



Fathoms

APRIL — MAY 2018

Cover photo by PT Hirshfield

Rajat Ampat
VSAG Dive Trip, Eaglehawk Neck, Tas.
November/December/January Photo Comps
Spider Crabs, Blairgowrie and more.....

PINK
TANK
SCUBA.COM

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

www.vsag.org.au



VSAG will be participating in this event. Dust off the cameras and get slug hunting!!!

First Melbourne Sea Slug Census

Saturday & Sunday, 21/22 April 2018

Using your underwater camera collect images of Sea Slugs anywhere in Port Phillip Bay, Westernport Bay and surrounds! If you're out and about in the area we want to know what you find. It's up to you how you find them, but always remember to follow safe diving, snorkelling and rock pooling practices. Bring your buddy or team to the free BBQ hosted by VNPA starting at 2:00pm at Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron on Sunday 22 April to share sea slug stories.

Census Suggestions

1. Photos for the census are to be taken within Port Phillip Bay, Westernport Bay and surrounds. Between 00:01am Saturday 21 April 2018 – 23:59 Sunday 22 April 2018.
2. Send in one photo for each species of sea slug you encounter on census

weekend. You don't need to identify the slugs (although please do if you can), just take their photos!

3. Photos from you, your buddy pair or your team should be cropped around the slug, shrunk to around 640 x 480 pixels, and submitted by email or dropbox by Sunday 29 April to:

melbourneseaslugcensus@gmail.com

4. Emails should include the names of everyone involved in capturing the image and details of the location where photos were taken. If you collect images at more than one site please indicate which photos were taken at which site.

5. There will be prizes up for grabs for the best photo, most species found, most unusual species and more.

For further information please visit:

www.vnpa.org.au/programs/sea-slug-census/



Fathoms

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In this April—May 2018 issue...

Article	Author	Page
Rajat Ampat	Meg Johnson	6-9
Eaglehawk Neck	VSAG Dive Trip	10-19
Bicheno	John Ashley	20
Did You Know?	John Lawler	21
February Guest Speaker	Des Williams	22-23
Crustacea	Jan Watson	24-27
March Guest Speaker	Grant Callow	28-36
November/December 2017 Photo Competitions		37-47
January 2018 Photo Competition		48-52
Action In Fog	Boating Victoria	53-55
The History of a Private Dive Boat	John Lawler	56-59
Spider Crabs, Blairgowrie		66-73
Local Dive Site Reports		62-86
Save the Rays /Lobster Tagging	Victorian Fisheries	87-88
Yasawa Islands Fiji		89-90
Truk Lagoon Micronesia		91-94
Diary Dates		95
VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar		96-99
Tidal Streams		100-103
Emergency Contact Information		104-105

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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 2018–2019

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RAJAT AMPAT

RAJA AMPAT

MEG JOHNSON - MARCH 2018

It can be a bit hard to get to – but it's worth it. Access is getting better, but that may not be a good thing. See it now before it really opens up and gets crowded!

It took me about 36 hours to get to the Papua Paradise Resort in Raja Ampat, West Papua, door to door. I left home around 4.30 am Thursday and arrived at Papua Paradise about 4pm Friday. Getting to the airport some hours before the flight, then 7 hours flying to Jakarta, 2.5 hours wait, 2.5 hours flying to Makassar, 11 hours wait, 2.25 hours flying to Sorong, 7.5 hours wait, 1.5 hours by boat to Papua Paradise. Arrived.

And off the grid – the limited wi-fi is touch and go, and no mobile access – a wonderful week in which I was blissfully unaware of what Donald Trump was tweeting, or any other crazy business going down in the world.

The trip home was marginally better – an hour or so on the boat, about 4 or 5 hours in Sorong, relatively short change overs in Makassar and Denpasar, then home, only about 24 hours door to door. I'm told there is now a direct Denpasar-Sorong flight



that would reduce the time quite a bit. Avoiding Makassar and Jakarta would be a bonus. If they ever started flying from Darwin to Sorong – it would be a breeze.

Papua Paradise is located on a V shaped island just west of Batanta, Island and east of Waigeo, Mansuar and Fam Islands.

Papua Paradise has 26 over water bungalows – 16 standard, 10 deluxe. The week or so I was there the resort had about 20 guests – although it holds a maximum of about 50-60. There are also about 100 staff on the island. I stayed in a standard bungalow – it was comfortable, rustic, and perfectly relaxing. I also had a look at the deluxe bungalows. They were better – and the dugongs obviously prefer them.

They are in the process of opening a spa – which looks like it will be great - but wasn't open yet when I was there. A massage or treatment in the

mix of the diving would only add to the experience.

The website says there is no alcohol for sale except beer – but they have since introduced wine – a limited selection of red and white is for sale.

The food was very good – great variety and some really tasty food. All buffet-style. The restaurant is also over the water and has a number of communal tables, for those who prefer to mingle, or for big groups. And it has a great view of the sunset. The senior dive staff and management join the communal tables for meals – which is a great opportunity to talk about diving, the environment, where else they have worked, the state of the world.

The dive centre is good – and dive staff are great. They have a lot of boats – and there are never more than about 4 divers per boat – so unless the live-aboards (of which there are many) crash the party, most dive sites are uncrowded – just you and your guide. A guide is assigned to each couple or small group – being on my own I had my own guide, and dived all week with Kade, my local guide – mostly with either a couple of German bankers or a couple from Sweden who run a boat business as my buddies on the boat. Once under water we usually went our own way – giving the

illusion that you and your guide are the only divers for miles around.

The demographic the week I was there was mostly around my age – people in their 40's, 50's and 60's – keen divers, who'd been diving for decades, many maximising their diving in their retirement. People with interesting lives – and lots of experience to share, of their diving all around the world. They made for entertaining dinner companions.

The water temperature was a constant 26-28 degrees. Air temperature and general weather was more variable. It was quite stormy most of the week – with periods of rain and squalls. When it was sunny, the sun was fierce – so the cloudy conditions were generally a blessing.

Most of the guests were divers, although there were also some snorkelers when I was there. I really don't get snorkelers – why skim the surface when you could dive?

I was the only Australian there that week. Most of the guests were European – Germans, Swedes, Swiss, Austrians, French, Spanish, with a few Americans, Brits and a Canadian/Irish couple who hailed from NZ. Raja Ampat is a 48-50 hour trip from Europe or America. They generally (understandably) were staying longer – 2-4 weeks.

I did 21 dives in my 8 days of diving, but there were a lot of things I missed – so I think I’ll be back some time soon.

Dugongs live near the resort, and I didn’t see a dugong chomping on the sea grass (although most other guests did and happily showed me the videos/photos of dugongs grazing around the walkways and bungalows that they shot while I was out diving!).

They’re upmarket dugongs – they mainly hang around the ‘deluxe’ end of the row of bungalows! Next time I’m booking a deluxe bungalow so I can hang with the dugongs.

I didn’t get to Fam Island – which is the iconic view of picturesque small green islands you see on all the photos of Raja Ampat. And I didn’t get to dive The Passage – which I’m told is the drift dive of your life!

I did see whales – one I’m told was a Bryde’s whale and the other occasion was a large pod of pilot whales. I did see dolphins, I did see Mantas, I did see turtles, cuttlefish, morays,



lobster, octopus, sharks (reef shark and wobbegongs) and beautiful reefs. I did see large schools of barracuda, in tornado formation, fusiliers, giant trevallies, lots of sweetlips, lion fish, leaf fish, frog fish, unicorn fish, gobies, wahoo, jacks, mackerels, bump head parrot fish, napoleon wrasse, all manner of fish. I also saw lovely macro stuff – nudibranchs, flat worms, pygmy seahorses, many different types of pipe fish, eels, stone fish, a peacock mantis shrimp, lots of shrimps in general, and gorgeous healthy corals – hard and soft.

My days were either ‘local diving’ or ‘day trips’. ‘Local diving’ leaves at 8am, for dives within 20 minutes of the resort. We’d dive, pull into a beach somewhere for morning tea, dive, back to the resort for lunch, another dive in the afternoon then a hot shower. There is the option of sunset or night dives – but this trip I didn’t do any. ‘Day trips’ leave at 7.30am and do 3 dives, arriving home around 4pm. Kri, to the west, has lovely dive sites – Blue Magic is particularly great – the huge schools of fish just mesmerise – you just float there surrounded by schools of fish – intersecting, spiralling, - the sea is thick with fish – it’s immersive, it’s meditative, it’s mesmerising.

The 3 jetties are also a wonderful day trip – 3 fabulous village jetties with amazing reefs. Manta Ridge was

Divers at Manta Ridge



another highlight. Fairly strong current, a manta cleaning station – the day I was there, at least a dozen mantas, both reef and oceanic, coming in for a beauty treatment – so close you could touch them. Mantas were also around on other sites – both on the surface and underwater.

I also saw a fair bit of rubbish. It's a depressing fact that the world is drowning in its own waste – plastics in particular. Even in the most remote areas – there are floating islands of plastic rubbish. The resort itself is clean. The staff get out and intercept the rubbish before it washes onto shore, and if it does make it to shore, clean it up asap. And the reefs are relatively pristine. Everything is relative – our oceans are drowning in rubbish – it's depressing, and ubiquitous, and I wish we could do more about it. I've been diving since 1986, and many VSAG members have been diving a lot longer than that. I've noticed the changes over the years – once pristine places are now suffering the

effects of the oceans of the world awash with rubbish ... what can we do? Re-use, reduce, recycle – reject plastics – create less waste.

The resort is sensitive to the environment and tries to have a small footprint. Encouragingly, all the resorts of Raja Ampat are proactively trying to influence local practices – joining together to decide collectively not to buy reef fish from the local fishermen – so there is no market much for local reef fish. They also won't buy lobster or other sea life that would encourage fishing on the local reefs.

As a solo diver – this place was great. Small, friendly, great diving, good company. It was a great holiday. I've never been back to the same dive resort twice – but I might make an exception for Papua Paradise. I loved it there.

Currently, there are few resorts – lots of live-aboards – and lots of building going on. The resorts are increasing. So, Go Now – and see it while it's still relatively pristine.

- Meg ❖

*Anemone
with
shrimps*



EAGLEHAWK NECK

By John Ashley

VSAG-dive Eaglehawk Tasmania
Saturday 17th March 2018.

Friday was washed out due to strong winds and today at 6-30 am wasn't looking much better (raining) so I started cooking bacon/eggs for the crew. Mick our skipper walked past and said no diving today guys but within 30 minutes he was back with better news (I reckon Karen gave him a serve) ha-ha, anyway we found ourselves standing in the pouring rain down at the boat ramp. It was like a stand off. Mick and Karen sitting in the truck in the rain and VSAG divers huddled together behind a building. Sounds good doesn't it?

So,,anyway, we're finally in the boat heading out in the 2-3m swells and 20 knot winds. Didn't I say, sounds good? We headed back to Deep Glen bay and Mick suggested a bommie dive out to sea. We divers looked at each other and mutinied. No way were 5 old divers going in that, so we kept going and dived another bommie inside Deep Glen bay near the wall.

So far, nothing looked good until we hit the water. This dive was grouse!

20+ metre viz greeted us as we hit the top of the bommie in 22m and glided down to 38m. For those who've dived the Sisters, this bommie is a carbon copy with superb fish life, every piece of rock was covered by sponges and corals, with huge numbers of Sea Whips on the bottom. After circling the bottom of the bommie, we swam towards and up Deep Glen Wall slowly off gassing as we headed up as we had racked up a bit of deco on the bottom of the bommie.

The wall in itself is a fantastic dive, although it was interesting being pushed up and down some 3-4 metres by the swell if you got too close and again large schools of fish everywhere, although the viz had dropped. Probably my best dive in Tasmania so far, thanks to my buddies—Antony Platford and Darren Pearce. As big as our dive boat is, a 22ft shark cat, the bow was ploughing into the swells on the way back, even with a following sea but we were in good hands with Mick being our skipper and as we were unloading the boat, we all agreed that in spite of the weather (again raining) it was a great day.

- John Ashley ❖

2nd Group Tasman Peninsula



Carole Campisano



Carole Campisano



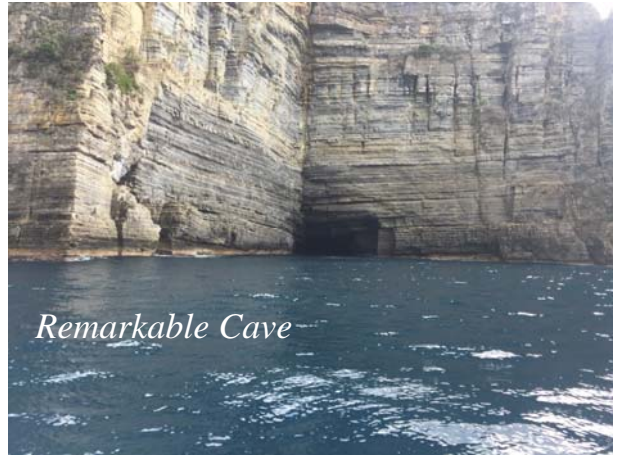
Antony Platford



Carole & Peter Campisano



*Mick, Eaglehawk
Neck Dive
Centre*



Remarkable Cave

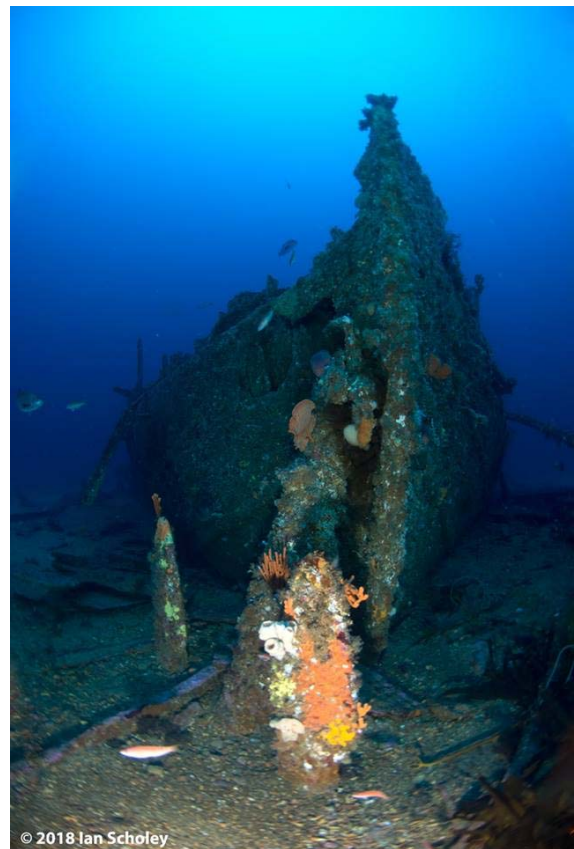
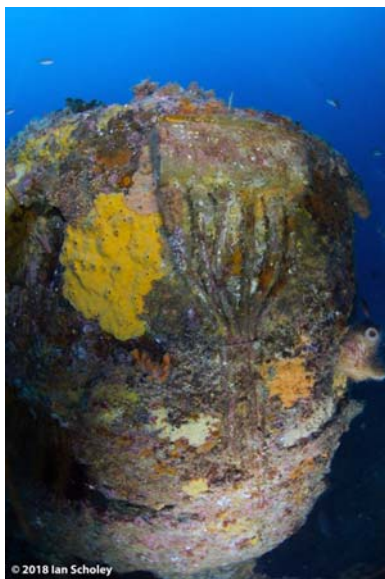


Carole & Peter Campisano

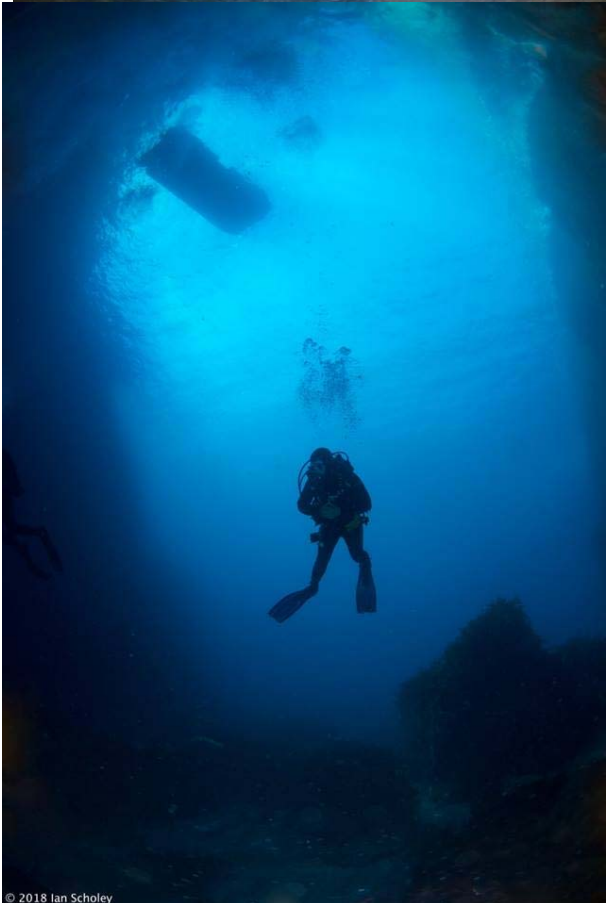
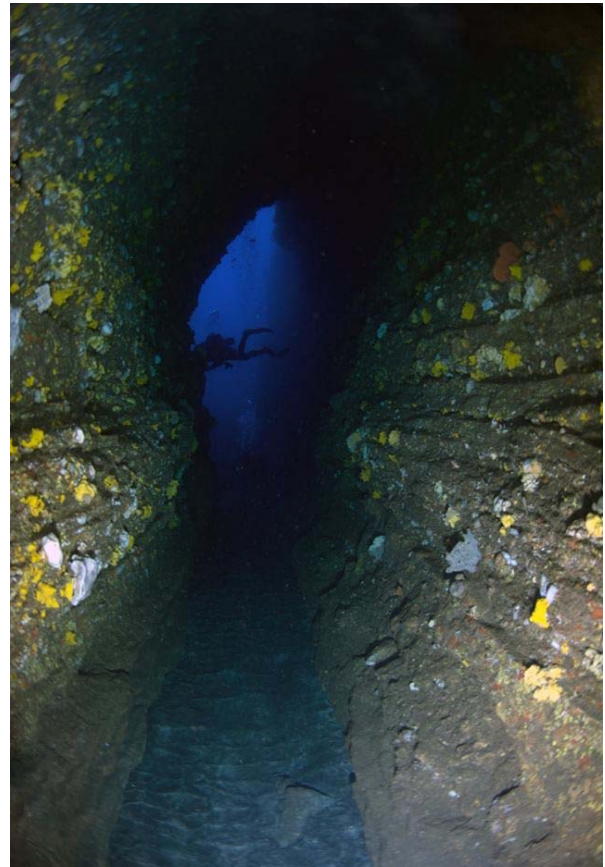
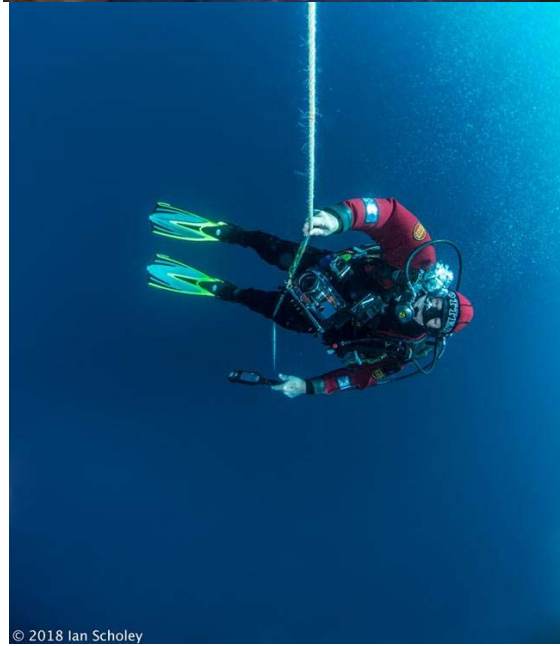


12 March, 2018

A few shots of the SS Nord dive yesterday. Always seem to go to the stern on this dive, so made the effort to go to the bow instead this time - Ian Scholey ❖



A few more shots from our trip to Tassie. This set explains why we have now been down there 4 years in a row for Labour Day weekend and why we will be going again next year. Can't wait to go back again.—Ian Scholey❖





© 2018 Ian Scholey



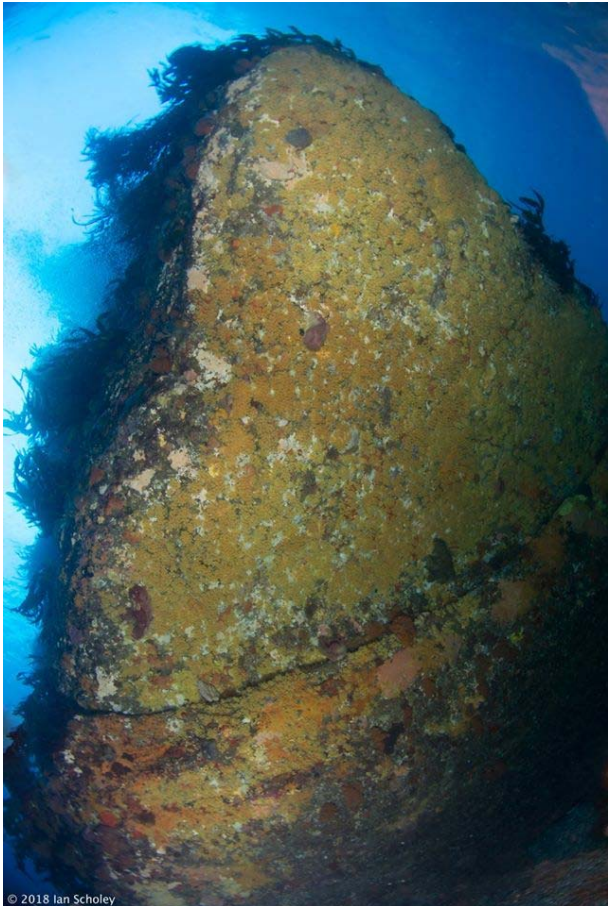
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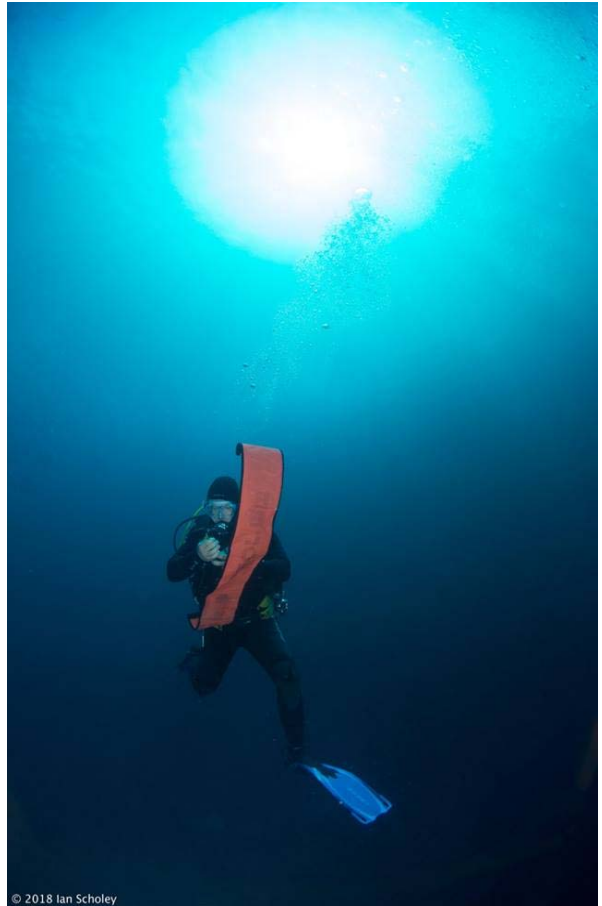
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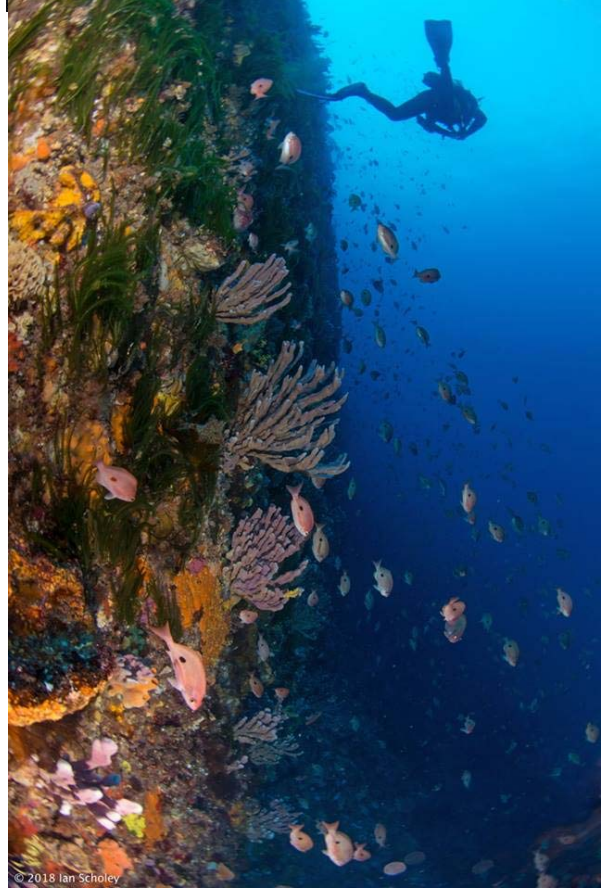
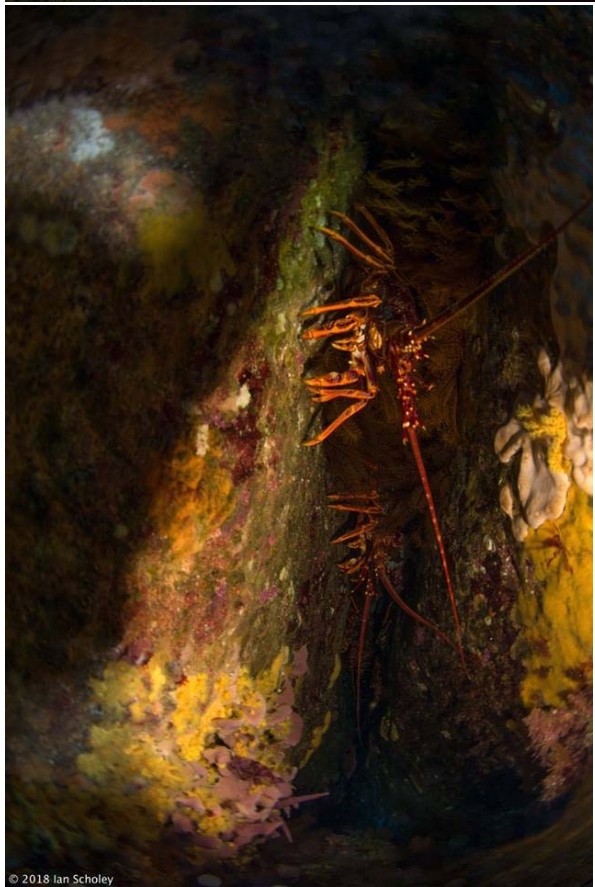
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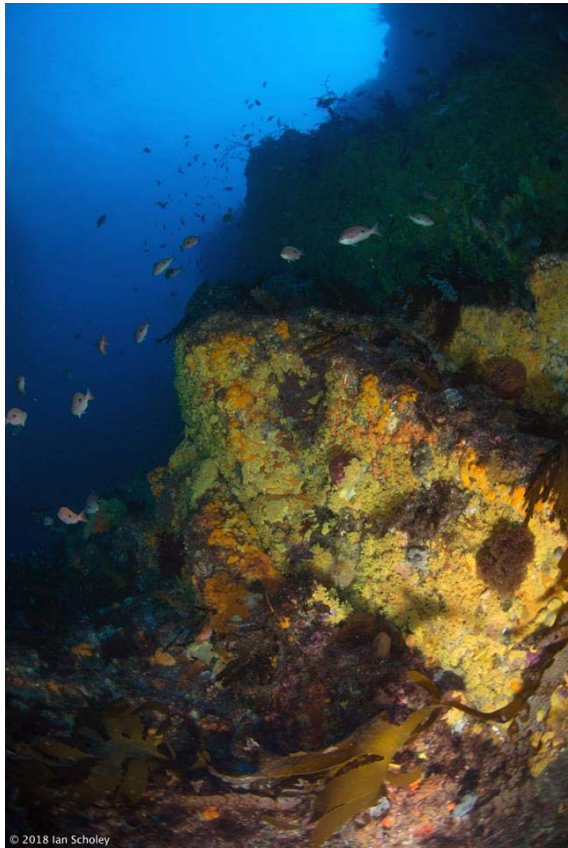


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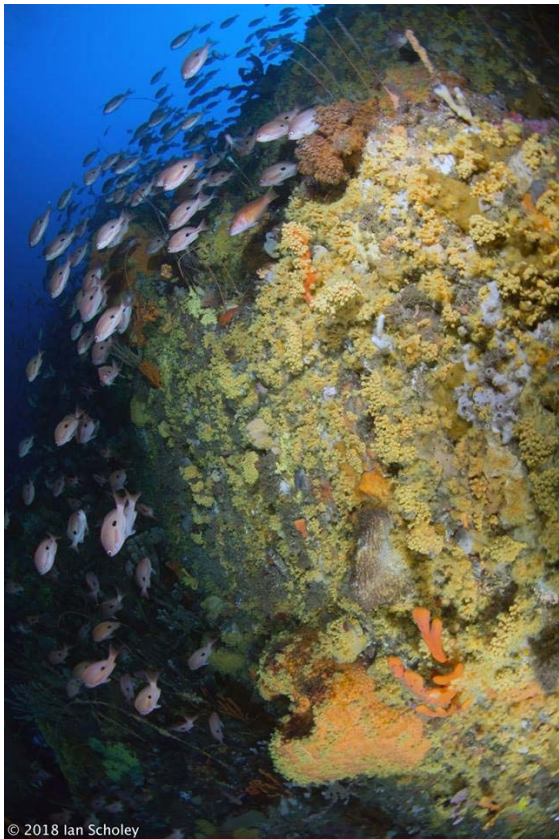




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VSAG TRIP—EAGLEHAWK NECK, FOK ROCK DIVE.

March 12, 2018

Our second dive today was a cracker. Armed with a macro lens, I went in search of Sea Spiders at Fok Rock. This dive site really highlights the beauty of Tassie under the water. One reason why we keep coming back. Next year is already booked.

Thanks to David Geekie, Pamela Dagley, Angus Stuart-Adams, James Turner, Leo Maybes and Mick and Karen at Eaglehawk Dive Centre for a brilliant trip.

- Ian Scholey ❖



Yellow Sea Spider size 1-1.5cm





Bicheno

THE BLOW HOLE BICHENO, TASMANIA

February 16, 2018

This is a great spot. Easy shore dives and Bicheno Dive Centre is just around the corner. It offers nothing for the wreck diver, but has some great reefs to explore just a jump away.

Close inshore it's mainly bull kelp but as you head further out it's typical of Woolamai, lots of bommies, ledges and Crays. Unfortunately it's a marine reserve, so look, photo and leave 😊😊😊. I'd love to come back here and spend more time doing a mix of boat and shore dives. Boat dives are \$60 each and shore, the cost of your fill, \$10.

Viz today was 15+, max depth 11m, temp was down a bit to 17 on the bottom. Great diving.

- John Ashley ❖



Tasman Arch



For those thinking of going to Tassie here is something to wet your lips. Today was just fantastic.

-John Ashley ❖



Eaglehawk Neck



**THIS PLAQUE IS NOW IN THE BRIDGE
OF THE CANBERRA WRECK**

DID YOU KNOW?

That members of VSAG and Getunder dive clubs, who were part of the Victorian Artificial Reef Society (VARS) and other supporters, are recognized on this plaque for their effort in securing, and preparing, the former guided missile destroyer EX HMAS CANBERRA FFG02 (02 War Canoe) for Melbournethe plaque now lives in the bridge of the wreck.

Most names are (regrettably) hard to read on this original. Best to enlarge this new unit to see all those involved in the massive project

(As a matter of interest, the area running alongside the two helicopter hangers was affectionately known by the crews as “Northbourne Avenue”, one of the main thoroughfares in Canberra ACT.)

JL❖

February Guest Speaker



DES WILLIAMS

Life member of VSAG.

Past President

Maritime Archeological Association
of Victoria.

Historical Diving Society Australia-
Pacific.

Author of books on maritime history
and ship wrecks.

All round good guy!

Once again, we were treated to a wealth of knowledge from our resident historian, Des Williams. Des delivered a very interesting and informative talk on the history of the rebreather.

The development of the rebreather by Henry Fleuss was for use in irrespirable atmospheres such as smoke-filled premises and coal mines.

Stephen Hales 1677-1767
experimented using a flannel, salt, vinegar and potash, using a moist sponge covered with cloth as a filter.

Theodore Schwann 1853, Belgium
experimented using barium peroxide.

1876 Henry Fleuss, Wiltshire, used a filter and topping up with oxygen from a small bottle, managed to stay submerged for 1 hour.

1879 Siebe Gorman Co., submarine
manufacturer, managed 4 hours of
operations.

In 1879 the rebreather was used to
save lives in the Killingworth
Colliery.

In 1880 the rebreather was used to
save lives in the Seaham Colliery.

In 1880 the rebreather was taken underwater by Alexander Lambert. Using a dive helmet and hose, Fleuss apparatus and only 15 mins of instruction, he saved the rail tunnel which was being constructed under the River Severn, Gloucestershire, which had flooded. He managed to close a heavy iron bulkhead door, operating in total darkness and using a wrecking bar to move rails, then slam and bolt the door shut.

Subsequent models of rebreather were the Momsem Lung, developed by Charles B Momsem, used by the British and USA in WW1 & WW2, for mine clearance and emergency escape from submarines.

WW2 - The Maiale human 2-man torpedo submarine, was developed by the Italian Navy.

1950/60 Siebe Gorman developed the Proto Rescue Rebreather and Haldane atmosphere analyser.

In 1940's Ted Eldred, the Australian Who Changed the World of Diving using a Porpoise Rebreather MK2/ MK3 for recreational diving.

In 1954 Ted Eldred developed the Porpoise single-hose Scuba apparatus and began Scuba training in Melbourne City Baths.

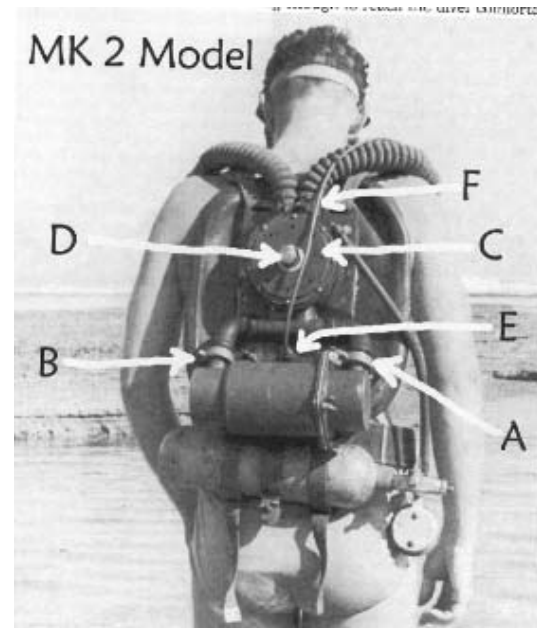
A huge thank you to Des for his time and effort in entertaining the troops at our February meeting.

For further information visit:

www.historicaldivingsociety.com.au

Info@historicaldivingsociety.com.au

Ted Eldred and Porpoise Rebreather MK2 & MK3.



CRUSTACEA

CRUSTACEANS – LOBSTERS, SHRIMPS, PRAWNS AND OTHERS

There are many invertebrate animals in the large subphylum Crustacea. We see the larger species on every dive. Others are cryptic, hiding in caverns or among algae and other invertebrates. Others live in deeper water beyond diving depths. Those we are familiar with are the decapod crustaceans, all have at least 10 legs used for swimming, walking or feeding. All have a carapace comprised of a head with prominent complex eyes, antennae, a thorax, a segmented abdomen and a tail. The carapace is composed of horny chitin (a substance similar to our fingernails), often reinforced with calcium carbonate.

All respire through gills hidden below the carapace, extracting oxygen from the water. Some are opportunistic feeders, some carnivores, and others are scavengers. Modes of reproduction vary, the females of many species carrying eggs tucked beneath their tail segments. As the carapace cannot expand, growth takes place by a series of moults in which the old one is sloughed off, and a

new, larger one rapidly hardens in the water.

About 40% of southern Australian crustacean species are endemic: that is, they are known only from southern Australian waters.

LOBSTERS AND BUGS

Lobsters

Lobsters, known as crays have a hard reddish carapace, the thorax being fused into a cylindrical plate. They have five pairs of strong walking legs and five pairs of swimmerets (modified legs) under the tail. There are about 50 species of lobsters worldwide; the one we are familiar with is *Jasus edwardsii*. They have long, strong antennae and large eyes.

As we know, they are usually backed into crevices to protect their vulnerable abdomen. Sometimes they migrate between holes – I have seen squadrons of them walking across sandy bottom at Flinders Island in Bass Strait. Trying to extricate a lobster from its hole can be a tussle as it can cling on with its strong walking legs. I remember in my early diving days at Cape Patterson when Rob Bricker (VSAG member) volunteered

to show me how to catch a cray. Well, the very large and angry cray caught Rob instead, shredding his wetsuit drawing lots of blood. After that demonstration I've always left crays alone.



Jasus edwardsii novaehollandiae.
Out of its shelter. Point Lonsdale.
Photo: Phil Watson.

Balmain Bug

Balmain bugs are closely related to lobsters but have a flattened shovel-like head, short legs beneath the carapace and very short antennae. The local species, *Ibacus peronii* lives partly buried in sheltered sandy mud. It is occasionally seen if partly exposed on the seabed. Like lobster, the flesh is edible, but one does not provide a hearty meal.



Ibacus peronii,
Clifton Springs, 2 m

PRAWNS

Prawns are familiar in fish markets. There are about 500 species worldwide and are an important Asian food. In the USA, prawns are called shrimps. They prefer shallow water with soft bed and abundant organic matter for food. Two species of prawns occur in the slightly warmer waters of eastern Victoria. The commonest is the eastern School prawn (*Metapenaeus macleayi*) which can be caught commercially in seine nets or by recreational fishers.

Prawns are comparatively large in size. They have a long segmented carapace, often with a serrated rostrum along the head, large eyes and long antennae. They have five pairs of walking legs under the plates of the thorax, three pairs of smaller legs with minute claws.

SHRIMPS

Shrimps are similar to prawns but are smaller and have longer legs. The first pair of legs are very long and armed with conspicuous pincer-like claws. They have large prominent eyes and long slender antennae. There are thousands of species of shrimps species world-wide, some living in shallow water or on invertebrates or seaweeds. Others are confined off the deep continental shelf or abyssal waters.

A species we seldom see but often hear but in dives are choruses of snapping or pistol shrimps. There are several species, all belonging to the genus *Alpheus*. These shrimps have one large piston-like claw which when closed rapidly expels a jet of water with a loud noise designed to stun prey.

The species we see hiding among sponges or algae under jetties is *Palaemon serenus*. The glassy translucent body is indistinctly striped and spotted. It is easily distinguished by the strong red bands just above the claws of the front legs. Although common, it is very wary and rapidly retreats to shelter when disturbed.



Palaemon serenus. Above, hiding in sponge, Clifton Springs, 2 m. Below, close-up of thorax and stalked eyes, a hinge-beaked shrimp probably *Rhynchocinetes australis*, Williamstown. Photo: Phil Watson



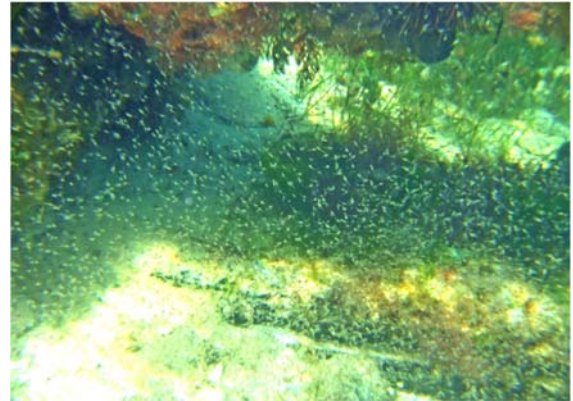
CAPRELLIDS

Caprellids, often known as skeleton shrimps are tiny shrimps about 1-2 mm long with long hooked first legs. They are often seen in large numbers

on algae and hydroid colonies, constantly waving their legs to snatch passing prey. They are probably omnivorous, eating anything they can catch. Although they are supposed to feed on hydroid colonies, in many hours over the microscope I have never yet seen one feeding on a hydroid.



Unknown species of caprellid on blade of *Codium* green alga, Williamstown. Photo: Phil Watson.



Mysid swarm, Blairgowrie, 2m.

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

MYSIDS

Mysids are tiny swimming crustaceans that live in swarms over the summer months. If you watch *Nature Conservancy reef cam Popes Eye* you will sometimes see a blizzard of tiny white crustaceans rising from the *Ecklonia* algal forest. They are a favourite food for fish that swim in the water column

March Guest Speaker

GRANT CALLOW

VSAG club member.

Boat Captain Extraordinaire.

Adventure Seeker.

Grant Callow was our March General Meeting Guest Speaker. Grant delivered a very interesting talk on the history of his visits to Hogan Island.

Thank you to the efforts of Grant and his various crew members on his many trips, Hogan Island is now a very comfortable home away from home!

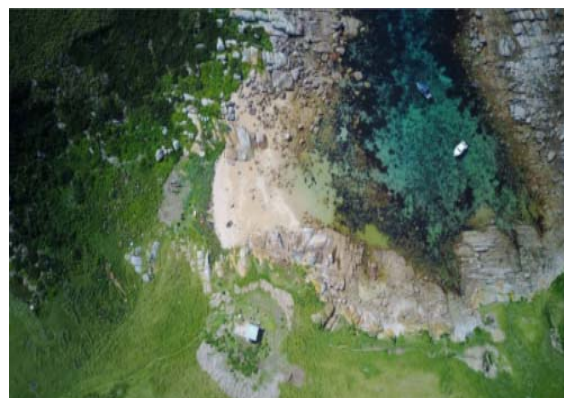
Some Facts

- Hogan Island is 232 hectares (570 acres)
- Maximum elevation of 116 metres
- On 12 October, 1900 the first lease was granted for the Hogan group.
- Since 1959 the lease has only applied to Hogan Island
- Leased by B.R. Stackhouse since 1967.



Map of Hogan Island off Wilsons Promontory

Aerial view of safe harbour and accommodation hut.



On early trips to Hogan Island I talked about refurbishing the old hut, liaising with Alan Stackhouse, the farmer who had the lease. Parks Tasmania wanted it removed as it was in such poor condition and full of rubbish. I decided to clean it out and refurbish it. The crew and I over many trips achieved this and Parks Tassy were to put a notice on it to leave it there as a bit of history on the island. I then had a call from Alan to say it had been deliberately burnt down. Many acres of the island were burnt and sadly many penguins. I said to the Alan, I will rebuild it.

It took 2 years to transport out the materials a bit at a time. Then we had a building diving trip. We brought out a generator, compressor, pneumatic rivet gun, angle grinders, etc. We built the shed and relaid the stones to the fire place and chimney. We worked under flood lamp into the night. We put a photographic book of the old log book and left emergency supplies for those who get stranded. I also ran a rat baiting program and the penguins are now back in the valley in the largest numbers we have seen.

I found on a kayaking forum that they had been in discussion with Parks Tassy to have it rebuilt and there was an agreement, that if it was on the same footprint and that they did it, it would be accepted. Difficult from a kayak. I informed them the

job was done and it was open for visitors. There has been many logged visits and some have been very thankful to the shed builders and to having a place to seek refuge. To date the hut has always been left clean and others are starting to leave supplies as well. It has carpet, solar lighting and cooking facilities and boasts the only 5 star accommodation on the island.

- Grant.







BOM Station

Following my presentation, a trip was planned for Matthijs and his son Dylan, Mike Mosseveld, Rowan Salgar and myself. Mattijis saw the presentation and was very keen to get out with Dylan, so I called him the next day to say they had a spot. We had to cut down on as much as possible to reduce weight to take out 5 divers.

– Grant



Set up the moorings and raft. Secure boat by 2 points at the back.



Unpack to beach.



*Island Activities: Pumping tanks.
Eating!*

Fire wood collection





The locals





HOGAN ISLAND, EASTER 2018

28 March—3 April

March 29 at 7:36pm

We arrived at the island at 10 am Wednesday. The last 10 km to the island was a bit lumpy, 1.5 m plus swell on 20 knots. 2hrs 20 minute trip, 120 litres of fuel.

Today we started with a full English breakfast with herded mushrooms, beans, eggs and bacon by Matty. We kit up in the boat in the harbour. Dived the canyon in the morning, followed by a fire wood collection. Then back to camp for lunch and to pump a few tanks. Second dive in the arvo at the boulders, swim through caves from 8m down to 25 m, even saw a pink nudibranch. I have never seen it so flat out here, no swell at all today. Steaks on the grill with a glass of red for dinner. Then it all starts again tomorrow.

- Cheers Grant.

Pinnacle Dive: King Fish.



March 31 at 4:12pm

Hogan update

No swell for the past 3 days, today like glass, vis up to 20 meters. Dolphins playing in the far bay in front of the hut. Have decided to extend the trip until Tuesday to make the most of tomorrows good weather.

- Cheers Grant.

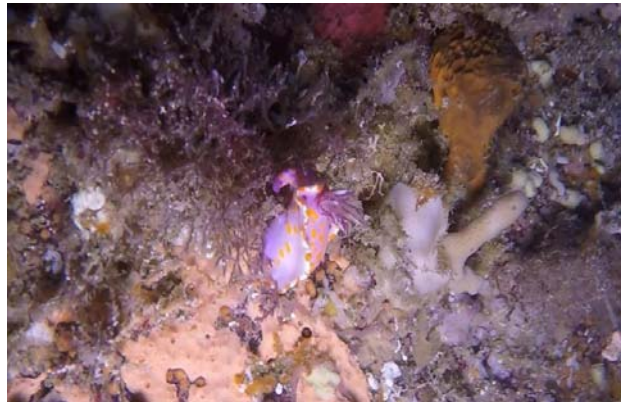


March 31 at 6:09pm

Fantastic conditions out here on Hogan Island.

- Rowan Salger





**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - November 2018



1st Place - Dance like no one is watching - PT Hirshfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - November 2017



2nd Place -Leafy Seadragon, Rapid Bay, SA - Jon Kenfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - November 2017



3rd Place -Leafy Seadragon - Ian Scholey

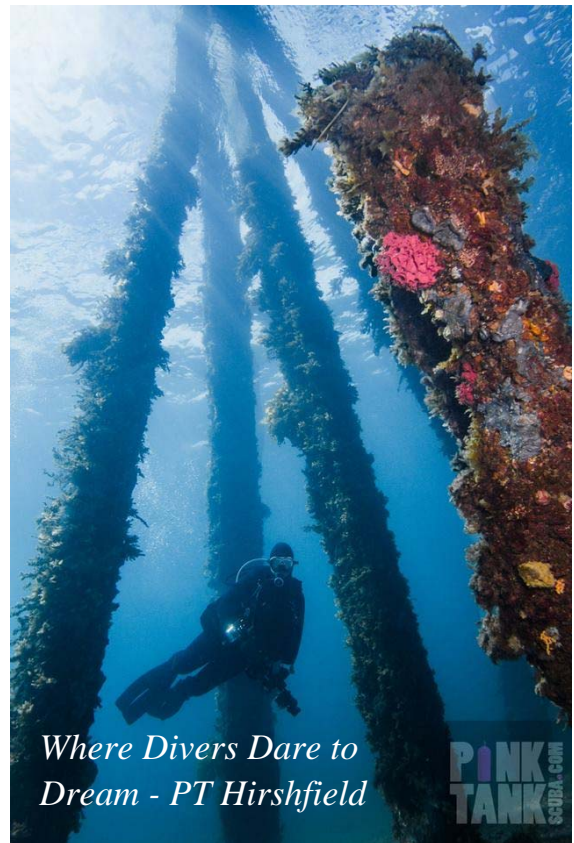
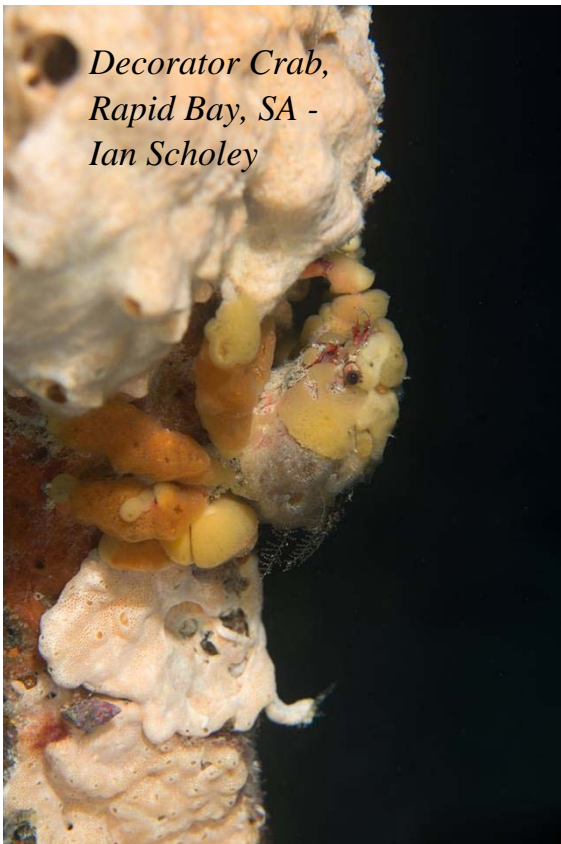
NOVEMBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

February's meeting included three months of competitions. The first month was November where a number of members had a trip to Rapid Bay and this meant a great collection of Leafy Seadragons. However, the winner for the month was PT Hirschfield with her 'Dance Like No One Is Watching', followed by Jon Kenfield's Leafy Seadragon and third was Ian Scholey's Leafy. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the competition.

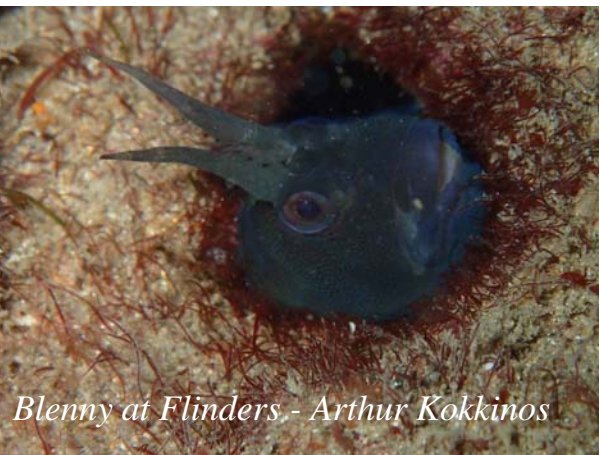
Blenny at Flinders - Arthur Kokkinos



*Decorator Crab,
Rapid Bay, SA -
Ian Scholey*



*Where Divers Dare to
Dream - PT Hirshfield*



Blenny at Flinders - Arthur Kokkinos

NOVEMBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

Leafy Seadragons, Rapid Bay, SA - David Geekie



Back of ocean cave, 2nd Valley - David Geekie



Flinders - Wilson Nguyen



Smooth Ray, Flinders - Phil Watson



Leafy Seadragons, Rapid Bay, SA - David Geekie



NOVEMBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Leafy Seadragon, Rapid Bay, SA
- Peter Beaumont*

*Weedy Sea Dragon, Flinders
- Phil Watson*



*Occy, Rye -
Wilson Nguyen*

*Leafy Seadragon, Rapid
Bay, SA - Peter Beaumont*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - December 2017



1st Place -Stargazer, Blairgowrie - Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - December 2017



2nd Place - Baby Seahorse - PT Hirshfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - December 2017

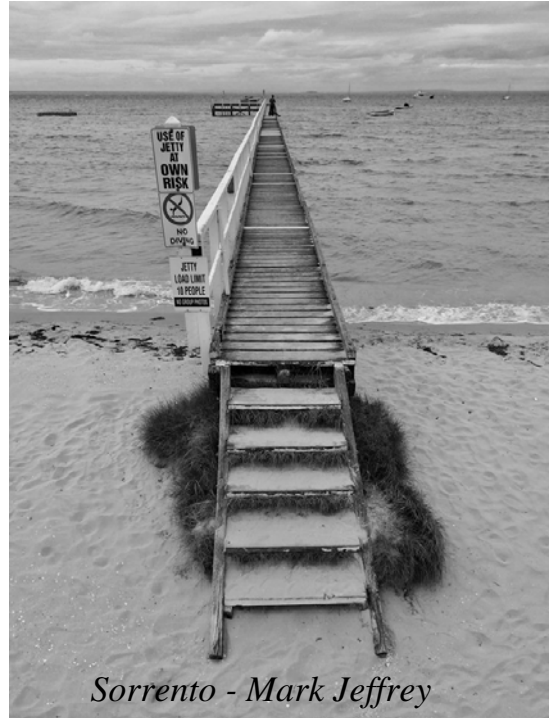


3rd Place - If Tinkerbell were a Seahorse - PT Hirshfield

DECEMBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION

December photo comp showed a wide range of locations and subjects. Coming in first was Ian Scholey with his Stargazer, second and third were from PT Hirschfield with her baby Seahorse and if Tinkerbell was a Seahorse. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who contributed.

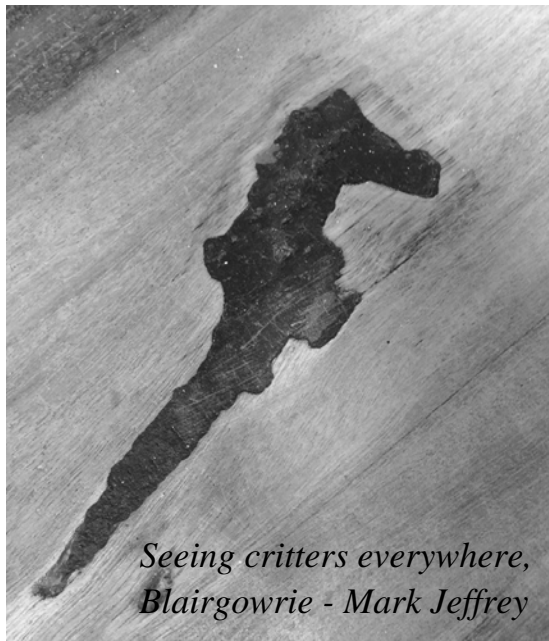
Seagull Rye -PT Hirshfield



Blue Ringed Occy, Blairgowrie - Ian Scholey



Stone Fish Port Vila - Peter Beaumont



*Seeing critters everywhere,
Blairgowrie - Mark Jeffrey*

DECEMBER 2017 PHOTO COMPETITION



Seagulls, Rye - Hannah Smeeton



*Trigger Fish Port Vila
- Peter Beaumont*



Nudie, Blairgowrie - Wilson Nguyen



Occy - Phil Watson



Occy - Phil Watson



Nudie, Blairgowrie - Wilson Nguyen

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - January 2018



1st Place - Octopus - PT Hirshfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - January 2018



2nd Place - Clown Fish - Jon Kenfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - January 2018



3rd Place -Karingal - Phil Watson

JANUARY 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION

January comp gave us another great collection of photos from home and abroad. First was PT Hirschfield's Octopus, Second was Jon Kenfield's Clown Fish and Third was Phil Watson's Karingal. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who contributed.

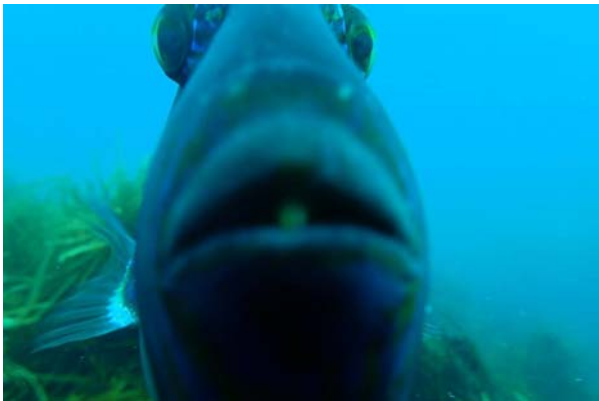


Wanna Go for a Ride? - Pt Hirshfield

Clown Fish - Jon Kenfield



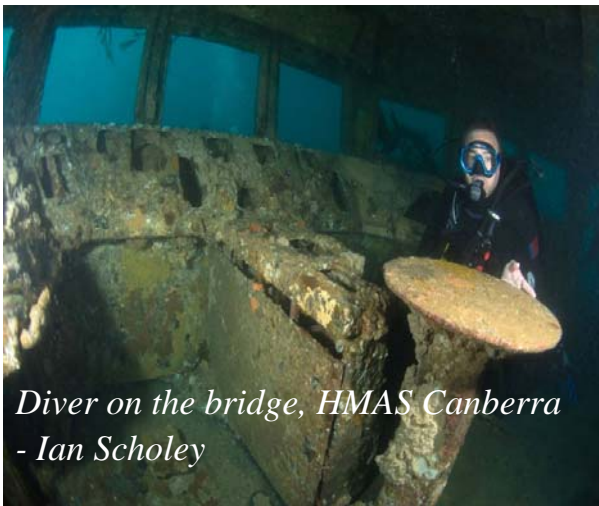
JANUARY 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION



Leather Jacket - Arthur Kokkinos



Diver and Blue Devil Fish - Ian Scholey



Diver on the bridge, HMAS Canberra - Ian Scholey



Baby Puffer Fish - Hannah Smeeton



Lion Fish, Port Vila - Peter Beaumont



Leather Jacket - Arthur Kokkinos



Turtle Head, Port Vila - Peter Beaumont

Action in Fog

Doug King

Boating Instructor

Boating Victoria

Fog can be one of the scariest situations at sea. With the time of year fast approaching where fog becomes a real possibility, it is a good time to discuss ways of navigating in fog and restricted visibility.

Fog is caused when water vapour condenses into tiny liquid water droplets in the air. It is particularly common over salt water due to the salt promoting condensation. The most common fogs this time of year are radiation fogs. These form when air is stable and relatively moist. The sky must be clear as well which causes heat loss by radiation. Light winds are also a requirement for the formation of radiation fogs.

Radiation fogs can be accurately predicted and normally “burn off” after the sun has risen but can be slow to dissipate over water. Advection and Sea Fogs can occur along the coast and pose the same challenges.

If possible, avoid fog by not going out on the water. If it is imperative that you make a trip or get caught out, sensible precautions and pre-

planning will make it easier and safer.

Navigating in poor visibility can be stressful and dangerous. If you are inexperienced in restricted visibility it is easy to get lost or imagine that you are travelling in a direction that is different to reality.

Don't forget that Restricted Visibility situations which includes Fog are defined as “heightened risk” If you are not already wearing a PFD you must put one on.

There are a number of dangers in fog. They are –

Collision

This is probably the biggest danger particularly if you are operating in a busy area or in a Port area such as Port Phillip, Geelong, Westernport or Portland.

Hitting a hazard

GPS is a great aid to knowing where you are but – high levels of skill are required for accurate navigation and they do not predict accurately where you might be in the future. Hazards appear suddenly out of the fog and it can be hard to assess the path of moving vessels.

Getting Lost and Not Being Able To Locate Your Launching Position or Marina.

While GPS aids significantly in position fixing, it is not acceptable as good seamanship to enter a Marina or narrow channel or river using GPS alone. Errors in placing waypoints, currents and tidal flow can all play a part in taking you off course sufficiently to have an incident that will spoil your day. Most boaties would have heard of people coming to grief by relying solely on their electronic aids.

There are a number of strategies that good boaties employ to deal with risks posed by fog and restricted visibility.

In all cases you should slow down to a safe speed and turn on your navigation lights.

A safe speed is a speed which allows you take action to avoid a collision. In heavy fog you will most certainly be down to a walking pace. It is up to the skipper to determine visibility distances and set an appropriate speed.

To Minimise Risks of Collision.

Sound a fog signal. On small boat underway the correct sound signal is one long blast every two minutes. Vessel under 12 metres may use any means to make sound signals. If you don't have a horn,

consider carrying a whistle on board for such occurrences.

Post lookouts and keep a sharp lookout. Lookouts should also keep a keen ear out for other vessels sounding fog signals. It is a good practice to stop from time to time and shut down the engine to listen.

Be aware on hearing another vessels fog signal that sound travels in varying ways through fog and the apparent direction of the signal or the intensity of the sound may not be what it seems.

If you are in a port or approaches to a port, monitor the working channel for the Vessel Traffic System. In Port Phillip it is channel 12 VHF and Westernport - Channel 14. You will hear ships reporting positions and can use that information to build up a picture of large shipping traffic.

If you are in a small boat, stay in water that is too shallow for large vessels.

Avoiding Hazards.

If necessary, find shallow water out of high traffic areas and drop the anchor. Wait until fog clears and continue your journey.

You may be able to change your route and take a track that provides greater clearance from dangers, such as reefs, shoals and headlands, than you normally allow in clear conditions. That is – build in a greater safety margin.

Use the GPS to set clearing distances from dangers and have the alarm set.

Monitor depth and use a depth alarm to alert you when you start reaching shallow water. This can also help you fix position.

Avoid Getting Lost

Good boaties will plan their trip in detail before leaving even if fog is not forecast. They also maintain situational awareness – they know where they are all the time and what compass course to steer home.

If fog rolls in, fix your position immediately and re confirm a compass course to safety. Review your position and double check for dangers en route including the possibility of encountering other vessels.

If you have radio contact with your local Volunteer Marine Rescue Group (VMR), radio your position and intentions to them.

Use your compass to steer a course.

GPS units and plotters will have screens such as a “roadway” to guide you but they take your eye off a wider outlook. Compass steering allows you to maintain a steady course without your eyes being diverted constantly to a screen.

If you have planned your trip before heading out, getting home will be a little slower but won't

pose too many problems. If you haven't planned you have put yourself under unnecessary pressure when fog rolls in having to plan “on the spot”.

Don't rely solely on the GPS to solve your problems as they arise. It is easy to become confused or hit the wrong button. In fog, preparation is everything. But then preparation is good practice all the time.

Finally

Safe boating in fog or restricted visibility relies on *seeing and being seen, hearing and being heard.*

There are a number of legal requirements such as Sound Signals, safe speed and lighting requirements. These are only a re enforcement of good seamanship practice.

Put your PFD on, fix your position and radio your position to the local VMR.

A good tip if travelling with other vessels is to have the lead vessel trail a life ring or other suitable floating object on a light line behind them. This object creates a wake that others can follow at a safe distance.

(Material provided by John Lawler.)

THE HISTORY OF A PRIVATE DIVE BOAT

The history behind this dive boat's life in VSAG begins around 1964 on an Easter trip to Tidal River. I had never really noticed boats, so when I saw a group of them gathered around tents I was totally fascinated. The next year I was at Tidal River and again saw the same group of boats. Curiosity led me to ask what they were and was informed they were boats owned by members of a dive club called VSAG. Max Synon (older members will remember Max) was the guy who told me a bit about the club and that the monthly club meetings were held at the Collingwood Football Club and visitors were welcome... I had completed my dive course that year, so I attended my first VSAG meeting. I was advised that a check out dive was necessary for a member to be accepted and was given the info about location, times and all personal dive gear etc. As most of my diving so far was from the shores around Kilcunda and San Remo, the invitation to dive from a boat was very exciting....Mick Jeacle was the DC at Flinders on this day and he led me over to the owner of a Haines Hunter 17L powered by an Evinrude Sports 150HP outboard...The boat owner was Geoff Birtles who, when

we actually met, he said “ Ah...another old codger....you'll fit in well here mate”...and I was only 42!

The Flinders beach boat launching procedure, the flying high-speed run down to Cape Schanck, the backward roll over entry, watching two massive crays being extracted and shellfish removed by my first buddy, was more exhilarating than I can express! Seems my basic dive gear and checkout dive passed an initial inspection which even surprised me as I had never done a backward roll into the sea!

To this very day I remember every bit of it and over the next week I spent a lot of money upgrading my gear based on what I saw and was advised...I made the point to myself that this is what I want to do and these are the people I wanted to be with, the people I want to dive with...I passed my check out dive, became a member and, in the main, a “hunter gatherer”!

So, over the next 12 years or so I learned much about boats from driving them and diving with many experienced divers in the club.

Then I bought my first boat! Call Sign: Hunter Two

It was, of course, a Haines Hunter 17L.....at the time the club had about 5 such boats in the club and they were legendary and admired...they were just the right boat overall for a 4 diver crew.....initially my boat was under-powered with a 90HP Black Max Mercury so I eventually upgraded to a new 130 HP Yamaha fitted by JV Marine....what a difference!!

This boat ventured to places “far and wide” ... Tidal River, Port Lincoln, Streaky Bay, Inverloch and countless trips to Sorrento... and was loved by many earlier VSAG’ers.

(As an aside from boats, after a couple of years in the club I was asked to join the Committee (been on the committee for 30 years) and I noted that the club had no safety policy or guidelines so I wrote a set which was presented to and accepted, firstly by the boat owners, and then the members...of course new policies are now in effect).

Time rolls on and it was time to say farewell to my great, mighty Haines Hunter 17L.

In 2000 John Stav (JV Marine) mentioned to me that his business was moving to a new site on Springvale Road and they were keen to sell boats from the current Clayton site and was offering good discounts...we looked over many boats and decided on a Haines

Signature 6.10m...it was such a great looking boat...powered by a Yamaha salt water series 175HP outboard.

We did get a great deal and after we traded in the original Haines to JVM, we paid \$35K for the boat...today’s value for the same boat is around \$90K!

We named the boat “Miles Ahead” (for the benefit of this article, referred to as Miles) after the legendary jazz trumpeter Miles Davis, of whom I am a great fan... but around the bay it was more recognized as “Signature One”, it’s call sign.

The boat was progressively upgraded with all the modern systems used for safe diving and boating...depth sounder, GPS, EPIRB, AM/VHF Radios, Ipad Chart Plotter and specially designed (removable) 4X4 stainless steel tank racks and protective side mats to protect the sides from diver backward roll overs.

Six years ago, the original Mackay trailer was badly rusted out and a rebuild was carried out by members of VSAG with David Flew project managing the rebuild in his home garage...we reckoned we could get around 3 years out of the build and

sure enough after that time the trailer was again unsafe and a new Dunbier trailer was purchased..\$6.5K

Over the life of this boat so many, many divers enjoyed their time above and below the waters from Miles...New divers, experienced divers, deep wreck divers, the numbers would be too difficult to calculate but probably some hundreds.

Apart from diving, there were the social boating days on Miles...trips up the Yarra and the Maribyrnong with VSAG, grand-kids fishing and fish and chips ordered from the shops in Half Moon Bay and Williamstown...quality boating!

Mates and I also had great times over many, many years fishing from Miles out from our boating and fishing club the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron, where we have been members for 22 years...up and on the water around 4am, excited when the reel screams with a great snapper hooked up...and the bonus... watching the sun come up was just magic....best catch was a 12.5KG snapper...preserved and now hanging in the memorability room at the BMYS.

Miles was launched from many ramps:

Metung, Bemm River, McLaughlans (two 50k runs out the Glenelg wreck), Newhaven, Flinders, Queenscliff, Tidal River, Cape Jaffa, (6), Newport, Stoney Point, St Kilda, Safety Beach, BMYS, Rye, Half

Moon Bay, Brighton, Altona...and hundreds of launchings at Sorrento.

Searches:

Miles was involved in searches for:

The Coramba, The Long Shot Project, Burnt Jet boat parts out from Brighton and the Pacific Wanderer.

For most of the life of Miles my “never fail” Mitsubishi Pajero 3.2Ltr Turbo Diesel SUV was the towing vehicle...this SUV had clocked up a faultless 300,000 km in its life before we sold it! We then bought a new Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 3.0Ltr Turbo Diesel SUV....an amazing modern American vehicle.

So now with life style changes and new horizons, diving days slowing down:

IT IS TIME TO SAY FARWELL TO “MILES AHEAD”

On Friday 16th February, 2018 after 18 years, my beloved boat was sold and now lives near Bairnsdale.

To all who came aboard we truly appreciated your fine company, support, advice and so many, many fun times and great adventures.... Thank you.

John (AKA JL) and Yvonne
Lawler.❖



POINT FRANKLIN

DIVE REPORT: POINT FRANKLIN
DRIFT DIVE TO PORTSEA PIER.

DATE: SUNDAY 25-02-2018

DIVERS: Walter MEDENBACH,
Arthur KOKKINOS, Adam BORG,
Chris DEMETRIOUS, Mark
HOWELLS.



Another well planned shore dive by Walter Medenbach, a drift dive from Point Franklin around to Portsea Pier. We all met at Lord Mayor's Beach carpark (right next door to the Lord Mayor's children camp) at around 11.00 am. We all had quick inspection of the entry point to our dive. The track to the small beach was closed off due to severe erosion. We crawled through an opening and followed the track to the beach overlooking Point Franklin. The track leading down to the sand was entirely washed away leaving a small pathway to a point about 2 metres above the sand. The only way down was climbing onto an uprooted tree and then down to the sand. The track leading to the tree was virtually hollow underneath and at any time there could have been a landslide. This is what I call EXTREME scuba diving getting all the gear and all of us down to the beach safely was extremely dangerous

and exciting at the same time. After gearing up at the car park one by one we took all our gear down to the beach. Walking the track with the extra weight of carrying our tanks was quite nerve racking especially for myself fearing that at any moment the track could give way. Finally, we all made it safely down and immediately we all geared up. Walter gave the dive brief and was the dive flag bearer. The dive plan was to dive out towards the point and then descend to the bottom, depth ranging from (5.6m to 6.2m) and then dive east around towards Portsea Pier catching the current and enjoying what lies beneath. The dive started off at around 500 metres from our entry point and we all started diving with each of us holding onto our individual ropes which were attached to the main line held by

Walter. The dive did not go to plan as we only got out to about 350 metres and not the planned 500 metres. The current was not that strong, so our drift dive was comfortable and we were able to explore our surroundings with ease. Along the way we all dived separately, everyone doing their own dive. Visibility was not the best at around 1 to 3 metres with lots of sediment in the water. We were all heading the right direction when I spotted Walter going to the surface. I waited for him to return only to see a sad look on his face. Unfortunately, Walter had lost his Dive Flag which had somehow got loose and drifted off with the wind. He was unable to locate it. He dived back down and we continued with our dive. A short time later two beautiful DOLPHINS surrounded us. I was excited at seeing these lovely sea animals up close in their natural habitat. One of the dolphins came up so close I almost gave it a hug. At that moment I nearly started crying because I didn't have my camera with me due to not bringing an SD card. I just took in the experience and watched the dolphins swim in and around us. It was just breathtaking, my first encounter with a dolphin was definitely a highlight of this dive. We then made our way drifting towards the Portsea pier, we were about 200 metres adjacent to Portsea Pub. At this location I met up with Adam who had located a large rocky ledge with openings all along

it. He directed me towards an opening and pointed to a Sea Horse. It was minding its own business moving back and forwards, it looked amazing. All around this ledge there were many fish species ranging from small flathead, parrot fish and the odd crustacean. The vegetation was colourful and growing all around the large rocky formation. After diving for about 40 minutes we ascended right in front of the Portsea Pub and exited the water. We then walked a good 200 metres to the park located in the heart of Portsea. We found a park bench and parked our gear. Whilst relaxing, everyone was talking about the Dolphins. This experience alone will live in our memory for a very long time. Overall a great shore dive enjoyed by all.

By Arthur Kokkinos ❖

Exit Location right in front of Portsea Pub



PHILLIP ISLAND

PHILLIP ISLAND- CAPE WOOLAMAI

DATE: SATURDAY 10/03/2018

DIVERS: Peter GALVIN, Arthur KOKKINOS, Jeremy VAN DER BEEK, Richard DAY.

Richard DAY

Dive .1

Today's weather was just perfect, excellent conditions for Cray and Abalone diving with no wind and clouds in the sky. The sun was out in full strength, beaming its light on the flat sea surface., No matter what depth it was we were able to see the sea bed clearly. Heading out past the channel opening to our dive location was a quick and smooth trip. Peter parked his boat (Stroker) right up close about 20 metres away from the cliff face and near a large Bommie in the 3rd bay inlet at Cape Woolamai. I have dived this location a number of times and we have never been so close to this Bommie. The weather was superb, no wind and no swell. There were even 2 skin divers who had taken full advantage of the conditions and swam around the rocks some 300 metres from shore spearfishing.



Peter Galvin, Richard Day and Jeremy Van Der Beek on Stroker

In no time the anchor was released and the first 2 divers (Peter and Richard) started gearing up. A short time later they were in the water, using Hookah as their source of air. Jeremy and I were on board monitoring the compressor and hose. 60 minutes later Peter and Richard surfaced with 1 nice sized Cray and 10 Abalone. After completing the regulatory fisheries procedure of measuring and tagging the catch it was our turn to go in.

All geared up and connected to the Hookah Jeremy and I went in and descended to the bottom following the anchor line. After positioning the anchor, we were off on the hunt for a cray. The visibility was



Jeremy on Hookah line duties

unbelievable, 10 to 12 metres clear and the water temperature was a warm 19 degrees. We reached a maximum depth of around 12 metres and managed to stay at that depth for the entire dive. There were good sized Abalone everywhere, we quickly bagged our limit of 5 Abalone each and then we started looking in every hole and under every ledge for red gold (crayfish). The fish life (Old Wives, Angel fish, Leatherjackets, Rock cods, Sweep, Bream, Whiting and many other varieties) in this location is always plentiful and the underwater vegetation/seaweed is full of life, colour and in excellent health. Halfway through the dive Jeremy spotted a medium sized cray and worked real hard to entice it out of its home. He finally grabbed hold of it and we firmly placed it in the catch bag. After 65 minutes of bottom time and unsuccessfully spotting another cray we called an end to the dive. After completing

our safety stop at 5 metres for 3 minutes we surfaced with our catch. Once on board we double checked the sizes of all the Abalone and crayfish and then placed the fisheries tag onto the cray. After a brief conversation We decided to head out to another location. Peter knows the area like the back of his hand and suggested we go to the 2ND bay inlet, where he had a good feeling that large crays would be hiding in the holes along the rock face. We raised the anchor and off we went around the cape arriving in the inlet to perfect conditions. There was no wind and swell and the temperature was now hitting the mid 30's. We lowered the anchor, raised the dive flag in position, set up the compressor and almost immediately Peter and Richard geared up. With regulators in their mouths and catch bag by their side they were in the water and descending towards the anchor. Jeremy and I once again monitored the compressor and hose. After 15

Jeremy on Hookah line duties





Arthur Kokkinos and Peter Galvin



minutes in the hot sun I decided to get wet and snorkel around. I followed Peter and Richard from above taking some photos of them down below and from the surface I took some shots of the boat.

After 50 minutes, Peter and Richard finished their dive with Peter managing only one decent sized cray. With them safely back on board, Peter suggested for our next dive we explore around the other side of the bommie. We immediately geared up and in no time Jeremy and I were in.

I followed the anchor line down to a depth of 14.5 metres and repositioned the anchor as instructed by Peter. Once that was done we were both off searching for Red Gold. The visibility in this location was even better than the first dive at around 10 to 13 metres. We stayed together and looked in and under every hole, crevasse and ledge. Unbelievably there was a slight 2 to 3 metre underwater swell that pushed us along. We were diving at a medium pace and covering a lot of ground. The fish life was again full of many varieties with a few large 2 to 3 metre rays placidly swimming past. The underwater rock formations in this area is world class with lots of 5 to 8 metre dive throughs and large protruding ledges with wide openings leading to 5 to 10 metre vertical walls. While diving in a 5 to 6-metre-long crevasse I managed to see 2 crays sitting peacefully under a ledge behind the



swaying seaweed. I went in close and saw them within easy reach. I signalled for Jeremy and within seconds we were both working furiously to entice them out into the open. About 10 minutes later Jeremy was able to grab hold of one the crays and we placed it in the catch bag. The other cray had wedged itself so far in its hole we were unable to retrieve it. After nearly 45 minutes of bottom time we decided to end the dive and make our way to the safety stop. Once on board we tagged the cray and packed our gear. Peter gave his debrief and recapped the day's events. Finally, we pulled the anchor in and headed back to Newhaven boat ramp. It was another awesome day of diving with the enigmatic crayfish Legend: Captain Peter Galvin on his boat (Stroker). Thankyou.

- Arthur Kokkinos❖



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SPIDER CRABS

I have to admit I was swearing loudly about the choice of a 60mm Macro Lens when we found the Spider Crabs this morning at Blairgowrie. I would have liked a Wide Angle lens. However I really like the results with the Macro. I think it gives a sense of the chaos that is the Spider Crab aggregation.

- Ian Scholey ❖



BLAIRGOWRIE PIER



BLAIREGOWRIE PIER

DATE: SUNDAY 25-02-2018

DIVERS: Walter MEDENBACH,
Arthur KOKKINOS

Second shore dive of the day with Walter Medenbach. Prior to this dive, I purchased an SD card at Rosebud K-MART. This time I was not diving without my camera after missing out on taking some photos of the Dolphin encounter earlier on in the day at Portsea. We arrived at Blairgowrie Pier at the Yacht club lower carpark at around 2.45 pm. Conditions were absolutely superb, no wind, clear skies and sunny. After a quick dive brief from Walter and

confirming our dive objective, to find and take photos of the numerous Cuttlefish habitating in and around the Blairgowrie Pier, we entered the water walking in between the pylons of the Blairgowrie Pier at around 3.10pm. Reaching waist high depth we geared up and down we went, diving our way towards the T section of the Pier. Almost immediately we were greeted with many varieties of fish swimming all around us. Visibility was excellent and water temperature was a comfortable 21 degrees. Five minutes into the dive Walter pointed out a few Hermit crabs scattered along the bottom sea floor. I took many photos and video



of these creatures living placidly in their shells. They were slowly crawling around looking for food and areas of safety. Diving slowly and comfortably just above the sea bed we encountered an abundance of fish life all around us. I focused on a large school of Bream just swimming by and then to my surprise zeroed in on a 45 cm Bay Trout just moping around minding its own business. I got up real close without scaring it away taking close up shots from all angles. As we were diving along, Walter spotted a Cuttlefish deep inside tucked under a long beam. He shined his torch onto it and I managed to take some awesome shots of the cuttlefish looking straight at me. This creature has to be one of the cutest sea creatures living in the ocean. The innocence and peacefulness of this creature is just a pleasure to observe. Spending almost 15 minutes studying this Cuttlefish I was wondering what else can top this experience. Our diving continued out past the Pier and we



headed North coming across some huge rocks. We looked around and kept going north about 120 metres past the pier. We reached a depth of 13.6 metres. Visibility began to worsen from 5 metres to around 2 metres with sand sediment more noticeable when all of a sudden we were confronted with the most unbelievable sight I have ever encountered. We had just come across a colony of Spider Crabs. There were thousands of these creatures spreading out covering an area of around 20 to 25 metres in circumference and they were swarming all over each other, 2 to 3 crabs high. Diving around hovering just centimetres from the top of the Spider Crab colony made this dive truly unforgettable. The sight of the Spider Crabs crawling over each other was like a scene from a SCI-FI movie. Keeping our buoyancy control Neutral, taking photos and video and taking this amazing encounter all in was just exhilarating. The Spider Crab colony was all around us and they were



moving quickly and all in unison. We both knew we had just witnessed something unique. We high fived each other and after what seemed like forever we finally signalled to each other to make our way back, with 100 bar remaining this was a wise move. We continued North West coming into a sandy floor with nothing around. After signalling to each other and using our compass we headed south towards the beach. We were about 100 metres east of the pier and continued to dive to our exit point in front of the Blairgowrie Yacht Club. Along the way we also encountered a 2 metre Banjo Shark which was only 1 metre away ignoring our presence and carelessly roaming the sea floor. We followed it around for about 5 minutes taking some shots and video. This was the largest Banjo Shark I had ever seen and we were both thrilled to have seen one this close. We both exited the water 65 minutes later with 10 bar remaining and with many fantastic memories of this awesome shore dive.

By Arthur Kokkinos



SHORE DIVE, BLAIRGOWRIE

March 18, 2018

Talk about blow away the cobwebs, the wind today is ridiculous. The bay looked ugly but Blairgowrie was a little sheltered at least and Peter Beaumont and I braved it. Not surprisingly we had the place to ourselves, but it was worth the effort. All the usual critters out and about, enjoying the peace and quiet I suspect.

Hopefully conditions will improve quickly.

- Ian Scholey ❖





BLAIRGOWRIE NIGHT DIVE.

February 16, 2018

I squeezed in an end of week night dive at Blairgowrie last night. Just what is needed after a week at work. I have always loved the place and last night was a classic example of why. The critters were out and about and at times I didn't know which way to point the camera. There were more new nudibranch to add to the survey species count, a Dumpling Squid who took a liking to my pointer and what I think is a Prickly Toadfish which I will have to register with Redmap as it isn't a local or something I have seen before.

Thinking I may go back again tomorrow morning.

- Ian Scholey ❖





BLAIRGOWRIE

February 4

Another busy weekend for the club with boats out yesterday and today.

Karingal was out on the reefs near Mordialloc yesterday with skipper David Flew joined by Mark Howells, Matthijs Smith and Dylan Smith.

Today Grant Callow was out with Jeff Saunders on board.

For myself it was a shore dive with Peter Beaumont at Blairgowrie. The Nudibranch community is going through a bit of a quiet time, but I still managed to find half a dozen species and notched up another new one for my survey. Another interesting find was an Eel like fish that I have never seen before. I managed a couple of pretty ordinary pics of it, but it didn't want to stay still. Any help with ID would be appreciated.

February 18

Assume everyone is busy today, despite the good weather I was unable to crew my boat out of Sorrento, so I left the Queenscliff boat to it and shore dived instead. I had a happy 3 1/2 hours under Blairgowrie hunting slugs.

There is a massive explosion of the little pink species Noumea Haliclona, I must have seen a

hundred at least in aggregations on any of the pink Darwinella sponges. Keeping the pink theme going were loads of the Noumea Verconis which seem to be very large at the moment. There were plenty of other Nudibranch around as well as a selection of other critter

February 25, 2018

With the wind up today, we opted for Shore dives instead. As usual it was Blairgowrie for me. I was in the water by 6.00am and timed my exit after 3 1/4 hours just right, as Peter Beaumont and Christine Reynolds finished their dive at the same time as arranged and we headed off for a post dive coffee.

I was intent on finding Ercolania boodle. This is a pretty, little black, white and orange species that has been about for a couple of weeks now. It took a couple of hours but once I found one, I then found more than 10 in the same area. They proved pretty difficult to photograph as they are very small and were in and out of the weed. Eventually I did get a few respectable shots.

The strange thing was the small numbers of the pink Nudi Noumea haliclona. Last week I saw over a hundred and they were together in large clusters, this week just a few single about.

- Ian Scholey ❖

Ophiclinus ningulus (?)



WILLIAMSTOWN

DIVE REPORT

TUESDAY 25TH MARCH 2018

JAWBONE BAY

**JAWBONE MARINE
SANCTUARY**

WILLIAMSTOWN

**DIVE REPORT BY: Arthur
Kokkinos**

**DIVERS: Walter MEDENBACH,
Arthur KOKKINOS, Mark
HOWELLS**

Early morning rise for this dive. Got out of bed at 5.45am. There was heavy rain and howling wind conditions outside. At 6.08 am I rang Walter to see if today's dive would be cancelled. We spoke about the weather conditions and if the dive should go ahead, Walter was also not keen in diving today but he insisted that he would drive down to the dive location and see first-hand what the dive conditions were like. At 6.42 am Walter rang me and informed me that the weather conditions at Jawbone Bay were perfect for diving and the planned shore dive was still on. After hearing this information, I quickly loaded the car and took off. At 7.35 am I arrived at Jawbone Bay car park

and saw Walter and Mark gearing up. The weather was perfect, the temperature was warming up and there was no sign of any wind. The bay looked spectacular and the water was calm and pristine. It was just a perfect day to dive this location and It felt like something special was going to happen on this dive. After fully gearing up, we walked about 300 metres along the track to the shoreline. Walter gave his dive brief and the objective was to enjoy the various fish life inhabiting this protected marine sanctuary and to spot a Dusky Morwong, (frequently seen in this sanctuary). Walter was holding the rope connected to the dive flag as required by law.

We entered the water and almost immediately we were confronted with an abundance of fish life. I was totally amazed at the variety of fish swimming all around us. The water temperature was 20 degrees. Surprisingly the visibility was not that good. It was around 2 metres with lots of tiny specs floating around. We reached a depth of 4 metres. There was no underwater swell making the dive very comfortable. During the dive we all separated doing our own thing and halfway through the dive we all



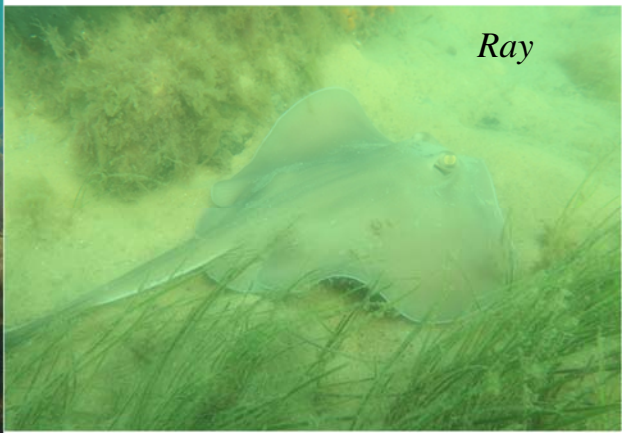
Dusky Morwong



*Walter holding the rope connected to
dive flag*



School of Zebra fish



Ray



Large Parrot fish



Anchor from unknown wreck

found each other heading west across the bay. This dive location is a surprise packet, everything you want in a dive is here. Lots of fish life (schools of Zebra fish, Bream, and Whiting), large rocks, basalt rocks, Nudibranch, mangroves, sea grass, dive throughs, underwater ledges, colourful vegetation, rays, lots of large abalone (to look at and admire), anchor from unknown shipwreck and the Dusky Morwongs that live in this particular area. During the dive I was lucky enough to have spotted a large 60 cm Dusky Morwong feeding off the sea grass. It was just going about its business without a care in the world, every now and then it was coming up to me and then turning

around. This was an experience I have never encountered before. It seemed to me it was trying to get itself noticed even though I was holding the camera right up close to it. I followed it around for a long time taking some close up video while it was sucking the sea grass, then eating and spitting it out. After 90 minutes of diving we all ascended by the nearby rocks west of the bay. Mark called it a day and exited the water. Walter and I decided to continue diving, we both enjoyed what this sanctuary had to offer and we wanted more of it. So down we went heading east across the bay. Once again we came across large schools of Zebra fish, another Dusky Morwong with a little one trailing behind it. We also saw a number of small rays and an old anchor which was totally covered with sea vegetation.

After 120 minutes of diving we both signalled to each other and agreed to head back. With 20 bar remaining we exited the water and made the long walk back to the car park. This shore dive was much more than I expected and definitely surpassed my expectations. I will be diving this location again and recommend it to anyone that wants to do a shore dive. Once again another well organised shore dive by Walter. I am looking forward to the next one.

- Arthur Kokkinos❖

Chimney Rock

Sat 10 Mar 18

Water temp: 19c

Depth: 20 m

Vis: 8-10 m

Divers: Peter Beaumont & Mark Howells

Photo's: Peter Beaumont

With the swell < 0.6mtr and light winds our second dive of the day was at Chimney Rock. We anchored on the rocky/sandy bottom on the north side of the reef within approx 10m of the Chimney section. After discussing the dive, we geared up, swam down the anchor line and secured the anchor. The vis was down a bit compared to the J4 but 8-10m vis is better than nothing. We





Mushroom Reef

March 25, 2018

Shore Dive 25th March 2018

Peter Beaumont and I had a dive on Mushroom Reef. Lovely conditions on the back beaches today. We were going to dive at Flinders but there were so many divers in the car park we didn't fancy it. We could see there was no swell breaking on the reef so decided to head to somewhere less crowded.

The vis was ordinary but there were plenty of fish around. It's a Marine park which is pretty obvious from the presence of some pretty big Snapper.



swam around the overhangs, in and out of the swim throughs, gullies etc before returning to the anchor with approx 1 minute of no deco bottom time remaining. Along the way we saw plenty of adult and juvenile blue devils, wrasse, boarfish, 1 x large bull ray and the odd cuttlefish. With the anchor cleared we completed our ascent and climbed back onboard. With the gear stowed away we had a quick bite to eat before returning to the ramp. Overall it was an interesting and enjoyable dive with lots to see.

- Peter Beaumont ❖

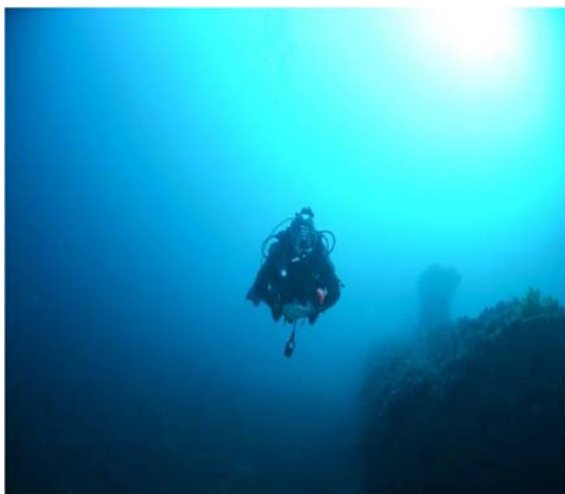




These however avoided my camera by staying just out of range.

Hopefully the wind drops away for next weekend, although looks like there is some pretty big swell coming midweek.

- Ian Scholey ❖



J4 26 METRE SUB

Sat 10 Mar 18

Water temp: 19c

Depth: 26 m

Vis: 20 m

Divers: Peter Beaumont & Mark Howells

Photos: Peter Beaumont

With the boat loaded and the first dive site chosen we launched from Sorrento at 8am and headed off to the J4 wreck. Surface conditions were ideal with the swell < 0.6 mt and the wind NE at 5k. We anchored within a few metres of the wreck, geared up and swam down the anchor line. We were at the 5 mt mark and the vis was quite good with the full length of the wreck visible. With the anchor set we swam to the bow section then meandered our way through the inside before exiting through the last exit point at the stern. We then checked out the conning tower and the bow section in front of the torpedo tubes before returning to and clearing the anchor. Along the way we saw Blue Devils, Wrasse, Boarfish and a rather colourful red velvet fish. Once back onboard we had some morning tea, discussed the second dive then headed off to Chimney Rock. Overall it was an enjoyable relaxing dive.

- Peter Beaumont ❖



What a day on the water today. Conditions were just perfect outside, flat tack with a barely noticeable gentle swell. Just one thing on my agenda, find the Red Velvetfish that Peter Beaumont saw on the J4 while we were in Tassie over the Labor Day holiday. We didn't think it would have moved very far and this proved to be the case. Not often you set out to find something and the Sea Gods

deliver but today was one of those days. Thanks to Peter Beaumont for showing us where to find it.

On the water today were:

On Sea Eagle- Myself and Stratos Stratos Tourogiannis

On November Tango - Graham Ellis, Peter Beaumont, PT Hirshfeld and Stuart Cousins.

- Ian Scholey ❖



J4 SUB & THE COOGEE

18th February, 2018

Divers: Jim Turner, Leo Maybus, Pam Dagley, David Geekie.

Jim Turner and Leo Maybus joined Pam Dagley and myself on Dire Straits this morning, taking a punt on the weather and launching from Queenscliff. As we left the boat ramp around 9:30am, the experienced skipper of Laurus commented 'good luck' when we mentioned we were going to look at heading out through The Rip if conditions were OK.

As it turned out, The Rip transition was easy and the conditions outside very pleasant as there was little chop and mostly a 1 – 1.5m swell. Every now and again a 2m plus swell would come through, but at long intervals. As JL was fond of saying, you never , ever know if you never ever go!

Jim and Leo decided they would like to do the J4 sub and we arrived just as a Red Boat charter was departing. The sounder picked up the sub and it was easy to shot accurately. Jim has posted some photos on Facebook. There was some surge but they had a pleasant dive and maxed out their bottom time, only just avoiding deco time.



Pam, Jim and Leo.

Our initial plan was for Pam and I to return to between North Corner and Cave Wall for the ebb slack to try to recover my shot line left there a month or so ago. However kitting up for the first dive had taken longer than planned (what happens on the boat, stays on the boat!) so Pam and I decided to dive the Coogee.

Once again the sounder easily picked up the wreck, but as Pam and I descended the shot line I could see the counter weight line was wrapped around the shot line resulting in the shot weight bouncing along the bottom, clearly some distance from the wreck. Given we were already down I just grabbed the shot and decided to enjoy seeing some new territory. The viz was excellent and at over 30 m there was no surge so we just enjoyed a drift dive. The highlight was being surrounded by a school of kingfish that checked us out thoroughly.

Upon being picked up we found Leo keen to do a second dive so we headed back into near Shortlands Bluff where he dropped into 15m on a 50m buoy line using the flooding tide to take him further towards Shortlands Bluff. Once he had returned to the surface we all headed into Queenscliff to recover the boat, wash it down and adjourn to the Rolling Pin for coffee and a belated lunch.

Thanks to all for a really relaxed, stress free day's diving and I am certainly looking forward to getting out again soon. The water temperature is quite pleasant, Pam hardly needed her electrically heated diving vest and Jim didn't complain about the cold at all!

- David Geekie ❖



HMAS CANBERRA & SS COOGEE

March 3, 2018

A big VSAG day on the water with 4 boats out enjoying some of the best conditions in some time outside.

We started off on the Ex HMAS Canberra. Myself and buddy, Chris Porter, headed down to the sand at the stern before having a poke around in the Engine Room. We then headed to the SS Coogee after rave reviews from our friends at GetUnder Dive Club about the blue water and great vis on the wreck. We were not disappointed, it was amazing.

On and Under the water today were:

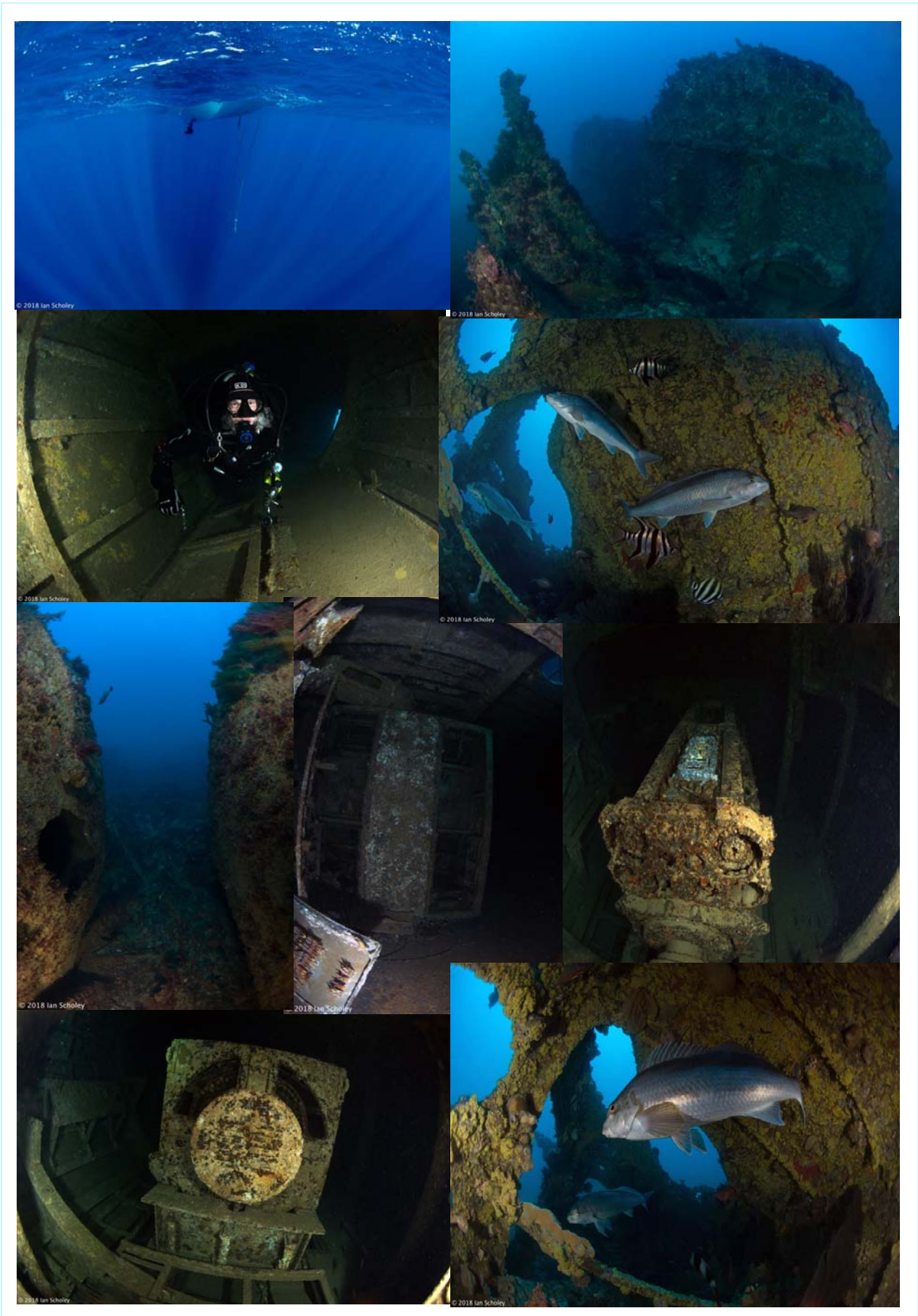
On Sea Eagle - myself and Chris Porter

On Dire Straits - David Geekie, Pamela Dagley, David's daughter, and son in law (Sorry David Geekie, can't recall the names - it's my age!!)

On Breaker - Grant Callow, Mike Mosseveld, Grant Brittain and Tony Hood.

On Carmine - Peter Campisano, Carole Campisano, Mark Howells, Matthijs Smith and Dylan Smith.

It was great to chat to the guys from #MoonrakerDolphinSwims at the ramp, hope you guys had as good a day as we did.





J4 SUB & PORTSEA HOLE

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Isn't it funny the change in diving conditions from one day to the next. Yesterday (sat) the guys had 20m+ outside but today was a reality check. Two boats out today Sea Eagle/Narcosis with 5 divers, Ian/Federico on Sea Eagle and Darren Pearce/Edward Ashley and myself on Narcosis. Outside wasn't an option so the choice was Hurricane with a slack on Portsea Hole.

Full moon and a howling current greeted us on the Hurricane and I'm sure Ian and Federico came up with longer arms than they went in with whereas my crew gave up and went Scaloping, but from all accounts they had a great dive as Ian's photos will show.

After lunch and a bumpy trip down to Portsea Hole we arrived and found slack had already arrived, so we used caving reels to find our way back to the anchors not knowing how much time we had. There's not much I can say that hasn't already been said re these two dives, there great dives when strong southerlies are blowing lots of creatures to photo and interact with and the wall at the Hole although only 10 metres is still great fun. Thanks to all our VSAG divers and guest diver Edward Ashley for their company on the dives and coffee afterwards. John.

- John Ashley ❖

THE HURRICANE & PORTSEA HOLE

March 4, 2018

Another day another dive. Today we stuck to Port Phillip with the swell up after some strong winds late on yesterday afternoon.

So, we opted for old favourite the Hurricane which we dived in a massive current. We tucked in close to the wreck and had a very enjoyable dive. The current brings the fish out and we had a bit of everything including 4 Giant Cuttlefish, a baby Velvet fish, and a Goblin fish.

We then headed down to Portsea Hole for the slack water. The vis was a bit ordinary, but we stayed in close to the wall and once again had a good dive.

Diving today were:

On Sea Eagle, myself and Federico Sevilla

On Narcosis, John Ashley, Eddie Ashley and Darren Pearce.

- Ian Scholey ❖



Goblin Fish



Goblin Fish



THE HURRICANE

February 11, 2018

Not too many options for boat diving today with a strong South Westerly blowing and only Sea Eagle on the water.

With Mark Howells on board I headed down to old reliable the wreck of the Hurricane. With plenty of surface chop and a strong current running I struggled to get hooked into the wreck. The anchor was dragging and on our first attempt we gave up after swimming in a circle for 15 minutes trying to find it. After moving the boat back onto the wreck, I left Mark in the boat while I went down and made sure we were on the wreck. Satisfied I had us on the wreck I went back up and grabbed Mark.

As usual the wreck delivered the goods with plenty of fish life. I had promised Mark a Goblin fish and with some relief I found one pretty quickly. We also found a White-barred Boxfish. As usual I was on slug watch and found a Long-tailed Ceratosoma with only one rhinophore.

-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.

Rock Lobster Tagging Program

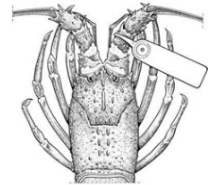
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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. ❖

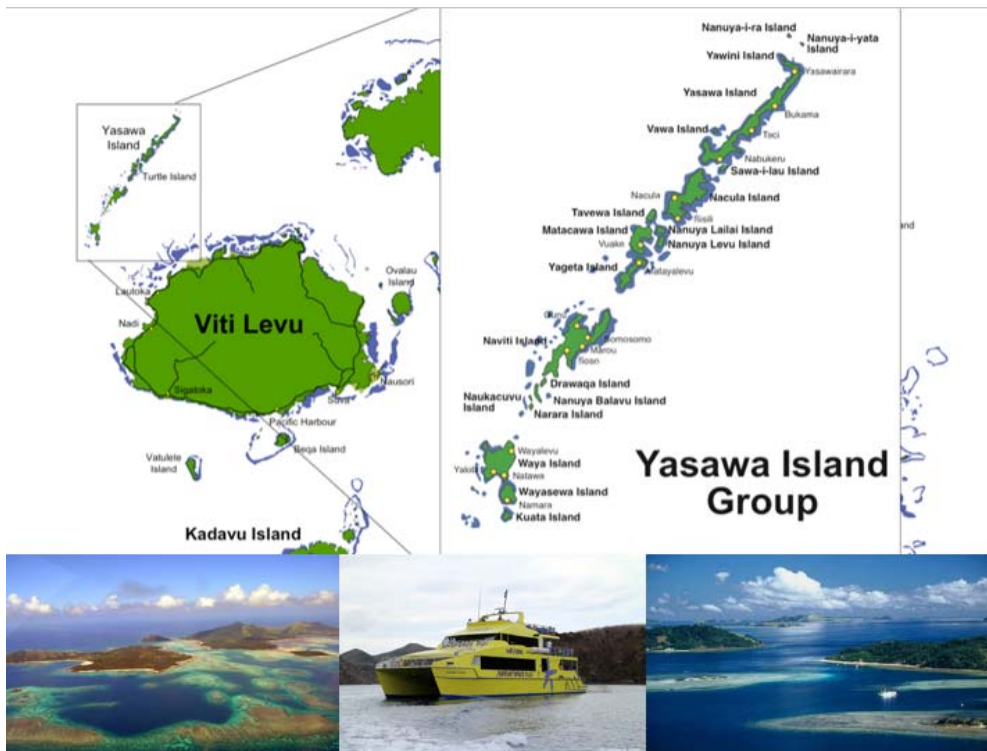
YASAWA ISLANDS FIJI 2019



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 reefs, healthy fish life and most importantly some great pelagic action. This fantastic shark dive offers a chance to get up close with an array of sharks. Bull, White, Silver, Black tip reef, Nurse, Lemon and Grey reef sharks are seen frequently. Flipping through the water amongst nearly 300 species of fish, including Groupers 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 ReefBure or Beachfront Villa
Compulsory meal package \$99 FID pp per day - paid locally
FID GATEWAY HOTEL
1 Night Deluxe room twin share
Included transfers

DIVE

BAREFOOT KUATA 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
DID864

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

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

Excludes: Equipment, rental, night dives, Nitrox, Shark and manta-park fees not included - \$20 FID 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.

Due to some changes to the Air Niugini flight schedule we have had to change the itinerary for our trip in August. We will now be offering 14 days in Truk Lagoon with an optional 5 nights in Tawali, Milne Bay, PNG.

I have attached the new flyers for these in case anyone is still interested in joining the group

Additionally I have attached a new flyer which offers the PNG part of the trip as a stand alone if anyone fancies just hooking up with us in PNG.

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 ❖



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA PRESENTS TRUK LAGOON MICRONESIA



In February 1944, US Forces launch Operation Hailstorm on Truk Lagoon, Japan's Pacific base during World War II. The Japanese were caught unaware and lost 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, via Port Moresby & Pohnpei
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges

SLEEP

AIROLODGE INTERNATIONAL, BRISBANE

- 1 night standard room twin share
- BLUE LAGOON RESORT, TRUK LAGOON**
- 14 nights standard twin share
- Return airport transfers
- Day use of resort on final day until 18:00
- **GROUP SPECIAL (8 OR MORE)**
- FREE use safety deposit box
- FREE dinner on last day
- FREE use in house videos
- FREE use of Kayaks
- FREE use of movies on request

DIVE

BLUE LAGOON DIVE

- 24 dives per diver
- Tanks, weights, air-fills & dive guide
- GROUP SPECIAL (8 OR MORE)**
- FREE additional dive
- FREE use of dive lockers

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

**TRAVEL DATES
17 AUG- 02 SEP 2018**

**DIVER \$ 4,851
NON DIVER \$2,919**

REF : ADE 609

CONTACT VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

res@allwaysdive.com.au | (03) 9531 6818 | www.allwaysdive.com.au

Exclusions: Dive permit \$50 USD pp / Departure Tax \$40 USD pp

LD# 32311



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP PRESENTS



TAWALI PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Tawali is located in the heart of Milne Bay, which is made up of 160 named islands, and 500 coral cays spread over 250,000 square kilometres of ocean. Milne Bay is famous for its muck diving and walls covered in soft corals and large sea fans. Swim amongst huge schools of brightly coloured fish, discover vibrant mantis shrimp and play with radiant mandarin fish, its truly a kaleidoscope of colours down there.

FLY

AIR NIUGINI

- Flights ex Port Moresby to Gurney
- Flights ex Gurney to Brisbane, via Port Moresby
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges

SLEEP

TAWALI RESORT, MILNE BAY

- 5 nights- deluxe twin share
- All meals included
- Return airport transfers

DIVE

DIVING TAWALI

- 12 boat dives- 5 dive days
- FREE shore diving on house reef
- Lunch & snack on dive boats included

TRAVEL DATES
30 AUG- 07 SEP 2018

ADDITIONAL:
DIVER \$2,743
NON DIVER \$2,118

REF : ADE 609



CONTACT VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

res@allwaysdive.com.au | (03) 9531 6818 | www.allwaysdive.com.au

Exclusions: Reef chamber fees & fuel surcharges per diver

Lic # 32311



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP PRESENTS

TAWALI

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Tawali is located in the heart of Milne Bay, which is made up of 160 named islands, and 500 coral cays spread over 250,000 square kilometres of ocean. Milne Bay is famous for its muck diving and walls covered in soft corals and large sea fans. Swim amongst huge schools of brightly coloured fish, discover vibrant mantis shrimp and play with radiant mandarin fish, its truly a kaleidoscope of colours down there.

FLY

AIR NIUGINI

- Return flights ex Brisbane to Alotau via Port Moresby
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges

SLEEP

AIROLODGE INTERNATIONAL, BRISBANE

- 1 night- standard twin share
- TAWALI RESORT, MILNE BAY**
- 7 nights- twin share
- All meals included
- Return airport transfers

DIVE

DIVING TAWALI

- 15 boat dives- 5 dive days
- FREE shore diving on house reef
- Lunch & snack on dive boats included
- Environmental fees included
- Tanks, weights, air-fills & dive guide

TRAVEL DATES
30 AUG- 07 SEP 2018

DIVER \$3,967
NON DIVER \$2,658

REF : ADE 732



CONTACT VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

res@allwaysdive.com.au | (03) 9531 6818 | www.allwaysdive.com.au

OPTIONAL: Upgrade to deluxe room-additional \$250 pp twin share

UIC-P32011

DIARY DATES

Truk Lagoon/ PNG 18-30 August 2018

Yasawa Island Fiji 2019

Lembah Strait and Manado Indonesia 25 Jan—3 Feb 2019

VSAG Lembah Strait & Manado Trip Indonesia 25 January - 3 February, 2019



Dive Lembah Strait 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 Strait & Manado, Indonesia for 25 January - 3 February, 2019.
If interested please contact Ian Scholey for details.

VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar

By Peter Beaumont, Dive Roster Coordinator (DRC),

17 Feb 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 boats 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

Feb 17/18	Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Feb 24/25	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Feb 25	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
Feb 27	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm Guest Speaker – Des Williams – Development of the Rebreather
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 Organiser – John Ashley – 0418 535 991
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 – Carol Penfold 0449 986 473
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 Week-end	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 – Carol Penfold 0449 986 473
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 – Carol Penfold 0449 986 473
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 – Carol Penfold 0449 986 473
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

Websites for Tidal Streams & Weather Conditions

Peter Beaumont

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

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

Port Phillip Bay winds and temperature information is located here:

<http://www.baywx.com.au/>

Tide information for Cape Woolamai is located here:

<http://tides.willyweather.com.au/vic/gippsland/cape-woolamai.html>

VSAG Dive Equipment Box - Update

VSAG has a private transient equipment box located at:

The Scuba Doctor Shop, 1/49 Peninsula Avenue, Rye VIC 3941.

Equipment that is not in use by VSAG divers and boat owners can now be held in our black storage box.

It currently holds :

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

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

Tidal Streams at the Heads — April 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

April						
MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7	SUN 8
<i>3:50</i>	<i>4:31</i>	<i>5:09</i>	0:17	0:53	1:27	1:59
10:31	11:16	11:55	<i>5:43</i>	<i>6:16</i>	<i>6:48</i>	<i>7:20</i>
<i>16:33</i>	<i>17:24</i>	<i>18:08</i>	12:32	13:06	13:39	14:12
22:53	23:37		<i>18:49</i>	<i>19:27</i>	<i>20:03</i>	<i>20:40</i>
MON 9	TUE 10	WED 11	THU 12	FRI 13	SAT 14	SUN 15
2:32	3:08	3:51	4:46	6:01	<i>0:51</i>	<i>1:46</i>
<i>7:54</i>	<i>8:30</i>	<i>9:13</i>	<i>10:09</i>	<i>11:22</i>	7:23	8:26
14:45	15:22	16:03	16:54	18:02	<i>12:50</i>	<i>14:13</i>
<i>21:19</i>	<i>22:03</i>	<i>22:53</i>	<i>23:51</i>		19:24	20:36
MON 16	TUE 17	WED 18	THU 19	FRI 20	SAT 21	SUN 22
<i>2:33</i>	<i>3:14</i>	<i>3:52</i>	<i>4:29</i>	<i>5:06</i>	0:31	1:12
9:15	9:58	10:39	11:20	12:02	<i>5:45</i>	<i>6:26</i>
<i>15:19</i>	<i>16:13</i>	<i>17:01</i>	<i>17:46</i>	<i>18:31</i>	12:44	13:27
21:35	22:24	23:08	23:50		<i>19:15</i>	<i>20:00</i>
MON 23	TUE 24	WED 25	THU 26	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29
1:54	2:39	3:30	4:33	5:48	<i>0:24</i>	<i>1:24</i>
<i>7:10</i>	<i>8:00</i>	<i>8:58</i>	<i>10:09</i>	<i>11:34</i>	7:07	8:16
14:12	14:58	15:49	16:48	18:00	<i>13:06</i>	<i>14:28</i>
<i>20:46</i>	<i>21:34</i>	<i>22:26</i>	<i>23:23</i>		19:23	20:39
April	May					
MON 30	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6
<i>2:19</i>	<i>3:08</i>	<i>3:50</i>	<i>4:28</i>	<i>5:04</i>	0:31	1:05
9:13	10:01	10:42	11:20	11:55	<i>5:38</i>	<i>6:12</i>
<i>15:34</i>	<i>16:27</i>	<i>17:12</i>	<i>17:52</i>	<i>18:28</i>	12:28	13:01

Tidal Streams at the Heads — May 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

April	May					
MON 30	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6
<i>2:19</i>	<i>3:08</i>	<i>3:50</i>	<i>4:28</i>	<i>5:04</i>	<i>0:31</i>	<i>1:05</i>
<i>9:13</i>	<i>10:01</i>	<i>10:42</i>	<i>11:20</i>	<i>11:55</i>	<i>5:38</i>	<i>6:12</i>
<i>15:34</i>	<i>16:27</i>	<i>17:12</i>	<i>17:52</i>	<i>18:28</i>	<i>12:28</i>	<i>13:01</i>
<i>21:41</i>	<i>22:33</i>	<i>23:17</i>	<i>23:55</i>		<i>19:02</i>	<i>19:35</i>
MON 7	TUE 8	WED 9	THU 10	FRI 11	SAT 12	SUN 13
<i>1:38</i>	<i>2:11</i>	<i>2:48</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>4:19</i>	<i>5:20</i>	<i>6:28</i>
<i>6:47</i>	<i>7:23</i>	<i>8:03</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>9:49</i>	<i>11:02</i>	<i>12:28</i>
<i>13:33</i>	<i>14:06</i>	<i>14:40</i>	<i>15:17</i>	<i>16:02</i>	<i>17:00</i>	<i>18:19</i>
<i>20:09</i>	<i>20:44</i>	<i>21:21</i>	<i>22:02</i>	<i>22:48</i>	<i>23:38</i>	
MON 14	TUE 15	WED 16	THU 17	FRI 18	SAT 19	SUN 20
<i>0:30</i>	<i>1:23</i>	<i>2:12</i>	<i>3:00</i>	<i>3:46</i>	<i>4:32</i>	<i>0:16</i>
<i>7:31</i>	<i>8:26</i>	<i>9:16</i>	<i>10:04</i>	<i>10:51</i>	<i>11:37</i>	<i>5:20</i>
<i>13:52</i>	<i>15:01</i>	<i>15:58</i>	<i>16:48</i>	<i>17:35</i>	<i>18:20</i>	<i>12:24</i>
<i>19:45</i>	<i>20:57</i>	<i>21:54</i>	<i>22:45</i>	<i>23:31</i>		<i>19:04</i>
MON 21	TUE 22	WED 23	THU 24	FRI 25	SAT 26	SUN 27
<i>1:02</i>	<i>1:49</i>	<i>2:39</i>	<i>3:33</i>	<i>4:34</i>	<i>5:40</i>	<i>6:46</i>
<i>6:10</i>	<i>7:03</i>	<i>8:02</i>	<i>9:08</i>	<i>10:22</i>	<i>11:46</i>	<i>13:10</i>
<i>13:10</i>	<i>13:56</i>	<i>14:42</i>	<i>15:31</i>	<i>16:26</i>	<i>17:33</i>	<i>18:54</i>
<i>19:47</i>	<i>20:30</i>	<i>21:14</i>	<i>21:59</i>	<i>22:48</i>	<i>23:41</i>	
May				June		
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
<i>0:37</i>	<i>1:31</i>	<i>2:22</i>	<i>3:07</i>	<i>3:48</i>	<i>4:27</i>	<i>0:09</i>
<i>7:47</i>	<i>8:40</i>	<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:08</i>	<i>10:46</i>	<i>11:21</i>	<i>5:05</i>
<i>14:24</i>	<i>15:24</i>	<i>16:14</i>	<i>16:56</i>	<i>17:32</i>	<i>18:06</i>	<i>11:56</i>
<i>20:12</i>	<i>21:17</i>	<i>22:10</i>	<i>22:55</i>	<i>23:33</i>		<i>18:39</i>

Tidal Streams at the Heads — June 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

May				June		
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
<i>0:37</i>	<i>1:31</i>	<i>2:22</i>	<i>3:07</i>	<i>3:48</i>	<i>4:27</i>	<i>0:09</i>
<i>7:47</i>	<i>8:40</i>	<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:08</i>	<i>10:46</i>	<i>11:21</i>	<i>5:05</i>
<i>14:24</i>	<i>15:24</i>	<i>16:14</i>	<i>16:56</i>	<i>17:32</i>	<i>18:06</i>	<i>11:56</i>
<i>20:12</i>	<i>21:17</i>	<i>22:10</i>	<i>22:55</i>	<i>23:33</i>		<i>18:39</i>
MON 4	TUE 5	WED 6	THU 7	FRI 8	SAT 9	SUN 10
<i>0:43</i>	<i>1:17</i>	<i>1:52</i>	<i>2:28</i>	<i>3:08</i>	<i>3:52</i>	<i>4:43</i>
<i>5:42</i>	<i>6:20</i>	<i>7:00</i>	<i>7:43</i>	<i>8:33</i>	<i>9:32</i>	<i>10:42</i>
<i>12:29</i>	<i>13:01</i>	<i>13:34</i>	<i>14:07</i>	<i>14:42</i>	<i>15:23</i>	<i>16:14</i>
<i>19:10</i>	<i>19:41</i>	<i>20:12</i>	<i>20:45</i>	<i>21:19</i>	<i>21:56</i>	<i>22:37</i>
MON 11	TUE 12	WED 13	THU 14	FRI 15	SAT 16	SUN 17
<i>5:41</i>	<i>6:42</i>	<i>0:19</i>	<i>1:16</i>	<i>2:14</i>	<i>3:11</i>	<i>4:08</i>
<i>12:03</i>	<i>13:25</i>	<i>7:42</i>	<i>8:39</i>	<i>9:34</i>	<i>10:27</i>	<i>11:19</i>
<i>17:21</i>	<i>18:47</i>	<i>14:38</i>	<i>15:39</i>	<i>16:32</i>	<i>17:19</i>	<i>18:04</i>
<i>23:25</i>		<i>20:12</i>	<i>21:21</i>	<i>22:19</i>	<i>23:11</i>	
MON 18	TUE 19	WED 20	THU 21	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24
<i>0:01</i>	<i>0:51</i>	<i>1:42</i>	<i>2:33</i>	<i>3:27</i>	<i>4:22</i>	<i>5:18</i>
<i>5:05</i>	<i>6:03</i>	<i>7:03</i>	<i>8:05</i>	<i>9:12</i>	<i>10:24</i>	<i>11:40</i>
<i>12:08</i>	<i>12:56</i>	<i>13:42</i>	<i>14:27</i>	<i>15:13</i>	<i>16:03</i>	<i>17:02</i>
<i>18:47</i>	<i>19:29</i>	<i>20:09</i>	<i>20:49</i>	<i>21:30</i>	<i>22:13</i>	<i>22:59</i>
June						July
MON 25	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI 29	SAT 30	SUN 1
<i>6:16</i>	<i>7:12</i>	<i>0:42</i>	<i>1:35</i>	<i>2:26</i>	<i>3:13</i>	<i>3:57</i>
<i>12:55</i>	<i>14:05</i>	<i>8:04</i>	<i>8:52</i>	<i>9:36</i>	<i>10:17</i>	<i>10:55</i>
<i>18:15</i>	<i>19:36</i>	<i>15:04</i>	<i>15:54</i>	<i>16:35</i>	<i>17:12</i>	<i>17:44</i>
<i>23:50</i>		<i>20:48</i>	<i>21:45</i>	<i>22:31</i>	<i>23:11</i>	<i>23:48</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

Mayday Call – for grave & imminent danger requiring immediate assistance	Urgency Call – when the danger is not grave or imminent
<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



Leafy Seadragon, Rapid Bay SA - Photo by Jon Kenfield