



Fathoms

DECEMBER - JANUARY 2017

Annual 2016 VSAG Photo Competition Winner

Pygmy Seahorse—taken by Sherryn Amor

**September, October and Annual
VSAG Photo Competition Results
Dive Trip to Botany Bay, NSW
Boat Handling Day.....and more**

Postal Address:

VSAG, Inc., P.O. Box 596, Cranbourne Vic 3977

www.vsag.org.au



Matt presented an exciting talk at the September 2016 VSAG Club meeting in which Matt explored the benefits of strobe lighting and how to get the best photos using appropriate angles for the lighting. I am sure that everyone who attended Matt's talk benefited from his experience and easy delivery covering off a number of common photography errors and providing solutions in a clear, no fuss demonstration tutorial.

Following this highly enlightening tutorial Matt has offered VSAG members a very exclusive Photography Class for budding professionals who want to get the most out of their photography and maximise their results.

See Matt's amazing work, free tutorials and class offers on his web site at

<http://mattkruminsphotography.com.au/>

Half day, full day and private photography workshops for all cameras and levels! 75 reasons for booking and photo gallery. Awesome!

For those that have booked Diary Date is 11 January and 14 January 2017, venue to be confirmed. Contact Ian Scholey for details.

"My goal is to make photography accessible to everyone, simplifying the complicated and explaining technical concepts in a way that they can relate to. I love my analogies and there is nothing I love more than seeing people have an 'ah-ha!-moment'".

Matt Krumins ❖



Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

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VSAG, Inc., P.O. Box 596, Cranbourne Vic 3977

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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 :

<http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/news.php>

Peter Beaumont joined the club in 2012 whilst living in Sydney and is still a member . They are a 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 2016–2017

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

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VSAG AWARDS 2016

**Congratulations to the Award Winners for
2016**

WOODEN WEIGHT BELT

[Michael Ngai](#) accepted the Wooden Weight Belt award for his efforts of losing 2 side mount tanks from a mermaid line.

PHOTO AWARD

The Best Photo of the Year for 2016 was awarded to [Sherryn Amor](#) for her portrait of a Pygmy Seahorse.

Second was [Tim Forster](#) with his photo of a Sea Dragon

Third was awarded to [Sherryn Amor](#) for her Swimming Anemone Squid.

FATHOMS AWARD

We had 2 recipients for the Fathoms Award

[Peter Campisano](#) for his contribution as Proof Reader.

[Dr Jan Watson](#) for her editorials on Marine Biology.

LITERARY AWARD

Don Abel presented the Literary Award this year to

[Ian Scholey](#) for his contribution on the club dive trip to Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania

VSAG AWARDS 2016

**Congratulations to the Award Winners for
2016**

BEST NEW MEMBER

Antony Platford won the Best New Member Award for 2016

CLUB CHAMPION

Club Champion is awarded on point score and this year was
awarded to

1. **Ian Scholey** 3370 points
2. **Peter Galvin** 2210 points
3. **Peter Beaumont** 2110 points

VSAG AWARDS 2016



*Ian Scholey, Club
Champion proudly
accepting the Literary
Award presented by Don
Abel*



*Peter Galvin
accepts 2nd
Place in the
VSAG Club
Championship
presented by
Michael Ngai*



VSAG AWARDS 2016



*Peter Beaumont accepts 3rd Place in the VSAG Club Championship
Sherryn Amor accepts Best Photo Award*



VSAG AWARDS 2016



Michael Ngai proudly wearing his trophy of a Wooden Weight Belt presented by Ian Scholey and congratulated by David Geekie.



VSAG Club Members attend the 2016 VSAG Awards Night

VSAG AWARDS 2016

On 18 October 2016 VSAG hosted a gala event evening at the Water Rat Hotel in South Melbourne for the Annual VSAG Awards for 2016.

Congratulations go to Ian Scholey for Club Champion 2016, Sherryn Amor for Best Photo 2016, Dr Jan Watson and Peter Campisano recipients of the Fathoms Award 2016, Ian Scholey for his Literary Award 2016, Antony Platford for Best New Member 2016, runners up Tim Forster, Peter Galvin, Peter Beaumont and to Michael Ngai for the one and only, how on earth did you manage that?...well deserved,.....Wooden Weight Belt Award! Awesome!

SPECIAL

GUEST SPEAKERS

KATE PARKER AND NEIL VANCE

FROM

SEA SHEPHERD



Sea Shepherd - Neil Vance and Kate Parker



SEA SHEPHERD

At our October meeting we received an awesome presentation on Sea Shepherd Australia's recent and current campaigns, delivered to VSAG members by two very dedicated and loyal campaigners - Kate Parker and Neil Vance. Kate gave us an insight into the workings of Sea Shepherd covering success stories such as the Great Australian Bight Alliance, Operation Nemesis, Marine Debris Action Plan, new fleet ship Ocean Warrior and more.... For indepth stories please proceed to Sea Shepherd web site <https://www.seashepherd.org.au>

VSAG members were able to purchase Sea Shepherd promotional gear and VSAG, Inc has made a \$100.00 cash donation to assist in furthering the conservation efforts of the Sea Shepherd organisation.



OPERATION NEMESIS

The marine conservation group Sea Shepherd Global is sending its vessels down to the Southern Ocean this December on its 11th direct-action whale defence campaign

The Ocean Warrior will arrive in Australia at the end of this year to undergo the final preparations for the 2016/2017 direct-action campaign in the Antarctic. "Sea Shepherd's 11th Southern Ocean Whale Defence Campaign is named Operation Nemesis, after the Greek goddess of inescapable justice," announced Hammarstedt.



Two minkie whales in Antarctica

SEA SHEPHERD

OPERATION JEEDARA

Victory for the Whales in the Bight - BP Decides Not to Proceed with Great Australian Bight Exploration

Southern Right Whales at the Head of Bight. This important nursery was under threat by BP's plans to drill for oil, now it is safe after an amazing community effort to protect this unique marine ecosystem.



Whales at the Head of Bight.

OCEAN WARRIOR

The *Ocean Warrior* is a custom-built, state-of-the-art vessel capable of achieving speeds that far exceed any of the vessels in our current fleet, built to operate in extreme weather conditions. This new ship is also equipped with a hybrid propulsion system, providing an extended range and drastic reduction of fuel consumption, both lowering fuel costs as well as limiting CO² emissions. Its massive aft deck area will enable helicopter as well as small boat operations, and a multitude of other uses. There are four engines that will give us high top speeds of over 25 knots.



MARINE DEBRIS DIRECT ACTION PLAN

Join Sea Shepherd Australia's Marine Debris Campaign to protect and conserve our marine environment, preventing and removing the unprecedented amount of marine debris entering our oceans and waterways.

<https://www.seashepherd.org.au> ❖



LAST OF THE ECHINODERMS

There are some echinoderm leftovers that we often see – if we know what we are looking at. One group is Order Crinoidea, a group with an ancient history extending back to the Silurian Period, 450 million years ago but are now just hanging on evolutionarily. Another ancient group is the Holothuroidea, still common in world seas. Both the crinoids and holothurians have the basic pentamerous structure typical of the Phylum Echinodermata.

Crinoidea

Crinoids have 10 brittle arms composed of calcareous plates armed with flexible pinnules that capture planktonic prey, passing it to a central mouth and stomach at the base of the arms. Crinoids attach to a firm substrate by small claw-like basal claspers. They reproduce by releasing of fertilised eggs into the water.

A personal digression here from the early 1960s: trying to stay alive on my second sea dive at Popes Eye I saw this feathery thing snuggled in a rocky crevice. A crinoid? Couldn't be – according to the textbooks they became extinct several million



years ago. Remember, this was when there were no Australian textbooks on marine life and my geological texts said crinoids were extinct! But here they were, flourishing at Popes Eye! Since then I've found them in many places and habitats.

At Port Kembla NSW about 40 years ago a fisherman showed me a pile of "rubbish" he swept off his deck complaining that they fouled his trawls at 1000m. I was aghast – they were living crinoids like the fossils! They had a long calcareous stalk and lily-like head, and had never previously been reported from Australia. There must have been meadows of them growing off the NSW continental shelf. I hastily saved several and donated them to the Museum. Didn't have a camera at the time to make a record.

Encrinus fossil from Triassic (from Wikipedia). Very similar to those trawled in deep water in NSW.

There are several local crinoid species, *Cenolia trichoptera* being the largest and most obvious. It has no stalk and consists of 10 orange to brown-coloured arms up to 20 cm long that break off if you try to pull it from its secure hole. Best to leave it there and take a photo. We don't know how long an individual lives, but observations at Popes Eye indicates it may be several years.



Cenolia trichoptera, Popes Eye, underneath the gannet platform, 1.5 m

Antedon incommoda is a small buff-coloured species a few centimetres across with 10 spreading arms and a prominent soft central disk, clinging to brown kelps with which it blends well in colour, so is often overlooked. Eggs developing in the arms are often visible as a series of swellings along the pinnules. The eggs settle on suitable substrate where the larva reverts to its ancestral morphology as a tiny stalked crinoid - but you need a microscope to see it.



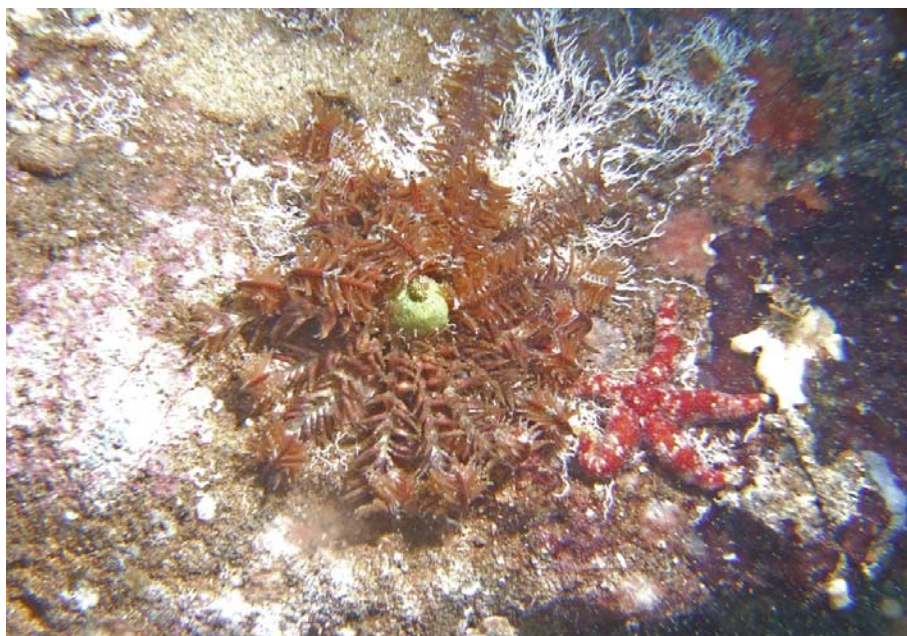
Antedon imcommoda on brown alga, St Leonards pier, 3m

A similar but much rarer species is *Antedon loveni*. It can be distinguished by its larger size and often multiples of 10 arms. It is usually dark brown with lighter coloured patches. Little is known about its distribution or life history.

Holothuroidea

Holothurians also have a long geological history but unlike crinoids they hide their basic pentamerous symmetry inside a long muscular slug-like body. There are many local species varying from almost microscopic to quite large. A large tropical species known as beche-de-mer is dried as an Asian delicacy, which is a bit like chewing tasteless rubber.

Many species hide under stones or lie buried in sediment, extending five tentacles through the mouth into the water or along the bottom to feed. The body is strengthened internally by small calcareous plates and hooks which are used in the laboratory to identify species.



Antedon loveni on rock, Boarfis Reef, 13m, central disk greenish coloured.

The commonest and largest local species is *Australostichopus mollis*, a tough-skinned brownish warty sausage about 15 cm long, living in muddy to silty organic-rich sediments in the bay. But unless you work in these habitats as I sometimes do, you probably won't see many. Regards Jan .❖



Australostichopus mollis, ALCOA wharf, Corio Bay, 12m, muddy bottom

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - September 2016



Lion's Mane Jellyfish at Blairgowrie Pier—Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

2nd Place - September 2016



Moray Eel in the Maldives—David Reinhard

SEPTEMBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to Ian Scholey, the September photo competition winner, with his photo of a Lion's Mayne Jellyfish at Blairgowrie Pier. Second place went to David Reinhard's photo of a Moray Eel in the Maldives. Equal third place went to Charmaine Alford's Nudibranch at Blairgowrie and Graham Ellis's Moray Eel. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Nudibranch at Blairgowrie - Charmaine Alford'



Moray Eel at North Channel - Graham Ellis

SEPTEMBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Smooth Ray at
Blairgowrie
taken by
Charmaine Alford*

Coral Trout
Maldives
taken by
David Reinhard



*Spotted Porcupine Fish
At Malabar
taken by
Graham Ellis*

SEPTEMBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Grey Nurse Sharks
At Julian Rocks
Taken by
Phil Watson*

*Sunset at BBQ Island
Maldives
Taken by
David Flew*



*Grey Nurse Sharks at
Julian Rocks
Taken by
Phil Watson*

SEPTEMBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

Fish at the Maldives

*Taken by
David Flew*



Starfish at Mornington

*taken by
Bo Zhang*



*Nudibranch at
Blairgowrie Pier*

*Taken by
Ian Scholey*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal First - October 2016



Equal First—Photo taken by Charmaine Alford

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal First - October 2016



Equal First—Hairy Squat Lobster by Monique Hammersley

OCTOBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

Equal Second - October 2016



Sweetlips. Equal 2nd by Monique Hammersley



Cuttlefish. Equal 2nd by Tim Forster

OCTOBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

Equal Third - October 2016



Equal 3rd 'Silent Shore', Rye Back Beach by Hannah Smeaton

Equal 3rd, Ibacus Peronei by Phil Watson



OCTOBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

Equal Third - October 2016



Cuttlefish. Equal 3rd by Tim Forster



Draughtboard Shark by Charmaine Alford

OCTOBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Fresh water diving by
Mark Jeffrey*



*Fresh water diver by
Mark Jeffrey*



By Antony Platford

OCTOBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Eastern Blue
Groper*

*Botany Bay,
N.S.W.*

by

Ian Scholey

*Nudibranch,
Ship Rock, N.S.W.
By
Christine Reynolds*



*Stonefish by
Ian Scholey*

OCTOBER 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to Charmaine Alford and Monique Hammersley as joint winners of the October photo competition. This month it was a tightly fought competition with votes spread out over a large number of quality entrants.



Morey Eel

Ship Rock, N.S.W.

By Christine Reynolds

Seascape by
Phil Watson



Red Rock Cod, Ship Rock, N.S.W.

By Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ANNUAL
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER**

First - Annual 2016



Sherryn Amor's winning shot—Congratulations Sherryn

ANNUAL 2016—PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to all the contenders. It certainly was a high standard of competition!



Tim Forster won the November 2015 contest with this shot of Ian Scholey and an Oceanic Blacktip

Charmaine Alford's shot of a Flabellina Nudibranch won the December 2015 contest



Ian Scholey's shot of a Swimming Anemone was the January 2016 winner

ANNUAL 2016 - PHOTO COMPETITION



Phil Watson with his second winner with this Squid which won the February 2016 contest

We had a rare tie in March 2016 with Charmaine Alford's Mantis Shrimp sharing the honours



Meg Johnson was the other joint winner in March 2016 with this shot of a Turtle and Remora

ANNUAL 2016 - PHOTO COMPETITION



Phil Watson was once again the winner in April 2016 with this Dumpling Squid

The first and only above water winner of the contest was from Nick Schoeffler who took out the May 2016 contest with this time lapsed shot of St Kilda Pier



The July 2016 competition was won by David Reinhard with this shot of a Willans Chromodoris Nudibranch

ANNUAL 2016 - PHOTO COMPETITION



To finish the year we had another tie this time Tim Forster sharing top spot with himself!! His first winner was this shot of mating giant Cuttlefish.

Tim's second shot was this excellent wide angle shot of a diver and Leafy Sea Dragon



Phil Watson's Toadfish portrait was the winner of the September 2015 contest.

Home: Covered

Car: Covered

Are You?

Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?

DAN Membership Costs Less than AUD\$6* per month

Be Prepared. Join the Experts in Dive Accident Management.

www.danasiapacific.org

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



NOVEMBER MEETING

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

SIMON BRANIGAN



The Guest Speaker Simon Branigan from the NFP "Nature Conservancy". Simon's topic was the work the Nature Conservancy is doing to not only conserve estuaries and seascapes but more relative to this area, the work around re-introducing oyster beds in Port Phillip Bay.

Nature Conservancy is a large not for profit with its major foothold being in the US. Their key focus is fish habitat and marine restoration. The organisation has been in Australia for 12 years.

Information shows them that 85% of shellfish reefs have been lost in the world and in Australia the figure is around 90%

Why care about Shellfish?

Shellfish are very efficient at filtering water, cycling nutrients, attracting fish and protecting the shoreline.

Coastal Management has approved 2 areas in the bay for the organisation to work on recovering the reef and in 2015 the organisation collaborated with the fisheries to establish the terrain needed, the age that the oysters need to be before they can be released and whether they can work with Oysters and mussels as a dual project.

They have determined that the oysters need to have elevation of at least 30cm for them to thrive. Stage 1 of the project involved establishing 1m x 1m shellfish reefs and stage 2 will move to bigger reefs 15m long. The reefs are predominately a limestone foundation which oysters like, they will grow on top of each other and spawn on the limestone substrate.

The mussels used in the project are collected from mussel farms and are mussels that can't be sold. The verdict is still out as to whether a combined mussel/oyster project will work.

The organisation has also installed above and below webcams at Popes Eye, the below are in 8mt of water. There will be a live launch for these in January and pictures will be seen through a URL. ❖

Simon Branigan

Marine Restoration Coordinator (Australia Program)

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www.nature.org/Australia

BOAT RAMP PERMITS—MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE COUNCIL

Annual Boat Ramp Permits are valid for a 12 month period from 01 November to 31 October. The annual permit fee is \$125.00 (GST free).

The permit comes in the form of a vehicle windscreen sticker that **must** be attached to the bottom left hand side of the vehicle windscreen. To purchase an annual boat ramp permit complete the application form or visit one of our Customer Service Centres during business hours 8.30am – 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays).

You must pay a fee for each day that you use and park at a Shire boat ramp.

This has been made easy with the introduction of cashless parking meters at boat ramps across the peninsula.

Online with Parkmobile

Set up an account online with Parkmobile by visiting www.parkmobile.com.au call 1300 564 564 or download the free smart device application at iTunes, Google Play or Windows markets. You will be guided to register your vehicle (car) registration number and your credit card details.

Parking vouchers

Users who do not have a credit card, or who are infrequent users of the ramps, can pre-purchase vouchers (\$12) from any of the Shire’s customer service centres during business hours. The vouchers are ‘one use’ only and do not have an expiry date; therefore, you can buy a few and use them when you want. Just complete the details on the voucher and display on your dashboard. ❖

Boat Handling Day

A HUGE SUCCESS!

20 November 2016

Members were given a grand opportunity to practise practical boat handling skills under the guidance of experience boat captains. Weather was bright and sunny, seas flat calm, an ideal setting for a phenomenal training day on Port Phillip Bay.

The objective of the training day is to give licensed (or those intending to be licensed) members practical on water skills training in the aspects of skippering a small boat in the conditions they are likely to meet when they take over command of a vessel while the owner dives.

The location was the waters around South Channel Fort as there is usually plenty of current available to hone our skills. Activities included a safety briefing locating and identifying emergency equipment on board, practical knot tying, readying boats for launch, launching boats, operating vessels at maximum and minimum speeds, navigating using GPS navigation, radio training, deploying a shot line, retrieving divers from the water, and recovering boats.

A big thank you to boat owners—David Geekie, Peter and Carole Campisano, John Lawler, John Gladding, Graham Ellis, Owen Green, Ian Scholey and Walter Madenbach - for making their boats and their time available to members.

A big thank you to members— David Flew, Andrew Quested, Rob Kirk, Angus Stuart-Adams, Bettina Brill, Michael Kotsanas, Antony Platford, Claire Cooper, Bert Parker, Mick Young, Sherryn Amor, Christine Reynolds, Arthur Kokkinos, Sandy Webb, Chan Maneesilasan, Ian Smith, Peter Beaumont, Nick Schoeffler, Bo Zhang, Monique Hammersley, Hannah Smeaton, Herb Epstein, Carol Penfold, Debra George, Carole Lois, Mark Jeffrey - for supporting this event and making the day a success.

...And a GI-NORMOUS THANK YOU to David Geekie for planning and Co-ordinating the day. An Outstanding Achievement! Well done, David! ❖

Boat Handling Day



Boat Handling Day



Boat Handling Day



Boat Handling Day



Boat Handling Day

One of those days that makes me proud to be President of this magnificent Dive Club. Seven skippers made their boats and time available to give our members holding boat licences some hands on boating experience. Once again the club moves forward with a whole lot more people now confident to launch and retrieve, handle and knot lines, dock, navigate to and shot dive sites, recover divers from the water, use the VHF radios and respond in emergency situations. All that and the weather turned on the best conditions for what seems like an eternity and more Dolphins.

A big thank you to the skippers John Lawler, Graham Ellis, John Gladding, Peter Campisano, Angus Stuart-Adams, Walter Medanbach, David James Geekie and Ian Scholey. Also a massive thank you to Owen Green for a rope handling and knot tying demonstration and most of all to David James Geekie for organising the day for us.

How good was it to get 24 Vsagers together for the day, thanks everyone for making it a great day— Mark Jeffrey, Sherryn Amor, Mick Young, Carole Lois, Debra George, Carol Penfold, Rob Kirk, Antony Platford, Herb Epstein, Sandy Webb, David Flew, Hannah Smeeton, Christine Reynolds, Claire Cooper, Andrew Qusted,, Ian Smith and Monique Hammersley.—Ian Scholey ❖



Boat Handling Day



Boat Handling Day



Boat Handling Day

VSAG Training Day.

Being a boat owner but not able to bring the boat to the VSAG training day made me initially feel like a bit of a “spare wheel”. I know how to drive our old boat – but not these cantankerous outboard things. And as to backing trailers and dealing with ramps - that’s one of the reasons we have the boat we have. Everyone to their own.

But what a great day! David Geekie was hoping for some challenging conditions – total fail in that department, personally the weather suited me just fine.

A full range of trailer boats, the only common feature I could see was that owners take VSAG members diving from them! Despite Owen’s tuition my knots are still best described as a “tangle”, I’ve got lots of rope, and the “rope wrench” is close by.

As is normal in boating, there were a couple of hiccups – a boat reluctant to start, radios not wanting to talk, however that’s why we have Plan B.

I enjoyed the day, learned a few new things (as I suspect did everyone no matter how experienced), got some practice in driving a very nice boat - even if it’s on one of those silly trailer thingies.

One thing I’ve learned from today is that we all need to practise and develop the skills involved in boat handling. Especially for the new “boat drivers” – take every opportunity to drive the boat, practise the skills (especially the low speed stuff!), use the radio, and work the electronics.

David Flew ❖





VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC

**DIVE TRIP
TO
BOTANY BAY
NEW SOUTH WALES**

**28 OCTOBER 2016—1 NOVEMBER
2016**

Photo by Christine Reynolds

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

28 OCTOBER 2016—1 NOVEMBER 2016

The VSAG, Inc. dive trip to Botany Bay, New South Wales, was organised by the President of the club, Ian Scholey with special thanks to Peter Beaumont for his local knowledge of the area and boat owners Peter and Carole Campisano which all made for a successful and enjoyable Melbourne Cup Weekend getaway.

Three boat owners participated in the weekend getaway. They were Ian Scholey with Sea Eagle, Peter and Carole Campisano with Carmine and Peter Beaumont with Two Cans. A special thank you to all the boat owners as without this dedicated team our trip to Botany Bay, New South Wales would not have been possible.

Peter and Carole departed on 27 October 2016 from Melbourne taking a very leisurely drive to Engadine with an overnight stop at Gundagai and were very comfortably installed in the Engadine Motor Inn by the time we arrived which was around 4 pm on 28 October 2016.

Ian Scholey, John Ashley, Antony Platford and myself departed Ian's place in Frankston South at 4:30 am on Friday the 28 October 2016. Our drive was an easy run along East Link then connecting with the Hume Highway for a very pleasant drive to New South Wales.

We arrived at KalKallo for breakfast, stopped at Goulburn for lunch and saw the giant merino sheep before travelling on to Engadine.



Our first night at Engadine was a quick ready of the boats for the morning followed by a very enjoyable group dinner at the local pub. In the morning it was an early rise and on the road by 6:30 am for our launch from the boat ramp at Port Botany which is nestled beside the Wharf terminal and just across from the runways of Sydney International Airport at Mascot. Driving through the tunnel under the runway

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

with a Boeing Jet crossing the highway was an amazing sight. Port Botany is a thriving busy port with container ships entering the harbour to be unloaded and jets taking off and landing approximately every 10 minutes .

Our dive sites were Henry Head, Kurnell Wall, Bare Island with lunch either on board or on the beach at La Perouse. We were among the many boats on Botany Bay with people on the beach and snorkelers all enjoying the mid 20 degree temperatures which we experienced. All in all they were very pleasant days on the bay.

Monday the 31 October 2016 was an exciting shore dive or boat ride for those that could not manage the 140 steps to the water line at Ship Rock. Peter and Carole launched their boat at Yowie Bay, motored to our dive site at Ship Rock and toured Port Hacking before returning to Yowie Bay Boat Ramp and well deserved evening dinner before the trip home.

Tuesday 1 November 2016 was another early rise and departure from Engadine at 6:30 am, stopping to visit the HMAS Otway at Holbrook NSW and arriving back at Ian's home at 4 pm.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the trip, Ian Scholey, Peter & Carole Campisano, Peter Beaumont, David Flew, Tim Forster, John Ashley, Antony Platford and Christine Reynolds.

Another successful VSAG, Inc dive trip!

By Christine Reynolds

Nudibranch and Hand feeding an Eastern Blue Groper—by Christine Reynolds



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES



Carole Campisano



Peter Campisano

Peter Beaumont & Two Cans

Ian Scholey & Sea Eagle



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES



Is it a Shark Car Park or a Shark Park? - Port Jackson Sharks



Carmine receiving some tender loving care from Peter Campisano at the Outboard Motor Rinse Facility at Port Botany NSW

HMAS Otway
at Holbrook,
NSW



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Saturday 29th 2nd dive Bare island

This dive was awesome! Ant and I got to play with Gropers, the big blue variety. I think these guys expect to be fed as they don't leave until they have. First they circle, then swim through your legs and then give you that Feed Me Look and who are we to disappoint! I would have to say that the 10-15 minutes spent interacting with not only the gropers but other fish life made this dive.

This part of Bare Island is only 12 metres deep with a rocky almost bare appearance in parts interspersed with areas of kelp not unlike parts of Wilsons Prom. In the 21 degree waters what a joy to spend 45 minutes just meandering around. But wait, there's more. During the feeding session I lost my knife due to my lack of ability to perform the most simplest task of securing it. However, whilst looking at replacement knives at the dive shop, David Flew said he found the exact same knife during the same dive as me and asked for my scabbard, seeing how I had no knife any more. In true VSAG form he took pity on me and gave it back much to my relief, otherwise I'd have 4 empty knife holders at home.

I have to say at this point, that without Ian's organisation and Peter Beaumont local experience these dives wouldn't have been possible. Thanks guys!

By John Ashley ❖

Ian Scholey and Sea Eagle at HMAS Orway, Holbrook, NSW.



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

This is the report of my Sydney trip ... diving on Sunday 30th October 2016

I wake up slightly shagged at 5am only to realise that it's too dark for the birds to be chirping. Whacking my phone alarm it ceases singing and I realise how badly I need coffee and head over the road to Mac Donalds for my fix and sustenance.

Peter and I depart slightly ahead of the 6.30 schedule with our boat 'Two Cans' in tow and make our way to launch it at Botany Bay. Launching goes well, and before we know it we have reached Kurnell Wall on the South side of the entrance to Botany Bay. Conditions are good but with a tight rolling swell of 1.5-2 meters and a forecast change of winds swinging to the North and increasing from 10 to 30kms, we need to get in the water as soon as possible and keep the boats live on the surface. The drop in is in 20 Metres, just off the eastern most steps, just off the wall. The plan is to follow the wall along, heading west and surface in front of the western steps approximately 60 metres further inside Botany Bay. As the swell is pushing us into the rocks, Pete reminds me to surface well off the wall in deeper water to give plenty of time for the pickup.

7:50am: John Ashly is riding on 'Sea Eagle' with Ian so John and I buddy up and head down to what will be our maximum depth of 21.2 metres. The underwater topography immediately betrays this site's more exposed nature, with large underwater boulders creating caves and swim throughs, behind and under which, sea life is in abundance sheltering from the usual prevailing seas. John leads the way as we explore the boulders heading west along the wall, rising to 16 and down again to 20 metres. Before long we are 20 minutes in and head to shallower water between 10 and 12 metres, taking our time to explore every nook and cranny before surfacing after 50 minutes of bottom time. Unfortunately, we are a little too close to the wall, so need a hasty exit as the swell has risen with the changing winds. We get Ian and Pete in as soon as possible before bobbing along on the surface while they complete the dive. Luckily Pete and Ian surface further out after a good 50 minute dive, making for a safe and easy pickup.

Once Pete is settled we decide to have a closer look at the container ship Gottfried Schulte, which is coming into the Botany Bay on route to our second site: Bare Island East side.

10:50am: After snacks and soup our surface interval is over an hour and a half, so it's time for John and I to gear up. (See photo of 'Two Cans' and 'Sea Eagle' with John

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

about to roll in.) John and I then spend the first 10 minutes exploring the channels and ledges between 4-5 metres before heading further out and around 8 metres depth. The more settled nature of this site provides no end of sea life as well as great soft corals and sponges. It seems every square metre has ledges, cracks and trenches on the rocky bottom to explore. Deep under one ledge I find two lobsters nestled tightly together gazing at me wearily. They are so far back with further room to retreat, it would be a tremendous challenge trying to grab them. After fifty four minutes John and I decide it's time to surface and John launches his SMB. On the surface we find that we have covered a reasonable amount of ground, as we enjoyed this site.

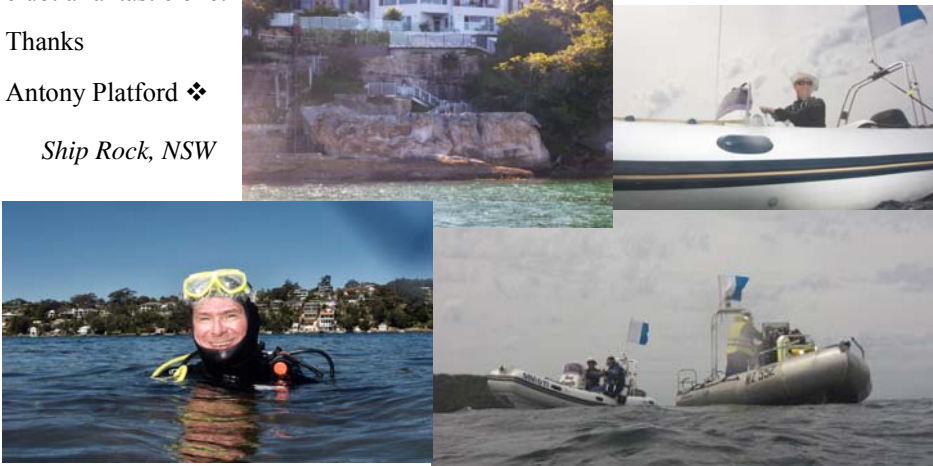
Before too long, we get Pete and Ian ready to drop on Bare Island Deep Wall. This is not only deeper, but provides more protection via Bare Island from the winds which are now northerly and strong. From Ian and Pete's reports this is an excellent site with the boys getting a good dive in. After collecting Pete and Ian, John spots a couple of bobbing black heads on the surface 200 metres further out to sea. Pete and I decide to take a closer look to discover a couple of young divers going backwards on the surface attempting to swim to Bare Island. As the wind is now strong and pushing them in the opposite direction they are obviously in trouble, so Pete offer's them a ride which they happily accept.

Our good deed done for the day and we have stories to tell, as we head back to the ramp for the now well rehearsed pack-up and refill routine. Another great day's diving with great buddies. Thanks VSAG for making this first dive trip away with the club: a fantastic one!

Thanks

Antony Platford ❖

Ship Rock, NSW



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Day 3

The forecast wasn't looking too good for boat diving on our last day but we left the decision until first thing in the morning. I was up early and as soon as I walked outside the hotel room it was obvious we weren't going to get the boats in. This was really disappointing as I had arranged for Michael McFadyen from St George Scuba Club to join us for a dive at Bare Island with a promise of showing us some of the more difficult to spot critters there. Finding Peter Beaumont also up early we talked through options and agreed to head to Shiprock for a shore dive on the morning slack water and then review boat diving for the afternoon.

As the rest of the crew slowly surfaced, we conveyed the plan. When we explained that Shiprock involved 120 steps down to the water some decided to take advantage of the chance to go back to bed. In the end it was Peter, John Ashley, Antony Platford and myself who headed off for the dive. With slack water at 9.37am we had plenty of time but headed off early with the Sydney rush hour traffic in mind. As it turned out we had no problems and arrived early enough to hit the local cafe for a pre dive coffee.

With time on our hands we took our time getting ready and made a couple of trips down the steps carrying bits of our kit. Ship Rock is on the Hacking River and is nearly always diveable although it is a definite slack water dive as currents can be strong. The entry points are very well protected and you are able to walk down some steps into a meter of water in a very protected area before starting your dive.

With everyone ready to go, we started our dive about half an hour before the slack and didn't find the current too bad. Not far from the entry point we were able to drop over the top of a wall down to 18m. We then made our way along the wall.

The site was a macro photographers' dream with critters everywhere. The first find was a large Red Rock Cod who posed beautifully for the camera. As we moved along the wall getting our heads into all the small caves the next find was a Green Moray who was tucked up in the roof of one of the caves. Frustratingly, I was dislodging showers of particles with every breath out, ruining my photos. Eventually, I managed to get my shots by sticking my head outside of the cave to breathe out and then ducking back inside to take a shot.

Continuing further along the wall we found some large Estuary Catfish under the ledges. These guys had faces only their mothers could love but made for a good

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP, INC
DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

picture. One of them had a sizeable Nudibranch sitting on its back and in other spots they were 4/5 deep. The others turned around and headed in the other direction, but I decided to stay with and venture around the corner and into the current. I didn't have too much trouble staying close to the wall and low and continued some distance before turning. As I made my way back along the wall I slowly ascended finding more cracks and small caves to explore. As I reached the spot on the wall where we had started, I found a very nice cave full of yellow and black striped fish, unimaginably named Stripeys. I finished my dive and as usual was the last one out of the water.

We headed back to the hotel to catch up with the rest of the crew who were now fully awake and sitting around chatting.

The wind was still blowing hard so after a quick discussion we agreed to stick with the very protected Shiprock. Peter Campisano opted to take Carmine and crew and launch into the river while the rest of us decided to leave the boats at home and go and do another shore dive. We had a leisurely lunch while we waited for the next slack water before heading off at about 14.00. The shore divers were slightly ahead of the boat crew and we were just descending as Carmine arrived at the dive site.

This time we split into buddy pairs with myself and Peter Beaumont heading in one direction and John and Antony the other.

Peter was good enough to show me all the things he had spotted on his morning dive starting with several Pink-headed Frogfish who were poking their heads out from one of the cracks. They made for excellent photo subjects seemingly convinced that I couldn't see them as they are pretty well camouflaged and staying very still. Next up were some nice pink Nudibranch which were in clusters. Peter knows the dive site well and I was grateful for that as the vis was down on the morning dive after the outgoing tide.

After heading along the wall in the opposite direction to the morning dive we headed out and around a number of bommies before heading back to the wall at a spot called the Bubble Cave. Peter pointed up and it wasn't hard to see where the name came from with an air pocket in the roof big enough to get my head out of the water up to my nose. At this point Peter signalled he was going back to the exit point and I waved him off. I slowly worked my way back along the wall snapping shots as I

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DIVE TRIP TO BOTANY BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

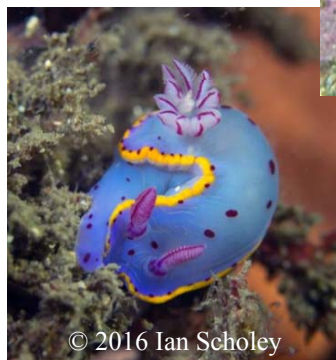
went. The variety of fish life was excellent and the species very different to our local fish.

Back at the cave by the exit point, I photographed a very shy Gunther butterflyfish and also found a nice boxfish. Back on land I found the rest of the shore divers who were delighted with their dive. We were entertained by Peter Campisano in Carmine as he skilfully fought the current and wind to pick up his divers.

Back at the hotel early and without the need to go for airfills we were able to take our time getting gear packed and boat ready for the following day's return trip to Melbourne.

My passengers did very well with the early morning wake up and we were able to get back on the road at 4.30am leaving Peter, Carol and Tim who extended their trip with more diving at Jervis Bay and Peter and David who stayed longer in Sydney. On the way back we decided to drop off the Hume Highway at Holbrook and check out HMAS Otway. It's not often you get to see a sub, set in concrete, and I couldn't help but think it was a bit of a waste of a good sub. It would have made a great dive site if they had sunk it instead. We finally rolled back into my place at Frankston South at 4.00pm, tired but happy after a very good trip. I'm guessing we will be back in Sydney waters again at some stage.

By *Ian Scholey* ❖



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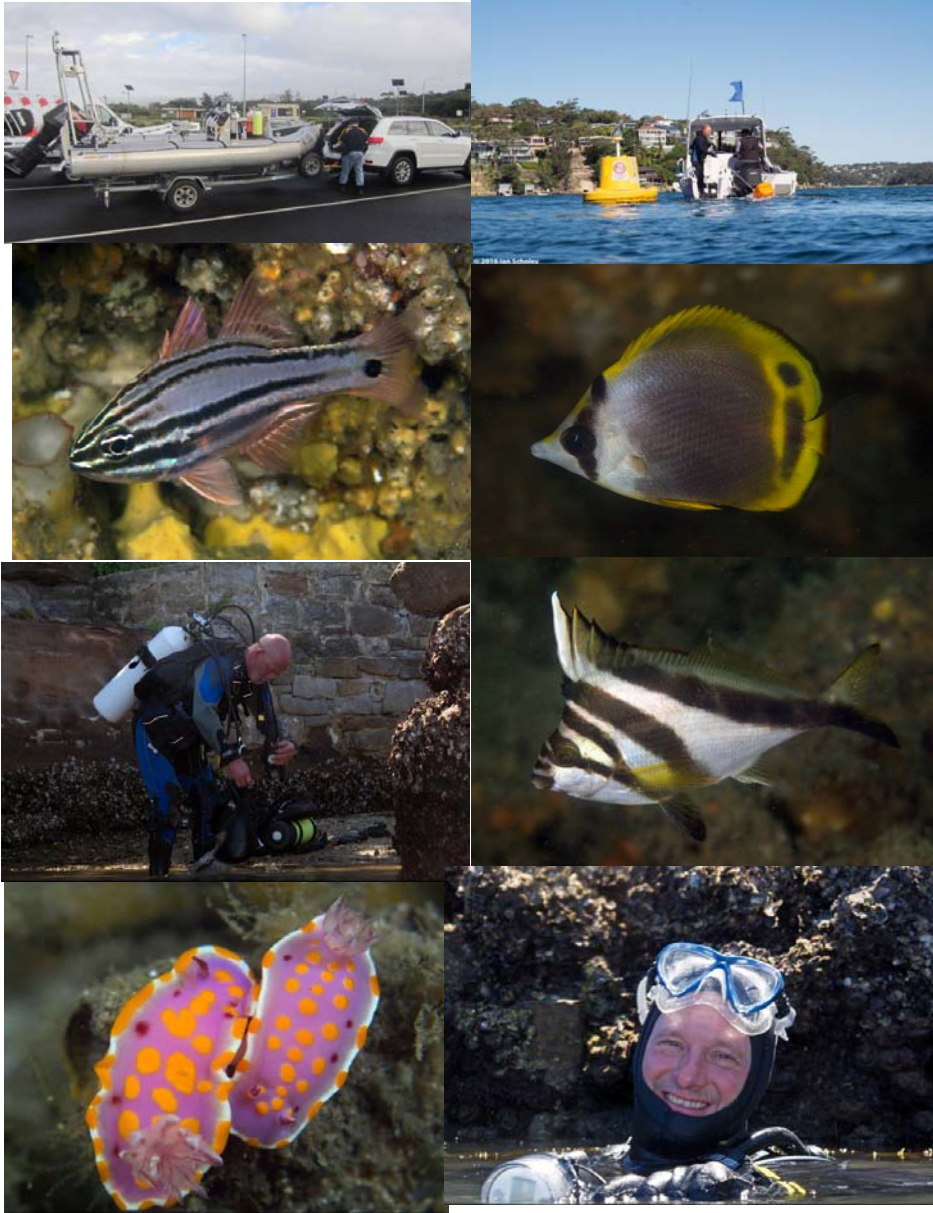
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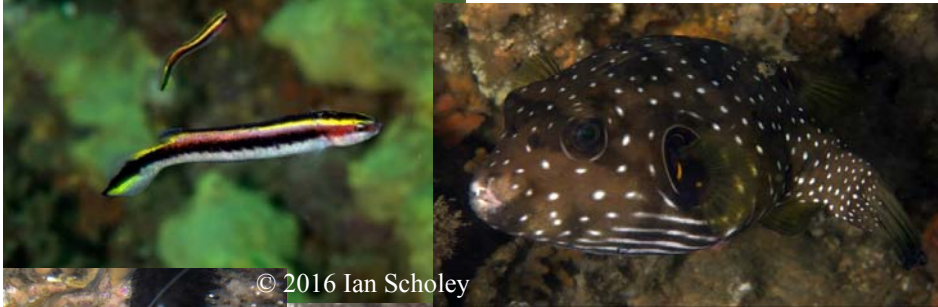
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Dive Reports & Snippets

Today I was joined by Mel Turner a guest from the Under Water Explorers Club of WA and prospective member Troy Kenward for a very chilled Blairgowrie Nudi hunt. As usual Blairgowrie delivered and we had an excellent dive.

It was great to finally get our reciprocal arrangement with the WA club up and running. Don't forget if any of you are heading to Perth you are welcome to take advantage of an Interstate guest membership and get out diving with them.

Loads of Nudi's about but highlight today was a perfectly positioned Velvetfish which posed for some nice photos.

By Ian Scholey ❖



Last Friday I had the pleasure of diving with Mel Turner from our sister club (underwater explores club) Western Australia at Flinders.

We had a great dive in 12 metre viz on a rising Spring tide giving us a maximum depth at 5.3 metres. Lots of Weedies and Nudies plus the usual critters.

I hope both our clubs can foster a strong relationship between each other as there is so much potential to interact whilst travelling to different destinations. All photos were taken by Mel 🐬 🐬

By John Ashley 5.11.2016 ❖



GETUNDER DIVE CLUB 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

GETUNDER 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



The GETUNDER Dive Club celebrated it's 40th Anniversary this year and a celebration dinner dance was held at Eden on the Park Hotel Saturday 22nd October. My wife Yvonne and I, along with Ian Scholey and his wife Sue were invited(regrettably Ian fell ill and missed the event)...Pre dinner drinks followed by a welcome address from current President Steve Cartledge and a brilliant long overview of the club history by Rob Kirk...The club also dedicated the club's September 2016 Issue number 44 booklet to celebrate the history of the club with some amazing photos from the early 1980's onwards...a DVD also was put together and again capturing some really amazing past stories from the club members' videos both on land and underwater..

Fine food and great company, jokes, fun and finally dancing saw the night close around 11.30...an exceptional event in the GetUnder history...



*Steve Cartledge, President
of GetUnder Dive Club*



*Rob Kirk
Past President*

GETUNDER DIVE CLUB 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

*Michael Ngai
and
Alan Beckhurst*



Hannah Smeaton and Trudy Pratt



VSAG CHRISTMAS PARTY

.....and a merry old time was had by all!

Thanks to the generosity of Ian, Sue and Anna Scholey for making their home available for VSAG members to enjoy good times, good cheer, good company and good food.. An enormously large thank you for all the hard work that went into all the preparation , trimmings and cooking.

Thanks to Ian Scholey and John Lawler for their cheffing talents and to all members who supported this joyous event.

We wish all VSAG members a very joyous Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



VSAG CHRISTMAS PARTY



DIARY DATES



Hi all

I am pleased to announce that the club will offer a Truk Lagoon trip in 2018. With flights via Port Moresby there is also an optional extension in Milne Bay, PNG.

Please see the flyers for both the Truk trip and the optional extension.

If anyone has any questions about the proposed trip or about the diving in Truk Lagoon then please don't hesitate to contact me.

If anyone would like to join the trip then please complete a booking form and return it to me and pay the required deposit of \$440 to secure your place.

For those who have dived Truk you know how great it is. For those that haven't, please be warned that if you go once it will almost certainly not be your last visit. The place is addictive!

Ian Scholey ❖

DIARY DATES



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP PRESENTS

TRUK LAGOON MICRONESIA



OPTIONAL
TAWALI, PAPUA
NEW GUINEA
EXTENSION!

February 1944: US Forces launch Operation Hailstorm on Truk Lagoon, Japan's Pacific base during World War II. The Japanese are caught unaware and lose over 275 aircraft and 45 ships. See plane wrecks, artillery shells, torpedoes, tanks, bow and stern guns and an abundance of anemones, tropical fish, sharks and eagle rays. With depths ranging from 10m to 60m and little current, Truk is the ultimate wreck diving destination.

FLY

AIR NIUGINI

- Return flights ex Brisbane to Truk Lagoon
- Flying via Port Moresby
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges

SLEEP

AIROLDGE INTERNATIONAL, BRISBANE

- Standard twin share room - 1 night
- BLUE LAGOON RESORT, TRUK LAGOON**
- Standard twin share room - 11 nights
- Late checkout on final day until 6PM
- Return airport transfers

ADDITIONALLY FOR GROUPS OF 7 OR MORE

- FREE welcome drink upon arrival
- FREE use safety deposit box
- FREE lunch or dinner on last day
- FREE use of dive lockers & kayaks
- FREE additional dive

DIVE

BLUE LAGOON RESORT DIVING

- 20 dives per diver
- Tanks, weights, airfills & dive guide

CONTACT IAN SCHOLEY FOR MORE INFORMATION

travel@vsag.org.au | 0439 310 646 | www.vsag.org.au

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

allways@allwaysdive.com.au | 1800 338 239 | www.allwaysdive.com.au

Exclusions: Equipment rental, Dive permit USD\$50 per person, Departure Tax USD\$20 per person & transfers within Brisbane.

Doc # 32311

DIARY DATES



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP PRESENTS

TAWALI EXTENSION

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The diving surrounding Tawali is renowned for its world-class macro life: explore a sandy ocean floor alive with rhinopias, pygmy seahorses, mimic octopus and much more! Beyond the macro diving, there are a myriad of dive sites that have something for every diver including dramatic drop-offs, coral encrusted walls and fast-paced drift dives. And if all of that isn't enough, the house reef boasts a 60 metre drop off filled with marine life with everything from mandarin fish closer to shore, to schooling pelagics and rays out in the blue.

TRAVEL DATES
30 AUG - 05 SEP 2018

ADDITIONAL DIVER \$ 2,770
NON DIVER \$ 1,790

REFERENCE
019273

FLY

AIR NIUGINI

- Return flights Port Moresby to Milne Bay
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges

SLEEP

TAWALI RESORT, MILNE BAY

- Deluxe twin share room - 6 nights
- All meals including coffee & tea
- Return airport transfers

DIVE

TAWALI RESORT DIVING

- 3 boat dives per day over 5 days (total 15 dives)
- FREE shore diving on the house reef
- Lunch & snacks on dive boats
- Tanks, weights, airfills & dive guide
- Reef, chamber fees & fuel surcharges

CONTACT IAN SCHOLEY FOR MORE INFORMATION
travel@vsag.org.au | 0439 310 646 | www.vsag.org.au

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS
allways@allwaysdive.com.au | 1800 338 239 | www.allwaysdive.com.au

Lee 2011

DIARY DATES

NYE Fireworks

Tassie Trip – Labour Day 2017

Vanuatu 2-12 July 2017 School holidays

Truk Lagoon/ PNG 18-30 August 2018

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

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

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

Rates in RED are the maximum forecast outgoing (ebb) tidal rate.

Rates in BLUE are the maximum forecast incoming (flood) tidal rate

Dec 3/4	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Dec 10/14	Boat DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
Dec 17/18	Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Dec 20	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Dec 24/25/26/27	Shore DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881 Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Dec 31/Jan 1	Boat DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Jan 7/8	Boat DC Ross Walker 0417 376 192
Jan 14/15	Boat DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Jan 17	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Jan 21/22	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Jan 26/27/28/29	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Feb 4/5	Boat DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
Feb 11/12	Shore DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881 Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Feb 18/19	Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Feb 21	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Feb 25/26	DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Mar 4/5	Boat DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Mar 11/12/13 Labor Day long weekend	Boat DC David Flew 0418 446 530
Mar 18/19	Boat DC Benita McDonough 0419 399 000
Mar 21	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Mar 25/26	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Apr 1/2	Boat DC John Lawler 0414 922 916

Apr 8/9	Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Apr 14/15/16/17 Easter week-end	Shore DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881 Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Apr 18	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Apr 22/23	Boat DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Apr 25 Anzac Day	Boat DC Ross Walker 0417 376 192
Apr 29/30	Boat DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
May 6/7	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
May 13/14	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
May 16	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
May 20/21	Boat DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
May 27/28	Shore DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881 Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Jun 3/4	Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Jun 10/11/12 Queens B'day weekend	DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Jun 17/18	
June 20	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm

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
 - ◆ 1 Oxygen Medical Kit
 - ◆ 1 DAN First Aid Kit
 - ◆ 2 Scuba Tanks.
- Yearly Ramp Passes and occasional parking vouchers are now available from Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. Pay by credit card at payment machines on the day or pay on line at:
www.parkmobile.com.au*

Please use this facility responsibly. ❖

Tidal Streams at the Heads — December 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

November			December			
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4
3:10	4:05	4:50	5:28	6:03	6:36	0:34
9:09	10:10	10:58	11:38	12:14	12:48	7:08
14:13	15:01	15:45	16:25	17:04	17:42	13:22
21:21	22:05	22:45	23:23	23:59		18:21
MON 5	TUE 6	WED 7	THU 8	FRI 9	SAT 10	SUN 11
1:09	1:43	2:18	2:55	3:36	4:22	5:20
7:41	8:13	8:45	9:19	9:55	10:36	11:24
13:56	14:30	15:07	15:47	16:34	17:29	18:33
19:00	19:42	20:28	21:21	22:24	23:37	
MON 12	TUE 13	WED 14	THU 15	FRI 16	SAT 17	SUN 18
0:58	2:21	3:35	4:37	5:30	6:17	0:32
6:33	8:02	9:26	10:36	11:35	12:28	7:01
12:20	13:22	14:27	15:30	16:30	17:27	13:17
19:41	20:48	21:50	22:48	23:42		18:23
MON 19	TUE 20	WED 21	THU 22	FRI 23	SAT 24	SUN 25
1:18	2:02	2:42	3:21	3:59	4:41	0:12
7:42	8:20	8:58	9:34	10:10	10:47	5:32
14:05	14:50	15:35	16:19	17:04	17:52	11:26
19:17	20:12	21:06	22:04	23:05		18:44
December						January
MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 31	SUN 1
1:23	2:33	3:34	4:25	5:07	5:44	6:19
6:39	8:05	9:24	10:24	11:12	11:52	12:31
12:10	13:01	13:58	14:54	15:48	16:36	17:24
19:39	20:33	21:24	22:11	22:55	23:36	

Tidal Streams at the Heads — January 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

December						January
<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>1:23</i>	<i>2:33</i>	<i>3:34</i>	<i>4:25</i>	<i>5:07</i>	<i>5:44</i>	<i>6:19</i>
<i>6:39</i>	<i>8:05</i>	<i>9:24</i>	<i>10:24</i>	<i>11:12</i>	<i>11:52</i>	<i>12:31</i>
<i>12:10</i>	<i>13:01</i>	<i>13:58</i>	<i>14:54</i>	<i>15:48</i>	<i>16:36</i>	<i>17:24</i>
<i>19:39</i>	<i>20:33</i>	<i>21:24</i>	<i>22:11</i>	<i>22:55</i>	<i>23:36</i>	
<i>MON 2</i>	<i>TUE 3</i>	<i>WED 4</i>	<i>THU 5</i>	<i>FRI 6</i>	<i>SAT 7</i>	<i>SUN 8</i>
<i>0:14</i>	<i>0:51</i>	<i>1:28</i>	<i>2:05</i>	<i>2:42</i>	<i>3:22</i>	<i>4:05</i>
<i>6:52</i>	<i>7:23</i>	<i>7:54</i>	<i>8:24</i>	<i>8:55</i>	<i>9:28</i>	<i>10:05</i>
<i>13:07</i>	<i>13:42</i>	<i>14:18</i>	<i>14:55</i>	<i>15:36</i>	<i>16:21</i>	<i>17:11</i>
<i>18:08</i>	<i>18:51</i>	<i>19:36</i>	<i>20:24</i>	<i>21:18</i>	<i>22:18</i>	<i>23:27</i>
<i>MON 9</i>	<i>TUE 10</i>	<i>WED 11</i>	<i>THU 12</i>	<i>FRI 13</i>	<i>SAT 14</i>	<i>SUN 15</i>
<i>4:55</i>	<i>0:44</i>	<i>2:05</i>	<i>3:20</i>	<i>4:23</i>	<i>5:17</i>	<i>6:03</i>
<i>10:48</i>	<i>5:58</i>	<i>7:21</i>	<i>8:55</i>	<i>10:16</i>	<i>11:20</i>	<i>12:15</i>
<i>18:09</i>	<i>11:41</i>	<i>12:45</i>	<i>13:58</i>	<i>15:12</i>	<i>16:20</i>	<i>17:22</i>
	<i>19:14</i>	<i>20:22</i>	<i>21:29</i>	<i>22:30</i>	<i>23:26</i>	
<i>MON 16</i>	<i>TUE 17</i>	<i>WED 18</i>	<i>THU 19</i>	<i>FRI 20</i>	<i>SAT 21</i>	<i>SUN 22</i>
<i>0:17</i>	<i>1:02</i>	<i>1:44</i>	<i>2:21</i>	<i>2:56</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>4:06</i>
<i>6:45</i>	<i>7:23</i>	<i>7:58</i>	<i>8:31</i>	<i>9:02</i>	<i>9:31</i>	<i>10:02</i>
<i>13:04</i>	<i>13:50</i>	<i>14:32</i>	<i>15:11</i>	<i>15:49</i>	<i>16:27</i>	<i>17:08</i>
<i>18:19</i>	<i>19:12</i>	<i>20:02</i>	<i>20:51</i>	<i>21:39</i>	<i>22:30</i>	<i>23:26</i>
<i>MON 23</i>	<i>TUE 24</i>	<i>WED 25</i>	<i>THU 26</i>	<i>FRI 27</i>	<i>SAT 28</i>	<i>SUN 29</i>
<i>4:45</i>	<i>0:28</i>	<i>1:38</i>	<i>2:48</i>	<i>3:50</i>	<i>4:39</i>	<i>5:19</i>
<i>10:35</i>	<i>5:34</i>	<i>6:40</i>	<i>8:12</i>	<i>9:38</i>	<i>10:39</i>	<i>11:25</i>
<i>17:52</i>	<i>11:13</i>	<i>12:01</i>	<i>13:01</i>	<i>14:09</i>	<i>15:16</i>	<i>16:16</i>
	<i>18:42</i>	<i>19:40</i>	<i>20:39</i>	<i>21:36</i>	<i>22:27</i>	<i>23:14</i>

Tidal Streams at the Heads — February 2017

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

January		February				
MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5
5:53	6:26	0:37	1:17	1:55	2:34	3:13
12:06	12:44	6:56	7:27	7:58	8:29	9:03
17:09	17:58	13:21	13:59	14:38	15:20	16:04
23:57		18:46	19:33	20:22	21:15	22:11
MON 6	TUE 7	WED 8	THU 9	FRI 10	SAT 11	SUN 12
3:54	4:40	0:24	1:40	2:55	4:00	4:54
9:40	10:23	5:37	6:55	8:32	10:00	11:06
16:52	17:46	11:16	12:23	13:43	15:04	16:18
23:13		18:48	19:59	21:10	22:16	23:14
MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THU 16	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19
5:39	0:04	0:48	1:27	2:02	2:34	3:06
12:00	6:19	6:54	7:26	7:56	8:24	8:52
17:21	12:46	13:27	14:05	14:39	15:13	15:46
	18:15	19:04	19:48	20:30	21:11	21:53
MON 20	TUE 21	WED 22	THU 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26
3:38	4:12	4:51	0:32	1:42	2:52	3:51
9:21	9:52	10:29	5:43	6:58	8:38	9:55
16:22	17:00	17:45	11:14	12:13	13:29	14:48
22:38	23:30		18:39	19:44	20:53	21:56
February		March				
MON 27	TUE 28	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5
4:36	5:14	5:48	0:22	1:04	1:45	2:25
10:48	11:33	12:14	6:21	6:53	7:27	8:02
15:59	16:59	17:52	12:55	13:36	14:17	15:00
22:50	23:38		18:42	19:30	20:20	21:10

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

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

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



October 2016 Photo Competition Winner—Charmaine Alford