



# Fathoms

DECEMBER 2014 - JANUARY 2015



Wishing you all a  
Merry Christmas  
and safe diving

**DIVE REPORTS**

**2014 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**VSAG ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT**

**PLANNED AFRICAN SAFARI & DIVE TRIP 2015**

Postal Address:

VSAG, 139 Overport Rd, Frankston South VIC 3199

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

# *Dates for your Diary*

## **MELBOURNE DIVE FOR CANCER**



*FEBRUARY 22ND 2015 at Rye Pier*

**More details to follow**



**Cancer  
Council  
Victoria**



**Melbourne's Maritime Bazaar is opening on 15th February 2015 along the historic docks in Williamstown.**

**Fishing and boating enthusiasts and their families and friends from around the Bay and beyond, can buy, swap or sell used gear, equipment and accessories alongside marine antique and craft stalls, pop-up food trucks, live music, family entertainment and marine education.**

**The Maritime Bazaar's relaxed and festive atmosphere is set to embrace the entire Seaworks site, offering exciting activities for all the family.**

**For more information - visit their website**

**<http://www.maritimebazaar.com.au/#>**

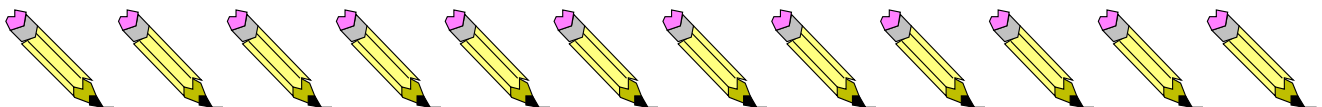


# Fathoms

*Est. 1954 Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group, Inc.*

**In this December 2014 - January 2015 issue...**

| <b>Article</b>                                | <b>Author</b>                        | <b>Page</b> |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Dates for your Diary                          |                                      | 2           |
| Notices                                       |                                      | 4           |
| VSAG Committee 2014 / 2015                    |                                      | 5           |
| Annual VSAG Awards Night                      | Cheryl Lees                          | 6-9         |
| 2014 Christmas Party                          | Cheryl Lees                          | 10-13       |
| Abalone Regulations                           | Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide | 14-15       |
| Member of the Month Award                     |                                      | 16          |
| Story: There's always the sea                 | Lloyd Borrett                        | 16-18       |
| Diving the Web                                |                                      | 19-20       |
| Dive Report: Truk Lagoon (Part Two)           | Ian Scholey                          | 21-31       |
| Dive Report: Great Barrier Reef               | Ian Scholey                          | 31-34       |
| Dive Report: Hurricane & Rosebud Reef         | Simon Selkin                         | 35          |
| Dive Report: Ex-HMAS Canberra & Chimney Rock  | Honni Maddil                         | 36-39       |
| Dive Report: Byron Bay                        | Ian Scholey                          | 39-40       |
| Dive Report: Spot on Tom                      | David Politakis                      | 41-42       |
| Dive Report: Hurricane & South Channel Fort   | Ian Scholey                          | 43-45       |
| Dive Snippets                                 |                                      | 46-49       |
| Some of Phil Watson's latest Dive Sites       | Phil Watson                          | 50-51       |
| Photo Competition Winners & Runners-up        | Ian Scholey                          | 52-55       |
| Proposed Dive Trip for 2015 — South Africa    |                                      | 56-60       |
| VSAG dive and meeting calendar                | Graham Ellis                         | 61          |
| Tidal Streams — December / January / February | Graham Ellis                         | 62-64       |
| Emergency Contact Information                 |                                      | 65          |



## **Editorial Submissions:**

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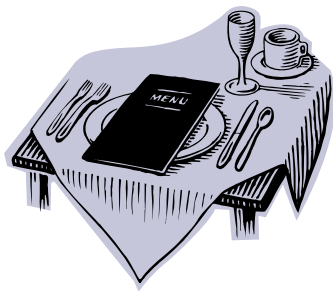
Cheryl Lees M: 0448 863 455  
14 Sheoak Rd, Frankston South VIC 3199

# NOTICES

VSAG Committee meets at 8 pm every 2nd Tuesday of the month  
(except in January)

**All Members Welcome**

Bell's Hotel, 157 Moray St, South Melbourne VIC 3205



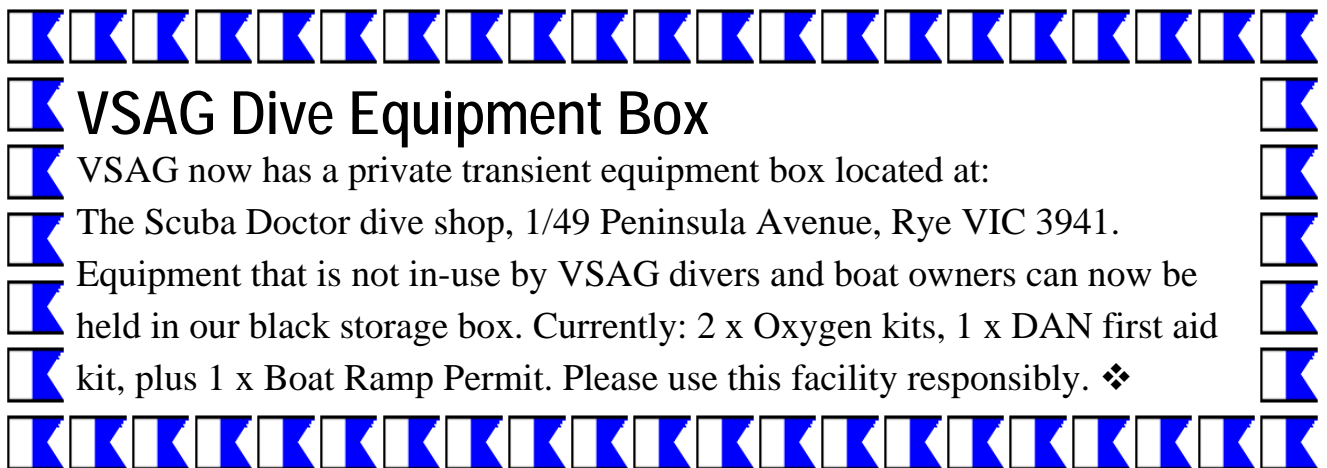
**VSAG Monthly meetings are at 8 pm on the  
3rd TUESDAY of each month at BELL'S HOTEL  
157 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE**

All are welcome to join us for a meal at 7 pm  
before the meeting.

**Tuesday Night Special — all meals \$15**

## VSAG on Facebook

Did you know VSAG now has a  
Facebook page? Check it out at  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
vsag.divers](https://www.facebook.com/vsag.divers) and 'Like' us.



## VSAG Dive Equipment Box

VSAG now has a private transient equipment box located at:

The Scuba Doctor dive shop, 1/49 Peninsula Avenue, Rye VIC 3941.

Equipment that is not in-use by VSAG divers and boat owners can now be held in our black storage box. Currently: 2 x Oxygen kits, 1 x DAN first aid kit, plus 1 x Boat Ramp Permit. Please use this facility responsibly. ❖

# Your VSAG Committee 2014 / 2015

To email all VSAG committee members: [committee@vsag.org.au](mailto:committee@vsag.org.au)

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# ANNUAL VSAG AWARDS NIGHT

On Tuesday 21st October 2014, VSAG held its second Annual Awards Night at Bell's Hotel in South Melbourne. The concept of holding the awards separately from the AGM was introduced last year under the guidance of Trevor Williams. It was so successful that the Committee decided to keep it going as it proved a wonderful way of celebrating the Club's achievements of the past year.

Michael Ngai has taken over the role of Points Scorer this year and he prepared the PowerPoint presentation for the night. This included a Club Snapshot showing statistics for the various VSAG activities over the past year. The Award presentations followed:-

## **THE WOODEN WEIGHTBELT AWARD**

*Judged by Members on the night*

### **Contenders:**

1. Wall diving off Lonsdale / Nepean.

Motor stopped while preparing shotline.

Anchored and tried motor recovery to no avail.

Contacted "Authorities" and were told to "wait".

Waited over lunch and a nice chat...

Managed to start motor and cruise back to

ramp.

Waved to rescue boat as they passed each other.

(Culprits: David Geekie & Greg Richards)

2. Reef diving off Chimney Rock.

After the dive, decided to put prescription mask at the "back" of the boat. (Or was it?)

Watched as mask sank to the bottom of the abyss...

Buddy geared up and descended to search for mask. Search & rescue mission accomplished!

(Culprits: Christine Reynolds & Denys Smerchanskyi)

3. Diving in Bali

Newly certified diver practices SMB deployment.

SMB went off too fast and was let go.

Meanwhile innocent diver climbing onto boat gets a surprise in the bum.

(Innocent diver: David Reinhard)

**WINNERS - David Geekie & Greg Richards**

**FATHOMS AWARD** in recognition of the support given to the Editor of Fathoms magazine

*Judged by Cheryl Lees*

Over the past year, the following numbers of contributors to Fathoms were:

- Articles & Meeting Reports - 12 people
- Dive Reports - 21 people
- Photographs - 29 people
- Tidal streams, Dive & Meeting calendars - Graham Ellis

These included members from BSAC, MONUC & GetUnder Dive Clubs plus articles & photos from Facebook.

**WINNER - JOHN LAWLER**

*- who contributed to all aspects of Fathoms – articles, dive reports & photos. “He was always my first go-to man if I was unsure of names in photos and he chased up Dive Reports from other members.”*

**PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR** selected from the winners & runners up of our monthly Photo Competition

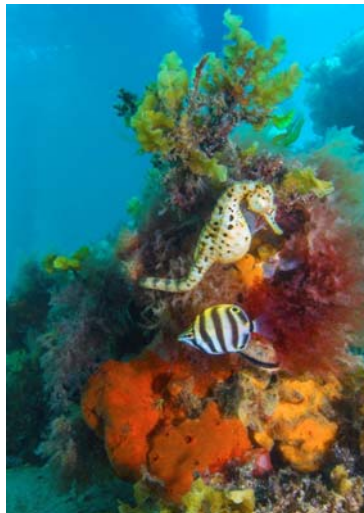
*Judged by Mary Malloy - GetUnder Club*

**WINNER - IAN SCHOLEY - February 2014**

*- just because I wish I had taken it!\**



**2nd - David Reinhard - January 2014**



*- because the photographer has waited for the fish to enter the frame. Most would be content with just the sea-horse. Also, colourful, and background light is correctly exposed as well.\**

**3rd - David Reinhard - November 2013**

*- low camera angle and colourful. Most macro photographers*



*shoot from above i.e. less connected with the subject.\**

*\*Comments supplied by Mary Malloy*

**FATHOMS PHOTO AWARD** depicting “A Year in the life of VSAG” and chosen from photos submitted to Fathoms

*Judged by Cheryl Lees*

**Honourable mention - Phil Watson**

- because we love to celebrate milestones & achievements of our VSAG members



*Sandy Webb on her 1,000th dive! - December 2013/January 2014*

**3rd - Ian Scholey**

- depicts how free & joyful we feel under the sea



*Photo of Steve Vadja –from an article entitled Another day in dive heaven – Coogee and reefs” - June/Sept 2013*

**2nd - Phil Watson**

- great shot of what most of us experience on every boat dive – that first (sometimes breath-taking) feeling of entering the water



*Hannah Smeeton rolling off John Lawler’s boat to dive Uralba - February/ March 2014*

**WINNER - CHARLIE BRINCAT**

- because the smiles **do** say it all!



**The smiles say it all !!!!**

*John Lawler, Peter Briggs, David Politakis & Mick Kakafikas at Cape Jaffa - June/September 2013*



**LITERARY AWARD** for the best article submitted to Fathoms

*Judged by Don Abell*

**Runner-up - Ian Scholey**

- for his article/s on diving in Sydney

**WINNER - JOHN MILLS**

- for his article “Diving the Ex-HMAS Adelaide”



*Unfortunately John Mills was not present on the night so his wife, Priya accepted the Literary Award on his behalf, from Don Abell.*



**CLUB CHAMPION 2013-2014** based on the points accumulated over the year

3rd - Peter Galvin - 1690 points

2nd - Ian Scholey - 2800 points

**WINNER - JOHN LAWLER - 3010pts**



*Michael Ngai congratulating John Lawler (above)*

*.....and Peter Galvin (below)*



**LEFT:** Lloyd Borrett presenting Ian Scholey with his Photograph of the Year certificate ❖



# VSAG 2014 CHRISTMAS PARTY



*by Cheryl Lees*

As I sit and write this article on a far-from-summery Saturday in December, I am very relieved to report that the VSAG Christmas Party was once again blessed with perfect weather this year. On 29th November, members and their families gathered at the home of Lloyd and myself to relax and celebrate the festive season.

Although it was Election Day for Victoria (we booked the date 1st!), we had a great turn-out for the event. It was wonderful to see members' partners & children enjoying the day and it was a great opportunity for us to catch up with them or meet them

for the first time. The children certainly seemed to enjoy the pool and the "biggest kid of all" kept them entertained in that area.



*Denise Saltzman, Claire Cooper, Lisa Owen & Jude Storen enjoying the party*

The food was provided by Southern Star Spitroasting Service, plus some members brought favourite dishes and Graham Ellis once again provided Peters icecreams in his portable freezer. There was plenty for all and I was even able to make up some containers of



salads to give people to take home with them.

Alan Storen bought a selection of past copies of Fathoms for members to peruse & top up their own collections.



There was an array of prizes for the usual Christmas raffle, although this year the Committee decided to have more prizes for the non-diver members of our families. So, along with some dive products (no “ab” knives this time!) there were vouchers, books, wine, chocolates, a large whale soft toy and kid’s packs up for grabs. The usual frivolity & banter ensued during the drawing of the prizes but most people seemed happy with the results.



*Anna Scholey with the raffle prizes*



*Carole Campisano helping Ian Scholey draw the next raffle ticket*

Lloyd & I would like to thank all those who attended for making it such a great event, the Committee who were the organisers, those who supplied extra food, and all those who helped with set-up, clean-up, etc. We thoroughly enjoyed the day.



And yes!!! Once again, David Geekie managed to leave something behind - his camera this time!! ❖

**More photos from the Christmas Party**  
provided by Ian Scholey, John Lawler &  
Andrew Quested



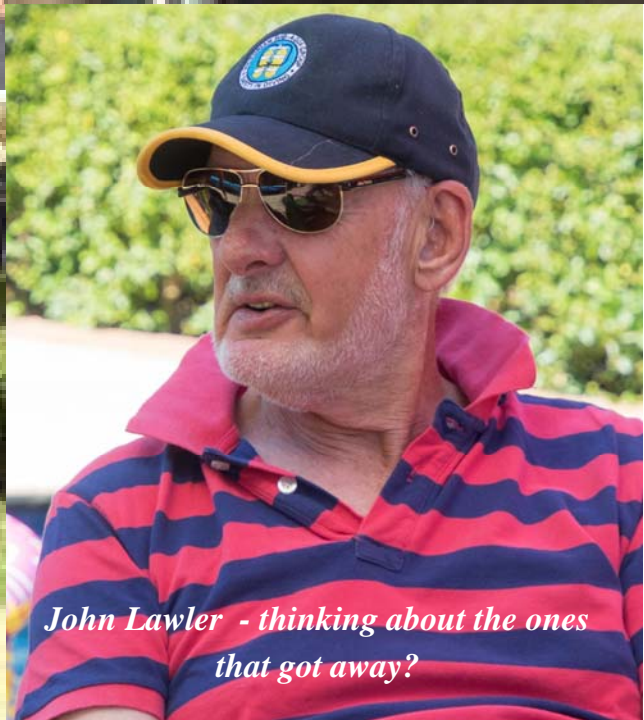
*David Geekie & Pam Dagley enjoying  
some of Graham's icecreams with the  
man himself*



*Paul Owen & Walter Madenbach*



*Sue Scholey*



*John Lawler - thinking about the ones  
that got away?*



*Some great action shots Andrew!*



# ABALONE



*Top: Blacklip Abalone*  
*Bottom: Greenlip Abalone*

## Nominated Days for Recreational take of Abalone during 2014-2015

- All Saturdays and Sundays between 16 November 2014 and 30 April 2015 inclusive
- All Public Holidays between 16 November 2014 and 30 April 2015 inclusive
- 25 December 2014 to 11 January 2015 inclusive

## Collection methods for abalone

You must carry a measuring device.

You must use a blunt instrument when taking abalone.

You must not use knives, screwdrivers or any sharp instrument that could cut the

abalone.

You must not shuck abalone, or be in possession of shucked abalone, or land shucked abalone, in, under or on Victorian waters (you may only shuck abalone upon the place of consumption).

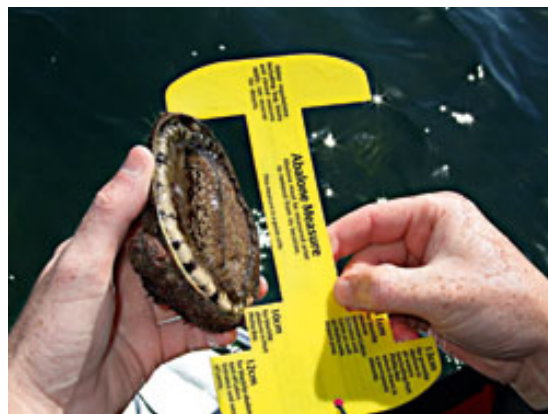
You can take abalone only between sunrise and sunset.

You must not fish for abalone in the intertidal zone (waters less than 2m deep).

## Measuring your catch

Abalone must be measured prior to removal from its original location. Abalone must be measured at the widest part of the shell, regardless of whether the shell is whole or damaged.

Measuring devices and pocket guides of abalone regulations are available free of charge from the DEPI Customer Service Centre, call 136 186 or at The Scuba Doctor.



## Abalone regulations

There is a permanent ban on the taking of all abalone species from Central Victorian waters (see map below) except on nominated days each year.

Central Victorian waters are defined as marine waters east of the mouth of Aire River to Arch Rock (near Cape Liptrap) including Port Phillip Bay. The southern boundary is a line running three nautical miles from the coast which is the seaward limit of state waters.

There has been an increase to the minimum legal length for blacklip abalone from 12cm to 13cm in waters west of the mouth of the Hopkins River to the South Australian border.

## Abalone Virus

A disease has caused abalone deaths along the south west coast of Victoria.

The disease poses no known or likely threats to human health.

To minimise the risk of spreading the disease you should:

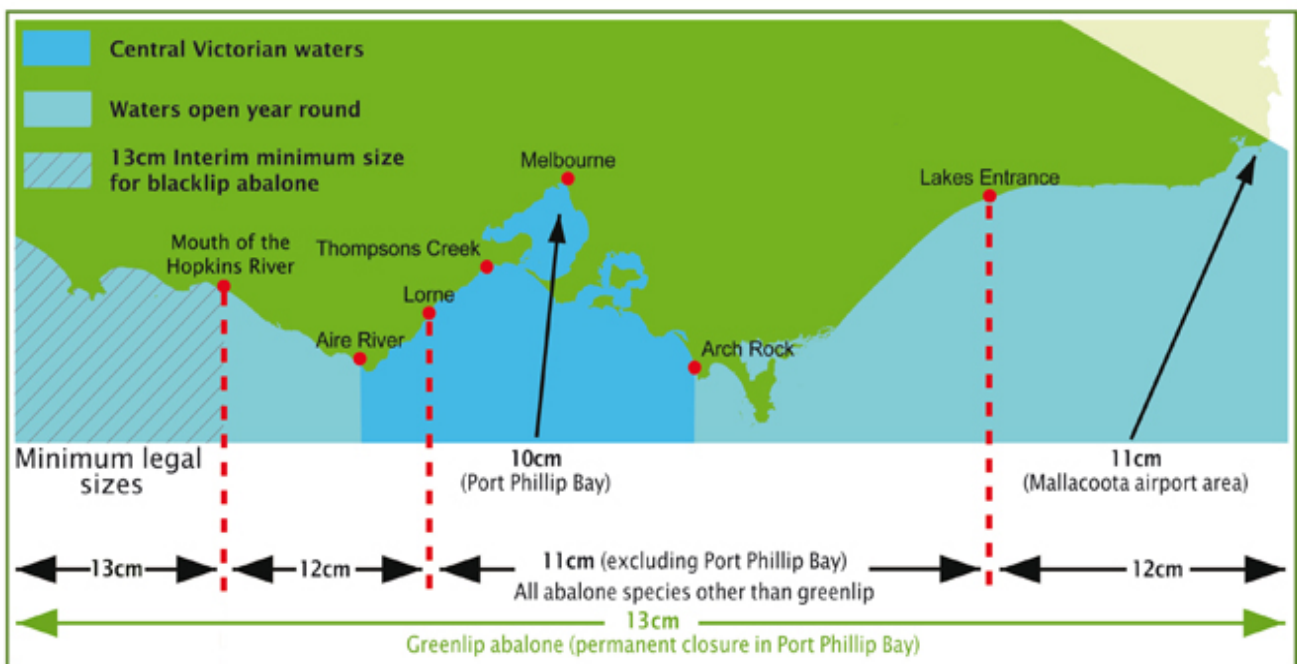
Wash vessels, wetsuits, dive equipment and your hands with soapy freshwater.

Remove all seaweed from vessels and equipment.

Dispose of abalone shell, meat and gut with your household waste.

To report any signs of the disease please contact the DEPI Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888. ❖

## Map of Central Victorian Waters



# MEMBER OF THE MONTH AWARD

At the November Club Meeting, the Committee announced that this Award was being presented to Graham Ellis " for providing assistance to his buddy who got into difficulty during a wreck penetration dive on Ex HMAS Canberra and thus preventing a potentially serious situation from escalating further". Unfortunately, Graham was not present at the meeting so he was presented with his award at the Christmas Party on 29th November. Club President, Ian Scholey, made particular mention of the calm way

that Graham handled the situation. He had also spoken to the other diver after the event who was very grateful to Graham for his assistance on the day. ❖



*Ian Scholey presenting Graham Ellis with his Member of the Month Award.*

## THERE'S ALWAYS THE SEA

*A story by Lloyd Borrett*

I was supposed to write a story about the man, not to kill him in cold blood. But somehow I couldn't make him believe – it was one of those rare times that I had met a person so frightened he was like an alien, and I stood helpless to talk with him as though I spoke ancient Urdu. It was disconcerting, to find that words

sometimes have no meaning, and no effect at all.

The man, who was to have been the central figure of the story, advised clearly that he was on to me. He knew I was a puppet, a boor, an ingrate, and a mob of other unsavoury characters all wrapped in a faded wetsuit.

A few years earlier, I might have experimented with violence to communicate with him, but this time I chose to leave the room. I walked out into the night air, and in the dim moonlight by the shore of the sea – for this was to be the story of the man and his dive resort paradise.



The breakers boomed along the dark beach, flickering blue-green-phosphorous like gentle peaceful howitzers firing in the dark, and I watched the salt ocean rush in swift and steady, slow and back, hissing softly. I walked half an hour perhaps, trying to understand the man and his fear, and finally gave it up as a bad job. It was only then, turning away from the ground that I happened to look out. And there, out from the elegant resort lands and under the sky, away from the oblivious guests at the indoor bar and ignoring me and all my little problems, was the sea.

I slowed, there on the sand, and at last stopped and looked way out into the sea. From past-horizon north to past-horizon south, from beyond land's end to beyond the heights of the night sky, lived the sea. It was very calm, very still.

Some high cirrus drifted along under a slice of the moon, borne ever so carefully on a faint, faint wind. And I noticed something that night that I had never noticed before.

That the sea is always moving, but it's never gone.

That no matter what, the sea is always with us.

And that the sea cannot be bothered.

My problems, to the sea, did not exist, never had existed, never would exist.

The sea does not misunderstand.

The sea does not judge.

The sea, very simply, is.

It is, whether we wish to see that fact or to bury ourselves under a thousand miles of earth, or even deeper still, under the impenetrable roof of unthinking routine.

It happened a year later that for some reason I was in the city at Docklands, and everything was going wrong. The very last place I wanted to be was in the prison streets of sundown Melbourne, with iron-barred windows and quintuple-lock doors. But it happened that I looked out, which is something one never does in the city, of course, and again, as it had been on the beach of the resort – way out there, way out from the canyons of Docklands – was the sea. It was there. Unhurried. Unchanged. Warm and welcoming as home.

“What do you know,” I thought, “What do you know about that?” No matter how tangled and twisted and distressful goes the life of a diver, he always has a home, waiting. For him always waits the joy of being back under the water, of looking down into the depths and up to the surface. For him always waits that inner cry, “I'm home again!”

“Bunch of water, bunch of salty water,” the people of the land will say. “Get your head out from underwater, get your feet on the ground.” Yet in times as far sepa-

rated as that lonely beach and the crowded Docklands street, I was lifted from black despair into joyous freedom. From annoyance and anger and fear to a thought. “Hey! I don’t care! I’m happy!” Just by looking into the sea.

This kind of thing happens, perhaps, because divers aren’t far-travelling wanderers after all. It may be that divers are happy only when they are at home. And it may be that they are at home only when they can somehow touch the sea. ❖



# DIVING THE WEB

## **The lost ships of Malin Head: Divers exploring wrecks of warships and liners sunk in both World Wars find tanks and military vehicles... but gold bars are still missing**



Stunning photographs show the ghostly images of First World War and Second World War ships off the coast of Ireland. Amateur diver Steve Jones captured images of HMS Audacious, SS Justicia, SS Laurentic and SS Empire Heritage. The wrecks lie at Malin Head off the coast of Donegal in Ireland with some mined and others torpedoed during two wars. SS Lau-

rentic sunk with 43 tons of gold which was due to be used to pay for war supplies when she reached US. Much of it was recovered but about £6million of gold bars is thought to remain on board and has yet to be found

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2790913/the-lost-ships-malin-head-divers-exploring-wrecks-warships-liners-sunk-world-wars-tanks-military-vehicles-gold-bars-missing.html#ixzz3L5B4nxvj>

## **Shooting a dome projected video - including giant spider crab migration**

Dr. Julian Finn goes underwater in Port Phillip Bay to film footage for the Deep Oceans exhibition at Scienceworks in Melbourne, Australia. The film will be projected inside a vertical dome, with the intent for museum goers to stand within the dome and have a virtual dive in the waters in their own backyard.

The video includes some amazing footage of the giant spider crab migration (at 1:52 in the video) from deep to shallow water where they simultaneously moult.



<http://wetpixel.com/articles/shooting-a-dome-projected-video-including-giant-spider-crab-migration>

## Melbourne Down Under

Posted by Sheree Marris <https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10152936565478033>



Here is a short promo of the Melbourne Down Under documentary which will bring to life the book and showcase the incredible colour and diversity of Port Phillip Bay. Please share this around and if you know of any sponsors who may want to support this project, please let me

know and follow us on Melbourne Down Under. We're only \$25K short from making this happen. Big thanks to Richard Fitzpatrick for helping to pull this together and the talented underwater cinematographers Pang Quong, David Bryant and again Richard Fitzpatrick. Enjoy. The best is yet to come.

### **A group of friends dove in the water with a camera. What they captured is awesome beyond words.**

A group of professional scuba divers dove in the waters off the coast of the Farne Islands in the UK. They had been in the same place before but this time they found an unexpected surprise.

<http://themetapicture.com/group-of-friends/>



# Dive Reports

## TRUK LAGOON SEPTEMBER 2014 (PART TWO)

Report & photos by Ian Scholey

**Dive 17 - Gosei Maru**, Max Depth 32.6m, Dive time 57 minutes

We had one of the longer boat trips on the Lagoon to reach our second dive of the day today. The Gosei Maru, an 82m/ 931 ton freighter which rests on it's port side on a slope close to Uman Island.

The bow is the deepest part at 30m and we headed here first to get a bow shot or two before exploring the rest of the ship. Being a little shallower than some of the wrecks, the coral growth was prolific and, as with some of the other ships on their side, it was difficult to distinguish the wreck as a ship until the superstructure, masts and funnel came into view.



From the bow we entered the forward holds which were mainly full of oil drums, both intact and crushed into all sorts of shapes. We also found several Torpedo bodies and an enormous amount of coal.

We moved slowly from hold to hold, stopping to explore the bridge area on our way forward into the shallows. We reached the stern and got some good prop shots before slowly swimming along the side of the ship to the shot line.

**Dive 18 - MV Buuy**, Max Depth 15m, Dive time 57 minutes

To this point, the guides ability to locate the wrecks by line of sight had been extraordinary. However the wind had picked up, causing a slight chop and this together with a missing fixed buoy caused us trouble finding the target for our last dive of the day the Futagami. After a frustrating 40 minute search using the anchor to try and hook the wreck we had to admit defeat and adjust our plan. The plan B was a non war wreck of a converted fishing boat the MV Buuy which had been sunk by the Chuuk authorities when it came to the end of it's useful life. The wreck sits upright in just 15m of water and despite being a bit newer, turned out to be a very enjoyable dive.



*The bow of the  
MV Buuy*

© Ian Scholey

In common with every other photographer out there, I like a bit of personal space under water to take my time to frame my shots and avoid the dreaded backscatter from careless fins. For some reason, I was the only one who penetrated this wreck so was really able to take my time.

After shooting the props and waving good bye to buddy Peter Beaumont, I squeezed through the hatch into the engine room. Inside I found twin engines separated by a walkway and a nice set of gauges. At one end of the engine room there were also 3 large gas cylinders which I decided I would quiz Peter B about as to their

function post dive. Exiting the wreck I next headed into the expanse of the rear hold which had walls covered in pipes, presumably for refrigeration of the cargo.

Next stop was the bridge, before I wrapped up in the forward living quarters finding the galley, bathroom and an office. The inside of the wreck exhausted, I then exited through the door onto the deck and rejoined the other divers who were enjoying the coral and fish life.

Back on shore that afternoon, we were offered a private tour of the new museum. So, armed with cameras, we met Diane Strong for our tour. Diane is an author and has been visiting and diving Truk for decades. She has been heavily involved in establishing the museum. Diane is also the author of the autobiography of the now deceased Kimino Aisek who was largely responsible for the setting up of the Truk dive industry including finding many of the wrecks. She was a good friend of Kimino and proved to be very knowledgeable, having dived the wrecks for decades.



The museum certainly lived up to Peter's earlier glowing praise. It is stacked with wonderful artefacts including many of the ships bells, a diving helmet, a range finder and countless fine china, bottles and instruments.





## Day 8

The sore throat is improving but now I have a chesty cough. Thankfully my airways are clear but I popped a Sudafed just in case before heading down to the dock for the day's diving. I am not recommending this tactic but needs must - it was a trip of a life time after all. I was in good company with several others in our group now sick including one of the Dutch and our guide Rio.

**Dive 19 - I169 Submarine**, Max Depth 41.9m, Dive time 35m

Despite our fortune of the J class subs so close by and the chance to dive them frequently, I was really looking forward to diving another sub. The I169 was a larger

sub than the J class at 105m long and 1400 tons. She wasn't actually sunk by the American attack but sank while fleeing after descending with a hatch still partially open. All of the crew perished as they were unable to be rescued. The Japanese then depth charged her, presumably to stop her falling into American hands.

She now sits upright on the seabed at 44m. The conning tower lists heavily to one side and the forward section of the sub is completely destroyed. The stern however is still intact and it was there we headed from the shot line swimming along the deck before dropping down to find the props and rudder still in place. I stayed deep following the prop shaft forward and examining the outer skin and



pressure hull. After a look at the damage forward of the conning tower I ascended slightly and had a good look around the conning tower. Already well into deco, I then started my ascent to my deep stop level.



**Dive 20 - Rio De Janeiro Maru, Max Depth 29.2m, Dive time 48 minutes**

A long boat ride South to this one and for some reason I was really looking forward to this wreck, must be the name. The Rio De Janeiro Maru was a 141m/ 9626 ton passenger cargo ship and now lies on her starboard side at 35m. We descended to midships and swam aft to the stern. Here the ship's name was clearly visible. After

taking a few shots we dropped down to inspect the props. We then headed forward again passing the large aft gun and going in and out of the holds. The holds were loaded with box after box of Saki and Beer bottles. We also noticed the usual oil drums and some torpedoes.



Done with the rear holds we swam to the superstructure and found the stern helm compass and telegraph. Unfortunately it wasn't worth taking photographs as the Dutch beat us to that area and had destroyed the vis. A little disappointed we gave up on a bad job and began our ascent.

Our Dutch friends had a contest running during their trip with points awarded for dumb actions. On the boat there was much discussion re how many points to award one diver who had sadly lost a camera on the dive. After checking the immediate area in case it was floating, the diver decided he had probably lost it in the holds, the last place he remembered having it. When we were asked if we minded doing our third dive of the day on the same wreck we readily agreed. We know from experience how bad it is to lose things.



*The ship's name still visible*

© Ian Scholey

**Dive 21 - Rio De Janeiro Maru,** Max Depth 28.7m, Dive time 53 minutes

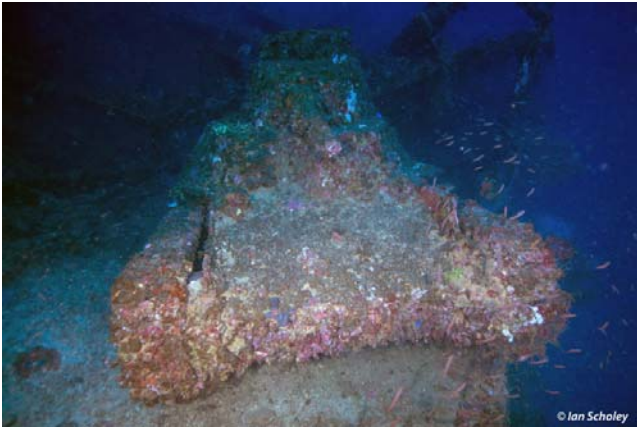
With the Dutch and guide heading back to the holds on the camera hunt, Peter and I took the opportunity to explore the superstructure on this dive. We were able to really take our time and get the shots we wanted without the backscatter issues of the previous dive. Back on the boat we learned the search had been in vain but I guess you've got to try.

On the way back we discussed the next day's diving with the Dutch. We were keen to dive The San Francisco Maru but at 48m to the deck, wanted to make sure that they were comfortable with the dive. Without hesitation they agreed.

## **Day 9**

**Dive 22 - San Francisco Maru,** Max Depth 51m, Dive time 43 minutes.

This is probably the signature dive of the Lagoon and we were very clear on what we wanted to see. The San Francisco Maru is 117m/ 5831 tons and she sits upright in 60m. The ship is known as "the million dollar wreck" due to the vast array of cargo she was carrying. Our objective was the 3 battle tanks on the deck just forward of the superstructure. These really are an impressive sight with a single tank on one side of the deck and two more sitting partially across each other on the other side of the deck. After taking a good look at them and getting our photographs from all angles we descended into the nearest hold, finding a truck and



*Battle tank on the deck of the San Francisco Maru*

stacks of ammunition including boxes of mines. We then ascended at the super-structure before beginning our deco stops.



*Truck and water carrier below in the hold of the San Francisco Maru*

A quick look I know but it certainly wetted my appetite for a return visit some time in the future.

**Dive 23 - Sankisan Maru**, Max Depth 22.1m, Dive time 47 minutes

After a longer than normal surface interval we were moored above our second dive site of the day The Sankisan Maru.

This freighter was 112m/4776 tons and was carrying ordinance. During the American attack she suffered a direct bomb hit to her ordinance-filled aft hold and the resulting explosion completely obliterated the stern of the ship. Descending the shot line, the damage was astounding with mangled metal a-plenty. Just to add to the atmosphere, just below us a white tipped reef shark cruised the wreck.



*Peter Beaumont above the remnants of a truck on the deck of the Sankisan Maru*

Hitting the deck, we swam forward and entered hold No. 2, finding several trucks and piles of scattered ammunition. Going forward again, we next entered hold No. 1. Inside we found medicine bottles cov-

ering the floor and more ammunition. Our last stop was the bow, heading down to the sea bed to get some bow shots. Both anchors were still in place, hanging on the bow and now hardly recognisable for coral encrustation, however it was still possible to make out their chains. We ascended up the mast which was again covered with both hard and soft corals and fish a-plenty before swimming back towards the shot line and our boat.

After lunch we assembled back at the dive centre to find much merriment amongst our Dutch friends. Turns out Johnny who had lost a camera on the Rio De Janeiro yesterday had lost his second camera on the San Francisco that morning. He kept it quiet from us ( I thought our ribbing first time around was quite constrained) but he had mentioned it to Rio. Putting the word out to another guide headed to the wreck after us, Rio had saved the day. This time the camera was found and reunited with it's owner. It was now game over for Johnny and he was declared the winner of the Dutch goofy competition. That evening he was awarded the trophy until their next trip - there were no photographs, he forgot to bring his camera!!

**Dive 24 - Futagami**, Max Depth 23.2m,  
Dive time 38 minutes

With Rio's pride at stake we headed back to the elusive Futigami for our last dive of

the day. This time with flat tack water we found it easily despite the lack of a fixed buoy. In fact it was clearly visible from the surface. The Futagami was a fleet tug of 40m/625 tons and is one of the vessels that survived the American attack. She was later scuttled on a sloping bottom with the bow the deepest part at 28m and sits upright with a list to port.

First stop for me was the bow and I slowly made my way aft along the deck eventually finding my way into the engine room through a pretty small hatch. Completely undamaged, the engine room was a joy with twin engines, gauges, valves and controls all still in place. Continuing to tour the ship I next entered the bridge



area finding the helm and twin telegraphs intact. I managed a really good exploration of the inside of this wreck with only Peter and I penetrating for some reason.

Back on the boat enjoying the now traditional post last dive beer - we had got into the habit of sticking beers in the iced water container in the afternoon. Talk turned to tomorrow's dives. Sadly these would be our last for the trip and with flights looming, we decided to keep things relatively shallow. After a quick discussion, we agreed to repeat our first two dives of the trip. Both were fantastic dives and we didn't feel our first photographic efforts did them justice. With our Dutch friends being holiday divers, their buoyancy had been a bit rusty to start with and they had certainly kicked up a lot of silt inside both wrecks.

## Day 10

**Dive 25 - Fujikawa Maru,** Max Depth 27.6m, Dive time 57 minutes

Before the dive I had a quick word with Rio and asked him if he would mind taking the Dutch to a different part of the wreck so that Peter and I could get some shots in the hold. This sorted, we descended and headed straight for the hold containing the complete Zero fighters. With just the two of us inside we were able to get the shots we wanted and have a really good look around.

As the Dutch finally arrived, we were on our way to the next hold and we then stayed one step ahead for the rest of the dive. Hold two was stacked with spare parts for the zero, with props, landing gear and spare fuel tanks everywhere. Exiting the holds we next swam forward to the bow gun before slowly returning to the superstructure and ascending to the bridge area. We re-entered the wreck here and had a good look around that area before commencing our ascent.



*Two up selfie - it was boring doing deco after we dived the San Francisco Maru*

**Dive 26 - Shinkoko Maru,** Max Depth 20.6m, Dive time 67 minutes

With a similar agreement from Rio re keeping the Dutch one step behind us, we concentrated our dive on the superstructure. First stop on the deck level was the medical centre with its operating table. This was quite a large area and with the vis undisturbed we were able to fully explore it, finding medical suppliers scat-

tered across the floor including a nice box with it's contents of small glass bottles.

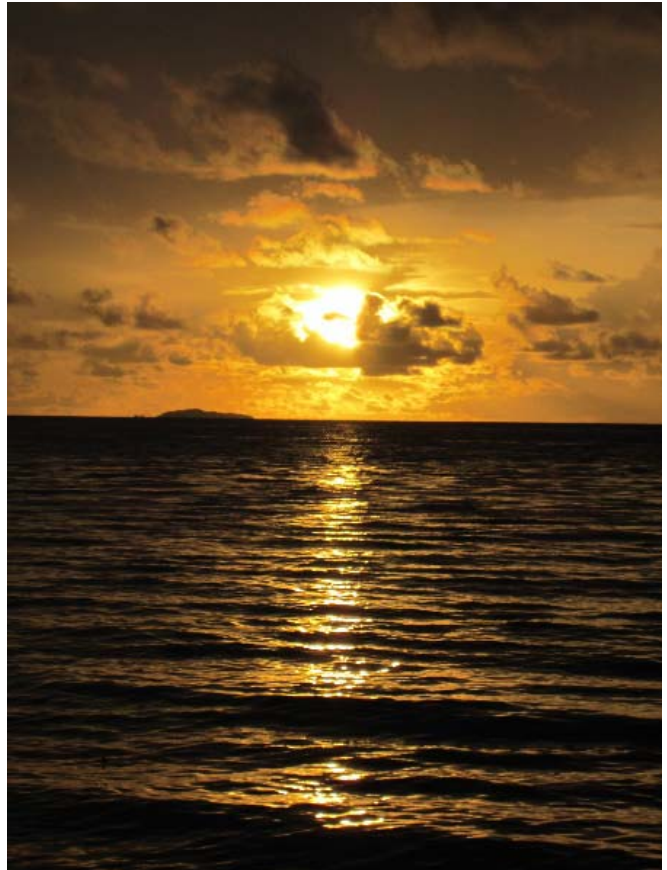
Up a level, we entered the living quarters and found the captains cabin. Not your usual small cabin, this one more of a stateroom. Highlight in this area was the bathroom with a really nice Japanese style bath and other fixtures still in place.

Continuing to explore up the levels, we finally arrived in the bridge. Glancing down I saw the biggest Barracuda I have ever seen slowly patrolling beneath me. Inside the bridge we found and photographed the helm, telegraph and compass holder. Also inside was a hawks bill turtle who didn't move a muscle as Peter snapped shot after shot. I patiently waited outside the bridge, hoping to get a shot of it coming out of a window. With Peter now finished the turtle dutifully obliged me swimming out of the window and giving me a great photo opportunity.

As we sadly headed to towards the surface thinking our trip was over, we were treated to one more magic moment.

Hanging at the 5m mark a pod of 10 dolphins appeared out of the blue and they seemed fascinated by the site of divers in their world. They circled and darted in close to take a look at us, staying put for 5 minutes or so before finally getting bored and swimming off. A magic moment to end the trip and an extra long safety stop before flying home, perfect.

There were Smiles all around back on the boat as one by one we clambered aboard. We headed back to the dock to finally wash and hang up our gear to dry. Our guide Rio and boat captain then cooked us up a fantastic farewell barbecue - a really nice touch and a great way to end our trip.



It's amazing isn't it how long these trips seem to take to finally arrive and how quickly they disappear when you're on them. Before you know it you are back on the plane heading back to Australia. Having experienced this before, I was prepared with a soft landing. Rather than fly immediately back to Melbourne, I tagged a couple of days diving on in Cairns.



## *IAN'S ADVENTURES CONTINUE ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF...*

It was a bleary eyed Ian waiting for pick up at five past seven in the morning as we hadn't arrived back at the hotel until half past midnight. I joined the throng at the reef fleet dock and was immediately

struck by the difference in scale to Truk. Boarding Tusa dives T6, the day got off to a strange start with a fire alarm causing us to evacuate the boat before we had even left the dock. It turned out to be a

mechanical issue that required a spare part so we then proceeded to sit at the dock for another hour and a half.

The crew offered us a transfer to another vessel but I decided to stick it out and sat and chatted with the dive crew. During this conversation I was told I was on the best operation in Cairns as "all our crew are instructors, not like the other operators" I didn't really take much notice of the comment at the time but events later in the day would cause me to have a good laugh about it eventually.

**Dive 27 - Norman Reef, Twin Bom-mies, Max Depth 18.2m, Dive time 39 minutes**

You get the choice of guided or unguided dives but with no suitable buddy I had no choice than to be guided. They were pretty good though and we agreed that I would stick at the front of the group with the guide so I could get my photographs before everyone else caught up. The coral was ok, but after Truk, a bit disappointing. The fish life was really good with plenty of decent sized grouper, coral trout and sweet lips, a white tipped reef shark and a giant moray and all the usual small reef fish. All in all it was a decent dive if a little short but with three dives to fit in I understood why.

**Dive 28 - Norman Reef, Twin Bom-mies, Max Depth 12.4m, Dive time 36 minutes**

Staying at the same spot, we splashed in after just a 20 minute surface interval. Heading down to the sand we immediately found a pair of cuttlefish and stayed several minutes watching them before heading off on our reef tour.



Some 20 minutes into the dive my instructor guide taps me on the leg, shows me her pressure gauge which shows empty. I quickly handed her my octopus and with the rest of the group in tow swam her back to the mooring line. Safely despatched to the surface I was left with a group of divers looking at me slightly puzzled. Checking they were ok I signalled them to finish their dive in the vicinity of the shot line.

After a few minutes the guide reappeared complete with new cylinder and off they went. I was however getting low on air having shared mine, so signalled I was going to stay around the mooring line. I wasn't too bothered by this as I had found



a nice patch of clown fish and anemones and was happy to stay in the one spot.

Back on the boat not a word was said - the guide and I just getting on with things. I didn't want to embarrass her any further so decided just to let her chalk it down to experience. I guess everyone has an off day. Moral of the story - don't jump in the ocean without checking your tank is full !!



**Dive 29 - Hastings Reef, Canyons, Max Depth 15.7m, Dive time 44 minutes**

After a really good lunch and a short trip to the next dive site we were soon back in the water. Hastings Reef has much better

coral than Norman but the fish life wasn't as good. There was still plenty to see but it was mostly smaller stuff. I did find a decent sized Crayfish though and couldn't help thinking it was lucky not to be living in our waters as it would have been a very easy catch.



### **Day 13**

Back on board Tusa T6 and this time no dramas and an on-time departure. Quickly found out I was diving with the same guide as yesterday. I was pleased with this as I guessed I would get a little bit of freedom and that turned out to be the case.

**Dive 30 - Milne Reef, Four Sisters, Max Depth 19.5m, Dive time 38 minutes**

I loved this dive site. It's the best I have dived so close to Cairns or Port Douglas. There were a series of bommies absolutely teeming with life. There were plenty of big fish including a Grey Reef Shark, big schools of Barracuda and Trevally, Bumphead Parrotfish and a large Maori

wrasse. I am guessing that someone feeds the fish here because I had real trouble keeping the fish away from my lens. The fish headed straight for you as soon as you entered the water and then tagged you the whole dive.

**Dive 31 - Milne Reef, Four Sisters, Max Depth 19.1 m, Dive time 44 minutes**

Another great dive. This time we found a really nice swim through with a massive Gorgonian Fan and a White Tipped Reef Shark.

**Dive 32 - Milne Reef, Oasis, Max Depth 17.7m, Dive time 49 minutes**

Another quality site on Milne Reef with heaps of fish including a pair of Barramundi Cod and big schools of Sweetlips.

All in all I enjoyed my dives on the Great Barrier Reef and thought that Tusadive were a pretty good operation. However you do have to be a bit patient and understanding. The short dive times and small tanks (10L) were a bit frustrating but they squeeze a lot into the day so are understandable. The boat was very comfortable, the dive deck spacious and the food excellent. The crew were friendly and helpful and I'm guessing my guide's out-of-air experience was just someone having a bad day. I would dive with them again, especially if they were going to Milne Reef.

As for Truk, what can I say. I went with high expectations and these were blown out of the water first dive. I just loved the place and each dive seemed to be better than the last. You can't help but get engulfed in the sense of history with the remnants of war everywhere. The wrecks are the best I have ever dived. The scale of some of them is just amazing and the fact that so many artefacts remain is what really makes them special. That said they are covered in some of the best corals I have seen anywhere and would rival the best reefs for colour. If you haven't been, trust me, you need to go. I for one have not finished my Truk journey - it is just paused - I will be back as soon as I can manage it - call it unfinished business. ❖



# HURRICANE AND ROSEBUD REEF

**SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER**

*by Simon Salkin, photos John Lawler*



*L to R : John Lawler, Ian Scholey, Simon Salkin and Peter Beaumont*

On the first Sunday in October at the Rye Boat ramp I met with John Lawler (driving his Signature One), Peter Beaumont and Ian Scholey, ready for my try-out dive with the VSAG club. I had dusted the cobwebs from my gear, and was keen to become submerged after a lengthy hiatus from diving. The conditions looked promising, despite the over-cast sky, with a moderate SW breeze, and calm surface – as the cloud lifted, it was really a superb day on the Bay.

The first dive was at the Hurricane Wreck in about 12-14 metres, and Ian was my dive buddy. It has all the elements of a

healthy reef – colourful sponges, ascidians and many types of Leatherjacket and Wrasse. I realised during the course of the day's diving that Ian and Peter are avid dive photographers, with a real passion for exploring marine life (especially the macro varieties) through SCUBA.

After the lunch break we dived on Rosebud Reef in about 10-11 metres. This was also a healthy reef with plenty of colour and life. A similar variety of reef fish as encountered on The Hurricane – Wrasse, Leatherjacket and a couple of PJ sharks. Ian and Peter were again in their element, and made the most of the good conditions to explore the reef.

After landing back at Rye, we met up for a cuppa at the Scuba Doctor and a chat with Lloyd, to end a very enjoyable day of diving – hopefully with more such dive trips to follow. Many thanks to John for his expertise and guidance during the day.



*Simon Salkin, Peter Beaumont & Ian Scholey*

# EX-HMAS CANBERRA AND CHIMNEY ROCK

**SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER**

*Report by Honni Madill, photos by Ian Scholey*

Crews were:

**Sea Eagle:** Ian Scholey, Peter Beaumont.

**Barcrusher:** David Politakis, Simone Lee, Michael Sestin & Owen Green

**Signature One:** John Lawler, Graham Ellis, Simon Salkin & Honni Madill.

**Signature Two:** David Geekie, Pam Dagley, Denys Smerchanski & Tony Hood.

The water was flat and inviting. The weather was overcast but comfortable. I arrived at Sorrento boat ramp at 8am after an almost 2 hour journey from home in Drouin East, with much anticipation and excitement of what the day may bring. The boats began arriving about 10 minutes later. After meeting and greeting JL, Graham and Simon, the gear was loaded on to 'Signature 1'. Simon and I remained in the boat to the boat ramp, while JL and Graham attended to the particulars of launching the vessel.

On our departure, I would never have envisaged the way this extraordinary day

would unfold. The conditions were excellent as we journeyed through Port Phillip Bay to the notorious 'Heads'. JL eased 'Signature 1' with expert precision through the intimidating high sea swells. Once we were out into the open sea we continued a pleasant journey to the Ex-HMAS Canberra.

The skies continued overcast but stable, and good seas with the occasional high ocean swell. Excellent conditions for the 'Canberra'. Graham commented on the water clarity, "the colour is black, inky, a good indication for a good dive".



The buddy pairs were allocated and I was to be taking my first VSAG dive with JL. It was more than I had expected. Ian had run a guide line from our vessel to the 'Canberra'. JL and I were first to go in from our group. The roll in entry was followed by a gradual descent, following the line to the ship below. The blue, crisp visibility and mild surge were great conditions to penetrate the ship. Owen and Simone followed along with us.



JL manoeuvred through the Junior Mess where the infamous 'Macs Mural' has now become a memory, through corridors, past the kitchen with the Bain-maries and down into the engine room. The surge through another corridor was extremely challenging and we diverted around the exterior walkway and into the bridge, where JL indicated the plaque that had become encrusted and unreadable.

We returned to the line that would take us back to the boat topside, pausing momentarily to absorb the changed conditions

that have occurred over the five years since I first dived here after she was laid to rest on the sandy bed. The kelp growth is extensive and she is listing quite prominently to starboard. The artificial reef is now home to many species of marine vertebrates.

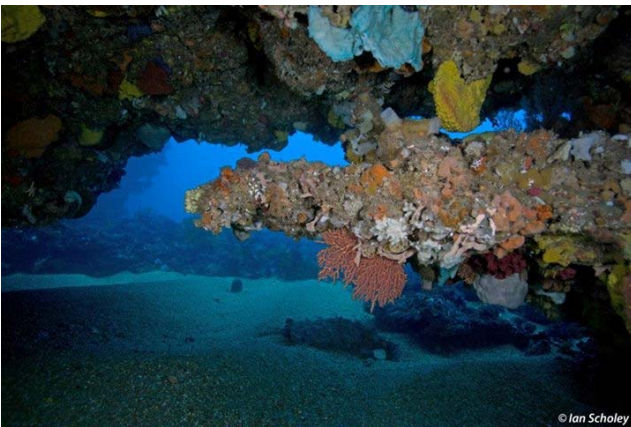


The ascent was initiated and the 5@5 completed to arrive at the surface after 37 minutes of a wonderful dive. Weight belts and SCUBA units were removed and hauled back on board, fins were handed up before stepping up the ladder.

Graham and Simon began donning gear for their dive onto the Ex-HMAS Canberra. As we watched them descend, the aro-

ma of barbecue was wafting into the slight breeze. Hot dogs were being devoured on Bar Crusher, and the daisy chain of vessels allowed for all members on other vessels to enjoy the lunch. Graham and Simon surfaced after a shortened dive due to unforeseen complications and returned to Signature 1.

JL began showing me how to drive the boat, not expecting to have the honour of taking us to the next dive site of 'Chimney Rock'. I had never driven a boat before. It was exciting. My maiden voyage of operating the vessel was so unexpected and to be trusted with the vessel was overwhelming. I loved it. We again daisy chained the vessels and prepared for our next dive. Ian had anchored near the reef.



Simon and I buddied up for this dive. As the descent began down the anchor line, the visibility was crisp and clear for 10m+ as the rocky reef formations appeared before us. The swim throughs, undercuts and crevices were intensely

investigated revealing Blue Devil fish of various sizes, juveniles to adult. There was moderate surge that played on the leather jackets, wrasse and perch. At a balmy 15C, the temperature is gradually creeping up. This is a wonderful new dive site for me and hope to return again. All too soon the dive was to conclude and ascending the anchor line to board 'Signature 1'.



Just when I thought there was more than enough to have exceeded any expectations of a great first day out with VSAG, and had a brilliant experience, the adventure continued. I was instructed to drive the boat back to Sorrento, through 'THE HEADS'. Well, that was more than I could have imagined. Under the guidance of the 'masters', JL and Graham, the moment I will always remember of taking this vessel through waters I had been many times before as passenger. There was still more, as a seal lazily waved us on as I came safely through to Port Phillip Bay.

We returned to Sorrento boat ramp where we were forced into a holding pattern due to a long line of vessels. The gear was unloaded, dues were paid and back to the Scuba Doctor to debrief and air fills. As an initiation, I was 'honoured' with this dive report.

Thanks so much for making my first VASG dives so memorable that they will always stand out against many. ❖



## **VSAG TRIP - BYRON BAY**

### **NOVEMBER 2014**

*report & photos by Ian Scholey*

#### **Day one**

The weather on day one has been a bit unkind with 20-30 Knot Northerlies putting paid to our first dive. However Dive 2 went ahead with challenging conditions for beach launching the boat and very choppy conditions at Julien Rocks. That said, it was fantastic under the water although we had to work hard in a ripping current. Loads of great stuff about including Grey Nurse Sharks who kept their distance.



#### **Day two**

The wind switched to the South West although still 20 knots. That direction was much better and the boat trips were much more comfortable today. Conditions at Julien Rocks were much calmer although the current was still ripping. No com-

plaints though as that brings in the fish. Plenty of Kingfish, Jewfish and Snapper in big schools and more Grey Nurse Sharks.



### Day three

Fed up with mucky water, I switched to a macro lens today. The conditions were the best of the trip so far with just a slight swell. We had two very chilled dives heading straight to cod hole to enjoy before the diving hoards arrived and scared the fish away. Sadly that was it for us and it was back to Melbourne the next day. A very enjoyable trip and well looked after by the crew at Sundive Byron Bay. ❖





# SPOT ON TOM

## SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2014

*report by David Politakis ; photos from Ian Scholey, Peter Beaumont, Andrew Quested*

**DC** – Ian Scholey

**Sea Eagle** – Ian Scholey & Honni Madill

**Toucans** - Peter Beaumont & Andrew Quested

**Wave rider** - John & Priya Cardinaletti

**Barcrusher** – Denys Schermanski, Paul Owen, Stephen Vadja & David Politakis

It was touch and go the whole week weatherwise. Various weather station sites had predictions vastly different from each other – nothing unusual, a mere 7 to 25 knots variation? Standard for Victoria! You have to ask how is that even possible in this day & age?

But in true VSAG style, the committed booked in and ran the gauntlet, sticking to the plan. The north winds dropped out overnight leaving a flat ocean & breathless morning, the sun shining, making it perfect for diving outside the heads.

The plan was to dive Toms reef – I believe to be a relatively new area for VSAG divers, a good 15 kms down & around the coast from the ramp, some-

where off Rye/Blairgowrie back beach.

Four boats, one by one pulled up at the site to be greeted by Sammy the Seal. He was playful & friendly from the get go. He hung around the whole day keeping the divers company on deco stops, whizzing past, darting in & out as we scoured the ledges and sea floor, also coming up close to look at the boats for those on the surface. Andrew Quested advised me he spent the better part of his first dive entertaining or being entertained by the most playful mammal. At one stage he/she was even joined by a second seal, playing freely together on the surface, nipping at each other, possibly engaging in the slippery fur horizontal tango!

The water was still a little on the cool side at 16 degrees, a little cloudy for the first 15 mtrs down but viz opened up to about 8 -10 mtrs below on the bottom.

The terrain was great – some big ledges/drop offs, long curved walls and plenty of fish & marine life to observe including a high number of small Blue Devils. We even found a small 2-3 mtr shallow sink hole region, rather bizarre and unexpected, not to forget a few small caves and a 1.2 mtr swell shark lying around.

A day of minor errors made for laughs. Ian Scholey was like a fish out of water – he forgot to charge the strobe batteries so felt naked and looked odd with no camera in hand.

I found myself stuck to the side of the boat on my roll off (I think the catch bag caught a rope) and was pinned to the side of the boat – a funny sight till I was freed by those on board. Then in haste on my second dive to get in for those elusive crays I forgot, you guessed it my weight belt. What a #\$\$#. I guess lack of diving through winter can quickly make you rusty? Anyhow back in boat, weight belt

on, down we went. Probably lining myself up for the wooden weight belt award for next year, but it was all in a good day's fun diving. No major incidents to report.

Thanks to Ian for being patient on several fronts. Overall a great day, good number of members present and a spot worth re-visiting despite the travel time & distance required. ❖



Nov 23-2014



# HURRICANE & SOUTH CHANNEL FORT

**SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2014**

*Report by Ian Scholey ; photos from Peter Beaumont & Ian Scholey*

Despite the VSAG Christmas Party the previous day, there was a combination of eager acceptance and resigned capitulation when I suggested an early start to today's dive. A particular shout out to David Geekie and crew who drove all the way down to Rye from the north of the city for the 7.45am launch.

There were three boats today with the two RIB's, my own Sea Eagle and Peter Beaumont's Toucans, being joined by David Geekie's Signature Two. On board were Peter Beaumont, David Geekie, Pam Dagley, Greg Richards, Denys Smerchanski, Honni Madill and myself.

The forecast had been improving as the week went on and for the second weekend in a row we were greeted by variable winds below 10 knots and a flat tack bay at the boat ramp. With recently qualified boat licence-holder, Honni, at the wheel of Sea Eagle, we zipped east-

wards from Rye to our first dive site - The Hurricane.

I sort of think of this wreck as my own piece of real estate. Peter Beaumont and I have dived her regularly for years and I just don't get why she isn't dived more often. In a Southerly she is a sure fire winner and you are always likely to find something interesting.

With the three boats anchoring, we found all three anchors nicely clustered bang on the wreck as Honni and I descended the shot line. The visibility was a respectable 10m and we began our dive at the stern after securing the anchor on a piece of the wreck. Shining a torch inside, there would have been 10 different species of fish including a couple of sleeping Common Stingaree's.



*\*Note from Ian : After last week's incident with an uncharged camera battery I was at it again this week, forgetting to turn my flash on. So thought I'd go black and white for a change. I kinda like the result.*

In a manageable current we slowly moved along the port side hull with torches shining into every nook and cranny. Pretty soon Honni found the first of the 3 Cuttlefish we saw. I gently coaxed it out from under the wreck and although it was quite small it had attitude, displaying and facing off against it's own reflection in my camera port.



We then bumped into Peter Beaumont who was snapping away as usual.



The next spot from Honni was a Gurnard Perch who was not in the slightest bit bothered as I hovered with the camera inches from it's head. Before I'd finished photographing the Perch, Honni found her second Cuttlefish. This one was a clever little bugger and rather than have me coax it out from it's hiding place it promptly swam over and sat on top of a sleeping Stingaree. Not fancying a barb through the hand I left it well alone.

At the bow we saw a sizeable Rockling and the less common Banded Stingaree as well as the four divers from Signature Two who seemed to be having a mellow dive. Wanting to show first time Hurricane diver Honni as much of the wreck as possible, we allowed ourselves to drift in the current until we found the Starboard side and followed the hull back towards the stern. Here we found Cuttlefish number three. With the hour mark up we headed back up the shot line after a fine dive.



After a quick discussion with the other two skippers we opted for South Channel

Fort as the second dive spot. Our convoy of boats shot off at high speed to try and beat an outbound container ship and get across the shipping lane ahead of it's arrival. With the boats safely tied up on the jetty we splashed in for the second dive.

With slack a long time past, we found a ripping current running so our dive was limited to the area in the lee of the island with brief forays into the current, but you really had to kick hard to even stay in one place. The current had the fish in a frenzy and the schools of Globefish, Barber Perch and Leatherjackets didn't seem to have the same trouble as us in the current.



With the dive area limited I went into slug hunt mode and found four or five different types on the pier pylons before wrapping the dive after an enjoyable hour.



With the water still glasslike we headed back to Rye and the inevitable line at the ramp. Even with the line we were out of the water and back at Scuba Doctors drinking coffee by 13.00. In my case that gave an outside chance of Sunday Lunch with my family which is a bit of a rarity. ❖

# DIVE SNIPPETS

## WILLIAMSTOWN

Friday 10th October 2014

*Sandy Webb*



Maybe teeny bit warped but I have finally fulfilled long ambition to dive under the Castlemaine at Gem Pier Williamstown... (Well...under was not possible, as it seems to be sitting on the bottom!) No rubbish, but lots of feral critters and one BIG smooth ray in water too shallow for comfort! ❖



## BLAIRGOWRIE

Sunday 12th October 2014

*Ian Scholey*

I couldn't compete with Bathurst today for some strange reason. The end result was a solo dive at Blairgowrie. I was fortunate to meet the Nudibranch Whisperer in the car park and buddied up with him. With the added spotting capacity, the dive was a great one with loads of new species for me. I am not one for short dives but today was a crazy 3 hours 14 minutes. That is a new record for me - gotta love a 15L tank!! ❖



## HURRICANE NIGHT DIVE

Friday 17th October 2014

*Ian Scholey*

In absolutely perfect conditions (unlike the rest of the weekend), I headed out with Peter Beaumont & David Flew on Toucans on Friday night for a dusk/night dive on The Hurricane. We had a little bit of current running but nothing too bad and vis was excellent. We hooked the anchor on towards the stern and headed to the bow. In one spot we found 4 Big bel-lied Seahorses sharing the same bit of wreckage. There were all the usual Leath-erjackets, Cowfish and Stingrays around but no sign of the two massive Cuttlefish I have been seeing there recently. Peter found a Blue Ringed Octopus but I missed that one. A really good dive on a really nice Port Phillip Bay night. ❖



## RICKETTS POINT

Sunday 19th October 2014

*Ian Scholey*

With the 20-30 Knot Northerlies putting

paid to boat diving today, Peter Beau-mont and I sneaked in a shore dive at Ricketts Point instead. Conditions were good when we went in at 7.40am but by the time we came out an hour and a half later the wind had really kicked in and there were plenty of white caps. With conditions like that so far up the bay I'm pretty sure the Southern end would have been a no go today. Here's hoping for better weather next weekend. A real shame as we had 3 boats filled for today's planned diving. I don't dive the northern end very often, this was only my second dive at ricketts Point - I just love the curly green seaweed. ❖



## WILSONS PROMONTORY

November 2014

*David Reinhard*

Here are a few shots from a recent dive at Wilson's Prom (Picnic Bay - south end) . Didn't get any great shots I am afraid. This was definitely one of the most strenuous shore dives I have done for many years. The walk to the site wasn't too bad, and the walk back across the beach wasn't too bad either. BUT the walk up-hill back to the car park in 30°C heat was a killer. I certainly enjoyed the dive (a great change from Rickett's Point!) and I'm glad I did it but it doesn't even come close to the best of the Prom which is only accessible by boat. But what the heck - I'd probably do it again! ❖



## BLAIRGOWRIE NIGHT DIVE

Friday 14th November 2014

*Ian Scholey*

Just myself and Honni Madill diving last night. We had a pleasant hour and a half hunting for slugs. Nothing too unusual found but all the usuals out in force and great conditions. Perfect start to the weekend really. ❖





## THE HURRICANE

Sunday 16th November 2014

*Ian Scholey*

What can I say - lousy run back in Sea Eagle fighting the South Westerly all the way but it was so worth it. The fish life on The Hurricane is just stunning at the moment. I don't think I've ever seen it so good. Inspirational day's diving, roll on next weekend.



## BLAIRGOWRIE NIGHT DIVE

Friday 28th November 2014

*Ian Scholey*

Peter Beaumont, Tim Forster and myself had a very good dive at Blairgowrie last night. I was pretty pleased with these photographs. I found a very hungry Blue-ringed Octopus who first polished off a small hermit crab before grabbing a Pistol Shrimp as dessert. I didn't quite get the grab in the middle of the frame but you will get the idea anyway in the series of photographs. We also found a couple of Tasselled Anglerfish and I think two of these shots illustrate just how difficult these things are to find - talk about perfect camouflage.



Some of Phil Watson's latest Dive sites



*Point Lonsdale Pier*



*Ibacus - Williamstown*



*Bull Kelp - Airey's Inlet*



*Jelly fish & Moon - Point Franklin*



*Kilcunda*



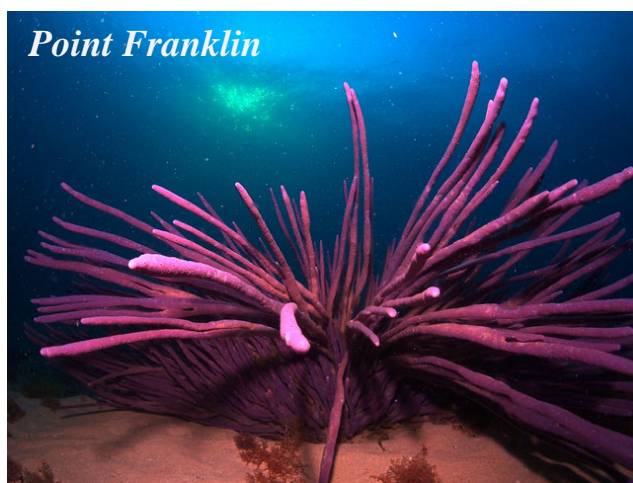
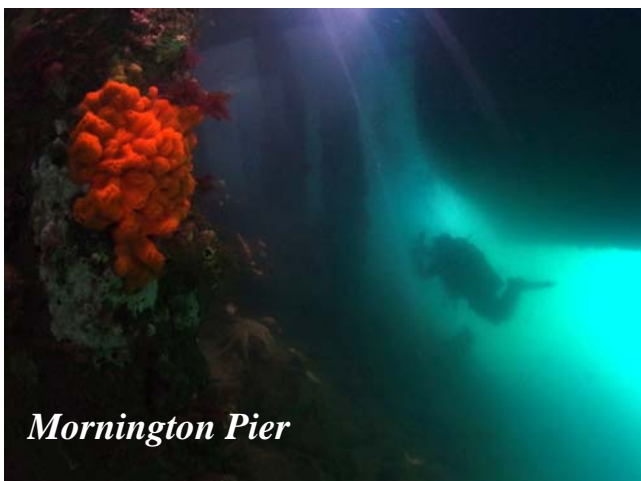
*Kilcunda*



*Barwon Heads*



*Ovens River, Harrietville*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

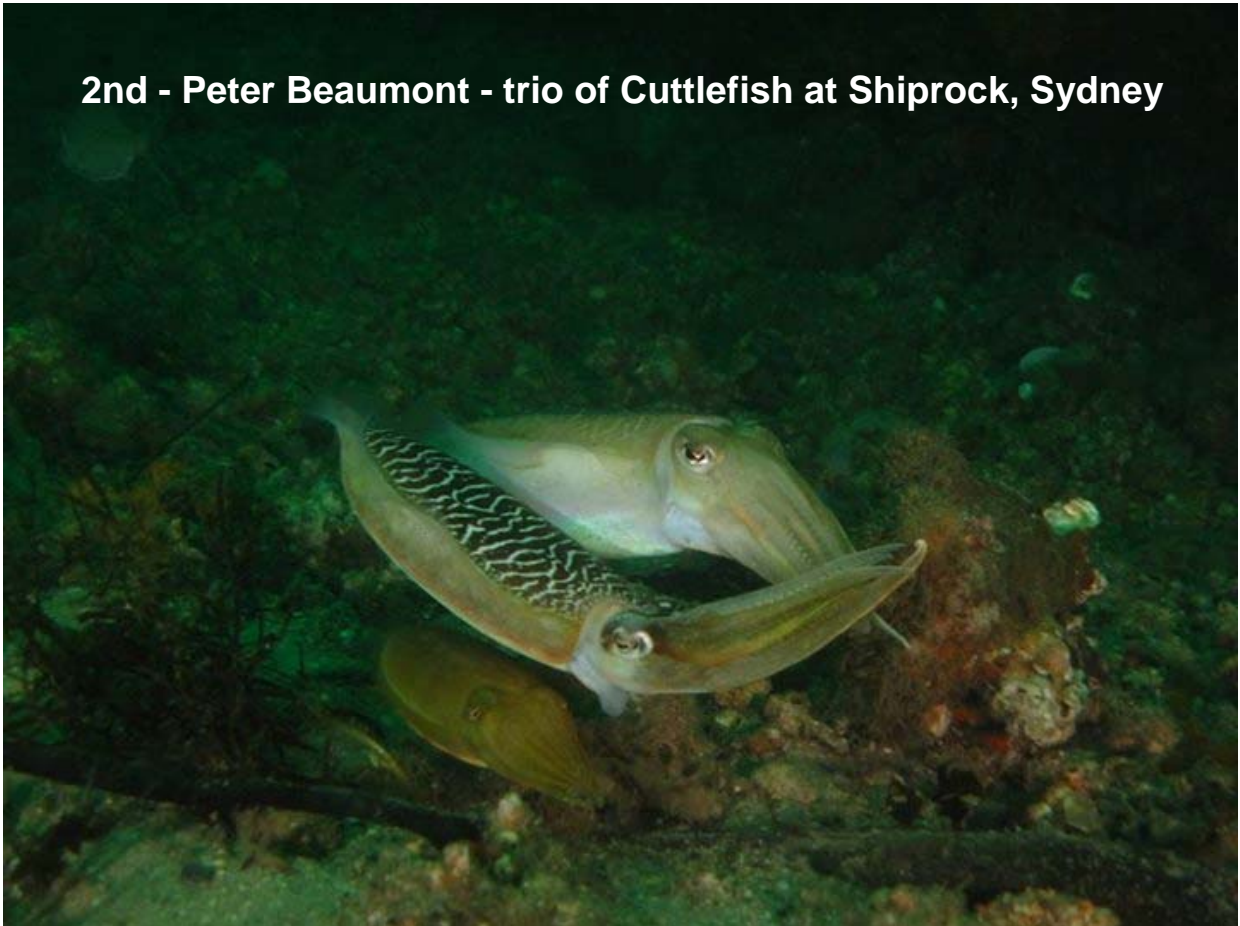
**WINNER — SEPTEMBER**



**Peter Beaumont - Lionfish on the Rio De Janeiro Maru, Truk Lagoon**

**RUNNERS UP IN THE SEPTEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION**

**2nd - Peter Beaumont - trio of Cuttlefish at Shiprock, Sydney**



**3rd - Steve Vadja - Scorpionfish taken at Nusa Lembongan, Bali**



# WINNER — OCTOBER

Ian Scholey - Pair of nudibranchs - Blairgowrie



© Ian Scholey

## RUNNERS UP IN THE OCTOBER PHOTO COMPETITION

Equal 2nd - Owen Green - Weedy Seadragon - Flinders



**Equal 2nd - Nick Blake -  
Tasseled Anglerfish -  
Blairgowrie**



**3rd - Peter  
Beaumont -  
Goatfish - on  
The Hurricane**

# PROPOSED VSAG DIVE TRIP

## 19 Day South African Dive Safari

### October 2015

At our September Club Meeting, Fern Perry from *Nomad Africa Adventure Tours* gave a presentation on a 19 day trip that VSAG is planning to run next year.



#### Day 1 Johannesburg – Blyde River Canyon

Leaving the city of Johannesburg behind, we travel along the Panorama Route, one of South Africa's most scenic drives, where we will visit the Blyde River Canyon, God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes. Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in the world and the view is dominated by the Three Rondavels, huge rocky outcrops at the end of the canyon.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Timbavati Private Nature Reserve – [www.timbavati.co.za](http://www.timbavati.co.za)

Facilities: Shared ablutions, hot showers, bar, swimming pool

Route: Johannesburg to Timbavati - 470 km

Travel time: 8-10 hours

#### Day 2 Kruger National Park

Today we start the day visiting the Mo-holoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, where injured or lost animals are rehabilitated so they can be released back in to the wild. After a full tour of the Mo-holoholo facility we travel to the world famous Kruger National Park for an afternoon game drive en-route to our camp.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camp: Nkambeni - <http://www.nkambeni.com/>

Facilities: Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers.

Route: Timbavati Area to Kruger NP -156 km

Travel time: 2 hrs



#### Day 3 Kruger National Park

After breakfast we will pack up camp and load everything on to our truck, however the day will be spent in open 4x4 vehicles in order to truly appreciate



the Kruger. Your 4x4 vehicles will be driven by specialist Kruger guides and by using these smaller vehicles we have a better chance of viewing the wildlife. The whole morning will be spent driving, at midday we will stop at one of the well appointed camps where lunch will be provided, before the afternoon game drive that will bring us back to the our overnight stop.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Camp: Nkambeni - <http://www.nkambeni.com/>  
Facilities: Swimming pool, shared ablutions, restaurant, shop



#### Day 4 Kruger to Bilene

A very early start will see us crossing the Mozambique border and driving north to Bilene. This peaceful town, known as San Martino in the days of Portuguese Mozambique, is situated on a hill overlooking the sprawling waters of the Uembje Lagoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Complexo Palmeiras - <http://complexopalmeiras.blogspot.com/>  
Facilities: Shared ablutions, hot water  
Route: Kruger National Park to Praia Do

Tofo - 650 km  
Travel time: 10hrs

#### Day 5/6/7/8 Diving Praia Do Tofo

The following three days will be spent diving the reefs of Tofo, home to the largest Whale Shark and Manta populations in the world. Each morning (day 6,7,8) we will depart early for a double dive trip, returning in time for lunch at the campsite. The afternoons will be free for you to enjoy any one of the optional activities or just lazing on this truly beautiful beach.



An evening during this stay we will have the honour of meeting Dr Andrea Marshall, Dr Simon Pierce or one of their representatives, who will give a talk on the Manta and Whale Sharks around Tofo, the threats facing them and the research being conducted. Both of these experts are extremely well respected in their fields. The Foundation for the Protection of Marine Megafauna is the first of our conservational contributions and you will be informed of the work that is being achieved with your contributions.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Turtle Cove -

<http://www.turtlecovetof.com>

Facilities: Shared ablutions, hot showers

Dive sites range from 10m to 37m catering for all experience levels, visibility varies between 10 and 30m and temperature is usually between 24 – 28 degrees

## **Day 9 Hlane Royal National Park Swaziland**

Today we head south again and cross the border into Swaziland, entering the Hlane Royal National Park, a huge nature reserve, home to lion, elephant and white rhino. We will camp near a water hole where game can be seen coming to water.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camp: Hlane NP -

[www.biggameparks.org/3parks\\_hlane.html](http://www.biggameparks.org/3parks_hlane.html)

Facilities: Shared ablutions, hot showers, water not drinkable, bar

Route: Praia Do Tofo to Hlane NP - 650 km

Travel time: 10-11 hrs and a border crossing

## **Day 10 Hlane – Sodwana Bay**

After an early morning game drive we leave Hlane, cross the border back into South Africa and enter iSimangaliso Wetland Park. We arrive in Sodwana in the late afternoon and check into our bungalows at Triton Dive Lodge. That evening we will meet our dive guides

and have a briefing of the upcoming diving.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Two per room: Triton Dive Lodge (4 sleeper cabins)

[www.tritondiving.co.za](http://www.tritondiving.co.za)

Facilities: Shared ablutions, bar, swimming pool

Route: Hlane to Sodwana Bay -350 km

Travel time: 5-6 hrs.

## **Day 11/12 Sodwana Bay Diving.**

The following two days will be spent diving a selection of the Sodwana Bay dive sites.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sodwana Bay is a small town on the northeast coast of South Africa, south of the Tropic of Capricorn. It hosts one of the most southerly and beautiful hard and soft coral reefs in the world. The dive sites are situated in the Marine Protected Area within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage site.



## Day 13 Protea Banks

We meet our guides in the bustling city of Durban, which is South Africa's largest port and a popular surf destination. It is also home to the famous dolphin coast and some of the world's best Apex Predator shark diving. An hour and a half south of Durban is the small beachside resort of Shelley Beach, launch point for the infamous Protea Banks, our diving destination for the next 3 days.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Dive House (no website available)

African Dive Adventures

[www.africandiveadventures.co.za](http://www.africandiveadventures.co.za)

Facilities: Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers, bar, swimming pool, lounge and TV, shared bedrooms.

Route: Sodwana to Protea Banks - 490 km

Travel time: 1-2 hours

## Day 14/15/16 Protea Banks Diving

Over the next three days we will have 5 dives on the Protea Banks Reef where we hope to see some of the world's largest marine predators. Diving both North and South Pinnacles we will have the chance to collect Sand Tiger Shark teeth and explore caves, swim-throughs and tunnels. An optional Tiger and Bull Shark baited dive at Protea Banks will be offered during our stay. This dive takes place in open water, hanging in the blue whilst possible Tiger, Bull, Hammerhead and Oceanic Black-Tip sharks come in to investigate the scent trail around us. A full safety briefing and training session is included and this is a breath-taking experience.

Here we will receive a conservational talk, regarding the sharks in the area, the threats to them and the work that our donation will be helping towards.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Route: Margate to Shelley Beach launch area - 20 minutes

Travel time: 1 hour daily



## Day 17/18 Aliwal Shoal

The following two days we spend diving the equally famous Aliwal Shoal. Renowned for Raggie Tooth Sharks congregating in their hundreds, dolphins and the baited shark dive. Each morning we will travel the hour from our Dive House in Margate to the town of Umkomas, launch site for Aliwal Shoal. Over the two days we will do 3 recreational dives on the Aliwal Shoal, including the famous "Raggie Cave". The optional baited shark dive is well worth it, with Oceanic Black-Tip Sharks gathering in large numbers and Tiger Sharks investigating the bait. The baited dive is accompanied by a photographer/videographer for a permanent record of your shark encounter.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation : Dive House (no website available)  
Facilities : Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers, bar, swimming pool, lounge & TV, shared bedrooms  
Dive Centre : Aliwal Dive Centre  
[www.aliwalshoal.co.za](http://www.aliwalshoal.co.za)  
Route: Margate to Umkomas - 100km  
Travel time: 2 hrs daily



### Day 19 Durban

We travel this morning to the Durban airport where our tour ends upon arrival at the King Shaka International Airport.

Meals: Breakfast  
Accommodation: Own Arrangements/post-tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad

**Cost**  
Approx. \$4015.00 + airfares (approx. \$1300.00 return)

We would need a minimum of 6 people and a maximum of 20.

**Expressions of Interest**  
Please email Ian Scholey:  
[secretary@vsag.org.au](mailto:secretary@vsag.org.au) ❖

A vertical advertisement for DAN Asia Pacific. The background is a deep blue ocean with several divers visible. At the top, white text reads 'Home: Covered' and 'Car: Covered', each followed by a white checkmark icon. Below this, the text 'Are You?' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, the DAN logo is displayed, featuring a red and white square with a white cross, followed by the text 'DAN ASIA • PACIFIC Divers Alert Network'. Below the logo, the text 'Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?' is written in yellow. Underneath, in white, it says 'DAN Membership Costs Less than AUD\$6\* per month' and 'Be Prepared. Join the Experts in Dive Accident Management.' The website 'www.danasiapacific.org' is listed in white. At the very bottom, in small white text, it reads '\*DAN Membership provides up to US\$150,000 Worldwide Emergency Evacuation Coverage. DAN Dive Injury Insurance is additional.'

# VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar

By Graham Ellis, Dive Calendar Co-ordinator, VSAG

## Activity Details

Dive Coordinator (DC) nominated below.

**Dive site determined by DC and advised by email based on forecast conditions.**

Boat Captains for the dive will be confirmed by email prior to the weekend.

Dive day can swap between Sat and Sun depending on conditions!

Dive Coordinator is responsible for organising a dive report after their weekend.

**Dive sites adjusted on the day to suit divers and conditions.**

Book in for a dive day ASAP after receiving notification via email. Please provide the Dive Captain with your full name, mobile phone number and email address.

You are required to **call the Dive Captain between 6.00 p.m. & 7.00 p.m. the evening prior to the dive day** to confirm that you will still be coming on the dive.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Dec 5/6         | DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684                                |
| Dec 9           | <b>General Meeting, Bells Hotel, 8.00 pm</b>                |
| Dec 12          | DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646                                 |
| Dec 13/14       | DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646                                 |
| Dec-19          | DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646                                 |
| Dec 20/21       | DC Peter Galvin 0417 061 564                                |
| Dec 27/28       | DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646                                 |
| Jan 3/4         | DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920                                |
| Jan 10/11       | DC David Flew 0418 446 530                                  |
| Jan 17/18       | DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646                                 |
| Jan 20          | <b>General Meeting, Bells Hotel, 8.00 pm</b>                |
| Jan 24/25/26    | DC John Lawler 0414 922 916                                 |
| Jan 31<br>Feb 1 | DC Hannah Smeeton 0431 14 19 18                             |
| Feb 7/8         | DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684                                |
| Feb 14/15       | DC David Geekie 0419 300 686                                |
| Feb 17          | <b>General Meeting, Bells Hotel, 8.00 pm</b>                |
| Feb 21          | DC Benita McDonough 0419 399 000                            |
| Feb 22          | <b>Dive for Cancer - Details will be provided by email.</b> |
| Feb 28<br>Mar 1 | DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920                                |
| Mar 7/8         | DC David Flew 0418 446 530                                  |

## *Tidal Streams at the Heads — December 2014*

**RED** italic times are slack water with EBB about to start (Flood Slack) which are the best diving conditions near the Heads. **BLUE** are Ebb Slack.

**Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings**

| December      |               |               |               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Mon 1</i>  | <i>Tue 2</i>  | <i>Wed 3</i>  | <i>Thu 4</i>  | <i>Fri 5</i>  | <i>Sat 6</i>  | <i>Sun 7</i>  |
| <i>3:35</i>   | <i>4:25</i>   | <i>5:22</i>   | <i>1:03</i>   | <i>2:23</i>   | <i>3:33</i>   | <i>4:31</i>   |
| <i>9:52</i>   | <i>10:35</i>  | <i>11:23</i>  | <i>6:33</i>   | <i>7:58</i>   | <i>9:20</i>   | <i>10:28</i>  |
| <i>16:32</i>  | <i>17:31</i>  | <i>18:35</i>  | <i>12:19</i>  | <i>13:21</i>  | <i>14:24</i>  | <i>15:24</i>  |
| <i>22:22</i>  | <i>23:40</i>  |               | <i>19:41</i>  | <i>20:43</i>  | <i>21:40</i>  | <i>22:31</i>  |
| <i>Mon 8</i>  | <i>Tue 9</i>  | <i>Wed 10</i> | <i>Thu 11</i> | <i>Fri 12</i> | <i>Sat 13</i> | <i>Sun 14</i> |
| <i>5:20</i>   | <i>6:02</i>   | <i>6:40</i>   | <i>0:37</i>   | <i>1:13</i>   | <i>1:47</i>   | <i>2:20</i>   |
| <i>11:23</i>  | <i>12:10</i>  | <i>12:52</i>  | <i>7:15</i>   | <i>7:47</i>   | <i>8:16</i>   | <i>8:45</i>   |
| <i>16:19</i>  | <i>17:08</i>  | <i>17:54</i>  | <i>13:30</i>  | <i>14:06</i>  | <i>14:41</i>  | <i>15:16</i>  |
| <i>23:17</i>  | <i>23:59</i>  |               | <i>18:36</i>  | <i>19:17</i>  | <i>19:58</i>  | <i>20:41</i>  |
| <i>Mon 15</i> | <i>Tue 16</i> | <i>Wed 17</i> | <i>Thu 18</i> | <i>Fri 19</i> | <i>Sat 20</i> | <i>Sun 21</i> |
| <i>2:52</i>   | <i>3:26</i>   | <i>4:02</i>   | <i>4:44</i>   | <i>0:42</i>   | <i>1:59</i>   | <i>3:09</i>   |
| <i>9:13</i>   | <i>9:43</i>   | <i>10:16</i>  | <i>10:52</i>  | <i>5:40</i>   | <i>6:59</i>   | <i>8:34</i>   |
| <i>15:54</i>  | <i>16:35</i>  | <i>17:20</i>  | <i>18:11</i>  | <i>11:37</i>  | <i>12:30</i>  | <i>13:32</i>  |
| <i>21:29</i>  | <i>22:24</i>  | <i>23:29</i>  |               | <i>19:07</i>  | <i>20:06</i>  | <i>21:03</i>  |
| <i>Mon 22</i> | <i>Tue 23</i> | <i>Wed 24</i> | <i>Thu 25</i> | <i>Fri 26</i> | <i>Sat 27</i> | <i>Sun 28</i> |
| <i>4:08</i>   | <i>4:57</i>   | <i>5:41</i>   | <i>6:22</i>   | <i>0:25</i>   | <i>1:11</i>   | <i>1:56</i>   |
| <i>9:53</i>   | <i>10:52</i>  | <i>11:42</i>  | <i>12:28</i>  | <i>7:01</i>   | <i>7:38</i>   | <i>8:15</i>   |
| <i>14:37</i>  | <i>15:39</i>  | <i>16:37</i>  | <i>17:33</i>  | <i>13:13</i>  | <i>13:59</i>  | <i>14:46</i>  |
| <i>21:57</i>  | <i>22:48</i>  | <i>23:37</i>  |               | <i>18:28</i>  | <i>19:23</i>  | <i>20:20</i>  |
| December      |               |               | January       |               |               |               |
| <i>Mon 29</i> | <i>Tue 30</i> | <i>Wed 31</i> | <i>Thu 1</i>  | <i>Fri 2</i>  | <i>Sat 3</i>  | <i>Sun 4</i>  |
| <i>2:40</i>   | <i>3:24</i>   | <i>4:09</i>   | <i>4:58</i>   | <i>0:50</i>   | <i>2:05</i>   | <i>3:14</i>   |
| <i>8:52</i>   | <i>9:29</i>   | <i>10:08</i>  | <i>10:52</i>  | <i>6:00</i>   | <i>7:17</i>   | <i>8:46</i>   |
| <i>15:34</i>  | <i>16:24</i>  | <i>17:16</i>  | <i>18:13</i>  | <i>11:42</i>  | <i>12:42</i>  | <i>13:48</i>  |
| <i>21:20</i>  | <i>22:24</i>  | <i>0:35</i>   |               | <i>19:13</i>  | <i>20:14</i>  | <i>21:14</i>  |

## Tidal Streams at the Heads — January 2015

**RED** italic times are slack water with EBB about to start (Flood Slack) which are the best diving conditions near the Heads. **BLUE** are Ebb Slack.

**Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings**

| December      |               |               | January       |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>MON 29</i> | <i>TUE 30</i> | <i>WED 31</i> | <i>THU 1</i>  | <i>FRI 2</i>  | <i>SAT 3</i>  | <i>SUN 4</i>  |
| <i>2:40</i>   | <i>3:24</i>   | <i>4:09</i>   | <i>4:58</i>   | <b>0:50</b>   | <b>2:05</b>   | <b>3:14</b>   |
| <b>8:52</b>   | <b>9:29</b>   | <b>10:08</b>  | <b>10:52</b>  | <b>6:00</b>   | <b>7:17</b>   | <b>8:46</b>   |
| <b>15:34</b>  | <b>16:24</b>  | <b>17:16</b>  | <b>18:13</b>  | <b>11:42</b>  | <b>12:42</b>  | <b>13:48</b>  |
| <b>21:20</b>  | <b>22:24</b>  | <b>0:35</b>   |               | <b>19:13</b>  | <b>20:14</b>  | <b>21:14</b>  |
| <i>MON 5</i>  | <i>TUE 6</i>  | <i>WED 7</i>  | <i>THU 8</i>  | <i>FRI 9</i>  | <i>SAT 10</i> | <i>SUN 11</i> |
| <b>4:14</b>   | <b>5:04</b>   | <b>5:46</b>   | <b>6:22</b>   | <b>0:18</b>   | <b>0:53</b>   | <b>1:26</b>   |
| <b>10:04</b>  | <b>11:05</b>  | <b>11:53</b>  | <b>12:35</b>  | <b>6:54</b>   | <b>7:22</b>   | <b>7:48</b>   |
| <b>14:55</b>  | <b>15:56</b>  | <b>16:50</b>  | <b>17:37</b>  | <b>13:11</b>  | <b>13:45</b>  | <b>14:18</b>  |
| <b>22:08</b>  | <b>22:56</b>  | <b>23:39</b>  |               | <b>18:21</b>  | <b>19:02</b>  | <b>19:42</b>  |
| <i>MON 12</i> | <i>TUE 13</i> | <i>WED 14</i> | <i>THU 15</i> | <i>FRI 16</i> | <i>SAT 17</i> | <i>SUN 18</i> |
| <b>1:58</b>   | <b>2:29</b>   | <b>3:01</b>   | <b>3:34</b>   | <b>4:09</b>   | <b>4:52</b>   | <b>1:08</b>   |
| <b>8:14</b>   | <b>8:40</b>   | <b>9:07</b>   | <b>9:36</b>   | <b>10:07</b>  | <b>10:45</b>  | <b>5:51</b>   |
| <b>14:50</b>  | <b>15:25</b>  | <b>16:01</b>  | <b>16:40</b>  | <b>17:24</b>  | <b>18:15</b>  | <b>11:33</b>  |
| <b>20:23</b>  | <b>21:07</b>  | <b>21:56</b>  | <b>22:52</b>  | <b>23:55</b>  |               | <b>19:16</b>  |
| <i>MON 19</i> | <i>TUE 20</i> | <i>WED 21</i> | <i>THU 22</i> | <i>FRI 23</i> | <i>SAT 24</i> | <i>SUN 25</i> |
| <b>2:24</b>   | <b>3:32</b>   | <b>4:29</b>   | <b>5:16</b>   | <b>5:58</b>   | <b>0:13</b>   | <b>1:01</b>   |
| <b>7:16</b>   | <b>8:56</b>   | <b>10:15</b>  | <b>11:15</b>  | <b>12:07</b>  | <b>6:37</b>   | <b>7:15</b>   |
| <b>12:38</b>  | <b>13:55</b>  | <b>15:12</b>  | <b>16:22</b>  | <b>17:26</b>  | <b>12:56</b>  | <b>13:44</b>  |
| <b>20:22</b>  | <b>21:27</b>  | <b>22:27</b>  | <b>23:22</b>  |               | <b>18:26</b>  | <b>19:24</b>  |
| January       |               |               |               |               |               | February      |
| <i>MON 26</i> | <i>TUE 27</i> | <i>WED 28</i> | <i>THU 29</i> | <i>FRI 30</i> | <i>SAT 31</i> | <i>SUN 1</i>  |
| <b>1:46</b>   | <b>2:30</b>   | <b>3:12</b>   | <b>3:54</b>   | <b>4:39</b>   | <b>0:23</b>   | <b>1:32</b>   |
| <b>7:52</b>   | <b>8:29</b>   | <b>9:06</b>   | <b>9:44</b>   | <b>10:26</b>  | <b>5:31</b>   | <b>6:38</b>   |
| <b>14:31</b>  | <b>15:18</b>  | <b>16:05</b>  | <b>16:53</b>  | <b>17:44</b>  | <b>11:13</b>  | <b>12:09</b>  |
| <b>20:20</b>  | <b>21:18</b>  | <b>22:16</b>  | <b>23:18</b>  |               | <b>18:39</b>  | <b>19:40</b>  |

## Tidal Streams at the Heads — February 2015

**RED** italic times are slack water with EBB about to start (Flood Slack) which are the best diving conditions near the Heads. **BLUE** are Ebb Slack.

**Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings**

| January         |               |               |               |               |               | February      |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>MON 26</b>   | <b>TUE 27</b> | <b>WED 28</b> | <b>THU 29</b> | <b>FRI 30</b> | <b>SAT 31</b> | <b>SUN 1</b>  |
| 1:46            | 2:30          | 3:12          | 3:54          | 4:39          | 0:23          | 1:32          |
| 7:52            | 8:29          | 9:06          | 9:44          | 10:26         | 5:31          | 6:38          |
| 14:31           | 15:18         | 16:05         | 16:53         | 17:44         | 11:13         | 12:09         |
| 20:20           | 21:18         | 22:16         | 23:18         |               | 18:39         | 19:40         |
| <b>MON 2</b>    | <b>TUE 3</b>  | <b>WED 4</b>  | <b>THU 5</b>  | <b>FRI 6</b>  | <b>SAT 7</b>  | <b>SUN 8</b>  |
| 2:42            | 3:46          | 4:39          | 5:21          | 5:56          | 0:01          | 0:36          |
| 8:07            | 9:36          | 10:42         | 11:31         | 12:11         | 6:25          | 6:51          |
| 13:17           | 14:30         | 15:38         | 16:37         | 17:26         | 12:46         | 13:18         |
| 20:43           | 21:43         | 22:36         | 23:22         |               | 18:10         | 18:50         |
| <b>MON 9</b>    | <b>TUE 10</b> | <b>WED 11</b> | <b>THU 12</b> | <b>FRI 13</b> | <b>SAT 14</b> | <b>SUN 15</b> |
| 1:09            | 1:40          | 2:11          | 2:42          | 3:13          | 3:46          | 4:24          |
| 7:15            | 7:41          | 8:07          | 8:34          | 9:02          | 9:32          | 10:09         |
| 13:49           | 14:20         | 14:52         | 15:26         | 16:02         | 16:43         | 17:31         |
| 19:28           | 20:07         | 20:47         | 21:31         | 22:20         | 23:15         |               |
| <b>MON 16</b>   | <b>TUE 17</b> | <b>WED 18</b> | <b>THU 19</b> | <b>FRI 20</b> | <b>SAT 21</b> | <b>SUN 22</b> |
| 0:20            | 1:33          | 2:46          | 3:48          | 4:40          | 5:24          | 0:01          |
| 5:15            | 6:28          | 8:08          | 9:40          | 10:48         | 11:45         | 6:05          |
| 10:56           | 12:04         | 13:31         | 14:59         | 16:17         | 17:25         | 12:36         |
| 18:30           | 19:42         | 20:58         | 22:07         | 23:08         |               | 18:26         |
| <b>February</b> |               |               |               |               |               | <b>March</b>  |
| <b>MON 23</b>   | <b>TUE 24</b> | <b>WED 25</b> | <b>THU 26</b> | <b>FRI 27</b> | <b>SAT 28</b> | <b>SUN 1</b>  |
| 0:50            | 1:35          | 2:18          | 2:59          | 3:40          | 4:22          | 5:10          |
| 6:44            | 7:23          | 8:02          | 8:41          | 9:21          | 10:02         | 10:48         |
| 13:24           | 14:10         | 14:55         | 15:40         | 16:24         | 17:09         | 17:59         |
| 19:22           | 20:15         | 21:07         | 21:59         | 22:52         | 23:47         | 0:00          |





# *Emergency Contact Information* **Mornington Peninsula Area**

**Police – Ambulance – Fire**                      **000**

**Water Police** no longer use the 1800 088 200 number

**The new 24/7 No is : 03 9399 7500**

**Diving Emergency Service**                      **1800 088 200**

**Rosebud Hospital**

1527 Nepean Hwy, Rosebud

**03 5986 0666**

**Frankston Hospital**

Hastings Road, Frankston

**03 9784 7777**

**The Bays Hospital**

Main Street, Mornington

**03 5975 2009**

**Southern Peninsula Rescue (Sorrento)** **0417 038 944** *(new number)*

**Mornington Bay Rescue Service**                      **0419 233 999**

\*Coast Guard (Queenscliff)                      03 5258 2222

\*Coast Guard (Hastings)                      03 5979 3322

\*Coast Guard (Safety Beach)                      03 5981 4443

**State Emergency Service (Vic)**                      **132 500** *(new number)*

**Diving Doctors:**

Dr Pamela Dagley (Eltham)                      03 9439 2222 (VSAG member)

Dr Vanessa Haller (Carrum Downs)                      03 9782 6666

Dr Adrian Murrie (Sorrento)                      03 5984 4322

Dr Guy Williams (Rosebud)                      03 5981 1555

**VHF Emergency Channel 16**                      (club channel 73)

**27 MHz AM Emergency Channel 88**                      (club channel 96)

*\*Coast Guard is not always manned & operates mainly during daylight hrs*



*Stairwell on EX-HMAS Canberra* © Ian Scholey



*Chimney Rock - One for JL to ponder when the Cray season opens*

© Ian Scholey