



Fathoms

JUNE - JULY 2016

*Mick Young and a Whale Shark at
Kwatisore, Cenderwasih Bay
Photo : Sherry Meager*

*LAUNCH OF VSAG@60 BOOK
ENTERPRIZE TALL SHIP REPORT
PENTAGONAL CRITTERS
....AND MORE*

Postal Address:

VSAG, 139 Overport Rd, Frankston South VIC 3199

www.vsag.org.au

VSAG FAMILY BOATING SOCIAL DAY - HERRING ISLAND SUNDAY, 3RD JULY 2016

Herring Island is an artificial island, managed by Parks Victoria as an environmental and sculptural park. Once on the island, a series of walking paths wind in between native vegetation and numerous sculptures. The sculptures are large and textural, great for explorers of all ages to discover!



VSAG has scheduled a club member's boats journey up the Yarra River past Southbank to Herring Island at the back of Toorak. The information on this wonderful, exciting place is detailed below :

Boat Launch : Newport, The Warmies Boat Ramp (Melways C5,56)

Fees Apply : Please bring change

Time : Meet at 10am

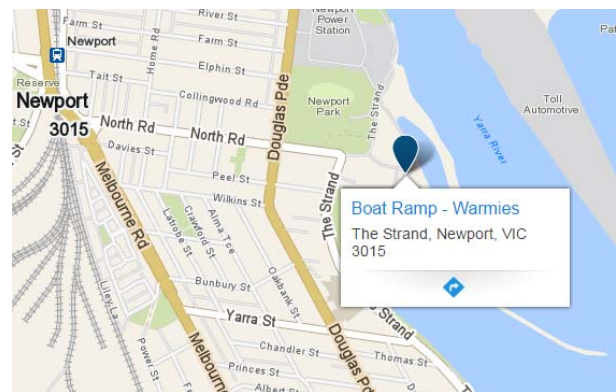
Conditions : Tidal heights may limit larger boats to move under some low lying bridges. Larger boats need to check this well in advance before commencing the trip.

On Water : Speed limit applies to the journey up river - 5 knots.

Food : BYO all food and liquid refreshments. All rubbish should be taken home.

Note : This journey is weather dependant and the final decision to go ahead will be advised on Saturday morning, 2nd July.

**Boat Owners and others interested in attending this event,
please contact John Lawler**





Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

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Editorial Submissions:

Email to: cheryl_marj@hotmail.com

Cheryl Lees

M: 0448 863 455

8 Foothills Ave, McCrae VIC 3938

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

President

Ian Scholey 139 Overport Rd, Frankston South VIC 3199
0439 310 646 president@vsag.org.au
ischoley@iinet.net.au

Vice President

Benita McDonough 3 Tintern Crt, Frankston South VIC 3199
0419 399 000 vicepresident@vsag.org.au
benita@mcdonough.name

Treasurer

Peter Galvin 6 Dawson Glen, Heathmont VIC 3135
0417 061 564 treasurer@vsag.org.au
pgalvin@au1.ibm.com

Secretary

David Geekie 145 Johnston St, Newport VIC 3015
0419 300 686 secretary@vsag.org.au
dgeekie@bigpond.net.au

Equipment Officer

Graham Ellis 2A View Rd, Glen Waverley VIC 3150
03 9803 0069 (H) 0403 070 920 divecoordinator@vsag.org.au
graham_ellis@optusnet.com.au

Safety Coordinator

David Flew 18 King Sound Close, Waterways VIC 3195
0418 446 530 safetycoordinator@vsag.org.au
dgf1946@gmail.com

New Member Co-ordinator

John Lawler 7 Cloris Ave, Beaumaris VIC 3193
03 9589 4020 (H) 0414 922 916 membership@vsag.org.au
jlawler@aapt.net.au

Point Scorer

Michael Ngai 149/632 St. Kilda Rd, Melbourne VIC 3004
0414 894 684 pointscorer@vsag.org.au
ngaisl@netspace.net.au

Diving Co-ordinator

Peter Beaumont PO Box 829, Mornington VIC 3931
0403 410 725 beaumont@nex.net.au

Webmaster

Lloyd Borrett 5 Sherwood Ave, Rosebud VIC 3939
0418 170 044 lloyd@borrett.id.au

General Committee Members

Christine Reynolds PO Box 596, Cranbourne VIC 3977
0402 214 136 nt08002001@yahoo.com.au

Charmaine Alford 12/16 Byron St, Elwood VIC 3184
0438 385 224 charmaineaalford@gmail.com

OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL 2016 WORLD TOUR



Report by Ian Scholey

For the third consecutive year, VSAG had a group attending the Ocean Film Festival. The event seems to grow each year and this year there were three performances in Melbourne for the first time. We attended the first screening at Crown. VSAGers present were myself, John Lawler, Antony Platford, Tim Forster, Christine Reynolds and Benita McDonough.

The festival shows short films connected with the Ocean both above and below. You never really know what you are going to get, with everything from the quirky to the down right spectacular. This year was no exception. The first film was called "India's first surfer girl" and told the story of Ishita Malaviya, a journalism student who has broken every stereotype of the Indian woman and become a professional surfer. The passion for surf-

ing in this happy go lucky young woman made for an inspiring film. She even had her middle aged mother surfing in the end, despite her original objection to the career choice.

The next film was one for us divers and told the story of Howard and Michele Hall, an American couple who make underwater IMAX films. The film covered how the couple met and how Michele, a nurse by profession was drawn into Howard's world of diving and film making. There were fascinating insights into the art and costs of underwater film making. The IMAX camera will only shoot 6 minutes of footage in a shoot and it costs a whopping \$400 a second of film shot. That is a great incentive to get the right shots and Howard talked about his sixth sense of knowing when to get the camera rolling to catch the fish activity he wants to shoot. It's a time consuming process with one small sequence of a Stonefish munching on a small fish taking 6 hours to capture.

The last film of the first half of the show was in the quirky bracket and told the story of young Frenchman, Corentin de Chatelperron's voyage from Bangladesh down through the Indonesian Islands on a boat whose hull was made of jute, a sustainable fibre prevalent in Bangladesh and

where everything else on board was made entirely from reused objects. Accompanied by a couple of chickens, he weathered storms, endured lost and broken gear, loneliness and failures on his voyage south across the Bay of Bengal. At 43 minutes long I thought this film was a little over done but it was interesting none the less.

A quick interval and we were straight back into it with a very short film about Gold Coast surfer Ryan Hipwood surfing a wave in WA called The Right. Apparently this wave is the world's most dangerous and unpredictable and it certainly looked bloody scary. Some of the wipe outs were hellish and I couldn't help but cringe as both surfer and the jet skis getting him into position took a right pounding. Still, if that's your thing, that's your thing I suppose and you have to admire their madness.



Another surfing film next up in "I Lost My Dream", the story of a young boy, Moacir, who escapes a life of poverty in Nicaragua to become a professional surfer. The story covered his attempts to cross illegally into the USA before being taken into a children's refuge in Mexico. Here he meets Australian couple, Pam and Alan Sukse, and they introduce him to surfing. The rest is history as they say.

Next up was "Like Nothing Else" which had us back into huge waves, this time on Windsurfers. The film was shot on Maui, Hawaii and was full of thrills and spills.



My favourite film of the night was next up, and surprisingly it wasn't a diving film but a film about Kayaking. The film "Kayaking the Aleutians" told the story of Justine Curgenven and Sarah Outen, a couple of irrepressible Brits who decide to Kayak the Aleutians Island that run from Russia to Alaska. In some of the roughest waters in a truly remote part of the world these two battled strong

currents and impossibly long days of paddling. In the toughest of conditions they didn't seem to stop laughing and were clearly having a ball. The scenery and wildlife was spectacular. The film was full of fun moments, with my particular favourite, the sight of Sarah shortly after her naked dip in a stream being interrupted by a large bear. Even that episode was taken in her stride with a bit of British stiff upper lip and, of course, a smile. It's good to know that there are still people like these two out there doing crazy things.

The final film had us back under the waves with some truly stunning footage of Humpback Whales in "One Voice". The film was shot in Hawaii and gave a message of hope for the future. In the early 70's there were less than 500 Humpbacks left in the Northern Pacific and 40 years later there are now over 25,000. This film was a fitting end to a good night's entertainment. Most of these films are apparently available to view online so if you get a chance, take a look. ❖

**International OCEAN FILM TOUR
2016 | Official Trailer :**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crVQmQwxQyE>

NEW VSAG MEMBERS

Please extend a very warm VSAG welcome to our latest new members.

You may have already seen them at VSAG Meetings or dived with them.

**Sharon Meagher
Michael (Mick) Young
Matt Johnson
Nick Schoeffler
Peter Moss**



***Meditating
is so much
simpler
when all you
can hear are
bubbles....***

CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT P.J'S



Yes, it's almost that time of year already - Christmas in July!

Let's get together for a traditional 2-course Christmas dinner (including a Vegetarian option) at PJ O'Brien's Irish Pub at Southgate

**The proposed date is Saturday, 16th July, in the evening.
The cost will be \$35 per person, and drinks will be available at bar prices.**

**Could any members interested in Attending, please advise Charmaine Alford :
charmaineaalford@gmail.com
by Monday, 30th July.**

More details will follow, with a call for definite RSVPs closer to the date.



VSAG SCUBA DIVING HOLIDAY

*Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu
16th-29th August 2016*

*Scuba Dive the SS President Coolidge,
Million Dollar Reef, local reefs, USS Tucker,
Tui Tawate and 2 plane wrecks.*

POSTPONED UNTIL 2017

Launch of VSAG 60th Anniversary Book



At the General Meeting on Tuesday, 19th April 2016, “**Celebrating VSAG@60 : 1954-2014**” was finally launched by Des Williams.



Lloyd Borrett pointed out that there were four VSAG Life Members attending the Book Launch on this night

- Des Williams, John Goulding, Andy Mastrowicz and John Lawler.

A great accomplishment and a great read!



Members responsible for producing the book : L-R Lloyd Borrett, John Lawler, Paul Tipping, Des Williams (Don Abel not present).

All members receive a free copy.

Additional Copies can be purchased for \$30 online at The Scuba Doctor <https://www.scubadoctor.com.au/diveshop> or by emailing Ian Scholey.

The book covers the history of our great independent diving club and contains many stories and old photographs that will fascinate some, and bring back happy memories for others. It covers the early days of VSAG diving in Melbourne, where members mostly dived with home-made scuba equipment. It highlights the contributions of the likes of Melbourne diving pioneers, Ted Eldred and Jim Ager, who invented the separate first and second stage regulator setup with one hose that is the basis of the regulator setups we dive today.

Stories from VSAG's early days include details of VSAG's inaugural Patron Capt. Bill Shelford, Royal Navy, plus an overview of the career of pioneering female scientific diver, Dr Jan Watson, who in her mid 80s is still diving today. Early VSAG members John Noonan, Peter Matthews and Norm Archibald provide insights into what diving in Victoria and with VSAG was like back in the 1950s and 1960s.

Over the years, VSAG has been involved in many significant events including searches for Victoria Police, security for the 1956 Olympic Games, the raising of the Lock Ard anchor, the formation of the Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria (MAAV)

and the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria. VSAG members founded the Victorian Artificial Reef Society (VARs) and were active in the sinking of the ex HMAS Canberra warship.

The book covers when, in March 2003, VSAG member Leo Maybus became the first person to cross Port Philip Bay underwater! He left from Portsea Pier and surfaced at Queenscliff Pier just over three hours later.

VSAG's bi-monthly magazine, "Fathoms" has been produced since the late 1950s. Included in "*Celebrating VSAG@60*" are some delightful yarns from Fathoms which provide a rich and amusing insight into the club's history. Read how three VSAG divers had a close encounter with a great white shark in January 1995.

"*Celebrating VSAG@60*" shows how VSAGers, together with their families and friends, have continued to enjoy club scuba diving and social activities for more than 60 years. Plus how VSAGers enjoy participating in the wider scuba diving community in the true spirit of this great pastime. ❖

Divers Find Huge Trove of Statues, Coins in 1,600-year-old Shipwreck

In 'biggest find in 30 years,' archaeologists rescue rare bronze figures of gods, animals, that sank off Caesarea along with ship carrying metal for recycling.

By Stuart Winer, a breaking news editor at The Times of Israel. May 16, 2016



Two recreational divers discovered a 1,600 year-old shipwreck on the seabed off the coast of Israel, leading to a salvage operation which uncovered one of the largest caches of marine artifacts ever found, antiquities officials revealed Monday.

The hoard was discovered off the coast of Caesarea, a major Roman-era seaport, sometime last month, the Israel Antiques Authority said in a statement, calling the find the most extensive underwater discovery in 30 years.

Pieces brought to the surface included

a bronze lamp depicting the image of the sun god Sol, a figurine of the moon goddess Luna, a lamp in the image of the head of an African slave, fragments of three life-size bronze cast statues, objects fashioned in the shape of animals such as a whale, and a bronze faucet in the form of a wild boar with a swan on its head, the IAA said. Fragments of jars the crew had used to store drinking water were also found.



A figurine of the moon goddess Luna as discovered on the seabed at the site of the ancient sea

Experts believe the finds came from a large merchant ship carrying metal slated for reuse when it ran into a storm near the harbor and smashed into the seawall and rocks. "A preliminary study of the iron anchors suggests there was an attempt to stop the drifting vessel before it reached shore by casting anchors into the sea; however, these broke – evidence of the power of the waves and the wind which the ship was caught up in," the statement said.

Ran Feinstein and Ofer Ra'anana of Ra'anana were diving at the site of the ancient harbor in the Caesarea National Park before the recent Passover

holiday in April when they noticed that shifting sand had exposed the remains of a ship and its contents.



*The divers, Ran Feinstein, right, and Ofer Ra'an after the discovery.
(The Old Caesarea Diving Center)*

The pair immediately contacted the IAA, which sent down archaeologists to take a look. To their delight, the team spotted “iron anchors, remains of wooden anchors and items that were used in the construction and running of the sailing vessel,” the authority said. Feinstein and Ra'an will be Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the IAA and given a personal tour of the IAA's storerooms as a reward for their good citizenry.



Jacob Sharvit, director of the Marine Archaeology Unit of the Israel Antiquities

Authority, and Dror Planer, deputy director of the unit, dated the ship to sometime during the Late Roman Period or 3rd-4th century CE.

In the weeks following the discovery by Ra'an and Feinstein, IAA divers along with volunteers, carried out an underwater salvage survey and by using specialized equipment, were able to find and recover many items from the cargo.



The bronze statues are particularly rare; slated to be melted down, they instead sank and were preserved by the seawater. “In the many marine excavations that have been carried out in Caesarea, only a very small number of bronze statues have been found, whereas in the current cargo, a wealth of spectacular statues were found that were in the city and were removed from it by way of sea. The sand protected the statues; consequently they are in an amazing state of preservation – as though they were cast yesterday rather than 1,600 years ago,” the IAA said.

Also discovered were two lumps, together weighing 20 kilograms,

composed of thousands of coins that had retained the shape of the long disintegrated pottery vessel in which they were being transported.



“The coins that were discovered bear the image of the Emperor, Constantine, who ruled the Western Roman Empire (312–324 CE) and was later known as Constantine the Great, ruler of the Roman Empire (324–337 CE), and of Licinius, an Emperor who ruled the eastern part of the Roman Empire and was a rival of Constantine, until his downfall in a battle that was waged between the two rulers,” the IAA said.

Last year, a treasure trove of Fatimid gold coins was found in the sea at Caesarea. ❖

Article sent to Herb Epstein from a diving buddy who now lives in France.

Home: Covered ✓
Car: Covered ✓

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Divers Alert Network

Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?

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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.



An article from DAN AP's May Safety Stop Newsletter



Oxygen Preparedness

Planning a dive trip? We all hope that dive resorts are capable of providing oxygen in the event of any diving accident. These five questions can help you decide if they are “oxygen ready.”

1. How much oxygen do you carry on each dive boat?
2. Is this enough oxygen to get a victim from a remote dive site to medical care?
3. Can your oxygen delivery system provide oxygen to more than one victim at a time?
4. What delivery methods do you use? Can it deliver 100% oxygen?
5. Are all attending staff trained in oxygen delivery?

Be sure to ask these simple questions **BEFORE** you book your next dive trip. ❖

On May 14, another eight VSAGer's successfully completed their DAN First Aid and O2 Provider Course.

Well done to Antony Platford, Matt Johnson, Tony Hood, Sherryn Meagher, Mick Young, Herb Epstein, Ian Wheatley and Mark Jeffrey. Also thanks to instructor, Chris Davidson.

That takes it to 24 members who have completed these two courses over the last few months. Thanks for making VSAG a safer club to dive with. We are able to hold our hands up as a club and say “yes” to those questions above. We even subsidize our members in training.

If any more members would like to take these courses, please let Ian Scholey know. When he has the num-



PENTAGONAL CRITTERS

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

One of nature's most interesting and spectacular experiments has been with pentamer (five points) symmetry. Most of the members of this Phylum (Echinodermata) have some form of pentamer symmetry, in which the outer body (the test) is divided into 5 sections. Sometimes, the five sections are obscured and distorted and in some groups, a few have abandoned it altogether.

The Phylum Echinodermata encompasses several major Orders, all of which we see on dives – the Asteroidea (seastars), the Ophiuroidea (brittlestars), the Echinoidea (seurchins) and the Holothuroidea (sea cucumbers).

The Echinodermata has a long fossil history dating back to the Ordovician, 450 million years ago. The "classic" echinoderm hasn't much internal tissue and it is the outer body (the test) that is the most interesting. It is composed of small hard plates strengthened by calcium carbonate and often arranged in beautiful coloured patterns. The exceptions to colour are the

holothurians which are usually dull coloured and have a soft outer body. Most echinoderms are micro-carnivores or opportunistic scavengers. Echinoderms reproduce by release of eggs and sperm into the water column, and most females release hundreds of thousands of eggs in a reproductive cycle.

ASTEROIDEA - THE SEASTARS

Asteroids are usually brightly coloured, many are large and we frequently see them on dives. There are many that are so small as to be seen only under the microscope. Some have clearly visible pentamer symmetry but others have abandoned this basic plan in favour of a multiplicity of arms. The test is covered in hard calcareous plates, large in some species and in others very small. Some have spines on the plates on the upper (dorsal) surface for protection and in some tropical species these can deliver a painful sting.

A close check of the dorsal surface will reveal two pale-coloured plates

near the centre of the body. These are the sieve plates, one of which filters incoming water pumped in to the circulatory system and the other expels the deoxygenated water. Gently turning a star over will usually reveal short, fleshy, waving arms, each ending in a sucker disc. These are tube feet that the star moves around on.

The internal water pumping system keeps the tube feet inflated. Some are carnivores and some are scavengers and feed by protruding the stomach from the central underside of the test, enveloping and digesting prey outside the body before sucking it in. Stars can reproduce sexually by eggs and sperm and also asexually by regenerating lost arms.

Some species like quiet shallow water, others prefer oceanic habitat and some are confined to deep water habitat.



Meridastra gunni. Upper (dorsal) side.
Clifton Springs, 2 m.

*Note this specimen unusually, has 6 rays.

***Meridastra gunni*.**

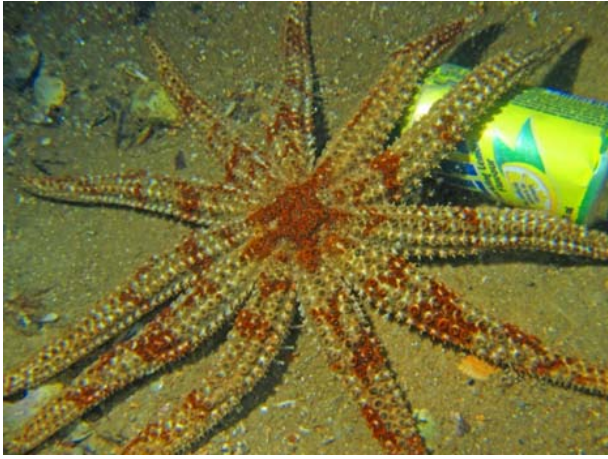
One of our commonest seastars. It is a scavenger living in shallow sheltered water of the bay, dark purple to plum red in colour. The five rays are partly obscured by the cushion-shaped body but if turned over, they are visible by agitatedly waving orange tube feet.



Meridastra gunni. Ventral side, showing orange tube feet and partly extruded central stomach.

***Coscinasterias muricata*.**

This is largest local seastar and is very common in the bay. It has abandoned basic pentamerous symmetry for 10-11 long arms. The arms are equipped with long, sharp defensive spines. The test varies in colour from yellow, pale purplish to brown, sometimes within patterns. The tube feet are pale coloured. It is a voracious predator of mussels, clinging with its arms and extruding its stomach over the bivalve to digest the flesh.



Coscinasterias muricata on seabed, a drink can for scale.



Coscinasterias muricata feeding on mussel, St Leonards pier, 3 m.



Coscinasterias muricata. Ventral side, tube feet and extended stomach. Clifton Springs, 2 m.

Meridastra calcar.

Another star that has abandoned pentameral symmetry in favour of about eight arms. A scavenger, common in very shallow coastal reefs in the bay. Colours vary from blue to fawn, often with a central contrasting colour.



Meridastra calcar. Altona reef, 2 m. Pale coloured sieve plate on dorsal surface.

Pentagonaster dubeni.

Common on reefs near and outside Port Phillip Heads. A small sluggish seastar, always five-rayed with a tough unyielding test. Usually yellow to orange in colour with two large terminal plates at the end of each arm and a white border around each dorsal plate. A scavenger, seldom seen eating, tube feet never visible during the day.



Pentagonaster dubeni. Resting on alga, Popes Eye, 3 m.

***Nectria ocellata*.**

An active, moderately large seastar with long arms common in Port Phillip and on ocean reefs. Populations also occur in the North Arm of Western Port. It varies in colour from yellow, orange and pink, sometimes patterned. The dorsal plates are arranged in papillate rosettes.

The tube feet are active when it is turned over. (I wasted two laboratory days attempting to cut off tube feet from 10 specimens for DNA analysis. The stars were quicker at pulling in their feet than I was at grabbing them with forceps - *Nectria* 10, Watson 0).



Nectria ocellata. Close-up of dorsal side showing rosettes of plates, Bluescope wharf, Western Port, 6 m.

***Petricia vernicina*.**



Two-toned orange and pink specimen, Boarfish Reef, Port Phillip, 12 m.



Petricia vernicina. Steele Rocks near Portarlington, 2 m.

Not as common as other local seastars, preferring quiet water reef habitat. Orange to red in colour with five thick rays with wrinkled surface. The body is soft with a slippery pitted surface.



Petricia vernicina. Close-up showing pitted texture.

***Asterias amurensis*.**

Introduced about 15 years ago to Tasmania from chip ships from Japan then on to Port Phillip. Colours highly variable from yellow through to purple and white. Prefers quiet water although there have been sightings along the Bass Strait coast. First colonisation of the bay was in millions. Individuals move surprisingly quickly and populations migrate in waves. It has no local predators and so is not an appetising meal for bay fish. Although known as a predator of infaunal bivalves, I have yet to see one being eaten – but I have seen them eating one another.



Asterias amurensis. On seabed, Corio Bay, 8 m.

The *Tosias*

There are two common five-rayed local stars collectively known as “biscuit stars”. Being similar, they are often confused. The larger, usually of hand-size, is *Tosia magnifica*, and the smaller, that can be picked up in the fingers, is *Tosia australis*.

Tosia magnifica. Varies in subdued colours from orange through purple to grey patterns. It has five well defined arms.



Tosia magnifica.
Muddy bottom, Western Port, 9 m.

Tosia australis. The colours and patterns are so highly variable as to be almost beyond description. Most have an obscure form of five-rayed sym-

metry on the dorsal surface. Occasionally, to add further complications, some individuals have only four arms.



Tosia australis. Colour variants, shallow bay water.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Some great photo's this month and a close competition. There was a tie for first place between **Charmaine Alford** with her pic of a Mantis Shrimp taken in Bali and **Meg Johnson** with a shot of a Turtle and Remora taken at Heron Island. There was also a tie for second between **Phil Watson** with a shot of a diver and Cuttlefish and **Monique Hammersby** with a Weedy Sea Dragon.

WINNERS - MARCH

Equal First

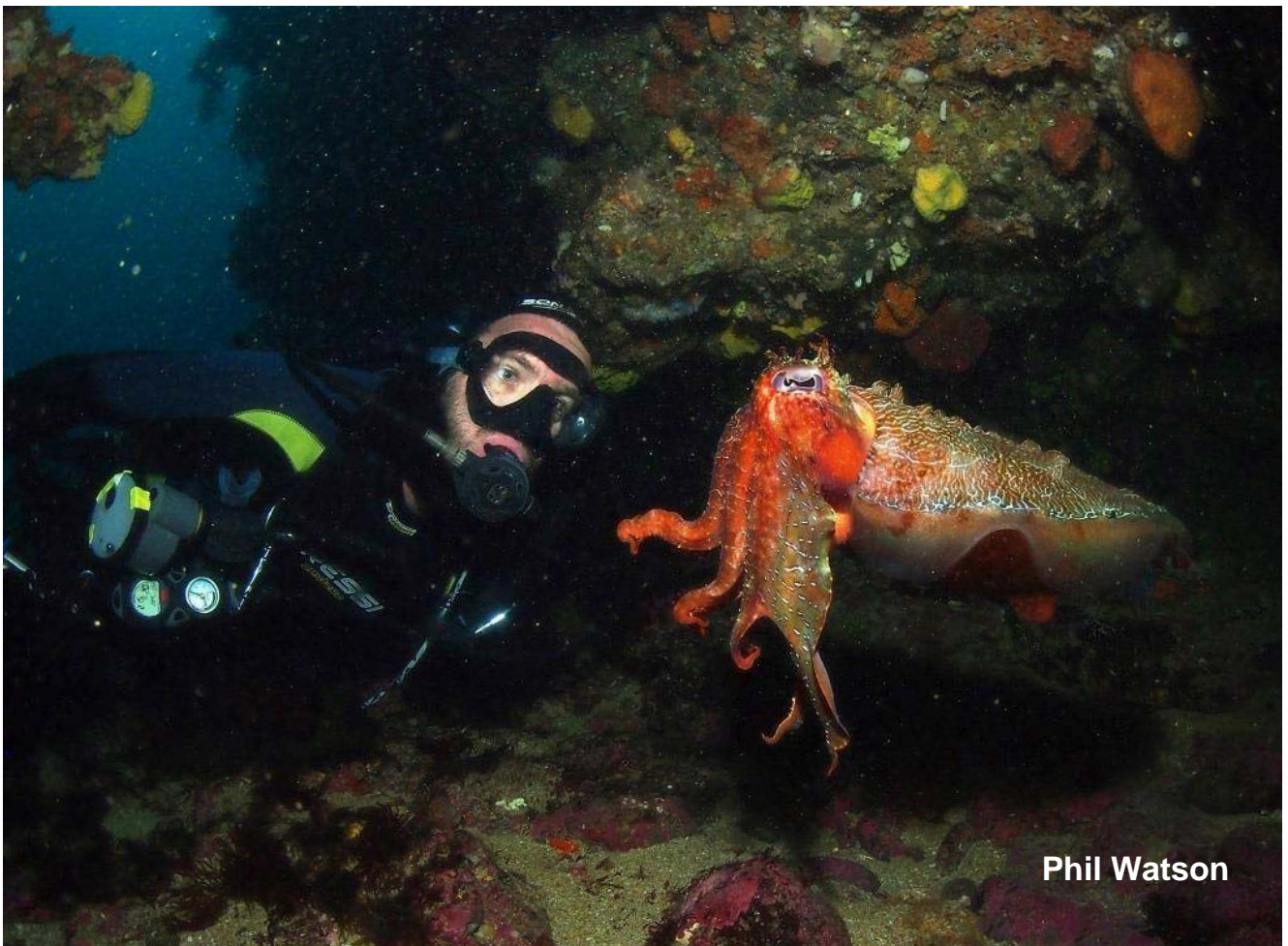


Charmaine Alford

Meg Johnson



RUNNER UP IN THE MARCH PHOTO COMPETITION - Equal Second



RUNNER UP IN THE MARCH PHOTO COMPETITION - Equal Second



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

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

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

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

More Member Photos



A Blue-Ringed Octopus on an orange sponge at Blairgowrie Marina



*Harlequin Shrimps, Tulumben
Sherryn Meager*

Enterprize Tall Ship Report



**Friday - Saturday, 6th & 7th May
2016**

Report by Ian Scholey ; photos by Ian Scholey and Benita McDonough

After a week of howling storms and massive swells, the wind suddenly dropped and a window of good weather appeared. The forecast had the storms returning on Sunday, so we were indeed lucky and the VSAG Tall Ship sailing was going ahead. We were doing a one-way trip from Docklands to Mornington so it was no surprise to bump into Ian Smith, Monique and Liam on the train at Frankston on Friday afternoon as we made our way to the ship.

The ship, known as Melbourne's tall ship, is a replica of John Pascoe Faw-

kner's schooner, *Enterprize*. The original ship was the one that sailed from the then named Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in 1835 with the first permanent white settlers who started the city of Melbourne. Since its building in 1830 in Hobart, it had served as part of the coastal trading fleet transporting coal and sheep along the south Australian coast. The voyage to Melbourne started on 1st August 1835 when the ship departed George Town in northern Tasmania, looking for a spot to found a new settlement. The ship first checked out Western Port and the eastern side of Port Phillip Bay before finding the Yarra River.

On Sunday 30th August, the ship was moored at a spot that is now at the foot of William Street, and the passengers went ashore. They quickly started to clear land and pitch tents and the City of Melbourne was born. The *Enterprize* continued to serve as a coastal trading vessel until she was wrecked, with the loss of two lives, on the bar of the Richmond River in northern New South Wales.

The current day *Enterprize* was built as close as possible to the original design, although no plans for that vessel are in existence. Construction started in 1990 and she was launched on 30th August 1997 at Williamstown. She is 27.1m long (16.1m

across the deck) and has a beam of 5.4m, displacing 72 tonnes.

As we arrived at Flinders Street Station, we bumped into David Flew and also a member of the ship's crew. Meeting the crewmember was a good result as it made finding the ship easy. The departure point was North Wharf at Docklands in the shadow of the Bolte Bridge. We arrived 10 minutes before our departure time and found Benita McDonough and partner Michael already on board. Our VSAG crew complete, we stowed our gear in the cabin and were given a tour of the ship.



Liam, Michael, Ian & Anna Scholey

On a ship the size of the *Enterprise*, the below deck space is limited, but the sleeping area was comfortable and the cook was already hard at work in the minuscule kitchen space. With our bunks grabbed and gear stowed, we headed back on deck for a safety briefing. Sadly the skipper also broke



Anna, David Flew, Michael, & Ian Scholey

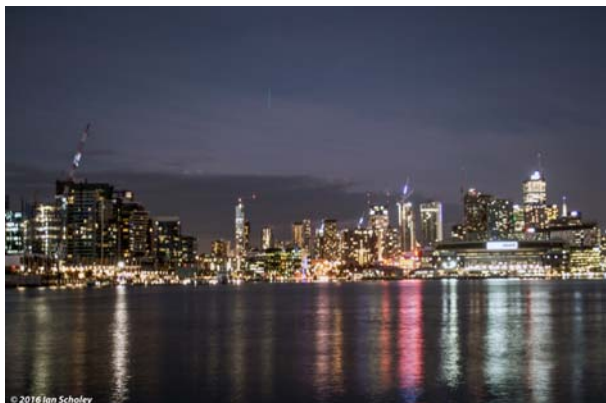
the news that the trip would not be under sail. You can't boss the wind direction so we had to make do with the engines. This was a disappointing start to the trip but we were glad to be going at all so spirits weren't too low. With the last of the day's light now gone, ropes were slipped and we headed off down the Yarra to the open bay.



Ian & Monique Smith

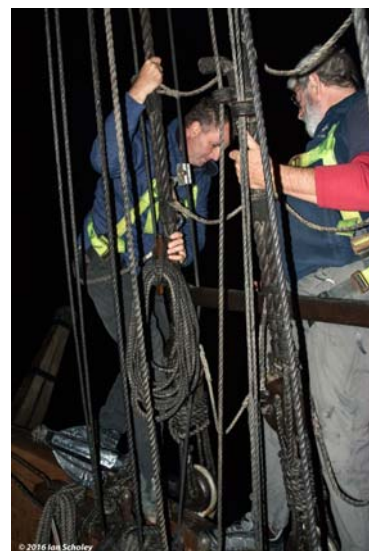
As we exited the Yarra River, we were dwarfed by the overnight Toll Ferry heading out of the Port of Melbourne to Tassie. This got me thinking as to what it would have been like to

sail across the Tasman as the original passengers had done on something as small as the *Enterprise*.



As we entered the bay with the lights of the city skyline behind us, the call went up for those wishing to climb the rigging. A long line of VSAGer's quickly formed with Michael and my daughter Anna at the front. They donned safety harnesses and before long Michael was heading upwards looking like a natural.

view. I was very comfortable until the time came to step off the ropes and onto the yardarm, which got the old heart racing a little. Once that was complete, I was able to relax in my new position 17m above the deck below and really take in the view.



Then Anna, Benita, Ian, David and myself took our turn. Feeling surprisingly calm, I headed up, being careful with my footing and enjoying the

Safely back on deck, we were treated to a hot meal of spaghetti Bolognese, followed by peaches and custard. There was no alcohol on board so we were limited to tea and coffee but as the wind picked up and the temperature dropped, we were glad to have that. We headed south at a steady 5 knots with several of our group taking a turn at the helm including young Liam who did a fantastic job.



Personally, I was surprised at how hard it was to maintain a straight-line course as the wind and waves affected the larger ship. David Flew on the other hand looked like a natural but quickly ditched the compass and switched to a visual course heading

for the three bright lights on the horizon from the pier at Mornington.

In the centre of the bay, with limited light pollution, we were given an interesting talk on the night sky from one of our volunteer crew. He held us captive for 15 minutes as he pointed out the various planets, stars and constellations. The ship is crewed by volunteers, with the only paid crewmember, our skipper. Their passion for the ship was very clear as they passed the voyage chatting about the vessel. With the sails not in use they had a pretty easy voyage but they showed their collective skills as we approached the harbour at Mornington towards midnight. With one crew member shouting distances and another steering commands, we were expertly turned in the little space available, avoiding the moored yachts and sliding alongside the pier to the amazement of the on-looking fishermen.



Ian & Anna Scholey, Benita McDonough & David Flew

Safely tied up, our tired but happy group slowly headed below decks to our bunks for our night's sleep. I'm not sure if it was the sea air or the comfortable bunks, but everyone reported they slept well.



As usual I was up early and, having grabbed a hot cuppa, I watched the sunrise from the deck. Michael was already topside when I appeared but the rest of the crew slept in until they were roused by the smell of bacon cooking. One by one people emerged into the sunshine and found their spot on deck for breakfast.



A steady stream of people came alongside to take a look at the ship and no doubt look enviously at the bacon and eggs we were enjoying. We chatted to Cathy Warren from Harbour Dive and Luke English from Redboats who were doing exploratory dives off Mornington. Hopefully we will find out if there is anything worth taking a look at from them.



The *Enterprize* was scheduled to do a series of short sailings from Mornington across Saturday and Sunday and we were offered to chance to come back and experience a run under sail. Benita, Michael and David signed up to come back on Sunday but the rest of us settled for our motorized trip.

All that was left to do was a leisurely pack up of our gear and we disembarked about 9am on Saturday morning. This was something a little bit different for the Club and I have to say it proved to be a very enjoyable trip. As usual, the company was good and it's difficult not to get all nostalgic for such a beautiful old vessel. If you get the chance to get on board, I would recommend it highly to you. ❖



The VSAG crew at Mornington



Diving the Web

Footage of octopus stealing GoPro recovered by diver

A scuba diver was stunned when an octopus stole her GoPro off Blairgowrie, and even more shocked to get it back months later with the footage intact.



<http://www.msn.com/en-au/video/watch/footage-of-octopus-stealing-gopro-recovered-by-diver/vi-BBsD5jh?ocid=sf>

The Ultimate Man Cave: HMS Illustrious Up for Sale!

The British Ministry of Defence has decommissioned an aircraft carrier and put it up for sale.

The Invincible-class *HMS Illustrious* is currently moored in Portsmouth Harbor. It was in service for 32

years and served in Bosnia and the Gulf. The Disposal Services Authority (DSA) has placed the 22,000-ton ship for sale, for recycling only. The sale may be discontinued if a heritage option becomes available.



<http://www.warhistoryonline.com/featured/hms-illustrious-sale.html>

An Auction Site with a Catch



Lost at sea. Found at Sea Bay. Bid on items recovered by Coast Guard volunteers. Every item sold helps keep the Volunteer Coast Guard afloat. Dive into the Seabay website

<http://seabay.net.au/>

The mysterious shipwreck that swallows deep-sea divers who try to find it

For decades, the Andrea Doria has lured daring treasure hunters and obsessive thrill seekers to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean in search of the luxurious ocean liner, which sank off the Massachusetts coast on a foggy night in July 1956.



<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2016/05/19/the-mysterious-shipwreck-that-swallows-deep-sea-divers-who-try-to-find-it/>

First whale sighting for the season!



The Two Bays Whale Project is a citizen science program aiming to better understand whale movements within Port Phillip and Westernport, Victoria.

Phone Number : 0401011022

<https://www.facebook.com/twobayswhales/>

Dive Reports & Snippets

South Channel Fort & Blairgowrie

Friday, 25th March 2016

Ian Scholey

Two boats out today to start the Easter long weekend. Myself and Peter Beaumont launched early from Rye and headed to South Channel Fort. Finding the vis pretty ordinary there and with a chop caused by a stronger than forecast South Westerly wind, we then decided to anchor off Blairgowrie and do a shore dive from the boat. I have to admit I didn't miss the walk.

A good selection of life about with Cephalopods a-plenty today. As well as 4 Cuttlefish, I found a Maori Octopus and a Blue Ringed Octopus. Check out the Globefish with the dodgy eye, that looks nasty.



Turtle Point & The Bounty Wreck, Indonesia

March 2016

John Ashley

It's not often that I put pen to paper about dives I've done, apart from the odd VSAG dive report. However, on a recent dive trip to Indonesia, I had the pleasure to dive in 50 metre Viz at 28 degrees. The previous two dives I'd done on the USAT Liberty and the wall 400 metres away were done in only 10-15 metre Viz so I was blown away with the near 50 metre Viz at Turtle Point and the Bounty wreck.



Above : USAT Liberty from, 1000 ft

Below : Inside The Liberty



Signature One headed to The Hurricane with John Lawler, Antony Platford, Rob Kirk and Sandy Webb on board. David Geekie, Denys Smerchanskyi and Michael Ngai hitched a ride with our friends at Getunder and dived Lonsdale Wall on the AM slack.



Photo by Denys Smerchanskyl

Turtle Point is a large bommie formation not dissimilar to the Phillip Island Pinnacle, starting at 2 metres and dropping off to 40+ but with more of a slope, and with two distinct peaks. It is located between two islands of the Gilli Group, a short boat ride from Lombok Island. I always worry about diving shark or turtle points as sometimes there's none of either, but during this 45 minute dive I counted 17 greenback turtles in the most stunning scenery. Photos don't do it justice, not mine anyway.



The top few metres of the bommie were teeming with every tropical fish and coral you could think of. Beneath that there was a lot of broken coral until the 10 metre mark when it came alive with huge gorgonian and soft corals of all colours. I have no idea what they were called but there were



Frogfish

lots of them. The only drawback here is that the place is so popular it's hard to stay in your own group. On this day there were eight dive boats doing the same dive.

After lunch we dived the Bounty wreck which is actually a nameless barge that broke its moorings during a storm and drifted onto a reef and sank. It makes a perfect dive in 18 metres with only 40 metres Viz (pretty poor, eh?)



The Bounty wreck

Dive the tropics. Dive Port Phillip or Bass Strait. As they say, "Just Do It!" Thanks to the photographer who took the first three photos, the rest are mine. ❖

Blairgowrie & The Hurricane

Sunday, 3rd April 2016

Matt Johnson

Lovely day of diving with John, Graham, Andrew and Don today out in

John's boat. I was doing my checkout dives. John strongly advised that writing the day's diving report would greatly enhance my chances of successful outcome so here goes (smile emoticon).

Our first dive was at Blairgowrie at slackwater. Vis was approximately 10-15m, 17 degrees and no current till the tide began towards the end of the dive. Scenery was very colourful along the wall with some nudibranchs here and there. Also had 4 stingrays scout the way ahead for us for a while.

At The Hurricane for our second dive, visibility was 5-10m and the current was making itself felt. A large friendly octopus welcomed us on the bottom, in fact I almost landed on him. An enjoyable dive with the odd stingrays peeking out from their hidey holes and a fair variety of fish opportunistically drifting through. Small leatherjackets did a good job of monitoring our masks as we ascended.

All up, a very enjoyable day with great boating, company, weather and diving. Thanks to all involved. ❖

** Peter Campisano posted this on the VSAG Facebook page on 5th April :*

"I would just like to extend a big thank you to John Lawler and his crew for marking the site of the Hurri-

cane for us and waiting the full duration of our dive to ensure all divers came up safely. This is what being part of a team/club is all about. Thank you! "

The Hurricane

Sunday, 7th April 2016

Bo Zhang

Great dive with Peter Beaumont at The Hurricane wreck! It's paradise for fish. ❖





Shore Dive, Blairgowrie

Sunday, 10th April 2016

Ian Scholey

A 7am start to beat the expected crowds at Blairgowrie for Peter Beaumont and I this morning. There were plenty of Spider Crabs in the shallows as per the recent Facebook chat. By the time we got out, the vis had already been well and truly destroyed by the hordes of divers searching for the crabs. Simpler pleasures for me, with a really nice Nudi and the cutest juvenile Oldwife. ❖



Shore Dive, Blairgowrie

Friday, 15th April 2016

Ian Scholey

A sneaky early morning solo dive for me this morning at Blairgowrie. 3 hours of pure bliss followed with some great critters, including the particular Nudi that I was hunting for after seeing other peoples' shots of them recently. I also found a Sea Moth and finally got into a bit of a tussle with a large Maori Octopus that grabbed my arm and didn't want to let go!! I am wondering if it's the same one that grabbed a camera recently. It certainly isn't afraid of divers, swimming straight at me on the sand. ❖



George Kermode & Crack Cave

Wednesday, 20th April 2016

Ian Scholey

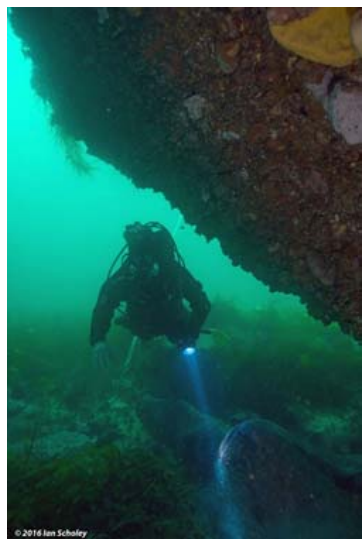
With weekend working for me at the moment, the opportunity came up to enjoy the glorious weather today and sneak some dives in at Phillip Island. Two boats headed out with Peter Beaumont and I on Twocans and John Ashley and crew on Narcosis.

First stop was the George Kermode. The water was very green with the vis down, but inside the wreck where vis improved, it made for some interesting photographs. The wreck was covered in fishlife as normal, with a huge school circling above the hull.



Second dive was Crack Cave and we found it easily thanks to an excellent shot from Peter B. Inside was a massive Crayfish, but it was safely out of our reach so lives to fight another day. A good day's diving all around. ❖





Nudi's at the moment although they are very small at 3-4mm. ❖



Blairgowrie Shore Dive

Friday, 22nd April 2016

Ian Scholey

Back to Blairgowrie for Peter Beaumont and I this morning in search of the small stuff. There seems to be a bit of an explosion of the little pink



Blairgowrie Shore Dive

Monday, 25th April 2016

Ian Scholey

I am really enjoying Blairgowrie at the moment. Loads of interesting stuff about if you slow down and really look. Some nice Nudi's today. The little Tritonia was about 4mm and I spent a good 40 minutes of my 2 hour 45 minute splash trying to get a decent shot of it in the current. I'm not sure if there is a lot of the Wide Elysia about at the moment or whether I have just seen the same one for the last 3 visits, but nice all the same. Finally I found a Tassled Oxynoe which only had one Rhinophore. ❖



Flinders Shore Dive

Friday, 29th April 2016

Ian Scholey

Today was one of those blissful days when a dive can be called close to perfection. It was Flinders at its best with excellent vis and a magnificent selection of critters. I had a macro lens on which meant some things had to go un-photographed, such as an Eagle Ray and a Bull Ray. But the macro selection was excellent. This is what shore diving is all about, enough said.

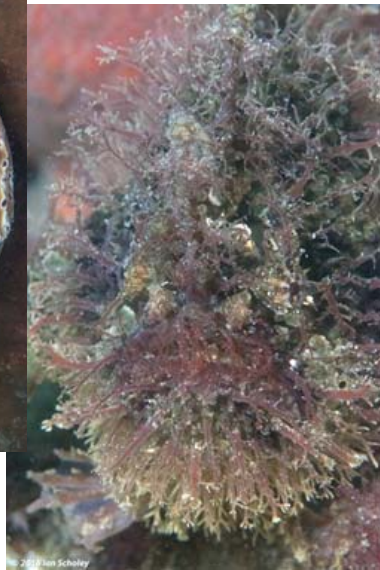
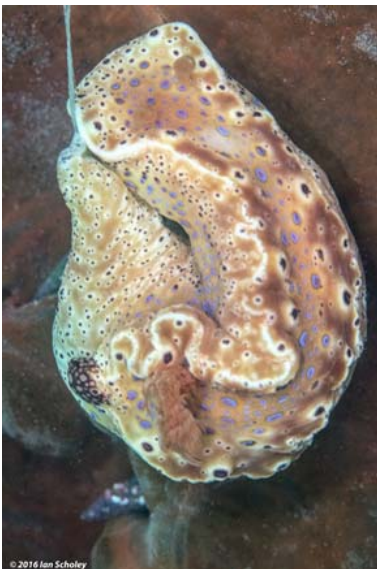


Blairgowrie Shore Dive

Friday, 6th May 2016

Ian Scholey

Very challenging conditions for a photographer today with horrible vis. Still, Peter Beaumont and I had a splash anyway and although not one of the best, at least we got wet. Hopefully the vis will improve quickly after this week's storms. ❖



Mornington Pier Shore Dive

Sunday, 8th May 2016

Ian Scholey

A quickly changing plan today finally ended at Mornington after Flinders (Vis) and The Hurricane (Wind) were ruled out. With everywhere looking marginal, we opted to stay close to home. The vis was very ordinary (as expected) which limited the subjects for the cameras. It turned into a bit of a Tasmanian Blennie day for me. I took a look at the underside of the Enterprize while I was under and even found a nice worm to photograph attached to it. ❖





Weeks of Northerlies have helped so the Upper Bay is very clear (except for the swan poo.) David Reinhard commented, “Well...you've got one up on me. I've never managed to get a photo of swan poo raining down from above! (Having said that, it's probably not high on my photographic bucket list).” ❖



Seaholme Channel

Friday, 13th May 2016

Phil Watson

Early morning dive with David Reinhard and Sandy Webb. Vis was good.





Rickett's Point

Sunday, 15th May 2016

Ian Scholey

This weather is starting to get a bit tiresome. Not too many options today, so Peter Beaumont and I headed north for a change and dived Rickett's Point. We were going to Flinders but were warned off by Phil Watson as the vis is still no good, and even Blairgowrie has vis circa 1m at the moment. Plenty of small stuff around, especially the Green Oxynoe which were everywhere you looked. It made a change...need to get up here more often. ❖



"A Glass Half Full"

Saturday, 21st May 2016

Report by John Lawler ; photos by Bo Zhang

Where: Ex HMAS Canberra and Dragon's Lair Reef.

Who: Monique Hammersley, Ian Smith, Bo Zhang, Mark Jeffrey.

Boat: Signature One.

Skipper: John Lawler.

Graham Ellis was the DC for this dive day and organised the divers then passed over to me as he was unavailable to join in due to other commitments. The wind forecasts ahead of the dive day made the decision for Saturday marginal and Sunday a big NO - forecasts up to 30-35 knots north and on this they got it right!

North winds up to 20 knots for Saturday were predicted and this was a decision challenge, but after much discussion, we decided to put the dive on - "a glass half full" attitude worked!

We were pleased to meet up with the Getunder technical divers setting up at the ramp. This team was head-

ing for the "graveyard" so we agreed to keep in Contact on 73 - a good safety backup.

At Sorrento the wind was just 10 knots and as we motored towards The Heads the bay was calm and the rip was flat. Discussion about dive sites was held once outside and the conditions suggested the Ex-HMAS Canberra wreck would be good. We arrived there at 9.30 and made the booking with Parks via phone from the site and were advised we were good for the 10 -12 slot.



Mark Jeffrey

Buddy pairs kitted up and off for a safe dive, but not in ideal conditions.



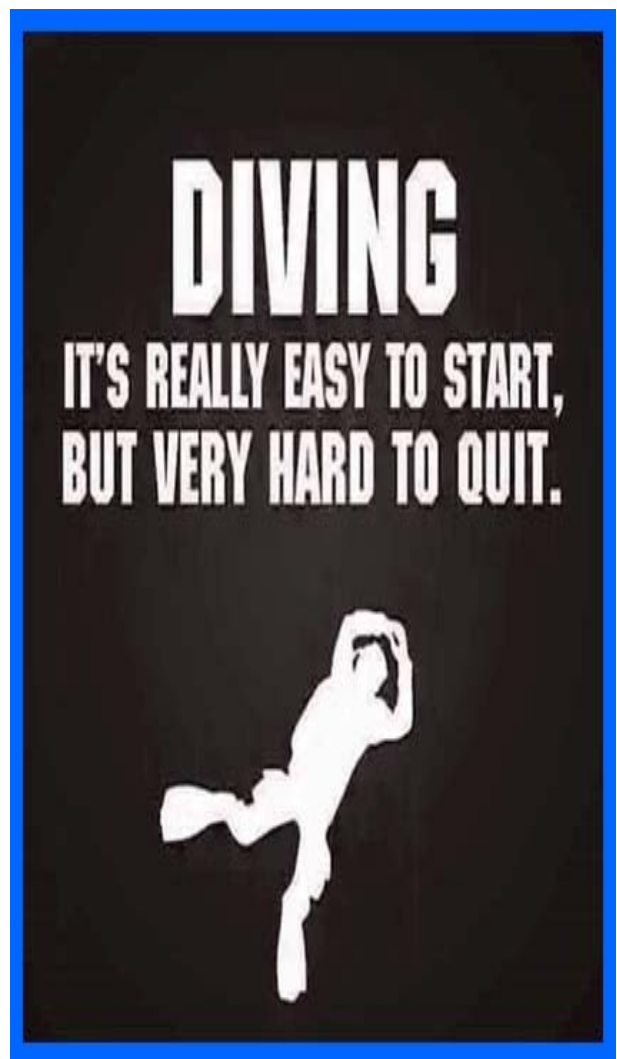
A slight swell was experienced and the visibility was around 5mtrs! Water temperature was 15 degrees and some divers certainly shivered back on the boat, but all round it was a great, safe dive. A first for Bo and he posted his excellent photos on Facebook from his dive.



With the conditions on the surface getting better, another dive was planned for Golden Arches. However on arriving at the site, there was a fishing charter there so the Dragon's Lair, about 1.75 kms closer to shore was decided on. The swells were up and whilst the divers endured 45 minutes, the swells were uncom-

fortable. (A return to this site, but diving about 50 mtrs east of the actual DL mark, is a return dive to be done as, just towards the end of the dive, some very interesting terrain was observed).

After off-loading all the dive gear at Sorrento, back to the Scuba Doctor for cool drinks and tank fills and home by 4PM. A really great fun VSAG dive day. ❖



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.

June 4/5	Boat DC Ross Walker 0417 376 192
June 11/12/13	Boat DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
June 18/19	Shore DC Tim Forster 0410 386 503 Boat DC Peter Galvin 0417 061 564
June 21	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
June 25/26	Boat DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
Jul 2/3	Shore DC Carol Penfold 0434 374 044 Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Jul 9/10	Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Jul 16/17	Boat DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Jul 19	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Jul 23/24	Boat DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Jul 30/31	Boat DC David Flew 0418 446 530
Aug 6/7	Boat DC Benita McDonough 0419 399 000

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 — June 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.

May		June				
MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5
2:22	3:07	3:59	4:59	6:06	7:14	0:58
7:48	8:45	9:52	11:10	12:35	13:57	8:18
14:14	14:58	15:49	16:53	18:11	19:37	15:07
20:46	21:25	22:09	23:00	23:57		20:54
MON 6	TUE 7	WED 8	THU 9	FRI 10	SAT 11	SUN 12
2:00	2:59	3:57	4:53	0:35	1:22	2:06
9:18	10:13	11:04	11:52	5:47	6:40	7:33
16:06	16:57	17:43	18:26	12:36	13:17	13:55
21:59	22:55	23:47		19:06	19:45	20:21
MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THU 16	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19
2:50	3:34	4:20	5:10	6:03	6:56	0:22
8:26	9:21	10:22	11:29	12:41	13:51	7:48
14:32	15:10	15:54	16:47	17:57	19:19	14:51
20:58	21:33	22:10	22:49	23:33		20:31
MON 20	TUE 21	WED 22	THU 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26
1:15	2:07	2:58	3:45	4:31	0:12	0:50
8:36	9:22	10:04	10:45	11:24	5:17	6:03
15:39	16:21	16:58	17:33	18:07	12:03	12:41
21:27	22:13	22:55	23:34		18:40	19:12
June				July		
MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
1:29	2:11	2:57	3:47	4:43	5:45	6:50
6:53	7:46	8:45	9:51	11:05	12:25	13:43
13:20	14:01	14:44	15:32	16:30	17:42	19:08
19:45	20:19	20:56	21:37	22:25	23:22	0:00

Tidal Streams at the Heads — July 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.

June				July		
<i>MON 27</i>	<i>TUE 28</i>	<i>WED 29</i>	<i>THU 30</i>	<i>FRI 1</i>	<i>SAT 2</i>	<i>SUN 3</i>
<i>1:29</i>	<i>2:11</i>	<i>2:57</i>	<i>3:47</i>	<i>4:43</i>	<i>5:45</i>	<i>6:50</i>
<i>6:53</i>	<i>7:46</i>	<i>8:45</i>	<i>9:51</i>	<i>11:05</i>	<i>12:25</i>	<i>13:43</i>
<i>13:20</i>	<i>14:01</i>	<i>14:44</i>	<i>15:32</i>	<i>16:30</i>	<i>17:42</i>	<i>19:08</i>
<i>19:45</i>	<i>20:19</i>	<i>20:56</i>	<i>21:37</i>	<i>22:25</i>	<i>23:22</i>	
<i>MON 4</i>	<i>TUE 5</i>	<i>WED 6</i>	<i>THU 7</i>	<i>FRI 8</i>	<i>SAT 9</i>	<i>SUN 10</i>
<i>0:26</i>	<i>1:33</i>	<i>2:39</i>	<i>3:42</i>	<i>4:40</i>	<i>0:19</i>	<i>1:02</i>
<i>7:56</i>	<i>8:57</i>	<i>9:54</i>	<i>10:46</i>	<i>11:33</i>	<i>5:35</i>	<i>6:26</i>
<i>14:52</i>	<i>15:50</i>	<i>16:39</i>	<i>17:23</i>	<i>18:03</i>	<i>12:15</i>	<i>12:53</i>
<i>20:31</i>	<i>21:41</i>	<i>22:39</i>	<i>23:31</i>		<i>18:40</i>	<i>19:14</i>
<i>MON 11</i>	<i>TUE 12</i>	<i>WED 13</i>	<i>THU 14</i>	<i>FRI 15</i>	<i>SAT 16</i>	<i>SUN 17</i>
<i>1:43</i>	<i>2:22</i>	<i>3:00</i>	<i>3:39</i>	<i>4:22</i>	<i>5:10</i>	<i>6:03</i>
<i>7:15</i>	<i>8:03</i>	<i>8:52</i>	<i>9:44</i>	<i>10:42</i>	<i>11:48</i>	<i>13:00</i>
<i>13:28</i>	<i>14:02</i>	<i>14:37</i>	<i>15:14</i>	<i>15:58</i>	<i>16:52</i>	<i>18:04</i>
<i>19:46</i>	<i>20:17</i>	<i>20:47</i>	<i>21:19</i>	<i>21:55</i>	<i>22:36</i>	<i>23:25</i>
<i>MON 18</i>	<i>TUE 19</i>	<i>WED 20</i>	<i>THU 21</i>	<i>FRI 22</i>	<i>SAT 23</i>	<i>SUN 24</i>
<i>6:59</i>	<i>0:23</i>	<i>1:24</i>	<i>2:25</i>	<i>3:22</i>	<i>4:16</i>	<i>5:07</i>
<i>14:07</i>	<i>7:55</i>	<i>8:48</i>	<i>9:37</i>	<i>10:23</i>	<i>11:07</i>	<i>11:49</i>
<i>19:31</i>	<i>15:04</i>	<i>15:51</i>	<i>16:30</i>	<i>17:05</i>	<i>17:39</i>	<i>18:11</i>
	<i>20:44</i>	<i>21:40</i>	<i>22:26</i>	<i>23:08</i>	<i>23:50</i>	
<i>MON 25</i>	<i>TUE 26</i>	<i>WED 27</i>	<i>THU 28</i>	<i>FRI 29</i>	<i>SAT 30</i>	<i>SUN 31</i>
<i>0:31</i>	<i>1:13</i>	<i>1:57</i>	<i>2:43</i>	<i>3:32</i>	<i>4:25</i>	<i>5:24</i>
<i>5:58</i>	<i>6:50</i>	<i>7:45</i>	<i>8:42</i>	<i>9:45</i>	<i>10:53</i>	<i>12:08</i>
<i>12:30</i>	<i>13:10</i>	<i>13:51</i>	<i>14:33</i>	<i>15:19</i>	<i>16:12</i>	<i>17:20</i>
<i>18:44</i>	<i>19:17</i>	<i>19:51</i>	<i>20:29</i>	<i>21:11</i>	<i>22:00</i>	<i>22:59</i>

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.

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

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

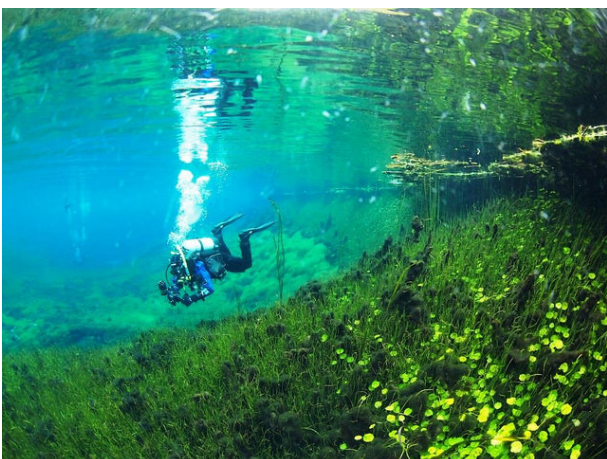
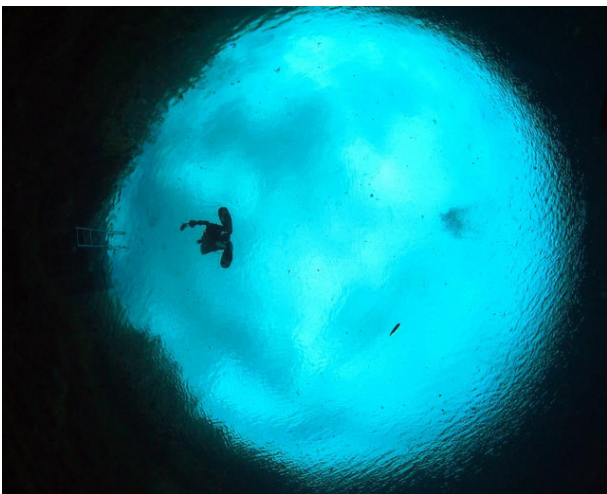
Dr John Roth (Mornington) 03 5975 2633

PHIL WATSON'S PHOTOS

Ewan Ponds, Mount Gambier



Cephalopods at Williamstown



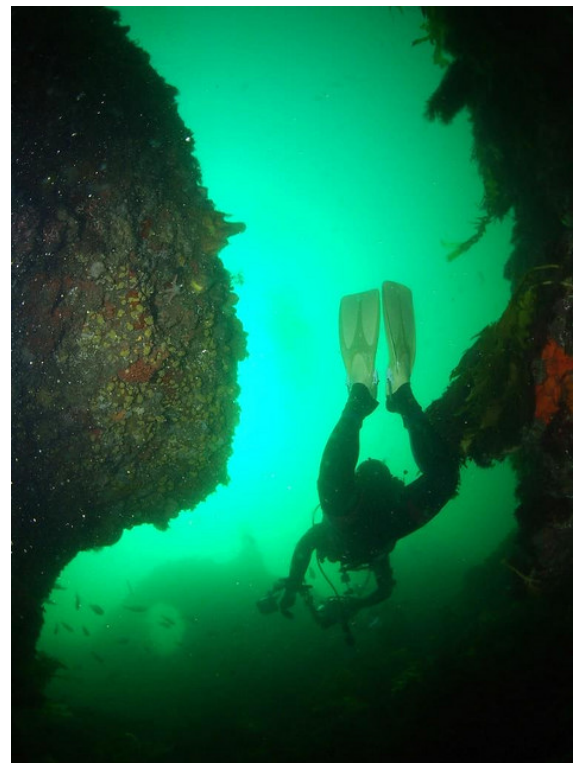
Southern White Spot Octopus

*Jawbone Marine
Sanctuary,
Williamstown*



Sandy Webb

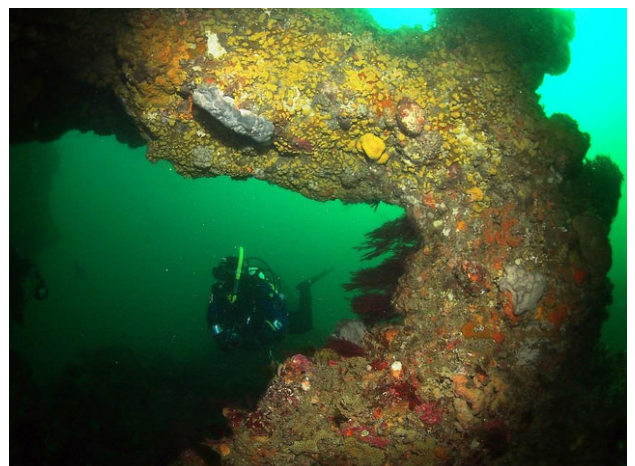
*Barwon Reef
With Pete Fuller*



*Piece of ship. Area
used to be used as
a breaker's yard*



Urchin barrens



Altona Night Dive



Queenscliff



Baby Blue Devil



Cuttlefish



More Member Photos



*Pygmy seahorse
Charmaine Alford*



*Manta Ray
Meg Johnson*

2016/03/19

EX HMAS CANBERRA...VARS PLAQUE

Most VSAG members would have dived the EX HMAS CANBERRA off Ocean Grove, but how many would have wondered what the (now) heavily encrusted large round object in the bridge is?

The Victorian Artificial Reef Society commissioned the bronze plaque to celebrate, acknowledge and thank all those who had a part in the EX HMAS Canberra project, and those sailors who served in the ship.

Time has claimed easy reading of the plaque but it is still as solid today as it was when it was mounted. Perhaps a “scrubbing down” of the plaque for easy reading could be a VSAG project.

John Lawler

Past President

VARS

