	Gerry DV	0417 324 60	8 To be advised	
5	. Local Diving	John L	9589 4020	To be advised	
12	Diving	Pat R	9789 1092	To be advised	
16	General Meeting			Bells Hotel 8PI	N
18	Night Dive	Priya	9761 0960	I o be advised	
19	Local Diving	Jonn L	9589 4020	To be advised	
20	Local Diving	Bruce	0407 551544	+. TO be auvised	
FER					
	Milora				
	Catch & Cook BBQ				
16	130' Sub	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento 9.0	0
20	Ge <b>neral Meeting</b>		0554 4547	Bells Hotel 8Pl	M
23	Rotomanana	Nev v	9551 1547	Sorrento 9.0	U
MARC	Н				
1-9	PERTH Club Trip	John L			
2	PERTH Club Trip Local Diving	Priva	9761 0960	Sorrento 9.0	0
9	Heads Area	Pat R	9789 1092	Sorrento 9.0	00
16	Ship Gravevard	Nev V	9551 1547	Sorrento 9.0	00
20	General Meeting			Bells Hotel 8P	M
23	Lonsdale Wall	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento 9.0	00
APRIL					
	Wilsons Prom	Prvia	9761 0960		
	General Meeting			Bells Hotel 8P	M
D	ive Calendar is subject to o	change – Plea	ise check deta	ils 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





## VSAG Lobster Quiz

Multiple Choice - Answer either: A - Lawler B - Lobster C - Birtles

Q1: Which of these three knows how a lobster thinks?

Q2: Which is the reddest, most stubborn, prickliest, horniest critter likely to be found in a ledge?

Q3: If the boat was sinking and there was one life jacket, to whom would you throw it?

Q4: Which one would you take home to impress your partner?

Q5: Of these three males, one of them is 'size' (10.5cm). Can you guess which one?

(If you answered B to all 5 questions - well done')