

FATHOMS

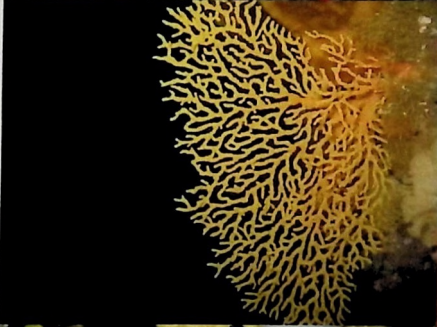
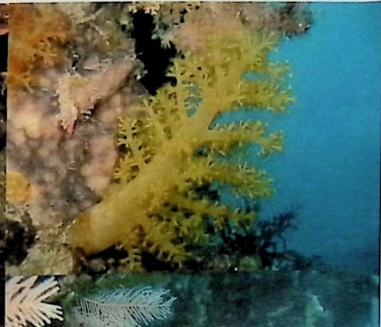
JUNE—JULY 2009

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP



www.vsag.org.au
Postal Address: VSAG
224 Wattle Valley Road
Camberwell VIC 3124





Just some of David Reindhart's brilliant photo work from the Prom 2009 906 Page 2

FATHOMS



Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

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VSAG General Meetings
3rd Thursday in the month

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Bell's Hotel
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South Melbourne, 8.00 pm
Alan Storen
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Editorial

What a busy two months it has been with action on/ in the water, social events, Easter and of course the Sulawesi trip and Queens Birthday weekend at Boarfish Lodge Queenscliff all about to happen.

Firstly I would like to thank those 'old and bold' and 'not so old and bold' for bringing their memorabilia from their many years of diving to our April meeting. For those that could not make the meeting it was a 'Show and Tell' by members who had brought items from years past to show, and tell tall tales but true about their adventures under the water and the items 'saved from a watery grave.' It was a great night and all seemed to enjoy – we must do another in the future.



The IMAX night was good and the report is to be found on page 16. Several dive reports from the last two months and one on the Prom are also included. Mac Gregory has included his latest recount of his action in WW II and is also a great read on page 36 – Thanks Mac.

Some very interesting Profiles are also included and these are always a great read. JL's 'Diving into the past' and GR's prom article on Paul Tipping are also a great read.

As I write this I am just back from Sulawesi and it was fantastic but the stories that can be told will be included in the next edition (you know – what goes on on the trip stays on the trip! My wine bill was 2,000,000!!!) We should have stories from the QBWE as well .

Enough from me – must go diving if there is any action at Queenscliff.

Join us under the water soon!

Alan Storen

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas in July...

Back by popular demand, is **Christmas in July**. We have reserved a place for you at the Graduates Restaurant on Thursday 30th of July 2009, from 6pm.

Three courses including a hearty winter soup, turkey, ham and roast vegies followed by some Christmas pudding for only \$24 a person. Reserve your place early! Drinks at bar prices. Book in with the social secretary!

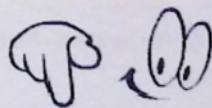


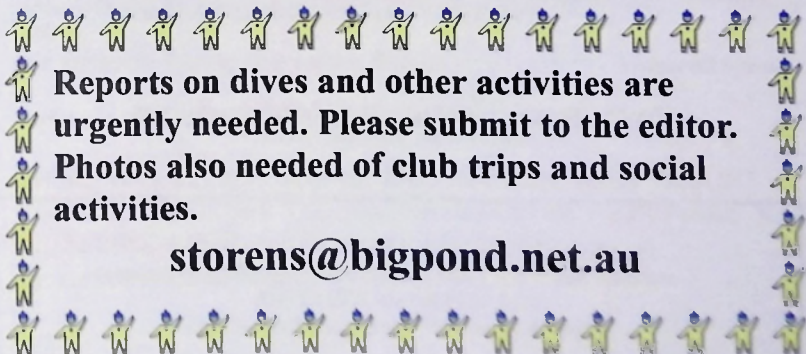
VSAG Christmas Party

The proposed date for this years Christmas party is Sunday 29th of November.

This will be a catered event with roast meat, salads, potatoes and desserts, featuring the annual VSAG raffle among some new additions to the entertainment. It will be a BYO affair at the home of one of our esteemed members. **Put the date in your diary!** Any suggestions or questions? Let the social secretary know as soon as possible.

This will be the event of the year. Don't miss it!





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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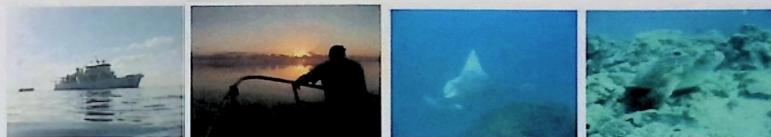
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Committee meets 2nd Thursday of the month (except in January)
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME
Leighoah Hotel 1555 Dandenong Rd Oakleigh.

GREAT BARRIER REEF / BUNKER GROUP TRIP SEPTEMBER '09



Board MV Venus 2 at Bundaberg on 10th September 2009 for 5 days of diving on Hoskyn, Fairfax, Lady Musgrave, and Lady Elliot islands. Mary and I did this trip in Sept '04 and saw pristine reefs, Mantas, and Humpback Whales (surface). Lady Musgrave Island and Lagoon is the perfect coral cay with a large millpond lagoon and spectacular fringing reefs.

MV Venus 2 is a 22 metre vessel which takes 14 divers in 4 cabins with both double and single options. Each cabin has its own ensuite and air conditioning. Tanks and weights are provided and hire gear is available.

The Package!

Virgin return airfare from Melbourne to Hervey Bay is \$374 (incl taxes, charges, and baggage to 28 kg)

MV Venus 2 for 5 days, incl diving, meals, and accommodation (not incl alcohol & soft drinks) is \$881 (subject to filling the boat)

Accommodation at the Matilda Hotel (one night shared) for the 17th Sept is \$40 pp.

Bus transfers Hervey Bay Return \$40 pp

Package = \$1335 (subject to change prior to booking)

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF INTEREST IN THIS TRIP SO FIRST IN WILL GET THE SPOTS! REGISTER YOUR NAME WITH **ALAN BECKHURST**, email alanbeck@alphalink.com.au.
Or mobile 0403536508.

The Prom at its magnificent best.

Alan Storen

About 100 VSAGers, family and friends ventured down to the Prom at Easter. After last year's problem with the booking we had a plan, and due to Andy Mastrowicz's brilliant logistics we managed to get all our booking confirmed. Getunder had not been as fortunate but after some movement we were able to offer them some of our sites and this worked very well.

The Prom fires had affected about 50% of the Prom and at a one stage it was not certain that we would be able to camp at Tidal River. Fortunately some early spring rain came to our aid and we were given the OK by Parks. There were, however, severe restrictions on any bush walks and the non-divers were restricted to the Tidal river camp area and even so some areas were 'off-limits'. I am not sure how this effected their plans as I was off diving!



Those that made it to the Prom were: Lloyd Borrett, Adam Borge and family, Peter Briggs, Tony Cimino, David Geekie, John Gladding, Mick and Annie Jeacle & daughter (Jess), Mick Kakafikas and Christine & friends, Jeanette and Mick Large, John Lawler, Andy and Gail Mastrowicz and family, Loe Maybus and daughter with family, Ken Methven and Takae, John and Priya Mills, David Reinhardt, Pat Reynolds, Greg Richards, Bob and June Scott and son Darby and his daughter, Jude and Alan Storen, AJ Storen, Martin and Josie Taliana & friends, Paul and Lesley Tipping & daughter, Bazza and Maree Truscott and family(s), Trevor and Cathy Williams, Mary and Alan Beckhurst (plus Getunder crew)
[Apologies to anyone forgotten!]

Jude and I and son AJ ventured down on the Thursday pm and many happy campers were already set up when we arrived (and into the amber fluid). Many others arrived over the next several hours and it was obvious that we would have plenty of divers for a Friday dive. I think we had about 24 divers and we filled four boats. The first dive was to Skull Rock and from first splash it was obvious that it was going to be brilliant diving all weekend. Viz



was great and colours spectacular. Normal swim throughs, caves and bommies everywhere! Next was the almost obligatory dive with the seals at Kanowna and then near Anser Island to cap off a fantastic day on/in the water.

Night activities were relatively quiet by previous VSAG standards (or so I am told) with many smaller groups gathering for a story, a drink or two and socialising – or an early night for those over 60 still high on the days diving.



Next day we had 5 boats on the water with the three VSAG boats and two Getunder boats. Andy was doing a great job fitting divers on boats. We even got Bazza Truscott, Leo Maybus and Paul Tipping wet! Pat Renolds almost said yes – or so I am told!

Two boats headed back to Skull while others headed to the Glennies. I dived Eagle Beak Rock and the second Dannevig Pinnacle (50m south of the Pinnacle that just breaks the surface at low water). We were joined by

several Prot Jackson Sharks, and seals. Two brilliant dives and all came up with a smile. Others did a second dive near Ramsbottom Rocks and reported great dives also.

A second quiet night – VSAG must be getting older!

On Sunday we had three boats on the water and back to the Glennies again – we dived the Dannevig Pinnacle and another area just on the South end of Dannevig near Citadel Island. Again just brilliant! Those on land, including the big kids as well as the little kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and ‘Easter’



activities put on by Andy and Gail Mastrowicz and Bob and June Scott. Unfortunately June did herself and Injury which on investigation back in Melbourne turned out to be a broken ankle. We all hope for a speedy recovery.



Our 'communal site' had been taken over by boats and cars up to the Sunday but with a few leaving we managed to clear the site and we gathered to have pre dinner nibbles and drinks

and share some social time with our friends from Getunder and thank them for sharing their boats (thanks Mary and Alan Beckhurst and John Corby), compressor (thanks Mark Green) and their company over the previous few days.



The weather was fantastic; the diving the best I have seen at the Prom over many years, the company was great and the two clubs launched and retrieved boats almost without stress. I did hear that Andy's daughter and son in law (Nicole and Joe) did manage to write off their camper on the way back to Melbourne and Leo also had his caravan 'jump off' the tow but all got safely back to their home without injury. A few stayed on at the Prom for a few more days but you will need to ask them for their adventures over that period.

Another brilliant year at the Prom!
Alan Storen

Ed. The photos are a collection from John Lawler, Bob Scott, Ken Methven, David Reinhardt, Mary Malloy and Leo Maybus.

More photos on covers!!!





Dive Report For Sunday April 19, 2009

San Remo – Phillip Island

Ten divers formed up in the San Remo pier parking lot around 10 am and boarded JL's and John's boats (David was kind enough to give me a lift to and from San Remo). I found out later I had the bad luck to get on the hotdog-less JL's boat with Alan, Adam, JL and Darren and me... but them's the breaks. On John Gladding's boat there were Benita, Heather, David and John of course.



We left the pier, established radio contact between the boats, and motored out under the bridge with the intent of diving the George Kermode wreck. On rounding the edge of the island and discovering the sea was a bit rough for a long haul we settled on the pinnacle close by as a substitute.

JL located the pinnacle and a 13m shot line was heaved onto the top. Alan, Darren and I plopped overboard for the first dive with JL and Adam remaining on board. Now, had I known I was going to be writing this dive report, I would've been more observant, but alas that wasn't the case. From my sketchy memory and dive computer the following emerge:

- *33 minute dive in 17°C water with 7-10m viz to a max depth of 36m (although Darren was down deeper than Alan and I for most of the dive)*
- *The pinnacle had a lot of broad brown waving seaweed growing on it*
- *There was a good sized school of black and white? fish at one point and of fusiliers? at another (honest your Honor – I just don't remember too well!!)*
- *A seal went by us at one point but I didn't see it, which was too bad be-*

cause I've never seen a seal while diving before

- *Darren put his sausage up for the 3 minute safety stop at the end of the dive*

We surfaced, JL picked us up and he and Adam did the same dive. After this we scooted back around to the leeward side of Phillip Island and it was about this time that the sun came out for the first time in the day – there had been a bit of mist/light drizzle earlier.

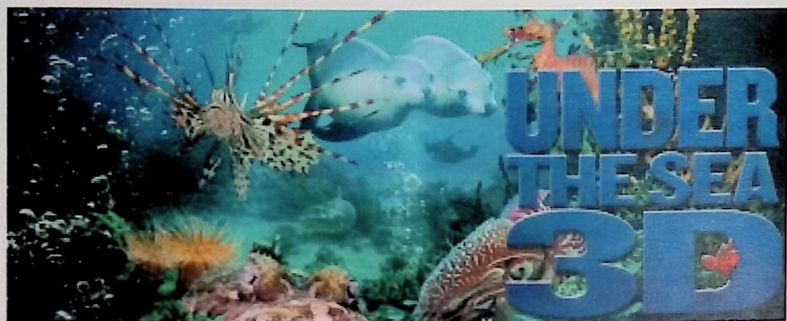
It was at this point that I discovered everyone was enjoying David's hotdogs on the other boat – drat! No matter – Adam and Alan did a second wall dive on the island (and David and Heather off John's boat) while JL entertained Darren and I with stories of and methods of catching crayfish and pointing out a good local beach to collect shells. Alan and Adam surfaced after about 40-50 minutes with a cray Alan had caught and stories of more that got away. JL dutifully measured said cray and pronounced it legally edible. Alan was kind enough to bestow it on Adam with cooking instructions.

Generally, a good day was had by all - good diving, good company, good fun.



Kevin Bradley





IMAX Picture Night Report—UNDER THE SEA 3D

24 April 2009

Alan Storen

Starters: Alan and Jude Storen, Greg and Jan Richards, Benita McDonough and Greg, Peter and Carol Briggs, Lloyd Borrett, Matt and Bridey Leggatt, David Geekie and Pam Dagley.

UNDER THE SEA 3D is the latest underwater IMAX 3D adventure from the award-winning filmmakers behind Deep Sea 3D. We were transported to uniquely exotic locations including The Great Barrier Reef, Southern Australia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, to experience face-to-face encounters with some of the ocean's most mysterious and unusual creatures. UNDER THE SEA 3D is narrated by Jim Carrey, directed by Howard Hall and produced by Toni Myers.

"For Under the Sea 3D we've travelled to some of the most exotic locations on this planet, allowing us to film many creatures for the first time," said Howard Hall. "Through IMAX 3D, audiences will be immersed fully into this amazing undersea world - a world which only a few of us lucky individuals really get to see up close."

"The dazzling colours and amazing animals we see from South Australia to the Indo-Pacific are made for the grand scale and intensity of IMAX 3D," said Toni Myers, the film's producer, editor and writer. "But these spectacular yet delicate ecosystems are threatened by climate change. It's vitally important to promote awareness of that, especially among the young people who will be the stewards of our planet's health and well-being."

The filmmaking team has captured some of the most extraordinary marine life ever shot on film, including the Stonefish - the world's most venomous fish - and a new species of shark yet to be described by science.

The VSAG group met at the designated time and soon donned the 'glasses' to watch the film. It probably had greater appeal to the non-divers but the divers also enjoyed the film. Quote Benita... "saw a few things that I had not seen before". It was interesting to see some of the little kids (and also some of the big kids) putting their hand out to touch the puppy-like sea lions as they 'approached' the audience ... the 3D effects were great! If you could not make the vsag night it is well worth putting in your diary— especially if you take a non-diver.

Those that could ventured to Lygon Street for a post film debrief and pizza, or what ever took their fancy [and a glass of red!]. Good film, good food, great company – what else could one wish for on a Friday night? Thanks to Bridey for her organisation.

ONLY IN AMERICA (Charlotte, North Carolina. USA.)

A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars and without yet having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the 24 cigars were lost "in a series of small fires."

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued... and **WON!**

(Stay with me.)

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable, and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be "unacceptable fire" and was obligated to pay the claim! Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars—lost in the "fires".

NOW, FOR THE BEST PART!

After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of **ARSON!**

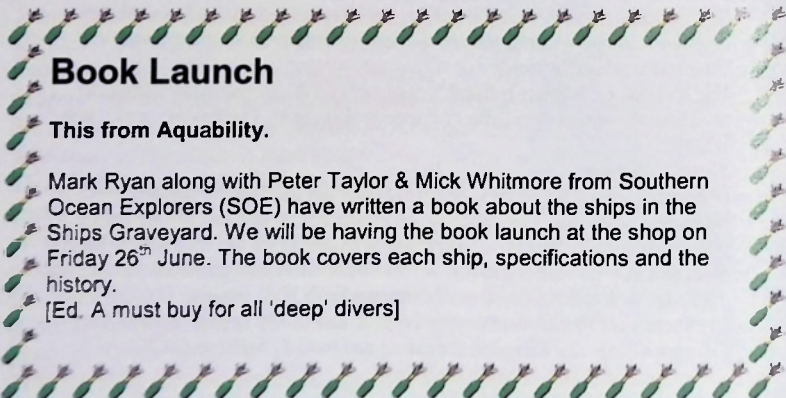
With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine. This is a true story and was the First Place winner in the recent Criminal Lawyers Award Contest!

" has vsags efforts to get some 'younger' members into the club gone a bit far !!!"



Adam Borge's 3 kids driving Peter Briggs' boat at the Prom—all potential new members?

[Ed. All under PBs watchful eye of course!]



Book Launch

This from Aquability.

Mark Ryan along with Peter Taylor & Mick Whitmore from Southern Ocean Explorers (SOE) have written a book about the ships in the Ships Graveyard. We will be having the book launch at the shop on Friday 26th June. The book covers each ship, specifications and the history.

[Ed. A must buy for all 'deep' divers]

Dive Report – May 3

Coogee and Awesome Reef

Divers were: Alan Storen, John Lawler, Ken Methven and Christine Reynolds (JLs boat) and Mick Jeacle, Leo Maybus and Nev Viapree on Mick's boat with David Geekie on a GetUnder boat

After successfully navigating the Rip the two VSAG boats headed for the planned dive on the Coogee. The GetUnder crew headed to the J5 as they were planning a survey dive on the submarine in preparation for the attachment of 'sacrificial anodes' and hopefully prolong the life of the vessel as a dive site. The water looked crystal clear and our first divers were soon in the water. The big smiles on their faces as they broke the surface indicated that our first predictions were right- great viz and the water temperature was a reasonable 16C. JL and I were in the water not long after the first pair was out and we were also impressed by the fish life around the wreck and very good viz. Mick, Leo and Nev (check out dive for his gear before the trip to Sulawesi) also reported good dives. At this stage the two GetUnder boats (Alan Beckhurst and John Corby) had move to the Coogee for their dive and there were also two other dive boats – I think Melb Uni, in the area. We pulled our shot line and headed back inside the bay. Mick and crew headed North and not waiting for the slack Leo did a drift dive liberating a couple of crays. JL's boat waited for the slack at Awesome Reef. Another good dive but the viz was down (end of ebb slack!) and empty catch bags. Some of us reassembled at the local watering hole, read Sorrento Pub, for a debrief on the days activities and the usual story telling while other visited the Scuba Doctor for air fills and debrief.



Another great day on the bay and with a couple more boats coming on line soon we have enough room for a few more divers – join us soon!

Alan Storen

MEMBER PROFILE: Benita McDonough

Year joined VSAG: not sure

How long have you been diving?: I qualified with PADI in February 2003. Following a back injury in 1999 I was advised by my back surgeon to take up swimming to help strengthen my back. Everyone knows that you swim while scuba diving so I followed his advise.



First diving experience: Before I had finished my Open Water course (having only been in the pool and once to Rye Pier) I was invited along for a club night dive at Rye Pier. I rocked up with my full kit excluding a torch. No one told me that I would need a torch! My buddy had just completed his Open Water course (he only had one more dive logged than I did) and it was his first night dive. Being able to see in the dark and knowing what you are doing is over rated. When I look back I'm not sure how I survived.

Favorite diving location in Melbourne: Lonsdale Wall. It does not matter how often I dive the wall I am always enjoy the colour and diversity. It is always annoying when my computer tells me it is time to ascend.

Most memorable diving experience: Diving the Coogee on a VSAG dive in December 2008 and seeing Sun Fish. I had visited Bali with VSAG earlier that year and only caught a glimpse in the distance so seeing two swim past (or the same one twice) and another in the distance was amazing. It was worth every bit of the deco for the experience. I have pictures!



Most unusual or amusing diving experience: I was talked into commencing the PADI Advanced Open Water course on my tenth dive. Having never dived deeper than Popes Eye or a pier I was petrified of going to 30 meters. The conditions were rough

and while I was on my deep dive a boat over turned at the heads, a diver had a mask squeeze, a diver burst an ear drum, and another diver died. It took my entire inner strength to walk past the dead diver and get onto the boat for my last course dive - the J4. On the J4 my buddy's wet suit zip broke at a water temperature of 16 degrees. I laughed so hard at him and his fruitless attempt to cover up that I forgot all about my nerves and cemented my love for diving. Since then I am in awe of the power and the unpredictability of our environment and prefer to be cautious.



Most valued piece of diving equipment: It used to be my mask as I hate salty water in my eyes and having to spend the dive mask clearing and rubbing teary eyes. Lately it has become my camera. I could never work out why people would want to spoil their dive looking through a lens. Now that I have caught the bug I hate diving without it. Every dive is an adventure which uncovers something new. I enjoy keeping a record and being able to share the experience.

Do you have a dive boat?: I wish! I am very grateful to be a member of VSAG and thank you to all the generous boat owners.

If you could dive anywhere in the world, where would you most like to dive?: Just call me the resort diver. I just want to dive where the water temperature is in the high 20's. Having said that every time I dive somewhere else it makes me appreciate even more what we have at home.

Any diving words of wisdom: Choose your dive buddy wisely. Don't forget to put on your weight belt. Remember that any silly thing that you do on a VSAG dive will be used against you.

Member Profile: Don Abel

Year joined VSAG: 1979 - Terry Brookes and I were invited to a club meeting at the Collingwood Football Club by Paul Tipping. We arrived with the great expectation of meeting our future dive buddies, only to find that the majority of the club were on an overseas dive trip and only a small number of people were attending the meeting.

How long have you been diving? I started diving when Terry Brookes suggested we take a dive course. It was probably 1978. I think I started diving with VSAG in 1979. Our initial qualification was a "SEAPROBE" licence. We very soon realised that no one recognised the qualification so the same person who trained us upgraded us to a PADI qualification in 1982. I remember it well because I failed the test but he gave me the qualification anyway.

First diving experience: After qualifying Terry and I took some easy dives under the piers around Port Phillip Bay. My first diving experience with VSAG was on Tony Tipping's boat "Little Ab". I remember it well. We took the boat from Flinders across to dive the George Kermode. As we approached seal rocks Tony told me to push my feet forward and hold the petrol tank in place that was located in the bow. He casually mentioned that if it rocks around it was likely to break the seal on the hose and cause the boat to explode. After that my first dive with VSAG was easy.

Favourite diving location in Melbourne: This has to be Wilsons Promontory and Tidal River. Many of my best memories of diving with VSAG all come from Tidal River. The diving is absolutely beautiful and the location second to none. In the early days we would sit around in our deck chairs at night in a circle with so many cooked crayfish in the middle that we couldn't eat it all and had to throw much of it away. It was not unusual to have more than 80 divers camped for an Easter weekend and, on more than one occasion, we broke the 100 mark. As always, it was having a great time with my best friends. Of course there are plenty of memories that could never be put into print.



Most memorable diving experience:

This has to be diving the Doctors Surgery on the President Coolidge with Ross Luxford as my buddy. A group of us were at a depth of 150 feet trying to peer into a small room filled with surgical instruments, , corroding stethoscopes and floating amphiles. Ross and I were equally focused on our contents gauges that seemed to be reducing every time we took a breath. When we swam out of the corridor Ross and I both turned our lights off. We were in the immense ballroom and could not see one shaft of light anywhere. Without our dive guide, Kevin, we would have died in the ballroom and floated down to lie next to the sagging chandeliers.

The club trip to the Mikhail Lermontov in the South of New Zealand was also a wonderful experience. Living for 5 days on the Little Mermaid anchored on top of the wreck we had great company, good food and laughed our way through the whole 5 days. Alex Talay found all the ships charts on the bridge and many of us still have souvenirs. Doug Catherall found a drum in the ballroom of the ship and brought it back to Australia on our Qantas flight. Des Williams seemed to eat onions in every meal he had and we gave him the top bunk under the air vent so that the rest of us could enjoy fresh air in the diving quarters.



Most unusual or amusing diving experience:

I did a night dive on the President Coolidge. Des Williams joined me and Jeanette Large may also have been in the group. We swam down to the first hold, turned around and sat on its edge. In front of us was a cascade of flashlight fish lighting up the whole of the bridge of the ship. It was just as if the captain was holding a cocktail party for the first class passengers. We wouldn't have been out of place in white tie and tails.

I had never seen such a sight under water and I have never seen its equivalent since.

Most valued piece of diving equipment:

My Tecna regulator. It never missed a beat.

It's probably too old to be serviced now and therefore may not be of any use - perhaps a little like its owner.

Do you have a dive boat? No. I am always happy to pay and never have to worry about maintenance.

If you could dive anywhere in the world, where would you most like to dive?

I have done the best dives in the world. There are no dive sites that I am aware of that would surpass my experience to date. There are few places I would be very happy to return to and one of those is probably Palau. They were definitely the best reef dives I have ever done.

Any diving words of wisdom?

Stick with VSAG.

Always dive with your mates. You will be a lot safer than being stuck with a dive shop buddy.



MY LIFE BROKEN DOWN INTO SEGMENTS





Invite you for a night of laughs and enjoyment
Starring:



AUSTRALIA'S FUNNIEST COMEDIANS...

WHEN: THURSDAY AUGUST 27 2009

WHERE: The Comics Lounge 26 Ferrol St North Melbourne

HOW MUCH: \$15 Show Only – Optional \$15 dinner
which must be booked by calling 9348 9488

WHAT TIME: Dinner at 7pm show starts at 8pm.

**ALL TICKET SALES GO TO
VSAG DIVING CLUB**

**PHOTO IS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSE ONLY.
ACTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



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Protection
at a very
Small Cost!



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**Emergencies Happen ...
Are You Prepared?**

DIVERS ALERT NETWORK

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MIND YOUR MEDS - part 2

Just because it's OTC (over the counter) doesn't mean it's safe.

Seasickness Meds

These are another biggie on the boat. There are a couple of prevalent OTC options, generally Kwells or Dramamine. Both have the same intended effect--preventing seasickness--but they contain different medicines with different side effects.

In studying the effects of both Sudafed and Dramamine under pressure, O'Toole asked 30 experienced divers to take either one of the meds or a dummy pill 45 minutes before a simulated 66-foot dive in a hyperbaric chamber. The researchers tested their memory, verbal ability, manual dexterity and heart rate before and during the "dive." While Sudafed had some minor effects, it didn't place the divers under any inordinate risk at depth. Dramamine, on the other hand, dramatically lowered the divers' cognitive functioning to the point where O'Toole deemed it unsafe for scuba, even when taken as directed.

If you're going to take one of the common OTC seasickness meds, try it out well before the dive. If you feel at all dopey or drowsy on land, don't dive--you'll feel even worse in the water. Some people even take their seasickness meds the night before a dive for a sound night's sleep (being well-rested can help keep seasickness at bay).

If you plan to use medication to help clear your ears, it's best to stay away from any standard seasickness medications altogether, as the combination can considerably increase the side effects of both. In this case, it may be safer and more effective to take ginger capsules, which shouldn't cause complications with decongestants. Ginger has long been known as a natural way to reduce cold sweating and vomiting and ease nausea and vertigo. Some researchers have reported that ginger is as effective as Dramamine in controlling seasickness. Take one gram (1,000 milligrams) of powdered ginger four to six hours before boarding and another dose one hour before departure. After that, you can re-dose every four to six hours as needed.

Pain Relievers

These are a staple for many divers and non-divers alike: Tylenol for headaches, Advil for inflamed joints, Aleve for achy backs and Bayer for a little extra heart disease prevention. But the very reason people take Bayer (active ingredient: aspirin) for their hearts is one reason to consider leaving it behind when you dive. It thins your blood, which isn't dangerous under normal circumstances, but if you have an embolism or other accident that causes profuse bleeding, you could lose significantly more blood than normal. Other than that, there's not much to worry about when taking pain meds while diving. Just stick to the recommended dosage because long-term abuse can lead to stomach or liver problems down the road.

Update

30th April 2009

In Brief

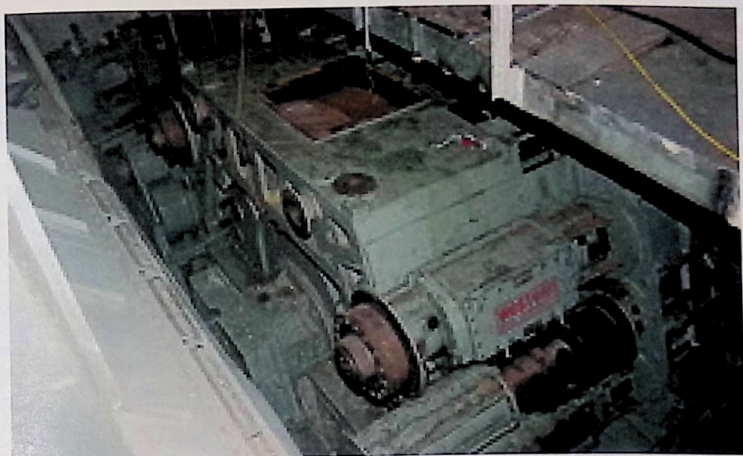
- Ship preparation is well advanced and looking great.
- Concerns regarding the proposed site appear to be resolved.
- Scuttling date is yet to be confirmed – however formal project time-lines being worked to by Government agencies indicate mid-July.
- Site management process being worked through by Parks Victoria.
- VARS has expressed our strong concern about lack of consultation.

Sub-Committee Reports

Communication - Convenor: Mike Reed

VARS expressed its strong concern over a lack of consultation with relevant government authorities over the past several months. We have previously reported a very good relationship with DSE who have been primarily responsible for the project so far. However, in these late stages of the project, other government departments (state and federal) have become involved and VARS has been distanced. A strongly worded letter was sent to relevant politicians and departmental managers reminding them of VARS ability to effectively represent the dive industry, to provide expert advice and of our need to be closely involved. We were particularly concerned given that the project appeared to be foundering due to lack of understanding of key issues related to the site and to standard safe diving practices applied in Victoria.

This situation now appears to have been remedied and VARS is once again meeting regularly with relevant parties and participating in workshops to find solutions to issues that are raised.



We will continue to be actively involved to ensure that the project maintains momentum.

Site Management - Convenor: Alan Beckhurst

In recent meetings with Parks Victoria, Tourism Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment VARS has been advised that the various concerns raised regarding the proposed site have now been resolved. The site has yet to be signed off by DEWHA and the Sea Dumping permit issued. However, there are no negatives at this stage.

VARS has provided Parks Victoria with assistance in developing a risk management plan for the site through provision of a draft discussion document. This will be further worked through by Parks Victoria with key stakeholders and then finalised within the overall management plan. It is expected that the final plan will include moorings and a booking system to ensure equitable and safe access to the site.

Ship Preparation - Convenor: Jason Salter

As previously reported, ship preparation is now all but complete. A proposal is still being worked through to retain the mast structure. This will need to be cut short and re-attached. Funding for this has been investigated. VARS regards this as a very important feature, both for safety purposes (better enable to conduct safety stops) and for aesthetics of the finished wreck.

Fund Raising / Membership - Convenor: Warrick McDonald

No new activities. The T-shirts ordered by various members are now available for collection.

Marketing / Promotion - Convenor: Bryan McGoldrick

No new activities.

Scuttling Celebration – Celebratory Ball – Convenor: Mick Jeacle

The Celebratory Ball is still planned to be held at the Coral Atoll Room at the Melbourne Aquarium. The Aquarium has been most understanding with the changes in dates and will do their best to accommodate us when we can confirm. A new date for this exciting event will be set once the Sea Dumping permit is signed off and the scuttling date known. Watch this space for information over the next month.



Dive report 23 May – ‘The Charter’

Alan Storen

There were 11 starters: Alan Storen, David Geekie, David Reinhardt, David, John Lawler, Lloyd Borrett, Darren Pearce, Steve Lamb, Adam Borge, Ken Methven and Takae Yoyohama.

The Plan: Dive with Tom Wende on Ozdive Charters and confirm our GPS cords for the cave in the Rip. On slack water @ 1:50, drop in at 30m and enter the cave, have a look around and exit via the chimney at 20m onto the plateau and finish the dive at that level.



The Execution: Delete all above due to shipping and dive on the Wall instead.

Footnotes: We had a great dive on the Wall at a section called Blue Devil Ledges. Did not see too many Blue Devils but the dive was excellent. Clear water – viz about 10m, depth between 20 and 30 m, lots of overhangs and swim throughs, caves and even a friendly seal for some. Fish life was probably on the low side but still plenty to see and the divers were all smiles when back on board Toms Yellow Boat – Diver 2. We had a debrief in the cafe opposite the carpark and departed for home at about 4pm.



More Notes:

1. It is a b.. long walk with all your gear from the Portsea car park to the boat pick up point.
2. It is an even longer walk back!! Not sure how that works?
3. Charter boats have an easier entry and exit than the smaller VSAG boats.
4. The 20 divers on board the charter do not have the same camaraderie as on the VSAG boats-particularly with one (non vsager) at the front feeding his breakfast to the fish, another spending all the time post dive looking for his gear, another
5. Snakes taste just as good on the charter boats.
6. Tom runs a very good charter, thanks Tom.
7. Next Time: We will send one diver on the charter with hand held and VSAG will dive next day at less cost for two dives.



Man falls into ocean after trying to swat shark

May 9, 2009

A fisherman who fell out of a dinghy south of Perth this morning has reported being circled up to five times by a white pointer shark.

Tony Cappellutti from Fisheries says the man had been fishing near Warnbro about three to four nautical miles offshore. He says it is believed that when a shark began to chew on the boat's outboard motor, the man tried to fend it off with an oar.

Mr Cappellutti says the man dropped the oar into the water and then fell in while trying to retrieve it. "So he's now in the water, his boat's in gear and it's heading off," he said. "So of course he couldn't get back to his boat so he then states that the shark's reappeared, circled him four or five times and then disappeared."

The man escaped unharmed after flagging down another boat.

Member Profile : Chris Llewellyn

Year joined VSAG: About 1984 after meeting some VSAG characters in Keith Jensen and Alex Talay in the Solomons

How long have you been diving?: Certified open water diver on 19th February 1982 at Melbourne diving services in Heidelberg

First diving experience: Like many thousands before me , the Portsea pier followed by another beginners classic, Popes eye.

Favorite diving location in Melbourne: Out through the heads anywhere on the ships graveyard.

Most memorable diving experience: Can't narrow it to one. Sharkfeeds are always adrenaline pumping action but so is swimming amongst massive schools of pelagics. A night dive on the Coolidge lit up by phosphorescent plankton will never fade from memory.

Most unusual or amusing diving experience: Directing my blissfully unawares dive buddy Anthony Finnegan closer and closer to a huge Moray eel to get that "surprised look" in an underwater photo brings back fond memories.

Most valued piece of diving equipment: Every piece is critical. A simple Boat lanyard with big snaphook for hanging dive gear makes for easier entry when in a swell.

Do you have a dive boat?: A 9.65 metre Mustang 3000 launched in January 2007 that is docked at Martha Cove marina. It has a 320 HP Volvo Penta stern drive and is great for cruising , towing, fishing and diving.

If you could dive anywhere in the world, where would you most like to dive?: Anywhere in the tropics will do me. Warm Gin clear blue waters



with a sunny sky above and few VSAG mates alongside cannot be beaten.

Any diving words of wisdom:

The best shark deterrent is a fatter dive buddy than you

Dive masks are not spit-toons

The A Ok hand signal does not mean see you at the deco stop

Remove tape from your tank valve **BEFORE** attaching your Reg

Sticking close to your dive buddy does not mean sharing a sleeping bag

Equalising has nothing to do with sharing wine in a fair manner

Lloyd Bridges will be President of the USA one day



Any other comments: No I think the above about covers it , hang on, wait , one more –
Never tell a pregnant woman she looks swell. Yep that's it !

