

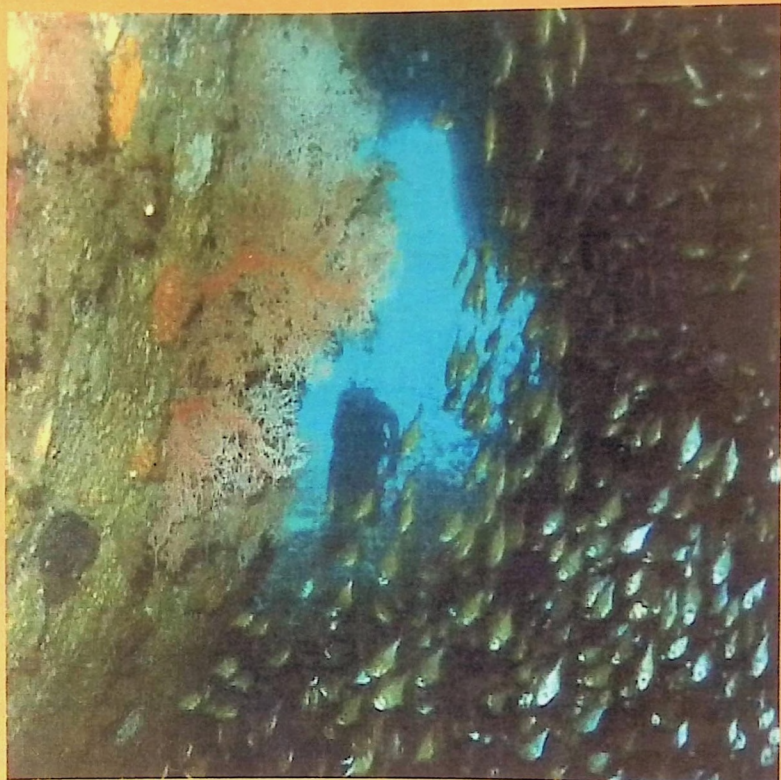
FATHOMS

February - March 2003

\$5

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Box 2526W GPO,
Melb Vic 3001

South West Rocks 2002 - Alan Storen



VSAG
Victorian Sub-Aqua Group



VSAG Committee Members (2002 – 2003)**President**

Pat Reynolds*
 14 Nurla Court Frankston 3199
 9789 1092 (home)
 0407 334 276 (mobile)

Treasurer,**Social Secretary**

Priya Cardinaletti
 PO Box 864 Boronia 3155
 9761 0960 (home)
 0414 310 727 (mobile)
pcardina@vicnet.net.au

Assistant Treasurer

Andy Mastrowicz*
 224 Wattle Valley Road Camberwell
 3124
 9809 0984 (home)
 9201 7117 (work)
 0402 060 711 (mobile)
amastrow@aol.com.au

Secretary

John Mills
 10 Wells Avenue Boronia 3155
 9761 0960 (home)
 9369 2377 (work)
millsj@bordenchem.com

Assistant Secretary

Leo Maybus
 2 Olsen Court Mooroolbark 3138
 0418 375 102 (mobile)

**Vice President,
 Newsletter Editor,
 Public Relations Officer**

John Lawler*
 7 Cloris Avenue Beaumaris 3193
 9589 4020 (home)
 0414 922 916 (mobile)
ivlawler@tpgi.com.au

Assistant Newsletter Editor

Bruce Dart
 12 Alicudi Avenue Frankston
 3199
 9787 6318 (home)
 0407 331 544 (mobile)
maritek@peninsula.hotkey.net.au

Assistant Newsletter Editor

Alan Storen
 15 Regal Court
 Vermont South 3133
 9803 3573 (home)
 9522 7205 (work)
 0417 017 446 (mobile)
alan.storen@walesleycollege.net

Points Scorer,**Assistant Social Secretary**

Gerry DeVries
 16 Vitner Avenue Croydon 3136
 9725 2381 (home)
 0417 324 608 (mobile)

Property Officer & Safety Officer

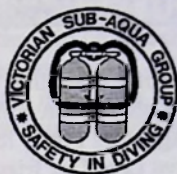
Neville Viapree
 8/121 Centre Dandenong Road
 Dingley 3172
 9551 1547 (home)
 0414 619 213 (mobile)

*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

Editorial Submissions to:

John Lawler
7 Cloris Avenue, Beaumaris 3193
ivlawlcr@tpgi.com.au

EDITORIAL..**JOHN LAWLER**

It is often said that “nothing is free”. However, whilst this is basically true, there is an odd exception. One exception is Dive Log! The two magazines I truly look forward to reading are Fathoms (naturally) and Dive Log. Our friend Barry Andrewartha and his team turn out this great and wonderful magazine each month and the articles continue to keep the dive world up to date on the sport, the politics and new products...and much of this in colour. Why do I go on about this magazine? Two reasons.....two articles.

The first is a story in Barry's editorial of the January edition regarding one Jacques-Yves Cousteau and the “Calypso”. I would not even think to print anything from this magazine however if you want to read a very interesting story, head to your nearest dive shop and pick up a copy.

The second is actually several stories over several issues on the mighty dive site the “SS President Coolidge” at Espiritu Santo, written by Michael McFadyen. The articles are really acknowledging the 60th Anniversary of the sinking on Saturday 26th October 1942. Many of our club members have dived on this great wreck and for those who have I know all would agree it is the dive of a lifetime. Again, if you want to have a good read on this historic occasion, and rekindle your memories of the dives, then the January edition is the one to get... so hurry as it now February!

The International Dive Centre, which was located on the highway at Rye, has moved into the heart of the diving competition at Portsea. Rubens Monaco and his great team have renovated an old shop and continue the professional standard and service consistent with this man.

For the convenience of divers wanting a tank fill on the way to or from a dive, Aquatic Adventures has opened a dive shop at 2385 Pt. Nepean Rd, opposite the pier, a hundred metres east of the Rye hotel.

The Western Australian dive trip to Busselton and Albany is fast approaching and some 20 VSAG'ers will depart for this trip on March 1st. It will be a great adventure and some very exciting diving is assured, as the wrecks of the Swan and the Perth are the main sites to be dived. Alan and Mary Beckhurst are to extend their trip and venture East for more wreck diving at Esperence.

Further on in this edition are notices of two presentations to VSAG, the first from the Victoria Police Air Wing(subject to operational commitments) on Feb 20th and from Mark Harris on the J Class submarines at the March meeting. Both these presentations are "must see" so diary these now to ensue you don't miss out. **The February meeting must commence at 8pm sharp so please be early and have your meal over and on time.**

Finally a plea for articles. The Fathoms magazine will only be as good as the contents and we struggle from edition to edition to make it interesting. Please put your pen to paper and drop in an article. We have many divers doing a lot of diving and readers would be interested to hear of your experiences. Any dive related articles would also be most welcome, but all articles will be appreciated.

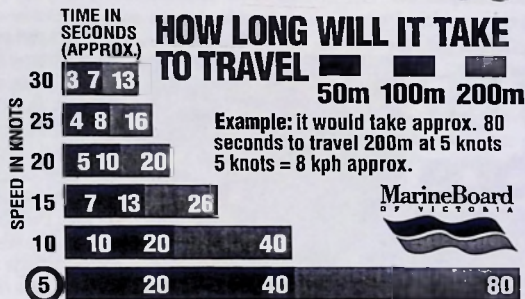
Safe and Happy Diving.

John. Lawler.

EDITOR.



Verco's Nudibranch



How To Keep A Healthy Level Of Insanity!

At lunch time, sit in your parked car with sunglasses on and point a hair dryer at passing cars.
See if they slow down.

Page yourself over the intercom.
Don't disguise your voice.

Every time someone asks you to do something,
Ask if they want fries with that.

Put decaf in the coffee maker for 3 weeks.
Once everyone has gotten over their caffeine addiction, switch to espresso.

In the memo field of all your cheques, write
"for sexual favours."

Finish all your sentences with the phrase
"in accordance with the prophecy."

When the money comes out of the ATM, scream,
"I won! I won! That's the 3rd time this week!!!!!"

When leaving the zoo, start running towards your car and yell,
"RUN FOR YOUR LIVES, THEY'RE LOOSE!!"

Gather your children around the dinner table.
Explain that due to the recent economic downturn, you're going to have to let one of them go.

And if you **REALLY** want to maintain a healthy level of insanity..."

...Send this to everyone you know!

OYSTER folklore



Oysters are often referred to as "horny food" and said to have aphrodisiac powers. But there's nothing in them (nor in many other so-called "erotic" foods) that affects your sex drive. Their reputation isn't based on fact, but folklore. Oysters are often eaten in romantic surroundings and given that libido is mostly in the mind, if you think oysters work, they probably will!

DIVE REPORT - 19TH JANUARY BY JOHN LAWLER, DIVE CAPTAIN

A number of VSAG'ers decided that the weather for this dive would be suitable for diving around PHILLIP ISLAND and so those who attended the general meeting were advised accordingly. The phone rang at home on the Saturday and it was Gerry De Vries advising that weather was, in fact, not good with large swells and poor conditions at the island. Those who were there decided to wait and see what Sunday would bring in the hope of the swells abating and allowing the dive for those there to go ahead.

I had received calls from Bruce Dart, Geoff Miller and Andrew Marshall and this was enough to put in a dive around the Queenscliff area. I called Alan and Mary Beckhurst on Saturday and they confirmed that they would be out and that we would catch up on the water. The slack water was due around 10.30am and the divers were keen to dive the reefs off Queenscliff and so we set off from Sorrento into a beautiful sunny day with very little wind. Just off the ramp as we about to power up we noticed a small pod of dolphins in the area and as we got near to where they were playing we cut the motor and just sat. Within minutes the cheeky little ones were right alongside the boat, checking us out before moving on to the swimmers being towed behind the dolphin dive charter boat. This was a great start to our day as always when the dolphins are around. Onto the dive site and we shot a line in test the tidal flow, which to our surprise was right on slack. Normally slack water is later than at the heads but today we right on time.

Three divers kitted up and dropped into an area which has become well visited by divers from my boat as it is an area found by Steve Jacoby one day and is called "cray 2"...having dived this area myself it is a brilliant dive and can sometimes produce a cray or two!

Dive over the three lads surfaced, and although the catch bag was empty the reports were as expected.. adjectives such as great, fantastic, wonderfull etc indicated that the dive site had lived up to our expectations. Bruce Dart made special mention of the varied fish life in this area.

Alan Beckhurst had advised that his crew of 6 divers were diving the Courier(Coogee?) and the conditions outside were quite good, and on this info we decided to head out to dive the reefs west from Lonsdale. Once outside we were subjected to swelly conditions not too comfortable even on a boat such as mine, so lunch was agreed on. During the deciding phase, sea sickness hit Geoff Miller and this was the deciding factor that led us back into the bay and down to Popes Eye. Alan and the crew were anchored inside Lonsdale and Mary was demonstrating her freediving skills...my can this lady freedive!

A dive at Popes was agreed on and with the current on the flood, the divers were dropped right in front with the plan being to let the tide carry them around the east side of the rocks and I would meet them at the entrance..easy done. Popes Eye was full of all sorts of vessels and it was a bit of a squeeze to get the anchor down, however it was done and the divers climbed aboard with all sorts of excited tales of the quick trip from point A to B. The bay by now was simply magic and the weather was perfect, with very little wind and hot sun...naturally the next stop had to be Portsea Pier to check out the new landing! We anchored and soaked up the sun and sights of this great little bay for an hour or so before heading back to Sorrento.

Boat out and washed, gear offloaded and farewells ended a perfect dive day. Thanks to Bruce for his great help with the launch and retrieval and to all the team for great company.

Sore point to fishy tale

THIS isn't the fisherman's tale about the one that got away, but the one that got in the way.

Young fisherman Daniel Driver hoped to snare a salmon when he went out on the Mornington rocks on Sunday.

Instead he shot himself in the foot.

The 14-year-old boy was spearfishing with a friend at Nunn's Walk when he lanced himself with the five-pronged spear.

The Mornington teenager was trying to remove a stubborn leatherjacket fish from his spear when he accidentally jabbed the weapon through his left foot.

"He meant to put the spear between his feet but put it in his foot instead. The spear went all the way in. You couldn't see the head," father Rodney said.

"He had been in a mad panic to remove it because a school of salmon swam towards him and he wanted one of those."

With the spear firmly embedded, Daniel limped ashore and called for help.

Half an hour later he was winched from the rocks by air ambulance and rushed to the Royal Children's Hospital with the spear, and wriggling fish, still attached.

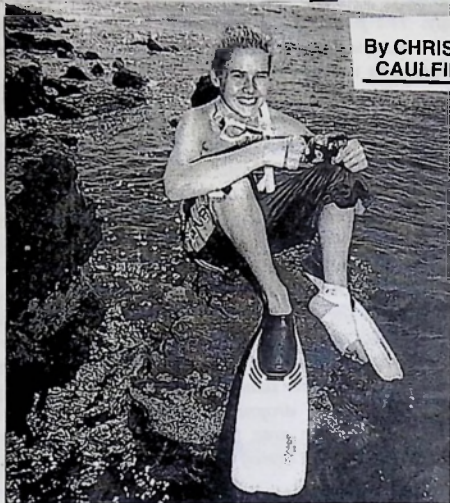
"It was hurting a fair bit and I was having a bit of a scream at the end," Daniel said.

"But when I broke my collarbone playing football a couple of years ago, that hurt a lot worse."

Daniel underwent hours of surgery in hospital.

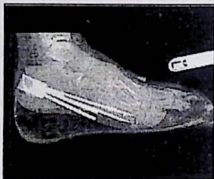
Doctors pushed the spearhead through the sole of his foot.

His fishing tale came to



By CHRISTINE CAULFIELD

Back in the water: Daniel Driver nurses his foot in his new diving gear. Picture: BILL MCAULEY



X-ray of Daniel's foot

the attention of scuba diving record holder and Royal Children's Hospital life governor Raymond Gardner, who decided the brave teenager should get back into the water as soon as possible.

Mr Gardner, who holds the Australian underwater endurance record and the world long-distance scuba diving record, arranged for Hawthorn diving shop Scuba Culture to present

Daniel with \$250 worth of free gear.

"When I heard what happened to him I thought, I better help one of my own," he said.

The company gave Daniel new fins, a snorkel, mask and an underwater camera.

Daniel said: "I told my friend that I got all this stuff and he said, 'Well, I'll just have to go and spear myself in the foot!'"

"I'm going spearfishing again on Saturday.

"I can walk on the foot now so I'll definitely be right by then."

But Daniel won't be shooting himself in the foot again, unless it's with his new camera.

DIVE REPORT - January 26th

"Australia Day Weekend"

Bruce Dart - Dive Captain

A hot 40-degree day was forecast for the scheduled dive and I expected to be very busy organising many boats and divers. As a change was predicted about noon, it was decided to have an early 8.30 start at Sorrento boat ramps, accordingly the actual dive site would be chosen on the weather conditions at the time of launching. On a scorching Saturday night I sat by the backyard pool enjoying a cold cleansing VB to settle the dust and smoke from the bushfires. I was aware that JL was away in Canberra that weekend for a family reunion, so I did not expect a call from him. Mick "Big Lloyd" Jeacle was the first boat and only boat owner to ring in between 5 to 6pm. Mick had invited a guest and potential club member to come along and was diving himself after a back problem, I would make the third person to join up with him tomorrow. Much to my disappointment, the only other divers who rang in were Geoff Miller, Tony Tipping and, Jack Namiota. Eventually Bazza decided to drag his boat out from behind the caravan, so we had two boats in total and seven divers.

Bazza had Geoff and Jack for company, while Mick had Bruce, Tony and Rohan Badenhop on our new buddy onboard. As the slack water had just passed, the first dive was the wall at Spectacular Reef in the heads. First to dive was Mick and Rohan, the boat captains "choice", they had a great time with quite reasonable vis, after being perfectly dropped in above the wall by the relief boat skipper. Bazza and Jack did a similar dive while Geoff brushed up on his boat handling skills.

Both Tony and myself went over the side shortly after with Tony on the hook. We rocketed down to forty metres on the wall, but by then the tide run was becoming a bit of a problem with the buoy trying to tow Tony away from the wall. The scenery was spectacular with caverns and swim throughs everywhere, it was a pity we had to end the dive after twenty two minutes, but we both enjoyed the experience in the mild 18 degree temperature water. Due to Geoff's position on the learning curve, he wisely decided to give his first dive a miss as the run was increasing, content with his skippering experience gained.

Both boats went up the creek at Queenscliff for lunch and a break, where we met up with Alan and Mary on Freediver with some guests and other club members. Alan decided to wait for the next slack water about 1530 hours, we decided to have a drift dive earlier and a good look around. Bazza and Jack decided one dive was enough, so Mick and Rohan descended on "Magic 1" waypoint without delay as first in, No bugs but a good dive was had by them both.

On the next dive both I and Tony were joined by Geoff for a classic drift dive in the same area off Shortland Bluff. The vis was reducing, but we all enjoyed the variation in bottom profile and the fish life. Geoff and Tony were first to surface, while I entered some fantastic ground where the ledges and fish life were really great.

By 3 pm we decided to head back to the ramp greeted by the sounds and cooking aromas of a giant Greek festival/ picnic in the park. A pleasant stop over at Tony's Bar & Grill for refreshments brought to an end a most enjoyable day out, my thanks to all who came. By then the cool change had come through and we headed home very satisfied with our day out.

Local abalone industry comes out of its shell.



Picture: KEN IRWIN

Great Southern Waters managing director Steve Rodis says that setting up his abalone farm cost "many millions of dollars".

Breeding abalone is a difficult and costly business, but after five years a Bellarine farm is now set to reap the rewards. Philip Hopkins reports.

The little shells, a beautiful turquoise-aqua colour, cling to the artificial rocks, barely visible in the gloom.

However, within a couple of years, they and thousands more growing next to them, may land on the plates of abalone lovers throughout South-East Asia.

The abalone are being bred on Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula, not far from Geelong, by a private company, Great Southern Waters.

There are only about 70 licensed abalone divers in Victoria, with licences now costing up to \$6 million, so aquaculture is the way of the future.

But breeding abalone is a complex, capital-intensive business that requires a lot of up-front investment and a few years' patience before the rewards come - just ask Stephen Rodis, Great Southern's managing director.

Great Southern Waters is located opposite the beach. Sea water from pipes half a kilometre out to sea is pumped into the hatchery and returned by gravity flow.

Great Southern employs 13 full-time and five to eight casual staff. Rodis, who is also the president of the Victorian Aquaculture Council, said aquaculture's potential to generate employment had been underestimated in Victoria. He expects his company to eventually employ about 30 people.

The establishment of Great Southern deepens the development of the Geelong region as an aquaculture hub.

The Bellarine Peninsula is home to a large mussel farming sector, and Great Southern, together with another abalone farm, Ocean Wave Seafoods at Lara, breeds mussel spat for the mussel farmers.

The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute is located at nearby Queenscliff, and a new 100-hectare aquaculture area is set to be released at Pinnacle Channel in Port Phillip Bay.

Rodis said the way was open for the local aquaculture sector to produce oysters, scallops and clams. Together with the Bellarine Peninsula's growing wine reputation, this opens up huge tourism potential.

There is no manual for aquaculture. You've got to be tenacious and not take 'no' for an answer," said Rodis, 38, an industrial designer who took almost five years to get his abalone farm off the ground.

Rodis was reluctant to say how much they had spent on setting up the business, located on a 20-hectare site near St Leonards, but it was "many millions of dollars".

Fortunately, all going well, the rewards will come. While international prices fluctuate, Rodis said abalone fetched about \$45,000 a tonne. Victoria's abalone divers are licensed to take about 1440 tonnes a year, or 20 tonnes each. "You can set up a farm that will produce double that amount," he said.


Great Southern has a brooding stock licence from Fisheries Victoria that allows it to collect brood stock from the wild. The stock are taken to the hatchery, where they spawn.

Rodis estimated that it took about three-and-a-half years to grow stock to a minimum harvestable size of 75 millimetres. Green-lipped abalone in the wild grow up to about 180 millimetres.

While this was a long lead time, it was not much different from other agriculture ventures such as grapes or olives.

The aim is to build up the stocks so that Great Southern can harvest continuously, with the size of the abalone varying with the customer's wishes.

ICEBERGS - CLASSIFICATION BY SIZE		
HEIGHT <i>metres above water</i>	NAME	LENGTH <i>metres</i>
Less than 1	GROWLER	Less than 5
1-4	BERGY BIT	5-14
5-15	SMALL	15-60
16-45	MEDIUM	61-120
46-75	LARGE	121-200
Greater than 75	VERY LARGE	Greater than 200



(The tip of the iceberg is usually thought to be around 1/5th to 1/7th of its total size)

DIVE REPORT - SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY.

BY JOHN LAWLER

The dive captain for this day was actually Leo Maybus, and I was going to ghost write this article for him, however as Leo has very high literary and story telling skills, readers would pick up straight away that it was a fake writer so I've come clean!

A good turn out for this dive, two boats and seven divers all at the Sorrento boat ramp around 9am for the launch. Mick carried Andrew Marshall and Darren Pearce whilst my crew was Leo and Lauren Maybus and Meg Johnson, sans new Subaru 4wd wagon...looks great too! (the famous green VW has a new life with Meg's Dad as it lives on after the accident). The dive plan was to set out for the 90FT sub for those who had not dived a while, and Mick and Darren settled for the deeper 120FT sub. Greetings to all on Ocean Diver on the way out. On the last attempt to dive the 90 Ft sub, I could not pick it up on the sounder nor could the other boats who were working off my GPS. Don Abell come up with the possible explanation that was quite reasonable..he suggested it had been moved...could not argue with that it was not where the GPS said it should be. So Mick was to put us on the spot from his GPS which he did. My GPS mark was still within a few meters of Mick's, from which we can conclude that whoever moved this thing last time felt guilty and put it back.....makes sense!

Meg had not dived this sub before so it was to be a great new experience and as the sub is reasonably safe for a penetration dive it was a double bonus. Conditions at sea were a bit swelly, around two meter swells but still not too uncomfortable. The divers spent around 40 minutes on the sub and as always the dive lived up to expectations. The four did the penetration dive safely, despite a bit of swell on the inside. Viz was not the best. Lauren was experiencing some seasickness before the dive and the situation grew much worse for her after she got back onto the boat...she was decidedly unwell.

We headed out the 120ft dive site where Mick was having some difficulty locating the sub (same reason as the 90FT'er perhaps!) As we arrived Darren dropped anchor and I moved around Mick's waiting for the wreck to show on the screen...did not happen. The two lads fell over the side and my continued search for this hunk of steel still proved a wasted effort, as it would not register on the depth sounder. Ten minutes or so passed and the two divers surfaced...no wreck and lots of sand! The bloody anchor must have pulled of the wreck with the swell says Mick..bloody Darren must have shot it wrong...(I still say it too has been moved!) A bit disappointing for these guys to miss out on this great wreck, but these things do happen.

Back into the bay and into quieter waters to have lunch and get some colour back into Lauren's face. Next dive is a drift just west of the shipping lane..no ships for an hour so it is looking good. Mick and Darren on one line and Leo on a single to test a new small buy for his upcoming Pier to Pier underwater challenge. Neither had any sightings of crays and to quote Mick "two bloody stuff ups..not the right territory this time." Oh well Mick the ones you didn't see today will be bigger next time when you do see 'em!

All divers back safely into the boats just in time to see the big container ship just south of the rip..good timing.

Boats out and gear offloaded, Tony's was the go. Tony had a jazz band on the boil and the area was packed out with all sorts of people enjoying the fun, the sun and the slops...a great way to end a great dive day with VSAG. As always thanks to all who turned out for this dive day.

Lack of ramps provokes rage

BOAT owners are experiencing "ramp rage" because of a lack of boating ramps.

Long queues and short tempers are fuelling confrontations at the 30 ramps in Port Phillip Bay, which service more than 140,000 boat owners.

The State Government — which will pocket \$35 million a year in boating licences to be introduced next month — is accused of short-changing the boating public.

It is only a matter of time before boat ramp clashes became violent, according to Ray Page. He is the executive officer of VRFish, the recreational fishing peak body.

"One day someone upset at queue jumping or the wait will pull out a knife or a gun," Mr Page said.

"We already have road rage and now we have ramp rage. We don't know what will happen."

He said facilities at Patterson River, Black Rock, Rhyll and Newport were among the hot spots.

The Government was promoting

boating with 143,000 registered boat owners, but was not supplying new facilities or improving management.

At Patterson River, there was no orderly use of ramps, which caused tempers to flare.

"Everybody wants to go in and out at the same time," Mr Page said.

People were impatient with others who did not know how to back a trailer or retrieve a boat.

"People start shouting and pushing. There might be six or seven arguing, then everybody waiting joins in and there's 12 people involved," he said.

SUE HEWITT

There were few safe harbours for boats to shelter in during bad weather while waiting to use a boat ramp.

The best facility at Altona had cost the local council \$300,000, Mr Page said.

Torquay's boat ramp was unus-

able at low tide and opened on to unpredictable Bass Strait.

"From St Leonards to Lorne, there are no adequate facilities despite ramps opening on to the ocean," he said.

The Government would collect at least \$35 million from boat licences this year and would spend about \$3.2 million a year on boat safety over four years, Mr Page said.

Corrie Banks, former head of the State Boating Council — which was dissolved last year — said the rest of the money was going to government coffers.

Mr Banks said the lack of boat ramps was putting lives at risk, especially in bad conditions.

While the Government was putting about 10 per cent of boat licence revenue back into boating safety programs, it was ignoring facilities such as safe harbours, which would improve safety, he said.

A government spokesman would not return calls.

SAFETY REMINDER

All diving on back beaches must be done with buoys. Please use a buoy on all club dives on back beaches.

When was the last time you inflated and checked your safety sausage/ surface marked buoy? If you haven't got one please get one. They should be carried on all dives!

Are you diving with too much weight? (Ed...on your weight belt) For your own comfort and safety dive with the minimum weight that you need. Excessive weight is uncomfortable and can be dangerous!

Nev V (Safety Officer)

Dive Report - 9/02/03

Alan and Mary

Although an ordinary day was forecast, we loaded Freediver and nosed her through the Rip into a couple of metres of swell, and the unanimous decision was to return to the bay for drifts. We had 2 crew today, Mary was not well enough to dive, and J'O D came along after a couple of months recovering from surgery. The old faithful ebb drift in the shipping channel off Shortlands didn't disappoint Trudi, Santosh, Paul, or myself, as the flood slack was not long finished, and I could see the bottom 20 metres below me.

The current was slow, and everybody was visible as we meandered through the varied bottom. It wasn't long before I spotted a feeler, and a 3.5 kg cray was tucked in my catch bag. Paul was picking up all sorts of bottles, and even a large cartridge case, and tying them all to the drift line. I gave Trudi a catshark to play with, as the ledges and bommies just got bigger and better. As usual, fish were in abundance, making it hard to end this drift when our NDL was reached.

Paul's cartridge casing slipped out of the rope as we ascended, and he returned the bottles as well. We spent the surface interval in Nepean Bay, where Trudi snorkelled in the 6 knot current from a rope off the back of the boat. I heard the chatter of VSAGers on the radio, and as Mick Jeacle pointed out to me, I hadn't looked at the calendar to see it was their catch 'n cook day, and they were collecting scallops & mussels. After the shipping had cleared, we made our way out to the east side of the shipping channel in about 20 mt for another drift.

By the time we had descended past 30 metres, with no bottom in sight, I realised we had drifted into a large hole known as Nitro's, so we hung at 30 til the bottom came up to meet us. Huge bommies hurtled past, then we hit a sand slope which was being excavated by the 6 knot + current. Down again along a rocky slope, and the current eased, just as we reached Nepean Wall. Paul and Trudi held their depths on the rope, but Santosh and I dropped down along the wall where we encountered a 2.5 metre 7 Gill shark.

The current took us away from the wall into very deep water, so we ascended. Although we saw bottom for less than 10 minutes on this dive, the boat was alive with chatter from the excitement.

We retrieved the boat, dropped our tanks off to be filled, and adjourned to Boarfish Lodge to wash gear, and cook the cray. By the time Mary, Trudi & Santosh returned with the tanks, the cray was laid out ready to eat! Not quite the catch 'n cook of scallops & mussels the VSAGers were enjoying, but we were happy divers all the same!

Regards Alan & Mary

[ED: Photos on the back page]

Rock Lobster and Giant Crab Fishery Management Plan

The draft Victorian management plan for the Rock Lobster and Giant Crab fishery has been released for public comment. The plan covers such issues as management measures to rebuild populations of Rock Lobster and Giant Crab, and implications for the fishery from the implementation of the national competition policy. Environment Australia will shortly start their assessment of the ecological sustainability of the fishery for export accreditation.

Further information

Patrick Coutin

Tel: (03) 5258 0111 or Email: Patrick.Coutin@nre.vic.gov.au

Built for Comfort, Built for Speed

Some of us are *Daimlers*: big, solid and comfortable, built as a luxury, not for convenience. Some of us are *Toyota station wagons*: efficient for stop-and-start city driving and manoeuvrability, with good fuel economy. And then there are the *Ferrari's* among us: powerful, their whole demeanour cries out "Built for Speed". Where do you travel?

DIVING INTO THE PAST.

BY JOHN LAWLER.

Two editions of *Fathoms* last year carried articles by Don Abell under the above heading. These are articles which are regarded as having some literary merit above the norm.

In this edition, two more articles by Don are featured which are funny, different and interesting, and written with the sense of humour which has become somewhat of the trade mark of this man in his contributions to our great *Fathoms*.

Read on, enjoy and have a laugh as we go Diving Into The Past.

BRAVING THE ELEMENTS

DON ABELL

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995

I had a few things planned for Sunday August 6 and diving was not one of them. I was the dive captain who was confident that not even VSAG had members who would want to brave the elements after looking at the weather forecast as it built up through the previous week.

I was wrong. A few VSAG members don't worry about gale force winds, squalls and 2 meter seas on Port Phillip. A couple of deaths in the bay during the week seemed to go unnoticed.

I understand J.L. ringing in on Saturday, his boat is always available but even John was sceptical of our chances. Then I had a call from a pommy who was visiting Australia and felt like a dive. I guess if you are used to the North Sea this didn't seem so bad. At this time I was still ready to cancel when I got a call from Rob Birtles on behalf of himself, Devries and Natoli. The solution was still obvious. Only one boat and conditions too dangerous for only one boat to venture out by itself.

I rang Neville Viapree who also thought we were insane but was willing to be committed to the same institution and agreed to bring his boat along. It is dedication and club mania like Neville's that has made VSAG what it is today - and I'll never forgive them.

So we had to go to Sorrento. A stiff breeze blew off shore so we were not able to assess the water property. I figured we should have an egg and bacon sandwich and a coffee but I was out voted by a group of escaped asylum inmates who wanted a launch immediately.

Those who attended the August meeting will have heard my baby polar bear joke. If you missed it then you should have been there to hear scuba humour at its best. Despite Tony Tipping's scoffing he had not heard it before. He was only displaying his jealousy because unlike his own stories told at VSAG meetings, all members were still awake when I had finished.

I thought that the adventure on the sea would be the hardest part of the day but I had not reckoned on Neville's boat launching prowess. After 16 attempts to back down what is arguably the best ramp in Melbourne, Rob Birtles and I decided that it would be quicker and easier to carry the boat to the water. Fortunately Neville succeeded on the 17th attempt just as Rob and I were taking the strain for the lift.

Half a kilometer out we left the protection of the shore and felt the wind on 2 meters seas. We called J.L. on the radio but suspect the howl of the gale prevented him from hearing us. We caught up with him around spectacular reef and we decided to get out of there to the coast line.

In the comfort of only 1 meter waves we dropped the divers in for their August Braille Dive. Nev and I stayed up and let Rob play hero.

The dark shadow that passed Rob was threatening to ruin his day when it turned to come back a second time. But bad news turned to good and Rob was joined by a pod of up to 100 dolphin. Unfortunately the visibility was so bad he could only ever see two at any one time.

Xmas Dinner 2002 Prize Donations

On behalf of the VSAG Committee and members I would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and companies for their generous support of VSAG's Annual Raffle, which was held during the 2002 VSAG Xmas Party at Milano's on Friday 6th December 2002.

The evening was a huge success and enjoyed by a total of 54 attendees.

A big thank you to all who came along and joined in the festivities and celebrations. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as John and I did.

Contributions were generously donated by:

Sonar Wetsuits	Wetsuit
Chris Llewellyn	Dryzabone and Leather Whip
Steve Jacoby	3 Melways Street Directory vouchers
Peter Jones	Port for each table at the dinner, 4 T-shirts, 2 Bonds shirts, 4 caps, 2 magnums of Chardonnay Bottle of red wine.
John Lawler	Décor Cooler Bag
Robin Woods (Allwoods)	Tank Hydro Tests
Pat Reynolds	Fins
Kate Caine	Remedial Massage

Also of course, VSAG generously donated an overnight accommodation package including breakfast for two and valet parking at Le Meridian at Rialto, 2 Xmas Hampers and 2 vouchers for Jervis Bay cabins (\$250 value each)

Thankyou to Helen Fryday for organising and running the VSAG monthly raffle throughout the year. All proceeds from these raffles, purchased a Katmandu Day pack with Thermos, drink bottle, Maglite, etc.

A big thank you to Peter Jones for a wonderful venue and for looking after VSAG on the night. I'm sure it was a challenge, juggling eating a meal with your mates and managing all other activities at the venue!

Finally, a thank you to all the committee for your support in sharing the organization and preparation for such a memorable and enjoyable night.

Thankyou. Have a very safe and happy 2003.

Priya Cardinaletti
Treasurer & Social Secretary

Flipper's chatter has last laugh

THIRTY years after he first graced our screens, Flipper the dolphin has been exposed as a fraud.

The chattering noise the heroic mammal made when he opened his snout was, in fact, the doctored sound of a kookaburra.

One US nature expert said it could be the biggest soundtrack swindle since a lion's roar was used for King Kong in the original 1933 giant ape movie.

The Flipper deception is revealed by tour guides at the Baltimore National Aquarium, who explain to the centre's 1.6 million annual visitors that dolphins



By PHILLIP COOREY

don't have vocal chords.

"They're pretty shocked," said aquarium education expert Jennifer Durkin, when asked how visitors took the news.

"Throughout the dolphin industry, they know dolphins don't have any vocal chords. Nothing comes out of the mouth."

She said the makers of the TV series heard the sound of the kookaburra "and it sounded pretty cool so they dubbed that".

"Now people think dolphins can talk."

Ms Durkin said the squawking and squeaking noises made by dolphins came from their blowhole, which had a muscular flap to manipulate air flow.

She demonstrates this to disbelieving visitors by inflating a balloon, then



Flipper

squeezing the neck while releasing the air.

It is not the only dark secret about Flipper, who hung around at Florida's Coral Key National Park with boys Bud and Sandy Ricks, either saving them, or helping them save someone else from danger.

Flipper was actually a female dolphin called Mitzi, although a male stunt dolphin, Mr Gipper, did all Flipper's tail-walking scenes.

But Mitzi did the other stuff, such as knocking guns out of poachers' hands and nudging wayward boats to safety.

One dive satisfied everyone and we beat a hasty retreat. In a desperate effort to counter the risk of hyperthermia we adjourned to the warmth of the Sorrento Hotel. It was the only sensible decision I had made as Dive Captain for the whole day.

So we all lived to tell the tale but I don't know why we would want to tell it. Even the VSAG of 15 years ago would not have gone out on PortPhillip in those conditions. We would have been smart to turn around as soon as we saw the rough water. In our favour we did eventually turn around to safer water and 7 divers may be wiser for the experience.



EASTER BASH 1995

DON ABELL

The Easter article for "FATHOMS" always seems to be superfluous. Other than our esteemed editor Des Williams (the Rupert Murdoch of Dingley) everyone who is anyone in the Club was at Tidal River again in 1995. Attendance was 83 people and even with a few guests who joined us and are most welcome, the turn up is a credit to the club.

For me this is the best trip that the club has each year. Only 2 1/2 hours from Melbourne means that people can make it easily for the weekend and arrive late or leave early to fit in with the other demands of work or family.

Priya and John managed to turn up just in time to miss the dive on Saturday. Any later and they would have also missed the chance to wave goodbye to divers on a perfect day.

Sant on the other hand left early after a Saturday dive and did not see one drop of the rain that engulfed us through Sunday.

Diving on Friday was in warm Sunshine on flat seas. I was confident we could not see weather any better than this, so decided to take the longer trip to Shellback Island and investigate relatively new territory for V.S.A.G.

On any of the islands we usually need to find the leeward side to escape the rolling seas and winds. On this day, there was no wind and the water calmly lapped on all sides of the island.

Sant and I fell off the brick into 50 foot visibility and beautiful territory. Big bommies to swim around and lots of sea life. It was too easy to drop into 100 foot of water, so a conscious effort was made to come up gradually to more reasonable depths for relaxed observation. It seems that all divers had similarly beautiful dives.

After a 100 foot first dive, I wanted a reasonable surface interval. Mick Jeacle called upon all his underwater experience and concluded that the tables were only

important if he was having a second dive. Since he wasn't, we could reasonably reduce the surface interval by 30 minutes so that he could get back to camp for a beer. The second dive was equally, if not more beautiful, we found some swim through, bommies, soft corals and anything else you want. it was a great opportunity to see this new territory.

Saturday brought a small problem. A potentially perfect day meant there were more divers than boats. A fifth boat would have solved the problem but alas! Some reluctant volunteers withdrew and all others launched into conditions that were possibly better than the perfect Friday. Since I was a reluctant volunteer I missed the day but the reports were consistent with the fabulous dives of the previous day.

Those of us marooned at base camp took it at a very relaxing pace. Every time I picked up the paper the lovely Nyssa would find something for me to do. So I fed the birds, bought the icypole, played a spelling game (desperately hoping I wouldn't make a mistake) coloured books, etc, etc. I even caught a lizard because Maxine Catherall refused to play big white hunter.

The weather was so perfect we decided to take a landing party to Squeaky Beach, so about a dozen of us headed off.

The water temperature is very different without one of Bobby's Sonars. The male heroes did a bit of body surfing at Squeaky. The temperature is not the problem after you turn numb. After a quick beach sprint we headed back to Base Camp. I had felt sorry for Mick carrying Tim in his little carry bag until I realised that he only volunteered because he knew Nyssa would get tired and I would have to carry her!. It's a pity she only gets tired going up hill!

Sunday brought with it a little more precipitation than we are used to at tidal river. it rained heavily for most of the day. I was getting a head cold, so I retired to sleep for a few hours. When I decided to venture outdoors I was confronted by a 2km Lake totally surrounding my tent. A good test for the tent.

Others were not so lucky. Andy Mastrowicz who never fails to have an Easter catastrophe sunk his tent into 3 inches of water.

The brave souls like Doug and Maxy set out for Sealers Cove before the rain set in. I would have warned maxy if she had helped Nyssa catch the lizard! Our visitor Cathy also set out to Sealers. All three only just survived the floods, but they looked as good as drowned when they got back. Cathy did not miss the leeches and her legs resembled the aftermath of Custer last stand.

Those who braved the night were standing in dry conditions enjoying a beer in the balmy evening at 10pm. Annie Jeacle blotted her record by not partying on until midmorning on the Sunday. In fact it was hard to find any lights on after 11pm, so I hit the sleeping bag early myself.

I packed up in dry sunny conditions on Monday morning. It was even warm. Paul Sier brought out his model helicopter and entertained the whole camp with a demonstration of hovering. It seems that we could take a leaf from the books of the territory grazier and use the model choppers to herd up all the kids at night. If we could circle them into one spot we could put a fence around them for the night and then let them out the next morning.

Cars and Computers

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with the technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon".

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating:

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced, car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

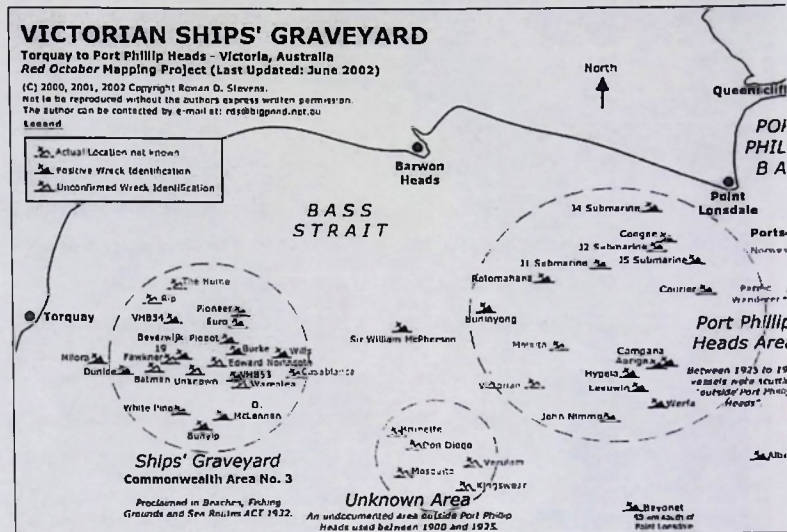
Bass Strait Shipwrecks

This page was last updated Sunday, June 23, 2002 21:56:40

Victorian Ships' Graveyard

Details of vessels scuttled in the Victorian Ships' Graveyard are listed in the table below. This list is not definite is constantly being revised as new historical material is uncovered.

▶ If you have or know of historical documents which may help in our effort to build a definite list of scuttled vessels e.g. newspaper articles, editorials, books, photos from private collections, stories, etc. then please contact us!



Total Vessels in list

Vessel Name	Vessel Type	Depth (m)	Size (Tons)	Vessel Dimensions (ft)	Date Built	Date Scuttled	GPS Position
Aurlga	Iron Barque	57	487	164.5' x 28.1' x 17.3'	1869	5 Feb 1930	Beyond 40m
Albert	Ketch	70	42	-	-	1890	Beyond 40m
Batman Sister to Fawknor	Steam Hopper Barge	50	388	153.6' x 26.1' x 12.2'	1883	21 May 1935	Beyond 40m
Bayonet	Attack Class Patrol Boat	82	150	-	1968	21 Sep 1999	Beyond 40m
Beverwijk 19	Dredge	46	319	-	-	7 May 1963	Beyond 40m
Brunette	Iron Barque	-	375	141.0' x 25.4' x	1859	July 1913	Unknown

				15.8'			
Buninyong	Steam Ship	53	2076	279.9' x 38.1' x 20.2'	1883	11 Feb 1926	Beyond 40m
Bunyip	Dredge	58	379	160.5' x 28.2' x 9.8'	1879	13 Apr 1955	Beyond 40m
Burke <i>Sister to Wills</i>	Steam Hopper Barge	50	345	128.0' x 30.0' x 9.5'	1884	23 Sep 1935	Beyond 40m
Campana	Iron Barque	56	711	187.0' x 31.1' x 19.3'	1875	30 Jul 1929	Beyond 40m
Casablanca	Iron Barque	-	547	172.1' x 28.0' x 17.5'	1868	16 Feb 1950	Unknown
Coogee	Steam Ship	34	762	225.0' x 30.2' x 13.5'	1887	27 Feb 1928	S 038° 18.429' E 144° 34.300'
Courier	Steam Ship	42	728	220.8' x 30.0' x 12.6'	1887	29 Mar 1928	S 038° 19.488' E 144° 34.914'
D. McLennan	Dredge	56	424	165.5' x 29.2' x 8.0'	1912	08 Jun 1949	Beyond 40m
Don Diego	Iron Barque	-	320	145.6' x 24.2' x 13.9'	1855	26 May 1916	Unknown
Dunloe	Iron Barque	46	674	180.9' x 30.4' x 18.4'	1870	2 Jul 1947	Beyond 40m
Edward Northcote <i>ex Hopper #405</i>	Steam Ship	50	495	159.8' x 28.1' x 12.6'	1912	06 Nov 1952	Beyond 40m
Euro	Steel Tug	50	257	130.0' x 22.5' x 12.2'	1897	10 Jun 1948	Beyond 40m
Fawkner <i>Sister to Batman</i>	Steam Hopper Barge	46	388	153.6' x 26.1' x 12.2'	1883	20 May 1935	Beyond 40m
H.C. Piggott	Steam Hopper Barge	48	495	160.0' x 28.1' x 12.6'	1912	14 Oct 1935	Beyond 40m
Hume	Steel Tug	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown
Hyglea	Paddle Steamer	62	986	300.0' x 32.0' x 11.3'	1890	9 Jun 1932	Beyond 40m
John Nimmo	Dredge	68	1209	228.2' x 46.5' x 15.5'	1887	10 Aug 1931	Beyond 40m
J1 "Deep Sub"	J-Class Submarine	38	1260	274' x 23'	1916	26 May 1926	S 038° 18.952' E 144° 33.233'
J2 "Intact Sub"	J-Class Submarine	36	1260	274' x 23'	1916	01 Jun 1926	S 038° 18.658' E 144° 34.118'
J4 "90ft Sub"	J-Class Submarine	27	1260	274' x 23'	1916	28 May 1927	S 038° 17.982' E 144° 33.813'
J5 "Broken Sub"	J-Class Submarine	39	1260	274' x 23'	1916	01 Jun 1926	S 038° 18.815' E 144°

Victorian Ships' Graveyard Portal

Kings Ware	Steam Ship	-	356	155.0' x 25.1' x 10.8'	1883	08 Apr 1915	34.804'	Unknown
Leeuwin <i>ex Julia Percy</i>	Steam Ship	62	580	219.0' x 24.2' x 13.0'	1876	28 Dec 1934	Beyond 40m	
Malaita	Steam Ship	-	940	200.0' x 30.2' x 12.3'	1893	20 Nov 1928	Unknown	
Milora <i>ex Emila</i>	Steam Ship	40	3347	331.0' x 47.9' x 23.6'	1920	8 Mar 1935	S 038° 21.103' E 144° 23.379'	
Mosquito	Iron Brig	-	175	113.9' x 7 x ?	1859	30 Sep 1915	Unknown	
Norwestor	Iron Barque	2	567	160.0' x 29.2' x 17.0'	1864	21 Nov 1928	Unknown	
Pacific Wanderer	Motor Yacht	-	40	-	-	1981	Unknown	
Pioneer	Dredge	50	543	170.0' x 37.2' x 10.3'	1905	09 Mar 1950	Beyond 40m	
Rip	Steam Ship	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Rotomahana	Steel Ship	39	1727	298.2' x 35.2' x 23.7'	1879	29 May 1928	S 038° 19.197' E 144° 32.175'	
Sir William McPherson	Dredge	55	482	158.5' x 32.3' x 10.3'	1912	12 May 1949	Beyond 40m	
Veralum	Wooden (Teak) Barque	-	493	141.2' x 28.9' x 19.2'	1858	16 Dec 1930	Unknown	
VHB 53 <i>Sister to VHB 54</i>	Dumb Hopper Barge	55	-	-	-	19 Feb 1971	Beyond 40m	
VHB 54 <i>Sister to VHB 53</i>	Dumb Hopper Barge	45	-	-	-	17 Dec 1970	Beyond 40m	
Victorian	Steam Ship	-	769	225.8' x 26.4' x 13.5'	1876	08 May 1925	Unknown	
Wareatea	Steel Ship	58	475	170.2' x 26.1' x 11.4'	1883	16 Mar 1945	Beyond 40m	
Werfa	Steel Ship	65	862	216.0' x 30.2' x 15.5'	1883	21 Mar 1929	Beyond 40m	
White Pine <i>ex Hazel Craig</i>	Iron Barque	50	447	167.9' x 29.1' x 13.6'	1879	14 Jan 1947	Beyond 40m	
Willis <i>Sister to Burke</i>	Steam Hopper Barge	55	345	128.0' x 30.0' x 9.5'	1884	22 Aug 1935	Beyond 40m	

Disclaimer

We accept no responsibility or liability for the accidental or intentional misuse of information portrayed on any part of this Web Site, or misadventure resulting from its use. In order to use a shipwreck GPS position, the map datum setting on your GPS must be set to WGS 84. GPS positions only shown for wrecks within the maximum recommended recreational diving depth limit of 40 metres.

▶ Bass Strait is a life-threatening stretch of water, always get the latest weather forecast before any maritime activity.

70pc of Aust soon 'underwater'

AUSTRALIA is heading further and further down under - under water, according to the CSIRO.

CSIRO marine research chief Tony Haymet said that by 2004, more than 70 per cent of the country would be defined as being under water.

"Whether we sink or swim rests on our capacity to understand and manage the change in formal definition of Australia, and the opportunities it presents. This is because Australia will become responsible for the ocean that surrounds us, to 200 nautical miles from the coast, under the fully ratified United Nations Law of the Sea." Dr Haymet said the marine territory covered twice the size of the country's land mass, 16,000 million sq km.

The annual value of Australia's marine sector, which is already estimated at more than \$50 billion, is forecast to double in the next 20 years. "Managing these pressures is a huge challenge considering scientists know now roughly as much about Australia's ocean environments as we did about the Australian land 150 years ago," he said.

He said surveys had recorded only five per cent of the ocean's physical terrain, and less than two per cent of its life and habitats.

DNRE being disbanded

The State Government is disbanding the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Its responsibilities will be split between two new departments: the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

The DSE will be responsible for parks, flora and fauna conservation, catchments and water, forestry, greenhouse, Natural Heritage Trust, and coastal Crown land. The DPI will be responsible for agriculture, fisheries and minerals.

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

February - 2003

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0445 0.70 1059 1.14 SA 1718 0.15	9 0453 1.35 1059 0.23 SU 1726 1.24 ○ 2303 0.43	17 0905 1.24 0533 0.68 MO 1140 1.08 ○ 1745 0.20	25 0534 1.37 1145 0.05 TU 1849 1.36
2 0035 1.36 0600 0.63 SU 1204 1.16 1819 0.14	10 0521 1.30 1131 0.22 MO 1806 1.22 2340 0.50	18 0958 1.32 0632 0.57 TU 1244 1.17 1842 0.16	26 0000 0.51 0617 1.31 WE 1230 0.10 1950 1.30
3 0130 1.40 0701 0.54 MO 1303 1.20 1913 0.13	11 0552 1.25 1205 0.22 TU 1852 1.19	19 0144 1.39 0722 0.44 WE 1340 1.27 1932 0.15	27 0048 0.59 0708 1.23 TH 1321 0.17 2056 1.24
4 0216 1.43 0755 0.45 TU 1357 1.23 2000 0.15	12 0018 0.58 0628 1.19 WE 1241 0.23 1945 1.16	20 0225 1.45 0807 0.31 TH 1432 1.37 2019 0.16	28 0144 0.66 0811 1.15 FR 1424 0.24 2203 1.21
5 0256 1.44 0840 0.38 WE 1445 1.28 2042 0.18	13 0101 0.66 0708 1.13 TH 1322 0.25 2046 1.14	21 0304 1.47 0851 0.19 FR 1522 1.44 2104 0.20	
6 0330 1.44 0919 0.32 TH 1530 1.27 2119 0.23	14 0152 0.73 0800 1.07 FR 1413 0.26 2156 1.14	22 0341 1.48 0935 1.10 SA 1611 1.47 2148 0.27	
7 0359 1.41 0954 0.28 FR 1610 1.27 2154 0.29	15 0258 0.77 0800 1.03 SA 1519 0.26 2305 1.18	23 0417 1.46 1018 0.04 SU 1701 1.46 2282 0.34	
8 0426 1.38 1027 0.24 SA 1647 1.26 2229 0.36	16 0417 0.75 1024 1.03 SU 1635 0.24	24 0455 1.43 1101 0.03 MO 1753 1.43 ○ 2316 0.43	

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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 (Stack) Water. Add one hour for Official Summer Time

February - 2003

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0241 ebb 0617 flood SA 1243 ebb ○ 2033 flood	9 0105 flood 0715 ebb SU 1354 flood ○ 2001 ebb	17 0318 ebb 0910 flood MO 1328 ebb ○ 2103 flood	25 0154 flood 0740 ebb TU 1454 flood 2138 ebb
2 0325 ebb 0926 flood SU 1408 ebb SU 2128 flood	10 0136 flood 0739 ebb MO 1428 flood MO 2047 ebb	18 0358 ebb 0954 flood TU 1448 ebb 2153 flood	26 0237 flood 0815 ebb WE 1545 flood 2240 ebb
3 0421 ebb 1019 flood MO 1521 ebb 2215 flood	11 0209 flood 0803 ebb TU 1504 ebb 2142 ebb	19 0432 ebb 1033 flood WE 1556 ebb 2238 flood	27 0326 flood 0859 ebb TH 1641 flood 2345 ebb
4 0500 ebb 1104 flood TU 1619 ebb 2256 flood	12 0245 flood 0828 ebb WE 1546 flood 2250 ebb	20 0505 ebb 1113 flood TH 1656 ebb 2318 flood	28 0430 flood 0954 ebb FR 1748 flood
5 0532 ebb 1144 flood WE 1709 ebb 2331 flood	13 0329 flood 0859 ebb TH 1638 flood	21 0537 ebb 1154 flood FR 1751 ebb 2358 flood	
6 0600 ebb 1219 flood TH 1754 ebb	14 0010 ebb 0424 flood FR 0939 ebb 1742 flood	22 0608 ebb 1237 flood SA 1845 ebb	
7 0004 flood 0627 ebb FR 1251 flood 1836 ebb	15 0126 ebb 0552 flood SA 1038 ebb 1855 flood	23 0036 flood 0638 ebb SU 1321 flood 1941 ebb	
8 0035 flood 0651 ebb SA 1323 flood 1918 ebb	16 0229 ebb 0809 flood SU 1200 ebb 2004 flood	24 0115 flood 0708 ebb MO 1407 flood ○ 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. Add one hour for Official Summer Time

March - 2003

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0258 0.70	9 0348 1.36	17 0323 0.70	25 0430 1.42
0929 1.10	0952 0.19	MO 0956 1.05	TU 1039 0.01
SA 1544 0.28	SU 1622 1.38	MO 1545 0.33	TU 1739 1.51
2311 1.22	2204 0.40	2324 1.21	2259 0.40
2 0427 0.68	10 0416 1.53	18 0445 0.62	26 0512 1.36
1047 1.09	MO 1024 0.17	TU 1120 1.13	WE 1124 0.07
SU 1702 0.29	MO 1656 1.36	TU 1707 0.32	WE 1830 1.42
	2238 0.45		2342 0.52
3 0014 1.26	11 0446 1.30	19 0019 1.28	27 0558 1.29
0548 0.60	TU 1055 0.18	WE 0555 0.48	TH 1209 0.16
MO 1157 1.13	TU 1732 1.33	WE 1230 1.26	TH 1928 1.32
1807 0.28	2313 0.50	1818 0.30	
4 0106 1.31	12 0518 1.25	20 0108 1.36	28 0029 0.59
0650 0.50	WE 1126 0.19	TH 0649 0.33	FR 0651 1.20
TU 1259 1.19	WE 1814 1.28	TH 1330 1.40	FR 1258 0.26
1900 0.27	2347 0.56	1915 0.29	2030 1.24
5 0148 1.35	13 0552 1.19	21 0152 1.41	29 0124 0.64
0738 0.40	TH 1159 0.21	FR 0738 0.19	SA 0759 1.12
WE 1351 1.25	TH 1900 1.22	FR 1423 1.51	SA 1358 0.36
1945 0.27		2003 0.30	2134 1.19
6 0224 1.37	14 0025 0.63	22 0232 1.45	30 0240 0.67
0815 0.32	FR 0630 1.13	SA 0824 0.08	SU 0923 1.08
TH 1436 1.31	FR 1236 0.24	SA 1514 1.59	SU 1516 0.43
2024 0.29	1958 1.17	2049 0.33	2239 1.19
7 0253 1.38	15 0109 0.68	23 0312 1.46	31 0414 0.64
0850 0.26	SA 0721 1.08	SU 0909 0.01	MO 1043 1.09
FR 1515 1.35	SA 1323 0.27	SU 1602 1.61	MO 1639 0.46
2059 0.32	2105 1.14	2133 0.37	2339 1.21
8 0321 1.37	16 0207 0.72	24 0350 1.45	31 0414 0.64
0921 1.04	SU 0830 1.04	MO 0954 -0.02	MO 1043 1.09
SA 1549 1.37	SU 1426 0.30	MO 1650 1.58	MO 1639 0.46
2131 0.36	2218 1.16	2216 0.41	2339 1.21

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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 (Slack) Water. Add one hour for Official Summer Time

March - 2003

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0057 ebb	9 0018 flood	17 0126 ebb	25 0104 flood
SA 1110 ebb	SU 0610 ebb	MO 0649 flood	25 0637 ebb
SA 1905 flood	SU 1242 flood	MO 1147 ebb	TU 1339 flood
	1902 ebb	MO 1923 flood	TU 2030 ebb
2 0206 ebb	10 0046 flood	18 0221 ebb	26 0144 flood
SU 0801 flood	MO 0633 ebb	MO 0821 flood	26 0715 ebb
SU 1249 ebb	MO 1313 flood	TU 1329 ebb	WE 1423 flood
2016 flood	MO 1941 ebb	2037 flood	WE 2119 ebb
3 0303 ebb	11 0115 flood	19 0305 ebb	27 0227 flood
MO 0911 flood	TU 0656 ebb	MO 0914 flood	27 0757 ebb
MO 1419 ebb	TU 1345 flood	WE 1452 ebb	TH 1509 flood
MO 2114 flood	2020 ebb	WE 2134 flood	TH 2210 ebb
4 0348 ebb	12 0146 flood	20 0344 ebb	28 0316 flood
TU 1001 flood	TH 0721 ebb	TH 0959 flood	28 0846 ebb
TU 1527 ebb	WE 1419 flood	TH 1600 ebb	FR 1600 flood
2202 flood	WE 2103 ebb	2222 flood	FR 2305 ebb
5 0424 ebb	13 0219 flood	21 0419 ebb	29 0420 flood
SA 1040 flood	TH 0747 ebb	MO 1042 flood	29 0951 ebb
WE 1820 ebb	TH 1457 flood	FR 1658 ebb	SA 1703 flood
WE 2242 flood	TH 2156 ebb	2305 flood	
6 0455 ebb	14 0257 flood	22 0454 ebb	30 0009 ebb
TH 1113 flood	FR 0819 ebb	SA 1126 flood	30 0600 flood
TH 1705 ebb	FR 1541 flood	SA 1753 ebb	SU 1123 ebb
2316 flood	FR 2300 ebb	SA 2345 flood	SU 1826 flood
7 0521 ebb	15 0343 flood	23 0529 ebb	31 0115 ebb
FR 1143 flood	SA 0902 ebb	SU 1210 flood	31 0742 flood
FR 1746 ebb	SA 1637 flood	SU 1846 ebb	MO 1304 ebb
FR 2348 flood			MO 1948 flood
8 0545 ebb	16 0016 ebb	24 0025 flood	
SA 1212 flood	SU 1008 ebb	MO 0602 ebb	
SA 1825 ebb	SU 1754 flood	MO 1254 flood	
		MO 1939 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.

April - 2003

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0530 0.56 TU 1153 0.15 TU 1748 0.46	9 0416 1.28 WE 1019 0.19 WE 1705 1.42 2246 0.54	17 0615 0.38 TH 1215 1.39 TH 1751 0.49	25 0643 1.28 FR 1148 0.27 FR 1905 1.36
2 0030 1.25 WE 0625 0.46 WE 1253 1.24 1843 0.45	10 0449 1.24 TH 1745 1.36 1843 0.45	18 0027 1.34 FR 0613 0.23 FR 1315 1.54 1851 0.48	26 0015 0.59 SA 0641 1.19 SA 1236 0.38 2002 1.29
3 0109 1.29 TH 0705 0.37 TH 1341 1.33 1926 0.46	11 0524 1.20 FR 1121 0.23 FR 1830 1.30 2355 1.62	19 0115 1.40 SA 0704 0.11 SA 1410 1.65 1942 0.48	27 0112 0.62 SU 0757 1.13 SU 1331 0.49 2100 1.23
4 0143 1.31 FR 0740 0.29 FR 1420 1.41 2001 0.44	12 0605 1.15 SA 1159 0.27 SA 1921 1.24	20 0159 1.43 SU 0754 0.03 SU 1500 1.70 2029 0.48	28 0227 0.63 MO 0919 1.11 MO 1440 0.58 2157 1.21
5 0212 1.33 SA 0813 0.24 SA 1454 1.46 2034 0.46	13 0037 0.65 SU 0700 1.11 SU 1247 0.33 2022 1.21	21 0242 1.45 MO 0842 0.00 MO 1548 1.70 2113 0.49	29 0349 0.60 TU 1034 1.14 TU 1601 0.64 2251 1.21
6 0241 1.34 SU 1525 1.48 2107 0.46	14 0132 0.66 MO 0812 1.09 MO 1350 0.40 2130 1.20	22 0324 1.44 TU 0930 0.02 TU 1635 1.64 2157 0.50	30 0456 0.52 WE 1141 1.23 WE 1716 0.65 2340 1.22
7 0312 1.33 MO 0916 0.18 MO 1556 1.49 2140 0.48	15 0245 0.62 TU 0941 1.13 TU 1507 0.46 2236 1.23	23 0407 1.41 WE 1016 0.07 WE 1723 1.56 2241 0.52	31 0453 1.35 TH 1102 1.16 TH 1813 1.46 2326 0.55
8 0344 1.32 TU 1630 1.46 2214 0.51	16 0403 0.53 WE 1106 1.24 WE 1632 0.49 2335 1.28	24 0453 1.35 TH 1102 1.16 TH 1813 1.46 2326 0.55	

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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 (Stack) Water.

April - 2003

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0845 flood TU 1427 flood 2052 flood	9 0615 ebb WE 1307 flood 1959 ebb	17 0159 ebb TH 0835 flood 1456 ebb 2112 flood	25 0219 flood FR 0748 ebb FR 1434 flood 2136 ebb
2 0300 ebb WE 1529 ebb 2142 flood	10 0644 ebb TH 1341 flood 2036 ebb	18 0245 ebb FR 1601 ebb 2204 flood	26 0312 flood SA 0845 ebb SA 1520 flood 2222 ebb
3 0337 ebb TH 2023 flood	11 0715 ebb FR 1416 flood 2118 ebb	19 0328 ebb SA 1012 flood 1659 ebb 2248 flood	27 0421 flood SU 1000 ebb SU 1615 flood 2315 ebb
4 1031 flood FR 1659 ebb 2259 flood	12 0408 ebb SA 1457 flood 2208 ebb	20 0408 ebb SU 1057 flood 1751 ebb 2330 flood	28 0551 flood MO 1135 ebb MO 1733 flood
5 1101 flood SA 1737 ebb 2330 flood	13 0321 flood SU 1546 flood 2306 ebb	21 0448 ebb MO 1841 ebb	29 0013 ebb TU 1709 flood TU 1908 flood
6 0500 ebb SU 1813 ebb	14 0428 flood MO 1008 ebb 1656 flood	22 0010 flood TU 0530 ebb 1226 flood 1929 ebb	30 0110 ebb WE 0803 flood WE 1424 ebb 2020 flood
7 0000 flood MO 1848 ebb	15 0007 ebb TU 1156 ebb 1830 flood	23 0051 flood WE 0613 ebb 1310 flood 2013 ebb	
8 0029 flood TU 1234 flood 1923 ebb	16 0106 ebb WE 1334 ebb 2005 flood	24 0133 flood TH 0558 ebb 1352 flood 2055 ebb	

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VSAG DIVE & MEETING CALENDAR

Date	Location	Dive Captain	Phone	Meeting Point	Time
FEBRUARY					
2.....	Milora	Leo M.....	9727 1568	Sorrento	9.00
9.....	Catch & Cook BBQ	Priya	9761 0960	Rye	10.00
16.....	130' Sub	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento	9.00
20.....	General Meeting			Bells Hotel	8PM
23.....	Rotomahana.....	Nev V	9551 1547	Sorrento	9.00

MARCH

1-9	PERTH Club Trip	John L			
2.....	Local Diving.....	Priya	9761 0960	Sorrento	9.00
9.....	Heads Area	Pat R.....	9789 1092	Sorrento	9.00
16.....	Ship Graveyard	Nev V	9551 1547	Sorrento	9.00
20.....	General Meeting			Bells Hotel	8PM
23.....	Across the Bay Challenge..	John L.....	9589 4020.....	Portsea.....	TBA
30.....	Lonsdale Wall.....	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento	9.00

APRIL

6.....	George Kermod/Pinnacles	Leo M.....	0418 375 102..	Newhaven.....	10.00
17.....	General Meeting			Bells Hotel	8PM
18-22.....	Wilson's Prom	Priya	9761 0960		

May

4.....	Eliza Ramsden.....	Bruce D.....	9787 6318.....	Sorrento.....	8.30
8.....	Hyperbaric Chamber Visit.....	\$15 John Lawler		Alfred Hospital	TBA
15.....	General Meeting			Bells Hotel.....	8PM
18.....	Heads Area.....	Gerry D.....	9725 2381.....	Sorrento.....	9.30

Dive Calendar is subject to change – Please check details with Dive Captain

DIVE CHECK IN TIMES

Boat Owners 5.00 to 6.00pm Divers 6.00 to 7.00pm

BOOKINGS CLOSE AT 7.00pm. DO NOT PHONE AFTER THAT TIME. THE DIVE CAPTAIN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF DIVERS TO BOATS

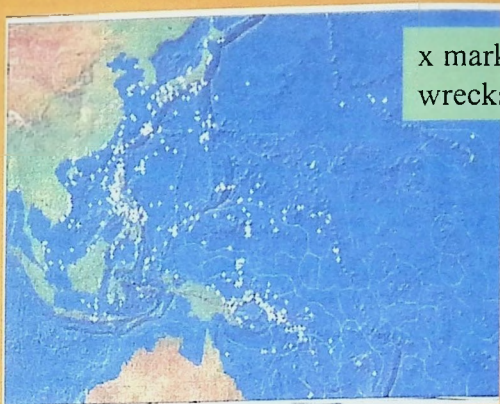
Emergency Contact Information Mornington Peninsula Area

Police – Ambulance – Fire	000
Rosebud Hospital 1527 Nepean hwy Rosebud	5986 0666
Frankston Hospital Hastings Road Frankston	9784 7777
The Bays Hospital Main Street Mornington	5975 2009
Mornington Bay Rescue Service	0419 233 999
Southern Peninsula Rescue	5984 4555
Diving Emergency Service	1800 088 200
Coast Guard (Hastings)	5979 3322
Coast Guard (Safety Beach).....	5981 4443
State Emergency Service (SES).....	26 14 68
Water Police	9534 2983
Melbourne Ambulance.....	11440

Diving Doctors

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

VHF Emergency Channel.....16



x marks the spot- World War II wrecks in the SE Asia area



For story
See dive
report for
9th Feb

