

FATHOMS

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2007

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP



www.vsag.org.au

Postal Address: VSAG
224 Wattle Valley Road
Camberwell VIC 3124





The GOOD old days

FATHOMS



Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

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VSAG General Meetings
3rd Thursday in the month

Editorial Submissions to:

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

After a very hectic May and June with trips by our members to Palau, Guam, Bali, Norfolk Island, Cairns and local diving at Queenscliff, and other spots around the bay; July and August have been very, very quiet. Most of the scheduled dives have

been cancelled due to poor weather and a couple that did run were restricted to a single tank dive. A shore dive that I did at the North end of the bay was at 7.8C on the computer – almost needed to put on another suit over the 7mil.

On the social scene, our xmas in July was a great function but the committee was disappointed with the turnout. If you have any other recommendations re a function that would be well patronised, please discuss with one of the committee.

SUNKEN ASSETS is on again after a few years break and there are still many tickets available but filling fast. Check out page 18 for details. You MUST pre-book and if you wish to go, and can not get on line to book I am happy to book for you (provided you pay me!)

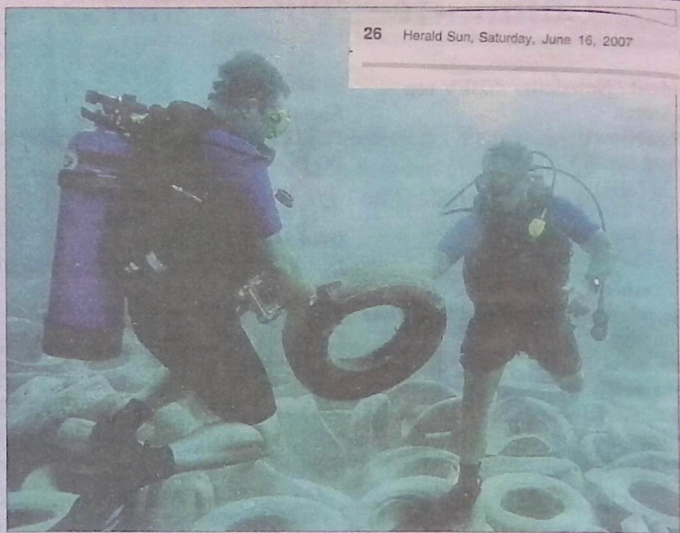
Next month is the AGM so please support with your presence. Nominate for a committee position – forms included with this edition of fathoms. Please nominate someone you think will play an active part in the running of the club.

We are updating the membership database and you will also find the new 'Application for Membership Form' included with Fathoms. Please complete this as it will assist us in going forward.

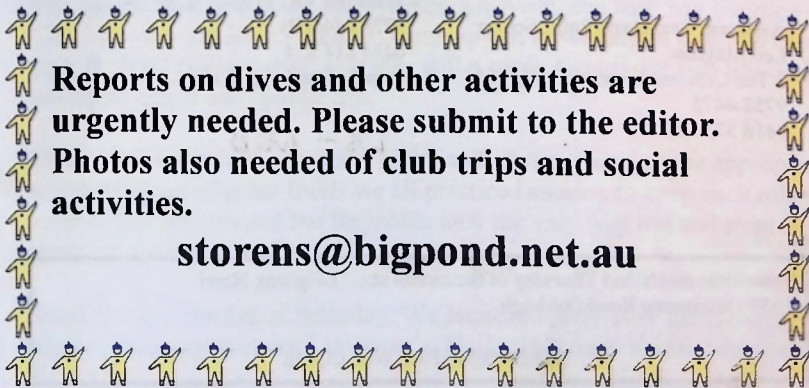
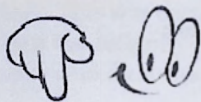
Annual subs are also due and a form is included with Fathoms – to be completed and returned to the Treasurer asap.

Hope you enjoy the surface interval – being under is better!!

Alan



TREADING water . . . scuba divers recover tyres sunk off Fort Lauderdale in the 1970s to form an artificial reef. Florida is now spending \$2 million to recover 700,000 tyres, which have been found to be killing coral. Picture: AP



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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Committee meets 2nd Thursday of the month at:: Leighoak Hotel
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ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Queenscliff June 2007 : The Queens Birthday Weekend

Greg Richards

It had been some years since I had experienced the pleasures of Queenscliff, so I was really looking forward to the Queens Birthday staying at Boarfish lodge. A few arrived on Friday night and enjoyed a delightful meal at the local Pub, before grabbing the best bunks and hitting the sack.

John Lawler had told me to be ready by 9.00 am, so an early start from Frankston then around the Bay saw me arrive with 90 seconds to spare. After Rob Kirk arrived some time later we had the 2 boats launched and set off for the Coogee. Despite the weather looking a touch dodgy we had a ripper dive here and the water temperature, although only 14C was bearable. The wreckage was smothered in fish life and with minimal surge and half decent visibility we were able to spend a leisurely 20 minutes exploring the whole site.

After the dive, as we sat shivering in the boat, Freediver pulled up next to us with Rob Kirk, John Mills and Prya, and began to consume fresh hot dogs. This was outrageous! The smarmy looks on their faces as we suffered the indignity of eating tinned fish, seaweed biscuits, sandwiches and other cold food was just too much. The rivalry was on.

The second dive was at the aptly named Kn'Awesome reef. My buddies Lloyd Borrett and Bridey Leggett came up just as we drifted onto the best part. It didn't really matter, as it was still a super dive. Great fish life with excellent ledges and sponge life.

Dinner was organized as a pizza night, and after consuming the appropriate amounts of the relevant fluids we all practiced snoring to keep each other awake. The Storens and Pat Reynolds took the easy way out and slept in the main house.

Sunday was a rewrite of Saturday. We launched early after the Lawler boat made a quiet unannounced stopover at the local Bakery to purchase some

Blueberry and Apricot Danish's. That smug bastard Beckhurst was waiting at the ramp all cock a hoop with his thermos full of Hot Dogs without a clue that he was going to be Gazumped!

The plan was to meet up with Peter Briggs and Alan Dickerson on the water and proceed to the 90ft Sub. On arrival it was obvious that the water was very clear and after putting down the first team, half of Melbourne came to join us. The divers surfaced and said it was sensational, probably 60 ft vis and quite calm. Due to the numbers on site we decided to head back to the Coogee. Freediver had gone off to one of the other Subs and was reporting good conditions.

The Coogee was not as clear as the Sub, but was clearer than yesterday. Peter Briggs had not dived it before and was very impressed. I have to say I didn't want to leave it, A most enjoyable dive and even better than yesterday.

It was time for lunch, the battle lines were drawn. It was Show-time! The gloating parsimonious pair; Alan Beckhurst and Mary Malloy, started entertaining their dodgy crew with hot Dogs, complete with your choice of sauce, ketchup or American mustard and again smiled a thinly veiled invitation to join them or beat them.

With that our resident Food expert produced a bag of the most sumptuous Danish Pastries this side of Copenhagen. The jaws stopped flappin' and started dropping over on Freediver. Beckhurst pulled his boat a little closer and after realizing he was beaten, agreed to concede a draw. Kappow!! "Holy Danish pastry Batman, I've been Gazumped." A draw my ass!

To finish off Sunday our boat and SS Briggs went to Castle Rock and everybody except Bridey and JL got wet. Jumpsuit Jack opted to skipper the boat and declined our invitation to dive. Age will not weary them, but it will make them reluctant to dive twice a day in winter.

Well they both missed a cracker of a dive albeit a tad cold by this stage. Not having dived this spot before I was lucky to fluke seriously clear water and calm conditions. When I landed on the sand next to the reef in 60 ft of water I looked up and not only could see the 3 others descending, I could see the boat. Not unlike Palau, with half the water temp.

After retrieving the boats and filling tanks at the ever-obliging Queenscliff dive shop we headed back for the VSAG QBLW BBQ. The non diving members of our Party, Jude, Pat and Benita had sourced some fine local produce and after the ritual ruining of prime cuts of meat on the Barby by drunken untalented cooks we sat en-masse and dined like Kings. Boarfish Lodge is designed for 6 people and we had 13. Cosy.



I was leaving that night after dinner so I sadly missed the washing up and the massed snoring. The group was in good spirits and Alan Storen was confident the weather Gods would still be on their side for Monday. He has a lot to answer for. The weather Goddy chap that is, not

Alan. The rain and wind came on later that night, in what can only be described as a maelstrom. By early morning it was obvious that a tour of the charms of Queenscliff was the only course to take.

A great weekend, with great company, sensational diving, warm comfortable accommodation and, Oh? Did I mention the Blueberry and Apricot Danish's? Mark your calendars now for next year or miss out on one of VSAGs highlight weekends away.

Skeletal Remains Found in Sunken War Planes

Human skeletal remains were found along with the wrecks of two British war planes missing for 60 years in Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay.

Two divers came across the remains during a recent dive between Mornington and Frankston.

The two British aircraft crashed into the bay during a training exercise in July, 1947.

Four people were killed but only one body was recovered at the time, but divers Paul Roadknight and Steve Boneham located the remains of one pilot still inside one of the wrecked aircraft about 20m below the surface of the bay.

They found the remains of another pilot next to the wreck of the second aircraft.

There was no information about the possible whereabouts of the fourth victim.

The wreckage of the two British Royal Navy single engined Fairy Firefly trainers is considered a significant archaeological find.

Mr Roadknight has tracked down the families of the dead pilots and a memorial is planned for next week, on the 60th anniversary of the crash.

Britain's Ministry of Defence is believed to support plans not to disturb the pilots' remains.

VSAG WINTER DIVE REPORT SUNDAY 22nd JULY 2007.

John Lawler

Alan Storen had to pass on the DC role this Sunday due to family commitments and it was my pleasure to take on the role.

Mick Jeackle's Haines Hunter had been undergoing some major repair works and he was keen to give the boat a run, so it was the Haines that was loaded up with 4 divers for this winter dive day.

John Merlo, Greg Richards, Peter Briggs, Mick and I arrived at Sorrento boat ramp around 11.30AM, not the most usual time for a dive outing, but it had been agreed to do a "one tank" dive on this occasion. Mick was playing boat driver today passing up on diving.

We were under no real time pressure to catch the slack water which was round 1.13PM, so this time departure allowed for an easy and comfortable ride to the dive site.

Greg and I got the nod for the first dive and chose one of Mick's special reef dive sites off Queenscliff - depth around 18metres.



The tide was an ebb and the journey to the bottom was through pretty milky water but on reaching the bay floor the viz improved markedly.

The reefs we landed on were varied from a few slight drop offs to some around 4-5 meters and so we had a great variety of interesting ledges and holes to investigate.

Full of colours and fish life, three banjo sharks,

and with the ebb tide just starting to slow up we having a great dive....with one exception!

My pre dive check of my dive gear was all ok but bad luck struck minutes into the dive. My Data Max Pro dive computer went dead and my (very old) back up computer flooded. I signalled this Peter and the rest of the dive was done with caution and safety in mind. Rather that extend the dive to the limit we adopted a conservative approach and terminated the dive after 35 minutes dive time.

The water temperature was around 11-12 degrees and although I was wearing my new Paragon 7ml/5ml I was very cold towards the end of the dive and for the rest of the time on the boat. I have since purchased an under suit vest and hood which should provide some much needed warmth....or I go into a dry suit next winter!

Peter didn't feel the cold so much, perhaps being fitter helped!

Greg and John chose to dive closer to the Awesome Reef area as the shipping had passed and all was clear for safe diving.

Good reports of fish life, no crays, and a wonderland of beauty despite the ebb tide water made this dive for the boys a happy one.

Heading back to Sorrento we came across a very large pod of very frisky dolphins herding up a school of bait fish...a couple came over to our boat for a quick look and were only metres off the bow...a wonderful way to end our day on the bay.

JL





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Husband and wife are sitting quietly in bed reading when the wife looks over at him and asks the question.

WIFE: "What would you do if I died? Would you get married again?"

HUSBAND: "Definitely not!"

WIFE: "Why not? Don't you like being married?"

HUSBAND: "Of course I do."

WIFE: "Then why wouldn't you remarry?"

HUSBAND: "Okay, okay, I'd get married again."

WIFE: "You would?" (with a hurt look)

HUSBAND: (makes audible groan)

WIFE: "Would you live in our house?"

HUSBAND: "Sure, it's a great house."

WIFE: "Would you sleep with her in our bed?"

HUSBAND: "Where else would we sleep?"

WIFE: "Would you let her drive my car?"

HUSBAND: "Probably, it is almost new."

WIFE: "Would you replace my pictures with hers?"

HUSBAND: "That would seem like the proper thing to do"

WIFE: "Would you give her my jewellery?"

HUSBAND: "No, I'm sure she'd want her own."

WIFE: "Would you take her golfing with you?"

HUSBAND: "Yes, those are always good times."

WIFE: "Would she use my clubs?"

HUSBAND: "No, she's left-handed."

WIFE: -- silence --

HUSBAND: "Shit"



VSAG XMAS IN JULY

Alan Storen

Christmas comes but once a year, or so the saying goes, and many vsagers obviously believe this as only a select few were able to make it to the 'Christmas in July' function at St John's Regional Catholic College, Graduates Restaurant in Dandenong. At \$30 per head for a superb three course meal and all the wine/ beer and soft drink included it was a great night.

We started with pumpkin soup (it probably had some exotic name but 'pumpkin' will do), followed by ham and turkey main and fantastic desserts – again with an exotic fancy name.

The students were well presented, the dining room better than some of the restaurants that I have dined in and the wine – both whites and red of good quality. The beer drinkers didn't complain either. The only complaint from the students was that we did not try the cocktails, so we will need to return again.

Starters for this function were Peter and Carol Briggs, Alan and Jude Storen, Priya Cardinaletti and John Mills and Pat Reynolds. Thanks to Priya for her organisation.





Have you been meaning to do CPR and First Aid Training but you still haven't got around to it?

Now's your chance.

You also won't have to pay a cent and you can help us by being part of a research project that is a joint initiative of the Divers Alert Network (DAN), a not-for-profit diving safety organization, and Rural Ambulance Victoria.

And at the end of the project all successful participants will receive a Nationally Recognised First Aid certification.

Why are we doing this project?

The format of delivery of first aid training has changed considerably over more recent years from the previously standard 24 hour program, to a 16 hour program usually delivered over 2 days.

More recently, home-study programs utilising the internet and / or workbooks and a single day of instructor contact and practical exercises have become increasingly popular.

This study is designed to evaluate whether differences in student performance exist between two methods of instruction of the Level 2 - Provide First Aid / Senior First Aid course.

You can rest assured that all your personal details will be strictly confidential and de-identified in the resulting report.

If you fulfil the following criteria, why not contact us and we'll give you more information on how you can enrol for this free training program.

- You have not had First Aid or CPR training in the last 5 years
- You will be available for 2 days of a single weekend
- You will have access to a PC and the internet
- You will be available for a 3-month follow-up

For more information contact John Lippmann OAM, at DAN on 9886 9166 or email johnl@danasiapacific.org.

The RMIT Underwater Club is proud to host the
SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria
presentation of

Sunken Assets™ 2007

*A day exploring our magnificent maritime heritage marking
the 25th anniversary of Victoria's Historic Shipwrecks Act*

It's 25 years since the Historic Shipwrecks Act was introduced to protect Victoria's rich maritime heritage. Help Heritage Victoria mark the occasion by joining us in a fascinating day discovering links to our sea-faring past.

Open to the public

**Sunday 19 August, 2007
10.00am – 5.00 pm**

**Auditorium
RMIT Storey Hall
Swanston St, Melbourne**

**\$25 coffee & tea included
Seating strictly limited.
Pre-registration is essential.**

**Go to www.sdfv.org.au for program
and registration details**

*Further information contact:- John (SDFV) 03 9764 2001 (hh)
Cassandra (Heritage Victoria) 03 9637 9348 (hh)*



HERITAGE
COUNCIL





.....

An elderly couple were on a cruise and it was really stormy. They were standing on the back of the boat watching the moon, when a wave came up and washed the old woman overboard. They searched for days and couldn't find her, so the captain sent the old man back to shore with the promise that he would notify him as soon as they found something. Three weeks went by and finally the old man got a fax from the boat. It read: "Sir, sorry to inform you, we found your wife dead at the bottom of the ocean. We hauled her up to the deck and attached to her butt was an oyster and in it was a pearl worth \$50,000 . . please advise." The old man faxed back: "Send me the pearl and re-bait the trap."

.....

A funeral service is being held for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pall bearers are carrying the casket out when they accidentally bump into a wall, jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive! She lives for ten more years, and then dies. Once again, a ceremony is held, and at the end of it, the pall bearers are again carrying out the casket. As they carry the casket towards the door, the husband cries out, "Watch that wall!"

.....


When I went to lunch today, I noticed an old lady sitting on a park bench sobbing her eyes out. I stopped and asked her what was wrong. She said, "I have a 22 year old husband at home. He makes love to me every morning and then gets up and makes me pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and freshly ground coffee."
I said, "Well, then why are you crying?"
She said, "He makes me homemade soup for lunch and my favourite brownies and then makes love to me for half the afternoon."
I said, "Well, why are you crying?"
She said, "For dinner he makes me a gourmet meal with wine and my favourite dessert and then makes love to me until 2:00 a.m. "
I said, "Well, why in the world would you be crying?"
She said, "I can't remember where I live!"


New Safety Stop Recommendations

By Lloyd Borrett

1 minute at half of the maximum depth.

2 minutes at 5 to 6 metres (15 to 20 feet).

The key to decompression safety isn't trying to outgas nitrogen as quickly as possible. It's trying to eliminate the nitrogen as quickly as possible while preventing the formation of any bubbles — even the asymptomatic or “silent” kind.

Several recent studies have confirmed that stopping deeper than the generally accepted 3 to 5 metres (10 to 15 feet) allows nitrogen to escape more efficiently and prevents, or drastically reduces, the formation of silent bubbles.

With the introduction of new dive tables based on Dr. Bruce Wienke's Reduced Gradient Bubble Model (RGBM), some of the training agencies have introduced new recommendations for safety stops.

It is now advised that all recreational diving incorporates a deep stop for one minute at a depth half that of the maximum depth, followed by a two minute stop at 5 to 6 metres (15 to 20 feet).

Thus the new recommendations for safety stops still have us stopping for a total of 3 minutes. It's just that we should stop for one minute at half of our maximum depth, and then stop again for two minutes at 5 to 6 metres (15 to 20 feet). Note that the shallower stop is now recommended to be 5 to 6 metres (15 to 20 feet), not the more common 3 to 5 metres (10 to 15 feet). Naturally, if your dive is no deeper than 12 metres, then you would just do a three minute stop at 5 to 6 metres (15 to 20 feet).

Many of the more recent dive computers use algorithms based on the RGBM model. Thus there are already dive computers about which can prompt divers to do a deeper safety stop for 1 minute followed by a shallower safety stop for 2 minutes.

Abalone group fears virus not being treated seriously

Abridged from ABC Online, 28 June 2007

Full text: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/06/28/1964696.htm>

The Victorian Abalone Divers Association is frustrated by the State Government and Fisheries Victoria's handling of a deadly abalone virus. The virus has now spread 160 kilometres along the south-west coast. The chief executive of the Victorian Abalone Divers Association, Vincent Gannon, is backing calls by local MP Denis Napthine for an independent inquiry. The executive director of Fisheries Victoria denies it is failing to take the issue seriously. Peter Appleford says the department has promoted ongoing meetings to discuss the disease, but cannot do any more than what is currently being done to stop the virus spreading.

Safer means busier in Portarlington

Abridged from Growish, 6 July 2007

Full text: <http://www.growfish.com.au/content.asp?contentid=9596>

Plans to make Portarlington Pier a safe harbour could quadruple the number of berths, a mussel farmer says. Peter Bold, a commercial fisherman of 23 years, said the upgrade would make the Portarlington Pier the drawcard of Port Phillip Bay. Mr Bold said the upgrade was long overdue and needed to support the expanding aquaculture industry. Parks Victoria regional manager for city and bays Stuart Ord said the managing authority had completed engineering assessments of the pier and would now create a harbour master plan. Mr Ord said the community would be consulted throughout the process and an economic feasibility study would outline the cost of the project.

More whale sightings predicted for Victorian south coast

Abridged from ABC Online, 3 July 2007

Full text: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/07/03/1968507.htm>

Scientists believe residents along Victoria's south-west coast will see a lot more whales in the coming years. Associate Professor Peter Harrison from the Southern Cross Whale Research Centre says whale numbers peaked at 40,000 in the 1800s, but then dropped to just 100 in the 1960s. "So over the last decade or so the numbers have just started to recover efficiently so that the breeding rate is allowing that rapid increase in the population size and we now ... think that there are ... for this year's migrations, somewhere between 9,000 and 10,000 humpback whales along the coast," he said.

Dredging impact could last 30 years

Abridged from The Age, 31 July 2007

Full text: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/>

The entrance to Port Phillip Bay will take up to 30 years to recover from the effects of channel deepening, the Port of Melbourne Corporation conceded, a dramatic increase on its previous estimate. The corporation said in March it would take the sensitive seabed at the Heads, including two marine national parks, two to five years to recover. The new information has forced a State Government inquiry to call for further submissions on the controversial \$763 million project designed to make the port suitable for larger tankers. Submissions closed on May 7, but the chairman of the inquiry, Dr Allan Hawke, said the new information was serious enough to justify the move. "It's a substantial addition," he said.

Poison shellfish warning on dredging

Abridged from The Age, 16 July 2007

Full text: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/>

Shellfish in the north of Melbourne's bay could become dangerously toxic if dredging of the city's shipping channels goes ahead. Opponents of the plan have warned this will disperse contaminants from the Yarra (which include arsenic, lead, pesticides and other chemicals) into sea life, with potentially disastrous consequences - especially for shellfish such as mussels. A Port Corporation study completed in March found that three types of fish - mullet, snapper and flathead - would not be made poisonous by dredging stirring up the contaminants. But after pressure to include shellfish in their study, the Port Corporation gave evidence to the six-week State Government inquiry that mussels would not become toxic as a result of dredging. Former CSIRO chemical engineer Chris Mardon says the Corporation's data in fact shows that mussels in the Yarra will become "hundreds of times" more toxic than tough American environmental laws would ever allow. Australia has no set limits for acceptable levels of the cancer-causing Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons which could be released into shellfish, Mr Mardon said.

Dollars for HMAS Canberra dive wreck

Abridged from The Geelong Advertiser, 24 July 2007

Full text: http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2007/07/24/5623_news.html

The Australian Government has delivered \$7 million towards decommissioning HMAS Canberra to create an iconic dive wreck off Point Lonsdale. Victoria last year won the bid to have the decommissioned war ship sunk off the coast of Point Lonsdale but a row over the cost of cleaning up the ship had stalled the negotiations. Federal Defence Minister Brendan Nelson said he has "become concerned at the delay of the Victorian Government towards implementing this important project for the people of the Surf Coast and the associated recreational dive industry,"

The Defence Minister said he had directed the department to assume project management responsibility. "I have also made \$7 million in funding available to ensure the quickest possible schedule for the sinking of the ship," he said. A study last year said the wreck of HMAS Canberra could bring more than \$1 million into the Victorian economy and attract thousands of divers to the region.

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time.....but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?"



VICTORIAN ARTIFICIAL REEF SOCIETY INC. NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the first Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Artificial Reef Society Inc. (VARs) will be held on Tuesday, 11th September, 2007 at 8pm at The Bells Hotel, Corner of Moray and Coventry Streets, South Melbourne, Victoria
Agenda

1. To receive apologies
2. To receive the Annual Report (President)
3. To receive the Financial Report (Treasurer)
4. To elect the committee for the 2007/2008 year
positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two general committee members
5. To elect the auditor for the 2007/2008 year
6. General Business
7. AOB
8. Close

Proxy forms are available from the secretary, Alan Storen, 15 Regal Court, Vermont South VIC 3133 OR storens@bigpond.net.au and must be returned 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Members are invited to join the current committee for a meal at Bells Hotel prior to the meeting commencing at approximately 7pm. (at members expense)

**JOIN VARS NOW AND HELP SINK THE
exHMAS CANBERRA IN VICTORIA.**

Forms Available: www.vars.org.au

Or email Mick Jeacle: mpieacle@bigpond.net.au



An A-Z of Diving, the VSAG Way

Lloyd Borrett

An Introduction for New Members

A is for Air. That's generally pretty important.

B is for Buoyancy control. Some people have it and the rest never will.

C is for Club rules. They are right. You are wrong. It's pretty simple really.

D is for Danger. Diving a dangerous sport? Not really, as long as you watch out for neurosis, your eyes being sucked out, your lungs and ear drums exploding and unnaturally crooked limbs.

E is for Emergency. Yes, no-one remembered to bring a packet of Snakes for after the dive.

F is for Foreign water. Warm, brightly coloured and absolutely lovely.

G is for Going to the pub. The place where you get a chance to agree to spend your weekend in sub-arctic temperatures, with what feels like 100 kg of equipment on your back.

H is for Having fun. Despite previous descriptions, diving is actually great fun. How cheesy is that?

I is for Intoxication. Apparently, there are some members of the club who have been known to partake in the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Shocker.

J is for John Lawler. He is quite literally a natural-born diver. The current hypothesis states that the successful sperm got there first all those years ago because it had fins and a compass.

K is for Kicking. You do it with your legs and you're instantly transformed from a wobbling blob floating aimlessly to a human dolphin. Apparently.

L is for Lakes. Big bodies of water, which you may well get to visit if you're lucky.

M is for Melbourne water. They say it's "temperate", but in winter it's just dam cold.

N is for Nitrogen Narcosis. The deeper you go, the weirder it feels.

O is for Oxygen toxicity. The deeper you go, the more poisonous it gets.

P is for the Pool. You do all of the boring practice here before being let loose in... Port Phillip Bay.

Q is for Quietly moving on to the next letter, hoping that no-one notices.

R is for Rigid-hulled Inflatable Boats. Some think RIBs are the best way of going diving. VSAG members prefer the comfort of a large, deep-vee fibreglass boat.

S is for Sub-Aqua. Have a look through your cheque book and you'll see it on 95% of the stubs from the last month. It's the group of people that you've just spent an indecent amount of money to hang around with.

T is for Techies. Technical divers spend thousands of dollars on new bits and pieces allowing them to go deeper for longer. If you see a juggernaut parked at a dive-site, it's either full of a techie's equipment or actually is a techie wearing his equipment.

U is for Underwater. It might be cold and dark, but it's worth it.

V is for Visibility. Normally not too bad in Melbourne, until you attempt to fit as many divers as is physically possible into a dive site. This tends to lead to a slight deterioration.

W is for Wet suit. The once carefully tailored lump of neoprene which once kept you warm enough to dive in winter. Now it's worn so thin and full of holes that you get cold diving in the peak of summer.

X. I'm not even going to try.

Y is for why? The question you better half still asks every time you announce you're going on another VSAG dive day.

Z is for Zebra. By all means keep looking, but it's unlikely you'll find one underwater in Port Phillip Bay. You might have more luck at the Zoo.



An English professor wrote the words:

"A woman without her man is nothing"

on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All the males in the class wrote:
"A woman, without her man, is nothing."

All the females in the class wrote:
"A woman: without her, man is nothing."



THE SENILITY PRAYER

**Grant me the senility to forget
the people I never liked any-
way,
the good fortune to run into
the ones I do,
and the eyesight to tell the
difference.**



Prawn Joke

Lloyd Borrett

Far away in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the sea, one called Justin and the other called Christian. The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that inhabited the area. Finally one day Justin said to Christian, "I'm fed up with being a prawn; I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten."

A large mysterious cod appeared and said, "Your wish is granted." Lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate.

Time passed (as it invariably does) and Justin found life as a shark boring and lonely. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin didn't realise that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight.

While swimming alone one day he saw the mysterious cod again and he thought perhaps the mysterious fish could change him back into a prawn. He approached the cod and begged to be changed back, and, lo and behold, he found himself turned back into a prawn.

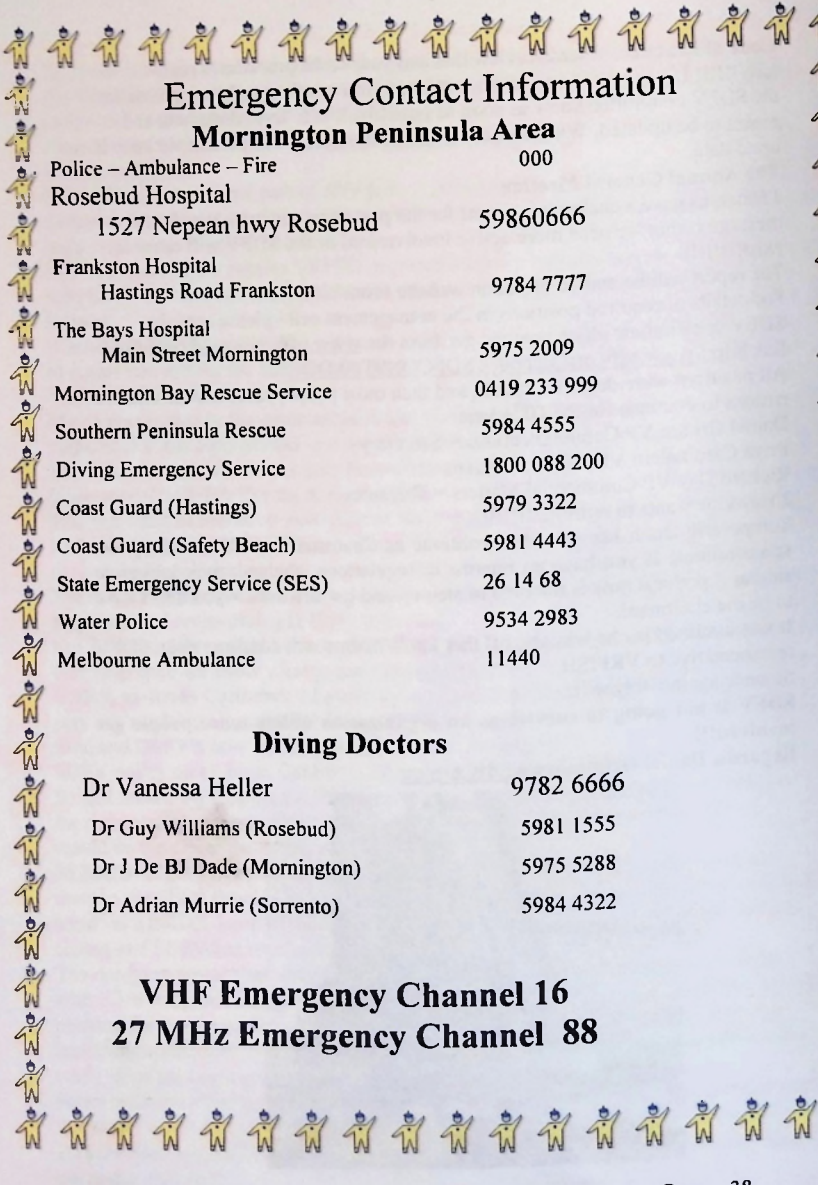
With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail. Looking around the gathering at the reef he realised he couldn't see his old pal.

"Where's Christian?" he asked. "He's at home, still distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy and became a shark," came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, He set off to Christian's abode. As he opened the coral gate, memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted: "It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again."

Christian replied, "No way man, you'll eat me. You're now a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked into being your dinner."

Justin cried back "No, I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed... I've found Cod. I'm a Prawn again Christian."



Emergency Contact Information

Mornington Peninsula Area

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Police – Ambulance – Fire | 000 |
| Rosebud Hospital | |
| 1527 Nepean hwy Rosebud | 59860666 |
| 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 Vanessa Heller | 9782 6666 |
| Dr Guy Williams (Rosebud) | 5981 1555 |
| Dr J De BJ Dade (Mornington) | 5975 5288 |
| Dr Adrian Murrie (Sorrento) | 5984 4322 |

VHF Emergency Channel 16
27 MHz Emergency Channel 88