



Fathoms

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2015

*Photo taken by
Ian Scholey on
Ex-HMAS Canberra*

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT
REVISED SAFETY GUIDELINES
TASMANIAN TRIP
HYDROZOAN COUSINS*

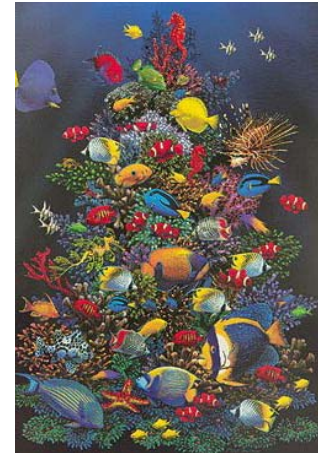
Postal Address:
VSAG, 139 Overport Rd, Frankston South VIC 3199

www.vsag.org.au

Date for your Diary

VSAG XMAS PARTY

Saturday
21st November
2015



@ Cheryl & Lloyd's home in
Frankston South

**More details available soon*



*Will this fearsome
creature be sighted at
the VSAG Xmas Party
this year?*

*.....and will this be the BBQ
that is used to cook our
Christmas feast?*

*You will have to
come and join us to
find out*





Fathoms

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

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NOTICES

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

All Members Welcome

The Water Rat Hotel, 256 Moray St, South Melbourne VIC 3205



**VSAG Monthly meetings are at 8 p.m. on the
3rd TUESDAY of each month**

at THE WATER RAT HOTEL

256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE

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

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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2015 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following the AGM and election of officers last year, the committee set itself a number of goals for the year. As I reflect on the year that was, it is pleasing to report that we have made good progress against most of these.

Our first objective was to increase the number of active divers in the club - we are, after all, a dive club first and foremost. This year there have been very few weekends when we haven't had divers in the water. When the weather has conspired against us, we have switched to shore dives and carried on regardless. We have also continued to organise night dives on a Friday and although we have taken a break during the coldest months, they will continue to feature in our calendar. We attempted to kick off an alternative shore diving offering on the weekends, but probably left it a bit late in the summer to do this. I see this as a critical step in encouraging less experienced divers into the club and also in providing a club option to those for whom a full day's boat diving may not be convenient. So we will try this again when the water warms up. In total, our number of dives is up

74% on last year and is only a whisker away from our previous two years' totals combined so we have been successful in this objective.

The second area of focus for us was to progress the transition of the club to an Incorporated Association. Peter Galvin and David Flew have put considerable effort into this and we will ask you to vote on this very soon. This transition will make the club easier to run and will simplify our rules, bringing them up to date. I would like to thank Peter and David for their efforts.

We also set out to offer members more travel options and have organised club trips to Byron Bay and Tasmania, alongside our regular annual trip to Queenscliff, and Peter Galvin's Inverloch weekends. Shortly, we will embark on our first overseas trip in some time when a group of 9 heads to South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique in search of sharks. We are keen to continue to offer travel options and would welcome your suggestions. We failed to get the annual trip to Wilsons

Prom off the ground this year after a few years of poor weather for diving. Unsurprisingly, the weather was good for diving, so hopefully a few more members will be breaking out the camping gear again next year.

Our final objective was to upgrade and improve the club equipment and we have made some progress, although perhaps not as much as we would have liked. The O2 kits have been serviced and are now in good working order. We are currently working through a proposal to add to our capability in this area with larger cylinders and twin delivery options. Thanks to a kind donation from Alan Storen, we now also have club cylinders available for members to use which is another step on.

The club continues to slowly grow its membership and our reputation as a safety conscious and active dive club is still strong. Our brand is more conspicuous with members sporting VSAG branded clothing, and social media has overtaken our website as our key communication tool alongside Fathoms. The club's Facebook group has grown from a membership of 110 to over 200 in the last year with more

people requesting membership every week. As for Fathoms, the quality of our publication is truly something to be very proud of. Cheryl Lees does an outstanding job as editor and your excellent contributions make the arrival of a new edition of Fathoms something that we all look forward to.

There have been several very successful social events across the year. We started with our 60th Anniversary event which brought together current and past members and many friends of the club for a really excellent evening of celebration. Once again Lloyd and Cheryl hosted a Christmas party at their home and I would like to thank them for their hospitality. The Life Members met for their annual meal and it was an absolute pleasure for me to be invited to attend and meet a group who have contributed so much to the club throughout the years. We also had groups attend the Blues Train, National Geographic Live, The Melbourne Film Festival and The Deep Sea Discovery Lecture Series. But perhaps the highlight of the year, in my opinion, was the extremely well attended and successful South Channel Fort day where we finally got the right weather after two cancellations.

The venue for our General Meeting has changed once again as we were forced into responding to unreasonable financial demands from Bells Hotel. We were lucky enough to find an alternative venue very close by at The Water Rat Hotel. Facilities here are good and the venue name certainly has a more nautical feel. We have had some great speakers at our club meetings but attendances have been up and down. We would love to see more people attend so if you have suggestions on what we could do to improve attendances we would be glad to hear them.

We have formed a relationship with the Under Water Explorers Club of Western Australia that gives our members the ability to dive from their club boats and vice versa. This is something that I am keen to expand and we will shortly start the conversation with clubs in other parts of the country. This will give our members the opportunity to meet and dive with like-minded clubs when they are interstate.

As a club we continue to focus on safety and we continue to review any reported incident and challenge our-

selves to ensure that our diving procedures are sufficient. As you are aware, we were impacted by the tragic death of prospective member, Peter Hohaus from a heart attack while diving from one of our member's boats. This very sad event impacted several of our members and it was good to see the club pull together and support those involved as best we could. This incident is a reminder that our sport requires a certain level of fitness and if any good has come from the incident, it is that we are now all much more aware of our own level of fitness and the limitations that it puts on us.

Wow, when you write it all down it's been a busy year for the club. None of this stuff happens without the hard work put in by the committee and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their significant contribution to the club. On a personal note, it has been both an honour and a pleasure to fulfil the role of club President and I look forward to the club going from strength to strength next year. ❖

Ian Scholey





REVISED CLUB SAFETY GUIDELINES AUGUST 2015

The Committee has been working very hard to update VSAG's safety procedures. In the next few editions of Fathoms, sections of the new revised safety guidelines will be featured. Please read and make yourself familiar with them.

SAFETY IN DIVING

The motto of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group (VSAG) is "Safety in Diving", so you can be assured that safe diving is our highest priority. We ensure that less experienced or newly certificated divers are buddied with experienced members. The members of our club are amongst the most experienced scuba divers in Australia. We have a number of members with over 30 years scuba diving experience and some with more than 50 years experience.

We are always happy to dive with newer divers, or those who have not dived for a while. Experienced members also assess conditions at dive sites and are available to give advice

and assistance. We believe that the confidence and accelerated skills that new divers acquire when diving with us are advantages that VSAG is able to offer.

Our safety record is excellent. Whilst dives are restricted to certified scuba divers, prospective members, including non-divers and their friends, are welcome to come along to any of our activities such as nights out, day trips and weekends away.

When doing boat dives in Melbourne, we mostly use members' private boats. These boats are typically skippered by very experienced boat drivers/divers. The boats have safety equipment that meets or exceeds the legal requirements, sometimes even for charter boats. The skippers know the best dive sites, including dozens not visited by charter operators. Since we use the same boats regularly, we are familiar with the diving procedure for each boat, giving added safety.

Please keep in mind that whilst diving with VSAG you will be required to follow the VSAG Safety Diving Guidelines.

When applying to join VSAG, you will be required to provide a current Diving Medical Certificate.

NIGHT SHORE DIVES

Similar to shore dives, but some other harder shore dives may be excluded to people who have done none or a few night dives. The organiser and/or dive captain of the dive have the right to decide if a member can do the dive.



BOAT DIVES UNDER 18 METRES

For boat dives in this depth range, the only certification required will be Open Water, or equivalent.

However, for a diver who has just completed a dive course with less than 10 dives, they may not be permitted to take part in the dive if the location and conditions of the dive are deemed by the dive captain or boat owner to be too challenging for their level of experience.

Generally, a new member will be required to buddy with one of the more experienced members, who will assess their ability.

For all boat dives, the owner of a boat has the right to decline to take any member on their boat for whatever reason they so deem.

Note: **On all boat dives, it is compulsory to do at least a three minute safety stop, or complete the decompression and safety stops indicated by their dive computer, whichever is the greater.** This must be complied with or could lead a member to be excluded from further boat dives.



BOAT DIVES 18 TO 30 METRES

For boat dives in this depth range, the certification required will be Advanced Open Water, or equivalent.

Generally, new members or guests will not be permitted to do a dive in this depth range unless they have already satisfied a committee member that they have an appropriate level of certification and/or experience that qualifies them to dive at this depth, or

by having previously done a check/trial dive with the club and been considered capable of diving to this deeper depth. This may mean more than one dive is needed.

All divers are required to complete the decompression and safety stops indicated by their dive computer. This must be complied with or could lead a member to be excluded from further boat dives.



BOAT DIVES 30 TO 40 METRES

For boat dives in this depth range, divers are expected to have a Deep Diver or equivalent certification and/or be able to demonstrate a suitable level of experience.

These dives may also be used to assess members or guests as being suitable to do a deeper dive (40 metres plus) and for checking out their use of multiple cylinders. To qualify for dives in this depth range, divers would have been expected to do a number of boat dives with the club, possibly in-

cluding at least one in the 25 to 30 metre depth range.

For dives deeper than 35 metres, it is recommended to carry a redundant air supply unless special circumstances exist.

All divers are required to complete the decompression and safety stops indicated by their dive computer. This must be complied with or could lead a member to be excluded from further boat dives.

BOAT DIVES OVER 40 METRES

Members will only be taken on these dives if they have shown over a large number of dives that they are capable of diving well over 40 metres.

This may include being required to do a dive in the 35 to 40 metre depth range as well as a shallower dive with the equipment that is proposed to be worn on the deeper dive.

For dives deeper than 35 metres, it is recommended to carry a redundant air supply unless special circumstances exist.

All divers are required to complete the decompression and safety stops indicated by their dive computer. This must be complied with or could lead a member to be excluded from further boat dives. ❖

SPARE A THOUGHT

*An article written by John Ashley,
imagining the past*



It had been a long and dangerous trip out from Liverpool, England. It had taken nearly 3 months in huge seas in a ship full of rats, lice, and a crew that couldn't care less. I was always cold and wet and the food the crew served up to us wasn't even fit for the rats. As a result, my two year old daughter Elizabeth got violently ill and died. The day she was buried at sea was the worst day of my life. In all, 31 people died, mostly children and the elderly.

As the ship got closer to Melbourne, people's spirits started to lift. Then one day we saw the Victorian coast, but it was still 3 days before we approached Port Phillip heads and in a couple more days I would finally be

reunited with my darling husband William.

I must have dozed off about 6pm as it was getting dark and it was winter. I must have been in a deep sleep because when the ship struck the reef it took a while for me to realise what was happening. In my daze, even when the ship rolled onto its side, I still wasn't sure what was going on until I heard a great crash as the main-mast fell onto the deck. I tried to find the door in the dark but I couldn't find it until I realised I was standing on the wall instead of the floor. I finally got through the door into the hallway when the cold water hit me. People were screaming and crying and trying to get up the steps but were being washed off back on top of each other.

I finally managed to get through a hatch onto the sloping deck to find mayhem. All the masts and rigging were either over the side or laying on the angled deck when suddenly I felt a sharp pain through my thigh and as I looked back I could see part of a spar clean through my thigh pinning me to the deck. My blood was everywhere and I was freezing. The waves were washing over me and I was unable to release myself. Then I saw a man's arm and grabbed his hand only to find it had been severed from its body. I

began feeling tired and felt no more pain, the water wasn't cold anymore and everything went hazy as if someone was turning down the lamps. Maybe I'm dying..... could this be what it's like?

.....Sunday morning was warm and sunny and the dive club was off to The Heads to dive a wreck. What a sight to see 5 boats cruising down the Bay with 16 divers chomping at the bit to hit the water. Viz was about 20 metres and as the wreck was only in 9 metres, the sun shone through, illuminating all the colours of the sponges and corals. Schools of whiting and pike were lazily swimming about and the divers were busy with their cameras. Some divers even managed a cray or two.

It was such a peaceful dive. Do we as divers ever give any thought about the horrors that people endured as these ships were destroyed, the loss of life, the broken bodies and the loss of everything you own? Probably not. ❖



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HYDROZOAN COUSINS

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

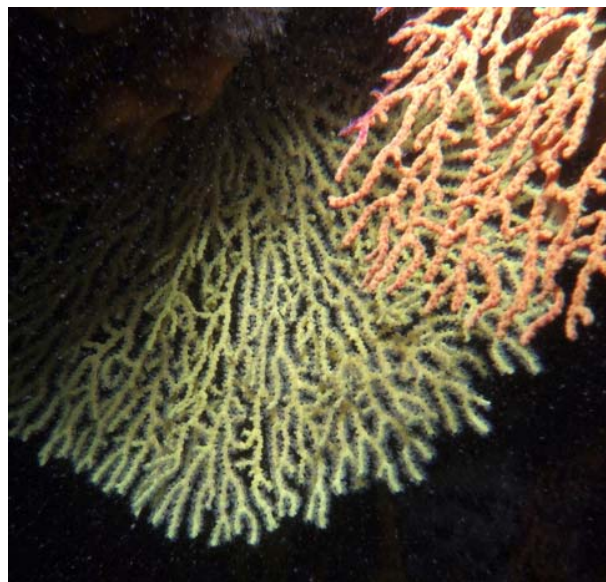
There are many “cousins” in the Phylum Cnidaria. All of them of course are related in the polyps having a mouth, stomach, tentacles, stinging cells. And here some of the groups diverge. Some, the Alcyonaria, have fringed tentacles’ others, the Scleractinia (stony corals) have a hard calcareous cup to protect the polyp. Others (medusa or jellyfish) have forsaken the sedentary life of the polyp and joined the free-swimming plankton.

The alcyonarians are among the most brilliantly coloured species that we see on dives. All have a supporting fan-shaped flexible chitinous skeleton (exoskeleton) to support the colony. They prefer deeper water and strong currents.

Alcyonaria

A species we often see is *Mopsella zimmeri* a “gorgonian” soft coral –why they are so-named escapes me. Colonies comprise thousands of Polyps, may be 30 cm high, varying

in colour from yellow to brick red. The branches are intergrown for added strength. The polyps are usually withdrawn into the skeleton during daylight, extending to feed in dim light or at night.



Mopsella zimmeri

Above : Fan-shaped colonies, polyps withdrawn - Popes Eye, 10 m.

Below : Colony in poor visibility with feeding polyps extended - Crawfish Rock, 10 m.



Another less obvious but nevertheless common species, is the soft coral *Carijoa smithi*. It grows in clusters in crevices from a horny central stem. The main polyp tentacles have secondary branches. The polyps withdraw rapidly when disturbed so it's often difficult to get a good photo. It is common at Popes Eye and Mornington Pier and is often eaten by nudibranchs.



Carijoa smithi

Above : Colony showing secondary branched tentacles extended to feed - Popes Eye, 6 m.

Below : Colony at Mornington Pier - 2m.



Grifa gaboensis (named for Gabo Island from where it was first scientifically described) is another soft coral widely but patchily distributed along the southern Australian coastline. It likes clear open ocean water and moderate to strong currents such as in Symonds Channel in Port Phillip. Colonies spread laterally and may grow to 20 cm across. When feeding, the extended polyps clothe the colony in pale bluish-mauve and when withdrawn, the colony appears like a rubbery bluish lump.



Grifa gaboensis

Above : Colony with polyps extended

Below : Colony with polyps withdrawn Symonds Channel, south of Mud Island, Port Phillip Bay - 13 m.



Erythropodium hicksoni. This is a common soft coral growing in spreading sheets. When the polyps are extended, colonies may vary in colour from yellowish to dull purple. When the polyps are withdrawn, the colony looks like a purplish rubbery sheet covering rocks or other firm substrate. Found in shallow sheltered reef and jetty piles around the bay. It is the substrate for the spectacular hydroid *Ralpharia magnifica*.



Erythropodium hicksoni. Colony with polyps extended - Steele Rock, near Portarlington, 2 m.

Epizoanthus karenae. This beautiful alcyonarian (zoanthid) we see growing in sheets in sheltered reefs on most dives at the Heads and in Bass Strait. It is endemic to southern Australia. Colonies comprise many hundreds of bright yellow polyps with one circlet of tentacles that open in low light conditions, so it is a great photographic subject. The species is named after Karen Gowlett-Homes, whom many of us know.



Epizoanthus karenae. Colony with polyps extended - Popes Eye, 12 m.

Plesiastrea versipora. One of the few and the largest of southern hard corals. Abundant on sheltered bay reefs. Colonies consist of thousands of polyps growing together in a hard calcareous skeleton. Polyps extend at night to feed. Large ball-size colonies may be many years old. Colours range from blue to purplish to green. ❖



Plesiastrea versipora. Large green colony - Steele Rocks, near Portarlington, 1.5 m.

*VSAG LIFE MEMBER
Marine Scientist,
Dr. Jan Watson*

photos & report by John Lawler



Dr. Jan Watson was one of the founding members of VSAG. Jan is a consulting marine biologist and ecologist specialising in marine Hydrozoa, a subject on which she has published 50 articles in International Journals.



Jan is an Honorary Research Associate of Museum Victoria. At year 2015, Jan has been diving for 57 years, has no plans to quit and owns her own boat.

The Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron is planning to build a safe harbour and marina on the current site. Jan Watson is contracted to BMYS to survey, advise and report on the marine sites around the area for government environment compliances.

On Saturday 15th August 2015, I made my boat “Miles Ahead” available for Jan to continue her survey work in the area. VSAG member Phil Watson (no relation) was along to carry out the marine photography and an additional support diver, Geoff was part of team.



Phil Watson, Jan Watson and support diver, Geoff.

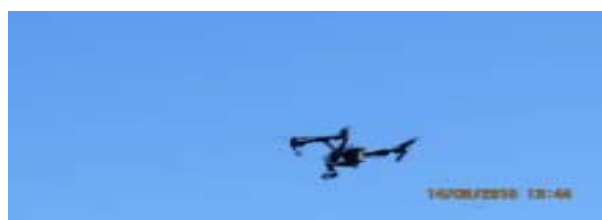
Conditions were perfect...very light northerly wind, mostly sunny and, surprising for this area, very clear water! The survey started at the pile out from Table Rock and moved all the way east to the BMYS jetty and the bay....a lot of territory was photographed and surveyed over the 4 hour duration.

Despite the nature of the work being carried out, the conditions made it a pleasurable time on the bay in great company.



We had a visit from David Flew on his fine boat “Karingal” out doing a 10 hour run to test a new propeller paint and the local Coast Guard in their new

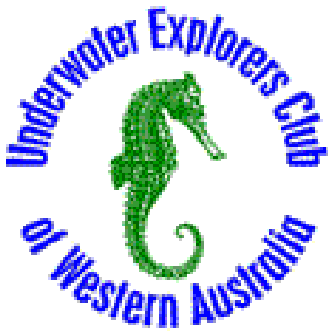
amazing RIB also came by to say “Hi”. ❖



Photograph of a drone that might just have been photographing us.



Carole Campisagno trying to wind up John Lawler..... “Not long now JL” (till Snapper Season)



Ian Scholey

I am delighted to announce that we have reached an agreement with the Under Water Explorers Club of Western Australia that will allow VSAG members to dive with them from their boat, *Cape Cruiser*, or join one of their shore dives.



We have been talking to them for some time so it is pleasing that we have finally sealed the deal which will see us hosting divers from WA and vice versa.

If you are heading West and wish to take advantage of this arrangement, you will be asked to join their club as a Country, Interstate and Overseas member at a cost of \$10. This will entitle you to dive with them up to 4

times in a 12 month period. You will pay their normal dive day rates of \$70 for a double dive or \$40 for a single dive.

They are based in Perth and dive around Rottnest Island most weekends. They have a published dive calendar on their **website** :

www.uecwa.com.au

Postal address :

Underwater Explorers Club of W.A.
(Inc.)
PO Box 382,
Melville WA 6956

Email :

info@uecwa.com.au

If anyone is wishing to dive with them, you can contact Mel Turner at divebookings@uecwa.com.au and mention that you are from VSAG.

Meetings and boat pen :

Swan Yacht Club
Riverside Road,
East Fremantle

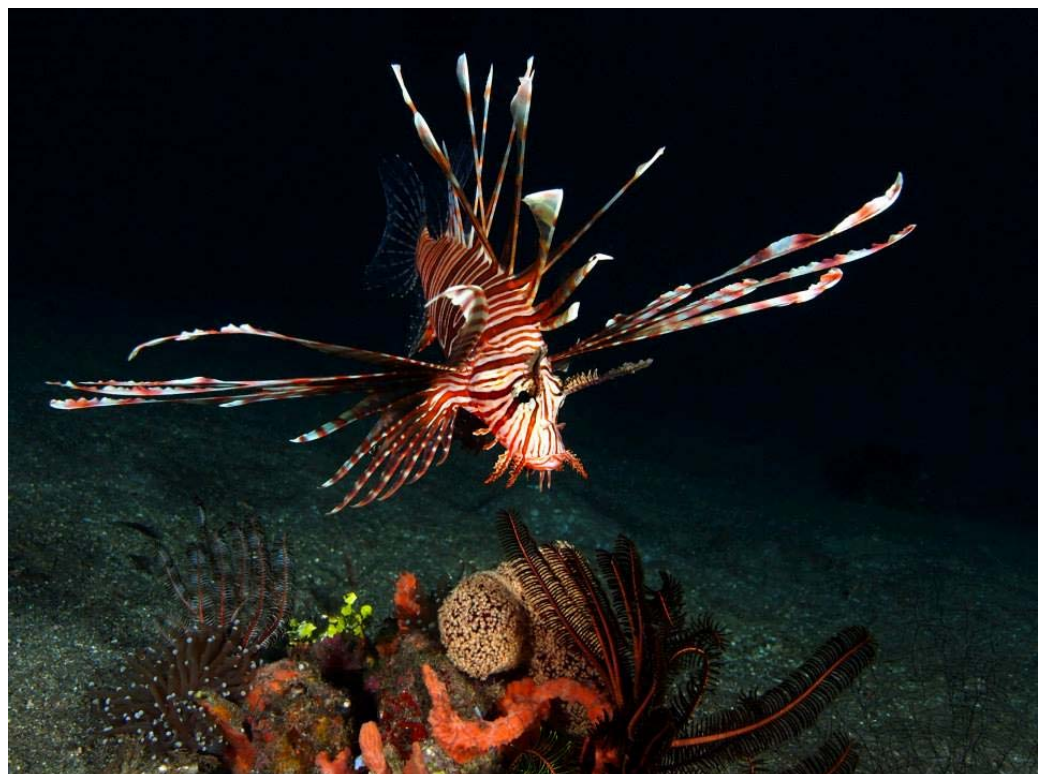
As you would expect, we will continue to give priority on our boats to members and will only take guests if we have space and the skipper is willing. ❖

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

WINNER- Equal First — JULY



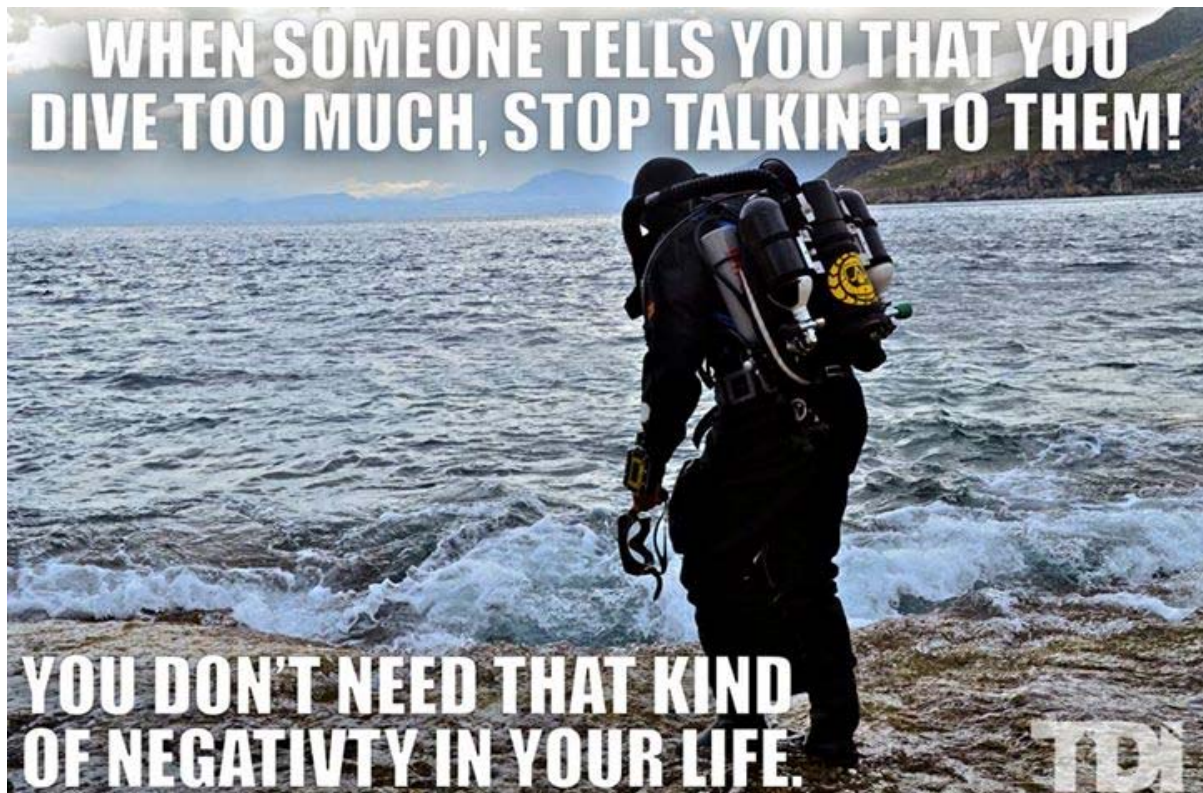
Both winning
photos taken by
David Reinhard



RUNNER UP IN THE JULY PHOTO COMPETITION



2nd Place - Peter Beaumont

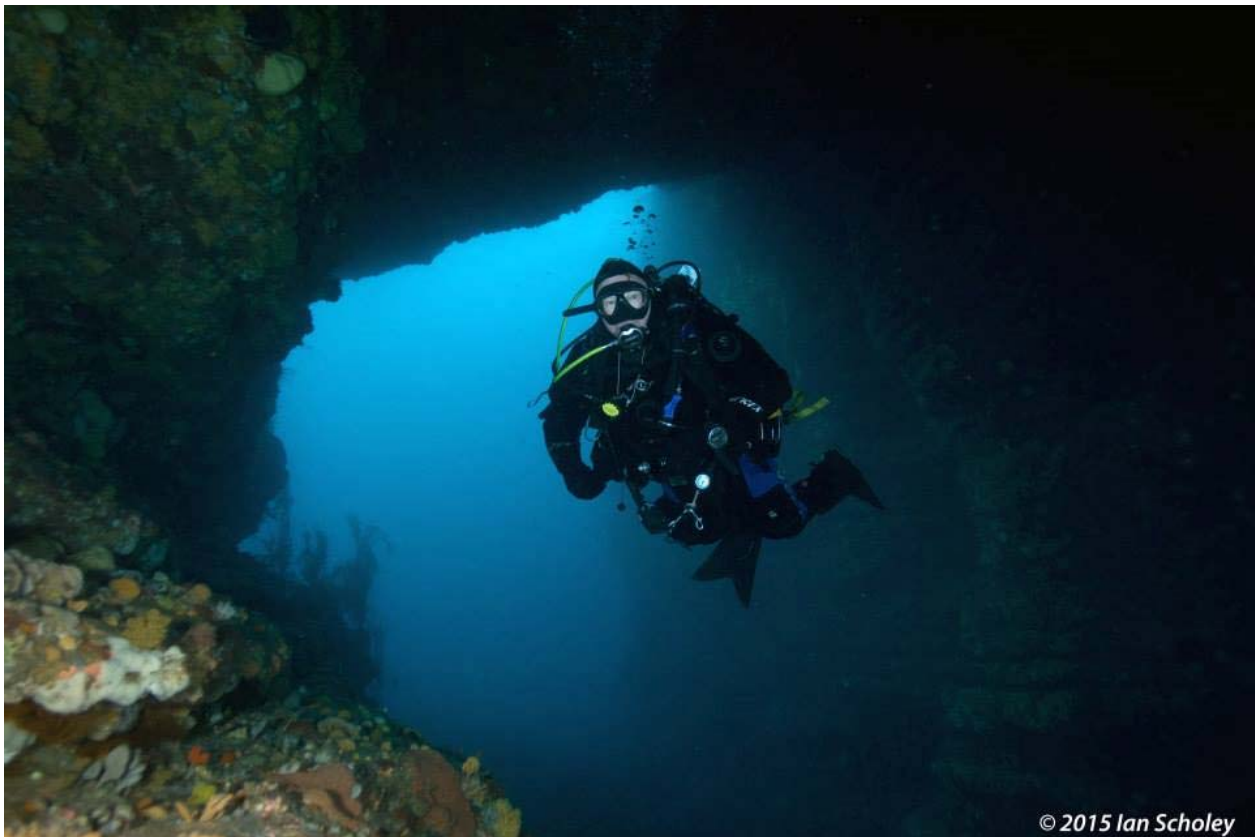


WINNER — AUGUST



Phil Watson - Dumpling Squid at Point Wilson

RUNNERS UP IN THE AUGUST PHOTO COMPETITION



**Above :
2nd Place
Ian Scholey -
David Geekie in
Cathedral Cave,
Tasmania**



**Left :
3rd Place
Carole Campisano -
Ex HMAS Brisbane**

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/>

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

Keep up the good work!



EAGLEHAWK NECK, TASMANIA TRIP

AUGUST 21-24, 2015

report & photos by Ian Scholey

For those of you who attended the June general meeting, you will remember Phil Watson's excellent talk on Tassie diving. This talk obviously inspired Peter Beaumont, because shortly afterwards the email arrived saying, "I'm going to Tassie, are you up for it?" I'm not one to turn down a dive and with frequent flyer points available for flights, it took me almost 10 seconds to make my mind up. We both exchanged a few emails with Karen at Eaglehawk Dive Centre and soon had the arrangements made.

There was a cautionary word from Karen though, she said the weather in August can either be a complete disaster or absolutely spectacular and we needed to be aware of that - fingers crossed for a few weeks then. I decided to send an email out to club members about the trip and that drew a bit of interest but in the end only David Geekie joined us.

Peter and Judy headed down to Tassie on the Spirit of Tasmania early for a longer stay and kindly agreed to take some of my gear with them. It didn't

take long for Peter to hit the water and a photo of him emerging from the lake at Cradle Mountain with its snow covered dual peaks arrived in my in basket. The water temp was a chilly 6 degrees in the lake and the vis was a bit poor due to the tannins but full marks to Peter for that dive, that is dedication to your sport. The good news in the picture though, was that the sun appeared to be shining. Inspired to check the weather forecast for the weekend, I was delighted to find a perfect forecast of light winds and seas below a metre. We were in for a good trip.



A first for Fathoms - a photo of one of our VSAGers exiting a dive with snow in the background

With military precision and a good few phone calls, David Geekie and I coordinated our trips through the Friday night traffic to arrive at the airport at the same time. We quickly dropped luggage at the check-in and grabbed a quick bite in the Virgin lounge before boarding our flight to Hobart.

By 9pm we were safely in Hobart and heading south for the hour's drive to Eaglehawk Neck. Avoiding the numerous wallabies, we pulled into the Dive Centre at 10.30pm to find Peter still up waiting for us. Peter gave us the rundown on the next day's plans over a cuppa.



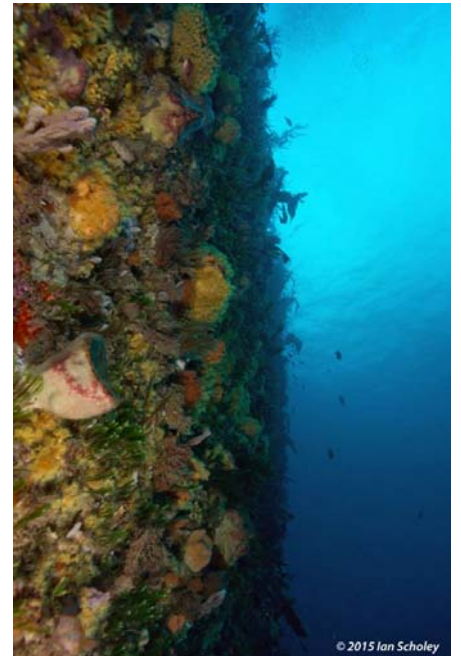
Our accommodation for the weekend

The original plan was to dive the SS Nord but unfortunately conditions on Saturday were not right. However we were looking good for Cathedral Cave. We had asked to do 3 dives on Saturday and with a hill climb event closing the road to the boat ramp in the morning from 8.30am, we had an early start to look forward to. The

divers lodge was empty apart from the 4 of us. Peter and Judy had a room upstairs and David and I had the run of the dorms downstairs so we spread out and turned in for the night.

Peter and Judy had kindly laid on breakfast for David and I so after a good feed we headed across the driveway to the Dive Centre with our gear. We were introduced to skipper, Mick and an American named Jordan who was diving with us for the day. The dive boat was well set up for diving and we quickly had gear loaded and stowed. We boarded the Dive Centre's mini bus and followed the boat down to the ramp. Our help wasn't required launching the boat with Mick and Karen having their routine well practiced. Conditions were looking good with nice flat seas and the sun shining although it was a little chilly at 8 degrees. We headed out across the spectacular Pirates Bay with nothing more than a mild swell rolling.





Our first dive site was Deep Glen Bay North Wall. The boat edged in close to the cliffs and we kitted up. As usual Peter and I buddied up while Dave and Jordan teamed up for the day. I was the last one to splash in and did I get a shock having failed to do up the outer zip of my dry suit! Fortunately for me I had done the inner zip up so the damage was limited but there were a few choice words coming from my mouth. It is a little embarrassing, to say the least, that I made that mistake and I am resigned to receiving my nomination for the Wooden Weight Belt this year. Seriously, I should know better, but I let the excitement of the first dive get to me.

With my dry suit now done up I re-entered the water and with a quick set of signals, we descended as a group. It isn't a difficult site to navigate with the cliff walls continuing down to the sand at 40m. We descended slowly in awe of the fantastic growth on the wall and the huge shoals of Butterfly Perch.

At 21m we found a ledge that Mick had told us about in the briefing. The ledge is often home to a couple of Handfish which I was keen to find so I followed the ledge downwards carefully looking for the unusual fish. Sadly, they were either not there or my eyesight failed me. Towards the bottom we surprised a Draughtboard





Shark who darted off as we approached.

Away from the wall on the sand were a few scattered bommies and we explored a couple of these before slowly retracing our route back along the wall. We found several Crayfish along the way hiding in holes in the wall.

This really was a spectacular dive and the colour on the wall rivals anything I have seen in the tropics. With vis circa 30m it was just about the perfect dive and a great way to start the week-ends diving.



Back on the boat, sipping a welcome hot soup, I stripped off my dry suit and emptied the water from my boots. I knew that I would have to monitor myself carefully with two more dives planned in the 11 degree water and wet clothes. That said, I was feeling fine after dive one.

Our second dive of the day was a couple of hundred metres away from our first spot and we were promised scattered boulders with plenty of swim throughs and fish life.

We once again took our giant strides into the crystal clear water and eagerly descended. The two buddy pairs headed in different directions with Peter and I heading west and David and Jordan east. We descended slowly circling the huge boulders, the tops of which were covered in weed and the sides, brightly coloured invertebrates and yellow zoanths. At the 20m mark I stopped and was engulfed by a huge school of Butterfly Perch. Snapping away happily with the frame full of fish I lingered for several minutes



before continuing my descent to 30m and finding buddy Peter. We slowly began to descend exploring the under-sides of the huge rocks and enjoying the swim throughs. Once again we saw several Crayfish and a small Draughtboard Shark swam between us. Towards the surface we hooked up again with David and Jordan before returning to the boat.

David Geekie & Mick the Skipper



The wind and swell had been progressively dropping off and Mick declared that conditions were right for Cathedral Cave. So after another hot soup, we headed south across the bay towards our final dive site for the day.

Half way across, the shout went up for Dolphins and a large pod swam towards the boat and played for several minutes at the bow and in the wake. It doesn't matter how many times I see these magnificent animals they always make me smile, they just seem to know how to have fun.



Cathedral Cave is the largest Sea Cave system in Australia and we listened carefully to Mick's detailed briefing. Although I had dived the cave several years before, I was careful to note his advice on where it was safe to venture and where it wasn't. The entrance to the cave is massive and is 21m at the bottom. As you enter and turn on your torch you notice the walls are covered in colourful invertebrates with literally every inch covered.

Swimming in further I turned around to see Peter and David silhouetted



Peter Beaumont



David Geekie

against the blue of the cave entrance. I snapped a couple of quick shots before allowing them to catch up and proceeding further into the cave. On our right we found the side tunnel that we were to follow to find Skull Cavern. This cavern has two openings back out to the open ocean and when you look at them from the back of the cave it isn't difficult to work out why it got its name.



Skull Cavern

After exploring some of the other tunnels we returned the way we had come. This time moving along the opposite wall, I found numerous baby Crayfish and David pointed out a sleeping Draughtboard Shark to me. Cathedral Cave has to be one of the

top dive sites in Australia and you shouldn't miss this dive if you are down Tassie way.

All four divers were back under the boat doing safety stops. David and Peter exited and left myself and Jordan. Being our third relatively deep dive of the day I had accumulated 4 minutes deco time. Signalling to Jordan to enquire how his tank pressure was, he approached and showed me his computer. He had 11 minutes deco to do and was signalling that his computer was broken. I firmly indicated to him that he should stay where he was as he indicated he was going to surface. I remained with him as the deco minutes ticked away, now well chilled after three dives in my wet under garments. No harm done in the end but I'm always amazed how inexperienced divers are prepared to assume their computer has malfunctioned rather than accepting that they have managed their dive very well.



Happy divers back on board

We hugged the coast on the way back to the boat ramp stopping to take a look at Tasman Arch one of several spectacular geographical features along this stretch of coast.



Tasman Arch

As we headed back to the Dive Centre after our day's diving we were caught up in the still continuing hill climb. We waited for several minutes behind a line of cars waiting their turn for the run. I don't know what the spectators lining the raceway thought as a 4 WD dragging a boat and a mini bus cruised by but judging by the laughter I don't think they were that impressed with our speed. Still I guess we probably won the boat and trailer and the minibus class races even if we weren't there to collect our trophies.

After most welcome hot showers, David and I headed out for a walk up the hill to a lookout point over Pirates Bay leaving Peter to download his photographs and Judy with a good book.

Typically, the weather was perfect on Sunday for a dive on the SS Nord but with early flights Monday morning, we decided we had better stick to shallow dives on day two. We were joined today by two local divers who didn't really ingratiate themselves to us by being half an hour late arriving and then taking an eternity to kit up. When they finally managed to get their act together and we headed off to the boat ramp, one them announced he had left his computer at the dive centre so we had to turn around and go back. We wouldn't have minded why do you always get this type of person when you are trying to manage no fly time?

We headed south down the coast punching into a bigger swell than forecast. I have to admit it was pretty



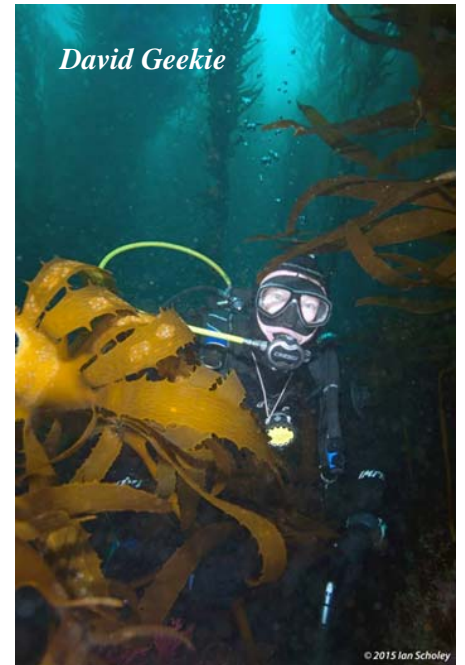


chilly with a cold southerly wind in our faces. At least my undergarments had dried out overnight so I wasn't really that affected.

Mick had had recent reports of large areas of regrowth in the kelp beds and his face lit up as we arrived at Munro Bite and he cruised around for a look. Picking a substantial area and briefing us to remember to exit the kelp beds to be picked up after our dive, Mick cut the engine and we jumped in. To-

day we dived as a trio leaving the two Tassie divers to do their own thing.

What can I say about this dive? It was just sensational! The vis wasn't fantastic but for me that just added to the eerie atmosphere in the kelp forest. Rising up from the seabed at 15m, the kelp was thick in places and we had to be careful not to get snagged as we wove in and out of it. In certain areas boulders sat on the sea floor like big islands in the forest of kelp. Once



again the invertebrate life on these was abundant and colourful. We found plenty of Crayfish once again, a nice stingaree and the obligatory Draughtboard Shark. We stretched our dive time out as long as we could before heading west towards the cliff face and open water, then ascending for our pick up.



Our original dive plan was to dive with Seals but as we approached the dive site, all the seals appeared to be lounging on the rocks rather than being in the water. Without any seals to entertain us we ditched the plan and considered other options. The larger swell than expected and shallow dive requirement limited our options for a second dive but when Mick suggested two more caves we jumped at the chance.

We headed north again to Waterfall Bay, passing the entrance to Fortescue Bay and stopping briefly to chat with another boat anchored on the SS Nord.



Our dive site was a pair of caves some 50m apart and separated by a waterfall. Horseshoe Cave is to the left of the waterfall and can be entered and followed until it opens up again into the ocean. The entrance is at 14m and is large. There was a bit of swell pounding the cave entrance but this was manageable. Inside, the growth was fantastic, in this muppet's opinion, even better than in Cathedral Cave.

We found the usual Crayfish and sleeping Draughtboard Shark while towards the back of the cave, the walls were covered in large Abalone.



We exited the first cave system and followed the cliff wall around to Dog-leg cave. This cave is one way in, one way out and conditions were slightly more challenging although once again manageable. The noise inside was tremendous with vibrations from the swell reverberating through our bodies. We decided not to push inside too far with the conditions and stayed close to the entrance. As we exited another Draughtboard Shark swam between us and into the cave. Before we knew it our dive time was up and we headed back to the boat.



With just two dives we were back at the Dive Centre soon after lunch so David and I decided to head out for the afternoon. After scratching a serious coffee itch we headed 19k down the road to the Port Arthur historic site. For the \$35 entrance fee we enjoyed a cruise around the harbour before exploring the ruins and historic buildings. It is a very interesting place and is very picturesque. With the sun

going down and the evening ghost tour about to start, we headed back down the road to hook up with Peter and Judy at the Lufra Hotel where we finished our weekend with a rather fine meal and in my case, a cold Cascade Stout.

Even though we didn't exactly stay up late, I was cursing myself for not booking Monday off work as the alarm went off at 3.30am. A bleary eyed David and I then dodged the wildlife on the drive back to Hobart Airport for our 6am flight. Peter and Judy were more sensible and extended their stay in Tassie for the rest of the week.

This was a last minute trip but boy did it turn out well. Tasmania is beautiful, Eaglehawk Dive Centre is first class, Mick and Karen are great hosts, the company was excellent and the diving magnificent. Thank you to Phil Watson for the inspiration, we will be back soon and next time we have every intention of making it a longer stay. Tassie trip anyone? ❖



MICHAEL ROELENS (VISITING DIVER FROM ST. GEORGE SCUBA CLUB) CONTINUES HIS DIVING TRAVELS AROUND AUSTRALIA....



The whole Nullarbor crossing was a pretty dry event. I did pass by a few caves, which looked pretty spectacular, yet locked, and

completely inaccessible to me. Bill Rowland had talked me into visiting there. Well worth the detour on a rough track, thanks Bill!

When I finally got to see some trees again after getting out of the Nullarbor, I actually got a bit emotional. It is simply beautiful to see the green trees contrast with the red dust and the white sand in the dunes. I couldn't wait long to get back to the coast though, after spending a few days at Norseman, overlooking a dry lake.

I happened to randomly pick Lucky Bay, in Cape Le Grand National Park, as a potential dive site, and generally just a great park to hike in. The dive shop in Esperance had mentioned that there were some leafy sea dragons.



As I got there, I was greeted by the ranger, Don, who came to collect the camping fees. We talked a bit, and I quickly found out he was a diver too, and very happy to finally see another diver he could buddy up with. He was of course very keen to show me his local site. It was just sunset when a whale popped up in the middle of the rather small bay.

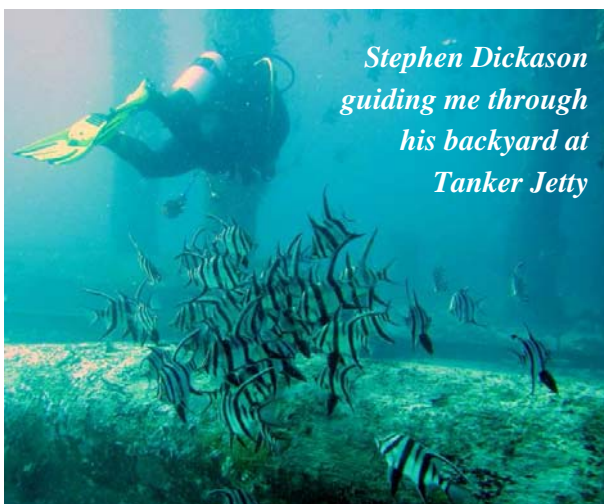
We went diving there twice, once in the middle of the day, and once at dusk. Don explained to me that the best chance of spotting a leafy would be at dusk, as they all return to their "home" location on the cliff. During the day, they seem to venture out quite a long distance apparently. The leafies here were much larger than the ones I had seen in South Australia, and perhaps more colourful too. And what do you want: it's



just really cool to talk to another diving fanatic for a bit. Ranger Don even let me have a hot shower there, something I appreciated immensely after that 70 minute dive in 13° water.

The next day, I got to meet up with another Esperance local, who showed me the “Tanker Jetty”, in the middle of Esperance. The council had recently sunk part of that jetty, and with that, removed the diving platform at the end of it. This means, you now have to jump “the leap of death”, and endure the “climb of Everest” to get out again - a 6 metre jump from the jetty. As I hit the water, my tank hit the top of my spine which hurt a little bit at the time, but I was able to continue the dive.

An absolutely huge site, with heaps of sunken pillars and piles of tyres that are transforming into a reef. Some great fish life to be seen but I reckon the best time for a dive there would be at night. Unfortunately, I didn’t find a buddy for that.



*Stephen Dickason
guiding me through
his backyard at
Tanker Jetty*

Hours after jumping off the Tanker Jetty, the top of my spine started

tensing up quite badly, to the point where I could hardly move my head anymore. This meant that I couldn’t dive for 2 weeks. I still went on to visit Bremer, which is apparently also a great dive location. But the weather had turned for the worse, and the local dive shop owner had just caught the flu.

Onwards to Perth then, skipping most of the south west corner for diving, because of my spinal injury. In Perth, I got in touch with the people from the UWA underwater club. They took me out to Robbs Jetty, which isn’t actually a jetty anymore: only some of the pillars are remaining underwater. It’s rather “enlightening” to dive a jetty without platform above you: everything is so much brighter.



*Seahorse
at Robbs
Jetty*



*Octopus at
Robbs Jetty*

No lack of sea life there. I was amazed by the beautiful nudibranchs, and no less than 4 big and brightly coloured sea horses. I also think this site must yield awesome night dives!



Later that week, we dived at the BHP Jetty, Rockingham, where the visibility was a bit worse, about 5m. Once again, some spectacularly coloured sea horses and nudibranchs. And then off to the Wreck Trail, in the centre of Rockingham. Two sunken airplanes, 3 boats, and a cage, all

connected by guide ropes - yes, the visibility is that bad, even on a good day. I probably counted more than 20 sea horses on that dive. They were hanging on to the ropes, and the wires in the cage. A big lionfish was swimming upside down in the cage, and whilst it was definitely the biggest of its kind that I have seen to date, apparently there's even bigger ones out there!

So, if you're interested in sea horses: go to Perth (via Edithburgh, SA). I had to spend a bit of time (and money) in Perth, to get both differentials in my car replaced before continuing up north.

That meant I had to speed up a bit, and the next wet stop was eventually Coral Bay. The town is pretty much one caravan park, with no more than 2



Sea horses everywhere at the Rockingham Wreck Trail

metres between each caravan. I had a quick snorkel out over the corals, and got bored with it fairly quickly, even though the water was a balmy 24 degrees. No more need for a wetsuit until I get back to Sydney I reckon!

I also did some snorkelling at Cape Range National Park to get a quick feel of Ningaloo Reef. The snorkelling up there is much more interesting than in Coral Bay. Sea snakes, turtles, sharks, and cuttlefish, just metres away from where I was camping, all in very shallow water. Yet, to see Ningaloo Reef properly, I booked two double dive trips with Exmouth Dive Centre. I had just missed the whale shark season, but I was still hopeful about seeing some manta rays, which unfortunately did not eventuate.

The first set of dives was near the lighthouse (“Blizzard Ledge”, and “Lighthouse Reef”) at the tip of the Exmouth Peninsula. There were so many fish (billions!) around that



Angler fish on Ningaloo Reef



you basically could not see the coral behind them. I had to scare them away for a quick glimpse at the red and green nudibranchs, and take a picture before the fish would regroup in their shoals. It seems every major location has its own dominant local nudibranch...

The second set of dives was at the Muiron Islands, slightly further north from Exmouth still. The corals here are much nicer than at Coral Bay and Cape Range, and there’s a huge variety of soft corals as well. Quite a bit less fish life however. Overhangs, crevices, and little caves everywhere.

We spotted two black tipped reef sharks in one of these caves. And quite a few more nudibranchs again. Yet, was it worth the nearly 400 dollars I had to cough up for these 4 dives? Not sure. I guess I often get that feeling after a commercial dive. By far the best dives are always with independent people and clubs.

I long for the ice cold waters of the south coast now! It's 38 degrees up here in Kununurra, and whenever I want to go for a swim, there's a croc staring at me.

Special thanks to: Don Cater at Lucky Bay, Stephen Dickason at Esperance, and the people from the UWA Underwater Club. ❖

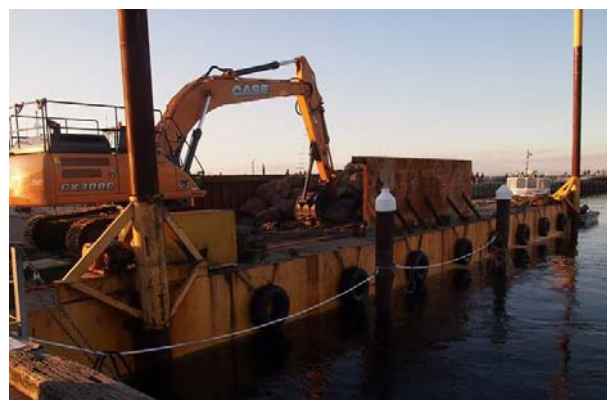
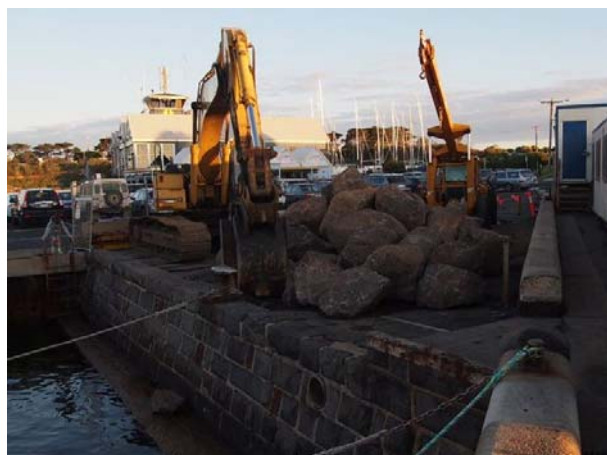


Another of the colourful sea horses at Robbs Jetty

UPDATE ON MORNINGTON PIER

From Michael Mallis

Finally, whilst pier works have finished, there appears to still be some works in progress regarding shoring up the sea wall or underwater groyne. I can only guess that the large rocks being loaded onto the barge are to be dumped on the west side of the pier (see photos below).



Dive Reports

PHILLIP ISLAND

*Sunday, August 9
2015*

*by John Ashley ; photos John Lawler
& Ian Scholey*

Because of the supposed 15 to 20 knot northerly winds, Ian Scholey decided Phillip Island was the best location to dive and he was spot on. Virtually no swell and light winds greeted us at the boat ramp at Newhaven.

VSAG had three boats: Peter Beaumont's *Toucans*, John & Priya's *Waverunner* and my boat *Narcosis*, with 8 divers eager to make the most of the conditions.



Waverunner & Narcosis above The Pinnacles

As a group, we headed to The Pinnacles for our first dive of the day. Some divers opted to only do one dive for the day so sat this dive out for a later dive at Crack Cave.

Peter Beaumont dropped his pick in 35 metres at the base (spot on Pete) and those that did the dive were greeted with abundant marine life. I don't think there's a spare inch of rock that's not covered with sponges or corals.

The first thing that I saw was a large cray but as usual my ambitions exceeded my capabilities and he lives to see another day minus his feelers. The Pinnacles is always a great dive as one looks up in awe at an underwater mountain.



John Ashley - "Damn, missed that cray!"

After retrieving our divers and watching a seal swim about the boat, we headed off to the now FAMOUS Crack Cave. Viz here was much the same as The Pinnacles, about 5-10

metres. Those who haven't done this dive should put it on their list. Some of the photos of this dive are awesome, thanks guys.

After our second dive, *Toucans* and *Narcosis* headed back to Newhaven for coffee whilst *Waverunner* went off to dive the George Kermode, but unfortunately couldn't find it.

Another great VSAG day on the water with all having a great time. Some members don't dive in winter because of the cold water, but conditions in winter are often as good as in summer without the crowds. ❖



Man at work



“Now, how do we get this boat out?”

LONSDALE WALL

*Sunday, August 16
2015*

by Ian Scholey ; photos by John Lawler & Ian Scholey

Unusually, we had just one boat out on Sunday. The forecast was for moderate Northerlies and a 2m swell outside. With that in mind we opted for a dive on Lonsdale Wall utilising a handily timed ebb slack. On board *Signature One* were myself, Peter Beaumont, Andrew Quested and skipper JL.



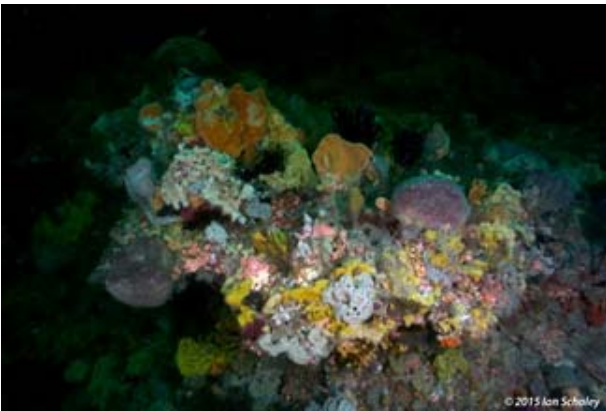
Andrew Quested, Ian Scholey & Peter Beaumont

The boat ramp was deserted as we headed out from Sorrento in ideal conditions. Although a little chilly, the

sun was shining and all was right with the world.

We arrived on site a little early and drifted in the current for a while waiting for slack. When two Dive Vic boats arrived on site and despatched their shot lines we knew it was time to go and dropped the shot close to North Wall Corner. Peter, Andrew and I dived as a trio.

The visibility wasn't good in the shallow water but as we descended, it cleared up and at 25m we had about 15m. We were all a little surprised to see the shot clear of the reef and we had clearly moved from the original mark.

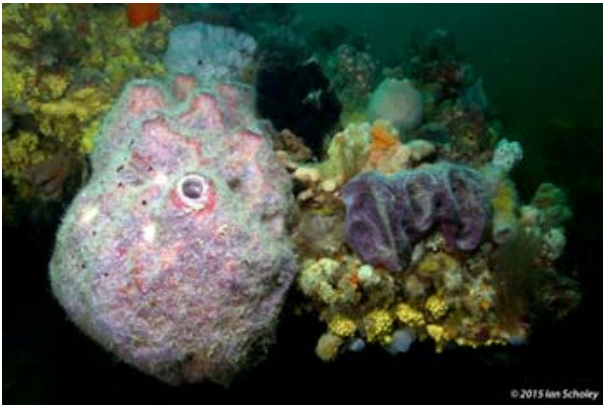


The sea floor was covered in lush-sponge growth and we lingered awhile snapping photographs, or in Andrew's case, shooting video footage. Our agreed dive plan was to separate if we wished and as Andrew and I headed east to find the wall, Peter headed North. It didn't take us too long to reach the drop off and we headed

down to 35m to check out a few overhangs.



Finding good growth and a few Blue Devils, there was plenty to photograph although some carelessness with battery charging saw me quickly reduced to a single strobe. With the current starting to pick up we shot the DSMB and headed back to the surface.



We broke the surface at the same time as Peter but JL had us in his sights and we were picked up first while Peter drifted with the current. With Peter safely back on board, we were served hot drinks by JL who seems to have upgraded his service. The plan for the second dive was to drop in at Boarfish Reef and drift with the tide.



Peter Beaumont back from his dive with Ian Scholey

As we headed in that direction we noticed a flock of birds dive bombing for fish and several seals joining the party. We decided to drop in immediately and see if we could drift into the action.

With a hastily created 3 man drift rig we were soon over the side and descending. Sadly the moment we hit the water the fish moved away and we

were left with nothing but empty ocean. The visibility had deteriorated greatly and was now closer to 5m. To say we took a white knuckle ride would be an understatement. We were flying along desperately trying to avoid the bommies that came out of the gloom very quickly.

We drifted over some really nice territory and surprised a large Skate that was swimming against the current hugging the bottom. After 58 minutes we hit the surface and were surprised to find ourselves almost at Queenscliff. If we had stayed under much longer we may well have ended up in Popes Eye.



Happy diver, Ian Scholey

With just the three of us diving we were back at Sorrento before one o'clock, happy after another great VSAG dive day. ❖



National Geographic Live Oceans Wild

Thursday October 29th @ 8pm

Arts Centre, Mel-
bourne

Ticket Prices:
\$29-\$59



Dive deep into the world's oceans with one of National Geographic's most seasoned photographers. Watch as Brian Skerry's images illuminate the vast, hidden world beneath the waves.

Brian has spent more than 10,000 hours underwater using his camera to tell the story of some of the ocean's most elusive inhabitants. His mission: to enlighten and inspire people to care about the beauty, bounty, and health of the world's oceans.

Often Brian's office is icy, predator-infested water and his uniform a 7mm neoprene wetsuit. Some may see this as inhibiting, but he consistently delivers thought-provoking and captivating images that offer a unique and intimate portrait of the creatures from the deep, and draws attention to the large number of issues that endanger their existence.

Join him live on stage for an intimate look at dolphins' intelligence, hang out with the endearing Arctic harp seal, and circumnavigate the globe in search of the world's most endangered whale.

Brian is a passionate spokesman for the oceans he loves to photograph. His riveting presentations inspire reverence for the marine realm, and most of all, they offer hope for protecting the vitality of the world's oceans.

A number of VSAGers already have tickets to this event.

If you would like to join them, book at The Arts Centre, Melbourne.

[https://
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/
whats-on/forum-talk/ocean-wild?
m=performances](https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/forum-talk/ocean-wild?m=performances)



PHIL WATSON'S LATEST PHOTOS



Sculpture - South Road



Hydroid - Altona



???? - Point Cook

Can you help identify this?



Medusa - Point Wilson



Isopod - Point Cook



Gannet - Pope's Eye



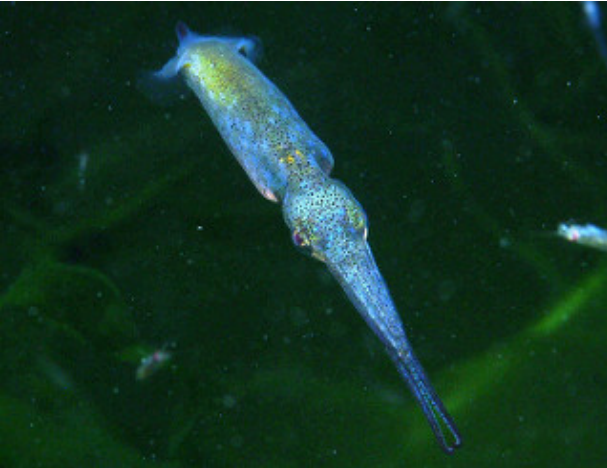
Sea Cucumber - Altona



Coral - Rickett's Point



Wave - Airey's Inlet



Pygmy Squid - Point Wilson



Goatfish - Rickett's Point



Rye Pier



Rye Pier



Fanweed - Rickett's Point



Starfish Point Cook

DIVING THE WEB

20 Amazing Underwater Photographs

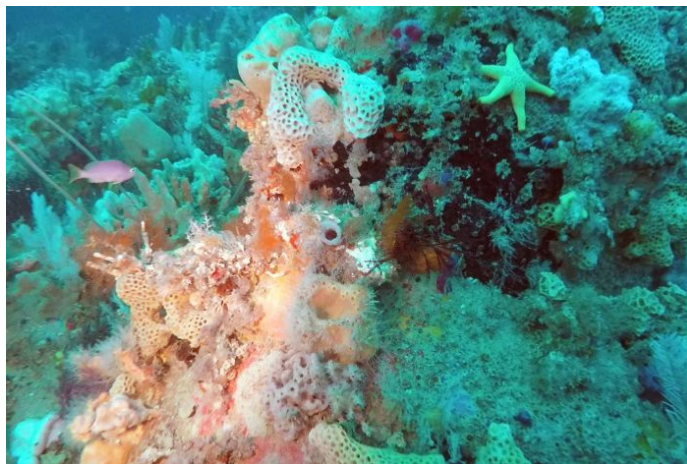
A picture is worth a thousand words. Here are 20,000 worth of words under the sea.



<http://scubadiverlife.com/2014/10/31/20-amazing-underwater-photographs/>

Underwater coral discovery south of Melbourne rivals Great Barrier Reef

Coral and sea life rivalling that found on the Great Barrier Reef has been discovered in the waters south of Melbourne, Parks Victoria says.



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-22/deepsea-robot-discovery-rivals-great-barrier-reef-parks-victoria/6717028>

Raising the CSS Georgia

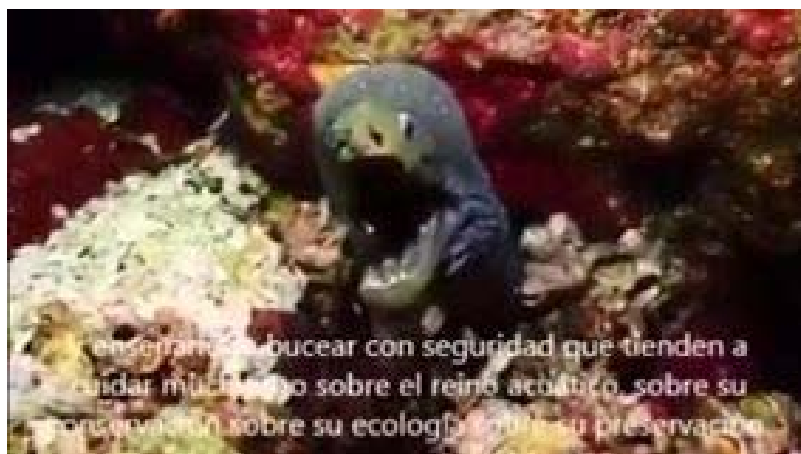
In the Savannah River, Navy divers work to recover remains of an immobile Confederate ship scuttled by its own crew.



<http://hamptonroads.com/2015/08/navy-divers-recover-remains-sunken-confederate-ship-scuttled-its-own-crew>

Why we dive

Ian Scholey found this video about why we dive



<https://www.facebook.com/djbigsteve/videos/10153061304710808/>

DIVE SNIPPETS

HMAS BRISBANE August 2015

Peter & Carole Campisano

Carole and I have just returned from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, diving the wreck of the "Brisbane" with ScubaWorld in Mooloolaba.

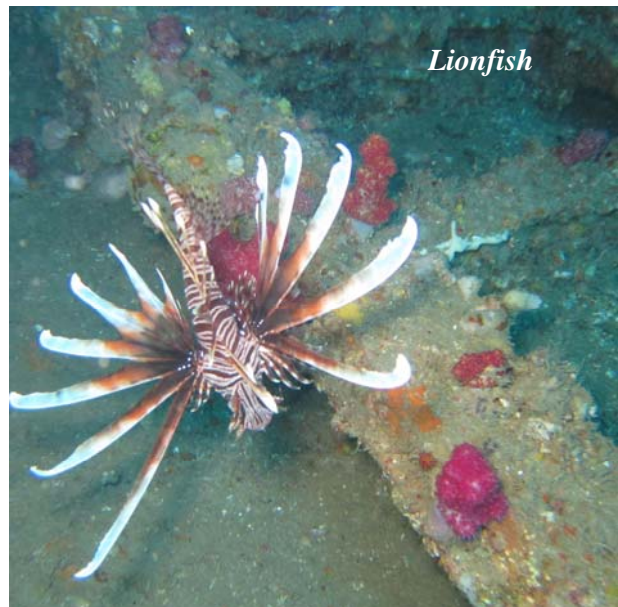
The diving was very impressive and ScubaWorld were fantastic people to dive with. We would highly recommend this diving to VSAG divers during Melbourne's Winter. The land temperature was between 22 and 25 degrees everyday with great sunshine. The water temperature was 20 degrees on the Brisbane.

The fish life was remarkable. One metre long barracuda, large snapper, Batfish, giant Queensland group-er and heaps more. The viz was about 60 feet and the water was a deep blue.

If interested contact Rob or Mike McKinnon at ScubaWorld by ringing 075444-8595 or checkout the website : www.scubaworld.com.au



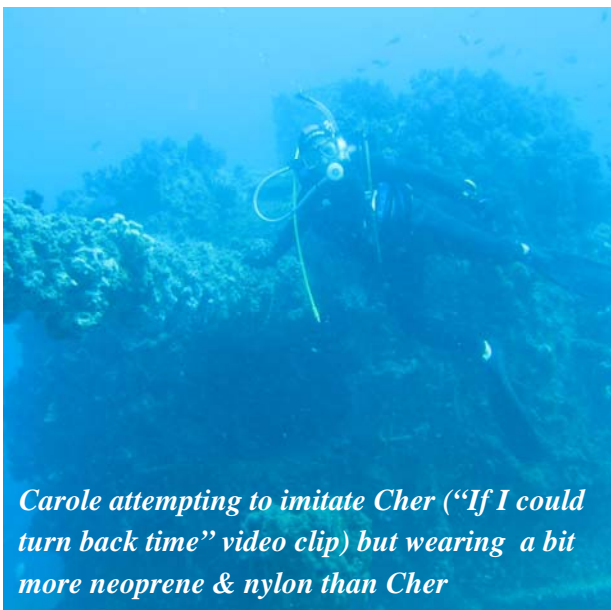
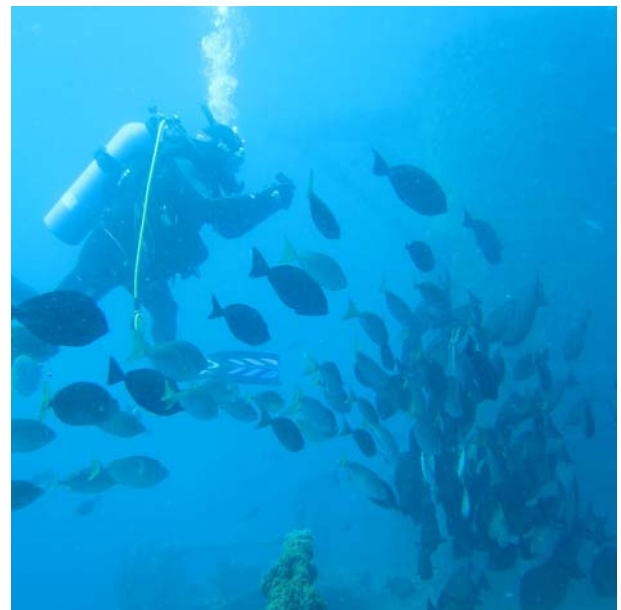
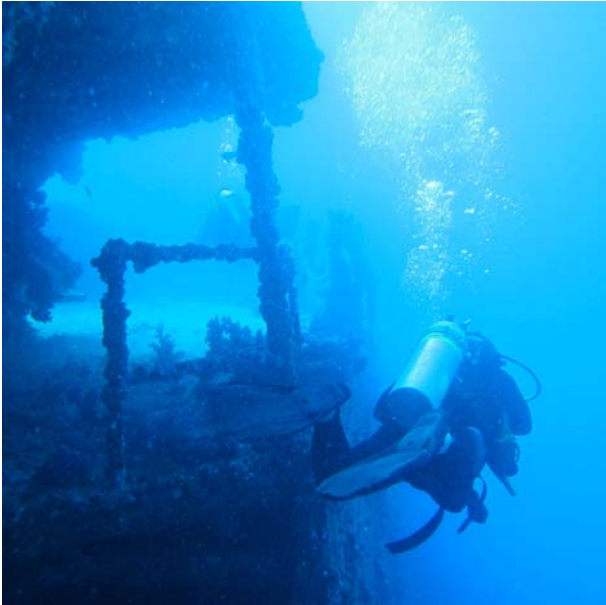
A friendly octopus



Lionfish



A smiling Peter Campisano



Carole attempting to imitate Cher (“If I could turn back time” video clip) but wearing a bit more neoprene & nylon than Cher

See Peter & Carole’s video - “Our Secret Snapper Spot” at :

https://video.fmel1-1.fna.fbcdn.net/hvideo-xpt1/v/t42.1790-2/11837618_1646596655583080_730956446_n.mp4?efg=eyJybHliOjYyNCwicmxhIjo1MTJ9&rl=624&vabr=347&oh=46c659331ab9677a7dd8d4f35da0f961&oe=55F388A1 ❖

BLAIRGOWRIE NIGHT DIVE Friday, August 28 2015

Ian Scholey



HURRICANE & ROSEBUD REEF Sunday, August 30 2015

Ian Scholey

Just Sea Eagle on the water today with myself and Peter Beaumont on board. With Southerlies blowing, we tucked in behind the Peninsula and dived the Hurricane before heading even closer to shore and doing Rosebud Reef. As usual both of these sites were full of life. There were a couple of Port Jacksons swimming around on the Reef and plenty of eggs to be seen. I also found a little Pistol shrimp (*Alpheus astrinx*) that I've never seen before. ❖



PHILLIP ISLAND

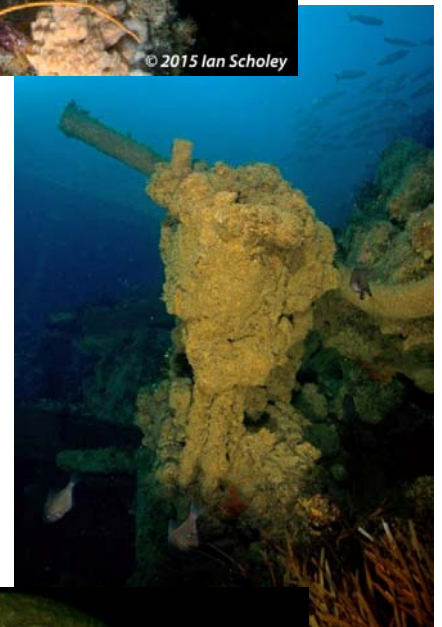
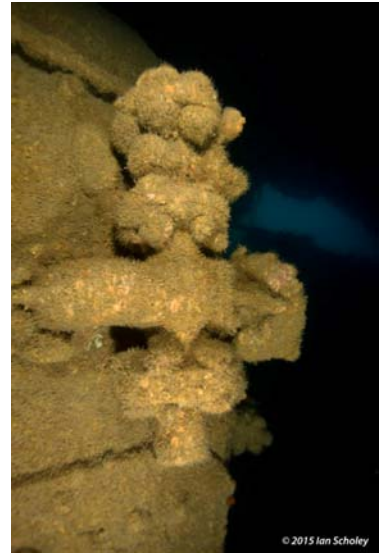
Sunday, September 6 2015

Ian Scholey

Phillip Island was today's destination for a Father's Day dive. Just the one boat out, Toucans with myself and Peter Beaumont on board. It was always looking like a good day when I was treated to a magnificent sun rise on the trip over. Conditions were perfect and even the water temp has crept up to 12 degrees.



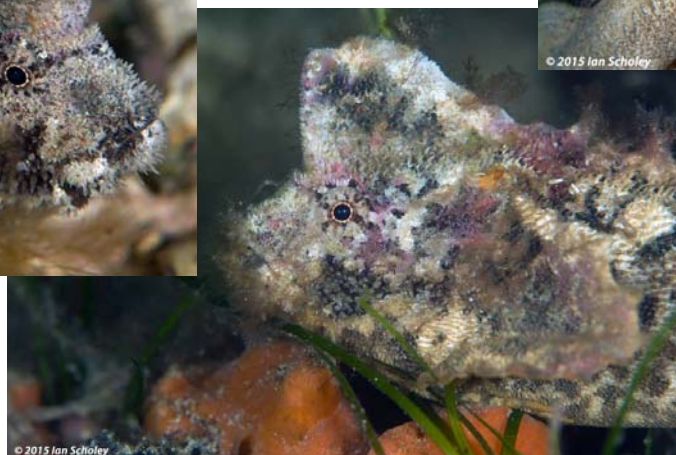
The Pinnacle was fantastic as always and we had excellent vis on the George Kermode for a change. There was a noticeable deterioration of the wreck since I dived it last, with care needed inside to avoid lots of sharp metal. ❖



BLAIRGOWRIE NIGHT DIVE Friday, September 18 2015

Ian Scholey

After a short break, the night dive returned last night. Jeremy Van Den Beek and myself splashed in at Blairgowrie. The current was running a bit but that brings out the critters and there were plenty about. I was set up for the really small stuff so was forced into portrait mode for the bigger things. Critter of the night was Velvetfish with at least half a dozen found. ❖



VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar

by Graham Ellis, Dive Calendar Coordinator, 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 e-mail address.

You are required to call the Dive Captain between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. the evening prior to the dive day to confirm that you will still be coming on the dive.

Oct 3/4	DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Oct 10/11	DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Oct 17/18	DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Oct 20	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Oct 24/25	DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Oct 31/1	DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Nov 7/8	DC Ross Walker 0417 376 192
Nov 14/15	Boat DC Peter Galvin 0417 061 564
November 21	VSAG Christmas Party
Nov 21/22	Boat DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
Nov 24	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Nov 28/29	Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Nov 29	Shore DC Walter Medanbach 0408 899 881
Dec 5/6	Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Dec 12/13	Boat DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Dec 19/20	Boat DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Dec 22	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Dec 26/27	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Dec 27	Shore DC Walter Medanbach 0408 899 881
Jan 2/3	Boat DC Ross Walker 0417 376 192

Tidal Streams at the Heads — October 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

September			October			
<i>MON 28</i>	<i>TUE 29</i>	<i>WED 30</i>	<i>THU 1</i>	<i>FRI 2</i>	<i>SAT 3</i>	<i>SUN 4</i>
<i>1:25</i>	<i>2:44</i>	<i>3:51</i>	<i>4:49</i>	<i>5:42</i>	<i>0:13</i>	<i>0:59</i>
<i>8:15</i>	<i>9:21</i>	<i>10:17</i>	<i>11:07</i>	<i>11:53</i>	<i>6:32</i>	<i>8:21</i>
<i>14:23</i>	<i>15:12</i>	<i>15:57</i>	<i>16:41</i>	<i>17:23</i>	<i>12:37</i>	<i>14:20</i>
<i>20:46</i>	<i>21:45</i>	<i>22:37</i>	<i>23:26</i>		<i>18:06</i>	<i>19:50</i>
<i>MON 5</i>	<i>TUE 6</i>	<i>WED 7</i>	<i>THU 8</i>	<i>FRI 9</i>	<i>SAT 10</i>	<i>SUN 11</i>
<i>2:44</i>	<i>3:29</i>	<i>4:13</i>	<i>5:00</i>	<i>5:54</i>	<i>0:30</i>	<i>1:50</i>
<i>9:09</i>	<i>9:57</i>	<i>10:46</i>	<i>11:38</i>	<i>12:36</i>	<i>7:00</i>	<i>8:16</i>
<i>15:02</i>	<i>15:46</i>	<i>16:34</i>	<i>17:31</i>	<i>18:42</i>	<i>13:37</i>	<i>14:34</i>
<i>20:35</i>	<i>21:22</i>	<i>22:15</i>	<i>23:17</i>		<i>20:00</i>	<i>21:06</i>
<i>MON 12</i>	<i>TUE 13</i>	<i>WED 14</i>	<i>THU 15</i>	<i>FRI 16</i>	<i>SAT 17</i>	<i>SUN 18</i>
<i>3:03</i>	<i>4:03</i>	<i>4:50</i>	<i>5:30</i>	<i>6:06</i>	<i>0:20</i>	<i>0:53</i>
<i>9:26</i>	<i>10:22</i>	<i>11:06</i>	<i>11:45</i>	<i>12:20</i>	<i>6:40</i>	<i>7:15</i>
<i>15:23</i>	<i>16:03</i>	<i>16:38</i>	<i>17:09</i>	<i>17:40</i>	<i>12:52</i>	<i>13:24</i>
<i>21:56</i>	<i>22:37</i>	<i>23:14</i>	<i>23:48</i>		<i>18:11</i>	<i>18:43</i>
<i>MON 19</i>	<i>TUE 20</i>	<i>WED 21</i>	<i>THU 22</i>	<i>FRI 23</i>	<i>SAT 24</i>	<i>SUN 25</i>
<i>1:26</i>	<i>2:00</i>	<i>2:37</i>	<i>3:16</i>	<i>4:01</i>	<i>4:54</i>	<i>6:01</i>
<i>7:50</i>	<i>8:28</i>	<i>9:07</i>	<i>9:49</i>	<i>10:35</i>	<i>11:28</i>	<i>12:28</i>
<i>13:56</i>	<i>14:29</i>	<i>15:04</i>	<i>15:44</i>	<i>16:33</i>	<i>17:37</i>	<i>18:55</i>
<i>19:15</i>	<i>19:49</i>	<i>20:27</i>	<i>21:14</i>	<i>22:14</i>	<i>23:32</i>	
October						Nov
<i>MON 26</i>	<i>TUE 27</i>	<i>WED 28</i>	<i>THU 29</i>	<i>FRI 30</i>	<i>SAT 31</i>	<i>SUN 1</i>
<i>1:01</i>	<i>2:29</i>	<i>3:45</i>	<i>4:48</i>	<i>5:42</i>	<i>0:01</i>	<i>0:47</i>
<i>7:23</i>	<i>8:48</i>	<i>10:01</i>	<i>11:01</i>	<i>11:53</i>	<i>6:32</i>	<i>7:18</i>
<i>13:30</i>	<i>14:31</i>	<i>15:27</i>	<i>16:19</i>	<i>17:08</i>	<i>12:40</i>	<i>13:24</i>
<i>20:14</i>	<i>21:22</i>	<i>22:20</i>	<i>23:12</i>		<i>17:55</i>	<i>18:42</i>

Tidal Streams at the Heads — November 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.

October						November
MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 31	SUN 1
<i>1:01</i>	<i>2:29</i>	<i>3:45</i>	<i>4:48</i>	<i>5:42</i>	<i>0:01</i>	<i>0:47</i>
<i>7:23</i>	<i>8:48</i>	<i>10:01</i>	<i>11:01</i>	<i>11:53</i>	<i>6:32</i>	<i>7:18</i>
<i>13:30</i>	<i>14:31</i>	<i>15:27</i>	<i>16:19</i>	<i>17:08</i>	<i>12:40</i>	<i>13:24</i>
<i>20:14</i>	<i>21:22</i>	<i>22:20</i>	<i>23:12</i>		<i>17:55</i>	<i>18:42</i>
MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7	SUN 8
<i>1:32</i>	<i>2:15</i>	<i>2:56</i>	<i>3:36</i>	<i>4:17</i>	<i>5:03</i>	<i>0:12</i>
<i>8:03</i>	<i>8:45</i>	<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:07</i>	<i>10:49</i>	<i>11:35</i>	<i>6:01</i>
<i>14:08</i>	<i>14:51</i>	<i>15:35</i>	<i>16:21</i>	<i>17:12</i>	<i>18:12</i>	<i>12:25</i>
<i>19:28</i>	<i>20:15</i>	<i>21:04</i>	<i>21:57</i>	<i>22:59</i>		<i>19:18</i>
MON 9	TUE 10	WED 11	THU 12	FRI 13	SAT 14	SUN 15
<i>1:31</i>	<i>2:46</i>	<i>3:46</i>	<i>4:34</i>	<i>5:14</i>	<i>5:51</i>	<i>6:25</i>
<i>7:17</i>	<i>8:40</i>	<i>9:47</i>	<i>10:40</i>	<i>11:23</i>	<i>12:01</i>	<i>12:37</i>
<i>13:18</i>	<i>14:11</i>	<i>14:59</i>	<i>15:42</i>	<i>16:23</i>	<i>17:01</i>	<i>17:39</i>
<i>20:20</i>	<i>21:12</i>	<i>21:56</i>	<i>22:36</i>	<i>23:13</i>	<i>23:49</i>	
MON 16	TUE 17	WED 18	THU 19	FRI 20	SAT 21	SUN 22
<i>0:24</i>	<i>1:00</i>	<i>1:37</i>	<i>2:15</i>	<i>2:55</i>	<i>3:39</i>	<i>4:30</i>
<i>7:00</i>	<i>7:35</i>	<i>8:11</i>	<i>8:48</i>	<i>9:25</i>	<i>10:05</i>	<i>10:50</i>
<i>13:11</i>	<i>13:46</i>	<i>14:21</i>	<i>15:00</i>	<i>15:43</i>	<i>16:33</i>	<i>17:33</i>
<i>18:16</i>	<i>18:54</i>	<i>19:34</i>	<i>20:19</i>	<i>21:12</i>	<i>22:18</i>	<i>23:36</i>
MON 23	TUE 24	WED 25	THU 26	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29
<i>5:30</i>	<i>1:03</i>	<i>2:28</i>	<i>3:40</i>	<i>4:41</i>	<i>5:33</i>	<i>6:20</i>
<i>11:41</i>	<i>6:47</i>	<i>8:16</i>	<i>9:36</i>	<i>10:42</i>	<i>11:38</i>	<i>12:27</i>
<i>18:41</i>	<i>12:40</i>	<i>13:43</i>	<i>14:46</i>	<i>15:45</i>	<i>16:41</i>	<i>17:33</i>
	<i>19:52</i>	<i>20:57</i>	<i>21:56</i>	<i>22:50</i>	<i>23:39</i>	

Tidal Streams at the Heads — December 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.

November	December					
MON 30	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6
0:25	1:09	1:49	2:27	3:04	3:40	4:19
7:03	7:44	8:22	8:57	9:31	10:04	10:39
13:13	13:56	14:38	15:20	16:02	16:46	17:34
18:22	19:10	19:57	20:45	21:36	22:33	23:39
MON 7	TUE 8	WED 9	THU 10	FRI 11	SAT 12	SUN 13
5:05	0:53	2:09	3:15	4:09	4:54	5:33
11:17	6:04	7:26	8:54	10:02	10:54	11:39
18:28	12:02	12:54	13:49	14:45	15:37	16:26
	19:25	20:21	21:11	21:58	22:41	23:22
MON 14	TUE 15	WED 16	THU 17	FRI 18	SAT 19	SUN 20
6:10	0:02	0:42	1:22	2:02	2:44	3:27
12:18	6:46	7:21	7:55	8:30	9:04	9:40
17:12	12:56	13:34	14:13	14:54	15:38	16:27
	17:56	18:42	19:29	20:20	21:16	22:21
MON 21	TUE 22	WED 23	THU 24	FRI 25	SAT 26	SUN 27
4:13	5:07	0:56	2:17	3:28	4:29	5:21
10:19	11:05	6:15	7:39	9:08	10:22	11:23
17:22	18:23	11:59	13:03	14:11	15:18	16:21
23:35		19:28	20:33	21:34	22:30	23:21
December				January		
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
6:06	0:08	0:50	1:28	2:06	2:39	3:12
12:14	6:47	7:24	7:57	8:23	8:52	9:21
17:17	13:00	13:42	14:21	14:58	15:34	16:11
	18:08	18:56	19:41	20:23	21:09	21:58

Emergency Contact Information

Anywhere on water in Victoria Ch 16 or 88 should be your first choice using Mayday or Pan Pan

**VHF Channel 16
27 MHz AM Channel 88**

Note: VSAG uses VHF CH 73 and 27 MHz CH 96 for routine communications. Check you are using the correct emergency channel.

VSAG Nautilus will be tuned to Ch 73 (Green button for routine comms) and Ch 16 (Red Button for distress comms)

Speak slowly and clearly

<p>Mayday Call – for grave & imminent danger requiring immediate assistance</p>	<p>Urgency Call – when the danger is not grave or imminent</p>
<p>Distress Call:</p> <p>Mayday, Mayday, Mayday</p> <p>This is: <u>“Boat call sign x3”</u> (Boat owners insert your call sign)</p>	<p>Urgency Call:</p> <p>Pan Pan, Pan Pan, Pan Pan</p> <p>All Ships, All Ships, All Ships (or the emergency service you want to contact)</p> <p>This is: <u>“Boat call sign x3”</u> (Boat owners insert your call sign)</p>
<p>Distress message after contact made:</p> <p>Mayday</p> <p>“2 DIVE 4”</p> <p>Give position-(see GPS for co-ordinates), nature of the problem, number on board plus any other relevant information</p> <p>Over</p> <p>Follow advice given by the emergency agency – DO NOT “Sign off” until told so by agency.</p>	<p>Urgency message after contact made:</p> <p>Pan Pan</p> <p>“2 DIVE 4”</p> <p>Give position-(see GPS for co-ordinates), nature of the problem, number on board plus any other relevant information</p> <p>Over</p> <p>Follow advice given by the emergency agency – DO NOT “Sign off” until told so by agency.</p>

All passengers on a boat should be familiar with the use of marine radio(s) in case of emergency.

Emergency Contact Information

Telephone contacts

Police – Ambulance – Fire : 000

Water Police no longer use the 1800 088 200 number

The new 24/7 No is : 03 9399 7500

DAN International Emergency Hotline: +1-919-684-9111 (from mobile)
0011 1 919684 9111 (from landline)

State Emergency Service (VIC): 132 500 (new number)

Alfred Hospital Hyperbaric Unit: 03 9076 2269

Alfred Hospital switchboard: 03 9076 2000

Mornington Peninsula Area

Diving Emergency Service: 1800 088 200

Dr. John Roth:

Mornington Medical Group **03 5975 2633**

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

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**

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

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

Dr John Roth (Mornington) 03 5975 2633



NEW Slider Drysuit and Wetsuit Powder!

Developed by VSAG's James Turner

- Get in and out of your suit easily and safely.
- Perfumed powder and talcum powder contains chemicals that will degrade the soft neoprene, latex and rubber seals on your dry suit.
- Australian developed and made **Slider** uses all natural, eco-friendly ingredients to protect and nourish your seals every time you use your suit.
- Also great for open cell neoprene suits, spearfishing, freediving, triathlon and swimming suits!



THE WISDOM OF GRAHAM ELLIS -

Quote, unquote “Yellow thingies” (above) and “A spikey thing” (below)





The Three Stooges (?) having a great time at Tasman Arch



Photo taken by Peter Beaumont - said it made him think of John Lawler!