



Fathoms

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2016

September 2016 VSAG Photo Competition Winner

From Tim Forster, taken on Yorke Peninsula South Australia.



**VSAG 2016 Annual General Meeting
President's Report
August Photo Competition Results**

Postal Address:
VSAG, Inc., P.O. Box 596, Cranbourne Vic 3977

www.vsag.org.au



V.S.A.G, inc
AWARDS NIGHT
2016

Join us for a night of merriment - good friends, good humour, and good cheer.

A chance to celebrate and acknowledge the fine contributions of members who work throughout the year to promote the betterment of our wonderful club.

Three club champion trophies

Literary Award

Photo Award

Fathoms Award

The infamous Wooden Weight Belt.....who will win this year?

Where:

The Water Rat Hotel

56 Moray Street

South Melbourne

When:

Tuesday 18 October 2016

Time

8:00 pm

Finger food will be provided.

All Members Welcome!



Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

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NOTICES

VSAG Committee meets at 8 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month
(except in January)
All Members Welcome
The Water Rat Hotel, 256 Moray St, South Melbourne VIC 3205



VSAG Monthly meetings are at 8 p.m. on the
3rd TUESDAY of each month
at **THE WATER RAT HOTEL**
256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE
All are welcome to join us for a meal at 7 p.m.
before the meeting.

VSAG on Facebook

Did you know VSAG now has a Facebook page? Check it out at https://www.facebook.com/groups/vsag_divers/ and 'Like' us.



Check out St George Scuba Club at :
<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 2016 Annual General Meeting

President's Report

By Ian Scholey

I recently received some feedback from one of our club meeting guest speakers complimenting us for what a vibrant and friendly club that VSAG was. The truth of this comment struck me as I reflected back on the last 12 months ahead of the AGM. We have achieved so much and continue to be a very active club full of fantastic people.

Our membership has continued to grow slowly across the year with 12 new members joining while the vast majority of members have renewed their membership for this year. Our finances are very healthy and this has enabled us to invest this year.

One of the most important objectives for the club this year was to increase our focus on



safety and we have been busy in that area. Early in the diving year we ran a very successful boat skippers' day where we re-launched our skippers pack and collectively discussed in detail, the safe execution of our boating and diving operations. We invested in this area with the upgrading of our O2 kits giving us the ability to keep multiple divers on O2 for extended times, should that ever be necessary. We also invested in training to increase the capability of our membership to utilise the O2 and also to give first aid. In all, 24 members took advantage of the subsidised training courses

that we offered. Finally, we revised and reissued our diving guidelines making some important, if minor changes. The focus on safety has paid off and this year has been largely issue free for the club with our only notable incident coming back on land where one member was taken ill post diving. The boat crew of John Gladding, Greg Richards and Benita McDonough dealt with this incident superbly and the member concerned has since made a full recovery.

Thanks to the continued hard work of Peter Galvin and David Flew, we successfully completed our transition to an Incorporated Association. This has brought our constitution and rules up to date and made the administration of the club much easier.

We also completed another long running project and published the 60th Anniversary book. We were pleased that the finances allowed us to provide members with a free copy. An awful lot of hard work went into

producing the book and I'm sure that you will agree with me that the end result was superb. Congratulations again to Lloyd Borrett, John Lawler, Des Williams, Don Abel and Paul Tipping. Our club prides itself on its publications and Cheryl Lees has continued to do a fantastic job as editor of Fathoms. The quality of the magazine has once again been something of which we can rightly be proud. After several years in the role of editor Cheryl has decided to step down from the role next year. Christine Reynolds was quick to step into the role and I'm sure Fathoms will go from strength to strength under her stewardship.

After the success of our local diving activities last year, this year has been just as active with diving on nearly every weekend but has generally seen less people joining the dives. If I have any concerns with the health of our club then this is the area. As a committee we have discussed how we

encourage more people to dive regularly with the club and will continue to try and offer the sort of diving that our membership would like. That said, two events stand out with both the opening up of the City of Launceston wreck and the day out at Cody Banks attracting enormous interest. We would love to have your suggestions in this area.

After several years break the club organised an overseas diving trip that was well supported. Those that made the trip to South Africa and Mozambique had a fantastic time and we all came back a bit more confident in our diving skills, more practised in surf launching and honed our ability to stay in the boat in large swells and during high speed runs back onto the beach. We also made a return trip to Tassie for three days of excellent diving at Eaglehawk Neck. The travel side of the club looks very healthy with a booked out trip to Sydney coming up and

Tassie and Vanuatu trips already planned for 2017.

If the local club diving had eased off, that certainly wasn't the case with the social side of the club. We were grateful to Lloyd and Cheryl for once again hosting the Christmas party and the Life Members came together for their annual dinner. We also had a very successful overnight sailing trip on the Enterprize tall ship and a very well attended Christmas in July event. Perhaps the highlight of the year from my perspective, was the family boating day on the Yarra with a BBQ on Herring Island. We had a very good day and it made a nice change to point the boats away from the ocean.

Another pleasing aspect of the year has been the monthly club meetings. Last year this was an area of concern for us with attendances dwindling and a change of venue. This year we have had some really excellent guest speakers and our investment in a projector has improved the audiovisuals. The

number of members attending has grown steadily and on more than one occasion we have had to scramble to get more chairs out. I will long remember the June meeting where we had 54 people in attendance.

As a club our reputation seems to be strong and our Facebook pages are helping to spread the word about the club. The Facebook group has continued to grow and we now have 269 people in the group up from 200 at this point last year. Although we had plans to revamp the website last year we

didn't make the progress we would have liked for one good reason or another. This is an area where we will continue to focus.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for their passion, commitment, ideas and all the hard work over the last 12 months. Without this group the club would not function and we are lucky to have such a group. I am looking forward to the club going from strength to strength again next year.

Ian. ❖



VSAG members attend the VSAG 2016 Annual General Meeting

VSAG 2016 Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Summary

By Peter Galvin

Introduction

This document explains the controls we have in place to ensure financial integrity provides a summary of financial transactions for VSAG for 2015-2016. The "June 2016 Treasurer's Report" shows all transactions for the year.

If you have further questions or wish to see further evidence please contact Peter Galvin.

Hard copy of the years financial transactions will be available at the AGM.



Financial Controls

Expenditure

All expenditure has been by electronic transfer from the savings account. This requires approval by 2 signatories to the account. All signatories have an electronic token that provides a random number they must use to authorise the expenditure. The signatories are;

Peter Galvin

Ian Scholey

David Flew

David Geekie

In addition, the rules of our incorporation require 2 committee members to verify the records and 2 non signatory committee members have completed this:

- Benita McDonough
- Charmaine Alford

Income

I provide all cash income with a receipt and then transfer the money from my account but with a reference to whoever has paid it, e.g. the \$77 from a July meeting raffle as shown below. This saves me making trips to the bank to deposit cash.

24-7-15	TRANSFER FROM GALVIN MEETING RAFFLE JUL	\$77.00	Raffle
---------	---	---------	--------

I also provide a receipt for all cheques. Most income to VSAG is by electronic transfer and members are able to check their payments by reviewing the spreadsheet and/or the monthly bank statements.

Highlights

(Brackets show last year's figures)

We had 13 (9) new individual members join (total of \$700) and 51 (51) individual members continue membership.

We had no (1) new family member join and 12 (13) families continue membership.

We had a cash loss of \$5,754.62 for the year which is close to the total once off expenditures for the year. See below:

Projector purchase (under Meeting Expenses)	\$950.95
First Aid courses subsidy	\$1,238.00
Purchase of O2 kits	\$1,365.92
Loss for cost of 60th Book	\$2,123.59
Total Once off Expenditure	\$5,678.46

VSAG 2016 Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Summary

- On the 30th June we had financial assets of \$15,887.41 (\$20,440.95).
- On the 30 June 2016 we had:
 - 69 (63) Individual Members,
 - 20 (19) Family Memberships, (some individual memberships were incorrectly shown as family in 2014-2015)
 - 17 (17) Life Members
 - 7 (22) Prospective members
 - 7 (7) Friends of VSAG

Club financial records are available to view on appointment. ❖

At the Annual General Meeting held on 18 September 2016 at the Water Rat Hotel in South Melbourne a motion was passed to increase the number of committee members from 13 to 14. The reason for the increase in number was to accommodate 3 new committee members. We congratulate and welcome our new committee members—Mark Jeffrey, Ian Smith and Carol Penfold.

Office bearers will be elected at the next committee meeting to be held on 11 October 2016 at the Water Rat Hotel, 256 Moray Street, South Melbourne. ❖

VSAG 2016 Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker

Special Guest Presenter:

Sheree Marris

Victorian-based Aquatic Scientist Sheree Marris is one of Australia's youngest environment ambassadors committed to educating the community about water preservation, marine life and other environmental issues such as recycling. In 2002 Sheree's profile was further heightened when she picked up three Young Australian of the Year awards.



*Sheree Marris Aquatic Scientist and
Associate Professor Jamie Seymour*

Sheree presented her latest Melbourne Down Under documentary which showcases the city's best kept secret - Port Phillip Bay, a marine environment that rivals tropical reefs in colour and diversity. Over 82% of the marine life found here on the southern shores is found nowhere else in the world. Think magical kelp forests, sponge gardens that explode in a kaleidoscope of colours and dragons that sparkle like jewels. It's a surprising secret that few know...until now. ❖

Melbourne Down Under book and DVD are available from Sheree

Sheree Marris— Aquatic Scientist—environmental communicator
t: 0417 346 963 e: sheree@shereemarris.com
PO Box 6677, St Kilda Rd Central, Melbourne, Victoria 8008 Australia
www.shereemarris.com

ALWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS 40TH ANNIVERSARY



*Winners of the raffle
from left are:*

★ *Ian Scholey*

Alan Storen ★

Gavin Latimer



Tuesday 15th September 2016 saw about 150 dive industry people gather at the Golden Gate hotel to celebrate Always Dive Expeditions 40th Anniversary...around \$30,000 in prizes were donated from diver operator destinations around the world and raffled....5 VSAG members attended this great event and THREE won prizes! Alan Storen and Gavin Latimer were prize winners

The major prize however, of a fully funded 10 day trip to the dive the WW1 wrecks at Gallipoli and visit Anzac Cove was won by Ian Scholey! I think Ian was a bit shell shocked!

Good to catch up with so many dive industry friends... getting more rare as time moves on...one good long chat was with Barry Andrewartha...

Geoff Skinner, a director of this company, was in great form talking about his long involvement in the dive world and clocking up 25 years with the company...

Much laughter and banter and all held so well together by the wonderful MC Ian Lockwood.

A fine dive industry event which we will remember for all the best reasons. ❖

By John Lawler

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.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

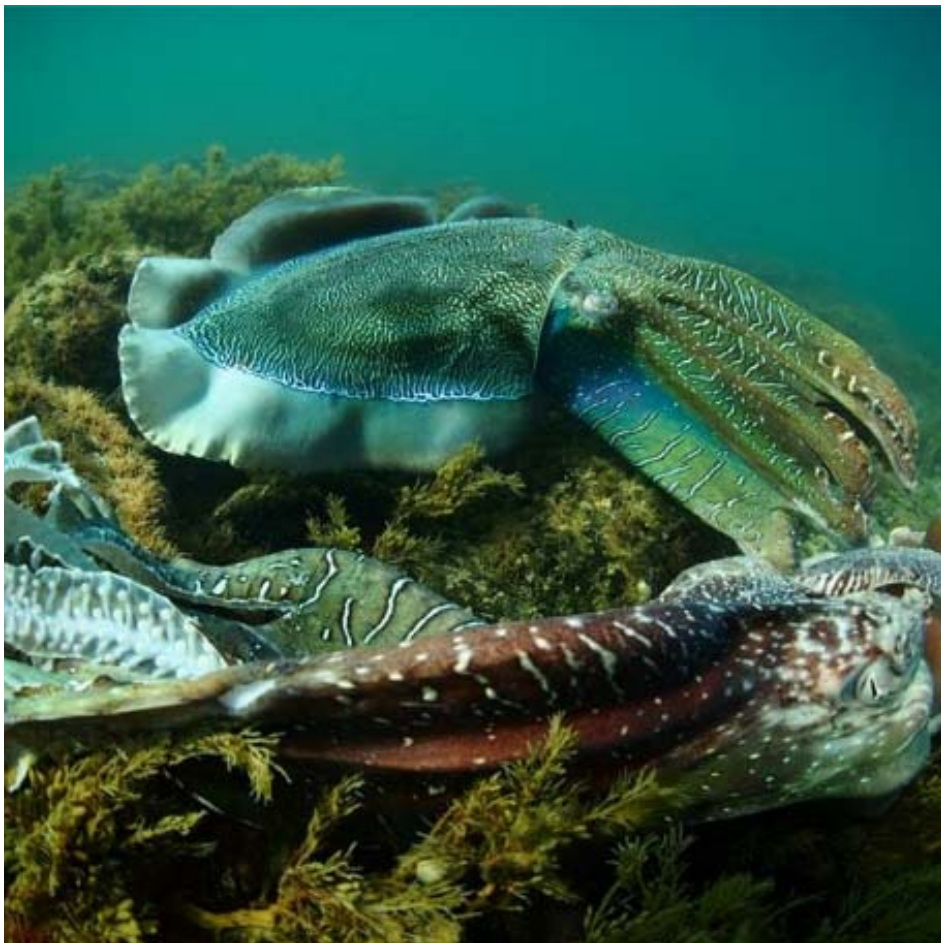
Equal First - August 2016



From Tim Forster, taken on Yorke Peninsula, South Australia

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal First - August 2016



From Tim Forster, taken on Yorke Peninsula, South Australia

AUGUST 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

2nd Place - August 2016



From Mark Jeffrey, Operation Sponge Bob, Blairgowrie Pier, Blairgowrie Victoria

AUGUST 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to Tim Forster who won the August contest. The members couldn't separate Tim's two entries so he tied with himself. Mark Jeffrey was second and Sheryn Amor took out third place. Thank you to all those that entered. After more than 3 years this was my last photo contest as organiser. The contest will go on though with Mark Jeffrey taking over the reins. Look out for an email from Mark re the September contest.❖

By Ian Scholey



By Sheryn Amor—Winged Thacacera Nudi at Blairgowrie

AUGUST 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION



By Phil Watson
Port Jackson Shark



By Phil Watson
Short headed eel



By Sherryn Amor
Pipe Fish



By Peter Beaumont
Anemone Fish on the wreck of the
Sankisan Maru in Truk Lagoon

AUGUST 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION



By Ian Scholey



By Benita McDonough



By Ian Scholey
On Emily Seaplane in
Truk Lagoon

By Benita McDonough

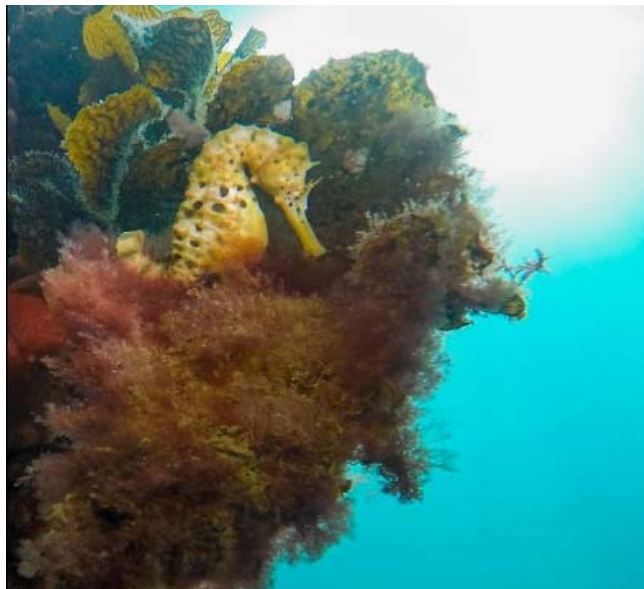


AUGUST 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION



By Peter Beaumont
On Fujikawa Maru
Truk Lagoon

By Mark Jeffrey
Seahorse at Blairgowrie



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.



© 2016 Ian Scholey

Nudibranch Blairgowrie

From Ian Scholey.



© 2016 Ian Scholey

THE EDWIN FOX

The Edwin Fox. The only surviving sailing ship to transport convicts to Australia, currently being restored at Picton NZ South Island. Built in 1853 in India and transported up to 300 at a time. Not much space under the decks.





By John Ashley

MORE FIVE-WAY BEASTS

By Jan Watson

The Phylum Echinodermata has other members – echinoids (sea urchins) ophiuroids (brittle stars) and holothurians (sea slugs or beche-de-mer).

ECHINOIDS

Some are globular or spherical in shape while others have become pushed out of alignment by adaptations but all are related in having the basic five-rayed symmetry. There are two basic echinoid shapes – the regular echinoids which have globose shells (tests) and the irregular echinoids in which the basic test symmetry is bilateral.

REGULAR ECHINOIDS

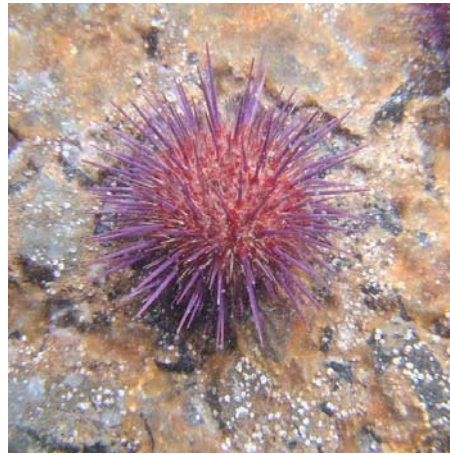
We always see them on dives. The test is composed of a fragile layer of calcium carbonate covered by a keratin sheath to which spines of various lengths are attached, and perforated by holes through which tube feet protrude. The spines are composed of crystalline layers of calcium carbonate and aragonite and are attached to the test by a ball and socket system to allow free movement. The tube feet are much longer and more slender than those of the seastars and must project beyond the spines to assist movement. They are usually withdrawn in daylight but extend at night. The basic symmetry of the test is usually in multiples of five which is often obscured by the sheath covering the test. The mouth is central on the underside and is armed with a system of very sharp interlocking teeth (called Aristotle's Lantern – don't ask me why!) arranged in a circular drill bit pattern for scraping and grinding food.

Heliocidaris erthyrogramma

This commonest sea urchin in the bay has a test completely covered in long spines. Colours are highly very variable from pink, mauve and red, the spines are often being a different colour to the test. Although not poisonous the microscopic texture of broken spines makes them very hard to remove and if you kneel on an urchin. Embedded spines can remain as an irritant for months until they work their way out.

Heliocidaris is an opportunistic and voracious scavenger with populations often arriving in waves, eating everything in sight except for a few unpalatable sponges. It can be found anywhere on seagrass beds to reef. At Steele Rock near Portarlinton the marine community is still slowly recovering from an invasion about six years ago.

A moderately successful fishery harvests the urchin but the roe inside the test is not particularly abundant and occurs only at certain times of the year.



Heliocidaris erythrogramma. Colours of spines. Steele Rock, 2 m.



Heliocidaris erythrogramma. Left, feeding on green *Codium* alga, Clifton Springs 2 m.

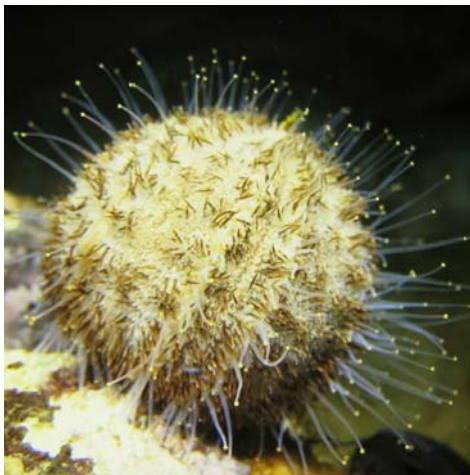
Right, being eaten by or eating a seastar *Coscinasterias muricata*. Clifton Springs, 2 m.



Heliocidaris erythrogramma. Test of dead urchin showing ball joints for attachment of spines and a central hole where there were once teeth. Altona, 3 m.

Holopneustes ovatum

Smaller and more spherical than *Heliocidaris*, with short spines and duller colour. Grazes on algae and lives among seagrasses. Dead tests are sometimes washed ashore. Common in the bay but not seen as often as *Heliocidaris*.



Holopneustes ovatum. Specimen with tube feet extended. Tortoise Head, Western Port, 2 m.

Goniocidaris tubaria

A large echinoid not often seen unless you dive in Western Port where it lives among and near seagrass beds. The relatively few spines are long and thick, hence the name “pencil urchin”. Spines are often thorny and overgrown with small algae and invertebrates. The vulnerable bases of the spines are protected by a sheath of smaller finger-like spines. Grazes on small invertebrates



Goniocidaris tubaria. Close-up of test showing primary and secondary spines. Western Port, 9 m, Phil Watson.

IRREGULAR ECHINOIDS

Burrowers are seldom seen by divers – unless you go looking. As a globular test is no use for a life ploughing through sediments these urchins have evolved bilateral symmetry with a front (anterior) end and back (posterior) end. Nor is it any use having long stiff spines which would impede progress so they are reduced to furry backward-facing spikes. Irregular echinoids feed by ingesting organic material in soft sediments.

Echinocardium cordatum

A small delicate species sometime called “sea mouse” burrowing shallowly in muddy seabed. Although it is very common in bay muds (up to 10/m²) because we don’t usually dive there or look closely it is seldom seen. These echinoids have a long fossil history, and an ancestral species (*Lovenia woodsi*) of Miocene Age (30 m years) is often washed up on Beaumaris beaches.



Echinocardium cordatum. Specimen ploughing through mud, Corio Bay. 10 m.

Dive Reports & Snippets

Marcus Campbell, Blairgowrie,
25 September 2016

Great diving at Blairgowrie this morning with Peter Beaumont! Heaps of nudibranchs and giant cuttlefish - however one looked quite worn out and old; hope you guys enjoy the pics!❖





By Marcus Campbell

Blairgowrie 25 September 2016



Dive Reports & Snippets

VSAG members Arthur Kokkinos, Bert Parker, Benita McDonough, John Lawler out on Signature One to greet the the largest wooden tall ship in the world Tenacious at the Fawkner Beacon Sunday 14th August. Awesome!!❖



*From Left:
John Lawler
Benita McDonough*

*From Left:
Arthur Kokkinos
Bert Parker*





TENACIOUS

Tenacious is one of only two tall ships in the world designed to be sailed by a crew with widely varied physical abilities. Every aspect of shipboard life is available to all, from setting the sails, going aloft and helming the ship.

- **PUBLIC DAY SAILS** To book on public sails visit www.jst.org.au or email info@jst.org.au
- **OPEN DAYS 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**
- Saturday 19th November
- Sunday 20th November

Dive Reports & Snippets

Diving the Hurricane

27 August 2016

By Ian Scholey

The weather forecast and the actual weather were a million miles apart today. Two boats headed out to dive the the Hurricane with forecasts for 10-15 Knot North Westerlies. By the time we had finished diving we were faced with 25-30 Knot winds and a very bumpy run back to Rye. We then had to man handle the boats back onto the trailers at the ramp with the wind coming directly onto the ramp.

With the conditions as they were, we only did one dive and underneath the conditions were excellent. The variety of life on show was fantastic as usual for the Hurricane. It's a dive I always enjoy.

Diving today were:

On Sea eagle, myself and Tony Knott

On Toucans, Peter Beamont and

Denys Smerchanskyi❖



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The Hurricane

WRECK OF THE SHIP HURRICANE IN PORT PHILLIP BAY.

Reported in The Mercury newspaper April 27, 1869

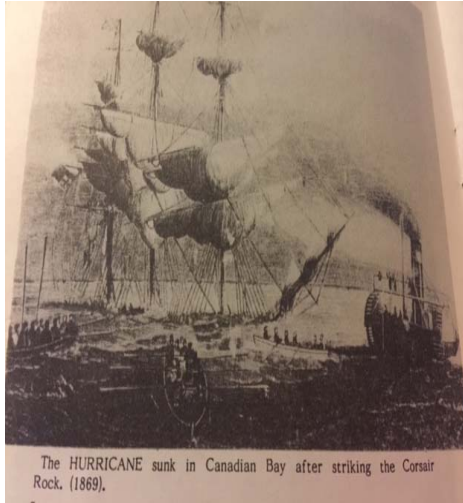
"(From the Melbourne Daily Telegraph.)

Considerable excitement was manifested in the city, yesterday morning, upon the reception of telegraph intelligence that the ship Hurricane, Captain Johnstone (late of the Lightning), which had arrived safely from Liverpool, was foundering inside the Heads.

.....The fact was, to say the least of it, astonishing, that she should so soon and without the least apparent warning, be in distress. The Titan steam-tug was sent to her assistance, and made for the vessel. But now we must go back and observe the scene on board of the vessel. As we have before stated, she was coming along prosperously, and it is said "grazed" on the port quarter near Point Lonsdale, but the action was so slight very little notice was taken of the circumstance, and then she still proceeded very rapidly through the water. Pilot Kennedy was in command, and one of the seamen said, "Sir, the water is coming in very rapidly through the hawse holes, and

as usual in this ship, our clothes and all our traps are being saturated with water."

The place was examined, and it was seen that a volume of water, as described by an eye-witness, almost as thick as a man's thigh, was coming in with the force of an immense cataract. The startling fact was apparent that the vessel was in imminent danger of foundering. Captain Johnstone and Pilot Kennedy did all in their power, from what we can learn of the circumstances, to save the Hurricanetwo boats were got out, although great excitement prevailed, the women were placed in them and afterwards the men. An effort was made to get the long boat out, but it proved abortive, as the prow of the ship was going down the sea was rushing over the decks, and the stern of the boat was stove in against the mainmast.The sails had been furled, but the sailors kept manfully to the ship, the poor fellows swimming about the decks



The HURRICANE sunk in Canadian Bay after striking the Corsair Rock. (1869).

Picture supplied by Peter Beaumont

even up to the vessel's sinking, and then taking to the rigging. The bow of the vessel, we are informed, settled down fully three-quarters of an hour before the stern-post kissed the water's edge, and then the fine old ship went quietly and straightly down in six fathoms, and even at the time she had sunk it was flood tide. It is stated that a man could stand on the deck and the water would have only been breast high, so that it is probable at low water the rail of the decks would not be very much under water.

Captain Johnstone and Pilot Kennedy were the last to leave the wreck.....The Titan, from Queenscliff, was the first steam-tug to put in an appearance, and the passengers were taken on board.

Pilot Kennedy states he has been eighteen years in the service, and the

present accident is the first one he has met with, and now he cannot account for the sinking of the vessel, without it is that the water came in through the hawse-holes. The Hurricane is an iron ship, built in Glasgow, by Alexander Stephens, in 1853, and made during her early career a voyage from England to Sydney in a little over seventy days. If there is anything in the rumour that she received injury from the "grazing," it is confidently asserted, in contravention of the statement which appeared in a contemporary that she struck the "Lightning Rock," that Captain Johnstone commanded the Lightning at the time this rock was discovered, and it is scarcely possible that he did not know its whereabouts. In fact, it is not near the track the ship took.

CAPTAIN JOHNSTONE'S STATEMENT.

Captain Johnstone states :—The Hurricane, D. H. Johnstone, left Liverpool on the 12th of January, and had strong S.W. winds for twenty-one days, by which time we had only reached Madeira. The N.E. trades were very light, and the ship did not cross the equator until the thirty-ninth day out ; after that light winds prevailed. The meridian of the Cape was not reached until the seventy-second day. Since then up to Cape Otway, which was made at noon on the 20th inst., the weather was fine, and the ship made good runs. The pilot was

taken on board at 6 p.m. on the 21st. The ship entered the Heads at 8 a.m. on the following morning. On passing Point Lonsdale it was felt that the ship twice grazed the bottom but so slightly that very little notice was taken of it. The pumps were sounded, and no water was found in the ship. Shortly after, on passing through the South Channel, it was perceived that the ship was settling by the head. The forehold was again sounded, and 6ft. of water was found in it. Both Capt. Johnstone and the pilot thought that by shortening sail and anchoring, the hold would be freed from water, as the water was coming through the hawse pipes. This was done, and in a few minutes the ship went down by the head, only leaving scant time for the crew and passengers getting into the boats : the vessel sank in 32ft. of water. Both passengers and crew lost the whole of their effects, as the two remaining boats were quite filled with passengers and crew, forty-six in all. The long boat was stove by the heavy sea washing along the docks. It was seen from the Heads that there was something wrong with the ship, and the Titan steamtug was at once sent off from Queenscliff with the Customs boat in tow, under charge of Mr. Keene. Having embarked the passengers and crew, the tug left the scene of the wreck, and arrived at Sandridge at 8 o'clock.The ship is now lying in Capel Sound in a perfectly upright position, with seven

feet of water above the deck. Messrs. Norton and Graham's tug-steamers Hercules and Challenge came down the Bay in the afternoon, having Mr. Dickson (of Dickson, Williams, and Co.,) the agent of the vessel, on board. Captain Johnston speaks in very glowing terms of the conduct of the passengers under the very trying circumstances in which they were placed. The Challenge is still alongside of the vessel, and the chief officer has been left in charge of the wreck. The Titan put into Schnapper Point, and provisions were procured for the passengers. ❖

Courtesy of the National Library of Australia

[http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/
title/10](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/title/10)

[The Mercury \(Hobart, Tas. : 1860 -
1954\) /Tue 27 Apr 1869 /page4/Wreck
of the Ship Hurricane in Port Phillip
Bay](#)

[//trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/
issue/86218//trove.nla.gov.au/
newspaper/issue/86220](//trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/
issue/86218//trove.nla.gov.au/
newspaper/issue/86220) \ "Page 4

[//trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/
page/782711](//trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/
page/782711) \ "WRECK OF THE
SHIP HURRICANE IN PORT
PHILLIP BAY.

[//trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/
article/8858581](//trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/
article/8858581) \ " ❖

BLAIRGOWRIE

25 September 2016
By Ian Scholey

A big time Nudi hunt paid dividends for me today with a few new species. Great slugs everywhere resulted in a new record of 3 hours 15 minutes dive time for me. The variety of Nudi's is just stunning at the moment with some very very small stuff about if you look hard enough. It's a good job the coffee place is close because I was freezing by the time I reluctantly got out. Can't wait to get back there again.



Pretty in Pink...





© 2016 Ian Scholey

By Ian Scholey—Velvet Fish



© 2016 Ian Scholey





The Weird.....





.....And the wonderful!





© 2016 Ian Scholey

Beautiful!....



© 2016 Ian Scholey



Snapped this little nudi at Blairgowrie on Sunday 5 September 2016—by Liz Cameron



© 2016 Ian Scholey



By Phil Watson—Flat Fish Point Wilson





By Phil Watson





Popes Eye
1 September 2016
By Phil Watson



DID YOU KNOW

BUSY PLACE:

THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE IS THE BUSSIEST PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE IN THE WORLD! ABOUT 3,000 EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN IT'S NUMERIOUS THEATRES AND HALLS, AND GUIDES GIVE TOURS TO 200,000 TOURISTS EVERY YEAR

BLACK BOX:

THE BLACK BOX THAT STORES THE VOICE RECORDER FOR THE COCKPIT OF AN AIRPLANE ISN'T BLACK AT ALL! IT'S ORANGE SO IT CAN BE EASILY SPOTTED IN THE DEBRIS OF A PLANE CRASH

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

IF YOU CAN'T DAZZLE 'EM WITH BRILLIANCE, BAFFLE 'EM WITH BULL!

IT IS WELL DOCUMENTED THAT FOR EVERY MINUTE YOU EXERCISE, YOU ADD A MINUTE TO YOUR LIFE. THIS ENABLES YOU, AT 85 YEARS OF AGE, TO SPEND AN ADDITIONAL FIVE MONTHS IN A NURSING HOME AT \$5,000 PER MONTH!

TIME IS A GREAT HEALER, BUT IT'S A LOUSY BEAUTICIAN!

WISDOM WILL KEEP YOU FROM GETTING INTO SITUATIONS WHERE YOU NEED IT!

BY JOHN LAWLER



John Ashley, Pyramid Rock, Phillip Island 27 August 2016

...Nice One, John!

DIARY DATES

Boat Handling Day –16 October 2016

Hi All,

Just a reminder that our boat training day is fast approaching. For those of you who have booked in to participate in one way or another please make sure you have the day locked in. Any that have over looked this opportunity please consider the objective below and let me know if you would like to be involved in some aspect.

VSAG Boat Handling Day - 16th October 2016

Objective 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. At this stage we are planning to use the waters around South Channel Fort as there is usually plenty of current available to hone our skills.

Currently we have 5 - 6 boats available for training and 15 members wishing to increase their skills in driving them. There are around 10 regular boat drivers willing to give instruction so the response to date has been very encouraging.

Any questions - give me a ring or send an email.

David Geekie ❖

DIARY DATES

Boat Handling Day 16 October 2016

Awards Night 18 October 2016

Getunder Dive Club 40th Anniversary Dinner 22 October 2016.

Melbourne Cup weekend 28 October 2016—Sydney 3 boats going

Tassie Trip – Labour Day 2017

Vanuatu 2-12 July 2017 School holidays

Truk / Palau / Yap / Guam 2018

VSAG CHRISTMAS PARTY BBQ

Saturday 26 November 2016

\$20 per person

RSVP by 11 November 2016

Ian Scholey

president@vsag.org.au or 0439 310 646



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

Oct 15/16	Boat DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Oct 18	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Oct 22/23	Boat DC John Lawler 0414 922 916
Oct 29/30	Shore DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881 Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Nov 1 Melb Cup	Boat DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Nov 5/6	Boat DC David Geekie 0419 300 686

Nov 12/13	Boat DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Nov 15	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Nov 19/20	Boat DC David Flew 0418 446 530
Nov 26 /27	Christmas Party Sat 26 Nov Boat DC Benita McDonough 0419 399 000
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 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 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 weekend	Shore DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881 Boat DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
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 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

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 — October 2016

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

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

Tidal Streams at the Heads — November 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

October	November					
MON 31	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6
<i>4:23</i>	<i>5:07</i>	<i>5:45</i>	<i>6:20</i>	<i>0:27</i>	<i>0:59</i>	<i>1:32</i>
<i>10:40</i>	<i>11:23</i>	<i>12:00</i>	<i>12:34</i>	<i>6:53</i>	<i>7:25</i>	<i>7:58</i>
<i>15:59</i>	<i>16:34</i>	<i>17:06</i>	<i>17:38</i>	<i>13:05</i>	<i>13:37</i>	<i>14:08</i>
<i>22:44</i>	<i>23:20</i>	<i>23:54</i>		<i>18:10</i>	<i>18:44</i>	<i>19:19</i>
MON 7	TUE 8	WED 9	THU 10	FRI 11	SAT 12	SUN 13
<i>2:05</i>	<i>2:39</i>	<i>3:16</i>	<i>3:57</i>	<i>4:48</i>	<i>5:52</i>	<i>1:12</i>
<i>8:32</i>	<i>9:08</i>	<i>9:47</i>	<i>10:29</i>	<i>11:17</i>	<i>12:11</i>	<i>7:14</i>
<i>14:41</i>	<i>15:17</i>	<i>15:57</i>	<i>16:46</i>	<i>17:47</i>	<i>18:59</i>	<i>13:10</i>
<i>19:57</i>	<i>20:39</i>	<i>21:29</i>	<i>22:31</i>	<i>23:48</i>		<i>20:11</i>
MON 14	TUE 15	WED 16	THU 17	FRI 18	SAT 19	SUN 20
<i>2:34</i>	<i>3:47</i>	<i>4:48</i>	<i>5:41</i>	<i>0:00</i>	<i>0:49</i>	<i>1:36</i>
<i>8:42</i>	<i>9:56</i>	<i>10:57</i>	<i>11:50</i>	<i>6:30</i>	<i>7:16</i>	<i>8:00</i>
<i>14:10</i>	<i>15:07</i>	<i>16:00</i>	<i>16:52</i>	<i>12:40</i>	<i>13:28</i>	<i>14:15</i>
<i>21:16</i>	<i>22:15</i>	<i>23:09</i>		<i>17:43</i>	<i>18:34</i>	<i>19:27</i>
ON 1	TUE 22	WED 23	THU 24	FRI 25	SAT 26	SUN 27
<i>2:20</i>	<i>3:03</i>	<i>3:46</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>5:22</i>	<i>0:48</i>	<i>2:03</i>
<i>8:43</i>	<i>9:25</i>	<i>10:07</i>	<i>10:51</i>	<i>11:38</i>	<i>6:28</i>	<i>7:51</i>
<i>15:01</i>	<i>15:49</i>	<i>16:39</i>	<i>17:33</i>	<i>18:33</i>	<i>12:28</i>	<i>13:21</i>
<i>20:21</i>	<i>21:19</i>	<i>22:22</i>	<i>23:32</i>		<i>19:34</i>	<i>20:31</i>
November			December			
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4
<i>3:10</i>	<i>4:05</i>	<i>4:50</i>	<i>5:28</i>	<i>6:03</i>	<i>6:36</i>	<i>0:34</i>
<i>9:09</i>	<i>10:10</i>	<i>10:58</i>	<i>11:38</i>	<i>12:14</i>	<i>12:48</i>	<i>7:08</i>
<i>14:13</i>	<i>15:01</i>	<i>15:45</i>	<i>16:25</i>	<i>17:04</i>	<i>17:42</i>	<i>13:22</i>
<i>21:21</i>	<i>22:05</i>	<i>22:45</i>	<i>23:23</i>	<i>23:59</i>		<i>18:21</i>

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

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



From Mark Jeffrey, Operation Sponge Bob, Blairgowrie Pier, Blairgowrie Victoria