



Fathoms

DECEMBER 2017 — JANUARY 2018

Photo of the year 2017—Octopus in a bottle—by Mark Jeffrey



VSAG Awards 2017
September, October and Photo of the
Year 2017 competitions
VSAG Rapid Bay Dive Trip and more...

Postal Address:

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

www.vsag.org.au

VICTORIAN MARITIME CENTRE

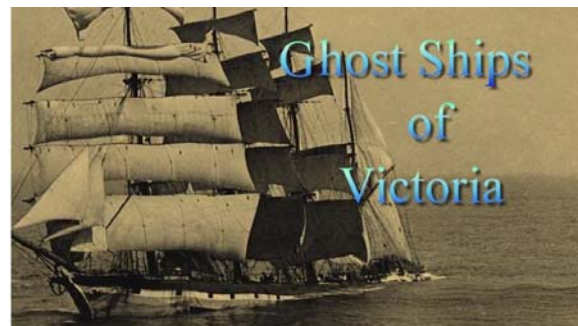
Hi all,

Most of you will be aware of the project that I have undertaken with the Victorian Maritime Centre at Crib Point. For those that aren't, the idea is to create an exhibit at the Maritime Centre that will allow the general public to select a wreck from a touch screen tv and see a short video covering the history of the wreck and then some underwater footage of the wreck. In this way we hope to preserve a view of the wrecks for the future as they continue to deteriorate. The link will take you to the promotional video we are using to promote the project. The team at the museum are now working on the first two wrecks we have selected, the SS Coogee and the City of Rayville. Both Mark Ryan and Alan Beckhurst have been kind enough to make their video footage available.

I am now looking to start collecting as much video footage as I can of the various wrecks in Victorian Waters. Of particular interest right now, are the J Class Subs and the Loch Ard. If anyone would be prepared to allow us to use their footage, then we would be delighted to have your footage. You will, of course, be credited if we go on to use any of

your footage. If any one has footage they wish to donate to the project, then please contact me at President@vsag.org.au or PM me and I will contact you to discuss. Thanks in advance for your support with the project.

- Ian Scholey



VICTORIAN MARITIME CENTRE

For information regarding
Victoria's Ghost Ships

Contact

Max Bryant - VMC President - 0438 023 486

or

Wayne Malcolm-Gibbs Producer - 0409936645

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?
v=A5N_4L50ISo&feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5N_4L50ISo&feature=share)



Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

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NOTICES

VSAG Committee meets at 7 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month
(except in January)

All Members Welcome
South Frankston VIC 3199



**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.



UECWA our sister club in Western Australia is pleased to offer reciprocal diving arrangements to VSAG members.

Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia

Postal Address
PO Box 382, Melville WA 6956

Email: info@uecwa.com.au

Meetings
Esplanade Hotel
The Esplanade, Fremantle, WA

Boat
Port Coogee Marina
Chieftain Esplanade, North Coogee, WA



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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Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group held their Annual Awards 2016-2017 evening at the Water Rat Hotel, South Melbourne on 17 October, 2017. Michael Ngai presented an overview of club activities:



Club Snapshot

Number of diving members

2012-2013	55 members
2013-2014	54 members
2014-2015	57 members
2015-2016	71 members
2016-2017	53 members

Total dives done by all members. (Two Regular divers doing less diving.)

2012-2013	182
2013-2014	203
2014-2015	353
2015-2016	349
2016-2017	154

Dive Trips

Taking into account difficulty in co-ordinating trips, something that suited everyone's schedule and budgets., there were three major club dives organised in 2016-2017

Sydney

Eaglehawk Neck - 2 weekends

Vanuatu

Total Dive Trips completed during the year were

2012-2013	30
2013-2014	31
2014-2015	26
2015-2016	22
2016-2017	11

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

Fathoms Contribution

Still great, heavily dependant on a few members

2012-2013	19
2013-2014	40
2014-2015	30
2015-2016	17
2016-2017	21

Social Events .

Herron Island, Christmas in July

Boat handling day (coming up)

Other social events planned by the committee

2012-2013	31
2013-2014	33
2014-2015	12
2015-2016	18
2016-2017	15

Club Meetings

Total members who attended meetings during the year

2012-2013	62
2013-2014	70
2014-2015	52
2015-2016	72
2016-2017	53



Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

WOODEN WEIGHT BELT AWARD



Presented to the Crew of Carmine for beaching the boat during a lunch break!

From left, Christine Reynolds, Carole Campisano, David Flew

Accepted by Peter Campisano

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

LITERARY AWARD



Presented by Greg Richards to **ANTHONY PLATFORD**

(who was not present on the night)

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

PHOTO OF THE YEAR AWARD



Photograph of the Year Award presented to Mark Jeffries by Michael Ngai. Photograph - Octopus in a bottle.

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

FATHOMS AWARD



Presented to John Ashley by Christine Reynolds for his
contribution to shaping the direction of Fathoms magazine
2016-2017

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD



The New Member of the Year Award for 2017 was presented to **BO ZHANG**

Congratulations Bo!

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

VSAG CLUB CHAMPION 2017 AWARD



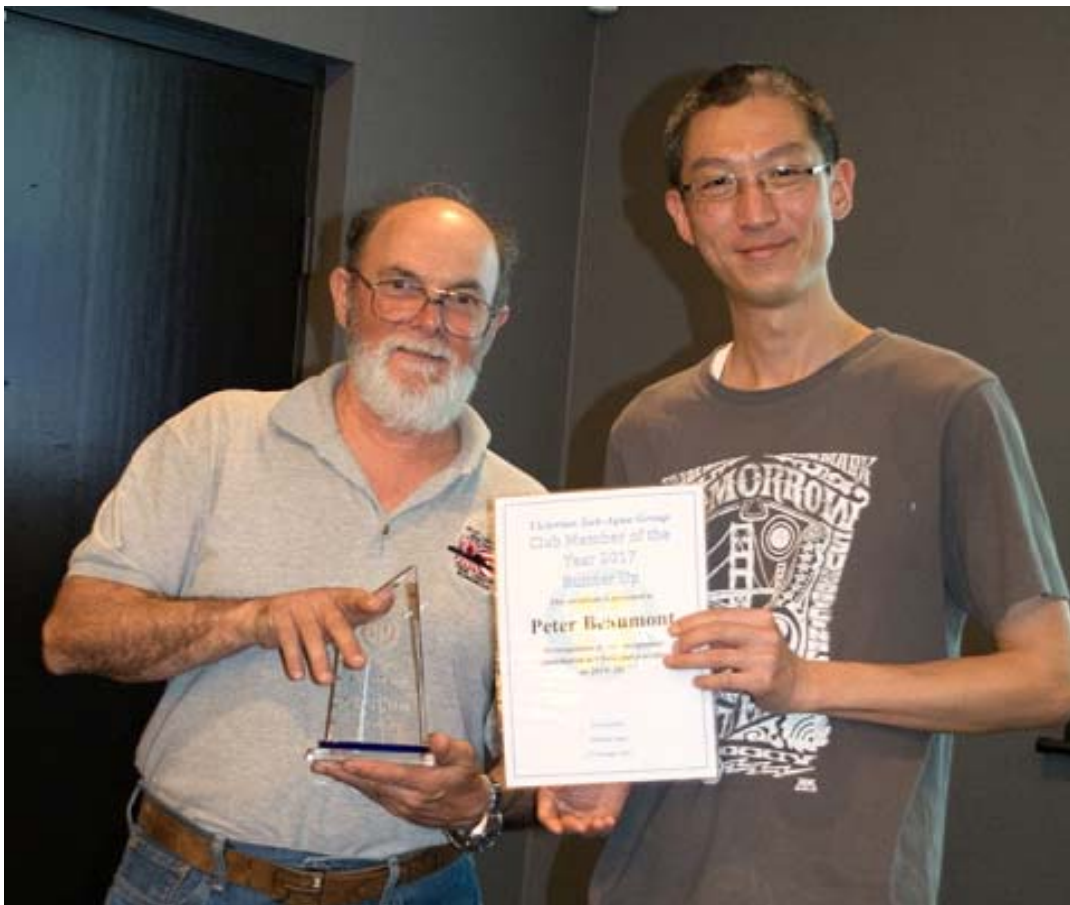
VSAG Club Champion was decided on a point score system and this year the winner is **IAN SCHOLEY** with 1840 points. Club Champion Award recognises significant contributions to VSAG - to diving, Fathoms, Ian initiated Photo Competitions, organised dive trips and social events and devoted considerable time to VSAG. Special thanks to Sue Scholey for supporting Ian in his pursuits. Much appreciated!

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

VSAG CLUB CHAMPION 2017

SECOND PLACE



VSAG Club Champion was decided on a point score system and this year the Second Place winner is **PETER BEAUMONT** with a point score of 1500 points.

AWESOME EFFORT!

Victorian Sub-Aqua Group

Annual Awards 2016-17

VSAG CLUB CHAMPION 2017

THIRD PLACE



VSAG Club Champion was decided on a point score system and this year the Third Place winner is **DAVID GEEKIE** with a point score of 780 points.

FANTASTIC EFFORT!

November Guest Speaker

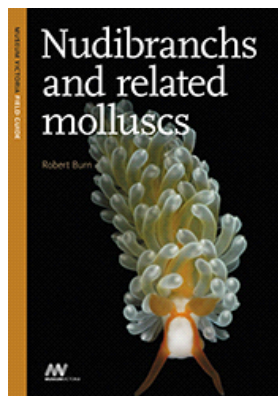
NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

ROBERT BURN

15 November, 2017



Our special guest speaker in November was Robert Burn, author of the excellent Museum Victoria Field Guide to Nudibranchs, entitled 'Nudibranchs and Related Molluscs'. A publication he was recognised for with the Order of Australia.



At 79, Robert is an internationally respected authority on the marine group to which Nudibranchs belong. He has over 60 years experience in

collecting, observing and studying Nudibranchs. Robert is an honorary member of the marine Biology section of Museum Victoria, the Malacological Society of Australia and the field Naturalists Club of Victoria and has more than 100 publications to his name. He has described more than 100 species of Nudibranch and related molluscs, many from Victoria. The nudibranch genus *Burnaia* is named in his honor.

Bob is a builder by trade and doesn't dive. All of his studies are conducted on Nudibranch either found in rock pools or by his diving contacts. Bob shared with us how he first became interested in Nudibranch when finding a *Ceratosoma Brevecadatum* and how his interest quickly became an obsessive hobby. Like most of us he was attracted by the colourful nature of the specimen he found. He then gave us a whistle stop photographic tour through the various types of Nudibranch, sharing many interesting insights as he did so. ❖

Ian Scholey and Kade Mills from Reefwatch dressed up as Nudibranch on the night and surprised Bob with the fancy dress.



Guinness World Record Achieved Longest Chain of Scuba Divers Rye Pier 2 December 2017

“Success for record Victorian dive attempt!

More than 350 thrill-seeking divers in Victoria have claimed a Guinness World Record forming an underwater chain.”

- *Caroline Schelle and Callum Godde*

Australian Associated Press

December 2, 2017 5:22pm

Thrill-seekers in Victoria have braved wild weather and heavy rain to set a world record for the longest underwater chain of scuba divers.

Up to 360 divers gathered at Rye Pier on the Mornington Peninsula on Saturday to break the record despite storms lashing the state.

Divers plunged below the surface and joined hands in their bid to form a human chain measuring more than 270 metres.

"This has been a great day," Diving Industry of Victoria spokesman Luke English told AAP on Saturday after the record-breaking attempt.

"We all went to the pub after we did it and the atmosphere was just amazing," he said.

The record previously stood at 308, but Mr English said he didn't want to smash it and wanted others to have a chance to take part in the future.

Despite dreary conditions on dry land the conditions for diving were perfect.

The attempt was made to promote scuba diving in Victoria's waters which include submarine wrecks.

"It's an amazing place to dive. There are four British submarines and we wanted to show how good diving here is," Mr English said. ❖

<http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/success-for-record-victorian-dive-attempt/news-story/8aae81348bf93a470cbcdc905498a62a>

GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

LONGEST CHAIN OF SCUBA DIVERS

DEC 2ND 2017
CHECK IN FROM 8AM
EVENT AT 10AM
BACKUP DATE DUE TO WEATHER DEC 9

RYE PIER

\$25 INCLUDES GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ADMIN FEE AND **EVENT T-SHIRT**

BOOK AT www.divingvictoriaassociation.com.au

OVER \$10,000 WORTH DIVE GEAR AND DIVE HOLIDAYS BEING AUCTIONED OFF AND GIVEN AWAY

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December 2, 2017 at 4:14pm

We will have to wait until the folks at Guinness World Records confirm it but we are pretty sure that we nailed the World Record today with a human chain of 360 divers. Go Victorian divers, smashing the previous world record of 309 held by a group of Italian divers since May 2017.

It was fantastic to see the dive industry come together to support today. A big well done to Luke English from Redboats for all the hard work in organising it and all his army of helpers for the excellent effort they put in. Anyone who can organise that many divers has my greatest respect.

VSAG were represented today by myself, Graham Ellis, Denise Rogers, Arthur Kokkinos, Tony Knott and Bert Parker with John Lawler providing shore support and a taxi service for Graham and I.

Lastly a big thanks to Lloyd Borrett at Scuba Doctor for the World Record Holders' special air fill rates.

- Ian Scholey ❖





Luke English



Ian Scholey

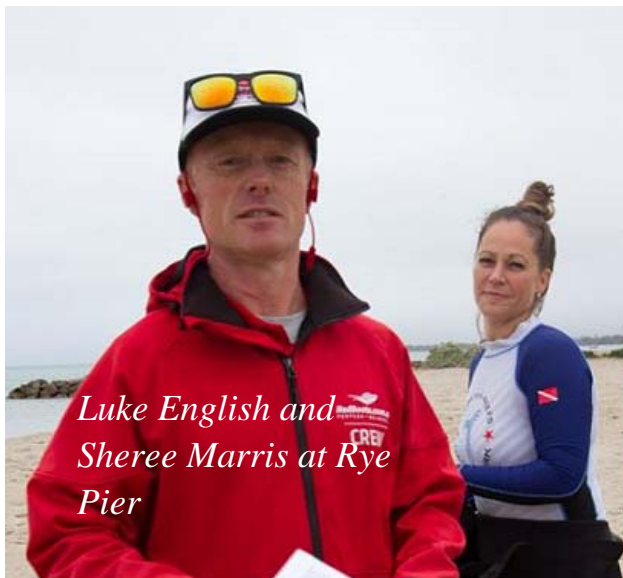


John Lawler and Alan Beckhurst



Grahan Ellis and Arthur Kokkinos





*Luke English and
Sheree Marris at Rye
Pier*



With Luke Ryan, Mervyn Peter Dannefaerd, Adriana Mahne, Graham Ellis and Ian Scholey at The Rye Pier.

December 22017

www.pinktankscuba.com

DIVE 750: GUINNESS WORLD RECORD BROKEN IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA TODAY!!!

Normally I take marine life portraits, but it was my absolute pleasure today to do land and submerged photography for this amazing and SUCCESSFUL Guinness World Record Attempt! Shout out to the 360+ divers and volunteers who took part today - HOW AWESOME IS DIVING IN MELBOURNE????

- PT Hirschfield ❖



GREAT VICTORIAN FISH COUNT

10 December , 2017

Today we finished up our survey for Fishcount with a trio of dives. While myself, Peter Beaumont and Mark Toomey headed to the wreck of the Hurricane and then South Channel Fort we also had Michael Kotsanas and Bettina Brill at Ricketts Point.

Proving that although rare, it is actually possible for males to multitask, I combined counting fish with shooting video footage of the wreck for the Victorian Maritime Centre Wreck project. There were, as always, plenty of fish. The vis was pretty ordinary at both locations but there was as usual a load of fish on the Hurricane and a good selection at the fort too.

- Ian Scholey



GREAT VICTORIAN FISH COUNT



GREAT VICTORIAN FISH COUNT

Hi all,

VSAG dive 30-11-17

As part of the Great Victorian Fish Count 2017 Peter Beaumont and I thought the George Kermode would make a good sample, so off we went. The viz is still 20m+ 17°C water temp and did a 40min bt. with a max depth of 21m. Now this site, as we all know, is teeming with fish life and today was superb as the photos will show.

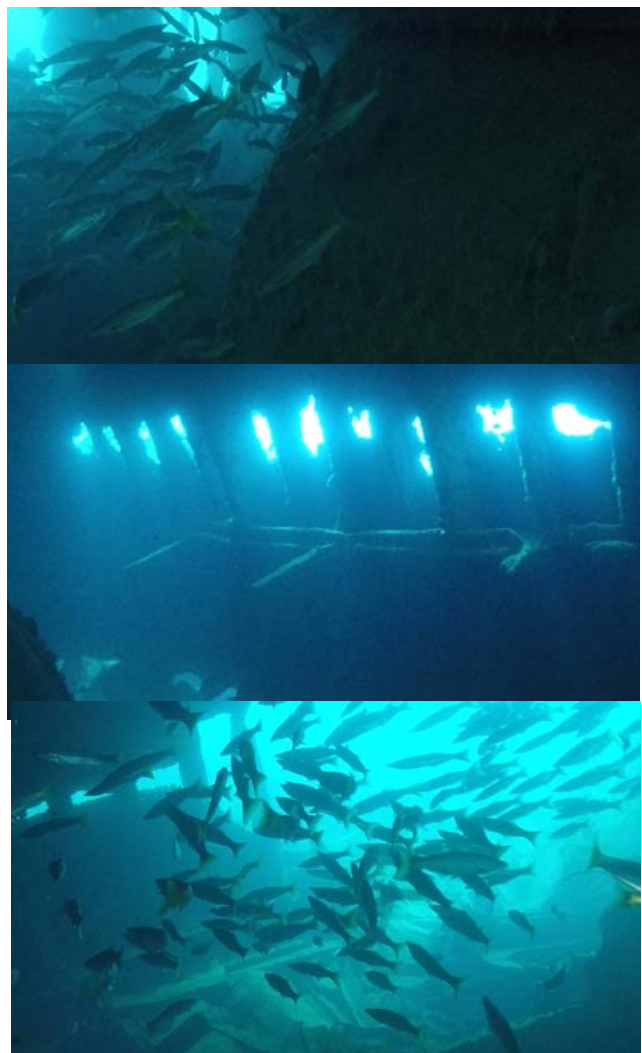
After the Kermode and a bit of lunch we thought we might try to dive the wreck of the sailing ship, Speke which is east of Kitty Miller Bay. Some might have seen the Bow section which is high and dry on the rocky coast. As we approached from the seaward side I did a 20min snorkel to find the wreck site which sits in a sandy gutter and because of the lack of growth on the remains it obviously spends most of the time buried. I'll do a more detailed story for Fathoms. (Pages 40-43.)

Thanks to Peter Beaumont for the day and use of his boat Toucans.

- John Ashley ❖



VICTORIAN
NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION



GREAT VICTORIAN FISH COUNT

Date: 26th November 2017
(Fish Count)
Dive Site: Cave Wall

Denys and Sandy buddy pair.

Sandy and I jumped in shortly after Michael and Pam. By the time we have reached the planned depth, other divers were already a bit far to catch up to, so we took our slates out and started surveying. There were all the regulars and most of them in large numbers – Magpie Perch, Horseshoe Leatherjacket and Victorian Scalyfin just to name a few.

The highlight of the dive was the seal which was swimming around and was followed by a sizeable school of sea sweep.

The depth of around 32 meters did not allow for a long survey so after running out of the bottom time, Sandy and I started ascending at which point we were met by a strong outgoing current.

Date: 26th November 2017
Dive Site: Mike's Reef

After a reasonable interval, it was decided that Mike's Reef fit the bill, so Michael and I jumped in. The site did not disappoint – upon descending, right at the bottom among the

outcrops there was an Ornate Cowfish. That's a tick for the survey.

We continued further along the reefs noting various wrasses and leatherjackets that busily swam around and blue devils hiding in the crevices. Another good find was Shaw's Cowfish, patterned blue and yellow, at which point I regretted not taking my camera with me. The only crustacean spotted on this dive declined to be surveyed as to size and weight.

Due to the previous deep dive the bottom time was limited and after about 20 minutes we started our unhurried ascent.

- Denys Smerchanskyi ❖

Date: 26th November 2017
Dive Site: Cave Wall
Max Depth: 32.2m
Bottom Time: 28min
Water Temp: 16C

My first dive with VSAG after being absent from diving with the club for over 12 months. I wanted to make sure I didn't collect the wooden weight belt for 2 years in a row. :)

GREAT VICTORIAN FISH COUNT

Despite the rain, it was great to be with familiar faces and buddies again, not to mention how easy and fantastic it was diving with the club.

The shot was perfectly placed right on the edge of the wall. We descended to around 32m and slowly worked our way back up to the mid 20s. Viz was easily 15m+ and with fish life abundant on site as usual. I'm not going to embarrass myself by trying to identify any fish species.

We turned at around the 15min mark and I could already feel a slight current running. The shot line was at a 45 degree angle as we ascended. We finished our safety stop in fairly strong current and climbed back on the boat.

Big thank you to Pam for being my buddy.

- Michael Ngai ❖

Home: Covered
Car: Covered

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

UECWA



UECWA UPDATE

We should all go diving in Perth with our sister club, Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia (UECWA). Check out their recent dive. The viz is pretty awesome!

Thanks for the photo, Mel.

- John Ashley ❖

Safety in Diving

Pirate Pete's Dive Safety Tips

Pre-dive Buddy Safety Check

It doesn't matter if you've made 10 dives or 1,000 dives, the pre-dive buddy safety check should be a part of your routine. It ensures that everyone's equipment is properly set up and working, and also helps familiarize both of you with each other's kit. Remember BWRAF from PADI's Open Water Diver manual? It's the acronym that stands for the steps in a thorough pre-dive safety check: BC/Buoyancy, Weight, Releases, Air and Final Check. Remember the steps in a buddy check with this mnemonic: Begin With Review And Friend. Or, if you prefer: Big White Rabbits Are Fluffy, etc.

You learned it during your open-water certification, but are you still practising it?

- **BC/Buoyancy** - Check that it's adjusted properly, the low-pressure inflator hose is properly connected and the buckles are secure. Locate the dump valves and releases, and make sure they're working. Ensure that the tank is firmly strapped in. Hit the inflator button for a short burst to make sure that it's working, and then deflate it. Check that signalling devices, whistles etc, are working and easily accessible.

Safety in Diving

- **Weight** - Ensure the amount of weight is correct and distributed properly. Also be sure that the weight pockets and/or weight belt is secured. Check your buddy's weight belt to be sure it allows for quick, right-hand release, or if his or her BC has integrated weights, make sure you know how to release them.
- **Releases** = Check all releases and make sure they are secure — these can include sternum straps, crutch straps, shoulder straps and cummerbunds. Don't forget the tank release. Make sure your buddy's BC is strapped correctly.
- **Air** - Both you and your buddy should take several breaths from the regulator and check the SPG to ensure the tank is full and on. The needle on the SPG should not move, and if you're using an air-integrated computer, the air pressure should decrease by only a few pounds per breath. Test your alternate and your buddy's. Make sure both of your alternate air sources are correctly clipped off and visible. Check for any leaks, such as where the first stage connects to the tank.

Final Check - Make this a head-to-toe check. Secure all loose hoses, consoles, lights, cameras, etc. Test any gear, such as turning on your dive light. Make sure wetsuits are zipped and hoses aren't tangled.

Courtesy Sport Diver Magazine.

Provided by UECWA.

PHYLUM ARTHROPODA

PHYLUM ARTHROPODA

Arthropods (animals with jointed limbs) are the largest group of invertebrate animals on the planet, with more than 80% of all known invertebrate species. The phylum has terrestrial, aerial and aquatic species so it's difficult to know where to begin. But here we will consider only the marine groups.

Arthropods have a venerable fossil history, going back to the 500 million year-old bizarre forms of the Burgess Shale off north-western Canada. The strange extinct Burgess marine fauna have little relationship to modern forms.

The largest present day marine groups include the Subphylum Crustacea (barnacles, crabs, lobsters and allies) and the Subphylum Chelicerata (pycnogonids, the sea spiders).

CIRRIPEDIA, THE BARNACLES

Barnacles have a venerable biological history: Charles Darwin was entranced by them and studied them for most of his life. We seldom take much notice of barnacles as most live in shallow water. But they are worth considering as they are one of the commonest inhabitants of the intertidal zone.

The two main Orders of barnacles we see in the intertidal belong to the Order Sessilia (sessile or fixed barnacles) which are strongly cemented onto hard substrate. The less common Order Pedunculata (stalked barnacles) grow on long tough flexible stalks and most are ocean dwellers.

SESSILIA – SESSILE BARNACLES

Sessile barnacles are the bane of people with moored boats – they are fast pioneer settlers, appearing within three weeks on any new attractive substrate presented, such as boat hulls.

The animal lives inside a carapace of calcareous plates strongly cemented onto hard substrate. They look more like limpets than a crustacean but inspection shows the difference: the limpet shell is an undivided cone whereas the barnacle shell has two or more movable apical plates that slide apart to allow the legs of the animal to protrude to feed.

The larva settles by fixing itself by its head on suitable substrate before metamorphosing into an adult while building a shell. Barnacles are thus fixed on their backs inside the shell,

PHYLUM ARTHROPODA

opening the plates to thrust out brush-like legs (cirri) to capture food. The incredibly tough, durable cement they use has been synthesised and exploited for dental repair – as you will know from trips to the dentist. During growth the barnacle lays down several moveable apical shell plates that can be tightly closed to protect the animal inside. They are hermaphroditic being both male and female, the extremely long penis of one being able to reach out from the shell to fertilise adjacent females.



Barnacle feeding, cirri extended.
Ricketts Point, 4 m. Photo: Phil Watson

Sessile barnacles require a secure firm substrate and are common on shallow water reef, jetty piles, boat hulls and other in-water structures. Most shallow-water and intertidal species are small, some forming tightly knit communities, while a few solitary

species grow to hand size. Colours are usually subdued grey to white, while some larger species are pink to purplish-brown.

Chamaesipho tasmanica and *Austrominius modestus* are two small species that grow in tightly knit communities on local rocks and jetty piles. The smooth grey-white basal plates of *C. tasmanica* are fused together giving a honey-comb appearance. *Austrominius modestus* is similar to *C. tasmanica* but its basal plates are strongly ridged. Australia has the dubious honour of transporting *A. modestus* to European ports on the hulls of ships.



Chamaesipho tasmanica. Intertidal rocks, Point Lonsdale. Photo, Jan Carey.

Balanus trigonus, as its name suggests has large triangular plates. It is a solitary white to purplish species with

PHYLUM ARTHROPODA

very sharp edges on the plates. It prefers ocean coasts and is uncommon locally, preferring slightly warmer waters than in Victoria. I first encountered these barnacles on a wave-break coastal reef in Western Australia. Surfing over the reef to safety resulted in cuts and a torn wetsuit.

PEDUNCULATA - STALKED BARNACLES

Stalked barnacles, as the name suggests, grow on a tough, flexible stalk. The tough grey-white shells with brown edges are more compressed than those of the sessile barnacles. There are two species of goose barnacles - *Lepas australis* and *Lepas anserifera* that we sometimes see. The name “goose barnacle” is medieval, from a resemblance, stretching credibility, of the cirri to goose feathers and the likeness of the shells to migratory geese. *L. australis* is a local species and is often found on mooring ropes while *L. anserifera* occurs around the world on floating debris occasionally washed up on local ocean beaches. Apologies here: I, nor my friends, don't have any photos of goose barnacles because we are divers, not intertidallers.

Another “goose barnacle” that occurs locally is *Smilium peronii*, a stalked species attached subtidally to stones in places of fast current, for example in Western Port. The stalk is short and the plates housing the animal are moderately long and flexible.



Smilium peronii. Crawfish Rock, Western Port, 3 m

So, go out and look for barnacles and treat them with the respect they deserve from their venerable biological and opportunistic history.

- Jan ❖

Jan Watson
Marine Science & Ecology
Ph: 03 5253 2294
Mob: 0457 981 875

RIBBON FISH



17 October, 2017

www.pinktankscuba.com

STOP THE PRESS!!!

DIVE 721: I just had the immense privilege of photographing the INCREDIBLY RARE Trachipterus trachipterus ribbonfish - ONLY THE 3RD RECORDED SIGHTING in Port Phillip Bay in 109 years!!!

It swam in cobra position, was as long as my car is wide and as thin as piece of cardboard.

Follow the LINK in the comments BELOW to WATCH THE VIDEO. LIKE IT? SHARE IT! #fish #ocean #scuba

Pink Tank Scuba

- PT Hirschfield ❖

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

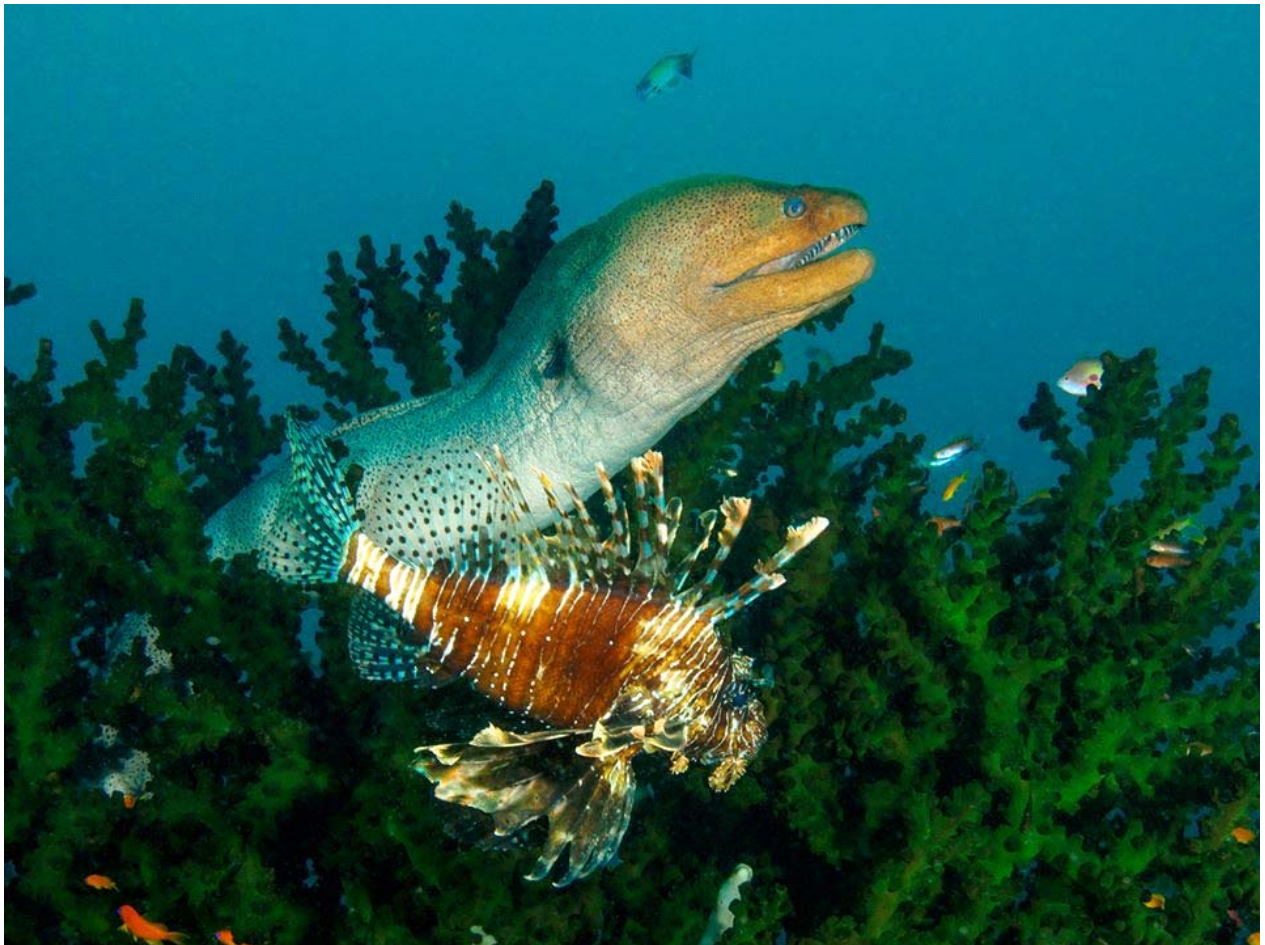
First - September 2017



First Place - David Reinhard - Turtle in the Maldives.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - September 2017



Second Place - David Reinhard - Morey Eel, the Maldives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Third - September 2017



© Mark Jeffrey

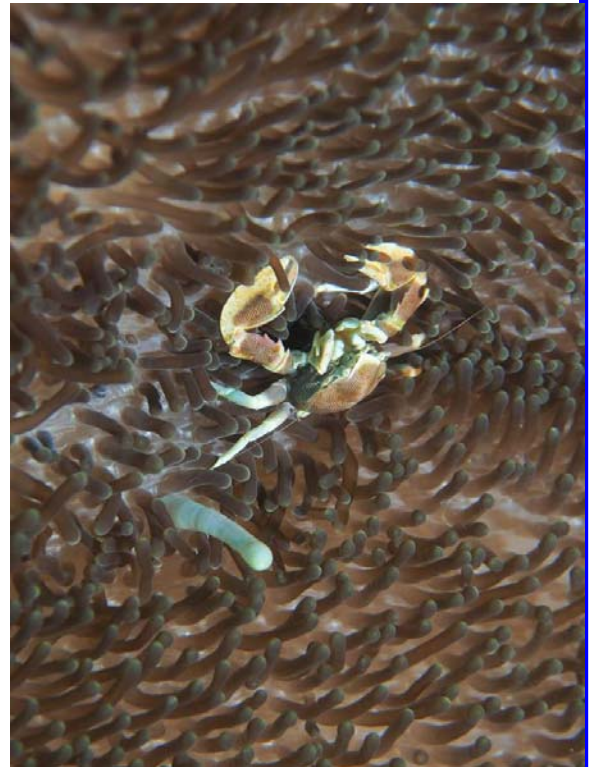
Third Place—Mark Jeffrey - Carwash Cenote.

SEPTEMBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

September photos showed a lot of VSAGers have been travelling overseas from Vanuatu, the Maldives, Tenerife and Mexico. This month's winner was David Reinhard and his photo of a turtle in the Maldives. He also took second place for his Morey Eel. Third was Mark Jeffrey's photo from Carwash Cenote in Mexico. All up a great collection of travel photos with a few local ones in there as well. Thank you to everyone who contributed their photos.



Peaceful Turtle - by PT Hirschfield



Anemone Crab - by David Geekie



Three turtles Maldives - by Ian Scholey

Trio, Maldives - by PT Hirschfield



SEPTEMBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Wreck Survey USS Tucker - by
Hannah Smeeton*



*Seahorse Blairgowrie -
by Peter Beaumont*



*Cormorant, Ricketts Point - by
Phil Watson*



*Seagrass, Williamstown - by
Phil Watson*



*Cuttlefish Blairgowrie -
by Peter Beaumont*

SEPTEMBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

*Hideaway Anemone,
Vanuatu
- by Hannah Smeeton*



*Carwash, Cenote - by
Mark Jeffrey*

*Eagle Ray, Tenerife -
by Ian Scholey*



SPEKE

THE SPEKE SHIPWRECK

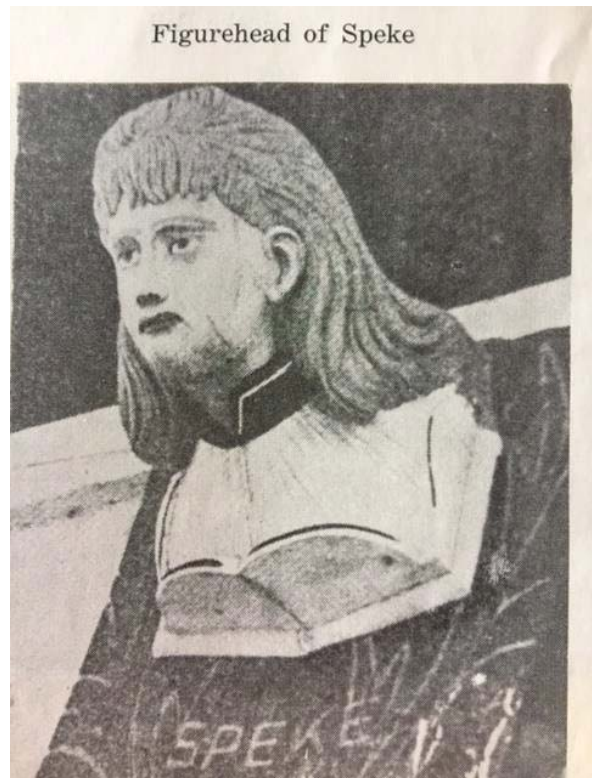
We all think we have bad days at work but when you worked as a sailor in 1904 on a sailing ship it takes on a whole new meaning. It was in fact 1904 when the steel sailing ship SPEKE was on her way from Sydney to Port Phillip Bay in ballast to load wheat for Peru that she ran into trouble off Phillip Island.

The SPEKE was one of the largest steel sailing ships ever built with a crew of 20-25 and Captain Tilson in command, but when they (the ship) ran aground, the rocks mostly won. The Captain mistook the light at Cape Schanck for the one at Split point and immediately set his ship on a course to destruction just east of Kitty Miller Bay on Phillip Island.

When he realised his mistake it was too late. He tried to manoeuvre his ship but was too close to shore and even though he dropped his anchors they just broke off and the ship went broadside onto the rocks where she broke her back. Sadly one person drowned when they launched a boat but the others managed to swim to safety. The other 19 crew were landed when they finally got a rope to shore.

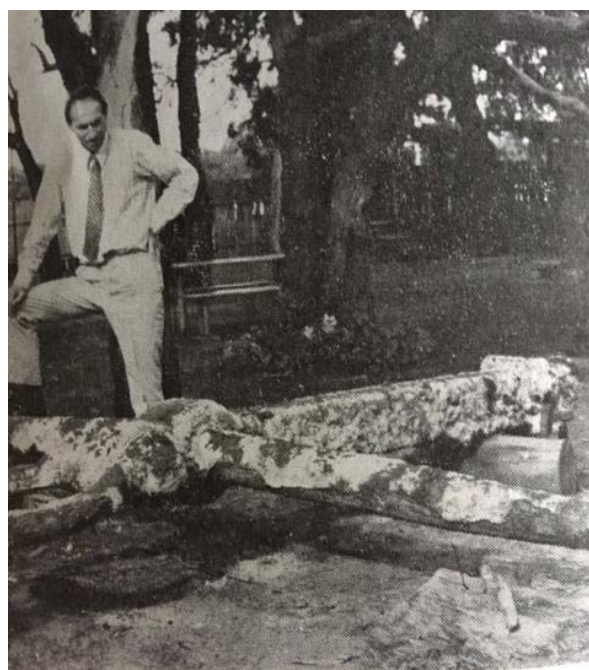
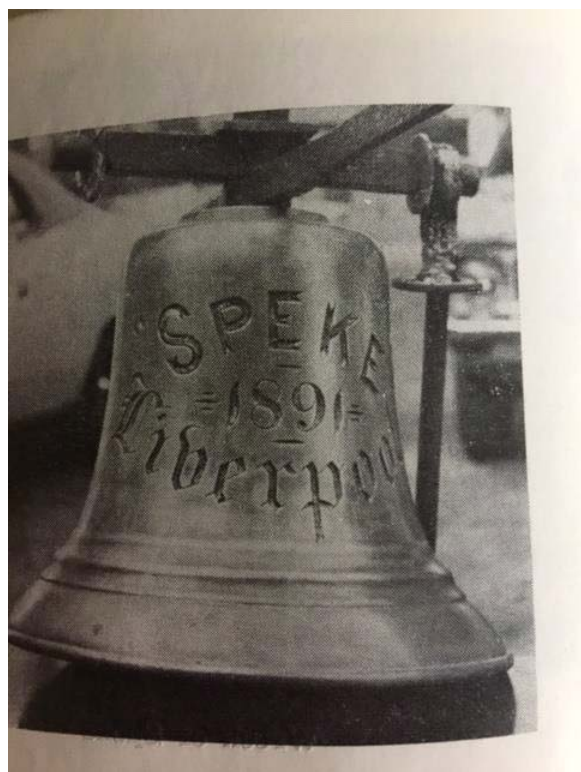


Wreck of Speke



Figurehead of Speke

SPEKE



Anchor from Speke

THE WRECK AS IT IS TODAY.

Peter Beaumont and I had just finished a dive on the Kermode as part of the Great Victorian Fish Count and we thought we'd try to dive the Speke. Having good conditions for close inshore diving it was thumbs up.

When we got to the site, we were greeted with good conditions but not knowing the exact location I jumped in on snorkel and found the main site in 6 metres close to the edge of the reef. As the photos show, the site is normally covered with sand as most of the metal is polished clean.

On the rocky shoreline the bow is still visible and can be reached from Kitty Miller Bay.

- John Ashley. ❖

SPEKE

Remains of the sailing ship Speke



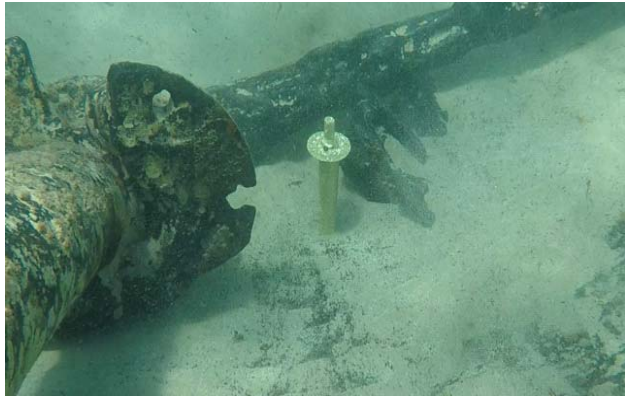
Staunchions



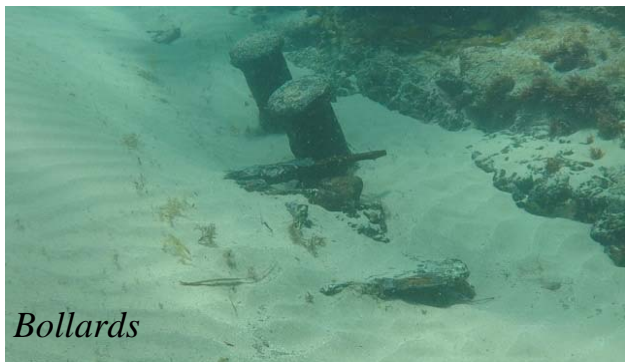
Polished brass pin



SPEKE



Anchor Chain



Bollards



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

First - October 2017



First place - Hannah Smeeton - Manta Night Dive, Kona Hawaii

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Second - October 2017



Second place - PT Hirschfield - Octopus Portrait

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - October 2017



Third Place—Mark Jeffrey - Manta Tango, Big Island, Hawaii

OCTOBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

The October photo comp again showed a lot of VSAGers have been travelling overseas from Hawaii and Mexico to the Coral Sea. This month's winner was Hannah Smeeton's photo of a Manta night dive off Kona in Hawaii. Second was PT Hirschfield's Octopus portrait. In third place, was Mark Jeffrey's photo of a Manta tango off the big island of Hawaii. Another great collection of photos from home and abroad. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the competition.

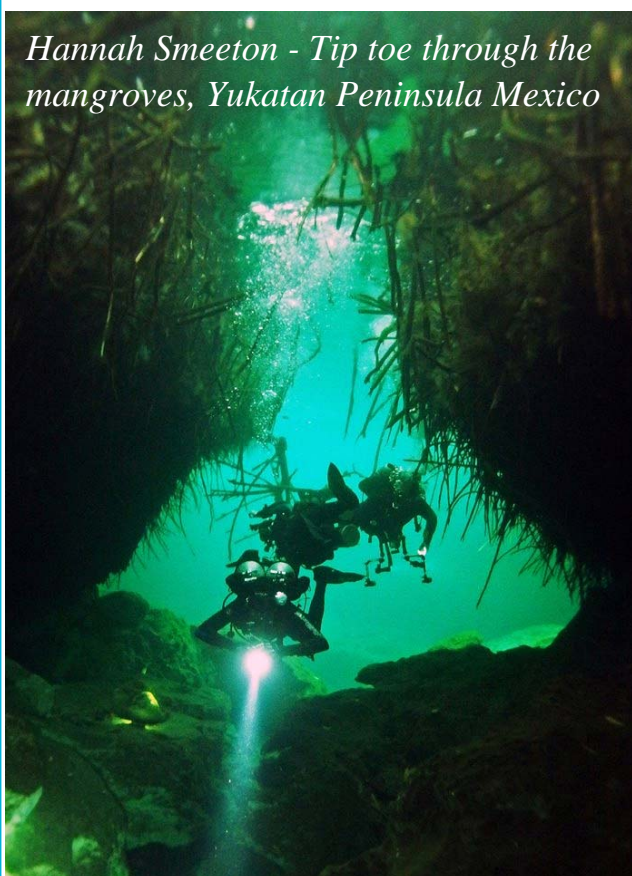
Mark Jeffrey - Entrance to Minotauro, Yukatan Peninsula Mexico



.PT Hirschfield - Belly full of babies



Hannah Smeeton - Tip toe through the mangroves, Yukatan Peninsula Mexico



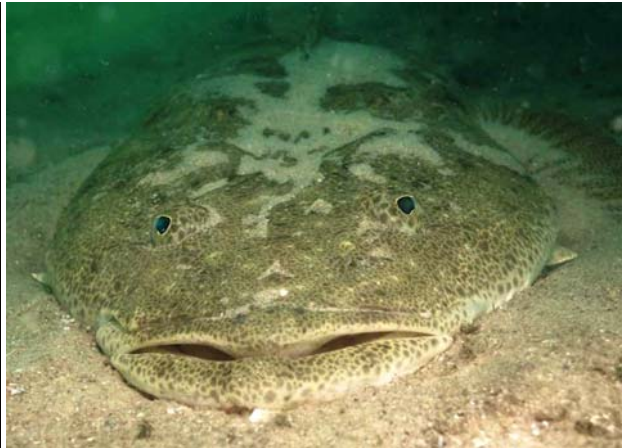
John Mills - Cleaner Shrimp, Coral Sea



OCTOBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



John Kenfeld



Phil Watson - Giant Flat head



Peter Beaumont - Cuttlefish, 26m Sub



John Mills - Forceps Fish, Coral Sea



John Kenfeld - Globe Fish



Mick Young - Sherryn Amor in Jailhouse Cave, Yukatan Peninsula Mexico

OCTOBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



Mick Young - Sherryn Amor at the entrance to Dreamgate cave, Yukatan Peninsula Mexico



Peter Beaumont - Draughtboard Shark



Ian Scholey - Pilot Whales, Los Gigantes, Tenerife

Ian Scholey - Arrow Crab, El Faro, Tenerife



Phil Watson - Draughtboard Shark

Rapid Bay Trip

MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

4-7 November, 2017

A conversation with Mick and Sherryn at a club meeting some time ago prompted our Melbourne Cup trip to Rapid Bay this year. After Sherryn made some initial enquiries the trip gathered pace quickly and we soon had a fair size crew signed up. Rapid Bay Jetty is on the Fleurieu Peninsula and is about an hour and a half drive from Adelaide. It is one of the few places in Australia where you are pretty much guaranteed to find Leafy Sea Dragons. As such, it is a must-do for any photographers.

We were pretty well organised with cylinders being dropped off with those driving over and the arrangements made to collect more cylinders and weights at Divers Delight in Adelaide on our way from the airport to the accommodation. We even had a boat charter lined up for a run out to ex-HMAS Hobart.

While most people took the extra time to drive across, Mark Toomey and I both got up early on the Saturday morning, met at the airport

and caught the first flight out to Adelaide. We picked up a hire car and headed off to Divers Delight to collect the hire tanks and meet up with David Geekie and Pam Dagley for the short road trip down to Rapid Bay.

On the road we rang Peter Beaumont and arranged to meet up for our first dive at 11.45am. We dropped into our home for the next few days at Second Valley Caravan park where most of us had cabins booked. Chucking the gear we didn't need into our cabin we helped David get his flash camper van in place and headed off to meet Peter.

On arrival at the dive site, we bumped into Mick Young and Sherryn Amor, who were just getting out of the water, and John Kenfield and son Mark, who were just going in. The conditions were excellent with offshore winds giving us flat seas, however, it really was blowing hard. Peter Beaumont was kitted up and waiting. We were delighted to hear from Peter that he had already found a pair of Leafy Sea Dragons and also that the male was loaded up with eggs.

Rapid Bay Trip



There are in fact two piers at Rapid Bay. A new short pier runs parallel to the now disused old pier and runs about half way along it. At the end is a low level landing equipped with a ladder that serves as a very convenient entry point. The place is well set up for diving with two sets of poles at intervals to guide divers from the entry point to the old pier.

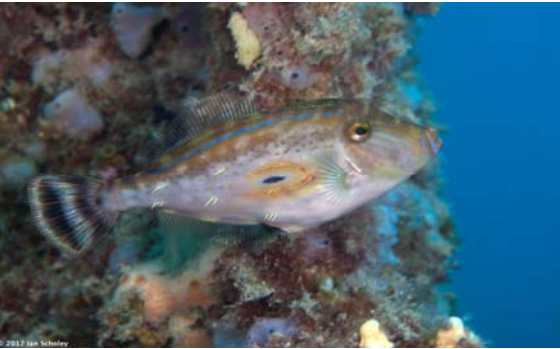
Peter informed us that the two Leafy Sea Dragons were just where the poles met the old pier and we headed straight across to that point and started to search. Not finding them straight away, I was reminded of my previous visit to the site and the five dives it took me to find the very well disguised little beasts. This time though, I was to be far luckier and as Mark and I headed South East down the old pier towards the shore we soon came across a lone female.



Grabbing more than a few photographs we spent 5 minutes with the Leafy before deciding we had bothered it enough and heading off in the other direction to explore the pier. The pier has a T-junction and we arrived there after a slow exploration of the pylons, rocks and other debris under the pier. The T-junction is a real hotspot for fish life and there were several large shoals of various species including Old Wives, Longfin Pike and Leather Jackets.

At this point, we were in 9.5m which is the deepest part of the pier. We headed right to a spot called the grid.

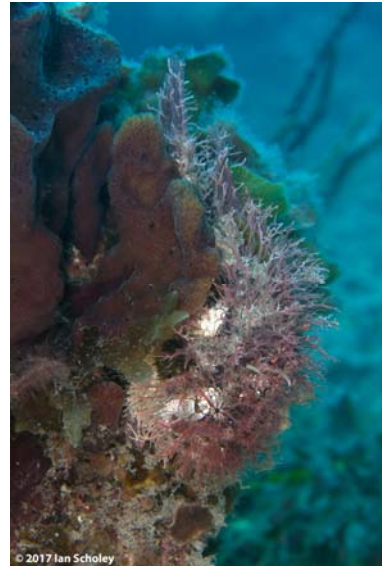
Rapid Bay Trip



Leather Jackets, Rapid Bay, SA



This is an area of collapsed pier structure in a criss-crossed pattern



Tasselled Angler fish, Rapid Bay, SA

and a common spot to find more Dragons. On the way down to the grid I spotted a Tasselled Angler fish sitting in a beautifully photogenic pose on a piece of lace coral. Mark and I explored the grid with no luck on finding more Leafies. With half our air gone we turned our dive and took a leisurely swim back to the entry point.

Finding we were the last ones out we headed back to the caravan park where chef Geekie cooked up the first of several excellent barbecues. Stuffed full of chicken we did a fast turnaround and headed back to the pier for dive number two. Once again, I buddied up with Mark.

Rapid Bay Trip

In the carport, Mick and Sherryn gave us good instructions on how to find the pair of Leafies, having just completed their second dive of the day.



This time we found the pair easily and I spent some time shooting pictures, with Mark patiently



hovering close by, before we headed off down the pier. Mark found a Crayfish hiding in a hole but lacking South Australian fishing licences, it was left alone. This time my navigation was a bit off and I think we followed the pier pylons all the way around the end of the pier and went back on ourselves. Not recognising the territory at all I signalled to Mark that I was going up for a look. On the surface, I found we were half way down the T in the other direction.

There were no dramas as we had loads of air, so we slowly headed back bumping into David and Pam on their way back as well. As we arrived in the vicinity of the Leafies we also bumped into John and Mark so I was able to show them where the Leafies were before heading back to the exit point.

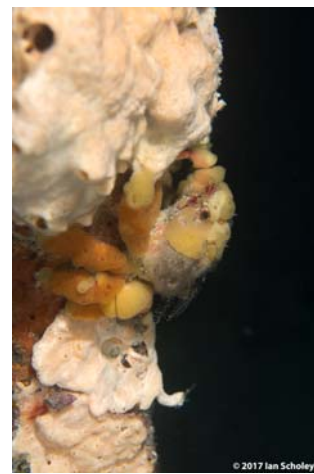
Rapid Bay Trip

Back on the surface the wind was really blowing now and it was a fair effort to walk back down the pier with the wind howling. David treated us to BBQ number two for the day back at camp. This time surpassing himself with a fine steak.

We finished our day with a night dive. Most of the photographers were keen to get some night time shots of the Leafies and we were hoping that some interesting night time critters may also put in an appearance. With Mark deciding to chill out and drink a beer or two instead, it was just 4 buddy pairs that splashed in for the night dive just as the sun dropped.

Diving with usual buddy Peter Beaumont and David and Pam we headed straight to the pair of Leafies. I found them much easier to photograph at night. They seemed much more at ease and were posing nicely for us. We hung around with them until we each had our quota of photographs and then headed off to see what we could find. There were plenty of fish about, but we didn't find much in terms of critters until

the end of the dive. Peter Beaumont had made our exit easy by running a reel from the entry point to the old pier and placing a stove on the last pole. As I unwound the line as last man out I found a pair of very nice decorated crabs on the pole.



On day two Mark and I were up early and decided to check out the diving at Second Valley. We had gotten onto google and found that there were some Sea Caves to be found in that area. We followed a pathway around the cliff face and then walked across the beach in the next bay to a further bay where we found a sheltered entry point. It was a little tricky clambering across the rocks, but we got into the water Ok and taking a compass bearing, we headed North west along a rock promontory.

Rapid Bay Trip

Almost immediately we came across a beautiful Eagle Ray snoozing on the sea floor amongst the weed. We followed the wall until the end of the promontory where the sea was rough on the surface. Here we followed the compass back to the cliff walls and started to head west along the cliff face. The territory was good with lots of Reef and overhangs. Getting our heads in under the ledges we found several Blue Devils.

We soon came on the first of the Sea Caves and headed inside. It was very colourful with plenty of growth on the walls and also large enough to make it an easy exploration. We exited and continued west finding our second cave. This one was much bigger and inside we found plenty of fish including a Blue Devil and a huge school of Bullseyes. The visibility was superb and as we exited we agreed it had been well worth the effort of the rocky entry to make the dive.

Back at camp David already had the bacon on the grill and we soon had mugs of tea and bacon sandwiches thrust upon us. David certainly knows how to look after his guests.

After Breakfast we shot off to Rapid Bay for dive number 5. This time as I walked down the pier I was warned by a fisherman that a 2m White Pointer had been seen around the pier that morning. His face was a picture as I immediately swore because I'd put a macro lens on and jumped into the water anyway. Mark and I got a further warning from Scott, the owner of Divers Delight, who we found in the water about to exit. Scott assured us it was nothing to worry about and off we headed. The highlight of this dive was the Pencil Weed Whiting. These are really attractive little fish looking almost like a fat Pipe fish. They were in groups over the sea grass with each male having a group of females. The males are magnificent animals with blue and gold stripes on the belly of their green bodies.



Pencil Weed Whiting, Rapid Bay, SA

Rapid Bay Trip

Sadly we picked up a text from our charter boat operator letting us know that they had to cancel our boat dives the next day due to a blown gearbox on their engine. Without the time to sort out an alternative, we were a little disappointed but soon decided not to worry about something we had no control over.

We squeezed in a third dive for the day after lunch. With Mark sitting this dive out, I buddied with Dave and Pam. We found a very cooperative Cuttlefish and plenty of other things to entertain. With the diving itch well and truly scratched we decided against a fourth dive in favour of a chill out and a cold beer.

With a few beers down for some, Peter, John, Mark and I headed off to Normanville where we had an excellent Indian meal. For an Indian meal to get rave reviews from English Aussies is a rare thing as we all have fond memories of English curries, but I had to admit it was really excellent. We were without David and Pam for the night who headed into Adelaide to catch up

with David's daughter and Mick and Sherryn who were barbecuing.

With our boat diving being cancelled most of the Group decided to have an easy day on Monday. David and Pam headed off to check out Victor Harbour while the rest of us headed back to the Jetty for a final dive or two. Mark and I buddied up once more. Rather than do a double dive I grabbed a 15L cylinder and decided to do a single long dive. I was keen to get more shots of the Pencil Weed Whiting, so we headed off to the right of the T-junction once again really taking our time. With Mark diving a 12L we turned the dive and I waved goodbye to Mark and continued my dive for another 40 minutes. Heading back along the pier I managed to find a nice Clingfish to photograph as well as the one and only Nudibranch I saw in 3 days of diving.

With a full afternoon to kill I was able to take my time washing up gear and getting stuff dry for the flight home. There was still plenty of comings and goings at the caravan park as various buddy pairs headed off to dive. As for

Rapid Bay Trip

me, I helped Mark clear an overstock of Melbourne Bitter with a lift to the pub that night already secured with David and Pam.

To end the trip the whole group headed to the pub at Yankalilla for a group meal. In the morning Mark, Pam and I were first away to catch our flight home while the road crew headed off at a more leisurely pace.

Once again, the Melbourne Cup weekend trip was a huge success and everyone enjoyed the diving. I suspect the Leafy Sea Dragon community were glad to see the back of us. I hate to think how many photographs of them we finished taking across the group. Now it's time to start thinking about next year's trip. Jervis Bay anyone?

- Ian Scholey ❖



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
PHOTO OF THE YEAR
COMPETITION WINNER!**

**Photo of the Year 2017
First Place**



First Place - Octopus in a bottle - Mark Jeffrey

Photo of the Year 2017

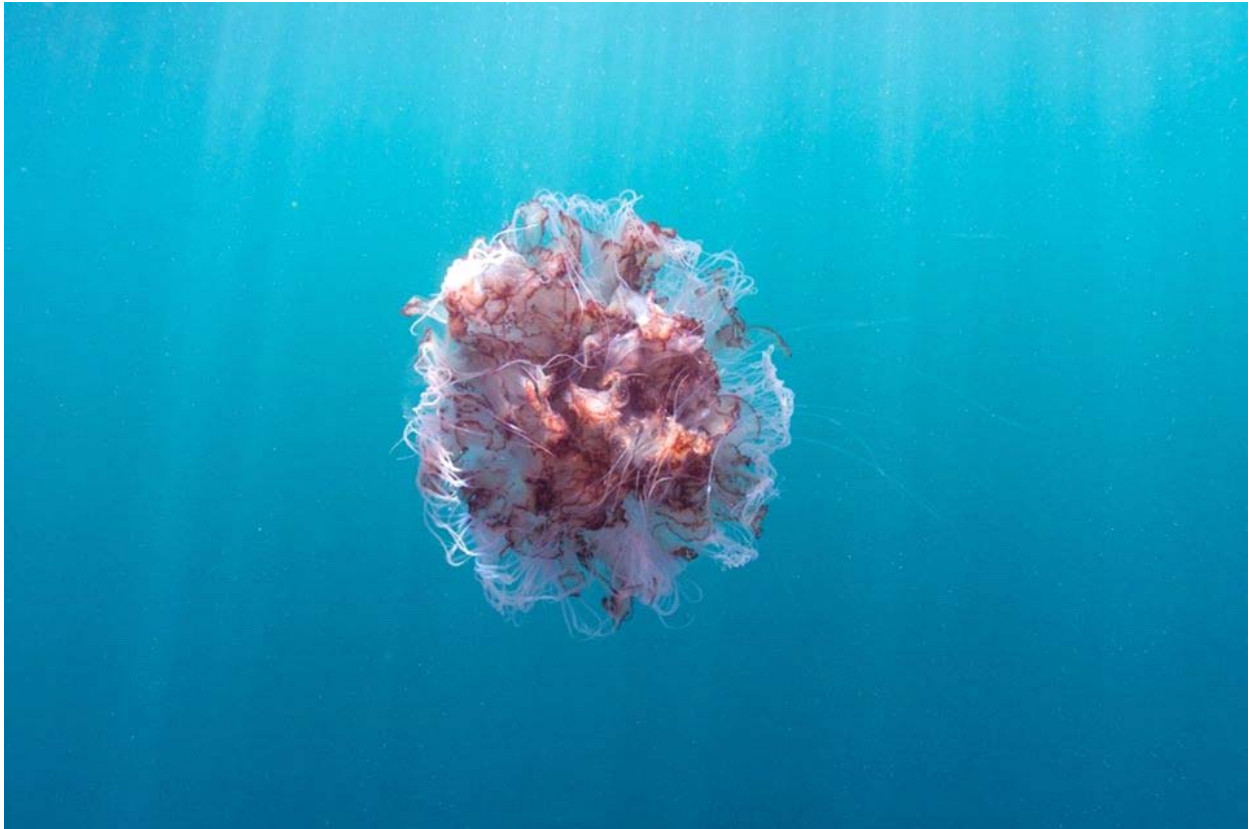
Second Place



Second Place - Sundance Squid - PT Hirschfield

Photo of the Year 2017

Equal Third Place



Equal Third Place - Lion's Mane Jellyfish - Ian Scholey

Photo of the Year 2017

Equal Third Place



Equal Third Place - Hairy Squat Lobster - Monique Hammersley

PHOTO OF THE YEAR 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

Tuesday was the VSAG awards night for the year. Part of the evening we voted on our monthly photo comp winners to determine our photo of the year. This year we had an amazing collection of 14 winners from 187 photos submitted by 28 different photographers. The winning photo was Octopus in a bottle by Mark Jeffrey. Second place was PT Hirschfield's Sundance Squid closely followed by Equal Third Ian Scholey's Lion's Mayne Jellyfish and Monique Hammersley's Hairy Squat Lobster. Congratulations to all the contributors it truly was a great year of photographs.



*Kelp Tinderbox Tasmania
- Charmaine Alford*



The Fan, Rote Island Indonesia - Mark Jeffrey

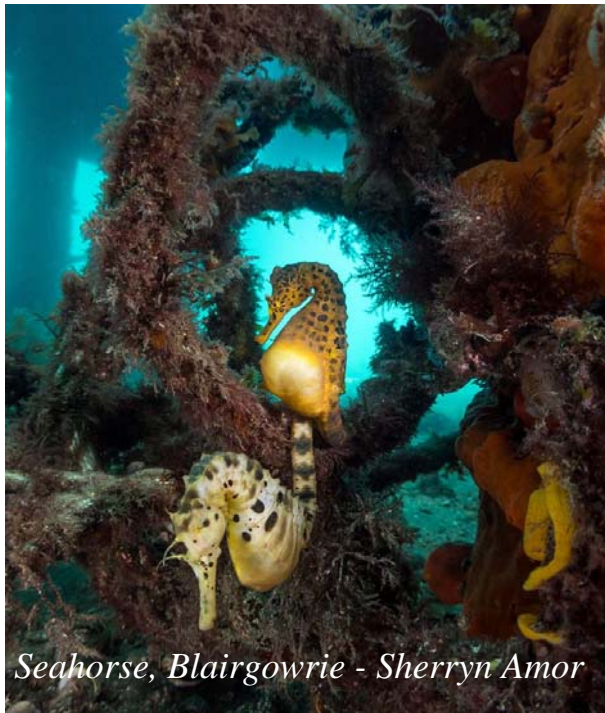


Giant Cuttlefish, Bird Rock - Ian Scholey

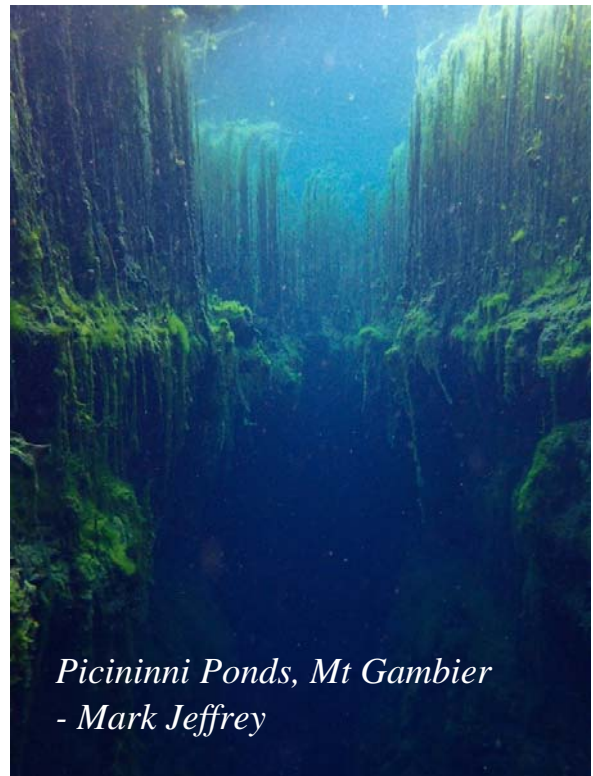


Octopus, Rye Back Beach - Phil Watson

PHOTO OF THE YEAR 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



Seahorse, Blairgowrie - Sherryn Amor



*Picininni Ponds, Mt Gambier
- Mark Jeffrey*



*Zebra Urban Crab Komodo
- Monique Hammersley*



*Mammopus Octopus with
eggs - PT Hirschfield*



*Cute Anemone Crab, Atauro Island
Timor Leste - Charmaine Alford*



Goatfish, Hurricane - Ian Scholey

Hogan Island Trip 2017

HOGAN ISLAND TRIP

OCTOBER 2017

Boat: Breaker: Grant Callow, Mike Mosseveld, Rowan Salgar, Peter Galvin.

Boat: Ducks on the Pond, Peter Cronin, Tony Mulraney, David Mulraney

We head off about 45 minutes later than planned and nearly missed our window with the weather. It was a bumpy trip out taking 2.5 hours and 140 litres of fuel. With both boats safely in the harbour we brought in one boat at a time to unload due to the tight space. With the boat tethered at 3 points, unloading was quick.



While equipment was moved into the hut, Mike and I set up two harbour moorings to secure the boats in all weather. This mooring system has withstood 60 knot winds and 3 metre swells in the past.



With our camp set up and a bite of lunch I was happy to sit back and relax, but this had to happen on the boat as Rowan and David were keen to get wet. As the wind was around 25 knots we had to head to the North side of the island for the dive. With that out of the way, the next thing to plan was dinner. So, a pot roast with spuds, corn and pumpkin was the plan.



Hogan Island Trip 2017

Just a note: the best way to stop both the Peters talking is with food! Lots of it. Do not add Red wine to this formula as it has the reverse effect. There were no topics not covered that evening and we all had many laughs. Photo: David, Peter, Tony, Rowan.



Unfortunately, I was sporting a head cold and not able to dive, so I was the dedicated driver. The wind started to swing directions as the days went on which opened up the good sites we wanted to dive. We would normally kit up at the hut and if the tide was in, bring in a boat to the shore to load, or if not transport the tanks to the boat in the inflatable.



After the dives, tanks are unloaded and the pumping station starts. With two small portable compressors pumping, after a few hours tanks were ready for the next day.



And then it all starts again the next day. This was the 25th trip to the island in Breaker and I am still not sick of it yet. This is a hands-on trip and I must say thanks to the crew, for their help in boat packing and all of the activities on the island. It is everyone's effort that makes these trips a success.

Visit Rowan's Youtube video to see a snap shot of island life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUH0KhGi2us>

Cheers
Grant ❖

HMAS CANBERRA

DIVE REPORT

EX-HMAS CANBERRA

Sunday 12th November

Divers: John Ashley, Jeff Saunders , Andrew Qusted

While I've dived the Canberra a good number of times, I don't think I've seen it all yet and I have a mental map of the ship that is broken up into fragments – I haven't got my head around it as an entirety yet. It's like a puzzle that hasn't quite come together. So I was happy to have another chance to poke about and explore and get to know this impressive artificial reef a little better.

I joined John Ashley on his boat Narcosis, along with Jeff Saunders who was ... get this ... doing his check out dive on the Canberra. How's that for a fine introduction to VSAG? We had a pleasant run out to the site, with no trouble passing the heads. Kudos to John for being a skipper well able to balance progress with the comfort of his passengers, and to the Rip Nymphs for making it possible for him to do so.

On arrival at the Canberra we found that the public mooring was occupied, and our booking time hadn't quite arrived yet. Yes, we

were early, and we had quite been hoping that mooring would be vacant so we could get in early and get two dives in before our booking time expired. Alas, it was not to be, so I started off keeping the boat live while John and Jeff completed the check-out dive, sticking mainly to the upper surfaces of the ship.

After they had surfaced and we had some morning tea during our surface interval, we all headed back below. While the water was a bit milky and cloudy, there was really no swell or surge, and one could swim comfortably past the cut-outs in the deck without getting sucked inside. So I had to swim inside instead, and was pleased to see that visibility inside the ship was quite good, and seemed to be better than it was outside the ship. As I have put my lovely little stubby diving light somewhere safe some time ago, I was only using a small backup light, and it was quite sufficient. The ambient light coming through the many cut-outs in the ship made the shape of the rooms and the path through them well defined.

I swam a path that meandered through the guts of the vessel before ascending a bit and returning to the bow along the upper deck. I noticed

lots of plumes of bubbles fizzing out of the ship at this stage, and it was clear that Red Boats were running a dive. This reminded me of one of the advantages of VSAG – enjoying a dive that is not rushed on a site that is not occupied by lots of other divers at the same time.

While I only got one dive in on the day, it was a lovely dive and made the day more than worthwhile. Jeff was pleasant company, and I'd like to welcome him to the club (if he passed that check-out dive).

- Andrew Quested ❖

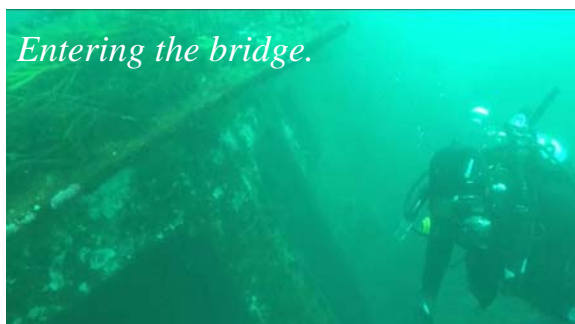
Photos by John Ashley



Sunny skies, bright boy, the ramp was busy!



They are actually enjoying themselves!



Entering the bridge.



Probably 8 metre viz.



Which way do we go?



Some swells were big, ripping out my front bollard..!

WILSONS PROMONTORY

Diving Report:

WILSONS PROMONTORY

Boat driver - John Lawler

Crew: Bo Zhang, , Mike Mosseveld,
Rowan Salgar, Grant Callow

Trip out, 60 minutes, Southerly 1-1.5
m swell, wind 15 knot + SW.

Trip home 50 minutes, Southerly
swell 0.7 m, wind 10 knot SE- E.

300 litres of fuel in boat, 97 litres
used over and back.

On Sunday Nov.5th, John Lawler,
Mike Mosseveld, Rowan Salgar,
Grant Callow and Bo Zhang
gathered at Walkerville to launch
Grant's boat. John kindly worked as
skipper, and took the divers to
Wilson's Prom. In two pairs, the
divers explored Skull Rock and
Ramsbotham Rocks.

The visibility was good, though the
current was a bit strong. Both dives
were enjoyable, as the divers were
impressed with the spectacular
underwater views of Wilson's Prom.

- Bo Zhang ❖

November 6, 2017

Meanwhile down at The Prom we
had some reasonable conditions for
diving yesterday. (although the boat
ride from Walkerville South was a
little bumpy). No crabs were harmed
(or taken). It was safely returned
after being well and truly
photographed.

- Rowan Salgar ❖





WHAT GOES ON BETWEEN DIVES

What goes on between dives.

After the last trip to Hogan Island I got a few bumps from the other boat, nothing serious but deep paint gouges, the VHF radio was receiving but not transmitting and the horns had stopped working, enough to trigger a refurbishment project. As we do a lot of off shore diving and fishing everything must be in full working order or I won't launch.

So off with the trailer guards and I started with the body work, there was a few pier bumps and a petrol pump bollard scrape I added as well.



I then looked at the cabin and thought that could have a repaint as well.



I thought no point putting the old windows back and ended up making new windows and frames.



So a day to mask things up and on with the cream paint.



More masking and the maroon paint.



Then all that was left was to fit the windows, install a new VHF radio and horn, remove the 2 batteries clean the terminals and replace, some minor hull welding and patching underneath, reinstall the trailer guards and new decals. I had to have it ready for the cup day weekend for our planned Prom trip. Finished 3 days early, total of 20 days work full time and \$1950 in materials and parts, ouch!

This boat I built from a flat pack from a boat designer in Perth 11 years ago. It has been used hard in its

life, 98% diving and has had many thousands diver roll-outs in its time. A good day on the water doesn't happen by chance as other boat owners will tell you, it's all about regular maintenance. So spare a thought for the boat owners and what goes on behind the scenes, we must be crazy!!

Cheers

Grant ❖



Dive Reports & Snippets

26 METRE SUB & 18 METRE REEF

November 23, 2017

A belated thank you to Peter and Carole Campisano for a great VSAG dive day last Sunday. With divers Anthony Platford, Andrew Quested and Ian Smith we all enjoyed perfect conditions outside the heads. First dive was the 26 metre Sub with 15+ metre visibility. Followed by 18 metre Reef for the boys, with Peter and Carole trying their luck for crays at the Supermarket. Both the 18mtr Reef and Supermarket sites were ideal for crays however it is a surprise and concern that none were seen, let alone caught and tagged. Thanks again all for a great day out.

- Anthony Platford ❖



MORNINGTON PIER

Mon 13 Nov 17

Water temp: 15c

Wind: E 10k

Vis: 5 mtrs

Divers: Sandy Webb, Peter Beaumont & Tim Forster

Photos: Peter Beaumont

After discussing the dive plan in the car park, we checked/setup our gear then watched as the local mussel boat loaded gear/manoeuvred in the boat harbour before proceeding to the Mt Martha aquaculture farm. We then geared up with Tim & Sandy entering the water from the pier's lower landing whilst I entered from the ledge at the rock wall. With the dive flag set, we swam around under the pier checking the pylon growth, the school of Old Wives, the odd Dusky Morwong, sponges & hard corals. There were the usual pieces of lost fishing gear littering the bottom along with a few folding chairs etc.



Sandy & Tim proceeded out along the reef wall & back before exiting over the rocks on the bay side of the pier. I spent pretty much most of the dive checking the growth on the pylons before collecting the flag and returning to the rock wall exit point. Back in the carpark we packed the gear away and headed off for a coffee at the local café.

Overall it was a very enjoyable morning.

- Peter Beaumont ❖



SOUTH CHANNEL FORT & HURRICANE WRECK

Tues 03 Oct 17

Water temp: 12°C

Vis: 6-12 metres

Dive time: 40 minutes/45 minutes

Divers: Peter Beaumont & Bert Parker

Photos: Peter Beaumont

With conditions looking good for a Tuesday boat dive I put out an all VSAG email for a double dive departing Rye ramp at 8:30am Bert

Parker replied, so we launched at 8:30am and headed over to South Channel Fort for the first dive around the reef/base of the jetty and old cargo dock loading area. Vis was about 6 metres and the incoming tide was reasonably quick. Sheltered around the rocks out of the current were the usual Rocklings, Ornate Cow fish, Cuttlefish, Wrasse, Fan Corals etc. After a quick bite to eat we headed off to the Hurricane for our second dive.

As the tide was still coming in, we set the anchor in the sand on the southern side of the wreck. Once on the bottom we ran a line from the anchor and swam to the bow section, checked out the Parks marker plinth and had a good look around. From there, we zig zagged our way back to the stern where we checked out the other marker plinth. During the dive we saw the usual variety of Leather Jackets, Ornate Cow fish, Boarfish, Old Wives, Rockling, Scallops etc. After 40 minutes we ascended, completed our safety stop, then climbed back onboard and headed back to the ramp.

We were in the 5 knot channel close to the ramp when a confused boaty with a load of kids onboard decided to head out on the wrong side of the channel. I stopped the boat about 10 metres from him whilst he manoeuvred, in less than a metre of

water, to the correct side of the channel. With the boat back on the trailer we had a leisurely picnic style



lunch in the carpark before heading our separate ways.

- Peter Beaumont ❖

HURRICANE WRECK NIGHT DIVE

Sat 11 Nov 2017

Water temp: 16°C

Wind: SE 15-20k

Vis: 5 metres

Divers: Peter Beaumont & Tim Forster

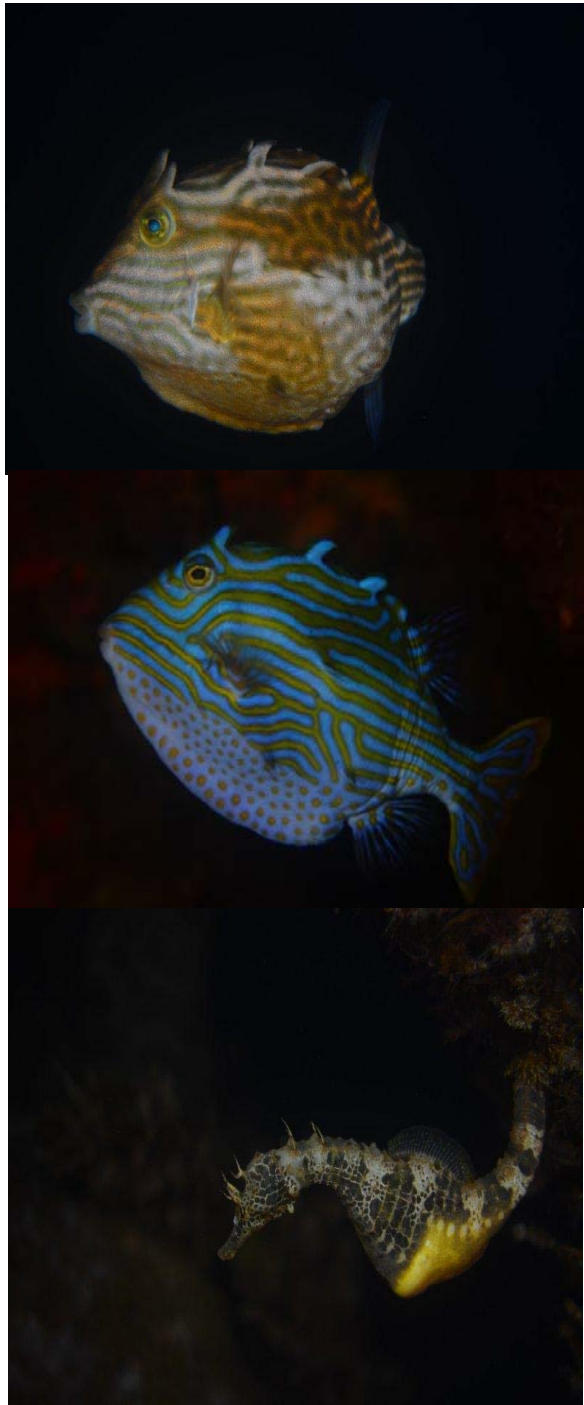
Photos: Peter Beaumont

Tim and I were interested in doing a Hurricane night dive so we set out from Rye Ramp at 7pm and made our way to the anchorage. There was one other boat driving around the wreck checking it out on their sounder so we put the anchor down & waited for the sun to set. Meanwhile the other boat decided to head off so we repositioned the anchor closer to the preferred mark. With a BOM high water slack prediction of 8:31pm and the sun setting at 8:08pm we geared up, performed buddy checks and entered the water at 8:12pm into a 1k incoming current.

Once on the bottom we ran a line from the anchor and swam to the stern section, then the bow area and had a good look around. We saw the usual Leather Jackets, Ornate Cow

fish, a few rays, Sea Horses ,etc. tucked away in sections of the wreck. After 45 minutes we climbed back onboard, recovered/stowed the gear and headed back to the ramp. Overall it was a very enjoyable dive.

- Peter Beaumont



BLAIRGOWRIE MARINA

Sunday 1st Oct 2017

Water temp: 12°C

Vis: 8 metres

Dive time: 65 minutes

Divers: Peter Beaumont & Walter Medenbach

Photos: Peter Beaumont

Walter and I met up in the lower carpark to gear up/do buddy checks then did a beach entry to the Marina. We swam down to the T junction, turned left and went looking for a small cuttle I'd seen the week before. After a short search we found it hiding in a patch of weed doing its best to blend in. After snapping a few pics, we swam under the wave screen and along the edge of the matting back towards the T junction. Along the way we saw some pink nudi's, black nudi's, the odd weed fish & a large cuttle being followed around by another diver taking some pics/video. Back at the T junction we checked out the cuttle eggs & had a leisurely swim back to the exit point.

At the exit point (waist deep water) Walter's fin dislodged a small (10cm long) stargazer from its hiding spot in the sand. I saw it swim off & rebury itself so I grabbed Walter and pointed to where it was buried. I then gently persuaded it to do another short swim above the sand so Walter

would get to see it. Having completed its swim, it settled on top of the sand a short distance away facing my hand. I was pointing at it when it suddenly shot forward and latched on to the empty fingertip of my glove. I gave my hand a quick shake but it was hanging on like a dog not wanting to give up its bone. By this stage Walter and I were both having a good giggle (no time to get a pic) as I kept shaking my hand till it detached itself and swam away. With the dive complete we packed our gear away and headed off to a local café for coffee.

- Peter Beaumont ❖



RAPID BAY, SA

November 15 , 2017

Although we sadly couldn't make it to the club trip the other week, we did get there eventually and found the Leafy Sea Dragons I'm glad to say!
- Jeff & Lin Horton.

- Jeffrey Horton ❖



NEW HAVEN

12/12/2017

Launch at 8:30am to Halmers Haven.

Divers: Grant C, Grant B, Rowan, Peter Cronin and Stuart. Wolfgang-Driver.

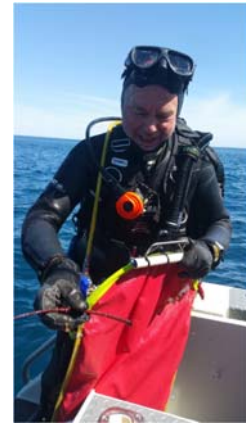
The day stayed mill pond flat all day, with land temperature around 34°C the water was the place to be. The vis at Halmers was not as good as expected

but at depth had about 15m. I had my friend Wolfgang driving the boat.

I put in a new semi-dry suit zip but the glue did not stick to the zip as expected and it started to leak badly during the dive. On return to the boat I realised it was an epic fail. The second dive the zip sat on the dash of the boat and I dived with an open wet suit, “not happy Jan”. (You cannot afford to show any signs of weakness on Breaker as the crew pay out big time!)

Stuart, Rowan and Peter decided to do their second dive back at Woolamai and were rewarded with crystal clear water. Everyone went home with something for the table, great weather and company.

- Grant Callow ❖



MORNINGTON PIER

October 26, 2017

Hi all,

When you retire you get to do this midweek. This morning we dived Mornington Pier on the top of the tide and managed 9.6 metres in 6-7 metre viz with a run time of 58 min. It was actually a good dive with Peter Beaumont, John Ashley and prospective new member Jeff Saunders. Mornington Pier isn't high on VSAGs dive list and doesn't compare with Blairgowrie but it's still a good dive. Lots of fish life and even more lures to be found and the coffee afterwards rounded off the morning.

- John Ashley ❖



HURRICANE WRECK

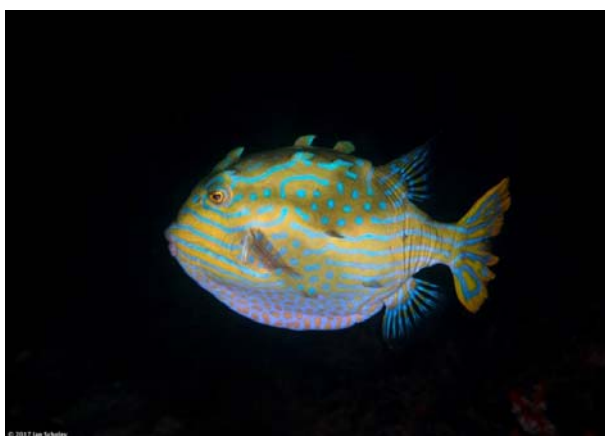
NIGHT DIVE

14 October, 2017

The conditions were absolutely perfect last night, no wind at all, a flat sea, no cloud, minimal current and slack at the right time. Hopefully this was the start of a great weekend's diving with the forecast looking spectacular. When we hit the water we could see the wreck from the surface with vis really great. On the wreck there was plenty to see with a Spider Crab aggregation going on just off the wreck and plenty of other stuff to sea. I managed to find a nice Goblin fish and then spent a very long time just floating in awe surrounded by hundreds of swimming worms. I have never seen them before, they were quite large at up to 6/7 cm.

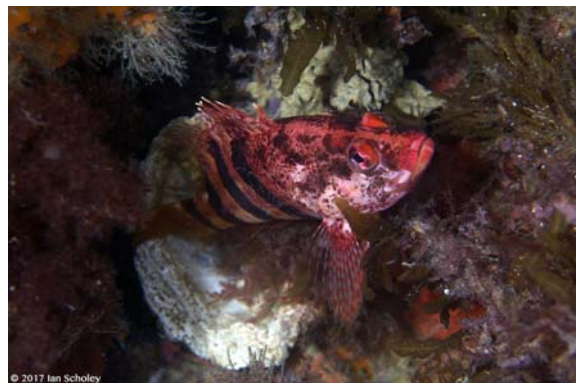
We are out again tomorrow leaving Sorrento at 7.30am . We will be heading outside the heads to the wrecks. I'm thinking maybe the SS Rotamahana.

Ian Scholey ❖





*I got this id from Janine Baker, -
“Reproductive swimming stage of a
polychaete worm, called an epitoke.
They periodically swarm - especially
at night - in some groups of marine
worms. This epitoke is full of eggs (or
sperm packets - I don't know enough
about epitokes to distinguish the male
from the female bits).”—Ian*



BLAIRGOWRIE

10 September, 2017

Back to Blairgowrie again with no boats running. I'm surveying Nudibranch there so always keen to get back again. Today was a bumper day for the survey with loads of different species including a couple of new ones. The survey has been running since June and we have now found 43 different species. I also found a Cuttlefish and wasn't really equipped to take its picture with a 105mm Macro lens on the camera. I tried some different angles to try and compensate and was really pleased with the results.

Diving today were myself, Peter Beaumont and Ian Smith.

- Ian Scholey ❖





BLAIRGOWRIE

November 12, 2017

Plenty of VSAG boat diving over the weekend but after last week's diving frenzy in South Australia I decided to get in and out early enough to have the day mostly free. I was in the water by 7.00am and had a pleasant 3/1/4 hour slug hunt. I didn't manage to add to the 65 species seen since we started our survey but did find a new one for me in *Policera Janjukia* which Heidi Harron has been seeing for a while now. With Heidi's insight on where to look I managed to find 6 of them and am wondering how I have missed them in the past. The other good thing today was the amount of Nudi eggs about, they are everywhere.



- Ian Scholey ❖



SS ROTOMAHANA & J4 SUB

October 15, 2017

On the SS Rotomahana today, brilliant conditions out here

- Ian Scholey ❖



Photo by Denys Smerchanskyi





LONSDALE WALL & TOM'S REEF

November 26, 2017

Today we had two boats out and about. We headed to Cave Wall on the Lonsdale Wall for a slack water dive this morning. This was the second of the club's surveys as part of the Great Victorian Fish Count fish count. We were treated to some exceptional vis and found plenty of fish.

I know I was supposed to be counting fish but I couldn't help but be distracted by a few Nudibranch and a beautiful little yellow Sea Spider.

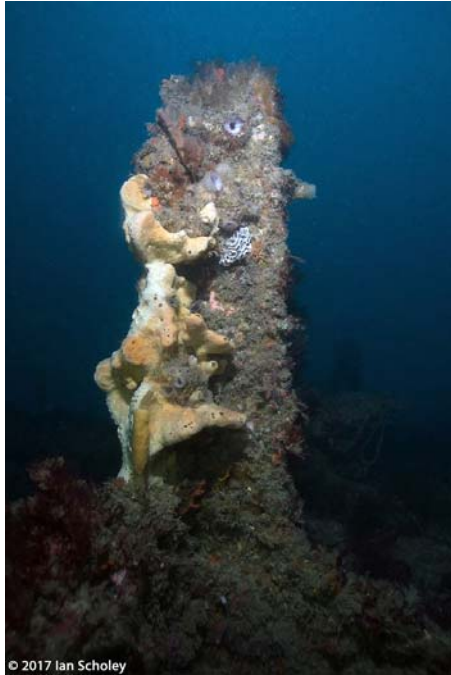
For our second dive we headed left outside the heads and motored down to Tom's Reef in the pouring rain. No Crays for the bashers I'm afraid but once again we had exceptional vis.

Out today were:

On Carmine - Peter Campisano, Carole Campisano, Andrew Quested and myself.

On Dire Straits - David Geekie, Pamela Dagley, Sandy Webb, Denys Smerchanskyi and Michael Ngai.

- Ian Scholey ❖



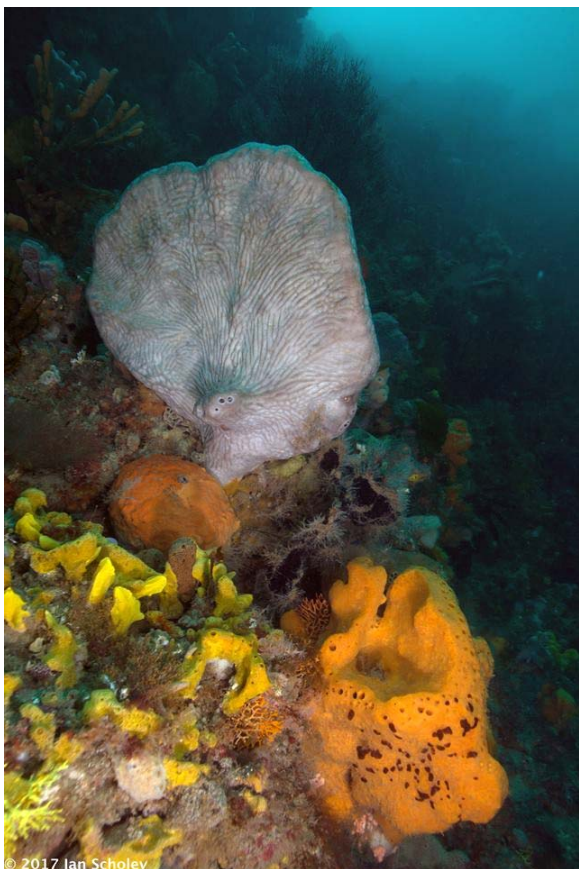


DEVILS DROP OFF & LONSDALE WALL

October 22, 2017

Not the best vis but it was a great dive anyway. This is a brilliant spot that keeps on giving all the way from 15m to 45m and beyond. A colour bonanza indeed.

- Ian Scholey



Save the Rays

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITY



Ray protection fishing rules

We are making changes to ray, skate and guitarfish fishing rules.

These new rules commence on **Tuesday 7 November 2017**.

The new rules:

1. Prohibit the take or possession of sting rays, skates or guitarfish greater than 1.5 metres in width;
2. Reduce the combined daily bag limit for rays, skates and guitarfish from 5 to 1, which are smaller than 1.5 metres in width;
3. Prohibit the take of these species within 400m of any pier, jetty, wharf or breakwater;
4. Require these species to be landed whole so they can be measured by Fisheries Officers.



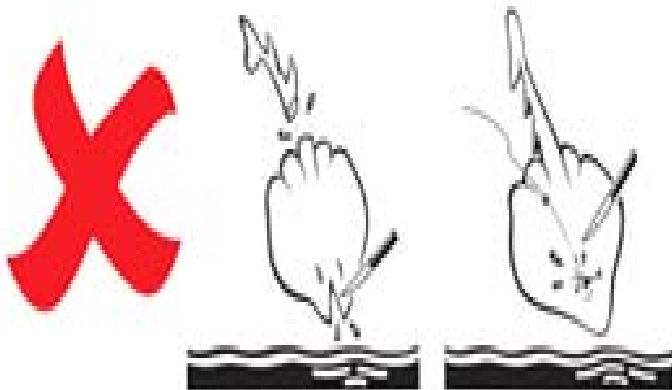
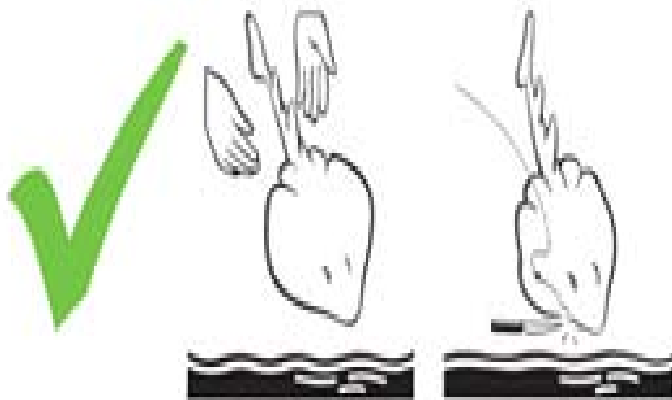
An education and awareness program will be conducted to educate fishers about these new rules.

<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/ray-protection-fishing-rules>

You can report illegal fishing activity to 13 3474.

Responsible Fishers Respect our Rays

Do not harm unwanted rays
Return unwanted rays to the water immediately



You can help



13 3474

(13 FISH)

report illegal fishing activity

Penalties apply



on the spot and
court fines

vic.gov.au/fisheries



Rock Lobster Tagging Program

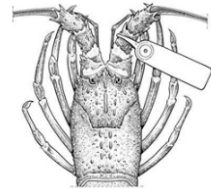
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

Tags are free and can be ordered online or collected from selected Victorian Government Offices.

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/tagging-of-recreationally-caught-rock-lobsters>

To Create an account, Order/Report/Transfer tags please visit:

<https://lobstertag.agriculture.vic.gov.au>



BOAT RAMP PERMITS—MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE COUNCIL

Annual Boat Ramp Permits are valid for a 12 month period from 01 November to 31 October. The annual permit fee is \$130.00 (GST free).

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

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

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

Online with Parkmobile

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

Parking vouchers

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

DIARY DATES

Tasmania 17-18-19 of March 2018

Truk Lagoon/ PNG 18-30 August 2018

Yasawa Island Fiji 2019

Lembah Straight and Manado Indonesia 25 Jan—3 Feb 2019

VSAG Lembah Straight & Manado Trip Indonesia

25 January - 3 February, 2019



Dive Lembah Straight and Manado
INDONESIA
Tour Leader - Ian Scholey
25 Jan - 03 Feb 2019
10 days Ex Melbourne
From Diver \$3,299 | Snorkeler \$2,570



Another fabulous VSAG Dive Trip is being planned to Lembah Straight & Manado, Indonesia for 25 January - 3 February, 2019.

If interested please contact Ian Scholey for details.

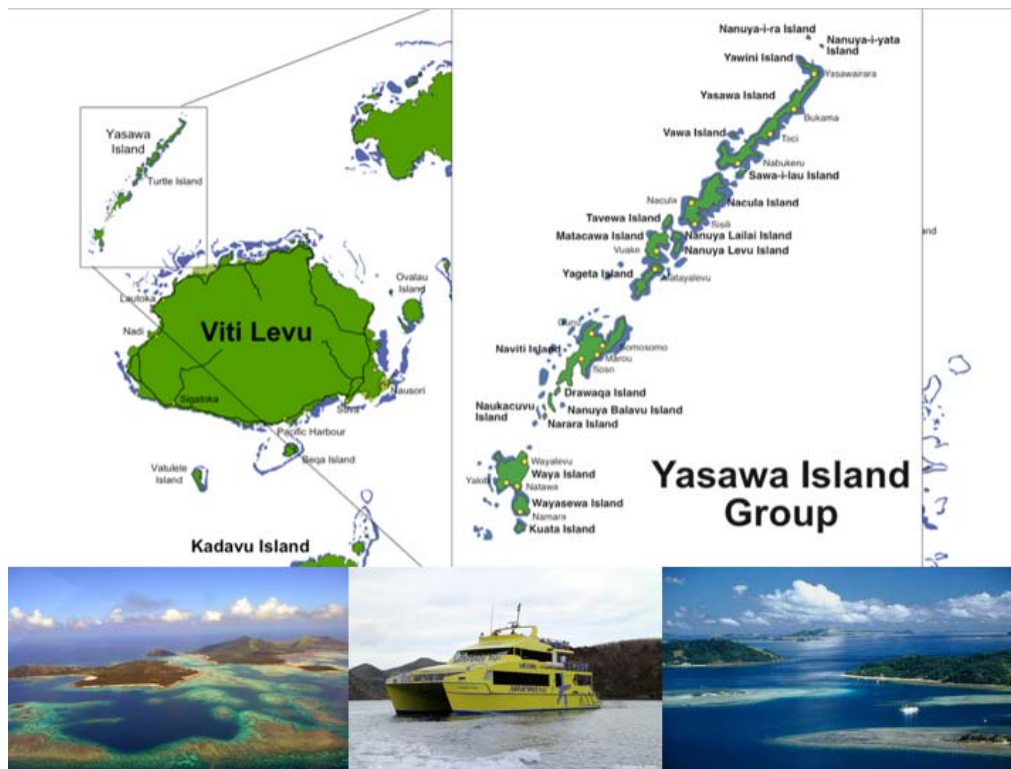
YASAWA ISLANDS FIJI 2019



Hi all,

A long way out but the first of our 2019 overseas trips to be organised is a cracker to Fiji to dive with Bull Sharks at Kuata Island before a week of Reef diving and snorkelling with Mantas at Mantaray Resort. If anyone would like more information then please contact me directly.

- Ian Scholey



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP YASAWA ISLANDS FIJI



Get ready for magic reef, healthy fish life and more importantly some great pelagic action. This fantastic shark dive offers a chance to get up close with an array of sharks - Bull, White, Silver, Blacktip reef, Nurse, Lemon and Grey reef sharks are seen frequently slipping through the water amongst nearly 300 species of fish, including Grouper and Napoleon wrasse. Other sites include large pinacles, swim-throughs covered in soft corals, wrecks, macro sites and incredible walls.

FLY

VIRGIN AIRLINES

Return flights Melbourne to Nadi
Airlines taxes & fuel surcharges

SLEEP

GATEWAY HOTEL NADI

1 Night Deluxe room twin share
Return airport transfers

BAREFOOT KUATA RESORT, FIJI

2 Nights Beach Safari room

All meals ending with breakfast on the last day
Return Ferry transfers from Denarau Port Marina
Transfer from Barefoot Kuata to Mantaray Resort

MANTARAY ISLAND RESORT

7 NIGHTS Reef Bure or Beachfront Villa

Compulsory meal package \$90 FJD pp per day - paid locally

FOI GATEWAY HOTEL

1 Night Deluxe room twin share
Included transfers

DIVE

BAREFOOT KAUATA DIVING

3 Bull Shark dives
3 Reef dives

2 FREE shore dives per day

Tanks, weights & air-fill

The use of a professional dive guide

Non Diver- Includes 2 x shark snorkel trip

MANTARAY ISLAND RESORT DIVING

10 Dives per diver

Tanks, weights, air-fill

Professional dive guide



TRAVEL DATES
13- 24 JUNE 2019

DIVER \$4,635
NON DIVER \$3,225

REFERENCE
D19864

CONTACT VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP FOR MORE INFORMATION

info@vsag.org.au | 0439 310 646 or 0414 922 916 | vsag.org.au

ALWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

res@alwaysdive.com.au | 1800 338 239 | alwaysdive.com.au

Excursions, equipment, rental, night dives, Hoses, Shark and marine park fees not included - 120 FJD Per day per diver

DIARY DATES



Hi all,

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

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

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

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

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

Ian Scholey ❖

DIARY DATES



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP PRESENTS

TRUK LAGOON MICRONESIA



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

FLY

AIR NIUGINI

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

SLEEP

AIROLODGE INTERNATIONAL, BRISBANE

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

ADDITIONALLY FOR GROUPS OF 7 OR MORE

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

DIVE

BLUE LAGOON RESORT DIVING

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

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

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

allways@allwaysdive.com.au | 1800 338 239 | www.allwaysdive.com.au
Exclusions: Equipment rental, Dive permit USD\$50 per person, Departure Tax USD\$20 per person & transfers within Brisbane.

**OPTIONAL
TAWALI, PAPUA
NEW GUINEA
EXTENSION!**



**TRAVEL DATES
18 - 30 AUG 2018**
DIVER \$ 4,364
NON DIVER \$ 2,771
**REFERENCE
DI9273**

Lic # 32311

DIARY DATES



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP PRESENTS

TAWALI EXTENSION PAPUA NEW GUINEA



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

TRAVEL DATES
30 AUG - 05 SEP 2018
ADDITIONAL
DIVER \$ 2,770
NON DIVER \$ 1,790
REFERENCE
D19273

FLY

AIR NIUGINI

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

SLEEP

TAWALI RESORT, MILNE BAY

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

DIVE

TAWALI RESORT DIVING

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

CONTACT IAN SCHOLEY FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

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



11-8-2011

VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar

By Peter Beaumont, Dive Roster Coordinator (DRC),

06 Jan 2018 - 30 Dec 2018 VSAG Dive Coordinator (DC) Roster listed below.

Book in for a dive day ASAP after receiving notification via email. **Please provide the DC with your full name, mobile number, emergency contact info and date/details of your last dive(s).**

Boat Owners available for the dive will be confirmed by email prior to the weekend.

Dive site(s) & dive day determined by DC in consultation with boat owners and advised by email based on forecast conditions.

Dive sites adjusted on the day to suit divers and prevailing conditions.

DC & Boat Owners are responsible for compiling & forwarding a Fathoms dive report to 'editor@vsag.org.au'.

You are required to confirm your intention to dive with the DC & the boat owner by 6:00 p.m. the day before the dive.

Failure to confirm your intention to dive may result in the boat owner cancelling the boat's availability or your spot being allocated to a diver on the "standby diver list".

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.

TBA = To Be Advised

TBC = To Be Confirmed

Jan 6/7	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Jan 13/14	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Jan 16	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Jan 20/21	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Jan 26/27/28 Australia Day Week- end Jan 28	Boat dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646 Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
Feb 3/4	Boat Dives DC – VACANT
Feb 10/11	Boat Dives DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
Feb 17/18	Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Feb 20	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm Guest Speaker – Des Williams – Development of the Re-
Feb 24/25	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Feb 25	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
Mar 3/4	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Mar 10/11/12 Labor Day Weekend	Boat Dives DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725 Eaglehawk Neck, TAS Trip Organiser – David Geekie 0419 300 686
Mar 17/18	Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686 Eaglehawk Neck, TAS Trip
Mar 20	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Mar 24/25	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Mar 25	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
Mar 30/31/Apr 1/2 Easter Weekend	Daylight saving ends 01 Apr – retard clocks 1hr Boat Dives DC - VACANT
Apr 7/8	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Apr 14/15	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Apr 17	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Apr 21/22	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646

Apr 25 Anzac Day	Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Apr 28/29	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Apr 29	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
May 5/6	Boat Dives DC - TBC- John Lawler 0414 922 916
May 12/13	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
May 15	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
May 19/20	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
May 26/27	Boat Dives DC - VACANT
May 27	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
Jun 2/3	Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Jun 9/10/11 Queens B'day Weekend	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Jun 16/17	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Jun 19	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Jun 23/24	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Jun 30/Jul 1	Boat Dives DC - VACANT
Jul 7/8	Boat Dives DC - VACANT
Jul 14/15	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Jul 17	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Jul 22	Christmas in July
21/22	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Jul 28/29	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Aug 4/5	Boat Dives DC – VACANT
Aug 11/12	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Aug 18/19	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Aug 21	Annual General Meeting & Awards Night, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00pm

Aug 18-30	Truk Lagoon Trip Organiser – Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Aug 25/26	Boat Dives DC –VACANT
Aug 30 – 5 Sep	Tawali, PNG Optional extension to Truk Lagoon Trip Organiser Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Sep 1/2	Boat Dives DC – VACANT
Sep 8/9	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Sep 15/16	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Sep 18	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Sep 22/23	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Sep 28/29/30	AFL Grand Final Holiday (TBC) Boat Dives DC- TBC- David Geekie 0419 300 686
Oct 6/7	Daylight Saving starts 07 Oct – advance clocks 1hr Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Oct 13/14	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Oct 16	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Oct 20/21	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Oct 27/28	Boat Dives DC - VACANT
Oct 28	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
Nov 3/4	Boat Dives DC – TBC- David Geekie 0419 300 686
Nov 6 Melb Cup	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Nov 10/11	Boat Dives DC- TBC- John Lawler 0414 922 916
Nov 17/18	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Nov 20	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Nov 24	Christmas Party Sat 24 th
Nov 24/25	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Nov 25	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881

Dec 1/2	Boat Dives DC - VACANT
Dec 8/9	Boat Dives DC – TBC- David Geekie 0419 300 686
Dec 15/16	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Dec 18	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Dec 22/23	Boat Dives DC- TBC- John Lawler 0414 922 916
Dec 29/30	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Dec 30	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881

VSAG Dive Equipment - Update

Hi club members,

The club now has two pony rigs for the use of club members. One will be at my place in Frankston South and the other with Peter Beaumont in Mornington. Please contact either one of us to book them. We will have them with us when we are out in our boats. For those who like to dive solo we would like you to use these if you don't have your own redundancy.

- Ian



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

Please use this facility responsibly and handle Oxygen equipment safely. ❖

Tidal Streams at the Heads — December 2017

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

December						
MON 4	TUE 5	WED 6	THU 7	FRI 8	SAT 9	SUN 10
<i>4:03</i>	<i>4:59</i>	<i>5:50</i>	<i>6:37</i>	0:45	1:33	2:20
9:58	10:59	11:52	12:41	7:21	8:04	8:45
<i>14:57</i>	<i>15:53</i>	<i>16:48</i>	<i>17:42</i>	13:29	14:17	15:06
22:10	23:04	23:55		18:36	19:32	20:30
MON 11	TUE 12	WED 13	THU 14	FRI 15	SAT 16	SUN 17
3:05	3:49	4:36	5:30	1:14	2:27	3:32
<i>9:26</i>	<i>10:07</i>	<i>10:49</i>	<i>11:35</i>	6:38	8:01	9:20
15:57	16:49	17:46	18:44	12:25	13:19	14:13
<i>21:32</i>	<i>22:41</i>	<i>23:56</i>		19:44	20:39	21:29
ON 8	TUE 19	WED 20	THU 21	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24
<i>4:25</i>	<i>5:08</i>	<i>5:45</i>	<i>6:19</i>	0:09	0:44	1:18
10:23	11:12	11:53	12:30	6:50	7:21	7:50
<i>15:05</i>	<i>15:53</i>	<i>16:37</i>	<i>17:18</i>	13:04	13:37	14:10
22:14	22:55	23:33		17:58	18:37	19:17
MON 25	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI 29	SAT 30	SUN 31
1:51	2:24	2:59	3:36	4:19	5:11	<i>1:10</i>
<i>8:20</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>9:20</i>	<i>9:52</i>	<i>10:28</i>	<i>11:11</i>	6:21
14:44	15:19	15:58	16:41	17:32	18:30	<i>12:03</i>
<i>19:58</i>	<i>20:44</i>	<i>21:37</i>	<i>22:38</i>	<i>23:49</i>		19:35
January						
MON 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6	SUN 7
<i>2:32</i>	<i>3:43</i>	<i>4:44</i>	<i>5:35</i>	<i>6:22</i>	1:33	1:22
7:51	9:21	10:34	11:34	12:28	7:04	7:45
<i>13:07</i>	<i>14:17</i>	<i>15:26</i>	<i>16:31</i>	<i>18:33</i>	13:19	14:08
20:42	21:45	22:45	23:41		18:32	19:30

Tidal Streams at the Heads — January 2018

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

January						
<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>
<i>2:32</i>	<i>3:43</i>	<i>4:44</i>	<i>5:35</i>	<i>6:22</i>	<i>0:33</i>	<i>1:22</i>
<i>7:51</i>	<i>9:21</i>	<i>10:34</i>	<i>11:34</i>	<i>12:28</i>	<i>7:04</i>	<i>7:45</i>
<i>13:07</i>	<i>14:17</i>	<i>15:26</i>	<i>16:31</i>	<i>17:33</i>	<i>13:19</i>	<i>14:08</i>
<i>20:42</i>	<i>21:45</i>	<i>22:45</i>	<i>23:41</i>		<i>18:32</i>	<i>19:30</i>
<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>
<i>2:07</i>	<i>2:49</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>4:11</i>	<i>4:56</i>	<i>0:39</i>	<i>1:49</i>
<i>8:23</i>	<i>9:00</i>	<i>9:37</i>	<i>10:13</i>	<i>10:51</i>	<i>5:49</i>	<i>6:59</i>
<i>14:56</i>	<i>15:43</i>	<i>16:29</i>	<i>17:16</i>	<i>18:04</i>	<i>11:32</i>	<i>12:19</i>
<i>20:27</i>	<i>21:26</i>	<i>22:27</i>	<i>23:31</i>		<i>18:56</i>	<i>19:51</i>
<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>
<i>2:57</i>	<i>3:56</i>	<i>4:45</i>	<i>5:24</i>	<i>5:59</i>	<i>6:30</i>	<i>0:27</i>
<i>8:26</i>	<i>9:45</i>	<i>10:44</i>	<i>11:30</i>	<i>12:09</i>	<i>12:44</i>	<i>6:58</i>
<i>13:14</i>	<i>14:14</i>	<i>15:14</i>	<i>16:09</i>	<i>16:58</i>	<i>17:42</i>	<i>13:18</i>
<i>20:47</i>	<i>21:39</i>	<i>22:27</i>	<i>23:10</i>	<i>23:50</i>		<i>18:25</i>
<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>
<i>1:02</i>	<i>1:36</i>	<i>2:10</i>	<i>2:44</i>	<i>3:20</i>	<i>3:59</i>	<i>4:45</i>
<i>7:26</i>	<i>7:53</i>	<i>8:21</i>	<i>8:49</i>	<i>9:19</i>	<i>9:53</i>	<i>10:33</i>
<i>13:51</i>	<i>14:24</i>	<i>14:58</i>	<i>15:36</i>	<i>16:17</i>	<i>17:03</i>	<i>17:58</i>
<i>19:07</i>	<i>19:50</i>	<i>20:36</i>	<i>21:26</i>	<i>22:22</i>	<i>23:27</i>	
January			February			
<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>
<i>0:41</i>	<i>2:01</i>	<i>3:17</i>	<i>4:21</i>	<i>5:14</i>	<i>6:00</i>	<i>0:22</i>
<i>5:45</i>	<i>7:06</i>	<i>8:46</i>	<i>10:11</i>	<i>11:18</i>	<i>12:14</i>	<i>6:41</i>
<i>11:24</i>	<i>12:31</i>	<i>13:51</i>	<i>15:11</i>	<i>16:25</i>	<i>17:31</i>	<i>13:05</i>
<i>19:02</i>	<i>20:13</i>	<i>21:25</i>	<i>22:31</i>	<i>23:30</i>		<i>18:31</i>

Tidal Streams at the Heads — February 2018

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

January			February			
MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4
<i>0:41</i>	<i>2:01</i>	<i>3:17</i>	<i>4:21</i>	<i>5:14</i>	<i>6:00</i>	<i>0:22</i>
<i>5:45</i>	<i>7:06</i>	<i>8:46</i>	<i>10:11</i>	<i>11:18</i>	<i>12:14</i>	<i>6:41</i>
<i>11:24</i>	<i>12:31</i>	<i>13:51</i>	<i>15:11</i>	<i>16:25</i>	<i>17:31</i>	<i>13:05</i>
<i>19:02</i>	<i>20:13</i>	<i>21:25</i>	<i>22:31</i>	<i>23:30</i>		<i>18:31</i>
MON 5	TUE 6	WED 7	THU 8	FRI 9	SAT 10	SUN 11
<i>1:10</i>	<i>1:53</i>	<i>2:33</i>	<i>3:10</i>	<i>3:46</i>	<i>4:24</i>	<i>5:07</i>
<i>7:19</i>	<i>7:55</i>	<i>8:30</i>	<i>9:03</i>	<i>9:36</i>	<i>10:09</i>	<i>10:45</i>
<i>13:52</i>	<i>14:36</i>	<i>15:18</i>	<i>15:58</i>	<i>16:37</i>	<i>17:18</i>	<i>18:04</i>
<i>19:27</i>	<i>20:20</i>	<i>21:11</i>	<i>22:02</i>	<i>22:55</i>	<i>23:51</i>	
MON 12	TUE 13	WED 14	THU 15	FRI 16	SAT 17	SUN 18
<i>0:53</i>	<i>2:02</i>	<i>3:10</i>	<i>4:07</i>	<i>4:51</i>	<i>5:27</i>	<i>5:58</i>
<i>6:00</i>	<i>7:16</i>	<i>8:52</i>	<i>10:07</i>	<i>10:59</i>	<i>11:41</i>	<i>12:17</i>
<i>11:27</i>	<i>12:20</i>	<i>13:27</i>	<i>14:39</i>	<i>15:46</i>	<i>16:43</i>	<i>17:33</i>
<i>18:56</i>	<i>19:56</i>	<i>20:59</i>	<i>21:57</i>	<i>22:47</i>	<i>23:30</i>	
MON 19	TUE 20	WED 21	THU 22	FRI 23	SAT 24	SUN 25
<i>0:10</i>	<i>0:47</i>	<i>1:22</i>	<i>1:58</i>	<i>2:33</i>	<i>3:09</i>	<i>3:47</i>
<i>6:26</i>	<i>6:54</i>	<i>7:21</i>	<i>7:49</i>	<i>8:19</i>	<i>8:51</i>	<i>9:26</i>
<i>12:51</i>	<i>13:25</i>	<i>13:59</i>	<i>14:34</i>	<i>15:12</i>	<i>15:53</i>	<i>16:38</i>
<i>18:18</i>	<i>19:01</i>	<i>19:44</i>	<i>20:29</i>	<i>21:17</i>	<i>22:09</i>	<i>23:07</i>
February			March			
MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4
<i>4:31</i>	<i>0:14</i>	<i>1:29</i>	<i>2:44</i>	<i>3:50</i>	<i>4:43</i>	<i>5:28</i>
<i>10:08</i>	<i>5:26</i>	<i>6:45</i>	<i>8:26</i>	<i>9:55</i>	<i>11:01</i>	<i>11:56</i>
<i>17:31</i>	<i>11:02</i>	<i>12:15</i>	<i>13:43</i>	<i>15:11</i>	<i>16:28</i>	<i>17:33</i>
	<i>18:34</i>	<i>19:49</i>	<i>21:06</i>	<i>22:17</i>	<i>23:17</i>	

Emergency Contact Information

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

VHF Channel 16
27 MHz AM Channel 88

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

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

Speak slowly and clearly

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

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

Emergency Contact Information

Telephone contacts

Police – Ambulance – Fire : 000

Water Police no longer use the 1800 088 200 number

The new 24/7 No is : 03 9399 7500

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

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

Alfred Hospital Hyperbaric Unit: 03 9076 2269

Alfred Hospital switchboard: 03 9076 2000

Mornington Peninsula Area

Diving Emergency Service: 1800 088 200

Dr. John Roth:

Mornington Medical Group **03 5975 2633**

Rosebud Hospital:

1527 Nepean Hwy, Rosebud **03 5986 0666**

Frankston Hospital:

Hastings Road, Frankston **03 9784 7777**

The Bays Hospital:

Main Street, Mornington **03 5975 2009**

Southern Peninsula Rescue: (Sorrento) 0417 038 944

Mornington Bay Rescue Service: 0419 233 999

***Coast Guard (Queenscliff) 03 5258 2222**

***Coast Guard (Hastings) 03 5979 3322**

***Coast Guard (Safety Beach) 03 5981 4443**

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

Diving Doctors:

Dr Pamela Dagley (Eltham) 03 9439 2222 (VSAG member)

Dr Vanessa Haller (Carrum Downs) 03 9782 6666

Dr Adrian Murrie (Sorrento) 03 5984 4322

Dr Guy Williams (Rosebud) 03 5981 1555

Dr John Roth (Mornington) 03 5975 2633

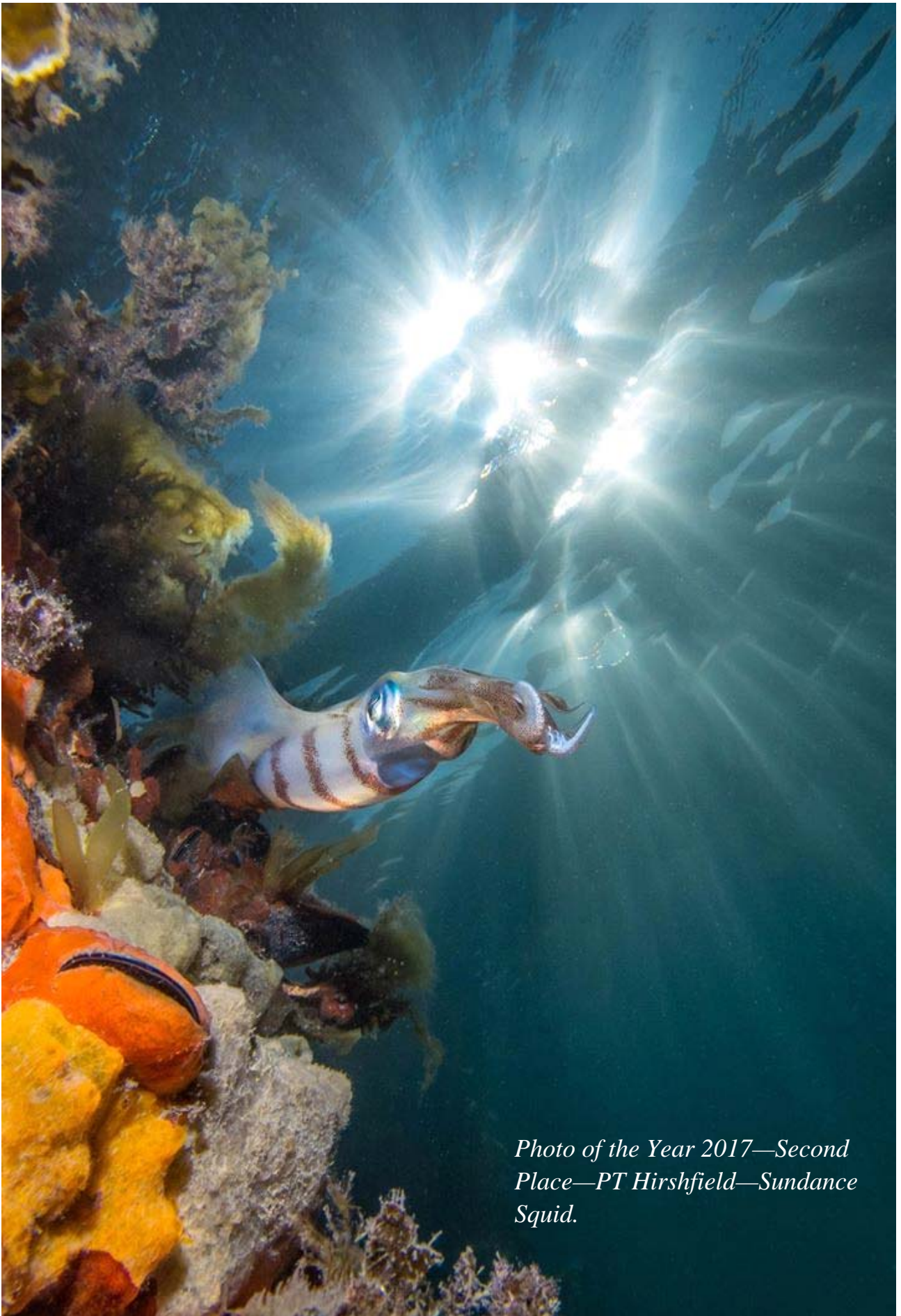


Photo of the Year 2017—Second Place—PT Hirshfield—Sundance Squid.