



# Fathoms

*FEBRUARY-MARCH 2015*

*John Mills going in search  
of crays at Barwon Heads.  
Photo by Ian Scholey.*

***DIVE REPORTS  
UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS  
INVERLOCH LONG WEEKEND  
FINAL DETAILS FOR SOUTH 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



22nd FEBRUARY 2015 at Rye Pier



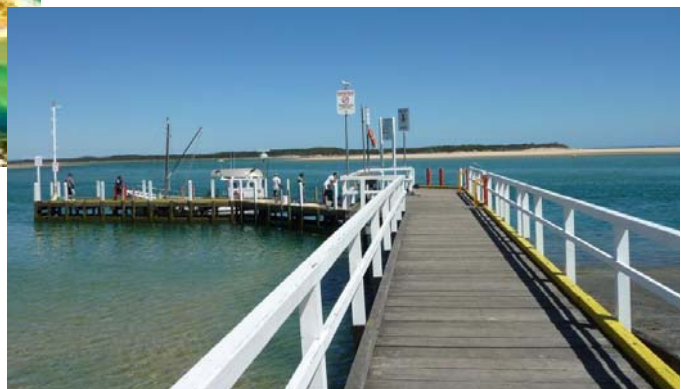
**Cancer  
Council**  
Victoria

**UNFORTUNATELY THIS EVENT  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

## LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND AT INVERLOCH



Peter Galvin has once again invited VSAG members to join him at his place at Inverloch for the long weekend in March.



**\*See details on pages 18-20 and  
contact Peter if you are interested  
0417 061 564**

**[pgalvin@au1.ibm.com](mailto:pgalvin@au1.ibm.com)**



# Fathoms

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

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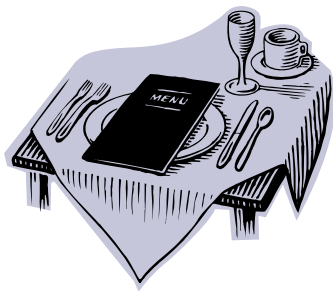
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# NOTICES

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



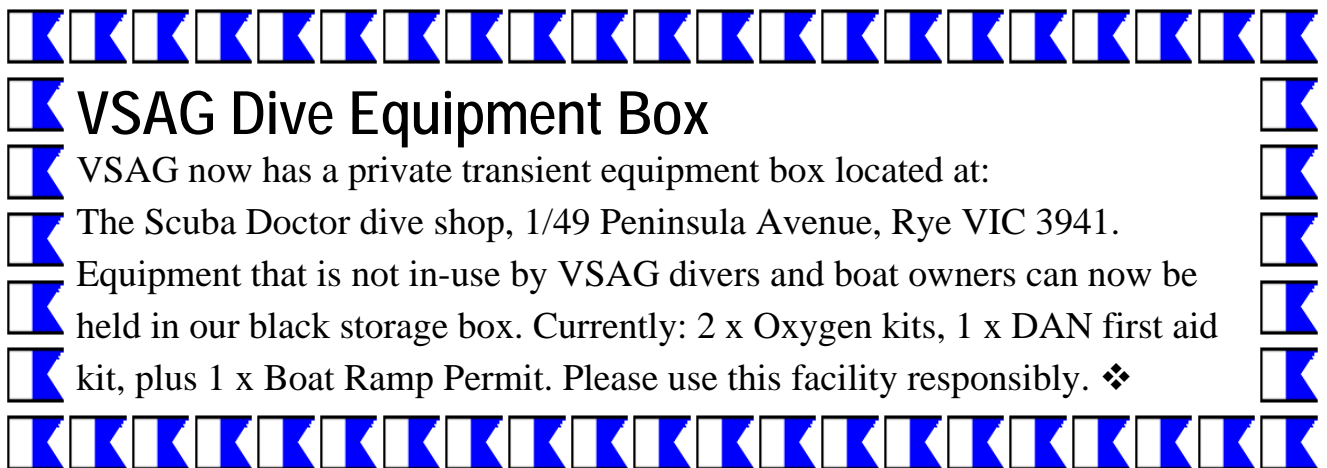
**VSAG Monthly meetings are at 8 p.m. on the  
3rd TUESDAY of each month at BELL'S HOTEL  
157 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE**

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](mailto:committee@vsag.org.au)

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Hi all,

On behalf of myself and the committee, I wanted to wish you and your families a happy and prosperous new year.

The club has ended the year today, just how we started it, with a fantastic dive. We had three boats and 8 divers out for a dive on The Hurricane, South Channel Fort and a Scallop drift. The conditions were excellent and there were smiles all around at the end of the day.

The club is in brilliant shape with a healthy bank balance, an active diving and social calendar, a growing membership and a passionate and committed committee.

Highlights from last year included Easter at The Prom, Queens Birthday at Queenscliff, The Blues Train, National

Geographic Live, Great White Shark at IMAX, The Ocean Film Festival, The Christmas Party, Byron Bay Dive Trip and, not forgetting the pinnacle of the year, the 60th Celebration. What a year .... and I didn't even mention the fabulous diving week in and week out!

Hopefully the stage is set for an even better 2015.

Thanks again for your continued membership and friendship.

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing tonight have a fantastic evening.

See you blowing bubbles soon,  
Ian.



# MARINE BIOLOGY FOR DIVERS

By Jan Watson

I'd like to make your dives and photos more enjoyable and instructive by helping you identify the common animals and plants you see on local dives.

## Names of Organisms

All known animals and plants are each given a name and published in the worldwide scientific literature so that they can then be identified by biologists. The local fish and chip shop is a good example of confusion of colloquial names - depending on which State you are in a butterfish in Victoria may be called a mullo way or a jewfish in NSW or SA. The scientific name of this fish, *Argyrosomus holopidotus* allows marine biologists anywhere to know exactly what it is we are talking about. But don't try it in the fish and chip shop!

Scientific names are usually derived from ancient Latin or Greek roots which describe the organism and are in two parts: the first name (the generic name) is like a surname, followed by the second species name (our first name). It is often coined to describe some character of the species or where it was first found or the name of the person who found it (You never name

a species after yourself!). For example the genus name of the hydroid *Plumularia* (= plumose) *producta* (- highly productive) exactly describes a feathery hydroid you see growing on seagrass in local dives (that is, if you look carefully at seagrasses!). I named a hydroid found at Blairgowrie *Lobataria newtoni*, the genus name describes an important microscopic structure and the species after Andrew Newton who found it and showed it to me. The convention is to write scientific names in italics.

Animals and plants are grouped into hierarchical groups of related genera so for example, animals with backbones belong to the Kingdom Vertebrata and those lacking backbones to the Kingdom Invertebrata. The hydroid *Plumularia producta* is an invertebrate animal belonging to the Phylum Cnidaria, Class Hydrozoa and the Family Plumulariidae.

## Opisthobranchia

As many of you and I compulsively photograph our beautiful nudibranchs, I will start with these. Nudibranchs belong to the Phylum Mollusca, Class Opisthobranchia. They are cousins of sea shells (gastropods) and bivalves and are even



more closely related to the common garden slug. The term nudibranch describes their body lacking a protective shell.

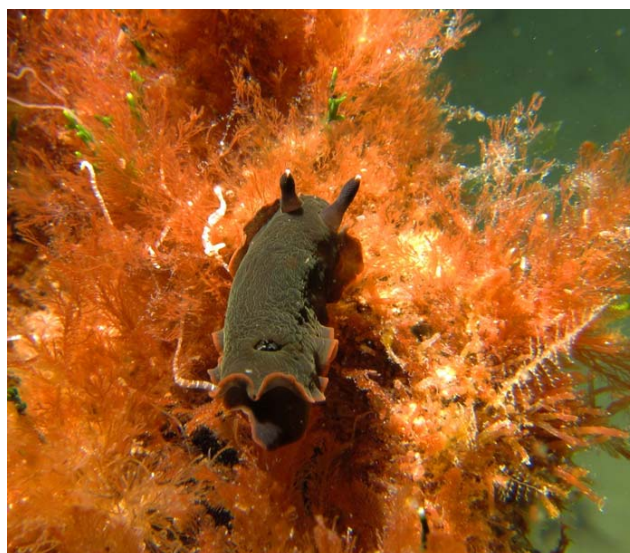
There are hundreds of species of nudibranchs, the larger ones are often being brightly coloured as a warning signal to predators that they are not good to eat. Some are large but many are only a few millimetres long and, although also often brightly coloured, are cryptic (they hide) and must be searched for among weed or other animals.

Slugs breathe through oxygen by water exchange through a set of feathery gills on their back. They feel the world around them with sensory rhinophores and eye-spots on the head and chew their food by means of grinding plates called a radula in the mouth. They are hermaphroditic and reproduce by laying twisted ribbons of many thousands of tiny eggs.

The larger nudibranchs we often see in the bay include the pink *Ceratosoma brevicaudatum* sometimes with bright blue spots. They seem to have a catholic

taste in food and are common in sheltered habitat in summer and autumn.

The black species *Chromodoris nigra* with an orange frill around the mantle appears in early summer around Clifton Springs (I've never got a good photo of it yet).



*Chromodoris nigra* Clifton Springs old jetty

The very large jelly-like *Pleurobranchia hilli* which eats ascidians and lays a large lacy white egg ribbon fixed to the bottom, common on the bottom at Blairgowrie in summer eats ascidians.



*Ceratosoma brevicaudatum* St Leonards pier



*Pleurobranchia hilli* Blairgowrie



*Elysia expansa* is a green slug with a white frill around the mantle, eats green algae on jetty piles in late summer and lays a bright yellow coiled egg ribbon.



*Elysia expansa* Clifton Springs old jetty

The large yellow and blue striped *Tambja verconis* which eats a blue bryozoan, and is often at St Leonards and Blairgowrie in winter.



Two *Tambja verconis* mating, St Leonards pier

The common slugs like those pictured can be identified from popular texts on marine biology. But we are lucky to have

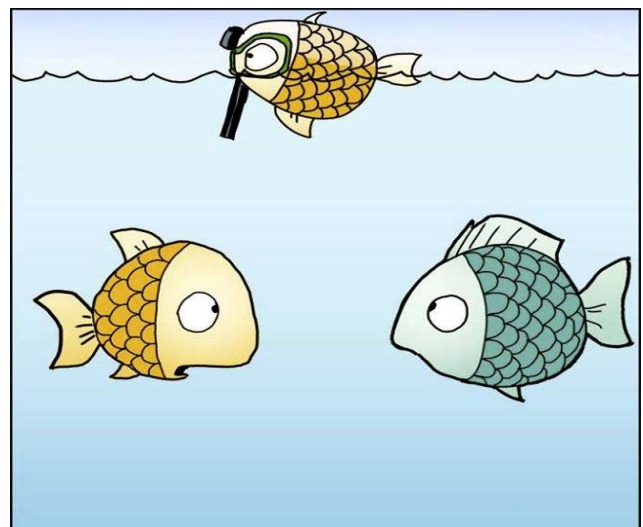
Bob Burn a world authority on nudibranchs, resident in Geelong. He is always happy to identify species from your photos.

Just send me your pictures, but it is important to provide locality, day and depth data, and we will try to identify them for you. ❖

Jan Watson  
[hydroid@bigpond.com](mailto:hydroid@bigpond.com)

*\*Editor's note:*

*We are very fortunate to have such an expert in our midst. A big thankyou to Jan for her kind offer. Please make use of her wealth of knowledge.*



"He says it's full of bizarre life"

Lic #: 32311

# SOUTH AFRICA

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Phone: 0400 087 327

## 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



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# 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](http://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](http://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

# MORE VSAG SOCIAL EVENTS

It's not too late to come along to this event. See details below for bookings & tickets.

**SAT 28 FEB 2015**  
McCLELLAND'S ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISING EVENT

## twilight jazz AT CRUDEN FARM



### McClelland's Annual Fundraising Event Twilight Jazz AT DAME ELISABETH MURDOCH'S CRUDEN FARM

Saturday 28 February 2015  
4.00pm to 8.00pm  
Enter via Cranhaven Road, Langwarrin  
MEL REF: 103 G6

#### FEATURING

mrs sippy jazz band featuring Pippa Wilson,  
Dukes of Debonaire, the Beckitt Brothers  
& The Frankston High School Senior  
Stage Band - Directed by Leon de Bruin

Bring your picnic basket, rug, table & chairs, sit back and enjoy the ambience and surrounds of the beautiful Cruden Farm garden and lakes.

Browse the gift stall or purchase a wine, soft drink, tea, coffee or gourmet sausage

#### TICKETS

##### \$20 pre-purchased

*Incl \$3 non-refundable booking fee*

Pre-purchase available up to 3pm on Friday 27 February

Ticket includes a free coffee at McClelland Cafe, valid 28 Feb - 31 March

##### \$25 on the day

*Only available at the gate*

##### Children under 12 are free

#### BOOKINGS

PH: 03 9789 1671

[www.mcclellandgallery.com](http://www.mcclellandgallery.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



We are planning to get tickets for this year's Ocean Film Festival. The event is on in Melbourne over two days on the 11th and 12th of March at two different venues. We have attended previously and it has proven to be a very good night.

We will be getting tickets for **Wednesday 11th March** at Crown from 18.30 to 21.30. Tickets are \$31 each, \$28 for Seniors and Concessions.

If you would like to join us for this great event then please can you let **Ian Scholey** know how many tickets you require by close on **Friday 21st February**. Tickets will be purchased on Saturday 22nd so if you decide to attend past this date you will need to obtain your own tickets.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Deep Sea Discovery Lecture Series

We will be getting some tickets for the Deep Sea Discovery Lecture series which is on at Scienceworks, Spotswood on **19th and 26th March**. There are two lectures and tickets can be bought for each date separately and include entry to *Deep Oceans*. The price is a very reasonable \$12 per lecture (\$10 Concessions). If you would like us to get tickets for you then please let **Ian Scholey** know by close on **Friday 20th February**. Ian will purchase tickets on Saturday 21st February. Details of the event can be found below.



Uncover the mysteries of the deep oceans in this lecture series for adults with museum scientists! As part of the *Deep Oceans* exhibition, we want to share with you some of the research work of our scientists. This special series includes an evening lecture, followed by a visit to *Deep Oceans*. Due to the nature of the lectures, this series is perfect for curious minds aged **18 years and over**. Snacks and drinks will be available to buy on the night.

### **Thursday 19 March: Discovering the Deep Sea**

What can deep sea creatures tell us about the history of their habitat? Has the Earth always had a deep sea? Sampling of the deep sea around Australia has barely begun: what is known and what are the research questions that will be investigated in coming sampling voyages? Dr Robin Wilson, Senior Curator Marine Invertebrates, will take you on a tour of the rare, strange and diverse life forms of the deep sea. Organisms from this remote habitat were only discovered about 150 years ago and marine scientists still have much to learn about deep sea life.

### **Thursday 26 March: What's new in deep sea research at Museum Victoria**

Have you ever thought about what lives on the seafloor around Australia? Deep, deep down, more than four kilometres under the waves? You are not alone: it's a new frontier for marine scientists as well. Australia doesn't have a fancy deep-sea submarine, but by combining museum collections, modern oceanographic observing systems, DNA laboratory analyses and some fancy maths, we can map where deep-sea animals occur, investigate their fascinating evolution, and discover their migration and dispersal behaviours.

Find out the about current research in deep sea fauna with Dr Tim O'Hara, Senior Curator, Marine Invertebrates.

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# LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND 2015 — DIVING AT INVERLOCH



Peter Galvin has once again generously offered his place at Inverloch for diving over the Labour Day Long Weekend. He

can accommodate quite a few and will probably have access to Jim Turner's place as well.

Key requirement is boats, so if any boat owners are keen please let Peter know.

Divers, if you are interested, also please let Peter know so he can work out if we need additional accommodation. This will be weather dependent of course.

**Address:** 75 The Esplanade, Inverloch (If that doesn't work on your GPS, try 75 Esplanade, Inverloch).

**Food:** Peter will purchase milk, margarine, cheese & biscuits, tea, coffee, bread, breakfast cereals, fruit and get the people staying at his place to put in to cover the incidentals and others while you are there.

We tend to BBQ most nights and may also order take away or go to a local restaurant. If you have any special dietary needs then please make your own arrangements, but also let Peter know so he can alter catering arrangements.

## **What you need to bring:**

- There are lots of fridge and freezer spaces, pots for cooking crays, hanging space for gear.
- Sheets & pillow cases or sleeping bags (There are plenty of doonas).
- A few outdoor chairs would be appreciated as we may be a bit short.
- An Esky in case we get some crays, abalone or fish for you to take home.

## **Crayfish:**

We usually catch a few crays and will have some with dinner. But please be aware that it gets too hard to work out who has what cray so the way we usually split them is — a cray Nazi is appointed to count the crays and divers and work out how to split them up. We try to give every diver one cray each and if there are any left over then we allocate what is left over to divers who caught more than one cray.

## **Airfills:**

Inverloch has a "backyard" dive shop. Lex Thordecke at 26 Park St, who charges \$12 a fill. You need to get the tanks to him as early as possible as he does not have a storage bank, i.e. we will need to organise a delivery run basically as soon

as we get back from diving.

### **Boating from Inverloch:**

Inverloch has a double boat ramp and it is subject to tidal flow so can be a challenge to retrieve at full flow. We will be retrieving at near high tide so the tidal flows shouldn't be too bad. You can also "bounce" the boat along the jetty alongside the ramp. It is not as bad as it sounds - the boat can move along the jetty quite easily and without damage.

The bar at Inverloch is generally protected from the prevailing swells and if the swells on the bar look doubtful then there will definitely be too much swell to dive in, e.g. if there is more than a metre break on the bar, it's not worth going out. It may be an issue getting across it at low tide. But we have other options, such as Philip Island.

### **Diving from Inverloch:**

1) **Inverloch to Bunarong Marine Reserve** — there are several kilometres of shallow reef to the West between Inverloch and the Marine Reserve, with patches that are quite nice. We tend to dive here on the days when we can't go elsewhere as it does have some protection, but there are better locations.

2) **Bunarong Marine Reserve** — this runs along the coast from a few kilometres from Inverloch, almost to Cape Patterson. There are some quite spectacular dive locations within the reserve, with

lots of crayfish, fish life and interesting reefs. It tends to be shallow to a maximum of about 15 metres. There are some locations in the reserve that are a little sheltered, so it may be possible to dive there if conditions are not ideal.

### 3) **Harmers Haven and Cape Patterson**

— Harmers Haven is quite an extensive area of reef running from the western side of Cape Patterson for about 5 or 6 kms past the small town of Harmers Haven. There are quite spectacular patches of reef in here with good areas for crayfish. It tends to have fairly strong tidal flows so keep that in mind. The reef starts quite shallow and extends out to about 25 metres depth.

Cape Patterson tends to be fairly shallow and have strong tidal flows, but it is good for a snorkel. Harmers is about 15 km from Inverloch.

4) **Arch Rock** — is about 25 kms from Inverloch in a SE direction, a few kms short of Cape Liptrap. But unlike Liptrap it is all limestone reef and quite spectacular, although again fairly shallow. The fish life around the right bommies there is fantastic and it is brilliant for snorkelling but you have to work fairly hard to find crays there these days.

5) **Cody Banks** — is about 28 kms from Inverloch in a SW direction and it is about 20 kms offshore. This is quite a large area of patchy reef at about 30 metres depth. The fish life and visibility are

quite spectacular, but due to the distance offshore, it is quite difficult to get there. The tidal flow is surprisingly strong so you need to be quite careful.

### **Diving from Walkerville:**

Walkerville is about a 40 minute drive from Inverloch and the launch there is across the beach. If conditions



are ideal and forecast to stay ideal, then we could go to Wilsons Prom. We have even made it to the Glennies and back but it is very unusual to have the conditions good enough.

Cape Liptrap is only a few kms from Walkerville and it is all black basalt, interesting to see but not a favourite location.

### **Philip Island:**

Newhaven is about a 40 minute drive from Inverloch so that is a possibility as well.

### **General Information:**

Inverloch is about 20 minutes past the Phillip Island turn off on the Bass High-



way. It has a reasonable shopping centre with everything you should need, i.e. a supermarket, hotels, coffee shops, restaurants and take away food. It also has a boat repair centre. It is situated on Andersons Inlet which is a large tidal inlet.



There are surf beaches on the Western side of Inverloch and then extensive areas of rock pools, beach walks etc., along the Bunarong Marine Reserve a little further West.



### **Inverloch Jazz Festival:**

Each Labour Day long weekend Inverloch stages a Jazz Festival - so if you are into Jazz — this may be of interest. They have bands playing in the street and in the cafes and restaurants and it really is a great atmosphere.

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

**Please contact Peter Galvin ASAP to book your spot:**

**Mobile: 0417 061 564**

**Email: [pgalvin@au1.ibm.com](mailto:pgalvin@au1.ibm.com)**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**WINNER — NOVEMBER**



**Peter Beaumont — South Channel Fort**

**RUNNERS UP IN THE NOVEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION**



**2nd: Peter Beaumont —  
Blue Devil Fish on Tom's Reef**



**Three-way tie for 3rd:**

**Ian Scholey - Tassled Anglerfish**

**Phil Watson - Yabbie,  
Lake Jindabyne**

**Ian Scholey - Fish soup,  
Julien Rocks**





© Ian Scholey



## WINNER — DECEMBER



**Congratulations to Owen Green who took out first place in the December photo comp with a great close up of a Crayfish. Rather fitting considering how many Crays were grabbed in December.**

**Ian Scholey took out second and third with a couple of Blairgowrie shots.**

**A couple of honourable mentions also — some nice work from first time entrant and new member Herb MacKay with his Nudi shots and to Phil Watson for his selfie with a cuttlefish.**

RUNNERS UP IN THE DECEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION





HONOURABLE MENTIONS IN THE DECEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION



Herb Mackay







Dear Reef Watcher,

After 12 years as coordinator of the Victorian National Parks Association's Reef Watch program I'm packing up the snorkel and fins and moving to 'bluer waters'.



It has been a wonderful journey, filled with incredible discoveries that you have contributed to through the many hours spent surveying 'your patch' of reef along the Victorian coastline.

Together we have achieved so much for the marine environment and I have felt privileged to have been the first point of contact when you submitted your surveys, images of new or rare species or natural history events that had never been documented before.

We can all be proud of our achievements, including but not exhaustive:

- More than 24,000 species records from 126 locations, which, with the assistance

of Museum Victoria, will now be uploaded to the CSIRO's Atlas of Living Australia database.

- The successful running of ten Great Victorian Fish Counts involving hundreds of divers across the state that helped build greater awareness of our precious temperate marine species and reef habitats (a report will be completed in 2015).
- The confirmation of the Western Blue Groper in Victorian waters and the ultimate protection of both species.
- Two Victorian Coastal Council Awards for Innovation and Education.
- Successful partnerships with Museum Victoria, Parks Victoria, Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, Coastcare, Melbourne Aquarium and the diving industry, all of which supported and enriched the program immensely.

While I won't be continuing in this role, the journey of documenting and protecting our marine environment goes on and I encourage you to continue to report your discoveries and advocate for the protection of our unique and

precious marine environment.

Hope to see you at a reef somewhere in the future.

Best wishes,

Wendy Roberts

P.S. The VNPA is planning to continue the Reef Watch program and will review funding

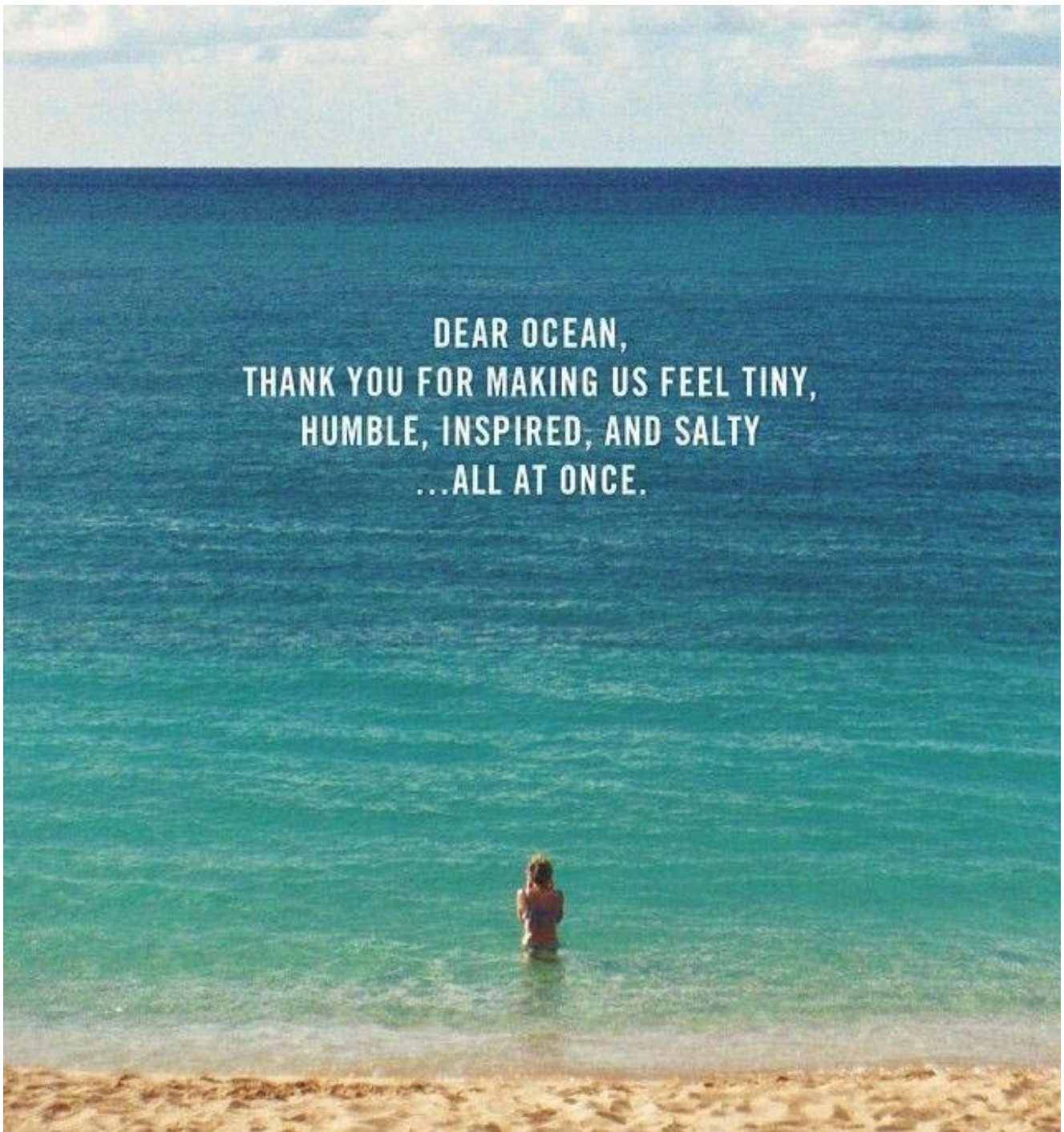
requirements in the new year. They'll let you know what 2015 holds for Reef Watch once this process is finished.

*Victorian National Parks Association & Reef Watch*

Phone: 03 9347 5188

Email: [vnpa@vnpa.org.au](mailto:vnpa@vnpa.org.au)

Website: <http://www.vnpa.org.au>





# DIVING THE WEB



## Nature's greatest artist?

One talented little pufferfish hopes to impress a female with his masterpiece.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=851829108170842>

## John Lawler's wok-cooked crayfish.

Filmed by Charlie Brincat at Cape Jaffa.

Crayfish spiced with garlic ginger and chilli served on a bed of rice flavoured with cardamon, onion, sesame and soy.



on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UZczUsYv44&feature=share>



## The wreck of HMS Scylla

Rob Kirk commented:

"Interesting to compare this to the ex-HMAS Canberra. This looks much more challenging and has a lot more original equipment, but then it also seems to be in a much calmer site."

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=868558983200931>

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# Dive Reports

## BARWON HEADS

Sunday 21st December  
2014

Report & photos by Ian Scholey

Crews for the day were:

**Signature One** – John Lawler, Owen Green, Simon Salkin and Ian Scholey



**Signature Two** – David Geekie, Michael Ngai and Denys Smerchanski



**Barcrusher** – David Politakis, Tony Hood, Walter Medanbach and a guest diver Jeremy.

**Waverider** – John Mills and Priya Cardinaletti



**Stroker** – Peter Galvin, Jim Turner, David Flew and guest diver Angus Stuart-Adams



The weather forecast was looking excellent for diving and reports on visibility were shouting 20-30m outside so I wasn't surprised when DC Peter Galvin

announced we had five boats and seventeen divers going out this week. With the holiday crowds building up we arranged an early meet at Sorrento and with everyone assembled the talk was of the best spots for Crayfish.

We decided that Barwon Heads would be a good location, so our little flotilla headed out of The Heads, turned right, and had a pretty smooth run up the coast.

With either a masterly piece of planning or more likely a complete fluke, David Geekie and the Signature Two crew were exiting the Barwon River as the first of our Sorrento boats arrived at Chimney Rock.



I was on Signature One with JL, Owen Green and Simon Salkin and as usual I had my camera. So while Peter Galvin and the Stroker crew headed off to find more likely Crayfish territory closer in, David Geekie dropped a shot and the other boats did the first dive on Chimney Rock.

On Signature One JL took us through the



new buddy check procedure which is a great enhancement to our safety procedures. Confident we were in good shape to dive, Simon and I rolled over the side and headed for the shot. Heading down the shot I was a little disappointed with the visibility. The previous week had been exceptional at Phillip Island and even though it was a good 20m it just wasn't as good as I was expecting.



The shot was a good one and Simon and I were soon exploring the spectacular reef formations. There were plenty of fish about including a big school of Trevally who circled a few times before disappearing into the blue.

At this time of year I carry a catch bag as



well as a camera and I was taking a good look under the ledges although without even a distant sighting. It appeared that Chimney Rock had already been picked clean. There were plenty around last time I dived it.



With lots of other divers in the water, we inevitably bumped into more VSAGers coming from the other direction, exchanging waves as we passed by. With our agreed bottom time fast approaching, I shot my SMB to the surface and we started our ascent.

As we broke the surface JL and Signature One were right there and we were soon back on board and being quizzed over the Crayfish situation. It didn't take long for Owen and JL to opt for a different site so, after a quick radio call to the other boats, I steered Signature One towards shore while JL and Owen kitted up.

With the depth on the sounder showing 15m, some likely looking territory came into view so over the side went the shot line. We agreed that if the territory was

n't up to scratch then the divers would call the dive quickly and return to the surface so we could have another go at hitting the sweet spot.

With our divers in the water it soon became obvious they were not going to surface so I broke out the flask of tea and sat back and enjoyed the day. Unfortunately for Simon, he was feeling a little sea sick and politely declined my offer of a slice of Carrot Cake before deciding to feed the fish. I was sympathetic obviously, it's not nice being sea sick and I even tried to keep the nose into the swell for him.



You can always tell if JL has a bag full of Crayfish when he hits the surface and today his face was all smiles. Dive buddy, Owen was in the game as well with the half time score standing at 2-1 JL. As usual the ones that got away were a hot topic on the boat and we agreed that with unfinished business down below we should stay on this site for second dives.



The other boats were scattered in the same vicinity and all reported similar luck with Crays a-plenty all round.

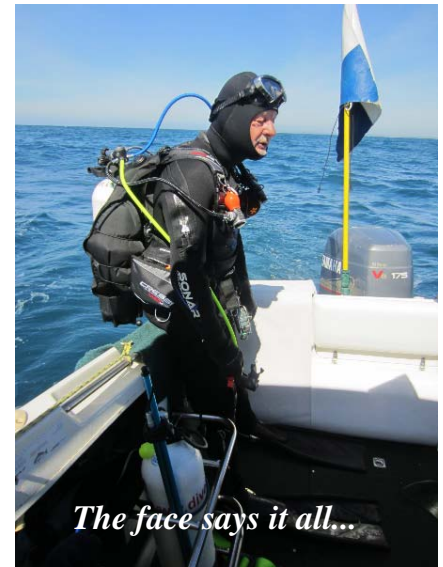
Although I carry a catch bag sometimes, I am not really a hunter gatherer at heart. I prefer to take the camera instead. It was the Sunday before Christmas last year that I caught my first ever Crayfish so I figured that history could repeat itself and decided to give it a red hot go on the second dive. JL dropped us some 20m from the shot line and Simon and I descended straight down and hit the sea bed in front of a likely looking ledge. Peering underneath I was immediately face to face with a nice looking Crayfish.

Keeping my hand very still I let it edge closer and closer before perfectly timing my grab – yeah right, I wish. As usual my Cray catching attempt was pathetic and the little bugger shot to the back of the ledge and laughed at me holding a handful of feeler in the annoying way that they do.

The territory was really good and we continued to hunt from ledge to ledge without much luck. With our air running low I was about to pop the SMB up and give up when I spotted a monster Cray out in the open. Edging closer I spooked it and off it shot under a nearby ledge. This time though it chose the wrong ledge and with nowhere for it to go, I was able to move a rock and grab it from the side. I have to admit it feels good when

you make the catch and I almost start to understand why you Cray bashers love it so much. As I handed the catch bag up to JL he managed a huge smile and a well done – even though deep down

I know he was thinking “What is Scholey doing with one of my Crayfish?”



*The face says it all...*



*A very happy Ian with his catch*

Owen was the last man back on board with a tiny little Crayfish in his bag. Optimistically he measured it but no matter how many times he did it, he couldn't get it to grow and the Crayfish was duly re-



*Surely it's big enough now, JL?*

turned to where it had come from and we headed back to Sorrento.

All the boats reported good numbers of Crayfish liberated so I guess everyone is eating well this Christmas. ❖

## GEORGE KERMODE AND PYRAMID ROCK

*Saturday 27th December  
2014*

*by John Mills. Photos by John Mills &  
Ian Scholey*

This was our first holiday season since getting the RIB. I needed to return to work on January 2<sup>nd</sup> so we decided to stay at home and participate in local diving. We did the traditional pre-Christmas Cray dive around the Barwon Heads area. There was a good turn out but alas I came home crayless.

We did a short venture out into the bay and got scallops to take along to the family for the Christmas feast. I will rethink this for next year as I did not realise it would take nearly 4 hours to shuck and clean 200 Scallops.

The next adventure was a dive on the George Kermode and possibly Pyramid Rock on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>. We were a bit

weary after all the Christmas stuff, but I thought there would be less traffic and boat ramp congestion at Newhaven than on the Peninsula.

I packed the boat the night before and after an early start we headed off to Newhaven at about 7:00am. We arrived and headed for the Bakery to grab a pie for Breakfast. I ran into David Geekie as I was leaving.

There was a good turnout at the ramp with Toucan, Barcrusher, Signature 2 and our RIB (Waverider) making up the fleet. There were not many parking spots left. Priya got one of the last ones after launching.

Ian was a little worried that the wind was a little stronger than predicted, so it was decided to punch out to the Kermode and see what the conditions were like. There was a little bit of swell as we rounded Cape Woolamai. We all arrived at the site and Toucan was anchored on the wreck.



*Peter Beaumont at the helm of Toucan*



I teamed up with Benita off Barcrusher and we had a good dive exploring the inside of the wreck. There were some big schools of fish sheltering from the surge. We surfaced and Priya picked me up.



*Benita McDonough, John Lawler & David Politakis on Barcrusher*

The plan for the next dive was for Priya to drop in with David from Barcrusher on the wreck, then go off looking for crays. Peter was going to pull the anchor up and head off to Pyramid Rock about ten minutes after they dropped in. That was fine. I put the music on the trusty iPad



and followed the bubbles until the divers surfaced.

Priya was keen to give me the catch bag and I noticed that there was a medium cray in it. After getting her aboard I asked if she had caught it. She had spotted it and David got it for her. Because she spotted it, he let her keep it (Thanks David). She informed me that “I am good at spotting the crays, it’s a shame that you are hopeless at catching them”.

Once the divers were retrieved we motored over to Pyramid Rock and in no time I was geared up and jumped in with Benita again. We swam through the ledges and weed. I was checking the holes and peering through the weed looking for feelers.

About twenty minutes into the dive I peeked into a hole through the weed and saw a set of feelers and knuckles. It was a good size Cray. It kind of moved forward a little and I manoeuvred my hand over the top of it. This is the tricky bit as when they sense you they generally disappear down the hole. I made my move and expected my hand to close in on itself. To my surprise I had him by the knuckles and the top of the carapace. I squeezed tighter and could feel the spines through my glove. He tried to go back down the hole but I wasn’t letting go.

Now I had hold of this thing, how was I

going to pull it? I heard Priya's voice in my head saying "push him in a little bit and pull to ease him out" as this was the advice the boys had given her over the years. I used this technique and got him out.

This was probably the biggest Cray I had pulled. With my heart pounding and sucking on the tank, I needed to put it in the catch bag. The next problem was getting it in the bag as there is a little clip that keeps it together, I was struggling with this with my left hand and Benita saw my predicament and helped me open it. I couldn't wait to get back to the boat and hand Priya the bag and show her how "hopeless I was at catching Crays". After doing the mandatory safety stop I surfaced and handed her the bag. She felt



*John Mills with his catch of the day*

the weight and looked in and said "That's massive, did you catch it" a simple "Yep" was the only answer required.

Priya dropped in with JL and David from Barcrusher as the official Cray spotter. Again I cranked up the music and followed their bubbles. JL surfaced first and I went over to see if he was OK and radioed Barcrusher to let them know their divers were surfacing. Priya arrived and gave me the catch bag. It was heavy again. However this time we were only minding a Cray for JL.

Once everyone was on board we sorted out the Crays and headed back to the ramp. As I expected it was quite busy so I dropped Priya off at the Jetty and hung around out the back of the ramp whilst she backed the trailer in the water and I drove the boat on it.

Once we had packed up, we headed to San Remo to catch up with the others for coffee. It was busy as there was a queue of cars crossing the bridge. We had trouble parking the boat and the others had finished their coffee so we decided to head for home. There was a 20 km queue of cars heading onto Phillip Island. We decided that after such a great day and bagging the first Cray for the RIB that we would not go out from Sorrento the next day as I suspected that the traffic and Boat Ramp congestion would have been horrendous down at the Peninsula. ❖



# *SAME DIVE DAY FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE*

*Saturday 27th December  
2014*

*Report & photos by Ian Scholey*

**On Toucan** - Peter Beaumont and Ian Scholey

**On Signature Two** - David Geekie, Denys Smerchanski, Tony Hood and Denise Holmes

**On Barcrusher** - David Politakis, John Lawler, Benita McDonough, Peter Altis and Andrew Qusted

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

The forecast as usual, was all over the place in the days running up to the dive, but the closer we got to the day, the better the conditions and the more boats that became available. In the end it was four boat loads of VSAGers who headed out of Newhaven in perfect conditions.

The dive plan was loose as we wanted to see what conditions were like as we rounded Cape Woolamai. Toucan was the first boat around the headland and after a round of radio calls we were pushing on towards the George Kermode for dive number one. I'm always excited to



*Signature Two  
& Waverunner at  
Newhaven Jetty*

dive the Kermode as it is always packed full of life and has plenty of accessible areas to explore.

With Toucan safely anchored and the other boats arriving, Peter Beaumont and I headed down the line to find the anchor sitting squarely on top of the wreck. Peter moved the anchor off the wreck and up-current and we began to explore. Passing the dredging machinery we squeezed inside the wreck and found it absolutely stuffed full of long-finned Pike. Surrounded by hundreds of fish and with the light streaming into the wreck, it was a magical feeling floating neutrally buoyant taking in the surroundings.



*Long finned Pike on The Kermode*

As we continued to explore inside the wreck, Peter found a Blue Devil Fish near the boilers but it was skittish and disappeared out of view quickly. We were escorted inside by a pair of Southern Sea Carp who kept disappearing and the reappearing as if keeping a good eye on us. Exiting the wreck on the opposite side we continued to circle the outside of the wreck, passing the rest of the first group of divers as we returned back to the anchor line for our ascent.

As Peter started his ascent I continued to snap photographs in the vicinity of the anchor. Here I found a Sergeant Baker which I haven't seen in Victorian waters before but have seen many times in Sydney. I was to find another one the following day on Tom's Reef so clearly they are not uncommon.



*Sergeant Baker on The George Kermode*

With most divers back on boats we pulled the anchor up and headed off to Pyramid Rock for our second dive. Not having dived the site before, Peter and I decided to keep the boat live and split up, each diving solo so that we could explore as much territory as possible. I dropped

Peter into 16m on the eastern side of the Rock and he headed North following the edge of the reef. By the time Peter's SMB broke the surface, the other boats were on site and selecting their dive sites.

Signature Two was targeting Crack Cave to the south, while the other boats dropped divers on the southern end of the headland with a plan to head north on the eastern side of the reef.



*Denise Holmes, David Geekie, Denys Smerchanski & Tony Hood on Signature Two*

With Peter safely back on board, I readied myself and was dropped to the south of the headland in about 20m. I hit the bottom and under the first ledge I came to I found a decent sized Crayfish. I'm an opportunist rather than a basher but this was too good an opportunity to pass up, so placing my camera out of harm's way, I went to work. After a bit of a struggle and feeling a bit puffed, I finally got the Cray out of it's hole and safely inside my catch bag. I continued to explore the area bumping into 3 divers from Barcrusher who huddled together for a photograph.





Sadly this was not the day for wide angle photography with visibility down and the resulting photograph was ruined by back scatter. Heading north into shallower water, I sent my SMB to the surface and began a leisurely ascent.

Pyramid Rock proved to be good Crayfish territory with plenty on board the other boats.



Back at Newhaven we were greeted with a parking ticket for being parked on the wrong side of the road but even that wasn't going to spoil an excellent day's diving. With all boats back on dry land, we headed off to San Remo for coffee before heading home. ❖



*John Mills & Benita McDonough doing their safety stop*

# TOM'S REEF

*Sunday 28th December 2014*

*Report & photos by Ian Scholey*

On **Barcrusher** - David Politakis, Ian Scholey & Peter Beaumont

On **Karingal** - David Flew, Trevor Williams, Stephen Vajda, Simon Salkin and Tim Forster

Another day, another dive and this time our crews split into two with Barcrusher launching at Sorrento and Karingal at Mordialloc.

I was down south and after a brilliant day's diving the previous day, was expecting more of the same. Today was supposed to be the pick of the weekend and although the bay was calm and The Rip OK, we found a 2-3m swell outside. With Barcrusher handling the swell well

under the expert skippering of David Politakis we headed east to Tom's Reef.

Last time we were here I had dived with David and just as we were running low on air we had found a very nice looking piece of reef which we had marked for future reference. So it was that spot where our shot was dispatched. Heading down the shot line, it was clear that conditions were not great. The visibility wasn't great and even at 24m the surge was extreme.

Giving up early on photography, we did our best to get out of the surge and explore the reef. We did find plenty to see but the surge was kicking up so much sand it really wasn't worth trying much with the cameras. We touched out the conditions to the point of deco looming before shooting the SMB and heading to the surface.



With David in mind, Peter had moved the shot line to a spot in front of a good sized Crayfish. David headed straight down and grabbed that one before heading off to complete his bag allowance with ease.

Peter and I were keen for a second dive despite the conditions so we dived the

same spot for our second dive but headed in a different direction.



Today was not one of the best due to the conditions underneath but enjoyable none the less and David seemed happy with his Crays.



Back at the boat ramp at 12.30 we were expecting an early finish. However this was the Holiday Peninsula at it's worst and it took us nearly an hour to get the boat out of the water with trailers backing up to the top car park.

The reports from Karingal were of poor visibility but the crew enjoyed their day anyway. They started at Ricketts Point and finished at Phil's Reef. ❖



# *THE HURRICANE, SOUTH CHANNEL FORT & SCALLOP DRIFT*

*Wednesday, 31st  
December 2014*

*Report by Ian Scholey. Photos John  
Lawler & Ian Scholey*

On **Sea Eagle** - Ian Scholey and Angus  
Stuart-Adams

On **Toucan** - Peter Beaumont and Denys  
Smerchanski

On **Signature One** - John Lawler, Benita  
McDonough, Graham Ellis and Claire  
Cooper

With the peninsula crowded and New  
Year's celebrations looming, we met at  
Rye boat ramp early for our dive today.  
The bay was beautifully flat and calm  
and I was surprised to find the boat ramp  
quiet. We soon had gear stowed and the  
boats in the water.

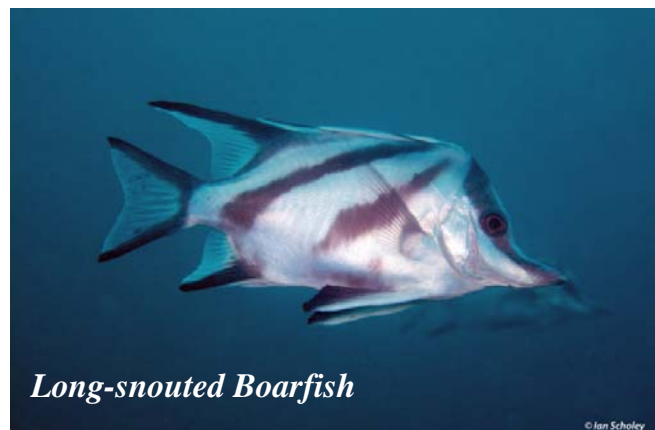
As we exited the channel and swung right  
towards the Hurricane, we spotted a pod  
of Dolphins not more than 500m off the  
end of Rye Pier. We stopped briefly to  
enjoy them before zipping along the  
coast and arriving on the dive site.

With Sea Eagle and Toucan anchored

and Signature One live, the divers were  
quickly kitting up and splashing in. Roll-  
ing over the side of Sea Eagle, Angus and  
I quickly kicked to the anchor line  
fighting an inbound current. The anchor  
sat directly on top of the wreck so needed  
only slight adjustment before we headed  
off towards the bow section.



As usual the fish life was awesome with  
large schools of Long-finned pike and  
Pinkies lurking between the bow and the  
main section of the wreck. Circling the  
bow section were two Long-snouted  
Boarfish and underneath were half a doz-  
en sleeping Stingarees and an assortment  
of Leatherjackets, Cowfish and Perch.



Finishing with the bow, Angus and I took a leisurely tour of the wreck, bumping into Benita and Claire towards the stern. With the current still noticeable we ducked behind the wreck as much as possible. After a quick inspection of the pyramid shaped monument we kicked against the current to the starboard side of the wreck and slowly headed back towards the bow.

As we approached the anchor line we found a Cuttlefish and I took a snap or two. Seeing Peter Beaumont off in the distance I swam over and beckoned him over to where the Cuttlefish was before heading back to the anchor. I moved the anchor onto the sand and Angus and I headed back to the surface, avoiding the temptation of grabbing the anchor rope so as not to drag the anchor back onto the wreck.

After everyone had completed their dives the boats split with the two RIBs heading to South Channel Fort to get out of the current and Signature One opting for a Scallop drift. Angus had completed his boat license earlier in the week so he took the controls of Sea Eagle and, dodging the other boat traffic, steered us to South Channel Fort across the shipping lane.

With the RIBs safely tied up alongside the jetty, we dropped over the side to find excellent conditions. Slack water had arrived and we were able to explore a

much wider area than normal at the fort. We started by heading to the end of the jetty and turning right before turning 180 degrees and heading back under the jetty. Here we found Peter Beaumont who returned the earlier favour and pointed out a Cuttlefish hiding under a fallen plank.



*Fingernail- sized Sea Hare at The South Channel Fort*

The light was sensational with the whole dive site bathed in sun rays and there were plenty of fish around. We followed the reef line close to the seabed finding several of the Blue and Yellow Tambja verconis Nudibranchs as we went.



With tanks half full, we turned around and decreased our depth as we followed



the reef back around. In the shallows we found a second Cuttlefish, this one brilliantly camouflaged against the weed. Again we stopped to take a few photographs before finishing our dive back under the jetty.



Back on the boat, I called Signature One before heading back to the ramp. With perfect coordination, their divers were just exiting the water so we all arrived back at the same time.

Our early start was complemented by an early finish and despite a few issues dealing with sand on the boat ramp we were soon back in the car park unloading boats before heading off to celebrate the New Year or in the case of the Signature One crew to Shuck Scallops. ❖



# AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND DIVING

## BLAIRGOWRIE SHORE DIVE

Friday 23rd  
January, 2015

*Report & photos by Ian Scholey*

A good start to the long weekend with a shore dive at Blairgowrie. Just three divers - myself, Peter Beaumont and Brendan Mifsud.



We found a couple of Tasselled Anglerfish, a big ray was swimming around, and to finish up, a jellyfish with a juvenile Leatherjacket having taken up residence inside. The Anglerfish photographs

illustrate just how hard they can be to see. ❖



*You don't often see these guys swimming. I spooked this one on a pylon and it swam out into the current.*



*It then kept swimming straight at me - I think it thought I was a pylon (Clearly I need to shed a few lb's).*

# FLINDERS PIER

*Sunday, 25th  
January 2015*

*Report by John Lawler. Photos John Lawler & Ian Scholey*



**Who:** L-R - Canadian Fire Fighter guest, Vaughan Raymond, Ian Scholey, Graham Ellis and John Lawler.

Vaughan is part of a C13 Hercules fire-fighting unit and was here for a very short time, with only the afternoon of 25th January to follow up on his desire to find and film weedy sea dragons.

Ian, Graham and myself offered to assist this man by arranging ferry collection, (Vaughan was staying in Geelong) tanks, weight belts and advice.

We met at Flinders Pier at 1pm, kitted



up and entered from the low landing at a rising low tide. The conditions were quite good! Viz around 10 mtrs and not too much swell.

Within a few minutes we found our first (of many) weedy sea dragons. Vaughan was ecstatic!!! For over the next hour or so it was cameras overworked, capturing these wonderful species...at one stage, three almost together...wonderful sight.



*Vaughan Raymond -  
Mission accomplished!*

The dive was very relaxed and apart from the weedy sea dragons, the normal species of fish life was there to greet us.



Back at the low landing, the tide was so high it was almost a step up to exit the water..so easy. Ian generally walks it out of these waters so he followed his prac-

tice and near the shore met a prospective member who had been at the January meeting. Not diving but snorkelling... small world!



A final chat over hot chips and a race back into the crazy traffic to get our happy Canadian diver back to the ferry...a very fine day!

Since that day Vaughan has become a "friend" of VSAG through Facebook...looks like we plan to continue our new friendship. ❖

*\*After the weekend, Vaughan posted a video on Facebook - "Thought you'd like to see a dive near our home in Port Alberni, BC, Canada. It's called Renate's Reef. Come on up and I'll take you there."*



<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10152944148175342>

*Same dive — Report and photo by Ian Scholey*

Wow, what a difference a week makes! The vis was fantastic at Flinders today. We had a special guest with us, Vaughn Raymond, who is in Australia for 10 days supporting a fire fighting C130 Hercules based over at Avalon. Vaughn is from Canada and a keen diver. Vaughn contacted us to ask if we could help him with a dive while he's here and we decided we should sort him out as he is here doing such fantastic work for all Victorians. The Weedy Sea Dragons made up for a cancelled boat dive again.

Anyone know what the brick work is all about? ❖



# VERY FAST DRIFT DIVE & POPE'S EYE

*Monday, 26th  
January 2015*

*Report by John Lawler.*

*Photos by Ian Scholey.*

**2Dive4:** Ross Walker, Peter Beaumont, Andrew Meeks, Rob Kirk, Meg Johnson and Herb MacKay

**Signature Two:** David James Geekie, Pam Dagley, Denys Smerchanskyi, and Tony Hood

**Signature One:** John Lawler, Ian Scholey, David Flew, Steve Vajda and Ricky Pritchard

**Conditions:** Mostly warm and sunny. Light Southerly wind.

Well, the plan to get outside for a wreck dive was dashed by the swells at the rip.

Drift diving was next up and most divers splashed in. The current was raging and after divers getting in around the light-houses at Queenscliff, they surfaced around Boarfish Reef!

Conditions in this fast ebb were very poor, but none the less there were no grumbles.



David and his crew ventured back to Queenscliff for a coffee break and other necessities and we didn't have their company for the rest of the day.

Without any doubt, Pope's Eye is a wonderful place to dive. We dropped in inside the eye and drifted around the east side, with the ebb tidal flow into the lee of the South end.



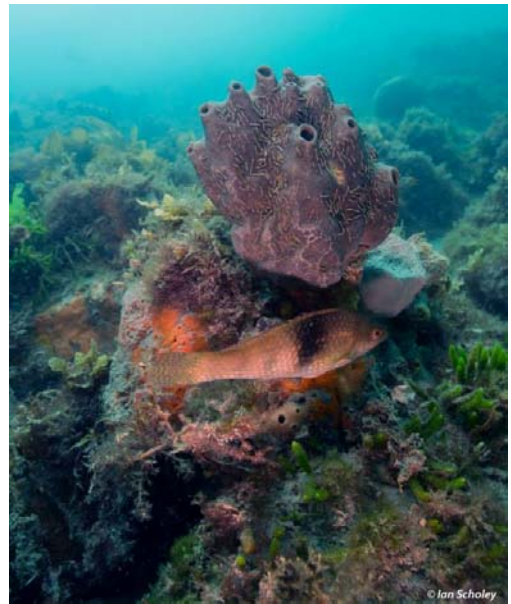
Fish seem to be used to divers as they seem friendly and yet still curious about divers. It probably comes down to the place being a marine reserve, so no danger to the fish life.



With our divers all back on board we headed home and left Ross to drop the second round of divers in.



Another fine, safe, happy VSAG dive day! ❖



## DIVE SNIPPETS

### *Blairgowrie Night Dive*

*Friday, 5th December  
2014*

*by Ian Scholey*

Just the hard-core of Peter Beaumont and myself braved the weather and dived last night. It seems to be slug love-in time at the moment with clusters of Red Netted Chromodoris and Tambja Verconis and plenty of egg laying going on. I seem to be finding loads of Velvetfish as well at the moment and as usual Peter found a Tassled Anglerfish. In common with other recent dive reports I saw a small Kingfish who came in and buzzed my lights a couple of times but was too fast for a picture. ❖



### *Portsea Pier*

*Sunday, 7th December  
2014*

*by Ian Scholey*

The weather may have been horrible but nothing was getting in the way of a dive today. That's 128 dives for the year so far for me and this was a good one. I set out to appreciate the smaller things in life but ended up seeing the biggest Stargazer I have ever seen. Check out some of the rocks around it to get the scale, it was a monster.



As for the little stuff, pink was the colour of the day for slugs with a couple of varieties. As at Blairgowrie on Friday Tambja verconis nudis were everywhere and judging by the amount of egg laying there will be even more soon. ❖





# Blairgowrie Night Dive

Friday, 12th December  
2014

by Ian Scholey

Three divers for the weekly evening splash. The usual suspects of myself and Peter Beaumont were joined by Benita McDonough. For me the dive started slow and then exploded into life with a very active Blue ringed Octopus....  
....and an end of dive Tassled Anglerfish. This one was just a baby and in a different spot to where we have been finding them lately. He was a little camera shy and ended up going for a swim which is unusual. ❖



# The Pinnacle & Cape Woolami

Sunday, 14th December  
2014

by Ian Scholey

With the weather marginal, we decided to go for it anyway and we were rewarded with an excellent day's diving. Some may say it was an inspired decision from the DC to head to Phillip Island.



We had two boats out. On Toucan were Peter Beaumont and myself.



On Signature One were John Lawler, Simone Lee, Andrew Quested, Owen Green and Paul Owen.

On the Pinnacle the vis was 20m plus and back at Cape Woolamai, the crew on Signature 1 had something of a Crayfish extravaganza. ❖



## SANDRINGHAM *Christmas morning* 2014

by David Reinhard



I joined Phil and others on a Xmas morning dive at Sandringham. Nice dive and lots of fun. I managed to keep a Santa hat on my head throughout the dive.

Michael Mallis scavenged a number plate and a dozen golf balls. ❖



*Doesn't everyone carry their Diver's Licence with them when they go diving?*





# RICKETT'S POINT

Saturday 27th December  
2014

by David Reinhard

Had a great dive at Rickett's Point this morning. Lots of fish including a massive school of large salmon, lots of snapper, a few Port Jackson sharks, goat fish, zebra fish, dusky morwong etc.



Of course I decided to put a close-up lens on my camera before the dive and then encountered heaps of larger fish! I had a lens on my camera more suited to shrimp only a few centimetres long. Nevertheless I made do and got a few fish closeups like this snapper portrait.



# QUIET CORNER

Saturday 3rd January  
2015

by David Reinhard

The highlight of my dive this morning at Quiet Corner, Beaumaris was a pipefish. I have rarely seen them in the Rickett's Point Marine Sanctuary and it was the first time I have seen one at this particular site. Of course I had a wide angle lens on, when I needed a macro lens so these shots are crops of the originals. This site is great for colourful ledges so I have thrown in a photo of a moonlighter under a ledge.





# *THE HURRICANE & ROSEBUD REEF Sunday, 4th January 2015*

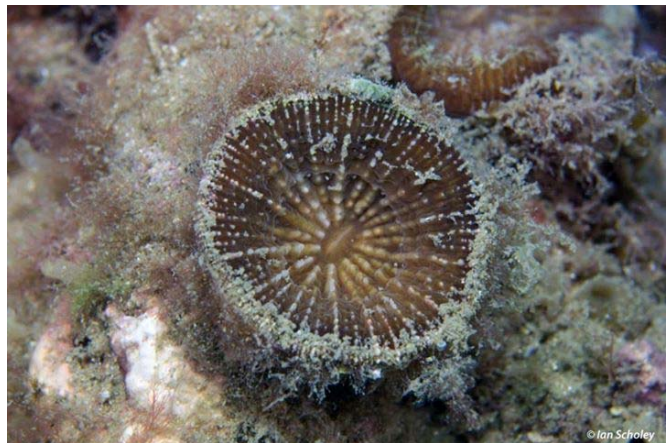
*by Ian Scholey*

We almost cancelled the dive today with the 25 Knot SSW forecast. But we decided on a glass half full approach and went for it. As it happens, conditions were perfectly OK tucked close into shore on Rosebud Reef and as the wind eased we were also able to get further out and dive The Hurricane.

Two boats were out today:

On **Sea Eagle** — Myself and Peter Beaumont.

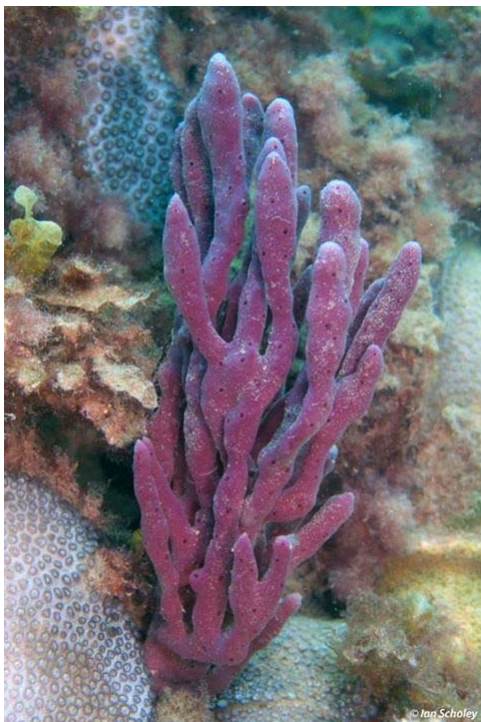
On **Signature One** — John Lawler, Benita McDonough, Andrew Meeks and prospective new member Herb Mackay. ❖



# *PHILLIP ISLAND 3rd & 4th January 2015*

*by Peter Galvin*

Had couple of quite good day's diving at Philip Island with Leo Maybus, Richard Day (Get Under), Len Joyce, Andrew Rawlings and Dave Simpson.





Although the wind on Saturday was horrendous it was mostly offshore and once we found a sheltered spot the diving was excellent, zero swell, good visibility and lots of critters. Underwater was quite a contrast to the turmoil above (temperature and wind). ❖

## *LINLEY POINT, MORNINGTON Sunday, 11th January 2015*

*by David Reinhard*

Some shots from Linley Point, Mornington. A reasonable size cuttlefish was the highlight of the day. A very impressive dive — it is over 20 years since I last dived there and it certainly won't be that long till I dive there again! ❖



## *BRIGHTON Monday, 12th January 2015*

*by David Reinhard*

This morning I revisited a spot in Brighton that used to be one of my favourite dives. It would be a few years since I last did it and it more than lived up to my expectations.

Soon after I hit the water I had many small snapper swimming around me. Then a school of salmon started swimming around me at great speed. To top it off a school of trevally cruised through as well. Then from amongst the snapper emerged probably the largest squid I have seen underwater.

I continued on to a little spot I call 'Fish Rocks' to find a wide variety of species including moonlighters, magpie perch, leatherjackets, hula fish, small rays, goat fish, schools of zebra fish, flathead, dusky morwong, and of course the ever present schools of snapper.

An eagle ray towards the end of the dive topped things off.

I don't know how well this video will come out. I expect the quality will be poor but it may give some idea of the fish life.



<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=700040696770265>

I call this location "Dave's Secret". I don't know anyone else that dives here. So I'm keeping it to myself! Ha! ❖

## *FLINDERS PIER Sunday, 18th January 2015*

*by Ian Scholey*

With that south-wester blowing this morning we had to cancel our planned boat dives. So a quick Plan B was concocted and we headed to Flinders Pier.

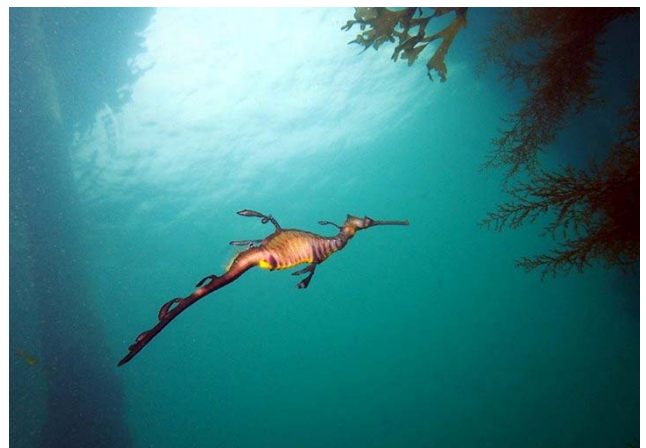
Unfortunately the conditions there were a bit average to say the least. We endured the surge and awful visibility but it was-

n't much good for the photographers today.

The die hard divers today were: Myself, Peter Beaumont, John Lawler, Graham Ellis, David Reinhard and Benita McDonough.

*... and from David Reinhard...*

A couple of weedy seadragon shots from this morning's Flinders Pier dive. Unfortunately the water was pretty dirty so most of my shots are spoiled by backscatter.



I have also thrown in a nudibranch photo from Blairgowrie where I headed afterwards. The conditions there were much better than Flinders so I'm glad I made the effort to go for a second dive. ❖





*Cape Woolamai  
Phillip Island*

# WHAT'S PHIL WATSON BEEN UP TO LATELY?



*Blue Devil &  
Gorgonians at  
Queenscliff*



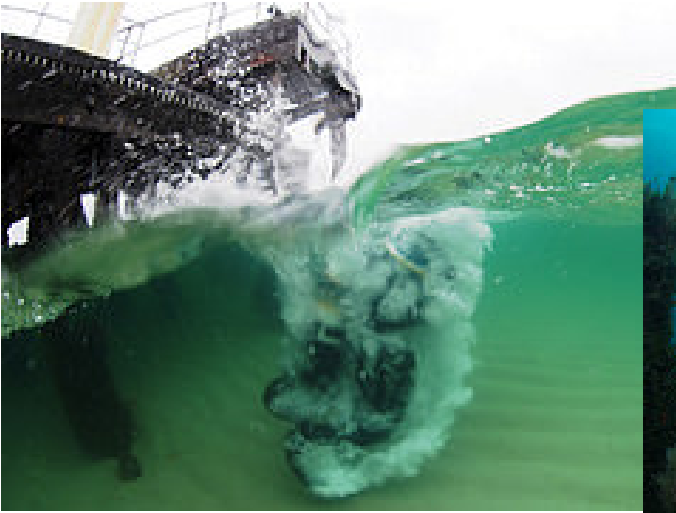
*Cape Woolamai, Phillip Island*



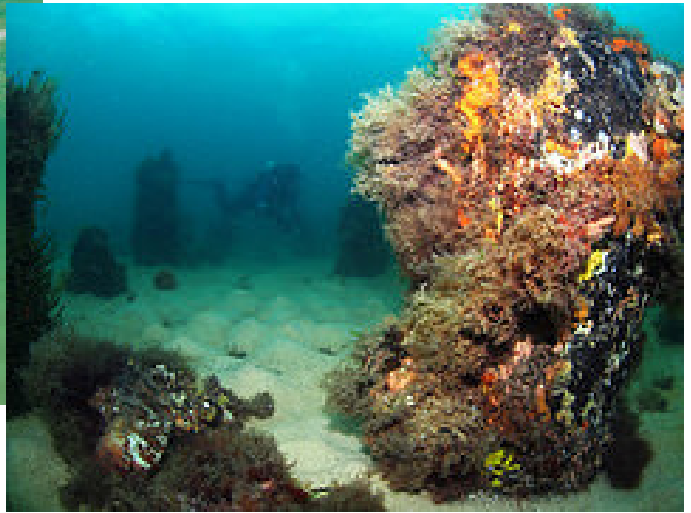
*Hydroids,  
Williamstown*



*Medusa,  
Williamstown*



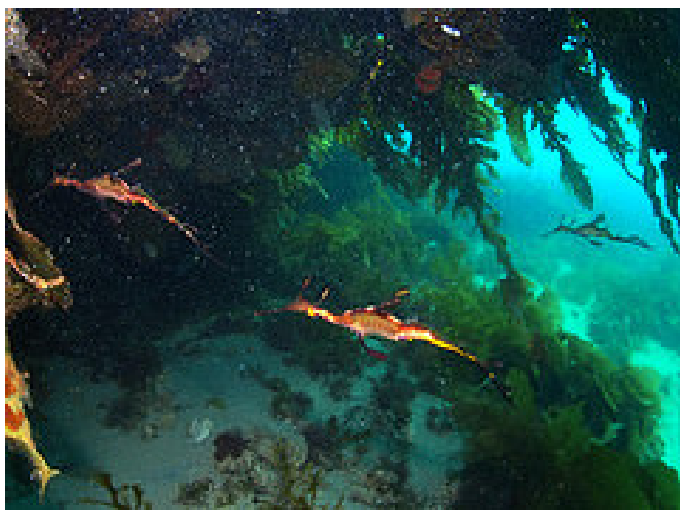
*Shallow entry, Dromana*



*Old Pier, Dromana*



*Playful seal, Dromana*



*Trio of Seadragons, Portsea*



*Schnapper Point, Mornington*





*Sorrento*



*Baby Moonlighter, Sorrento*



*Wreck of the "Albert William"  
at Point Gellibrand*



*Point Lonsdale*



*Cape Otway*



*Coral, Rickett's Point*

# 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.

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 28 Mar 1	DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Mar 7/8/9	<b>Labour Day Weekend - Peter Galvin</b> DC David Flew 0418 446 530 - local diving
Mar 14/15	DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Mar 17	<b>General Meeting, Bells Hotel, 8.00 pm</b>
Mar 21/22	DC Benita McDonough 0419 399 000
Mar 28/29	DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Apr 3/4/5/6	<b>Easter Prom Trip - details tba</b> DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684 - local diving
Apr 11/12	DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Apr 18/19	DC Peter Galvin 0417 061 564
Apr 21	<b>General Meeting, Bells Hotel, 8.00 pm</b>
Apr 25/26	DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
May 2/3	DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920



## *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
MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 31	SUN 1
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
MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7	SUN 8
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
MON 9	TUE 10	WED 11	THU 12	FRI 13	SAT 14	SUN 15
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	
MON 16	TUE 17	WED 18	THU 19	FRI 20	SAT 21	SUN 22
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
February						March
MON 23	TUE 24	WED 25	THU 26	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 1
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

## *Tidal Streams at the Heads — March 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.

February						March
<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	
<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>
0:48	1:55	3:01	3:57	4:40	5:15	5:44
6:09	7:31	9:01	10:10	10:59	11:39	12:13
11:43	12:52	14:11	15:26	16:28	17:18	18:00
18:56	20:03	21:12	22:11	23:01	23:42	
<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>
0:18	0:51	1:23	1:54	2:26	2:58	3:31
6:11	6:38	7:05	7:33	8:02	8:32	9:05
12:45	13:16	13:47	14:19	14:53	15:29	16:09
18:38	19:15	19:52	20:30	21:10	21:54	22:43
<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>
4:10	5:00	0:44	1:53	2:57	3:53	4:42
9:45	10:39	6:12	7:45	9:13	10:23	11:20
16:56	17:53	11:54	13:26	14:58	16:18	17:25
23:40		19:06	20:28	21:45	22:50	23:46
<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 29</b>
5:27	0:35	1:20	2:03	2:44	3:25	4:07
12:11	6:10	6:52	7:34	8:15	8:57	9:40
18:22	12:59	13:44	14:28	15:09	15:50	16:31
	19:14	20:03	20:51	21:36	22:21	23:08



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





*Photo taken by Ian Scholey on 14th December 2014 at Phillip Island*



*A happy group of VSAGers after their dives at Phillip Island. L-R: Tony Hood, David Politakis, David Geekie, Peter Altis, John Lawler, Benita McDonough (hiding), Denise Holmes, Peter Beaumont, Ian Scholey, Denys Smerchanski & Andrew Quested*



*Photo taken by Sandy Webb -  
Phillip Island - 3rd January 2015*



*Copyright David Reinhard*

*Nudibranch - Blairgowrie -  
photo by David Reinhard*





*Magic Diving - Claire Cooper with two German International Exchange Students from Latrobe University, Anne & Karla - 8th January 2015*



*Drift Diving is thirsty work - Ricky Pritchard with a bit of wishful thinking - Australia Day*

© Ian Scholey



The sky isn't the only place where you can see stars



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