

FATHOMS

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

APRIL — MAY 2010



David Reinhard's winning photo in the recent VSAG Photo Competition

www.vsag.org.au

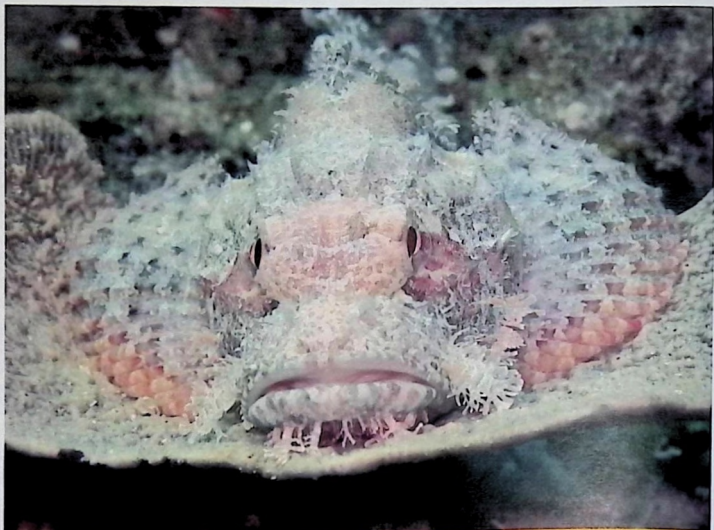
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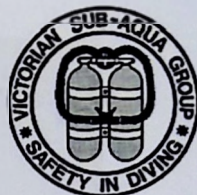




Second and third placegetters in the recent photo competition. Above by David Reinhard and below by Ken Methven.



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
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South Melbourne, 8.00 pm
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EDITORIAL

What spectacular diving we have had this year – almost from day 1 we have had great viz, the Canberra dive has lived up to its pre-sinking hype and the weather has only caused a couple of cancellations. (read Check if Lloyd is DC!)

I have seen many crays taken both locally and at Cape Jaffa, and the marine life does not appear to have been drastically effected by the dredging - outside the bay at least! The residents of Portsea would not agree with 'no effect' as one only needs to look at the sand shift from the beaches between Point Nepean and Blairgowrie to notice the massive changes. The other effects are probably not so noticeable from the surface.



A bit short on articles this edition and I am looking for the budding authors out there to put pen to paper. Who knows – there is a prize at the end of the club year called the 'Literary Award' and you could give Grr a run for his money. I am not sure how much he pays but there is always a chance with a good article. Even photos without article can be contributed.

Many social events on the program this year with Lawn Bowls (see page 38), a visit to the Water Police(20 Feb), a visit to the Maritime Museum (planned 26 May), the Christmas in July (July 29) and several others being work-in-progress. If you have suggestions please forward to John Lawler.

The committee is looking at Safety Equipment for the boats and on dive trips (eg Prom) and are considering a de-fibulator. The club has oxygen kits and first aid kits. Soon we will be looking at courses and hopefully we can train members in the latest techniques. Is there a qualified 'Trainer' out there that can assist?

I am adding this para after returning from the Prom and again another fantastic trip - see report page 40. The Prom, as usual, lived up to its unpredictable nature but two days diving was completed by many. Diving is only part of the fun and many activities and much socialising takes place over the few days. Join us next year if you missed coming this time.

Enjoy the read

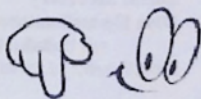
Cheers, keep blowing bubbles
Alan Storen

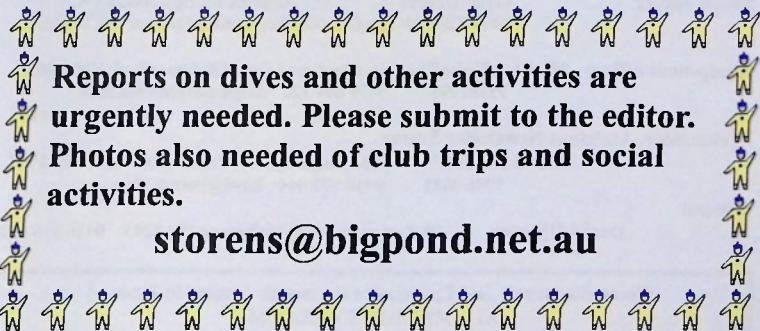
FULL STORY page 29. For Recipe contact Carol Briggs



COMING SOON

Anzac Weekend diving (Grr on 0408 287 754)
Visit Maritime Museum (JL on 0414 922 916)
Queens Birthday diving (JL on 0414 922 916)
CHRISTMAS IN JULY (JL on 0414 922 916)




**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 2009 - 2010



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

president's page

Summer is now a distant memory and if Autumn is half as good we are in for some great diving. This time of year often produces the calmest seas and recent visibility has averaged 15-20m for months and should stay that way.

We have already had a couple of good days out including a perfect calm day at Cape Schanck. With our boats and our friends from Black Rock, all up 14 boats and around 45 divers and brilliant dive conditions.

"Easter at The Prom" has come and gone! We had 4 boats and 35 campsites organised and the weather Gods in the main were kind.

The club has a weekend planned at Phillip Island on Anzac weekend with some members staying at Kilcunda Oceanview Resort.

Check the Forthcoming events for our regular Day Dives and let the Dive Captain know you want to come by the Thursday night before the dive.

The club is also running a "New Diver day" for people who haven't dived with us before on April -11th.

Congratulations to the winners of our annual Photo Comp which was announced at our March meeting. David Reinhard took 1st place and Alex Ivanov scored the Encouragement award. Well done to all who entered and many thanks to Dave Bryant from Seapics for judging the competition.

Dust off the wetsuit and ring the Dive Captain now!

Regards,

Grrr



VSAG DRESSUPS

At a recent VSAG general meeting we had Steve Taylor as a guest and he presented on 'Hard Hat Diving'. With assistance from VSAG life member Des Williams he showed us the gear a diver would have used to descend to the depths in years gone by.

He needed a mannequin and who better than our newest member Denise Rogers. She may never come to another meeting!

The photos below give you some idea of the 'dress of the day' and the pain and pleasure they went through when gearing up.





A great night and many, many thanks to Denise for being the perfect model (and apologies). Thanks also the Steve and Des for their presentation. Both Steve and Des are members of the Historical Diving Society South East Asia Pacific (HDS SEAP) and members were encouraged to contact Des if they were interested in joining (\$45 per year).

Contact: deswill@dingley.net

Alan Storen

Photos: JL



Member Profile: Trevor Williams

Year joined VSAG: 2004

How long have you been diving?:
Seriously, for about 5 or 6 years.

First diving experience: In Israel (Eilat) in 1994 we visited an aquarium which has a sensational underwater viewing platform looking out on reef and fish life in the Red

Sea. We also took a trip in a (yes, yellow) submarine, with large viewing windows, to look at reef down to around 60 metres. But the highlight was to dive, using hookah, and be at one with the fish and reef.



Favorite diving location in Melbourne: My favourite location is wherever the next dive takes us. Melbourne has so much variety - reef, fish-life, wrecks - and varies by season. Skills are continually being tested and improved. Crisp, clear water in winter would be ideal if it wasn't so cold.

Most memorable diving experience: Lady Elliot Island around 1998. Dropped down to the sand in about 6 metres to be face on to a turtle. Within a few seconds I was distracted by a 2.5 metre ray.

Most unusual or amusing diving experience: I was VSAG dive captain for a new diver day at Pope's Eye. Alan Storen had brought along a packet of skewers and a couple of packets of mini dim sims but forgot to distribute them out to the new divers!

Deliberately? Instead, I took down a couple of dozen dimis to hand out to the divers underwater. Turmoil, thrashing, chaos as I was accosted by a few thousand rabid, feeding fish while the newbies looked on. Who was the newby that day?



Most valued piece of diving equipment: It used to be my BCD which has worked perfectly for me from day one. But recently it's been my new Canon G11 camera and underwater housing.

Do you have a dive boat?: No. I very much appreciate the time and effort put in by those who do.



If you could dive anywhere in the world, where would you most like to dive?: Having dived in many places and with many operators, anywhere with VSAG. It's always fun, varied and I learn so much.

Any diving words of wisdom: It pays to listen. There is so much to learn.



Trevor and wife
Cathy

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that VSAG has it's very own song book?

Yep sure does! The idea was from the VSAG Life Members and most likely coordinated by Don Abell.

On the right hand page is the songs list.

Those who contributed songs are listed on the right of this page.

HOW MANY CAN YOU SING!

JL

A group of 40 year old VSAG buddies discuss where they should meet for dinner.

Finally, it is agreed upon that they should meet at the Olive Tree restaurant because the waitress's there have low cut blouses and nice boobs.

Ten years later, at 50 years of age, the group once again discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it is agreed that they should meet at the Olive Tree restaurant because the food there is very good and so is the wine selection.

Ten years later at 60 years of age, the group once again discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it is agreed that they should meet at the Olive Tree restaurant because they can eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant was warm and very friendly.

Ten years later, at 70 years of age, the group once again discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it is agreed that they should meet at the Olive Tree restaurant because the restaurant is wheel chair accessible and they even have an elevator.

Ten years later, at 80 years of age, the group once again discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it is agreed that they should meet at the Olive Tree restaurant - because they have never been there before.

VSAG SONGBOOK

	PERFORMER	CONTRIBUTOR
1. SING	JOHNNY O'KEEFE	(D Abell)
2. SHE WEARS MY RING	JOHNNY O'KEEFE	(D Abell)
3. BANANA BOAT SONG	HARRY BELAFONTE	(G Mastrowicz)
4. JAMAICAN FAREWELL		(P Tipping)
5. DURHAM TOWN	ROGER WHITTAKER	(P Tipping)
6. ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE	MONTY PYTHON	(D Abell)
7. EVERY SPERM IS SACRED	MONTY PYTHON	(D Abell)
8. GALAXY SONG	MONTY PYTHON	(D Abell)
9. THAT'LL BE THE DAY	BUDDY HOLLY	(D Abell)
10. WELL ALRIGHT	BUDDY HOLLY	(T Tipping)
11. NORTH TO ALASKA		(M Jeacle)
12. BLUE SUEDE SHOES	ELVIS PRESLEY	(D Abell)
13. VIVA LAS VEGAS	ELVIS PRESLEY	(D Abell)
14. NEW YORK NEW YORK	FRANK SINATRA	(D Abell)
15. HAPPY BIRTHDAY SWEET SIXTEEN	NEIL SEDAKA	(D Abell)
16. GREEN GREEN GRASS OF HOME	TOM JONES	(M Jeacle)
17. I'M A BELIEVER	NEIL DIAMOND/MONKEYS	(D Abell)
18. CRACKLIN' ROSIE	NEIL DIAMOND	(D Abell)
19. CAROLINA IN THE MORNING		(D Abell)
20. OH YOU BEAUTIFUL DOLL		(D Abell)
21. IF YOU KNEW SUSIE		(D Abell)
22. YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE		(D Abell)
23. LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY		(D Abell)
24. IF YOU WERE THE ONLY GIRL		(D Abell)
25. GET A LITTLE DIRT ON YOUR HANDS		(M Jeacle)
26. AMERICAN PIE	DON McLEAN	(P & C Vleugel)
27. IN THE NAVY	VILLAGE PEOPLE	(G Mastrowicz)
28. YMCA	VILLAGE PEOPLE	(G Mastrowicz)
29. AND SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS	JOHN LENNON	(P & C Vleugel)
30. DOCK OF THE BAY	OTIS REDDING	(P & C Vleugel)
31. LOVE POTION NO 9	THE SEARCHERS	(P & C Vleugel)
32. DREAM A LITTLE DREAM OF ME	MAMAS & THE PAPAS	(P & C Vleugel)
33. GOT TO GET A MESSAGE TO YOU	BEE GEES	(B Truscott)
34. MASSACHUSETTS	BEE GEES	(B Truscott)
35. HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE	BEE GEES	(B Truscott)
36. MORE THAN A WOMAN	BEE GEES	(B Truscott)
37. HERE COMES THE SUN	THE BEATLES	(P & C Vleugel)
38. PRETTY FLAMINGO	MANFRED MANN	(P & C Vleugel)
39. WALKIN THE DOG	ROLLING STONES	(P & C Vleugel)
40. IF I WERE A CARPENTER		(P & C Vleugel)
41. SAN FRANCISCO	SCOTT MCKENZIE	(T Tipping)
42. CATS IN THE CRADLE	HARRY CHAPIN	(P & C Vleugel)
43. WAY OUT WEST	THE DINGOES	(P & C Vleugel)
44. THE ROSE		(P & C Vleugel)

Ex HMAS Canberra and Lonsdale Wall

21/02/2010

John Mills.

Boat 1: Mick Jeacle/Aex Ivanov/Darren Pearce/Denise Rogers

Boat 2: John Lawler/Lloyd Borrett/Adam Borge/John Mills/Laurent Fontaine

On a previous attempt to check out the Canberra I decided to pull the pin as the forecast was dodgy and the diver to boat ratio was borderline. I decided there was no hurry to see the Canberra as it wasn't going anywhere,

I noticed that the Canberra was again scheduled and decided to book. I was on my own as Priya was attending the DAN underwater medicine seminar on the same day, which in itself turned out to be a bit of a treat as it is very rare for such eminent speakers in the field of underwater medicine to present to the public.

I kept an eye on the fore cast all week and the temperature looked good, the wind was northerly. As it got closer to the weekend they began to forecast southerly changes and winds. Come the Friday it was decided to keep to schedule and check e-mail and phones on Saturday. Come Saturday the e-mail indicated we should be OK if the change held off. An SMS confirmed we would give it a go.

The alarm went off on Sunday at 6.00am. After such a humid night it was decided to pull the wetsuit out of the cupboard. I could think of nothing worse than waiting around in 30°C heat in a dry suit. I packed the car and was on the road by 6.30am. I arrived at the Car Park in Plenty of time and waited until the boats and divers arrived. Most had presented themselves by 8.15am and the boats were packed. Darren and Laurent were missing in action. Laurent was in Sorrento as he rang JL at 7.30 for directions to the boat ramp. Mick was heard to quietly remark "Where's Darren, gee he only lives in Rye". Lloyd said he'd go to the bottom car park and would come back if he didn't see them. Sure enough two cars arrived from the bottom car park. All were now accounted for.

Gerry, Cameron and Rob Devries along with Robert Birtles were also at the boat ramp and were heading out to the back beaches for some hunting and fishing. The boats were loaded and launched without incident. We all headed to the rip, donned our lifejackets for the crossing when Gerry's boat came over and Robert yelled out that the conditions were terrible at the back beaches. Undaunted we headed out through the rip which was a bit choppy. However once crossed the conditions just

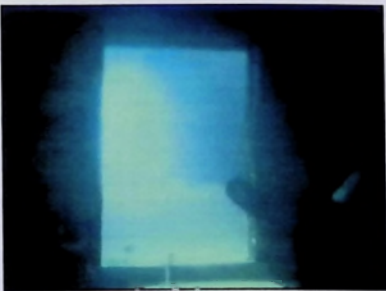
got better. We motored to the Canberra site and tied up to the buoy in excellent conditions with a slight swell. JL swam over to Mick's boat whilst his crew went in to look after the boat. Lloyd and Adam went in first from JL's boat. Alex came over to our boat before descending looking for a hood as he had decided that his trusty woolen beanie was not going to provide enough insulation. About 40 minutes later the crews returned and were retrieved. JL,



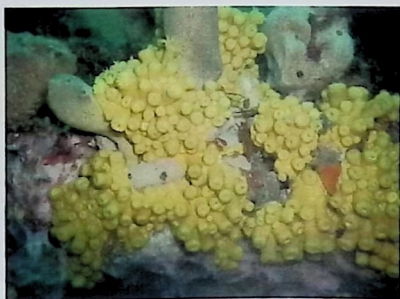
Laurent and Myself geared up and dropped over the side. Visibility was good and the artificial reef could be seen not long after descending. We dropped onto the bridge and looked around at the chair and the plaque. The growth is starting to become apparent. We swam into the superstructure which is like an aluminium grid and a wide open area. We then went down the middle and looked at the helicopter hanger area, then dropped into the wardroom where the mural and a bunch of tables were. Then it was back out to the hangar deck. It would have been fantastic if they could have somehow lashed a decommissioned sea king or sea hawk helicopter to the deck. We then swam back along the port side past the mast and surfaced. Not bad for a 1st dive however a few more dives will be required to become familiar with the layout of the artificial reef.



After a bit of mucking around we detached from the buoy, found JL who had jumped ship and swam over to Warwick's charter boat and headed back to Queenscliff for lunch and to wait for the slack tide. We had lunch and drifted around until the slack tide. JL radioed the harbour to check the shipping movements and none were due for about 2 hours. We then spent about ten minutes motoring around checking GPS and depth sounders and chattering over the radio. Finally it was declared that we were on the wall and a line was dropped. The shot line had three foam balls to monitor the current. This took three goes to get right as the lines kept getting tangled. Once the floats popped up four of us dropped in only to find we had drifted off the line. We now had a 50 – 100m swim to the buoy. We all got there eventually got our breath back and dropped down the



line. The visibility was a bit murky at the surface however it cleared as we reached the bottom and the usual array of colour and marine life was present as would be expected on a Victorian Wall dive (I still believe these dives are one of the best kept diving secrets in Australia). Got some shots off on the camera and decided to surface as the air was coming down. Upon surfacing I signaled to JL and got in the boat. We waited for the other divers to pop up and sure enough the orange safety sausages started to hit the surface. It was then I noticed that a ship was coming down the channel (So much for the no movements for 2 hours?). We decided to alert the guys and retrieve them. We went over to one of the sausages. We went over to Lloyd's sausage and gave it a few tugs however it was without a diver. Eventually everyone was retrieved the ship continued on its way and we started to prepare to head back. Lloyd had abandoned his marker buoy as the reel had fouled and he did not want to be dragged to the surface.



Once the gear was stowed we headed back to the ramp. We tucked in along the beach at the Quarantine station as it was sheltered. I noticed we were doing 65 Km/H then suddenly we started to slow and came to a stop. JL indicated that we appeared to be out of fuel. Yet the gauge showed it was half full. Mick was behind us and pulled up along side us. When JL told



him he thought we were out of fuel the Carrot responded with "Well ring the bloody RACV". Lines were rigged up and we commenced back to the ramp under tow. We only had one mishap where the lines came undone. Darren needs to tie better knots. Apparently the fuel system was being worked on and JL wanted to run the fuel down before the Cape Jaffa trip and the gauge was out of calibration. I suppose it was better for it to happen now instead of being off the coast of South Australia. I was also thankful that we didn't have a dead engine at the artificial reef as it would have been a long tow back.

Eventually we all got back to the ramp retrieved the boats and headed for home. All up it was quite a good days diving. Further dives will be required on the Ex HMAS Canberra to become more familiar with it. Priya is still itching to have a look as well.



There's always someone who stuffs up a good photo...



Diver Profile: Des Williams



Year joined VSAG: 1979, to dive with the Club on the first of a couple of trips to Truk Lagoon that we did together.

How long have you been diving?: I got my scuba “C-card” in 1966 through training with the Box Hill Skindiving Club.

First diving experience: On scuba, after the training course, it was at Point Lonsdale in “shark alley” on slack water. It

was a wonderful day and the underwater scenery was amazing. The current only swept two club members away that day, so that wasn't too bad I guess! Shore dives were all the go then.

Favorite diving location in Melbourne: Any of the shipwrecks, or the beautiful sponge gardens in the Symonds Channel.

Most memorable diving experience: The night dive on the “President Coolidge” when flashlight fish outlined every centimeter of the bold profile of that massive wreck. Strangely enough, I am pretty sure one of our other members mentioned the same dive as her best dive, in an earlier “Member Profile”, was that you Meg Johnson? It was certainly a life changing experience, not to be forgotten.

Most unusual or amusing diving experience: We are talking about VSAGers here, so there were many! Therefore, most of you will not be surprised to hear my answer. Whilst on a VSAG Club

trip to Fiji some years ago, Alex Talay and Pat Reynolds swam past me buck naked, on scuba at some depth. I can report the water WAS colder than it seemed!

Most valued piece of diving equipment: A dive buddy and VSAG has the best! A buddy doubles the fun and there would not be much point without a pal to share the diving experience.

Do you have a dive boat?: No, but I have always been most grateful and appreciative of the members who share their valuable boat investments with the VSAG.

If you could dive anywhere in the world, where would you most like to dive?: I'd like to return to Palau, the gin clear water, mind-boggling sheer drop-offs and prodigious marine life, could not be explored fully in our short 3-day Club visit back in 1990. That really is a Heaven for diving.

Any diving words of wisdom: Far be it for me to dispense diving 'words of wisdom', but I have always taken great care washing and drying my diving gear. Regular equipment servicing is expensive, but must be done, as one cannot take shortcuts with a life support system such a scuba gear. My equipment has never let me down as a result.

Any other comments: Yes, whilst I am not seen around VSAG much these days, my heart is still in the Club and I am delighted to see that it is still in such excellent Committee hands these days. It is a brilliant diving club with a very long and proud history and the FATHOMS magazine is the best it has EVER been.

DES WILLIAMS

Silver Jubilee Review of the Fleet By King George V. At Spithead July 16, 1935.

By Mackenzie Gregory

I recently received from a colleague, Ron Russell, the Editor of the Shropshire Times, the Newsletter of the HMAS *Canberra*/HMAS *Shropshire* Association, the Official Programme of the Silver Jubilee Review of the Fleet By King George V at Spithead on July 16, 1935.

Here we are some four years plus before the outbreak of WW2 on Sunday September 3, 1939, with the might of the Royal Navy lined up off Portsmouth for all the world to see, and to take note.

In all, some 157 ships took part, they covered the gambit of all types of warships.

Battleships, Battle Cruisers, (including HMS *Hood*, the largest warship afloat world wide, to come to an ignominious end in her fight against the German battleship *BISMARCK*, in 1941.)



HMS *Hood* destroyed by
Bismarck in 1941.

Aircraft Carriers, Cruisers, Destroyers, Depot ships, Hospital ships, Minesweepers, Sloops, Submarines, Surveying ships, and Training ships.

The King's Naval service.



King George V as Prince George commenced service with the Royal Navy as a 12 year old Naval Cadet in July 1872, when he joined the TS *Britannia*. In July of 1879 he was off to join HMS *Bacchante*, an iron clad screw propelled Corvette, built at Portsmouth, and launched on October 19, 1876, she came in at about 4,070 tons.

Off they went on a cruise to the West Indies and the Mediterranean.

In April of 1881 the ship left for Australia, calling at Albany for repairs, the Prince was able to take in Sydney, thence to Fiji, Japan, Singapore, Colombo, a transit of the Suez Canal, at times the ship spent long periods under sail, up to 50 or more days.

Promotion.

Prince George was a Sub Lieutenant in June of 1884, and then a Lieutenant in October of the following year.

Number of ships served in.

In all the Prince served in 11 ships of the Royal Navy, 4 of them in command. As a Commander his Naval service ended, when in 1892 his brother Prince Edward died from pneumonia, and had been engaged to his German cousin Princess Mary of Teck. It was now decided that George would marry her instead, and the wedding took place in 1893.

They had 6 children and King George V died from influenza on January 20, 1936.



King George V in his Coronation Robes.

Names of the ships on review.

Anthony is the oldest name on Review, dating back to 1417.

Royal Sovereign goes back to 1485, and *Revenge* to 1577.

The first time *Australia* is used in the Royal Navy was in 1886.

The Royal Australian Navy was represented at Spithead by the County Class Cruiser HMAS

Australia, a sister ship to HMAS *Canberra*, sunk at the Battle of Savo Island on August 9, 1942, I served in both these cruisers.

Conclusion.

King Alfred the Great (871-901) made this comment during his 25 year reign.

" There is no advantage in living on an Island, unless your Navy rides in undisputed sway over the waters that surround it."

How very true! The Spithead Review reinforced the majesty of the Royal Navy as far back as 1935.

CAPE JAFFA SOUTH AUSTRALIA VSAG ADVENTURES

For many years now some members of VSAG have traveled over to Cape Jaffa for a fun few days of "hunting and gathering". Southern Rock Lobster and Abalone are the target species there.

Cape Jaffa is a one day 700km drive from Melbourne. Located between the pretty and historic towns of Robe and Kingston, it is nothing really more than a commercial rock lobster fishing base. There is only about 25 houses there mostly quite modern on one side of the only road there and few oldies from better days just back a bit from the beach on the high rise. The view over the water is quite stunning.



About 15 lobster boats work from here and this enterprise is quite small compared to Robe where some 30 cray boats are based. A large diesel storage tank and processing plant exist there to service the boats and their catches. Crays are kept in filtered holding tanks and only sold when the market price, mainly in Japan, makes it viable to move them out.

The Cape Jaffa caravan park is in need of a good makeover but it still basically works for the fishos and divers who are regulars there. In past times there was a dive shop of sorts there and a compressor but all that remains is the old drying shed which is not used.

Petrol and diesel are available also but very expensive so best to fill at Robe on the way in or out.



The Caravan park is serviced by a small store cum office which sells the very basics of foods, milk, bread etc and the Adelaide papers come in each morning and it has a liquor license. The land around Cape Jaffa has some brilliant wineries which stretch all the way to Coonawarra.

The park also has a very large cray cooker housed in the dedicated cooking area called "Cookery Nook"...there is a small charge for the use of this excellent facility.

But things are changing! Two years ago a consortium commenced to build a large marina there and as of the last trip it was very well progressed with some houses being completed. The marina is fully operational with an excellent two bay boat ramp and huge sealed trailer parking bays. Gone are the days when boats had to launch from the beach...sometimes badly bogged if the sand was soft! The huge cray fishing boats and two fishing charter boats are all now berthing inside the marina.

The cost for the 4 days use of the ramp is just \$15 per boat. If you bring your own hose with the correct tap fitting the boats and trailers can be washed right there otherwise the caravan park has water for wash downs.

VSAG has made friends with a man in Kingston who has a compressor at his cabinet making business and after each days diving the tanks are taken into Kingston for fills...about a 30 minute drive. Most days they come back the same night or early next day...and all for \$10 per fill...we affectionately call our man "Joe Tanks" and he and his partner are now regulars when all gather in Kingston for the Saturday night meal at a motel restaurant.

Diving around this area is a mixture of very shallow limestone reefs, or some deeper weed covered reefs closer to the old lighthouse rocky outcrop at Margaret Brock Reef. There is also a fault line which runs for many kms from the lighthouse to around Kingston and many a good catch has come from this fault line.

Travel time is not long..10-15-20 minutes and the fun can begin. Like all oceans there can be



brilliant flat calm days and then there can be howlers. Prior to the last visit there had been strong winds for many days and the visibility was well down on past years but as the hunt was for crays so this was not so much a problem.

Some very large crays are often caught around this bountiful area and one most recently weighed in at 5.1kgs. The cray fishermen prefer to bring home small crays as if they are too big they are priced out of the consumer and restaurant market.

This may be part of the explanation why divers and recreationals who drop legal pots around seem to bring quite a lot of larger crays.

Interestingly there seems to be an abundance of abalone, both greens the size of dinner plates and blacks but there is no abalone industry.

The fun at the end of the day is so much a part of this adventure at Cape Jaffa..the cray stories of who got this one and that one and the one so big it couldn't be moved from it's ledge...good food cookups and nice wines and cold beers... and so the stories mount up for posterity.

JL





Cape Jaffa—the 4WD expedition!!

They say a picture tells a thousand words and the pictures below indicate the expertise of the 4WD of the VSAG crew—enough said!



Rumour has it that all got bogged and would still be there today if some friendly driver from another group had not come to the rescue!!

Alan Storen

Cape Jaffa 2010

When the VSAG divers descend on Cape Jaffa as we do every March long weekend, the population doubles. We had a fairly normal trip over, the worst part for me going from the eastern suburbs of Melbourne to the west, a trip in peak hour of two hours. John had tyre disintegration on his trailer near the S A border and we could have pretended not to notice and drive on but no we decided to help out, probably a lucky decision for John as his 1 ton bottle jack on a 2.5 ton boat and trailer was always going to be a struggle.

The diving started off in absolute perfect weather with little swell, clear vis and beautiful sunshine (pity about the 13 deg water). My boat managed to bag our limit and most others did the same. We took all our own gear this year comprising freezers cookers and gas bottles, I had around 25 tanks in the back of the ute so diving times were not a problem and we owe Joe our tank fill man a debt as he would return our filled tanks in his trailer from Kingston at night (a round trip of approx 50 ks) all for \$10 a fill.

Like all fishing there is always a lot of secrecy on where you are headed but word soon spreads if you are successful. A good weekend end for me is to return with two or three crays and make sure everyone else who comes along has a share also, this pretty much happened and once again I was privy to a lot of early VSAG early adventures.



The next 2 days were much the same but the third would see us 4wd along some beautiful coast line south of Robe. We all got stuck in the sand , but the true story was it only happened after Mick decided to test his Prado against the mighty southern ocean and we both stopped to help him ,actually I didn't see him digging in the sand, only saw him looking at the incoming tide and thinking of an excuse for Annie.

Gee we had a great weekend, can't wait for next year.

Peter Briggs

You have to be old enough to remember Abbott and Costello, and too old to REALLY understand computers, to fully appreciate this. For those of us who sometimes get flustered by our computers, please read on...

If Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today, their infamous sketch, 'Who 's on First?' might have turned out something like this:



COSTELLO CALLS TO BUY A COMPUTER FROM ABBOTT

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks I 'm setting up an office in my den and I 'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name 's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don 't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name 's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don 't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let 's just say I 'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal.. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue ' W '.

COSTELLO: I 'm going to click your blue 'w ' if you don 't start with some straight answers. What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: That 's right. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What 's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn 't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? **THEY OWN IT!**

(A few days later)

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on 'START'

VSAG mates,

Good food, good wine, great family, all that is important in life. Carol has cooked up a storm with a Cape Jaffa Cray (lobster thermidor).

Great to be an aussie.

Regards Peter



Flinders 14 March 2010

Well it was not meant to be Flinders – the calendar said Coogee and the Heads but the weather forecast was just perfect for a back beach dive and Mick Jeacle confirmed it first hand after seeing the water on the Saturday.

In all we had 12 divers all kitted up ready to launch from the Flinders ramp at 9am.
John Lawler with Alan Storen, Ken Methven and Takae
Mick Jeacle with Benita McDonough, Leo Maybus and Alex Ivanov
Dave Kelly with Lloyd Borrett, Christine Reynolds and Steve Lamb

The water was as flat and the weather brilliant. We headed out to the Cape Shank Lighthouse and found we were amongst many other recreational dive boats – I think we counted 14 at one stage from various clubs including Black Rock and Powerhouse. Mick's call was perfect.

The divers dropped in at various spots and from all reports had two great dives – the hunters and gathers seemed to have a smile on their faces at the end of the day and the photographers and reef watchers also were impressed. I did miss the debrief at the local before going home but several had other activities on and some were anxious to get home and 'warm' a few crays!

Another great VSAG day on the water and as DC let me say it was good to have so many divers and boats available and them being so flexible with the change of dive plans at the last minute. All worked brilliantly!

Alan Storen



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SEXES

NICKNAMES

If Laura, Kate and Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Kate and Sarah.

If Mike, Dave and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Godzilla and Four-eyes.

MONEY

A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.

A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale.

BATHROOMS

A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel.

The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337.

A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

ARGUMENTS

A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

CATS

Women love cats.

Men say they love cats, but when women aren't looking, men kick cats.

FUTURE

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

SUCCESS

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend.

A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

MARRIAGE

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

DRESSING UP

A woman will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the bins, answer the phone, read a book, and get the post.

A man will dress up for weddings and funerals.

NATURAL

Men wake up as good-looking as they went to bed.

Women somehow deteriorate during the night.

OFFSPRING

Ah, children. A woman knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends, favourite foods, secret fears and hopes and dreams.

A man is vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A married man should forget his mistakes.

There's no use in two people remembering the same thing.

Critter Feature: Abalone

Abalone (from Spanish Abulón) are small to very large-sized edible sea snails.

The number of species recognized worldwide is about 100.

The shells of abalones have a low and open spiral structure, and are characterized by several open respiratory pores in a row near the shell's outer edge. The thick inner layer of the shell is composed of nacre or mother-of-pearl, which in many species is highly iridescent, giving rise to a range of strong and changeable colours, which make the shells attractive to humans as decorative objects, and as a source of colourful mother-of-pearl.

The flesh (the adductor muscle) of abalones is widely considered to be a desirable food. The shell of abalones has a convex, rounded to oval shape, and the shell may be highly arched or very flattened. The shell is ear shaped with two to three whorls. The last one is aeriform such that the shell resembles an "ear", giving rise to the common name 'ear-shell'. The body whorl has a series of holes near the anterior margin, that are in fact respiratory pores that are used for the escape of water from the gills. There are four to ten depending on the species. There is no operculum.

The color of the shell is very variable from species to species. The iridescent nacre that lines the inside of the shell varies in color from silvery white, to pink, red and green-red, through to Haliotis iris, which shows predominantly deep blues, greens and purples.

These snails cling solidly with their broad muscular foot to rocky surfaces at sublittoral depths, although some species such as *Haliotis cracherodii* used to be common in the intertidal zone.

Abalones reach maturity at a relatively small size. Their fecundity is high and increases with their size (from 10,000 to 11 million eggs at a time).

The larvae are lecithotrophic (ie feed off a yolk sac). The adults are herbivorous and feed with their rhipidoglossan radula on macroalgae, preferring red or brown algae. Sizes vary from 20 mm (*Haliotis pulcherrima*) to 200 mm (or even more) (*Haliotis rufescens*). They also have a series of small holes on top of the shell through which sex products and waste are expelled.

Approximately 1/3 of the weight of the animal is meat, 1/3 is offal, and 1/3 is shell.

Throughout its life, an abalone contends with a variety of predators. The eggs and larvae are eaten by filter-feeding animals. Though juvenile abalone hide, they are active at night (nocturnal) and crabs, lobsters, octopuses, starfish, fish and predatory snails prey on them. Abalone in shallow water may be crushed by storm tossed rocks.

Large abalone are not threatened by the predators of their earlier life, but larger, and often more efficient predators now become important. Fishes, such as the cabezon, can dislodge some abalone and swallow them whole. Even very large abalone are no match for the crushing jaws of a bat ray.



Structure and properties of abalone shell

The shell of the abalone is exceptionally strong. It is made of microscopic calcium carbonate tiles stacked like bricks. Between the layers of shells is a clingy protein substance. When the abalone shell is struck, the tiles slide instead of shattering and the protein stretches to absorb the energy of the blow. Material scientists around the world are studying the tiled structure for insight into stronger ceramic products such as body armour.

The dust created through the grinding and cutting of abalone shell is dangerous; appropriate safeguards must be taken to protect people from inhaling these particles. An N95-rated dust respirator, a ventilation system, and wet grinding are requirements to working abalone shell safely. The calcium carbonate dust is a respiratory irritant and the particles can penetrate into the lower respiratory tree and cause irritant bronchitis and other respiratory irritation responses. The usual symptoms are cough and sputum production, and secondary infections can occur. If there are proteins left in the shell matrix, it is also possible that they can trigger an allergic (asthmatic) attack. Allergic skin reactions can also occur.

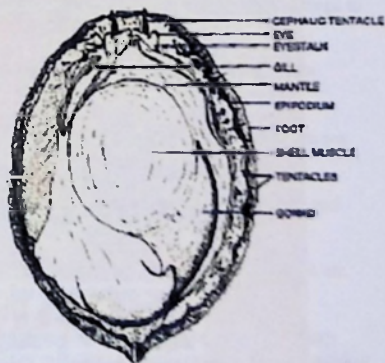
Location

Abalone are located on the seabed on rocks. They can reach 30 years of age and are harvestable from approximately 6 years on. They are seaweed feeders, hence their Australian name: Mutton Fish. Abalone graze the seabed as sheep graze paddocks. They have a heavy muscular foot on the bottom of the shell, which is the edible part. The life of the abalone begins in a free drifting planktonic state. When they get too heavy they sink to the bottom, and if they are lucky, strike a suitable reef. In the juvenile stage they are light fearing and hide under boulders, rocks and in caves. As they grow larger, abalone become light loving and settle in more open and accessible areas, thus making room for the next group of youngsters.

Anatomy

The internal organs are arranged around the foot and under the shell. The most conspicuous organ, the crescent-shaped gonad, is gray or green in females and cream colored in males. It extends around the side opposite the pores and to the rear of the abalone. The abalone has a pair of eyes, a mouth and an enlarged pair of tentacles. Inside the mouth is a long, file-like tongue called the radula, which scrapes algal matter to a size that can be ingested.

The gill chamber is next to the mouth and under the respiratory pores. Water is drawn in under the edge of the shell, and then flows over the gills and out the pores. Waste and reproductive products are carried out in the flow of water. Since it has no obvious brain structure, the abalone is considered to be a primitive animal. However, it does have a heart on its left side and blood flows through the arteries, sinuses and veins, assisted by the surrounding tissues and muscles.



Emergency Evacuations
can cost as much as
US\$100,000



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Southern Rock Loster

Common names: Crayfish, Crays.

Southern rock lobsters are predominantly red in colour, being darker red in shallower waters to almost white in very deep waters.

The southern rock lobster is one of only two species of the family *Jasus* found in Tasmanian waters, the other being the rarely-seen eastern rock lobster which is predominantly green in colour.

Rock lobster grow to more than 22cms in carapace length and more than 5kg in weight and can live beyond 20 years. They are found on rocky reefs from 0 to 200m depth.



Female lobsters mate shortly after shedding their shells (moulting) in autumn. Almost immediately after mating, the female extrudes her eggs which are brooded under the tail for the next four months.

After hatching, the young larvae, known as phyllosoma, swim to the surface and undergo a series of complicated life stages for a period between 9 months and 2 years. These larvae can travel many thousands of kilometres during this time before the final larval stage, known as the puerulus stage, settles on a reef.

Rock lobsters are highly sought after by recreational fishers who use pots, diving and rings to catch this species.

Popular baits used in pots and rings include fish heads and frames and occasionally raw meats.

Rock lobsters are opportunistic carnivores consuming species such as mussels, abalone, sea urchins, crabs and worms.

Predators of rock lobster include octopus, sharks, and fish species such as wrasse, ling and cod.

Rock lobster flesh is firm and white and is considered a delicacy, however some people are allergic to this meat and may become quite ill after consumption.

Care needs to be exercised when handling rock lobsters as they are armed with very sharp spines around the base of their antennae capable of inflicting a painful wound that can quickly become infected.

SHIPS AND MORE SHIPS DIVE REPORT SATURDAY 27TH MARCH

The dive plan for Saturday 27 March was to be the fantastic "Spectacular Reef". David Geekie was the DC and had three boats from VSAG, his Signature two, Dave Kelly's and John Lawler's... joined by one from Getunder, Alan Beckhurst's "Freediver"

We all met up well ahead of the 10.30 AM slack water and a shot was soon in place. Then the disappointing news from Alan after being informed by Lonsdale Lighthouse there were ships and more ships to be progressively in the area over the next few hours... so long Speckie Reef!

After much discussion as to the next dive was carried out it was decided to dive the outside Nepean Wall and again the shot line was soon on the top of the wall.

The rip was quite calm as were the conditions on the wall although a bit swelly. Alan Storen offered to drive the boat giving Adam Borge, Ken Methven and myself the dive.

The vis was exceptional at around 20-25 mtrs! We dropped down to around 30 mtrs and looking down could see the sloped ledges disappear into the dark gloom of infinity.

We were mesmerized at two huge boarfish that just hung in one place and kept watching these strange beings... and all around schooling fish in numbers equally curious..

There is an opinion that if boarfish are around there are generally crayfish.... so it was! Ken moved up to a ledge and a good sized one was within reach and bagged.....

A fantastic dive here was over and we were soon collected by our skipper.

The next dive was the Coogee..... No sooner on to the shot line than the ocean floor was visible.. wow... 30 metre viz!!

A beautiful spectacular dive scene this old iconic wreck when the viz is this good... relaxed diving at it's very best.

Thanks to Dave Geekie for pulling this dive together and the boat owners and divers who made it a one out of the box combined VSAG/Getunder dive day.



One afternoon a Scotsman was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass.

Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate.

He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?" "We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass."

"Well, then, you can come with me to my house and I'll feed you," the Scotsman said.

"But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree."

"Bring them along," the Scotsman replied.

Turning to the other poor man he stated, "You come with us, also."

The second man, in a pitiful voice, then said, "But sir, I also have a wife and SIX children with me!"

"Bring them all, as well," the Scotsman answered.

They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limousine was.

Once under way, one of the poor fellows turned to the Scotsman and said,

"Sir, you are too kind."

"Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The Scotsman replied, "Glad to do it."

"You'll really love my place."

"The grass is almost a foot high"

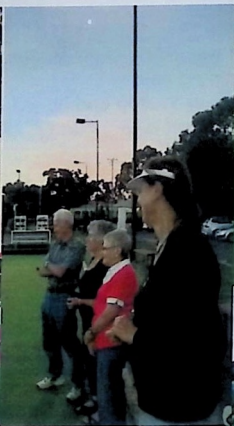
The Great VSAG Bowl –off.

17 VSAGers had booked in and 13 fronted on the night to compete in the 'lawn bowls' night of fun and competition.

We met at the Elsternwick Bowl club and had a BBQ sausage and salad – not 5 star but enough to fill the stomach and the free glass of wine or beer all for \$12 was cheap enough.

The starters were Bazza and MarieTruscott, Bob and June Scott, Andy and Gail Mastrowicz and two of their friends, Greg Richards, Laurent Fontaine, Alan, Jude and Jackie Storen.

We broke into two teams and started the competition. Overarm was not allowed but almost every other method of dispatching the ball was tried – some with more success than others.



A beautiful balmy night!!!!

A great fun night and the decision by many was 'Let's do this again next year'

Alan Storen



The Prom 2010

The Prom put on it's best weather for the first couple of days as about 90 VSAGers turned up for another "Easter at the Prom". I am not going to list all as it would fill all the page with names. Special thanks to the boat owners without which the diving would not happen—John Lawler, Mick Jeacle, John Gladding and Andy Mastrowicz.



Thanks also to Andy for being DC for the trip as he tried to fill the boats with 'buddy pairs' and a couple of boat drivers per boat and

We also had many from GetUnder in the next Avenue and thanks to AB and John Corby for taking the overflow of our divers. I think we numbered about 25!!

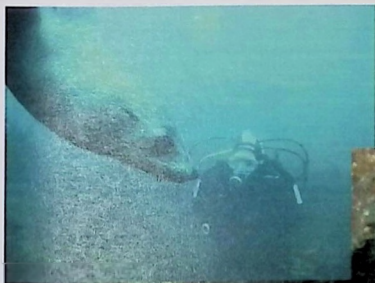


I am told that it was 'Over 40 year celebration' for some including Bob and June Scott with many a story to be told (or not told) of activities from past years. Sometimes it is a case of "What goes on the trip, stays on the trip" to protect the innocent. May there be many more trips !

The evenings were apparently quiet by past 'standards' as many were approaching their senior years but from all reports the gourmet meals continued—ranging from Yum Cha , paella, the fresh crays, abalone, curries, stir fries and many others. One evening that was more upmarket was the annual 'dancing lessons' put on by Martin and Jocie Taliana.



Alan holding Joey and Mick K's cray.
I did lend Joey a tank!!!!



Many thanks also to June Scott and Gail Mastrowicz for the Easter Egg Hunt and associated Easter Prom races. Fun for little and big kids alike.

The last night get together at the Club Site was also well attended and a good way to end the festivities before the next morning pack-up.

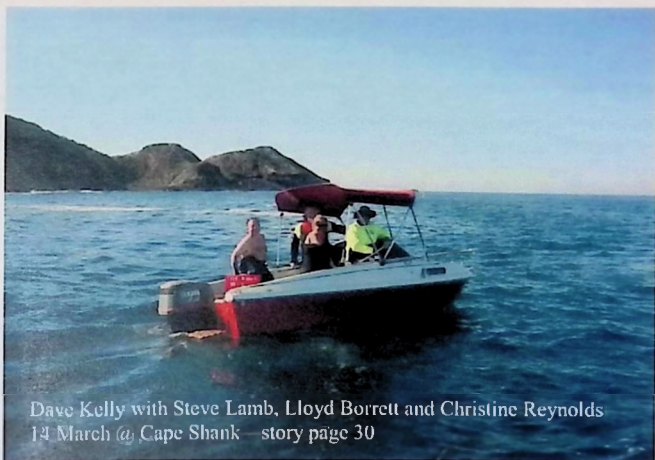
The diving was typical prom and as always fantastic. Unfortunately only two days could be dived—but then again that is the Prom.

One thing we needed to watch out for was Mr Plod who often sat at the Tidal River entrance, complete with radar gun, to catch all 'hoons' as they entered the 20k zone.

Alan Storen

Photos: Ken Methven and Jude Storen





Dave Kelly with Steve Lamb, Lloyd Borrett and Christine Reynolds
14 March @ Cape Shank — story page 30



Cape Jaffa 2010

