



Fathoms

JUNE—JULY 2018

Cover photo by Meg Johnston

**SS Ramsgarth
Portsmouth UK
Photo Competitions
The Euro, The Milora and more.....**

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

www.vsag.org.au

VSAG Christmas In July 2018



Hi all

We will once again be holding our Christmas in July event at PJ O'Briens on Southbank. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a traditional Christmas Meal and a glass of the black stuff.

Please RSVP to Socialsecretary@vsag.org.au so we can secure the space at the venue

Saturday, July 7 at 7 PM

Cost will be \$38

P.J.O'Brien's Melbourne

3 Southgate Ave , Southbank, Victoria, Australia 3006



Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

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NOTICES

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

All Members Welcome
South Frankston VIC 3199



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

at THE WATER RAT HOTEL
256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE

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

VSAG on Facebook

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



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

Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia

Postal Address
PO Box 382, Melville WA 6956

Email: info@uecwa.com.au

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



Check out St George Scuba Club at :

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

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

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

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



Your VSAG Committee 2018–2019

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SS RAMSGARTH

May 13 at 11:16am

It was dark, it was cold, the vis was 2-3m and I absolutely loved it!!!

A real trip down memory lane for me, as I dived my old stomping ground in the English Channel. The wreck of the SS Ramsgarth lies in 26m of water, 14 nautical miles from Brighton on the Sussex coastline.

The SS Ramsgarth was a small, unarmed, British schooner-rigged steamer of 1552 tons. She was built in Middlesbrough in 1910. She tried hard to escape being sunk by one of the first German U-boat aces of WW1, Oberleutnant Wilhelm Furbringer, who was then commanding UB39.

But at 5am on 27 November, 1916, while eight miles south of Worthing Pier, Captain Tom Appleton of the Ramsgarth made the mistake of trying to help another small British ship he saw to be in trouble.

Ramsgarth was travelling in water ballast from Cardiff and Brixham for the Tyne. Through their binoculars, Appleton and his second officer, Percy Walke, saw a ship letting off steam and lowering her lifeboats.

One lifeboat pulled away from the ship, which triggered Appleton to



start to close in. He was about to order this change of course when he saw the forward part of a submarine poking out from behind the other ship. So, he ordered full ahead on his engines and broke away as fast as he could.

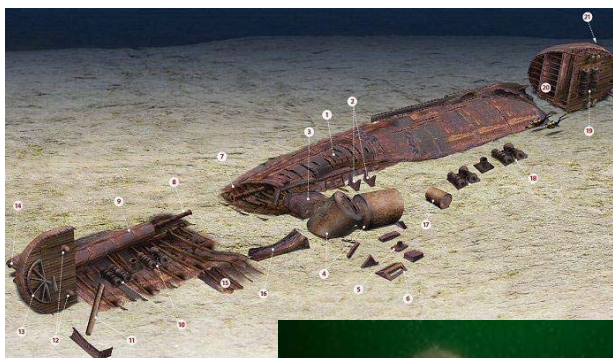
He left it too late. Furbringer opened fire, and one of the shells hit the Ramsgarth in her starboard side. Appleton realised that he had no chance of escape. He ordered his ship to heave to and his 19 crew to take to the boats.

Furbringer then ordered a boarding party from his U-boat to plant bombs on the Ramsgarth. After these exploded, the ship took only a few minutes to sink.

The Germans let the crew go, and they rowed safely into Worthing later that day.

My dive started at the bow and finished at the stern. There was plenty to see including a couple of huge boilers and the exposed prop shaft. Fish life was good, with big schools of Pollock and Bib at the stern and several large Conger Eels within the wreckage.

- Ian Sholey ❖



PORTSMOUTH U.K.

PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD VISIT

May 2018

Whilst back in the UK in May, I took the opportunity to take a trip down to the English South coast and pay a visit to the Hampshire City of Portsmouth.

Historically, Portsmouth has been the home of the Royal Navy, although Devonport has now superseded it as the main base. That said, the city is still home to a significant naval base whilst the historic dockyard has been reborn as a major tourist destination.

The entrance to the dockyard is dominated by HMS Warrior, the Royal Navy's first armour-plated, iron-hulled warship when she was launched in 1860. The armament of the Warrior-class ships was originally intended to be forty smoothbore, muzzle-loading/68-pounder guns, nineteen on each side on the main deck and one each fore and aft, as chase guns on the upper deck. The 7.9-inch (201 mm) 68-pounder had a range of 3,200 yards (2,900 m) with solid shot. During construction the armament was changed to include ten Armstrong 110-pounder guns, an early rifled breech loader (RBL) design, along with twenty-six 68-pounders, and four RBL Armstrong 40-pounder guns with a calibre of 4.75 inches (121 mm) and a

maximum range of 3,800 yards (3,500 m). With her imposing figurehead, she is an impressive vessel.

There is so much to do at the dockyard and it is really a two-day attraction. As such, I had to pick and choose, so I by passed the Warrior and boarded a shuttle boat across the harbour to Gosport and the Royal Naval Submarine Museum.

The main attraction at the Submarine Museum is HMS Alliance a post-war Amphion-class hunter-killer submarine, now raised out of the water on stilts. I arrived at the museum, entered and joined the first tour on board. An ex Submariner leads every tour, so comes with plenty of real life anecdotes. I found the tour fascinating. I couldn't help wondering who came up with the design and how difficult it must have been to operate. The number of valves, dials, knobs and switches was astounding. The Amphion-class submarines were designed for use in the Far East, where the size of the Pacific Ocean made long range, high surface speed and relative comfort for the crew important features to allow for much larger patrol areas and longer periods at sea than British submarines operating in the Atlantic or Mediterranean had to contend with. Alliance was one of the seven A-class boats completed with a short mast - the other boats all had masts fitted by 1949. Although the Alliance was built

with additional crew comfort in mind, I still don't think I would like to be cooped up inside her for very long. There were plenty of other interesting exhibits to see at the museum including Holland 1, the Royal Navy's first submarine and Biber, a WW2 German midget Submarine.

Catching the ferry back across the harbour, my next destination involved a trip back further in time, as I headed for Nelson's flagship at the battle of Trafalgar, HMS Victory. Sadly, the rigging was down with restoration work under way, but I was still able to go on board and take a tour around. HMS Victory is a 104-gun first-rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy, ordered in 1758, laid down in 1759 and launched in 1765. Although she is best known for her role as Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October, 1805 and the location of his demise during that battle, she additionally served as Keppel's flagship at the battle of Ushant, Howe's flagship at the battle of Cape Sparkle and Jervis's flagship at the battle of Cape St. Vincent, so has an illustrious history. After 1824, she was relegated to the role of harbour ship. In 1922, she was moved to a dry dock at Portsmouth and preserved as a museum ship. She has been the flagship of the First Sea Lord since October 2012 and is the world's oldest naval ship still in commission. Below decks, the ceilings are very low with 3 decks taken up with canons. There are

plenty of artefacts on display including whole cases of cutlasses and muskets looking just like new. Next destination was my real reason for making the trip. I remember being captivated as a child, watching the raising of the Tudor warship, the Mary Rose. The wreck of the Mary Rose was rediscovered in 1971 by a local dive club. It was raised in 1982 by the Mary Rose Trust, in one of the most complex and expensive projects in the history of maritime archaeology. The surviving section of the ship and thousands of recovered artefacts are of immeasurable value as a Tudor-era time capsule. The excavation and raising of the Mary Rose was a milestone in the field of maritime archaeology, comparable in complexity and cost, only to the raising of the Swedish 17th-century warship, Vasa, in 1961. In total 500 divers from around the United Kingdom took part in the excavations and subsequent raising of the wreck. The finds include weapons, sailing equipment, naval supplies and a wide array of objects used by the crew. Many of the artefacts are unique to the Mary Rose and have provided insights into topics ranging from naval warfare to the history of musical instruments. Since the mid-1980s, while undergoing conservation, the remains of the hull have been on display at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. An extensive collection of well-preserved artefacts is on display in the Mary Rose Museum, built to display the reconstructed

ship and its artefacts. The Mary Rose is a carrack-type warship of the English Tudor Navy of King Henry VIII. After serving for 33 years in several wars against France, Scotland and Brittany, and after being substantially rebuilt in 1536, she saw her last action on 19 July, 1545. While leading the attack on the galleys of a French invasion fleet, she sank in the Solent, the straits north of the Isle of Wight. The remains of the ship are on display in an atmosphere-controlled gallery and artefacts of all types can be found in the various displays around the central gallery. The condition of the 500-year-old artefacts is quite remarkable. Highlights include the remnants of leather jerkins worn by the archers and some fascinating forensic reconstructions of some of the unfortunate crew members. This was the highlight of my visit and I would highly recommend it to anyone visiting the UK. Another ship on display at the dockyard is the WW1 Monitor warship, HMS M33. This small warship is an M29-class monitor of the Royal Navy built in 1915. She saw active service in the Mediterranean during the First World War and in Russia during the Allied Intervention in 1919. She was used subsequently as a mine-laying training ship, fuelling hulk, boom defence workshop and floating office, being renamed HMS Minerva and Hulk C 23 during her long life. She is one of only three surviving Royal Navy

warships of the First World War and the only surviving ship from the Gallipoli Campaign. Armed with a pair of 6-inch (152 mm) guns and having a shallow draught, M33 was designed for coastal bombardment. Commanded by Lieutenant Commander Preston-Thomas, her first active operation was the support of the British landings at Suvla during the Battle of Gallipoli in August, 1915. She remained stationed at Gallipoli until the evacuation in January 1916. Looking for a bit of a sit down I decided to break my day with an hour's harbour tour. The boat sailed slowly through the active naval base, giving me a good look at several docked warships, including the Royal Navy's newest aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth. She is the largest ship ever built for the Royal Navy and is currently the world's widest aircraft carrier. After an enjoyable tour I disembarked on the dock next to HMS Warrior and headed into the battle of Jutland exhibit. The Battle of Jutland was a naval battle fought by the British Royal Navy's Grand Fleet under Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, against the Imperial German Navy's High Seas Fleet under Vice-Admiral Reinhard Scheer during the First World War. The battle unfolded in extensive manoeuvring and three main engagements (the battle cruiser action, the fleet action and the night action), from 31 May to 1 June, 1916, off the North Sea coast of Denmark's Jutland Peninsula. It was

the largest naval battle and the only full-scale clash of battleships in that war. Jutland was the third fleet action between steel battle ships, following the smaller but more decisive battles of the Yellow Sea (1904) and Tsushima (1905) during the Russo-Japanese War. Jutland was the last major battle in world history fought primarily by battle ships. The story of the battle is told in chronological order with exhibits from both the British and German ships involved. Several tattered ensigns and bells rescued from sinking British ships are displayed, but the highlight of the exhibit for me were the hand-written signals sent between ships as the battle raged.

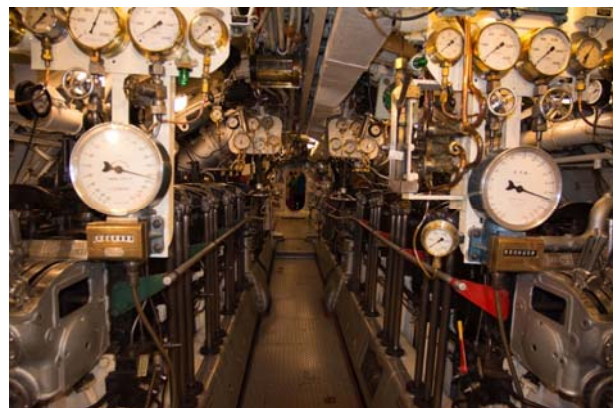
With closing time fast approaching, that brought my day at the dockyard to a close. I was unable to fit in a visit to the Museum of the Royal Navy which is also on the site. I will go back again next time I venture back to the UK.

- Ian Scholey



HMS Alliance.

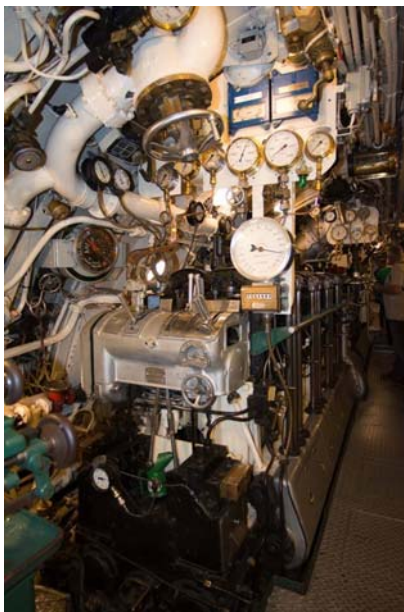
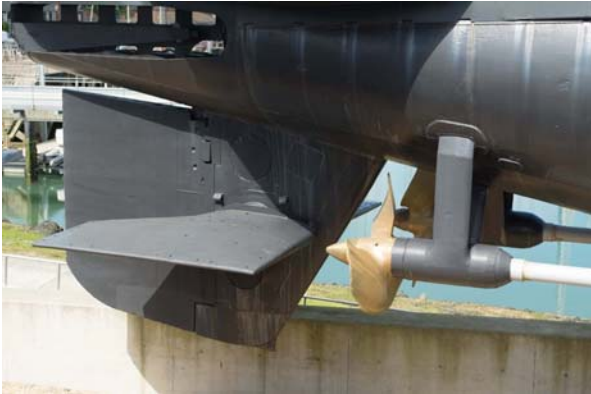
Engine Room, HMS Alliance.

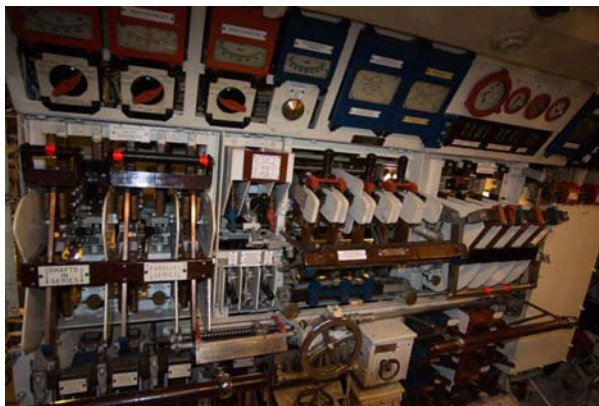
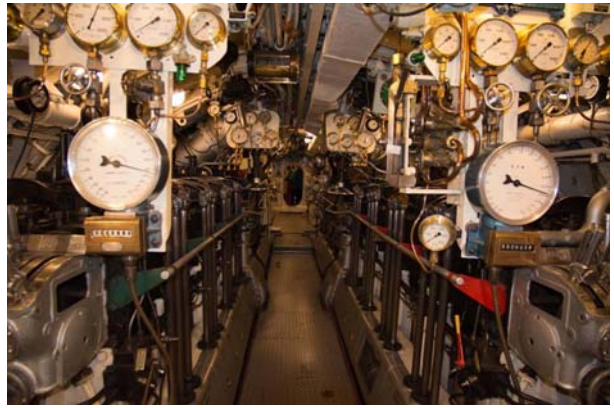


Inside the control room, HMS Alliance.



Torpedo Tubes, HMS Alliance







HMS Victory



HMS Warrior

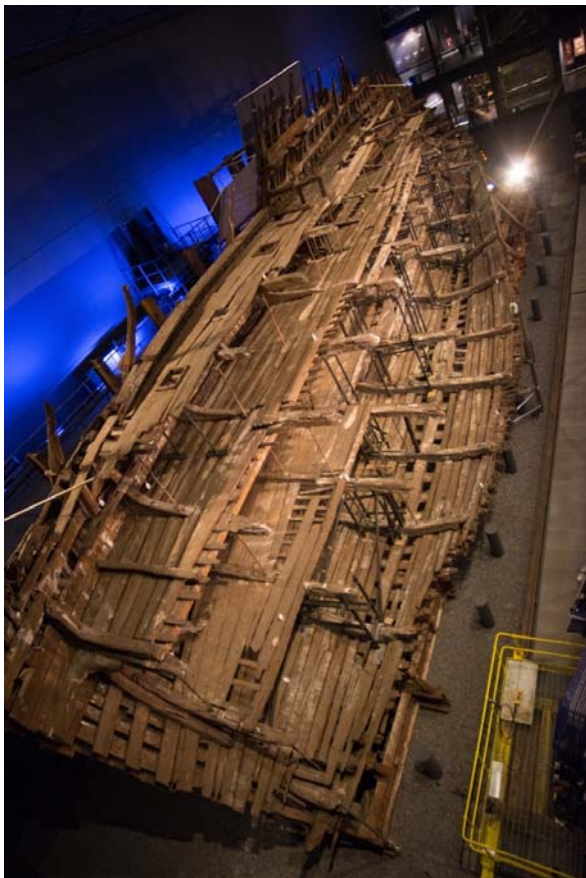


The Mary Rose, as she was.

The Mary Rose today.



Mary Rose artefacts, many of these plates had the initials of their owners engraved on them.

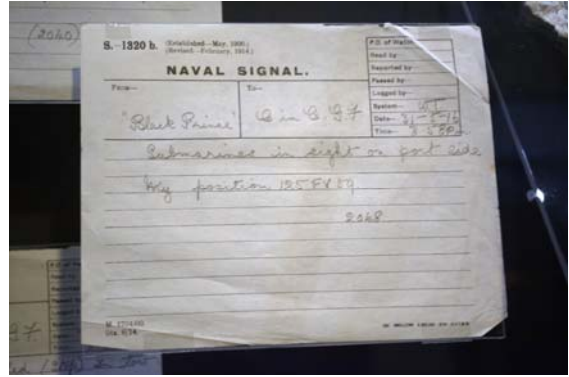


Mary Rose - Archers uniform





Ensign of HMS Iron Duke, British Battleship that survived the battle of Jutland.



Naval signal from HMS Black Prince informing the Commander in Chief of the fleet of a sighting of a German Submarine during the battle of Jutland



The cook of the Mary Rose - Facial reconstruction.



HMS M33



HMS Queen Elizabeth

SWAN RIVER W.A.

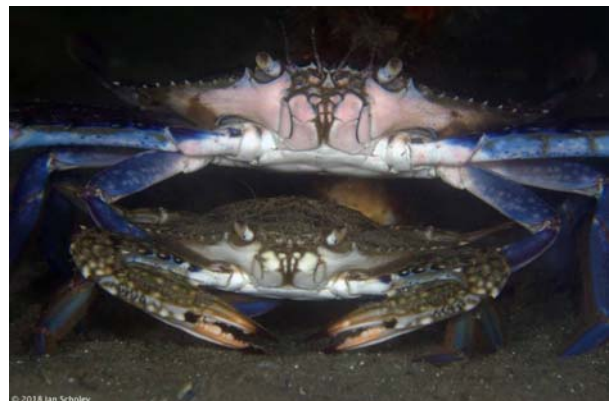
SWAN RIVER, PERTH, WA.

15th May 2018

A work trip created an opportunity for me to catch up with VSAG friend, Michaël Roelens, out West this week and grab an after work night dive. Along with members of the University of WA Underwater Club and the folks from Dive Perth, we dived at a spot off Jerratt Drive. The target was a wrecked WW2 Landing Craft. Michael and I never did find the wreck despite going down the buoy closest to it. Still, not a problem as we found plenty to photograph and had a very enjoyable dive. I am increasingly impressed with the quality of the diving in Perth and particularly the critters to see on the many shore dives. If you are ever out that way be sure to make contact with our contacts out there and grab a dive.

Michaël Roelens - thanks again to the loan of tanks and weights. See you next time buddy.

- Ian Scholey





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Guided Historical Walk of Melbourne

2nd June, 2018

VSAG members met 'under the clocks' as Flinders Street Station and were able to enjoy a guided Historical Walk of Melbourne to explore our cities rich history of Hardhat Diving.

The walk was hosted by VSAG Life Member, Historical Diving Society Member, Marine Archaeology of Victoria Member, Author of numerous diving and marine related books and all round good bloke - Des Williams

The Walk was developed for the Historical Diving Society members and focuses on places and events concerning 19th Century helmet divers. The walk was over about 1km and visited places of interest along Flinders St. on the North bank of the Yarra River, between Elizabeth and Spencer Streets, taking about 90 minutes and ended up in a pub for a social

Des provided a 14 page souvenir booklet, containing more detail and historic images on each site that was visited.



The end of this mornings Historical Diving Walk, guided by Des Williams ,at the Wharf Hotel. A great event — with Peter Beaumont, Des Williams, Sherryn Amor, Kerry Borgula, Mick Young, Sue Scholey, Alan Storen and Jude Storen, and Mick Young.

Great morning and a great historical walk, thanks Des.

NOVEMBER TANGO

In this edition of Fathoms we welcome the newest member of the VSAG family.

NOVEMBER TANGO.

7.6 metres of luxury rib, capacity for 18 people, or 5 divers with gear, and powered by a 250 hp Suzuki

And the proud owner?

None other than our VSAG Committee Member, Graham Ellis.

Well done, Graham, she's a beauty!



GRAHAM ELLIS
VSAG Committee Member.



The Pinnacles & The George Kermode

THE PINNACLES & THE GEORGE KERMODE DIVE DAY

27 May 2018

The day began early, arrived Newhaven boat ramp at 7:30am and launched 8am. My alarm did not go off, so I nearly missed the boat. Only 10 minutes late. The other passenger was a no-show, so it was just me in John's boat and we teamed up with another two VSAG boats, making 6 divers in all. John and I took turns at driving the boat while the other buddied a diver on another boat.

We began at the Pinnacles on the ocean side of the island, making a 35 metre dive. Marcus was very busy taking photos everywhere and I had to hurry to keep up with him. At one stage, he dropped to around 38 metres to take some shots. At that point a 6 foot wobbegong became very animated and swam very strongly in the direction of Marcus, and right underneath me about a metre below me, leaving me in its wake. The wobbegong made a Bee line for where Marcus had stopped, pressed itself close to the bottom and squeezed and squeezed under a ledge until all I could see was about 4 inches of the

tip of its tail protruding out from under the rock ledge. I think it may have thought that Marcus was invading its territory. However, by this time Marcus was 2-3 metres above me on his way up the rock wall. Unfortunately, my camera is not as good as Marcus' camera and at the speed the shark was moving all I got was a blur of an image. So disappointing! It was quite exciting being so close to the wobby. Sadly,

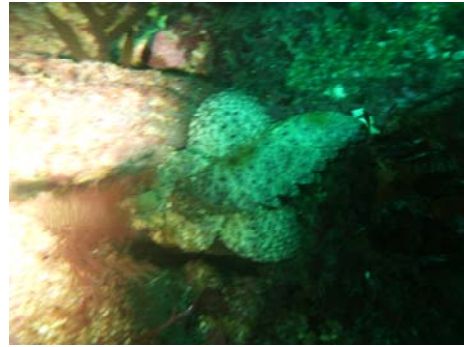


Marcus missed the whole episode, so no photos. Better luck next time!

I had a lot of fun skippering John's boat, which was very light and easy to manoeuvre, and just a dream to start, as long as it is clicked into neutral. I did drift for quite a while, had 2 tries at starting, flooded the engine but managed to burn off the excess and regain control. Whew!! Won't make that mistake again!

We then headed to our next dive site which was the George Kermode, an old steam dredge, lying in about 30 metres of water directly in front of the Phillip Island Grand Prix circuit. The noise from the racing was deafening, which made under-water the best place to be.

Marcus and I teamed up again for a whirlwind tour of the old dredge, inside and out. It is in remarkably good condition and very stable. The conditions on the day were perfect for an internal investigation of the upturned hull. We left no stone unturned and had a very interesting find of a Goblin Fish. Strange little creature that resembles coral and is very good at camouflaging itself on the bottom. All the camera activity did not perturb it in the least and it remained perfectly motionless.



We exited the water, and waited topside while John and his buddy and Ian and Mark completed their dives. Once everybody was safely back on board we headed back to Newhaven for a well deserved coffee at the local café.

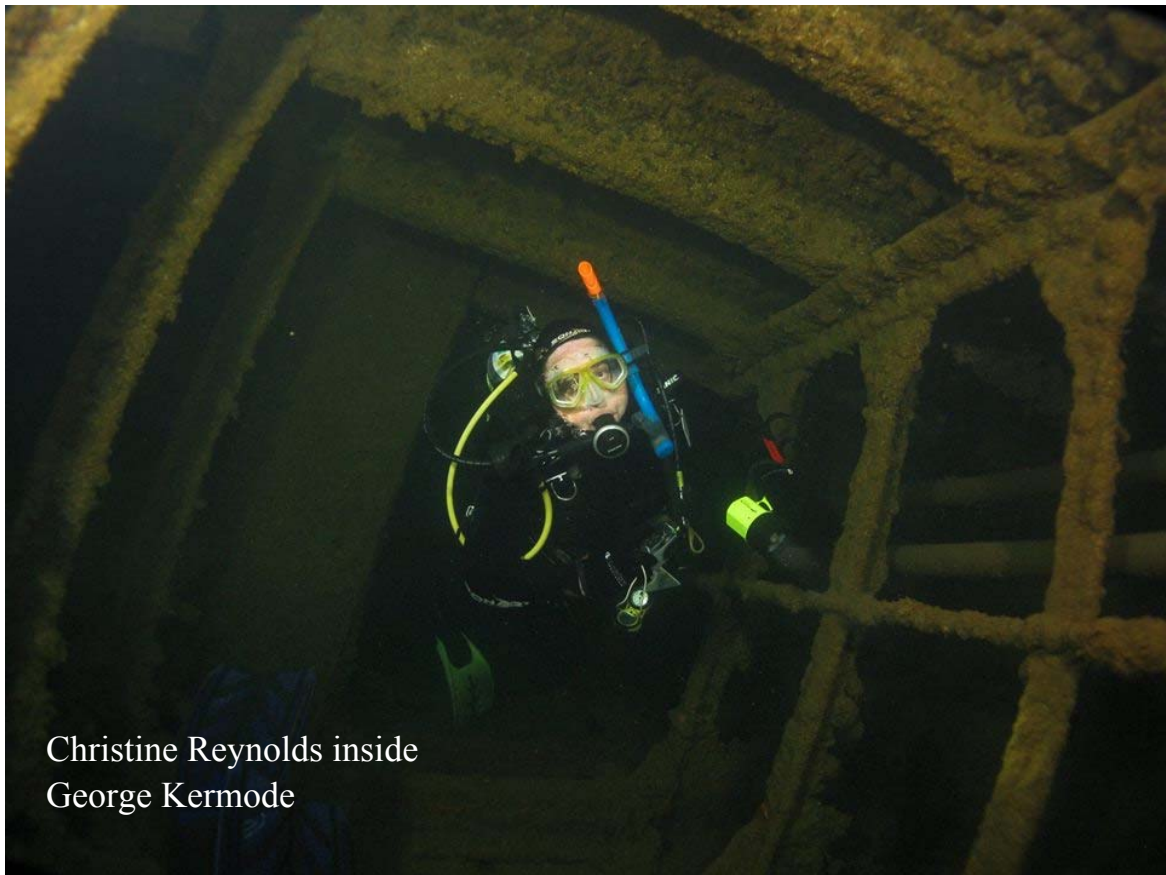
Out today were Peter Beaumont & Marcus Campbell, Ian Scholey and Mark Toomey , John Ashley and myself.

Thank you to John and everyone for a very enjoyable dive day.

- Christine Reynolds❖

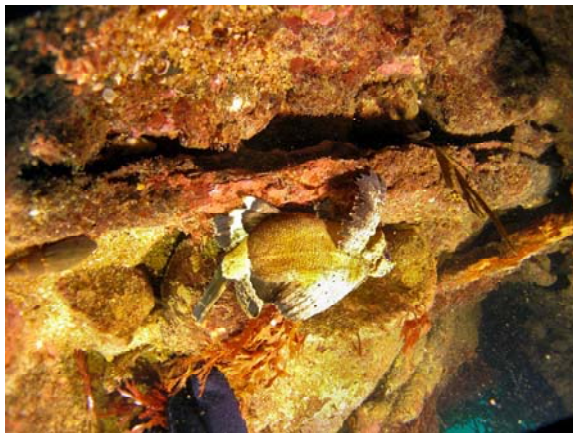
Photos by Marcus Campbell.





Christine Reynolds inside
George Kermode





PHILLIP ISLAND

VSAG dive day 27-5-18.

Due to the forecast, strong Northerly winds, the Island was an obvious choice, so we decided to do the Pinnacles/Kermode. It still surprises me that a lot of experienced divers still haven't dived this place, it's a wonderful diving experience.

First up was the Pinnacles. Ian anchored Sea Eagle, leaving Toucans and Narcosis live to act as pickups. I think all had a good dive (for some it was their first) on the Pinnacles and the smiles on their faces said it all, especially as a 2m Wobbegong approached to amuse the divers. Any dive where you can dive on a Pinnacle, which starts in 38m and rises to within 12m of the surface, with no current, has got to be one of the best dives you can do and the plus here is that there's not just one, there's a heap of them, all stuck together with caves, gaps, swim throughs, everything. Then throw in the fish life and you've got it all.

Next up we dived the wreck, George Kermode. This scuttled dredge has long been a favourite dive for generations of divers and in my book, still one of the best dives around, although she's now showing her age. I was surprised to see the deterioration since my last dive here only 3 months ago with a large

section midships collapsing in on itself. Having said that, she's still a great dive with the boiler section still worthy of a dive all by itself.

The fish seem to love this place as they are still there in abundance with both schooling and reef fish fighting for their piece of territory. If you get the opportunity, do this dive before it completely collapses.

On Sea Eagle

-Ian Scholey/Mark Toomey

On Toucans

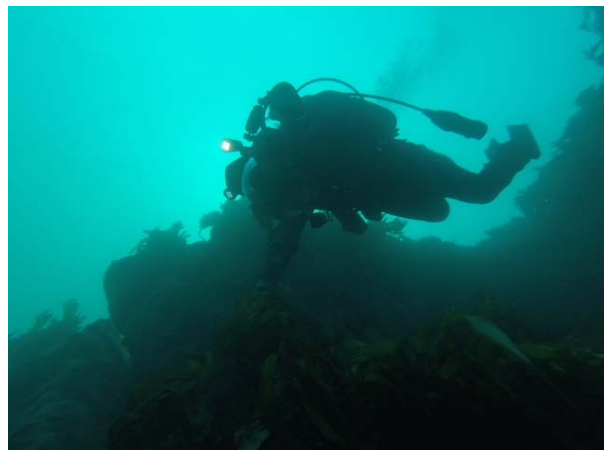
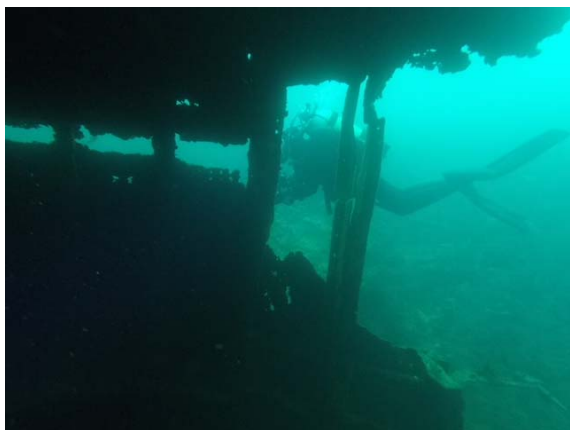
-Peter Beaumont/Marcus Campbell

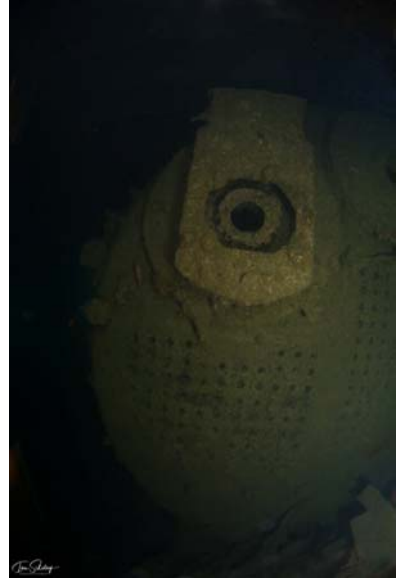
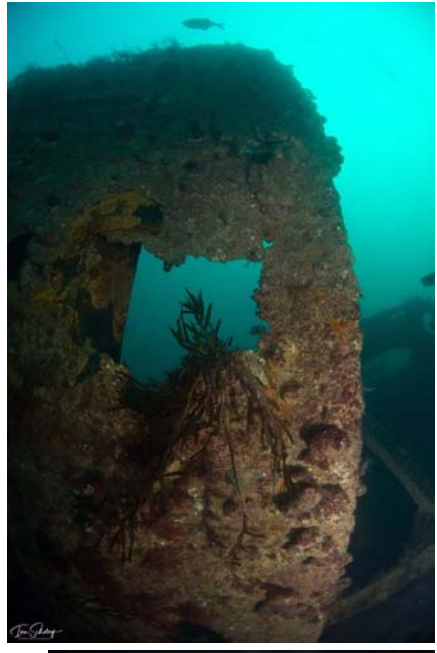
On Narcosis-

John Ashley/Christine Reynolds.

Thanks to all for a great day.

John Ashley❖.





The Euro & Chimney Rock

EURO WRECK & CHIMNEY ROCK

21 April, 2018

Given the almost perfect conditions, a re-visit to the Ships' graveyard was in order. Today we had Toucans with Peter Beaumont/ Michael Ngai on board and Narcosis with Darren Pearce/Guest diver Edward Ashley and myself, meeting at 7.30am at Sorrento, getting ready for the long haul down to the Ships' Graveyard which is offshore from Torquay. The Euro sits in a small cluster of other scuttled vessels, ranging from the Milora in approx. 38-40 metres to the Pioneer in 48-50m.

Today's dive on the Euro was a pearler. Peter had the site located in no time and dropped his anchor spot on, leaving Narcosis live to act as safety boat. Michael and Darren went in first, both tech divers and had, from all accounts, a fantastic dive, followed by Peter and myself. Although our dive was shorter because we were on air, the wreck isn't that big that you can't swim all the way around. Viz was only 8-10 metres on the bottom which surprised us as on the surface it was more like



The Euro

15-20 metres. Fish life was abundant and there are lots of Gorgonian corals.

Max depth on the Euro was 45 metres which is still diveable on air, albeit limited bottom time.

Second dive was at Chimney Rock, which has to be one of the best reef dives, going with everything a diver could wish for. Although, yesterday it was hide and seek with the Crays, with them being the winner! On the day though, I think we divers were the winners with great weather and good company. Thanks, guys.

- John Ashley❖.



THE EURO

8 April, 2018

A big day of diving for VSAG today, with 3 boats heading down to the Ships' Graveyard. The target was The Euro and we found her no problem with the shot landing bang on.

After a couple of rotations, we then tried to find target No. 2, the Pioneer. The mark for this one yielded just sand, sadly.

Half the group headed down to Chimney Rock to try and grab the Crays we left there last weekend, while David Geekie and I opted to do a second dive on the Euro.

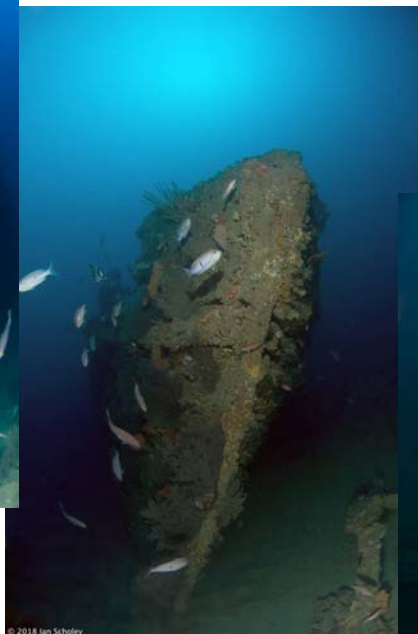
Diving today were:

On Sea Eagle - Myself and Stuart Cousins

On Toucan - Peter Beaumont & Andrew Quested

On Dire Straits - David Geekie, Leo Maybus, James Turner and Denys Smerchanskyi

- Ian Scholey ❖



The Pioneer, Milora & Chimney Rock

THE PIONEER, MILORA & CHIMNEY ROCK

25 April, 2018

The Milora is, I believe, the biggest wreck in the Graveyard at 331 feet in length. She was built in 1920 in Williamstown and was a pretty, fine-looking ship. I managed to find a nice photo of her so have included it here. We shot close to the stern, so explored that area. The vis was 10-15m, so a bit down on the Pioneer. At times, we could hardly see the wreck for massive schools of fish.

Some of the Sea Fans on her are huge.

Myself, Ian Smith and Sonny Voss dived the wreck today with Peter Beaumont as top cover.

After finishing our dives on the Milora, we headed back and Peter, Ian and Sonny dived at Chimney Rock, finding a group of Port Jacksons and a very large Cuttlefish.

A brilliant days diving, why can't it always be like today!

-Ian Scholey ❖



The Milora

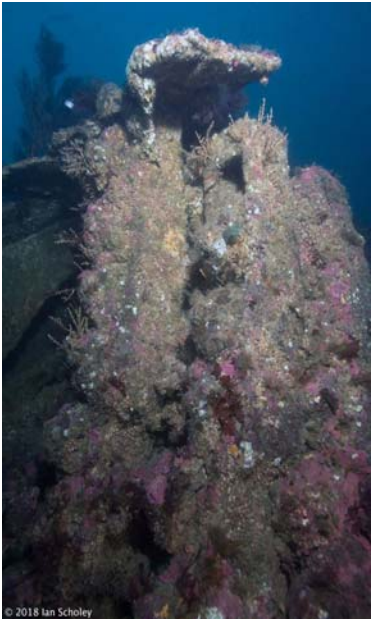




© 2018 Ian Scholey



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© 2018 Ian Scholey



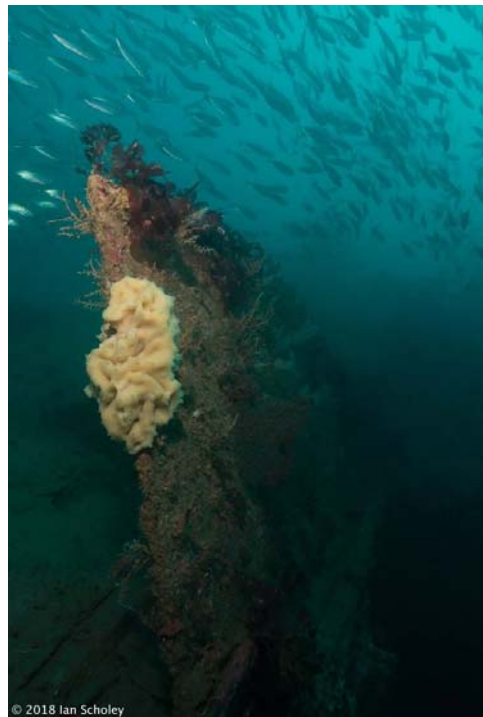
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THE PIONEER

25 April, 2018

The Pioneer was a steel, steam pump driven sand dredge ,with a length of 52M.

She was built in 1905 in Glasgow, Scotland. She was then scuttled on March 9, 1950.

She is now sitting upright on the bottom at 46m and is still largely intact.

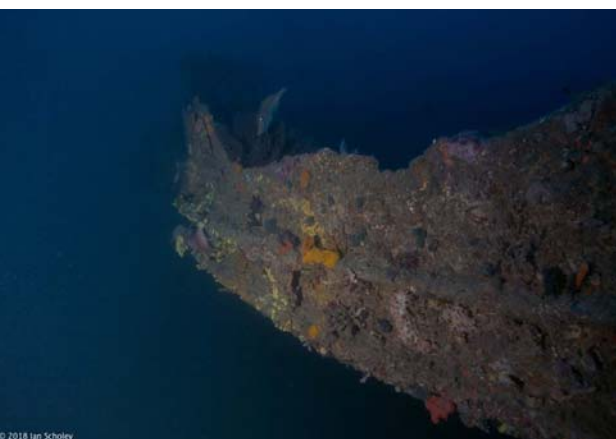
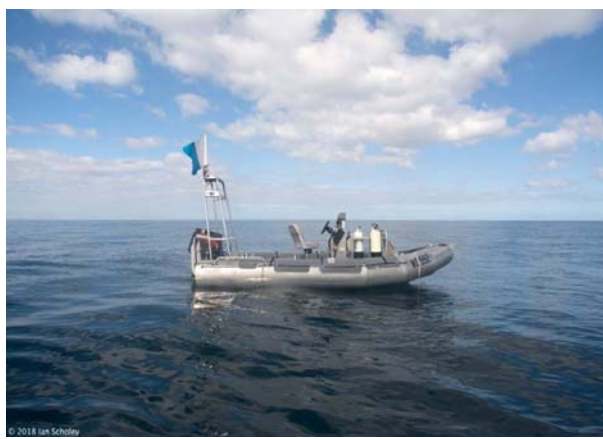
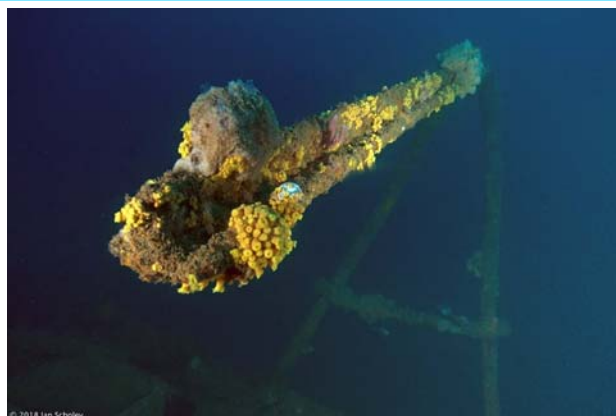
I had a good look around, with a 25min bottom time proving just enough to see her from bow to stern.

Vis was a very respectable 20-25m, although the water shallower was a little bit dirty .

Peter Beaumont and I did this dive, while Sonny Voss and Ian Smith provided surface cover.

The conditions outside were some of the best I have ever seen, with Bass Straight looking more like a Mill Pond.

-Ian Scholey❖





© 2018 Ian Scholey



© 2018 Ian Scholey



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© 2018 Ian Scholey



Photo by Peter Beaumont



*Two Port Jackson sharks
-by Peter Beaumont*



Large Cuttlefish- by Peter Beaumont

CRABS

CRABS

Crabs belong to the Class Crustacea in the Phylum Arthropoda. There are many families of crabs, all fundamentally different from the others in size and habit. We often see many crabs on dives, but others are cryptic, well hidden among other invertebrates or buried in sand. Crabs have a long fossil history reaching back to the Jurassic Age.

Crabs have a hard outer chitinous shell (exoskeleton) strengthened by calcium carbonate. They have a large thorax (carapace), below which is the abdomen, 10 legs and a tail tucked underneath the body. They walk sideways because the legs are constrained by the carapace. They have one or two large front claws for tearing prey, feeding and for defence, when disturbed. The female carries the eggs under the tail which when released grow through several planktonic larval stages before settling down to grow into the familiar crab. The hard and inflexible carapace must be periodically shed through moulting so that the animal can grow. Crabs have two well developed eyes, usually on stalks and

antennae attuned to detect movement and food.

There are many crabs - hermit crabs, porcelain crabs, hairy crabs, pebble crabs, spider crabs, soldier crabs, and swimming crabs, to name a few.

Hermit crabs. (*Paguristes*) have a soft, partially coiled soft abdomen that must be protected from predators. It is fitted into abandoned gastropod shells and as the crab grows it must be periodically abandoned for a larger one. This leads to intense housing competition if there is a shortage of shells and too many crabs in the local housing market. There are several species of *Paguristes*, usually seen under jetties, the larger species occupying old gastropod shells, the smaller species living in tiny shells.

Paguristes frontalis is the large moderately common bright orange-red crab with large white claws, common on sandy bed around jetties.

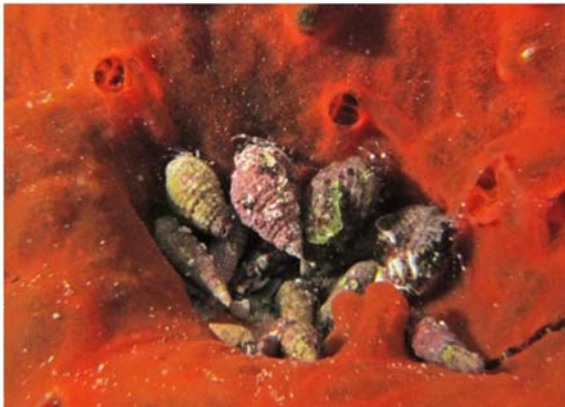
Cancellus typus has abandoned gastropod shells for homes and burrows into soft pebbles, its claws blocking the entrance to its hole. Sometimes found on soft rubblely bed if you look carefully.



Two hermit crab species:

Above: *Paguristes frontalis* in old gastropod shell, Blairgowrie, 2 m.

Below: Congregation of small hermit crabs (of unknown species) feeding on sponge, Blairgowrie, 1 m.



The sponge crab *Stimdromia lateralis* has pale orange claws with white tips. It cultivates sponges on its carapace for concealment. Common under jetties and around reef.



Stimdromia lateralis camouflaged by sponge. St Leonards pier, 2 m.

Pebble crabs have rounded bodies, greyish in colour, long claws, several low spines along the body, a small eye, long claws with a mouth that allows them to breathe as they bury themselves rapidly in sandy bed. *Dittosa undecimspinoso* is the commonest species, sometimes seen before they bury themselves in shallow sandy bed (Sorry - I don't have a photo).

Spider crabs have a triangular or rounded carapace and long legs for fast movement. They live on reef among invertebrates and algae. *Leptomithrax gaimardi* is the species we all know. It is orange in colour and has very long legs. Local summer mating aggregations of thousands are a diving spectacle. During The aggregation the exoskeleton is moulted and mating occurs in the few hours before the new one hardens. Although we do not know why the crabs congregate in such large

numbers it must be through release of pheromones into the water.



Mating aggregation of spider crabs, Blairgowrie, 3 m. Photo: Phil Watson

Shore crabs. Which we don't often look for is *Carcinus maenas* a small crab with greenish body living under stones in the intertidal. It is an active predator, introduced to Australia from Europe in the 19th century.

Swimming crabs. The commonest is the blue swimmer *Portunis pelagicus*, which is locally rare but common in warmer South Australian gulfs where it inhabits shallow sandy bed and seagrasses. Because it is good eating it is fished commercially and recreationally. Over the years it has colonised the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal.

Plagusia chabrus is a large crab with long legs, hiding on crevices on jetty piles, scuttling away when disturbed. It feeds on sponges, hydroids and bryozoans. It varies in colour from

purplish, reddish, to brown. The strong claws have rows of small lumpy spines.



Plagusia chabrus among sponges, St Leonards pier, 2 m.

Decorator crab. *Naxia aurita* is a long-legged and speedy crab that wanders across shallow water bottoms. For camouflage it relies on a carefully tended crop of algae attached to hairs on its carapace.



Naxia aurita with a garden of brown and green algae. Off St Leonards, 3 m

Jan Watson

Marine Science & Ecology

Ph: 03 5253 2294

Mob: 0457 981 875

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - February 2018



1st Place—Dumpling Squid - PT Hirshfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - February 2018



2nd Place - Seahorse - PT Hirshfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - February 2018



3rd Place - Nudibranch - Ian Scholey

FEBRUARY 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION

February photo competition. First is PT Hirschfield's dumpling squid, Second is PT Hirschfield's Seahorse and Third is Ian Scholey's Nudi!! Congratulations to the winners. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Snorkeller, Barwon -
Phil Watson*

*Snokeller and Critter,
Piccaninnie Ponds -
Hannah Smeeton*



*Seahorse - Phil
Watson*

FEBRUARY 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION



Divers - David Geekie

*Entrance to Tank Cave -
Mark Jeffrey*



*Nudibranch, The Pinnacles
- David Geekie*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - March 2018



1st Place

Anemone Shrimp, Sawadarek Jetty Kri Is, Raja Empat

- Meg Johnson

MARCH 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION

March photo comp. First was Meg Johnston's Shrimp. The rest of the results are on holiday somewhere but an amazing collection of photos this month. Congratulations, Meg, and thank you to everyone who contributed.

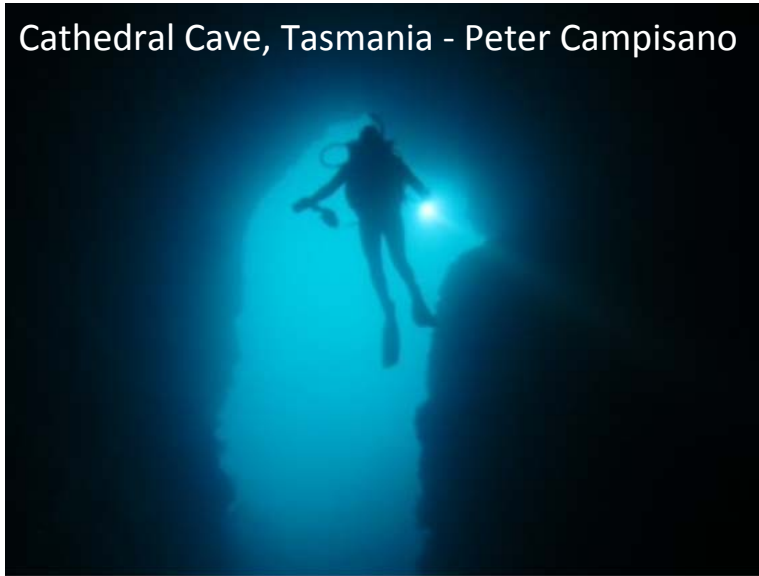


Leaf Fish, Blue Magic Kri Island, Raja Empat
- Meg Johnson



MARCH 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION

Cathedral Cave, Tasmania - Peter Campisano



Blubber Jellyfish
- PT Hirshfield

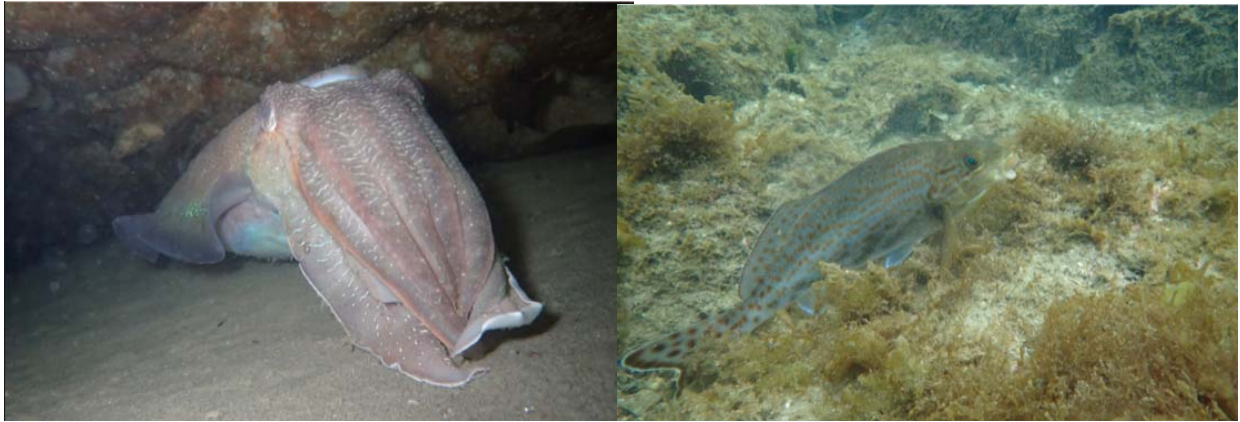


Cathedral Cave, Tasmania - Peter Campisano



Tathra Pier, Panorama - Tim Foster

MARCH 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Cuttlefish, Blairgowrie and Dusky Morwong, Jawbone Sanctuary,
Williamstown - Arthur Kokkinos*



Crab, Blairgowrie and Nudibranch, Blairgowrie— Carol Penfold



Ash Tray—David Flew



*Smile for the camera
- Hannah Smeeton*

MARCH 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Dromana Pier
- Phil Watson*



*Octopus Portrait
- PT Hirshfield*



Triffid, Sea Caves, Tasmania and Baby Seadragon - David Flew

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - April 2018



1st Place - Nudibranchs Deco Stop on the Coolidge, Vanuatu - Mark Jeffrey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Second - April 2018



Equal 2nd Place - Paradise Cove, Fiji - Angus Stuart-Adams

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Second - April 2018



Equal 2nd Place - Red Velvet Fish, J4 Sub - PT Hirschfield

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

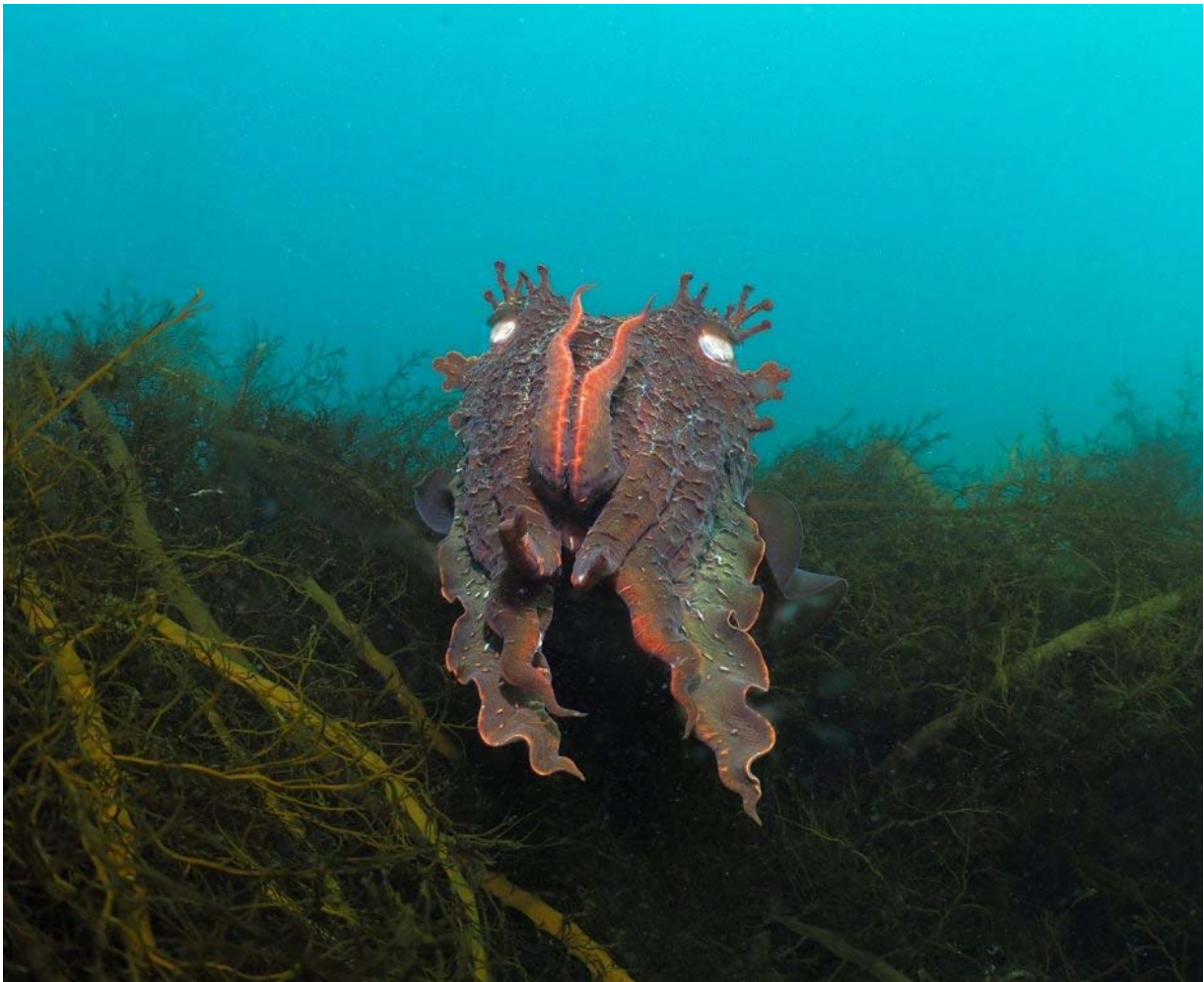
Equal Second - April 2018



Equal 2nd Place - Seal, Wilsons Prom - Arthur Kokkinos

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - April 2018



3rd Place -Cuttlefish, Cape Shanck - Phil Watson

APRIL 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners of the April 2018 Photo Competition! First place was Mark's Nudibranchs, Equal Second was Angus Stuart-Adams with Paradise Cove, Fiji, PT Hirshfield's Red Velvet Fish and Arthur Kokkinos' Seal. Third place went to Phil Watson's Cuttlefish. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the competition.



Manta Shrimp, Paradise Cove, Fiji - Angus Stuart-Adams



Octopus, St Leonards
- Phil Watson

APRIL 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION



Seal, Wilsons Prom - Arthur Kokkinos

Clown Fish, Deco Stop, Coolidge, Vanuatu - Mark Jeffrey



Crab covered in sponges - PT Hirschfield

April & May Guest Speaker

SHERRYN
AMOR

March & April
2018



VSAG club Member, Sherryn Amor, was our guest speaker in March.

Sherry gave a very comprehensive report of her cave diving experience in Cenote ,Mexico.

We were presented with a very detailed picture of each individual dive site, and their individual characteristics and charm.

An excellent presentation which was enjoyed by everyone at our March General Club Meeting.

At the VSAG April General Club Meeting, Sherryn again took to the floor, this time taking us on a whirl wind tour of her trip to West Indonesia.

Further information on live-aboard trips in East Indonesia can be found at Wreck, Reef & Critter—Jeff Mullins:

<http://www.reefwreckandcritter.com/>

Thank you to Sherryn for her very informative presentations.

SEA SLUG CENSUS

21-22 April, 2018



The Inaugural Melbourne Sea Slug Census conducted by the Victorian National Parks Association's ReefWatch program was held on the weekend of 21-22 April, 2018.

More than 150 people searched for slugs in Port Phillip and Westernport bays with 53 species being identified.

Searches were conducted at Portsea, Castle Rock, Blairgowrie, Boar Fish Reef, Beaumaris, Flinders Pier, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary, Kerford Road Pier - Albert Park, Hampton Beach, Brighton Beach, Green Point Brighton, Mushroom Reef, Point Lonsdale, Point Ormond, Ricketts

Point, Rye Pier, San Remo, St Leonards, Western Port Bay and Williamstown.

See results on The Victorian National Parks Association web site <https://vnpa.org.au/programs/sea-slug-census/>

Full report and pictures taken on the day can be viewed on the following link:

<https://vnpa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Melbourne-Sea-Slug-Census-2018-Report.pdf>



Phil's Reef

Dive Report

Anzac Day 2018

“Phil’s reef” off Parkdale.

VSAG divers: Sandy Web, Greg Richards, Mark Howells

Also: Nick Olef and Michael Mallis

Skipper: David Flew

Slightly overcast, but dead flat water for the 6 minute run from Mordialloc. Fortunately none of the fishing boats were on “our” reef! Six lots of gear fills most of the floor aft, but plenty of room up front for tubs and bags – you just need to remember not to stand up straight once you have donned your wet suit. (OUCH) Once anchored the boat was hanging right over the reef – as someone said you could almost stand on it. At 4 m to the top of the reef could certainly snorkel it....

I think this is the perfect time of year to dive this site – the fine algae which was covering it over summer has gone, so the colours are quite vivid. Fish everywhere – schools of Old Wives, Hula fish eating from the sand, various Leather Jackets,

puffers, a couple of Boar fish, rays, Dusky Morwong, schools of Pike, Bay Trout And then there are the algae, soft corals, sponges, and all the other stuff I can’t name. Cleaner Shrimp, shellfish, even a few slugs

The less hardy of us came back after about 45 minutes (feeling cold might have something to do with hanging about looking at stuff, not swimming against current!). Michael (in his dry suit, of course) got back to the boat after 55 minutes and just had to hang there to make it an hour dive. Greg got back about the same time, looked down and just had to go and sit watching the old wives, pike, etc. for another 10 minutes.

Anzac biscuits (thanks Sandy), everyone satisfied with one dive – back to Mordialloc, unloaded gear and closed up the boat – all done and dusted by noon.

- David Flew❖

Dive Reports & Snippets



Des Williams at Blairgowrie Marina, 8 March, 2018





22 April, 2018

Cheers to Peter Galvin and everyone involved in the Inverloch/Prom trip. Only got one day out there due to prior commitments but had a ball with some great diving in a great part of the world.

- Mark Howells

Mid Week Boat or Shore Dives

If interested in mid week boat or shore dives, contact Peter
Beaumont direct on 0403410725 / beaumont@nex.net.au

THE HURRICANE

7 April, 2018

The perfect night for a dive yesterday, with slack water at a great time. Peter Beaumont and I headed out of Rye to the wreck of The Hurricane. We had a very enjoyable dive with lots to see as usual. I quickly found the resident Goblinfish right out in the open, sitting on a piece of the wreck, rather than its normal spot on the sand.

Long may this weather continue.

- Ian Scholey ❖





Home: Covered

Car: Covered

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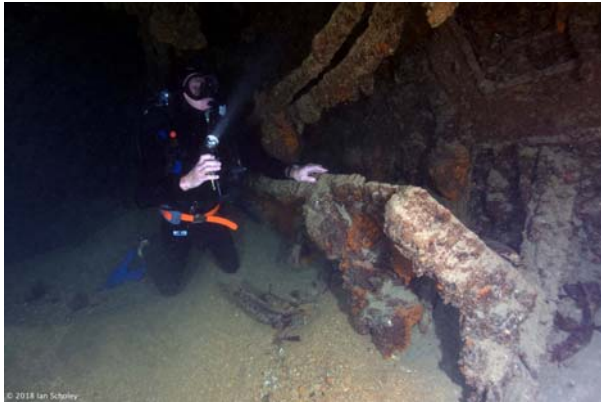
www.danasiapacific.org

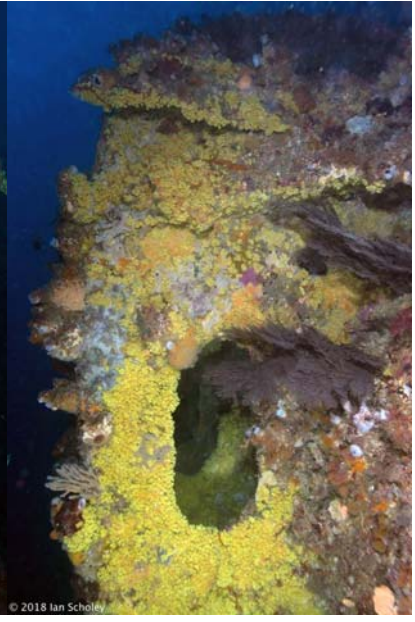
*DAN Membership provides up to US\$150,000 Worldwide Emergency Evacuation Coverage. DAN Dive Injury Insurance is additional.

J2 & JOHHNO'S REEF

29 April, 2018

- 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

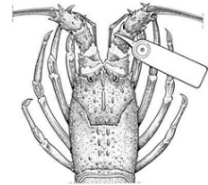
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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. ❖

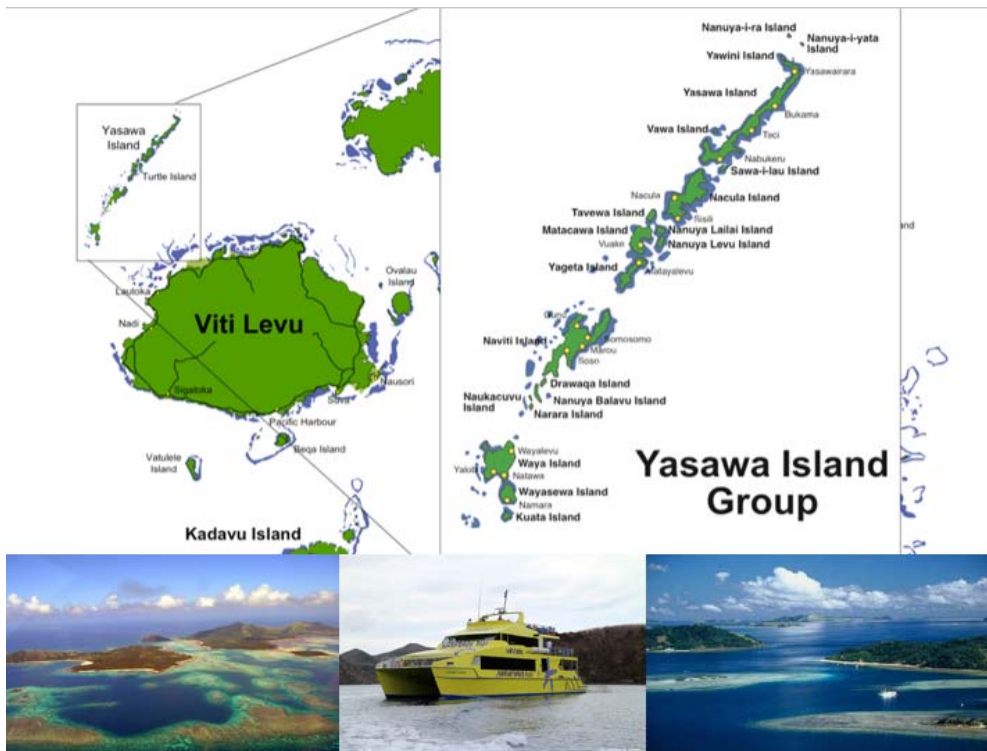
YASAWA ISLANDS FIJI 2019



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 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

DID884

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 - \$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

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

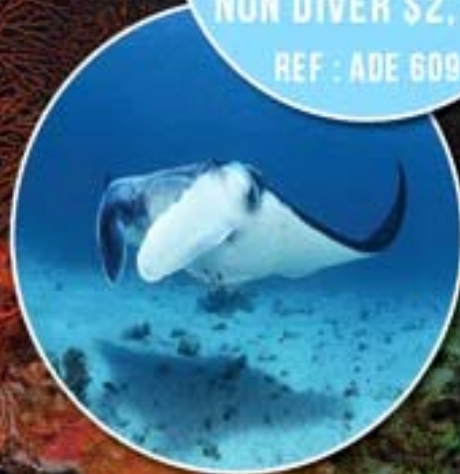
DIVING TAWALI

- 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

Christmas in July, PJ O'Briens —7th July, 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),

2/3 Jun 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

Jun 2/3	Boat Dives DC David Geekie 0419 300 686
Jun 9/10/11 Queens B'day Weekend	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
Jun 16/17	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
Jun 19	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
Jun 23/24	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
June 28-Jul 1	Melbourne Boat Show http://www.melbourneinternationalboatshow.com.au/
Jun 30/Jul 1	Boat Dives DC – Carol Penfold 0449 986 473
Jul 7 7/8	Christmas in July 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 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 Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
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 Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
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 — 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>

Tidal Streams at the Heads — July 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

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

Tidal Streams at the Heads — August 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

July		August				
MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5
<i>3:36</i>	<i>4:23</i>	<i>5:07</i>	0:31	1:04	1:38	2:14
10:34	11:12	11:46	<i>5:49</i>	<i>6:32</i>	<i>7:16</i>	<i>8:05</i>
<i>17:18</i>	<i>17:46</i>	<i>18:13</i>	12:19	12:51	13:24	13:59
23:23	23:58		<i>18:39</i>	<i>19:05</i>	<i>19:33</i>	<i>20:01</i>
MON 6	TUE 7	WED 8	THU 9	FRI 10	SAT 11	SUN 12
2:54	3:38	4:29	5:29	6:37	<i>0:09</i>	<i>1:29</i>
<i>8:58</i>	<i>9:59</i>	<i>11:08</i>	<i>12:25</i>	<i>13:43</i>	7:49	8:57
14:35	15:17	16:08	17:18	18:50	<i>14:51</i>	<i>15:46</i>
<i>20:33</i>	<i>21:09</i>	<i>21:55</i>	<i>22:55</i>		20:22	21:35
MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THU 16	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19
<i>2:46</i>	<i>3:56</i>	<i>5:00</i>	0:20	1:08	1:54	2:38
9:58	10:54	11:43	<i>5:59</i>	<i>6:56</i>	<i>7:50</i>	<i>8:44</i>
<i>16:32</i>	<i>17:14</i>	<i>17:53</i>	12:29	13:11	13:50	14:28
22:35	23:30		<i>18:31</i>	<i>19:07</i>	<i>19:43</i>	<i>20:19</i>
MON 20	TUE 21	WED 22	THU 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26
3:20	4:03	4:49	5:41	6:41	<i>0:16</i>	<i>1:23</i>
<i>9:39</i>	<i>10:35</i>	<i>11:37</i>	<i>12:43</i>	<i>13:50</i>	7:43	8:41
15:08	15:51	16:43	17:54	19:23	<i>14:49</i>	<i>15:35</i>
<i>20:56</i>	<i>21:35</i>	<i>22:20</i>	<i>23:13</i>		20:39	21:33
August					September	
MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT 1	SUN 2
<i>2:28</i>	<i>3:24</i>	<i>4:14</i>	<i>4:58</i>	0:01	0:34	1:09
9:31	10:15	10:54	11:29	<i>5:40</i>	<i>6:22</i>	<i>7:06</i>
<i>16:11</i>	<i>16:41</i>	<i>17:08</i>	<i>17:34</i>	12:03	12:36	13:10
22:16	22:53	23:28		<i>18:01</i>	<i>18:28</i>	<i>18:57</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



Blubber Jellyfish - PT Hirshfield