

FATHOMS

JUNE - JULY 2006

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

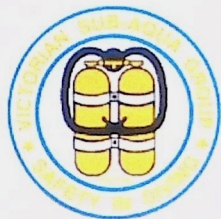
**LET'S SINK THE
HMAS CANBERRA**

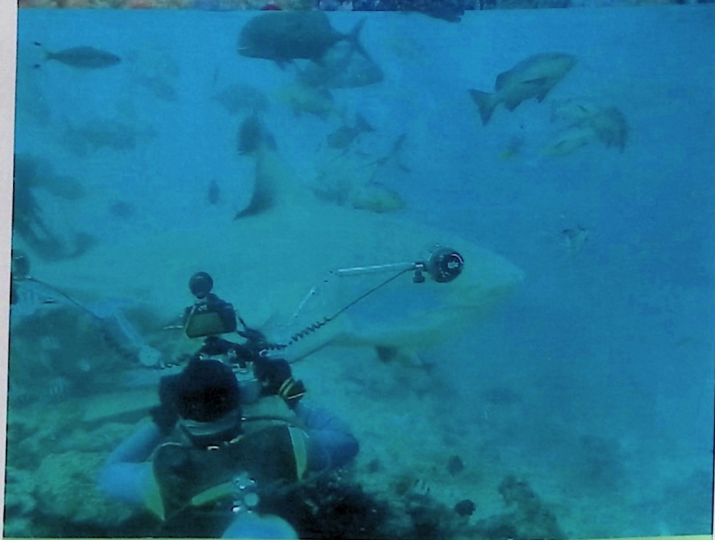


IN VICTORIA!

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~vsag/>

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Top: 120ft Sub Below: Mary Malloy in FIJI on a shark dive

FATHOMS



Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

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VSAG General Meetings
3rd Thursday in the month

Bell's Hotel
157 Moray Street (cnr Coventry Street)
South Melbourne, 8.00 pm

Editorial Submissions to:

Alan Storen
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storens@bigpond.net.au



Editorial

Winter has started and this is the best time to dive in Victoria. I have joined John Lawler, Mick Jeacle and Barry Truscott on some mid-week dives recently and the viz has been great. I have also found a new (for me anyway) pier dive. The Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron Pier is just great and I have now dived it twice in the last week. It is a long walk

out to the end of the pier – and an even longer walk back to the car but well worth the effort. I hope to do it as a night dive soon and will report back – any takers??

JL and I managed to drop in on the City of Launceston wreck recently and John has reported on this dive in this edition.

Our IMAX night was a great success. We had 23 starters to this event and most made it to a pizza place near Lygon Street for a meal afterwards. If you missed the night the film, called DEEP SEA 3D, it is worth the trip.

The Easter Prom trip has come and gone with great times had by all. Reports are included in this edition.

The general meeting in May saw Mark Ryan present on the finding of the wreck of TSS Kanowna that is sunk off Wilson's Prom.

A fantastic presentation and those who could not make the evening missed a special night. Mark was assisted by Adrian Kellett who, with Mark, has opened a new dive shop at 16 Balcombe Road (near Nepean Hwy) - for those that need gear or a quick fill!

Our Queens birthday dive weekend did not attract enough divers to make it a goer so we will probably revert to individual day dives.

Our 12 members going North to the Coral Sea on Nimrod Explorer are packing their gear and leave mid July. Should be a great trip and I know I am looking forward to it! All the best to Mick and his crew. Wife Jude and father (93 years old) are joining me for another two weeks in Cairns and Port Douglas after the trip but it is unlikely that I will be able to sneak in another dive or two! Bugger! I live in hope.

Another excellent article in this edition re Rob Kirks' restoration of a boat previously owned by John Goulding. Each article keeps getting better. Great read. Also great articles from Alan Beckhurst and Des Williams—enjoy!

Please send any photos you have on any VSAG activities as I am running short.

*Hope to see you under the water soon
[if not, at least at a general meeting or a social event!]*

Alan Storen

PS I have been told that Parks Vic are going to make diving under Blairgowrie Pier illegal and this might be expanded to Rye, Portsea, Mornington, etc. Apparently they can ban diving within 20m of any pier!!!

MORE ON THIS LATER.

PLEASE NOTE NEW WEB SITE DETAILS:

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~vsag/>

AND

New POSTAL ADDRESS

**Reports on dives and other activities are urgently needed. Please submit to the editor.
Photos also needed of club trips and social activities.**

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month at: Leighoah Hotel
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ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Easter 2006: The Prom.

Excerpts from the diary of a new member.

Arriving Thursday before dark my main goal was to erect my small tent in daylight and then mingle with the natives. The idea being to get a feel for the weekend and settle in soberly, ready for the diving adventures to come. After establishing contact with the more important members (the boat owners) I set about meeting as many of the club members as possible. As I moved from site to site quietly sharing a drink or two with them I soon established that the weather reports didn't look at all promising. The word on the streets was that Good Friday was going to be only average and then it would turn nasty. Real nasty.

Awaking Friday morning at dawn I tripped over my nearly empty Scotch bottle and staggered down to the Lookout. Surprisingly it was passable, despite the fresh breeze. So I decided to crawl back to camp and eat a massive breakfast in an attempt to feel half human again.

As the divers milled around later that morning it was agreed that 2 boats would head out. The third boat owner used the lame excuse of his boat not being here yet and promptly prepared to go for a little walk. As his boat came round the corner his walk became more of a run as he pretended not to see it. Some unkind soul commented that they had never seen him move so quick.

Launching was a breeze, and soon the 9 divers were anchored at the South end of Great Glennie after a bumpy and wet trip. The first dive was along a wall for most of us to around 22 metres in average viz of 10metres. The usual nice growth and fish life for the area plus the caves and swim thru's made for very enjoyable diving.

For our second dive we dived further along the wall towards the north where 2 divers from the other boat did their 1st dive and it was really good. Great fish life and superb swim thru's made this a really memorable dive. One slightly mad member of our crew decided to hide an abalone down the front of his wetsuit, which gave the appearance of a very happy diver indeed.

The trip back was uneventful and with storm clouds fast approaching we decided that even though it would take longer we would entertain the beach onlookers with a variety of beach retrieval styles. The assembled crowd was very appreciative and clapped and cheered us after we finished our demonstration. I was asked by one of them what the name of our group was, and I told them Black Rock.

By this stage thirst had got the better of me and leaving the beach I walked briskly to my tent in full wetsuit to beat the arriving storm. On reaching it I grabbed a Boags and drank it dry in seconds and then decided to have another. As I swiftly drank the 2nd sitting inside my tent in a wet wetsuit the rain started, so I got depressed and decided to have another. Gradually I got de-gearred and dressed. On realizing with the gale force winds and driving rain that cooking was not going to be an option in a small tent I proceeded to grab a drink and go in search of warmth and companionship.

Most people had similar ideas and many of us spent the night huddled under different awnings drinking and making merry. My neighbour was making a Paella with his abalone (I didn't want to know how he tenderized it considering its history) and he proceeded to feed everybody within a 100m radius. Apparently I drank too much, and last thing I remember was we tried to auction off one of the wives. Sadly she was passed in many hundreds of thousands below the reserve and she had to settle for her husband.

Saturday arrived with the wind and the rain still giving it their best shot. I woke up at 11 am and went back to bed. I'm told that people did many things such as bushwalking, the Foster Market, sight-seeing and even tango lessons. As I was in a coma for most of the day I'll take their word for it.

In the best tradition I decided to never drink again and proceeded to mingle with a different crew on Saturday night. This night saw the advent of the new VSAG Band. An eclectic mix of traditional



HAPPY WINNERS FROM THE PROM RAFFLE

and indigenous music that set new standards that would be hard to surpass. Meanwhile the wind continued to strip the stubble from my face and the rain washed away any hope of a quite nights sleep, but at least I was sober.

Sunday dawned with the wind increasing and the rain trying to keep pace. Several of us braved the elements and walked to Pillar Point and the sea was truly awesome. Looking at the mountainous seas foaming below us took away all hope of getting out on Monday.

Later that day the conditions eased ever so slightly and allowed the Easter bunny to leave his hole and give the kiddies a chance to find his cleverly concealed eggs. I nearly had to belt one of the kids when he discovered 3 eggs hiding under my foot that I'd planned on eating myself.

That night was the social event of the trip- the BBQ and Raffle. If that wasn't enough: we were treated to the Band again, but this time complete with a lead singer. Singer may be too strong a word but my dictionary doesn't have a suitable noun. The bellowing Barrister from Brunswick had the womenfolk swooning as he caressed the night air with renditions and arrangements of old favourites in a never before heard of style. It was truly remarkable and drove me back to the demon drink.

I awoke for the middle aged mans nightly leak around 3.00am and on regaining my senses realized that not only was it not raining, it was dead still and the Milky Way was out in all its glory. Presuming I was dreaming I went back to sleep and put all thoughts of diving to one side.

Monday. Well miracles do happen. We all awoke to clear windless skies and the sea had completely dropped off- the dive was ON. One of the skippers had decided to decamp and the reluctant skipper from Friday was roped in. As both the skippers had put in a big night on Sunday all interest was in what condition they would appear in. I have to say I was surprised that both looked positively human, although they admitted to feeling a bit second hand.

Before long we had both boats launched and heading for the Rambothams Rocks area. The sea was calm and very clean and soon we had most of us in the water on the drop offs at the Northern tip of Great Glennie Island. I say most of us because it appears the skipper of one boat was feeling somewhat poorly and decided to have a little rest.

The diving was nothing short of spectacular. Huge boulders, massive undercuts, swimthru's, caves, fish of all sizes and dentures milling about, and even the odd cray. All this and very clear blue water. Considering the lead up to this, it was nothing short of amazing!. On the way back two of us decided to explore a bommie of the end of Pillar Point which was, depending on who you listen to, (a) a complete waste of time or (b) worth exploring again. The correct answer is (a).

The retrieval was effected with a minimum of fuss and we were soon all back at camp. Some lucky folk (that is retired old bastards) decided to stay, even though the forecast was for the weather to turn nasty again. The rest of us took our time and after packing and heartfelt farewells, gradually drifted back home and looked forward to doing it all again next year. Once again I was bored within an hour of arriving home.

Postscript: The few hardy souls who stayed found the going a bit tough and all decided that discretion is still the better part of valour and called it quits over the next 2 days.

Anon.



Prom Raffle

The Prom Raffle was a great success and raised over \$500.
Many thanks to the prize donors and the committee who sold tickets.

Wetsuit	SONAR
Bikes(2)	Gabriel Sekias
Chair	Gerry De Vries
Sox and Jocks	Gabriel Sekias

Thanks also to the organisers of the Easter Egg hunt. It was appreciated by all the kids (big and small)
Alan

CHARTER BOAT DIVE REPORT

“MIDNIGHT RAIDER”

John Lawler.

VSAG had no dives scheduled for Sunday 21st May...looked up OZ Dive Charters web site and saw a dive scheduled that I had been told about many times...it is called “The Cave”

Made the online booking with IDC SCUBA located right in Portsea..had it confirmed by Rubens Monaco with an offer to come in and experience his new culinary skills at making cappuccino on his new espresso machine.

Departing time at Portsea Pier was 1.30PM...time to shake off the foggy head from a dinner out on Saturday night..leisurerly drive down to Sorrento and some hot minestrone soup with friends for lunch just set the afternoon adventure right up.

Jackie Storen had booked in for the dive so it got better as we were paired up as dive buddies.

Kitted up in the privacy of the IDC SCUBA's dive shop and a quick hike over to the Pier where Midnight Raider was moored nearby....Rubens was given the job of bringing the boat to the lower landing....seems he might still be in training under Tom Wende's instruction as the strength of the lower pier landing structure was put to the test!!! Well we all have to learn our boat handling skills by trial and error!

Over to Queenscliff to collect more divers and then off to the dive site just North of Lonsdale. The dive site was picked up very quickly on the sounder and shot line dropped.

Gearing up was easy on this boat...well set up and no tensions...innuendos flying all around from the divers, skipper and lots of laughs.

Professional briefing from Rubens over, it was divers off the stern platform and over the side, the boat emptied as if we were told there was a treasure chest in the cave.

The shot line anchor was just meters from the huge cave opening which, initially at around 30 mtrs, was quite dark and black. We dropped down a few

more meters and as we moved into this cave the light at the top eased the dark viz and the huge area of this cave became evident. My torch light was scanning the walls on either side and Jackie and I were amazed at the big ledges on all sides of the cave. On my next dive here I intend to spend as much time as possible in the cave area as there is a lot to explore!

Up through the hole at the top we exited into some amazing terrain...fish life in abundance, ledges and beautiful sponges....we came across the other divers who were all giving the thumbs up indicating the excitement at this dive experience. Just a brief time in diver's heaven!

Twenty five minutes now elapsed, time to head up for a safety stop at 3 m after which we surfaced and the boat was right next to us..a perfect pickup.

(Just North of this location is another cave but smaller and beyond that North again is the "Abyss")

All divers back on board and accounted for, chatting excitedly about their individual assessments of their dives, "All Naturals" handed around to get the salt taste out we headed back to Portsea via Queenscliff and over to the dive shop for a gear wash down and pack up.

A coffee across the road at "Spruzzos" in front of the fire ended a perfect and exciting dive day, with the professional and fun loving crew from IDC Scuba and OZ Dive Charters.

ED: Photo on inside back page

Never,
Never,
Never,

fart in a wet suit !!!!!!!



Anzac Day Dive Report

25th April

Alan Storen

Boats: Mick Jeacle, John Lawler

Divers: Alan Storen, Dale Belmore, Michael Kakafikas, Trevor Williams, Sarah Williams, Greg Richards

After some attended the dawn service a hasty retreat was made down to Sorrento to launch the boats and then out to 'Lost Reef' – a dive site given to us by Tom Wende, charter operator. It is between the subs and was proposed as a site worth checking out for a possible 'Canberra site' if/when it is gifted to Victoria.

The site was in about 30m and soon the first divers were over the side to check out what looked very good on the depth sounder. Top of the reef at about 25m (80ft) and the bottom at about 40m (125ft). First reports back were that the viz was not too good but all divers continued and as most of the dive was on close reef the viz was ok. If the Canberra were to be sunk here we could see the fine details of the wreck but possibly not the larger structures. More dives needed to confirm only average viz!

After lunch the next dive was on the reef off Queenscliff and then followed by a Rye scalloper bed drift. All that wanted to went home with a feed or two of scallops. A great day out on the water and we rounded it off with a drink at the Rye pub before heading home.

Alan

QUOTES BY GEORGE W BUSH

"The vast majority of our imports come from outside the country. "

If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure."

"One word sums up probably the responsibility of any Governor, and that one word is 'to be prepared'. "

"I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future."

"The future will be better tomorrow. "

"We're going to have the best educated American people in the world. "

"I stand by all the misstatements that I've made."

" We have a firm commitment to NATO, we are a part of NATO. We have a firm commitment to Europe. We are a part of Europe."

"Public speaking is very easy."

From: Mick Jeacle

Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2006 4:39 PM

Hi all,

Here's a bit of trivia of some significance for you.

On the 4th of May at two minutes and three seconds after 1:00 in the morning, the time and date will be: 01:02:03 04/05/06. That will not happen again in our lifetime. In fact it will be about 400 generations before it happens again....

What will you be doing at that exact time?

#####

An unexpected reply

Sir, Re: your memo about 4th May.

My wife and I will be attempting to make love for exactly 5hrs 3mins and 1 second , finishing simultaneously at 06.05.04 on the 04/05/06. A feat not likely to be repeated in my family for at least 400 generations.

In preparation for this massive effort on my part we are stocking up on both Viagra and No-Doze. We are training both together, and on our own (such commitment) as well as practicing the long lost art of Yawn stifling. My wife is getting in tip top shape and has placed bets with several neighbours that I won't get past 3 mins and 1 second especially if she coughs.

I will rise (metaphorically) to the challenge.

GRRRRRRR

MORE QUOTES BY GEORGE W BUSH

"A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls."

"We are ready for any unforeseen event that may or may not occur. "

"For NASA, space is still a high priority."

" Quite frankly, teachers are the only profession that teach our children."

" It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it. "

"It's time for the human race to enter the solar system."

SS CITY OF LAUNCESTON

John Lawler.



Following on from the excellent report by Darren Pearce on his dive on the Heritage listed "SS City of Launceston" an opportunity to dive this historic wreck came out of the blue and the opportunity was put into action.

The history of this famous sinking in the middle of Port Phillip bay was written about in the April-May edition of *Fathoms* so read about again there. There is more specific details which can be obtained by typing into Google the ship's name or go the Heritage Victoria web site

www.heritage.vic.gov.au...both have excellent data on this vessel and it's history.

Alan Storen contacted me and advised that Monash Uni dive club planned a dive on COL, however their boat is kept at Sorrento and no tow vehicle was available on the work day to bring it to a launch site.

It was agreed to use my boat for the Monash divers and as time went on their numbers fell away to two. In the end it worked out well as the site interpreter, Adrian Brewer wanted to dive as did Dan Grimm and Erwin Wallek from MUDC and Alan Storen and me. Our 6.1m boat is well suited and safe for 5 divers.

Looking at the location of the wreck site on a map of PFB it rests approximately in the centre so a launch from Werribee's Kilda, Carrum etc is almost the same distance. I believe a difference of around 4k-5k would most likely be correct. It was agreed to launch from Beaumaris which confirmed the 5k difference as it was 21 ks as against Werribee's 16k

After an excellent and exacting briefing from the site interpreter we departed at around 8.15am for the dive site. We motored into a 10k south west wind and arrived at the dive site at 8.50am...

Site located, the Monash divers and Adrian got the nod for the first go. The report on viz was just "ok" but all were very happy and appreciative of the great condition the vessel was in.

Alan and I then went onto the wreck and it was an amazing site.... viz around 8mtrs...Probably better than "ok". The bow was still proud and a brilliant sight... and as we moved along the decking we could see the winch, capstain, toilet pump, engine cylinders and the galley and stove.

The stern has broken up but yet the top of the propeller and rudder aperture are still evident. Coming back along the starboard side we were mesmerized by the great funnel and the hatch located just behind.

As an artificial reef it was giving of it's best as the fish life was prolific!

Dan and Ervin chose to do a second dive...Dry suits do have an advantage over some dive wetties even if they are 7ml.

Our dive time slot close off time was now nearing and with happy divers all back on board it was back to the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron for a boat and gear wash down.

Finally I did attempt to take pictures but my skills are sadly lacking and I got a lot of distortion on most of my pics...we hope to have some from courtesy of Adrian Brewer.

ED: Photos on the back page

Subject: 3 nuns

Three Italian nuns die and go to heaven.

At the Pearly Gates, they are met by St. Peter. He says, "Sisters, you all led such exemplary lives that the Lord is granting you six months to go back to earth and be anyone you wish to be.

The first nun says, "I want to be Sophia Loren;" and *poof* she's gone.

The second says, "I want to be Madonna and *poof* she's gone.

The third says, "I want to be Sara Pipalini.."

St. Peter looks perplexed. "Who?" he asks. "Sara Pipalini;" replies the nun.

St. Peter shakes his head and says, "I'm sorry, but that name just doesn't ring a bell."

The nun then takes a newspaper out of her habit and hands it to St. Peter.

St. Peter reads the paper and starts laughing.

He hands it back to her and says.

"No sister, the paper says it was the 'Sahara Pipeline' that was laid by 1,400 men in 6 months."

If you laugh, you are going straight to hell!

VSAG HISTERICAL SOCIETY RESTORATION PROJECT SAGA

After Rob Kirk's Part 1 in the April-May Edition of Fathoms John Goulding emailed to Rob:

Rob , this sort of things happen all the time to people who own boats..

Good luck with the EDSELL

Regards, john g.....(former EDSELL owner)

Rob replied

Yes John, can't wait! I seem to remember a VSAG Haines V17R down at Refuge Cove with just such an adornment following the Mirrabooka around many years ago. That shiela had a *very* interesting method of polishing the trim on the windscreen....

Of course, we clean living divers of API were on Polperro and the highlight of *our* weekend was Mike Vize stealing your Skull & Cross-Bones flag!

Anyway, just browsing for boat bits in E-Bay. I wonder if this sticker comes in a "Dive boat" version.

Seriously though, I know I gave the boat a fair bagging in Fathoms, and in part 2 which I just sent to Alan Storen I've bagged it even more. So, for a change in pace in Part 3, (and to buy time to get something else done on it for Part 4) I thought I might try and do some sort of an archaeological "dig". You've already given me a bit of detail (7 layers of fibreglass on the hull, 5 for the side etc), but I just wanted to check some facts before I risk a libel lawsuit.

You had it built in 1975? I think you said you hand-made a mould from an actual Glas-tron boat and made 3 boats - runabout, centre-console and cuddy? Was that a club member's original Glas-tron? Who did the others and what happened to them?

Barry built the cuddy - who else helped on it that might still be reading Fathoms? What did they do?

Was it a Club project that you funded for the Club? I was thinking of running a line saying you needed to augment your TAA clerk's wage by running charters. or did you really fund it for the Club? (By the way - I've got a vague recollection - I think you might have interviewed me for an Admin cadetship at TAA back in 1977 - were you ever in HR? Good judge of character - ya knocked me back and I had to get a job with Telecom ya mongrel!)

What's the story about taking the gunwale mouldings from the pillars at Marland House? (I just have horrible visions of a drunken midnight raid after a meeting or something. What - no security guards back then?)

Anyone got any photos of it actually being built?

Cheers.

Rob

John emailed back

Crikey Rob,

Were you down at Refuge that weekend when Reg's (Mirrabooka) girlfriend got pissed on whisky and slid all over someone's boat. I met the woman again a couple of years later at Reg's funeral.

You know she was a refined lady who had some quite senior position in the education department.

Re the Edsell.

Club member Dave Moore had a Glastron boat which developed a crack in the hull(I think it was really a ski boat / runabout and probably never designed to carry divers, tanks, weight belts etc.)

Dave who was a design engineer convinced a couple of us that we could make some dive boats using his hull to make a mould.

Another guy in the club Justin Liddy offered the use of his family's plaster making factory in Mckinnon.

There we built a fibrous plaster mould of the Glastron and then made 2 hulls, before the mould broke.

The first hull was laid one stinking hot night in March 1976.

It was so hot inside the factory that we could not start mixing the resin and hardener until about 9pm.....so drank grog up until then.

We completed the hull 16 hours later non stop.....and had a few more beers.

The making of the first hull was overseen by a professional boat builder who produced White Pointer fibreglass boats. The first hull was to be Dave Moore's. A couple of weeks later on a cooler day we made the second hull which was to be Justin's and mine.

Once the hulls were made and removed from the mould they were placed on a long plaster making table, and we went about building them up.

First the timber transom was made and glued and fibreglassed into the stern.

Then strengthening stringers (Oregon beams) were glued and fibreglassed into the floorand to the transom.

Around the inside gunwhale we laid timber strakes which were glued screwed and fibreglassed.

At this stage the hull was quite rigid. and waiting for the top structure.

Dave Moore decided to do his top structure in marine ply like a standard runabout.

Justin and I opted for the "cuddy cabin" which was much better than Dave's. Barry Truscott and another chippy in the club Max Synon came over to the Liddy factory one Saturday morning and had the cuddy cabin built in about 2 hours.. What a difference it makes having someone who knows what they are doing.

We were at a loss to work out how to build the topsides.

Someone (probably Justin) saw this mould in the factory that had been used to build the plaster columns at Marland House in the city, so we worked out that we could use these to make up a curved fibreglass panel that could be fitted.

The transom well at the back was something similar from memory.
At this stage it was starting to look like a fairly decent boat.
We made up bouyancy foam and laid that into the floor cavity which was then glassed over and later a marine ply floor was laid and futher glassed.
We got the guy from White Pointer boats to buy us a brand new mercury engine and we launched it in choppy seas at St Kilda in December 1976
Over Dec/Jan I took it to Jervis Bay and on the first trip outside Point Perpendicular at the entrance of the bay, we took a wave over the front which smashed the forward racking perspex windscreen and filled the boat with water.
Barry T called for the bilge pump and when I said that there wasn't one, he came out with those immortal words that I will never forget...
"there's no better bilge pump than a desperate man with a bucket"
A bilge pump was fitted on return to Melbourne.
From 1976 that boat went all over the place for the next 17-18 years, diving, fishing, even water skiing at full throttle down the Yarra near Batman Avenue.
When I had to give up diving I used it for occasional fishing trips before buying the current motor sailer..
It truly is a one off custom built design and was a very stable dive platform.
Dave Moore put a Volvo stern drive in his which I think was too heavy for the hull and he didn't seem to use it much.
The trailers we built ourselves and that alone is probably worth at least what you paid for the whole package..
Unfortunately we have no photos of the boat being built.
Good luck with it and I will enjoy reading the next instalments.
As for interviewing you at TAA.... I don't think it was me. I didn't start there until 1983 and was never in HR.

Regards, John

Rob K replied:

Yep. I think JG's just written the bulk of Part 3.

Bit dissappointed tho - I really did imagine you all rocking up to Marland House and making a mould on the spot. However, you've redeemed yourself nicely with standing around pissing on until it was cool enough to mix resin - will probably be doing some of that myself!

READ ON FOR PART 2

VSAG HISTERICAL SOCIETY RESTORATION PROJECT: PART 2

I've often heard it said that procrastination is the thief of time. That's a load of crap. Procrastination isn't the thief of time – it's work!

I'd had that boat for nearly three years of my life now, and hadn't lifted a spanner yet. It was bugging me, but so was not having a bathroom. The bathroom is a major renovation project, so it made sense to do that first. But that was likely to take nearly the whole winter to complete, and first I had to get all that concrete broken up and out of the back yard if I wanted to establish some sort of lawn before spring. But then I probably should be doing the last 4 years tax returns instead, right after I finish this Union stuff, which I'll do right after the Getunder Club newsletter. And on and on it goes.

At various stages through these past 3 years it would dawn on me that I hadn't really gotten my priorities straight in the first place. And so I began the process. I took every opportunity; sometimes before, often during and always after an exhausting RDO or weekend spent in either the backyard or the gutted remains of my bathroom. I would invest precious quality renovating time leaning on the boat's gunwales with a stubby in my hand, staring at the boat and wondering just where the hell to start.

The question started to keep me awake at night. What's worth fixing first – the engine or the boat? Like the chicken and the egg question – there is no right answer. In the end, the determining factor was that I couldn't really hoik at the engine with a spanner with any significant degree of torque with the thing swaying on the transom like that, so therefore the boat had to come first.



First the cables. I studied the Mercury manual and determined that it might just be safer if the cables were disconnected at the helm end. (The engine end required "adjustments"). The Mercury manual shows the control box as an exploded view, but it is definitely misleading. All the springs and lugs and tiny little bits exploded in different directions alright when I opened it up, but not in a straight line like the picture says they're meant to! Don't those idiots in the Technical Drawing Department know anything about gravity?

This situation wasn't covered in the manual, so I chucked the lot into a plastic bag to deal with on a date yet to be determined.

I bundled all the cable ends and tied it all together with a long length of string, thinking I could just draw it all through from where they came out at the stern. Wouldn't budge – they'd been clipped in good! So there was nothing for it but to attack the gunwales with a grinder. I was staggered to find that the inside of the gunwales was an antique looking varnished marine-ply that looked as good as the day it was made! Maybe there's hope after all!

With the cables safely looped around the cowling the next trick was getting the engine off. There's hydraulic hoses coming out from the engine to a square box on the splashwell and from there into the tilt/trim mechanism thingy. I've never been any good at puzzles, so the only way I could see to extricate it was to either disconnect the hoses at the splashwell box (looked tricky) or disconnect the hoses at the tilt/trim mechanism thingy. This approach had the advantage that I could reach in there with a spanner.

Another fascinating aspect of my initial troubleshooting assessment was soon to become extremely relevant in hindsight. I'd never been able to get that engine fully tilted down. The lowest it would ever go was about two-thirds the way down, and I figured that maybe the lifters had siezed in that position over time. I'd figured wrong. When the nuts were unscrewed the nut that unscrewed them got really screwed! Hydraulic fluid sprayed all over my face and the engine slammed itself to the fully-down position with an almighty crash!

I won't bore you with tales of patiently coating screw and bolt ends with Penetrene for hours on end, and diligently filing 30 years of salt crust out of the slots only to find that the bits actually in the wood have corroded down to a tiny brown rusticle. Let's just say that over time my attitude changed from patiently trying to recover every item intact to "If in doubt – bash about". This change of attitude was announced to the universe by way of the ages old expression of "AAAUUURRPPGGGGHHHH!!!!" while performing the ritualistic tribal dance of the hammer and pinch-bar – not at all dissimilar to a Maori Haka.

My new gung-ho attitude very quickly had to be tempered when it came to lifting the engine. You don't muck around with 250kg of Mercury engine when it's hanging from your garage roof! I'd borrowed a pulley set and just hoped it would be strong enough. Luckily it was, and what's more so were the rafters on the garage roof. But yet again, hindsight proved to be a wonderful thing. As the engine was lowered onto the purpose-built engine stand I had made, the thing started to sway! Yes folks, in hindsight, pine is not the ideal material for an engine stand!

The engine now sits on its wobbly stand in a corner of the garage, tied to the rafters with Getunder's old beach-launching ropes. Das Boat now sits on its trailer in the garage patiently awaiting the next phase – the stripping to bits of the guts!

Stay tuned!

Rob Kirk

NOTE FROM THE NORTH
STEVE JACOBY

JL.

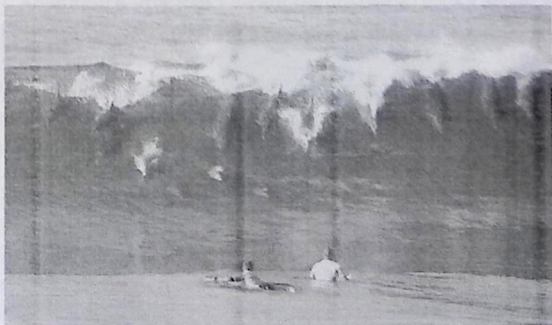
It seems an age since good vsag'er friend Steve Jacoby and his family ditched Melbourne for sunny Brisbane to take up a new position as General Manager Information Policy, Dept of Natural Resources, Mines and Water with the Qld Gov. Makes me a little tired thinking about the title let alone doing the job!

Steve made a big effort to come back to Melbourne for the VSAG 50th.

So....here is a snapshot update.

- Glad to hear from VSAG
- One of the things I really miss out of move North
- Family all well and enjoying life up North
- Weather this time of year here just great (thanks Steve!)
- Kids are fast growing up.
- Eldest daughter is soon to turn 18..started Uni..doing Journalism
- Daughter put on notice to do articles for Fathoms..we might conclude she is a diver!
- Alek is 15
- Youngest son is 11..where does time go asks SJ!
- Last dive was Easter on the Brisbane...brilliant..dived with his son who is a "natural diver..very competent"
- Will send some pic..great!
- Having fun with Olympus 4Mpixel Digital Camera and Housing.
- Looking forward to winter ...new 5mm semi dry..for the "icy 20c water"
- QLD divers are "complete wimps" no idea at all..if they can't see 30m or water to chilly or a bit of current they don't know what to do....
- Winter brings in the Grey Nurse and the great viz comes on!

Steve and family send there best regards to all at VSAG.



DIVING WITH A DIFFERENCE – UK STYLE

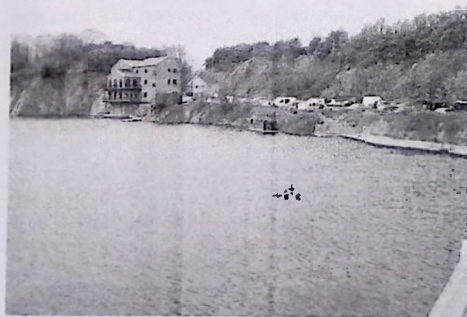
By Des Williams

Dear fellow VSAGers, I have not written for FATHOMS for ages, so guess I should make the effort now after a recent trip to the UK, where I managed to have a dip.

Over many years, diving has taken us to some wonderful parts of the world and we have shared some amazing experiences as a group, that's the best part of this great sport. In April this year, I was in the UK and to my delight had my first chance to dive there. Now, we all know that the UK is not famous for warm clear waters and I was soon to find out just how tough divers in England **really** are!

In the geographical centre of England, the tiny town of Stoney Stanton, in Leicestershire, was famous for a granite quarry which paved many streets and provided ballast for railways over a 120 year period. The quarry was opened early in the 19th century and during its working life the presence of natural spring water was a constant problem, requiring persistent pumping to keep the quarry dry. When the enterprise was shut down in 1958, the pumps were turned off and the spring water flooded the quarry. Barely five years later the flooded quarry had become popular with local pioneer divers and was known as Stoney Cove.

The discovery of North Sea Oil was also important in the development of Stoney Cove, as the quarry was used to train commercial divers and test new deep sea equipment during the 1960/70's. Des Walters of Descend Underwater Training Centre in Albury NSW, has a similar defunct flooded quarry, which is also used to train commercial divers. The environment is perfect due to low visibility and very cold water.



In 1978, a company was formed to develop the full potential of Stoney Cove for recreational scuba and commercial diving purposes. This unique, all-weather, inland, fresh water dive site is extremely popular and on a weekend, it is packed out with divers! The facilities



are brilliant. Sealed tarmac car parking, water-level entry jetties, heated change rooms and very hot showers, full dive shop and air fills, recompression chamber **AND** its very own pub overhanging the quarry with sweeping views, where one can decompress after a dive.

As this was a stone quarry, water visibility varies from an acceptable 6-20M seasonally and I experienced 10M viz on my dive. But, here is the bad news..... water temperature varies from max 10 degrees C down to 2 degrees and was 7C on my dive..... **Brrrrrr**, even in a drysuit! The Brits are keen and tough divers and my mate Phil from Lincolnshire, had dived at Stoney in winter one year, when the outside temperature was **minus** 16C and he had to "warm" his regulator in the water before diving, as it had frozen and was free-flowing when out of the water! After the dive, his wet dive gear froze to the car park tarmac and his diving daughter Gemma had frozen hair. Yep, the Brits **love** their diving, so is it any wonder they go crazy for the Great Barrier Reef?

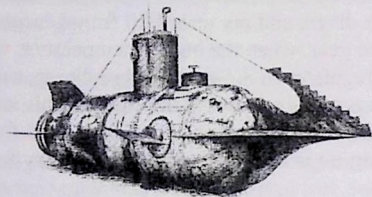
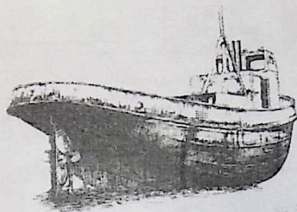
The quarry has a three level rating for diver experience: Novice at 7M level, Intermediate at 22M level and Advanced at 36M level. Most of the interesting stuff is in the first two levels. Stoney Cove is a Disneyland world for the UK diver, as the owners of the site have installed all sorts of interesting hardware for the diver to explore. One can visit the sunken cockpit section of a Viscount airliner with resident perch and pike to keep you company. Then there is a complete Wessex helicopter to swim around, although souvenir divers have been nibbling away at it for years just like piranha fish do to an animal carcass and it looks a bit sad now. Never the less, it is an interesting sight.



Phil and I swam on down the rocky slope from the Wessex, with the cold water nipping at my hands like Jack Frost, even though I had wetsuit gloves on. My drysuit was comfy enough thoughand what is this in front of me? There bolt upright on the bottom at 22M was a complete 18M long ocean-going tugboat. Built in 1910 in Liverpool, this tug was transported to Stoney Cove and scuttled with great ceremony in June 2000. Transportation

of the "STANEGARTH" was sponsored by Britain's "DIVER" magazine and it is now the most popular diving feature at Stoney. It is possible to enter the wreck and swim right through it and plunge over her cute counter stern to see the huge propeller.

Transporting the tug down Britain's motorways was a prodigious and very expensive task, so it is no wonder a days diving at the Stoney Cove site, incurs an entry fee of £15 (A\$37) per diver. Other attractions in the depths are a London bus, landrover car, light aircraft and more recently a military tank. In the abyss of the "Advanced" level a Hydrobox can be entered, where divers can chat within an air pocket, providing that ones lips will still move after immersion in such cold water!



For a bit of fantasy, a visit on the return swim up the slope to daylight, reveals a full sized replica of Capt. Nemo's submarine NAUTILUS. Constructed from a surplus locomotive boiler, this unit looks the full Monty as it looms up out of the gloom. Great for photos.

We finished our dive under the concrete arches of the Pub, which is a converted quarry office blockhouse. Interesting seeing the fresh water crays, as Phil picked them up for me, but all I could think about was steak and chips and a pint of Old London Ale, beside the glowing log-fire I knew was above me!!! After doffing our gear and a nice hot shower in the heated change room, we made a dash for the pub. I wished Mick Jeacle was there and had a mental picture of him grinning like a Cheshire Cat in such a place. The pub overhangs the quarry, has glorious views and is decorated inside with lots of brass and maritime artifacts, serving hot food and old ale. No..... I can't see the "Carrot" leaving there in a hurry! Cosey log-fire and lots of after dive deco bullshit, just great, as one warms up again..

A most enjoyable experience, provided by my diving mate from Gromsby, Phil Thurtle, who borrowed dive gear for me and spent two hours driving each way to show me how Britons dive, what a dive mate! As our dive was timed for mid week, we were able to park the car with ease, close to the water. Good news for your unfit scribe, dressed in drysuit and fat steel tank containing the "old man's gas" Nitrox. On weekends, divers walk 200M fully kitted up from the distant reaches of the car park, when the place is very busy. Now, how does that song about Mad dogs and Englishman go again?

Dive Report – 28th May

Alan Storen

Boats: John Lawler

Divers: Alan Storen, Greg Richards, Tony Tipping

This was our second dive out to Lost Reef and this time the viz was better. We shot the site and Tony and I went over to check out the reef. We landed more on the edge of the reef and found ourselves in 38m for much of the dive. We almost deco'd out and then slowly came back to the boat. 19 minutes bottom time went very quickly! Then JL and Greg went over and came back smiling. A very good dive.

After some lunch at Pope's Eye the current was running and so a drift dive off Queenscliff was in order. Again good dives were had by all. JL retrieved a bottle for his collection.

We retrieved the boat at Sorrento but with some 80 bar still in the tank I decided to check out the Blairgowrie Yacht Club Pier. With JL and Greg we checked out the site and I dropped in at the very end of the Pier. In a word 'FANTASTIC'. One dive I will definitely do again and also at night.

IMAX Night – DEEP SEA 3D—Friday 2nd June

Alan Storen

Starters: Storens, Jeacles, Richards, Mastrowiczs, Brincats, Llewellyns, PriyaC, DarrenP, PatR, KathyP

Twenty-three VSAGers, wives, partners, kids, friends arrived at the IMAX theatre to view the latest 3D film of underwater activity. Called Deep Sea 3D it had rave reviews and while these can be misleading all that I spoke of said it was a great movie. In the past these recommendations have been from non-divers and what is fantastic to them we, as divers, see on many of our dives and is a bit ho-hum.

This did not prove to be the case with this movie and I think all that saw were suitably impressed. Well worth a visit if you could not make it on the night.

After the movie we ventured down towards Lygon Street and filled up on Pizza and other goodies at Michaelino's. Apparently a venue used by VSAG many years ago for a Christmas function.

A great night and I only heard rave comments.



PALAU 2007

Pat Reynolds is currently investigating
Palau as a dive destination in May 2007.
Register your interest with him asap
Several takers already!!!

BLAIRGOWRIE YACHT SQUADRON PIER

Alan Storen

I am not too sure wether it is a pier or a marina or a landing – depends who you talk to, but I do know it is a fantastic shore dive and I have now done it twice spending about 3 hours on the end section of the structure. I have only covered part of the whole pier but I am reliably told, I saw the evidence, that there it much to find under the moored yachts/boats. Screwdrivers, knives, shifters, hammers, etc are freely available to those with an empty tool box.

The end section is a wall about 5 m top to bottom with about 3m under the water (low tide). The bottom of this wall is about 2m off the sand and the water has washed out a channel below the wall. Max depth was about 6m. Pylons about 5m apart hold up this wall.

What do you see? About 1000+ spider crabs greeted Chris and I when we dived it last Sunday. Nidibranchs were easily found and I am still trying to identify one variety. Stargazers were seen both in the seagrass, on and in the sand. Fantastic sponges of many varieties are found on the inner side of the wall. Pigmy Leather-jackets, several varieties of octopus, native 11 arm starfish – several species, I could go on but why not find out for yourself. I rate this an 8 out of 10 for any self respecting 'muck' diver, and 9 out of 10 for a photographer.

The entry is either from a landing half way down the pier or a giant stride entry, which Chris and I did, from almost the end of the pier. The drop was about 3m! The exit was up one of the two ladders as both entry spots had one nearby. The one further out is a 3m climb and the closer one about 1m. Not for the wimps! Check this out before you jump in as it is a long swim back to the beach. One diver had a rope that he attached to the ladder before he jumped in and on exit he tied his gear to the rope. He got up the ladder, then pulled the gear up later – smart move for those with excess weight (in the weight belt of course!). A boat could drop off divers close to the wall and easily retrieve after the dive. This dive will definitely be on the VSAG calendar soon so watch for it – you will not be disappointed.

Night dive 11th May

Rye Pier

Alan Storen

Divers: Alan Storen, AJ Storen, Hayley, Chris Storen, Pat Reynolds, Greg Richards, Darren Pearce

The divers met at Rye Pier at 7 pm and after some severe prompting all were kitted up and ready to go. Darren had his new dive torch and we were concerned that any passing plane might have mistaken us for a landing strip. Fantastic light! After a walk down the pier to the lower landing it was into the water.

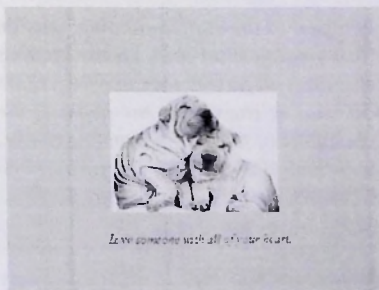
AJ and girlfriend went one way, Chris and I another way and Pat, Greg and Darren took off in another. We sort of followed the pier but at different intervals and hardly crossed paths. I could see where Darren was by the glow in the water!

Interesting dive and much to see for the 'muck' divers. Darren was too busy with his new toy and reel but the rest of us saw various creatures that one usually sees under a pier. Octopus, nidibranchs, fish(small!), etc.

After over an hour the divers walked the long length of the Pier back to the cars and for some a meal of fish and chips. The Storens were at Chris' place in Rye and after typical dive 'stories' at the carpark, and hurried by the starting of rain, we departed for home. Well that is where Pat and Greg said they were going – the rest ended back at Chris' place in Rye for an ale or three.

PS. Pat is fast becoming the night dive specialist – he has attended all three recently and with luck he might even get his camera wet next time. I hope it will be on the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron Pier.

Alan

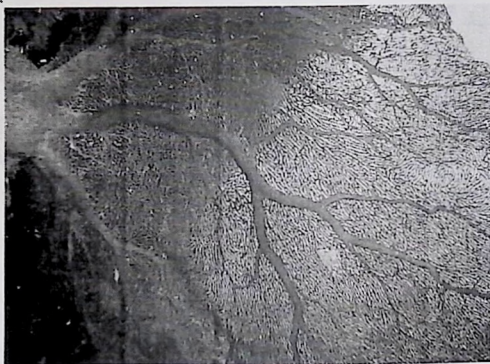


Bula Bullsharks!

Alan Beckhurst

Ron and Valerie Taylor declared the Beqa Lagoon's Big Fish Adventure the "Best Shark Dive in the World", so Mary decided we HAD to go! In the last week of autumn we flew to Fiji, catching a taxi from Nadi for the 2½ hour trip to Pacific Harbour. Although overcast and rainy, it was a pleasant 26 deg when we arrived at the Lagoon Resort in time to join a progressive dinner at the restaurant. Our room was enormous, with a king size and a double bed plus plenty of space.

Beqa Adventure Divers is located in the resort grounds, and first thing in the morning we were loading our gear on their 10 metre alloy cat, "Predator". Our first dives were at reef sites in Beqa Lagoon after ploughing through 2 metre swells. "Seven Sisters"

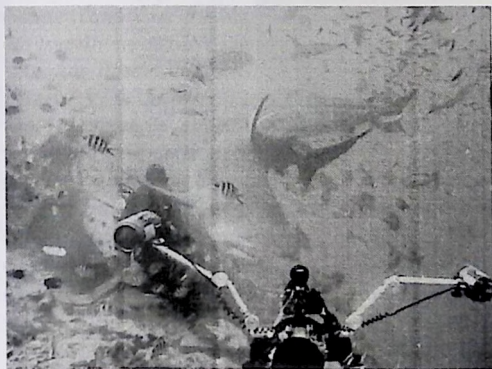


are a series of bommies close together, and having the bonus of a scuttled fishing trawler, the Tasu. We explored the large trawler in 30 metres, filming the intact wreck and its generous soft coral growths before moving up to the bommies. The coral around the base and sides was rubbly, and not a lot of fish, but the walls had some huge fans and some soft corals. The tops of the bommies were frantic with life, with clouds of basselets buzzing amongst the excellent coral growths. Our next site, Side Streets, was similar but with a very nice swim thru cave almost choked with fans.

It took a bit to get used to the staff unloading, washing, and hanging all of your dive gear, and finding it all back on the boat next day, all set up. We arrived at the boat excited, as this was our first shark day, to find the staff loading some 150 kilos of chum onto the boat. As we neared the site, staff began throwing handfuls of fish scraps, and as the boat came to a stop, the water erupted each time the chum hit the surface. Looking over the side I could see Giant Trevally attacking the scraps, and our guide explained the sound of this feeding brings the sharks in!

As the bubbles cleared I looked down past the circling Trevally, and Rainbow Runner at the outlines of large sharks patrolling the bottom. The guides swam down with three wheelie bins full of fish pieces. Despite the average visibility of 8 metres, we were all close enough to the feeder not to miss a thing. The first dive has a feed at 30 metres, then a feed at 10 metres, followed by a feed on the reef top in 2 metres. I positioned myself adjacent to the wheelie bin, but behind the coral wall built by the operators. 2 metre Tawny Nurse Sharks gently approached the feeder, and soon had their heads in the bin. Just above our heads was a frenzy of feeding Trevally, Rainbow Runners, Red Bass, Paddle Tail, Fusiliers, and many others attracted by a second feeder with a wheelie bin, hovering 3 metres shallower. Then a 3 metre Bull Shark dropped out of the fish ball and snapped a morsel next to the bottom feeder, just a couple of metres from me. It turned to the feeder who jabbed it with an aluminium prod, not really upsetting the shark, but discouraging it. More Bulls arrived, and grabbed morsels both at the bottom feeder, and up in the fish ball.

We moved up to the 10 metre feed, where the feeder was engulfed in a cloud of



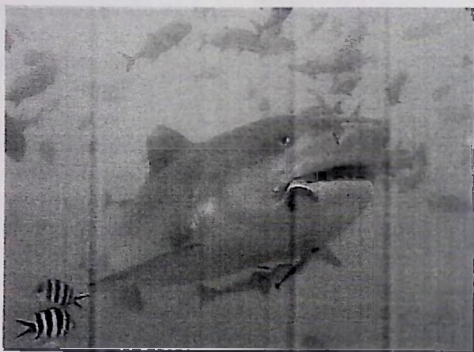
Sergeant Majors while White Tips and Black Tipped reef sharks patrolled around. Grey Reef sharks swam along the slope just below us, so Mary and I positioned ourselves in the middle of it all to maximise our filming opportunities. The 1 to 2 metre sharks passed close by repeatedly, offering ample photo opportunities. After a while, one of the guides began feeding a large moray, at times engaging in a tug 'o war with the bait. The

swell prevented the 2 metre feed from occurring.

The second dive was to a feeding station set up at 15 metres, again behind a coral wall built by the operators, but the feeder has a big metal locker for the baits, and a pole to hang on to. For serious camera people, there is a small depression a couple of metres from the feeding pole, right in the path of the sharks. I was privileged to be invited into the "pit" on all dives. Again, a second feeder with a wheelie bin hovered over us, drawing the bulk of the fish away. Bulls, Grey Reefs, and Nurse sharks were patrolling, and I looked up at the guy hovering with the wheelie bin and felt he was very exposed. As the Tuna heads were produced, the Bulls approached the feeder, and were soon grabbing the bait and

swimming straight at me! There was no shortage of open mouthed feeding shots, and a couple of Bulls knocked my video lights as they passed. Later I thought I must be crazy to be in this position, but at the time I had no time to get scared as sharks came at me from all directions.

The feeder got excited, and yelled "Tiger, Tiger" through his reg, as a magnificent 4 metre female named "Scarface" gently approached. She cruised over the line of divers before turning to the feeder, and elegantly accepted a big tuna head before gliding a metre above my head. What a buzz!! She circled and came back for another 3 Tuna heads, taking each one gracefully. Tigers are only an occasional visitor to these feeds, so we



were buzzed to see one on our first shark dive! At some stage during the dive a fish head drifted down and lodged on my shoulder, to be gently removed by one of the guides, as I really didn't need an even closer encounter!

Computers started beeping everywhere as we all went into deco, but the sharks were still feeding, and nobody wanted to leave. Eventually we heard that awful tapping of a prod on a tank, signalling the end of the dive. The feeders keep feeding the sharks as the divers make their way up the reef to the mooring line but I hung filming as long as I could. Thankfully it was a pleasant 26 degrees in the water as most of our dives were over an hour.

We had another 3 "Big Fish Adventure" days, and two more reef diving days over the rest of the week, and although the sea conditions improved, and vis was over 20 metres, the shark action of our first day was not rivalled. On the day the conditions were best, the big shark action was really slow, and we did not see another Tiger. We did see a Sicklefin Lemon Shark, which looks just like a Grey Nurse, and Mary spotted a Silver Tip, completing the list of 8 shark species advertised. The Bull sharks were always there in numbers, and they are big and impressive. The Black Tips and White Tips are also well represented, and are spectacular on the superb coral reef at the top of the wall.

Our other reef dives were at "Carpet Cove", where we saw a field of Gar-

den Eels, Leaf Scorpion Fish, and a Blue Ribbon Eel before we spent time exploring another scuttled unnamed fishing trawler. The reef tops were like aquariums. "Shark Reef" used to be a birthing place for Grey Reefies, but not recently, though the soft corals and teeming fish life on the top of the bommies provided the highlights. "Rusi's Bommie" was our favourite dive, starting with a wreck dive on the large fishing vessel, "No 8", then up a bommie shaped like a tower with whips at the base, fans and soft corals on the sides, and an aquarium on top.

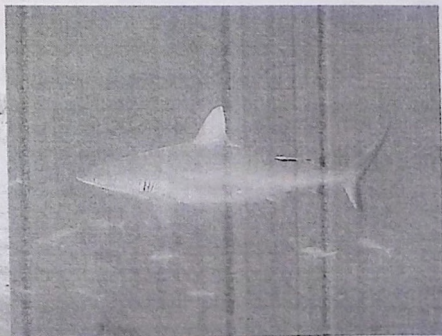
"Golden Arches" was also very pretty, with a group of bommies having gullies between choked with fans, and an arch with prolific golden soft corals hanging under.

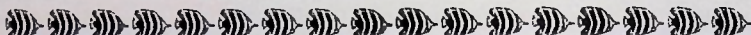
Whilst we had the opportunity to go fire walking, on river cruises to traditional Fijian villages, tours of Suva, and a number of other activities, we limited our après dive activities to late lunches in the excellent restaurant, or a 2k stroll to the Arts Village for ice creams and souvenir shopping. Evenings were spent at the resort bar, or in our rooms watching cable TV (National Geographic Channel of course!). The other activities at the resort included a gym, games room with full sized billiard table, canoes, and a pool.

Lagoon Resort is used for film makers, and has a prop, the vessel "Bloody Mary" from the 90's film "Anaconda 2", on the grounds. A world class 18 hole golf course adjoins the resort. Probably more than a kilometre from the sea, the resort is built on a man made canal system, lined with resorts and undeveloped jungle. We found this resort / dive operation to be ideal for a club trip for both divers and non divers alike. Our 9 day trip cost around \$2600 each inclusive of everything except meals.

Ron and Valerie were right!

Alan Beckhurst

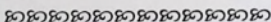




The Troubadour



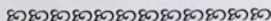
Thoughts and experiences of a VSAG member and diver.



Finally it had to happen – my first club trip without a dive. I have been truly fortunate to have seen a very wide range of dive conditions, from extraordinarily beautiful and enticing through to marginal, but to have always been able to get under. At Easter I missed the first day's diving, with conditions which sounded marginal, and the last day's diving reported as very good. In between the weather was lousy.



But what a wonderful weekend it was. VSAG is a very family oriented and social club. There always seems to be something going on, and not always involving red wine or whatever. Wilson's Promontory is a fantastic place to chill out from the corporate world.



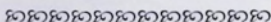
Last year I was a bit disappointed that nothing was arranged to bring everyone out for a whole club gathering. As new members to the club, Cathy and I were not quite sure where VSAG at the Prom started and ended.



What a wonderful thing is individual initiative. On the first evening this year, Darren Pearce and Michael Kakafikas decided to arrange pre-dinner nibbles at their tent site. And out we all came – suddenly VSAG had a party on its hands.

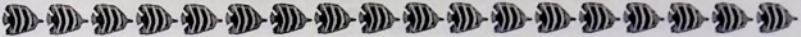


On these occasions, Michael has a habit of grabbing the nearest didgeridoo. And he can actually play well. A little guitar accompaniment and the VSAG band was formed.



To complement the band, we needed a high profile and competent lead singer. Who better than Paul Tipping with Leslie as Paul's conductor for the few!! occasions when Paul lost track of time.



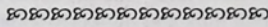


Paul has a couple of favourites that he loves to sing.....

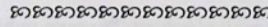
..... Loudly.

The backing band did well to follow his lead, even when playing different songs.

At the Prom there are 3 generations of family members on some sites. Many potential new divers there. We older folk have a huge VSAG legacy to keep for our future generations.

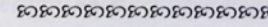


What are you doing about that?



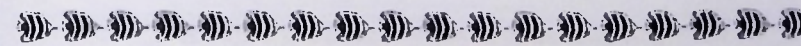
The next New Diver Day, for certified divers, is scheduled for August 27. New divers are accompanied by experienced VSAG members, so this is a great opportunity for new divers to get to know us, and us them. Previously we have had quite a large dive group, which makes for a very interesting day. The first dive is limited to 18 meters, which is a great opportunity for those who haven't dived for a while to ease back under.

If you know of divers who are interested to join us, let me know. We have the possibility to assist divers with some loan equipment, but we need to know early to be able to arrange this.



I am keen to include items by other members, existing and new divers.

Send them to william@bigpond.net.au.



A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her name plate that her name is Patricia Whack.

"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday."

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, "Sure. I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office.

She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral."

She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?"

(you're gonna love this)

(its a real treat)

(a masterpiece)

(wait for it)

The bank manager looks back at her and says...

"It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

(You're singing it, aren't you? ?Yeah, I know you are.....)

Never take life too seriously! Come on now, you grinned, I know you did!!!

Awesome Fish Recipe!

Lemon & Garlic Crumbed Fish

1 cup bread crumbs

Zest of 1 lemon

1 clove garlic, roughly chopped

1 good handful chopped parsley (best to be flat leaf)

Sea salt

Black pepper

2 table spoons olive oil

4 fish fillets (white fish, Mahi Mahi, bream)

Place the fillets into an oiled dish (or on a tray). Mix all the topping ingredients together (you can do this in a processor if using fresh bread crumbs, or just in a bowl is fine). Spread the crumbs on the fish and 'pat down'.

Cook at 220 for 10 mins, or until crumbs are golden and fish is just cooked.

YUMMY MASH

800gms potatoes

75gms butter

1 cup milk

3 cloves garlic (bruised)

Salt and pepper to taste

Peel potatoes, cut into quarters and boil in water until soft. While spuds are cooking throw the butter, milk and garlic into a small saucepan on stove and allow to cook on low heat (melting butter but not boiling milk). When spuds are cooked put heat under milk again so that it warms up. Drain spuds and put back in saucepan to mash. Add milk etc. it will be quite runny so allow it to sit over a low heat to thicken up.

Serve on a bed of fresh baby spinach, throw mash on top and then fish on top of it all.

YUM YUM YUM!!!!!!

Emergency Contact Information

Mornington Peninsula Area

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

Diving Doctors

Dr Guy Williams (Rosebud)	5981 1555
Dr J De BJ Dade (Mornington)	5975 5288
Dr Adrian Murrie (Sorrento)	5984 4322

VHF Emergency Channel... 16

PORT PHILLIP HEADS (PT. LONSDALE)

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

JULY - 2006

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1	0309 1.27	9	0230 0.37	17	0408 1.42	25	0458 0.29
SA	0912 0.33	SU	1610 1.31	MO	0852 0.32	TU	1223 1.39
	2152 0.57		2108 1.92		1640 1.55		1738 0.80
			2108 1.92		2338 0.31		2338 1.20
2	0351 1.25	10	0330 0.33	18	0505 1.42	26	0556 1.28
SU	0948 0.39	SU	1114 1.36	TU	1040 0.42	MO	1316 1.42
	1639 1.46	MC	1621 0.93	TU	1717 1.52	WE	1840 0.73
	2230 0.53		2213 1.19		2320 0.25		
3	0434 1.23	11	0435 0.28	19	0608 1.41	27	0647 0.28
MO	1023 0.47		1212 1.42	TU	1127 0.53	TH	1401 1.45
	1707 1.43		1729 0.88	WE	1757 1.47		1933 0.66
	2305 0.50		2323 1.21		2323 0.25		
4	0519 1.22	12	0535 0.23	20	0006 0.23	28	0127 1.23
TU	1100 0.55		1306 1.48	TH	0713 1.39	FR	0734 0.29
	1736 1.39		1926 0.80		1214 0.64		1438 1.46
	2340 0.47				1839 1.41		2018 0.58
5	0609 1.21	13	0629 1.25	21	0054 0.23	29	0214 1.25
WE	1138 0.63		0930 0.19		0815 1.38	SA	0815 0.31
	1808 1.35		1355 1.53		1303 0.73		1508 1.46
			1917 0.70		1927 1.34		2057 0.52
6	0615 0.45	14	0127 1.31	22	0146 0.25	30	0257 1.27
TH	0705 1.22		0722 0.17		1400 0.81		0852 0.36
	1220 0.72		1440 1.57		2023 1.28		2131 0.45
	1843 1.31		2007 0.60		2246 0.28		2337 1.28
7	0655 0.42	15	0221 1.36	23	0246 0.28	31	0327 1.28
FR	0804 1.24		0813 1.19		1020 1.35		0926 0.41
	1307 0.81		1522 1.58		1520 0.85		1601 1.44
	1924 1.27		2057 0.45		2127 1.23		2203 0.41
8	0138 0.40	16	0314 1.40	24	0353 0.29		
SA	0601 1.27		0903 0.24		1123 1.37		
	1401 0.88		1502 1.58		1624 0.85		
	2012 1.23		2145 0.36		2233 1.21		

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH COAST - THE RIP 2006

Lat 36° 13' Long 142° 37'
Tidal Stream Predictions (Rates in Knots)

Positive (+) Direction Flood Negative (-) Direction Ebb

Time	Rate	Time	Rate	Time	Rate	Time	Rate
1	0015 2.52	9	0651 2.54	17	1233 2.52	25	0612 2.50
SA	0629 2.52	SU	1335 2.52	MO	1828 2.52	TU	1232 2.52
	1146 2.52		1732 2.52		2224 2.52		1832 2.52
	1847 2.43		2243 2.43		2338 2.38		2106 2.34
2	0051 2.44	10	0651 2.44	18	1233 2.44	26	0612 2.42
SU	0629 2.44	MO	1335 2.44	WE	1828 2.44	FR	1232 2.42
	1146 2.44		1732 2.44		2224 2.44		1832 2.42
	1847 2.43		2243 2.43		2338 2.38		2106 2.34
3	0126 2.42	11	0735 2.42	19	1333 2.42	27	0646 2.40
MO	0752 2.42	TU	1342 2.42	TH	1932 2.42	SA	0705 2.40
	1832 2.35		2338 2.35		2443 2.43		1305 2.40
	2338 2.35		2338 2.35		2443 2.43		1305 2.40
4	0200 2.52	12	0836 2.52	20	1436 2.52	28	0647 2.50
TU	0842 2.52	WE	1436 2.52	FR	2032 2.52	SA	0705 2.50
	1932 2.52		2443 2.52		2443 2.52		1305 2.50
	2443 2.52		2443 2.52		2443 2.52		1305 2.50
5	0232 2.52	13	0932 2.52	21	1536 2.52	29	0648 2.50
WE	0932 2.52	TH	1536 2.52	FR	2132 2.52	SA	0705 2.50
	2032 2.52		2443 2.52		2443 2.52		1305 2.50
	2443 2.52		2443 2.52		2443 2.52		1305 2.50
6	0317 2.52	14	1032 2.52	22	1636 2.52	30	0649 2.50
TH	1032 2.52	FR	1636 2.52	SA	2232 2.52	SU	0705 2.50
	2032 2.52		2443 2.52		2443 2.52		1305 2.50
	2443 2.52		2443 2.52		2443 2.52		1305 2.50
7	0402 2.52	15	1132 2.52	23	1736 2.52	31	0650 2.50
FR	1132 2.52	SA	1736 2.52	SA	2332 2.52	SU	0705 2.50
	2132 2.52		2443 2.52		2443 2.52		1305 2.50
	2443 2.52		2443 2.52		2443 2.52		1305 2.50
8	0454 2.52	16	1232 2.52	24	1836 2.52		
SA	1232 2.52	MO	1836 2.52				
	1616 2.52		2117 2.52				
	2152 2.52		2338 2.52				

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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

AUGUST - 2006

Time m	Time m	Time m	Time m
1 0415 1.29	0357 0.26	0554 1.46	0028 1.16
1000 0.47	1143 1.33	17 1107 0.52	25 0634 0.34
TU 1629 1.42	WE 1648 0.83	TH 1728 1.43	FR 1330 1.34
2334 0.37	WE 2360 1.18	TH 2342 0.12	FR 1916 0.55
2 0456 1.30	0508 0.23	0650 1.40	0120 1.22
1035 0.53	1239 1.40	1151 0.50	0719 0.34
WE 1657 1.39	TH 1758 0.71	FR 1810 1.36	SA 1402 1.37
2305 0.35			SA 1955 0.46
3 0538 1.29	0015 1.25	0027 0.18	0204 1.28
1111 0.60	0613 0.20	0748 1.33	0757 0.35
TH 1728 1.35	FR 1329 1.47	SA 1236 0.68	SU 1430 1.39
TH 2338 0.33	FR 1856 0.57	SA 1856 1.29	SU 2028 0.38
4 0625 1.28	0118 1.34	0116 0.25	0244 1.32
1149 0.68	0705 0.19	0848 1.27	0831 0.38
FR 1800 1.31	SA 1414 1.52	SU 1328 0.75	MC 1457 1.40
	SA 1948 0.42	SU 1953 1.21	MC 2058 0.32
5 0613 0.31	0215 1.43	0215 0.31	0319 1.36
0718 1.26	0801 0.22	0952 1.24	0904 0.42
SA 1230 0.75	SU 1455 1.55	MO 1433 0.80	TU 1524 1.39
SA 1837 1.26	SU 2038 0.29	MO 2101 1.14	TU 2129 0.27
6 0052 0.30	0311 1.49	0326 0.35	0354 1.38
0818 1.25	0851 0.28	1058 1.23	0937 0.46
SU 1316 0.82	MO 1533 1.55	TU 1600 0.79	WE 1552 1.38
SU 1922 1.22	MO 2126 0.18	TU 2216 1.11	WE 2159 0.25
7 0141 0.30	0404 1.52	0438 0.36	0430 1.38
0926 1.25	0939 0.35	1159 1.26	1011 0.50
MO 1416 0.87	TU 1611 1.53	WE 1724 0.74	TH 1622 1.35
MO 2021 1.18	TU 2212 0.12	TH 2327 1.12	TH 2230 0.23
8 0243 0.29	0459 1.50	0542 0.35	0542 0.35
1036 1.28	1024 0.43	1250 1.30	1250 1.30
TU 1530 0.88	WE 1648 1.49	TH 1830 0.64	TH 1830 0.64
TU 2136 1.16	WE 2257 0.10		

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH COAST - THE RIP 2006

LAT 26° 13' LONG 144° 37'
Tidal Stream Predictions (Rates in Knots)

Positive (+) Direction Flood Negative (-) Direction Ebb

Slack Maximum Time Rate	Slack Maximum Time Rate	Slack Maximum Time Rate	Slack Maximum Time Rate
9 0724 11.55 6.1	0321 4.6	0201 2.7	0201 2.7
WE 1511 17.49 1.7	0623 11.55 6.1	0500 4.6	0500 4.6
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	WE 1632 23.16 1.6	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
10 0623 0.40 4.7	0125 0.50 4.2	0125 0.50 4.2	0125 0.50 4.2
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
11 0615 0.54 4.3	0115 0.54 4.3	0115 0.54 4.3	0115 0.54 4.3
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
12 0622 0.54 4.4	0116 0.54 4.4	0116 0.54 4.4	0116 0.54 4.4
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
13 0614 0.71 0.5	0118 0.71 0.5	0118 0.71 0.5	0118 0.71 0.5
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
14 0620 0.50 0.5	0115 0.50 0.5	0115 0.50 0.5	0115 0.50 0.5
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
15 0600 0.60 0.7	0114 0.60 0.7	0114 0.60 0.7	0114 0.60 0.7
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
16 0610 0.55 0.5	0113 0.55 0.5	0113 0.55 0.5	0113 0.55 0.5
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
17 0623 0.55 0.7	0115 0.55 0.7	0115 0.55 0.7	0115 0.55 0.7
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
18 0625 0.56 0.8	0116 0.56 0.8	0116 0.56 0.8	0116 0.56 0.8
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
19 0622 0.57 0.9	0115 0.57 0.9	0115 0.57 0.9	0115 0.57 0.9
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
20 0624 0.58 0.9	0116 0.58 0.9	0116 0.58 0.9	0116 0.58 0.9
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
21 0623 0.59 1.0	0115 0.59 1.0	0115 0.59 1.0	0115 0.59 1.0
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
22 0624 0.60 1.1	0116 0.60 1.1	0116 0.60 1.1	0116 0.60 1.1
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
23 0625 0.61 1.2	0117 0.61 1.2	0117 0.61 1.2	0117 0.61 1.2
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5
24 0626 0.62 1.3	0118 0.62 1.3	0118 0.62 1.3	0118 0.62 1.3
WE 1632 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1	0623 11.55 6.1
MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6	MO 1632 23.16 1.6
MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5	MO 1852 22.10 4.5

VSAG Meeting and Dive Calendar

Dive Date	Location	Dive Captain	Phone	Meeting Point	Time
-----------	----------	--------------	-------	---------------	------

June

15	General Meeting			Bells	8pm
24	Exploratory Dive	JL	0419 922 916	Rye	9am

July

2	Exploratory Dive if 24 June cancelled due to weather	JL	0419 922 916	Rye	9am
9	Spectacular Reef	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento	9am
15-23	Nimrod Explorer Trip				
20	General Meeting			Bells	8pm
29	Sat Night dive	Alan S	9789 1092	tba	tba

August

13	Wreck dive	Alan S	9803 3573	Sorrento	9am
17	General Meeting			Bells	8pm
20	Wreck dive if 13th cancelled	Alan S			
27	NEW DIVER DAY New to vsag - invite potential new members—qualified only Current members asked to assist - ring Trevor early	Trevor W	0404 069 572	Sorrento	9am

ANY TIME Interested in a shore dive (Saturday, etc) or a night dive (shore or boat). Ring Alan Storen on 9803 3573 (H). Free gear hire is available—wetsuits depending on size!

10 pin bowling night—coming soon—expressions of interest to Gabriel Sekias



Top: Sweetlips Middle and bottom left: Mary and Alan's shark dive in Fiji . Bottom right: Jackie Storen, Rubens and Tom 21st May dive



Greg Richards
Mick Jeacle
Trevor Williams
Sarah Williams

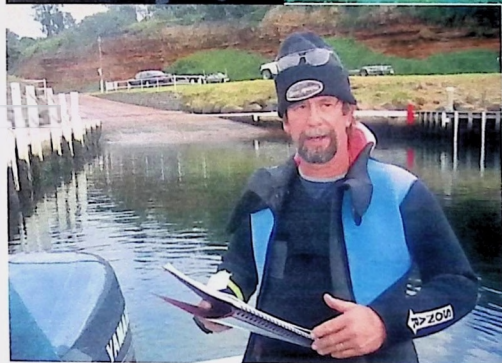
Dive Report inside

Look at the water
also—a beautiful
day on the bay!!

BELOW: Leo Maybus
with his wetsuit win from
the Prom Raffle



BALI REEF 2005
Alan Storen



Adrian Brewer (MAAV) giving
John Lawler and Alan
Storen a dive brief on the City
Of Launceston dive.
Dive Report insdie

