

FATHOMS

OCTOBER — NOVEMBER 2011



Octopus in Sipadan - photo Alan Storen

www.vsag.org.au

Postal Address:

VSAG

145 Johnston St

Newport VIC 3015



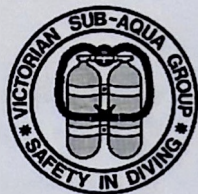


Photos—Alan Storen



FATHOMS

Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group



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VSAG General Meetings
3rd Thursday in the month

Maori Chief Hotel
117 Moray Street
South Melbourne, 8.00 pm
[join at 7pm for a meal!]

Editorial Submissions to:

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35 Courtenay Ave, Cranbourne North VIC 3977
5996 0033 0418 170 044
lloyd@borrett.id.au

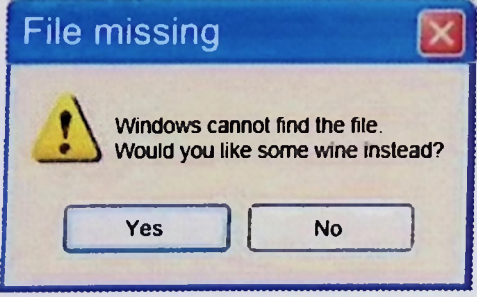


Xmas Opportunity not to be missed!!!!

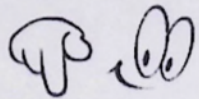
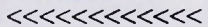
I am looking for a few divers who may be interested in exploring the coast between Beachport and Robe in a diving expedition exploring the many reefs that are close to the shore and may never or rarely been dived before. Most of this area is national park and beach driving along with camping is allowed. It also faces the Southern Ocean and is therefore very exposed.

I would like to hear from anyone interested in beach driving and camping with a 4wd who can go sometime over the next summer and is available on reasonably short notice after a favourable forecast. I have had a short taste of this coast and it looks spectacular and full of expectations for a great adventure that we as Australians can enjoy. The finer points of tank fills, boat access etc can be worked out if I have enough interest.

Peter Briggs
pebriggs@bigpond.net.au
mobile 0412585546



Finally a computer setting I understand.



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





EDITORIAL

Well this is IT! My last edition of Fathoms as Editor. Lloyd and Cheryl take over as of next month and I am sure will introduce many new ideas to the magazine in future editions.

I must begin by thanking all the contributors over the last nearly 60 editions. Some have been authors, some have been photographers, some finders of articles and 'fillers' and some a combination of all above. Without your input the magazine would not have happened and I hope that you will continue to contribute in the future. Special mention to John Lawler and Greg Richards who can always be relied on for an article or two and also to the many members and sometimes non-members who put pen to paper- at last count the number was well in excess of 200.

The magazine would also not have happened without the contribution of my wife, Jude, who assisted with the stapling, folding, enveloping and labelling and posting. A most important step in the process and greatly appreciated. She also proof read many articles.

The new committee takes over in October and, while there are many 'familiar faces' on the committee, many will end up with a new job and a new challenge for the 2011/2012 club year. Greg has stepped down as President and a new person will be appointed at the October Committee meeting. Many thanks to Greg Richards for his contribution to the club over the last two years as President. The full committee are listed on Page 6 but positions are not known at the time I write this editorial. New members on the committee this year (appointed for the next three years) are Cheryl Lees and Graham Ellis - congratulations.

The committee is always looking for input from members and suggestions can be forwarded to anyone on the committee. Suggested speakers for meetings, social events, dive trip destinations/dive locations are always welcomed. Have your say in the running of the club.

I am sure I will still be having input into Fathoms in the future but for me it time to pass the ball, or it that pen? Thanks again for your support, encouragement and words of appreciation.

Cheers

Alan Storen

Committee 2011 - 2012



POSITIONS TO BE DECIDED AT OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

- Greg Richards** 5 Oakhurst Crt, Frankston VIC 3199
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- [advisor]
David Ujimoto 79 Raglan St, South Melbourne Vic 3205 0416 316 450
ujimotod@yahoo.ca

Committee meets 2nd Thursday of the month (except in January)
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME
Maori Chief 117 Moray St. South Melbourne

VSAG: Presidents Annual Report:2011

Another great year has passed for VSAG, many well attended local dives as well as Long weekends and two Annual Overseas trips.

Easter was aborted due to a once in a 300 year weather event and the ramifications for the Cup weekend are still being felt as there is no boat launching still! The Cape Jaffa weekend was a successful, although the 4 boats that went suffered some form of "illness" and all spent some time in drydock afterwards.



Socially, we had a great year with the highlight being the 70 plus turnout for the Christmas Party at Deb Georges Mt Martha shack. Outside that we had a quiet year, but probably because we were too busy diving. We did however have 2 marriages inside the club, so clearly we must be a friendly lot.

On the membership front we had several new members join and we welcome them to the club and it was good to see them on a few dives and joining in the weekends away as well. Overall membership numbers remain strong. We still manage to all get our gear wet most weekends and rarely have to turn someone down for a berth on the boats.

Our meetings this year continued to offer a guest speaker more often than not and the standard again was high. Some constructive criticism for the new committee is to keep the speakers to, a more reasonable, 45min time frame.

We had a big move from Bells Hotel after the decline in that once great venue, and although The Maori Chief is a tad rustic and the room awkward, we seem to have settled in nicely.

The club couldn't exist without our boat owners assistance. A big thank you goes out to Mick Jeacle, John Lawler, John Gladding, David Geekie, Peter Briggs, Andy Mastrowicz, Chris Llewellyn Peter Galvin and more recently Mark Roache, Brendan Hocking, Graham Ellis and Lloyd Borrett. Without these guys commitment we wouldn't be the strong vibrant club we are today.



We have had a great year and at our AGM several people were singled out for special mention. John Lawler has taken out the Clubman of the Year award for a record 8th time. John first won the award back in 1986 and has won the last three. Well done and congratulations on your dedication to VSAG to John.

The Literary Award was won by Greg Breese with his "Diving In NZ Part 1"- the club is holding its collective breath awaiting Part 2. The Fathoms Award was won by me and the dreaded Wooden Weightbelt was won by 6 times Clubman of the Year Mick Jeacle.



Lastly, I want to thank the entire committee for organizing all the events, dives, raffles, social nites, magazines, trips away and keeping the club financial and functioning. I won't single any one out, just to say, they do all the work, I just get to run the meetings. Without them it just wouldn't happen. Thanks guys for a great year!

Well my time is up, and it's time for new blood to take the club in whatever direction they chose. I would like to make a few parting observations that reflect my beliefs on how a private independent dive club should be run. Some will say I am a dinosaur and out of touch, and still living in the Stone Age. This may be true, after all the Stone Age didn't end because they ran out of stones, No, the ancient folk found new and better ways to do things. Hopefully, so will the new breed of VSAGers.

Firstly, a strong private independent club offers an alternative to the shop based clubs. Hence, by my definition, there should never be seen to be a link to a particular shop or shops. By all means have close relations with them but I am strongly opposed to being seen as having an association with any shop, to me it takes away the Independent nature of our club and adds little. Leave the training and badge collecting to the shops. Leave the real diving to us.

Secondly, the make up of the club. I joined VSAG because it offered me a chance to dive with very experienced divers and go on boats with very experienced skippers. My words to John Lawler at the time were, "I want to dive with divers

whom I will never have to rescue, and who are good enough to rescue me if needed" I believe we must continually grow membership (and we are), but be ever mindful of diluting the experience base of the overall membership. Don't aim to be all things to all divers, full of beginners and inexperienced divers all keen as mustard but not knowing Jack. There are plenty of other clubs catering for that. We need to make sure we attract the experienced divers as well as the keener beginners, otherwise we risk losing the very thing that makes us what we are- the dive club of choice for experienced divers.



Safety and the threat of litigation is something that rears its ugly head as a discussion point every so often. Every time new people join a dive club I hear them make noises about OHS, Waivers, Litigation. What if's, Standards, Documentation and what they would do about it if they got on the committee Well, two things here (1) Get on the committee and do it yourself, don't tell other volunteers to do what you can't be bothered doing. (2) Check the facts of how VSAG is structured and the safeguards that we already have in place- you might be surprised! (3) Refer back to my previous comments about not diluting the experience of the club and boat owners. We have strong safety standards and a powerful good safety record largely based on a combination of our standard procedures and our level of overall experience. We must aim to keep the balance tipped in favour of the more experienced divers.

The meetings should be about information (ie/ been diving, going diving, upcoming trips away) and entertainment (guest speakers etc) they should not be a torture test of the human spirit. I get a lot of feedback that people want to socialize with the other members and talk about diving, not have numb bums and get home at midnight. Enjoy not endure!

After all we are here to go diving. Nothing more, nothing less. The club is simply the vehicle to facilitate this. The social side, the trips away, the friendships, are all the cream that tops it all off. If we get the diving bit all wrong, or lose focus on the side issues, then the club will wither on the vine.

VSAG is 57 years old, but it is still a vibrant active club, I believe that it will be around for many years to come yet. In what form and in what shape is the challenge for the new committee. I bet they get it right!

Greg Richards.

TREASURER'S REPORT

2010/2011

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

A.C.N. 004 591 575

BALANCE SHEET

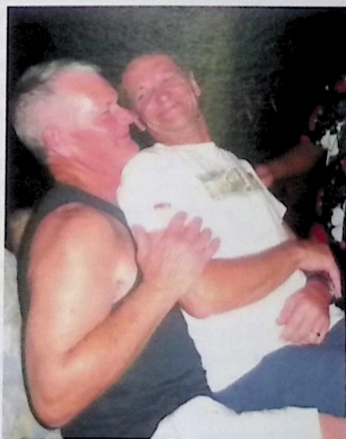
AT 30TH JUNE 2011



	2010	2011
CURRENT CASH ASSETS	<u>\$11,168</u>	<u>\$11,353</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$11,168</u>	<u>\$11,353</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	<u>\$11,168</u>	<u>\$11,353</u>

Please refer any queries to:
Peter Briggs—Treasurer

[Editor: Peter working
closely with the Auditor!!!]



4:13 PM
15/09/11
Cash Basis

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP
Profit & Loss Standard
July 2010 through June 2011

	<u>Jul '10 - Jun 11</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
income	
Beachport Trip	300.00
Blues Train Accomodation	360.00
Christmas Party 2010	1,112.00
Decals	150.00
Interest Income	339.87
Member Subs	4,805.00
Other Income	22.00
Raffle	118.50
Transfer from other account	12,172.22
Wilson Prom Easter 2011	2,412.50
Total Income	<u>21,792.71</u>
Expense	
Advertising	186.40
Award	120.00
Bank Service Charges	114.25
Beachport Xmas 2010	400.00
Blues Train Accom	220.00
Blues Train Expenses	155.00
Boat Ramp Fees	240.00
Christmas 2010 Expenses	188.63
Decal	245.00
Fathoms printing	1,626.00
Guest Speaker	85.45
Miscellaneous	70.00
Oxygen	3,384.61
Postage and Delivery	576.30
Raffle Prize	13.00
Reim Prom bookings Easter 2011	1,810.00
Transfer to online account	10,000.00
Total Expense	<u>19,434.64</u>
Net Ordinary Income	2,358.07
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
transfer to other cheque account	2,500.00
Total Other Expense	<u>2,500.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>-2,500.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-141.93</u></u>

HISTORICAL DIVING SOCIETY SEAP



Information provided by Des Williams (Life Member VSAG and Secretary of HDS SEAP)

A fantastic new diving exhibition titled "IMMERSE - EXPLORING THE DEEP" is being run by the WA Museum, Shipwreck Galleries at Fremantle in WA. The exhibition season runs between 3/9/2011 to 2/3/2012.

So, if you are planning a visit to WA, this exhibition should be at the top of your visit list to attend, as there is a fine display of helmets and underwater intervention apparatus on show. Further information is available at the WA Museum website www.museum.wa.gov.au under the "What's On" heading. Here is a short taste of what is on offer, taken from their website oh, did I mention admission is FREE?

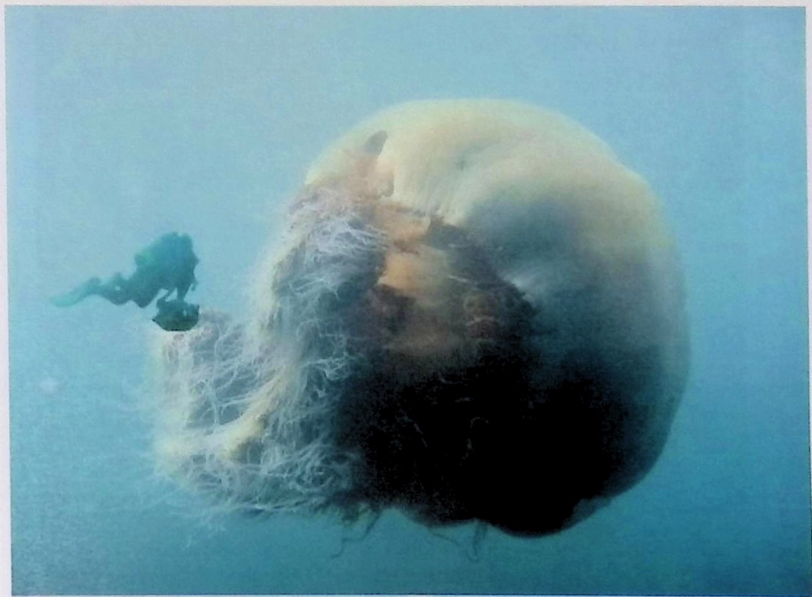
"IMMERSE EXHIBITION" - People have long been pioneering ways in which to explore and ultimately utilise the resources found on and below the sea-bed. Helmet and corselet or 'hard-hat' diving was introduced to the pearling industry in the 1860s and since then Western Australians have been at the forefront of subsea technological innovation. There are numerous uses of technology underwater, many of which relate to the oil and gas sector. The technologies and skill sets developed here can be utilised in other industries as well as for specific scientific endeavours from the searching for historically significant shipwrecks such as HMAS *Sydney*, investigating the flora and fauna of the world's oceans, to finding efficient ways of harvesting marine renewable energy.

This exhibition serves to showcase the clever ways in which humans work underwater and the technology they have designed which allows them to do so. *Immerse* will plunge the visitor into an alien environment and experience what it's like to explore and work below the ocean. *Immerse* will focus on technological innovations, illustrating the challenges, ingenuity and opportunities the underwater industry brings to the broader community. It aims to inspire young people to explore technical, subsea and marine related subjects as future careers by showcasing the offshore industry and research organisations in Western Australia.

Well there you have it folks, a great exhibition and there is a good chance this show will eventually travel interstate on a display circuit, but at this stage there is no set travel itinerary we can report. We will keep you posted though. The exhibition does contain some of the magnificent helmets on loan from the 'Langley Collection' housed at the Museum of Tropical Qld in Townsville, so don't miss it if you can get to Perth.

CHEERS, DES WILLIAMS Hon. Secretary HDS SEAP

If interested in joining HDS SEAP contact Des Williams on deswill@dingley.net



KAVIENG 2002 - VSAG trip



New Diving Gear!!!

No, Just Steve Fordyce (Monash) marking his 500th Dive.

Last seen at Blairgowrie Pier.

Underwater shots on facebook/Utube.

PS. Mary Malloy just celebrated her 2000th — not sure what she wore! I heard she had a cake on Freediver to mark the event .

(see page 20)

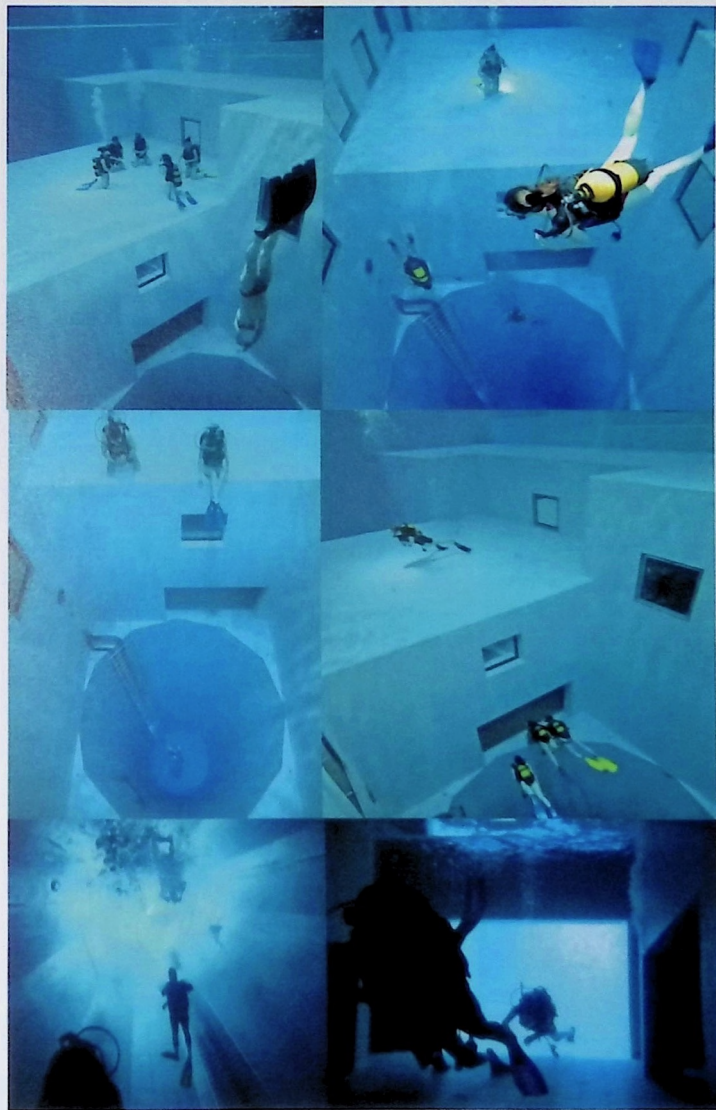


‘THE’ Pool

Darren Pearce

Deepest swimming pool in the world, located in Brussels, Belgium. Its maximum depth is 35 meters. It contains 2,500,000 liters of non-chlorinated, highly filtered spring water maintained at 30 °C (86 °F) and holds several simulated underwater caves at the 10 m depth level.





Humpbacks

Hi,
These are from our dive yesterday...Photos courtesy of mary malloy...flat seas, 19dgs warm and apart from a great dive on lost reef (35mtrs and viz 10 mtrs) we had the humpies! A very rare winters dive day.
JL

Hi everyone,

Today I logged my 2000th dive. However the highlight was above water in the rip where, for 90 minutes we had the pleasure of two humpback whales cruising around and tail slapping.

Cheers
Mary





© 2011 Mary Malloy



©2011 Mary Malloy

The Bell Ringer

After Quasimodo's death, the bishop of the Cathedral of Notre Dame sent word through the streets of Paris that a new bell ringer was needed. The bishop decided that he would conduct the interviews personally and went up into the belfry to begin the screening process. After observing several applicants demonstrate their skills, he had decided to call it a day. Just then, an armless man approached him and announced that he was there to apply for the bell ringer's job. The bishop was incredulous.

'You have no arms!'

'No matter,' said the man. 'Observe!'

And he began striking the bells with his face, producing a beautiful melody on the carillon. The bishop listened in astonishment; convinced he had finally found a replacement for Quasimodo.

But suddenly, as he rushed forward to strike the bell, the armless man tripped and plunged headlong out of the belfry window to his death in the Street below.

The stunned bishop rushed down two hundred and ninety five church steps, when he reached the street, a crowd had gathered around the fallen figure, drawn by the beautiful music they had heard only moments before.

As they silently parted to let the bishop through, one of them asked, 'Bishop, who was this man?'

'I don't know his name,' the bishop sadly replied,

[TURN TO PAGE 19]

DIVE REPORT....PHILLIP ISLAND

SATURDAY 13TH AUGUST

This was today....relative details....Felt you would be interested.

Phillip Island...boats Hocking/Lawler..ETA 8.45...9AM

Divers....Hocking-Geekie/Flew- Doolan/Ellis-Lawler/ (Doolan- Monash)

1st Dive site: George Kermode..ETA 10am... Conditions: Viz approx 10 mtrs..seas flat and calm...rain squalls..all divers dived.

Hocking anchored....One boat manned at all times....lunched here.

2nd Dive: The Pinnacles....ETA 12.45Pm...conditions: Approx 3 mtr rolling swell.....Flew/Doolan dived...Geekie and Lawler dived/ separated...Geekie dived ..Lawler aborted....Hocking had ear problem did not dive...Doolan had sinus squeeze with some blood in mask after surfacing but proved no concern..lost mask over side whilst cleaning.

Newhaven ETA 2.30 PM... Boat retrieval quick... ..San Remo pub..Coffe for all..red for Michelle!

ETD San Remo: 3.45PM....Flat tyre for Lawler...another fine dive day.

Scale of the day's activity: 8/10

JL

The Maori chief—photo Deb Laurie



Dive Report 14 Aug 2011-08-15

Whilst we were severely fog bound for most of yesterday the conditions out in Bass Strait were excellent...low winds calm almost flat seas and at some brief times so hot we were almost sweating..true!

A bit scary finding our way back to Sorrento in fog with viz about 10 mtrs at best VSAG teamed up with Black Rock although we lost their boat for most of the day.

VSAG: Richards (DC)/Flew/Lees/Ivanof/Lawler

Dive Plan: Investigate a new dive site from marks from a commercial dive operator...**SUB REEF**...about 3 kms east of the EX-IIMAS Canberra site.

Depth: 18 to 26 mtrs..excellent reef..lots of holes and ledges...lots of fish and probably a good cray reef but probably bashed hard by the commercials....viz was around 10 mtrs....a must see site so here are marks:

38 18 001

144 34 122

Second dive Twin Bommies.

Cheers,
JL.

[Continued from page 17]

'BUT HIS FACE RINGS A BELL!'

WAIT ! WAIT ! There's more...

The following day, despite the sadness that weighed heavily on his heart due to the unfortunate death of the armless campanologist, the Bishop continued his interviews for the bell ringer of Notre Dame.

The first man to approach him said, 'Your Excellency, I am the brother of the poor armless wretch that fell to his death from this very belfry yesterday. I pray that you honour his life by allowing me to replace him in this duty.'

The bishop agreed to give the man an audition, and, as the armless man's brother stooped to pick up a mallet to strike the first bell, he groaned, clutched at his chest, twirled around, and died on the spot. Two monks, hearing the bishop's cries of grief at this second tragedy, rushed up the stairs to his side.

'What has happened? Who is this man?' the first monk asked breathlessly. 'I don't know his name,' sighed the distraught bishop, 'but...'

Wait for it
(It's worth it)...

[TURN TO PAGE 21]

SUNDAY 30TH JULY

DIVERS: GETUNDER---ALAN BECKHURST/MARY MALLOY

VSAG: DAVID GEEKIE/JOHN LAWLER.

VSAG and Getunder combined on this Sunday for a dive.I met David Geekie at his home at 7.30 for the run down to Queenscliff to link with up Alan and Mary.

We were to have the company of Sheree Marris and friend but Dive Vic rescheduled a dive that suited them better so it came down to we lucky four.

A quick launch of Freediver we checked the reefs which looked a bit green so decided on a site not very well known to many divers..well out in Bass Straight it is called "Lost Reef". Starts at the top around 30 mtrs and drops down to sand at around 35 mtrs....during summer it has loads of fish and a few crays...very pretty with some small caves...not very large reef but a good one..all four divers did this dive.Viz was around 7- 10 mtrs.

Meanwhile,President Greg was out with Monash dive club from Barwon Heads,diving the Milora and some great reefs...and an occasional cay or two.

Greg called in on the road home to give us an update and their day was also exceptional...

We had a call over the VHF that whales were north of Popes Eye and we headed back to find two large humpback whales in the rip...we stayed with them for 90 minutes watching them breach and generally having a very relaxed fine time whilst slowly moving out into the ocean....such a magnificent sight...a few boats heard the call and came out to witness this sighting....

Conditions all day were most surprising as it was July..sunny around 19dgs..calm seas and very little wind..the rip was dead flat... and the highlight of the day to compliment the dive and the whales was that our dear dive friend Mary Malloy celebrated her 2000'th dive..we had a cake decorated with silver thingies showing the numerals....does it get any better than this....not very often!!!



John Lawler