



Fathoms

FEBRUARY — MARCH 2018

Cover photo by Ian Scholey



Timor Leste Dive Trip

Port Vila Dive Trip

Tenerife Dive Trip

Five Dives I Never Wanted to Do, and more.....

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Postal Address:

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

www.vsag.org.au



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. (See page 60.)

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 ❖



Fathoms

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In this February—March 2018 issue...

Article	Author	Page
Timore Leste Dive Trip	David Geekie	6-8
Port Vila	John Ashley	9-11
Five Dives I Never Wanted to Do	Rob Kirk	12-16
The First Australia Day	John Goulding	17
Tenerife	Ian Scholey	18-30
Dive Reports		31-54
Save the Rays	Victorian Fisheries	55
Yasawa Islands Fiji		57-58
Truk Lagoon Micronesia		59-62
Diary Dates		63
VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar		65-67
Tidal Streams		69-71
Emergency Contact Information		72-73

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NOTICES

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

All Members Welcome
South Frankston VIC 3199



**VSAG Monthly meetings are at 8 p.m. on the
3rd TUESDAY of each month**

at THE WATER RAT HOTEL
256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE

All are welcome to join us for a meal at 7 p.m.
before the meeting.

VSAG on Facebook

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



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

Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia

Postal Address
PO Box 382, Melville WA 6956

Email: info@uecwa.com.au

Meetings
Esplanade Hotel
The Esplanade, Fremantle, WA
Boat
Port Coogee Marina
Chieftain Esplanade, North Coogee, WA



Check out St George Scuba Club at :

<http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/news.php>

Peter Beaumont joined the club in 2012 whilst living in Sydney and is still a member . They are a very active and a nice bunch of people.

We are delighted to announce that we have now established another relationship with an interstate club that will allow you to dive with them if you wish to and vice versa.

The club is the Tas Uni Dive Club. You can check them out at : www.tudc.org.au



Your VSAG Committee 2016–2017

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TIMOR LESTE

Date Night Adventure

17 – 29th August, 2017

Friday Date Nights have fairly predictable outcomes, but not when ambushed by a fellow VSAGer who knows how to turn a simple meal with your wife into a dive trip to one of the world's newest nations. Sandy Webb had just returned from Timor Leste and was keen for a return trip, with an invite like that it was not likely Pam was going to say 'No'! We were hooked.

In truth, I love these holidays where somebody just hands you the details, says they had a great time recently and all we have to do is make bookings.

So, on Thursday August 17th we flew overnight to Darwin, waited a few hours then flew international on Air North to Dili, arriving mid-morning. The Air North flight was very pleasant on one of the Brazilian 76-seater jets, the crew were very professional. Far better experience than flying the regular domestic carriers.

Dili was pleasantly warm, but not humid, a wonderful climate. There was an on-shore breeze that kept conditions well under control.

The Timor Leste Dive Centre was only 10 minutes from the airport through the friendly, chaotic traffic. It is located on the road running along the beach front and most importantly has the Castaway Bar and restaurant above the entrance. The coffee was good and prices quite reasonable, \$9-12US for a main meal.

We quickly checked in, then prepared for our first dives of the trip. Much of the diving in Timor Leste is shore diving off the pebbly/rocky beaches. For our first dives we just headed back past the airport to a 'beach', just to the west of the start of the runway. The beach entry was easy and the dive interesting with some soft corals, good macro subjects but no dugong. The second dive was a little further to the west at the city limit sign. There were good soft corals, leaf and frog fish and some nice walls at the turn back point. It was only a 20 min slow drive back to the dive centre where the staff insist on washing out and managing your gear.

The Dive Centre is well set up with good, well maintained tanks and hire equipment. The dive staff are a real mix of nationalities, Portuguese, French, Japanese, English, Mexican and American. They created an

extremely friendly, professional and helpful environment. We are looking forward to hosting Francisco in Melbourne over January.

The accommodation was quite acceptable, very spacious, but not new. The fan and air conditioner worked well and facilities included some cooking gear as they do rent out to backpackers at times. There is a deep pool used for diver training to freshen up in after a dive.

We dived twice every day. The dives to the east of Dili were down a coastal road that was undergoing extensive maintenance, with a diversion around a new culvert perhaps every 200 to 300m, for around 46km. This trip took around 2hrs but next year this trip could be done in well under half the time.

The diving suits those who like soft corals, nudibranchs, lion fish, interesting geography and there is a dugong but it was not cooperative when we were there.

I was so impressed by the diving staff that I agreed to do a solo diving course with Evan as an instructor. I have frequently dived solo in Melbourne so thought it time to formalize my experience. Pam decided to do the same course to help her become a more independent diver. The learning from the course was quite valuable and it was

encouraging to know we can cope with someone turning off our air.

- David Geekie ❖



Soft Corals were in abundance.



Dive centre washout area.



Typical of diving in Timor Leste

TIMOR LESTE



Second from right: David Geekie

Third from right: Pam Dagley

PORT VILA

PORT VILA

26 Dec 2017 - 06 Jan 2018

Depth: 10-40 mtrs

Water temp: 28c

Vis: 20-30mtrs +

Divers: Peter Beaumont, Ken & Marion, dive guides from:

<http://www.bigbluevanuatu.com/> &

<http://tranquillitydive.com/>

Judy and I decided to head off to Vanuatu for a holiday with friends Ken and Marion who we first met in PNG in January 2000. Ken and Marion are keen divers who have dived Port Vila regularly since the mid 1990's and know the area well.

We took a Qantas/Air Vanuatu code share flight from Melbourne via Brisbane which meant the cargo luggage was checked all the way through to Port Vila. Once in Port Vila we took a Taxi to our accommodation at Breakas Resort

<https://www.breakas.com/>



Later that afternoon we organised our dives/7:30am pickups with the Big Blue dive shop. I did a total of 12 reef dives, 4 reef drift dives, 1 x night dive and 2 wreck dives with Big Blue in fairly benign conditions. There were some cases of jellyfish stings due to divers/snorkellers wearing shorts and T shirts so is best to wear a stinger suit at all times. The boats (1 large, 2 small and 1 on standby) run 2 dives in the morning, 1 in the afternoon and night dives on Wednesday and Thursday or more often if the demand is there.





The second dive operator we went out with was Tranquillity Eco Resort. They offer Eco type Island accommodation, diving and separate day trips onboard the Coongoola.

<http://tranquillitydive.com/day-trips/>

Judy and Marion decided to do a Coongoola day trip while Ken and I opted for a couple of reef dives.



The first dive with Tranquillity started out as a boat dive (reef) with the dive guide happily pointing out the sea life as we swam around the reef heading back to the boat. The dive guide surfaced a couple of times to check where he was and each time he came back with his eyes wide open looking rather perplexed. This dive eventually ended on the shore/beach where we offloaded our gear into another boat, headed off for lunch at the ECO resort and waited for the boat to return.

It turns out that during the dive the boat minder had moved off the mooring to allow access for another boat. A short time later the 40HP engine stopped and couldn't be restarted, nor could the 15HP auxiliary. Without an anchor the boat drifted a couple of kilometers to another island and parked itself on

the beach. Fortunately, the boat minder was able to make a phone call and organise a tow back to the resort. The second dive went without incident and made for an interesting day out.

We flew out of Port Vila to Sydney of the 6th January, 2018 and arrived back in Melbourne 11:30 pm that night. For our next stay we would probably stay at one of the hotels in town with airconditioning and do the majority of the dives with the Big Blue dive shop.

- Peter Beaumont ❖

FIVE DIVES I NEVER WANTED TO DO

About twenty-five years I was on the world's longest Category 3 Cave Diving Course with the late great Barrie Heard. The problem was getting everybody down to Mt Gambier at the same time as Barrie and the CDAA testers, Chris Brown and John Dalla-Zuanna to do the practical test in Gouldens. Time and time again we'd organise a weekend and time and time again somebody couldn't make it. It was getting to be beyond a joke and we were getting sick of it.

So, when I came down with the flu the week before yet another weekend which had been agreed upon by all, I did not want to be the one responsible for yet another cancellation. I went to the quack and said "Give me the strongest antibiotics you can get – I gotta knock this bastard by next weekend!". I had every confidence in my local GP because I knew he was a diver. He had always taken great delight in telling me about his tax-deductible holidays to attend SPUMS conferences in exotic locations that a wage-earner like me could only dream about, so I thought that he must therefore know his stuff. And the horse-tablet-sized

Augmentin Forte tablets he subscribed certainly did the job! I was halfway through my second course and feeling right as rain by the time we rocked up to Gambier, only to find that Heardie couldn't make it because he had the gout!

Disappointed as we were by yet another delay to our Cave Diving qualification we were overjoyed when Chris Brown announced that he would make it up to us by giving us a guided tour of The Shaft. This is THE iconic sinkhole which we all dreamed about one day being able to dive. At the time, access was restricted to the CDAA elite so we were honoured by the gesture and jumped at the opportunity. It was an awesome dive but about 4am the next morning I was woken by a sharp, hot, itchy skin rash that was travelling around my body like something in a sci-fi movie!

After about half an hour of scratching and rubbing as discreetly as I could, I got up for a shower but it did nothing to ease the itching. I thought I was being pretty quiet but before long everyone was awake and asking what was going on. Brownie cottoned onto the possibility of a skin

bend and put me on oxygen for half an hour, then it was out into the freezing cold to find a phone booth on the Jubilee Highway to call the Divers Emergency Service hotline on 1800 088 200. (This is the early-1990's – nobody had mobile phones then.) The puzzling thing for the Doc at the DES was that we'd actually done the 40 metre dive on a reasonably conservative profile. We'd done all the stops and I'd even done extra deco time at the 3 metre mark. His suggestion was that it was low priority, it could wait until I got back to Melbourne and he said to wait until I heard back from the Alfred. So no low-flying air ambulance for me!

The drive home was a nightmare until we stopped at a Chemist who suggested an anti-histamine called Avil. This worked a treat and did a lot to ease the itching. At home I sat by the phone waiting for a call from The Alfred. I ended up ringing them only to be told "Look mate, there's a couple of people in there doing their best to die at the moment", which was the first I knew that the Hyperbaric Chamber is actually used for other things apart from DCI. I actually felt quite ashamed about trying to push them but the reality is that when you don't know quite what's happening you start to worry, and the over-riding thing is the

certain knowledge that the longer treatment gets delayed the harder it is to recover. This was exacerbated by the fact that the Avil would wear off after about 4 hours or so and the itching was driving me nuts!

Finally I got the call and went in for my assessment which included such fun exercises as touching the tip of my nose with my eyes closed, balancing on one foot and counting backwards by sevens - all the sorts of things that I can't even do sober! Apart from the rash there was a very slight numbness just under my right eye. Eventually the decision was made that I would undergo Hyperbaric Treatment and I was given a set of scrubs to change into.



A Chamber similar to the Alfred's in the 1990's

If you've done a visit to the Alfred's Hyperbaric Unit recently you'll know that they now have a big rectangular chamber where patients can walk in or be wheeled in on gurneys. Back in the 90's it was a different setup altogether and

consisted of two cylindrical chambers joined in the middle by an airlock. Outside was a complex control panel / engineering station fully decked out with dial gauges, levers and switches. It looked like it might have come out of a nuclear submarine. Inside there were bunks set either side leaving a narrow walkway in the middle. The chamber could seat about 6 people. The nurse set us up with Oxygen Helmets, which were basically a clear plastic bubble with a connection for an oxygen hose and a one-way valve to vent exhaust gases. A latex skirt provided a seal around my neck and ensured that the big bubble around my head provided 100% oxygen. Let's just say this helmet thing took a little bit of getting used to.



Interior of a similar chamber showing Oxygen Helmets in use.

We were kept informed on what was happening every step of the way and things literally started to heat up as air was pumped into the chamber to

increase the atmospheric pressure. I actually began to sweat a bit in the dry heat which was pretty much like being inside a SCUBA cylinder being filled by an air compressor. Air was the ambient gas, 100% O₂ was pumped through the helmets. There were a couple of stops to check everyone's vital signs until we got to the equivalent of 20 metres. By now I'm thinking, hang on, I always thought pure oxygen was lethal below 9 metres? Well, it's complicated but the short answer was that we had instant medical assistance available if any symptoms of oxygen poisoning appeared. For the first treatment I had to have a butterfly cannula inserted into a vein in my hand so that drugs could be pumped in quickly if I did happen to have symptoms. We also took regular "Air Breaks" to prevent the symptoms from happening and geez it was good to get that helmet off!

After about an hour at depth we started to surface, and that meant it started to chill. Even though the rate of ascent was extremely slow it was like when you accidentally leave a tank valve open for any length of time and the SCUBA cylinder gets cold. Condensation formed on the steel walls of the chamber and I was definitely grateful for the blanket they provided! Finally I could take that helmet off for good!

I did 5 treatments in the chamber. The facial numbness was gone after the first treatment but it was only after the fourth day that the rash started to settle down a little. But it didn't go away completely for another week or so. For my fifth and final treatment I was joined by a group of RAAF Aircrew fresh from their Explosive Decompression Course at Laverton. They get bent on purpose! For the entire time we were locked up in the pot together with no hope of escape I regaled them with stories of my own RAAF career when I fought and died in the Air Cadets not long after the Vietnam war finished.

About a week later I went to see Professor Ian Millar at the Alfred Outpatients Clinic for a review. He was a top bloke – very knowledgeable and not at all judgemental about my weight, status as a heavy smoker or the copious amounts of alcohol that I confessed to having imbibed the evening after the Shaft dive. He did however matter-of-factly go over the facts of why these things aren't great for a diver. The upshot of my case was that I'd had a very mild bend associated with an allergic reaction to the Penicillin in the Augmentin Forte antibiotics I'd been taking. I was given some guidance on when and how I could go back to diving, I

think I was strictly no-deco for about 6 months or so.

There were a number of lessons learned from this which are obvious in hindsight. First and foremost thou shalt NEVER dive with or soon after the flu! It takes the body time to recover from illness and in my weakened state I was susceptible to DCI. Likewise, drugs and diving don't mix – especially not dirty great big horse-tablets like Augmentin Forte!

It was also a hard way to learn the difference between a diving doctor and a doctor who dives. My GP was a diver and gave me the all clear to go diving while I was still taking antibiotics. To be fair I was expecting to be doing the cave test in shallow water not a full deco dive to 40 metres but a doctor fully trained and knowledgeable in diving medicine might not have even given me the all-clear to go for a snorkel.

Also, this is the first time I've actually told this story to anyone. Back then there was a real stigma to having been bent which was stupid really. I should have shared my experiences with my fellow divers because for all I knew they might have been as ignorant of the facts as I was. We know so much more about DCI now than we did even as late as the 1990's. Attitudes to DCI and treatment have now changed

dramatically. Whilst the initial diagnosis by DES that it wasn't serious turned out to be spot-on, I wonder how that conversation would have gone today.

They refer to Hyperbaric Treatments as "Dives", and these were 5 dives I definitely never wanted to do.

- Rob Kirk ❖



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AUSTRALIA DAY

"THE FIRST AUSTRALIA DAY"

January 26th, 1988

As we acknowledge and enjoy Australia day, let me remind VSAG members that for about 20 years during the 1970's ,80's and into the 90's we organised on this long weekend a charter boat to take us from Port Franklin to Refuge Cove on the east coast of Wilsons Promontory and after making camp we dived along the coast and away out to Skull Rock, 40 Foot Rocks , and other reefs along that coast.

There would be up to 16 people on the charter boat and other VSAG members would join us in their own boats.

We would stay at refuge for 2 or 3 nights and feast on great delicacies from the sea, chicken and beef from the kitchens of one of our best known airlines and cans of salad that had long lost their labels!!!.

On January 26th In 1988 to mark the 200th anniversary of the first fleet landing we performed "THE FIRST AUSTRALIA DAY".

This play was witnessed by about 100 onlookers and despite it touching on what is now considered "raw nerves" was regarded as cutting edge "street theatre" at the time.

To read the script only brings back memories to us to see it performed on the beach at Refuge Cove was brilliant.

- John Goulding ❖

TENERIFE

At the end of September, I made one of my rare visits back to Europe to catch up with relatives. Not wishing to take a chance on the UK's unpredictable weather we flew in, picked up our family and flew out again the next day to the Spanish Canary Islands.

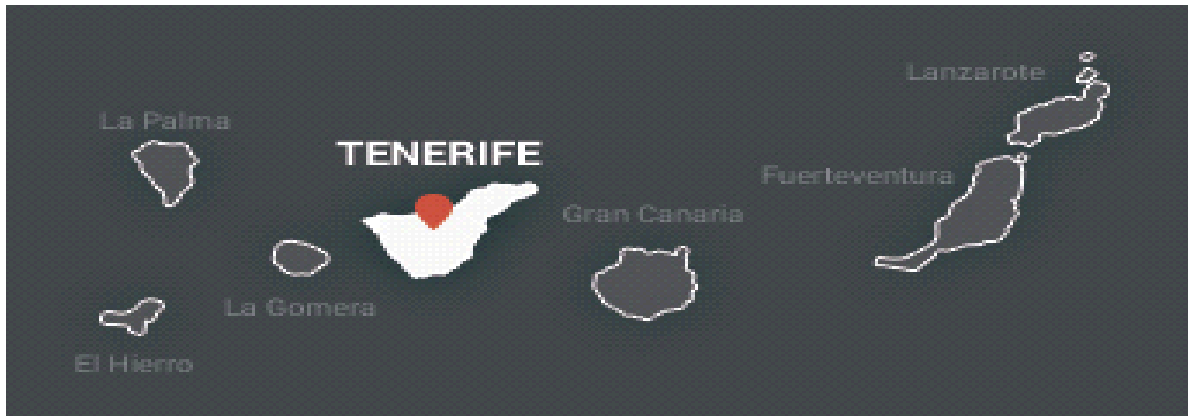
The Canary Islands sit in the Atlantic Ocean 2340 miles south of the UK off the coast of Morocco. The Island group consists of seven volcanic islands and is a popular holiday destination for Europeans. Our destination was Tenerife, the largest island in the group. Tenerife is basically a big volcano and is dominated by Spain's highest mountain, Mount Teide which rises to 3718m. The Island is famous for its volcanic black sand beaches and with very little soil and even less rain offers some excellent diving in crystal clear water.

Over the years I have done many hundreds of dives on the island and have made some good friends in the local diving community. I hadn't been back there for four years, so I was looking forward to grabbing more than a few dives while I was on the Island. I made contact with good friend Javier Racedo at Club de

Buceo Rincon de Arona a few weeks before the trip and had all of my diving locked-in well in advance. The diving club operates from the harbour in the village of Los Cristianos in the south of the Island. They operate a 6.5m RHIB and run 2-3 single tank dives a day depending on demand.

On my first day I carted my gear down to the dive centre and was greeted like a long-lost friend with a large man-hug from Javier. Javier hails from Uruguay and on my last visit we discovered a shared love of Underwater photography. Last time out he was using a Go Pro, but he has since upgraded and I have to say has become a very accomplished photographer. For my visit he had invested in a new Fish eye lens and was very excited to try it out on our upcoming dives.

The first dive of my trip was to a spot that I hadn't visited before, called Cueva del Zorro (Zorro's Cave). The dive site was a 25 minute run along the coast past the village of Guaza. The underwater landscape in Tenerife is as dramatic as the above water scenery and consists of bare rock walls, pinnacles and gullies with numerous sea caves. Although the



rock is bare, the fish life is prolific and in the deeper Water (40m +) it is possible to find fantastic black coral growth.

As I rolled back off the RHIB for the first dive I took in a sharp breath as I hit the chilly 24 degree water.

I followed Javier down to the cave entrance at 25m. The non-camera wielding divers on the boat had been guided away from the cave to give Javier and I a 10 minute head start to take some shots without the sand getting kicked up.

The cave entrance was wide and gave an excellent opportunity to shoot the other divers against the blue water when they finally appeared at the cave entrance. Inside the cave we found a couple of massive black stingrays snoozing and a large group of the very common Trumpetfish. Other highlights included some large anemone, slipper lobster, shrimp and the beautiful local fire worms. With the vis deteriorating quickly with the

other divers' presence we headed off to explore the local area quickly finding a large Triggerfish and also catching a glimpse of a large Tuna in the blue.

The second dive of the day was in front of some large cliffs between Los Cristianos and Palm Mar, a spot called Guaza Mountain. Since my last visit the local operators have been working hard on this dive site and it is now the most dived spot in Tenerife. I'm not too sure I agree with the ethics of what they have done but it has certainly created a very memorable dive site. Every day for two years they have been feeding Turtles and Rays at this dive site. It now provides a 100% guaranteed encounter with multiple Green Turtles, Eagle Rays, Large Black Rays and Smaller Atlantic Stingrays.

After ten minutes of dropping food into the water we were kitted up and ready to start our dive. Before I rolled in, Javier stuffed my BC pockets with Squid. This really did

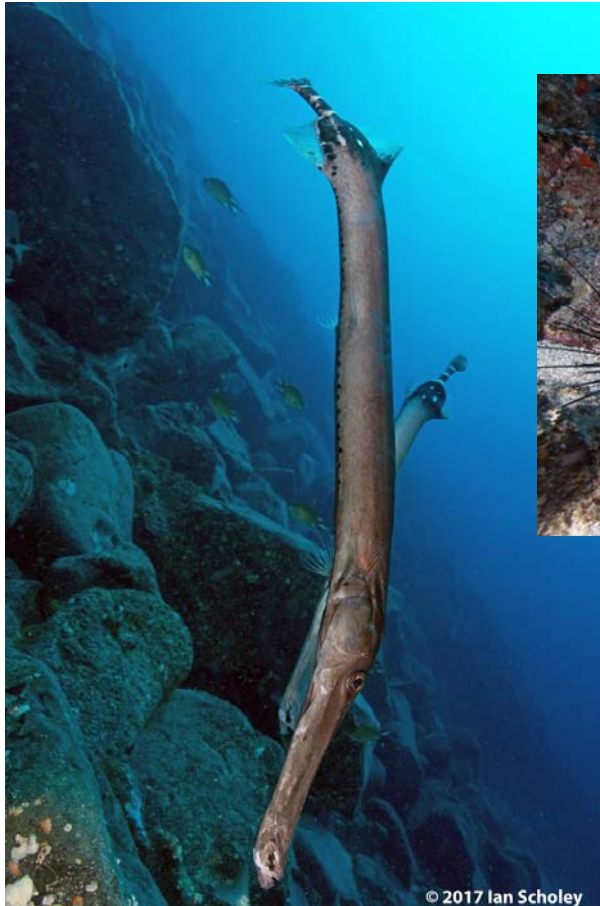


Javier inside Cueva Del Zorro



Triggerfish

Turkish Wrasse



Green Turtle



Trumpet Fish

TENERIFE

make for an interesting dive as I was immediately surrounded by Fish of all types and a trio of Turtles that came right up to my face. It made for some great photo opportunities although once or twice I had to frantically back off to try and fit the Turtles in the camera frame as they were so close. After a few minutes of solo fun at the 5m mark I was joined in the water by Javier and frankly the Turtles then lost interest in me as they clearly knew Javier very well.

We spent a good 20 minutes enjoying their company before we were joined by another boat load of divers and we decided to find a quieter spot. We dropped down from 18m to the sand at 25m and swam away from the rocks. The sand was covered as far as the eye could see with Garden Eels which disappeared in waves as we moved across the sand. We were soon joined by several Eagle Rays, Stingrays and a single large Black Ray. They circled and circled before coming in one at a time. They swam up to you, then up your body allowing you to pop a bit of squid into their mouth before brushing the top of your head and making way for the next animal. It was all very orderly with everyone waiting a turn.

After giving the Rays a very decent feed we headed back to the shallows for more Turtle time. This time we hung at 5 m and hand fed the Turtles. It required a high level of concentration to avoid getting a painful nip as often all three Turtles would be on you at the same time. Whether you agree with the ethics of feeding or not this certainly made for an exhilarating dive. Over the next two weeks I would come back and do this dive another eight times. Each dive was slightly different to the last and it's something I don't think I would ever get bored of. I can see why this dive has become the major selling point for diving on Tenerife.

With the first day's diving done, I had plenty of time to catch up with the family and enjoy the other delights the Canary Islands have to offer. There are plenty of bars and restaurants serving cheap drinks and great food. Every kind of food is on offer, but we tend to stick with the Spanish food and head to the places the locals go to rather than the tourist hot spots. I enjoyed a fantastic Paella followed by a couple of large Spanish Brandys and a must for me, the local coffee of choice cortado leche leche. For me, it's the second-best thing about Tenerife after the



Tiger Moray

Fireworm



Pilot Whales



Javier's Birthday Party



.Scorpionfish



TENERIFE

diving and consists of three layers, condensed milk on the bottom, an espresso in the middle and hot milk to top it off.

The pattern for my trip would turn out to be a first dive to a different site followed by a second dive at Guaza Mountain to feed. On day two we headed to another cave for our first dive. Cueva de Los Morenas (Moray Cave) is deeper at 34m and only very limited penetration is possible. There is a stark reminder to this fact at the mouth of the cave where there is a small stone cross as a memorial to two divers who entered and failed to find their way out again. I have dived this spot often and know it well so opted to head off on a solo dive while Javier guided some less experienced divers. To the left of the cave entrance there are a trio of large bommies heading out to sea. On top of the last bommie sits a carved dolphin and memorial for Jacques Cousteau so that was my first stop. I then headed back towards the cave on the other side of the bommies, stopping to see a large statue of the Madonna which has been placed there to keep the local fishing fleet safe from harm. After snapping some shots of the Madonna, I entered the mouth of the

cave for a quick look before slowly ascending the wall to rejoin the others at 15m. The rock wall is home to a large number of Moray Eels. There are three different types to be seen including the impressive Tiger Moray Eel which although small, has a very impressive set of teeth that make it look like it could do a lot of damage.

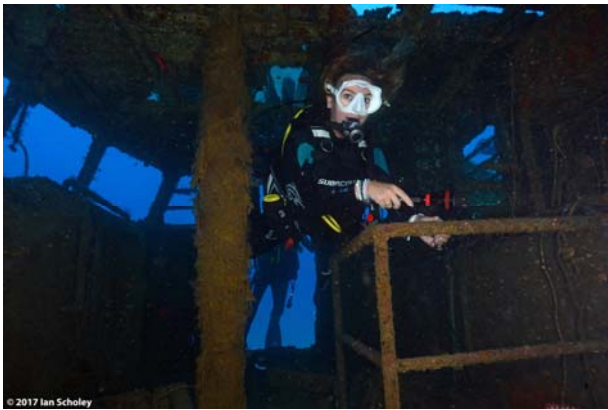
I was joined by my daughter Anna for the dives on the third day. She had been busting to dive since our arrival, but was suffering from the tail end of a cold so missed the first two days. Our destination was the wreck of the Condisito another dive site I know extremely well having dived it often in the past. Today we were joined only by Javier's father-in-law, Faustino, so we're looking forward to longer dive times and plenty of opportunity to take our time exploring the wreck. We anchored in 23m of water and headed towards shore. The wreck sits almost on the shore in 18m. It is now pretty broken up which is a shame as I can clearly remember her intact and being able to penetrate inside to the engine room and crews' quarters. I have a picture of myself somewhere, from about 25 years ago, sitting on a toilet in there.



Mount Teide



Scholey's close to the top



*Diver on the bridge of
El Meridian*



El Meridian



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TENERIFE

Javier was keen to take pictures of Anna and I together during this dive and as we toured the wreck we obliged by posing where he wanted us. There is now only a small part of the stern section of the wreck intact. Towards the bow the seabed is covered in the now rock-solid bags of concrete that she was carrying when she went down. We had a very enjoyable dive with Anna doing well having not dived since our return from Vanuatu earlier in the year.

After running back into the harbour to change cylinders and pick up some more divers, we did our second dive with the rays and turtles. Anna was slightly phased at first by the close proximity of the giant Rays but soon relaxed and enjoyed her dive.

We decided on a rest day the following day and with a suitable surface interval achieved, we took a trip up to the Mount Teide. It's a spectacular drive on the narrow winding roads as you climb steeply, first through the bare desert landscape, then through pine forests and finally, as you enter the crater of the volcano, a bare rock landscape, more like a moonscape than something earthly. At the centre of the crater we took a cable car up the

caldera. It goes to within touching distance of the summit, but you now need a permit to climb the last few hundred meters to the top and we didn't have this so stayed just below, taking in the view.

Finished with the volcano, we drove down the other side of the mountain, actually descending down through the clouds and popping out the other side to magnificent coastal views. Heading into the island's second city of Puerto De La Cruz we had a very enjoyable lunch before hitting the motorway for a round island trip back to Los Cristianos.

The next day Anna decided to take a second day off from diving, creating the opportunity for me to do something a little deeper. With an experienced group of divers on board the RHIB we headed to the wreck of The Meridian. This vessel was originally a German WW2 Minesweeper before being sold as a Whale Watching vessel to a company in Tenerife in 1974. In 2005, at the end of her useful life, she was sunk as an artificial reef in 30m of water. She is largely intact and sits upright on the sea bed, with her masts still in place and lots of opportunity to penetrate inside. She is a



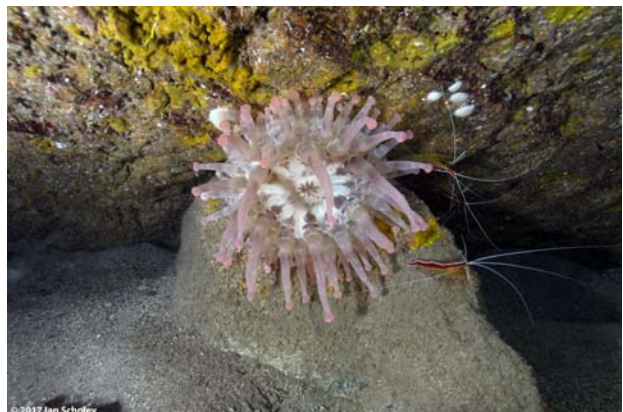
Green Turtles



Anna exploring Cueva Del Zorro



Anemone and cleaner shrimp



The Madonna, Cueva De Los Morenas

TENERIFE

photographer's dream in the crystal-clear Tenerife water, being small enough to allow some excellent shots against the blue water. As per other days, our second dive was back at Guaza Mountain where I learned that feeding turtles has its risks, when I got a painful bite on my right arm from an over excited turtle. It's very hard to keep an eye on three turtles at the same time.

Anna was back on board the following day and she was keen to get her photograph taken with the Madonna at Cueva De Los Morenas. So, with Javier lined up to buddy her and take her photograph I opted to switch to my macro lens for the first and only time during the trip and spend my time getting some shots of the Moray Eels and the other smaller things. Probably the most common find were arrow crabs of which there were numerous usually with a sea urchin for protection and accompanied by cleaner shrimp. I also got a few shots of the local Turkish Wrasse one of the most colourful of the local species.

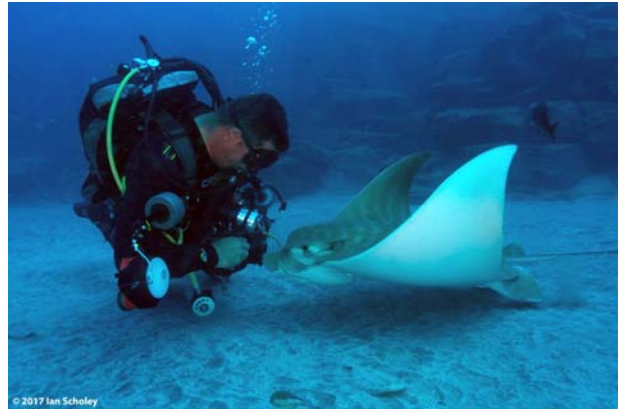
Once again, we followed up with another feeding dive, spending an hour and twenty minutes in the water as we were having so much fun.

Since we moved down to Australia eleven years ago we haven't been able to spend a Christmas with our family. So, in the tradition of Christmas in July we decided to have a Scholey family Christmas in October and take advantage of being together. So, post dive, it was over to my Mum and Dad's place with Anna and Sue to hook up with my parents and brother and partner, Boroo, for a Christmas meal. In the brilliantly warm evening air we sat on the balcony and ate a full English Christmas dinner complete with Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes and Christmas Pudding specially saved from last year. We had a very good time, so I am definitely a fan of Christmas in October.

Nursing a mild hangover from the previous night's celebrations, we opted for another rest day in the morning. After a welcome lie in, we loaded up the car and headed North to the resort town of Los Gigantes. Tenerife is a very good place to see Dolphins and Pilot Whales, with large resident populations of both in the deeper water between the Canary Islands. So, wanting to entertain ourselves for the day, we jumped on a Whale watching trip and headed out to spot what we could. We had



Javier and Green Turtle



Javier & Eagle Ray



Eagle Rays



Arrow Crabs



TENERIFE

some excellent encounters with a large pod of Pilot Whales, who swam in escort to our boat for 20 minutes or so, much to the excitement of everyone on board. After getting some photographs, the boat headed closer into shore to allow those that wanted to a chance for a swim. The rest of us sat back and enjoyed a cold beer under the gigantic sea cliffs on that part of the coast.

Our penultimate day's diving started with a longer boat run to a site called El Faro (The Lighthouse) close to the village of Las Galletas. With Anna opting out, the boat was pretty empty with just Javier, myself and one other diver. The dive site was a series of rock walls dropping from 10m down to sand at 21m. It was an easy navigation, so I once again opted to leave Javier and the other diver to their dive and take a solo poke around. Following the walls along, I found many small overhangs and caves and started to explore each one in turn taking it nice and slow. I found plenty to photograph and spent several minutes with a curious Octopus who seemed very interested in my camera. After a happy hour I headed back to the boat and met the others doing their safety stop on the

anchor line. The second dive as usual was a turtle feed.

The day wasn't over as it was Javier's birthday and we were invited to a feast that evening. So, we headed out into the wilds of Tenerife, to a fantastic restaurant well away from the many tourists. Leaving the ordering to Javier we were treated to a sumptuous meal of tapas, roasted meats, canarian potatoes a local specialty and copious amounts of wine and beer. To cap it all off, a huge cake was produced complete with sparklers which Javier tried unsuccessfully to blow out. The cake was a Uruguayan specialty and was delicious. Although none of us speak much Spanish we had a hell of a good time making do with sign language, pigeon Spanish or via Javier's translations as we partied on with the 40 other guests seated either side of one long table. It was a privilege to be invited to this get together and it will be a lasting memory of the trip for us.

With Anna back for the last day's diving she was given the choice of dive sites for the day and opted for a double dive with the Rays and Turtles. So off to Guaza Mountain

TENERIFE

we went yet again, for two more memorable dives.

Our trip was over all too quickly and back at the dive centre it was time to say, " Adios", to good amigos once again and settle our bill. Now we all know this can come as a bit of a shock but at 25 Euro (\$38) a dive this wasn't one of those occasions, thankfully, leaving plenty of left over change for the duty-free Brandy!!

I can recommend Tenerife for those wanting something a little different. It may not be the cheapest to get there but I think you get more than enough back in the cost of eating, drinking and diving to compensate for that. For me, it's worth the trip just for the coffee! 2020 anyone?

- Ian ❖

Some of Javier Racedo's excellent shots:



Myself on the Meridian



Myself and Stingray



Anna and Eagle Ray



Anna and myself



Anna and myself

Dive Reports & Snippets

DIVE REPORT

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
2017

FLINDERS PIER

**DIVERS: Arthur KOKKINOS,
Walter MEDENBACH**

I arrived at Flinders Pier at around 10.15am for a scheduled 11.00am dive. Walter was already on location walking back from the end of the Pier checking out the dive conditions. I greeted Walter at the start of the pier and we both commented on how good the water looked from where we were standing. Visibility looked to be around the 7 to 10 metres with a slight surface breeze. Conditions were ideal and the weather was just right. We had a discussion about the dive plan and the dive objective (to spot and take a photo of my first weedy sea dragon).

We both geared up and within 20 minutes we made our way down the embankment and onto the pier. We walked about halfway to where the pier splits into two levels. Walter entered the water first and I followed. The water temp was a nice 16 degrees and the sun started to beam its light

directly below the surface giving excellent light coverage. We both descended to the bottom and in a neutral buoyancy position we headed slowly towards the end of the pier. About 10 minutes into the dive we reached a dive depth of 5.2 metres and visibility was a clear 5 to 6 metres without any sediment issues.

The dive was full of many highlights and for me a personal accomplishment (after hearing so many weedy sea dragon stories I finally saw many on this dive, absolutely brilliant). Walter was showcasing his fish spotting abilities and pointed me towards my first ever weedy sea dragon. This was an encounter that I will cherish forever. This amazing creature was so placid and majestic. The gliding motion that these creatures move like is a sight to be seen. The colour that they possess on their bodies and the definition in their body structure is a natural work of art. After taking heaps of photos and following it around in its natural habitat I was surprised to find out that almost 25 minutes had lapsed whilst I was in this mesmerised encounter. Walter was so patient and as equally impressed with these creatures we both just dived slowly



and we moved along taking in all the fish life around us.

We spotted an enormous amount of grass whiting that kept poking out their long white tongue trying to suck

up food particles. Schools of old wives, small flatheads, sweep, bream and many scattered leatherjackets, crabs and the occasional coloured fish swimming around us. Throughout the dive we were lucky enough to spot another 5 Weedy sea dragons. They were all unique, different in colour and personality.

Reaching the end of the pier the sea life intensified and the underwater vegetation was vibrant carrying many bright colours that looked amazing. As we were exploring, Walter pointed towards a couple of small holes no bigger than 3.5 cm wide that were on an old structure laying on the bottom directly underneath the end of the pier. On closer inspection we both noticed these tiny fish with tiny antennas poking out on top of their head and having a look. I focused my camera and switched to macro and took some quick snaps of these tiny fish (look at attached photos).

After a lengthy dive at around 100 minutes, we both decided to call it a day. We slowly dived to shore taking another 12 minutes to exit the water. It was an amazing Dive and awesome dive buddy,

Thanks (Walter) for organising the dive.

Dive Report

Arthur

FLINDERS PIER

26 December, 2017

**Divers: Peter Beaumont &
Christine Reynolds**

After a long period of hibernation, 10 months, I decided it was time to dust off the gear and get back in the water. After a number of gear issues I decided to brave the shallows of a shore dive to give the gear a good work out.

The important thing on this dive was to have a good buddy who was going to keep a good eye on things and Peter Beaumont filled the bill admirably.

We agreed to walk in off the sand and entered the water in a balmy 19 degree water temp, bright sunshine and flat calm water. All in all, excellent conditions and good visibility.

We made leisurely progress, with Peter pointing out all the creatures along the way. We spent some time photographing a cowfish, whiting, a floating anemone and some goat fish. About half way along the pier we found our first Weedy Sea Dragon, and further on another two. One Dragon was carrying eggs and was very co-operative, a photographer's dream. We finned out beyond the pier and found a baby cuttlefish and a

large ray disappearing into the distance. On the return trip we encountered a less than co-operative octopus but Peter encouraged him to behave and he became the star of the show!

The dive was very relaxing, very entertaining, plenty of photographic opportunities, and with an excellent buddy. Topped off with a coffee at the local cafe.

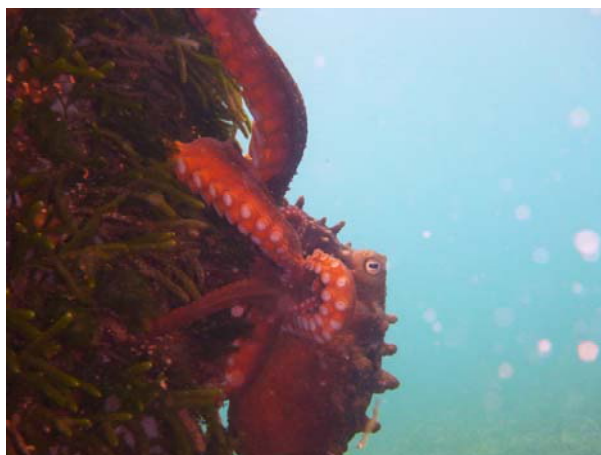
Many thanks, Peter, for the great day out!

- *Christine Reynolds*

- *Photos by Christine Reynolds*



Peter Beaumont in action



DIVE REPORT
SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
2017

MORNINGTON PIER

**DIVE REPORT BY : Arthur
Kokkinos**

**DIVERS: Walter MEDENBACH,
Arthur KOKKINOS, Adam
BORGE**

Today's dive was planned for a 2.30pm start. We all met at the main carpark near the start of the pier. The temperature was in the mid 30's, the skies were blue and there was no wind. Walter gave the dive plan which was based around the 2017 Great Victorian Fish Count. He pointed out the location for our water entrance and then handed out the dive slates to record the numbers of 25 important fish species and to report any others not usually found in the area. The slates had pictures of the fish species to help with identification.

A short time later we had all geared up and made our way towards the end of the side jetty. As Adam was putting his fins on, one of straps snapped and Adam was unable to proceed with his entry. Quick thinking Walter spotted a piece of small rope dangling off one of the posts. He improvised and tied up the fin firmly, with the rope, onto

Adam's foot. Adam was satisfied with the attachment and proceeded with his entry. I entered second followed by Walter. We snorkelled for about 25 metres to the side entrance of the pier. When we all reached the planned location with slates in hand we all gradually descended to the bottom. The visibility was not good due to the three of us dusting up the bottom.

We reached a depth of about 2.5 metres and entered into a dark space. Adam with torch glowing proceeded first under and along the pier slowly making his way down the side, between the edge of the pier and the rocky surface. In complete darkness, with our torch lights guiding us along, the fish life started to intensify. Once we got past the middle section of the pier the natural light appeared and opened up the visibility to an abundance of fish and underwater vegetation. We were all busy noting down the different fish and marking the slate with the pencils provided. The pencils were not good quality and hard to use. Adam continued on whilst Walter and I explored the far reaches of the pier. I took many photos of the various fish circling us and a couple of diver shots in and around the huge tyre that's located in that area on the sea floor. We were now in a depth of around 7 metres and visibility was 5 to 7 metres, with a non-existent current.

We then made our way around the pier to the other side where the large rocks are located. This part of the dive is by far the best part. Reaching a depth of 9.4 metres, it is hard to believe that this is a shore dive located on our doorstep. The fish life was absolutely amazing, large schools of old wives, trevally, and sweep were sighted as well as bream, parrot fish, and leather jackets. A few stingrays small and large were also sighted and one small banjo shark. The rocks area is definitely one of my favourite shore dives and 'must do' dive. The vibrant vegetation growth was also colourful especially the green grass growing all along the end of the rock wall. As the depth gets shallower to about 4 metres you feel like you are in a green underwater lagoon. Enjoying the rocky sea bed with its amazing fish life, we decided to turn around.

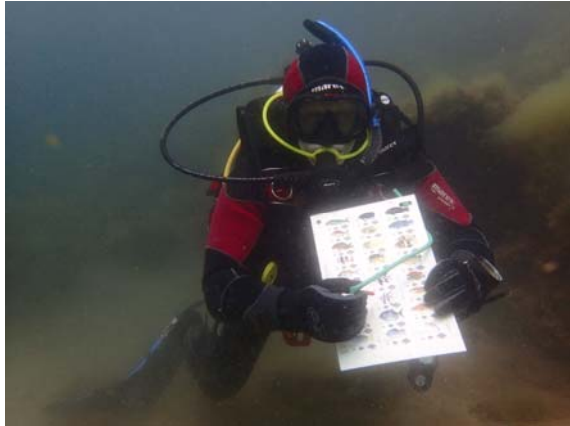
We continued the fish count trying to find some of the fish that were on the slate. Reaching a maximum depth of around 9.5 metres and exploring the many rock openings it was hard to believe that we were on the other side of a man-made structure. Enjoying every second of this dive, we finally all agreed to make our way towards the rock ledge opening which takes us back to underneath the pier. As we were searching for the opening I somehow dropped the slate without noticing. Adam who was behind me picked it up and continued on

thinking that I was aware he had it. As I was about to enter the opening, trailing the others, I looked down and noticed the slate missing. I quickly backtracked my dive frantically diving around trying to find the slate. After a couple of minutes of searching I gave up believing that I had lost it. I then made my way back to the opening and as I entered I saw Walter and Adam waiting for me. I looked up and Adam was handing me my slate back. I was confused but relieved when I got it back.

We slowly made our way through the dark using our torches and after 68 minutes of diving we ascended up out of the water about 3 metres from the large concrete wall located on the right side of the pier. This dive was most enjoyable shared with two awesome dive buddies.

- Arthur❖





MORNINGTON PIER

28 December, 2017

**Divers: Peter Beaumont and
Christine Reynolds.**

Another opportunity to test out the dive gear. It has been a long time since I have explored under the pier.

The plan was 7:30 am in the water on Australia Day. We were lucky to get a car park and would have had to book a table at the local cafe. It was extremely busy with the big fishing charters leaving the harbour. We had perfect conditions, flat calm, no wind, and were soon in the water. A dive flag is a must at this site as the boat traffic is heavy.

Peter chose the ladder entrance, so I handed him my camera and took a giant step off the corner of the pier. We swam on the surface to conserve air before descending half way along the pier. There was a lot of turbidity

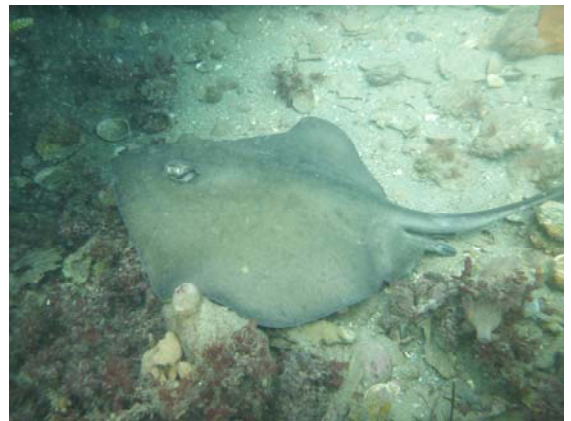
in the water and I could not see the bottom until I landed on it.

We tied off the dive flag and headed in under the pier. There was a lot of fish life, a giant Trigger fish, three large rays, huge boarfish which was very friendly, whiting, old wives and numerous small species. Visibility was poor so not too many pictures taken on this day.

Thanks to Peter for being a terrific buddy and I still owe you for the coffee!

Cheers

- *Christine Reynolds* ❖



DIVE REPORT

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2017
MORNINGTON PIER

**DIVE REPORT BY: Arthur
Kokkinos**

**DIVERS: Walter MEDENBACH,
Arthur KOKKINOS**

Today we are diving Mornington Pier for the second time within 3 days. The weather was perfect with not a cloud in the sky. We had planned for an afternoon dive, meeting up at the start of the pier at 12.00 noon. The temperature had already reached 32 degrees. We met up and decided to take a quick walk to the end of the

pier to see what the conditions were like. There was a slight wind, blowing from the west causing a ripple along the outer, along the rocks. We were both anxious to get in and start diving.

We quickly geared up and made our way to the planned entry point located on the right side of the concrete wall in between the pier and boat compound. Walter entered first and then I followed. We slowly snorkelled around a couple of fishing lines causing some concern to a number of fisherman fishing in that area. Once we reached the main pier we descended to the seabed and dived directly under a fishing trawler.

We dived along the pylons hitting a depth of around 3 metres. We both used our torches to guide us through the 20 or so metres of darkness. This section of the pier is totally boxed in and all sides are covered giving you a cave or shipwreck like dive experience. Once we entered the main section of the pier near the middle, natural light was able to penetrate through the large openings. Visibility was quite good at around 7 to 8 metres with no current. I started to take photos of the many fish swimming in and around us. The sun's natural light was very strong and the whole sea floor was lit up brilliantly.

On this dive the fish were far from being shy, swimming around us and

coming in real close and not really worried with our presence. We saw many fish varieties consisting of Angel fish, old wives, leatherjackets, grassy whiting, bream and parrot fish. Diving along the end of the pier Walter noticed a large kingfish just sitting all alone sleeping in a hollow tube. We both were able to get real close and observe the fish from all angles. As I was taking some photos the kingfish suddenly woke up and swam right up to the camera catching me by surprise. I followed him around for a while just enjoying this memorable sight.

We then made our way around the end of the pier and dived along the large rock wall reaching depths of around 9 to 9.5 metres. This section of the dive is awesome with many fish swimming around and the colour of the sea vegetation always in full colour. We dived the full length of the wall. There were many small openings in the wall that Walter and I dived into. On this dive we were lucky enough to see some large stingrays nestled underneath some small ledges. We both enjoyed this dive and realistically we didn't want it to end.

After diving for 80 minutes we finally decided to make our way back. We then started searching for the opening that leads you back under the pier. This part of the dive gets a little



tricky. You have to dive back up the rock wall towards the surface reaching a depth of around 3 metres, you then have to locate the opening and dive through back under the pier. In no time we were back diving in total darkness. Using our torches, we made our way out from underneath the pier, finishing off at the concrete

wall in between the pier and the boat marina.

As we were about to take off our gear a fisherman asked us if we could dive under his trawler to check his propeller for any snags. With 50 bar left on our gauge, Walter and I obliged and went back under. We both reached the trawler which was only 20 metres away. We inspected the propeller and there was no visible evidence of a snag. However, it was full of mussels and weeds tangled around the propeller. We both went up and told the fisherman and he handed us a scraper and asked us if we could scrape it all off. We obliged and at a depth of around 2.5 metres we worked hard scraping everything off and leaving the propeller brand new. When we came back up, the fisherman tried to hand Walter a \$10.00 for our efforts. Walter refused the payment and handed back the scraper.

We then snorkelled back to the wall and finished our day off. As we were loading our cars with all the dive gear the fisherman came past and thanked us. I showed him some of the photos I took of his propeller, the before and after shots. He was so amazed at how clean we got it. He was one very happy fisherman and we were two very happy divers that had a great day of diving.

- Arthur ❖

PORTSEA HOLE

17 December, 2018

Divers: John Ashley & Ian Scholey

Sometimes when the forecast doesn't look good for the weekend it's easy to have a Sunday barbecue instead of a dive but those who do the dive option sometimes get the better option as was the case on Sunday December 17th. Big swells in Bass Strait and strong SE winds leaves little options sometimes, forcing you to do dives you wouldn't normally do.

How many of us would plan a dive to Portsea Hole? I mean that's for beginners right? That's where I dived on my OW course (probably) but on this day with little other option there we were and had a blast of a dive. The main wall here starts in about 10-12 metres, drops down to 21-28m before sloping down on sand to 38m and on its day is a great dive with superb fish life and all sorts of soft corals and sponges.

Doing a slow swim across the wall it's easy to swallow up 30-40 minutes and for some reason always seem to get a longer slack water period here than on the Lonsdale Wall. It's not as good as the Nepean or Lonsdale walls but still a great dive with lots to see. I've dived in here with the company of Dolphins/Seals and once with three charter boats and probably 60 divers



in 25 metre viz. What a sight with all their bubbles coming up from different depths.

On this day the viz was only 6-8 metres, we anchored Sea Eagle in 31m and swam up the sand bank where we hit the reef wall in 21m, then went south-west into largely a sheer drop with some broken reef. A great day out, thanks to Ian Scholey for the use of Sea Eagle and his company on the day.

- John ❖

With only Sea Eagle out today we opted to stay in the safety of the Bay. A great suggestion from buddy for the day John Ashley saw us first head to Portsea Hole. It's 9 years since I dived this spot. I have no idea why it has been so long, it was an excellent dive with loads of life. We managed 50 mins in the slack and mild current. We then headed east to the Hurricane and had a magnificent dive. The Maori Octopus was in the same spot as last week, there were Cuttlefish all over the place. I found a Blue-ringed Octopus and a Gurnard Perch. But highlight for the day was finally finding Skeleton Shrimp and two new species of slug.

A top day and there wasn't even a line at the boat ramp.

- Ian ❖



GOLDEN ARCH & POPES EYE

21 January, 2018

**Diving today were:
On Sea Eagle - Myself and
Mark Howells
On Toucan - Peter Beaumont
and Marcus Campbell.**



We had two boats out today in ok conditions. We had an easy transit of the Heads and a good dive at Golden Arch before the wind picked up a little and we decided to head back in, with a little bit of sea sickness amongst our crew. It was much calmer inside, but with a ripping current we didn't have too many options. In the end we had a decent enough dive at Popes Eye, although the vis wasn't nearly as good as outside.



Also out and about today were Greg Richards who jumped on with Alan Beckhurst and the Getunder crew and Ian Smith who headed to Portsea Hole with Redboats.



- Ian ❖

DOUBLE WRECK DIVE ON RED BOATS

26 January, 2018

**Divers: Matthijs and Dylan Smith,
Federico Sevilla, Ian Scholey.**

We headed out on Redboats today for a double wreck dive. It was a little bumpy through the heads but pretty nice outside. The rain yesterday hadn't done much for the vis but it was acceptable. We had two really good dives. Today I dived with new members Matthijs and Dylan Smith and Federico Sevilla. It was the first time on the wrecks for Matthijs and Dylan and they had massive smiles on their faces afterwards. Fair to say they enjoyed their dives today. Not sure who the other guy is in these photos on the Canberra. He wasn't supposed to be diving with us but the lure of VSAG was clearly too much for him as he dived with us the whole dive. If anyone knows him please tell him he passed his check out dive!! I tried out a new Fisheye Lens today. I need to work on the positioning of my strobes with this lens but I'm already liking the results. It has real possibilities when I get the hang of it.

- Ian ❖❖





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CANBERRA

27 January, 2018

Divers: Darren Pearce, Mark Howell and John Ashley

It's seems that the Canberra was a popular place for VSAG divers, following on from Ian Scholey and our newest potential members Matthijs/Dylan and Federico, Darren Pearce/ Mark Howells and myself did a double dive in great conditions. We met at the top car park at 7.30 and got the only spot left, it was going to be one of those days.

We arrived on site to find 3 fishing boats already there only to be joined by 8 more within 30 mins but obviously caught nothing because they soon moved on. The Viz was good inside 10-15m and a tad less outside and the sun soon broke through the fog making for a pleasant day. We had two fantastic dives and a good run back to the ramp but there our fun ended. It took 1.20 hrs to get the boat out the water.

As they say better wet than not, thanks to Darren and Mark for their company today it was great guys.

- John Ashley ❖



THE HURRICANE AND SCALLOP DRIFT

28 January, 2018

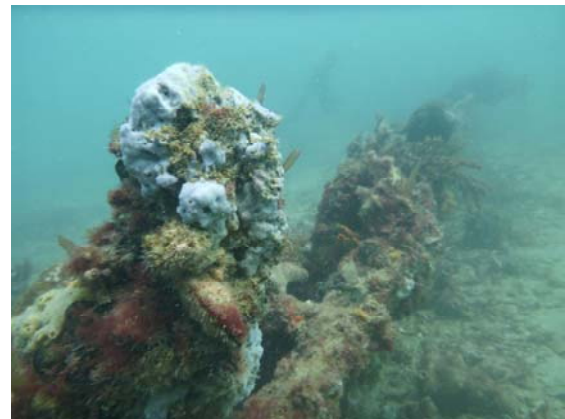
**Divers: Mark Toomey, Chris
Dimitriou, Christine Reynolds,
Carole Campisano, Peter
Campisano**

"45 and Rising"

Sunday 28th January 2018 was a day better spent on water than on land. In fact, as the temperature hovered around 40 degrees Celsius by mid morning, IN the water was no doubt a preferred option; therefore, five VSAG divers met at Rye boat ramp with plans to beat the heat by diving the Hurricane wreck followed by some scallop harvesting.

Peter and Carole Campisano hosted Chris Demetriou, Christine Reynolds and Mark Toomey on Carmine. After a short ride to the Hurricane and some searching, Carole, Christine, Chris and Mark went in for a perfectly timed slack water dive, the highlight of which was one very large Maori octopus that was keen to hold hands with Christine.

Scallops at the Hurricane were duly noted, but untouched. After surfacing and lunch, we headed to Peter's Scallop Hot Spot, where we collected cricket score numbers of shellfish.



Much credit must go to Carole for jumping into the water to un snag the drift line from around a marker buoy. This freed Christine and Mark during their scallop drift. Also, thanks to Carole for keeping an eagle eye out for marauding jet skiers-a species that appears to have had a very good breeding season, this year. (I guess it was a public holiday weekend).

Many thanks to Peter and Carole for a successful and COOL day! What's more, there was double-sport action on TV that evening to accompany scallop consumption - an Australia-England one day International and the Australian Open Tennis Final. Just like on the scallop drift, a bounty of fun was had.

Author: Mark Toomey ❖



BLAIRGOWRIE MARINA

28 December, 2017

**Divers: Peter Beaumont and
Christine Reynolds**

Another chance to give the gear a good shake down. As is Peter's custom, we were in the water by 7:30am. Perfect conditions, dead calm, slack water and we had the beach to ourselves. It was an easy walk to the pier and a leisurely swim out.

Along the way we had photo opportunity with nudibranchs, numerous species of small fish, and a solitary blue-ringed octopus.

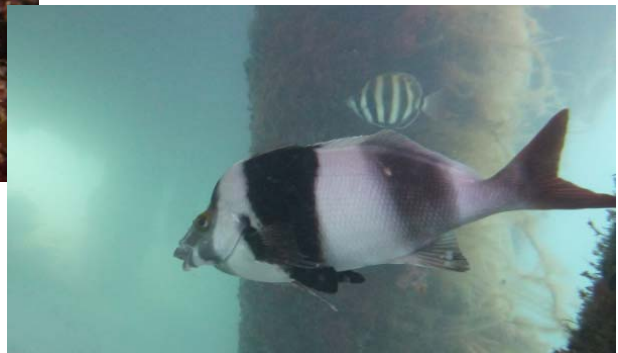
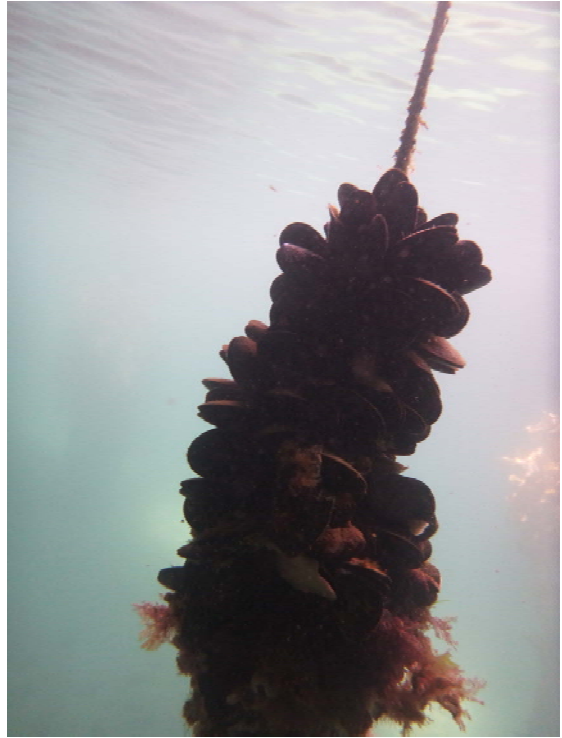
Lovely relaxed dive, perfect conditions and a great buddy.

Thank you again, Peter.

Cheers

- Christine ❖





BLAIRGOWRIE MARINA

26 December

Diver: Ian Scholey

A productive 3 hours saw even more new species added to the Nudi survey. At this rate we will easily bust 100 for the full year. There was plenty of other stuff around including more baby Cuttlefish and a couple of large bull rays.





23 December, 2017

Peter Beaumont and I headed out for a Twilight dive at Blairgowrie last night. There was plenty to see as usual with all the old favourites about. I have to thank the large Smooth Ray for stirring up the Stargazer or I probably would have missed it.

Not the height of Sea Slug season but I still managed to add 3 new ones to the list which now stands at 73 species since mid May.

With no boats available this weekend except mine and some unfavourable winds forecast we will be heading back to Blairgowrie on Sunday. PM me if interested in joining us.

- Ian ❖





SORRENTO BACK BEACHES

28 January, 2018

Divers: Peter Beaumont, Ian Scholey

A very busy day for VSAG today with 3 boats on the water all heading in different directions.

Myself and skipper Peter Beaumont were on Toucans and we headed outside in beautiful conditions for a double dive in close on the Sorrento back beaches between Bridgewater Bay and London Bridge. Our first spot was Sandy Canyons and we then did a speculative on a nice looking bit of reef. The vis was pretty bad to be honest, so not much in the way of photographs to show you. I could have done with longer arms today as the Crayfish were just out of reach. John Mills, Priya Cardinaletti and Denys Smerchanskyi were on Waverunner and they headed out to Ex Hmas Canberra first up, with plans to do one of the subs as a second dive.

Peter Campisano, Carole Campisano, Chris Demetrious, Mark Toomey and Christine Reynolds stayed inside the bay with a feed of scallops being their objective for the day.

- Ian ❖



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

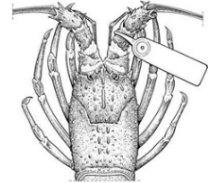
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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. ❖

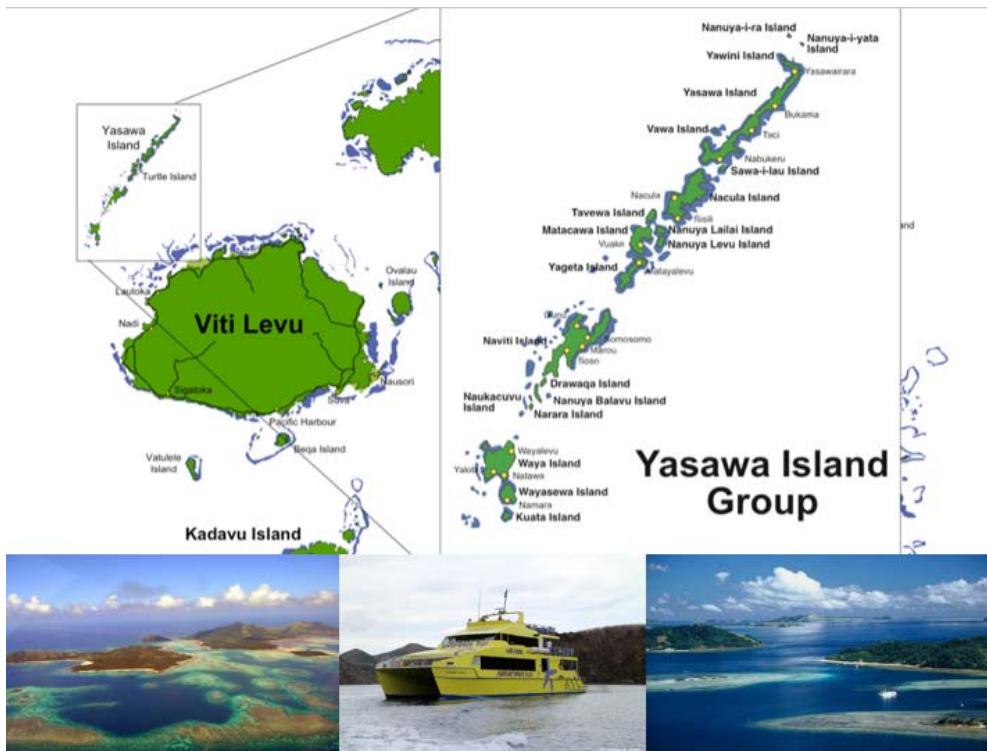
YASAWA ISLANDS FIJI 2019



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 KAUATA DIVING

3 Bull Shark dives

3 Reef dives

2 FREE shore dives per day

Tanks, weights & air-fill

The use of a professional dive guide

Non Diver- Includes 2 x shark snorkel trip

MANTARAY ISLAND RESORT DIVING

10 Dives per diver

Tanks, weights, air-fill

Professional dive guide



TRAVEL DATES

13- 24 JUNE 2019

DIVER \$4,635

NON DIVER \$3,225

REFERENCE

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

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

Excludes: Equipment rental, night dives, Nitrox, Shark and manta per free rts included - 120 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.

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

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

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

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

- Ian Scholey ❖



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

LS# 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

LIC# 32311

DIARY DATES

Tasmania 17-18-19 of March 2018

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),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Failure to confirm your intention to dive may result in the boat owner cancelling the 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 Re-breather
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 - VACANT
May 27	Shore Dive DC Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
Jun 2/3	Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Jun 9/10/11 Queens B'day 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 - VACANT
Jul 7/8	Boat Dives DC - VACANT
Jul 14/15	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Jul 17	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Jul 22	Christmas in July
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
Aug 18-30	Truk Lagoon Trip Organiser – Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Aug 25/26	Boat Dives DC – VACANT
Aug 30 – 5 Sep	Tawali, PNG Optional extension to Truk Lagoon Trip Organiser Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Sep 1/2	Boat Dives DC – VACANT
Sep 8/9	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684

Sep 15/16	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Sep 18	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Sep 22/23	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
Sep 28/29/30	AFL Grand Final Holiday (TBC) Boat Dives DC- TBC- David Geekie 0419 300 686
Oct 6/7	Daylight Saving starts 07 Oct – advance clocks 1hr
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

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 — February 2018

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

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

Tidal Streams at the Heads — March 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

February			March			
MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4
4:31	0:14	1:29	2:44	3:50	4:43	5:28
10:08	5:26	6:45	8:26	9:55	11:01	11:56
17:31	11:02	12:15	13:43	15:11	16:28	17:33
	18:34	19:49	21:06	22:17	23:17	
MON 5	TUE 6	WED 7	THU 8	FRI 9	SAT 10	SUN 11
0:09	0:55	1:36	2:14	2:49	3:22	3:57
6:09	6:46	7:21	7:54	8:26	8:57	9:30
12:44	13:27	14:07	14:44	15:20	15:54	16:30
18:29	19:20	20:07	20:51	21:33	22:16	23:01
MON 12	TUE 13	WED 14	THU 15	FRI 16	SAT 17	SUN 18
4:34	5:19	0:55	2:03	3:07	3:58	4:38
10:04	10:45	6:21	7:52	9:19	10:17	11:02
17:10	17:58	11:38	12:49	14:12	15:29	16:32
23:53		18:56	20:07	21:18	22:17	23:06
MON 19	TUE 20	WED 21	THU 22	FRI 23	SAT 24	SUN 25
5:12	5:43	0:29	1:08	1:45	2:23	3:01
11:40	12:17	6:13	6:44	7:16	7:50	8:27
17:24	18:11	12:53	13:30	14:08	14:48	15:31
23:49		18:55	19:39	20:23	21:09	21:58
March						April
MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 31	SUN 1
3:41	4:27	5:25	0:56	2:05	3:09	3:04
9:08	9:57	10:59	6:44	8:18	9:38	9:40
16:16	17:08	18:10	12:19	13:52	15:21	15:34
22:51	23:50		19:25	20:47	22:00	22:01

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	January					
MON 30	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6
2:19	<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>
15:34	<i>16:27</i>	<i>17:12</i>	<i>17:52</i>	<i>18:28</i>	12:28	13:01

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:

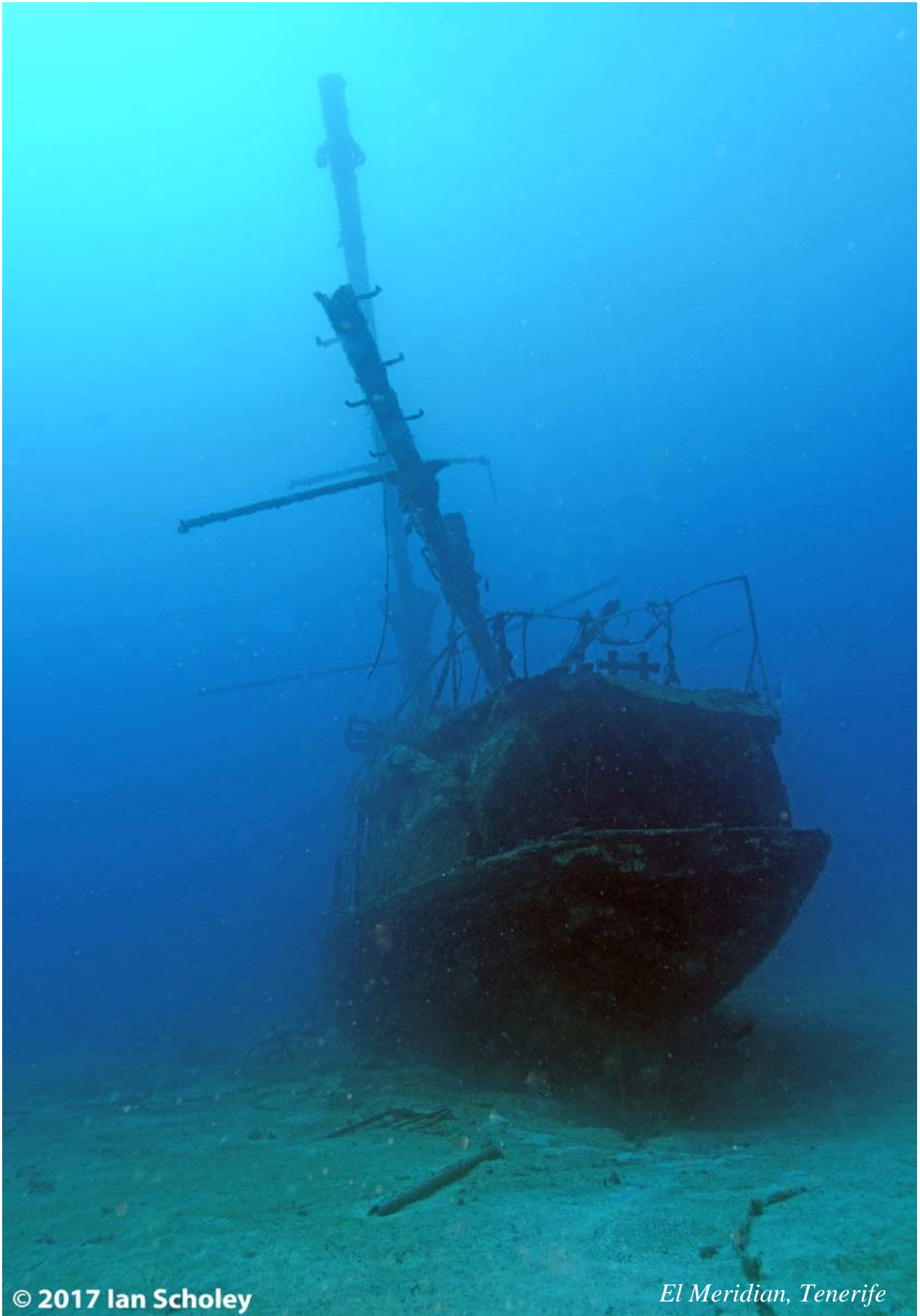
Dr Pamela Dagley (Eltham) 03 9439 2222 (VSAG member)

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



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El Meridian, Tenerife