



Fathoms

OCTOBER —NOVEMBER 2017

Cover Photo:

Diver in Pines Cave - By Sherryn Amor

VSAG Annual General Meeting
July & August Photo competitions
Hyperbaric Medicine
Gold from the Sea and more.....

Postal Address:

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

www.vsag.org.au

Guinness World Record Attempt

Longest Chain of Scuba Divers

Rye Pier 2 December 2017

The poster features a dark blue background with silhouettes of divers. On the left, a white box contains the text 'GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT' in large, bold, blue and orange letters. To the right, a yellow box says 'LONGEST CHAIN OF SCUBA DIVERS'. Further right, a yellow box displays 'DEC 2ND 2017' with 'CHECK IN FROM 8AM EVENT AT 10AM' and 'BACKUP DATE DUE TO WEATHER DEC 9'. Below this, 'RYE PIER' is written in large white letters. A circular Guinness World Records logo is visible. At the bottom, a yellow banner states '\$25 INCLUDES GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ADMIN FEE AND EVENT T-SHIRT' and 'OVER \$10,000 WORTH DIVE GEAR AND DIVE HOLIDAYS BEING AUCTIONED OFF AND GIVEN AWAY'. Logos for D.I.V.A. and Guinness World Records are also present.

Registrations are open for the Guinness World Record Attempt at Rye on 2nd December 2017. We would love to see as many VSAG divers as possible support the event and help bring the Record to Victoria.

Register now

<http://divingvictoriaassociation.com.au/guinness-world-record-attempt-2017/>



Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

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Editorial Submissions:

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

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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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VSAG, Inc. Annual General Meeting 2017

The Annual General Meeting of Victorian Sub-Aqua Group, Inc. was held at the Water Rat Hotel, 256 Moray Street, South Melbourne Vic 3207 on 19 September, 2017 and was well attended by members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ian Scholey

As we exit another year I am happy to be able to reflect on another positive year for the club.

Although the club membership has dropped very slightly to 123 we have welcomed 8 new members. New people usually bring something extra to the club and in many respects help to keep things fresh for the longer standing members. With some of our older members slowing down somewhat, it will be important that we continue to attract new members with new ideas and enthusiasm.

There have been a few success stories across the year but probably the highlight for me was the Boat Handling day we held in November. It was fantastic to get so many Vsager's out on the water. We had seven boats made available for the day and the feedback from the 24 people who took part was fantastic. I



would like to once again thank the skippers who took the time to give people “On Water Experience” and make special mention of David Geekie who organised the day for us. This was VSAG being true to our Safety in Diving motto.

Another area where we have been very successful is with our club travel and we are offering the members more and more travel opportunities. We had a brilliant trip to Sydney in November with 3 VSAG boats and 9 divers making the trip.

VSAG, Inc. Annual General Meeting 2017

We then had two sold out weekends in Tassie where we filled the dive centre's boats and unfortunately didn't have the capacity to accommodate everyone who wanted to travel.

The two weekends were very different with the first crew getting the sunshine and flat seas while the second group got the cold, rain and swell. That said, we still got to do some brilliant dives and really enjoyed ourselves. Finally, we had a group head off to dive the President Coolidge in Vanuatu. This was an excellent trip and will be long remembered by those lucky enough to make the trip.

While our trips have gone gang busters our local diving has been a little disappointing. The numbers of divers joining our weekend dives has been very low at times and it's an area that we need to understand better. It's the bread and butter of our dive club and we need to understand what it is our membership wants in this space so that we get as many people out diving as possible.

Another aspect of the club that is going well, are our club meetings.

The attendance numbers have been strong this year. We have had some great guest speakers with a huge variety of diving related subjects being covered. The photo contest just seems to go from strength to strength and the quality of the entries has been magnificent. It's going to be a very tough decision next month to select the photo of the year.

Once again we have been busy on the social scene with our Xmas Party and Xmas in July events well attended. We also took the chance to visit the Alfred Hospital's Hyperbaric unit and attend their diver information night. This was an excellent night and something I would recommend to you all if the chance comes up again.

We have had a change of editor for Fathoms with Christine Reynolds taking on the challenge of following in Cheryl Lees' shoes. I'm sure you will agree with me that she has done an amazing job and if anything, has improved the magazine even further. We truly have a publication that we can all be proud of.

It has been an interesting year for the diving community outside of the

VSAG, Inc. Annual General Meeting 2017

club. We still don't understand the full impact of Dive Victoria's demise. Already it's made life difficult for those that need anything other than an air fill. We will be tagging our Crayfish from now on which will impact many members. It's also been great to see the diving community come together with the rebirth of DIVA and excellent initiatives like Operation Sponge Bob, the upcoming World Record attempt and in our own space, the continuing great relationship with Get Under and our fast developing relationship with UECWA in Perth. When times are hard in diving everyone in the sport needs to work together and the signs are good that there is a willingness out there to do this, despite times being tough.

As you will hear from Peter shortly the club remains on a firm financial footing and this gives us the opportunity to invest to make the club better and ensure that we meet the needs of as many of our members as we can. First though, we need to understand what the membership wants from the club and this will be the first priority for the new

committee. It already looks like we have an exciting year ahead with plenty of activity planned including trips to Rapid Bay/ HMAS Hobart, Eaglehawk Neck and Truk Lagoon, the Victorian Maritime Centre Wreck project and the launch of our new website to look forward to.

Finally, I would like to thank this year's committee for all their hard work over the last 12 months. Without their efforts the club would not be the success that it is. They all deserve a huge round of applause.

- Ian. ❖



*David Geekie and Ian Scholey
addressing the VSAG Annual
General Meeting 2017*

VSAG, Inc. Annual General Meeting 2017

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Peter Galvin

Treasurers Summary 2016/17



Introduction

This document explains the controls we have in place to ensure financial integrity and provides a summary of financial transactions for VSAG for 2016-2017. The “June 2017 Treasurer’s Report” shows all transactions for the year.

If you have further questions or wish to see further evidence please contact Peter Galvin. Hard copy of the year’s financial transactions will be available at the AGM.

Financial Controls

Expenditure

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

Peter Galvin
Ian Scholey
David Geekie

VSAG, Inc. Annual General Meeting 2017

In addition the rules of our incorporation require two committee members to verify the records. This will be completed ASAP.

Income

I provide all cash income with a receipt and then transfer the money from my account but with a reference to whoever has paid it. This saves me making trips to the bank to deposit cash and shows all transactions individually in the bank statement.

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

Highlights

(Brackets show last year's figures)

We had 7 (13) new individual members join

We had 1 (1) new family member join.

We now have the following membership;

Individual 64 (69)

Family 21 (20)

Life 17 (17)

Total Membership is 103 (106)

Prospective 11 (7)

We had a cash surplus of \$3,882.60 for the year. The major expenditures were:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Awards | \$548.90 |
| Meeting Expenses | \$439.46 |
| Insurance | \$857.60 |

On the 30th June we had financial assets of \$20,554.62 (\$15,887.41).

VSAG, Inc. Annual General Meeting 2017

Summary of 2016/2017 Transactions

| | Bank Description | Withdrawals | Deposits | Profit/Loss |
|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | Total New Member Fees | \$0.00 | \$440.00 | \$440.00 |
| | Total New Family Member Fees | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| | Total Member Family Fees | \$0.00 | \$800.00 | \$800.00 |
| | Total Member Fees | \$0.00 | \$5,720.00 | \$5,720.00 |
| | Total Awards | -\$548.90 | \$0.00 | -\$548.90 |
| | Total Meeting Expenses | -\$439.46 | \$0.00 | -\$439.46 |
| | Total Safety | -\$493.13 | \$0.00 | -\$493.13 |
| | Total Fathoms | -\$309.43 | \$0.00 | -\$309.43 |
| | Total Insurance | -\$857.60 | \$0.00 | -\$857.60 |
| | Total VSAG Incorporation | -\$27.90 | \$0.00 | -\$27.90 |
| | Total Club Stock | \$0.00 | \$30.00 | \$30.00 |
| | Total Dive Log Advertisement | -\$198.00 | \$0.00 | -\$198.00 |
| | Total SDFV Fees | -\$50.00 | \$0.00 | -\$50.00 |
| | Total Photo Workshop | -\$2,394.00 | \$2,395.00 | \$1.00 |
| | Total Donation to Sea Shepherd | -\$100.00 | \$0.00 | -\$100.00 |
| | Total Calendars | -\$110.95 | \$100.00 | -\$10.95 |
| | Total 60th Book | -\$9.45 | \$35.15 | \$25.70 |
| | Total Xmas Party | -\$418.83 | \$465.00 | \$46.17 |
| | Total Special Payment | -\$78.00 | \$0.00 | -\$78.00 |
| | Total Website Hosting | -\$111.10 | \$0.00 | -\$111.10 |
| | Total Administration | -\$55.80 | \$0.00 | -\$55.80 |
| | Summary of Outgoings and Income | -\$6,202.55 | \$10,085.15 | \$3,882.60 |
| | | | | |
| | Total VSAG Debts | | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Owed to VSAG | | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Stock on Hand | | \$1,189.00 | |
| | | | | |
| | Cheque Account | \$8,753.40 | | |
| | Online Savers Account | \$8,952.76 | | |
| | Total Financial Assets | \$20,554.62 | | |

September Guest Speaker

SEPTEMBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER

STUART BAIN

19 September 2017

Following the VSAG Annual General Meeting VSAG members were treated to a very interesting informative session delivered by Stuart Bain of NIIM.

Stuart outlined the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) in the treatment of common medical conditions.

ICU, critical care and diving are treated in hospital based HBOT Chambers and 6 indications are funded by Medicare in Australia.

In USA, 14 indications are funded by Medicare and Stuart is working towards increasing the number of indications that can be treated with HBOT in Australia.

There are numerous conditions patients benefit from HBOT which are listed on NIIM web site at :

<https://www.niim.com.au/>

The major benefits are certainly in the wound care area, particularly in post-surgical recovery, sports



*Stuart Bain,
Senior Technical Specialist
National Institute of Integrative
Medicine
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Clinic*

injuries, post radiation, infections, neurological issues, diabetic ulcers, fractures and many more conditions.

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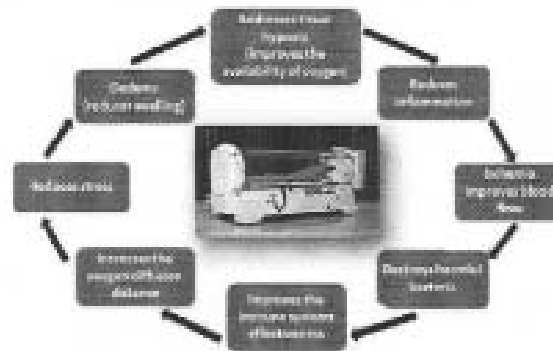
Treatable Indications

The indications listed below are treated in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) clinics worldwide and compiled from the International Hyperbaric Medical Association (IHMA) as accepted "off label" indications.

ICU, critical care and diving are treated in hospital based HBOT Chambers and 6 indications are funded by Medicare in Australia.

In the USA 14 indications are funded by Medicare.

Hyperbaric "Circle of Events"



Surgical:

Plastic, reconstructive, cosmetic surgery
 Adjunct to burns treatments
 Re-implantation surgery
 Pre and Post surgery

Post Surgery:

Delayed healing
 Reduces recovery time
 Infection instability

Trauma:

Crush injuries
 Compartment syndrome
 Soft tissue injuries
 Sports injuries
 Post concussion syndrome

Orthopedics:

Non union fractures
 Bone grafts
 Stress fractures

Cardiovascular Diseases:

Myocardial ischemia
 Aid to cardiac surgery
 Shock
 Venous/ arterial ulcers
 Ischemic leg pain
 Ischemic gangrene

Gastro-intestinal:

Gastric ulcer Pre/Post surgery
 Necrotizing enter colitis Pre/Post Surgery | Crohn's disease
 Paralytic ileus Pre/Post surgery
 Pneumocystis carinii intestinalis Pre/Post surgery
 Hepatitis Pre/Post surgery

Hematology:

Sickle cell crises
 Severe blood loss anemia

Ophthalmology:

Occlusion of central artery of retina
 Macular degeneration

Aid to Rehabilitation:

Spastic hemiplegia of stroke
 Paraplegia / Quadriplegia

Neurological:

Multiple sclerosis | Migraine
 Multi-infarct dementia
 Spinal cord injury
 Chronic fatigue | Brain abscess
 Peripheral neuropathy
 Radiation myelitis
 Parkinson's disease
 Lyme disease | Stress
 Autism | Cerebral palsy
 Acquired brain injury
 TBI/PTSD | Cerebral oedema

Otolaryngology:

Sudden deafness
 Acute acoustic trauma
 Labyrinthitis
 Meniere's disease
 Malignant otitis externa (chronic infection)

Respiratory:

Asphyxiation
 Lung abscesses
 Pulmonary embolism

Wound Care:

Problem wounds
 Delayed healing
 Recurrent ulcers
 Thermal burns
 Spider bite
 Diabetic ulcers

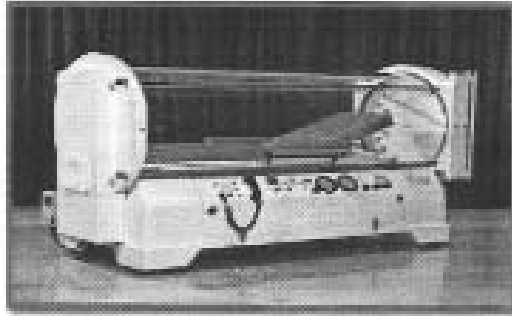
Musculoskeletal:

Osteoporosis
 Rheumatoid arthritis

References:

IHMA - List of treatable "off label" indications
UWMS - List of Indications
Textbook of Hyperbaric Medicine

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)



NIIM is a Certified Active Member



UNDERSEA & HYPERBARIC
MEDICAL SOCIETY

NIIM is a Member & Corporate Partner

The following is the list of indications treated in hospitals and clinics considered by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society (UHMS) and the International Hyperbaric Medical Association (IHMA) as accepted indications.

Accepted Indications (14) for HBOT Endorsed by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society (U.H.M.S.) USA.

Hyperbaric Indications accepted and treated

1. Air or gas embolism **
2. Decompression sickness **
3. Necrotizing soft tissue infections **
4. Delayed radiation injury (soft tissue and bone necrosis) **
5. Diabetic Ulcers **
6. Enhancement of healing in selected problem wounds **
7. Carbon monoxide poisoning and CO poisoning complicated by cyanide poisoning.
8. Clostridial myositis and myonecrosis, (gas gangrene)
9. Crush injury, compartment syndrome, and other acute traumatic ischemia
10. Exceptional blood loss (anemia)
11. Intracranial abscess, actinomycosis
12. Refractory osteomyelitis (Infected bone)
13. Skin grafts and flaps (compromised)
14. Thermal burns

The 6 indications as marked above are reimbursed by Medicare in Australian Hospitals only. **

The full list of 14 indications are reimbursed by Government Funded Healthcare in the USA.

The information provided in this document provided by Hyperbaric clinics is not intended to treat, diagnose, cure or prevent any disease. All material in this information is provided for educational purposes only. Always seek the advice of a hyperbaric doctor, your practitioner or qualified health care provider with any questions you have regarding specific medical indications. The information provided does not constitute a medical recommendation, no claims, either real or implied, are being made.

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ALFRED HOSPITAL HYPERBARIC

We had a very interesting night at the Alfred Hospital's Hyperbaric Chamber tour and divers information evening. Lots of VSAG members in attendance along with others from the diving community. Attending from VSAG were Ian Scholey, Peter & Carole Campisano, Arthur Kokkinos, Mark Jeffrey, Priya Cardinaletti, John Mills and PT Hirshfield.

The key messages from the night were:

- anyone can get bent
- it's nothing to be ashamed of as most incidents involve no breaking of diving protocols
- getting bent doesn't usually prevent future diving
- getting bent does not increase your chances of getting bent in the future
- presenting to the hospital early plays a big part in successful recovery
- reducing ascent rates due to computer use has significantly reduced incidents from about 200 a year to 20 a year

The night also included some very interesting and entertaining stories from Hyperbaric Doctor and Diver Dr Andrew Fook. It has to be said that some divers really don't help themselves especially when it comes to denial that they have a problem. If in doubt, get straight on the O2 and get to the hospital. If the chance comes up again and you haven't attended one of these evenings it's well worth getting there.

- Ian Scholey ❖

The added message we received on our tour a few years ago was that reducing ascent rates due to computer use had significantly reduced incidents - but not eliminated them! Very strong message it can happen to anyone.

- David Geekie ❖

Cold and post dive fatigue are a major player as well as altitude. We must be more aware during and after our dives.

- Peter Campisano ❖

ALFRED HOSPITAL HYPERBARIC



Ian Scholey in Hyperbaric chamber Alfred Hospital

DCI Treatment Tables

| Table | Duration | Depth | Application |
|----------|------------|-------|-----------------|
| RN62 | 4hrs 45min | 18m | Mild to mod ill |
| RN61 | 2hrs 15min | 18m | First follow-up |
| 60.5A | 1hr 35min | 18m | Later follow-up |
| Comex 30 | 6hrs 54min | 30m | Severely ill |
| RN63 | 5hrs 19min | 50m | Critically ill |

98% of initial diver treatments require an RN62

Part of AlfredHealth



Arthur Kokkinos in Hyperbaric chamber Alfred Hospital

ALFRED HOSPITAL HYPERBARIC



Peter and Carole Campisano inside the Hyperbaric Chamber at the Alfred Hospital.



August Guest Speaker

AUGUST GENERAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

DES WILLIAMS

15 August 2017

At our August general meeting we were delighted to welcome back one of our favourite speakers and VSAG Life Member, Author, Historical Diving Society Member and Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria member, Des Williams. Des shared his extensive historical knowledge and gave a talk entitled, "The exploits of Diver Johnstone and RMS Niagara salvage - 1941".

The presentation included a summary of the life of famous Australian salvage diver John "Johnno" Johnstone who was quite a character and had a remarkable and long diving career. Johnstone even made a personal appearance as a speaker at a VSAG meeting back in 1957, which is still remembered by older VSAG members!

Diver John Johnstone & RMS NIAGARA Gold Salvage Presentation to VSAG

by Des Williams

Des presented details of the famous story of the sinking of the gold ship



*VSAG Life Member, Author,
Historical Diving Society Member
and Maritime Archaeology
Association of Victoria member —
Des Williams.*

RMS NIAGARA close to Auckland Harbour in 1940. The ship was sailing for Canada with eight tonnes of gold on board, when it struck a German mine, laid by the audacious German raider *ORION* and sank in 140M of water in the Hauraki Gulf.

Des linked the past with the present in his presentation on the ship, the German raider, subsequent epic gold salvage ventures and the modern day tech-diver exploration of the wreck.



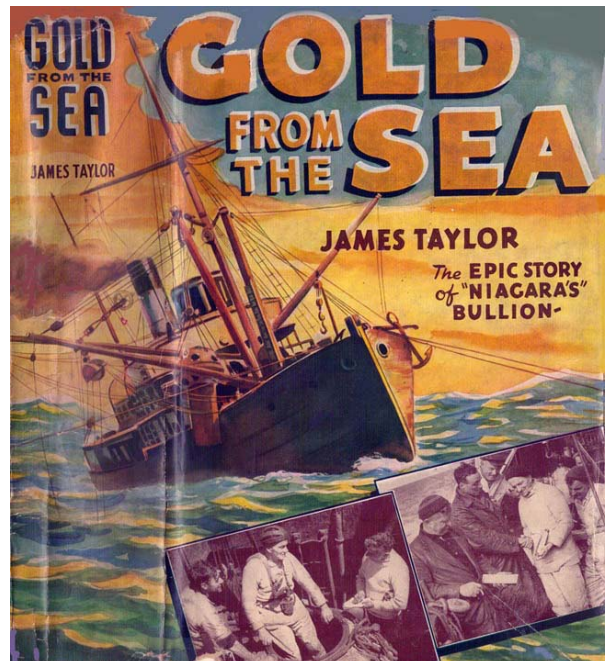
*John Edward 'Johnno' Johnstone
(1892–1976)*

The initial 1940 search for the wreck over a wide area in the Hauraki Gulf, was conducted by Melbourne salvage expert Capt. J. P. Williams, who refurbished a derelict old steamer *CLAYMORE*, which had been abandoned on the Auckland mud banks for years. The story of this very low budget, epic salvage success, contained all the excitement of a good old fashioned pirate adventure.

Des also included in the presentation a life history of the exploits of the famous Melbourne salvage diver John "Johnno" Johnstone. Johnstone spent a life-time salvage diving around Australia and the Pacific, between 1920 and 1965 and was the



*Recovery of gold from the RMS
NIAGARA in 1941 off Auckland
New Zealand.*



leading salvage diver on the *NIAGARA* gold recovery ventures in both 1940 and 1953. ❖

Des holds the positions of Treasurer and Membership Secretary of Historical Diving Society Australia-Pacific. He may be contacted at deswill@dingley.net Historical Diving Society Australia-Pacific, www.historicaldivingsociety.com.au

GEORGE KERMODE

The George Kermode

I thought that Vsager's may be interested in this excellent set of images from the scuttling of the George Kermode. These were taken by life member Des Williams.

As you can imagine there was great interest in the scuttling around the club at the time and it didn't take VSAG divers long to go down and dive her. Des reports that the name of the vessel was still visible.

Those that have dived the wreck recently will know that she is rapidly breaking up now. It is still a fantastic dive though, with some good penetration possible.

She was built in 1914 by Fleming and Ferguson in Paisley Scotland as

the Sir William Matthews. She was a twin screwed steam bucket dredge with an overall length of 230ft, a beam of 44ft and a draught of 17ft giving her a displacement of 803 tons. She was purchased by the Melbourne Harbour trust on 10 October , 1941. After an extensive refit she was renamed the George Kermode and was used to maintain the Port of Melbourne. She was scuttled by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Land on the 1 April, 1976 (April Fools Day) as an artificial reef in Cunningham Bay off Phillip Island. She now lies upside down in 20 meters of water rising up to 12 meters at the highest point.

- Ian Scholey❖



GEORGE KERMODE



ASCIDIANS

MORE ASCIDIANS

Last time we have looked at solitary and some colonial ascidians and now we check on more colonial as well as compound ascidians. Compound ascidians are a group in which the zooids (individual polyps) are embedded in a matrix. They work in harmony and have a common internal system with in- and excurrent apertures open to the water. Usually the zooids are tiny and crowded in the matrix which may be sheet-like and leathery or upright and spreading.

Although often brightly coloured like sponges, colonial and compound ascidians can easily be distinguished from sponges by touch – they have a firm jelly-like texture compared with the softer squeezy texture of sponges. Some ascidians also have calcareous spicules giving them a firm harsh texture, but the texture of most is firm jelly-like and slippery.

Ascidians are known from the intertidal zone to the deepest ocean abyss. Diversity in Southern Australia is the highest in the world. Ascidians have a long evolutionary history, sharing with us our most primitive embryonic stages of a notochord, before development of vertebrae. The swimming larva looks rather like a

tadpole, finds a suitable substrate where it fixes its head, the tail curls around and proceeds to grow into a new colony.

They are a difficult and complex group to work with and some we often see have never been scientifically described. For identification an expert ascidian taxonomist undertakes microscopic examination of anatomy of the zooids and spicules for identification of species. Unfortunately there is no ascidian expert working in Australia today. And as you will see from the following I have little expertise in ascidian taxonomy and often cannot identify colonies to species or even to genus.

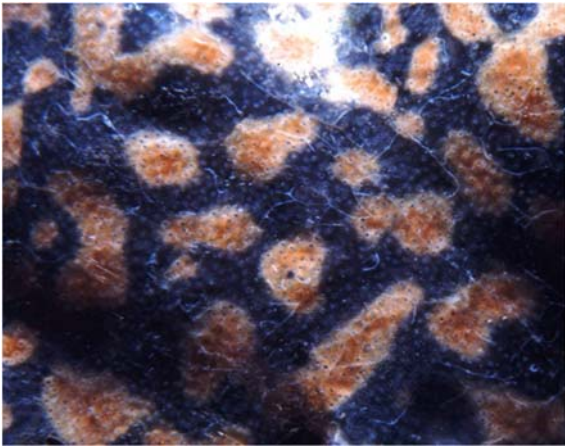
Most compound ascidians have distinctive colour patterns and precise arrangement patterns of individual zooids. However as colour often varies between colonies, it is not a reliable basis to attempt recognition.,

Spreading colonies.

Many species grow in spreading, often tough thin sheets over rock and jetty piles. The sheets can usually be pulled off by hand. *Didemnum patulum* is a very common ascidian

ASCIDIANS

at Crawfish Rock in Western Port, where it grows in large tough sheets in poor visibility water. Another spreading colony is either *Leptoclinides exiguous* or *Tridemnum sibogae*, (I don't know which) which has a thin slippery jelly-like texture; it is common on bay jetty piles.



Above. Didemnum patulum, Crawfish Rock, Western Port, 6 m (positively identified by Dr Pat Kott)



Above. Leptoclinides exiguous or Tridemnum sibogae, Clifton Springs jetty ruins, 1.5 m.

Sponge Look-alikes.

Another common species that favours quiet water habitat and looks like a peach-coloured sponge is *Didemnum delectum* (again, I'm not sure of its correct identity). Often seen on shallow sheltered bay reefs, the clusters look very like a sponge. The soft jelly-like texture gives it away as an ascidian.



Above. Didemnum ?delectum, Steeles Rock, 1.5 m.

Massive colonies.

Botrylloides leachii Is a common locally abundant compound ascidian, usually with large spreading colonies and spectacular but variable colours. It favours quiet water habitats, often jetty piles or on shallow reef. The looped patterns of the excurrent siphons around the larger incurrent siphon is diagnostic of the species.

ASCIDIANS

Two common colour variants are shown below.



Botrylloides leachii, Yellow colony, Clifton Springs jetty ruins, 1m. Mauve colony, reef in Corio Bay, 4 m.



Botrylloides anceps grows in a thick finger-like clusters of several colonies united at the base. Colour is very variable, ranging from cream through to reddish-brown. Each colony has a wide apical opening and the rows of small dots along the sides are zoid openings. Very abundant on local reefs and jetty piles in good water movement.



Botrylloides anceps. Yellow colony, Blairgowrie jetty, 2 m. Dark red colony, Popes Eye, 3 m.



ASCIDIANS

Stalked Ascidians

We sometime see stalked ascidians on sandy bottom. The tough flexible stalks raise the colony above the substrate to provide better feeding opportunities. There are several local species, some are orange in shallow water and others of different colours in deeper waters.



Sycozoa pedunculata, stalked ascidian, Wyndham Cove, 2 m

Unknown Ascidian

Judging by the firm jelly-like texture and tiny yellow zooids it is definitely a compound ascidian, possibly *Botrylloides* but I really have no idea of its identity. Has anyone seen it anywhere else? There is so much we don't know and so few experts to help!



Botrylloides? sp. Popes Eye, on sandy bed, 3 m.

Jan Watson

Marine Science & Ecology

Ph: 03 5253 2294

Mob: 0457 981 875

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - July 2017



First Place - Fan - By Mark Jeffrey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

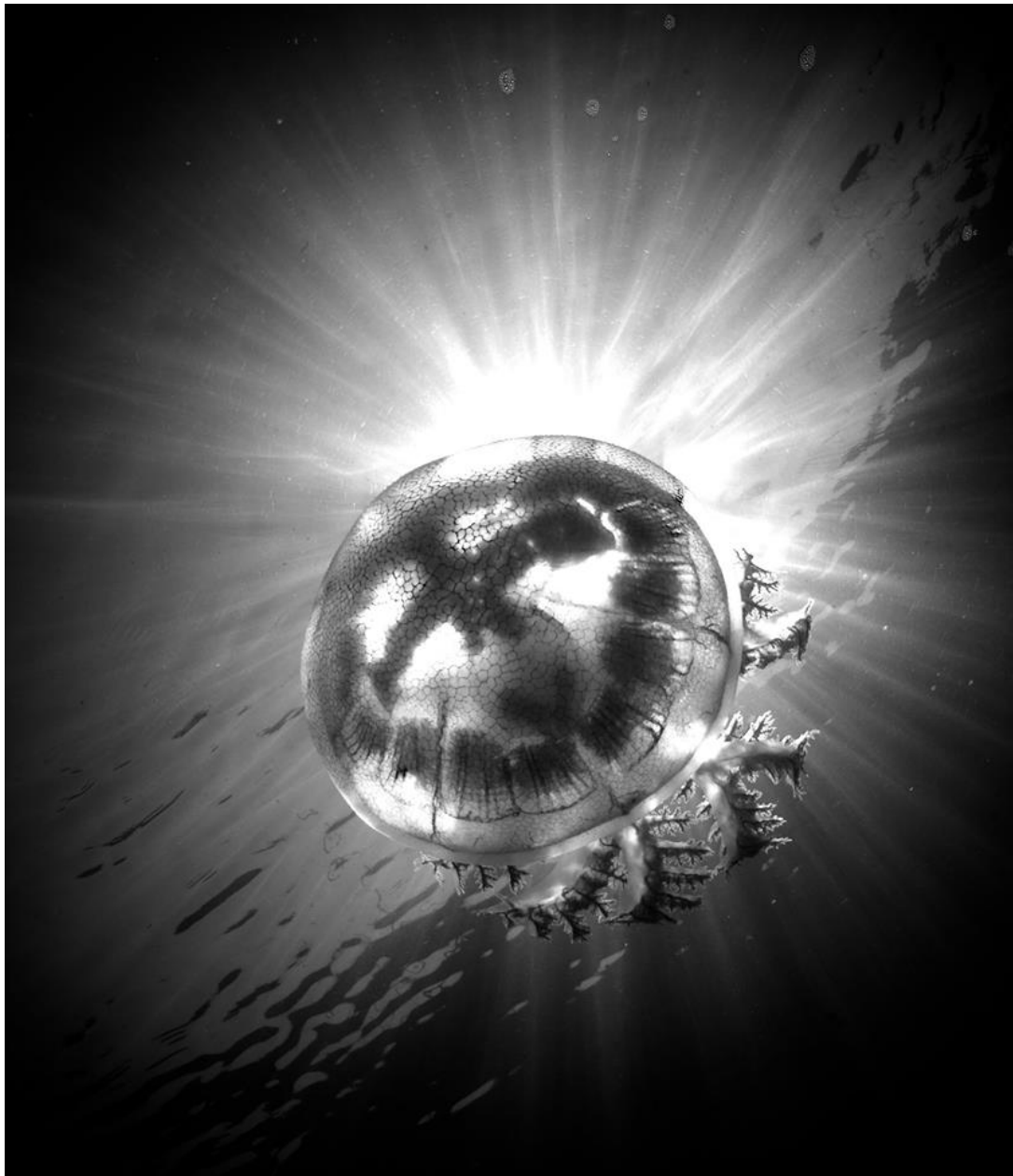
Second - July 2017



Second Place - Prisoner Lion Fish - By Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Third - July 2017



Equal Third Place - Floater - By Jon Kenfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Third - July 2017



Equal Third Place - Friendly Old Cuttlefish - By PT Hirshfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Third - July 2017



Equal Third Place - Clown Fish - By David Reinhart

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Third - July 2017



Equal Third Place - Turtle - By David Reinhard

JULY 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



Getaway Diver - By Anna Scholey



Bow of SS President Coolidge - By Ian Scholey



Skydiver - By Anna Scholey



Rare VSAG diver in Winter - By Peter Beaumont



Weird fish - By Carole Campisano

JULY 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

Another fantastic collection of photos from VSAGers with a lot of people travelling around the globe in July. First place this month went to Mark Jeffrey's Fan, Second to Ian Scholey's Prisoner Lion fish and Equal Third to Jon Kenfield's Floater, PT's Old Cuttlefish and David Reinhard's two photos from the Philippines. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Inspecting live ordnance -
By Carole Campisano*



Pensive - By Jon Kenfield



The Display - Mark Jeffrey



*Rare VSAG diver in Winter -
By Peter Beaumont*

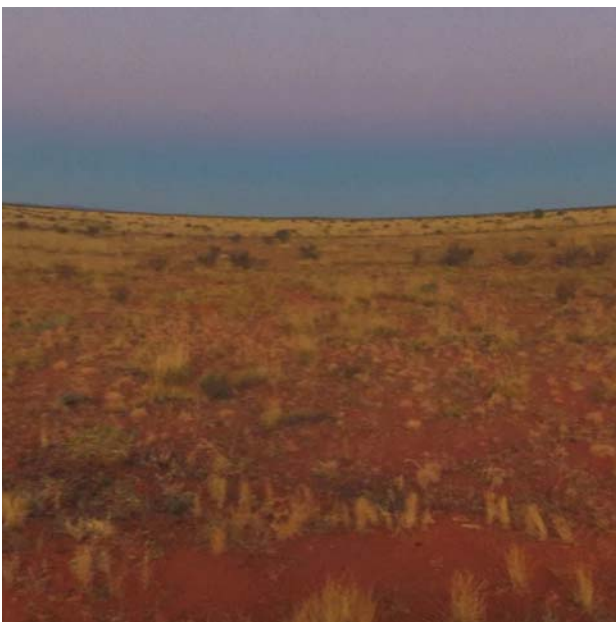
JULY 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



Warty Prowfish - By Phil Watson



Dreamcatcher Jelly - By PT Hirshfield



*Newhaven Station NT
- By Tim Forster*



Sea Dragon - By Phil Watson

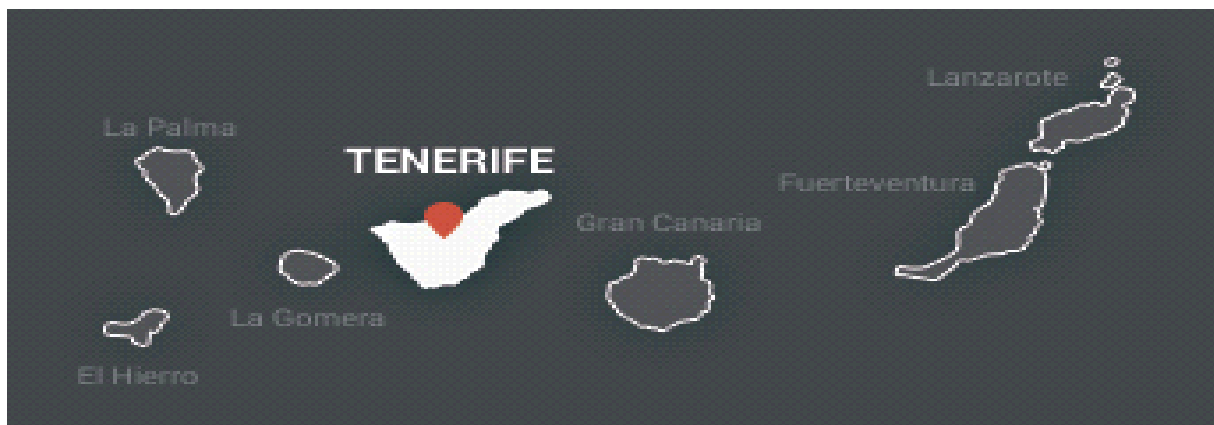
EL CONDESITO

TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS

The 30-metre-long boat 'El Condesito' ran aground off the coast of the southern most tip of the island of Tenerife in 1971. The wreck of the 'El Condesito' is one of the most unique diving spots in Tenerife. The wreck, split up into several parts, is at the bottom of an undersea canyon 20 metres deep, flanked by walls with

prismatic formations and rich with abundant marine life.

The anchor point of the boat is 3.7 nautical miles away from the port of the large tourist resort of Los Cristianos. The wreck is home to numerous octopus, cuttlefish and parrotfish. The dive usually involves passing through the surrounding rocks with their spectacular prismatic formations.



The El Condesito in her heyday.

EL CONDESITO

September 26 at 7:30am

Something a bit different. I am back in one of my old haunts in Europe. A good start to the planned diving. Beautiful clear water and 23 degrees down in the Canary Islands.

- Ian Scholey



EL CONDESITO

September 27, 2017: First Dive Today El Condesito. Tenerife Canary Islands

A new buddy today for a return to the first wreck I ever dived - the Condesito. Now badly broken up, I can remember her intact and being able to get right inside her. Thanks again to Javier Raced for his excellent use of my camera to capture Anna Scholey and I together. An Octopus really took a liking to Javier's camera.—Ian Scholey❖



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

First - August 2017



First place - Mammopus Octopus with eggs - By PT Hirschfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal 2nd - August 2017



Equal Second place - Into the Light - Mark Jeffrey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal 2nd - August 2017



Equal Second Place—Trip to the Dentist - Monique Hammersley

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

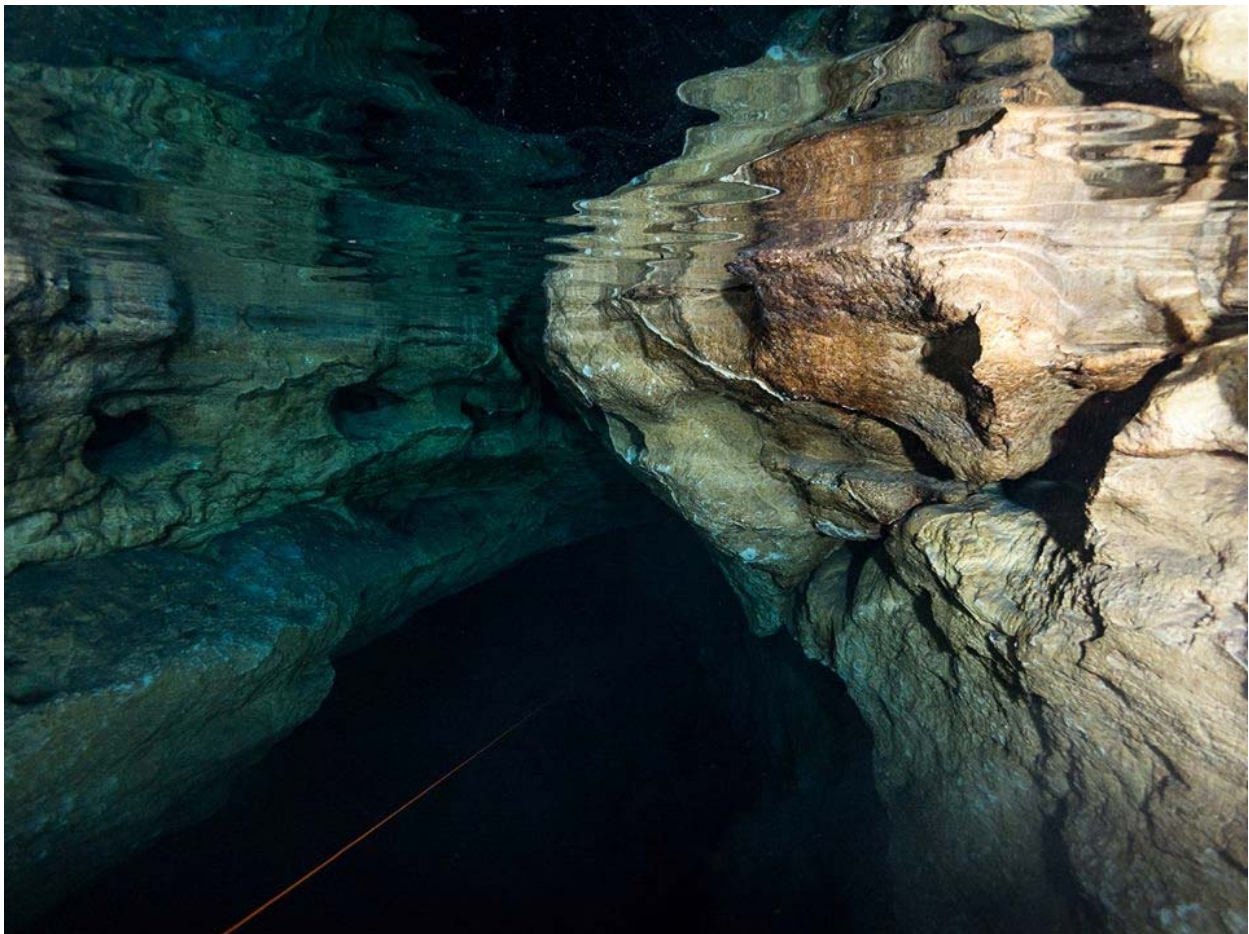
Equal 3rd - August 2017



Equal Third Place - Wreck of the Lundy, Suvla Cove Gallipoli - By Hannah Smeeton.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

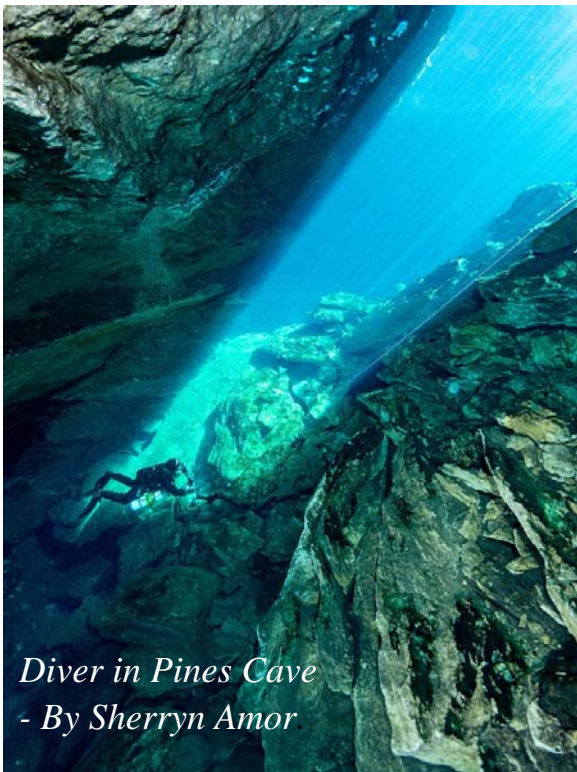
Equal 3rd - August 2017



Equal Third Place - Reflections Nettlebed Cave - By Sherryn Amor

AUGUST 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

Here is another fantastic month of photos from VSAGers. Many divers have been travelling in the colder months and this has led to a wonderful array of diving images. 1st place for August was PT Hirshfield with her Mammopus Octopus with eggs followed by equal second Mark Jeffrey's Into the light and Monique Hammersley's Trip to the Dentist. Equal third was shared by Hannah Smeeton's photo of the Lundy and Sherryn Amor's reflections in Nettlebed cave. All in all, a fantastic collection from all the contributors.



*Diver in Pines Cave
- By Sherryn Amor*



*Sassy Shorthead Seahorse
- By PT Hirschfield.*



*Scorpion Fish East Timor
- By David Geekie.*

AUGUST 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Two Photos of The Pinnacle
- By Ian Scholey.*



*Anzac Barge, Anzac Cove
- By Hannah Smeeton.*



*Diver in the Plumber's Crack,
Wilson's Prom - By Grant Callow.*

AUGUST 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Leaf Fish, East Timor
- By David Geekie.*

*Anenome/Clown
Fish ,Uepi Is.
Solomon Islands
- By Denys
Smerchanskyi.*



*Painted Crayfish,
Uepi Is., Solomon
Islands
- By Denys
Smerchanskyi.*

AUGUST 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Snorkeller,
Williamstown
- By Phil
Watson.*

*Diver in Nettlebed Cave
with Mick Young
- By Sherryn Amor*



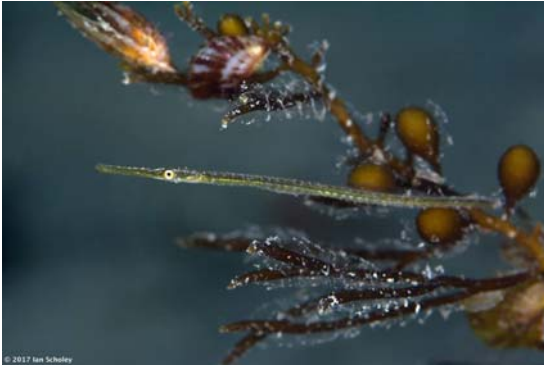
© SherrynA 2017



Beams, Pines Cave
- By Mark Jeffrey.



Ralpharia Magnifica. Scientifically named by VSAG life member Dr Jan Watson in 1980. Photographed at Blairgowrie by Ian Scholey.



Pipe fish and Sea Horse . Photograph by Ian Scholey



© 2017 Ian Scholey

Home: Covered

Car: Covered

Are You?

DAN
ASIA • PACIFIC
Divers Alert Network

Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?

DAN Membership Costs Less than AUD\$6* per month
Be Prepared. Join *the Experts* in Dive Accident Management.

www.danasiapacific.org

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

Diving Wilsons Prom

By Rowan Salger



Diving Wilsons Prom



Flinders Pier

13 August, 2017

A couple of VSAGers at Flinders pier today and if you like 4-5 metre viz even on the rising tide plus 12 degree water temp, then this is the place for you. On the plus side, the sun was out and so were we.

Just as we were going in on the first landing we met a new diver who was told by his instructor he couldn't dive because he didn't pass a course component so he left his gear on the landing. 59 minutes later when we got out, the tide had risen a metre. His tank was still there minus his fins and possibly his mask. Mmmm....I think he'll fail. Attached are a couple of photos of the remains of the old fishing boat. I can remember actually diving inside the wheel house.

- John Ashley

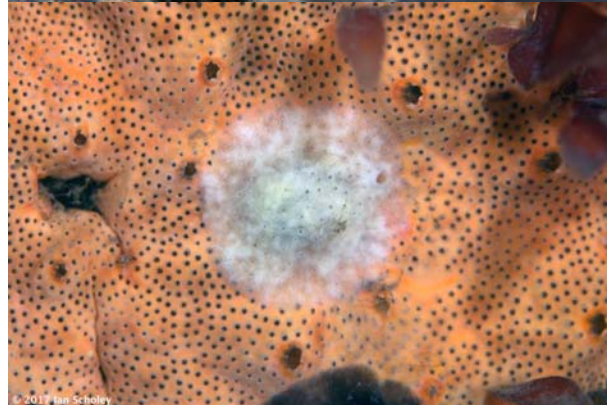


Flinders Pier

A day for the ultra keen today with the weather limiting dive sites to Flinders or nothing. Peter Beaumont headed out as normal and had an interesting dive in pretty surgey conditions.

I concentrated on the small stuff and found a few interesting critters. There were Isopods in plague proportions in one spot.

- Ian Scholey



Boarfish Reef

12 August, 2017

BOARFISH REEF

At last, I managed to get back out on a boat. It seems like ages with my recent overseas trips and conspiring weather conditions. Not exactly perfect conditions today but with the help of Luke English and Redboats , <http://www.redboats.com.au>

I managed a dive on Boarfish Reef. With just one scheduled dive today, Luke gave us a nice long bottom time, which was much appreciated. The vis was OK but there were so many particles in the water it was like being in a snow storm. Somewhat limiting for decent pictures, but I did my best. It was nice to have someone else worry about driving the boat and, as usual, Luke looked after us with dim sims and soup. Thanks to Chris Porter for buddying me today.

- Ian Scholey



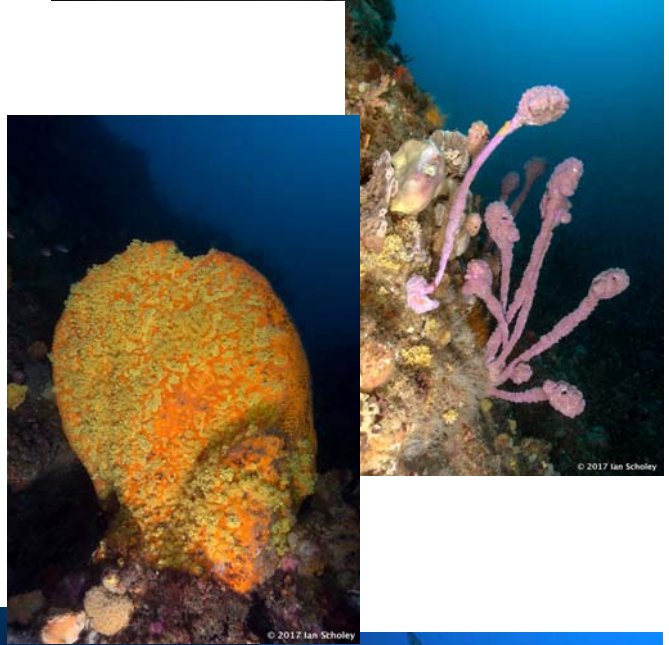
The Pinnacle

20 August, 2017

THE PINNACLE

Today it was just Peter Beaumont and I in Sea Eagle. To be fair, it was a little bumpy out there but we had a really good dive on The Pinnacle, making the trip over to Phillip Island well worthwhile. The colour at this dive site always blows me away. We anchored slightly away from my normal mark. I dropped down to 37m and worked my way back up to the anchor at 29m before heading up to do my deco. There were plenty of fish about including a skittish Draughtboard Shark and huge schools of Perch.

- Ian Scholey



J1 Submarine

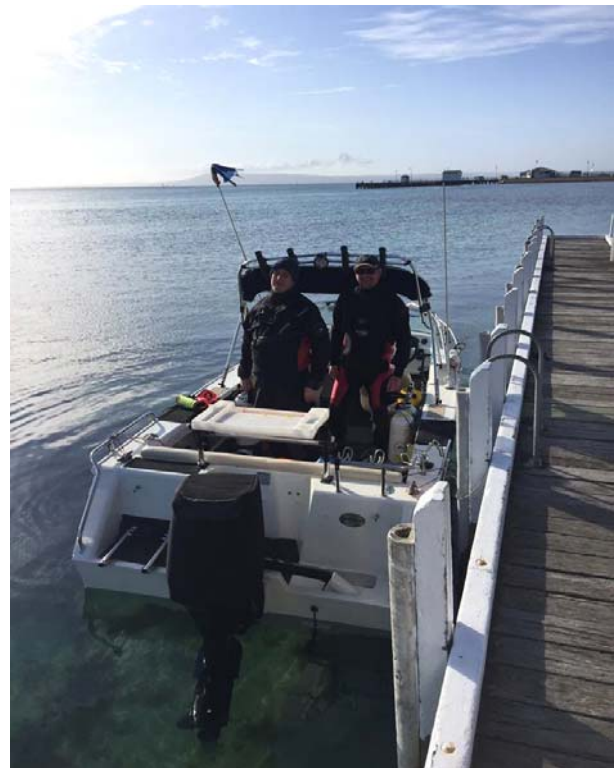
19 September, 2017

J1 SUBMARINE

Hi all, just a follow up on last Sunday's dive, as Ian mentioned the viz was pretty terrible, one could say it was like draining the dish water after cleaning greasy dishes. However the further we got out in Bass Strait it cleared up a bit.

The fish life on the J1 never ceases to amaze me, always plenty to look at. This sub is really starting to fall apart, a mere shadow of the one we dived back in the late 70's but in many ways a better dive because of its internal accessibility. Even though The viz was bad it was great to get out with the boys and have an enjoyable day. Thanks guys.

- *John Ashley*



J1 Submarine

17 September, 2017

J1 SUBMARINE

Oh boy, what a relief, we finally got some good diving weather on a weekend. A busy one for me with a fantastic dive with Redboats on Lonsdale Wall on Saturday with buddies Darren Pearce and Luke English.

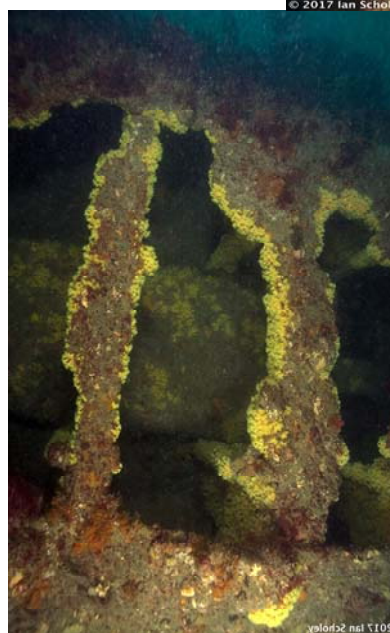
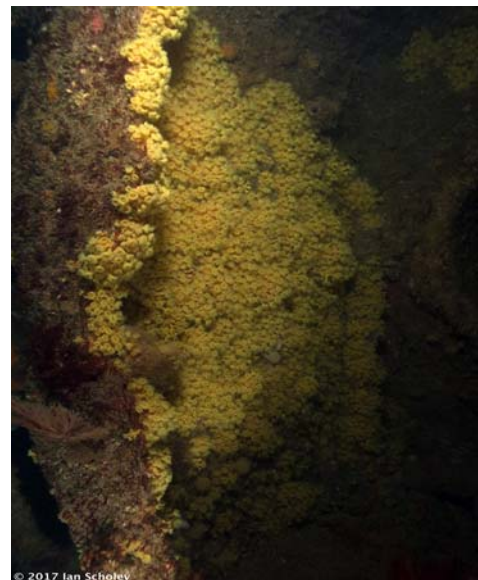
Today we were out on John Ashley's boat with Darren Pearce and myself on board.

We started with the J1 Sub. With all the rain the vis was pretty poor but hey, we were finally outside so we were going to enjoy it anyway. We got inside for a nice swim-through before heading towards the stern and back to midships to start our ascent and deco. With the vis putting us off we headed inside and I had a quick splash with the seals. Once again photography was very difficult with all the turbidity in the water. So I decided to turn off the strobes and go for silhouettes and some Black & White conversions. They actually came out Ok, I think!

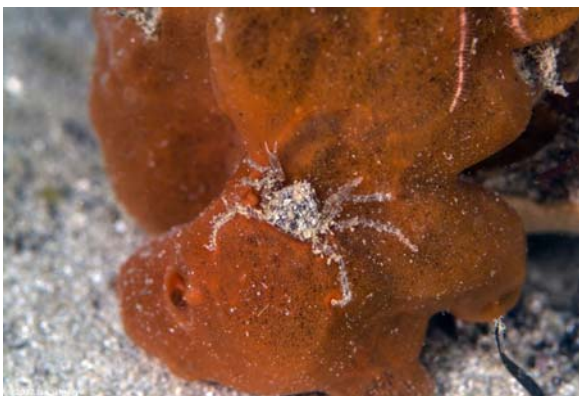
- Ian Scholey



J1 Submarine



Blairgowrie



Blairgowrie



Blairgowrie



Save the Rays



Victorian Fisheries Authority has installed signs to remind people to respect rays and skates in the coming months! You might spot the signs next to boat ramps and piers around Port Phillip.

If you are fishing and unintentionally catch a ray or skate, return it to the water as soon as possible without injury or suffering. Ideally, keep it in the water to gently remove the hook or cut the line as close to the hook as possible. If you

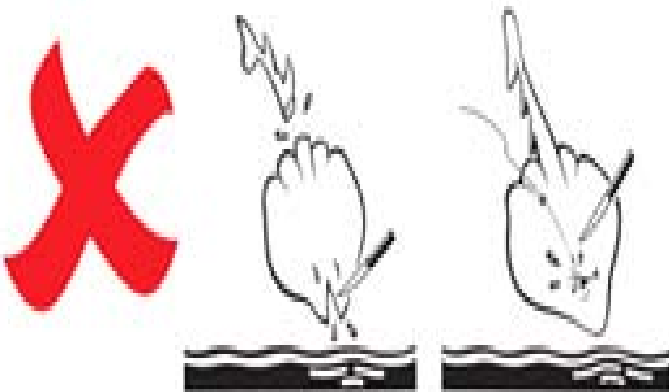
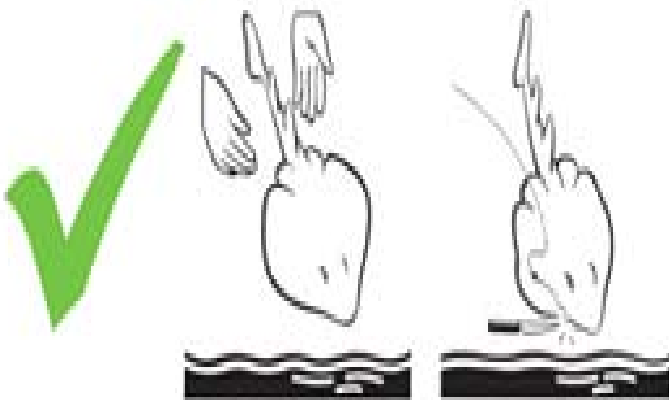
catch a barbed ray, minimise handling and do your best to stay safe. Don't place rays on hot dry surfaces and use wet hands or wet towels to assist.

If you love rays and skates like we do, then let's work together and give them the respect they deserve!

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

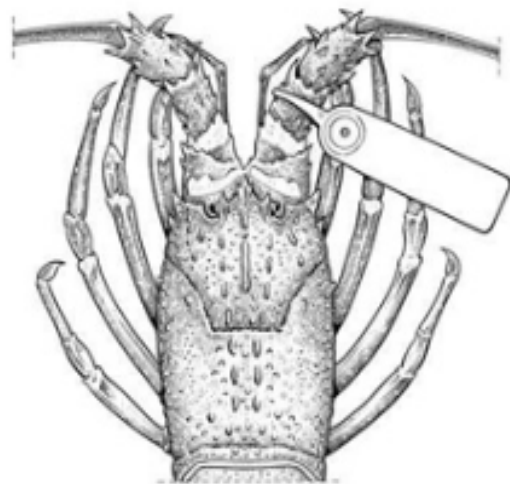
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

From **1 July 2017**, all recreational fishers will be required to tag the rock lobster they catch and keep as part of a three year trial program.

A primary focus for the government is to ensure ongoing access to the rock lobster resource for all sectors, and a healthy, sustainable and well-managed fishery for present and future generations to enjoy.

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

For further information please visit the link below:



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

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. ❖

Rapid Bay, SA 4-7 November, 2017

We are planning a trip to South Australia over the Melbourne Cup weekend for anyone interested in joining us. The options to get there, either driving or flying to Adelaide and driving from there. At this stage we have people going both ways. The main attraction is Rapid Bay Jetty and its resident Leafy Sea Dragons but we have plenty of other diving options including a possible HMAS Hobart boat dive if we have the numbers and conditions allow.

Contact me if interested - Ian Scholey

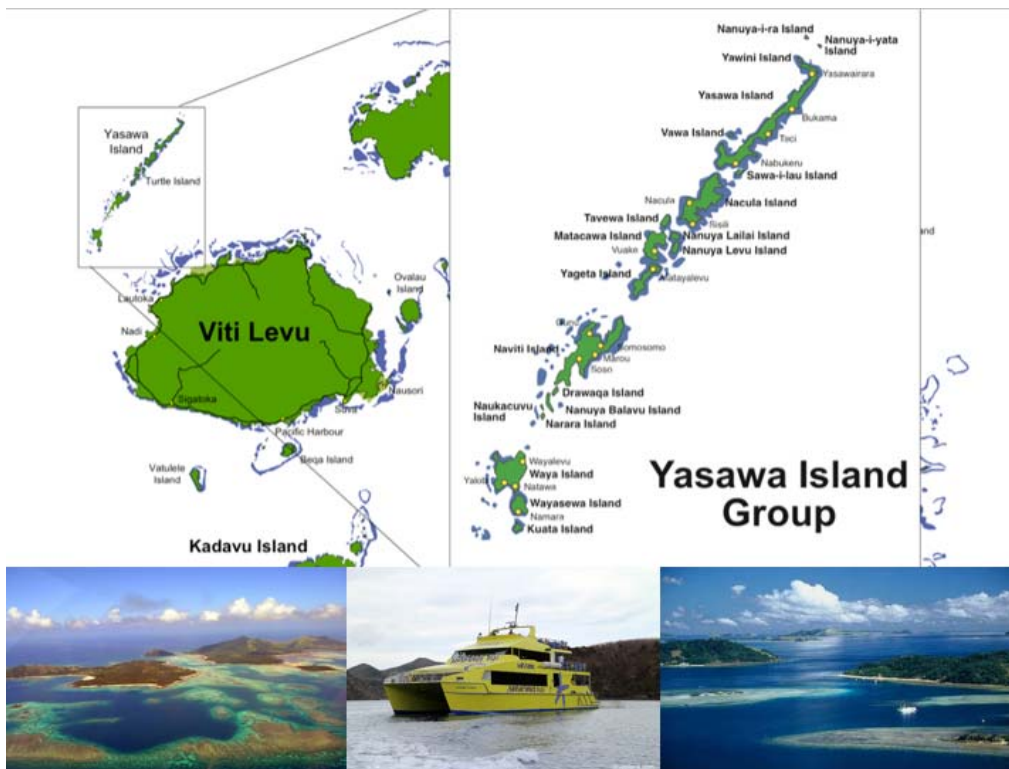
YASAWA ISLANDS FIJI 2019



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, Shirts and marina 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

D I A R Y D A T E S

Rapid Bay, SA - 4-6 November, 2017

Christmas Party Sat 25th (Date TBC)

Tasmania 17-18-19 of March 2018

Truk Lagoon/ PNG 18-30 August 2018

Yasawa Island Fiji 2019

VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar

By Peter Beaumont, Dive Calendar Co-ordinator, VSAG

Activity Details

Dive Co-ordinator (DC) nominated below.

Dive site determined by DC and advised by email based on forecast conditions.

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

Dive day can swap between Sat and Sun depending on conditions!

Dive Coordinator is responsible for organising a dive report after their weekend.

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

Book in for a dive day ASAP after receiving notification via email. Please provide the Dive Captain with your full name, mobile phone number and e-mail address.

You are required to call the Dive Captain between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. the evening prior to the dive day to confirm that you will still be coming on the dive.

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

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

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

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Sep 2/3 | <i>Boat Dives DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725</i> |
| Sep 9/10 | <i>Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686</i> |
| Sep 16/17 | <i>Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646</i> |
| Sep 19 | <i>Annual General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm Guest Speaker: Stuart Bain - Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy</i> |
| Sep 23/24 | <i>Boat Dives DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725</i> |
| Sep 29/30/Oct 1 Oct 1 | <i>Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646 Shore Dives DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881</i> |
| Oct 7/8 | <i>Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920</i> |
| Oct 14/15 | <i>Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684</i> |
| Oct 17 | <i>General Meeting / Awards night The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm</i> |
| Oct 21/22 | <i>Boat Dives DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725</i> |
| Oct 29 Oct 28/29 | <i>Shore Dives DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881 Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920</i> |
| Nov 4-7 | <i>Rapid Bay/Ex HMAS Hobart, SA Trip Organiser – Ian Scholey 0439 310 646</i> |
| Nov 4/5 | <i>Shore Dives DC Carol Penfold 0449 986 473 Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686</i> |
| Nov 7 Melb Cup | <i>Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646</i> |
| Nov 11/12 | <i>Boat Dives DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725</i> |
| Nov 18/19 | <i>Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646</i> |
| Nov 21 | <i>General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm Guest Speaker: Bob Burns - Nudibranchs</i> |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Nov 25 | <i>Christmas Party Sat 25th (Date TBC)</i> |
| Nov 25/26 | <i>Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920</i> |
| Nov 26 | <i>Shore Dives DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881</i> |
| Dec 2/3 | <i>Shore Dives DC Carol Penfold 0449 986 473 Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 6844</i> |
| Dec 9/10 | <i>Boat Dives DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725</i> |
| Dec 16/17 | <i>Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686</i> |
| Dec 19 | <i>General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm No Guest Speaker - Social</i> |
| Dec 23/24 | <i>Boat Dives DC Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725</i> |
| Dec 30/31 | <i>Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646</i> |
| Feb 10-13 | <i>Eaglehawk Neck, TAS Trip Organiser – David Geekie 0419 300 686</i> |
| Feb 17/18 | <i>Eaglehawk Neck, TAS Trip Organiser – John Ashley – 0418 535 991</i> |
| Feb 20 | <i>General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm Guest Speaker – Des Williams – Development of the Rebreather</i> |
| Aug 18-30 | <i>Truk Lagoon Trip Organiser – Ian Scholey 0439 310 646</i> |
| Aug 30 – 5 Sep | <i>Tawali, PNG Optional extension to Truk Lagoon Trip Organiser Ian Scholey 0439 310 646</i> |
| | |

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 — October 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

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| MON 2 | TUE 3 | WED 4 | THU 5 | FRI 6 | SAT 7 | SUN 8 |
| 5:29 | 6:31 | 0:54 | 2:15 | 3:27 | 4:28 | 5:20 |
| 12:18 | 13:23 | 7:47 | 9:02 | 10:04 | 10:56 | 11:42 |
| 17:59 | 19:25 | 14:24 | 15:16 | 15:59 | 16:38 | 17:14 |
| 23:36 | | 20:44 | 21:41 | 22:29 | 23:13 | 23:56 |
| MON 9 | TUE 10 | WED 11 | THU 12 | FRI 13 | SAT 14 | SUN 15 |
| 6:09 | 0:39 | 1:22 | 2:06 | 2:52 | 3:39 | 4:30 |
| 12:26 | 6:56 | 7:43 | 8:30 | 9:18 | 10:08 | 11:02 |
| 17:51 | 13:07 | 13:48 | 14:29 | 15:12 | 16:00 | 16:56 |
| | 18:28 | 19:08 | 19:50 | 20:37 | 21:32 | 22:37 |
| MON 16 | TUE 17 | WED 18 | THU 19 | FRI 20 | SAT 21 | SUN 22 |
| 5:27 | 6:36 | 1:22 | 2:45 | 3:55 | 4:51 | 5:38 |
| 12:01 | 13:06 | 7:56 | 9:14 | 10:18 | 11:10 | 11:54 |
| 18:07 | 19:30 | 14:09 | 15:07 | 15:56 | 16:38 | 17:15 |
| 23:55 | | 20:47 | 21:48 | 22:38 | 23:20 | 23:58 |
| MON 23 | TUE 24 | WED 25 | THU 26 | FRI 27 | SAT 28 | SUN 29 |
| 6:18 | 0:32 | 1:05 | 1:37 | 2:09 | 2:42 | 3:17 |
| 12:32 | 6:54 | 7:28 | 8:01 | 8:35 | 9:10 | 9:48 |
| 17:48 | 13:06 | 13:38 | 14:09 | 14:41 | 15:14 | 15:51 |
| | 18:19 | 18:50 | 19:23 | 19:57 | 20:33 | 21:16 |
| October | | November | | | | |
| MON 30 | TUE 31 | WED 1 | THU 2 | FRI 3 | SAT 4 | SUN 5 |
| 3:54 | 4:38 | 5:32 | 0:34 | 1:58 | 3:14 | 4:17 |
| 10:31 | 11:19 | 12:12 | 6:45 | 8:12 | 9:29 | 10:30 |
| 16:35 | 17:30 | 18:40 | 13:09 | 14:06 | 14:58 | 15:46 |
| 22:08 | 23:14 | | 19:54 | 20:57 | 21:51 | 22:40 |

Tidal Streams at the Heads — November 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

| October | | November | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| MON 30 | TUE 31 | WED 1 | THU 2 | FRI 3 | SAT 4 | SUN 5 |
| 3:54 | 4:38 | 5:32 | 0:34 | 1:58 | 3:14 | 4:17 |
| 10:31 | 11:19 | 12:12 | 6:45 | 8:12 | 9:29 | 10:30 |
| 16:35 | 17:30 | 18:40 | 13:09 | 14:06 | 14:58 | 15:46 |
| 22:08 | 23:14 | | 19:54 | 20:57 | 21:51 | 22:40 |
| MON 6 | TUE 7 | WED 8 | THU 9 | FRI 10 | SAT 11 | SUN 12 |
| 5:11 | 6:01 | 0:14 | 1:01 | 1:47 | 2:34 | 3:21 |
| 11:22 | 12:09 | 6:48 | 7:33 | 8:18 | 9:03 | 9:48 |
| 16:31 | 17:15 | 12:54 | 13:38 | 14:23 | 15:10 | 16:01 |
| 23:28 | | 18:00 | 18:47 | 19:37 | 20:31 | 21:32 |
| MON 13 | TUE 14 | WED 15 | THU 16 | FRI 17 | SAT 18 | SUN 19 |
| 4:09 | 5:02 | 0:03 | 1:28 | 2:46 | 3:50 | 4:42 |
| 10:35 | 11:26 | 6:05 | 7:24 | 8:46 | 9:55 | 10:50 |
| 16:58 | 18:03 | 12:21 | 13:19 | 14:17 | 15:09 | 15:54 |
| 22:42 | | 19:14 | 20:21 | 21:18 | 22:06 | 22:47 |
| MON 20 | TUE 21 | WED 22 | THU 23 | FRI 24 | SAT 25 | SUN 26 |
| 5:25 | 6:03 | 0:00 | 0:33 | 1:06 | 1:39 | 2:12 |
| 11:35 | 12:13 | 6:36 | 7:08 | 7:40 | 8:11 | 8:44 |
| 16:34 | 17:10 | 12:48 | 13:21 | 13:53 | 14:25 | 14:59 |
| 23:25 | | 17:45 | 18:20 | 18:56 | 19:33 | 20:12 |
| November | | | | December | | |
| MON 27 | TUE 28 | WED 29 | THU 30 | FRI 1 | SAT 2 | SUN 3 |
| 2:45 | 3:20 | 4:00 | 4:48 | 0:13 | 1:37 | 2:56 |
| 9:17 | 9:52 | 10:31 | 11:14 | 5:51 | 7:13 | 8:43 |
| 15:35 | 16:17 | 17:05 | 18:04 | 12:03 | 12:59 | 13:58 |
| 20:56 | 21:50 | 22:55 | | 19:09 | 20:14 | 21:14 |

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

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



Dreamcatcher Jelly - Photo by PT Hirshfield