# October - November 2002

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**USAG** Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

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

## **FATHOMS**

Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group



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**Committee Meetings** 

**Editorial Submissions to:** 

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

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

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#### EDITORIAL

#### - JOHN LAWLER.

The VSAG club's 2001-2002 year has come to an end and the Committee has had a new round of position changes, additions and departures, which were finalised at the committee meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

"President Pete" Vleugel did not seek re election and has left the role and also the Committee. The Committee and members say thanks to Peter for keeping the ship on course over the past two years.

Pat Reynolds was elected to the President's role and yours truly to Vice President. Our two new committee members are Alan Storen, who will take over the role as Assistant Editor from Steve Jacoby, and Neville Viapree will take over as Safety Officer and other duties. The position of Social Secretary has yet to be finalised.

Two important roles on the committee are those of Treasurer and Secretary. Priya Cardinaletti has excelled in the handling of the finances for our club and has defended our position on returns when challenged by ASIC and was successful in doing so. The documentation of all club minutes was handled really well by John Mills in his role as Secretary. Both Priya and John were nominated for and accepted these roles again for the next year.

The balance of the new positions on the Committee, all of which are important, are detailed on the inside cover of this edition.

Paul Tipping was asked to review the position of the club in regard to our legal situation in the event of a serious diving accident. Paul gave a detailed presentation on the situation and has made recommendations to the Committee. The subject of safety and the guidelines currently in place are in the process of being reworked and it is hoped that the full review of the club practices will be in place during the first half of 2003. It is possible that some guidelines will embrace those being formulated by the SDFV.

Thank you Paul for your research and presentation to the Committee in regard to the issues of safety within our club. Your advice and suggestions will allow for our club to progress our motto "Safety in Diving", but more importantly so that we as a club take all necessary measures to assist the diving safety of our members.

On a lighter note, the Literary Award this year went to two most deserving people and it was really great to see Mary Malloy and Alan Beckhurst take out this award. Mary and Alan are great scuba divers, dedicated to their sport, and having dived off their boat and they off mine, I can attest that are both what the sport is all about. Congratulations, and many thanks for all your excellent contributions to Fathoms.

To the two article reviewers, Paul Tipping and Terry Brooks, the club expresses its thanks to you for this important contribution to our awards processes.

In 1987 I received my first Clubmember of the Year award. In 2000-2001 it came to me again, also with the Literary Award in the same year, and my third Clubmember of the Year award was presented to me again for 2001-2002. Thank you.

Boat owners in Victoria who do not hold a boat licence will be aware that we are in "count down" mode as the deadline. The introduction of boat licensing poses somewhat of a potential problem for our club. If a boat owner goes for a dive and does not have another licensed driver to skipper the boat...?

It is great to hear of some VSAG non boat owners who have indicated their intention to sit for the test. The exam is based on "multiple choice" question/answer and is really not difficult, provided some homework is done on the rules book covering the boating rules.

Please give some thought to this as **now** is really the time to give something back to the boat owners who have provided their boats for the member's diving pleasures for so many, many years.

Finally on away dives. The March 2003 WA trip to dive the "Swan" out of Busselton and the "Perth" in Albany is all on track. Those who have indicated their intention will receive some information over the next few weeks and we will be closing off the numbers late November. For those who still may be interested in this trip there is still plenty of time to book in...your call would be welcome.

Safe and Happy diving.

John Lawler

JULY 1984

#### V.S.A.G. LEGAL STATUS

CORPORATE AFFAIRS - AN EXPOSE by Don Abell

Well, the editor requested in the May issue of Fathoms, that I contribute :wo articles a year for this magazine. I have taken his comments as a narsh public rebuke, implying a lack of club spirit on my part. I have consulted my solicitor on the chances of suing Birtles for slander, nowever having a realistic appreciation of the power of the press, it is probably easier to write a second article. No mean task. A 100 per cent increase in output in a period of two months. Just the sort of statistic which Hawke should use in his next election campaign.

Geoff also asked that I write an article with some humour in it. It seems that "letter to the editor" was a trifle heavy and likely to deter readers who prefer light relief from the day to dayhumdrum which dominates their life. So I thought I would explain the current legal status of VSAG and its implications. You'll really like this. It is the sort of stuff that has them rocking in the aisles at the Corporate Affairs Commission.

QUESTION: Asked at May general meeting. "Would VSAG be advantaged by incorporating under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981?"

#### ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION, ACT 1981

This Act was passed by the Victorian Parliament in July 1983 and is structured to provide a means by which non-profit making Associations can obtain the benefits of incorporation without having to meet the onerous requirements previously required of all incorporated bodies.

Companies are required to lodge a number of documents with the Corporate Affairs Commission and pay annual charges.

The new Act requires associations incorporated under the Act to lodge the following documents only:

- Application for Incorporation
- Annual Return
- Special Resolutions
- Notification of Public Officer and his address

The charge for each form is small. The benefits are primarily these:-

Legal Identity

An unincorporated association has no legal identity. Therefore, it must have trustees, purchase property or enter agreements on its behalf. The new act gives the association legal identity and the ability to enter these arrangements on its own behalf.

Continuity

Without legal identity the association had problems as members changed because the members were the identity. The new Act provides a continuous legal identity. The association will continue unchanged irrespective of changes in members.

#### Limited Liability

Since the legal identity of an unincorporated association is the individual members of the association, any legal proceedings against the association are taken against the committee. This is worth noting for all community conscious people who are on committees. For example, if the community has a committee to administer the local park (which is the normal situation) the committee members are individually responsible to the publi for the park's administration. If a child falls from a broken swing and the parents decide to sue for \$100,000 damages and win the case, each individual on a five man committee must personally pay \$20,000 (in this specific type of situation most local councils have said they would not be able to assist the committee). There are not many examples of such cases in Australia as yet, but who wants to be first.

The new Act provides limited liability to the members and the committee as is the case with a company. Associaitons are becoming increasingly aware of this and most are seeking incorporation under the new Act.

#### VSAG POSITION

Now, before you all withdraw your nominations for vacancies on the committee, VSAG has none of the problems listed above. VSAG was incorporated in 1964 as a company limited by guarantee. That means that VSAG is a legal identity, capable of entering contracts, and continues irrespective of turnover of members. The liability of VSAG is limited to a specific amount set out as a guaranteed sum when it incorporated. In our case, the sum is \$20 per member.

Further investigation made two years ago in my capacity as auditor, led me to obtain a copy of the VSAG documents on file at Corporate Affairs. There is one specific document on file which is a certificate issued by the Attorney General of the day, Mr. A. Rylah (later to become Sir Arthur). The document was issued under the provisions of Section 424 of the Act of the day and gives VSAG an automatic exemption from the requirement to lodge documents with the Corporate Affairs Office, other than notification of any change in registered office (currently at the residence of Mr. J. Goulding, Esquire).

#### JULY 1984

The legislation which allowed the exemption changed in 1971, but our exemption continues. This is an interesting position. Very few officers of the Corporate Affairs Commission have come across such an exemption previously. It is no doubt a rare privilege in the current company environment. I would think it also indicates the foresight of those who originally sought incorporation of the club 20 years ago.

#### COMPARISON

VSAG is required to have an annual audit by law. We have always done this and it should continue irrespective for the benefit of members and the committee, and to give some credibility to Talay's "fly by night" book-keeping. Otherwise the only requirement is to notify changes in registered office.

To change to the new Associations Incorporation Act would cost money. Apart from the change in documentation, there is a \$50 application fee. There is a requirement to lodge a return with the Corporate Affairs Commission annually at a cost of \$20. It is also necessary to notify any change in name and address of the public officer.

The VSAG is incorporated under the Companies (Victoria) Code which is a national legislation. This will be of advantage when we expand VSAG to a national body. The Association Incorporation Act is a state legislation and therefore has cross border problems.

#### CONCLUSION

VSAG has been given a great deal in its current status. It is administratively easier and cheaper than transferring to the alternative, and provides all the same benefits plus more.

#### POSTSCRIPT

You can now wipe the tears of laughter from your eyes. It's great to have a good chuckle. Would you believe that all this came from an author who only one month ago was still a literary wasteland following his epic "Letter to the Editor". \* \*

It seems Paulie can now relax - he no longer has to keep his 10 month old election pledge to investigate and advise on this subject. Ed.

#### VSAG 'Littery' Award Presentation Night by 'A. Diver'

Mary Malloy and Alan Beckhurst were the joint winners of the 2001 / 2002 VSAG Literary Award for their outstanding reports and photography contributions to Fathoms over the last 12 months.

#### Dear VSAGers,

It is with great melancholy that I write this report. Standards are at risk. Liberties are being taken. The rot is setting in. NO, not by the worthy recipients of our Literary Award for this year but by the two blokes dishing out the gong – what a performance they put on at our most recent AGM!

Could there have been a more bewildering or meandering presentation for a prestigious award inflicted upon VSAG members and guests in our long and proud history? I sincerely doubt it and we must act – or we will be for it again next year!

Enough is enough, it's time to gong the gong givers! Yes I'm talking about you - Messers Paul Tipping and Terry Brooks!

What follows is of course a balanced and considered review of the events of 19 September 2002. It is being written in the calm reflection of the VSAG AGM, not in the immediate volatile aftermath of their show which saw an overwhelming number of members (at least 2), both angry, one ugly, approach me to draw a line in the sand – the 'zero-Fathoms mark', to seek appropriate treatment for contributors to our fine Club's magazine.

Tragically, Messers T & B will have no idea to what I refer or, I suspect, have an inkling of the stupefying effect their 40 minutes of theatre had on the stunned VSAG audience that night. To those who were not present, even the eloquence of my words cannot begin to describe it – for those who were there to witness it, I hope your therapy is progressing. So what happened you ask? Well, ....where to start...

**Firstly, the concept of a Presentation:** this was a fine point clearly lost on Messers T & B – note for next year - having something to present is always a good idea, rather than looking at each other like Barrel Girls

without balls. And, a kiss and a handshake from you two at the end of a year's toil for the club rag is not in any way an appropriate 'Award' - hardly likely to see the Editor over-run with submissions next year... on the contrary. I mean could you imagine Bert going on stage Logie-less? Even Wayne Jackson has <u>three</u> Brownlows struck, just in case!

**Secondly. Personal Grooming:** did our boys know they were to address the full Annual General Meeting of VSAG members – clearly. Did they know they were to present the Year's most prestigious Literary Award – well, I think so. Did their attire on the night say anything other than "*Do we give a Rat's arse?*"... sadly no. Now, I'm not asking for a dinner suit or even a tie, but a shave and a done up fly cannot be asking too much (several members also suggested to me that they thought both men had been drinking, although as there were no free drinks on to my knowledge I don't think that claim can be substantiated).

**Thirdly, Research:** there was much showmanship to be had in the general wafting of Fathoms magazines by both Presenters during the course of the night. Understood by most that this was the pair's first sighting of the publications for the year – close inspection of Mr Brooks' copies showed one page out of all the pages to be dog-eared and well-fingered and that contained the dubious 'Kavieng arse photo'. A pictorial he dwelled upon unnecessarily in his speech – several members were seen to twitch with unease and a lady guest retired to the saloon in discomfort, it shan't be mentioned again in company and I shall be referring it to the Committee.

**Nextly. Qualifications:** I have made several enquiries, to little avail, as to how Messers T & B came to be in this privileged positioned. I was told, "they've always done it", that, "it's because they can read & write", although it wasn't made clear which one does which. What several regular Fathoms contributors wanted to know was when was the last time either of these distinguished gentleman had trod the boards and published an article in said Club Magazine? A particularly relevant point when Mr Tipping berated members for not putting in, for not trying hard enough, for falling short of Club expectations, for... *doing an Essendon*?

**Finally. Criteria**: Whilst on Mr Tipping, it is only fair to acknowledge his attempt to explain the criteria for the award in his (albeit extended and laboured) address. This at last promised to offer insight and guidance to present & future VSAG-scribes wishing to improve their writing skills or even, one day, reach for our ultimate prize in Diving Literature. .....I sat on the edge of my seat, awaiting his pearls of wisdom or possibly even the holy grail of his mentor-ship to be offered to some lucky scribe, thereby raising the VSAG Literary bar to an all-time high.....

Alas, ...the Tipping criteria (supported by a nodding Brooks) was as follows:

- 1. content (you need to submit an article to Fathoms);
- 2. accuracy (don't lie too much);
- 3. articles about diving are favoured (who could have imagined...); and,
- 4. humour (well, essential given all of the above I guess).

Need I say more.

Well dear readers, my points are made and only with one thing in mind the proper treatment of literature in the Club. I know how hard it is in the pursuit of excellence to soar like dolphins when surrounded by flounder! So what do we ask? Just a little respect... a clean shirt or two, minimal slurring, a little preparation, a dinner for two at Bell's as reward for a year with pen in hand for Fathoms, or at least a club stubby holder... not too much to expect surely?

Oh, and if our presenters could have just remained focused we might have been able to spare ourselves from Mick going off on a bender for half an hour about the engineering excellence of friggin' wind generators, right in the middle of the presentation! What was that all about!!

By special agreement with the Editor, this article is faux-Fathoms... like the 'Xfiles' it does not exist officially as an article in the magazine. This is because, in the unlikely event Messers Tipping & Brooks were to read it, I am certain they would:

1. Hunt down the author and then persecute any further articles she were to write and ensure I never had the chance to win the prestigious Literary Award (which remains a life goal for me): or, cunningly,

2. Acknowledge this article as the clear winner of next year's Literary Award – which would be wrong because it doesn't contain any diving (see above criteria)! This outcome would only be for them to out me, and given my concerns about their Kavieng preoccupations, that is something I plan to avoid at all costs!

Yours in the pursuit of Littery Excellence - A. Diver.

## Scallop haul over the limit

A FLINDERS man pleaded guilty in Dromana Magistrates' Court last week to taking more than five times the legal limit of the bindingered Port Phillip scellops.

Fisheries Department prosecutor Rod Battier told the court that Ashley Royal, 44, a part-time bricklayer and holder of two optimiercial fishing ficences, borrowed a boat with a friend and launched at Tootgarock on August 2 this year.

"They were intercepted on their return by **Teltenes** officers who found diving exclusion in the boat and 1.331 scallops worth about 3600," he said. "The legal limit is 100 scallops per person. Fortunately the scallops were alive and could be returned to the water,"

Mr Barber said Royal had a history of fishing offences, having previously breached the conditions of his crayfishing licence.

Defence counsel Paul Lawrie said Royal was a "battler" who took the scallops for food.

"He wanted to put on a special family dinner," he said.

Magistrate Michael Stone said a black market was emerging in illegal scallop trade.

He convicted Royal, fined him \$2000 and ordered his dive gear be forfeited.



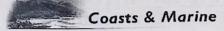
Congratulations to the 4 winners of the Kavieng Kids' Colouring Competition who all won first prize in their age groups:

- Jane Bricat
- Anita Jacoby
- Luke Walgott-Black
- Thomas Walgott-Black

#### Victoria's New Marine Emblem - The Weedy Sea Dragon

In the last edition of Fathoms we saw the nine candidates for Victoria's new marine emblem. The public was invited to vote for their favourite and NRE has recently announced the winner to be the Weedy Sea Dragon, not the fastest, strongest or prettiest of creatures but an emblem none the less.... Go you mighty Weedy Sea Dragons!!

More info, including downloadable video clips and screen-savers from the NRE web site www.nre.vic.gov.au



#### The new Marine Faunal Emblem for the State of Victoria

Weedy Seadragon



Sub adult at Flinders Pier Image: William Boyle



Juvanile at Flinders Image: Rudia Kuiter



Male with egos at Flinders Pier Image: Rudie Kuiter



Male with ecos at Flinders Image: Rudie Kuiter



Juveniles at Portsea Image: Rudia Kuiter



At Portsea Image: Rudie Kuiter



## THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR! VSAG CHRISTMAS PARTY.

#### MILANO'S HOTEL. BEACH ROAD BRIGHTON BEACH (NEAR SOUTH ROAD)

#### FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.....7PM.

#### **\$37.00 PER HEAD**

Pay on the night Entrée..Main Course..Desserts.

#### **EXTENSIVE MENU FOR YOUR CHOICE.**

Drinks at bar prices..pay as you go

#### DJ TO PLAY MUSIC FOR DANCING

MANY BIG PRIZES AND RAFFLES Tickets sold on the night

KRIS KRINGLE. – WOULD EVERYONE ATTENDING PLEASE BRING ALONG A PRIZE TO THE VALUE OF \$5.00 N.

#### **ADVANCE NOTICE – EASTER 2003**

### VSAG – WILSONS PROM

Due to changes recently made by Parks Victoria at Wilsons Promontory it will be necessary for bookings and payment to be made by those intending to go to the Prom at Easter at the DECEMBER VSAG General Meeting.

This will ensure an allocation of a site. Cost is \$74 for 2 adults (kids included) for the long weekend.

For further details see Priya.



#### DIVE REPORT - 27th October

#### **BY JOHN LAWLER.**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October was another bleak day for dive attendances as only one other diver, apart from myself, booked in and turned up for the dive. So Alan Storen and I set our dive plan out at the Sorrento ramp and as we were doing this the wind settled down to a steady 10 kts and the sun shone through as it did for most of the day.

Slack water was scheduled for 12.45 pm and waiting for this we planned a drift dive a few kms south of the rip. We monitored the terrain on the sounder and when the big peaks came up it was over and into 20 mtrs for Alan. Around 20 minutes into this dive and as I followed the buoy, the sounder picked up a bommie that came up from 20mtrs to around 5mtrs..just an awesome lift and so sudden. I left Alan drift on and returned to find the bommie but had to give this away as Alan was moving quickly away.

When Alan surfaced my first question was did he see the bommie and indeed he had! Described as only around 10 mtrs round it had a lot of ledges at the base, and yes full of crays! Pity they are out of season! We tracked back several times on the mark I had put into the GPS but still could not find the elusive rock. After 45 minutes we had to give up as it was time for me to get wet on the slack. Whilst we were quite some distance away from the shipping channel, we were still in an area that if the ship that was due soon went wide it could be on top of a diver, so we decided it would be wise to let the ship pass by and then dive.

We watched a charter boat in the rip area with divers on a line make no attempt to pull divers out as the ship approached the area and the pilot boat travelling alongside the ship slipped back into the stern wash to avoid this charter ...we estimate the ship missed the charter by 30 mtrs! Why the ship did not sound a warning is most interesting, even more so that the pilot did not stop to talk to the operator on the foolishness of this exercise, as is the norm in these circumstances ....very interesting!!

My dive was around small reefs in 20mtrs with abundant fish life but after 20 minutes I ended up in a sandy desert and gave the dive away.

After a lunch break an abalone dive was agreed to and Alan chose to do this ..no luck with the black lip abs but Alan noted a lot of greens in this particular area. Greens being out of season they were left to grow bigger for next time.

The day was just brilliant and to be on the bay on this sunny day was a great way to end the week and start a new one..pitty so many VSAG'ers missed it.

JL.

#### **The Blues Train**

#### Hi All!

Being SCUBA divers doesn't mean all our activities are underwater, and a small group of us tried something different last Saturday night. The Blues Train runs from Queenscliff to Drysdale on selected nights, carrying 4 bands and 200 partygoers. Mary was the "Sheepherder" for our group, although arriving slightly late. We were allocated our carriages for each leg of the trip, and moved on to a meal of sorts on Queenscliff station. Booze was available from the booze ute, which followed the train from station to station.

Everyone was in high spirits to start with and seemed to just get happier and louder as the evening by Mary Malloy & Alan Beckhurst

progressed. We boarded our carraige for the first leg to Suma Park, and were thoroughly entertained as the singer moved about the carriage, and even mounted the seats while belting out the blues. At Suma Park station we met the booze ute, and utilized whatever was available as a toilet ( Boys do have an advantage here!)

We moved to our next carriage, which was more set up for dancing, and so we bopped with the blues, and moved with the rythym of the train until the power failed 5 minutes before arriving at Drysdale. To their credit, the band kept playing in the dark, but I couldn't see if anyone was still dancing! The Girls took posession of the toilet block at Drysdale - both women and mens, leaving the guys to water the trees before restocking from the booze ute. After the loco changed ends of the train, we were herded onto our next carriage for the return leg to Suma. The band in this carriage seemed a little lost, but everything got swinging to "Minnie the Moocher", and some other tunes from the "Blues Brothers" film. Our group was conservative compared to most who were really fired up to party!



The toilet stop at Suma Park wasn't so easy for the guys this time, as Mary and her camera caused some stage fright ! The entertainer for our leg, Hocking, final Jimi was excellent, playing non stop 'til we were back at Queenscliff. Our 4 1/2 hours went quickly, much like bottom time on good dives. Mary,

Ian, Sue and I retired to Boarfish for a cuppa to wet throats dry from singing along, while the rest of our group staggered back to their accommodations in Queeenscliff. the more energetic partygoers headed for the "Espy" to rock on some more.



We hate to give up dive weekends, but this was really different, and a lot of fun. As it turned out, the swell was up on Sunday, so we were happy to sleep in. The Blues Train is Highly recommended, especially if you can get a group together.

**Regards Alan & Mary** 

#### CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY Rock Lobster and Giant Crab Management Plan Steering Committee Third Meeting in Melbourne on 25/26th September 2002

(abridged notes of hopefully some interest to VSAGers)

#### Overview

Good progress has been made on the draft rock lobster and giant crab management plans. While the Steering Committee reached agreement on a number of key issues, a substantial amount of work remains to fully address the issues identified in the Ministerial guidelines and during the first two meetings. The third meeting of the Committee benefited from the perspective and input provided by the three regional Fisheries Officers who were in attendance, as well as observers from industry.

Consultation with stakeholders remains one of the main priorities of the Committee. Consequently, the strategy outlined in my previous summary will continue, and input from outside the committee is encouraged. Written submissions are an important component of the process and a summary of all submissions received to date were circulated to Committee members to ensure that all the views expressed were considered. The Committee will continue to accept submissions, although it would be helpful if comments were received as early as possible to allow sufficient time for consideration. When making submissions please keep in mind the last two meetings of the Committee, which are scheduled for: 30<sup>th</sup>Oct - 1<sup>st</sup> Nov and 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.

#### **Tasks for the Future**

The main task ahead for the Committee during October will be to continue to consult, discuss and resolve the remaining key issues. Based on input from stakeholders and the deliberations of the Committee, the draft Plans will be further developed by DNRE staff. W will attempt to reach agreement on outstanding sections of the Plans, since the Director has decided that the Draft plan to be released for public comment will not contain options, but clear ways forward on all issues. Forthcoming meetings will review the draft Plans as they develop. The objective of the process is to have an agreed text for the draft plan before the start of the fishing season in mid-November.

#### **Giant Crab Fishery**

Agreement was reached on a number of issues relating to the giant crab fishery. It was agreed that the giant crab fishery should remain linked to the rock lobster fishery to allow industry rationalisation. It was further agreed that those licence holders with a giant crab quota above a minimum holding (20 quota units = 1 tonne of quota) should be allowed to activate their pot entitlement to operate a second fleet of pots to target giant crab. The pots should be fitted with escape gaps designed to prevent capture of undersize giant crab. Those holding quota below the minimum will be allowed to retain giant crabs taken in their rock lobster pots as a bycatch. One issue that will be further resolved is whether the life of the first giant crab management plan should be three or five years and whether the management

plan should detail an active rationalisation strategy. DNRE will also be investigating the opportunities for giant crab fishers to land their catches in Tasmania on a 'user pays' basis. The precondition is that the integrity of the quota monitoring system should not be compromised by the landing arrangements.

#### Setting the Total Allowable Catch and Threshold

There was considerable discussion on the annual process for reviewing fishery management measures, including TACs, legal minimum length, fishing seasons, thresholds and quota management. It was agreed that a TAC Working Group would be responsible for providing advice to DNRE on these types of management measures. The reviews would be based on the annual stock assessment, and measurable performance indicators and reference points would be used to trigger management action.

There was little change to the previous discussion and agreement on thresholds. The plan would contain guidelines for setting thresholds above which additional quota would be considered for allocation, possibly by tender. The threshold should be based on a biomass reference point and allocated for just one fishing season. It would be determined annually by TAC setting process and based on the results of the stock assessment. The period of this plan is considered to be one of stock re-building, and accordingly, only existing licence holders should be eligible to participate in any tendering process.

*Minimum No. of pots	Max No. of pots	Max No. of pots on	No. of Licences on a	Min Quota	Max Quota	Comment
	on a licence	a boat	boat	holding	holding	
Eastern Zone Minimum of 15 pot for active licence only	No maximum s	120	Allow multiple licences on a boat	5 quota units	No maximum	**Maintain the current limit or the total number of rock lobste pots in the zone. Concern abou activation of latent pots. Maintain practice of listing current pot entillements on RLFAL Need for further consultation.
Western Zone Minimum of 20 pots for active licences only.	No maximum	120	Allow multiple licences on a boat	10 quota units	No maximum	Maintain the current limit on the total number of rock lobster poo- but reduce the number of giant crab pots. Maintain practice of listing current pot entitlements on RLFAL
Giant Crab			I licence on a boat	20 units (1 t) to use 2 <sup>nd</sup> fleet of pots		Maintain practice of listing current pot entitlements on RLFAL

#### Proposed maximum and minimum pot and quota holdings

\* The rational for minimum pot numbers on a boat is to reduce compliance and managemen costs.

\*\* The rational for maximum pots per boat, is to discourage people from working more pots then they can in a day, as this may increase lobster mortality from octopus predation and negatively impact the whole fishery.

#### **Recreational Fishery Management**

There was considerable discussion of the recreational fishing issues. The recreational sector has proposed that a notional recreational TAC (TARC) should be set in each zone allowing for the distribution of recreational effort in shallow waters < 20 m. It was proposed that the TARC would be used as a threshold to trigger reviews and review of management arrangements. The DNRE position is that while setting a TARC is possible a better estimate of the recreational catch through improved monitoring programs is required. The Committee agreed that it was essential to gain an accurate estimate of the recreational catch. It was also noted that the issue of resource allocation between sectors is being reviewed as part of a broader Government review and that the management plan will be consistent with Government policy.

#### Bag limits, recreational gear types

The recreational sector proposed that the bag limit should be increased to 4 rock lobster per day. In addition to hoop nets, the sector requested that Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) holders should be permitted to use two recreational rock lobster pots in the western zone and that recreational divers be permitted to use nooses or blunt crooks to take rock lobster. It was argued that the use of pots would enable a broader cross section of people to access the resource and that the proposed new entitlements represented a fair request for equitable treatment of the recreational sector. Industry members of the Committee expressed opposition to these proposals. It was considered that the increased entitlements would be in direct conflict to the current objective of rebuilding stocks, and any decisions on these matters should not be made in the absence of appropriate provisions for research and monitoring. It was agreed that the plan should articulate the process of how recreational regulations and the TARC would be reviewed. It was further agreed that practice and that any amendments to these regulations will occur through consultation with recognised peak bodies, DNRE and FCC.

#### Prohibition of Hookah

There was varying opinion amongst Committee members about the use of hookah for recreational taking of rock lobster. The recreational representatives were in support or retaining hookah, while the majority of the commercial sector was against its use for taking rock lobster and considered hookah to be commercial fishing gear. DNRE remained neutral on the issue. Those not in favour supported the principle that, until there was accurate assessment and monitoring of the recreational catch, it would be precautionary to restrict recreational fishing power by banning hookah. Those in favour of retaining hookah as recreational fishing equipment supported the principle that legitimate fishers should not be limited in their fishing behaviour for the purposes of compliance efficiency. The Committee seeks your opinion on the issues raised with respect to recreational fisheries management.

#### Aquaculture

The Committee reviewed the first draft of the section on rock lobster aquaculture and a suggestion was made to include a further paragraph on aquaculture potential. It was agreed that the intent of the plan should not prevent any potential development, considering that \$8.5M has been allocated to research. The Committee noted that since the rock lobster fishery is fully exploited there is no scope to take additional biological material out of the fishery at this time.

#### **Compliance & Enforcement**

DNRE recently held a compliance workshop to address compliance and enforcement issues. The workshop identified three definitive sectors - commercial, recreational and illegal. The focus of rock lobster and giant crab compliance should be on the commercial sector to ensure the integrity of the Quota Management System (QMS). A further priority of the strategy will be to obtain a greater level of understanding of the illegal trade and address non-compliance. In terms of the QMS, there were suggested improvements that can be made through refining the system including a logbook review. DNRE confirmed that recreational licensing fees fund 10 Fisheries Officer positions. Eight coastal and two inland. In addition 25 new Fisheries Officer positions are currently being filled as part of implementation of Marine Parks. Three new quota investigators are going to be appointed to strategically address quota leakage.

#### **Ecologically Sustainable Fishery Development**

Definitions of ESD and wildlife interactions were further discussed. The management plans will recognise that there is minimal interaction between the rock lobster and giant crab fisheries and the environment and protected or endangered species.

#### **Concluding Remarks**

The development of management plans are always a challenging task and it is not always possible to accommodate the wishes of all. I welcome written submissions and orderly contributions of observers and encourage you to attend the Open Forum. The views of all stakeholders will be taken into consideration by the Committee, but it should be recognised that there are only two more meetings scheduled to complete these draft management plans. I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their hard work on the management plan to date.

Ian Cartwright, Chairman Rock Lobster and Giant Crab Management Plan Steering Committee

Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams	Time Zone 1000	Times of Start of Flood and Ebb (Slack) Water Add one hour for Official Summer Time		Time Start	d 17 0525 ebb 25 0525 flood su 1851 ebb MO 1657 flood 2355 ebb 2355 ebb	d 18 0113 flood 18 0702 ebb MO 1229 flood 1939 ebb 7U 1735 flood		20 0311 flood 28 0106 ebb WE 1358 flood TH 1352 ebb WE 1358 flood 114 1352 ebb	21 0355 flood 29 0145 ebb TH 1434 flood FR 1439 ebb 2131 ebb 2015 flood	22 0434 flood 22 1030 ebb FH 1510 flood 22 1030 ebb SA 1539 ebb SA 1539 ebb 2136 flood	23 0512 flood SA 1545 flood 2244 ebb	- 0548 flood
Ip Heads -	Long 144° 37	ood and Ebb (Slack) W	- 2002		g 0556 flood 9 1131 ebb SA 1645 flood 2340 ebb	10 0641 flood su 1730 flood	11 0021 ebb 11 0721 flood MO 1254 ebb 1815 flood	12 0101 ebb 12 0800 flood 10 1338 ebb 1902 flood	13 0141 ebb 0836 flood WE 1426 ebb 1954 flood	14 0220 ebb TH 1522 ebb 2054 flood	15 0305 ebb 2: FR 1633 ebb 5: 2212 flood 5:	-
Port Philli	Lat 38° 18'	Times of Start of FI	November - 2002	Time Start	1 0253 ebb 7 0957 flood FR 1536 ebb 2118 flood	2 0353 ebb 2 1051 flood SA 1700 ebb 2300 flood	3 0515 ebb 3 1149 flood SU 1834 ebb	4 0043 flood 0700 ebb MO 1247 flood 1945 ebb	5 0211 flood 5 0823 ebb TU 1342 flood 2040 ebb		Pop	2214 800
Port Phillip Heads (Pt.Lonsdale)	18' Long 144° 37' Time Zone 1000	Times and Heights of High and Low Waters. Add one hour for Official Summer Time	November - 2002	Time m Time m Time	9 0830 0.44 17 SA 1441 1.40 SU 2042 -0.03 SU	<b>2</b> 0056 036 170 0349 164 <b>18</b> 0352 045 26 9400 149 049 149 143 052 0452 0451 170 1514 18 151 125 040 049 049 049 049 049 049 049 049 049	<b>3</b> 0209 0.45 <b>11</b> 0434 155 <b>19</b> 0506 0.65 <b>27</b> 0439 1.44 3 0330 120 MO 16097 0.34 19 1107 1.13 WE 155 1.19 WE 155 1.19 2215 1.22 0.11 2215 0.11 2215 0.11	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	22 13 0606 1.36 21 0058 1.40 2 9 13 1126 0.48 71 0053 0.59 7 WE 1725 1.15 1120 119 F 2342 0.25 1841 0.18	22 0134 1.47 22 0718 056 47 131 122 54 1915 122 54 1915 1.14 54 1915 1.14	1	
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October - November 2002

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Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams	Long 144° 37'	Times of Start of Flood and Ebb (Slack) Water, Add one hour for Official Summer Time	- 2002	Time Start	9 0622 flood 1203 ebb MO 1715 flood	<b>10</b> 0659 flood TU 1247 ebb TU 1804 flood	11 0037 ebb WE 1332 ebb	<b>12</b> 0114 ebb TH 1419 ebb	13 0149 ebb 13 0149 ebb FR 1509 ebb	<b>14</b> 0906 flood SA 1601 ebb		<b>16</b> 0412 ebb MO 1752 ebb	D Alabel Australia D National Tidal Facility - The Flinders University of South Australia
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Don't forget to add one hour to time during daylight saving

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NATIONAL TIDAL FACILITY - THE FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Emergency Contact Informa Mornington Peninsula Ar	
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	
Diving Emergency Service	. 1800 088 200
Coast Guard (Hastings)	5979 3322
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**

Date	Location	Dive Captain	Phone	Meeting Point	Time
		ouptuin	1110110		
OCTOE				- ·	0.00
6	Boarfish Reef	John L	9589 4020	Sorrento	9.00
13	Courier	Leo M	9727 1568	Sorrento	9.00
17	General Meeting 		0700 1002	Bells Hotel.	0.20
20	1 ne Links 120' Sub	Pat R	0705 2291	Sorronto	0.30
27	120' Sub	Gerry DV	9725 2361		9.00
NOVEN					
1-5	Wilsons Prom	Priya C	9761 0960	Tidal River	
17	90' Sub	Pat R	9789 1092	Sorrento	9.30
21	General Meeting Ships' Graveyard			Bells Hotel.	8PM
24	Ships' Graveyard	Gerry DV	0417 324 6	08 Sorrento	9.00
DECEN	ABER				
4	Crav Dive	Andy M	9809 0984	To be advis	ed
6	VSAG Xmas Party		Milano's - f	Brighton Beach	7PM
5	Back Beaches	Bruce D	9787 6318	Sorrento	9.30
15	Pinnacles / Kermode	John L	9589 4020	Newhaven.	10.00
To anarras	General Meeting			Bells Hotel	8PM
23	Cray Dive	Gerry DV.	0417 324 6	508 Flinders	9.00
26	Local Diving	Andy M	9809 0984	To be advis	ed
29	Local Diving	John L	9589 4020	To be advis	ed
JANU	ARY				
4	Local Diving	Gerry DV.	0417 324	608 To be advis	sed
5	Local Diving	John L	9589 4020	To be advis	sed
12	Local Diving	Pat R	9789 1092	2 To be advis	sed
16	General Meeting			Bells Hote	1 8PM
	Night Dive				
19	Local Diving	John L	9589 4020	To be advis	sed
26	Local Diving	Bruce	0407 331	544 . To be advi	sed
FEBR					
	Milora	Leo M	9727 156	8 Sorrento	9.00
	Catch & Cook BBQ				
16	130' Sub	Alan S	9803 357	3 Sorrento	9.00
	General Meeting				
23	Rotomahana	Nev V		7 Sorrento	9.00
	Dive Celendar is subject to				

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

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIVE THE FORMER HMAS PERTH HMAS SWAN.

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

VSAG IS PLANNING A TRIP TO DIVE THESE WRECKS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN MARCH 2003

THE <u>PERTH WRECK</u> AND ARTIFICIAL REEF IN <u>ALBANY</u> IS A SENSATIONAL WRECK DIVE AND ONE OF THE <u>LARGEST</u> <u>PURPOSELY SUNK WRECKS IN THE WORLD</u>. THE <u>SWAN WRECK</u> AND ARTIFICIAL REEF LOCATED OFF <u>DUNSBOROUGH</u> IS ANOTHER EXCITING WRECK DIVE. THE BUSSELTON JETTY WILL BE DIVED.

OTHER NON WRECK DIVES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE TRIP, AS WELL AS VISITS TO OTHER PLACES OF IMENSE INTEREST AS WE CATCH OUR BREATH BETWEEN THE DIVES.

THE PLAN IS TO DEPART MELBOURNE ON SATURDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> AND RETURN ON SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH. MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH IS A HOLIDAY, GIVING US SOME TIME WITH FAMILIES.

TO DATE 13 VSAG'ERS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST!

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO:

JOHN LAWLER. 7 CLORIS AVENUE. BEAUMARIS. 3193.

## Congratulations

VSAG Clubman of the Year John Lawler





VSAG Literary Award (joint winners) Mary Malloy & Alan Beckhurst