

# FATHOMS

FEBRUARY — MARCH 2011



16/01/2011 10:05

Blue Devil - photo Benita Mc Donough

[www.vsag.org.au](http://www.vsag.org.au)

Postal Address:

VSAG

145 Johnston St

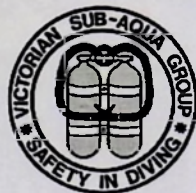
Newport VIC 3015





# FATHOMS

*Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group*



**In this December 2010—January 2011 issue...**

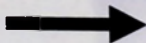
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**VSAG General Meetings**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month

**Editorial Submissions to:**

Maori Chief Hotel  
117 Moray Street  
South Melbourne. 8.00 pm  
[join at 7pm for a meal!]  
Alan Storen  
15 Regal Court Vermont South Vic 3133  
storens@bigpond.net.au

The New  
VSAG  
Meeting  
Place



Same Day  
Same Time

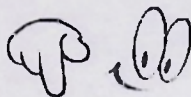
The Maori Chief Hotel  
117 Moray St  
South Melbourne

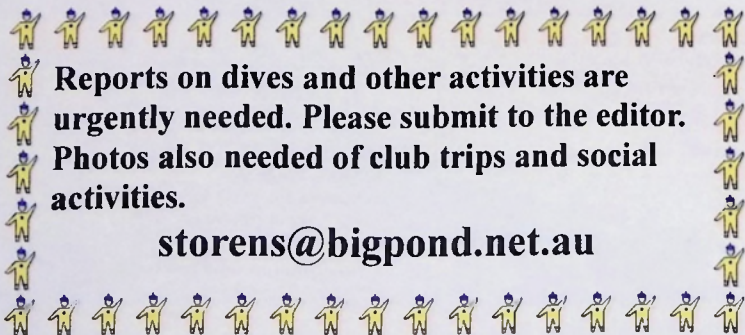
**COMING SOON**

NZ trip—Feb 2011— Greg Richards

Easter at the Prom — April - Andy Mastrowicz

Sipadan Trip — 6-15 June - Mick Jeacle



  
**Reports on dives and other activities are  
urgently needed. Please submit to the editor.  
Photos also needed of club trips and social  
activities.**  
**[storens@bigpond.net.au](mailto:storens@bigpond.net.au)**

# EDITORIAL

Alan Storen

I hope most of you are still being true to your New Year resolutions. I hope one of them was to come diving with VSAG more often! The diving to start this year has not been spectacular due to the heavy rains which spoil the viz and high winds. JL tell me that those that stayed in Melbourne for the xmas break seldom got out and those that ventured to Beachport only got a few dives in. Hope things improve from here. Some of us are off to NZ at the end of Feb so hopefully we can get some good diving in there! Alan Beckhurst showed a video of his recent trip to NZ at the January general meeting and I am sure the divers going are very keen after seeing his video.



Our new home (for the moment) is the Maori Chief so if you have not been to a meeting recently please note this change. Address is 'just up the road from Bell's' – 117 Moray Street, corner of Moray and York Streets, South Melbourne VIC 3205 (Melway 1D L11). It got the tick of approval at the January General Meeting and is probably our future home. When VSAG turned up with 30+ it certainly stretched the kitchen and bar staff but I think they will be ready for us next month.

The last couple of editions have been a bit light on and I am looking for articles and/or photos. I will publish most, subject to libel/ privacy/ decency considerations. Send them early!

Mick is looking for starters for the **Sipadan** trip in June so if interested please contact him.—details page 35

**Easter at the Prom.** Bookings closed 1 Feb but if you missed out and are interested please register your interest with Andy Mastrowicz so that any cancellations can be filled. Remember that there are no tank filling facilities at the Prom and you will need to bring an adequate number of tanks for the number of dive you wish to do.

One thing that I had on the list, but forgot in the last edition, was to remind all to get a dive medical if you are overdue for one. Remember lives have been saved in our club because of a member going for a dive medical. The same reminder goes for a tank and equipment service!

Enjoy  
Alan

**"So much Water, So Little Bottom Time!"**

# 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



Well 2010 has gone and 2011 is here already. With trips to New Zealand, Sipadan, Cape Jaffa and Easter at the Prom all coming up soon, the club is looking at another bumper year.

After 15 years at Bells Hotel, we have been forced into making a decision on our meeting venue and our January meeting at the Maori Chief was well attended with 30 people- nearly all of whom gave the new venue a resounding "thumbs up".

As mentioned last year the committee is purchasing 3 O2 units at a cost of around \$850 each. These are due by the end of January, and will be available for the Cape Jaffa Labour Day Long weekend as well as the Easter Prom weekend. We will have a discussion and brief demonstration at one of the next 2 meetings. I would urge all members to make an effort to attend these meetings to get some hands on experience as to the workings and correct usage of these O2 units.

Another initiative of the Committee is to re-activate the members list. This was always a standard part of V.S.A.G. in the past, and served many purposes. Over the coming months we will be putting together a comprehensive and up-to date list of all members with emergency contacts (spouses/home ph Numbers etc) With so many new members diving with us these days it is vital that the Dive Captain has access to everybody's details. in the unlikely event that the brown stuff hits the oscillating device.

Regards.

Greg Richards

**YOUNG AT HEART**  
Slightly older  
in other places.

## Beachport South Australia 2010

### Alan Storen



Not too sure why we selected Beachport but we did so off a number of VSAGers headed to spend the xmas/new year period at the Beachport caravan park. In all we had 16 starters including Trevor and Cathy Williams, Mick and Annie Jeacle and daughters Sam and Jess, Greg and Jan Richards, Jon Mills and Priya, Leo Maybus, Andrew and a couple of his mates, and the Storens (Jude and Alan).



We could not complain about the area we had with more than enough room for Mick's boat, extra tents (Sam and Jess) and extra cars (Andrew and his mates). The price was right also at \$25 per site per day – where else in Australia can you get that these days? We were at one end of the park next to the golf course and about 100m from the water's edge. The only down side was the walk to the toilet

which was about 207 steps according to some- or a short bike ride for those with bikes (Trev and Cathy). Prior planning and anticipation was the key. This was not a problem for the boys at night as we had ensuite on three sides!





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Once all three boats were launched and everyone aboard, we headed down to Queenscliff and joined up with David Geckie and crew coming out from there. We were hoping to dive Awesome or Knawsome Reef, so we put in a call to the Lonsdale lighthouse to check on the shipping movements. Unfortunately a ship was heading out during our slack water dive window. After discussions with JL and other boat owners by radio, I moved the dive to the North Wall Corner on Lonsdale Wall. David Geckie put a shot line down and we waited for slack water.

There were commercial dive boats to the north and south of us. On our boat JL and Denise geared up ready to dive first. JL thought about deploying a buoy line for the dive but decided against it given the likelihood of it catching on the wall.

We watched as divers from the other boats went first, with a few going a bit too early and having to deal with the current still running. Eventually JL and Denise rolled in. Cheryl and I got our gear together while they dived so as to be ready for a quick change over.

Later Alan Storen called out that JL and Denise were up near him, so we motored over and picked them up. They reported good viz and that they'd had a great dive, finding the old large anchor chain links at one point.

Cheryl and I got into our gear while JL positioned the boat. We started towards the buoy and descended once we had the buoy line in sight. We followed the buoy line down and then headed towards where the wall edge should be. Eventually the wall edge came into sight and we went over the edge onto the wall and let the current take us southwards.

We gently drifted along the wall taking in the amazing sights. The more I go far and away and dive elsewhere in Australia and overseas, the more I appreciate being truly blessed to have Lonsdale Wall to explore as a local dive site. Most every dive destination has something great to offer. Sometimes that's about the marine life and topography you find underwater, as in the case of Lonsdale Wall. Sometimes it's just about the locals and your fellow divers that make it memorable, as in the case of diving with VSAG.

Towards the end of our dive we started to see other divers from one of the Dive Victoria charter boats. As the time to start our ascent approached, we made our way to the top of the wall and I shot my self inflating Buddy DSMB. That thing is just so cool! We did a 2 minute deep stop at 16 metres and then a safety stop at 5 metres. By now we could see plenty of divers nearby and we surfaced in a forest of DSMBs.

The Dive Victoria's boat Sea Dragon was just to the south of us picking up divers. JL's dive boat was quite a distance to the North of us. There was no way the VSAG boats were going to pick us out in amongst all of these divers. We'd just have to wait until Dive Victoria picked up it's divers and JL realised where we were.

**Tidal Streams at the Heads—February**  
**Italic times are slack water with EBB about to start (Flood Slack)**  
**[RED = best diving conditions near the Heads]**  
**TIMES ADJUSTED FOR DST**

<b>Mon 31</b>	<b>Tues 1</b>	<b>Wed 2</b>	<b>Thurs 3</b>	<b>Fri 4</b>	<b>Sat 5</b>	<b>Sun 6</b>
Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack
	<b>148</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>552</b>
519	650	847	1001	1053	1134	1207
<b>1050</b>	<b>1155</b>	<b>1320</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>1601</b>	<b>1657</b>	<b>1744</b>
1843	1954	2102	2200	2247	2328	2403
<b>Mon 7</b>	<b>Tues 8</b>	<b>Wed 9</b>	<b>Thurs 10</b>	<b>Fri 11</b>	<b>Sat 12</b>	<b>Sun 13</b>
Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack
	35	104	132	200	230	303
<b>618</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>843</b>
1237	1306	1336	1408	1440	1515	1552
<b>1825</b>	<b>1904</b>	<b>1943</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2103</b>	<b>2149</b>	<b>2244</b>
<b>Mon 14</b>	<b>Tues 15</b>	<b>Wed 16</b>	<b>Thurs 17</b>	<b>Fri 18</b>	<b>Sat 19</b>	<b>Sun 20</b>
Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack
		<b>109</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>449</b>
340	424	527	715	913	1012	1059
<b>914</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>1049</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1528</b>	<b>1641</b>
1637	1733	1848	2014	2127	2225	2315
<b>Mon 21</b>	<b>Tues 22</b>	<b>Wed 23</b>	<b>Thurs 24</b>	<b>Fri 25</b>	<b>Sat 26</b>	<b>Sun 27</b>
Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack	Slack
<b>526</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>635</b>	117	156	235	316
1143	1227	1311	<b>709</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>859</b>
<b>1744</b>	<b>1840</b>	<b>1933</b>	1356	1440	1524	1609
2358	2438		<b>2026</b>	<b>2117</b>	<b>2208</b>	<b>2300</b>