

FATHOMS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2003

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VSAG



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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

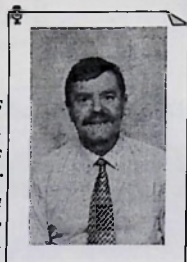
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Editorial

Alan Storen

My first job as the new editor is to thank John Lawler for his tireless efforts as editor of Fathoms over many, many editions. John was always good for an article or two each edition as well as chasing up other contributions. I also edit another magazine and I know the effort required to chase people for a suitable story. The magazine is only as good as the contributions that are submitted so don't be surprised if you get a tap on the shoulder and asked for a joke, a story, a dive report, etc.



Please search your archives for a photo or two and send them to me. They can be emailed if in digital form but I can scan and return if they are hard copy.

We have a busy period between now and xmas especially for the non-divers and partners. I hope to put together a night at the IMAX theatre on the 24th October and we have the BRUG party (their 50th), a 4 day 'weekend' at the prom on the Melbourne Cup long weekend, the club xmas party 5th December at Milanos, the xmas trip to SA starting Boxing Day, as well as many dives planned.

As many of you know I love a dive or two and I have just returned from a trip from Merimbula to Jervis bay. Only could log 16 dives in the week but the diving was great. At least it helped get the dive average back on track! Looked at last years log and I am down 52 dives on this time last year and only likely to just make 100 this year. Anyone want to go for a dive??

Water temp in southern NSW was about Melbourne +4 and my 4mm suit was more than adequate. Merimbula was good- as usual, Tathra wharf and reef better than normal with huge bull rays and Port Jackson sharks, Narooma was excellent - dove on the Pinnacle and Montague Island including the best seal dive that I have done. Jervis Bay was superb - dove on Bowen Island, Murray's beach, The nursery, Governors point, the whorehouse, the arch, the docks and perpendicular point. I was disappointed that Bermagui and Ulladulla were closed due to the weather and lack of divers but next time??

Alan

President's Report 2003 - 49th Year

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all members for their support in attending club dives and meetings, and keeping the club active. Over the past year we have gained a few new members, mostly young guys, which is a positive step for the future.



Guest Speakers

We were fortunate to have some very interesting guest speakers/ visits:

1. *The Victorian Police Air Wing*
2. *Mark Harris on the J Class Submarines*
3. *Jeff Maynard, author of Historical Diving*
4. *Mark Harris on Vanuatu and the Coolidge*
5. *A visit to the hyperbaric chamber at the Alfred Hospital*

Activities for the year

Perth Trip.

One of the highlights of the year was the March trip to Busselton and Albany in WA - diving the Swan and the Perth.

John Lawler took 20 members plus families on an unforgettable trip.

Christmas at Milanos Hotel

Fantastic time was had by all, with everyone showing off their dancing skills, plenty of prizes. Thanks to Priya, John, Jerry for their organisation and all those who donated prizes.

Easter – Wilsons Prom

The Prom gets better every year – great company, great weather, calm seas and good diving. Eighty-five campers with divers. The diving was fantastic, fish, clear water, what more could you want? Thanks to Bruce for towing the compressor.

Leo's Underwater crossing

The underwater crossing from Portsea to Queenscliff was a great effort by Leo. It took a while to organise but you finally did it.

Other Activities

Leo's Ski weekend in September – booked out

Father's Day Yum Cha in Oakleigh – A great day was had by all. Thanks JL.

Car Rally – well organised by Peter and Chris Vleugel – terrific day

Finance

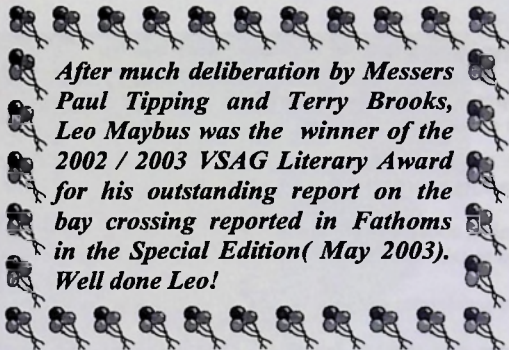
The club is travelling very well financially. We had a few extra expenses this year but the club has finished the year in a positive position. Alan Storen has been a great help by doing our newsletter at home, saving the club several hundred dollars per issue. Thank you Alan.

On behalf of all club and committee members our thanks go to the boat owners who tow their boats all over the place so we can share the sport we love. Thank you Mick, John, Jerry, and Neville.

It is with regret we see two long-standing members, John Lawler and Bruce Dart, standing down from the committee due to other commitments. Thanks guys for your contribution.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the committee for their time and effort over the past year and in closing I would like to say I have enjoyed my twelve months as President, it has been a good experience.

*Pat Reynolds
President*



After much deliberation by Messers Paul Tipping and Terry Brooks, Leo Maybus was the winner of the 2002 / 2003 VSAG Literary Award for his outstanding report on the bay crossing reported in Fathoms in the Special Edition(May 2003). Well done Leo!



Club Member of the Year for 2002/ 2003 will be announced at the XMAS function at Milanos—5 December



Marine Protected Areas at Wilsons Promontory:

In April 2003 a process commenced to prepare a management plan for the marine protected areas of Wilsons Promontory (ie. Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park, Wilsons Promontory Marine Park, Wilsons Promontory Marine Reserve).

A 'Have Your Say' brochure has been prepared that explains the process and is available on the Parks Victoria website (www.parkweb.vic.gov.au <<http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au>>) or by contacting the Parks Victorian Information Centre on 13 1963.

This brochure outlines the timelines in process. A draft management plan is due to be published and released for public comment in April 2004.

Regards,

Ty Caling
Marine Planner

Amphibious car drives over water

A sports car which can travel on water at the touch of a button has been given a test drive on the Thames.

The convertible Aquada Sports Amphibian, which can reach up to 100mph on land, uses a jet to propel it through water at speeds of over 30mph.

It takes about 10 seconds for the car's wheels to retract, the power to switch and the boat to take off, says Gibbs Technologies, the company behind the car.

The accelerator can then be used as a throttle in the water.

Those who want to buy their own James Bond-style vehicle can expect to pay out about £150,000 when it goes on the market later this year.

The company chose London's Docklands, scene of a high-speed boat chase in the Bond film *The World Is Not Enough*, to test drive the car in public.

But unlike the submarine Lotus Esprit in *the Spy Who Loved Me*, the Aquada planes across the water's surface.

Gibbs Technologies says other amphibious cars have not managed to get faster than 6mph on the water.

And previous attempts have often failed because of difficulties getting the vehicle to climb back onto dry land.

Company founder Alan Gibbs said: "This is new in the way that helicopters were new or Harrier jump jets were new.

"It's a genuine amphibian which has been an international project, but it's British engineering which has made it possible."

He said it was meant as a sports car and a sports boat.

"But it could be a commuter city vehicle which avoids commuter congestion," he added.

"The Thames is a perfect location to make use of this vehicle as it has no speed limit and is greatly under-utilised."

The car needs a boat ramp or slope to get into the water, although it could be driven straight into the sea from the shore.



New owners will need to insure it for both road and marine use.

The launch on Wednesday followed seven years of work by 70 engineers and designers at the firm's headquarters in Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

A launch series is in production to be available later this year.

Legless man on run

From correspondents in Johannesburg
September 15, 2003

POLICE are searching for a prisoner with no legs who managed to escape from a hospital.

"Two months later, he is still on the run and the law enforcement authorities appear to be stumped," the *Saturday Star* newspaper reported.

Francois Johannes Pieterse, who had been serving a 10-year sentence in Durban for fraud and impersonating a doctor, was taken to a hospital but escaped in July. A guard has been charged with negligence.

The Daily Telegraph

'Titanic' under threat from the people seeking to preserve her

By Andrew Buncombe in Washington

11 August 2003

The reputation of the *Titanic* was destroyed long ago, not least on that very night in the spring of 1912 when the supposedly "unsinkable" luxury liner hit an iceberg and slipped beneath the waters of the North Atlantic in less than three hours.

Since then, the memory of the *Titanic* and the 1,500 crew and passengers who died have been assailed by films, books and Hollywood blockbusters, each bearing a varying degree of accuracy in what happened.

But now the substance of the vessel itself - on the ocean floor, two miles down - is threatened in an unprecedented manner. Ironically, the problem is partly caused by those people trying to preserve the *Titanic* and gauge its destruction. Experts who have been visiting the wreck of the liner over the past decade have reported that its decay is accelerating year by year, largely as a result of scientists and wealthy tourists who visit the site by mini-submarines. In the past 10 years, the ship's crow's nest where a lookout warned in vain, "Iceberg right ahead!" has vanished and the foremast has crumbled. The captain's cabin, where he was resting when the ship struck the iceberg at 11.40pm on the night of 12 April, has all but disappeared.

"I was shocked," Alfred McLaren, an ocean scientist and retired submariner who dived on the wreck in 1999 and revisited it last month, told *The New York Times*. "It's much more heavily deteriorated. I expected her to be in about the same shape as 1999. But, God almighty, there's more [rust] everywhere."

Paul Nargeolet, a French mini-sub pilot who has explored the wreck more than 30 times, said each dive revealed new damage. "Things are going quicker and quicker."

The wreck of *Titanic* was discovered in 1985, split in two on the ocean floor 380 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, by a French-American team. It had lain there since sinking on its inaugural voyage between Southampton and New York and though the bow and stern were more than half-a-mile apart, the wreckage was in very fair condition.

Robert Ballard, a leader of the mission, wrote in his 1987 book *The Discovery of the Titanic*, that if it was left alone the vessel "won't appear to change much in my lifetime". But, of course, the vessel has not been left alone and Mr Ballard himself is partly responsible for that. Though he now argues for leaving the site to nature, he initially called for the removal of historic artefacts.

In testimony before Congress he said: "I am proposing ... that any future revisits to the *Titanic* which would involve deep diving submersibles ... dedicate a portion of the diving time to carefully recording and recovering those delicate items lying outside the hull of the ship itself ...

"I am in favour of recovery of that material ... to ensure that they are protected and the world will have the ability to touch, so to speak, and feel the ship."

Since then there have been numerous visits to the wreck by various groups of scientists and tourists as well as the ship's court-appointed salvage company, RMS *Titanic*, which has recovered more than 6,000 scattered artefacts - shoes, wine bottles and crockery - from the wreck.



"It is becoming very serious indeed because everybody [who visits] feels they have to leave something," Edward Kamuda, director of the *Titanic* Historical Society, said. "It is starting to look like graffiti. The thing is going to deteriorate anyway, but it doesn't help when you've got all these subs going by, disturbing the sediment."

He said the propellers of the mini subs threw up debris and damaged the wreck, worsening the natural decay caused by microbes and the corrosive salt water in which the vessel sits. In 1996, divers found wreckage from a mini-sub accident on a *Titanic* deck.

The wreck also attracts tourists who pay up to \$36,000 (£22,000) a dive. In July 2001, a New York couple, David Leibowitz and Kimberley Miller, were married in a mini-sub resting on the *Titanic's* bow.

Somewhat late in the day, the governments of the US, France, Britain and Canada are talking about how to preserve what remains of the wreck. In June, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration sent six scientists to survey the wreck and assess its future.

Mr Kamuda says they should all leave well alone. In addition to the 1,500 people who drowned when the ship sank, at least three *Titanic* survivors have had their ashes scattered there. "It's a grave site," he said. "I think they would be better to leave it alone, put a [web] camera down there and then if anyone wants to look at it they can just go to their local library and have a look."

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VSAG FATHERS DAY LUNCH

The VSAG Fathers Day lunch was held at the Ming Dynasty restaurant in Oakleigh. A pleasant Chinese restaurant which on this day was full of patrons probably doing the same thing as we were...having a very good time.

The Jeacle Family, Barry and Marie Truscot, Pat Reynolds and daughter Sam along with husband Paul and twins, Bruce and Dawn Dart, Neville Viapree and Darren Pearce made up the group for the day.



We were very well looked after by the waiters and the food was quite good...all were very satisfied with the plentiful servings and the ambience and hospitality added to the day.

There was one incident on the day worth a mention and it reminded me of the line from "Casablanca" delivered by Bogey to Ingrid Bergman when she walked into

Rick's Cafe.

"Of all the gin joints in all towns in all the world, she walks into mine"

Of all the Chinese restaurants in Melbourne on the day when VSAG was celebrating Fathers Day one notable past member of the club arrived... none other than Justin Liddy.

It was explained that Justin's daughter and her husband live in Murrembeena and had invited JL to Melbourne for a celebration lunch. Good to see Justin again and to catch up on his plans to probably move North!

Wine being enjoyed and great camaraderie had us all in very good spirits but good things have to come to an end eventually. Mid afternoon saw the parties depart for their homes, Bruce and Dawn giving me a lift to my home for some more chat and coffee.

John Lawler.

Interesting Bits Of Marine News

Dr Vyt Garnys is a member of the 3AK 1116 AM Fishing and Boating Show on Saturday mornings. He presents articles of interest on how science is used in the marine environment and technology. The marine environment is a fascinating place to the population in general. However, the greatest challenges lie in marine science. Some facts which emphasise the challenges which still face us are as follows:

80% of all life on Earth, presides over the ocean surface.

The colossal squid is the largest ocean invertebrate with a mantle of 2.5 metres.

The rotifer is the smallest ocean invertebrate at 0.001 millimetres long.

The percentage of ocean covered by coral is 20%.

The percentage of ocean creatures that live in coral is 25%.

14,000,000 hectares of coral has been destroyed in the past century. Coral Reef grows at between 1 to 20 centimetres per year.

The number of new fish species discovered every year is about 300.

The tallest seaweed is the giant kelp at 60 metres.

There are about 10,000 different types of seaweed.

There are 58 species of seagrass. Australian seagrass covers more than 51,000 square kilometres, with the highest diversity in the world.

Grey Whales complete an annual 20,000 kilometre round trip from the Arctic Mexico.

Sperm Whales can dive 2,000 metres below the surface.

There are about 25,000 species of ocean fish. 1500 new fish species have been discovered in Australian waters in the past decade.

50% of the world's sharks and rays live in Australian waters.

Tuna spawns 15 million eggs at one time, but is only 10% of the 1960 population off the east coast of Australia.

- The sail fish can reach up to 110 kilometres per hour.

Marine research is **teaching** us new concepts of physics, chemistry, mechanics, biology and animal psychology.

Preservation and study of our aquatic environment is crucial, and may hold the key to our future **survival**.

Why the clownfish is not laughing

Clownfish are the latest animals to get Hollywood's star treatment. But, Sushi Das reports, being pet of the month has its perils.

Disney's latest animated film, *Finding Nemo*, is having an extraordinary effect on children. They've fallen for Nemo, the little clownfish, and they are desperate to have their very own Nemo at home.

The film tells the tale of a cautious and pessimistic father fish who goes on a long ocean journey to find his lost son, Nemo. Meanwhile, Nemo, through misadventure, finds himself stuck in a fish tank in Sydney, trying to escape back to the ocean. So strong is the film's appeal, the aquatic adventure has become the most successful animated film of all time in the United States. But the irony of children wanting to keep a fish behind glass after seeing a movie about a fish's escape from a tank is hard to miss. And even though Nemo vows to keep the "natural bond of tankhood" and is warned by other fish that they "shouldn't be in tanks, it does something to you", the message has washed over some children.

Pet shops are receiving large numbers of inquiries about clownfish. But the orange-and-white striped fish are more challenging to look after than the average fish; if they are not cared for properly, chances are that children will be finding Nemo dead in the water.

The RSPCA, which is opposed to any wildlife being kept as pets, has warned against impulse buying, saying the cost of a suitable marine water tank for a clownfish would be between \$1500 and \$2000.

It is aware that pet shops around Melbourne are cashing in on the clownfish bonanza by scaling back the price of the fish plus all the tank paraphernalia to about \$300. The fish on its own costs between \$35 and \$50.

A surge in demand for cute animals that appear in movies is not unusual. RSPCA senior inspector Kevin Apostolides says the animated movie 101 Dalmations probably had the biggest impact, triggering a worldwide surge in demand for spotty dogs. "In the first *Mad Max* film there was a blue heeler," says Apostolides. "There was a rush on blue heelers (in Australia) and consequently there was an enormous dumpage rate of blue heelers several months down the track." Even *Babe* had an impact. "There were a few dubious people around the place trying to sell piglets to people," Apostolides says. Fortunately, council regulations relating to the keeping of pigs put a lid on that.

This time, everyone's hooked on fish. Bayswater Aquarium and Bells Pet Shop in Coburg have been taking more than the usual number of calls.

"Nemo, Nemo, they all want Nemo," says Bill Bertram of Mentone Aquarium. "But they don't want to pay the price, they want to put him in a bowl, in which he'll die."

Bertram has had his pet clownfish at home for about 10 years and is familiar with its special needs. The fish must be kept in a saltwater tank with sophisticated circulation and filter systems. Salt levels and water temperature have to be regularly maintained. Ongoing tests on



nitrite, nitrate, pH, and ammonia levels also need to be carried out routinely.

"They are not an easy thing to keep," says Bertram. "You can't just keep them in a bowl, you need a special set-up." Anticipating impulse buying due to the film, Coburg Aquarium, which has been in the fish business for 30 years, is refusing to stock them at all.

A sign on the counter reads: "With the release of the film *Finding Nemo*, we have seen a massive surge in the popularity in marine fish, in particular clownfish ... This popularity has resulted in many people wanting to keep these animals. "We at Coburg Aquarium feel that it should be pointed out that with such purchases comes a degree of responsibility. Aquarium set-ups which are not suitable for the keeping of marine fish not only result in disappointment, but also in the unacceptable loss of marine life." Concerned about the species' welfare, manager Gary Wardell decided to set an example by not selling them.

But at branches of Living Jungle, business is brisk. The manager of the Fawceter shop, Melinda Valastro, says the shop sells clownfish packs for \$270. That includes one fish, the tank, salt, a water-testing kit and a care sheet.

"We had a few people come back and say we're doing the wrong thing ... but we sell them in a pack. So they can't buy the fish separately (and) we know they are not going into a fish bowl ... because they are marine," she says.

The shop did not sell marine fish before the release of *Finding Nemo* because the shop's tanks were still being prepared, she says. Valastro is confident that her fish are sold with suitable tank equipment and appropriate care instructions.

In its natural state, the clownfish inhabits tropical reefs around the world including Singapore, Malaysia and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. They have an unusual symbiotic relationship with sea anemones, living among the poisonous tentacles but uniquely immune to the anemone's sting. The clownfish feeds off the anemone's leftovers and in return keeps the anemone clean.

Apostolides says the RSPCA is concerned that impulse buying of cheap marine tank equipment will lead to an early death for the fish and disappointment or even trauma for children.

"We're (also) concerned that people will be rushing to put clownfish in a bowl," he says. "If you put the clownfish in fresh water, it's going to be dead within a matter of minutes."

"Marine fish coming from the Barrier Reef have an incredibly complex environment where they all interact with each other. They don't simply sit in a tank by themselves. They might have their own little territory but they are interacting with all the other organisms around them. It's the most complex environment on the planet," he says.

To help ensure there will always be plenty more clownfish in the sea, the Melbourne Aquarium will run two sessions a day during the school holidays on how to look after clownfish properly.

Apostolides warns that anyone found not looking after their pet can be prosecuted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which also covers fish.



"The message of the film is to let this animal back where he rightly belongs, and the opposite may well be happening in the market ... It might increase the capture of these animals in the wild to supply demand and that's not right," he says.

"Don't impulse-buy these things. No matter how attractive they look and how much pestering you get from your kids. At the end of the day it's a lot cheaper to take them to see the film again or wait for the DVD."

MILITARY&COMMERCIAL GEAR TRIAL

By Alan Storen

"We will be having a trial of military and commercial dive gear on August 27th at Box Hill Pool at 7.00pm. Come along and try gear such as full face masks with intercoms, rebreathers (3 different types), split fins, drysuits, underwater scooters, etc. We are limited to 25 divers only so it's first in first served"

When the above promo appeared my immediate reaction was to pick up the phone and book in. Just made the cut and along I went not knowing what to expect. On arrival at the pool we were sent to the outside pool (it was heated I think!) and on with the wetsuit.

My first tryout was with a military rebreather used by tank crew as a safety device when attempting a water crossing. It was positive system and sat on your chest (so you could still drive a tank?) It was basically a bag about 300mm by 200mm (that's about 12" by 8" for the non-metric) with a small oxygen bottle attached and twin hoses, about 40mm(1½") diameter, connected to a mouthpiece. You blew into the bag (via one of the hoses), carbon dioxide was absorbed and replaced by oxygen, and the pressure of you blowing up the bag forced the air back to your lungs. (via the other hose) Simple but it worked! Silent, no bubbles, felt like you were blowing up a balloon with continual backpressure - do not know how it would go at depth.

Next I tried one of the scooters - fantastic - Leo eat your heart out!. Super easy to manoeuvre, very fast (I got it when it had new batteries!) and "Who needs fins?" Must say if brought out the hoon in me! Circles, figure of eights, vertical loops, races up and down the pool, complete disregard for other divers in the way! The scooters were still going after nearly two hours but much slower. They were not as silent as I thought it should have been in a military environment but they worked very well. As soon as I got home I put in an order with my kids for my next Father's day present. I think the reply was "You're Dreaming!"

After a second go trying a rebreather, different sort this time, I tried out the two different types of underwater intercoms. One type was just a listening device, which went under the mask strap next to your ear, and you could hear what was being said by the other divers or from topside. It was about the size of a cigarette box. The other was a full-face mask and this allowed two-way comms. It took some time to adjust to the sounds and I could see my work hooking up the mobile phone to the device but it worked very well and

remarkably clear. Would have been great for Leo's crossing of the bay. I was told the range varied from about 400m to about 50m depending on the viz – the same muck in the water that effects the viz also effects the comms. Police divers use a similar device and the full-face mask stops unwanted nasties getting into the mouth in murky waters.

After a few more tries of different devices, and nearly two hours later, I returned home with a long wish list. - scooter, intercom, rebreather in that order.

I have started some inquiries to see if VSAG could have a similar night and will keep the committee informed. The all up cost of entry, air, etc was a massive \$10.

Divernet News, dateline 22 August 2003

Rebreather divers claim record for deepest dive

Three German divers are claiming a depth record after a 224.5m dive in the Red Sea using Inspiration closed circuit rebreathers.

Chris Ullmann, Manfred Fÿhrmann and Volker Clausen believe that they have completed the deepest rebreather dive ever undertaken after reportedly descending to 224.5m and spending 6 hours in decompression on their return.



photo courtesy www.thetrebledive.com

The dive was carried out on 21 August at Safaga in the Egyptian Red Sea, with support divers provided by local dive shop Orca Divers.

The team used mixed gas on Inspiration closed circuit rebreathers, VR3 computers and carried a variety of open circuit bailout cylinders. Support divers were stationed from 100m upwards, and the final and longest section of their decompression was carried out inside an oxygen filled underwater habitat at 6m.

All three divers are reported to be safe and well on their return to the surface.

Meanwhile the planned 333m dive by Leigh Cunningham and Mark Andrews at Sharm has been postponed for an unknown period. Sponsors of the dive told Divernet that medical checks on the divers needed to be completed.

187 oysters - 180 seconds

From correspondents in Belfast
September 9, 2003

A NORWEGIAN man annihilated the world record for eating oysters Saturday, downing a stomach-churning 187 of the slippery crustaceans in three minutes before polishing off a few pints of Guinness.

Rune Naeri said he felt "fine, wonderful" after shattering the previous official record of 97 at the annual Hillsborough oyster festival in Northern Ireland.

Local favourite Jim Glackin of Belfast, who beat the previous world record by eating 100 oysters during an unofficial practice run earlier this week, failed to keep up with the impressive Norwegian.

Despite managing to scoff 168 oysters he trailed in fourth against the international competition when it really mattered.

Looking forward to a late dinner, an unflappable Naeri said: "I think I'll probably have something fishy."

Fish caused fire at Japan house

From correspondents in Tokyo
September 19, 2003

TROPICAL fish are believed to have caused a fire at a Japanese house, fire brigade officials said, warning against the use of electrical plugs near fishtanks.

"It is an extremely rare case, but fish are believed to be the culprits," said an official at the Nogata fire Station. Fire started behind four fishtanks on August 23, destroying the walls and ceiling of the second floor of the house. Saltwater fish such as anemone fish ... were in the tanks and seawater is highly electricity-conductive," the official said.

"We assume the fish leapt and splashed water onto an extension socket, which was used for lighting for the tanks," the official said.

The water is believed to have produced sparks that then ignited the fire.

Shark's voracious appetite saved diver's life

<http://salisburypost.townnews.com>

One of the most fantastic stories in history was told by a fellow named James T. Gaulin of Winchester, Mass.

The elderly fellow, according to the Buffalo Express, was sitting on the hotel veranda in Winchester when he related what the Nov. 13, 1895, issue of the Express called "An Ex-Diver Tells a Very Pretty Romance of His Adventures."

Gaulin says that he had the honor of killing the most valuable fish that ever swam the seas. "I did it single handed, too," he declared.

"I aver that this fish was worth more at the time of its death than the finest sperm whale that was ever harpooned, although we should really leave whales out of the question when speaking of fish.

"It was thirty years ago, and I was young and foolish enough to be a deep sea diver. Our division schooner and crew had been sent to Cuba to try to recover some stuff from a Spanish boat that had foundered off the coast of Cuba, just where, I don't now recollect. It was quite a long trip for us and as the employment of a diving outfit was an expensive thing in those days, the boys knew that there must be something pretty valuable in the hold of the wreck. I was quite close to our skipper and he told me that there were several boxes of gold coin in the wreck. On our arrival at the port near where the wreck lay in thirty feet of water, the agent of the owners of the sunken schooner told us something more surprising. It was that the gold had not been stowed in boxes in the cabin, as was usual, but for some reason had been bagged and placed in the hold, being billed as copper washers. This was probably a scheme to avoid any chance of the spirit of cupidity arising in the crew, for the treasure was very great.

"As the confidential man, I was selected to go down first and find the money bags, attach lines to them, and have them taken out before the other divers should proceed with work of taking out the other freight that the water had not harmed. I was soon in the hold and was surprised to find that the bags were only a little distance from the hold in the side that had caused the schooner to founder. I had been told that there would be twelve bags, but I laid my hands on but eleven of them. Finally, I spied a torn bag lying near the hole in the hull, and on picking it up, discovered that it contained a few gold coins. I decided that the heavy triple sacking had been torn open some way or other when the schooner sank. I fastened lines about the eleven bags that were intact, and had them hoisted, afterwards going up for air, for our apparatus was not very good.

"In a few minutes, I returned to the hold to search for the scattered coins. Very few of them were in sight. It occurred to me that they might have been washed outside the boat, judging from the position of the wreck and the fact that the hole was far down toward the ship's bottom. I was about to crawl out the hole, when I remembered that it might hazard the air pipe, so I was pulled up and let down again over the vessel's side. I was disappointed not to find any indication of the gold near the hole in the schooner, but set to work digging resolutely in the sand. I had gone but a foot down when I struck the gold pieces all in a lump. I picked out a great handful and turned the light on them, for I was a lover of gold then, even though it did not belong to me.



"Just then I saw something that made the bugger helmet rise from my head. It was a man-eating shark. I hadn't thought of one in so long a time that I had neglected to bring my knife. It was rushing at me. The stupid creature never stopped to consider that with a rubber and lead dressing, a diver makes a poor lunch. I was kneeling beside the gold. At the shark's onslaught, I naturally hung to the handful of gold as though to use it as a weapon. He turned on his side, opening his horrible mouth. A feeling of grim humor had come over me. The cruel goldbugs had sent me down here to be devoured after saving thousands of dollars for them. I would be a spendthrift at the last. So with all my force, I flung the heavy handful of coin into the yawning mouth.

"The shark must have thought it was a part of me, for he snapped his jaws over the golden morsel. I am satisfied that he broke some teeth. He swam back a little and rushed at me again. I had no weapon but the gold, so again I flung into his hideous maw enough to buy me a home in New England. I saw him snap and swallow it. Again and again was the attack repeated and as often did I hurl gold into the shark's throat. Pretty soon he became dizzy, as it were, for the gold had unbalanced him, settling in the forward part of his body. Then he writhed in agony and I had to keep dodging his flurry. Then, with one terrible shudder, he sank to the bottom, weighted down by the gold. I tied a line about him and then gave the signal to be pulled up. Then I helped hoist the shark. We cut him open. Gentlemen, you must take the word of an ex-diver that there was \$45,000 in him. Gold had killed him."

Silence smeared itself all over the veranda. The pale moon slid behind a cloud. The amphitheater organ slowly wove a weird chunk of melody. The chimes began to ring.

"Those were great days," said Mr. Gaulin, sadly. And he avows it is the truth. After all who would ever doubt a story printed in the newspaper?

Military sonar may give whales the bends

Whales blasted by military sonar appear to die of the bends. The finding suggests the use of sound waves to detect submarines under the sea might need to be restricted. Scientists from Spain and Britain have uncovered the first evidence that cetaceans suffer from the formation of nitrogen bubbles in their vital organs. This is a classic symptom of the decompression sickness suffered by divers who surface too quickly, and can be fatal.

Lesions caused by bubbles were found in 14 beaked whales stranded in the Canary Islands after sonars were used in a major international naval exercise on 24 September 2002. "Our findings suggest that naval sonar could be killing whales," says Antonio Fernández, a veterinary pathologist from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The exercise was hosted by Spain and involved naval forces from US, the UK and other European countries. Whales started being washed up four hours after sonars were switched on. Post-mortem examinations revealed bubbles in blood vessels in their brains and livers. Clots of fat were also discovered in blood in their brains, livers, lungs, kidney and other tissues, along with widespread haemorrhaging. These are all characteristic of the acute trauma caused by decompression sickness in humans.

Startle response

Fernández says the bubbles could have formed because the deep-diving whales, startled by the sonar, surfaced too quickly or changed their diving patterns. This would have caused the nitrogen accumulated in their tissues to come out of solution and create bubbles large enough to block arteries. Another possibility is that the sound waves increased bubble formation as they passed through tissue. Mathematical modelling has previously suggested that sonar could interfere with the ability of tissue to safely store nitrogen under pressure (New Scientist print edition, 15 December 2001). Supportive



evidence comes from an analysis by London Zoo of 1401 dolphins and porpoises stranded around Britain between 1992 and 2003. Seven, including three deep-diving Risso's dolphins, were found to have bubbles of gas in their blood and livers. The researchers say that the lesions found in the cetaceans in Spain and Britain are new to marine mammal pathology.

Marine conservationists are worried. "There now ought to be a complete re-evaluation of the threat to marine life from noise," says Mark Simmonds, director of science at the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. In August, the US Navy was barred by a federal judge in California from introducing a new high-intensity sonar system in peacetime because of the risks it might pose to cetaceans.

Rob Edwards

Rush to find Japanese war gold

By Noel Pascoe in Port Moresby
October 8, 2003

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 Kalinoc.



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 Irlander 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.

Teen suffocated to death by fish

August 19, 2003

A CAMBODIAN teenager suffocated when a fish he caught jumped out of his hands and lodged in his throat, newspapers reported today.

Lim Vanthan, 17, and his family were planting rice at the weekend near their home on the outskirts of the impoverished South-East Asian nation's capital, when they decided to go for a swim. During his dip, Lim Vanthan caught a prized 20 cm fish, called kantrob in Cambodian, with his hands. But the high school student's excitement was short-lived when his catch squirmed out of his hands and jumped into his mouth, where it became stuck because of barbs running down its back.

He died before he could receive treatment at a local clinic, the newspapers said.

"This is an accident, but it shows we must all be careful," concluded the Khmer-language Rasmei Kampuchea (Light of Cambodia) newspaper. "Accidents can happen at any time."

Thieves steal one tonne of seafood

September 1, 2003

THIEVES with a taste for seafood broke into a wholesaler and made off with one tonne of Moreton Bay bug meat and scallops.

Police said today Sea Traders wholesalers at Clontarf, north of Brisbane, had been broken into some time between Friday afternoon and this morning.

Officers are keen to hear from anyone who might have seen anything suspicious in Huntington Street at Clontarf or who has been approached by someone selling cheap Moreton Bay bug meat or scallops.

Grim Life Cursed Real Pirates of Caribbean

Stefan Lovgren

for National Geographic News

July 11, 2003

Pirates have been figures of fascination and fear for centuries. The most famous buccaneers have been shrouded in legend and folklore for so long that it's almost impossible to distinguish between myth and reality.

Hollywood movies—filled with buried treasures, eye patches, and the Jolly Roger—depict pirate life as a swashbuckling adventure.

In the latest flick, Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, which sails into theaters today, the pirate hero, played by Johnny Depp, is a lovable rogue.

But what was life really like for an early 18th-century pirate? The answer: pretty grim. It was a world of staggering violence and poverty, constant danger, and almost inevitable death.

The life of a pirate was never as glorious and exciting as depicted in the movies, said David Moore, curator of nautical archaeology at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort. "Life at sea was hard and dangerous, and interspersed with life-threatening storms or battles. There was no air conditioning, ice for cocktails, or clean sheets aboard the typical pirate ship."

While the period from the late 1600s to the early 1700s is usually referred to as the "Golden Age of Piracy," the practice existed long before Blackbeard and other famous pirates struck terror in the hearts of merchant seamen along the Eastern Seaboard and Caribbean. And it exists today, primarily in the South China Sea and along the African coast.

Valuable Loot



One of the earliest and most high profile incidents of piracy occurred when a band of pirates captured Julius Caesar, the Roman emperor-to-be, in the Greek islands. Instead of throwing him overboard, as they did with most victims, the pirates held Caesar for ransom for 38 days.

When the money finally arrived, Caesar was let go. When he returned to port, Caesar immediately fitted a squadron of ships and set sail in pursuit of the pirates. The criminals were quickly caught and brought back to the mainland, where they

were hanged.

It's no coincidence that piracy came to flourish in the Caribbean and along America's Eastern Seaboard during piracy's heyday. Traffic was busy and merchant ships were easy pickings.

Although pirates would search the ship's cabins for gold and silver, the main loot consisted of cargo such as grain, molasses, and kegs of rum. Sometimes pirates stole the ships as well as the cargo.

Neither Long John Silver nor Captain Hook actually existed, but the era produced many other infamous pirates, including William Kidd, Charles Vane, Sam Bellamy, and two female pirates, Anne Bonny and Mary Read.

The worst and perhaps cruelest pirate of them all was Captain Edward Teach or Thatch, better known as "Blackbeard." Born in Britain before 1690, he first served on a British privateer based in Jamaica. Privateers were privately owned, armed ships hired by the British government to attack and plunder French and Spanish ships during the war.

After the war, Blackbeard simply continued the job. He soon became captain of one of the ships he had stolen, *Queen Anne's Revenge*, and set up base in North Carolina, then a British colony, from where he preyed on ships traveling the American coast.

Tales of his cruelty are legendary. Women who didn't relinquish their diamond rings simply had their fingers hacked off. Blackbeard even shot one of his lieutenants so that "he wouldn't forget who he was."

Still, the local townspeople tolerated Blackbeard because they liked to buy the goods he stole, which were cheaper than imported English goods. The colony's ruling officials turned a blind eye to Blackbeard's violent business.

It wasn't until Alexander Spotswood, governor of neighboring Virginia, sent one of his navy commanders to kill Blackbeard that his reign finally came to an end in 1718.

True or False

The most famous pirates may not have been the most successful. "The reason many of them

became famous was because they were captured and tried before an Admiralty court," said Moore. "Many of these court proceedings were published, and these pirates' exploits became legendary. But it's the ones who did not get caught who were the most successful in my book."

Treasure Island, by Robert Louis Stevenson, may be the most famous pirate story. But the most important real-life account of pirate life is probably a 1724 book called *A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates*, by Captain Charles Johnson.

The tome depicts in gruesome detail the lives and exploits of the most famous pirates of that time. Much of it reads as a first-hand account by someone who sailed with the pirates, and many experts believe Johnson was actually Daniel Defoe, the author of *Robinson Crusoe*, which was published in 1719.

What is not in doubt is the book's commercial success at the time and the influence it had on generations of writers and filmmakers who adopted elements of his stories in creating the familiar pirate image.

So what part of the movie pirate is true and what is merely Hollywood fiction? What about, for example, the common practice of forcing victims to "walk the plank"?

"Not true," said Cori Convertito, assistant curator of education at the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Key West, Florida, which is putting on a piracy exhibit this October called "Reefs, Wrecks and Rascals." (The pirates' favorite form of punishment was to tie their victims to the boat with a length of rope, toss them overboard, and drag them under the ship, a practice known as "keel hauling.")

Sadly, buried treasures—and the ubiquitous treasure maps—are also largely a myth. "Pirates took their loot to notorious pirate hang-outs in Port Royal and Tortuga," said Convertito. "Pirates didn't bury their money. They blew it as soon they could on women and booze."

Eye Patches, Peg Legs, and Parrots

On the other hand, pirate flags, commonly referred to as the Jolly Roger, were indeed present during the Golden Age. And victims were often marooned on small islands by pirates. Eye patches and peg legs were also undoubtedly worn by pirates, and some kept parrots as pets.

Some pirates even wore earrings, not as a fashion statement, but because they believed they prevented sea sickness by applying pressure on the earlobes.

In the new movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*, prisoners facing execution can invoke a behavior. But Jack Sparrow, Johnny Depp's hero, probably wouldn't have lasted very long among real pirates. In the movie, he will do anything possible to avoid a fight, something real-life pirates rarely did.

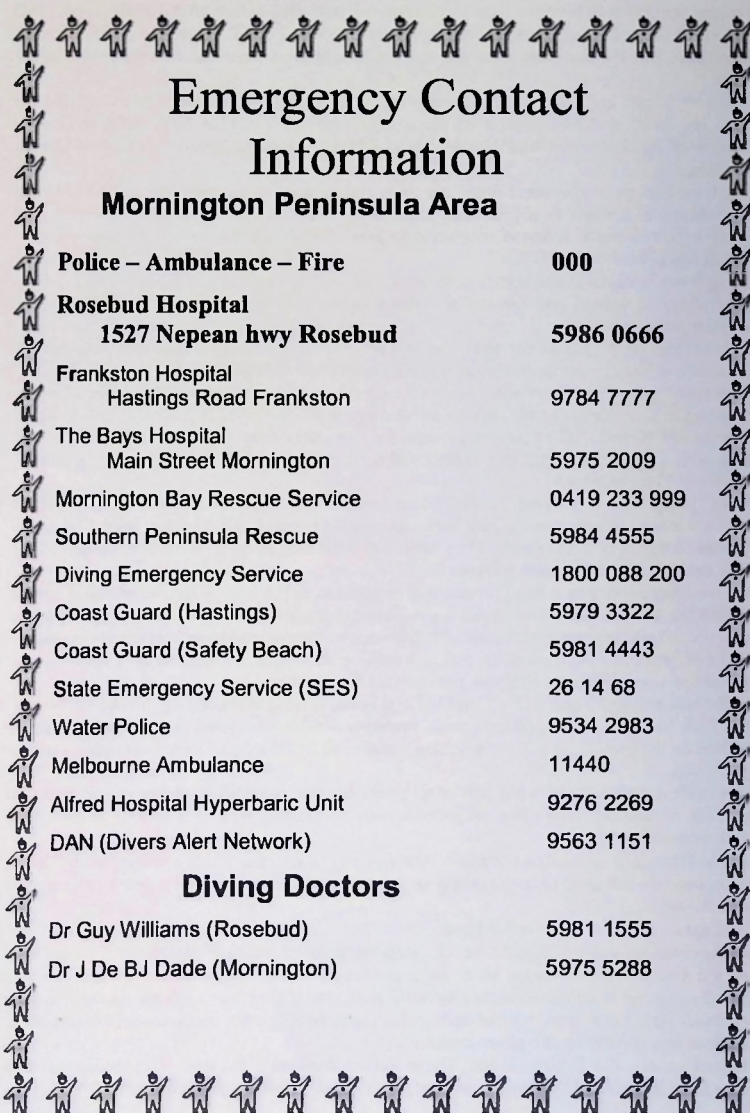
The endless sword duels, a big part of all pirate movies, probably happened on occasion. But real-life encounters were often far more bloody and brutal, with men hacking at each other with axes and cutlasses.

In one legendary account, a notorious pirate, trying to find out where a village had hidden its gold, tied two villagers to trees, facing each other, and then cut out one person's heart and fed it to the other.

As Captain Johnson wrote in his book:

In the commonwealth of pirates, he who goes the greatest length or wickedness is looked upon with a kind of envy amongst them, as a person of a more extraordinary gallantry, and is thereby entitled to be distinguished by some post, and if such a one has but courage, he must certainly be a great man. special code, which stipulates that the pirate cannot kill him or her without first consulting the pirate captain.

Indeed pirates did follow codes. These varied from ship to ship, often laying out how plundered loot should be divided or what punishment should be meted out for bad



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
Alfred Hospital Hyperbaric Unit	9276 2269
DAN (Divers Alert Network)	9563 1151

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 143° 37' Time Zone 1000

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

October - 2003

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0331 1.61 WE 0903 0.39 1520 1.43 2121 0.00	9 0415 0.45 1109 1.21 1702 0.51 2331 1.19	17 0411 1.45 0955 0.47 1558 1.26 2200 0.17	25 0406 0.51 1103 1.21 1846 0.35 2349 1.34
2 0418 1.58 0947 0.43 1600 1.40 2206 0.02	10 0525 0.45 1200 1.25 1758 0.41	18 0446 1.40 1029 0.51 1631 1.21 2232 0.20	26 0526 0.50 1155 1.27 1744 0.20
3 0506 1.51 1030 0.47 1641 1.35 2252 0.07	11 0632 1.29 1320 0.44 1840 1.28 2305 0.24	19 0525 1.33 1102 0.55 1707 1.18	27 0047 1.49 0625 0.48 1244 1.32 1833 0.07
4 0558 1.42 1115 0.52 1728 1.29 2340 0.15	12 0121 1.38 0704 0.43 1320 1.30 1916 0.24	20 0609 1.26 1138 0.58 1748 1.11 2341 0.28	28 0140 1.61 0715 0.46 1329 1.35 1921 0.02
5 0656 1.32 1201 0.57 1821 1.22	13 0202 1.45 0741 0.43 1352 1.32 1949 0.18	21 0659 1.20 1218 0.61 1842 1.06	29 0230 1.67 0800 0.45 1412 1.39 2039 0.06
6 0800 1.24 1256 0.62 1930 1.14	14 0237 1.49 0815 0.43 1422 1.32 2032 0.15	22 0628 0.34 0758 1.16 1311 0.62 1951 1.04	30 0316 1.67 0845 0.44 1455 1.39 2058 0.05
7 0132 0.35 0906 1.20 1411 0.64 2059 1.10	15 0309 1.50 0847 0.44 1452 1.31 2055 0.14	23 0128 0.41 0902 1.14 1418 0.59 2117 1.07	31 0403 1.62 0929 0.44 1539 1.37 2145 0.00
8 0251 0.48 1010 1.19 1545 0.60 2221 1.12	16 0339 1.49 0921 0.45 1524 1.29 2128 0.15	24 0242 0.48 0905 1.16 1535 0.49 2241 1.18	

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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

October - 2003

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0618 ebb 1156 flood WE 1729 ebb	9 0039 ebb 0724 flood TH 1345 ebb 2018 flood	17 0015 flood 0706 ebb FR 1240 flood 1758 ebb	25 0109 ebb 0737 flood SA 1321 ebb 2007 flood
2 0711 ebb TH 1234 flood 1803 ebb	10 0205 ebb 0830 flood FR 1433 ebb 2104 flood	18 0048 flood 0740 ebb SA 1310 flood 1827 ebb	26 0230 ebb 0847 flood SU 1108 ebb 2057 flood
3 0803 ebb FR 1315 flood 1842 ebb	11 0309 ebb 0921 flood SA 1512 ebb 2141 flood	19 0123 flood 0816 ebb SU 1342 flood 1858 ebb	27 0334 ebb 0940 flood MO 1451 ebb 2143 flood
4 0854 ebb SA 1357 flood SU 1924 ebb	12 0400 ebb 1003 flood SU 1545 ebb 2212 flood	20 0159 flood 0857 ebb MO 1418 flood 1934 ebb	28 0431 ebb 1024 flood TU 1531 ebb 2228 flood
5 0945 ebb SU 1445 flood SU 2015 ebb	13 0442 ebb 1039 flood MO 1614 ebb 2242 flood	21 0240 flood 0943 ebb TU 1503 flood 2024 ebb	29 0523 ebb 1104 flood WE 1613 ebb 2238 flood
6 1040 ebb MO 1547 flood MO 2122 ebb	14 0521 ebb 1112 flood TU 1640 ebb 2312 flood	22 0324 flood 1035 ebb WE 1605 flood 2143 ebb	30 0813 ebb 1104 flood TH 1655 ebb 2358 flood
7 1142 ebb TH 1723 flood TH 2255 ebb	15 0557 ebb 1142 flood WE 1705 ebb 2343 flood	23 0427 flood 1133 ebb TH 1741 flood 2330 ebb	31 0700 ebb 1225 flood FR 1740 ebb
8 0558 flood WE 1912 flood	16 0631 ebb 1211 flood TH 1730 ebb	24 0558 flood 1230 ebb FR 1907 flood	

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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

November - 2003

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0451 0.31	9 0017 1.32	17 0501 1.37	25 0029 1.54	
2 1014 0.45	0555 0.58	1039 0.51	0358 0.61	
SA 1625 1.32	SU 1159 1.20	MO 1647 1.14	TU 1205 1.27	
3 2233 0.09	1803 0.25	2231 0.23	1804 0.00	
4 0542 1.43	1010 1.41	0542 1.32	26 0123 1.63	
5 1100 0.47	0640 0.56	TU 1114 0.52	0829 0.56	
SU 1715 1.25	MO 1237 1.22	TU 1731 1.10	WE 1258 1.32	
6 2321 0.20	1841 0.19	2310 0.29	SU 1354 1.08	
7 0636 1.33	1113 0.48	0626 1.26	19 0215 1.67	
8 1150 0.50	0716 0.53	1155 0.51	0210 0.52	
MO 1815 1.17	TU 1313 1.24	WE 1626 1.08	TH 1347 1.35	
9 0013 0.31	1915 0.15	2358 0.38	MO 2021 0.07	
10 0734 1.26	12 0212 1.51	20 0715 1.22	28 0303 1.65	
TU 1248 0.53	WE 0750 0.51	1245 0.49	FR 0827 0.47	
11 1933 1.10	WE 1346 1.25	TH 1936 1.08	TU 1600 1.00	
12 0111 0.43	1950 0.12	21 0057 0.48	21 2137 0.07	
13 0832 1.20	13 0243 1.52	0811 1.19	28 0258 1.00	
WE 1402 0.53	TH 1421 1.26	FR 1345 0.43	4 0954 0.07	
2101 1.09	2024 0.12	2102 1.14	TU 1600 1.00	
14 0220 0.53	14 0315 1.51	22 0209 0.57	21 2137 0.07	
15 0930 1.17	FR 0858 0.48	SA 0910 1.18	28 0258 1.00	
TH 1823 0.49	FR 1457 1.25	SA 1454 0.34	4 0954 0.07	
2216 1.14	2058 0.13	2222 1.26	TU 1600 1.00	
16 0340 0.59	15 0347 1.48	23 0330 0.63	21 2137 0.07	
17 1025 1.17	FR 0931 0.48	1011 1.19	28 0258 1.00	
FR 1630 0.42	SA 1532 1.22	SU 1604 0.22	4 0954 0.07	
2322 1.22	2130 0.16	2330 1.40	TU 1600 1.00	
18 0456 0.60	16 0424 1.43	24 0452 0.64	21 2137 0.07	
19 1115 1.18	SU 1005 0.50	MO 1110 1.23	28 0258 1.00	
SA 1722 0.33	SU 1609 1.18	MO 1708 0.10	4 0954 0.07	
	2200 0.19		TU 1600 1.00	

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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

November - 2003

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0043 flood	9 0300 ebb	17 0052 flood	25 0332 ebb	
2 0745 ebb	9 0900 flood	0745 ebb	0920 flood	
SA 1308 flood	SU 1415 ebb	MO 1330 flood	TU 1356 ebb	
3 1828 ebb	2101 flood	1828 ebb	TU 2118 flood	
4 0127 flood	0347 ebb	0126 flood	0427 ebb	
5 0829 ebb	10 0944 flood	0829 ebb	1008 flood	
SU 1354 flood	MO 1451 ebb	TU 1409 flood	WE 1447 ebb	
6 1920 ebb	MO 2134 flood	1920 ebb	2206 ebb	
7 0211 flood	11 0428 ebb	0211 flood	0516 ebb	
8 0910 ebb	11 1022 flood	0910 ebb	0750 flood	
MO 1448 flood	TU 1524 ebb	MO 1448 flood	TH 1540 ebb	
9 2021 ebb	TU 2206 flood	2021 ebb	TH 2253 flood	
10 0258 flood	12 0505 ebb	0258 flood	0601 ebb	
11 0954 ebb	12 1057 flood	0954 ebb	28 1133 flood	
TU 1600 flood	WE 1553 ebb	TH 1554 flood	FR 1634 ebb	
21 2137 ebb	2239 flood	2151 ebb	2338 flood	
2 0354 flood	0541 ebb	0342 flood	0645 ebb	
3 1045 ebb	13 1128 flood	1023 ebb	1217 flood	
WE 1730 flood	TH 1622 ebb	FR 1712 flood	SA 1730 ebb	
4 2312 ebb	2313 flood	2330 ebb		
5 0513 flood	14 0615 ebb	0500 flood	0022 flood	
6 1141 ebb	14 1158 flood	1114 ebb	0725 ebb	
TH 1848 flood	FR 1653 ebb	SA 1828 flood	SU 1305 flood	
7 0046 ebb	2346 flood	0108 ebb	1827 ebb	
8 0649 flood	15 0647 ebb	0649 flood		
FR 1239 ebb	SA 1726 ebb	SU 1208 ebb		
9 1945 flood	16 0019 flood	1931 flood		
8 0803 flood	SU 1258 flood	0229 ebb		
SA 1330 ebb	SU 1800 ebb	MO 1303 flood		
2026 flood		2028 flood		

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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

December - 2003

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0526 1.45 1053 0.41 MO 1709 1.23 2306 0.24	17 0518 1.37 1058 0.42 WE 1720 1.15 2253 0.32	25 0106 1.55 0629 0.62 TH 1234 1.27 1842 -0.04	25 0106 1.55 0629 0.62 TH 1234 1.27 1842 -0.04
2 0613 1.37 1145 0.41 TU 1813 1.16 2354 0.37	18 1138 0.38 TH 1815 1.15 FR 1924 1.16	26 0557 1.43 0204 1.59 FR 1331 1.31 1936 -0.04	26 0557 1.43 0204 1.59 FR 1331 1.31 1936 -0.04
3 0700 1.30 1239 0.42 WE 1931 1.12	19 0638 1.28 FR 1924 1.16	27 0250 1.59 0815 0.47 SA 1425 1.33 2029 0.00	27 0250 1.59 0815 0.47 SA 1425 1.33 2029 0.00
4 0044 0.49 0749 1.23 TH 1338 0.41 2045 1.12	20 0038 0.53 0725 1.24 SA 1317 0.27 2043 1.21	28 0338 1.57 0907 0.41 SU 1516 1.32 2118 0.07	28 0338 1.57 0907 0.41 SU 1516 1.32 2118 0.07
5 0140 0.60 0838 1.18 FR 1440 0.39 2153 1.16	21 0143 0.64 0818 1.20 SU 1418 0.21 2158 1.30	29 0422 1.53 0958 0.35 MO 1609 1.29 2205 0.17	29 0422 1.53 0958 0.35 MO 1609 1.29 2205 0.17
6 0247 0.68 0929 1.14 SA 1541 0.35 2255 1.23	22 0257 0.71 0919 1.19 MO 1527 0.14 2307 1.39	30 0504 1.47 1046 0.32 TU 1705 1.24 2249 0.28	30 0504 1.47 1046 0.32 TU 1705 1.24 2249 0.28
7 0404 0.71 1018 1.12 SU 1636 0.30 2348 1.31	23 0415 1.45 1026 1.20 TU 1638 0.06	31 1132 0.30 WE 1805 1.20 2331 0.59	31 1132 0.30 WE 1805 1.20 2331 0.59
8 0514 0.70 1107 1.12 MO 1724 0.24	24 0009 1.48 0528 0.69 WE 1152 1.23 1743 0.00		

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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

December - 2003

Time Start	Time Start	Time Start	Time Start
1 0104 flood 0800 ebb MO 1357 flood 1925 ebb	9 0328 ebb 0921 flood TU 1348 ebb 2100 flood	17 0103 flood 0754 ebb WE 1401 flood 1932 ebb	17 0103 flood 0754 ebb WE 1401 flood 1932 ebb
2 0836 ebb TU 1456 flood 2028 ebb	10 0004 flood WE 1430 ebb WE 2137 flood	18 0409 ebb 0822 ebb TH 1446 flood 2038 ebb	18 0409 ebb 0822 ebb TH 1446 flood 2038 ebb
3 0912 ebb WE 1601 flood 2141 ebb	11 1042 flood TH 1509 ebb 2215 flood	19 0448 ebb 0853 ebb FR 1540 flood 2153 ebb	19 0448 ebb 0853 ebb FR 1540 flood 2153 ebb
4 0952 ebb TH 1706 flood 2307 ebb	12 1116 flood FR 1548 ebb FR 2251 flood	20 0311 flood 0929 ebb SA 1645 flood 2327 ebb	20 0311 flood 0929 ebb SA 1645 flood 2327 ebb
5 1036 ebb FR 1805 flood	13 1148 flood 1629 ebb SA 2326 flood	21 0416 flood 1011 ebb SU 1754 flood	21 0416 flood 1011 ebb SU 1754 flood
6 0030 ebb 0552 flood 1126 ebb SA 1857 flood	14 1219 flood SU 1709 ebb	22 0101 ebb 0547 flood MO 1103 ebb 1901 flood	22 0101 ebb 0547 flood MO 1103 ebb 1901 flood
7 0142 ebb 1215 ebb SU 1941 flood	15 0659 ebb MO 1250 flood MO 1751 ebb	23 0221 ebb 0745 flood TU 1206 ebb 2003 flood	23 0221 ebb 0745 flood TU 1206 ebb 2003 flood
8 0830 flood 2021 flood	16 0031 flood 0727 ebb TU 1324 flood 1838 ebb	24 0857 flood WE 1312 ebb 2100 flood	24 0857 flood WE 1312 ebb 2100 flood

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VSAG Meeting and Dive Calendar

Dive Date	Location	Dive Captain	Phone	Meeting Point	Time
October					
12	Eliza Ramsden	Nev V	95511547	Sorrento	9am
16	General Meeting			Bells	8pm
20	HDS day at Malmsbury - see divelog or ring Des Williams				
24	IMAX night	Alan S	9803 3573	IMAX	7pm
26	Nepean Wall	Andy M	9809 0984	Sorrento	9am
November					
1 to 4 Wilsons Prom (VSAG are the host club) Pat Reynolds					
9	90 ft sub	Leo M	0418 375 102	Sorrento	9am
16	Cray Dive	John L	9589 4020	Flinders	9am
20	General Meeting			Bells	8pm
23	Tennis Day	GerryD	BYO everything 9:30 start Browns Rd/Hasting Rd		
30	Nepean Wall -outside	Andy M	9809 0984	Sorrento	9am
December					
5	XMAS function	Milanos	Book early		
7	Anchor Dive	Nev V	9551 1547	Sorrento	9am
14	Pinnacles/Kermond	JohnL	9589 4020	Newhuven	9am
18	General Meeting			Bells	8pm
21	Local Diving	Nev			
XMAS	South Australia	Andy M	9809 0984	26 Dec+++ Local dives TBA (contact Nev V and /or John L)	
2004	Diary dates				
Aust day w/end	Refuge Cove (Prom) Gerry D is contact				
Labour day w/end	Cape Jaffa Andy is contact				





Above and right : Photos from the Father's Day YUM
CHA - story inside

Below : Leo Maybus—Literary Award from Paul Tipping
Below Right Leo, Kate, Bob, and Any at club meeting

