FATHOMS

FEBRUARY—MARCH 2005

If undeliverable

Return to VSAG

BOX 2526W

GPO Melb 3001





Some of the more unusual fish recovered after the Tsunami





VSAG VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP



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

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FATHOMS



Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group In this February-March issue...

Article	Author	Page	
VSAG Committee Members		Inside Front Cov	
Editorial	Alan Storen	4	
Dive Report 17 Oct 2004	Nev Viapree	6	
Diving Irish Style	Nev Viapree	7	
Teen sees sharks take mate		10	
Dive Report 22 Jan 2005	Alan Storen	12	
Sustainable Diving checklist		13	
Christmas 2004	Mick Jeacle	16	
Dive Report 30 Jan 2005	Alan Storen	22	
Getunder vs VSAG	Alan Beckhurst	23	
Dive Report 6 Feb 2005		24	
Power of a tsumani		24	
Emergency contacts		26	
Tide Tables		27-29	
VSAG Dive Calendar		30	
VSAG General Meetings	Bell's Hotel 157 Moray Street (cnr Coventry Street) South Melbourne, 8.00 pm The 3 rd Thursday in the month		
Editorial Submissions to:	Alan Storen 15 Regal Court Vermont alan.storen@wesleycollege.net		

Editorial

Alan Storen

With 2004 now just a distant memory and over 10% of 2005 already gone I hope that you are enjoying the year and that you have not broken any New Year promises. Even more important "Have you



been diving?" If not please ring and book in before the warm weather runs out and you are complaining about the cold water. The viz has been great on many occasions this year apart from straight after the recent storm.

The regular crew have been diving and reports on the dives and the xmas trip to South Australia are included in the edition.

I hope to start including a section called "Blasts from the Past" in the next few editions and will include any old photos that you can scan and send to me. I hope to publish them with or without captions/stories over the next several editions - subject to libel laws and censorship. If you can scan, please do so and email to me at work. I can scan if you bring to a meeting or post to me - I hope to return the original to you by return mail. June and Bob Scott have given the first set to me and will be published next edition. I have several others on file - watch this space!

Several articles on the dredging have appeared over recent editions and the 'BIG' decision is soon to be made. Several protest rallies have been held or planned. I hope for a negative outcome – no dredging, but the dredging ship is apparently already on its way to Australia!

No other gossip to report but I did hear that on a recent dive Tony

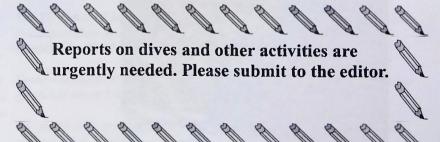
A number of trips are planned and include: Truk in May, Cape Jaffa over the Labour Day weekend, Wilsons Prom over Easter and Queenscliff over the Queens Birthday weekend. If you are interested in any of these please contact the nominated DC.

Xmas 2005 trip is also under discussion – options include South West Rocks and Eden. If you have a preference let one of the committee know as soon as possible or come to the meeting on Feb 17th at Bells. A decision has to be made soon as bookings need to be made, Pat has already made a tentative booking at Eden. Early deposits will be required. If you cannot make it to the meeting but are a possible starter you can email me at work with your preference.

I hope you have a great year at get in many more dives than you planned. Don't forget, if you need gear please give me a ring. Potential new members are also very welcome.

Alan





Dive Report - 17th October 2004

Nev Viapree

Boats: John Lawler

Divers: Rob Birtles, Gerry Devries, Nev Viapree, John Lawler

Dive Locations: Queenscliff Reef area(x2) Coffee and Dim-sims by Robert and Gerry

Dived slack water at 10:30am – 1st dive – the reef just on the edge of the shipping channel off from Queenscliff. It was an excellent dive, plenty of caves, ledges and heaps of fish.

John just couldn't resist finding yet another near brand new anchor just as we began our ascent at the end of our first dive. He must be the

proud owner of at least 50,000 anchors by now!

We had lunch at Queenscliff but a biting chill wind put the dampers on the day so Robert and John decided to get a few abs — unfortunately all they found when they dived in was bare sand so with the chill wind blowing we "pulled the pin" and headed into Portsea to round off the day.

Robert and Gerry went ashore to buy coffee, chips and dim-sims. It's all dirty work but someones got to do it!

At the Rye Pub we met up with Mick, chris Llewellyn and Anthony Finnegan. Anthony had been out at Pope's Eye doing a check out dive before Jaffa.

Nev Viapree



DIVING IRISH STYLE

Nev Viapree

A couple of years ago most of us had the pleasure of diving with Nyall.

One day Nyall was telling me about his dive club in Ireland which was a very active and busy club. The club was well known by all the police organisations and other military and emergency services because, with the huge population that you have got in the UK, the police and other services were extremely busy chasing crooks, drug smugglers, people smugglers, illegal arms traders and other such nasty types, and quite often the club would be requested to assist the police services by recovering the bodies of missing fishermen and the odd trail walker that had fallen down the many steep cliffs, and thus enabling the cops more time the chase the real nasty bad guys.

After some years of providing this valuable service the club was in need of a bigger boat. The word was spread around via the local FM radio station and many fund raising bar-b-ques and tours of the local military bases and police centres were organised. As the total to climb the local TV station got on board and did a feature on the club and its dives.

After much excitement, radio coverage and other media interest the funds rose and with much celebration it was announced a brand new 28ft aluminium boat with sparkling brand new twin 100hp motors and all the safety gear, trimming and extras were purchased and ready to go.

The TV stations filmed the handing over ceremony and the club was keen to christen their new boat with a Sunday afternoon club dive. The club nominated a WWII wreck of a smaller class destroyer as the first dive!

There was much excitement as the day arrived with perfect diving weather (probably about 5 days per year in the UK!!)

The merry crew arrived at their dive site and the dive captain quickly organised his dive teams

"Right-O" he says, "You know your dive buddies and bottom times, everyone is an experienced diver, everybody has done this dive before, enjoy your dive, be safe and off you go! But just before you go remember do not bring back any ammunition for souvenirs, you don't need it and really don't want it, so leave it alone."

The teams go in half hour apart. Sally-Anne dives with the first team and is soon fascinated with the old guns and other WWII debris. As her bottom time is rapidly running out she decides: Stuff the dive captain briefing, her boyfriend would love a 12" shell to go on his mantle piece- one phallic symbol, souvenir and present all wrapped into one!

She slips what she thinks is a 12" unexploded shell into her dive bag and begins her ascent.

Up pops Sally-Anne and throws her dive bag into the boat, the shell slips out with a hairline crack, just enough to allow oxygen from the air to react with the 50-year-old chemicals. With much hissing and flashing the shell explodes, it was not the type that she thought it was, (probably though it was an anti aircraft shell) but it was in fact a phosphorous round. Phosphorous is an evil armament — it burns underwater an even burns in a vacuum and once you get it on you, you can not get it off or remove it.

So, the phosphorous burns straight through to the bottom of the boat – the boat sinks, diving gear and equipment floats away – if it did not sink first!

When interviewed on TV one diver casually stated, "I thought something was wrong when I was swimming up to the surface as the dive boat passed me going to the sea bed!"

No one was hurt or killed but the embarrassment took a long time to live down!

A ST ST ST ST ST ST ST Boat launching fees. Starting Nov 2004, the club will no longer be paying the boat launch fees for boat owners and divers are required to make a contribution to the fees on each dive. **OUESTION?** What is the difference between girls aged: 8, 18, 28, 38,48, 58, 68 and 78? At 8 -- You take her to bed and tell her a story. At 18 -- You tell her a story and take her to bed. At 28 -- You don't need to tell her a story to take her to bed. At 38 -- She tells you a story and takes you to bed. At 48 -- She tells you a story to avoid going to bed. At 58 -- You stay in bed to avoid her story. At 68 -- If you take her to bed, that'll be a story! At 78 -- What story??? What bed??? Who are you???

Teens see sharks kill mate

December 17, 2004

AN afternoon of fun with four mates ended in horror yesterday when two Great White sharks killed a teenager in a ferocious attack off an Adelaide beach.

Nick Peterson, 18, was riding on a small surfboard being towed by a dinghy just 400m off West Beach when the attack occurred about 3.15pm (CDT).

Mr Peterson had been "scurfing" - a popular trend which involves towing a surfboard behind a boat - when a Great White at least 4m long surged at him. He tried to fend off the shark but disappeared within seconds.

A second Great White then joined the attack, striking at the boat as three of Mr Peterson's former Sacred Heart College schoolmates tried to strike it with paddles. They raced back to shore, alerting Anna and Frank Criscitelli - who were about to launch their boat - of the attack.

Mrs Criscitelli said they screamed: "Help - help us ... our mate's been taken by a shark. Don't go out, don't go out - sharks, sharks."

Mrs Criscitelli, 31, of Glenelg, said she could not believe what she was hearing and initially thought it was a joke.

"They were screaming at us that their mate had been taken by a shark," she said.

"They said it spun him around their boat, under the boat and a second shark ripped him to pieces.

"They said it was as big and as wide as their boat".

Witness Chris Niemoeller was swimming about 50m from the boys when he heard yelling. "I could see these two huge fins come out of the water," he said. "It was just ferocious.

"One minute he was on the surfboard and he tried to beat it off and the next there was just a pool of blood.

"It was over in three seconds. He didn't stand a chance - he was just gone."

Thivo Kulasingam, 32, and his wife, Thanujah Haran, 30, of West Beach, were standing in front of the West Beach Surf Lifesaving Club when the attack occurred.

"We could see the shark just circling the boat around and around," Mr Kulasingam said.
"Then the shark started banging up against the boat - the noise was so loud we could hear it from the shore.

"There were three guys in the boat and two of them grabbed some paddles and started to bash the shark away but it kept attacking."

Experts did not rule out that the larger Great White was the same shark that has been stalking Adelaide's beaches in the past weeks. The hunt, by air and sea, began about 3.30pm (CDT), supported by police patrols along the beach alerting beachgoers of the attack.

However the beach was not closed to public, police instead leaving it to beachgoers to make their own judgment on swimming. Sea Rescue Squadron Rear Commodore Fraser Bell said an attack involving two sharks was "unprecedented" and may result in further attacks.

"I've never heard of two white pointers attacking human beings in this way," he said.

"He's (the shark) had a taste and he'll come back for more."

"It's just an absolute tragedy. They were just boys out there having a good time.

"The weather's just perfect and they were just doing what young lads do."

Chief Inspector David Lusty, of Sturt police, said a witness found the undamaged surfboard shortly before 4pm. About an hour later, searchers began finding human remains between Henley and Grange jetties.

"It was quite horrific but also quite quick," he said of the attack.

Mr Peterson and his three friends had been out on the water for about 30 minutes when the attack occurred.

It is believed he headed to the beach after finishing work for the day as a paver.

The death has rocked the close-knit Sacred Heart College community - where all four boys attended school.

Mr Peterson, originally from Ardrossan, was so popular he was voted house captain last year and was a role model to other Year 12s.

SHC principal Chris Blake described the incident as a "tragedy".

"He was just a great young person," he said. "It is incredible. It is hard to believe. We are terribly, terribly sad."

SHC boarding director Richard Maddigan said Mr Peterson was a keen surfer who loved the water.

He is the second man to be killed by a shark in Australian waters within a week.

Mark Thompson, 38, was killed on Saturday by a shark while spear fishing at Opal Reef off Cairns in north Queensland.

The last fatal shark attack off an Adelaide beach was in 1991, when 19-year-old Adelaide university student Jonathon Lee was killed by a white pointer, while diving off Aldinga Beach, in the southern suburbs.

The search for the remains of the teenager will resume this morning.

The Advertiser



Dive report -22 Jan 2005

Alan Storen

Boats: Nev Viapree, Mick Jeacle

Divers: Nev Viapree, Alan Storen, Trevor Williams, Kathy Pedlow, Mick

Jeacle, Tony Tipping, Jackie Storen, Shane Wilkinson

Sites: 26m sub, drift.

Divers met at Sorrento at 9am as planned and headed out towards the

90ft sub. The sky was mainly blue but there was a swell and those prone to seasickness were busy taking their kwells, etc. After locating the site divers were soon in the water although some were decidedly green. Only Jackie aborted the dive and spent the time floating alongside Mick's boat. The others spent some serious time on and in the sub and reported a good dive.



Lunch was had off Point Lonsdale Pier with some needing to stand on terra firma!

The next dive was a (fast) drift dive along the Queenscliff reef. Not all got wet but those that did enjoyed the dive.

Sustainable Diving Checklist

Responsible diving and tourism are crucial to protecting coral reefs, which are among the world's most fragile and endangered ecosystems. We have already lost over 11% of the world's reefs in recent decades, with another 16% severely damaged during the El Nio event in 1998. Up to 32% of coral reefs may be destroyed by human activities in the next thirty years if we do not take action now. The following questions enable divers, resort owners, dive boat operators and other people involved in dive tourism to ask themselves if their practices are helping protect coral reefs.

Before a Dive Trip

- Are visitors encouraged to learn about the geography, culture and ecology of dive destinations to be visited prior to leaving home?
- Is pre-trip information about the destination's local customs and proper dive etiquette provided to all visitors?
- Are references to educational materials provided to visitors ahead of time to facilitate the learning process?
- Is specific attention drawn to coral reef ecology and to guidelines/ regulations for boating, snorkeling, SCUBA diving, fishing and other recreational uses of the reef?
- Are tours designed to enhance visitor awareness and understanding of the coral reef ecosystems that will be visited?

Dive Operations

- Do tours respect all local guidelines, laws, regulations and customs?
- Are local dive guides and masters hired where possible and appropriate?
- Are local perspectives sought in planning interpretive programs?
- Are pre-dive talks offered by knowledgeable dive masters? Do they educate divers about the special features of the dive sites and reinforce rules for divers, such as:
- Maintaining neutral buoyancy;

]	Maintaining control of fins, gauges and accessories;
	Ε		No touching, standing on or collecting coral;
			No feeding or handling fish and other living organisms;
			Abiding by any fishing and game regulations?
2	Are i		oring buoys used when possible, anchors never dropped onto efs?
•			ines well maintained to avoid release of petroleum products areas?
~	Is all balar	se	wage disposed of in a way that does not affect the nutrient of the reef ecosystem?
v _®			ironmentally-sound methods of trash disposal used on boats he land?
			special provisions made for disposal of harmful susbstances, chemicals used for film processing?
	□ D	o t	our operators limit the group size and frequency of dives?
	Do site?	di	ve masters rotate dive sites to avoid over-using a particular
			we masters verify the proficiency of new divers before allow- n to dive at fragile or difficult dive sites?
Gen	eral (Cor	nsiderations
			tors encouraged to participate in local conservation efforts, arly regarding the use of energy and fresh water?
			tors informed of how they can make donations or give other to local coral reef conservation initiatives?

Do tour operators donate money or assistance to help the local envi-

Do tour operators work with local authorities to minimize the environmental impact of visitors, particularly in marine protected areas?

ronment?

- Is all construction planned to avoid negative environmental impacts on coral reefs, mangrove and seagrass ecosystems?
- S Is public participation sought and encouraged for all projects affecting the community?
- Are local traditions and use patterns for the reefs respected?
- Are local naturalists hired when possible and appropriate?
- Do visitors stay in lodging that fits the environment?
- ☼ Are local businesses and service providers supported as much as possible?
- Are visitors encouraged to buy authentic arts and crafts of local artisans and to purchase other products and services which benefit the local economy?
- ☐ Is purchasing coral or souvenirs made from coral, turtles and other threatened wildlife prohibited or strongly discouraged?

This list was presented by The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) to the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Tourism in the Dominican Republic and the International Coral Reef Initiative Workshop in the Philippines in 1995. It is based on the "Green Leaf Questionnaire" developed by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA). Additional suggestions are welcome.



CHRISTMAS 2004 - ADELAIDE S.A.

By Mick Jeacle

This year VSAG had 11 sites booked at Adelaide Shores caravan resort at West Beach, some 15 minutes from the Adelaide central business district. Whilst the weather was not as good as last year which limited the diving somewhat, there are a multitude of things to do in Adelaide to compensate. Just ask the ladies who sought out successfully every sale the city had to offer.

After setting up the tent, I proceeded to erect my newly acquired shade pavilion out the front. No sooner had the roof gone on that wee Bobby Scott placed his chair right in the middle (and in my way) to sit in the shade.

Needless to say both he and the chair went flying, but he, and everyone else had the last laugh, when, upon finishing staking down the pavilion, I noticed that every available shady spot was taken by my friendly "neighbours". However I managed to squeeze in and we had a few drinks before deciding to dine at the cafe situated in the resort. The food was great, but the service was extremely slow.



The next day we did our own thing, with the Jeacles and Storens going for a drive to Adelaide for a look around. Here we came to realise that everything except Bunnings closes for the Christmas break, with the major stores opening at midnight on 28 December. I needed a new gas stove, so Bunnings it was on the way home. We stopped at the local supermarket to get some supplies and then proceeded to the liquor store to buy some grog. I spied a box of cleanskins for \$75 and suggested to Alan that we go halves in the cost. Naively, I thought this would last us about 6 days assuming 2 bottles would be consumed each night. I couldn't believe it when we were off to purchase another box some 3 days later, as 4 bottles per night became the norm, even when the girls were drinking white wine.

The next day we went diving for the first time. The day was a bit windy, and the forecast was not too favourable. Therefore we decided to launch from O"Sullivan's Beach boat ramp a mere 20 km south of the Resort. I still had the co-ordinates for the Lumb and the South Australian wrecks in my GPS, but I wanted to dive the barges some 5 km out to sea from those wrecks. The shop proprietor at the ramp kindly provided us with the GPS marks for the three barges, a popular fishing spot for snapper. These barges are in 93 feet of water and are all within 200 metres of each other. We selected the two smaller ones and everyone seemed to enjoy the dive, with some anchors and fishing tackle being retrieved. The second dive was on the Lumb, with most using their remaining air from the first dive. This is a very easy dive, and in keeping with my thoughts expressed in last year's article, one probably only needs to dive it once, so I gave it a miss this time.

Next day it was off to the hills and the quaint little town of Hahndorf. Trying to get a car park here is nigh on impossible, but Alan fluked one right in the middle of town. The ladies seemed to love the shops, but when Alan and I had enough, we found a lovely little pub to quench our thirst and wait for them. We did miss a fair bit as we were a bit tired to resume after an enjoyable lunch in a park off the main street.



The next day we dived the ex- HMAS Hobart. We contacted the dive shop proprietor in Normanville the night before to ascertain the ideal time to dive the Hobart, given that a current runs through the area. He advised us to be in the water no later than 1 pm, which meant we would leave the Resort at 10.30 am. Everyone was informed they could have a sleep-in, but we would be leaving at 10.30 am without fail. The next morning I reminded everyone of this, and checked with Priya to ensure she would be ready in two and a half hours. Well, at 10.34 we drove out of the park, with husband John left in the middle of the road mumbling "she's done it to me again", as Priya was nowhere in sight. Maybe she should take a course in time management.

The sea conditions were perfect. Flat, glassy seas endured for the entire afternoon which made for a very pleasant afternoon indeed. You could have heard an

outboard motor start three kilometres away it was that quiet.

The visibility outside the wreck was fairly poor, but it was good inside. I could not believe the increase in growth on the wreck, but it is not attractive. Inside is the place to be, inspecting the various rooms, gauges, toilets etc. By the end of the dive the current had picked up considerably, and a second dive was out of the question. I returned to the ramp, but Murray was last seen heading for Rapid Bay jetty.

Our next dive outing was a couple of days later when we hoped to dive Deep Creek conservation park, launching at Cape Jervis. As it turned out this was not a good call as the wind was from a southerly direction which made for a really choppy sea, and also produced poor visibility. We gave it a good shot with Leo from my boat, and Murray from Gerry's boat volunteering to check out the bottom, with both agreeing it was a waste of time. Some radio discussion followed and it was decided to dive Rapid Bay jetty on the way home. Now this involved launching the boats again at Sunset Cove Resort, but somehow Gerry wasn't aware of this and took the Rapid Bay jetty road which led to the beach. We waved to them from our boat ideally parked over the best dive spot at the jetty, and I was sorry to learn later that Gerry wanted me to go in to the beach and pick up him and Cameron to do the dive. Sorry mate, you know I would have done this if I had known. Hmmmm! Camera buff Leo was very excited as he went off to do his own thing, while Alan and I pottered around the T section of the pier looking for items/species of interest. Sad to say they were missing on this occasion, and Leo also confirmed the lack of sightings. Well, at least I can cross this off my list of future must-do pier dives



Before we knew it, New Year's Eve was upon us. I must say that this does not now generate the enthusiasm amongst our group as it did years ago. It was spent sitting around the camp just like any other night, consuming copious amounts of red wine and other drinks, wishing that midnight would hurry up so that the poor old VSAGers could retire to the paliass. Bazza & Marie took the cake when they took off to bed at

11.35pm, announcing that it was 12.05am in Melbourne, and that was good enough for them. Why didn't I think of that?

The next day was one of the highlights of the trip. After some investigation it was decided to put the boats in at Outer Harbour at Port Adelaide on a lovely clear, hot sunny day. The plan was to take a car fridge full of drinks and a packed lunch and nibblies, for a slow cruise down river through Port Adelaide and on to the swank West Lakes area, to view up close some of Adelaide's most expensive homes. The trip down the river was very pleasant and we were soon joined by some resident dolphins to add pleasure to the trip. It was somewhat disap-



pointing to find that there was a lock in the river not far on from the main Port Adelaide pier, which prematurely ended our journey, so we didn't get to tour West Lakes, So. lunch was partaken in the middle of the river and we spent the next couple of hours swimming off the back of the boat and returning to the boat ramp via a different route around the island

at the river entrance. This type of day is always enjoyable given the right weather, surroundings and friends to share it with. I am sure Alan & Jude enjoyed it immensely. Gerry and his crew took off soon after we reached the lock. but he later advised they took the kids back to the island beach where they spent a couple of pleasurable hours.

From here on the weather became very windy and we did other things, including visits to the National car museum in Birdwood, the Penfolds and Stonyfell wineries, the ladies did some more shopping etc. We also had to drive all the way to Normanville to collect our scuba tanks which we left there for air fills, thinking that we would be back diving the Hobart



again. Bad move. Ah well, at lease Annie & Jude were able to see the countryside, and on the way back we had lunch at Mick O'Shea's irish pub where you are rewarded with a special cap and your name up in gold letters above the bar with a gold pint glass next to it, signifying that you have downed 100 pints of Guinness. One fellow had 28 gold glasses next to his name; no mean feat indeed.



Our last dive saw us back at the barges just before returning home. Gerry was pretty crook and could not dive, so there was only my boat with Alan and Murray aboard. The sea conditions were fairly choppy, so it was two down and yours truly looking after the boat. We dived the larger of the barges this time, and Alan & Murray returned after about 25 minutes to report that it was a nice dive, but no anchors this time. I

then had my turn and had a very relaxing dive on this wreck in about 30 foot visibility. A great way to finish the holiday.

One cannot finish this article without commenting on VSAG's new cuddly couple. It's fair to say that Leo Maybus was there for a couple of days before anyone noticed his arrival, such was his absence from the nightly pre-dinner group gatherings. He and new love Kath spent many hours in the confines of his caravan, no doubt watching their favourite TV programs. We proved this one night when we all stormed in to find them sitting up in bed sipping champagne and eating dinner, with the television on in the background. After this cunning stunt I think Leo has learned to lock the door. The crowd abruptly left as one when the Big Lloyd involuntarily slipped out a wee fart, which didn't smell at all.

It was another great holiday enjoyed by the following participants:

Leo Maybus (and Kath.)
Andrew Maybus
Lauren Maybus (for a couple of days.)
Pat Reynolds (poor old Pat had a virus for the entire 2 weeks.)

John Mills & Priya Cardinaletti
Barry & Marie Truscott
Gerry & Andrea Devries, Cameron & Ashley.
Robert & Vicki Devries and family
Bob & June Scott (Great to see them back.)
Ian Springall
Murray & Robyn Black & family.
Alan & Jude Storen.
Mick & Annie Jeacle.

At time of writing Pat Reynolds is endeavouring to book 12 sites at Eden for next Christmas. See you there.



Dive report – 30 Jan 2005

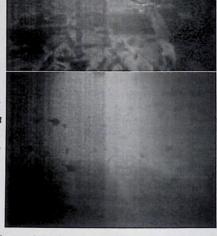
Alan Storen

Boats: John Lawler, Mick Jeacle

Divers: Alan Storen, Jackie Storen, Anthony (AJ) Storen, Darren

Pearce, Ted Cornish, Gabriel Seikas, John Lawler, Mick Jeacle Sites: 26m sub, Awesome reef

Yes, you did read the list of divers correctly — we managed to get Ted on a dive in Melbourne! Great to see him and I hope many other will join him on other dives soon. We had planned to dive the Barwon Heads bommie but after joining up with Alan Beckhurst and his crew for a trip down to the Barwon and a quick check of the water viz we soon aborted and returned to do a dive on the 90ft sub. It was the third time this year for some of us but it still proved a great dive and every dive one sees something different!



After a quick lunch we headed for awesome reef to catch the slack. John and Jackie dived first and had a fantastic dive (Jackie's words not mine!). Mick, Gabriel and Darren dived from the other boat but were a bit later in the water and with a container ship heading down the South channel and soon out through the head the divers had to be pulled from the water. After the ship had passed AJ and I did a drift dive as by then the slack had finished. We did attempt to recover an anchor but it is still there for next time!

Getunder Vs VSAG

Alan Beckhurst

Rob Kirk is always up for a midweek dive, and he pestered John Lawler to get out for a cray dive, just two days before Xmas. Alan Storen is always there, plus myself, and Sabino made a fifth. I had a secret location given to me by a charter operator, guaranteed to produce big crays, and all agreed to give it a go. Not all the marks would line up, but somewhere in the vicinity, we sounded a big bommie.

Rob and I were given first dive, but we found only sand for over 10 minutes, and then the bommie. It didn't take long to find good ledges, and a couple of undersize crays. Rob found a large plough anchor in the sand, and excitedly took the buoy line off me to secure his prize. I remained fixed on finding a cray, to be rewarded in sight of Rob's salvage operation. With a 7 pounder in my bag I checked the rest of the bommie, but found no more crays, so I returned to the Buoy line to find Rob had ascended.

Excited with his find, and my cray, Rob declared it a competition between Getunder Dive Club and VSAG for the best catch. Without actually accepting the challenge, the VSAG crew of John, Alan, and S... rolled in to have their dive. As the current had built up, John untied the buoy line from the plough anchor, and the group drifted to the next bommie. At 70 pounds the anchor would have been too heavy to lift to the boat anyway. Soon the VSAGers surfaced empty handed, and Rob was getting cockier, but his anchor was gone.

With good weather we headed out to the Sorrento back beach, and JL soon located a large bommie. Rob and I were in first again, searching the extensive limestone reef between the odd, but powerful ground swells. We soon located a few 3 pounders, and bagged two. Between swells, I marvelled at the size and complexity of the reef, with good sized ledges, caves, and swim thrus. Back on the boat, Rob declared it 3 nil, putting the VSAGers under extreme pressure.

Rob and I waited on JL's Haines, as bubbles traced the frantic search below. Rob was still lamenting the loss of his anchor, having almost closed a deal to sell the prize. Heads appeared on the surface, and we collected the three hunters, but only John had been lucky enough to catch two crays for his Xmas dinner. The ground swell had also affected this group, making the dive challenging.

The score was declared at 3 to 2, but before Rob could claim victory for Getunder, it was pointed out that I was a member of both clubs, and that my catch could be split, thus giving VSAG the victory. Like many sporting results lately, this one looks headed for the courts!

Dive report – 6th Feb 2005

Gabriel Sekias

With only Alan Storen and Darren Pearce booking in for the dive and after the severe storms of the previous week spoiling the viz it was decided that dives should be cancelled and that a sleep in was the best option.

Power of tsunami earthquake heavily underestimated

NewScientist.com news service

Maggie McKee

The earthquake that created the devastating Asian tsunami on 26 December 2004 was three times more powerful than first thought, say researchers analysing long-period seismic waves.

The finding could upgrade the quake to the second strongest ever recorded and explain why the tsunami caused such great damage across the ocean in Sri Lanka and India.

Earthquakes are classified on the Richter scale by their largest-amplitude seismic wave. These seismic waves come in a variety of periods, or wavelengths but only the most powerful quakes pack a lot of energy into long-period waves. Seismologists initially used seismic waves with periods of about 300 seconds to set the magnitude of the Sumatran earthquake at 9.0 - making it the fifth most powerful event on record.

Now, seismologists Seth Stein and Emile Okal at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, US, have scrutinised seismograms taken from 7 stations around the world in the week or so following the earthquake. They looked for the longest-period waves possible - those lasting about 3200 seconds (53 minutes). "We found, to our surprise, that there was three times more energy out there than at the 300-second period," Stein told New Scientist. "It was colossal." The new work reclassifies the earthquake on the logarithmic Richter scale at magnitude 9.3 - second only to the 9.5-magnitude quake recorded in Chile in 1960.

The Asian earthquake occurred at the eastern edge of the Indian Occan where, over millions of years, the Indian tectonic plate has been disappearing beneath the Burma plate. This "subduction" zone had been locked for perhaps 200 years before the built-up pressure was finally released in the slippage of 26 December.

The Burma plate rebounded upwards by about 10 metres at the quake's epicentre-setting the deadly tsunami waves in motion. And the process continued along the border between the two plates, causing the earth to rupture along the fault line-running from south to north. But seismologists are not sure exactly where the rip stopped.

Some think the rupture only made it through the southern third of the

1200-kilometre-long zone that was rocked by aftershocks. "But if the earthquake is three times more powerful then previously believed, that's telling you the fault area is three times bigger," says Stein. "We think the entire aftershock zone ruptured." The northern two-thirds of the zone may have taken longer to slip, which is why its energy was released in longer-period waves.

This could be actually be positive news for survivors living near the zone. Having released such a large amount of energy, Stein thinks it will take another few hundred years for the zone to build up the strain necessary for another huge earthquake.

Localised tsunamis

But he warns that smaller earthquakes could still occur, perhaps spawning localised tsunamis. Furthermore, other locked sections of the fault - further to the south, near Java, for example - could still rupture catastrophically. If the rupture did indeed occur along the whole length of the aftershock zone, it could explain why some distant regions were so devastated by the tsunami. While the lower third of the zone directed tsunami waves to the southwest, the upper portion has a different orientation and sent waves due west - straight towards hard-hit Sri Lanka and southern India. However, other factors, such as the topography of the sea floor, may also explain why the waves gathered so much force in those regions.

Other seismologists have also calculated that the Asian earthquake was significantly larger than initially thought. Teh-Ru Alex Song, at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, US, and colleagues used long-period waves from about 20 seismometers around the world to confirm that the earthquake was two to three times more powerful than magnitude 9.0. But he says it is not clear yet how fast or slow the slip proceeded along the fault. The group arrived at their preliminary result on Sunday and will continue to refine their analysis.

Song hopes seismologists will develop a technique to analyse and convey the magnitude of any earthquakes that could spawn tsunamis as they actually happen information that could come from waves with periods of 200 to 500 seconds. "You need that kind of index so everybody around the world knows the magnitude and you can issue a tsunami warning to local people," he told New Scientist.



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 0419 233 999 Mornington Bay Rescue Service Southern Peninsula Rescue 5984 4555 1800 088 200 Diving Emergency Service 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 d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d

Times of Stato Flood and Elb (Slack) Water, Add one from for Official Summer Time Port Phillip Heads - Tidal Streams 0055 flood 0703 ebb 1345 flood 1955 ebb 3 0128 flood 0725 ebb TH 1423 flood 2049 ebb 0024 flood 0642 ebb 1312 flood 1906 ebb Time Start LAT 38* 18" 124 025 113 023 0.45 0.23 0.23 0.23 PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT.LONSDALE) 0142 0740 1340 1943 0751 0751 1953 0214 0245 0845 1504 2051 1424 TIME ZONE -1000 TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS 8 S 23 1.26 1.34 1.24 0.58 1.27 1.77 1.17 7219 0533 1142 1845 2349 933 0114 0728 1346 2122 FEBRUARY - 2005 E E 0029 0644 0259 2025 50 8 LONG 144" 37 0.57 1.14 0.09 Time 0458 1114 1728 0048 0613 1229 1836 0142 0716 1353 1933 LAT 38° 1B' 1.37 0.20 1.28 0.42 1.32 0.16 0.51 1720 0416 1015 1636 2215 1045 1119 1808 2335 0518 Time A-60

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National Tidal Facility Australia – Finders University of South Australia
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VSAG Meeting and Dive Calendar

Dive Date	Location	Dive Captain	Phone	Meeting Point	Time	
Febr	February					
17	General meeting			Bells	8pm	
20	Catch and cook	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento	9am	
27	Kermode / Phillip Island	John L	9589 4020	Newhaven	ТВА	
Mar	March					
6	120 ft sub ???	Leo M	0418 375 102	Sorrento	9am	
11/15	Cape Jaffa (Mick Jeacle)					
17	Meeting—Water Police			Bells	8pm	
25-28	Wilson Prom -Easter Trip					
April						
3	Barwon Bommie	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento	9am	
10	Flinders (or bay depending on conditts)	John L	9589 4020	ТВА	ТВА	
17	Back Beach	Gerry DeVries	9725 2381	Sorrento	9am	
21	Meeting—guest speaker			Bells	8pm	

DIARY DATES

Mar Cape Jaffa (Labour day weekend) Mick

May Truk (see Pat)

June Queenscliffe) see Alan

