



Fathoms

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2016



*Photo taken by
Ian Scholey at
Blairgowrie*

*HERRING ISLAND
CHRISTMAS IN JULY
OPERATION SPONGEBOB*

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

www.vsag.org.au

VSAG SYDNEY TRIP

MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

Friday 28th October—Tuesday 1st November

The previously communicated Sydney Melbourne Cup Weekend road trip is definitely going ahead. At this stage we have 3 boats that are confirmed.

Based on the boats and divers confirmed, we have two more spaces available for divers if anyone is interested in making this trip. We will be driving to Sydney on Friday 28th October and back on Tuesday 1st November. This gives us 3 full days for diving.



Weather allowing, we will dive the pick of the local dive sites including Magic Point, Shark Cave and Bare Island. If the water gods are with us we might even find the Red Indian fish that I am desperate to photograph.

We are staying at the Engadine Motor Inn which has good facilities and space for the boats. Costs are circa \$550 for 4 nights.



There will be car capacity available for anyone wishing to join us or you are welcome to fly up. If interested, please let Ian Scholey know ASAP. The current crew travelling have already booked accommodation.



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/groups/vsag.divers/> and 'Like' us.



Check out St George Scuba Club at :
www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au

Peter Beaumont was a member there while in Sydney. They are very active and a nice bunch of people.

We are delighted to announce that we have now established another relationship with an interstate club that will allow you to dive with them if you wish to and vice versa.

The club is the Tas Uni Dive Club. You can check them out at : www.tudc.org.au



Your VSAG Committee 2015–2016

To email all VSAG committee members: committee@vsag.org.au

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Election of Committee Members 2016 / 2017

The VSAG Committee now needs your help. From the October meeting of the Committee, there will be vacancies allowing you the opportunity to contribute to the club. This is your chance to do something as a leader of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group. If you would like to be involved, please fill out a nomination form and have two members counter-sign.

The form must be returned to the Secretary personally or by mail to:

The Secretary, VSAG, 145 Johnston St Newport, Vic 3015

By no later than 20th September 2016.

Committee Members whose term expires at the end of September are:
Ian Scholey, Lloyd Borrett, Benita McDonough, Christine Reynolds & David Flew.

For your information, the other committee members in addition to those above, are:

David Geekie, John Lawler, Peter Galvin, Peter Beaumont, Graham Ellis, Charmaine Alford, & Michael Ngai.

Nomination Form

We the undersigned, being full members of the Victorian Sub Aqua Group, hereby nominate:

..... for the position of Committee Member of the Group

Signature of proposer

Signature of seconder

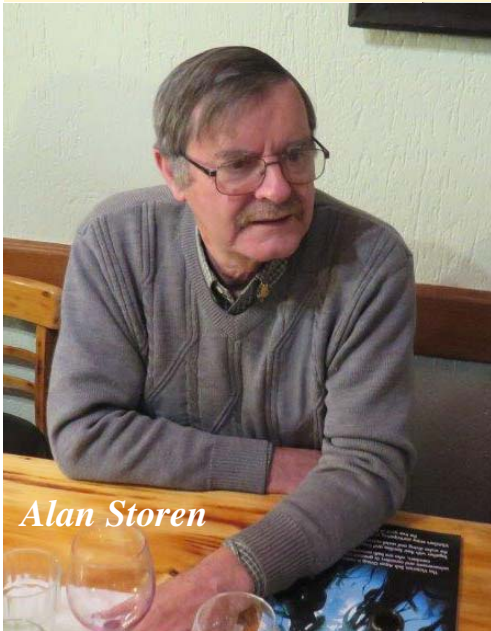
I, Hereby accept the above nomination for
Committee Member of the group.

Signature of nominee..... Date

Please Remember: The Secretary must have this completed nomination form no later than Tuesday 20th September 2016

VSAG LIFE MEMBERS' DINNER

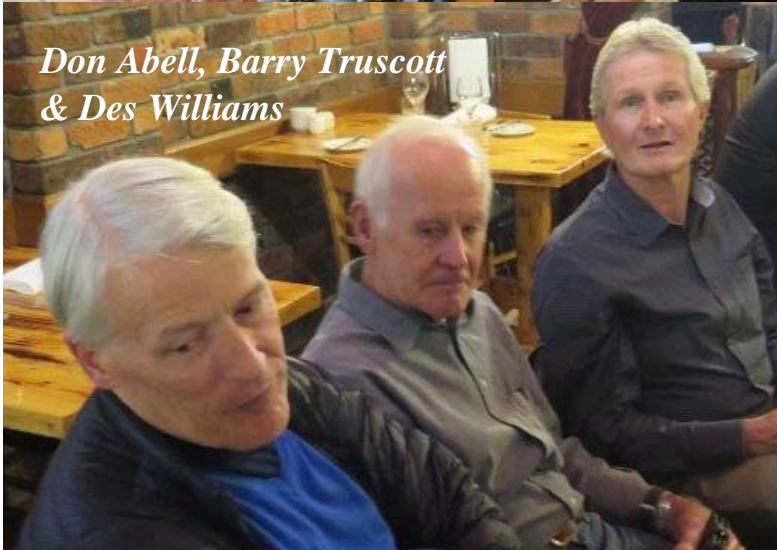
18TH JUNE 2016



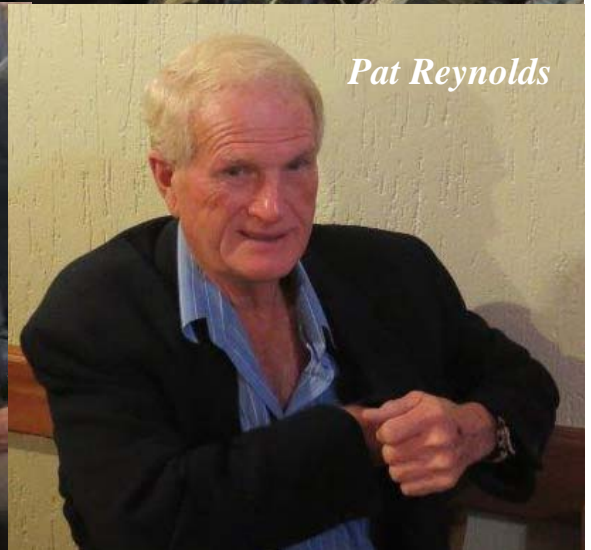
Alan Storen



Mick Jeacle & Alex Talay



*Don Abell, Barry Truscott
& Des Williams*



Pat Reynolds



Jan Watson & John Lawler



Andy Mastrowicz & John Goulding

CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT P.J'S



The VSAG Christmas in July dinner was held at P J O'Brien's on Saturday 2nd July . It was attended by 28 VSAG members and was a really great night with a lot of laughs.

Photos supplied by Hannah Smeeton



Kerry Shanahan, Charmaine Alford & Hannah Smeeton being photobombed by the waitress



Nick Schoeffler & Carol Penfold



Hannah Smeeton & Nick Schoeffler



John & Yvonne Lawler, Mick Young, Sherryn Amor, Heidi Harron, Mark Jeffrey & Charmaine Alford



Benita Mc Donough, Pam Dagley, David Geekie and Julie & Steve Vadja



David & Rae Flew, Michael Caspar, Benita McDonough, Ian , Anna & Sue Scholey



Hannah Smeeton, Nick Schoeffler, Roy Penfold, Chris Panthera, Carol Penfold, Geoff Rodda & Kerry Shanahan

Operation SpongeBob

Article and photos by Ian Scholey

Victoria's favourite dive site, Blairgowrie Marina is once again going through significant works. This time the wave screen is to be replaced over a ten-week period. A bi-valve known as the Shipworm' (*Teredo navalis*), has caused considerable damage to the wooden piles, to the point where the rotted, damaged or lost piles are no longer keeping the wave & tidal energy out of the marina. Consequently, 150m of the wooden piles are being replaced so the submerged wall can continue its purpose.

As anyone who has dived there will know, during the approximate 11 years the current timber has been in the water, the wooden piles have created a platform for a thriving and colourful habitat to establish. The piles are blanketed with a growth of sponges, ascidians, algae and the like that has created a foun-

ation for the thriving local ecosystem that most of us know and love.



When local dive operator, *Dive2U* owners, AJ and Niki Morton found out about the works to be completed, they were concerned about the impact on the dive site and decided to try and do something about it and in minimal time.

Operation SpongeBob was born. Contact was made with Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron and *Aegir Divers*, the commercial divers contracted to complete the works. Both parties were enthusiastic about the proposed project. After the historical problems between the yacht squadron and the diving com-

munity, it is hugely positive to have the good folks at the club on side.



AJ Morton giving an interview on the project at RRR

The signs of a thawing of relationships have been evident since the redevelopment of the facilities began, with the club financing the installation of a platform and ladder to make entry and exit to the dive site easier. This time they have given the project access to facilities including meeting rooms, toilets and hot showers as well as making a substantial financial donation to the project.

A tip off from Alan Beckhurst at *Downunder Dive Club* put me onto the project and I immediately made contact with AJ and Niki, asking how myself and VSAG could get involved.

The timing was good and I was invited to attend a meeting at Blairgowrie the following Sunday. Along with other interested parties, Peter Beaumont and I attended the meeting and were briefed on the objective of *Operation Sponge*.

The objective is to significantly reduce the recovery and re-growth timeframe of the habitat by removing flora from the old wooden piles and reattaching it to the new piles. Sounds pretty simple doesn't it? The reality is that it is far from simple as we were to find out during in-water trials later that afternoon.

The first challenge is how to fix the sponges to the new wood. Plenty of previous projects have successfully attached coral but sponges and ascidians are a bit of a first. The glue has to be non-toxic to the organism and capable of being applied underwater. As neither Sponges or Ascidians deal with being removed from the water, it then has to work. AJ and Nikki had already done the hard work of

research and a product known as *Coral Glue* was identified. The Australian distributor was kind enough to donate a small quantity to the project and some initial tests were positive.

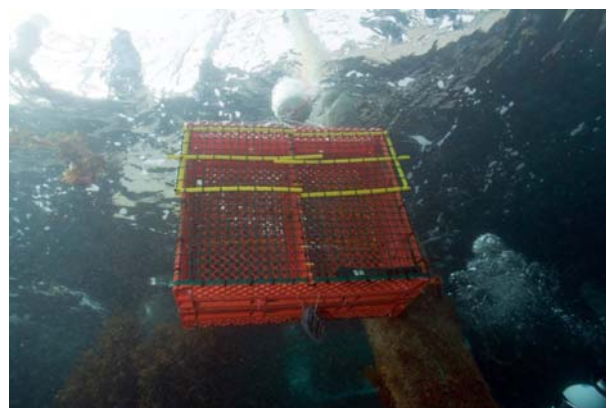
The second challenge is time. Director of Aegir Divers, Bert Cross, briefed us on the plan of works. If the weather gods are kind, then 15m of the 150m long wave screen will be replaced each week. The project plan is to work one step behind the works, removing sponges from the section to be completed the following week and attaching them to the section completed the previous week. In essence, it will be a race against time to complete the task each week and keep up with the commercial dive team.

The plan is to have groups of divers working in pairs, supported by people on the surface. The first team will strip sponges from the old timber using a basic wallpaper stripper. The ideal size of sponge is about grapefruit size, any bigger and the amount of glue needed gets

excessive and hence expensive.



The aim is to select a good variety as it simply isn't known if one species will cope better than another with the move. This learning will be important for any future similar projects. The sponges will be placed into a specially modified crate and then transported to the finished area to be populated.



There, a second team will complete the gluing, placing the sponges well apart on the new timber. The idea is not to com-

pletely cover the timber but create islands of sponge that will hopefully speed up the repopulation process.



It was now time for us to kit up, hit the water and go try and put all this into practice. Peter and I had already been in for a pre-meeting dive so it was the unpleasant donning of wet gear for us. That over, we splashed in from the end of the new concrete section. The first thing we noticed was the test section from the previous week and it was

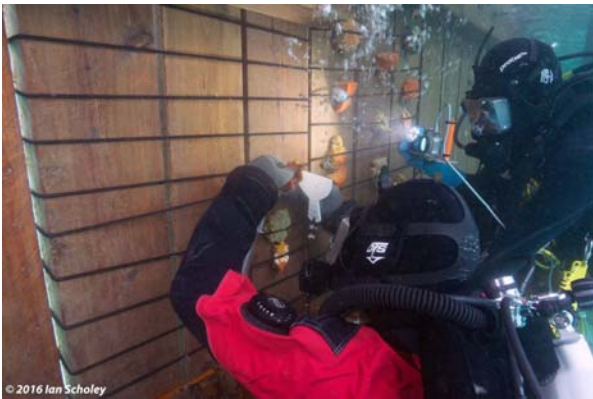
encouraging to see that despite the midweek battering, half of the affixed sponges still remained.

With the rest of the team in the water, we grabbed a stripper and started to remove a selection of sponges. We examined each one for any life and on a couple of occasions I had to gently remove a small Nudi-branch, making sure I put it on the same sort of sponge it had come from. In the project, this activity will be completed prior to a section of sponges being removed. The good thing with the sponges is you don't need to be too gentle as they are very hardy. That said, they are pretty easy to remove.

With our sponges removed, the next task was to swim them to the gluer. Applying the glue is



not an easy task underwater and, to be honest, it was very problematic. This caused a bit of a backlog of divers, all trying to hold their position in the shallows, with the surface chop from the northerly wind making this difficult.



With glue applied, we selected our spot and held the sponge in place for 30 seconds to allow bonding to occur. Our success rate was pretty low, with sponges falling off regularly and being taken for a second serve of glue. Some of the bigger samples just wouldn't stick.

Back on the surface, a lively discussion developed about the challenges involved and the ideas really started flowing. Across the next week, various people went away to complete

modifications to crates and to create a bungy cord solution for holding sponges in place to allow easier gluing and to apply pressure to aid bonding.

The project is supported by Marine Biologist, Jacqui, and each section of repopulated timber will be individually numbered and photographed. The progress of each sponge type can then be monitored over time. This will form the basis of a citizen science project and will hopefully help build the knowledge base for future similar exercises.

During the following week those of you who attended the July general meeting were given a presentation by AJ on the project. The project has caught more than just my imagination with Kade Mills from Reef Watch coming on board and a



AJ Morton at our July General Meeting

press release generating interest in the media. VSAG members present on the night, raised \$150 for the project which was a great effort.



Since then, several members have been helping out in other ways. David Flew has used his contacts to find some potential alternatives to the expensive Coral Glue and Jan Watson has put the project in touch with her Marine Biologist daughter, Avril, who has some experience with moving sponges. I have also managed to track down someone from a similar project at Busselton Jetty in WA via our friends at the *Under Water Explorers Club of WA*.

After a failed attempt due to the weather, the project was offi-

cially launched on Saturday 30th July. After a talk on the objectives of the project, the crowd were given the opportunity to view the process underwater via a surface video feed, with AJ giving a running commentary via audio hook up. Channel 7 news were there to film it, along with project videographer, Marty. More importantly, there was a good turnout of divers willing to sign up to help out in future weeks.

I will be helping out over the coming weeks with both in-water and surface supervision and I would encourage as many of you as possible to come on down and lend a hand. If we want to keep this wonderful dive site at its best, then we need to help look after it. Beside that, what a great opportunity to build relationships with the wider dive community and the good folks at Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron.

The working sessions will be going on over the next 10 weekends with morning and

afternoon sessions on both Saturday and Sunday. If you would like to sign up, then visit the Operation SpongeBob Facebook page where every session is set up as an event. ❖



The Project's banner with our VSAG logo on board

Below is a link to a local news article about the project :

<http://mpnews.com.au/2016/08/01/operation-sponge-helps-nature/>

Home: Covered

Car: Covered

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Divers Alert Network

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DAN Membership Costs Less than AUD\$6* per month
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!

WILD SEAS, SECRET SHORES

Wondrous whale sharks and somersaulting rays with underwater photographer Thomas Peschak

27 OCT ONE SHOW ONLY

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THOMAS PESCHAK

National Geographic Live! will return this year and once again there is a chance to hear from one of their Underwater Photographers. This year will feature Thomas Peschak.

To Thomas Peschak, sharks aren't a reason to get out of the water. They're a reason to get in. Following his lifelong obsession, he's found himself paddling kayaks alongside great white sharks in South Africa, swimming among hundreds of one-ton manta rays in the Maldives, and keeping pace with massive whale sharks in the Arabian Sea. In this talk, the marine biologist-turned-

National Geographic Photographer takes audiences around the world with his award-winning images and his engaging take on the ocean's charismatic creatures.

These events have been very enjoyable in the past and VSAG members will once again be attending. The date is Thursday 27th October and the event will be held at Hamer Hall starting at 7.30pm. We will meet before the show for a drink and bite to eat. ❖

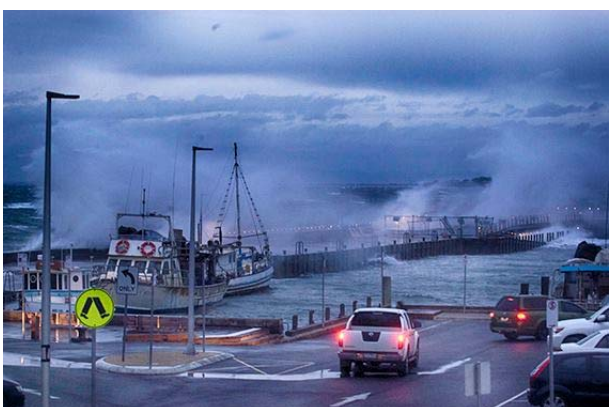
To get tickets, go to <https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2016/forum-talk/>

LOCAL PIER CLOSURES

MORNINGTON

Due to recent storm damage, the water under and around the pier is closed to diving and swimming while urgent repair works are completed.

It's no wonder when you see these photos that appeared on Facebook and in the local press recently. ❖



SORRENTO



Parks Victoria have advised that they have planned essential maintenance for Sorrento Pier during the quieter winter months (they obviously don't know VSAG members very well!) **from Monday 1st August 2016.**

Works are anticipated to take two to four weeks to complete, subject to suitable weather conditions.

“Our contractor...will need to close sections of the pier during the works to provide for a safe working environment and for the safety of any visitors to the pier.” ❖

JUNE MEETING GUEST SPEAKER- NICK SCHOEFLER

At our June General Meeting we were given an insight into the diving life of Nick Schoeffler.



“I've been diving since 1986. I'm currently an instructor for Global Underwater Explorers, which has taken me around Australia and the World teaching or working on projects. One of the highlights was supporting the Wakulla Karst Plains Project world record cave traverse. In addition, I was involved in a number of the shipwreck searches and discovery with Southern Ocean Exploration – including the Alert, the Glenelg, and the Don Diego.”

Nick never really thought of himself as someone who would enjoy diving in caves, but after three extended trips to Mexico, he's hooked. In his talk he took us through why he's so passionate about the caves in Mexico; and some of the great diving he

there earlier this year with Hannah Smeeton –including rarely dived caves, haloclines, Mayan artefacts, ancient bones and firepits. ❖



Resort at Puerto Aventura



Pre Dive 1 descent



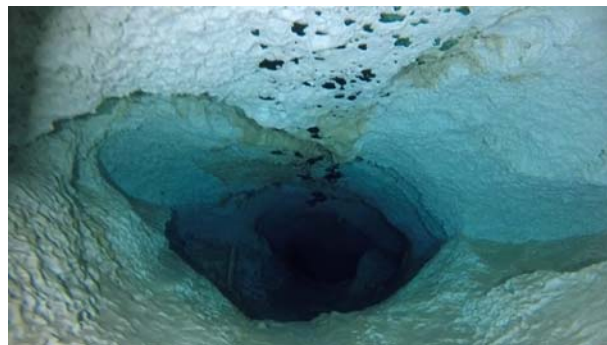
The entrance at Otoch Ha



Otoch Ha



Otoch Ha downstream



The Pit downstream



The Pit





Chilling out at The Pit after a couple of dives



Uxuxubi—the walk to the Cenote



Viewing Mayan Blue map pre dive



Mayan Blue Cave



Mayan Blue Cave



Mayan Blue Cave



Puerto Aventura



HERRING ISLAND SOCIAL DAY

Sunday, 3rd July 2016

A non diving day as VSAG families and friends headed up the Yarra from Newport with 4 boats for a BBQ on Herring Island and a coffee stop on the way back in the city. Beautiful weather and great company made this a very fine VSAG day indeed. Thanks to all who made the trip and especially the skippers: John Lawler with Signature One, David Geekie with Signature Two, Ian Scholey with Sea Eagle and John Ashley with Narcosis.

Photos by Charmaine Alford, Ian & Anna Scholey



© 2016 Ian Scholey



© 2016 Ian Scholey



© 2016 Ian Scholey



© 2016 Ian Scholey

The launch site at Newport

Heading up-river



Destination reached



Time for lunch



Then off to explore the island and its sculptures



Back down river



With time to stop in the city for coffee and for JL to make a few new friends



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

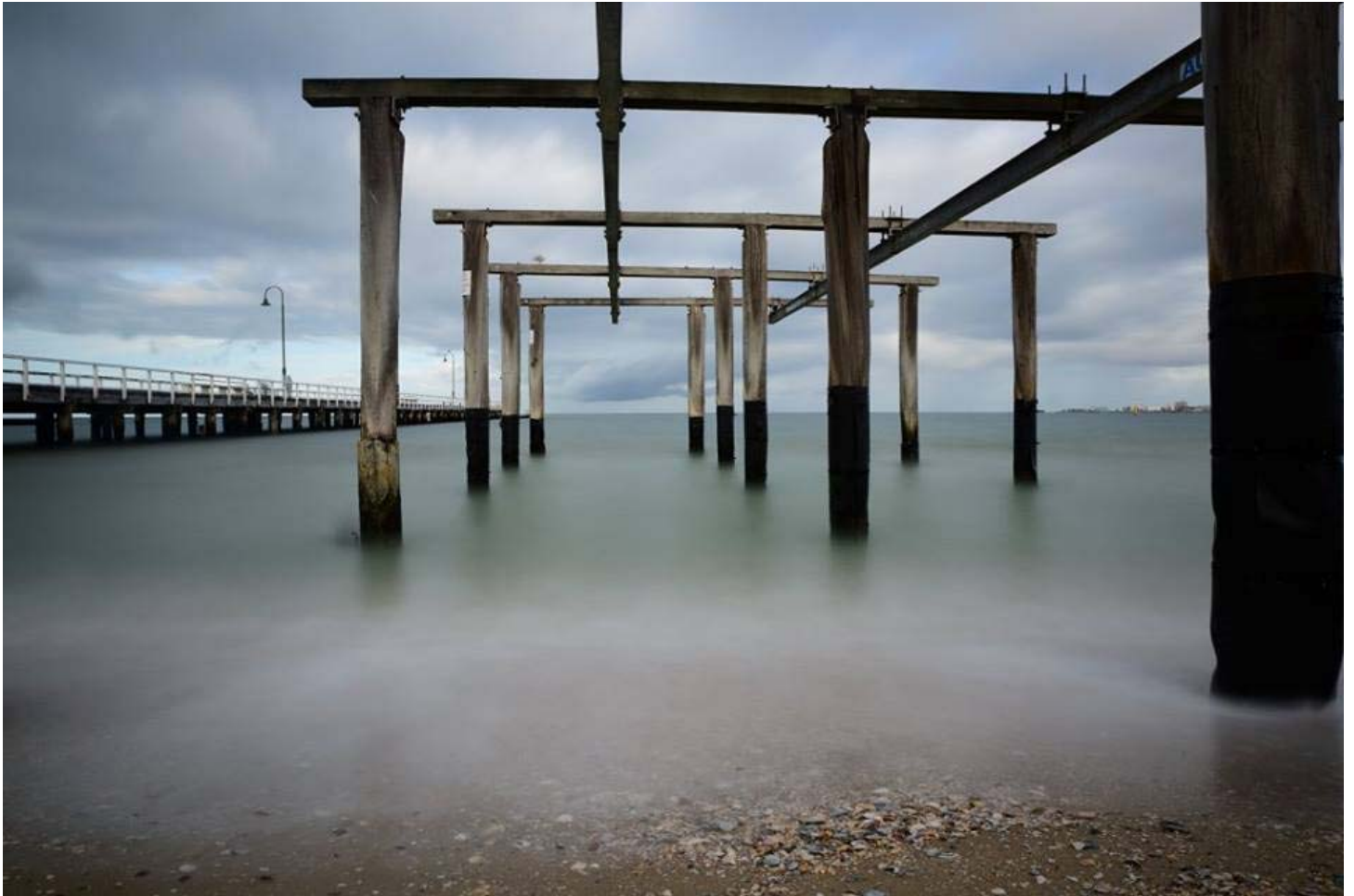
APRIL



Phil Watson won this month with a shot of a Dumpling Squid taken at Jawbone Marine Sanctuary. Second spot went to **Charmaine Alford** with a lovely Nudibranch taken at Tulamben, Bali and **Ian Scholey** took 3rd with a school of Diagonal-banded Sweetlips taken at Agincourt Reef, Great Barrier Reef.



MAY



A massive turn out at the club meeting voted **Nick Schoeffler's** time lapsed photo of an old pier at St Kilda the winning shot in our May Photo contest. This is the first time that an above water shot has won our contest and is testament to how good Nick's shot was. **Phil Watson** took out second and third with his Bluedevil and Blenny shots.



JUNE



There were some really great photos in the June competition and **Sherryn Amor** was a worthy winner with her superb shot of a Pygmy Seahorse taken at Tulambem, Bali. **Sherryn** also took out third place with another shot from Tulambem - this time a Paddleflap Rhinopias. Second spot was taken by **David Reinhard** with another terrific shot from warmer waters—this one an Anemone and Anemone Fish taken in the Bunaken Marine Reserve in Northern Sulawesi.

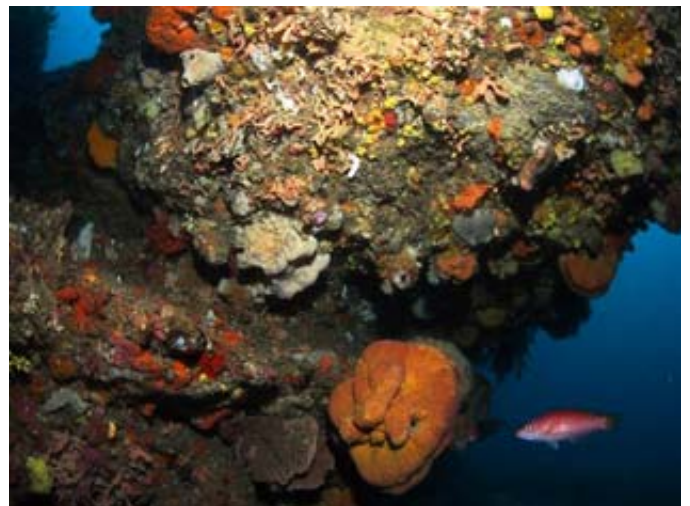


Dive Reports & Snippets

Wreck of the Courier & Chimney Rock

Sunday, 5th June 2016

*Phil Watson with Rob Kirk,
Pam Dagley, Michael Ngai,
David Geekie, Alan Beckhurst
& Deb Serginson*



Shore Dive Blairgowrie

Sunday, 5th June 2016

Ian Scholey

An unremarkable dive for Blairgowrie but enjoyable none the less. ❖



Shore Dive Blairgowrie

Sunday, 12th June 2016

Ian Scholey

With the weather once again blowing out the planned boat dives, we headed to Blairgowrie in search of the Spider Crab aggregation. They are there, but right at the very end of the pier. It would be better from the boat. I didn't get that far unfortunately and I'm not sure my single stragglers count. That said, I did have one drop on me from above which made for an unusual angle for a photo - introducing Kung Fu crab. ❖



Shore Dive Blairgowrie

Sunday, 12th June 2016

David Reinhard

These little buggers couldn't have been further away if they tried! They were right at the very end of the "T" section, as far from the start of the jetty as they could possibly be. There is so much territory at Blairgowrie that it has just about become a boat dive! ❖



Watch David's video at :

<https://www.facebook.com/david.reinhard.92/videos/958><https://vimeo.com/170347634>



Shortlands Bluff & Cottage by the Sea

Monday, 13th June 2016

Phil Watson

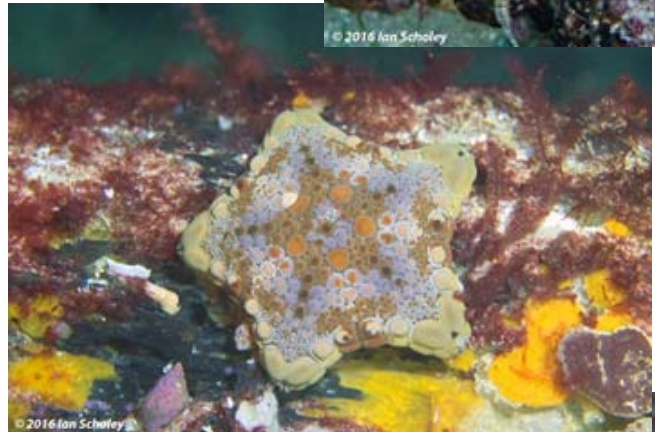


Shore Dive Portsea

Monday, 13th June 2016

Ian Scholey

We all need a bit of colour in our lives. Anyone lacking in that regard just needs to head down to Portsea Pier. It may be a bit surgy, but the colour is unbelievable at the moment. Fish of the day was the Tasmanian Clingfish. This one doesn't seem to get photographed that often. I guess people just don't see them. Today, once I found one, I couldn't stop finding them. Diving down south today were myself, Peter Beaumont and Antony Platford. ❖



Lonsdale Wall & South Channel Fort

Sunday, 19th June 2016

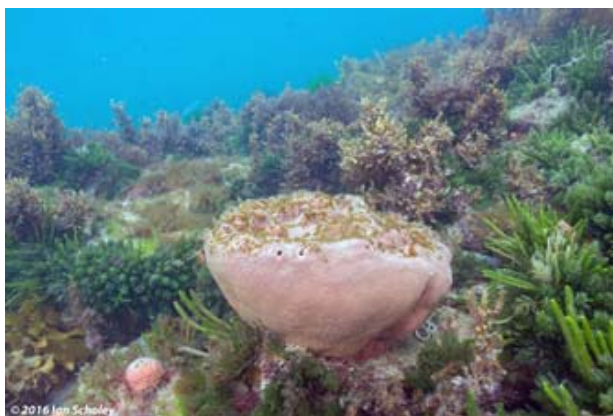
Ian Scholey

Diving today were:

Sea Eagle - Myself and Antony
Platford

Toucans - Peter Beaumont
and Chris Demetrious

Two boats out today for a bit of a mixed bag. Fantastic on the surface but very mucky underneath, with all that rain last week and a dive on the Ebb slack. After a dive on Paradise Wall and a drift from there we had a bit of a search for the crab aggregation at Blairgowrie before giving up and heading to South Channel Fort. We found Dive Vic there also and, chatting to them, were told about a Humpback Whale that we had just missed heading into the bay up the shipping channel. Tough conditions for the cameras but here are the best of them today.



*Peter Beaumont
in drifting mode*

© 2016 Ian Scholey

J1 & J4 Subs

Sunday, 26h June 2016

Ian Scholey

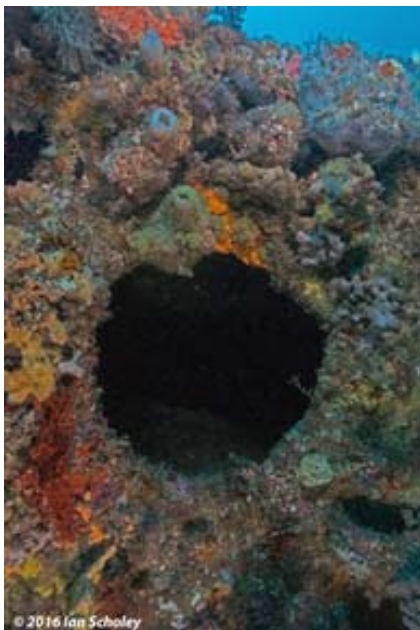
Diving today were:

Signature One - John Lawler,
Myself and Antony Platford

Signature Two - David Geekie,
Phil Watson and Deb Ser-
ginson.

A bit of a Submarine thing going on today. One boat from either side of the bay met just outside the Rip and headed out through marginal but manageable conditions.

We started deep on the J1 where a bullseye shot from David Geekie had us just behind the break. We had surprisingly good vis at circa 15m and really enjoyed the dive.



After one good Sub dive we opted for J4 for the second dive.



We shot about 15m off the bow this time. The vis was 5m at best so we were relieved to have picked the right direction to swim. After a good swim inside we headed back to the surface very happy with our day's diving.



David Geekie

© 2016 Ian Scholey



Phil Watson

© 2016 Ian Scholey

The trip back in was very different with slack water flattening the Rip off nicely. Thanks for a good day buddies. ❖

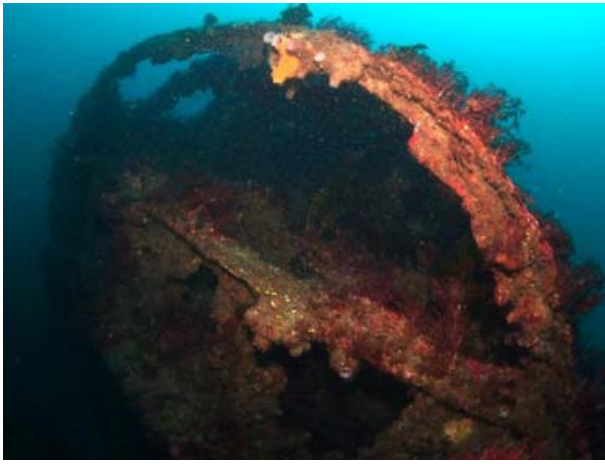
Phil Watson's photos of the same dives



Deb Serginson



Ian Scholey



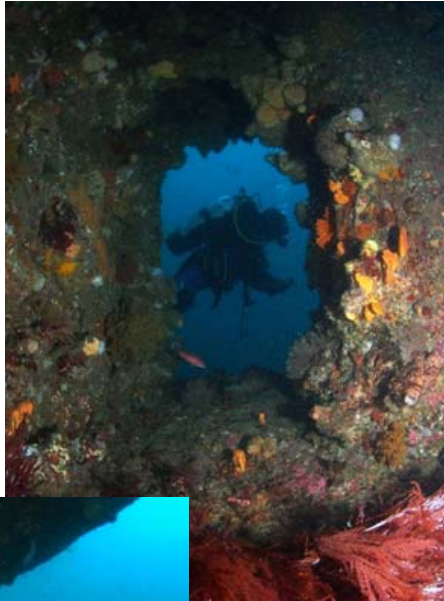
Shore Dive Flinders

Saturday, 2nd July 2016

Ian Scholey

Just Peter Beaumont and I this morning for an early splash at Flinders. The conditions weren't that good with a pretty strong surge to deal with and vis of just a couple of metres. Photos were very challenging with camera in one hand and holding on for dear life to stay still with the other. I managed these few. ❖

*David
Geekie*



*Deb Serginson
& David
Geekie*



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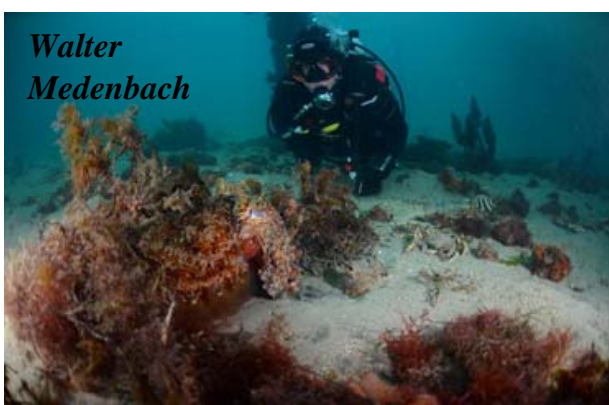
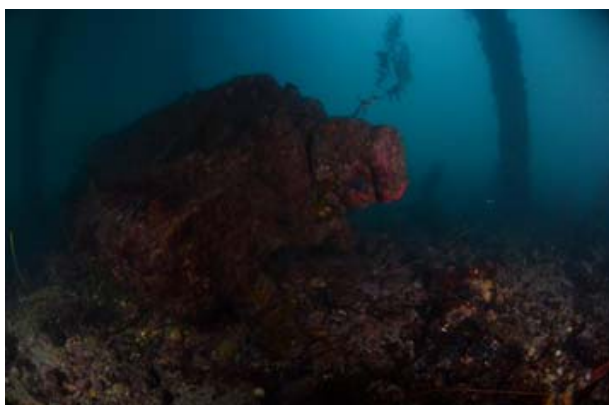
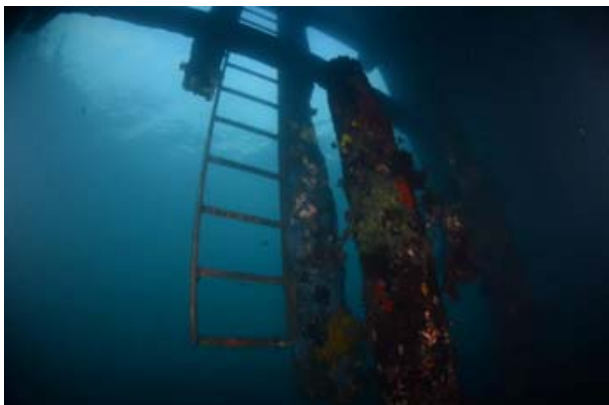
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A few shots from Peter Beaumont of the shore dives at Flinders & Blairgowrie

3rd & 4th July 2016



Shore Dive Blairgowrie

Saturday, 9th July 2016

Ian Scholey

Wasn't going to dive today, but went to The Rocks in Mornington for breakfast, took one look at the dead flat bay with a pod of Dolphins playing around the end of the pier and just had to get in. Two hours later - Blairgowrie. Had a very nice, if bloody cold, couple of hours with my friends the slugs. ❖





Shore Dive Blairgowrie

Sunday, 10th July 2016

Ian Scholey

Matt Johnston on his first Blairgowrie dive, Peter Beaumont and I were up early for a 7.15am meet and in the water at 7.30am.

Today was one of those sublime dives that Blairgowrie delivers every now and then. Peter had seen Cuttlefish mating at the start of last week and they are now guarding a good crop of eggs. Here's hoping they don't get too disturbed with the constant stream of divers and we see a load of babies in about 50 days time.

We also found another Cuttle out on the sand, a couple of Tassled Anglers and a Blue Ringed Octopus. With Peter and Matt heading out after an hour and a half I couldn't resist a bit of a solo slug hunting and found a couple of nice Flabellina and a Pygmy Squid to wrap up the dive.





Mick Young



With the water at 11 degrees, we all needed the hot coffee afterwards. Top day, thanks guys. ❖

Ex-HMAS Canberra

Sunday, 10th July 2016

Nick Schoeffler

We had great conditions out on the Canberra this morning. Not many people around (probably due to the dreary day) but Mick Young, Hannah Smeeton and I had a a cruisy dive inside and outside the wreck. ❖



Mick Young and Hannah Smeeton



Hannah Smeeton



Night Dive Blairgowrie

Friday, 15th July 2016

Ian Scholey

Diving were myself, Peter Beaumont, Michaël Roelens, Nick Schoeffler, Bert Parker, Mick Young and Sherryn Amor.

Back to Blairgowrie again for a night dive last night. We had 7 divers out, which I think is a record for a night dive in my time with the club.

We had a guest diver from St George Scuba Club, Michael Roelens, who was keen to photograph a Tassled Anglerfish. Peter Beaumont duly obliged with two. Actually it was the same two from last Sunday on exactly the same pylons. There



Hannah Smeeton



Hannah Smeeton



© 2016 Ian Scholey



Thanks Nick Schoeffler for finding the *Janolus nudi* I hadn't seen before. Also found a tiny nudi, maybe 4mm big, possibly *Eubranchus sp.?*



Janolus hyalinus



were plenty of other critters about and with excellent conditions above and below, we had a really good dive. ❖



Eubranchus sp. ?

Sherryn Amor's photos of the same dives

Great dive - covered about 20m² of the whole pier area!



Point Wilson

Sunday, 17th July 2016

Phil Watson

“Terrible visibility at Point Wilson today!

Could barely see 25m in front of my face!

Did I mention it was 9 degrees?”



Diver is Deb Serginson



Pipefish



Pygmy Squid

Shore Dive Blairgowrie

Sunday, 17th July 2016

Ian Scholey

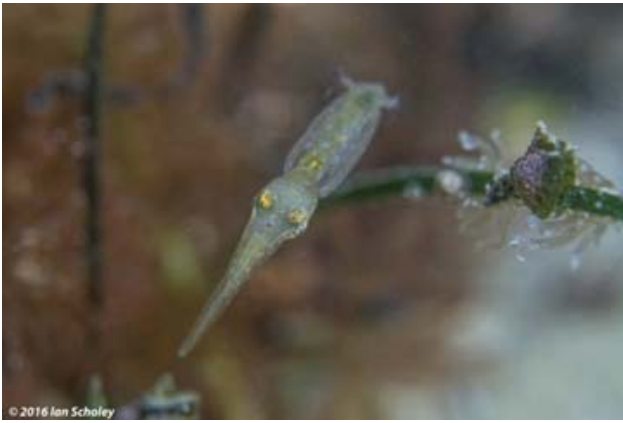
Peter Beaumont, Claire Cooper and myself braved Blairgowrie this morning.

Very, very early start this morning, especially after Xmas in July last night. Still, nothing like 1 degree on top and 11 below to wake you up.



Believe it or not, nothing in this photo set except the

Hedgpeth's Polycera Nudi-branch was bigger than a 5 cent piece. The baby Cuttlefish is just about the cutest thing I have ever seen underwater.



Slow down and look hard and this site just keeps on giving, love the place. ❖



Mid-week Divers— Phil's Reef

Wednesday, 20th July 2016

John Lawler

Divers : David Flew, David Reinhard and John Lawler

With the foreward BOM conditions for 21st - 24th July predicting wind, wind and more winds, so no diving, a plan was to get in a morning dive up north out from Mentone on Wednesday 20th.

David Flew offered his fine big boat “Karingal”, which is berthed in the Mordialloc creek, for the three of us to do the dive. The run from the berth to this site takes about 30 minutes. The conditions on this day were just perfect.....sunny, flat surface, and no wind...heaven up top.

The dive site is a very pretty small bommie named “Phil’s Reef”. Quite a lot of our members have dived

this site over time. Around 5mtrs at the top and around 7-10 mtrs at the very bottom.

Kitted up in our dry suits, David F and I got in first and just as David R was about to drop in, his fin strap broke. "No diving for me" was his lament! Almost giving up all hope of a dive, he noticed a length of stretch cord on his occy and removing this, he made an improvised strap on the fin and finally made it into the water, alas without his beloved camera!

David and I dropped down into the chilly 11 degree water and found the visibility a pleasant 5 mtrs which is good for this part of the top end of the bay; yet after no rain and winds the viz can be much greater.

On the east side on the reef live a large school of Old Wives. They are very friendly and generally, after accepting a strange intruder, will come in close for a look. An occasional ray and

a big cuttlefish under ledges but this time of year, not a lot of fish life.

Meanwhile David F was very busy attaching a large lost anchor to his lift bag. Seems the chain or rope got caught around the rock edge and could not be retrieved. He then found another smaller anchor which was also collected. With all divers back on the boat and anchors pulled up back to the berth. ❖

Shore Dive Blairgowrie

Sunday, 24th July 2016

Ian Scholey

Just Peter Beaumont and I today. Another super macro session for me while PB checked on the Cuttlefish and their eggs. I had my Nudi eye in and was having a ball finding some great stuff until the 10 degree water forced me out after 2 hours 20 minutes. I think I may need

more layers or failing that a heated undergarment!! ❖



Diving the Web

OWEN GREEN TYING US ALL UP IN KNOTS



Owen was a guest speaker at our July General Meeting. He posted on Facebook afterwards -

“Thanks again to everyone that stayed awake listening to me chat about rope handling and knot tying. After looking at my very old PowerPoint presentation, I figured there had to be something a bit more updated on the web. So if anyone is interested, here’s a link with a heap of very good information.” ❖

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

VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar

By Peter Beaumont, 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.

Aug 6/7	Boat DC Benita McDonough 0419 399 000
Aug 13/14	Boat DC Peter Galvin 0417 061 564
Aug 16	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8pm
Aug 20/21	Boat DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
Aug 27/28	Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Sep 3/4	Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Sep 10/11	Shore DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881 Boat DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Sep 17/18	Boat DC Ross Walker 0417 376 192
Sep 20	Annual General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8pm
Sep 24/25	Boat DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Sep 30 Oct 1/2	Boat DC Peter Galvin 0417 061 564
Oct 8/9	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Oct 15/16	Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Oct 18	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8pm

*Websites for
Tidal Streams & Weather Conditions
Peter Beaumont*

Tidal Stream information for Port Phillip Bay Heads is located here:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/tides/#!/vic-the-rip>

Port Phillip Bay winds and temperature information is located here:

<http://www.baywx.com.au/>

Tide information for Cape Woolamai is located here:

<http://tides.willyweather.com.au/vic/gippsland/cape-woolamai.html>

VSAG Dive Equipment Box - Update

VSAG has a private transient equipment box located at:

The Scuba Doctor 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.

It currently holds :

- ◆ 2 Oxy-Sok Oxygen Resuscitation Kits
- ◆ 1 Oxygen Medical Tank ◆ 3 Ramp Passes
- ◆ 1 Oxygen Medical Kit ◆ 2 Scuba Tanks.
- ◆ 1 DAN First Aid Kit

Please use this facility responsibly. ❖

Tidal Streams at the Heads — August 2016

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

August						
MON 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6	SUN 7
6:29	0:07	1:20	2:31	3:36	4:33	5:24
13:23	7:36	8:41	9:39	10:31	11:16	11:56
18:46	14:31	15:29	16:16	16:58	17:35	18:08
	20:14	21:26	22:24	23:14	23:57	
MON 8	TUE 9	WED 10	THU 11	FRI 12	SAT 13	SUN 14
0:36	1:12	1:46	2:21	2:56	3:35	4:18
6:10	6:53	7:35	8:17	9:03	9:53	10:51
12:32	13:04	13:35	14:07	14:41	15:18	16:03
18:38	19:07	19:34	20:03	20:34	21:09	21:50
MON 15	TUE 16	WED 17	THU 18	FRI 19	SAT 20	SUN 21
5:08	6:07	7:12	0:53	2:03	3:08	4:07
11:59	13:11	14:17	8:15	9:12	10:04	10:51
17:03	18:25	19:56	15:09	15:51	16:28	17:03
22:39	23:41		21:02	21:54	22:40	23:24
MON 22	TUE 23	WED 24	THU 25	FRI 26	SAT 27	SUN 28
5:01	0:09	0:54	1:39	2:25	3:13	4:04
11:36	5:54	6:46	7:39	8:34	9:32	10:35
17:36	12:19	13:00	13:41	14:23	15:08	16:00
	18:11	18:46	19:24	20:05	20:51	21:44
August			September			
MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4
5:02	6:07	0:01	1:19	2:33	3:35	4:27
11:43	12:54	7:18	8:26	9:26	10:17	11:01
17:07	18:34	14:02	14:59	15:46	16:26	17:00
22:48		20:02	21:11	22:05	22:50	23:29

Tidal Streams at the Heads — September 2016

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.

August			September			
Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31	Thu 1	Fri 2	Sat 3	Sun 4
<i>5:02</i>	<i>6:07</i>	<i>0:01</i>	<i>1:19</i>	<i>2:33</i>	<i>3:35</i>	<i>4:27</i>
<i>11:43</i>	<i>12:54</i>	<i>7:18</i>	<i>8:26</i>	<i>9:26</i>	<i>10:17</i>	<i>11:01</i>
<i>17:07</i>	<i>18:34</i>	<i>14:02</i>	<i>14:59</i>	<i>15:46</i>	<i>16:26</i>	<i>17:00</i>
<i>22:48</i>	<i>0:00</i>	<i>20:02</i>	<i>21:11</i>	<i>22:05</i>	<i>22:50</i>	<i>23:29</i>
Mon 5	Tue 6	Wed 7	Thu 8	Fri 9	Sat 10	Sun 11
<i>5:12</i>	<i>0:04</i>	<i>0:37</i>	<i>1:08</i>	<i>1:40</i>	<i>2:14</i>	<i>2:50</i>
<i>11:38</i>	<i>5:53</i>	<i>6:31</i>	<i>7:08</i>	<i>7:45</i>	<i>8:26</i>	<i>9:10</i>
<i>17:30</i>	<i>12:12</i>	<i>12:42</i>	<i>13:12</i>	<i>13:42</i>	<i>14:14</i>	<i>14:49</i>
	<i>17:58</i>	<i>18:25</i>	<i>18:52</i>	<i>19:22</i>	<i>19:55</i>	<i>20:31</i>
Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thu 15	Fri 16	Sat 17	Sun 18
<i>3:30</i>	<i>4:17</i>	<i>5:14</i>	<i>6:24</i>	<i>0:33</i>	<i>1:52</i>	<i>3:01</i>
<i>10:01</i>	<i>11:00</i>	<i>12:07</i>	<i>13:15</i>	<i>7:39</i>	<i>8:46</i>	<i>9:44</i>
<i>15:30</i>	<i>16:22</i>	<i>17:38</i>	<i>19:08</i>	<i>14:13</i>	<i>15:01</i>	<i>15:42</i>
<i>21:13</i>	<i>22:05</i>	<i>23:14</i>		<i>20:22</i>	<i>21:19</i>	<i>22:10</i>
Mon 19	Tue 20	Wed 21	Thu 22	Fri 23	Sat 24	Sun 25
<i>4:01</i>	<i>4:56</i>	<i>5:48</i>	<i>0:32</i>	<i>1:18</i>	<i>2:04</i>	<i>2:51</i>
<i>10:35</i>	<i>11:22</i>	<i>12:07</i>	<i>6:39</i>	<i>7:30</i>	<i>8:21</i>	<i>9:13</i>
<i>16:20</i>	<i>16:59</i>	<i>17:37</i>	<i>12:49</i>	<i>13:32</i>	<i>14:15</i>	<i>15:01</i>
<i>22:58</i>	<i>23:46</i>		<i>18:17</i>	<i>19:00</i>	<i>19:46</i>	<i>20:37</i>
September					October	
Mon 26	Tue 27	Wed 28	Thu 29	Fri 30	Sat 1	Sun 2
<i>3:40</i>	<i>4:34</i>	<i>5:39</i>	<i>0:04</i>	<i>1:25</i>	<i>2:35</i>	<i>4:32</i>
<i>10:09</i>	<i>11:10</i>	<i>12:16</i>	<i>6:54</i>	<i>8:08</i>	<i>9:10</i>	<i>11:01</i>
<i>15:54</i>	<i>17:01</i>	<i>18:24</i>	<i>13:22</i>	<i>14:20</i>	<i>15:07</i>	<i>16:46</i>
<i>21:36</i>	<i>22:45</i>		<i>19:44</i>	<i>20:48</i>	<i>21:38</i>	<i>23:20</i>

Tidal Streams at the Heads — October 2016

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.

Mon 3	Tue 4	Wed 5	Thu 6	Fri 7	Sat 8	Sun 9
5:19	6:00	0:29	1:00	1:31	2:03	2:36
11:44	12:20	6:36	7:10	7:44	8:19	8:56
17:19	17:49	12:52	13:23	13:53	14:23	14:55
23:56		18:16	18:44	19:14	19:47	20:22
Mon 10	Tue 11	Wed 12	Thu 13	Fri 14	Sat 15	Sun 16
3:10	3:48	4:31	5:25	6:35	1:22	2:44
9:36	10:20	11:10	12:07	13:09	7:58	9:17
15:29	16:09	17:00	18:08	19:30	14:10	15:04
21:00	21:45	22:43	23:58		20:44	21:46
Mon 17	Tue 18	Wed 19	Thu 20	Fri 21	Sat 22	Sun 23
3:54	4:55	5:50	0:22	1:10	1:56	2:41
10:22	11:17	12:07	6:41	7:29	8:16	9:03
15:53	16:38	17:22	12:53	13:38	14:23	15:09
22:41	23:33		18:06	18:52	19:40	20:32
Mon 24	Tue 25	Wed 26	Thu 27	Fri 28	Sat 29	Sun 30
3:26	4:13	5:03	6:03	1:04	2:22	3:29
9:50	10:39	11:32	12:30	7:19	8:39	9:47
15:56	16:50	17:52	19:05	13:30	14:28	15:18
21:28	22:31	23:44		20:16	21:15	22:03
October	November					
Mon 31	Tue 1	Wed 2	Thu 3	Fri 4	Sat 5	Sun 6
4:23	5:07	5:45	6:20	0:27	0:59	1:32
10:40	11:23	12:00	12:34	6:53	7:25	7:58
15:59	16:34	17:06	17:38	13:05	13:37	14:08
22:44	23:20	23:54		18:10	18:44	19:19

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 coordinates), 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 coordinates), 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**

MORE MEMBER PHOTOS

*Photo by Sherryn Amor
at Blairgowrie*



*PJ gills at Queenscliff by
Phil Watson*



*Nudibranch at South Channel
Fort by Phil Watson*



Great vis at Blairgowrie on 1st July—photo by Peter Beaumont



*Wandering anemone
at Pretty Point
by Phil Watson*



Jellyfish at Blairgowrie - Charmaine Alford



© SherrynM 2016

“HOW SMALL IS THAT NUDI???”

A question that Sherryn Amor is often asked when people view her photos.

Her reply : “About the size of the end of the guide’s pointer stick!!”

(As can be seen in the photo below.)



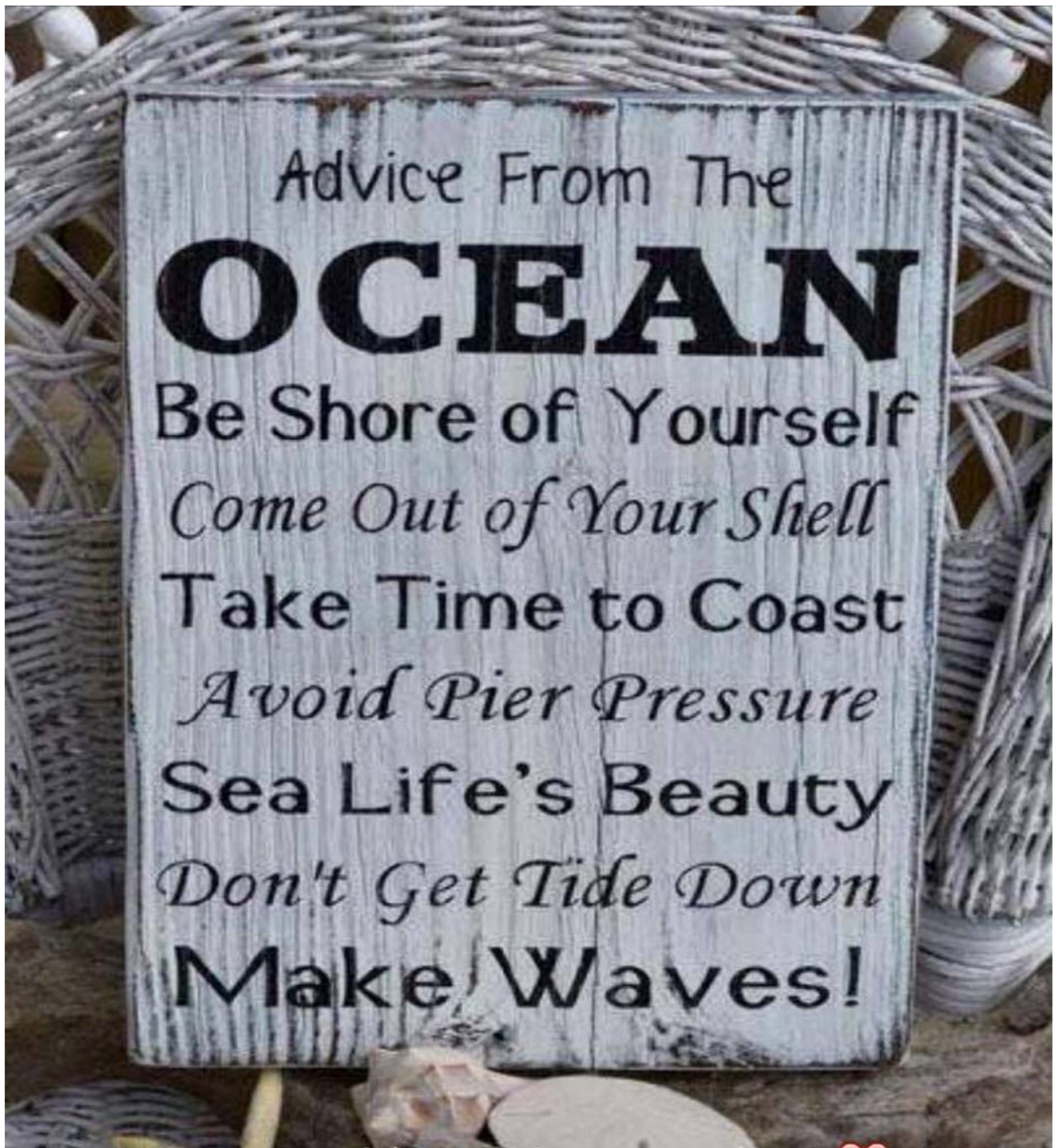
© SherrynM 2016

Who?? Me??

One of Sherryn Amor's photos from Padangbai



© SherrynM 2016



A FINAL THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH provided by John Lawler

"My soul is full of longing for the secrets of the sea, and the heart of the great oceans sends a thrilling pulse through me"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow