



Fathoms

APRIL-MAY 2015



**WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY EASTER
AND SAFE DIVING**

Postal Address:
VSAG, 139 Overport Rd, Frankston South VIC 3199

www.vsag.org.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SOUTH CHANNEL FORT DIVE & FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2015



The Committee has planned a members, family and friends outing to the South Channel Fort.....

Departing from Rye, people will be ferried to and from the site in member's boats. Children are especially welcome.

After the Fort visit is over there will be a BBQ and scallop dive for those wanting to gather shell fish.

Full details will reach you closer to the date....however some very special arrangements will be made to make this a highlight visit to a very important part of Victoria's wartime history.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND BOARFISH LODGE, QUEENSCLIFF

5th - 8th JUNE 2015

VSAG has booked "Boarfish Lodge" owned by Alan and Mary Beckhurst. This large room has one double bed and 3 two-person bunks.

Over the years VSAG has had many great weekends here and it works well! Fire heater, all mod cons, scuba washdown/drying area, BBQ... and general excellent winter diving

Cost is minimal - \$25 per person per day. **SO IT'S FIRST IN GETS A BED!**

For those who miss out there are many accommodation offerings around Queenscliff.

More details will follow closer to the date.



Fathoms

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

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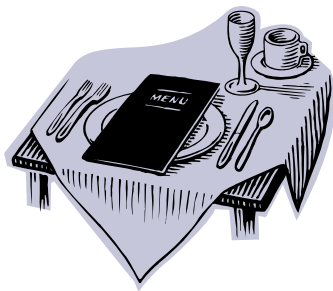
Cheryl Lees M: 0448 863 455
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NOTICES

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

All Members Welcome

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



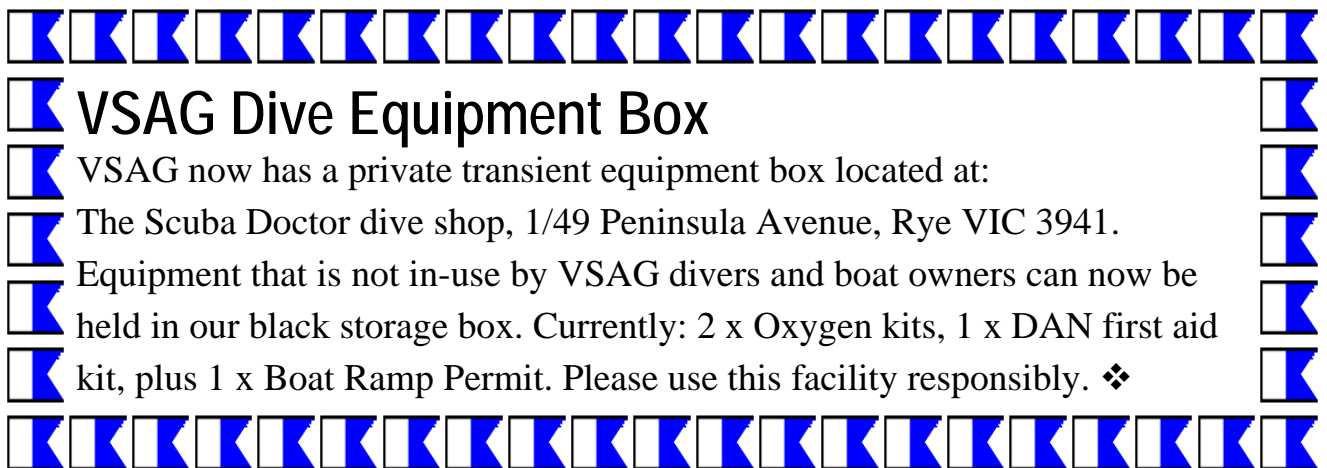
**VSAG Monthly meetings are at 8 p.m. on the
3rd TUESDAY of each month at BELL'S HOTEL
157 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE**

All are welcome to join us for a meal at 7 p.m.
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> 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

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

WINNER — JANUARY



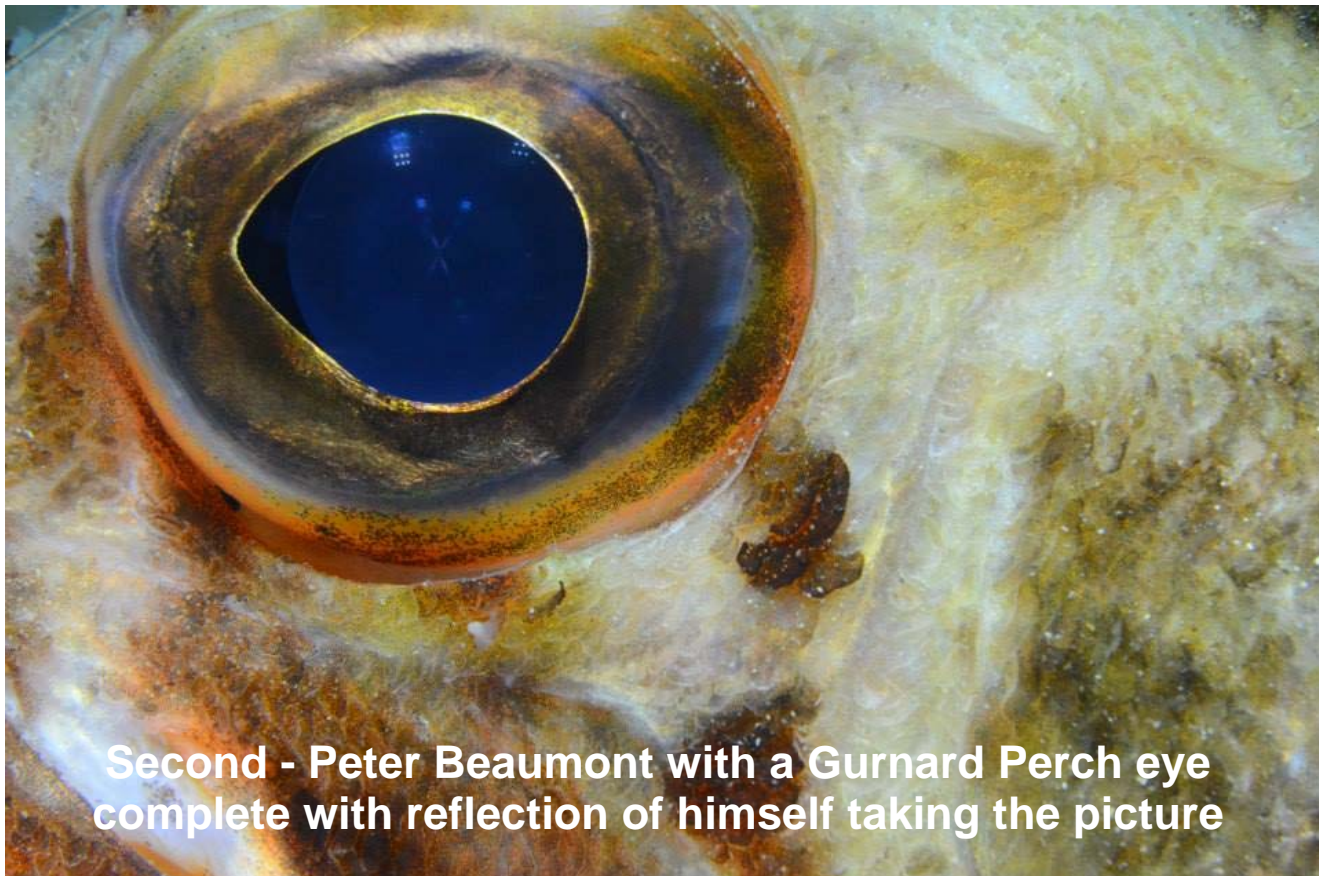
**Ian Scholey - Weedy Sea Dragon shot taken at
Blairgowrie**

As usual, the standard was high so well done to all the other entrants.

All the photos entered can be viewed on the VSAG website:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vsag.divers/>

RUNNERS UP IN THE JANUARY PHOTO COMPETITION



Second - Peter Beaumont with a Gurnard Perch eye complete with reflection of himself taking the picture



In third place was Simone Lee with a nice shot of buddy Hyeonggi Kim at Ewens Ponds

WINNER — FEBRUARY



The winning shot, taken at Williamstown by Phil Watson

It's great to see more members getting out there with their cameras and entering the Photo Competition.

Keep up the good work!

RUNNERS UP IN THE FEBRUARY PHOTO COMPETITION

**Second - HERB MACKAY - A diver and Potato Cod at
Cod Hole on the Great Barrier Reef**



**Third - ANGUS STUART-ADAMS
Maori Octopus at Rye Pier**



Lic #: 32311

SOUTH AFRICA

Group Leader: Ian Scholey
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VIC SUB AQUA GROUP NOMAD TOUR

30 OCTOBER - 21 NOVEMBER 2015



DIVE TRIP INCLUSIONS

- * Outbound Airfares Melbourne - Johannesburg via Perth
- * Inbound Airfares Durban - Melbourne via Johannesburg
- * Airline Taxes & Fuel Surcharges flights with South African Airways
- * 19 Day NOMAD TOUR - **Full Itinerary over page**
- 2 Nights Kruger National Park - All meals included
- 1 Night Bilene - All meals included
- 4 Nights Tofo - All meals included
- 6 Dives Tofo Reef - Tanks / Weights / Air fills / Gear included
- Whale Sharks & Manta Ray Seminar Night
- 3 Nights Swaziland and Sodwana Bay- All meals included
- 4 Dives Sodwana Bay - Tanks / Weights / Air fills / Gear included
- 5 Nights Durban - Lunch & dinner included
- 5 Dives Protea Banks - Tanks /Weights / Air fills / Gear included
- 2 Nights Aliwal Shoals - Lunch & dinner included
- 3 Dives Aliwal Shoals - Tanks / Weights / Air fills / Gear Included
- OPTIONAL BAITED SHARK DIVE AVAILABLE
- * Twin Share throughout
- * Transfers throughout

\$6,825 PER DIVER

\$5,840 NON DIVER

OPTIONAL BAITED DIVE -

Aliwal Shoal Baited Shark Dive \$185 per diver



ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

DISCOVER YOUR UNDERWATER WORLD

PH: 03 9885 8863 FAX: 03 9885 1164 TOLL FREE : 1800 338 239
allways@allwaysdive.com.au [facebook.com/allwaysdive](https://www.facebook.com/allwaysdive) www.allwaysdive.com.au

SOUTH AFRICA WITH VIC SUB AQUA GROUP

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. Later your guide will give a full briefing on the tour.

Meals: Lunch & Dinner
Accommodation: Timbavati Private Nature Reserve
Facilities: Shared ablutions, hot showers, bar, swimming pool
Included Highlights: Panorama route: Blyde river canyon, God's window, Bourke's luck potholes.

Day 2 Kruger National Park

Today we start the day visiting the Moholoholo 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 Moholoholo 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
Facilities: Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers.
Included highlights: Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation tour, afternoon game drive in Nomad truck.

Day 3 Kruger National Park

After breakfast pack up camp and load everything onto 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 mid day 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
Facilities: Swimming pool, shared ablutions, restaurant, shop
Included highlights: Kruger NP game drive in 4x4 vehicles

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
Facilities: Shared ablutions, hot water

Day 5- 10 Tofo inc Diving Praia Do Tofo/ Swaziland/ Hlane

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
Facilities: Shared ablutions, hot showers
Included Highlights: 6 recreational dives along the reefs of Tofo

SOUTH AFRICA WITH VIC SUB AQUA GROUP

Diving Praia Do Tofo

Tofo offers spectacular diving with a huge variety and abundance of sea life, from the amazingly graceful manta rays and curious whale sharks for which Tofo is famous to a myriad of benthic, macro reef life as well as pelagic species. There are 16 reefs of which we will dive a selection based on conditions and desires.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Camp: Hlane NP
Facilities: Shared ablutions, hot showers, water not drinkable, bar

Border posts: Swaziland: Lomahasha - Open: 07h00-20h00
Mozambique: Namaacha - Open: 07h00-20h00

Swaziland

The Kingdom of Swaziland (Umbuso weSwatini), sometimes called Ngwane, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, bordered to the north, south and west by South Africa, and to the east by Mozambique. This nation, as well as its people, are named after the 19th century king Mswati II. Swaziland is a small country, no more than 200 km north to south and 130 km east to west. The western half is mountainous, descending to a lowveld region to the east.

The escarpment of the Lebombo Mountains dominates the eastern border with Mozambique and South Africa.

The area that Swaziland now covers has been continuously inhabited since prehistory. Today, the population is primarily ethnic Swazis whose language is siSwati, though English is spoken as a second language. The Swazi people descend from the southern Bantu who migrated from Central Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries. The Anglo Boer war saw Britain make Swaziland a protectorate under its direct control. Swaziland gained independence in 1968. Swaziland has its own currency, although South African rand is widely accepted.

Hlane Royal National Park

The word Hlane means wilderness and before being proclaimed a protected area it formed the private hunting grounds of the Swazi royalty. Hlane is Swaziland's largest protected area and home to the largest herds of game in the Kingdom. Covering 30 000 hectares of Swazi bushveld, it is safe to walk in this National Park as the dangerous game are fenced in an enclosure inside the park. Hlane is home to lion, elephant and white rhino, with an abundant and diverse bird life, including the highest density of nesting white backed vultures in Africa. A network of self-drive game-viewing roads criss-cross the park's flat terrain, weaving between the 1000 year old hardwood vegetation and shallow pans which attract great herds of animals during the dry winter months. Guided walking safaris, mountain biking and game drives in Hlane's open Land Rovers are also available.

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)
Facilities: Shared ablutions, bar, swimming pool

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
Accommodation: Two per room: Triton Dive Lodge (4 sleeper cabins)
Facilities: Shared ablutions, bar, swimming pool
Included Highlights: 4 Recreational dives in Sodwana
Dive Centre: Triton Dive

SOUTH AFRICA WITH VIC SUB AQUA GROUP

Diving Sodwana Bay

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.

Key Dive Sites

2 MILE: This is the largest reef at Sodwana Bay. This reef is approximately 1.9 km long and 900m wide and because of its size hosts up to 30 different dive sites. 2-Mile has the most extensive beds of beautiful coral of all types. All the different sharks are occasionally seen here, with White-tipped and Grey Reef sharks seen most often. One of the highlights and many customers' favorite dive site is Anton's Reef at the most southern tip of 2-Mile. has sheer walls which create vortex in the slight current which attracts shoals of schooling fish, such as snappers, flame goat fish, coachmen and also king fish. A spectacular dive and a photographers dream.

7 MILE: We normally drop in on Northern Wall, where there are beautiful structures of sand stone with corals and sponges growing all over. Huge shoals of Blue banded Snappers and Goatfish are there to greet us. This area is a favorite hunting ground of the Trumpet Fish, and all his different hunting techniques are observed. A slow drift along the edge of the wall leads onto the Amphitheatre. Gorgeous Plate and Table Corals dominate the reefscape. Small fellows like the Golden Moray, are occasionally observed hiding there. Continuing with the slow drift we then arrive at Lionfish Cave, named after the Devil Firefish (or Lionfish) that often hide inside there. Occasionally a turtle will be found sleeping in this cave as well. At this stage we often say farewell to those divers who's air has not lasted, and continue our drift through to Mushroom Rocks, which are huge sandstone structures rising from the bottom of 22 m to 15 m. These rocks get the name because of their shape. They have beautiful corals, particularly the soft corals, and are surrounded by Goldies and other small fish.

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

Facilities: Drinkable water, shared ablutions, hot showers, bar, swimming pool, lounge & TV

Durban is the metropolitan area comprising of Durban, Pinetown, Inanda and Umlazi, with close to two million people living here. The first European settlers were mostly survivors of shipwrecks. One of these survivors, Rodrigo Tristaa, survived a wreck in 1552 of the Portuguese galleon Saint John, and was the first to make his home here. Vasco Da Gama had applied the name Natal (nativity) to this stretch of coast (first seen on Christmas day 1497).

The entrance to the bay was known as Rio de Natal (river of the nativity). The Zulu nation's formation provided wealth for a trade market in this area. The merchants set up a harbour where the base of trade with Zulus could be formed. A population of 26 hard-living traders and ivory hunters thus created Durban. It was named on 23 June 1835, after the governor of the Cape, Sir Benjamin D'Urban.

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 worlds 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 breathtaking 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

Accommodation: Dive House

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

Included Highlights: 5 Recreational dives on Protea Banks

Dive Centre: African Dive Adventures www.africandiveadventures.co.za

SOUTH AFRICA WITH VIC SUB AQUA GROUP

Diving Protea Banks

Protea Banks has been rated by many divers from around the world as the best shark dive. Many divers are scared of sharks due to horror stories and myths created by the movie world, but their fears are totally unfounded. Sharks are intelligent animals, do not recognise us as a food source and tend to be shy and respectful towards the divers

Key Dive Sites

NORTHERN PINNACLES: The reef has two large cave systems which are used by the Ragged Tooth Sharks as resting zones on their annual migration and congregation route. On a good day, the diver can encounter up to 200 sharks in an area smaller than half a rugby field. Starting at the large cave we look in from the top to observe the 'Raggies' interacting peacefully with each other, often in numbers so large the bottom can hardly be seen! Afterwards we can pass through a tunnel that we can swim through (if it is not occupied by sharks). At the end of the tunnel lies the second cave. This cave is also open on top and features several chambers, each one with a wide opening at the top ceiling. If there are no Raggies in the caves, it is fun to explore around in the chambers, looking for sharks' teeth. This is the only souvenir we allow the diver to remove from the reef. As spring goes into summer, large shoals of Hammerhead Sharks frequent this part of the reef.

SOUTHERN PINNACLES:

This area is home to the Zambezi Shark (Bull Shark) that Protea Banks initially became famous for. From Oct to May, some very large specimens can be encountered here. Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks are also seen shoaling at this time; they can come past in groups of up to several hundred. Hunting packs of Great Hammerheads investigate any strange noises. We start the dive at the Southern Cave full of game and reef fish and head towards Kingfish Gully, an overhanging rock that is home to large shoals of Kingfish, Yellowtail, Kaakap, Sea Pike Tunny and Potato Bass.

The current then takes us to a large sandy patch called Sand Shark Gully. It lies at exactly 40m depth and is home of the Giant Guitar Shark, at times these can be seen lined up like planes at an airport.

BAITED TIGER SHARK DIVE:

South Africa is one of only three countries in the world offering this kind of diving.

Using a baiting technique that closely resembles the shark's natural feeding habit, African Dive Adventures lets divers as well as snorkelers and non-divers share in the experience. Starting with a special Tiger Shark Dive Briefing and explanation of code of conduct, guests are then taken out to Protea Banks. The bait is dropped in the water at about 6m/18ft depth and we wait until the chum slick has dissipated and a tiger shark has picked up the scent. As soon as the tiger is circling the bucket, the divers enter the water as quietly as possible and swim slowly towards the bait bucket. Divers as well as bucket will be drifting with the current as the tiger sharks swim round and round and right in between the divers. After approximately one hour we will call time out and return to base- This activity is optional and you need to pay the dive centre directly.

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

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

Included Highlights: 3 Recreational dives on Aliwal Shoal

Dive Centre: Aliwal Dive Centre www.aliwalshoal.co.za

Diving Aliwal Shoal

The World Famous Aliwal Shoal was formed thousands of years ago from fossilized sand dunes during the times when sea levels were much lower than they are today. The Aghulas Current that runs south along the east coast of Africa brings with it warm water and a huge diversity of tropical sea life.

SOUTH AFRICA WITH VIC SUB AQUA GROUP

Key Dive Sites

CATHEDRAL: A very popular dive for the Ragged Tooth Shark enthusiast. During the “Raggie” season it’s possible to see up to 40 of these placid sharks resting within the amphitheatre, A fantastic photo opportunity! During the summer look out for hammerheads above, and see the stingrays that take up residence when the Raggies depart.

RAGGIES CAVE: The most popular dive site here on Aliwal Shoal. As its name suggests this is the best place to view the Ragged Tooth Sharks during the shark season. Entry into the cave is not permitted when the sharks are here but there is an excellent viewing area at the entrance where divers can safely kneel and watch the sharks’ activities. When the sharks have departed this is a very good place to hunt for sharks’ teeth in the sand. Please note that teeth are the only items that divers are permitted to take from the Shoal. There are many resident potato bass found in the surrounding overhangs as well as many types of moray eel.

HOWARDS CASTLE: This recently discovered and pristine site is not often dived as it requires a longer boat ride and sea conditions need to be calm. There are loads of interesting gullies and overhangs as well as a wide diversity of marine life.

INSIDE EDGE: This section of the reef encompasses the entire inshore edge of the shoal. Although many large species of fish, sharks, dolphins and rays may be found here, it is particularly good for finding smaller things such as octopus, cuttlefish, scorpion fish, firefish, cowfish, nudibranchs and eels. The top of ledge is at about 14 to 16m and open water divers can therefore enjoy this dive site providing they level off.

OUTSIDE EDGE: This is the dive site for viewing the big stuff, and it is always a good idea to keep an eye out at midwater where schools of hammerheads, game fish or the odd tiger shark may be found.

EELSKINS: This dive site is superb example of the fossilized rock formations. Situated near the southwestern tip of the reef there are lots of clusters of reef with plenty of sand gullies and lovely swim-through. Many cowries can be found here and as the gullies offer shelter from the currents you will often find Raggies during the season and lots of shoaling tropical fish.

NORTH EASTERN PINNACLES: A very easy and gentle dive site for open water divers and beginners. Lots of potholes forming sheltered nurseries for small fish. Many anemones and clown fish are to be found here as well as octopus. You may see some large potato bass sheltering from the current.

NORTH SANDS AND SOUTH SANDS: These two large sand patches are an ideal location for students to practice their skills and for divers to descend and pause to adjust buoyancy before exploring the reef. An ideal place to find sand sharks and often groups of dolphins can be found playing and rubbing themselves on the sand. Truly an amazing sight!

MANTA POINT: Lots of nooks and crannies where crayfish and cleaner shrimp hide. Good area to find rays of all varieties especially Manta Rays during the season.

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 Tour Ends

Your tour will end at King Shaka International Airport. If you wish to stay another night in Durban, please enquire with Nomad reservations about post-tour accommodation

KAYAK DIVING

By Rob Kirk

Tish and I took up kayaking as a sport we could participate in together. I had point-blank refused to go on any more death-marches, (which she teasingly calls “bushwalking”), there was no way Tish was ever going to try SCU-BA diving and being a coward there was no way I was going to try karate. So as soon as we moved in together we decided to buy our boats on Ebay.

My ulterior motive, of course, was to get more underwater time and I set about looking for a kayak that would handle spearfishing and SCUBA diving. The first boat I bought was allegedly capable of carrying 170kg but it had a flat bottom and was way too tippy for my liking. Every time I used it I ended up in the drink.

Tish of course had no such problems. Her boat is shorter and lighter and has a keel, so she just swans around like a duck, laughing her head off watching the fat bastard struggle to get back onto the kayak! I finally decided to replace that first boat after a highly embarrassing performance in front of about 20 bemused onlookers at Flinders where a 6-inch ground swell caused me to roll 3 times in a row! Local manufacturer, Aquayak had a half-price special on their Ranger, which has proven to be much more stable for me, enough for me to get my confidence back at least.

We paddled all through winter, and a fortnight's holiday up the coast to Queensland really helped to perfect the paddling and balancing technique to the point where I reckoned I was ready to try the real thing – diving from the kayak. Tish had been nagging me to get scallops ever since last year's Getunder Xmas BBQ so one sunny and relatively warm Sunday we drove down to Rye.

The Aquayak Ranger has 3 open storage compartments. The rear tank-well has space enough for tank, weight-belt, wetsuit top and fins, all secured with bungee luggage straps. I made a couple of lanyards – one from the bow to the seat, and another from the seat to the stern, and this stern one was threaded through all my gear so I wouldn't lose anything if I rolled over. The bow compartment held my catch bag and the small compartment behind it is the anchor well. With most of the weight in the aft compartment, the kayak balances very well. Even though I'm slightly exceeding the stated maximum weight capacity of the kayak, it is no harder to paddle than when it's empty and, best of all, still keeps going in a straight line.

Once we got out into a likely looking scallop ground, I anchored and commenced the kitting up process. There's not much weight in a plastic kayak so I just use a small 1kg anchor with a metre of chain and 20 metres of 4mm nylon line wrapped around a plastic bait-caster that you'd normally use for fishing. Once anchored and pointed into the wind I can begin the delicate procedure of gearing up!



An essential tool for self-rescue in a kayak is a paddle float – an inflatable bag that fits over the paddle. You inflate it and it acts like an outrigger to stop the kayak from rolling again when you clamber on. I'm using this rig for stability when gearing up. It's a definite exercise in gymnastics to swing the legs over and sit side-saddle without tipping until I can get the paddle float in place and lashed down. Then I can wriggle around putting the dive flag up, lowering the tank into the water, and putting my fins on with some degree of confidence. Once I've got my wetsuit top and fins on it's a simple matter to lower myself into the water and put the weight belt and tank on in the water.



During the dive I just clipped the anchor to my catch bag and towed the kayak around. A gentle tugging from the line always confirmed that the kayak was still there, and it was actually

less of a drag than the standard drift float. When the dive was over I just dropped the anchor and ascended the line back to the kayak where I secured my tank to the lanyard, inflated my BCD and let it float while I put the rest of the gear back into the boat. Getting the fat bastard back on the boat is greatly assisted by the big fins, but still has a high degree of difficulty!



In summary, I'd say that diving from a kayak is hard work but definitely doable. I'd really only use it for relatively shallow diving not too far from shore – scallops in the bay and maybe a back beach reef for spearfishing, getting abs or chasing crays once I'm comfortable launching in surf.



I don't think I'll be paddling out to the Ships Graveyard anytime soon. ❖

WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO HELP VSAG WITH SOMETHING?

From our Club President, Ian Scholey with photos from some recent shore dives

Hi All,

Since I have stepped into the President role with VSAG I have been working with the rest of the committee on some objectives for 2015.

One of the targets we would like to set ourselves is to increase the number of members who are actively diving with the club. What has been obvious to us for some time is that we don't provide a shore diving option for our members.



I have seen my Friday night shore dive grow steadily in popularity and with some recent bad weather leading to boat cancellations, we have started to offer shore diving as an alternative with great success. In fact, what we have seen is that members who were not booked on the boat dives have joined the shore dive when we have advertised it. All of this

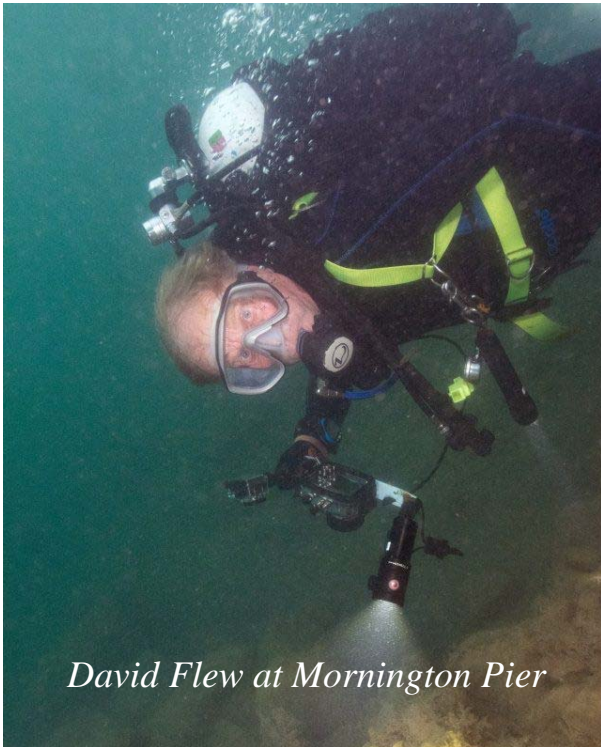
tells me we have demand for an alternative to a full day boat dive programme.



What we are looking to do is to widen our dive captain numbers with the addition of a group of club members who would be prepared to take a turn to organise and lead a shore dive as an alternative to our boat dive. I know that you are all keen shore divers and was wondering whether any of you would be prepared to play this role?

We would see this as a trial with each person initially agreeing to organise one weekend. We would then review, based on demand and the feedback of those leading the dive. If it works and

we can identify a group who are prepared to play this role going forward then we will add the shore dive to our calendar.



If you are interested in playing this role then please let me know, together with any weekends you are prepared to play the role. If we have enough takers I will pull a draft schedule together. If this isn't for you I understand, so no pressure to accept. Either way your feedback on the idea would be most welcome. ❖

We would consider the role as light touch compared to the main boat dive captain role. For shore diving the dive captain role would consist of:

1. Sending out an email invite to members
2. Choosing a dive site, meet time, meet place and dive day based on weather conditions and diver availability
3. Confirming the dive is going ahead to those who have expressed interest the day before
4. On the dive day, making a final check of the dive site conditions and advising divers if the site is considered unsafe
5. Making sure people are buddied up.
6. Confirming who has dived for point scoring.



WE ALSO NEED MORE BOAT DIVE CAPTAINS

Ian Scholey

At a recent general meeting, I explained to those attending that as a club we would like more members to put their hand up and agree to act as Dive Captain.

There are a couple of reasons for this request. We currently have a number of committee members who are either temporarily or permanently unable to fulfill the role. This is putting pressure on the rest of the committee to cover each weekend.



This is a great opportunity for members to play an enhanced role in the club without the commitment of time required in joining the committee and also a great chance to increase your diving knowledge.

So, what does being a Dive Captain involve?



Firstly, there is the sending of the email to members asking for those wishing to dive and for boat owners to come forward and responding to their emails when they do. As the week progresses, it's then a case of monitoring wind and swell forecasts and selecting appropriate dive departure points and times or cancelling the dive if conditions require that.



If the dive is going ahead, the Dive Captain allocates divers to boats and then

on the day will agree dive sites with the skippers based on the capability and wishes of those diving. **The last Dive Captain responsibility is to find someone to write a dive report for Fathoms.**

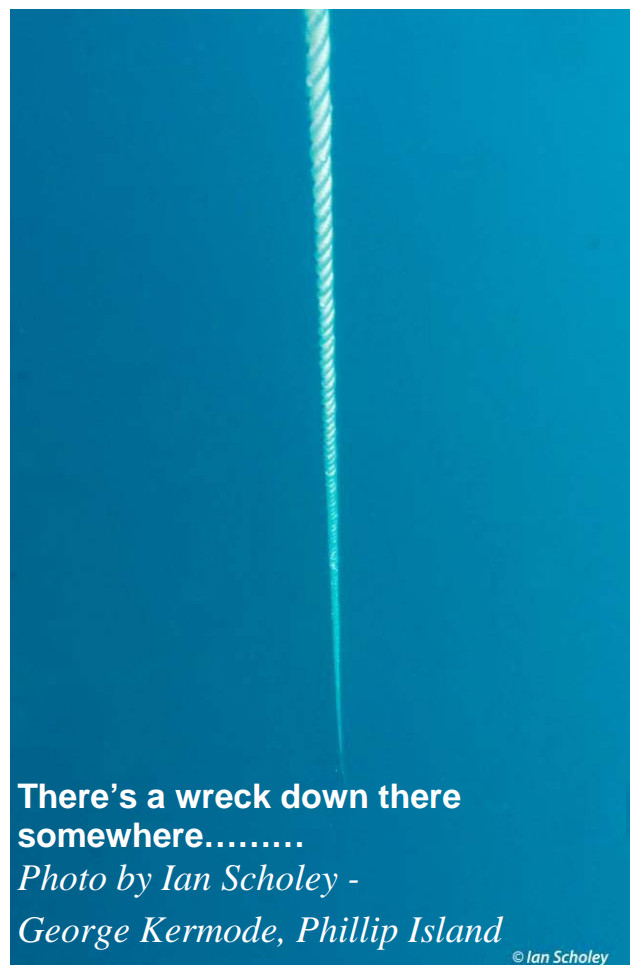


For those that would like to take on this role but don't feel they currently have the knowledge to do so, we are proposing to offer a committee member mentor who will act as advisor and coach. We also have a comprehensive set of written guidelines which offer practical advice on interpreting weather suitability for diving.

The Boat DC role would ideally be a role for those with some experience of organising dives, such as boat owners.

If you are interested in helping the club out with this, please let me know.

Finally, thanks to those of you that have already agreed to take on one of these roles. ❖





Divers for Sanctuaries

Sign the petition
to save some of our best dive sites

Dear Victoria Sub Aqua Group (VSAG),

As divers and snorkellers, we share a special connection with the sea.

There's nothing like coming face to face with a big old turtle, spotting a nudibranch, or the excitement of diving with sharks. And we all know that some of our best dives are in marine sanctuaries – places where marine life is protected.

However, sanctuaries across Australia are now at risk of being wound back or completely erased. We need your help to turn this around. [Please sign our Divers for Sanctuaries petition today.](#)

In 2012 Australia created the world's largest network of marine sanctuaries, protecting some of our most iconic dive sites like Osprey and Bouganville Reefs in the Coral Sea, Lord Howe Island

NSW, Geographe Bay and Two Rocks WA. **But these are ALL now at risk.**

Marine sanctuaries protect our marine life and help ensure we have fish for the future. They are also major assets to the dive industry, providing security and protection for some of our favourite dive sites, as well as marine life that is a major attraction to divers. Winding back sanctuaries risks deterring tourists and diverting tourism dollars to other areas, eroding viable businesses and undermining local economies.

Divers have a unique and special role in providing a voice for our oceans and marine life. As a community of Australians that rely on healthy oceans we must unite and act to save our

sanctuaries and way of life.

Please sign our petition calling on Environment Minister Greg Hunt to save our sanctuaries.

If you have a dive store please forward this email to ALL of your dive networks and share on social media.

I believe that together we can turn this around. Let's tell the government to save our sanctuaries, not just for the marine life that lives there but for the bubble blowers too.

Thanks for your support,

Valerie



Valerie Taylor
For Divers for Sanctuaries
www.diversforsanctuaries.com.au

Home: Covered

Car: Covered

Are You?

DAN
ASIA • PACIFIC
Divers Alert Network

Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?

DAN Membership Costs Less than AUD\$6* per month
Be Prepared. Join the Experts in Dive Accident Management.

www.danasiapacific.org

*DAN Membership provides up to US\$150,000 Worldwide Emergency Evacuation Coverage. DAN Dive Injury Insurance is additional.

The advertisement features a background image of divers underwater. The DAN logo is prominently displayed in the center, with the text 'DAN ASIA • PACIFIC Divers Alert Network'. Below the logo, the headline 'Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?' is written in yellow. The text 'Home: Covered' and 'Car: Covered' are at the top, each followed by a checked checkbox. At the bottom, there is a call to action with the website 'www.danasiapacific.org' and a small disclaimer.



Article prepared by Lloyd Borrett

VSAG, as a member club of the SDFV, a long time ago adopted the SDFV Codes of Practice.

The SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria (SDFV) is an affiliation of (non-commercial) recreational SCUBA diving clubs and the peak body representing the interests and community values of recreational divers throughout Victoria. It is the charter of the SDFV to advocate and promote safe and responsible practices within the sphere of recreational SCUBA diving.

The SDFV Codes of Practice have been established to provide consistent, informative and practical guidelines in relation to diving safety and operational behaviour of dive clubs in the Federation. The codes have been developed on the premise of self-regulation and relate to general requirements of organisational and operational behaviour, with specific emphasis on diver safety.

The Codes of Practice are envisaged to be voluntary, and would apply to all

member dive clubs, associations and associates of the SDFV carrying out recreational diving operations. It is acknowledged that many member clubs have existing practices and procedures that may be time-honoured and go to the core spirit of the club. The intention of the SDFV Codes of Practice is to integrate, as far as possible, the fundamentally generic functionality of recreational diving practices into a common document for the benefit and safety of the sport.

Recently there have been a few incidents in relation to fishing boats, plus commercial, club and private dive boats around the shipping channels near the heads of Port Phillip Bay. SDFV discussed such an incident involving another dive club at its last meeting. That club ended up in a not very friendly meeting with the Port of Melbourne authorities.



The Harbour Pilots and the Port of Melbourne authority are naturally concerned about safety when fishing boats and dive boats end up in the channels and in the path of shipping.

In the past there have been times when pressure has been put on government to have fishing and diving banned near the shipping channels. If this was ever successful we'd no longer be able to dive some of our best dive sites. So we don't want to give anyone reasons to raise such a ban again.



It's important that all VSAG members be familiar with and follow the SDFV Codes of Practice, especially the "Code of Practice for recreational diving within the channels of Port Phillip" as printed below.

Please read the codes and do your very best to follow them at all times.

Code of Practice for recreational diving within the channels of Port Phillip

Guiding Principle

Diving activities within the vicinity of the channels of Port Phillip will not impede shipping and will not risk the safety of recreational divers.

Preamble

There are areas of Port Phillip Bay that provide very rewarding diving

experiences which are also subject to shipping operations. Conducting diving activities in areas subject to ship traffic may be hazardous to both small craft and divers. Shared use of the waterways relies on a sensible approach to diving in the channels.

Individuals and organisations conducting dive activities under the SDFV Code of Practice for recreational diving within the channel of Port Phillip:-

- will not anchor within the confines of a defined shipping channel.
- will not impede shipping.
- will not commence if a ship is observed approaching the dive site.
- will attempt to determine shipping arrivals by one of the following means:-
 - 1) by contacting Lonsdale lighthouse VHF radio Ch12
 - 2) by contacting commercial dive charter operators on Ch74 VHF.
 - 3) by monitoring commercial dive charter operators traffic on Ch74 VHF.
 - 4) contact Coast Guard Queenscliff or Melbourne, on 27.880 Mhz, or Ch16 VHF, who can be asked to ascertain shipping traffic details.
- will not leave any dive boat unattended.

- will ensure that person/s attending to the dive boat be a licensed boat operator, have experience of the dive area and local conditions, and be competent in diver retrieval.



- will have an appropriate level of diver experience in conducting dives in the channels (and mentor less experienced divers).
- will have an appropriate diver-recall system. (It is recommended to use 3 short revs of the boat motor to recall divers in the event of approaching ships. Alternatively 3 tugs on a drift line if being used).
- will, in the situation of the imminent approach of a ship and unable to recover divers, alert the ship as to location and situation, via:-
 - 1) VHF radio Ch16, directly with the ship, or via Lonsdale lighthouse.
 - 2) Coast Guard Queenscliff or Melbourne on 27.880 Mhz or Ch16.

To read more of the Codes of Practice you can find them on the website <http://www.sdfv.org.au/>



VSAG also has its own “Safety Diving Guidelines”, which build upon the SDFV Codes of Practice published on our web site –

<http://www.vsag.org.au/Content/pid=27.html>.

Please take the time to reacquaint yourself with them.

If you have any concerns about any of the SDFV codes of practice or the VSAG guidelines, or need help understanding how best to abide by them, please ask the VSAG committee, or raise it during the “Safety in Diving” section of a monthly meeting. ❖

SPONGES

by Jan Watson - Continuing her series of articles on Marine Biology for Divers

Sponges are among the largest and most colourful organisms we see on dives. They can vary in size from microscopic to large, castellated or digital structures, encrustations, balls or balloon shapes – in fact almost any shape. They come in a huge variety of colours - dazzling reds, oranges, yellow, purples, blue, brown and greys. If like me, you are compulsive sponge photographer, without knowing much about them, their colours and shapes are irresistible.



Collecting sponges, Symonds Channel, 13m

Sponges belong to the Phylum Porifera (=porous organisms) and are among the oldest life forms on earth. They are simple organisms consisting basically of layers of cells. They are filter feeders drawing in oxygenated water and microscopic food particles

through tiny incurrent holes (all over the body), and after circulation by tiny beating cells (cilia) wastes are expelled through the larger, easily visible holes (oscles).

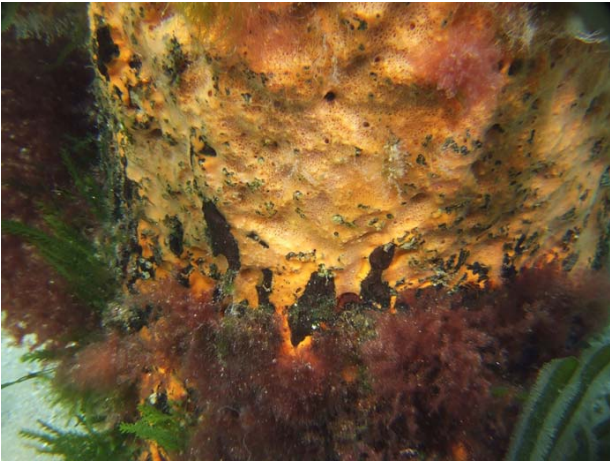


Chondropsis showing oscules through which water is expelled, Symonds Channel, 13 m

Most sponges, as the name implies, feel “spongy” when squeezed (don’t do this with bare hands though, some can cause nasty irritations). Some though, for example *Ircinia* are so tough they blunt the sharpest knife.

Most sponges are marine, a few freshwater. Many thousands of species are known world-wide and about a thousand are known from southern Australia. They range in depth from the intertidal zone to the deepest ocean trenches. They grow on any firm substrate, some like fast currents while others love quiet water reefs and jetty piles.

Many are long-lived, often for decades. (My daughter found the same



Encrusting slimy sponge (species unknown) on jetty pile, Clifton Springs 1 m. This

sponges she studied for her PhD still growing happily 20 years later). Some sponges are completely composed of soft spongin fibres, others contain small calcareous or siliceous internal strengthening rods of various shapes (spicules). They are classified into three important classes – the **Demospongiae** which includes over 90% of species, the **Calcarea** which has internal calcareous spicules and the **Hexactinellida** with siliceous spicules. Composition and shape of the spicules is important in identifying sponges.



***Callyspongia*, soft-textured sponge, common in quiet water reefs around the bay. Steele Rocks, Bellarine Peninsula, 2 m**

Because sponges have no highly organised internal structure they can assume different shapes according to the irregularities and exposure of the surfaces they grow on. It is often very difficult even for experts (I'm not one!) to identify sponges even to genus. In early days of marine biology, specimens were preserved in a jar, or dried, leaving no trace of colour and little evidence of original shape. As divers, we are lucky, getting to know many sponges by their colour and general shape and habitat – even if we don't know their names. Underwater photography is of great assistance in identification.

Some sponges grow a hard outer rind, others incorporate sediment grains in their bodies and others exude toxic mucus to deter predators. Some are eaten by nudibranchs and one South Australian species is preyed upon by a cowrie. Sponges reproduce in two ways: sexually by release of eggs and sperm, often sequentially by the same sponge, or by fragmentation. Sponge



***Psammoclema* feels gritty and brittle from incorporated sand grains deposited in fast currents, common on flat bottom out Popes Eye, 13 m**

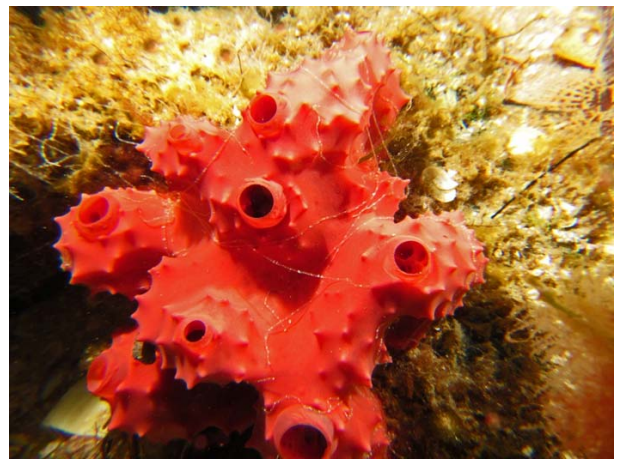


Tethya, the common “golf ball sponge”. It has a hard outer skin and reproduces by growing “budding propagules” on stalks on its surface. Most of the world’s species of *Tethya* occur in southern Australia. St Leonards, 2 m.

larvae live for a few hours, being swept away by currents or crawling to a new location to commence a new colony. Tiny sponges we see on the bottom are either new colonies from larval settlement or small fragments shed from a parent sponge.

Sponges are everywhere, but there are several places where they are spectacular – Symonds Channel, 13 m, and the Lonsdale Wall to 30 m. At Crawfish Rock in Western Port species can be counted in hundreds. So next dive, spare time to admire and photograph these wonderful, primitive, adaptable creatures.

For further reading there is an illustrated Guide to sponges of Victoria, published by Museum Victoria and available through the Museum Bookshop. ❖



Aplysilla, common pink to red sponge with slippery texture, often found on jetty piles, Blairgowrie 2 m. It is often eaten by a pink nudibranch.



Vase-shaped sponge possibly *Ircinia* showing holes chewed by nudibranchs, Boarfis Reef, 16 m



Orange *Crella*, camouflaging the scallop *Equichlamys asperimus* against predators. Popes Eye, 12 m.

DIVING THE WEB

Chest fills with emotion as long lost medals returned

VSAG's Leo Maybus can wear his grandfather's World War I medals with pride on the Anzac Day centenary thanks to Dandenong police.



<http://dandenong.starcommunity.com.au/journal/2015-02-27/chest-fills-with-emotion-as-long--medals-returned/>

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/south-east/war-medals-returned-to-owner-after-seven-years-apart/story-fngnvmhm-1227241805062>

'Shark Lady' Eugenie Clark, Famed Marine Biologist, Has Died

A pioneer in marine conservation and the study of shark behaviour, Clark helped the public understand and appreciate the much maligned species.

Claire Cooper found this article on the **National Geographic** website:

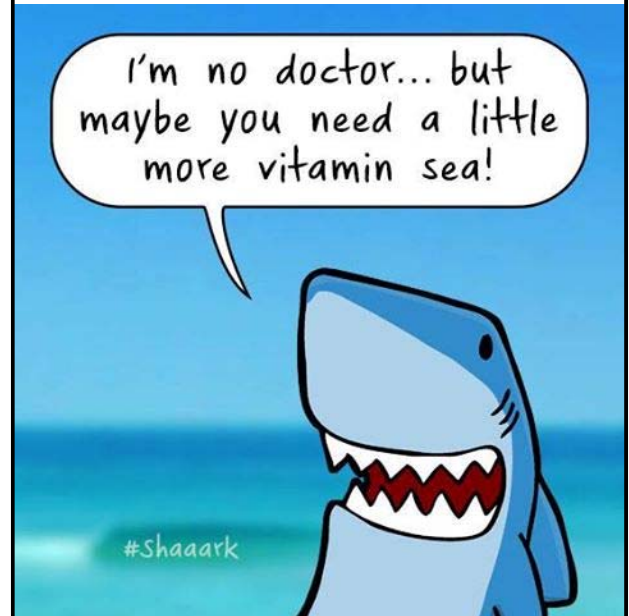


<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/02/150225-eugenie-clark-shark-lady-marine-biologist-obituary-science/>



Rob Kirk found this photo on the **Boatcatch** website

<http://www.boatcatch.com/>



David Reinhard posted this cartoon from the **Project Aware Foundation** website

<http://www.projectaware.org/>



Lloyd Borrett has found some great videos on the **Ocean Reality** Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/OceanRealityTV/videos>

Dive Reports

BLAIRGOWRIE

*Sunday, 8th February
2015*

*Report by Ian Scholey ; photos by Lloyd
Borrett, John Lawler & Ian Scholey*

Diving today:

Ian Scholey, John Lawler, Brendan
Mifsud, Benita McDonough, Denys
Smerchanskyi, Simon Salkin, Michael
Kotsanas & Bettina Brill

Well our glass half full approach fell flat
on it's face this morning with 5 boats
being towed down the peninsula only to
find 25 - 30 Knot South Westerlies.



With half the crews turning around and
going home the other half parked boats
up at Lloyd's Scuba Doctor and headed to
Blairgowrie for a shore dive.

We had a really nice dive, so nice some
of us were under for 2 hours.



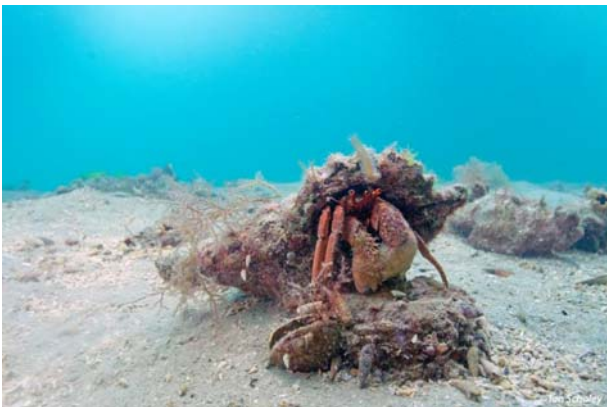
Benita McDonough

There is a new photographer in the club
with JL grabbing my camera to take
some rare shots of me without a camera
in my hand.



The colour was just amazing this morn-

ing and as usual plenty of interesting critters about. ❖



TOM'S REEF

Sunday, 15th February 2015

Report & photos by Ian Scholey

On **Barcrusher** were David Politakis, Myself, Andrew Quested and Peter Altis.

On **Waverunner** were John Mills and Priya Cardinaletti

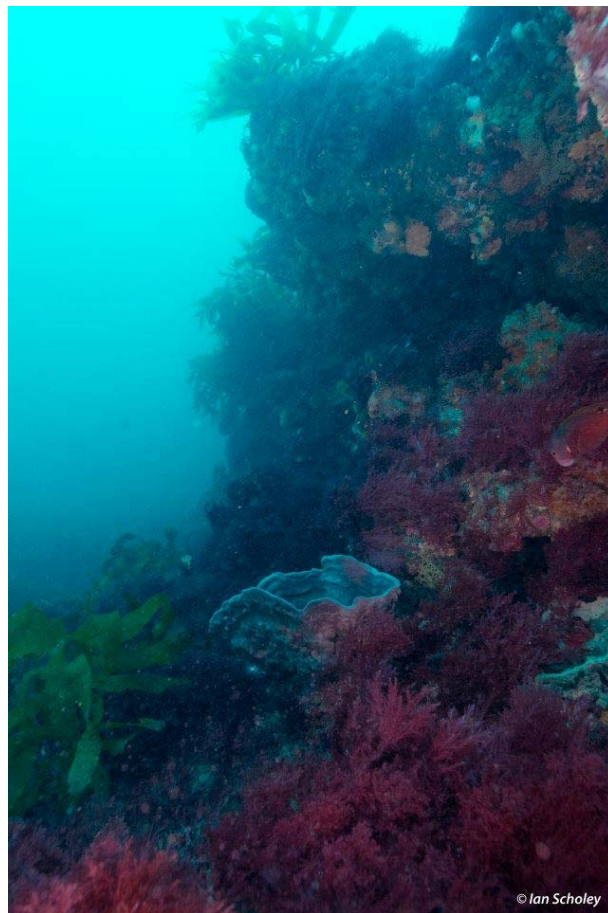
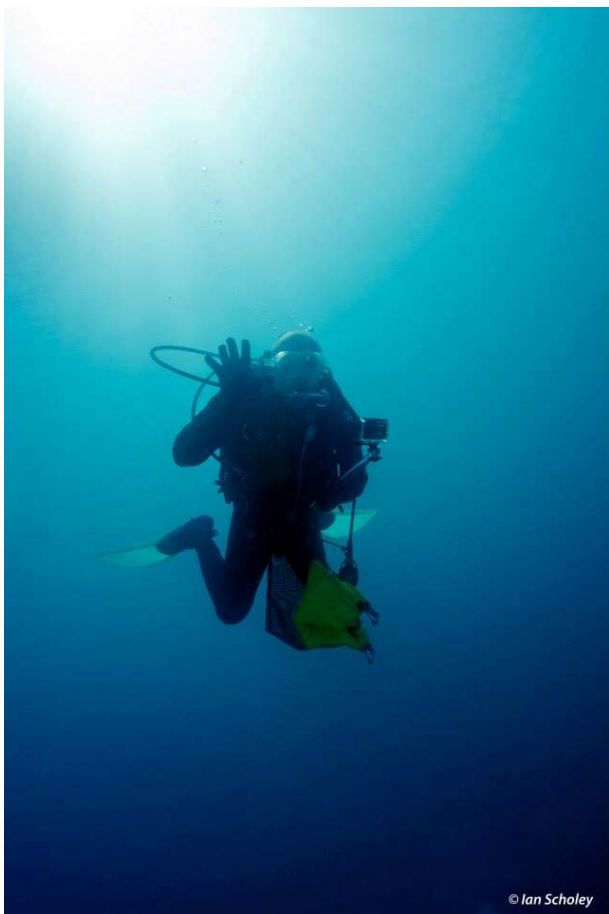
On **Toucans** were Peter Beaumont and Graham Ellis

The disappointment of having to cancel a planned day of diving at Julien Rocks for me because of a bad swell in northern NSW was swiftly erased with a couple of fantastic dives outside today.

We dived a some marks that David Politakis, Peter Beaumont and I had picked up on a previous visit and were not disappointed.



Vis was really good to about 10m but quickly deteriorated after that. As usual for this area, the cray bashers did pretty well.



After a three boat day at Phillip Island yesterday we once again had three boats out today. A great showing from you VSAGers. ❖

GEORGE KERMODE & CAPE WOOLAMAI

*Sunday, 22nd March
2015*

Report & photos by Ian Scholey

We had three boats out:

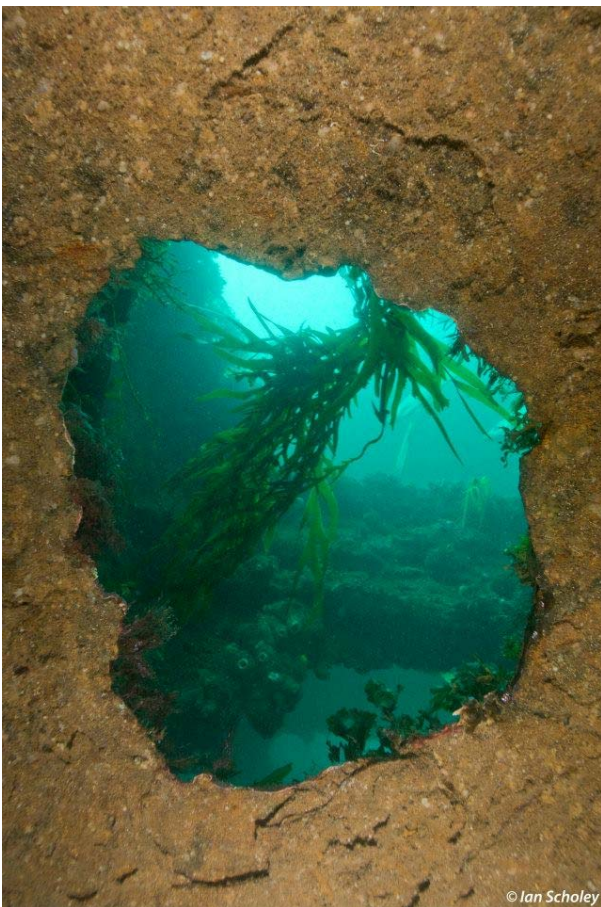
On **Toucans** - Peter Beaumont and myself.

On **Signature One** - John Lawler, Michael Ngai, Steve Vajda and Peter Altis.



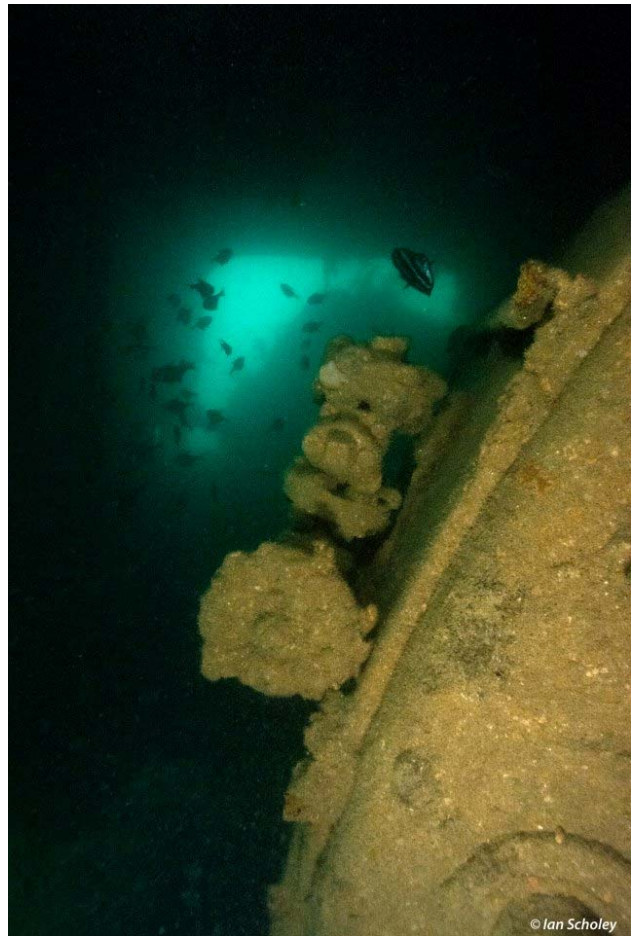
On **Peter Brigg's boat** along with Peter were Greg Richards and Benita McDonough.

A little bit of swell today which sadly screwed up the visibility. It made taking photographs hard work, but inside the wreck was just about do-able. Conditions on top were Ok and hey, the sun was shining and we were diving, so all good.



After the dive on the George Kermode we checked out Crack Cave. With the swell the way it was, we didn't fancy it, anticipating a washing machine experience. Instead we headed into the protection of Cape Woolamai and dived in close. Seal Diving Services had the

same idea and were just picking their divers up as we arrived on site.



It was the same story with the visibility at Cape Woolamai. Making the best of the dive, I was lucky enough to grab a decent Crayfish, although once I had it, I realised I hadn't taken my catch bag in! Improvising, I managed to clip my camera off and hold onto it as I ascended. ❖

A very happy Ian with his catch of the day



THE LONE JAFFA CRAY of 2015

Report & photos by David Politakis



L-R: John Lawler, Peter Briggs, David Politakis, Owen Green & inset Will Chadwick

VSAG Cape Jaffa 2015 started like any other year. Planning, travel & accommodation plans, anticipation, hype, food prep, cray orders from friends, bets on the winning cray size and the prize itself etc. - the list goes on. The usual suspects - John Lawler, Peter Briggs & David Politakis swapped the golden Greek in Michael Kakafikas (MIA) for a Canadian - Owen Green and, of all things, added a weak stomached Irish skipper - William Chadwick to the weekend. What a combination?

The wet & wild morning of March 5, we left Melbourne westwards towards



Will Chadwick who skippered David Politakis's boat - Barcrusher

the Wimmera, the wind howling some 40 knots in strength. Towing the boat proved a challenge in the cross winds but, eager to carry on the annual expedition, we ploughed on.

Arrival 8 hours later at our destination, after a shortcut disaster (thanks Pete), saw more high winds off-shore. Much to our disappointment, and unlike previous years, a cold welcome to what's normally a sunny warm location in Cape Jaffa. You



can imagine me under the sleeping bag just trying to keep warm.

Anyhow, we settled in early afternoon and did what we do best on a break – had a drink or two/three/more and yacked the evening away under the stars albeit chilly around a hot fire pit.

The wind whistled hard that night through the park, trees creaked as they swayed, big gumnuts fell hard on the tin roof keeping some awake, & Will the Irishman's repeated heavy snoring – even hard of hearing JL heard it in the next cabin so you can imagine how bad it was! It was a rough night all round for me, now sleep deprived and tired after a long road trip.



One by one we woke on Friday to know we wouldn't be diving so instead we headed for nearby Robe and enjoyed breakfast and a look around a lovely historic seaside town. The day dwindled on & the wind remained as we waited for day 2, mooching around the town and campsite, engaging the new arrivee's as they rocked in one by one.

Saturday saw the wind drop somewhat so we excitedly geared up & ventured out but the wind had generated solid sea swell and, once out behind the

point we were in the thick of it. Swell going one direction, waves coming from another, it was a very lumpy uncomfortable day. Rolling swell varied anywhere from 2.5 metres to 4mtrs over the 4 day weekend so it was definitely tough going. After a dive each in dirty, surgy conditions & our skipper heaving over the side, we decided to call it a day. John nabbed a good 3 KG cray on this day. Retrospectively, turns out it was our only cray for the whole trip. More food and a relaxed drink back on shore, we hoped for better the next day.

Sunday saw no wind, however the large rolling swell remained. We tucked in behind Margaret Brock Reef, hoping for some protection but it was minimal. Someone, who shall remain nameless, encountered some gear problems on this day. This person had a small buoyancy issue which, shall we say, led to a rope entanglement issue of a major type.

If you picture a mummy wrapped in bandages, envisage a diver wrapped in rope? Supposedly a safety device we thought - ended up causing some problems for one, shall we say, senior member?? (Could be a wooden weight belt award in there somewhere the team felt). Shame we didn't have a camera at the ready – after the event it offered a good laugh upon reflection.

For everyone's curiosity, it wasn't life threatening - I think – I did watch the whole thing from underneath in astonishment while those on board couldn't contain themselves. Dive aborted &

potential crisis averted, all back on-board safely, we looked for safer alternatives. The swell made all the other desired planned locations nearby unsafe.

Seeking escape from the swell, we headed back behind the point to a known location which has always in the past previously provided good numbers, or at least sightings, of crays and given us something to chase or be hopeful about. Safety device now ditched, we jumped in, however after scouring the ocean floor in ideal cray territory, under ledges and in holes, we all came up totally empty handed. None of us managed to even spot a cray this dive.

Visibility was minimal, maybe 3-4 foot at best. Naturally, yes, we lost each other at times! Maybe that was part of the problem – the Viz. Despondent, we bailed after just one and a bit dives. It just wasn't enjoyable in the conditions above & below. Back on land, cleaned, & freshened, we focused & pinned all our hopes on the last day.

Hopeful, we kept looking at the weather report all afternoon, hoping it would change for the better?? However the weather report highlighted the swell to be jumping up to the 4 metre range. Having persevered in 2 & 3 metre swell, 4 metres was not an exciting option except for Owen, who'd probably dive in hurricane conditions. His diving enthusiasm & knowledge is definitely to be admired and respected.

Our hopes for a feed and challenge of crays had all but vanished this trip. We cooked and devoured our only cray that night thanks to John. Later in the

evening, given the forecast and the fact that there's not much to do in Jaffa or surrounds, we reluctantly made the decision to head home a day early.

Regardless, it was still a great trip away with the guys – always good fun to get away with fellow dive mates and catch up. Mother nature is beautiful but also unpredictable - you have to take the good with the bad. And then there's always next year too.

PS. Although not acknowledged on the trip – John obviously won the weekend bet with the lone cray. Well done. My 6 pack of your choice will be forthcoming. ❖



TWO WRECK DIVES

Sunday, 29th March 2015

Report & photos by John Mills

Two things I have learnt being married to a teacher are:

1) Don't consider taking the boat out for diving during "crazy time", this is just before the school holidays when marking has to be done. The time pressure and hours required to finish this is too much and you end up taking out a tired diver. This has one benefit as the last round of the V8's finishes during this time in December so I can arrange a trip to the V8's in Sydney (Win – Win, I get to see the cars and Priya gets to finish marking without me annoying her).

2) A teacher will always get sick in the first week of the school holidays.

As the crazy time had finished I thought, "Let's take the boat out and go diving." Plus it would be good to get a run in before the Prom in the next week.

All looked good with low winds forecast for the Sunday. With an 8:00am start for the tides. So I booked the RIB in for a dive.

Rule 2 kicked in and Priya had a sore throat and headache on the Friday. She assured me she could be the Skipper and I could dive. This was fine by me. By Saturday the plans had firmed up and she was not much better so it was

confirmed she would be the boat Skipper and I'd be the diver.

I got up about 5:30am on the Sunday and set the boat up. We were underway by 6:30am.

We met up with everyone at Sorrento at the top ramp as planned and were discussing the dives. We would meet the slack tides and then we could do a wreck. Benita was keen to do the J5 sub, and as a keen wreck diver I decided to buddy with her.

We hit the car park on time and everyone got their gear organized. Ian took off to launch his boat and we thought we might as well go next. Priya backed the boat out, let the clutch out a wee bit quickly and stalled. "No worries just turn the key and it'll start". No such luck. Graham launched his boat and came back. I told him we were stuck and he should proceed without us.



This was a flashback to last time Priya was sick and decided to be Skipper and we launched and missed the dive as I forgot to put the bung in. We called the RACV and waited. Looking at the conditions from the top car park

I thought, “What a bummer” as the bay was flat and the sun was shining. I heard Ian on the radio and spoke with him and told him that it was unlikely we would be joining the dive. Eventually the RACV turned up and looked into the problem. There seemed to be an issue with the battery isolator, which was eventually fixed.



As the day and conditions were so good, we decided to launch and try to radio the guys to see what we could do. At worst we would have a good day out on the bay. We managed to get hold of Ian in Sea Eagle and said we were under way. He indicated they were anchored on the J5 and would hold station until we arrived.

After crossing The Heads, we found the boats and Ian was anchored on the Sub. I dropped in and dived the Sub with Peter Beaumont. We poked around for about 20 minutes and surfaced. Priya picked me up and I thought, “That’s my diving done for the day”. Priya informed me that I should gear up the second tank as Ian was keen to do a second dive on the Courier or Coogee after I had some surface interval.

There was a bit of Radio chatter in regard to what we should do. I decided the

Coogee was the better option as it was the shallower dive. I would have jumped at the Courier if it was the first dive. The GetUnder Club had dropped their shot on the wreck so we decided to use it.

After a 45 minute surface time, Ian, Benita & I dropped onto the wreck. We hung around the superstructure and headed to the boilers. My trusty Suunto computer told me it was time to go and as I didn’t want to go into deco, I headed back to the shot. I did a slow ascent and did a six-minute safety stop. All was good when I surfaced and got back into the RIB.

What a great day, good weather, good conditions and two wreck dives in the Graveyard. I took the wetsuit off, got changed and the skipper took me back to Sorrento.



On days like this you really appreciate being involved in Melbourne’s private diving community. Thanks to Ian for accommodating us when we had resolved our issues. Plus GetUnder let us use their shot line to get down to the wreck for the second dive. ❖

PHILLIP ISLAND : IN SEARCH OF THE ELUSIVE CRACK CAVE

*Saturday, 28th
February 2015*

*By Bettina Brill (New Member) ; photos
Benita McDonough & John Lawler*



*Photo of VSAG divers from Saturday 28th Feb
dive. Note the photo on the wall...it is Pyramid
Rock where we dived first.*

*L to R...Michael Kotsanas, Peter Beaumont,
Bettina Brill, Benita McDonough, Andrew
Quested, John Lawler*

This was to be our check out dive so we were keen to go. By Friday night all was still a bit up in the air with winds forecast to change at some stage. Up early on Saturday - no SMS message means 'go'!

It didn't look too promising when we arrived at Newhaven, cool and windy and a bit of a rough journey out to Pyramid rock. Peter and Andrew went in first to mark the entrance of the cave and stayed down there for a while, obviously having a good time.

A seal came by and checked us out on the surface. When Peter and Andrew surfaced they told us about the cave - a narrow entrance into a sandy area where two Port Jacksons had taken up residence for the day.



Then it was time for Benita and Michael to jump in and explore the cave. JL and I decided to follow a short time later. John has been trying to find this cave since February 2011, but it was not to be. We must have missed the mark since we didn't find the cave, but never mind - John caught two beautiful crayfish and I was happy in the swaying seaweed. Coming up the wind had suddenly died off and the sea was dead calm.

We decided to go to the George Ker-mode wreck which Michael and I did not know. How good was that! Big schools of fish, including Longfin Pike, and we even saw one of my favourites, a Blue Devil.



Long-finned pike at the George Kermode



Inquisitive Leatherjacket at the George Kermode

On the way back the sea was still calm and we could see several schools of bait fish on the surface, which looked amazing. A great day for us and I even think we passed. ❖



Surface shot taken by Peter Beaumont show how the conditions had changed



One of John Lawler's crays



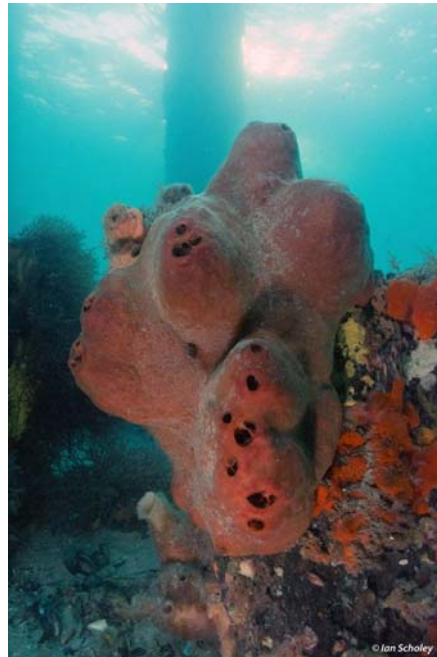
"It's just a hunch, but you're not a certified diver, are you?"

DIVE SNIPPETS

Rye Pier Evening Dive Friday, 6th February 2015

Ian Scholey

We eased into the promised excellent weekend with a relaxed hour and a half under Rye Pier last night. Not a heap of life but amazing colour. Diving were myself, Brendan Mifsud and Dickon Roddie. ❖



Blairgowrie

Thursday, 12th February 2015

David Reinhard

Blairgowrie was full of nudibranchs on this dive.



Seven nudibranchs in one photo! That's definitely a record for me. ❖

Blairgowrie Night Dive

Friday, 20th February
2015

Ian Scholey

A nice dive last night with a couple of new finds to keep a slug hunter happy.

Diving were Ian Scholey, Peter Beaumont and Adam Borge, with Tim Forster making a late appearance as I was getting out and on a mission to find Tassled Anglerfish. ❖



George Kermode & Pyramid Rock

Sunday, 22nd February 2015

Ian Scholey

Another fantastic day's diving today with 3 boats heading down to Phillip Island.

On **Sea Eagle** were Ian Scholey and Andrew Quested

On **Toucans** were Peter Beaumont and Graham Ellis

On **Barcrusher** were David Politakis, John Lawler, Michael Ngai and Herb Mackay

George Kermode was excellent as usual with really nice vis inside the wreck and heaps of fish. We then headed to Pyramid Rock in search of Crays and Crack Cave. ❖



Rickett's Point

*Saturday, 28th
February 2015*

David Reinhard

The snapper were abundant at Rickett's Pt today. There are 12 snapper in one of these photos. ❖



Blairgowrie

*Sunday, 1st March
2015*

Ian Scholey

Great dive at Blairgowrie this morning.

Spider crabs in numbers in about 1m and two big rays. Of course I had a macro lens on today so I was not able to capture the Crabs or Rays. Fortunately there was plenty of small stuff about as well.

Diving this morning were Ian Scholey, Peter Beaumont, Charmaine Alford and Feng Qui. ❖





Tom's Reef

*Sunday, 8th March
2015*

Ian Scholey

Just the two RIB's available today, so sorry to all those who missed out.

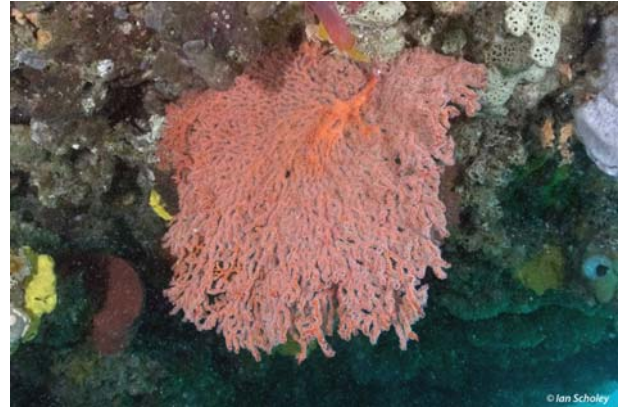
We headed outside to Tom's Reef for our first dive. Then with winds picking up, we headed inside for a slack water dive on Lonsdale Wall for the lucky ones and a pretty good drift dive for those who missed out on slack (Myself and Benita).

Vis was pretty ordinary in all spots today which was a shame.

Diving today were:

On **Sea Eagle** - Ian Scholey and Greg Richards

On **Toucans** - Peter Beaumont and Benita McDonough. ❖



Pope's Eye, Lonsdale Wall & Drift

Monday, 9th March
2015

Ian Scholey

Horrible conditions early today forced us to head to Pope's Eye for shelter from the 20 knot WNW. By the time we had all dived, the wind had switched to the South and dropped below 10 knots so we took advantage of slack water on Lonsdale Wall.

For the second day in a row I missed out on the slack dive but enjoyed a terrific drift instead although the vis was no good for photographs.

Diving today were:

On **Sea Eagle** - Ian Scholey and Denys Smerchanskyi

On **Toucans** - Peter Beaumont and Andrew Quested

On **ME3** - Graham Ellis, Benita McDonough, Herb Mackay and Jeremy Van Der Beek. ❖

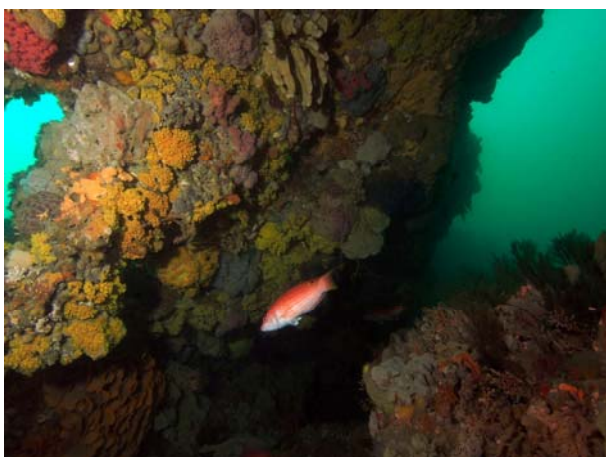
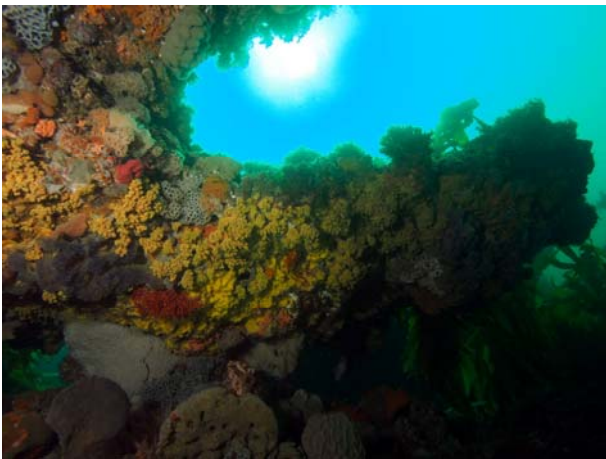


Boarfish Reef

*Sunday 22nd March
2015*

David Reinhard

Had a pleasant dive on Boarfish Reef yesterday. It was nice to do a boat dive for a change.



Koh Bida Nok

March 2015

Troy Kenward

From my trip to Phuket. Forgot my red filter for my GoPro so have done my best to get the footage watchable.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch/v=X1d-rX68IWM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1d-rX68IWM)

Blairgowrie

*Friday, 27th March
2015*

Ian Scholey

Just the two diehards last night, myself and Peter Beaumont - you can tell that winter is on the way. That said, the water is still pretty warm and the life at

Blairgowrie abundant so we had a great dive.

There may not have been many VSAGers, but we were joined in the water by a group of 8 other divers which is unusual for Friday night. ❖

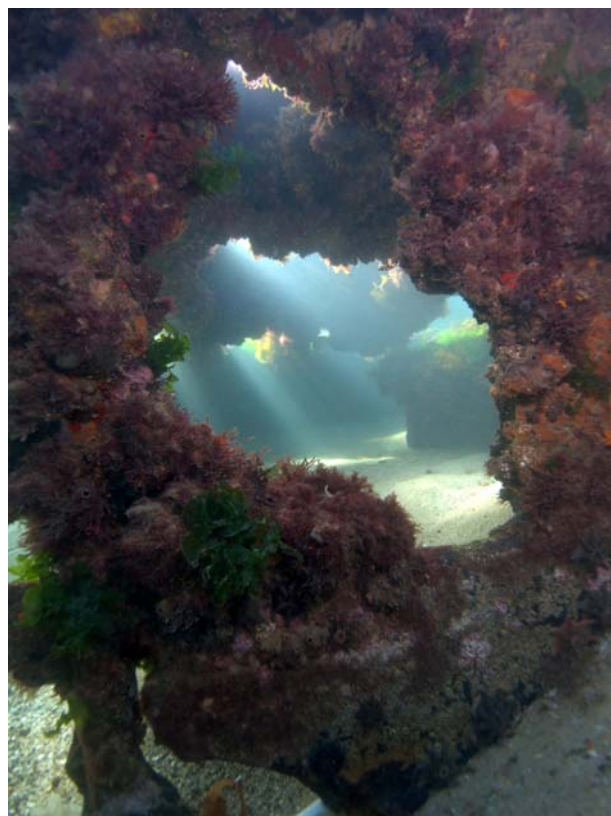


SS Francis Henty

*Monday, 30th March
2015*

David Reinhard

I had a dive this morning on the wreck of the SS Francis Henty. This twin screw bucket dredger was scuttled in 1950 to act as a breakwater at Sandringham. It was built in 1889 and was 44.7m long. It sits in around 3m of water at the end of the Sandringham breakwater (not to be confused with the nearby sub at Sandringham). This site is rarely dived but it is certainly worth having a look at if you haven't done it before. The downside is that access is somewhat difficult. ❖



AUSSIE DIVERS AND MARINE RESEARCH: NATIONAL SURVEY & PRIZE DRAW



[Play video](#)

A brief introduction to the Marine ExChanges survey from Vicki Martin

[https://www.youtube.com/watch/v=C2ihJMfI9Ow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2ihJMfI9Ow)

Hi there,

I'm writing to you with a special request. I'm a postgraduate student doing some research on people who use the marine environment, and I've just launched the **2015 Marine Exchanges national survey**. It's the first of its kind in Australia, and it asks people *if*, *why* and *how* they are willing to get involved in marine research. Last year divers in QLD, NSW, TAS and WA helped me pull together the questions for this survey, and now I'd love to hear from the diving community around Australia.

Some generous sponsors have given me **\$2,000 worth of marine prizes** for a prize draw, including:

a GME personal locator beacon,

a GME marine multimedia sound system for iPhone or iPod,
3 x GME Sound Safe devices,
an Aqua Ranger sea scooter, from Underwater Australasia,
a couple of dives (all gear included) from Sundive, Byron Bay,
Mares mask and snorkel kits,
a Shimano fishing rod and reel, and marine books, t-shirts, and fishing DVDs.

The survey is aimed at Australian residents, 15 years old or over, who visit the beach or ocean at least once a year – so, yes, it's very broad! They don't have to be interested in helping marine research – I'd love to hear all opinions, and all completed surveys will go into the prize draw.

I'm wondering if you would mind helping me spread the word about the survey, please? I've tried to make it easy – you could forward this email, with these links:

Marine ExChanges National Survey of Marine Users (**running until 20th April 2015**)

Web: <http://bit.ly/marineexchanges>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MarineExChanges

YouTube: <http://youtu.be/C2ihJMfI9Ow>

WHALE HUNT CANCELLED

SHARE THIS POST TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAVE CANCELLED PLANS TO HUNT WHALES IN ANTARCTICA'S WATERS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A CENTURY THAT NO WHALES WILL BE HUNTED IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN.

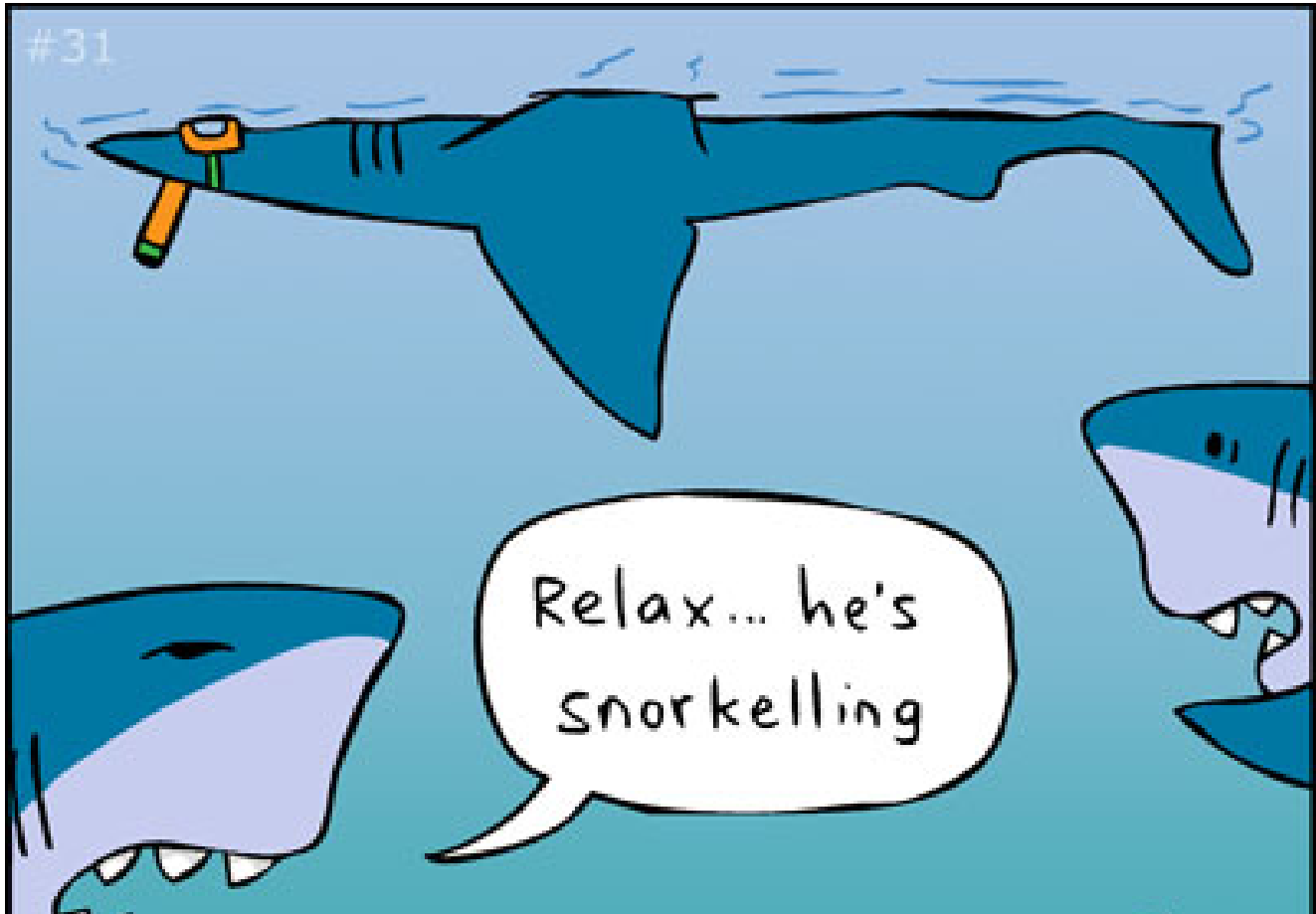


The news just keeps on getting better for whales!

The whales of the Southern Ocean are not going to be hunted this year for the first time in over a century after the Government of Japan has officially cancelled the planned hunt this year.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/en/blog/breakingjapans-research-whaling-ruled-illega/blog/48741/#update>





Cartoons from Shaarak! - <http://shaaark.com/>



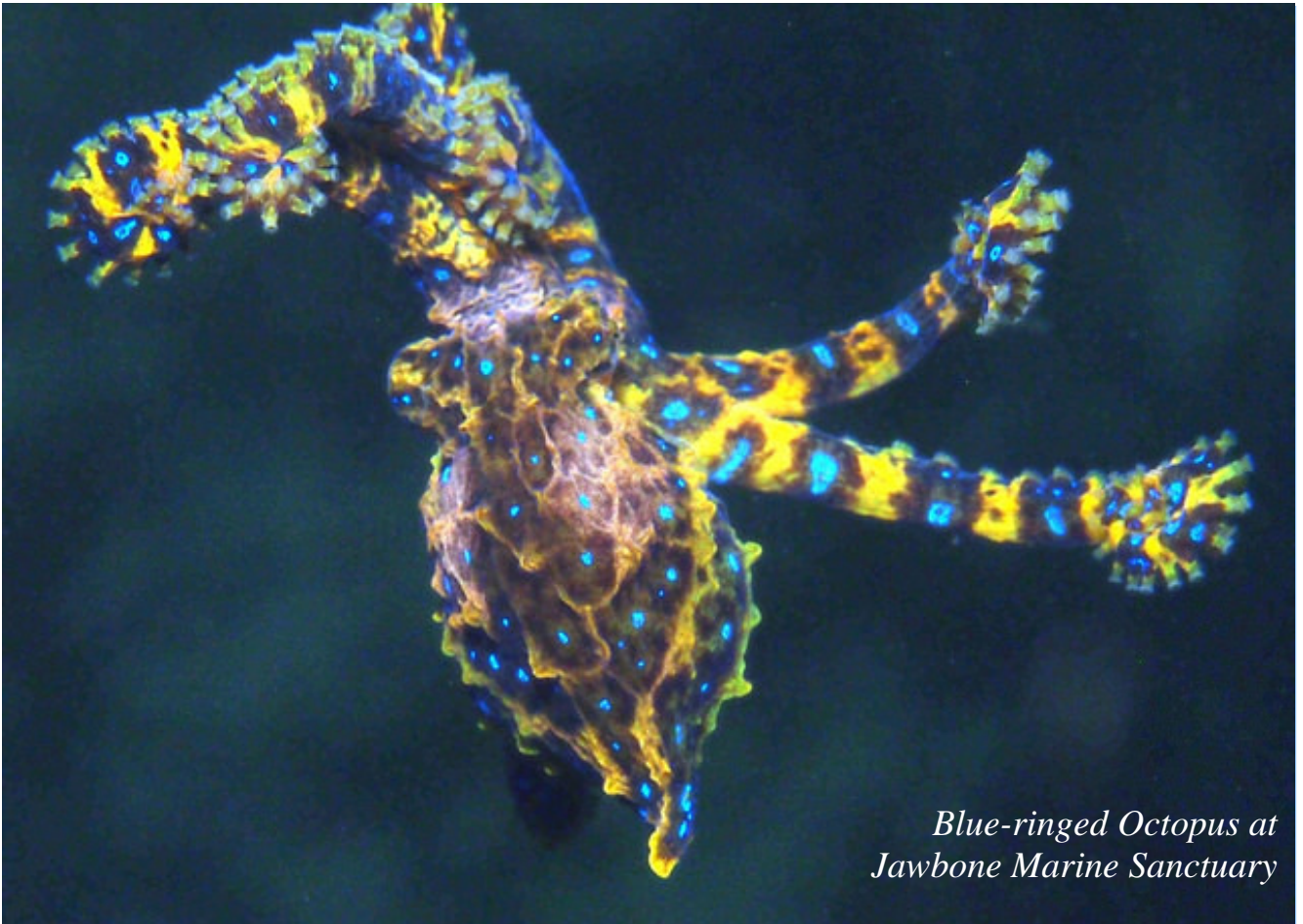
Phil Watson's Photos



Anemone at Point Henry



Cuttlefish at Portsea



*Blue-ringed Octopus at
Jawbone Marine Sanctuary*



*Hermit Crab at
Blairgowrie*



*Pygmy Seahorse at Prince George Bank,
Bellarine Peninsula*



SS Orungal, Formby Reef, Barwon Heads



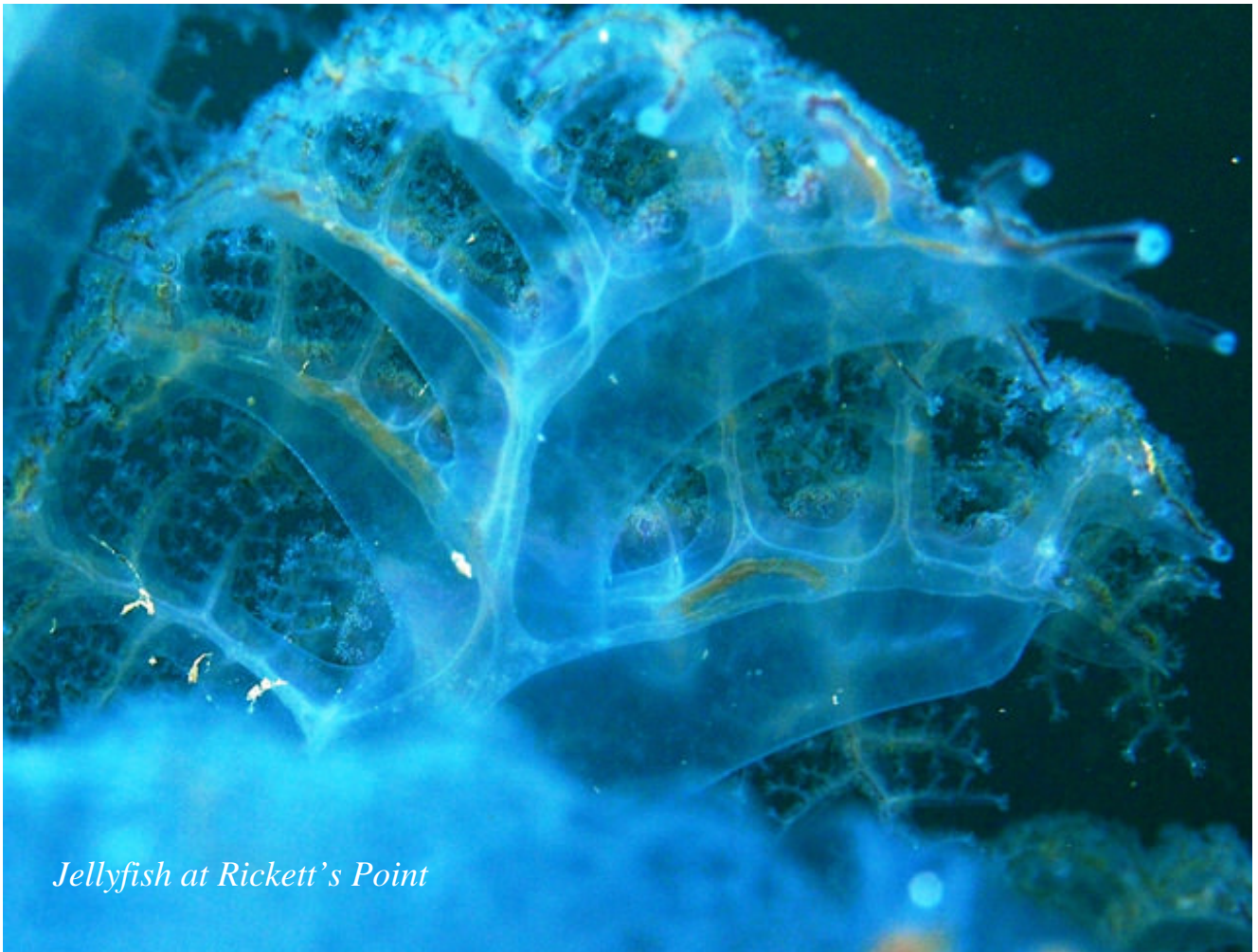
Blue Devil , Queenscliff Night Dive



*Nudibranch at Rickett's Point -
Ercolania sp.*



Turpin's Falls on the Campaspe River



Jellyfish at Rickett's Point



Sandy Webb being Photo-bombed by a Moonlighter at Mt. Martha



Starfish love at Brighton



Seadragon at Portsea

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.

Apr 11/12	DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Apr 18/19	DC Peter Galvin 0417 061 564
Apr 21	General Meeting, Bells Hotel, 8.00 pm
Apr 25/26	DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
May 2/3	DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
May 9/10	DC Peter Galvin 0417 061 564
May 16/17	DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
May 19	General Meeting, Bells Hotel, 8.00 pm
May 23/24	DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
May 24	South Channel Fort (details tba)
May 30/31	DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Jun 6/7/8	Queen's Birthday Weekend - Boarfish Lodge DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
Jun 13/14	DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Jun 16	General Meeting, Bells Hotel, 8.00 pm
Jun 20/21	DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Jun 27/28	DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Jul 4/5	DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725

Tidal Streams at the Heads — April 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.

March		April				
MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5
<i>4:53</i>	<i>5:49</i>	<i>0:56</i>	<i>1:57</i>	<i>2:54</i>	<i>3:41</i>	<i>3:19</i>
<i>10:27</i>	<i>11:22</i>	<i>7:01</i>	<i>8:21</i>	<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:17</i>	<i>9:58</i>
<i>17:15</i>	<i>18:05</i>	<i>12:32</i>	<i>13:54</i>	<i>15:14</i>	<i>16:17</i>	<i>16:07</i>
<i>23:59</i>		<i>19:09</i>	<i>20:26</i>	<i>21:36</i>	<i>23:32</i>	<i>22:17</i>
MON 6	TUE 7	WED 8	THU 9	FRI 10	SAT 11	SUN 12
<i>3:53</i>	<i>4:25</i>	<i>4:56</i>	<i>0:06</i>	<i>0:39</i>	<i>1:12</i>	<i>1:47</i>
<i>10:34</i>	<i>11:08</i>	<i>11:41</i>	<i>5:28</i>	<i>6:00</i>	<i>6:33</i>	<i>7:08</i>
<i>16:48</i>	<i>17:25</i>	<i>18:01</i>	<i>12:14</i>	<i>12:48</i>	<i>13:23</i>	<i>14:01</i>
<i>22:56</i>	<i>23:32</i>		<i>18:37</i>	<i>19:14</i>	<i>19:53</i>	<i>20:34</i>
MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THU 16	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19
<i>2:23</i>	<i>3:07</i>	<i>4:01</i>	<i>5:11</i>	<i>0:02</i>	<i>1:05</i>	<i>2:04</i>
<i>7:47</i>	<i>8:35</i>	<i>9:38</i>	<i>10:59</i>	<i>6:34</i>	<i>7:52</i>	<i>8:57</i>
<i>14:42</i>	<i>15:29</i>	<i>16:24</i>	<i>17:34</i>	<i>12:32</i>	<i>14:02</i>	<i>15:18</i>
<i>21:18</i>	<i>22:06</i>	<i>23:02</i>		<i>18:57</i>	<i>20:20</i>	<i>21:29</i>
MON 20	TUE 21	WED 22	THU 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26
<i>2:58</i>	<i>3:48</i>	<i>4:36</i>	<i>0:03</i>	<i>0:47</i>	<i>1:29</i>	<i>2:10</i>
<i>9:54</i>	<i>10:45</i>	<i>11:32</i>	<i>5:21</i>	<i>6:06</i>	<i>6:50</i>	<i>7:33</i>
<i>16:20</i>	<i>17:13</i>	<i>18:02</i>	<i>12:16</i>	<i>12:58</i>	<i>13:37</i>	<i>14:15</i>
<i>22:27</i>	<i>23:17</i>		<i>18:47</i>	<i>19:29</i>	<i>20:10</i>	<i>20:49</i>
April				May		
MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
<i>2:53</i>	<i>3:38</i>	<i>4:29</i>	<i>5:29</i>	<i>6:36</i>	<i>0:36</i>	<i>1:26</i>
<i>8:18</i>	<i>9:06</i>	<i>10:03</i>	<i>11:12</i>	<i>12:33</i>	<i>7:37</i>	<i>8:29</i>
<i>14:52</i>	<i>15:31</i>	<i>16:14</i>	<i>17:09</i>	<i>18:24</i>	<i>13:53</i>	<i>14:57</i>
<i>21:28</i>	<i>22:09</i>	<i>22:54</i>	<i>23:44</i>		<i>19:47</i>	<i>20:54</i>

Tidal Streams at the Heads — May 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.

April				May		
MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
2:53	3:38	4:29	5:29	6:36	0:36	1:26
8:18	9:06	10:03	11:12	12:33	7:37	8:29
14:52	15:31	16:14	17:09	18:24	13:53	14:57
21:28	22:09	22:54	23:44		19:47	20:54
MON 4	TUE 5	WED 6	THU 7	FRI 8	SAT 9	SUN 10
2:13	2:55	3:35	4:14	4:52	0:23	1:00
9:13	9:53	10:31	11:07	11:44	5:30	6:10
15:48	16:30	17:08	17:45	18:21	12:22	13:00
21:46	22:30	23:10	23:47		18:58	19:36
MON 11	TUE 12	WED 13	THU 14	FRI 15	SAT 16	SUN 17
1:39	2:21	3:09	4:05	5:10	6:21	0:18
6:53	7:41	8:39	9:48	11:09	12:38	7:30
13:40	14:23	15:09	16:02	17:06	18:27	14:02
20:15	20:55	21:37	22:25	23:19		19:52
MON 18	TUE 19	WED 20	THU 21	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24
1:19	2:18	3:13	4:05	4:54	0:30	1:12
8:33	9:28	10:19	11:05	11:49	5:41	6:26
15:12	16:10	17:00	17:45	18:27	12:29	13:06
21:06	22:07	22:59	23:46		19:06	19:42
MON 25	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI 29	SAT 30	SUN 31
1:53	2:34	3:16	4:02	4:52	5:47	6:44
7:10	7:56	8:45	9:40	10:45	12:00	13:18
13:42	14:16	14:51	15:30	16:15	17:16	18:38
20:16	20:49	21:22	21:58	22:38	23:23	

Tidal Streams at the Heads — June 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.

June						
MON 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6	SUN 7
<i>0:13</i>	<i>1:05</i>	<i>1:58</i>	<i>2:48</i>	<i>3:36</i>	<i>4:22</i>	<i>0:06</i>
<i>7:37</i>	<i>8:27</i>	<i>9:13</i>	<i>9:56</i>	<i>10:38</i>	<i>11:20</i>	<i>5:09</i>
<i>14:25</i>	<i>15:20</i>	<i>16:06</i>	<i>16:47</i>	<i>17:26</i>	<i>18:04</i>	<i>12:02</i>
<i>20:02</i>	<i>21:07</i>	<i>21:59</i>	<i>22:44</i>	<i>23:25</i>		<i>18:41</i>
MON 8	TUE 9	WED 10	THU 11	FRI 12	SAT 13	SUN 14
<i>0:47</i>	<i>1:31</i>	<i>2:17</i>	<i>3:07</i>	<i>4:02</i>	<i>5:01</i>	<i>6:04</i>
<i>5:57</i>	<i>6:49</i>	<i>7:45</i>	<i>8:47</i>	<i>9:57</i>	<i>11:15</i>	<i>12:36</i>
<i>12:44</i>	<i>13:26</i>	<i>14:09</i>	<i>14:54</i>	<i>15:44</i>	<i>16:44</i>	<i>17:58</i>
<i>19:18</i>	<i>19:55</i>	<i>20:32</i>	<i>21:11</i>	<i>21:53</i>	<i>22:43</i>	<i>23:40</i>
MON 15	TUE 16	WED 17	THU 18	FRI 19	SAT 20	SUN 21
<i>7:08</i>	<i>0:42</i>	<i>1:44</i>	<i>2:45</i>	<i>3:41</i>	<i>4:32</i>	<i>0:12</i>
<i>13:53</i>	<i>8:09</i>	<i>9:05</i>	<i>9:56</i>	<i>10:42</i>	<i>11:25</i>	<i>5:20</i>
<i>19:23</i>	<i>14:59</i>	<i>15:55</i>	<i>16:44</i>	<i>17:27</i>	<i>18:05</i>	<i>12:04</i>
	<i>20:42</i>	<i>21:47</i>	<i>22:41</i>	<i>23:29</i>		<i>18:40</i>
MON 22	TUE 23	WED 24	THU 25	FRI 26	SAT 27	SUN 28
<i>0:53</i>	<i>1:31</i>	<i>2:09</i>	<i>2:47</i>	<i>3:27</i>	<i>4:11</i>	<i>4:59</i>
<i>6:05</i>	<i>6:49</i>	<i>7:33</i>	<i>8:20</i>	<i>9:12</i>	<i>10:11</i>	<i>11:19</i>
<i>12:39</i>	<i>13:13</i>	<i>13:45</i>	<i>14:18</i>	<i>14:53</i>	<i>15:32</i>	<i>16:20</i>
<i>19:12</i>	<i>19:41</i>	<i>20:10</i>	<i>20:39</i>	<i>21:09</i>	<i>21:44</i>	<i>22:23</i>
June					July	
MON 29	TUE 30	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5
<i>5:51</i>	<i>6:46</i>	<i>0:05</i>	<i>1:05</i>	<i>2:06</i>	<i>3:05</i>	<i>4:02</i>
<i>12:32</i>	<i>13:44</i>	<i>7:42</i>	<i>8:35</i>	<i>9:26</i>	<i>10:15</i>	<i>11:02</i>
<i>17:24</i>	<i>18:50</i>	<i>14:46</i>	<i>15:38</i>	<i>16:23</i>	<i>17:03</i>	<i>17:42</i>
<i>23:10</i>		<i>20:15</i>	<i>21:20</i>	<i>22:13</i>	<i>23:00</i>	<i>23:46</i>



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**

Elsa's Reef, Rye - *photo by Andrew Quested*



Blue-ringed octopus at Brighton - *photo by Sandy Webb*



BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Supplied by John Lawler



This was my first dive boat - JT249 - "Signature Two" Haines Hunter V17L
(Launching at Tidal River)

Originally it was powered by a "BlackMax" Blue Band Mercury 90HP outboard.

Power unit was upgraded to a Yamaha 130HP.

Without doubt this model boat was the most suited to diving - right size, balance,
solid, tough....I was a bit sad to see it go!

I had the boat for 10 years before trading in to my current boat, Haines Signature
6.1mtr - "Signature Two".

Final Moments of the George Kermode
Scuttled off Phillip Island

