

FATHOMS

DECEMBER 2003—

JANUARY 2004

If undeliverable

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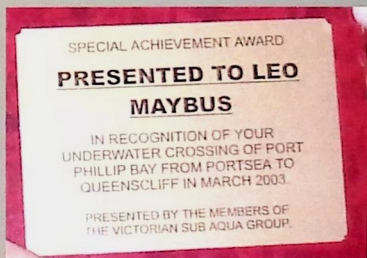
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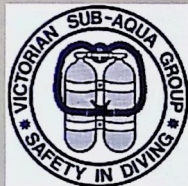


2003 VSAG Special Achievement Award

Presented to:
Leo Maybus



VSAG



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

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

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

FATHOMS



Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

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VSAG General Meetings

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

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EDITORIAL

Alan Storen

The highlights of the VSAG year were contained in the President's report published in the October-November edition and on behalf of Pat Reynolds and the rest of the committee we wish you all the best for the festive season and the New Year. May the New Year see you in good health, good company and bring you all you wish for.



The number of divers attending activities is dropping and only the select few seem to make it to most planned dives. Hopefully one of your New Year resolutions will be to get back into diving if you are fit to dive.

From all reports the Xmas function at Milanos was great but only 39 were able to fit it into their diary. The top two prizes went to Gerry DeVries – the wet suit and weekend in the city. Many thanks to the sponsors – they will be listed in detail in the next edition.

A dive trip to Truk is being planned (mid May 2004)– if you are interested please contact Pat Reynolds.

Easter 2004 Prom Trip now needs to be finalised and if interested in a site you MUST contact Priya before the 22nd December. Cost \$76 per site.

Congratulations to Leo who was awarded a Special Achievement Award by the club for his magnificent achievement in March when he became the first person to cross the bay underwater. (photo on cover)

Planning has started for 2004 and at this stage another IMAX night, a wine tasting/tour and a family picnic are on the list- in addition to the

dives! If you have any other suggestions, comments, requests for dives please contact one of the committee and we will see what can be fitted in.

VSAG 50th is coming up this year and details will follow soon. If you have any old photos etc that might be of interest I can scan and return. Please give to me at a meeting or send to me at home. Please make sure that they are clearly labelled and have a return address.

*Have fun(diving)
Alan*



**Reports on dives and other activities
are urgently needed. Please submit to
the editor.**



**Merry Christmas
and a**

Happy New Year



\$1500 fine for hassling dolphins

A MAN who was fined \$1500 for harassing a school of dolphins has warned others to leave the creatures alone.

Jason Farrugia, 30, pleaded guilty in the Werribee Magistrates' Court yesterday to interfering with dolphins in Port Phillip Bay this year.

It is believed to be the first time dolphin harassment charges have come before a court.

Magistrate Terry Wilson heard Mr Farrugia and his rhodesian ridgeback dog Bullwinkle got too close to a flock in the water off Werribee on May 12.

Prosecutor Gavin Knight told the court Mr Farrugia chased the dolphins in his motor boat and tried to round them up after noticing them frolicking in the water.

He said witnesses, including an off-duty police officer, called the water police after fearing Mr Farrugia would hurt the dolphins.

Mr Wilson said he accepted Mr Farrugia, of Werribee, had no intention to hurt the dolphins and that he and his dog had only been "mesmerised" by them.

He fined Mr Farrugia \$1500 without convicting him and ordered him to pay costs of \$136.

Outside court, Mr Farrugia warned others to leave dolphins alone.

"Just be careful out there and don't go too close to dolphins," he said.

Artist grapples with octopus anger

A FIGHT has erupted between art lovers and moralists over a painting depicting a woman and an octopus engaged in a sexual act.

The painting, worth \$13,500, is in full public view in the window of an Armadale gallery.

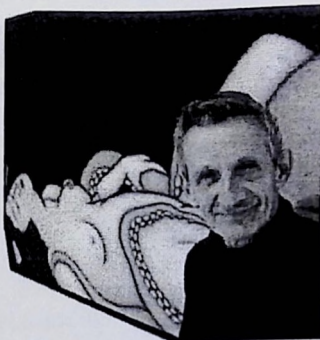
Police and the gallery directors have received dozens of calls complaining the work is pornographic and offensive. Entitled *The Dream of the Fisherman's Wife*, the work is by Victorian artist David Laity. The work, an adaptation of an 1814 Japanese woodcut print, is seen by hundreds of people passing the High St gallery every day. A government-funded regional gallery is negotiating to buy it. Metro 5 Gallery director Brian Kino said more than 50 threatening phone calls had been received about the work. "People have rung up and said they will throw rocks at the work," he said. "Someone even said they will bomb the place." Police have visited the gallery after complaints, but have decided not to take any action.

Australian Family Association national vice-president Bill Muehlenberg said the picture should be removed. "They should keep it in the confines of the private art gallery," he said, "and not inflict it on the unsuspecting public." But artist David Laity defended his work, saying it was not offensive. "I don't think it's controversial or is going to have any effect on anyone," he said. "I can't see hundreds of women jumping off St Kilda pier in search of octopus as a result."

Mr Kino also said the controversy was ridiculous. "My view is one of amazement," he said.

"How can human beings be shocked by an image identical to one that is almost 200 years old? Haven't we advanced at all from 1814 to 2003?"

Mr Kino said almost all of Laity's exhibition had sold, including the piece in question.



Diving the 'Leo M'

An anonymous dive report by KK.

After months of careful planning and perfect days that didn't quite go to plan, an expedition to dive the old wreck that is the 'Leo M' was organised. The Leo as it is fondly known is an old tugger that was for many years the home to the rather large and aggressive Shouty Sea Dragon, the 'Carollus Antisocialus'. It bears a resemblance to its sister ship the 'Kevin Sheedy' but in considerably worse condition. The plan for this dive was to ascertain whether the old tugger could be salvaged and restored to become a family ship as in its glory days when it plied the trade route from Sorrento to the Prom carrying mainly alcohol and methane gas as do the later models of this line.

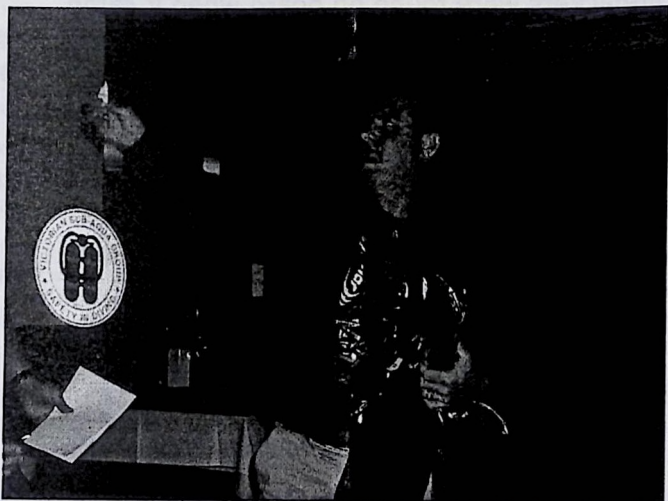
It was decided the best time to view the Leo would be a night dive when the water was warmest so no rubber suit would be required. Warmed up with a pre dive moonlit meal and a good bottle of wine, I took the plunge and descended feet first. Ladies with class like myself do not go head first. The Leo came into view lying belly up on the sea bed and I could tell the old tugger had long been neglected and ravaged by the elements. The hull had spread alarmingly, but on closer inspection it appeared to be intact. I lightly caressed its surface and had the distinct impression there was life in the old boy yet. I swam all around the wreck and even managed a penetration or two. The Leo was quite rusty so I had to take it slow in case a bit fell off. I checked out the bridge and made my way to the engine room. I grew excited as I realised the old boys pistons still pumped. Overwhelming emotions threatened to make this dive unforgettable.

I could just hear the engaging sound of a ring somewhere nearby and was determined to find it. I thought I may have to dive this wreck again

and again to find that ring. In, out, over, under, I was a busy girl and didn't stop for a moment.

Nearing the end of dive time I swam on top, but it was then that I noticed the fuel tanks had corroded, never again would they hold the life giving fuel that would power a family vessel. Excitement turned to disappointment as I realised the old tugger was also firmly trapped on the bottom and it would resist any attempt to salvage it.

All in all, the Leo was a memorable dive, but a girl has to look forward. I'm now planning a dive with a view to salvage another ship, the destroyer 'SS Robert B'. It is in deeper and far more turbulent waters but I'm sure this wreck with hard work and some tender loving care would be suitable to be restored as a family vessel.



A CATAMARAN that sank off the New South Wales coast in May has washed up seven months later on a New Zealand beach 3000 kilometres away, police said today.

Police were trying to track down the owner after the eight metre craft, with its two huge outboard engines still attached, drifted ashore on Ninety Mile Beach, at the northern tip of New Zealand.

"It was amazing it stayed afloat with those two heavy engines on it," Constable Chris Yarnton said. "They weigh a quarter of a tonne each."

The catamaran had overturned off Bermagui, 375 kilometres south of Sydney, on May 24 and its crew of four or five were rescued.

A search by water police at the time found no trace of the boat, which was presumed sunk.

No lifejackets were found on board when it came ashore, and most of the superstructure was torn off as it came through the surf onto the beach, where it may also have lost its name plate, Yarnton said.

The 225hp motors were being held by police after earlier going missing after locals had hauled the boat away from the high-tide line.

New Zealand police traced the boat's motors to a marine engine dealer in Melbourne and Melbourne police filled in its history.

THIS IS NOT THE GOULDING SPECIAL!!!

\$110 for a walk on the beach!

A GROUP of Asian tourists were charged \$110 each for a brief visit to the beach by a rogue Queensland tour operator.

The tourists were picked up at their luxury Gold Coast hotel, driven a few kilometres down the road in their tour bus and dropped off at Narrow Neck at Main Beach.

They were "allowed" 20 minutes to walk on the sand, then return to the bus and hotel.

Tourism officials say this is a regular con job by rogue operators, where foreigners are forced to pay huge fees for what should be free.

Other examples of Asian visitors being fleeced include being forced to pay \$10 for a packet of Tim Tams, \$100 for stuffed koalas, and \$1000 or more for didgeridoos.

Industry insiders say millions of dollars in "black money" is being turned over on the Gold Coast and Cairns by the shonky inbound operators.

But the State Government has had enough. Legislation passed in parliament last week will lead to lifetime bans and heavy fines for operators who exploit foreign tourists.

"This conduct will not be tolerated – there is no place in Queensland for these parasites," warned Tourism and Fair Trading Minister Merri Rose.

She said the new Tourism Services Act would target operators who preyed on unsuspecting visitors and "threaten the reputation of the entire tourism industry".

"Some inbound tour operators and tour guides, either alone or in co-operation with providers, had been inflating the price of goods and service such as tickets to tourism attractions and restaurant menus for tour groups.

"Some sightseeing packages were being sold to overseas-based tourists at double or triple actual prices."

Ms Rose said tourists were also being charged for goods and services that were available free to the general public.

The new legislation would require all inbound tour operators to be registered and adhere to a code of conduct.

Breaches of the act could result in the Office of Fair Trading seeking injunctions and restricting registrations.

The District Court could impose fines of up to \$250,000, order up to \$50,000 compensation and ban operations.

Peta-Kaye Croft, 31, the State Labor Member for Broadwater who speaks Japanese and was a tour guide for six years, has first-hand experience of some of the shady practices.

Ms Croft – who was forced to quit the industry after blowing the whistle – told parliament that guides were ordered to take tourists to specific stores and destinations where they would be overcharged.

Ms Croft said instead of being taken to a supermarket chain, tourists would be taken to stores in outer suburbs and charged four times or more for favourite items, such as Tim Tams or Propolis beehive extract.

She said the Asian visitors would be kept in a totally controlled environment and prevented from leaving hotels on their own – warned that the neighbourhood was unsafe and that Australians were unfriendly.

"A lot of the tour guides are frightened of losing work and so are frightened to speak out," she said.

Ms Croft said foreign working holidaymakers were employed as tour guides – often with little knowledge of Queensland or Australia – and not paid for their first six or eight weeks.

Some reputable inbound tour operators have been "struggling in this cut-throat industry" because rogue companies had taken over. "We need to flush these bad eggs out," she said.

Surfers Paradise Traders Association secretary Stuart Cowen said some tour operators held tourists' passports and tickets.

He said they were taken to the same store up to five times a week, and guides would be posted at shop doors to prevent them leaving.

"It is extortion by proxy," Mr Cowen said. "Some do escape and realise what real value is – but not very often."

“Dive” Report 24th October

A. Storen

17 members of VSAG and support crew were about to undertake a dive to a depth of nearly 4000m. (2.5 mile) We met at 6:30pm and sank a couple of quick ales, put on the necessary gear and soon we were ready to go!. The group consisted of Pat Reynolds, Paul and Lesley Tipping, Ian and Joan Draper, Mick and Annie Jeacle, Alan, Jude, Jackie and Chris Storen, Renee, Bruce Dart and two friends, Nev Viapree and Geoff Millar.

We were at the IMAX theatre and about to descend on the Titanic. The gear was the special 3D headset and without even a splash we were soon descending. Academy Award winning director and master storyteller James Cameron took us back to the site of the Titanic and the gravesite of the 1500 that lost their lives- hence the name of the film Titanic 3D - Ghosts of the Abyss. The main filming was done from two miniature submarines about 8m x 4m with a 2m diameter cabin for the 3 crew, (10-12 hour dives) and assisted by two remotely operated vehicles/ cameras called Jake and Elwood. These ROVs or 'bots' were the main stars of the show and were guided by a fibre optic cable through the wreck. The 3D footage of the old ship was excellent and the ghostly grandeur of the titanic was still apparent. The bow sat upright like many wrecks and was spectacular. A claytons dive but





it almost felt like we were underwater and I looked for the computer gauges on more than one occasion. We saw sites not seen since the sinking over 90 years ago(October 1912) as some places we visited were only accessible using the remotely operated cameras.

The presentation was very realistic as we 'swam' our way through the wreck. The engines/boilers were enormous. Learnt a new word for the silt that is often kicked up on wreck and cave dives – they called it "marine snow".

I re-read the article that I placed in Fathoms Oct-Nov 2003 and I could see what the article referred to when it spoke of the "graffiti" left behind by scientists and tourists- one couple was married in a submersible touching the bow, others had paid the \$36000(US) for a dive. Many plaques were visible in the film, located just behind the majestic bow. The film crew also left a plaque! There is a www reference for those interested at <http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/ghosts/index.html>.

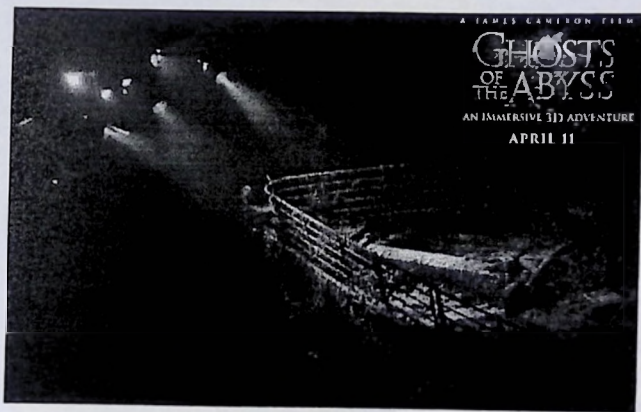


The second film was not 3D and was called Adrenaline Rush. It takes a look at the world of sky-diving and base jumping. The film looked at the risk taking involved and the effect on the human body. Those that liked the adrenaline rush of jumping and other extreme activities apparently had a deficiency in the brain of some chemical

coded MOA's. There was some spectacular scenery and the IMAX effect made it appear that you were jumping with the skydivers. Both films were excellent although my preference was probably the Titanic. To round the evening off we put Paul's local knowledge and our navigation skills to the test and had a feed at "La Caretta". We managed to down several pizzas and pasta dishes as well as some other Italian cuisine. A great way to spend a spare Friday night – good company, good cuisine, a quiet drink or three and 2 great IMAX films.

PS. I did pick up a flyer for a new 3D film starting soon (2004?) called Ocean Wonderland – a spectacular diving experience from the Great Barrier Reef to the Bahamas! For those that could not make it this time watch this space.

PPS. Sorry about your Pizza, Mick –I thought mine was great! To each his own.



Boffins invent shark tagging device

THE ticklish business of tagging great white sharks for research has been made a little easier with a new invention by scientists at the CSIRO.

Their tagging poles allow the rare sharks to be tagged in the water next to the vessel.

CSIRO project leader John Stevens said six great whites were the first to be tagged with the poles off the southern coast of Western Australia, after reports of a recent stranding of sperm whales.

"The sharks ranged from 2m to more than 4m," Dr Stevens said in a statement.

"We receive reports of white sharks from several locations in Western Australia but the trick is to be in the right places at the right time."

He said it was sad to see the death of a whale pod but sharks played an important role in returning the energy and nutrients from the carcasses back to the marine ecosystem and were naturally attracted to such an event.

"In this case, the whale stranding provided an ideal opportunity to get close enough to tag white sharks.

"Getting a tag onto a 1,000kg shark is quite a task, even though technology to track animals by satellite has been around for more than a decade," he said.

Two pop-off archival tags and two satellite-tracking tags were attached to sharks.





The Washington Post asked readers to take words from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and then supply a new definition.

Here are this year's winners:

1. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
2. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
3. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
4. Foreploy: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
5. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.
6. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
7. Sarchasm: The gulf between! the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
8. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
9. Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.
10. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
11. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bumner.
- 12.. Decafalon (n.): The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
13. Glibido: All talk and no action.
14. Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
15. Arachnoleptic fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
16. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
17. Caterpallor (n.): The colour you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

And the pick of the literature:

18. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an asshole

The year of weird medicine

By Judy Skatsoo

12Dec03

SOME of the more offbeat results of medical research reported this year:

****** Teenage boys around the country rejoiced after a Victorian researcher announced that masturbation could reduce the risk of prostate cancer.

****** Medical experts warned against using ice cube enemas to revive drug overdose victims. "The first time I heard the story...I was quite surprised at the inventiveness," said drug safety educator Paul Dillon.

"It has now gone beyond a joke."

****** A Sydney student who ate garden slugs for a \$20 dare ended up with more than a reputation as an idiot when he developed meningitis, the Medical Journal of Australia reported.

****** Royal Darwin hospital defended performing a caesarian on a woman who wasn't pregnant. The woman had claimed to be pregnant, the Hospital's Len Notaris said.

****** A man became the world's first recipient of a human tongue transplant in Vienna. Not to be outdone, a NSW man became the first person to have a new upper jaw made from his arm with help from Sydney surgeons.

****** A doctor's lobby group in Brisbane called for more community awareness about discrimination against short people after a barrister's decision to have a leg-lengthening procedure to make her taller.

****** A north Queensland nightclub did its bit for safe sex by offering patrons STD tests at the door.

****** People who have difficulty identifying smells may be at risk of developing schizophrenia, Melbourne University researchers revealed.

**** According to a Canberra study, pet owners are less educated, fatter, more likely to smoke and drink and more likely to have high blood pressure than those without.**

**** Get out those razors, guys. Men who don't need to shave every day are 70 per cent more likely to suffer a stroke than those who do, research from Bristol University in the UK revealed.**

**** German researchers were charged with sniffing the sweaty armpits of a group of volunteers to test the effectiveness of the anti-wrinkle treatment Botox as an anti-perspirant. Separate research released in the US said male sweat could reduce stress and induce relaxation in women – and even affect the menstrual cycle.**

**** An 85-year-old widow was so determined not to be resuscitated that she had the words "do not resuscitate" tattooed across her chest**

**** Spanish researchers diagnosed an extremely rare disease that makes people smell of fish. Trimethylaminuria, or fish odour syndrome, is caused by a liver abnormality.**

**** Power-dressing business men could increase their risk of eye damage by wearing their ties too tight. The warning was published in the British Journal Of Ophthalmology.**

**** People with shorter thighs have an increased risk of diabetes, according to a US study.**

**** A baby born with three legs in China underwent surgery to remove the extra limb. The 14-month abandoned baby, Qing Qing, had a third leg growing from her back.**

**** Researchers in the Netherlands brought the world underpants that can detect heart irregularities and call an ambulance if necessary.**

**** Just standing next to a fat person can be bad for your image, a University of Liverpool study found.**

**** A US anaesthetist made an unexpected discovery after implanting electrodes in a female patient's spine during a pain relief procedure.**

During the ensuing operation – as the electrodes began generating tiny electrical pulses – the patient began exclaiming emphatically.

When asked what was up, she said, "You're going to have to teach my husband to do that."

The doctor has since patented the device as a sexual dysfunction therapy known as the "orgasmatron".

He is seeking volunteers for a trial.

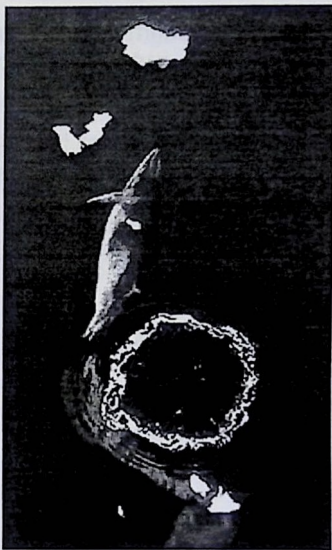
Whale flatulence stuns scientists

IT'S one of the unfortunate consequences of being a mammal - flatulence.

And, more unfortunately for a group of whale researchers, nature took its course right under their noses - literally.

The researchers claim this is the first photograph of a minke whale letting one go in the icy waters of Antarctica. It was taken from the bow of a research vessel.

"We got away from the bow of the ship very quickly ... it does stink," said Nick Gales, a research scientist from the Australian Antarctic Division.



Pardon me ... a large bubble behind a whale in the icy waters of Antarctica.

However, the episode did not detract from their mission, which was to collect DNA from whale dung and attach satellite tracking devices in the first research of its kind to track where the creatures go and what and how much they eat.

Already some incredible stories about whales are emerging.

One pigmy blue whale wearing a satellite tracking tag was found to be returning to a former population off southern Australia which was thought to have been hunted to extinction by Russian whalers.

"Every piece of this research is surprising," said Dr Gales.

"Some is confirming what we thought. We know a lot about humpbacks, but we don't know anything about where they are going.

"Internationally there is a big push ... saying there are now too many whales eating too many fish and so we have to kill them.

"It's important that we determine what impact whales actually have on a fishery such as krill ... and how that fishery interacts with the whale."

Culture shock for coffee cups

SCIENTISTS are looking for Britain's most stomach-churning unwashed coffee mug in a contest to mark the discovery of penicillin 75 years ago today.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is searching for the most spectacular growth of gunge to be found in a forgotten mug at work.

Although coffee cup cultures are often green, any disgusting colour is allowed.

Staff in offices, factories and other workplaces are being asked to submit photos – but not to have the rank mugs delivered.

To qualify, the mould floating on the top of the left over coffee must be clearly discernible.

The most impressive entry will win an evening of "culture" at a location near the sender's address.

Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin at St Mary's Hospital in London on September 3, 1928, after leaving a dish in his laboratory while he went on holiday.



The mould that had grown in the dish paved the way to the antibiotics revolution which has saved millions of lives around the world.

Royal Society of Chemistry spokesman James McNish said: "The culture that developed on Fleming's laboratory dish has much in common with those ageing, ownerless coffee cups languishing on shelves and workstations in British offices and factories. Mould spores float through the air and are always on the lookout for a favourite place to grow.

"The competition is a way of illustrating the point that science sometimes involves some luck and happenstance.

"We do not recommend that people leave filthy coffee cups near their computers for weeks, or even near lab equipment. Safety and cleanliness is generally the far better route to good results.

"The penicillin story is a rare example of progress through messiness."

Drinking game turns deadly

By Arkady Yuzhny in Russia

ALEXANDER Nakonechny triumphed at a vodka drinking marathon in Russia after guzzling three half-litre mugs of vodka in quick succession, but failed to collect his prize after dying on the spot.

The weekend contest in the southwestern city of Volgodonsk also left four other male contestants fighting for their lives at the local hospital, although one woman who took part managed to stagger out of the clinic a few hours after being rushed there for an emergency stomach pump.

In an alcohol-hardened nation where it is not uncommon for Russian men to down a litre of the liquid on a night out, Nakonechny's feat of winning the contest - which earned him a prize of ten bottles of vodka - should have been cause for celebration.

But prosecutors in Volgodonsk have slapped charges of causing death through negligence on the organisers of the drinking competition, the managers of a local food and drink shop, who face three years in jail if convicted.

"If we can find the grounds to charge them with causing death by flouting their professional duties or if another person dies as a result of this marathon, they will face up to five years in prison," Volgodonsk's deputy prosecutor general Sergei Lubenets told AFP.

He added that the organisers could also be charged with breaking the law on advertising, which forbids staging events which promote the consumption of alcohol.

The participants of the event, which took place in the shop, were invited to down half-litre glasses of the Russian national drink and refill as much as they could from buckets filled to the brim.

News of the "Vodka Marathon" spread across the city and 50 people queued up outside the shop for the chance to down a free mug of vodka and try their luck at out-drinking the others.

The rules allowed them to accompany the vodka, as is traditional in Russia, with sausage, black bread and mustard.

The person who drank the most and managed to stay on his feet was to be declared the winner.

Nakonechny soon left the other contestants behind but within minutes of his victory collapsed and died, joining the other 40,000 Russians who die each year from alcohol poisoning.

Man gets arm stuck in train toilet

From correspondents in New York

01Nov03

A MAN trying to fish his mobile phone out of a commuter train toilet got his arm stuck, forcing the train to stop and causing delays throughout the rail system.

Thousands of commuters were delayed and several trains were rerouted while rescue workers tried to pull him out, a Metro-North Railroad spokesman said yesterday.

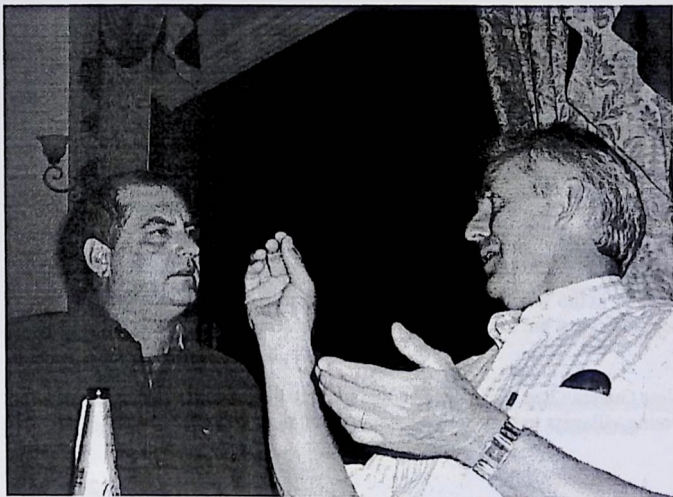
Edwin Gallart, 41, of the Bronx, dropped his phone in the toilet of his train shortly after it left Grand Central Terminal during rush hour on Wednesday, Metro-North spokesman Dan Brucker said.

The train was held at a station after a passenger heard Gallart's cries for help.

When train workers failed to pry Gallart's arm free, police officers and firefighters were called in to use a blowtorch to break apart the stainless steel toilet.

Meanwhile, all 600 passengers aboard the train were put on other trains and all northbound trains had to be rerouted, causing significant delays and thousands of dollars in additional costs for Metro-North, which might seek damages from Gallart, Brucker said.

Gallart's home telephone number was unlisted and he couldn't be reached for comment.



Rush to find Japanese war gold

CASH-STRAPPED Papua New Guinea has despatched troops and police to a remote New Ireland province mountaintop to check a claimed find of billions of dollars in Japanese wartime gold.

The PNG Cabinet reportedly directed the soldiers and police be sent to verify the claim and to protect the find from poachers.

It is believed a legal agreement has been drawn up by private lawyers to set down the share of the "spoils" if they are found to exist.

Villagers on the rugged west coast of the mainland have been watching the movements of the soldiers with anger as they resent the intrusions of "outsiders" trying to grab the mountaintop riches.

Soldiers went to the province last week allegedly on direction from the Chief Secretary Joshua Kalinoe.

They were backed up by a detachment of mobile squad police from East New Britain in a manoeuvre labelled Operation Morningstar.

They set up a base camp on the east coast at a village called Dalom and at another base on the west coast at Komalabuo and have been flying into the mountains.

Villagers were told the activities were for an army exercise, but that fooled few people.

Many in the small New Ireland capital of Kavieng said they knew the troops and police were sent in to investigate the alleged stockpile of gold.

Senior Government staff in Waigani were told a cache of up to 10 tonnes of gold, allegedly unearthed and processed by the Japanese during World War II, had been amassed in a mountain cave.

The Government, facing ongoing budget deficits, was reportedly excited at the find and decided to send troops and police to preserve the gold for the nation, using the Museums Act of Parliament which protects relics for the state.

A New Irelander in the Waigani bureaucracy said yesterday elderly villagers in the area had kept the secret but it had leaked out when, nearing death, they passed word to others.

A Papua New Guinean had been seen heading into the mountains in recent months and took young villagers to help with equipment and to do labouring work.

Seaweed possible cancer treatment

TASMANIAN researchers are investigating a Japanese seaweed as a possible cancer treatment.

Regarded as a marine pest in Tasmania, *Undaria pinnatifida* grows wild off the state's east coast.

It has already been trialled on animals, where it was found to inhibit the growth of tumours.

Biochemist Dr Helen Fitton, from Tasmanian biomedical company Marinova, said an 18 month human trial was now under way, involving breast cancer patients.

"A phase one trial is under way at the Royal Hobart Hospital," Dr Fitton said.

"There are no results back yet. "It is very early days.

"If this looks good, if people actually get some benefit under the trial, then we will progress to the next step."

Dr Fitton said *Undaria* was a daily staple in Korea and Japan, where it was known as wakame. It was consumed fresh or dried in soups and salads, and was even available in sugared form. "People in Japan who eat seaweed have markedly lower levels of breast cancer, lung cancer, you name it," she said.

"Breast cancer rates are something like 10 times lower (than in the West)."

"It is absolutely astounding."

The Tasmanian product, believed to be transported to the state on a Japanese woodchip vessel in the 1980s, is hand-harvested and dried at a purpose-built factory in Triabunna, on the east coast.

Undaria is already on the market in the United States in capsule form, where it is taken as a dietary supplement and used to treat coldsores.

Dr Fitton said *Undaria* was also being used in a trial on 21 HIV-positive patients by researchers at South Carolina University, where it had been shown to lower viral loads and lift CD4 counts.

The therapeutic use of seaweed is hardly new.

Dr Fitton said the earliest discovery of seaweed used in a therapeutic setting was at an archeological dig in Monte Verde, Chile, and dated back 12,000 years.

Twice-daily conjugal sex bid fails

From a correspondent in Jerusalem

06Nov03

AN Israeli lawyer tried but failed to legally bind his wife to have sexual intercourse with him twice a day, the country's top-selling daily reported today.

The Yediot Aharonot said the lawyer, whose name was not disclosed, filed a petition to a court demanding his wife commit herself in writing to having sex with him "every morning and every night".

The lawyer, who complained his wife had wrongly accused him of attempting to force her into sexual relations and of beating her, also demanded that she comply "under no pressure whatsoever".

The court ruled the petition was not receivable.

Can't afford a unit? Buy a warship

BUYING a home beyond your means, then this may be the answer to your dreams.

It commands 360 degree water views, has six bath and shower rooms and the potential to sleep 17 at a pinch.

Food is only a fishing line's throw away and if the neighbours get a little rowdy then simply open up the 540 horsepower motor and move on.

The cost is likely to be anything from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

The Royal Australian Navy's minesweeping auxiliary vessel MSA Brolga goes under the hammer at Cockle Bay next Friday at noon.

The auction is expected to attract historians, dive fanatics, Kerry Packer wannabes and potential home owners alike.

Slattery Auctions project officer Peter Cattlin said the sale had sparked interest all over the country.

One bidder told Mr Cattlin he would like to turn Brolga into a floating

office.

Another proposes transforming it into a small luxury liner similar to Kerry Packer's converted ice-class tug, Arctic P.

"The Defence Force is disposing of things all the time but not major capital assets like a ship. That only happens about every 30 years," Mr Cattlin said.

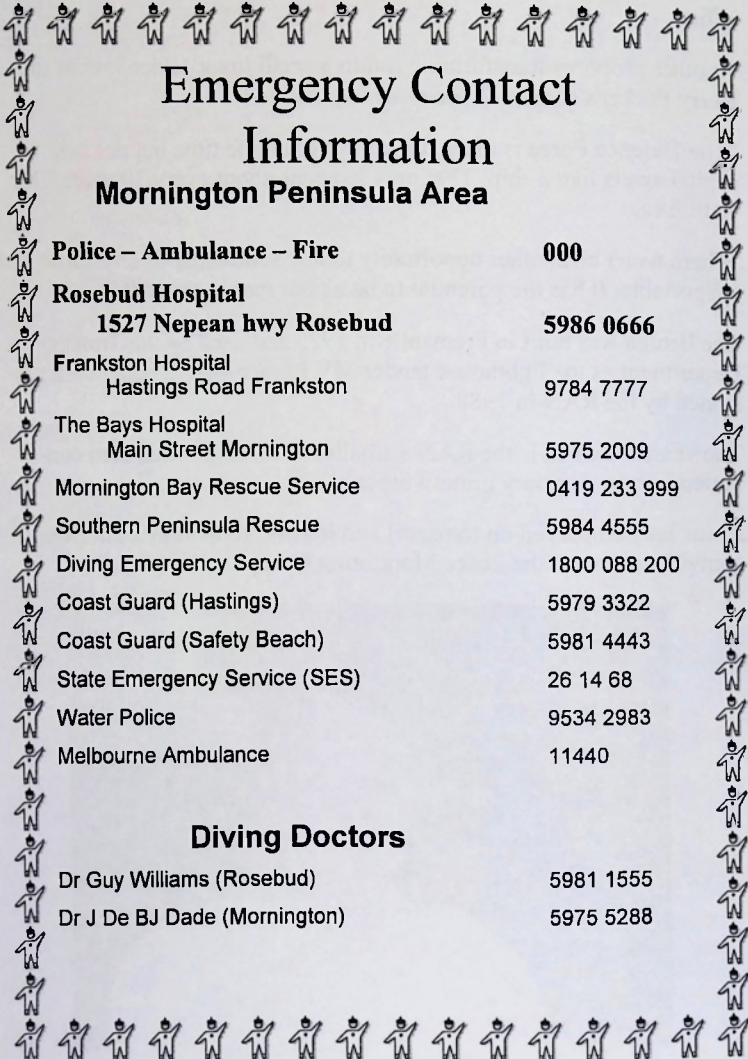
"There won't be another opportunity to buy something this versatile and supportable. It has the potential to be a poor man's Arctic P."

The Brolga was built in Fremantle in 1975 and used by the Transport Department as the lighthouse tender MV Lumen before being commissioned by the RAN in 1988.

The vessel – which is the RAN'S smallest steel ship – was then converted into an auxiliary minesweeper.

It was later employed on transport and logistic support tasks in Bougainville as part of the Peace Monitoring Group.





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

Port Phillip Heads (Pt.Lonsdale)

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

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

December - 2003

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1	0526 1.45	9	0033 1.38	17	0518 1.37	25	0100 1.55
	0533 0.41		0606 0.67		0558 0.42		0629 0.62
MO	1709 1.23	TU	1152 1.14	WE	1720 1.15	TH	1234 1.27
	2306 0.24		1806 0.19		2253 0.32		1842 -0.04
2	0613 1.37	10	0113 1.43	18	0557 1.33	26	0200 1.59
	1145 0.41		0648 0.62		1138 0.38		0723 0.54
TU	1813 1.16	WE	1235 1.16	TH	1815 1.15	FR	1331 1.31
	2354 0.37		1846 0.15		2342 0.42		1936 -0.04
3	0700 1.30	11	0147 1.47	19	0638 1.28	27	0250 1.59
	1239 0.42		0726 0.58		1225 0.33		0815 0.47
WE	1931 1.12	TH	1315 1.18	FR	1924 1.16	SA	1425 1.33
			1924 0.12				2029 0.00
4	0044 0.49	12	0221 1.48	20	0038 0.53	28	0338 1.57
	0749 1.23		0801 0.54		0725 1.24		0907 0.41
TH	1338 0.41	FR	1356 1.20	SA	1317 0.27	SU	1516 1.32
	2045 1.12		2000 0.12		2043 1.21		2118 0.07
5	0140 0.60	13	0955 1.46	21	0143 0.64	29	0422 1.53
	0838 1.18		0837 0.51		0818 1.20		0958 0.35
FR	1440 0.39	SA	1435 1.21	SU	1418 0.21	MO	1609 1.29
	2153 1.16		2034 0.13		2158 1.30		2205 0.17
6	0247 0.68	14	0330 1.47	22	0257 0.71	30	0504 1.47
	0929 1.14		0913 0.49		0919 1.19		1046 0.32
SA	1541 0.35	SU	1514 1.20	MO	1527 0.14	TU	1706 1.24
	2255 1.23		2105 0.15		2307 1.39		2249 0.28
7	0404 0.71	15	0406 1.45	23	0425 0.73	31	0544 1.41
	1018 1.12		0947 0.47		1026 1.20		1132 0.30
SU	1636 0.30	MO	1553 1.18	TU	1638 0.06	WE	1805 1.20
	2348 1.31		2136 0.19				2331 0.39
8	0514 0.70	16	0442 1.41	24	0009 1.48	31	0009 1.48
	1107 1.12		0528 0.45		0528 0.45		1132 1.23
MO	1724 0.24	TU	1634 1.16	WE	1132 1.23	TH	1743 0.00
			2211 0.24				

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Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams

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

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

December - 2003

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1	0104 flood	9	0328 ebb
	0800 ebb		0921 flood
MO	1357 flood	TU	1348 ebb
	1925 ebb		2100 flood
2	0145 flood	10	0409 ebb
	0836 ebb		1004 flood
TU	1455 flood	WE	1430 ebb
	2028 ebb		2137 flood
3	0228 flood	11	0448 ebb
	0922 ebb		1042 flood
WE	1601 flood	TH	1509 ebb
	2141 ebb		2215 flood
4	0315 flood	12	0525 ebb
	0952 ebb		1116 flood
TH	1706 flood	FR	1548 ebb
	2307 ebb		2251 flood
5	0420 flood	13	0559 ebb
	1036 ebb		1148 flood
FR	1805 flood	SA	1629 ebb
			2326 flood
6	0030 ebb	14	0630 ebb
	0552 flood		1219 flood
SA	1126 ebb	SU	1709 ebb
	1857 flood		
7	0142 ebb	15	0000 flood
	0722 flood		0659 ebb
SU	1215 ebb	MO	1250 flood
	1941 flood		1751 ebb
8	0239 ebb	16	0031 flood
	0830 flood		0321 ebb
MO	1304 ebb	TU	1324 flood
	2021 flood		1838 ebb
9	0221 flood	17	0103 flood
	0754 ebb		0921 flood
WE	1401 ebb	TH	1401 ebb
	1932 ebb		2152 flood
10	0139 flood	18	0139 flood
	0822 ebb		1039 flood
TH	1446 flood	FR	1526 ebb
	2036 ebb		2240 flood
11	0220 flood	19	0853 ebb
	0929 ebb		1540 flood
FR	1645 flood	SA	1630 ebb
			2325 flood
20	0311 flood	20	0311 flood
	0929 ebb		0929 ebb
SA	1645 flood		1540 flood
			2327 ebb
21	0416 flood	21	1011 ebb
	1011 ebb		1754 flood
SU	1754 flood		
22	0547 flood	22	0101 ebb
	1103 ebb		0547 flood
MO	1830 ebb		1103 ebb
			1925 ebb
23	0221 ebb	23	0745 flood
	0745 flood		1206 ebb
TU	1206 ebb		2003 flood
			0321 ebb
24	0857 flood	24	0857 flood
	1312 ebb		1312 ebb
WE	1445 flood		2100 flood
	2023 ebb		

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PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

LAT 38° 18' LONG 144° 37' TIME ZONE -1000
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS
JANUARY - 2004

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0621 1.34	9 0123 1.37	0606 1.32	0235 1.51	
TH 1215 0.30	FR 0701 0.63	FR 1207 0.17	SU 0810 0.42	25
TH 1910 1.16	FR 1248 1.12	SA 1908 1.25	SU 2020 0.06	SU 1419 1.31
	1802 0.14			2020 0.06
0013 0.50	0201 1.41	0023 0.55	0319 1.52	
2 0658 1.26	0743 0.57	0648 1.27	0900 0.33	26
FR 1300 0.30	SA 1334 1.16	SU 1255 0.14	MO 1513 1.33	MO 1513 1.33
FR 2011 1.15	SA 1641 0.13	SU 2017 1.25	MO 2107 0.14	MO 2107 0.14
0100 0.61	0238 1.44	0119 0.65	0359 1.50	
3 0737 1.19	0826 0.51	0738 1.22	0946 0.26	27
SA 1345 0.31	SU 1416 1.19	MO 1349 0.12	TU 1604 1.32	TU 1604 1.32
SA 2111 1.16	SU 2016 0.13	MO 2130 1.27	TU 2148 0.22	TU 2148 0.22
0153 0.70	0314 1.46	0224 0.72	0434 1.46	
4 0620 1.14	0858 0.45	0839 1.18	1029 0.22	28
SU 1439 0.30	MO 1500 1.21	TU 1457 0.11	WE 1855 1.30	WE 1855 1.30
SU 2210 1.19	MO 2050 0.16	TU 2243 1.31	WE 2229 0.31	WE 2229 0.31
0258 0.75	0348 1.46	0342 0.75	0507 1.41	
5 0911 1.09	0633 0.38	0502 1.16	1106 0.20	29
MO 1538 0.29	TU 1543 1.23	WE 1615 0.09	TH 1745 1.27	TH 1745 1.27
MO 2306 1.23	TU 2126 0.20	WE 2350 1.37	TH 2306 0.40	TH 2306 0.40
0414 1.07	0422 1.44	0501 0.71	0537 1.34	
6 1007 1.07	0609 0.31	0511 1.17	0832 0.23	30
TU 1639 0.25	WE 1626 0.26	TH 1729 0.06	FR 2344 0.49	FR 2344 0.49
TU 2358 1.26	WE 2204 0.26			
0521 0.74	0455 1.41	0051 1.43	0607 1.27	
7 1104 1.07	1045 0.27	0812 0.62	1216 0.22	31
WE 1732 0.21	TH 1714 1.25	FR 1221 1.22	SA 1921 1.19	SA 1921 1.19
	TH 2247 0.34	FR 1832 0.04		
0043 1.33	0530 1.37	0146 1.48		
8 0615 0.69	1125 0.22	0714 0.52		
TH 1158 0.90	FR 1806 1.25	SA 1322 1.27		
TH 1820 0.17	FR 2353 0.44	SA 1830 0.04		

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Times Station per Eastern Standard Time.
Add one hour to the times stated during daylight saving.

PORT PHILLIP HEADS - TIDAL STREAMS

LAT 38° 18' LONG 144° 37' TIME ZONE -1000
Times of Start of Flood and Ebb (Slack) Water. Add one hour for Official Summer Time
JANUARY - 2004

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0631 flood	9 0429 ebb	17 0207 flood	25 0523 ebb	
TH 1533 flood	FR 1435 ebb	SA 1521 flood	SU 1637 ebb	26
TH 2124 ebb	FR 2157 flood	SU 2149 ebb	SU 2315 flood	SU 2315 flood
2 0343 flood	0604 ebb	0252 flood	0658 ebb	
0643 ebb	1100 flood	0645 ebb	1205 flood	26
FR 1821 ebb	SA 2238 ebb	SU 1617 flood	MO 1733 ebb	MO 1733 ebb
2258 ebb	SA 2338 flood	SU 2315 ebb	MO 2355 flood	MO 2355 flood
3 0332 flood	0536 ebb	0347 flood	0629 ebb	
0934 ebb	1133 flood	0626 ebb	1249 flood	27
SA 1708 flood	SU 1621 ebb	MO 1722 flood	TU 1828 ebb	TU 1828 ebb
2351 ebb	SU 2352 flood			
4 0439 flood	0605 ebb	0044 ebb	0030 flood	
1010 ebb	1204 flood	0501 flood	0657 ebb	28
SU 1758 flood	MO 1711 ebb	TU 1016 ebb	WE 1330 flood	WE 1330 flood
	MO 2345 flood	TU 1832 flood	WE 1915 ebb	WE 1915 ebb
5 0102 ebb	0632 ebb	0202 ebb	0105 flood	
0810 flood	1237 flood	0650 ebb	0202 ebb	29
MO 1050 ebb	TU 1758 ebb	WE 1128 ebb	TH 1409 flood	TH 1409 flood
MO 1847 flood		WE 1943 flood	TH 2005 ebb	TH 2005 ebb
6 0206 ebb	0018 flood	0307 ebb	0140 flood	
0747 flood	0810 flood	0832 flood	0749 ebb	30
TU 1140 ebb	WE 1313 flood	TH 1249 ebb	FR 1445 flood	FR 1445 flood
	WE 1648 ebb	TH 2046 flood	FR 2057 ebb	FR 2057 ebb
	WE 1838 flood			
7 0301 ebb	0052 flood	0400 ebb	0215 flood	
WE 1237 ebb	0723 ebb	0637 flood	0615 ebb	31
	TH 1351 flood	FR 1413 ebb	SA 1523 flood	SA 1523 flood
	TH 1941 ebb			
8 0347 ebb	0128 flood	0445 ebb	0445 ebb	
0945 flood	0747 ebb	1030 flood	1030 flood	24
TH 1337 ebb	FR 1433 flood	SA 1551 ebb	SA 1551 ebb	SA 1551 ebb
TH 2114 flood	FR 2039 ebb			

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PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT.LONSDALE)

LAT 38° 18' LONG 144° 37' TIME ZONE -1000
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

FEBRUARY - 2004

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0023 0.57	9 0214 1.39	0507 0.63	0327 1.44
1 0640 1.21	9 0902 0.45	0710 1.21	0522 1.18
SU 1255 0.24	MO 1406 1.22	TU 1328 0.12	WE 1553 1.40
MO 2012 1.16	MO 2001 0.18	TU 2106 1.23	WE 2130 0.30
2 0107 0.65	10 0250 1.43	0157 0.70	0358 1.42
2 0718 1.14	10 0838 0.35	0614 1.16	0658 0.15
MO 1318 0.26	TU 1451 1.29	WE 1432 0.16	TH 1634 1.39
MO 2107 1.14	TU 2039 0.20	WE 2220 1.23	TH 2204 0.35
3 0200 0.72	11 0324 1.44	0315 0.72	0427 1.37
3 0906 1.08	11 0915 0.26	0935 1.12	1050 0.14
TU 1432 0.28	WE 1535 1.34	TH 1559 0.37	FR 1713 1.36
TU 2208 1.14	WE 2118 0.24	TH 2330 1.27	FR 2239 0.41
4 0305 0.77	12 0357 1.44	0445 0.68	0455 1.33
4 0908 1.04	12 0951 0.18	1102 1.13	1103 0.15
WE 1540 0.29	TH 1619 1.38	FR 1719 0.18	SA 1749 1.31
WE 2310 1.17	TU 2159 0.30	●	●
0425 0.77	13 0450 1.41	0032 1.32	0525 1.27
TH 1651 0.27	FR 1705 0.37	1029 0.32	1137 0.17
	FR 1705 0.37	SA 1215 0.19	1828 1.26
	●	SA 1828 0.17	SU 2350 0.54
0007 1.21	14 0503 1.37	0126 1.39	
6 0539 0.72	14 1107 0.08	0207 0.45	
FR 1124 1.03	SA 1755 1.35	SU 1921 0.17	
FR 1751 0.23	SA 2323 0.46		
●	0055 1.27	0539 1.33	0212 1.43
7 0637 0.84	15 1148 0.97	1148 0.34	0759 0.24
SA 1841 0.20	SU 1650 1.34	1416 1.34	1416 1.34
	SU 1650 1.34	MO 2009 0.20	
8 0138 1.34	16 0008 0.55	0241 1.45	
8 0723 0.55	16 0620 0.27	0643 0.24	
SU 1317 1.15	MO 1233 0.06	TU 1508 1.38	
SU 1923 0.18	SU 1923 0.18	TU 2051 0.24	

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Times Stated are Eastern Standard Time

Add one hour to the times stated during daylight saving.

PORT PHILLIP HEADS - TIDAL STREAMS

LAT 38° 18' LONG 144° 37' TIME ZONE -1000
Times of Start of Flood and Ebb (Slack) Water. Add one hour for Official Summer Time

FEBRUARY - 2004

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0254 flood	9 0502 ebb	0326 flood	0550 ebb
1 0842 ebb	9 1107 flood	0857 ebb	1217 flood
SU 1603 flood	MO 1623 ebb	TU 1650 flood	WE 1619 ebb
SU 2300 ebb			
2 0340 flood	10 0530 ebb	0015 ebb	0015 flood
2 0912 ebb	10 1139 flood	0431 flood	0817 ebb
MO 1651 flood	TU 1713 ebb	WE 0854 ebb	TH 1251 flood
	TU 2304 flood	TH 1603 flood	TH 1902 ebb
3 0010 ebb	11 0557 ebb	0131 ebb	0047 flood
3 0440 flood	11 1214 flood	0614 flood	0643 ebb
TU 0947 ebb	WE 1802 ebb	TH 1115 ebb	FR 1323 flood
TU 1748 flood		FR 1924 flood	FR 1945 ebb
4 0121 ebb	12 0008 flood	0239 ebb	0118 flood
4 0615 flood	12 0623 ebb	0815 flood	0707 ebb
WE 1038 ebb	TH 1251 flood	FR 1253 ebb	SA 1555 flood
WE 1851 flood	TH 1832 ebb	●	●
		●	●
5 0225 ebb	13 0043 flood	0331 ebb	0150 flood
5 0814 flood	13 0647 ebb	0925 flood	0731 ebb
TH 1145 ebb	FR 1330 flood	SA 1430 ebb	SU 1429 flood
1956 flood	●	SA 2135 flood	SU 2112 ebb
6 0316 ebb	14 0118 flood	0414 ebb	
6 0915 flood	14 0712 ebb	1017 flood	
FR 1304 ebb	SA 1412 flood	SU 1544 ebb	
●	SA 2040 ebb	SU 2224 flood	
7 0359 ebb	15 0159 flood	0450 ebb	
7 1000 flood	15 0740 ebb	1102 flood	
SA 1422 ebb	SU 1457 flood	MO 1642 ebb	
SA 2141 flood	SU 2145 ebb	MO 2308 flood	
8 0432 ebb	16 0237 flood	0522 ebb	
8 1035 flood	16 0815 ebb	1142 flood	
SU 1528 ebb	MO 1548 flood	TU 1732 ebb	
SU 2223 flood	MO 2258 ebb	TU 2043 flood	

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VSAG Meeting and Dive Calendar

Dive Date	Location	Dive Captain	Phone	Meeting Point	Time
December					
21	Local Dive	Nev	95511547	Sorrento	9am
26	Xmas-SA (Andy M				
??	Local Dives - ring John Lawler or Nev Viapree for details				
January 2004					
4	Local Dives	John L	95894020	Sorrento	9am
11	Rotamahana	Nev V	95511547	Sorrento	9am
15	General Meeting—Bells at 8pm				
18	Courier	Leo M	0418375102	Sorrento	9am
25	Local Dives	Mick	5971 2786	Sorrento	9am
Australia Day Weekend—ring Gerry D for details					
February					
1	120 ft sub	Alan	9803 3573	Sorrento	9am
8	Wall Dive	Daren P	9729 4444	Sorrento	9am
13	IMAX theatre	Alan	9803 3573		
15	Flinders	Gerry D	9725 2381	Flinders	9am
19	General Meeting		Bells Hotel		8pm
22	Family Picnic Day at RYE	Pat R	Catch and Cook ???		
29	Phillip Island—Pinnacle&Kermode	Gerry	9725 2381	Newhaven	9am
March					
Labour w/end	Cape Jaffa	Andy M	9809 0984		

