

# FATHOMS

JUNE - JULY 2002

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Box 2526W GPO,  
Melb Vic 3001

Kavieng - Photos courtesy of Gerry DeVries



- Kavieng!

- Safety

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

# FATHOMS

Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

*In this June / July 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:**

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

What a great presentation the April-May edition of Fathoms turned out to be. A very special "thank you" is extended to Mary Malloy for the superb front cover photo of the Wilsons Prom seals at play and the back page pics from Tidal River at Easter..just wonderful! To all who had input into this edition also a big thanks.

By now the overseas trip to Kavieng in New Guinea, run by Mick Jeacle is part of VSAG history and from the calls I have received the trip was brilliant and done with no mishaps. VSAG'ers will now be looking forward to some good diving stories from the trip.

On the subject of diving trips, it appears the sinking of HMAS Hobart at Wirrina, South Australia, is still set down for November. I am in the process of putting a dive trip on to witness the great event and to dive the ship and the area when all the time frames are confirmed. Several members have already advised of their intention to do the trip. Finally on dive trips, the trip to HMAS Perth in Albany is set down for the first week in March 2003. Expressions of interest can be made through the flyer in this edition of Fathoms.

The Committee and members join in saying farewell to one of the nicest Irish guys one could ever meet, Niall Somers. Niall has finished his tenure in Melbourne and is now heading off to see our great country before returning to Ireland. I had the pleasure of diving with Niall on many occasions, and he is a truly great diver. Having Niall on the boat was always great fun and I personally will miss his great company, as will many others who got to know him. Farewell to you Niall, safe journey, keep in touch (I have a sneaking feeling we have not seen the last of Niall!).

On the VSAG club front, our membership is still running strong with 71 members, of which 13 are Life Members. We also have two intending members waiting to complete their checkout dives before joining. We also welcome Paul Mare to VSAG, having just become our newest member. Our financial position is also very strong and stable.

The general meetings are seeing interest from new/prospective members who are drawn to see guest speakers and also info on the club by word

of mouth. Our general meetings are a great opportunity for all the members to meet and greet and have proved to be a good bonding and social occasion every month. It is a great credit to club members, who even if they are not doing much diving, can always find the time to get along to the monthly meetings for an ale and a catch up. May it long continue.

Coming up in the next issue of Fathoms, some update on diving safety involving the SDFV. Should be interesting! I have reviewed my boat safety practices and am in the final stages of preparing a new style marker buoy which will support the shot line and the emergency scuba tank and reg at the mandatory 3mtr mark, all from the base of a vertical style buoy. Hope it works?

Happy Winter diving.

**John Lawler**  
EDITOR.

#### **EVENTS, NOTICES & REMINDERS**

- **VSAG Subs:** Annual Subs for 2002 / 2003 are now due. \$55.00 made payable to VSAG by 31 July 2002.
- **Warrnambool Whale-Watch Weekend:** 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> August – see Andy for details (notice on page 7)
- **Ski Weekend:** See Leo if you are interested – last weekend in August (30<sup>th</sup> / 31<sup>st</sup>).
- **Car Rally:** Meet at McDonalds Mornington at 10.00am Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September for a VSAG Mornington Peninsula car rally – see Peter / Chris Vleugel for details.
- **Election of Directors – Nomination Forms In by 12<sup>th</sup> September**
- **Annual General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September**
- **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.

## Dive Report -11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> May Allan Beckhurst & Mary Malloy

Hi Gang!

I'm still on a high from last weekends diving! We didn't want to upset any Mums, so we planned to dive the Saturday, and the conditions were perfect. Jeff and Cameron were the only takers, so we gave them the choice of sites. They chose the Deep Intact Sub, and soon we were watching the shot go down, and down, and down! The viz was so good you could clearly make out the surface and boat from the deck of the sub at 34 metres! All the usual fish were about, and Mary even spotted a big cuttle fish in a cave about 10 metres from the wreck.

Even with flat seas, Jeff managed to get seasick, so we headed back inside the bay, just off Point Lonsdale for Lunch. Having plenty of time before the slack ( and Jeff volunteering to crew!) we slipped over to Nepean Bay for a spot of snorkelling. Of course, Mary and Cameron were joined by a pod of dolphins as they dived on some pretty reef. Bonus!

With no shipping due, we shotted a rarely dived spot, Nitros. This site is on the side of a deep valley, well off Shortlands Bluff, starts at 14 metres, sloping down to 20 metres, then dropping off to over 60 metres. It is very colourful, and the dropoff has some huge ledges, and lots of fish. It wasn't long before Cameron spotted a 2 kg cray, which agreed to come home with us.

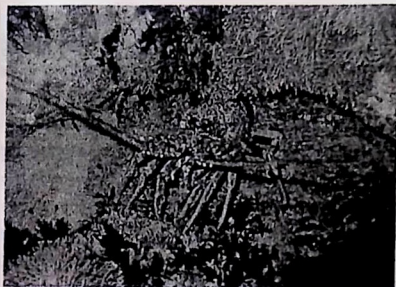


Back at Boarfish, we had the traditional afternoon tea and video review, before pronouncing it an almost perfect day (pity about the chundering!).

Mary and I stayed overnight, and slept in on Sunday morning. After walking around the Lonsdale Market, and some shopping in Queenscliff, we decided to go freediving off Point Lonsdale ocean beach. The clouds thickened, and it started to rain as we entered the flat sea, and were blown away by how good the reef is here. We played with a Port Jackson shark, schools of sweep, and zebrafish as well as the usual reef species, then Mary spotted a small cray practically out in the open. It wasn't scared of us either, as we both took photos of it.



The Viz was extraordinary, and we could see over 20 metres, especially over the lighter, sandy areas. It was possible to get away from each other, and still watch the other diving to the bottom. The reef included some swim thrus, which nearly brought me undone as I had the float rope tied to my weight belt!



After a couple of hours freediving, we drove back to Boarfish with our wetsuits on, stripping just before hopping into a hot shower - luxury! We had tea while watching the last light fade away from the Bay, and then drove back to Melbourne. A most excellent weekend!

Regards Alan & Mary

1223



# Whale Watch Weekend

## Warrnambool

**The whales are back at Warrnambool!**  
**Join other VSAGers for the weekend staying at the Mid-City Motor Inn, Warrnambool**

In Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, out Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August – Standard Room twin share  
2 nights accommodation, 3 course dinner for two on Sat,  
complimentary bottle of house wine,  
fully cooked buffet breakfast on both mornings - \$235.00

Seafood Buffet available Friday night \$38.00 pp – bookings required  
**Book with Andy Mastrowicz 9809 0984**

53621277  
55623866

## **"BUOY OH BUOY"**

### **VSAG ASSISTS THE BEAUMARIS MOTOR YACHT SQUADRON**

Article By John Lawler.

Having been a member of the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron for some years, many members were aware that I am also a Scuba Diver. Early in April I received a phone call from Steve Rout who is on the Boating Committee at the club. Steve explained that the club had lost several mooring buoys over time for one reason or another, and the time had come to have them replaced.

The exercise would require three Scuba divers and he asked whether I would be in a position to assist with the exercise. The answer was naturally "yes". I sought out two VSAG members who fitted the bill for the job required, namely Pat Reynolds and Bruce Dart. The job sounded like fun and a new experience, and all agreed to be a part of the exercise, plus the fact that we would all get wet!

The date was set, and on Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am the team met at the club launching ramp. Whilst the time was set down for 9.30 I decided to arrive early, and so did Pat and Bruce. As I approached the entrance to the club, Pat and Bruce arrived at exactly the same precise moment and we followed each other in and had a great laugh at the freaky timing. The weather was warm and whilst a very strong Northly was blowing, our working area was in the lee of the cliffs and so the water was calm and flat... just ideal for the exercise.

We were met by the Rear Commodore and club Secretary, Wally Nicholson, the Boating Director, Rob Heenan and Steve Rout. All the shackling gear, chains, buoys etc were loaded onto Rob's boat and my boat was to be used as the dive boat with Steve as the skipper.

We launched and motored out to the approximate area where the first buoy was to be set. Kitted up and over the side, we then had to find the anchor base, which was done by covering the territory in a line and grid system. This was necessary as the club had only an approximate idea where the base was.

The base we eventually found, turned out to be something like the frame of an old motor car, but very heavy and well imbedded in the sandy bottom. The gear boat was called over, the heavy chain lowered down, and the swivel shackle and D bolt secured to the metal chassis. The mooring buoy was too small for the heavy chain and is only just visible on the surface. This buoy will need to be replaced.



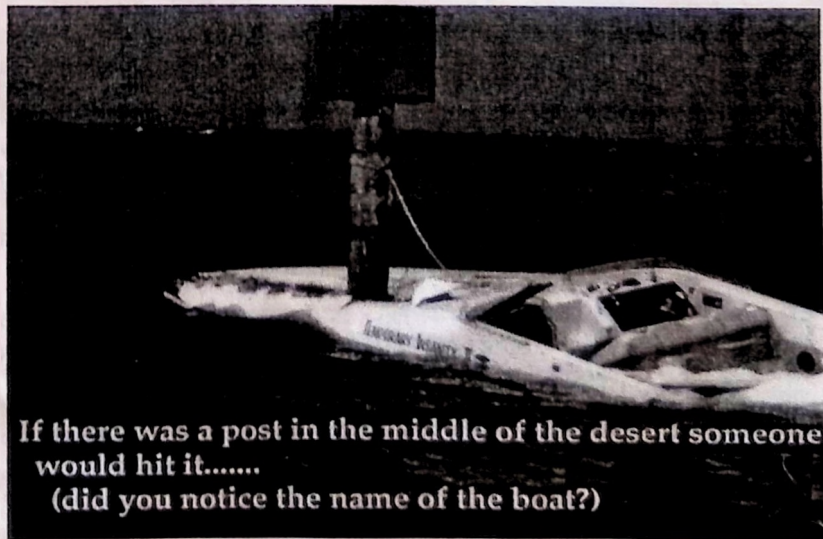
The same process was followed for the second and third attachments. The second base was two large, heavy anchors with a length of chain between them. When the second bolting was completed and the split pin holding the nut in place was bent, we realised the swivel was not done correctly... the pin had to be straightened out with pliers then belted back out with a divers knife. Not an easy job with limited tools and the top crew must have thought we were having lunch down there or something! - 30 minutes later all was secured.

The third exercise was completed easily, again with anchors and chain as the base.

All three moorings are located directly out from the club, at twenty and thirty five metres east of the end of the jetty and the third around 120 meters due South of the jetty, just off the edge of the Keefers mussels beds but at a safe distance for mooring.

Back to the ramp for the boat wash down, the divers were treated to a welcome "coldie" compliments of the Club, completing a very successful moorings upgrade.

John Lawler.  
May 2002.



**If there was a post in the middle of the desert someone  
would hit it.....  
(did you notice the name of the boat?)**

**DIVER TRAINING LEVEL CLUB SAFETY SURVEY RESPONSE**

VSAG's response to the recent SDFV questionnaire.

*Does the club limit the type of diving members can do based on the "formal" certification from an agency?*

The club requires that all members be qualified and provide proof of certification and medical certificate. The club does not restrict the level of diving to the Formal level, however, guidelines are imposed. All members are provided with detailed and comprehensive club policies in relation to safety and diving practices. The club applies and club members accept the policy of "DIVER SAFETY ONUS".

*Does the club have a process where the club's committee or Safety Officer determines to what depth/dive style a Member can participate in?*

(Refer to comments above) All new members are subjected to a checkout dive prior to acceptance. Some divers are monitored, if the committee believes it necessary, to build the diver's experience and confidence.

*Is diving "experienced" based or "qualification" based. That is can a diver of any certification dive to any plan?*

Generally experienced based, within the policies and Club's code of diving and safety practices.

*Is there any "power of veto" and if so by whom?*

All club dives are planned by the Committee and conducted by the Dive Captain who has the right of veto. The safety officer also has the right of veto.

*Does the club nurture members' diving by providing a less experienced Diver with the experience of a more experienced diver, regardless of the level of certification of either?*

Yes. It is generally ongoing until a level of experience and confidence for both new /current diver is reached.

*Given that the club believes it has checks and balances in place, does the club believe it is at risk (in a liability sense) if the club allows a member to dive on a club dive, beyond the level of the member's formal diving Certification, NOT EXPERIENCE, under supervised conditions?*

No. The club Membership Application Form contains a clause relevant to Directors, Members, Officials and Agents: "shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury (whether to person, property or otherwise) etc.

Observations: VSAG has as the club motto "SAFETY IN DIVING". The club applies the practice of imposing a checkout dive for all new members with an experienced Committee Member for all divers, in the first instance, and not below 20mtrs. All new members are assessed by the Committee prior to acceptance based on the report from the initial check-out dive. Some divers are accepted with immediate clearance, whilst other divers are placed in a "should be monitored" category. In this case these divers are paired with more experienced divers until it is felt these divers have the skills and confidence to dive with any club member. The committee of VSAG believes the Club's diving safety policies have proven to be exceptionally satisfactory and does not see as necessary any external influences requiring the Committee to Change club policies.

### Safety Stop Equipment

Following on from the comments I made re updating the safety equipment for deep wreck diving by VSAG, the new equipment has been made and is ready for use. The system is designed to allow for the shot line and the emergency deco bottle/reg to hang from the base of a horizontal float.

The float is the style seen on the road works and is bright orange with a fluorescent band for night time identification. This float is around a metre high and very visible. The base of the float is weighted and is semi buoyant ensuring an upright position is maintained. Retrieval of the unit is very simple as the boat comes along side the buoy and a handle allows for the unit to be lifted over the side of the boat and the deco bottle and shot lines then disconnected and also hauled into the boat.

I have consulted with some people on the issue of finding the shot line at depth and in low vis conditions is solved by the use of a strobe. The strobe is placed at the base of the shot line but a height that is in-line with the top of the wreck being dived. I read about this system recently in a book by heavy wreck divers who use the strobe system to direct them to emergency scuba tanks placed on the wreck.

All the equipment, reg, ropes, stainless steel clips, float, has been funded by me except the strobe, which is being sourced by Jane Bowman, who has assisted in the project. Cost of the strobe will be around \$95-99 a discounted rate to VSAG. The back up reg is my old occy one which I no longer use. This reg was serviced last week.

I can't say I know of any dive operation who has this type of back up system in place, however for VSAG it is another step in meeting our club motto "Safety In Diving"

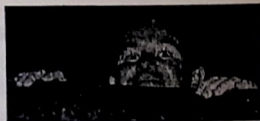
Cheers,  
John Lawler

# KAVIENG CAPERS

By Chris Llewellyn

It was an unusually subdued VSAG group that assembled at Melbourne airport on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2002 for our much anticipated trip to Papua New Guinea, but then again it was 5 am in the morning and some of the lads had been up since 3 am! Things soon perked up in-flight when the Virgin blue girls did a little fashion parade down the aisle, displaying the fine Virgin blue paraphernalia available for sale. Things started to really hot up when we entered Brisbane International security check in and Pat's tool was confiscated!

Pat had decided to carry on board his new, super beaut all-in-one, divers version of a Swiss army knife and for some reason the Airline did not feel this to be appropriate, so after much paperwork filling out he was told he could pick it up in P.N.G. And thus started a long running saga that gave us all (except Pat) enormous entertainment for the entire duration of our trip. Pat hounded every lost and found department from Brisbane to Moresby to Kavieng, local or International, that he could bend an ear. He was like Forrest Gump at a bustop. He was back at the terminal morning and night to get back his rightful property and you can imagine just how sympathetic to his cause were his VSAG travelling companions. Everytime anything went wrong, broke down or simply could not be opened

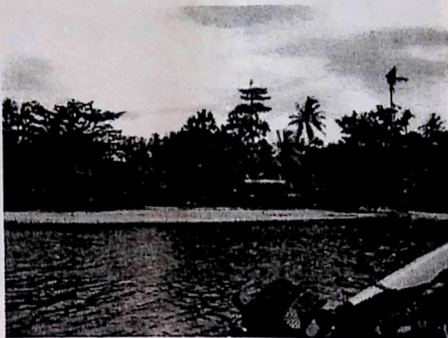


(i.e. beer, coconuts, outboard motors) the catchcry would come " Pat's tool would have fixed that!"

After clearing Customs, transferring and a quick check in at the Gateway hotel we were off on a mini bus tour around Port Moresby to get acclimatised and take in the sights. I was rather surprised when our driver told us he had come from the funeral of his Uncle who had died of Malaria, it seems not even the locals were immune to this deadly pligh and it was a timely reminder for us all not to forget our Malaria medication.

Next morning we were off on our Air Niugini flight to Kavieng. Now I did not expect Air Niugini to be at the cutting edge of aviation technology but I did find it a worry that they could not spell New Guinea! Our destination was a little island called Nusa, just off the port of Kavieng, which is on the Northwest tip of New Ireland. After a two-hour flight with a stop off at Hoskins on New Britain we arrived safe and sound at Kavieng airport. This was quite an effort considering Bruce had somehow wrangled his way into the cockpit for this, and every other subsequent flight we took! Our dive guides, Dorian and Cara of Scuba Ventures, met us at the airport and quickly had us loaded and down at the water for our five-minute banana boat trip to Nusa Island resort.

The resort was exactly as it had been promoted, natural, basic and very laid back. We were all accommodated in timber framed, open style, thatched bungalows with a bamboo



front porch to sit back and take in the tropical ambience. There were only seven bungalows in total and we took up five, so we basically had this place to ourselves. I was bunking with Ted and Mick and made the mistake of not being smart enough to claim the bunk right under the one ceiling fan. This would turn out to be a big mistake as it was hot every night, and stifling when the generator shut down at midnight! The only other luxuries in our room were a mozzie net each and some basic shelving. The toilet and shower facilities were Uni-sex and the water was cold in the mornings and scorching sun hot in the afternoons. Basic, but it was all we wanted or needed on our very own tropical island.

We had come a long way to blow some bubbles and



that is exactly what we did right after lunch with Dorian and Cara taking us to a dive called the blowholes which was a pleasant introduction to the warm waters of kavieng. The Sharp

Limestone formations and blowholes, clearly visible on the surface, gave way to overhangs, caverns and some bommies upon descending. Apart from an array of colourful soft corals and a variety of fishlife, I came across a couple of painted Crays sitting right out in the open however the slightest tremour near their extremely long and sensitive feelers saw them shooting back into coral hideouts.

That night, after an empty stubby stacking contest, we enjoyed our first of many succulent buffet banquets. We were treated to as many crayfish and as much chilli mud crab as one could stuff down and we even kept up the competitive spirit with a crayfish shell-stacking contest!

That evening after displaying my cotton earplugs, brought along to diffuse the inevitable onslaught of the big Lloyds buzzsaw snoring, Ted came the rescue. He told me to throw away my feeble attempt and produced two sets of bona fide heavy-duty industrial ear muffs! I joke not, the boy is a genius, although it took two weeks without sleep on his last trip with Mick to discover it!

Speaking of food, the first mornings breakfast, taken at our personal outdoor breakfast table under a huge tropical tree, was bacon and eggs charcoal style. By the next morning the girls in the kitchen had been given a few specific instructions and from then on we enjoyed the best bacon and eggs in all of Kavieng. After breakfast our two dive boats awaited (ten feet from the breakfast table) and we were taken to "Pygmie Wall". This dive was so christened by Dorian who had discovered almost microscopic seahorses that



were camouflaged the same colour as the sea fan they lived on. One could only see them with a magnifying glass he kept for just such an occasion, but being at 42 metres, he was reminded more than once, we had already seen enough pygmie seahorses for the trip. Next dive was a highlight, it was Albatross passage, a narrow channel with plenty of current where we all got a good fill of pelagics, schools of barracouta, white tip, silver and grey reef sharks. One of the grey reef sharks was at least five to six feet in length and swam past us at a very leisurely pace. The wall was covered in sea fans and plenty of black coral. On the way home we stopped off near some mangroves for a residual air dive on a WW2 crash-landed B-25 "Mitchell" bomber, lying in 12 metres of water, which made for a very interesting dive and photo opportunity.



One of the characters of the island is a resident hornbill parrot called Jack who was raised at the resort, is

quite free to fly away but has made the place his home and domain. Every morning Jack would appear inside our bungalow snooping around for whatever nibbly or trinket that took his fancy. One morning Mick gave Jack a lolly and then feeling he had sufficiently bonded with the bird, went to give him a pat, that's when Jack clapped his huge hornbill on to Micks digit leaving a bloodblister, sore fingernail and one very aggro Carrot! We later learned Jack was quite notorious and Sean the resort owner, showed us some very nasty scars he had courtesy of Jack.

Jack did get his come uppance later when found munching in the garden just below one of our waist height bungalow windows. Let's just say he was very pissed off!

As well as a pit of crocs, the other characters of the resort were a very regal family of five pet dogs of Asian dingo extraction. They would not stir until you were at the very end of your meal and then they would appear quietly sitting at your side patiently waiting for the scraps to be dropped into their mouths. It was fascinating to sit back and watch this family group go out into the shallows and chase and hunt fish and crabs in a very real pack situation.

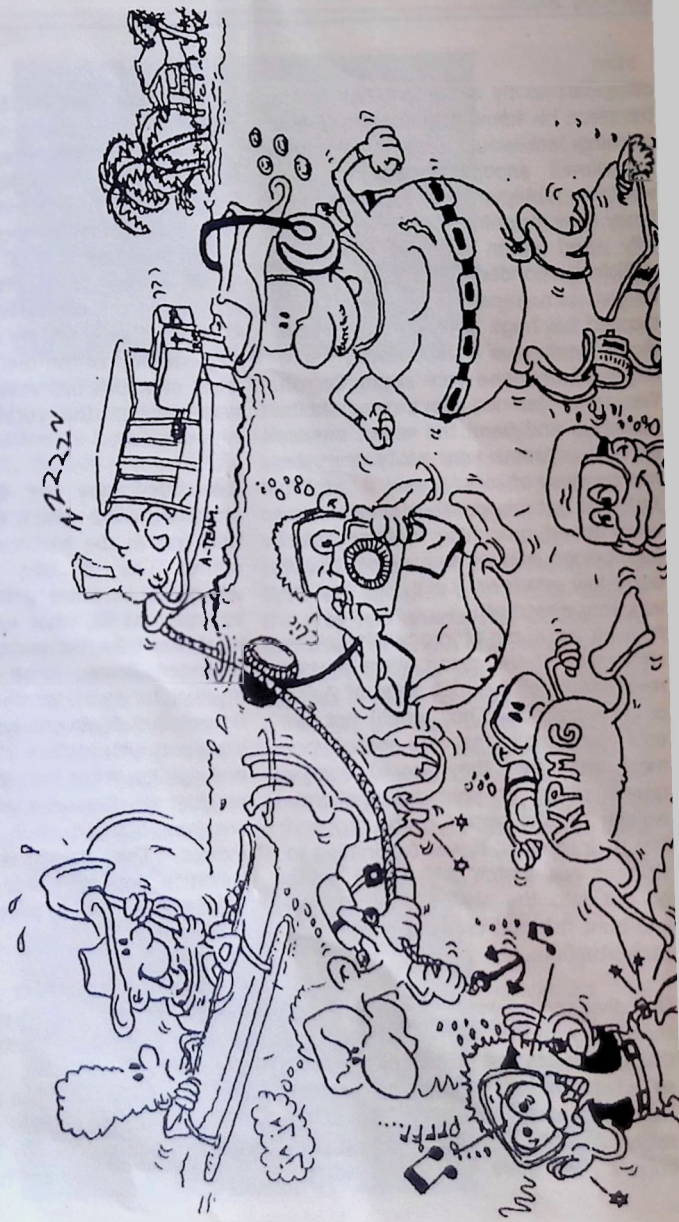
Our dive guides were South African, complete with that strange little accent that us Aussies just love to pick up on, so when Dorian told us not to try "farting against the current" when he really meant "fighting against the current", we gave him heaps but he

loved it. We went out to a place they called Echuca patch where an old Taiwanese fishing vessel had been scuttled. The vessel had once been closer to the top of the reef but had ended up much deeper after sliding down after some bad weather. The visibility was great and the wreck, covered in soft corals, was a nice easy dive. We then gradually made our way upto the top of the reef following the track of where this vessel had cut its way through the coral to its final resting-place.

Later that day we dived on an unknown WW2 wreck of a freighter that was in the harbour in about 25 metres. As it was quite badly damaged, our dive guides were not too sure as to what was stern and what was bow, but our resident ship's engineer Bruce, soon solved that mystery for them. We saw quite a few unexploded depth charges lying in the silt along with artillery shells, winches and cordite. After that it was another residual air dive on a twin float Jake seaplane that was only in about 14 metres. The plane was in good condition and right side up and one could sit in the pilot seat quite comfortably.

Another development by now happening in the group was a growing rivalry between the experienced master of tour leadership, Don, and the new upstart, Mick. The big Lloyd was soon dubbed, Tour leader "In Training" (by Don of course) and thus another

# VIC SUB AQUA CLUB KAVIENG - MAY 2002







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*Subas*

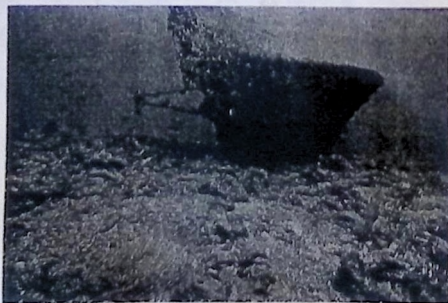
Kavieng Colour In! - All VSAG Primary School (and younger!) kids - submit your best colouring effort to the Fathoms editors by start of the AGM to win a prize. Name Age:

source of constant amusement was guaranteed whenever things went wrong or sometimes right. A graph was put up on the divers briefing blackboard to



compare and highlight the leadership of the 2000 Vanuatu trip with the current Trip. We called it "the worm" and Mick surely knew when the worm was up and when the worm was down. Rick, a Dutch diver backpacking with his French girlfriend Maggie, also used the blackboard to sketch a very talented and comical cartoon of our dive guide Dorian. This simple light hearted moment later lead to one of the highlights of our trip.

The next day we dived at a place called Kaplaman reef and this was about the best visibility I can ever recall, anywhere. The general consensus was around 150 feet Vis and one of the drawcards in coming to P.N.G., unfortunately the fish had not come to the party and were sadly scarce. I went down to about 40 metres to



watch Cara try out a supposed shark attracting device, an empty plastic bottle quickly rotated in the hands, without any success. On the slow ascent up the reef I

developed a very severe headache and on the deco line, Dorain indicated there was blood in my mask, I was naturally quite concerned. While on board about five minutes later, after a lot of spitting of bloody mucous and still a thumping headache, my head literally made an audible fizzing sound to the amazement and amusement of the other divers. With that the headache diminished rapidly and I felt much better. My travelling companions theorised, that as I had no trouble equalising on the way down or with my ears that this was reverse squeeze at its worst. While I sat out the next dive and generally watched my depth in subsequent dives, I felt

similar but not as severe symptoms on all following dives making them a bit of a chore. Those on board would sit there after the dives waiting for my head to "go

off" and of course sympathetically dubbed me "air head".

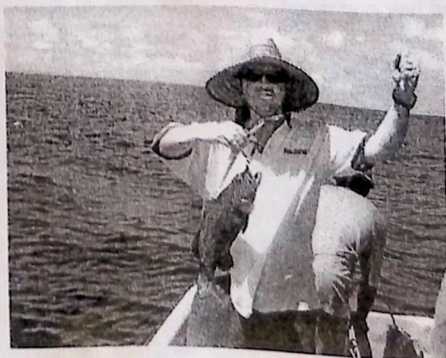
The next day we headed out to Steffen straight which is the main shipping channel into Kavieng but unfortunately found the current running too strong. We then experienced outboard motor trouble and eventually conducted a dive at Beaudisson Bay on a large round coral bommie that did not excite the crew too much. The later dive at Light House reef was much better, dropping up in front of the reef and coming back with the current, Dorian had us right on the edge of a drop off with plenty of big fish action including white and grey reef sharks, barracouta and bump head wrasse. Due to some lack of communication, the other boat apparently missed this point and the group had a disappointing dive.

Our last two dives the next day, were near Lemus Island and unfortunately could not be rated as highlight dives, there were no big fish were on offer, but I did get to see, in some spots some of the best and most colourful coral gardens I have ever seen. While the saltwater diving side of things

were now over, there was still a lot more legs in this trip and other things to focus on, such as the " VSAG Bad Hair and Worst T- Shirt party!"

Our final day and night on Nusa was to be purely for rest and relaxation. Bruce, Alan and Pat all went on "Gerry's tour" around Kavieng where they dived a freshwater sinkhole and then onto some sites including Eel feeding and swimming in some local streams. The rest of us went fishing (in open boats), with Darren and Ross on one boat and Mick, Ted, Nev and I on the lucky boat!

Within about ten minutes I had hooked a nice barracouta while trawling and it looked like being a big day out. Three hours later with one more Coral trout on board and all feeling about as hot and bothered as a politician during a lie detector test, we called it quits. Of course being a shy sensitive type I did not



ONCE remind my fellow fishermen who caught the catch of the day.

**Warning!**  
VSAG Sealed Section  
Follows - Turn Page  
at Own Risk!



As we all know it does not take too much encouraging to get a group of VSAG people to enjoy a party and this trip was no exception. The word had gone out prior to the trip to prepare for a "bad hair and worst T-

shirt party" theme to keep up the fine tradition our club has come to enjoy during overseas trips. As soon as the sun was down out came the partygoers to the riotous appreciation of the locals and fellow travellers alike. I don't think there would have been as many G-strings at the Sydney gay Mardi Gras! And when Pat, with pink elephant extension dangling, chased the girls around and out of the kitchen, I'm sure the place will never be the same again. We had every colour of real and wigged hair imaginable and even a sprayed on yellow surf cap on Nev's chromium. The T-shirts were so bad they defied description but it was the

combination of Hair, T-shirt, G-string and thick tufts of Santa Claus like pubic hair that got Alan over the line as our theme winner!

Don was in sparkling form with his jokes and impromptu play "Have some Madeira my dear!", Mick gave us Archibald and even the VSAG songbook came out for a rousing sing a long! But the highlight was when Dorian and Cara presented Alan as our theme winner, a T-shirt, they had commissioned cartoonist Rick to emblazon with all our quirky characterisations.

We were all given a copy of this very special cartoon that will no doubt end up on a T-shirt that will be proudly worn in years to come to remind us of our VSAG 2002, Kavieng capers!

Oh and one last thing! Pat did get his tool back, it never left Brisbane airport!



VSAG's First 11 - Kavieng 2002

Alan, Ted, Ross, Mick, Bruce, Chris, Don, Pat, Gerry, Nev and Darren

# THE HUMAN AQUATIC POTENTIAL

By Francisco "Pipin" Ferreras

## World Freediving Record Holder

On January 18th, 2000, on his 38th birthday, Pipin established an amazing new record. He plunged to a depth of 162 meters (534.6 feet) with only one breath. This feat took place in Cozumel, Mexico.

Before we begin this dissertation of a very interesting and complex topic, I would like to elucidate the history of man's evolution. Since the beginnings of the earth, when the planet was covered in a primordial soup, single celled organisms gave rise to the early marine reptiles. These, in turn, began to experience solid ground and the gaseous atmosphere. Rudimentary lungs developed as they experimented with early respiration. Terrestrial life thus evolved into primitive simians and eventually man. It is interesting to note that in the year 546 B.C. a celebrated Greek philosopher, Anassimandro, first theorized that the earth was a globe and referred to the aquatic precursors of man: "The seas gave rise to fishlike creatures who contained men within their beings. These men remained in situ until the creatures reached adolescence, at which time they gave forth mankind". Man went on to discover his physical and mental prowess, understanding and learning their significance: by using his intelligence he established dominion over the earth, culminating in the conquest of the heavens which began with the early hot air balloons and eventually by reaching the surface of the moon. We now set our sights on Mars and beyond.

As we analyze this evolutionary history we fail to recognize a very significant and important point. Somewhere in our past

we inhabited the oceans, much like modern seals, whales and porpoises. It is because of this past that man possesses aquatic instincts and potentials of incalculable dimensions. Instincts which are unrecognized by most in our hectic and neurotic lives.

In 1870, another celebrated philosopher, the frenchman Paul Bert observed that geese upon immersion in water would lower their heartbeat (bradycardia) in response to the stimulus of breath holding and the hydrostatic pressure around them. This interesting physiologic change has also been documented in other aquatic birds, mammals and reptiles. This phenomenon has come to be known as the "Diving Response", and years later was documented in man. It is interesting to note a recent finding: fish out of water experience this very same phenomenon! The Diving Response in man initiates immediately upon undergoing a state of apnea (breath holding), and is potentiated by the hydrostatic pressure, and direct contact with cold water.

I would like to add that at least in my particular case, this "response" is also activated by the pressure sensed in my ears and transmitted to my central nervous system after descending just one meter. My ears act as a precise instrument, a depth gauge if you will. They subconsciously transmit data to my brain,

which is in a deep trance from my pre-immersion meditation. From that moment on I can precisely determine what my actual depth is. This hydrostatic pressure and my state of apnea induce bradycardia. My heart, under direct control of the Central Nervous System begins a rapid slowdown. This diminution of my cardiac output is a result of the body's decreasing needs for oxygen and energy consumption. This efficiency in energy conservation is of vital importance for survival in the undersea environment while in a state of apnea. As an example, when I begin my pre-immersion preparations my resting heart rate is 75 bpm, 10 minutes after entering a state of deep relaxation it drops, to 55 bpm. As I begin my descent, in a matter of seconds it has slowed to 30 bpm. My cardiovascular performance is influenced by other factors, foremost being my physical conditioning, and mental preparation. Environmental factors of the given day, such as the generosity of mother ocean to impart her energy on me on that particular day also influences my performance profoundly... But back to the dive at hand... Once I have reached a depth of 110 m., I institute one last command to my heart to slow down. At this point my heart is down to a mere 10 to 14 bpm. On several immersions when all of the above mentioned factors are ideal I have obtained readings of an incredible 7 bpm! (Obviously these findings are augmented by the power of mind over body that I have developed over the years, through the study and practice of Yoga.

Another phenomenon that perpetuates the concept of our aquatic potential is that of peripheral vasoconstriction. It has been shown that at depth, blood flow is shunted from the limbs to those organs whose Oxygen consumption is critical, the heart

and brain. In a trance like state, I potentiate this phenomenon by consciously establishing a duality between these organs, commanding them to sustain each other, knowing well that one cannot survive without the other. I command my heart to pump oxygen rich blood to my brain, so that in turn, it can continue to transmit its impulses telling it to continue its pumping action. Another adaptive change that occurs is the automatic diminution of our systemic metabolism, thus markedly reducing our caloric and oxygen needs.

At the beginning of my career in 1987, Cuban and Soviet scientist studied me at length and were able to document the occurrence of these physiologic alterations. During those early years, the readings were remarkable: they equaled and in some cases surpassed the performance of some marine mammals. As my capabilities expanded and I began to my conquests of the depths, these readings have reached astounding levels. Astounding to the scientists who follow my progress, and in particular to professor Massimo Ferrigno, who is renown for his expertise in the field. Professor Ferrigno is undertaking his most ambitious and thorough study on me to date. The results of this ongoing study will be published in the near future.

Finally, the subject would be incomplete without mentioning the most intriguing of all these physiologic adaptations, that of the "Blood Shift Phenomenon". This theoretical "shift" has not been proven directly although enough indirect evidence exists to attribute my ability to withstand these pressures that theoretically would cause "Thoracic Squeeze". This theory implies that the maximum achievable depth while breath holding is limited by

the individuals' maximum lung volume TLC (Total Lung Capacity) and his Residual Volume (RV). Let's take my data as an example: upon inspiration, my TLC is approximately 7 liters, and my RV is on the averages 1.5 liters. If I were to subject these values to the aforementioned calculations, my limit would be 4.6 atmospheres, that is, it would limit my maximum depth to 36 meters (117 feet). Clearly this theory is easily repudiated, given the depths that I have attained, -128 meters (-420 feet).

As previously stated, our bodies possess incredible aquatic potentials, some that defy scientific explanation, as the previous example shows. The only viable explanation to my markedly surpassing this theoretical limit is that of this "Blood

Shift". Panic engrossed me the first time that I experienced the sensation of my lungs drowning in liquid. This has now become a welcomed and pleasant sensation that accompanies me every dive. As the human body approaches the depths, the "weight of the ocean" begins to exert its pressure, peripheral blood begins to fill the lungs, the compressed volume of air merely filling the frontal and paranasal sinuses. Blood is the only liquid that can withstand the column of hydrostatic pressure and thus prevent the collapse of the thorax.

Now that you have read my premise, can you consider that a part of us belongs in the aquatic environment?. I truly believe it, and this gives me the moral obligation to discover man's maximum potential....

Melbourne Radio will close in July 2002. The Victorian Government is ensuring that an equivalent service is provided after that time.

For vessels with HF radios operating in coastal waters, the same HF frequencies in the 4, 6 and 8 MHz bands will continue to be monitored 24 hours a day for distress calls.

The Bureau of Meteorology will continue to broadcast weather on HF frequency bands 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 16.

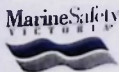
### **Remember, from July 2002:**

**HF frequency bands 4, 6 and 8 MHz  
to make distress and safety calls**

**HF frequency bands 2, 4, 6, 8, 12  
and 16 MHz to receive weather  
information**

For further information about the changes, call **1800 100770** or go to Marine Safety Victoria's website at **[www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au)**

For information about HF weather broadcast schedules contact the Bureau of Meteorology on **03 9669 4574** or go to **[www.bom.gov.au/marine](http://www.bom.gov.au/marine)**.





## **HMAS SUSSEX - THE DEEPEST RICHEST WRECK IN THE WORLD!**

Story: John Lawler.

In 1694 (not very long ago!) the new British flagship, HMAS Sussex was sailing into the Mediterranean when a violent storm hit near the Strait of Gibraltar and the Sussex was sunk. All but two men died.

The Sussex was a new warship with 500 men and an impressive 80 guns. The ship was said to be carrying a small fortune in treasure to buy the loyalty of the Duke of Savoy, who it seems was a shaky ally.

This treasure in gold and silver coins was apparently worth **\$A7.8 billion**. This was never recovered! 308 years on, a team of entrepreneurs and a group of archaeologists working with the British Government, claims to have found what is probably the Sussex... **in 800 metres of water!** At this depth, the excavation would be the deepest attempted in history.

The team using a robot has examined a large mound very rich in cannon, anchors and masses of artefacts and the robot's mechanical arm has carefully lifted several to the surface. Whilst the identification is not absolute, the circumstantial evidence apparently is very strong.

The salvage is being carried out by a company called "Odyssey Marine Exploration" based in Florida and so far the cost of the project is running at \$A6 Million.

This discovery could rank as one of the most important from the sea. If the plans proceed for the site excavation, archival and field research by the team suggests that the remains of the Sussex could yield the richest treasure wreck of modern times and fill in a lost chapter in world history.

### ***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!**

# Bends warning on diving in shallow water

Stephen Cauchi

Scuba diving in shallow water, usually regarded as safe, causes the bends in dozens of Australians each year, a conference was told yesterday.

David Griffiths told the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists conference in Brisbane that it was possible to get decompression sickness diving in sea water less than 10 metres deep. One diver in 10 who suffered the bends was in this category.

"It is now clear that even shallow water dives can produce decompression sickness," said Dr Griffiths, director of the Hyperbaric Medical Unit at Townsville Hospital. "This condition is quite difficult to diagnose and, untreated, can lead to permanent disability."

One diver got the bends — a painful condition caused by gas bubbles forming in the bloodstream — from diving in water less than four metres deep.

Dr Griffiths said that a study of 350 cases showed at least 35

had dived in less than 10 metres of water. Those who repeatedly ascended, did hard work underwater, or drank alcohol afterwards were most at risk.

Symptoms include lethargy, aches and pains and confused thinking. Serious cases can lose sensation in the limbs or permanently damage the brain and nervous system.

The many tourists who shallow-water dive on the Great Barrier Reef and their diving supervisors needed to be aware of the dangers, he said.

**This condition . . . can lead to permanent disability.**

DR DAVID GRIFFITHS,  
Townsville Hospital

## CAVE DIVING

**Premiums:** Up by 200 per cent for the Cave Divers Association of Australia. Public liability cover has risen from \$6000 to \$18,000 a year, despite the association not making a claim since 1972.

**Impact:** Warrick McDonald, national director of the association — an umbrella group representing cave-diving enterprises — says some insurance companies are refusing insurance. Insurance costs account for one third of the association's budget. "If it goes up again I really don't know what we are going to do," he says. "I'm getting to the stage now where my turnover is the highest it's ever been and my bottom line, my profit line, is zero."

## BRIEFLY

### Lighthouse boost

The site of the historic Point Lonsdale lighthouse will be extensively refurbished under a plan announced yesterday by the Victorian Government. The plan will see \$150,000 spent during the next three years on landscaping the lighthouse's surrounds, creating trails and pathways, building fences and stabilising sand dunes. The lighthouse, which looks out over an area proposed as a marine park, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

## Warning on amorous dolphin

London

Swimmers have been warned to stay away from a sexually frustrated dolphin off an English seaside resort after it tried to lure swimmers out to sea in a bid to mate with them.

The Times newspaper reported on Tuesday that the portenose dolphin, nicknamed Georges, had arrived off Weymouth, Dorset, about two months ago after following a gull across the Channel.

"This dolphin does get very sexually aggressive. He has already attempted to mate with some divers," US marine mammal expert Ric O'Barry told the

paper. "When dolphins get sexually excited, they try to isolate a swimmer, normally female. They do this by circling around the individual and gradually move them away from the beach, boat or crowd of people."

Mr O'Barry said the dolphin, which weighs about 180 kilograms, would get very excited and rough and try to mate with the swimmer, possibly causing them to drown.

It also has a fascination with boat propellers and has been injured several times.

Georges has become a major attraction at Weymouth, with thousands taking to the sea in boats to watch him play. Reuters

# Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams

at 35° 18' Long 144° 37' Time Zone 1000

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

July - 2002

*swap ebb + flood*

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
<b>1</b> 0047 ebb 0608 flood MO 1223 ebb 1917 flood	<b>9</b> 0657 ebb 1435 flood TU 1954 ebb	<b>17</b> 0119 ebb 0705 flood WE 1300 ebb 1939 flood	<b>25</b> 0122 flood 0848 ebb TH 1559 flood 2141 ebb	
<b>2</b> 0126 ebb 0655 flood TU 1256 ebb 1944 flood	<b>10</b> 0204 ebb 0751 flood WE 1527 ebb 2100 ebb	<b>18</b> 0209 ebb 0808 flood TH 1342 ebb 2009 flood	<b>26</b> 0233 flood 0936 ebb FR 1640 flood 2229 ebb	
<b>3</b> 0204 ebb 0743 flood WE 1329 ebb 2011 flood	<b>11</b> 0105 flood 0643 ebb TH 1612 flood 2147 ebb	<b>19</b> 0302 ebb 0917 flood FR 1425 ebb 2043 flood	<b>27</b> 0334 flood 1018 ebb SA 1716 flood 2311 ebb	
<b>4</b> 0243 ebb 0835 flood TH 1403 ebb 2039 flood	<b>12</b> 0206 flood 0930 ebb FR 1651 flood 2229 ebb	<b>20</b> 0359 ebb 1034 flood SA 1516 ebb 2121 flood	<b>28</b> 0427 flood 1056 ebb SU 1747 flood 2349 ebb	
<b>5</b> 0325 ebb 0938 flood FR 1441 ebb 2109 flood	<b>13</b> 0307 flood 1016 ebb SA 1728 flood 2308 ebb	<b>21</b> 0457 ebb 1151 flood SU 1620 ebb 2207 flood	<b>29</b> 0514 flood 1130 ebb MO 1815 flood	
<b>6</b> 0413 ebb 1059 flood SA 1527 ebb 2141 flood	<b>14</b> 0408 flood 1059 ebb SU 1803 flood 2349 ebb	<b>22</b> 0557 ebb 1304 flood MO 1745 ebb 2303 flood	<b>30</b> 0024 ebb 0558 flood TU 1202 ebb 1840 flood	
<b>7</b> 0505 ebb 1224 flood SU 1628 ebb 2219 flood	<b>15</b> 0508 flood 1140 ebb MO 1836 flood	<b>23</b> 0658 ebb 1412 flood TU 1927 ebb	<b>31</b> 0058 ebb 0641 flood WE 1233 ebb 1904 flood	
<b>8</b> 0600 ebb 1335 flood MO 1801 ebb 2307 flood	<b>16</b> 0032 ebb 0607 flood TU 1220 ebb 1908 flood	<b>24</b> 0009 flood 0756 ebb WE 1509 flood 2043 ebb		

# Port Phillip Heads (Pt.Lonsdale)

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

Times and Heights of High and Low Water.

July - 2002

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
<b>1</b> 0347 1.29 0947 0.35 MO 1645 1.50 2226 0.55	<b>9</b> 0339 0.38 1106 1.34 TU 1621 0.88 2219 1.20	<b>17</b> 0438 1.39 1021 0.35 WE 1710 1.53 2302 0.35	<b>25</b> 0543 0.24 1300 1.48 TH 1819 0.73	
<b>2</b> 0430 1.26 1026 0.42 TU 1715 1.45 2304 0.53	<b>10</b> 0438 0.33 1202 1.41 WE 1727 0.85 2323 1.22	<b>18</b> 0555 1.38 1109 0.45 TH 1749 1.49 2350 0.31	<b>26</b> 0825 1.27 1300 1.51 FR 1915 0.66	
<b>3</b> 0515 1.22 1102 0.49 WE 1746 1.41 2343 0.51	<b>11</b> 0642 1.37 1254 1.48 TH 1821 0.79	<b>19</b> 0658 1.56 1142 0.55 FR 1832 1.44	<b>27</b> 0724 0.24 1432 1.51 SA 2003 0.59	
<b>4</b> 0603 1.20 1141 0.58 TH 1818 1.36	<b>12</b> 0022 1.25 0622 0.22 FR 1342 1.53 1909 0.72	<b>20</b> 0039 0.28 0752 1.36 SA 1249 0.67 1921 1.38	<b>28</b> 0808 0.27 1509 1.51 SU 2047 0.54	
<b>5</b> 0021 0.49 0700 1.19 FR 1222 0.66 1854 1.31	<b>13</b> 0116 1.30 0710 0.19 SA 1427 1.57 1955 0.64	<b>21</b> 0132 0.28 0858 1.37 SU 1345 0.76 2015 1.33	<b>29</b> 0948 0.31 1541 1.49 MO 2127 0.49	
<b>6</b> 0102 0.47 0801 1.20 SA 1309 0.75 1936 1.27	<b>14</b> 0207 1.34 0758 0.18 SU 1510 1.59 2042 0.56	<b>22</b> 1002 1.39 1451 0.81 MO 2118 1.29	<b>30</b> 0330 1.29 0926 0.36 TU 1609 1.47 2203 0.45	
<b>7</b> 0147 0.45 0904 1.23 SU 1403 0.83 2024 1.23	<b>15</b> 0256 1.37 0845 0.21 MO 1551 1.59 2128 0.48	<b>23</b> 0938 0.28 1105 1.42 TU 1805 0.82 2224 1.26	<b>31</b> 0411 1.28 1001 0.42 WE 1637 1.44 2237 0.42	
<b>8</b> 0240 0.42 1006 1.28 MO 1509 0.87 2119 1.21	<b>16</b> 0845 1.39 0933 0.26 TU 1630 1.57 2215 0.41	<b>24</b> 0444 0.26 1204 1.45 WE 1716 0.79 2328 1.26		

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

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

## August - 2002

*(swap ebb + flood)*

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0130 ebb 0725 flood TH 1903 ebb 1929 flood	9 0038 flood 0818 ebb FR 1541 flood 2115 ebb	17 0239 ebb 0913 flood SA 1412 ebb 2011 flood	25 0334 flood 1005 ebb SU 1642 flood 2247 ebb
2 0203 ebb 0811 flood FR 1335 ebb 1953 flood	10 0151 flood 0914 ebb SA 1619 flood 2202 ebb	18 0330 ebb 1018 flood SU 1459 ebb 2049 flood	26 0423 flood 1043 ebb MO 1710 flood 2320 ebb
3 0240 ebb 0903 flood SA 1411 ebb 2018 flood	11 0305 flood 1002 ebb SU 1655 flood 2245 ebb	19 0424 ebb 1124 flood MO 1555 ebb 2135 flood	27 0507 flood 1115 ebb TU 1735 flood 2350 ebb
4 0321 ebb 1009 flood SU 1450 ebb 2046 flood	12 0413 flood 1046 ebb MO 1729 flood 2330 ebb	20 0523 ebb 1232 flood TU 1712 ebb 2234 flood	28 0547 flood 1146 ebb WE 1759 flood
5 0408 ebb 1132 flood MO 1539 ebb 2102 flood	13 0514 flood 1129 ebb TU 1801 flood 2352 flood	21 0628 ebb 1341 flood WE 1902 ebb 2352 flood	29 0020 ebb 0627 flood TH 1215 ebb 1822 flood
6 0152 flood TU 1644 ebb 2209 flood	14 0015 ebb 0611 flood WE 1210 ebb 1833 flood	22 0734 ebb 1440 flood TH 2029 ebb	30 0052 ebb 0705 flood FR 1244 ebb 1845 flood
7 0609 ebb 1400 flood WE 1823 ebb 2315 flood	15 0101 ebb 0709 flood TH 1249 ebb 1904 flood	23 0120 flood 0746 ebb FR 1529 flood 2127 ebb	31 0124 ebb 0746 flood SA 1314 ebb 1908 flood
8 0716 ebb 1456 flood TH 2017 ebb	16 0149 ebb 0809 flood FR 1330 ebb 1936 flood	24 0235 flood 0922 ebb SA 1609 flood 2211 ebb	

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

Times and Heights of High and Low Waters.

## August - 2002

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0451 1.27 1036 0.48 TH 1705 1.40 2310 0.39	9 0456 0.25 1226 1.39 FR 1745 0.74	17 0631 1.42 1142 0.55 SA 1806 1.41	25 0108 1.24 0711 0.29 SU 1403 1.41 1946 0.49
2 0533 1.26 1113 0.55 FR 1736 1.36 2344 0.37	10 0000 1.22 0558 0.20 SA 1316 1.46 1843 0.63	18 0017 1.38 0732 1.37 SU 1229 0.63 1853 1.34	26 0155 1.28 0752 0.30 MO 1435 1.42 2025 0.42
3 0620 1.25 1151 0.63 SA 1810 1.31	11 0100 1.30 0653 0.18 SU 1403 1.51 1933 0.51	19 0107 0.23 0834 1.33 MO 1319 0.71 1948 1.26	27 0236 1.31 0830 0.33 TU 1503 1.42 2059 0.36
4 0019 0.36 0714 1.23 SU 1232 0.70 1848 1.26	12 0157 1.38 0745 0.18 MO 1446 1.55 2023 0.39	20 0203 0.28 0937 1.30 TU 1422 0.76 2054 1.20	28 0314 1.34 0903 0.37 WE 1530 1.41 2130 0.32
5 0058 0.35 0812 1.23 MO 1319 0.78 1933 1.21	13 0249 1.44 0834 0.22 TU 1527 1.56 2111 0.29	21 0313 0.31 1041 1.29 WE 1539 0.77 2204 1.17	29 0350 1.35 0938 0.41 TH 1559 1.40 2202 0.29
6 0915 1.24 1416 0.83 2029 1.17	14 0342 1.47 0923 0.28 WE 1505 1.55 2159 0.22	22 0424 0.32 1143 1.31 TH 1700 0.73 2313 1.17	30 0425 1.35 1012 0.46 FR 1629 1.37 2234 0.27
7 0241 0.32 1023 1.27 WE 1526 0.85 2135 1.16	15 0435 1.48 1010 0.36 TH 1544 1.52 2245 0.17	23 0528 0.31 1238 1.35 FR 1808 0.66	31 0504 1.33 1047 0.51 SA 1700 1.32 2306 0.27
8 0347 0.29 1128 1.32 TH 1640 0.82 2249 1.17	16 0531 1.46 1056 0.45 FR 1723 1.47 2330 0.16	24 0014 1.20 0623 0.29 SA 1325 1.38 1902 0.57	

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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.

### September - 2002

Time	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
<b>1</b>	0546 1.30 1123 0.58 SU 1733 0.27 2338 0.27	0051 1.35 0639 0.23 MO 1333 1.43 1910 0.33	0038 0.23 0905 1.28 TU 1255 0.64 1926 1.18	0220 1.38 0808 0.38 WE 1424 1.35 2024 0.24
<b>2</b>	0633 1.27 1200 0.64 MO 1809 1.22	0148 1.46 0731 0.24 TU 1416 1.49 2000 0.20	0133 0.31 0907 1.22 WE 1356 0.69 2037 1.12	0254 1.42 0841 0.40 TH 1454 1.36 2055 0.21
<b>3</b>	0015 0.27 0728 1.20 TU 1242 0.70 1853 1.17	0242 1.54 0821 0.27 WE 1457 1.51 2047 0.11	0242 0.38 1011 1.19 TH 1518 0.70 2153 1.09	0328 1.44 0915 0.42 FR 1525 1.35 2127 0.19
<b>4</b>	0059 0.28 0831 1.20 WE 1334 0.75 1951 1.13	0333 1.58 0908 0.32 TH 1536 1.50 2133 0.06	1040 0.40 1112 1.20 FR 1645 0.65 2304 1.11	0401 1.44 0948 0.45 SA 1557 1.32 2158 0.19
<b>5</b>	0156 0.29 0943 1.20 TH 1442 0.77 2105 1.11	0425 1.57 0953 0.38 FR 1615 1.47 2219 0.05	0511 0.40 1206 1.24 SA 1752 0.56 2300 0.20	0438 1.41 1022 0.49 SU 1629 1.27 2229 0.20
<b>6</b>	0307 0.29 1053 1.24 FR 1600 0.73 2230 1.14	0516 1.52 1037 0.44 SA 1656 1.42 2305 0.08	0007 1.17 0608 0.38 SU 1250 1.28 1841 0.46	0639 0.44 1409 0.40 FR 1930 0.40 2044 0.40
<b>7</b>	0425 0.27 1154 1.31 SA 1715 0.62 2346 1.23	0610 1.44 1120 0.51 SU 1739 1.35 2350 0.15	0100 1.24 0654 0.37 MO 1325 1.31 1918 0.37	0700 0.44 1409 0.40 FR 1930 0.40 2044 0.40
<b>8</b>	0537 0.25 1246 1.38 SU 1816 0.48	0706 1.35 1205 0.58 MO 1828 1.27	0143 1.32 0733 0.37 TU 1356 1.34 1952 0.30	0805 0.44 1409 0.40 FR 1930 0.40 2044 0.40

## Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams

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

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

### September - 2002

*swap ebb + flood*

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
<b>1</b>	0159 ebb SU 1345 ebb 1933 flood	0312 flood 0950 ebb MO 1613 flood 2220 ebb	0343 ebb 1045 flood TU 1538 ebb 2114 flood	0459 flood 1100 ebb WE 1651 flood 2313 ebb
<b>2</b>	0236 ebb 0925 flood MO 1423 ebb 2002 flood	0416 flood 1035 ebb TU 1647 flood 2304 ebb	0439 ebb 1147 flood WE 1653 ebb 2221 flood	0536 flood 1181 ebb TH 1715 flood 2344 ebb
<b>3</b>	0318 ebb 1032 flood TU 1505 ebb 2038 flood	0515 flood 1117 ebb WE 1722 flood 2349 ebb	0548 ebb 1254 flood TH 1845 ebb 2354 flood	0613 flood 1200 ebb FR 1738 flood
<b>4</b>	0411 ebb 1154 flood WE 1601 ebb 2129 flood	0611 flood 1158 ebb TH 1756 flood	0707 ebb 1356 flood FR 2010 ebb	0015 ebb 0649 flood SA 1229 ebb 1802 flood
<b>5</b>	0518 ebb 1309 flood TH 1726 ebb 2246 flood	0635 ebb 0705 flood FR 1230 flood 1830 flood	0126 flood 0814 ebb SA 1446 flood 2103 ebb	0048 ebb 0727 flood SU 1258 ebb 1828 flood
<b>6</b>	0639 ebb 1409 flood FR 1930 ebb	0121 ebb 0800 flood SA 1317 ebb 1904 flood	0237 flood 0906 ebb SU 1525 flood 2142 ebb	0122 ebb 0807 flood MO 1329 ebb 1855 flood
<b>7</b>	0022 flood 0755 ebb SA 1456 flood 2044 ebb	0207 ebb 0854 flood SU 1359 ebb 1942 flood	0332 flood 0950 ebb MO 1557 flood 2214 ebb	
<b>8</b>	0154 flood 0858 ebb SU 1536 flood 2134 ebb	0253 ebb 0948 flood MO 1444 ebb 2023 flood	0417 flood 1028 ebb TU 1625 flood 2244 ebb	

## 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>JUNE</b>					
8,9,10	Queens B'Day Ski Trip	Leo M	9727 1568		
9	Ships Graveyard	John L	9589 4020	Sorrento	9.00
20	<b>General Meeting</b>			<b>Bells Hotel</b>	<b>8PM</b>
23	Photography Day & Treasure Hunt!	Gerry DV	9725 2381	Sorrento	9.30
<b>JULY</b>					
7	Nepean Wall	John L	9589 4020	Sorrento	9.00
14	Lonsdale Wall	Leo M	9727 1568	Sorrento	9.00
18	<b>General Meeting</b>			<b>Bells Hotel</b>	<b>8PM</b>
21	90' Sub & Popes Eye	Pat R	9789 1092	Sorrento	9.30
<b>AUGUST</b>					
4	Deep Wreck Dive	Leo M	9727 1568	Sorrento	9.30
18	<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	

*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**



**Kavieng - Photos  
by Gerry Devries**

