

# FATHOMS

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2006**

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP



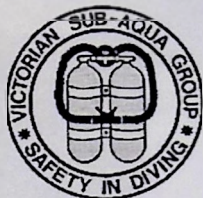
<http://members.iinet.net.au/~vsag/>

Postal Address: VSAG  
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# FATHOMS



*Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group*

*In this October– November issue...*

*NEW Committee are listed on Page 6*

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**VSAG General Meetings**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month

Bell's Hotel  
157 Moray Street (cnr Coventry Street)  
South Melbourne, 8.00 pm  
Alan Storen  
15 Regal Court Vermont South Vic 3133  
storens@bigpond.net.au

**Editorial Submissions to:**



## *Editorial*

*As I write this there are 75 days to Christmas and 2007 is approaching fast! The weather is getting better and more dives are going ahead but the wind now is causing some concerns. It seems to blow at 30 knots every dive day. Water temperature is*

*also on the increase and it was 14C last week in the bay. If you have not had you tanks and gear serviced NOW is the time. How long is it since your last dive medical?*

*I have received a CD from David Orchard, one of the divers on the recent Nimrod trip and some of his photos can be seen on the front page, inside front and inside back pages and most of the back page – top two are from Alan Beckhurst. There is also an article from Niamh who also joined us on the Nimrod Explorer as the only female non crew member.*

*Our AGM was held as required last month and a full report on the years' activity is included in this edition. I was the club member of the year and the joint winners of the literary award were Mick Jeacle and Alan Beckhurst – well done!.*

*We had many good articles last year and I hope that you can keep them coming. Photos are also appreciated.*

*We held a very successful New (to VSAG) Diver Day recently and Trevor's report is included. We see the return of John Lawler this month and so we should have another boat on the water.*

*We have run a couple of shores dive recently and Blairgowrie Pier and Mornington Pier were good, I was joined by Adrian, a diver*

*from the UK, who dived with a rebreather, for both and Greg Richards for the Blairgowrie dive. Just ring if you would like to dive and I will try to accommodate.*

*Our Christmas Party is coming up on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. We are trying something different this year and we have organised a 'Party in the Park'. Spit roast lunch, usual raffle, kids games and prizes, entertainment, sing-a-long (byo VSAG songbook! and musical instrument), BYO drinks, etc. If you can donate a prize please see one of the committee. Please put the day in your diary. Encourage 'past members' and family to come. Tickets out soon!*

*Our final meeting night for the year at Bells, usually a social night rather than a formal meeting, will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> December — come along and join in the fun.*

*Enjoy your diving, everything else is surface interval!  
Alan*

PLEASE NOTE WEB SITE DETAILS:

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

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

**[storens@bigpond.net.au](mailto:storens@bigpond.net.au)**

# Committee 2006 - 2007

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Committee meets 2nd Thursday of the month at: Leighoah Hotel  
1555 Dandenong Road Oakleigh.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

# ***Presidents Annual Report 2005/6***

## ***Alan Storen***

*Thank you for your attendance tonight and for your ongoing support during the past year. Thank you especially to the committee for their support to me as President and for their work during the past year.*

*We have achieved many of the things we set out to do this year and we have a good base for the future.*

### ***Financial Matters***

*As will be reported by the treasurer we had a positive result for the year with a balance at the end of the financial year of \$10,982. This compares with \$9,701 at the start of the year.*

*Our major expenses for the year were Fathoms and the purchase of Club plaques. The plaques were a 'one off' purchase we have sufficient for many years. We also donated \$500 to the 'Sink the exHMAS Canberra in Victoria' fund of the Victorian Artificial Reef Society (VARs)*

*Thank you to Don Abel for auditing the books.*

### ***Diving***

*We conducted many local dives during the year with some night dives and Saturday dives included. Some cancellations due to weather but fewer than last year. Our xmas interstate trip to Eden was a great success and we are returning there this year. Thanks to Pat for his organisation.*

*Our Wilson Prom trips at Easter and November Cup weekend were blessed with good weather and good diving. Thanks again to Pat for his work.*

*The Coral Sea Trip on the Nimrod Explorer was also great and thanks to Mick Jeacle for his organisation.*

### ***Meetings***

*Several guests spoke at our regular meetings including Dr Vanessa Haller (Skinner) on dive medicine, Mark Ryan and Adrian Kellett on tec diving, Franz Grasser (VRFISH) as well as presentations by members - Chris Llewellyn - DVD on the Nimrod trip and Alan Beckhurst DVD on Truk 2005.*

## **Social**

*We had a number of social events during the year including a Lawn Bowls night and an IMAX night. Both were very successful. The Queenscliff Family day was also a great success - thanks to John Lawler, Mary Malloy and Alan Beckhurst.*

*We also held a good night at Milanos for our xmas function and while numbers were down those able to make it had a very enjoyable night.*

## **New members**

*We have several new members join this year and several more in the pipeline. Welcome to those members and we hope you have a great time with us.*

## **Committee**

*New members on the committee this year were Trevor Williams and John Lawler. I especially thank them for their contribution. Retiring from the committee this year are Darren Pearce (who has renominated), Gerry DeVries and Pat Reynolds.*

*Gerry has been on the committee for many years. Thank you Gerry for your contribution.*

*Pat has been on the committee for nearly 40 years. A fantastic effort! My Fathoms collection starts in 1972 and Pat was Senior Vice President in that year. While trying to research how long Pat had been on the committee, I found out that he had held almost every possible position on the committee including: Librarian, Medical officer, Diving Officer, Training Officer, Quartermaster, Safety Officer, SDFV rep, Property Officer as well as President and Vice President. Pat was made a Life Member for his many efforts and any Historian compiling a history of VSAG will find Pat Reynold's name many, many times. On a personal note Pat has been a great help and support during my year as President and I thank him for that. Pat is still arranging the Cup weekend, xmas trip and Palau in 2007 so, apart from these, Pat - have a well earned break from the committee. Thank you on behalf of the committee and the club.*



## **Equipment**

*The compressor is not used much and we are currently having it assessed for repair. The oxygen cylinders/masks on the boats are also being assessed for upgrade.*

## **Boats**

*We have mainly relied on Mick Jeacle and John Lawler's boats for most of the weekend diving with assistance from Andy Mastrowicz and Gerry DeVries on club trips. I thank them for the use of their boats during the past year.*

## **Fathoms**

*Some great articles this year and 'keep them coming'. It was great to see some new members contributing – thank Greg Richards, Rob Kirk, Jackie Storen and Kathy Pedlow. Thank also to Mick Jeacle, John Lawler, Alan Beckhurst and Darren Pearce for their contributions. Special thanks to Trevor Williams for Troubadour each edition.*

## **Issues**

*We were represented at meetings on, or made submissions to:*

*Channel deepening*

*Crayfish quota*

*Abalone quota*

*Diving at Piers – Parks*

*RIS for PFDs*

*VARS [ John Lawler, Mick Jeacle, Trevor Williams and Alan Storen on committee]*

*SDFV [ John Lawler and Alan Storen are our VSAG reps]*

*DIVA [Alan Storen is rep on DIVA]*

*I again thank you and the committee for your support this year.*

*Alan*



## *A Girl's Guide to Surviving a Live-Aboard Trip with the VSAG Crew*

*By Niamh Whelan-Reiter*

*When Scott and I arrived at the Nimrod Explorer offices to check-in for our dive trip, I was excited and just a little apprehensive. This was my first live-aboard dive trip and I really wasn't quite sure what to expect: what if I didn't want to do 4 dives a day? What if I was seasick? What if I didn't like the other people on the boat?*

*With that last thought resounding in my head, I got my first surprise: I was the only female passenger. The second surprise: 12 of the other divers were from a very quiet and reserved scuba club in Melbourne. So quiet in fact that the first thing they said to me was: "Wot you goin' do on nudie night then?!" I knew then that the trip was going to be very different indeed...*

*You've already read the various club members reports of the trip so I won't go into details about it. The diving was fabulous and everyone seemed to get along famously. However, for those females in the club who are considering participating in the next live-aboard trip, here are my top 10 do's and don't's:*

- 1. Don't hold back in the queue for meals, otherwise you'll end up with whatever the boys didn't want. Get in line earlier or better yet, use your female charm to strike up a conversation with someone already in line, then slip in right in front of them.*
- 2. Don't worry about having a bad hair day. Some of them don't have enough hair to worry about and most of them won't notice either way.*
- 3. Do join their banter by innocently throwing in the use of local expressions such as "Ken Oath" and "big Lloyds". You're guaranteed to get a laugh from them.*
- 4. Do try to embarrass them by constantly asking what said expressions*



## Cairns to Cooktown



*mean (even if you've already figured it out with the help of the boat crew). I've never seen such a reluctant group when I asked for explanations – to the point where one of them (who shall remain nameless) promised to write it down and give it to me once we'd dropped them off at the airport.*

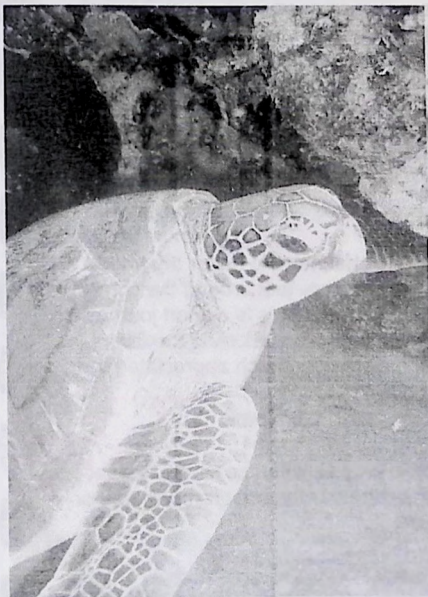
- 5. Don't worry about their "nudie night" or "toga night" conversations. By 9pm, the majority of them are already asleep - party or no party.*
- 6. Do follow their advice about bringing your own alcohol on board especially when you're in the off-license in Cooktown. The wine on board isn't good and costs too much.*
- 7. Do expect to hear tall tales of the snoring abilities of the various group members. I think they finally figured out on this trip what all you wives, girlfriends and partners have known for years: your husbands, boy-friends and partners snore and LOUDLY.*
- 8. Don't be alarmed if you meet divers by themselves during the dive. It seems that they regularly try to reduce club numbers by abandoning their buddies under water.*
- 9. Don't go back out on the dive platform immediately after a dive. Apparently the open-air bathroom is a faster, more convenient option when you are sharing a quadruple room below deck.*
- 10. Do expect there to be sing-alongs in the evening...I still can't listen to the song "Amore" without smiling about the VSAG rendition of it.*

*In conclusion, these guys were great craic (and that's an Irish expression for "fun and merriment" in case you're worried) and watching our dive video now makes me feel nostalgic. Let me know next time you're heading off on a trip, because Ken Oath I'll come and join you Lloyds!*

## Chances of Avoiding El Nino Nil, Climate Centre Says

Abridged from ABC News Online, 27 September & 3 October 2006 –  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200610/s1754762.htm>

The National Climate Centre (NCC) has confirmed the chances of Australia avoiding the grip of an El Nino weather pattern this spring are virtually nil. The prospect of hotter and drier conditions, particularly in south-eastern Australia, is dire news for farmers. Near record temperatures have gripped much of Australia during September, and the south-east corner has recorded the most significant changes. But at this stage climatologists say this El Nino is not looking as bad as the last one four years ago. The NCC says all the signs of an El Nino are here - and Australians should brace for hot conditions over the summer months. It is likely that conditions in the nation's south-east corner will be abnormally hot (80% chance of above normal maximum temperatures) until the end of the year and the current weather patterns could be linked to global climate change.



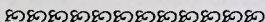
See what it does to you???????



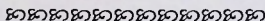
# The Troubadour



*Thoughts and experiences of a VSAG member and diver.*



We got lucky with the weather and had another successful New Diver Day on 27 August. A bit cold, but we had 4 potential new members, supported by 5 club members, diving in reasonable diving conditions. Thanks to Alan Storen, Alan Beckhurst (boat operator), Mick Jeacle (boat operator) and Greg Richards for accompanying our guests Tom Hill, James Hill, Peter Griggs and Lloyd Borrett.



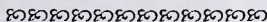
Recently I did my first boat dives out of Queenscliff. How very different it is to approach diving from the other side of the bay. Living in Kensington, the trip to and from Queenscliff is much shorter and less tiring. But there are some other very interesting differences as well.



Queenscliff is a sleepy hollow compared to Rye, Sorrento and Portsea. Access to parking and the boat ramp is a dozy drive, without the competition for space seen on the other side. I blinked and the boat was launched and we were away.



After a short run through the channel and under the bridge we quickly found a number of dive sites 'just around the corner'. Diving just inside or outside of the heads is a short journey by boat compared with our usual launch sites. And the diving facilities at Boarfish Lodge were very much appreciated too.



One point of conflict, however, was whether we could beat the tourist train to the rail crossing near the boat ramp. It was only a small engine, so we won.





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There are plans for a large and possibly expensive marina at Queenscliff. Hopefully this will not cause over-use of the area or drive out small boat owners.



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I have had a small involvement with Victorian Artificial Reef Society (VARS) which is working with Tourism Victoria to bring the ex-HMAS Canberra to Victorian waters. We have had many discussions about how to maximize the benefits of Canberra to the dive industry.



Many years ago I had the pleasure of a guided tour of Point Nepean, finishing at the Sergeant's Mess (another story). Having made a connection between VARS and the Point Nepean Historical Society, I am excited by the possibility of launching out of a resurrected Quarantine Station with reconstructed pier. The affinity between the military and immigration history of Point Nepean, together with the similar nature of the ship's graveyard, and adding Canberra as a reef, is very appealing.



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Very little news about whether Canberra will be gifted to Victoria. How frustrating.



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



Send them to my new email address  
[Trevor.J.Williams@bigpond.com](mailto:Trevor.J.Williams@bigpond.com).



# The Courier Dive Expedition Sept 17th 2006.

*Dive Platform: SS Jeacle*

*Crew: M Jeacle, A Storen, D Pearce & G Richards,*

*Master Plan: Arrive Sorrento Ramp 9.00 am Depart 9.15 am Sharp.*

*Plan A: Slack water @Heads area 10.00am followed by Courier followed by degassing and refreshment.*

*Plan B. All 4 divers to dive the Courier in shifts.*

*Reality: Arrive at ramp at 9.00. Find one diver already bleeding and injured from recalcitrant motor vehicle and one diver still absent whilst attempting to get last minute air fills. Administer first aid and Begin waiting.....*

*9.15 Absent diver arrives and loads gear into ever reliable boat and launching commences.*

*9.20 Boat retrieved due to minor problem with battery and problem solving exercise begins.*

*9.30 Late diver offers his vehicular transportation device battery and commences dissembling entire car.*

*9.40 Skipper decides to buy new battery to save time*

*9.45 Arrive at Moron Motors to purchase new battery from former Deliverance Banjo player.*

*9.52 Arrive back at ramp*

*9.59 Arrive back at Moron Motors to negotiate for correct attachment devices for aforementioned new battery.*

*10.16 All systems go and boat is successfully afloat (with bungs and sufficient petrol! - refer previous dive reports.)*

*10.20 Skipper decides to have shave and proceeds to have full cosmetic facial.*

*10.30 Pass Portsea Hole and decide on Plan B.*

*11.00 Arrive at destination amid much celebration and begin initial pre dive checks.*

*11.20. First pair enter water, and successfully find wreck.*

*11.40 First pair are noticed to be completing a deco stop under boat.*

*11.55 See previous note.*

*12.05 2nd pair of divers growing incredibly impatient at excessive length of deco stop and threaten to enter water before they re-surface.*

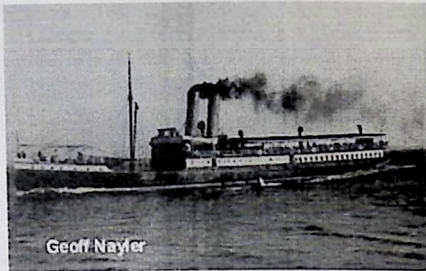
*12.07. As 2nd group get geared up, first pair appear at back of boat. Amid a mixture of jocular banter and a torrent of well intentioned vile abuse the 2nd pair de gear and assist their in water buddies to re-enter boat. Page 16*



12.11 2nd pair enter water and descend directly onto wreck for 18 minutes followed by a more civilised 16 mins deco time.

At 1.00 pm EST the divers assembled amidships of the SS Jeacle and began a long salubrious lunch period complete with enthusiastic accounts of the dive. Viz was agreed to be between 8m and 10m and the water a pleasant 13C.

The Courier saw service on the Melbourne - Geelong run for 39 years between



1888 and Nov 1927, before being scuttled in the Ships Graveyard in March 1927. The ship was originally 220ft long and 728 tonnes and enough remains today to make this one of the most pleasant and exhilarating dives on offer. The fore deck area is still identifiable and the divers were able to swim into the fore deck itself under what would have been the deck and re-appear on top. Some small amount of railing is still attached to the wreck and this part of the wreck stands possibly 6-7m off the sea floor. Quite impressive. Max depth 42m.

The mid ship area has fallen into disrepair with scattered wreckage amongst the 2 boilers and what appear to be 2 huge bollards. The rear of the ship is still showing signs of an obvious structure and can be entered (in a fashion) and some ceramic tiles are still visible on the bottom.

This relic of a bygone era has now spent over 78 years providing a haven for numerous fish species and is covered in a profuse array of soft corals, sponges and other typical Victorian sessile life. It is an extremely interesting, colourful and relaxing dive.

2.30pm All divers report safely back at boat ramp and depart for home.

10.30pm News reports on 3 TV channels report amazed onlookers seeing a flying corroded battery landing in the carpark of a South Frankston Church. No injuries were reported and although several witness's came forward who saw the offender no charges are expected to be laid.

## Dive report – Mornington Pier

Sunday October 1

Alan Storen

*I met Adrian Corfield at the September VSAG meeting and he was keen to get wet. He has a rebreather and I know nothing about them, other than they cost a lot of money! I had no idea re the safety procedures, buddy checks, emergency actions, etc so I suggested Mornington Pier. If either of us got into trouble it was not too far to the surface. I am not sure if I was worried about him saving me or me saving him if we had a problem at a greater depth!*

*Anyway after a very thorough rebreather briefing by Adrian we entered the water and enjoyed the delights of Mornington Pier. Not as many large fish as usually seen, some sea horses, many native sea-stars, very few Northern Pacific Sea stars which is good, small squid, several nudibranches on the outer wall, several fishermen using us as target practice – well me anyway, Adrian had the rebreather, no telltale bubbles – one very good reason for buying one! With 11 other divers in the water at the same time it was also easy to pick out Adrian from the crowd – reason two. Adrian was also more easily able to sneak up on fish to get a better look- reason three. How many more do I need to convince my wife?*

*A good dive  
Alan*



## Dive report – Blairgowrie

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Alan Storen

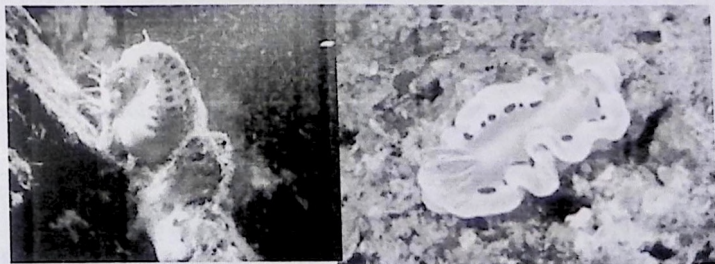
*With some concerns of being attacked by the feral members/committee of the Yacht Club Adrian Corfield (rebreather diver from the UK), Greg Richards and I braved the strong winds and met at Blairgowrie car park. Mick J had whimped out!!! We each had our stories to tell if we were confronted – research scientists from CSIRO, two spoke no English, benthic marine species researchers, etc, etc. I was almost ready to believe Greg myself!*

*Anyway down the pier past the big sign indicating no scuba diving off the pier and entered the water without incident ( I was almost disappointed) and spent 78 minutes muck diving under the end wall.*

*I had a great time – I like that sort of diving, well any diving really!- and saw many interesting creatures. Many nudibranches, tessellated angler fish, blue ring octopus, sea horses, pygmy trigger fish/leatherjacket, mega sponges, etc. There were fewer larger fish than previous dives and very few soldier crabs.*

*Adrian had a video camera and I am waiting to see the results.*

Alan



**Dive Report: Saturday, 27 August 2006**  
**Trip: New Diver Day # 3, Shortland's Bluff/Bell Reef,**  
**Surf Club Reef/Castle Rock and Scallop Beds.**

*Dive Depth: 18m (Shortland's Bluff), 19.9m (Castle Rock).*

*Weather: Cloudy, sunny afternoon, light breeze early freshening later.*

*Sea: Flat to slight swell.*

*Visibility: 10m (Shortland's Bluff), 8m (Castle Rock).*

*Number of divers: 11 booked, 9 actual.*

*Number of boats: 2.*

*VSAG members present: Alan Storen, Alan Beckhurst (boat operator), Mick Jeacle (boat operator), Trevor Williams, Greg Richards.*

*Guests present: Tom Hill, James Hill, Peter Griggs, Lloyd Borrett.*

*Withdrawals: Benita McDonough, Mick Kakafidis.*

*With the recent spate of cold, unpleasant weather and this very nasty cold/flu about, it was very encouraging to see 5 club divers and 4 guests out on the water. The forecast of 5-15 knot winds, some sunshine and 17°C was enough to get some of the diehards outside. The promise of scallops in their prime enticed a few more.*

*Mick Jeacle and Alan Beckhurst made their boats available, with Mick launching from Sorrento and Alan from Queenscliff. The plan was to select a suitable dive site and meet on the water, depending on the weather. Shortland's Bluff (Bell Reef) was selected as a convenient place to meet and then dive this beautiful sponge garden at slack water. With the slack at 10.47 am, the planned launch time of 9.30 am was very convenient. (Waking up at 7am to drive to Queenscliff, instead of at 5.30 or 6am to drive from Kensington to Sorrento, was absolutely magic.)*

*Tom, James, Trevor and Alan met at Boarfish Lodge to load the boat and head off to the ramp to launch. I hadn't seen Boarfish Lodge before. What a pleasure to be able to use the facilities to suit up and later to clean up and wind down. Queenscliff ramp still has a small town feel to it. To enter the ramp area we took on the local tourist train and won, crossing the rail line ahead of the tooting, shunting steam engine. No queue to the ramp and it*

was easy to see that Alan had made this launch hundreds of times. Very quickly the trailer was parked, divers aboard and we were away.

The channel passes the Queenscliff port which is being developed as a marina. There are some big, expensive boats starting to creep in amongst the regular recreational and fishing



traffic. Hopefully Queenscliff will not suffer the overuse seen at the other sites around the bay.

Meanwhile at Sorrento Peter, Lloyd, Greg, Mick and Alan Storen launched and headed off across the bay. After only a short run. Oh!, boat problems. Lack of power just off Sorrento and this new diver day was not looking too promising to the Dive Captain on the other side of the Bay. However, some magic was performed by skilled hands and we all met at Bell Reef.

The dive at Bells reef was just fantastic and appreciated by all under the water. It is a pretty dive with plenty of interesting reef to explore. Alan B, Trevor, Tom and James then headed out to the 'Castle' - a feature just of Pt Lonsdale shaped like a doughnut and a very good dive. The rest, in Mick's boat headed for the scallop beds. The scallops were not as plentiful as on previous dives but those that wanted some scallops got their quota. After a splash with the seals we headed back to Rye and then home to cook the scallops.

A good day out on the bay!

I think all the (new to VSAG) divers were keen to join VSAG so I assume that they also enjoyed the day.

Aside: For those recently returned from the Nimrod Explorer trip it was fascinating to see two Lloyds on the one boat. Divers were to be spoilt this day. Mick was content to operate his boat and, with Alan B having had a confrontation with his tow bar, we were able to put all divers down at the same time. With Greg Richards content to only dive the scallops, we had excellent club support for our guests. I'm sure that the water temperature at 12C had nothing to do with the reticence to dive. Thanks to Mick, Greg and Alan B and also to Alan Storen, who dived with our Sorrento crew. TW

## Awesome Skills of Spitting Archerfish Revealed

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn10268-awesome-skills>

10 October 2006

Archerfish are remarkable hunters that shoot down their above-water prey by blasting them with jets of water. Now research shows that these fish can precisely fine-tune the jets they spit depending on the size of prey and how well they are gripped to the surfaces they are sitting on.

Found in mangrove swamps of the Indo-Pacific region, archerfish (*Toxotes chatareus*) capture prey ranging from flies to small lizards. Scientists had thought their hunting technique was an unsophisticated skill, based on blasts of water with a "spit and hope" quality.

However, in 2004 researchers showed that these fish are able to precisely judge the size and position of prey above the water line, taking into account the distorting effect on light of passing from air to water.

Now, Stefan Schuster and colleagues at the University of Erlangen in Germany have used high-speed video of the spitting to prove the fish also fine-tune the size of each blast...



At least you know what you are buying!



## Lindsay Fox Development on Phillip Island

Source & full text: <http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/vic/content/2006/s1742127.htm>

15 September 2006

MIKE CLEELAND, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT: We've got a pristine, secluded, protected environment and we've got Lindsay Fox trying to take that away from us.

ANNE DAVIE, PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY: I think this proposal is far too big and I believe it will change Phillip Island forever.

MARY MCDONALD, REPORTER: Phillip Island's southern coast is regarded by many as the untouched jewel in the area's crown.

MIKE CLEELAND: This is an area where you can come to get away from it all. There is a reducing number of places around the coastline where you can do that.

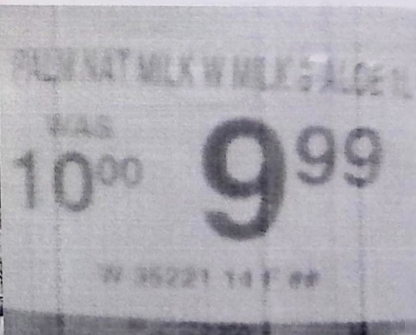
MARY MCDONALD: Mike Cleeland was born on the island and has spent years planting trees along the southern coast. He's now very worried the coastline will be irrevocably changed to make way for big development.

MIKE CLEELAND: What we have here is, essentially, open farmland right down to the edge of the Phillip Island Nature Park here. What is proposed is to put 500 houses in the middle of that. On an island where we are struggling to keep the last remnants of our rural and open space intact, this is going to make a significant impact on that.

MARY MCDONALD: The Linfox Property Group, run by trucking magnate Lindsay Fox, wants to build 506 apartments and an 18-hole golf course on the clip top, next to the Grand Prix circuit. The apartments will be sold to investors and then leased back by the developer. Linfox declined to comment about the proposal when contacted by Stateline...



Obviously the breakfast was not free!!



The world's biggest discount??

**VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP**  
**CHRISTMAS TRIP 2006/7**

**VSAG WILL BE TRAVELLING TO EDEN THIS  
YEAR FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DIVE  
AWAY HOLIDAY.**

**TIMING:**

**26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2006 TO 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007.**

**LOCATION:**

**EDEN - at the FOUNTAIN CARAVAN PARK  
(same park as 2005/6)**

**COST:           \$32.00 PER DAY**

**DIVE CAPTAIN: PAT REYNOLDS**

**NOTE:**

**ALL BOOKING WILL CLOSE AT THE  
OCTOBER 19TH MEETING.**

**FOR DETAILS AND BOOKINGS CONTACT  
PAT REYNOLDS**



## Grey Nurse Sharks Swim into Political Waters

Source & full text: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5414410.stm>

6 October 2006

They are known affectionately as the "Labradors of the ocean", but grey nurse sharks are facing a fight for survival in Australia. It is estimated there are fewer than 500 of these docile creatures left in Australian waters. Most live off the east coast. Despite its fearsome appearance, the grey nurse ( *Carcharias taurus* ) is not a man-eater. Environmentalists have said their numbers continue to fall despite the grey nurse shark being a protected species, which it has been since 1984. Blame is laid at the feet - or rather the hooks - of fishermen who inadvertently catch them. Conservationists and scientists have held what they have described as "crisis talks" in Sydney.

Safe zones

They are now threatening legal action to force the country's political leaders to do more...

See also: Shark Protection Plans May go to Court 5/10/06

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200610/s1755829.htm>

Government defends measures to protect grey nurse sharks 6/10/06

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200610/s1756153.htm>

Conservationists in crisis talks over shark in peril 5/10/06 <http://hsi.org.au/>

Anglers reject responsibility for grey nurse shark woes 6/10/06

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200610/s1757122.htm>



# Vic Sub Aqua - MICRONESIA



## Palau

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### VIC SUB AQUA

On an escape to the remote and captivating Palau.

This idyllic island is one of the world's best kept secrets. The rock islands are one of the most beautiful places that you will ever see. Your dive boat speeds out to the dive sites of Palau in between the lush tropical rock islands.

For divers Palau is one of the seven underwater wonders in the world, boasting some of the best reefs and a concentration of the most spectacular marine life. There are dive sites to suit all levels of experience. Including 'Blue holes', 'Blue corner' and 'Jellyfish Lake'.

Stay at the West Plaza Hotel, with great access to the beach.

With the stronger Australian dollar don't miss out on this chance to dive this Great dive location!

#### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact ... Pat Reynolds

VIC SUB AQUA

Ph: 0407 334 296

DEPARTING

12 May 2007

Only **\$2244.00 Per Diver**  
**\$1410.00 Per Non-diver**

\*Plus Taxes \$260.00 Per Person

#### Tour price includes:-

- Return airfare Cairns/Guam/Koror
- Guam/Cairns - Continental Airlines
- 9 nights West Plaza Hotel - standard twin share
- 12 dives with Neco Marine Diving Palau
- Free chandelier cave dive
- Free Jelly Fish Lake snorkel trip
- Tanks/Weights/Air Fills
- 2 days of twin share Holiday Plaza Guam
- 1 night Cairns Colonial Club—twin
- Transfers throughout

\*\* Please note charges to be paid directly:

Dive Permit Palau \$20.00 USD  
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We'll Always Know... About What You Want To Do.

# HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEETINGS NO. 129 and 130

### Des Williams

Heritage Victoria Offices, Nicholson St.

MELBOURNE

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2006

#### Meeting No: 129

#### Anniversary of Legislation

Anniversary of 25 years of Historic Shipwrecks Legislation in 2007 – Story telling will be a focus – an opportunity to combine efforts. A costing and proposals paper to be formulated regarding celebration of legislation using collections and museums. Shipwrecks have become part of the community psyche.

#### *MHU REPORT*

- a) Launch of new boat “Trim” by Minister Hulls went well. Altona shed is about to be adapted for the boat. The old truck and boat have gone to Fowles Auction Centre.
- b) National Maritime Strategy and Commonwealth Legislation has been broadened to encompass indigenous and all things maritime – not just wrecks. It has not been signed off by all states. There are discussions regarding reviewing the Commonwealth Legislation to revert wrecks in commonwealth waters to state jurisdiction.
- c) The Public Access Program for the *City of Launceston* is dragging on to allow divers a fair chance to see the wreck. Weather conditions disrupted the program during April.
- d) Submarine on Swan Island was, until recently, open to public access – the military are discouraging visitation – the site provides sheltered water wreck snorkelling and diving for beginners. It would be a shame to lose this access. Peter Harvey – following up a military heritage officer via Canberra.

## Meeting No: 130

### MHU REPORT

- a) Peter Harvey reports staffing selection of applicant for vacant maritime archaeologist position within the unit is complete. Due to start mid October provided visa can be obtained.
- b) New trailer for the boat "Trim" is now delivered and alterations to the storage shed at Altona will be complete within the week.
- c) Cass Philippou on leave in US and Mexico til 20 August
- d) Reported on negotiations with Flinders Uni's Mark Staniforth in relation to having students participate in Heritage Victoria Field work during the summer season. Commencing at Port Albert in October.

## Meeting No 131

Gippsland Regional Maritime Museum

PORT ALBERT

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006

A very small attendance at this, the first regional meeting held held out of Melbourne for a very long time.

Present: Malcolm MacDonald (Chair), Sean O'Neill (AMSA), Geoff Sparkes (DIVA), Geoff Hewitt (Archaeologist), Shirley Strachan (Archaeologist), Cassandra Philippou (Maritime Archaeologist) & Des Williams (SDFV)

Jack Loney Award - New design has been selected, and designer's estimates called for pending production. A photo of the new design will be emailed to Committee very soon.

The Duncan/Barnard Thematic Study of maritime historical sites has been completed and it was suggested that this should be published ASAP. It has to be edited first. The report may be listed on Heritage Vic website, decision to be made soon.

Year 2007 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of our Historic Shipwrecks Legislation. D.W expressed SDFV interest in the celebrations, maybe SDFV and other diver based organisations may like to contribute to another "Sunken Assests" Seminar. Plenty of interest in a joint venture from MHU and G. Sparkes offered assistance from DIVA. D.W to discuss further with SDFV Committee ASAP.

## MHU REPORT:

New staff member Ms. Hanna Steyne from Wessex Archaeology in the UK joins the MHU team late October.

The Unit members have been very busy organising the current round of field work and completion of new boat arrival.

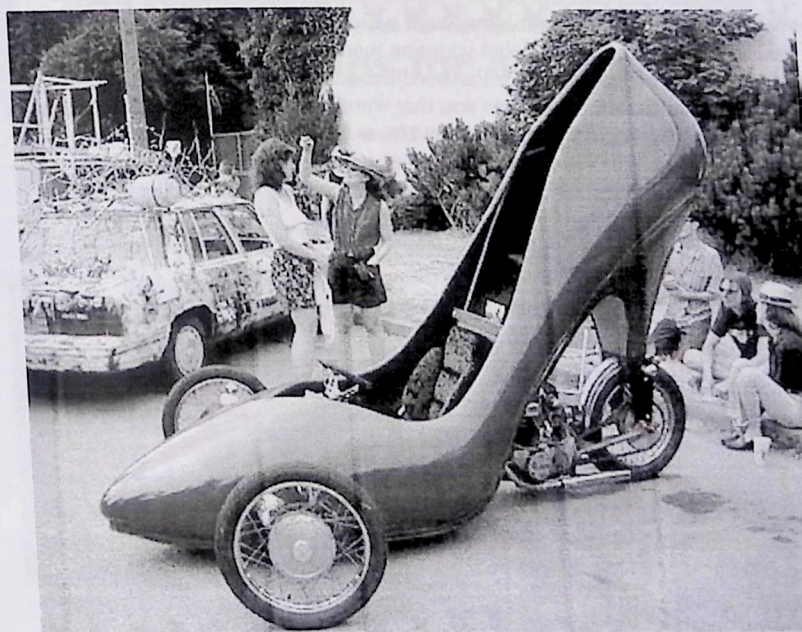
Running next AIMA NAS course at Inverloch after current round of field work at Port Albert.

Trailer for the new boat has arrived and the boat was loaded last weekend, just in time for the coming field work at Port Albert.

A big cleanup at the MHU storage facility at Altona was undertaken with help from some MAAV members on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October. A lot of work was done and the facility is now more organised for new boat.

The MHU team recently visited a new archaeological site on Snake Island, report by Parks Victoria staff. Possibly the remains of a chunk of wreck washed in many years ago. This site will be surveyed during current round of field work.

### Report by Des Williams



Well heeled!!

Page

## Earth Close to Hottest Climate in Million Years and World has 10 Years to Avert Climate Change

Abridged from the Sydney Morning Herald, 26 September 2006 – <http://www.smh.com.au/news/environment/earth-close-to-hottest-climate-in-million-years/2006/09/26/1159036523822.html>

The Earth's rapid warming has pushed temperatures to their hottest level in nearly 12,000 years and within a hair's breadth of a million years, a study by the US space agency showed on Sunday. Global warming, which has added 0.2 of a degree a decade over the past 30 years, has caused temperatures to reach and now pass through the warmest levels in the current interglacial period, which lasted almost 12,000 years, said the study led by James Hansen, a leading climatologist at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. The study, published in the September 26 of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said that Earth was now within about 1 degree of the maximum estimated temperature of the past million years. That means that further global warming of 1 degree Celsius defines a critical level. If warming is kept less than that, effects of global warming may be relatively manageable. During the warmest interglacial periods, the Earth was reasonably similar to today. But if further global warming reaches 2 or 3 degrees Celsius, we will likely see changes that make Earth a different planet than the one we know. The last time the Earth was that warm was in the middle Pliocene, about 3 million years ago, when the sea level was estimated to have been about 25 metres higher than today. The world has ten years to implement decisive measures to avert dangerous climate change, noted NASA climate scientist James Hansen has told a California climate conference.



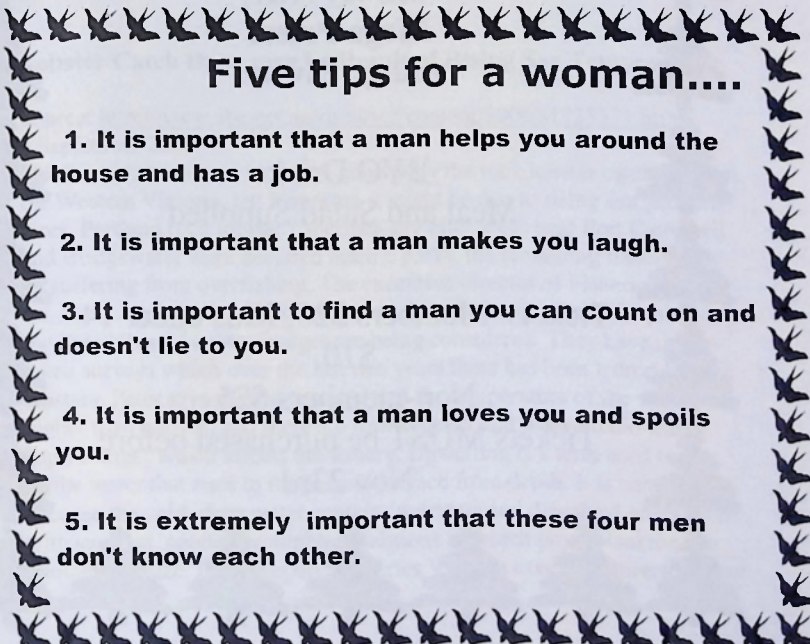
Without  
Comment!

## **Shark Protection Plans May Go to Court**

Abridged from ABC News Online, 5 October 2006 – <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200610/s1755829.htm>


Animal conservation groups are considering legal action to force the NSW Government to better protect the grey nurse shark. There are now an estimated 500 grey nurse sharks left on the east coast of Australia, and the State Government is currently considering protection at five critical habitat sites. Humane Society International says the Government is not acting fast enough. Environmental groups and divers agree that better protection needs to be put in place before it is too late. There are 16 sites that this shark depends on. They're small sites, they need to be protected from fishing as a matter of urgency otherwise we're looking at the grey nurse shark going extinct in the decade. Environmental groups and divers will meet in Sydney to work out their campaign strategy.

Further information: Humane Society International, [enquirv@hsi.org.au](mailto:enquirv@hsi.org.au) or (02) 9973 1728



### **Five tips for a woman....**

- 1. It is important that a man helps you around the house and has a job.**
- 2. It is important that a man makes you laugh.**
- 3. It is important to find a man you can count on and doesn't lie to you.**
- 4. It is important that a man loves you and spoils you.**
- 5. It is extremely important that these four men don't know each other.**



**VSAG Christmas Party**

**Saturday**

**2nd December 2006**

**From 12:30pm**

**Jells Park**

**(Melway 71K7)**

**Mega Prizes  
and giveaways**

**BYO Drinks**

**Meat and Salad Supplied**

**Tickets: Members \$20, Kids under 14  
\$10,**

**Non-members \$25**

**Tickets MUST be purchased before  
Nov 23rd**



Open days for the 2006/07 recreational abalone fishing season	
18 and 19 November 2006	17 and 18 February 2007
25 and 26 November 2006	24 and 25 February 2007
2 and 3 December 2006	3 and 4 March 2007
9 and 10 December 2006	10 to 12 March 2007
16 and 17 December 2006	24 and 25 March 2007
22 December 2006 to 7 January 2007	6 to 9 April 2007
13 and 14 January 2007	21 and 22 April 2007
20 and 21 January 2007	25-Apr-07
26 to 28 January 2007	5 and 6 May 2007
3 and 4 February 2007	12 and 13 May 2007
10 and 11 February 2007	

### **Lobster Catch Drop may be Result of Rising Sea Temperature**

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/vic/content/2006/s1733371.htm>  
5 September 2006

Fisheries Victoria says it doesn't know why the rock lobster catch is down off Western Victoria, but it appears it might be due to rising sea temperatures. Portland rock lobster fishermen say after areas near Port Campbell and Bridgewater were declared marine parks, the remaining fishery may be suffering from overfishing. The executive director of Fisheries Victoria, Peter Appleford, says the reasons why catches may have dropped and the possibility of quota changes are being considered. They have undertaken surveys which over the last two years there has been a drop in rock lobsters. Peter says they have noted that the temperature of the water is higher than normal, and there are less frequent and weaker cold water "upwellings" which affects the fishery. Upwelling is a term used to describe water that rises to the ocean's surface from depth. It is beneficial because the cold, deep water contains nutrients and dissolved gases, that with sunlight, create favourable conditions in which phytoplankton can photosynthesize. In this report: Fisheries Victoria executive director Peter Appleford.