# FATEOMS AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2003

55 If undeliverable Return to VSAG BOX 2526W GPO Meth 3001

South West Rocks Alan and Chris Storen (2001





# VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

http://members.austarmetro.com.au/~vsag/

# ACN 004 591 575

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

# **FATHOMS**



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Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

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**VSAG General 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

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# **EDITORIAL**

# EDITORIAL. BY JOHN LAWLER

Since our last magazine issue we have enjoyed two brilliant presentations at our monthly meetings. Mark Harris did another very professional DVD presentation on the President Coolidge and Jeff Maynard gave us a great preview resulting from his new book "Divers in



Time". This book is a fascinating history of hard hat divers, divers involvement in the war and very much more..it is a must read!

VSAG'ers are well catered for in the area of guest speakers.

Winter diving is well under way and some very good diving has been enjoyed. (See article in this issue). A lot of divers tend to pack their gear away and hibernate during winter, but believe me with the advent of the dry suit becoming much cheaper and the new cutting edge technology in the Sonar 7ml wetsuits, winter diving can be quite comfortable. I recently bought a new Sonar 7ml wetsuit and I can assure readers it is just great..very warm and the quality is exceptional. When next updating your old wetsuit, Sonar wetsuits are really well worth looking into.

Plans are well underway for the VSAG 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration mid 2004. The sub committee has met again and already proposals have been submitted to the general committee for a venue and related proposals. As a matter of interest, Black Rock Underwater Diving Group is to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this year in October.

On a sad note, this will be my last editorial as I have decided to leave the committee.

I have been on the committee around eighteen years now, and am the longest serving committee member after our current president Pat. My departure will make way for a new person to join the committee. I especially thank Bruce Dart and Alan Storen, the two assistants to the editor, for their most important roles in the preparation and despatching of Fathoms. Alan Storen has certainly taken Fathoms to a very high level and is now preparing each edition single handedly with all the necessary facilities at his disposal to do so. Again, thank you both.

I have greatly enjoyed the various committee roles I have had over the years and it has been a pleasure and a privilege working with so many talented and mostly committed committee members. It has also been a lot of a fun and good friendships have resulted. Working on the VSAG committee is something I will hold very dear as is my attitude to this great club in general.

The decision to move on was not easy but on reflection at turning sixty this year it seemed the time was right.

I wish the current committee, future committees, all the very best and thank you and all past members for your support....good luck...safe diving....farewell.

John Lawler. Editor/Vice President/Public Relations Officer.

# Couple gets married underwater



## June 24, 2003

AN Indian couple exchanged marigold garlands Monday in India's first known underwater wedding, and hoped the 38 minutes they spent at the bottom of a swimming pool would set a new record.

Nearly 300 guests cheered the couple, seated on a green carpet 12 feet under the surface, as a Hindu priest submerged with them chanted hymns through a radio transmitter so guests outside the pool could hear. "It was magic. The wedding ceremony lasted 38 minutes," said Ravi Kulkarni, a former Indian navy commando who trained the couple, two of their relatives and the priest for more than a month.

"The bride and the groom were nervous at first, but thrilled after the ceremony. They never thought they could manage it," said Kulkarni, who runs an adventure club.

He said it was India's first underwater wedding and the couple planned to send a video recording to the Guinness Book of World Records in hopes of being included as the world's longest underwater wedding.

A 10-minute ceremony in Thailand last year holds the record, Kulkarni said.

Indian television network cameras whirred as the couple, the priest, the bride's father and a groom's cousin strapped oxygen cylinders to their traditional Indian clothes before entering the pool.

Chandan Thakoor, 33, then led his bride, Dipti Pradhan, 31, into the pool for the ceremony. The bride wore a traditional pink flowing blouse and loose trousers.

Kulkarni said he taught swimming to the couple when they registered two months ago for adventure sports, including scuba diving.

"I was in search of a couple who would marry underwater, and they were in search of adventure," said Kulkarni.

These are from a book called Disorder in the Court, and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters - who had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place. [courtesy Don Abell—more throughout mag]]

Q: Arc you sexually active? A: No, I just lie there.

8

Q: What is your date of birth? A; July 15th. Q: What year? A: Every year.

# <u>DIVE REPORT.</u> SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2003.

# BY JOHN LAWLER.

It came as no surprise there were no phone calls from the boat owners for this dive day as the weather forecast was for 20/25 knot Northerly winds and also the fact that school holidays were on. My boat was available and three divers booked in. Robert Birtles, Alan Storen and Tony Tipping were the crew and arrival time was set for 9.30am at the Sorrento Ramp.

We called into the new dive shop at Rye as Robert's dive computer was showing signs of a flat battery but we had to give a replacement battery a miss as we couldn't remove the backing plate.

Robert had Gerry's computer as a back up so all was ok. This dive shop is well set up and will offer tank fills at \$4.17 on an advanced card purchase of \$50.00. I am trying to negotiate a better rate for VSAG members.

The charming and very efficient manager advised us that she had a Saturday night dive on the back beaches and the conditions were close to perfect. We looked at the back beach webcams and all the conditions were brilliant..let's go was the cry!!

The trip from the ramp to Portsea was quite rough and the efforts to run into the Northerly only just kept us from a full drenching, but the conditions were better as we neared the heads. The back beaches were absolutely flat and very calm. One of those very rare back beach days that comes along after and during the strong Northerly blows.

We headed around five kms east past the London Bridge and found some promising territory just out from one the bays...we didn't need the depth sounder as the vis was so good we could see the bottom terrain from the boat..just fantastic. Rob and Tony got the first div in and had a bottom time of around 45 minutes. They had come into a bommie that had crays but most were well back and not within reach. One cray was grabbed by Rob and it weighed around the 5lb mark, however is was female and in berry so it went back in the hole. Tony was the successful one and he bagged a nice table size cray.

Alan and I were in next and Rob put us in another area just out from the shore line. We saw some beautiful rock formations and a lot of fish life in vis that went on forever. I grabbed one good sized cray but again it was female. Alan spotted another female cray and it went back into the hole. As we were right under the shoreline we came into an undercutting and the colour was spectacular once the torch light was shone in. There was also a fair amount of schooling fish in this area as well. Abalone was in abundance.

With the diving over we all had lunch in warm and calm conditions chatting about this dive and the great time we all had had. The Melbourne radio weather forecast advised an increase in the Northerly to 25/30 knots for the bays so we decided to play it safe and head home. Through the heads and there was no sign of the strong wind, which looked as if it may have moved around a bit to the south west...strange!

On the way out our dive site there was no sign of any boats or anything floating for that matter, so it was a great surprise to come around the heads to see this strange thing "floating" just south of the quarantine station and out about a half a km. Getting closer it turned out to be a huge steel platform on three steel legs. We couldn't work out how this platform could have been towed there in such a short time as we had been in that area around 10am and it was now just 2.30. The explanation came from Alan "the wise one" Storen. It was explained that the "legs" were actually raised above the platform allowing for towing to the site. Once at the site the legs were mechanically lowered onto the seabed and the platform rose up on the legs. It is probable this platform may be part of the dredging and deepening programme.

A really top quality day of diving on the back beaches, great company and good fun..home by 5pm. Thanks to Alan, Robert and Tony for your company.

John Lawler. Dive Captain.



# American scuba diver is charged with entering an offlimits wreck June 28, 2003

TOWNSVILLE -- An American scuba diver appeared in an Australian court Friday, charged with swimming into a protected shipwreck on the Great Barrier Reef.

Edward Antonovich, of Tarrytown, N.Y., faces a maximum 2-year sentence if convicted.

He was arrested by Australian authorities Thursday after a dive into the 92year-old SS Yongala wreck off Townsville, in northeast Australia.

The 33-year-old did not enter a plea before Townsville Magistrates Court, where he was charged with breaking rules that bar divers from penetrating the hull and intact deck levels of the ship, which sank during a cyclone in 1911, killing 120 people.

The prosecution is believed to be the first of its kind in Queensland state, which is a magnet for divers from around the world.

Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact? A: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

Q: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all? A: Yes.

A: res.

а.

Q: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

A: I forget.

Q: You forget. Can you give us an example of something that you've forgotten?

Q: How old is your son, the one living with you? A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which. Q: How long has he lived with you?

A: Forty-five years.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke up that morning? A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

Q: And why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan.

# 400 piranhas found in home

From correspondents in Bangkok June 14, 2003

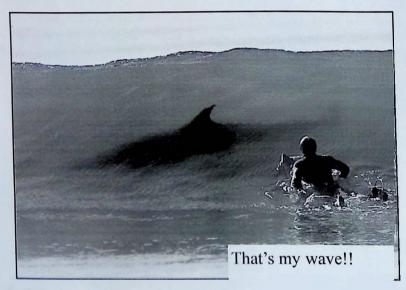
POLICE seized 400 carnivorous piranhas from a home in Bangkok and are searching for their owner amid fears some of the deadly fish may soon wind up in Thai waterways.

Bangkok police found the notoriously dangerous freshwater fish in two large tanks at the house of a man who faces up to six years in prison if convicted of owning and breeding the fish, the Nation newspaper reported.

Possession of the South American fish is illegal in Thailand, where the last piranha seizure took place 16 years ago.

They sell on the black market for up to 3000 baht (\$108) each, the English-language daily said.

Police were tipped off by a fish breeder who saw the piranhas during a visit to the home, it added.



# HISTORICAL DIVING DISPLAY –LIVERPOOL 14– <u>15th JUNE 2003</u> By Des Williams

After 10 years as an Historical Diving Society UK member out here in Melbourne, I was finally able to attend one of the HDS UK historic Working Equipment Group's (WEG) and not have to be content with only reading about it in an issue of their Historical Diving Times magazine. I travelled up from London to Grimsby on the Wednesday afternoon. There, I was a guest of (HDS UK members) Phil and Jane Thurtle at their lovely home for a couple of evenings, before travelling with them to Liverpool late Friday for the HDS UK display.

Before I go any further, I must tell all readers that I shall never forget the generous hospitality and friendship shown to me by Phil and Jane. Phil took a couple of days off work prior to Liverpool, so we could travel together to the old bookshops at Beverley and tour the "The Deep" at Hull in Yorkshire, a kind of Melb Aquarium. Next day, we went to the city of Lincoln in Lancashire (Mathew Flinders home town). There we met up with HDS UK member Graham Hullett, who guided us through the city sights, in wonderful sunshine, before searching old bookshops and taking luncheon together. As a minister of the church, Graham took us for a fine tour of the Lincoln Minster and regaled us with many ancient tales of this stunning house of worship. The 70mm deep groove worn in the stone floor by kneeling worshipers will give you some idea of the age of the building!

"Pink sky at night, shepherds delight". How appropriate that old ditty was when I finally found myself Merseyside, on the docks at Liverpool, late Friday evening 14<sup>th</sup> June. One of the most glorious sunsets I have seen was an accurate indication of how the weather was to stay for the next few days. I learned very quickly early the next morning, that HDS North Region WEG members really get on with the job at such a display/rally. The Club marquee and historic gear showcase were set up when I arrived at 9AM! John Smillie (WEG co-ordinator) had arrived very early with the HDS UK trailler full of goodies and members were very busy preparing diving gear. The sunshine was glorious and the crowds were already beginning to arrive for the annual Mersey River Festival. Over the next two days, I at last met HDS members who were until then, only known to me through the pages of HD Times magazine. Geof and Joyce Smethurst, Roy Argyle, Ty Burton, Martin Issatt, the whole Smillie clan, Carol and Paddy Farr, Ernie Croft, John 'Pop' Yarrow and John Buxton. Roy, the Thurtle's, the Smethurst's and I were all staying at the nearby Camponile Hotel, just a nice walk to the dive display.



This was my first visit to Liverpool, and I shall always remember it as a very vibrant city, inhabited by many lovely, happy people who visited our display with their children to take in a slice of diving maritime heritage. Over the two days, we all but wore out a pair of divers heavy boots, as little children stood in them for a photo under a plastic replica diver's helmet. The family smiles made this a wonderful pastime for many of the HDS

members, who were wonderful with the children.

In the marquee, HDS merchandise was very popular with the visitors. On display we had various Heinke and Siebe Gorman twin-hose regulators, boots, weights, torches, knives and helmets.

With WW2 Spitfires and a Lancaster Bomber flying tricks overhead in the clear blue sky to the rousing cords of 'Rule Britannia' and 'Land of Hope & Glory', our little band of divers took turns to dive in an old Siebe Gorman helmet mated to an Otter Watersports drysuit. There was no shortage of spectators to watch HDS members taking 'dips' and shifts at the single cylinder hand-operated Siebe Gorman air pump, as the divers walked into Liverpool's historic Salthouse Dock and disappeared for a short dive. These dives were 'covered' by scuba divers John Smillie Jnr. and Martin Issatt, who were in and out of their scuba dive gear many times over the two days, to ensure the safety of the helmet divers.

Your Antipodian reporter had two wonderful helmet dives over the two days in Liverpool and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of air supplied via a hand pump for the first time. In Australia, our helmet air supply comes down from storage cylinder banks, as we have yet to refurbish a couple of double-acting Siebe Gorman pumps, held by one of our members. For display purposes, I must commend HDS UK members on their use of the hand pump, which really is a sight no longer seen on the docks and a true heritage experience for spectators.

When it comes to a true heritage experience though, I believe it would be impossible to eclipse the sight of retired Royal Navy diver, Ernie Croft, now over 80, taking a dip in standard dress and returning to thunderous applause of appreciation from the crowd. For me, Ernie's dive and the chance to operate the hand pump under his instruction, was the highlight of my visit to Liverpool! Well..... that and a shot of rum from his "Dettol' flask. I made so many new HDS UK friends over those two days and had so many laughs, I should have been arrested for having too much fun! It was worth the 10 year wait.

At the close of each day, we all pitched in to dismantle the display and dive gear, before enjoying a large beer in the late afternoon golden sunshine in that spectacular maritime precinct. HDS Northern WEG team friendship was very hard to part with late on Sunday afternoon, as they all left for home and I sat at a table alone for dinner. What an anti-climax!! On the Monday, I took the train back to London for a couple of days and made a

Q: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Q: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?

Q: Were you present when your picture was taken?

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an

solo visit to the historic diver's town of Whitstable. I took in the famous heritage diver's walk past some of the old inns and cottages once inhabited by the first helmet salvage divers, before flying back to Melbourne on the Wednesday. Can't wait to do it again!!

# Man dies exploring shipwreck

Buildup of fluid in the lungs responsible for 57-year-old diver's death

### **Bill Henry**

Monday, June 23, 2003 -

Local news - A relatively inexperienced scuba diver has died exploring the wreck of the Arabia off Tobermory.

A post-mortem Sunday found that David Clarke, 57, of Thames Centre east of London died Friday when his lungs filled with fluid internally.

The unusual condition, known as pulmonary oedema of submersion, has been increasingly attracting attention within the diving community, coroner Dr. George Harpur said Sunday afternoon.

"It's a phenomenon in which you can acutely develop a problem with too much fluid in your lungs, not from drowning but from inside the body, kind of an internal form of drowning," he said.

Clarke, a certified diver for just two years, his son and several others were diving from the charter boat The Lark in Fathom Five National Marine Park on Friday.

He was a fit and active man who had made fewer than 30 dives since certification. He was in 110 feet of water at about 6 p.m. when he ran into trouble breathing, Harpur said.

"He wasn't a terribly experienced diver, but he had been on dives of at least 90 feet in these waters. This was deeper than he'd been before, but he had been in this kind of water."

Clarke abandoned his breathing equipment as if it were not working, then discarded a second device given to him by his diving buddy. There were no obvious signs of life when he was brought to the surface. Paramedics were called and arrived at the dive ship on a marine park vessel. Clarke was taken ashore, where he was later pronounced dead by the coroner.

"While he may have been panicked for a short while, (Clarke) died very quickly," said Harpur, a former military diver and an expert in diving medicine. "He died of lack of oxygen as a consequence of fluid on the lungs."

Both discarded breathing units still had an adequate air supply, although an investigation will look at if they malfunctioned, possibly because of the extremely cold water, Harpur said.

Harpur said until the investigation is complete, it's too soon to circulate information within the diving community which might help avoid similar deaths.

He said it's unlikely an inquest will be necessary.

"Most of the factors are already recognized and fairly well known," Harpur said. "There were factors involved that we have already circulated . . . like not making your first dive of the season to 33 metres and making sure that when you do dive to that kind of depth, that you've acquired adequate experience before you get there."

The depth of the water probably played at least a psychological role, although the condition which caused the man's lungs to fill with fluid is not related to deep water.

Q: So the date of conception (of the baby) was Augus A: Yes.	t 8th?
Q: And what were you doing at that time?	
Q: She had three children, right?	
A: Yes.	
Q: How many were boys?	
A: None.	
Q: Were there any girls?	
Q: How was your first marriage terminated?	
A: By death.	
Q: And by whose death was it terminated?	

# Update on the 50<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION

There is not much detail to report at this early stage, regarding the VSAG 50th Anniversary arrangements. We had had only one meeting and are currently seeking a venue before the rest of the plans begin. Currently, the suggested date for our 50th Anniversary celebration is to be in August 2004, on a Saturday evening, at a venue with accommodation for those wishing to stay the evening. Like the 40th celebration we had, the planned dress code will be after 5 for the ladies and jacket and tie (not black tie) for the me. We are looking at some sort of entertainment and a dance band.

Naturally, we hope to have an historical revue of the Club over 50 years and be joined by as many past members and Life Members as we can muster.

At this early stage, the organising committee wish to appeal to VSAG members, who may know the whereabouts of past members, to be in touch with Des Williams. It is also time for members to dredge through their old photo albums for historical pics to assist with a display, again Des Williams is the contact. The next Organising Committee meeting is planned for late August.

Trust this will be of interest for members.... CHEERS,

DES WILLIAMS (for the Oganising committee)

Ed. Sorry about the quality of the photos—of course they are 10 or 20 years old and copies of copies of copies!!

Can you name them all??







#### **CAVE DIVING**

#### By Darren Pearce

Eight years ago when I first took up scuba diving I never imagined I would be doing a cave diving course. Three years ago I went away on one of VSAG club trips to Robe the weather was pretty bad to go out diving for crayfish.

Priya and John who are qualified cave divers were going over to Mount Gambier to do a dive in one of the sinkholes known as Piccanine Ponds. I had always heard various divers from VSAG talk about some of the sink hole dive sights around Mount Gambier and I had to see for myself. I went with Priya and John. We arrived at Piccaninnie ponds and looking over the pond from the surface it just looked like a swamp but that soon changed when I hit the water with my snorkelling gear. I would be able to snorkel Piccaninnie Ponds and at the same time watch Priya and John descend into the deep clear depths. I could not believe how clear it was even though Priya said the viz for pics was down. I followed Priya and John through the first pond into the second pond and watched them descend below me down into the chasm. I could not believe how clear the water was and seeing so many freshwater plants growing it was just magic. I then followed Priya and John to the base of the prong and watched them swim through the prong and disappear out of my sight into the cathedral...

From that day on I decided I would have do my cavern and sinkhole course.

Four months ago I had a phone call from the International dive centre asking me if I was still interested in doing a cavern and sinkhole course as they were running one mid July and I jumped at the opportunity. Of all the diving courses I have done this has been by far one of the best and most enjoyable course since I have been diving.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Cavern/Sinkhole Course, it consist of a day of theory and land drills as well as in water diving drills which were done on the first weekend down at Portsea. The second weekend consisted off a 3 day weekend over at Mount Gambier in South Australia where we did all our Cavern and Sinkhole dives

I found this course has really refined my diving skills as well as my attitude.. I did not know there was so much involved in using a guideline. Ruben Monaco from IDC who was my instructor gave us a really good run down in how to use a guideline. I found when using a guideline there was a lot to think about like how to keep good buoyancy and how important it was to make good line tie offs or line wraps using one hand - there was so much to think about. It taught me that careful placement of line with tie off is important in cave diving to prevent a line trap from happening where the Guideline becomes loose causing many problems, and more so in a silt out situation, as well as being responsible for communicating with other team members and monitoring gauges.

For the 3 day weekend at Mt Gambier we stayed at place called Kongorong which is about 30 minutes drive from Mt Gambier and we stayed in a old church that look like it had only been renovated recently for accommodation for cave divers and later on found out it was owned by one of the cave divers. The place we stayed at had all the modern confronts you want when your doing 3 days of heavy dive training which worked out only costing me \$25 a night.



The first dive we did was in Gouldens water hole which is CDAA classified as cavern where we did our in water training drills On arriving at Gouldens water hole I was at first not keen to get in the water as the weather was not the best comfort for diving. It was poring down rain, the air temp was only about 8 degrees, the water temp was 11.5 degrees and it was blowing a gale. The wind felt icy cold and went straight through me; to top it off I was only using my wetsuit which is over 8 years old

which I mainly use for the summer diving. At the time I was thinking "what the hell am I doing here". The reason I choose to wear my wetsuit instead of my dry suit was to reduce the task loading for me in the water training drills. Once I was in the water I did not feel as cold and bad as I first though it was going to be. Our first training season lasted about 35 minutes then shortly after we were off to Port Mac for a quick air fill and then back to Gouldens waterhole for some more training drills. We chose not to have lunch that day so we could get 3 dives in... After our second dive Ruben was really happy with the way we were performing and it was decide that we would



do a pleasure dive in Ewens pond. I was informed by Ruben that you can only do a pleasure dive in Ewens as it is a fresh water marine park... Ewens pond is a great little dive and you don't need a cave diving ticket to gain access as it is a open water dive sight. I could not get over how clear the viz was wile I was diving Ewens -the viz was well over 30 metres and I manage to get some great photos with my digital camera. It was fun taking pictures of the

yabbies and the best bit I like about Ewens pond was when you went through the small river channels in the pond from the first pond to the second... At the end of the day we then headed back to the dive lodge we were staying at then Ruben got out his underwater video camera - he had been filming us with on our training drills and put it up on the TV where we went over the training. I found this approach to be rather helpful as Ruben was able to point out to us the good technique we were using or other techniques we could improve on.. that night after I had teal I then sat my theory exam which I choose to do to get out of the way. I was really nervous about this exam but Ruben calmly said take it slow and you be all right.. I was so relieved after finishing the exam and getting it back and passing well over the 75% pass rate for that exam ..

Day 2 we were up early and back to Gouldens water hole and were in the water by 8--o'clock where we had to preform a stress management drill. This involved sharing air without having our mask on and using the guideline to find our way back to where we first started. I first thought I was never going to be able to preform this skill but when I first did the drill in the water I picked it up really quick and did not have any problems and my instructor was really happy with me. Shortly after our dive in Gouldens water hole we then headed off to another dive sight called little blue. This is where we practice belaying and abseiling down the steep cliff rock face of little blue. I found this to be really good fun as I never thought there would have been any sort of climbing or abseiling involved with diving. We had to learn this skill as well as the only way you can gain access to some of the sinkholes for diving is being able to abseil down into them. After our climbing and abseiling drill was done we then proceeded to conduct a dive in little blue where we did more guideline work for a exercise.

Day 3 was the day I had been waiting for - I was up at 6am and we arrived at Piccaninnie ponds at 730am and we were in the water at 8am. That was the time we had booked down on our cave diving permit to dive pics. On hitting the water I found the viz to be down as the water had a fair bit of green algae which was unusual during winter. We then slowly swam through the first pond on and arriving at the second pond we then slowly descended down the narrow chasm to the dog leg. Where we stop at the base of the dog leg there was a sign saying Warning 36.5metres do not pass this point. It was then at this point I realised how easy things could go wrong and how some people had got themself into trouble going down the dog leg and how dark disorientating it looked It looked eerie looking up from the chasm and seeing the beam of light shine down. We then proceeded along the chasm and swam in through the prong into the cathedral. On entering the cathedral I was just about mind blown and I could not get over how large it was inside. It looked like you could park a bus inside the cathedral it was just that big; after having a good look around the cathedral we



then excited back out through the prong where I manage to get some great shots with my camera of the prong as well as the chasm. Diving Piccaninnie ponds was one of the best dives I have done for a long time and I was so lucky to be able to finally get to see it. All in all the cave diving course has been one of the most challenging courses I have done and has been a great achievement to me proving I can achieve anything in diving if I put my mind to it. I would not have been able to have done that if Ruben Monaco my cave diving instructor had not

believed in me as he just went well out of his way to help me with my training

So if any of you want to ever do something different in diving or want a new challenge I strongly recommend doing a cavern and sinkhole course. Now I just hope I will be able to get up my hours on cavern and sinkhole dives as I can see me down the track doing my cave and penetration ticket

Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

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Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people? A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

# 'Human dolphin' breaks record

By Jacqui Goddard on Providenciales Island July 23, 2003

DUBBED the nearest thing humanity has to a dolphin, British woman Tanya Streeter created history yesterday when she shattered one of the world's most extreme sporting records.

Holding her breath for 3 minutes and 38 seconds, the 30-year-old Streeter descended 122 metres into the ocean off the British West Indies and resurfaced under her own power, breaking the previous freediving records for men as well as women.

"There was a time when even submarines couldn't go as deep as I went," she said. "But I've never seen it as a case of conquering the depths or beating the sea. I look on it as a privilege to be accepted in such a way by nature's most powerful force."

By developing unique exercises to help her expand the rib cage - displacing her heart by several centimetres - she can fill her lungs with six litres of air. An average person can hold four litres. That allows her to survive for just over six minutes at a time without breathing.

A team of 14 safety divers stationed at 20m intervals watched over her, some of them suspended so deep it took them two hours to decompress before they could resurface, to protect against the bends, the diver's complaint caused by a saturation of nitrogen in the bloodstream. Streeter, not breathing compressed air or gas, did not suffer the same effects.

As she neared the surface, her husband Paul freedived 20m to accompany her on the final stretch.

"This wasn't all about me, it was about us all as a team," said Streeter, who performed her feat in a 2000m-deep ocean abyss off the Turks and Caicos Islands in the British West Indies.

Named the world's most perfect athlete by Sports Illustrated magazine, Streeter surpassed the previous women's record in the variable ballast category by 26.9m and outstripped the previous men's limit by 1.9m. She is believed to be the only woman in any sport to have exceeded a male world-record performance. She now holds the world record in all four deep-sea categories of freediving.

"As a freediver I'm using about 80 to 100 per cent of my lung capacity, but when you usually breathe it's only about 30 per cent," she explained. "Touch wood, I've never had evidence of any damage to my lungs."

Despite her extraordinary abilities, which have made her an object of medical fascination, Streeter said: "Actually, I consider myself quite a chicken. I would be scared witless to find my way halfway up Everest or on the end of a parachute."

# MYSTERY SOLVED.

### John Lawler.

11/07/03.

In this issue of Fathoms, the dive report for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July mentions an observation of a "mysterious" platform that was located South of Portsea which was not there when we passed the area on our way out to the heads at around 10am.

This seemed a complete mystery!!

Since then I have done some investigating and have found some information on this floating platform on legs.

As we assumed, we felt the rig was probably connected with the planned deepening of the channels and as it turned out this is basically correct.

The floating platform is called "The Supply" and its role is to apply a technique called borehole drilling, which will take between 6 and 12 samples of material from 170mm wide holes into the seabed. These samples undergo analysis which gives a better understanding of the seabed composition.

The survey forms part of an extensive investigation into the possibility of deepening the main commercial shipping channels in Port Phillip.

The platform employs "state of the art" technology and apparently causes little disruption to the seabeds.

The VCA says the testing could take up to two months to complete the survey which will form part of the processes to the planned deepening of areas around the heads and the bay. *The survey information is most important to ensure the authorities understand how to deepen the channels in an environmentally secure manner.* 

This process is also important to give some understanding as to the costs of the project. The platform operates best when enjoying good weather as it can operate twenty four hours a day.

If you want to get regular updates on the channels deepening look at:

www.vicchannels.vic.gov.au

No doubt this article will leave all the readers "deep" in thought!

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse? A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

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Q: Did you check for breathing?

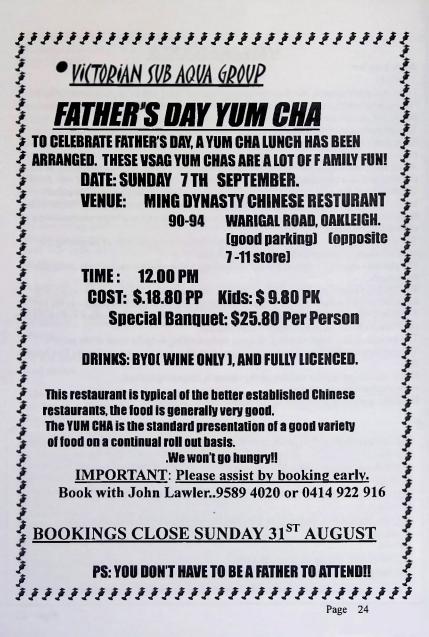
A: No.

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.



# Underwater PO a real dive From correspondents in Port Vila July 1, 2003

VANUATU has unveiled what it claims to be the world's first underwater post office, providing jobs for four dive-accredited postal workers operating in shifts.

It isn't as silly as it sounds, provided customers buy special waterproof postcards available from shops on terra firma.



Then you scuba dive three metres down to have your postcards embossed with a waterproof stamp, specially created by Vanuatu Post to celebrate the 83-island archipelago's status as a marine paradise.

Vanuatu Tourism described the fibreglass post office as being surrounded by beds of coral and shoals of multicoloured fish in a marine sanctuary off Hideaway Island on the outskirts of Port Vila. It is all aimed at drawing attention to the diversity of Vanuatu's underwater world and accessible dive sites.

"The landscape beneath the waters mirrors that found above:

mountainous terrain with plunging cliffs, grottoes and overhangs, huge caves and intricate interconnecting underwater tunnels formed by frozen lava – and life abundant over all," Vanuatu Tourism says.

"Sea fans, soft corals and acropora gardens, plate corals and sponges and thousands of curious fish"



#### たのたのたのたのたのたのたのたのたのたのたのなのなのなのなる 0;30;30;30;30;3 **Emergency Contact** Information **Mornington Peninsula Area** Police - Ambulance - Fire 000 1.2 **Rosebud Hospital** 5986 0666 1527 Nepean hwy Rosebud 0, 50, 5 Frankston Hospital Hastings Road Frankston 9784 7777 The Bays Hospital 5975 2009 Main Street Mornington Ti. 0419 233 999 Mornington Bay Rescue Service 5984 4555 5:10 5:10 5:10 Southern Peninsula Rescue 1800 088 200 **Diving Emergency Service** 5979 3322 Coast Guard (Hastings) 5981 4443 Coast Guard (Safety Beach) State Emergency Service (SES) 26 14 68 9534 2983 Water Police Melbourne Ambulance 11440 0;20;20;20;20;2 9276 2269 Alfred Hospital Hyperbaric Unit DAN (Divers Alert Network) 9563 1151 **Diving Doctors** Dr Guy Williams (Rosebud) 5981 1555 w Dr J De BJ Dade (Mornington) 5975 5288 행 행 행 행 행 행 행 행 행 행 행 행 행

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	2 1102 flood	10 1305 ebb	18 0031 flood	26 1408 ebb
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	MO 1215 flood 1846 ebb	TU 1512 ebb	1318	1534
	5 0713 ebb	13 0857 flood	21 0843 ebb	29 0228 ebb
	1252	1559 2146	1352	1607
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Challonal Tidal Facility - The Finders University of South Australia

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21.600 T SI Facily The Finders Unsersity of South Australia

lood flood

Page 28 Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams Long 144 37 Lat 38 18 Port Phillip Heads (Pt.Lonsdale)

Times and Heights of High and Low Waters. Add one hour for Official Summer Time Time Zone 1000 Long 144 37 Lat 38 18

# October - 2003

Time Start	9 0039 ebb 0724 flood 1H 1345 ebb 2018 flood	10 0205 ebb FR 1433 ebb FR 1433 ebb	11 0309 ebb SA 1512 ebb 2141 flood	12 1003 flood SU 1545 ebb 2212 flood	13 00442 ebb MO 1614 ebb MO 1614 ebb	14 0521 cbb TU 1640 cbb TU 2312 flood	<b>15</b> 0557 cbb WE 1705 cbb WE 1705 cbb	16 1211 flood TH 1730 ebb
Time Start	1 0518 ebb WE 1729 ebb	2 0022 flood TH 1234 flood TH 1234 flood 1803 ebb	3 0803 ebb FR 1315 flood 1842 cbb	4 0153 llood A 0854 cbb SA 1357 llood 1924 ebb	5 0945 ebb SU 1445 flood SU 2015 ebb	6 1040 ebb MO 1547 flood 2122 ebb	7 0434 llood 7 1140 cbb TU 1723 llood 70 2255 cbb	8 1245 ebb WE 1912 flood
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October - 2003

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

Time Zone 1000

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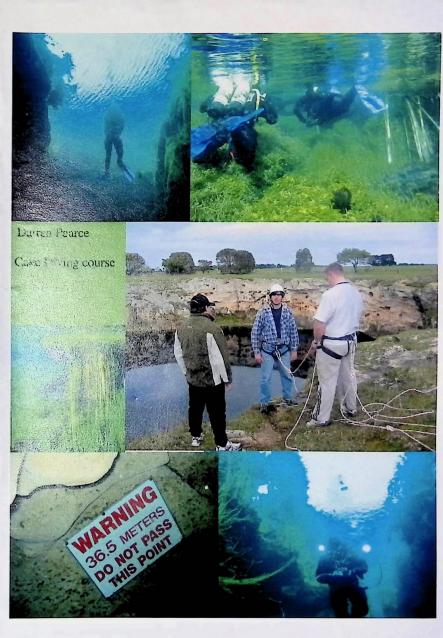
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Organizati Facal Facility - True Predicts Galevarshy of Shath Auribulia

VSAG Meeting and Dive Calendar											
Dive Date	Location	Dive Captain	Phone	Meeting Point	Time						
Augu	st										
10	Local Dive	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento	9am						
21	General Meeting			Bells Hotel	8pm						
24	Portsea Hole	Pat R		Sorrento	9:30						
September											
6/7 Ski Weekend Contact Leo M 0418 375 102											
7	Fathers' day	John L	95894020								
14	Graveyard-Rotamahana	Neville V		Sorrento	9am						
17	General Meeting			Bells Hotel	8pm						
28	Lonsdale Wall/ Steps	Bruce D		Sorrento	9am						
October											
12	Eliza Ramsden	Neville V		Sorrento	9am						
16	Annual General Meeting			Bells Hotel	8pm						
26	Nepean Wall	Andy M	9809 0984	Sorrento	9am						
FOR THE DIARY											
November											
1/4	Wilsons Prom (Cup Weekend)	Pat R	(VSAG are th	ie host club)							
Decen	ıber										
XMAS	South Australia Andy M 9809 09	984									



Des Williams in Liverpool - story inside



Drilling rig in the Heads Area John Lawler story inside Photo Mary Molloy



