



# Fathoms

*Cathedral Cave, Tasmania*  
*Cover Photo by Ian Scholey*

APRIL - MAY 2019

**Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania**

**Lembah Strait Part II**

**Photo Comps Oct - Feb 2019**

**And more...**

*Ian Scholey*  
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

Postal Address:

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

[www.vsag.org.au](http://www.vsag.org.au)

# MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND 2019



## **SEA ESTA**

Nov 1 at 7:30 PM – Nov 4 at 4:30 PM

World Class Diving on the Great Barrier Reef

Hi all

We will be doing something different to our usual Melbourne Cup Weekend road trip this year.

Adrenalin Snorkle & Dive are now operating a 3 night/10 dive Live-aboard departing Townsville which covers the central/southern Great Barrier Reef and includes two dives on one of Australia's top wreck dives the SS Yongala.

The Live-aboard takes a maximum of 18 divers in air conditioned cabins and includes 10 dives (2 x Night dives and 2 x Yongala ) and all meals. There is a mixture of accommodation options available:

Share Cabin - 3 or 4 - \$930pp

Contact Ian for details.



# Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

In this April—May 2019 issue...

Article	Author	Page
Eaglehawk Neck VSAG Dive Trip	Arthur Kokkinos	6-17
Lembah Strait Part II	Ian Scholey	18-25
February Guest Speakers	Maritime Safety Vic	26-29
Red Boats		30-35
Diver Awareness, Immersion Pulmonary Oedema		36-37
Pioneer & SS Rotomahana	Ian Scholey	38-39
Beverwijk 19	Ian Scholey	40-41
SS Coogee	Christine Reynolds	42-44
Anchors Away!	John Lawler	45-47
March Guest Speaker	Mark Ryan	50-51
Photo Comps		
October 2018		
November 2018		
December 2018		
January 2019		
February 2019		54-81
Lobster Tagging/Save the Rays	Victorian Fisheries	89
Safe Trx, Boat Ramp Tickets		90
Diary Dates		
Melbourne Cup Weekend		
Yasawa Islands Fiji		91-95
VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar	John Ashley	96-99
Tidal Streams		100-103
Emergency Contact Information		104-105

#### Editorial Submissions:

Christine Reynolds m: 0402 214 136 e: editor@vsag.org.au

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

Copyright © 2015 by Victorian Sub Aqua Group, Inc. ACN 004 591 575. All rights reserved.

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.tudc.org.au)



# Your VSAG Committee 2018–2019

To email all VSAG committee members: [committee@vsag.org.au](mailto:committee@vsag.org.au)

## President & Travel Co-ordinator

Ian Scholey 0439 310 646 [president@vsag.org.au](mailto:president@vsag.org.au)  
[ischoley@iinet.net.au](mailto:ischoley@iinet.net.au)

## Vice President & Meeting Set-up Co-ordinator

Carol Penfold 0449 986 473 [vicepresident@vsag.org](mailto:vicepresident@vsag.org)  
[carolpenfold@hotmail.com](mailto:carolpenfold@hotmail.com)

## Secretary

Sherryn Amor 0412 945 985 [secretary@vsag.org.au](mailto:secretary@vsag.org.au)

## New Member Co-ordinator

John Ashley 0418 535 991 [membership@vsag.org.au](mailto:membership@vsag.org.au)  
[john\\_ashley1954@icloud.com](mailto:john_ashley1954@icloud.com)

## Treasurer & SDFV Representative

Peter Galvin 0417 061 564 [treasurer@vsag.org.au](mailto:treasurer@vsag.org.au)  
[galvo350@gmail.com](mailto:galvo350@gmail.com)

## Web Co-ordination

Ian Scholey 0439 310 646 [ischoley@iinet.net.au](mailto:ischoley@iinet.net.au)

## Safety Co-ordinator

David Geekie 0419 300 686 [safetycoordinator@vsag.org.au](mailto:safetycoordinator@vsag.org.au)  
[dgeekie@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dgeekie@bigpond.net.au)

## Point Scorer

Graham Ellis 03 9803 0069 (H) 0403 070 920 [pointscorer@vsag.org.au](mailto:pointscorer@vsag.org.au)  
[graham\\_ellis@optusnet.com.au](mailto:graham_ellis@optusnet.com.au)

## Diving Co-ordinator

John Ashley 0418 535 991 [divecoordinator@vsag.org.au](mailto:divecoordinator@vsag.org.au)  
[john\\_ashley1954@icloud.com](mailto:john_ashley1954@icloud.com)

## Fathoms Editor

Christine Reynolds 0402 214 136 [editor@vsag.org.au](mailto:editor@vsag.org.au)

## Social Secretary

Hannah Smeeton 0431 141 918 [socialsecretary@vsag.org.au](mailto:socialsecretary@vsag.org.au)  
[dive\\_urchin@hotmail.com](mailto:dive_urchin@hotmail.com)

## Equipment Officer

Ian Smith 0409 838 300 [ianandrewsmith1@gmail.com](mailto:ianandrewsmith1@gmail.com)

## General Committee Members:

Mark Jeffrey 0412 223 037 [mark@mocean3.com](mailto:mark@mocean3.com)

# EAGLEHAWK NECK

VSAG 2019

TASMANIA DIVE TRIP

EAGLEHAWK DIVE CENTRE

*By Arthur KOKKINOS*

DIVERS:

Ian SCHOLEY, David POLITAKIS,  
Jeremy VAN DER BEEK, John  
MILLS, Priya CARDINALETTI,  
Arthur KOKKINOS

**Day 1:**

**Dive Site: SS NORD**

**(Dive 1- The BOW)**

Time: 9.30 am

Water Temp: 17°C

Max depth reached: 41 metres

Bottom Time: 12 minutes

Length of dive: 24 minutes

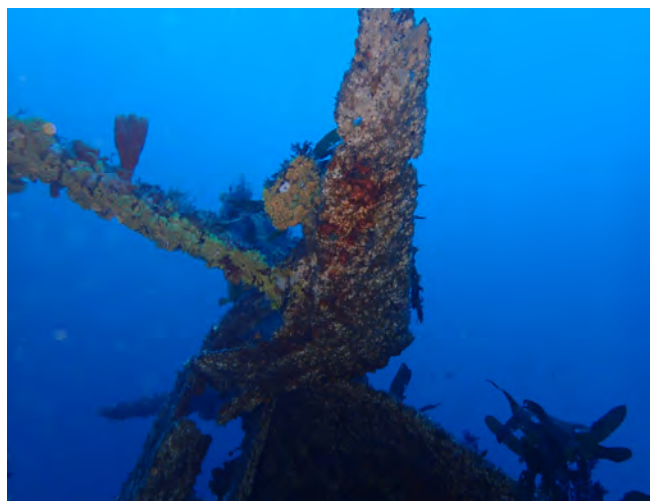
On Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March I had the privilege of diving an amazing shipwreck with 5 divers from VSAG. We dived the Premier shipwreck of Tasmania, the SS NORD, located near the Port Arthur settlement. The SS NORD was an 86-metre cargo ship carrying cases of oil when she sank on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1915 after striking a sunken pinnacle. All her crew survived. SS NORD lies in 42 metre depth and is one of Tasmania's few



*The Bow of THE SS NORD*



*Parts of the deck of the SS NORD*



intact shipwrecks. The first dive of the day mainly covered the Bow area. It was absolutely amazing and breathtaking. Once we finished the first dive, we were all in agreement on how awesome the visibility was (15 plus metres). We all decided to dive the wreck a second time, this time we all wanted to explore the Stern.

### **(Dive 2- The STERN)**

Time: 12.17 am

Water Temp: 17°c

Max depth reached: 37.7 metres

Bottom Time: 12 minutes

Length of dive: 26 minutes

During our 2-hour surface interval we enjoyed the majestic views all around us and a warm cup of soup prepared by Mick from EAGLEHAWK DIVE CENTRE. Once our surface break was completed, we gathered around for the Dive plan. The plan was to follow the anchor line down to the centre of the SS NORD and slowly make our way to the stern and view the propellers. According to Ian, only just a couple of years back you were able to spin the propeller around. Unfortunately, time has caught up with the wreck and she is slowly breaking down. The propeller can no longer be moved. This dive was exhilarating and better than the first dive. The colour all around the wreck, the fish life in and around the wreck and the visibility (easily 10 to 15 metres) was unbelievable. This

particular dive reminded me of the recent VSAG trip to TRUK LAGOON, diving those amazing wrecks. This dive was just superb.



*Ian SCHOLEY taking photos of the stern in amongst the school of Black Spotted Perch.*



*David POLITAKIS exploring the stern*

**Day 2:**

**Dive Site: CAPE SURVILLE:  
SISTERS ROCK**

**(Dive 3)**

Time: 8.58 am

Water Temp: 17°C

Max depth reached: 33.5 metres

Bottom Time: 35 minutes

Length of dive: 38 minutes

On Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March we had the ultimate pleasure in diving a wonderful underwater canyon like formation called Cape Surville Sisters Rock. This dive location was an absolute diver's paradise with an abundance of fish life, rock formations extending down to great depths and vegetation with astonishing colours. The geological formation of this dive site is unique. When diving down to the different depths, enveloping the wall we were confronted with schools of fish (Pike and Black Spotted Perch) all around us. This was beautiful to witness. These schools of fish extended out to 10 plus metres and diving in the middle of them was truly a dream come true. Diving down and towards the centre of this dive site we came across another wall like formation. It felt like we were diving in a massive gorge, with both walls extending all the way down to 40 plus metres and up. In between both walls there is a wide centre gap. As you are diving

you are able to look back from side to side and easily capture a visual of the whole formation all around you. It was breath-taking and truly a unique diving experience.



*Ian SCHOLEY taking photos on the wall.*



*Around the end of the wall*



## Day 2:

### Dive Site: DEEP GLEN BAY: NORTH WALL

#### (Dive 4)

Time: 11.23 am

Water Temp: 16°C

Max depth reached: 29 metres

Bottom Time: 35 minutes

Length of dive: 40 minutes

After an hour and half surface interval and a delicious cup of soup we were ready for our second dive of the day. We headed off to Deep Glen Bay to dive the north wall. We were guaranteed by Mick that this was going to be a great dive. On arrival to this dive site, we were almost touching distance to this massive cliff wall that descended down to 45 plus metres. We geared up and in no time, as a group, we descended down to our planned depth of no more than 30 metres. This dive followed the wall down and we stopped at different depths taking in all the beauty around us. The colour, visibility (20 plus metres) and large species of fish was just poetry in water. The wall had hundreds of ledges and holes hiding many types of sea life. Crayfish were spotted in many places and the huge size of the sea urchins (like a dinner plate) clinging onto the rock wall was truly amazing. Everyone was in their own diving zone, taking many photos and videos and exploring the colourful

underwater landscape. This rock wall was truly a diver's delight. After diving for almost 35 minutes we signalled to each other to finish our dive. David released his SMB and we all followed him up, doing our safety stop. Once completed we hit the surface and the realisation that day 2 had come to an end started to sink in.



*The size of the sea urchins was huge at this dive location*



*Schools of Black Spotted Perch and Long Thin Pike were everywhere.*



**Day 3:**

**Dive Site: PIRATES BAY CAVES:  
CATHEDRAL DOME**

**(Dive 5)**

Time: 8.23 am

Water Temp: 16°C

Max depth reached: 19.5 metres

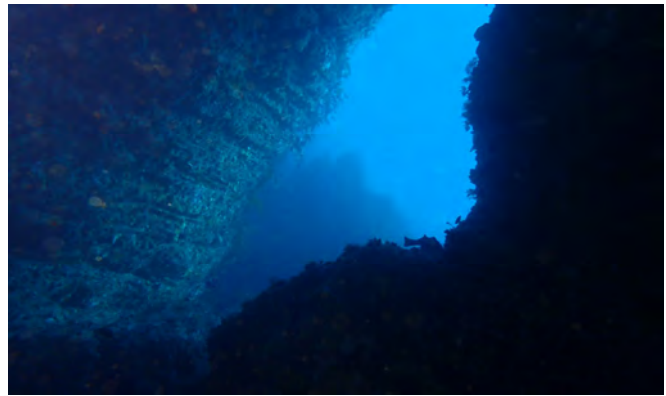
Bottom Time: 46 minutes

Length of dive: 52 minutes

Today's dive was with Ian SCHOLEY, David POLITAKIS, Jeremy VAN DER BEEK. John MILLS and Priya CARDINALETTI left the group and had to go back to Melbourne for work.

This dive was the famous Pirates Bay Caves. This underwater network of caves is the largest sea caves in Australia. The anticipation for this dive was enormous. I couldn't wait to dive this site. So much has been discussed about this dive site I was anxious to experience the vast labyrinth of passages that this cave network has.

We all geared up and we were then briefed by Mick on what route we should all take and the time we should complete it in. We were taken very close to the underwater entrance. We all safely entered the water and descended down to the sand then followed the rock wall to the large opening. Ian lead the way and in single file, we entered the passage



*One of the many cave openings .*



*Jeremy VAN DER BEEK in one of the many cave openings looking in.*



*Crayfish were everywhere living in ledges throughout the caves.*



*Draught board shark resting.*

way, diving into an amazing corridor surrounded by massive rock walls about 1200mm wide. The narrow passage led into another passage and then into a huge massive opening. We explored numerous passage ways and took many photos and videos.

The highlight of this dive was when I followed Ian through a long passageway and out into a large chamber. In this area we came across a Draught Board shark. It swam all around us giving us ample opportunity to film its presence. It then found a nice area in between some rocks and laid there for a while, giving Ian and I another opportunity to take photos and video. This encounter was truly an amazing experience. Diving in underwater caves and seeing up close a shark in its natural habitat was truly overwhelming. An experience I will cherish for the rest of my life.

### **Day 3:**

#### **Dive Site: FOK ROCK**

#### **(Dive 6)**

Time: 10.25 am

Water Temp: 16°c

Max depth reached: 19.4 metres

Bottom Time: 45 minutes

Length of dive: 52 minutes

The last dive of this amazing trip was at FOK ROCK, a Bommie reaching down to approximately 18 metres. This Bommie is about 10 metres off from a very large underwater cliff face and is about 30 metres in diameter. We were assured that this dive site had lots of fish life.

We all entered the water and, in unison, we all descended down to a depth of around 20 metres. We all dived together and each diver stayed at their desired depth. We explored the many holes, ledges and cracks finding everything from crayfish, large crabs, cuttlefish, and many different schools of fish all around us. I was mesmerised with a pair of Long Snout Boarfish that kept following and circling me. I spent a bit of time with them taking many photos.

The rock formation of this Bommie had everything from large dive throughs, to big ledges, lots of colourful fish and vegetation. The steep sides of the Bommie were

visually amazing with lots of seaweed and kelp hanging everywhere.

This was just the perfect location to complete our Tasmanian diving adventure.



*Long Snout Boarfish were just beautiful.*



*Cuttlefish hiding deep in a ledge.*



*The Eaglehawk Neck Dive centre Boat was very comfortable for 6 divers.*



*Jeremy VAN DER BEEK  
Arthur KOKKINOS and  
David POLITAKIS*



*Arthur KOKKINOS  
and Ian SCHOLEY*



*Priya CARDINALETTI, John MILLS,  
Jeremy VAN DER BEEK,  
Arthur KOKKINOS,  
David POLITAKIS and Ian SCHOLEY*



*The EAGLEHAWK Dive Centre  
Office.*

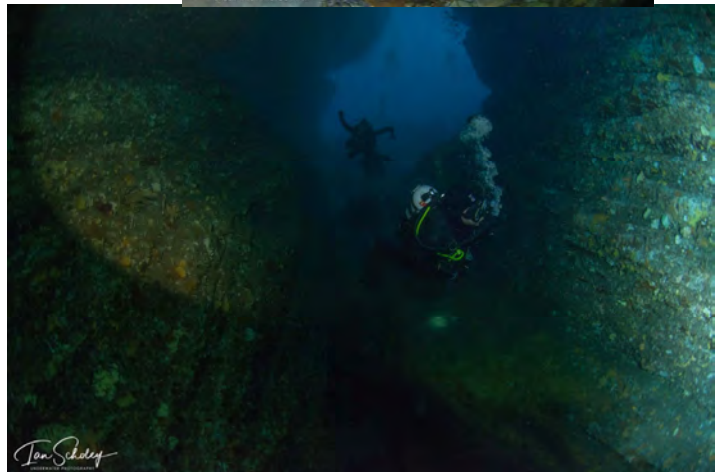
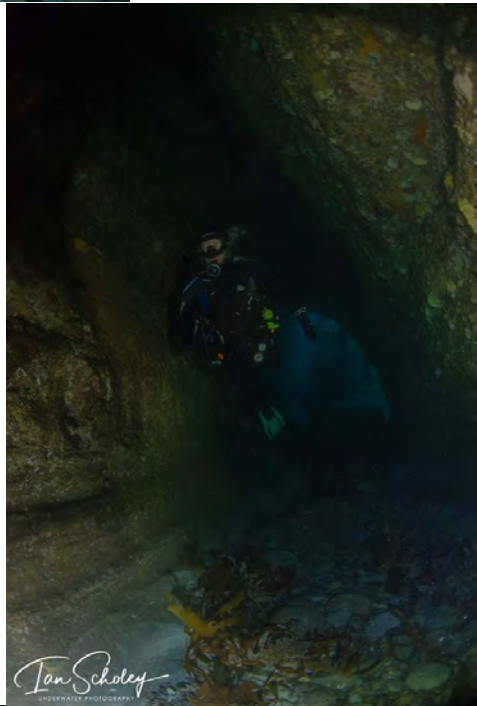
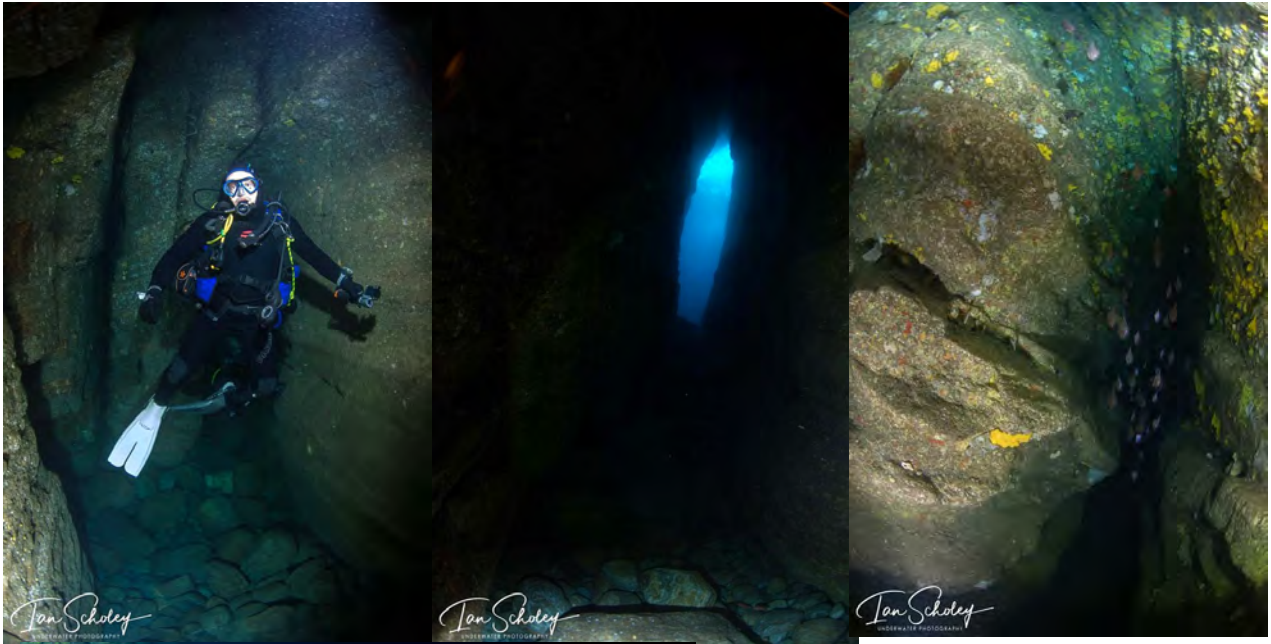
## CATHEDRAL CAVE COMPLEX, Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania.

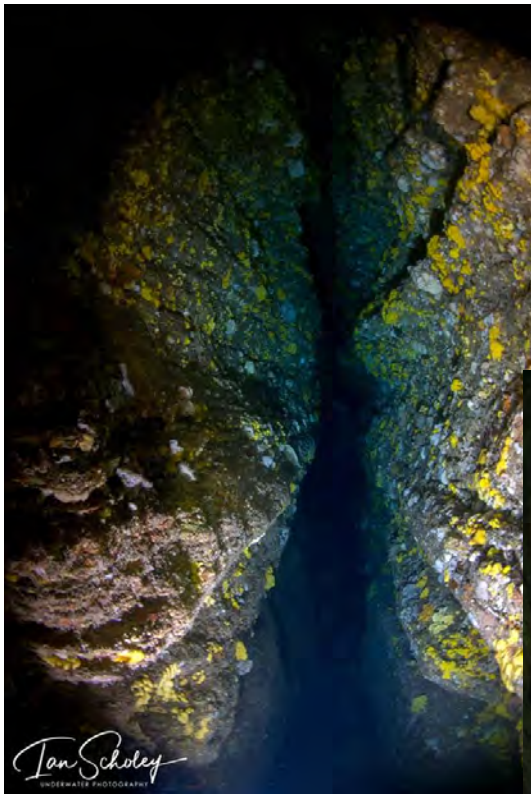
12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

Our first dive of the day was one of the premier sites in Tassie, Cathedral Cave. The conditions were perfect to allow us to penetrate the complex safely. There were one or two tight squeezes but, on the whole, this is a very accessible cave system. Plenty of life around including a few Cray's that had part of the team itching for the hunt, alas no one had a Tassie fishing licence, so they stayed where they were. Highlight for me was a Draughtboard Shark that we bumped into in one of the passageways. It swam around us a bit before settling on the sand in front of us, completely uncorked with our presence. Top dive. Thanks to Mick and Karen at Eaglehawk Dive Centre for hosting us once again. If anyone is down south and fancies a dive, we can't recommend these guys highly enough.

*- Ian Scholey. ❖*









*Deco selfie, always good to see the boat up there above you.*



*In-between dives.*



*Jeremy van der Beek, Ian Scholey, David Politakis, coffee stop.*



*Arthur taking in the view and checking out the dive site. Cathedral Cave Australia's largest sea cave system.*



## FOK ROCK,

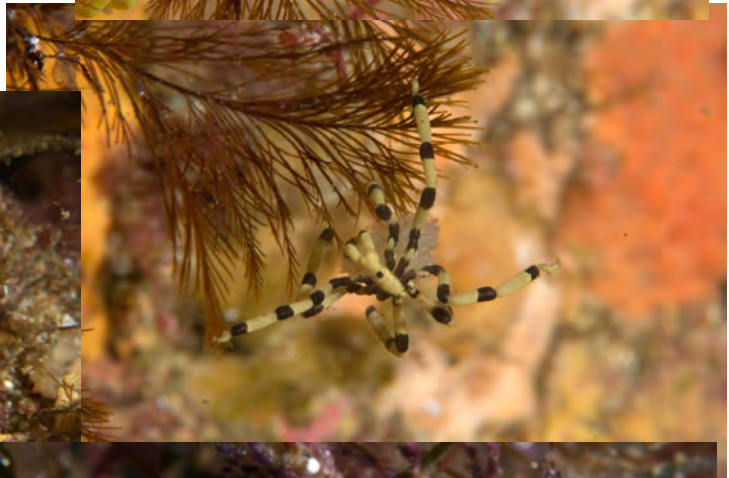
Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania.

12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

This dive was all about photographing the Sea Spiders that are common at this dive site. I was really pleased with the results I managed. I could only find two species but did find one with eggs.

These guys aren't actually spiders but pycnogonids a species of marine arthropod. My two species are a poor effort from the 1300 or so known species. These were about the size of a 10-cent piece but there are species with a leg span of over 70cm.

-Ian Scholey. ❖



# LEMBEH STRAIT

## LEMBEH STRAIT

Indonesia

26.01.2019 - 02.02.2019

Part II



*By Ian Scholey.*

30th January, 2019

Traditional wooden boat building.  
Cost is about 100,000,00 Rupiah or  
\$10,000. Takes 4 guys a month to  
build one.

*- Ian Scholey ❖*



## VSAG LEMBEH STRAIGHT TRIP

26.01.2019 - 02.02.2019

### SHRIMPS

Lembeh is all about the critters and it seems that almost everything from coral to fish has a resident Shrimp. They come in all shapes and sizes from tiny Skeleton Shrimps to the sizeable Mantis Shrimps. Their colour varies from brightly coloured to translucent.

At the beginning the guides point them out and you struggle to see what they are pointing at, but by the end of the trip, we were pointing some out to the guides.

- Ian Scholey ❖







## VSAG LEMBEH STRAIGHT TRIP

26.01.2019 - 02.02.2019

### NUDIBRANCHS

Well, our week in Lembeh is over and we are back home. It's strange coming back from a holiday in the tropics to find it's warmer in Melbourne.

As most of you know well, I like a slug and Lembeh didn't disappoint in that department. With dive sites with names like Nudi Wall, Nudi Retreat and Nudi Falls how could I go wrong. Here is a selection of the numerous species we found.

All up, we knocked over 24 dives in 7 days and had a ball. For variety of life, Lembeh Straight takes some beating.

- Ian Scholey ❖











# February 2019 Guest Speakers



PREPARE TO SURVIVE  
KNOW THE FIVE



LEARN HOW AT [MSV.VIC.GOV.AU/PREPARE](http://MSV.VIC.GOV.AU/PREPARE)

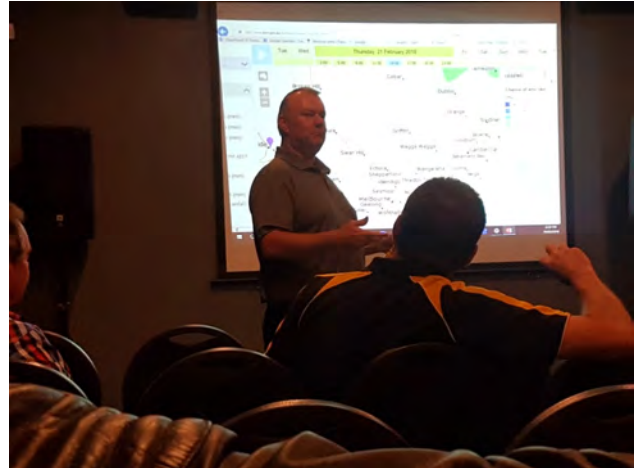
**Presented By:**  
**PHIL HUGHES**  
**Project Officer – Education**  
**Maritime Safety Victoria**

At our February meeting our special guests were Phil and Ed from Maritime Safety Victoria, who delivered a presentation on Safer Boating and Beyond Compliance.

Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV) has launched a new boating safety campaign :

'Prepare to survive: Know the five'.

The campaign encourages people heading out on the water to prepare - because ending up in Victorian waters, which remain cool year-



round, is one of the greatest risks to the safety of boaters and paddlers., and can happen to anyone for reasons beyond their control.

Preparing to survive is a skill. Preparing to survive is part of mastering your control of your vessel, and your knowledge of the environment.

MSV experts advise that there are five fundamental steps to help ensure your survival.

#### KNOW THE FIVE:

1. Know the weather
2. Practise getting back on
3. Carry a distress beacon
4. Lock in a buddy plan
5. Wear a lifejacket

To promote each of the five steps, MSV has partnered with five agencies: Bureau of Meteorology, Life Saving Victoria, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Emergency Management Victoria and Parks Victoria.

In addition, Phil encouraged the use of expired flares for practise, with the



*A demonstration was given on the night with Carole and Peter Campisano kindly volunteering to test an auto inflater cannister with their life jacket .*

approval of relevant authorities, police, coast guard, council, etc. and to test expired auto-inflater cannisters with the life jacket, to ensure that the life jacket would inflate and stay inflated if required.

Phil encourages everyone to know the weather and monitor the weather

**BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY**

**Going boating? Do the five vital weather safety checks**

- 1 Marine warnings
- 2 Changing weather
- 3 Wind conditions
- 4 Wave conditions
- 5 Tide times

More info: [www.bom.gov.au/marine](http://www.bom.gov.au/marine)

**YOU'RE THE SKIPPER  
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE!**

during your boat trip, and to complete on-going weather checks on the water, using Meteye, which is updated 3-hourly:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/>

## **KNOW THE WEATHER**

Know the conditions for the duration of your trip.

Monitor weather conditions while you are out

BOM 5 Vital Checks

BOM MetEye is the preferred source, updated 3 hourly.

## **PLAN YOUR JOURNEY**

### ***ALWAYS LET SOMEONE KNOW BEFORE YOU GO***

By plotting your journey, you can ascertain vital information, such as:

planned travel distance

The fuel required

Time on the water

The length of weather forecast to observe

## **COULD YOUR LAND BUDDY SAVE YOU?**

Boaters and paddlers have a far better chance of rescue in an emergency if they arrange a trigger time for someone on land to call 000.

One of the greatest risks to boaters is ending up in the water and being unable to call for help.

In this situation, you are relying on someone on land to report you missing – but often the person on land is hesitant to call 000, and they wait until it is nearly dark, which makes it much more difficult to carry out a successful rescue.

It was emphasised that boaters should establish a clear emergency plan with a buddy on land, sharing the full details of their trip - including details of their boat or kayak - and agreeing on a time to call emergency services if they haven't returned and can't be reached.

It is so important to set this trigger time, because if you are in trouble, the sooner the alarm is raised, the sooner a marine search and rescue unit can come to your assistance.

## **FIT FOR PURPOSE**

Phil asked how many know the safe carrying capacity of their boats? How have modifications affected your boat's carrying capacity? Did you know that the average weight of an adult used in calculating your boat's carrying capacity is only 75kg? Calculating correct carrying capacity is essential for safer boating.

Consider reducing this weight calculation in poor weather or if vessel modifications have been made.

## **PRACTISE GETTING BACK ON BOARD.**

Use a kill switch and lanyard.

Victoria has 'cold' waters (less than 15 degrees).

Practise getting back on board in a controlled environment – i.e. at a pier with a ladder available or with friends capable of helping you.

## **MARITIME SAFETY REGULATIONS 2012 – REG 99.**

### **MAINTENANCE AND PLACEMENT OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING PFD'S, FLARES AND FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT**

Accessible position at all times.

Maintained in good working order.

Serviced on or before the date specified by the Manufacturer for that item of equipment.

### **IN AN EMERGENCY - MARINE RADIO**

VHF is the recommended radio for boaters on Victorian waters.

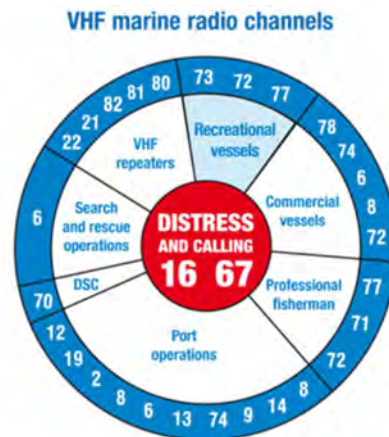
Marine Radio Victoria uses a new VHF coastal network completed in 2017.

Radio calls are monitored and recorded 24/7 along the entire Victorian

coastline out to 20 nautical miles off shore.

Digital select calling on channel 70

Regular weather broadcasts



**Further information on safer boating is available at:**

<https://transportsafety.vic.gov.au/maritime-safety/newsroom/prepare-to-survive-know-the-five#>

<https://transportsafety.vic.gov.au/maritime-safety/recreational-vessel-operators/powerboat/victorian-recreational-boating-safety-handbook>

Get involved

Follow the campaign on social media: MSV is on Facebook as Boat Safe Ride Safe and Twitter as MaritimeTSV

Creating your own posts? Use the hashtags #boatingsafety #preparetosurvive and tag us - Facebook @BoatSafeRideSafe and Twitter @MaritimeTSV

# RED BOATS

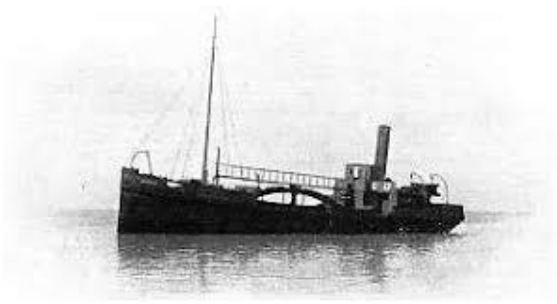
## THE BATMAN SHIPS GRAVEYARD

2nd March 2019

The early shift on Saturday. 6.15am away bound for the Batman. Thanks to Redboats for the ride, awesome trip as usual.

Today was a very early start for Chris Porter and I, plus a small number of other night owls, as we headed down to the Ships Graveyard with Redboats. The conditions were perfect, with flat seas on top and 25-30m vis down below. In fact, we were stunned to see the wreck laid out below us, from 15m or so, as we dropped down to it on the sand at 46m.

The armed steam hopper barge, Batman, and its sister ship, Fawkner, were operated by the Melbourne Harbour Trust and added to the Victorian Colonial Navy in 1883 as naval auxiliary vessels. Both the Batman and Fawkner were first armed in 1885, with one six-inch gun and two Nordenfelt machine guns, and their engine rooms were protected with armour plating. After 52 years of service, the Batman was scuttled in the ships' graveyard in 1935.



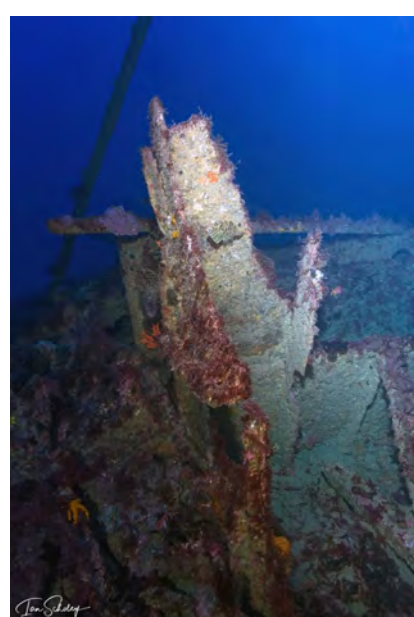
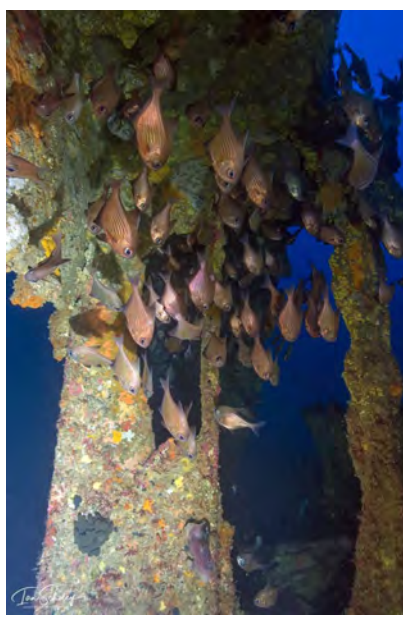
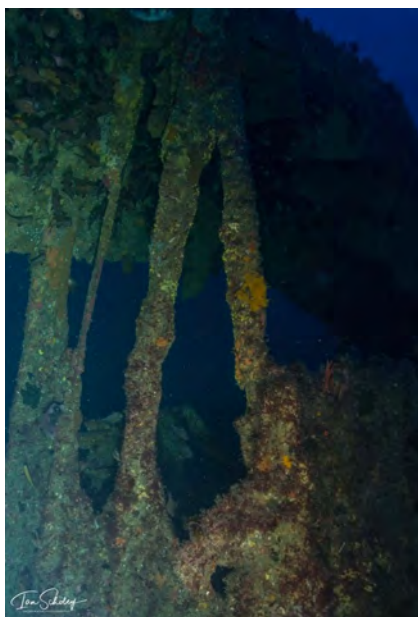
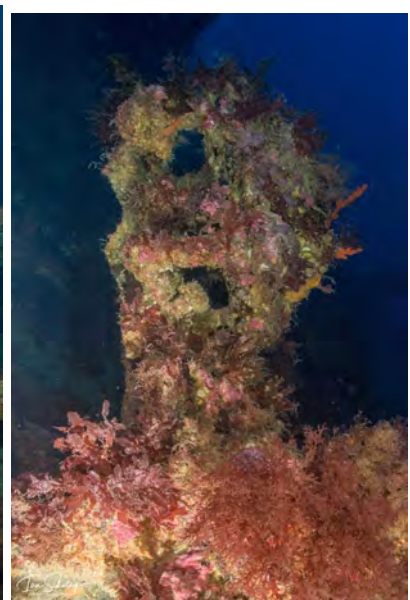
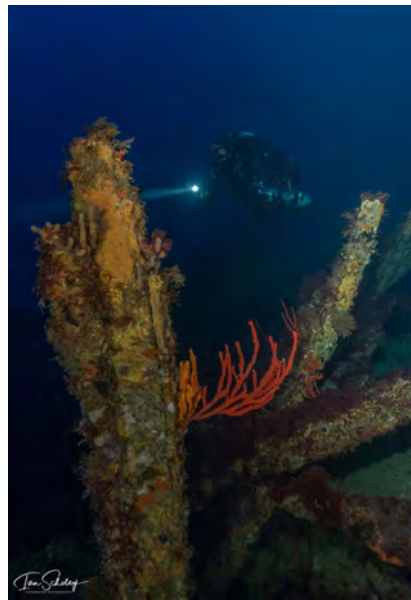
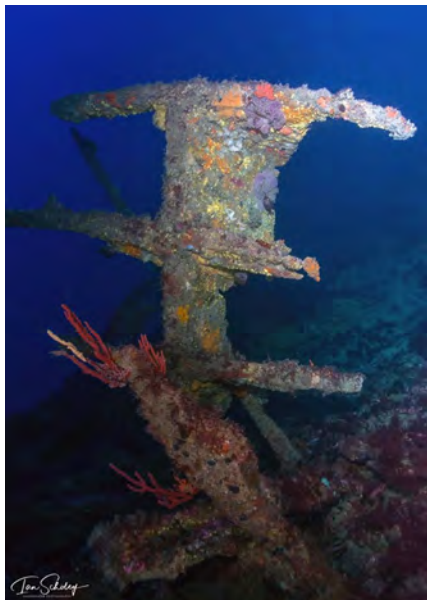
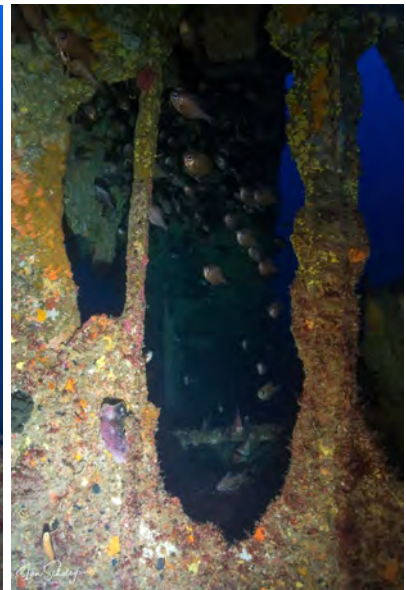
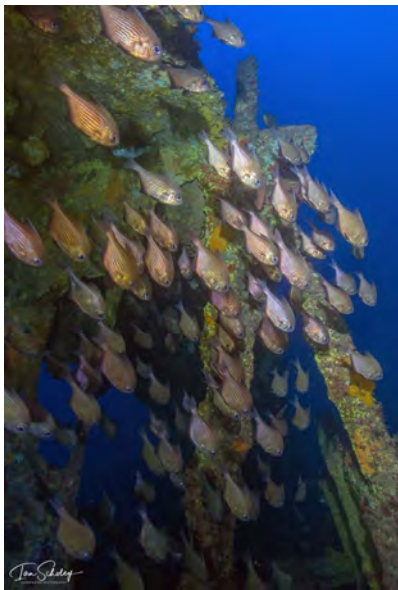
Although its main function was that of a dredge, SS Batman was also an element of the Victorian navy.

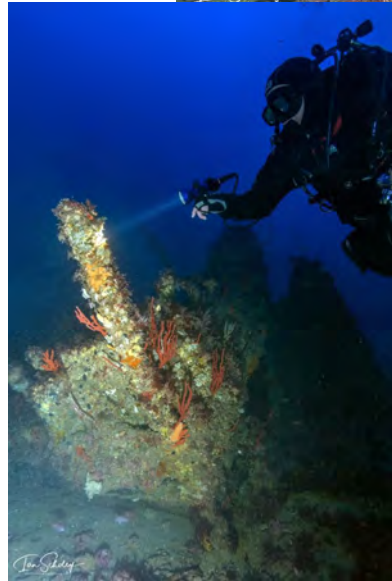
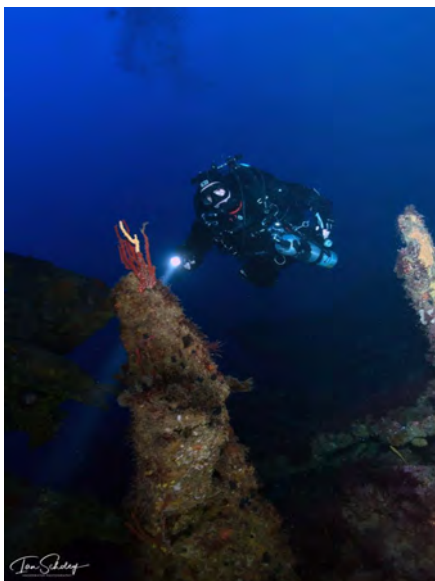
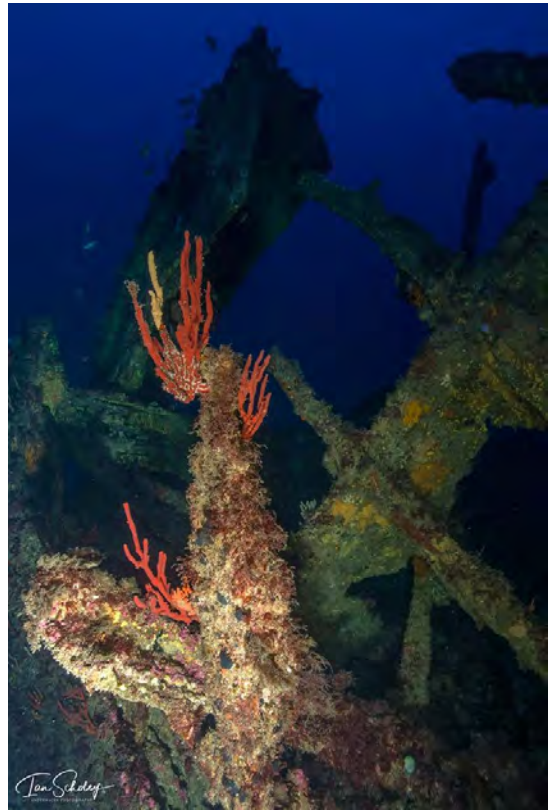
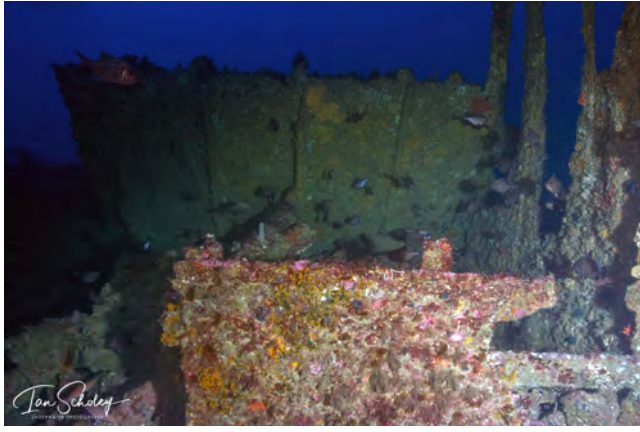
My pictures didn't do the wreck justice, I'm afraid. It was a gorgeous dive. Fair to say, there were plenty of smiling faces back on the boat as skipper, Luke English, served up the breakfast Dim Sums.

Another top day's diving.

- Ian Scholey. ❖









## J5 SUB

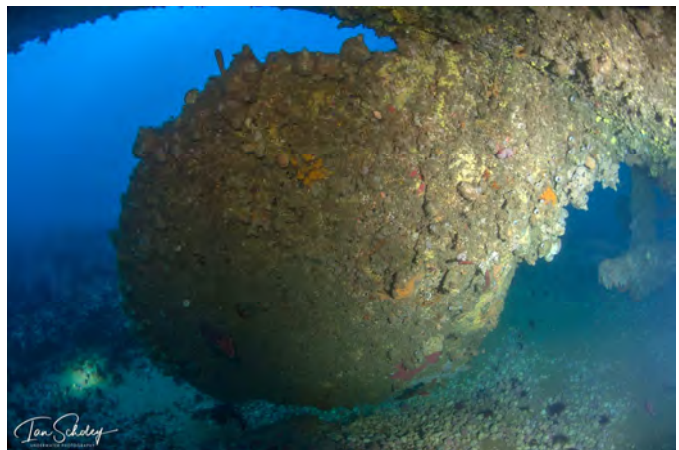
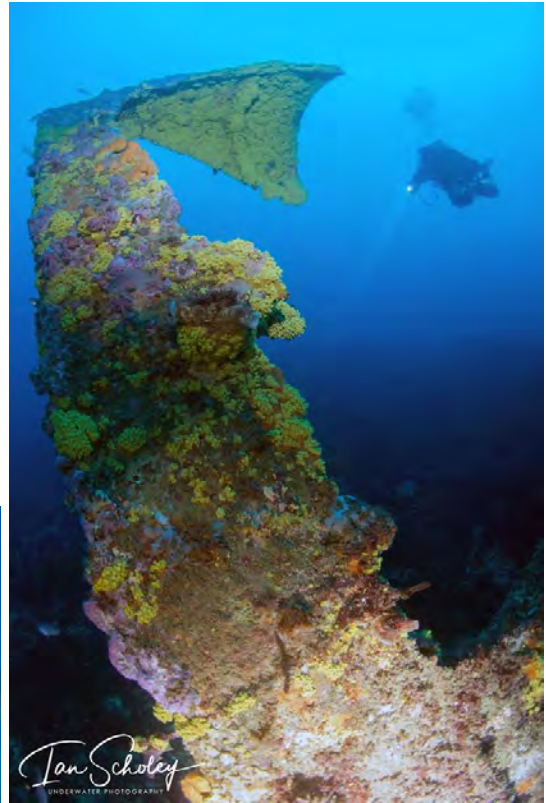
24th March 2019

Chris Porter and I jumped on Redboats today for a couple of dives.

A last-minute switch onto the J5, as the first dive, turned out to be an excellent result. The vis was really good and as the first ones in, we were treated to an amazing dive. With a deco mix available, we had a nice long dive time of 60 minutes and made the most of our extended bottom time, with a good slow exploration, both inside and outside. I think the pics are probably the best I've ever managed on the subs, so very pleased with the results today.

- Ian Scholely. ❖





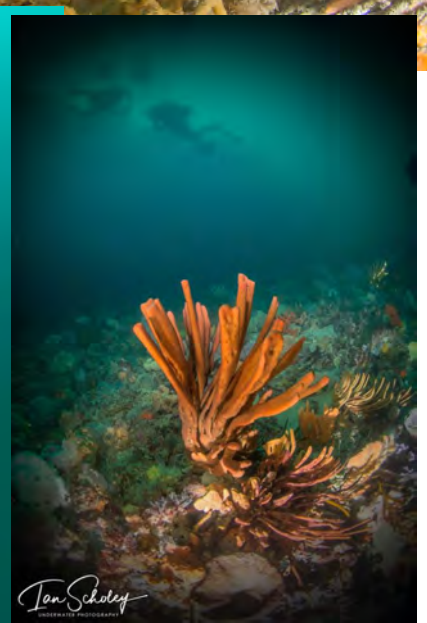
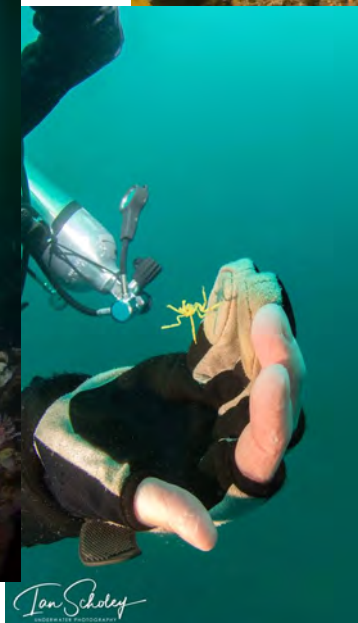
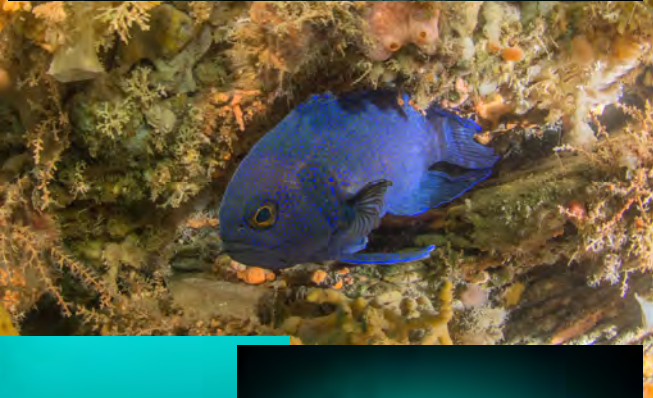
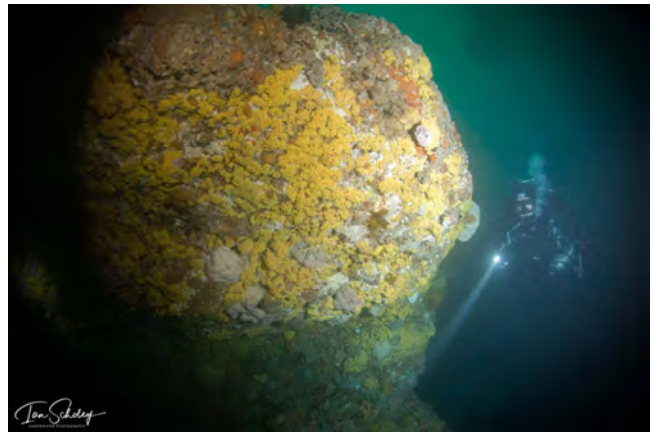
## BLUE DEVIL WALL

24th March 2019

Our second dive today was Blue Devil Wall which is on the Lonsdale side. Again the guys at Red-boats looked after us and we had a 60 minute run time. Doing Deco at 6m we were surprised to find a little yellow Sea Spider riding the current with us.

Vis on the wall wasn't that good but the territory was oh, so good. Another Ripper dive.

- Ian Scholey ❖



# Diver Awareness

## DIVER AWARENESS

### IMMERSION

### PULMONARY OEDEMA

In recent years there has been a growing interest in Immersion Pulmonary Oedema (IPO) as a factor within diving incidents. Although originally reported in the 1980s the condition was until recently thought to be rare.

#### Increasing awareness

Until recent times the condition was thought to be rare but within the last 5-6 years consideration of the circumstances of diving incidents appears to be showing evidence of IPO being a significant factor. BSAC began highlighting the possibility within the Annual Diving Incident Report from 2016 onwards and Dr Peter Wilmshurst has presented on the subject at two BSAC Diving Conferences (2014 & 2017).

Over recent years within the BSAC Annual Incident Report a number of the incidents described in the associated synopses have been confirmed by medical assessment as involving IPO in the casualty; a number of divers survived by

immediately leaving the water and attending hospital. To date 24 incidents have been identified in the entire database (1997-2018) where IPO has been confirmed; and for the 2016-2018 reporting years 29 incidents have been identified where IPO is suspected of being a factor from the synopsis using the factors described within the Annual Reports in recent years.

Since highlighting the importance of IPO for divers in 2014 a number of articles, including personal experiences of suffering IPO, have been published in SCUBA magazine raising awareness.

Pulmonary Oedema may be confused with drowning as both conditions result in fluid collecting in the lungs. First Aid treatment is however likely to be the same for both. 02.

#### Causes of IPO

When we are immersed in water, the hydrostatic pressure causes compression of leg veins. As a result blood that normally pools in the legs is pushed centrally into the chest. The increased central blood volume increases the pressure in the alveolar capillaries and may cause fluid to

leak into the lungs and cause difficulty breathing and if not corrected can cause death.

It has been known for some time that high blood pressure carries increased risk of pulmonary oedema, which is why it forms one of the screening questions on a diving medical form. What was previously less understood is that very strenuous exercise could trigger IPO. This had previously been reported in military divers under extremes of training. That level of extreme exercise might arise in diving for example when attempting a rescue of another diver or fighting a current.

### **Avoidance**

IPO is the result of a combination of immersion in water and the body's response to that immersion. Other than avoiding entering the water in the first place some simple steps may help reduce the risk.

Hypertension - high blood pressure can contribute to the risk. Divers with high blood pressure should seek specialist advice from a Medical referee

Hydration - divers should NOT drink **excessive** fluids prior to a dive.

Exercise - extreme levels of exercise can contribute to IPO even in very fit individuals and so where possible minimise the need to extreme exercise

<https://www.bsac.com/safety/diver-guidance-for-immersion-pulmonary-oedema-ipo/>

Further information is available on the DAN website

<https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/health/heart/immersion-pulmonary-edema>

### **For Diving Emergencies contact the DAN hotline**

The **DAN Diving Emergency Service Australia Hotline** (funded by **DAN**) 1800-088 200 (toll free within Australia – English Only) +61-8-8212 9242

# PIONEER & SS ROTOMAHANA

## THE PIONEER & SS ROTOMAHANA

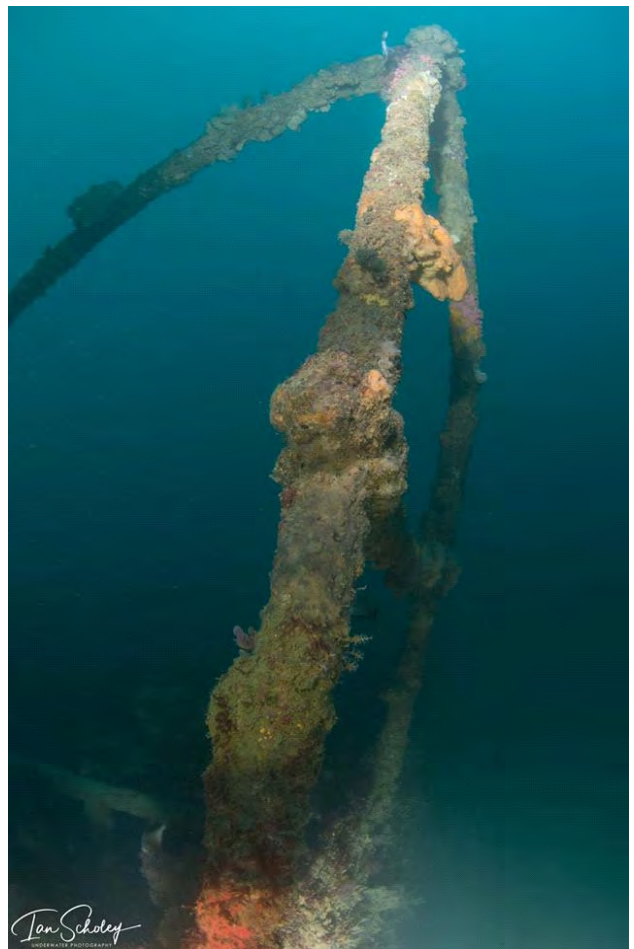
17th March 2019

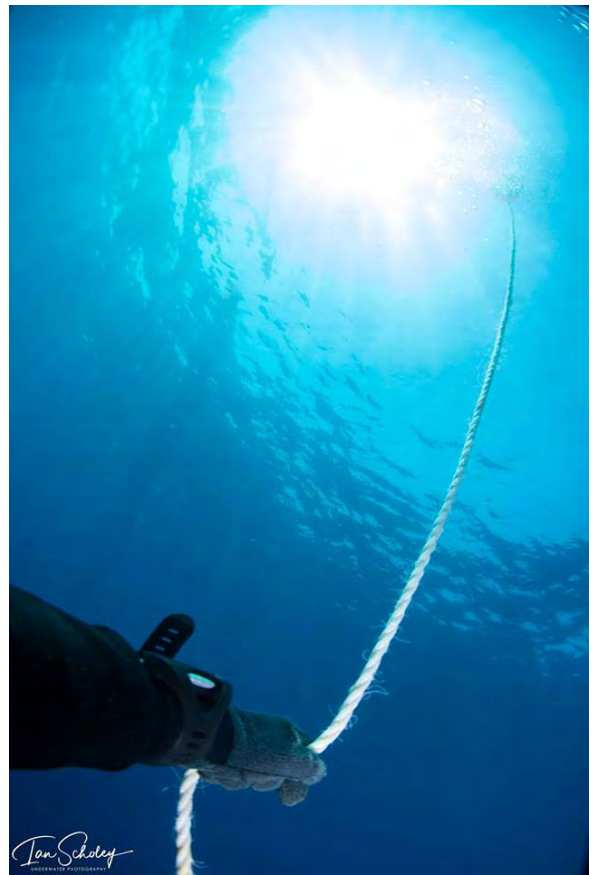
Just my boat, Sea Eagle, out today. I had Darren Pearce on board and conditions were excellent. We took advantage for a run down to the Ships' Graveyard. I wanted to get on the Dunloe but turns out both the marks I have for this wreck are duds. Next up was the Piggott and once again the mark I have was no good. Still in good spirits, my third choice was The Pioneer, a terrific wreck and one I knew my mark was good.

We headed slowly back towards the heads and did our next dives on the SS Rotomahana. The vis was slightly better on the Rotomahana than on the Pioneer at circa 15m. We finished the day with a second dive of the day for Darren on the J4. He reported excellent vis especially inside.

If anyone has good marks for the Dunloe and the Piggot, I would be really grateful if you could send them to me at [President@Vsag.org.au](mailto:President@Vsag.org.au)

- Ian Scholey ❖





# BEVERWIJK 19



## BEVERWIJK 19

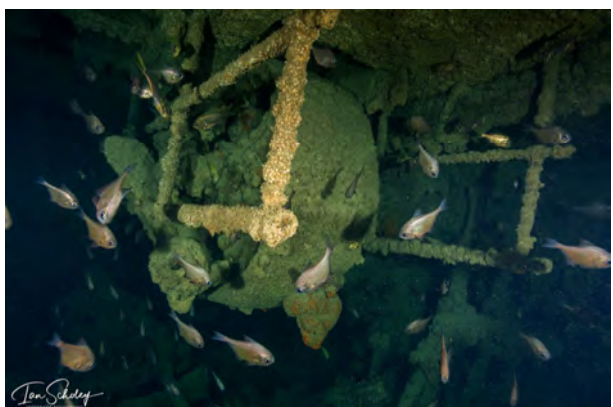
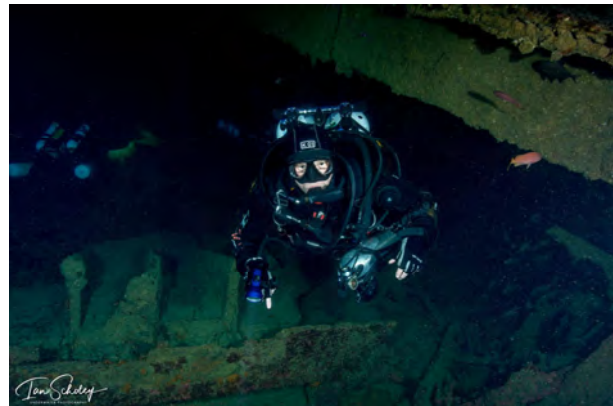
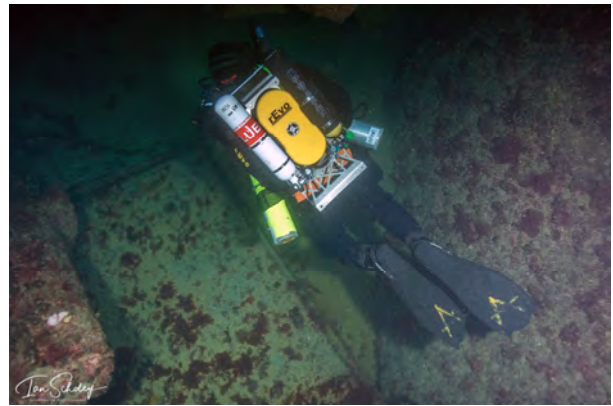
17th February 2019

Last Sunday we were fortunate to have the weather on our side for a dive on Beverwijk 19.

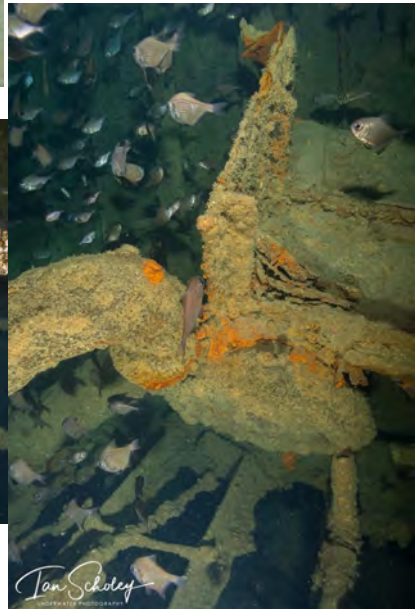
This Dutch built steam dredge was brought out to Australia in the 1950's to carry out dredging in Port Phillip Bay. After being employed to deepen the Geelong and Melbourne channels, she was laid up beside Yarra St Pier in Geelong for 5 years.

Eventually the decision was made to scuttle her in the Ships' Graveyard. During her scuttling on 7th May 1963 she turned upside down. She now sits upside down on the seabed in 46m of water. A large part of her hull is still intact, we were able to penetrate and have a good look around. Inside was full of Bullseyes.

- Ian Scholey . ❖







# SS COOGEE

## SS COOGEE

Sunday 17th February 2019

Boats and Divers:

Tim Robinson's 6.1mtr Trailcraft-launched from Portsea and fully crewed with:

Tim Robinson

1 x guest diver

Mark Howells

Darren Pearce (being picked up from Portsea Pier)

Carmine – launched from Sorrento and fully crewed with:

Peter & Carole Campisano

Christine Reynolds

Andrew Quested

The long-awaited day had arrived, my first boat dive since Truk in September 2018. Having waited 6 weeks for gear repair, I was champing at the bit. As luck would have it, the weather turned on a treat with 27-degree temperature, flat calm seas and no swell outside the heads.



The boat ramp car park at Sorrento was full when we arrived at 08:30am and having loaded our gear, I parked my car in one of the two remaining car spaces and descended the stairway to the ramp. We had a short wait to launch but an even longer wait while Carole parked the trailer, almost into Sorrento and then walked the long walk back. Our planned rendezvous at Portsea to meet up with Tim was slightly delayed, but that didn't detract from our planned dives and the trip out was very enjoyable. A smooth easy run with a million other boats on the water, all enjoying one of Melbourne's best dive days.

Two boats headed out, Carmine capably skippered by Peter Campisano and crewed by Carole Campisano, Andrew Quested and myself. The second boat skippered by

Tim, crewed by Darren Pearce, Mark Howells and a guest.

With perfect conditions and no shipping, it was decided to head to the Coogee for our first dive. With Peter's expert knowledge, I was able to gain some valuable lessons on navigating the rip safely.

We arrived at our destination without a hitch, Peter set up our safety marker buoy complete with dive flag and with unerring skill, he shot the dead centre of the wreck. Carole, Andrew and I, Darren and guest, had a leisurely dive, with no swell, no current and 20 m viz. An exceptional dive loads of fish live, even a weedy sea dragon.

We had lunch outside the heads while waiting for Tim and Peter to complete their tour of the Coogee, then geared up for our second dive of the day. This turned out to be a cray bash, with absolutely no crays being bashed. Lucky them! No crays, no abs, so the fish and chip shop in Rye did a good trade when the day was done.

First Carole, Andrew and I gave it our best shot, in surge and sandstorm in the 6-12 m mark, then Peter tried, but at the end of the day we were all crayless.

On the way back, I was able to practise my newly acquired

navigational skills as we traversed the rip safely within the small vessel shipping lane, then Peter gave me the helm and some valuable boat driving lessons on the way back to Sorrento.

Peter is an excellent captain, an excellent tutor and I feel very confident now, that I could manage a safe journey from Port Phillip Bay to Bass Strait and then from Bass Strait back to port.

Many thanks to Peter and Carole for their generosity on the day, for sharing their craft, their wisdom and their snacks, and I can thoroughly recommend the experience to any prospective divers. Champions!

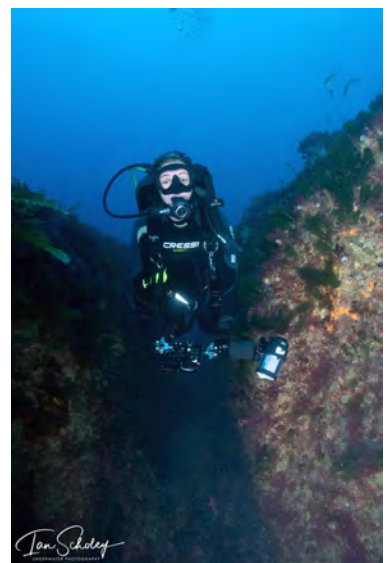
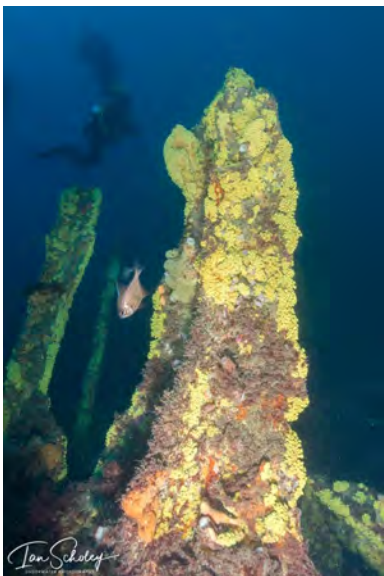
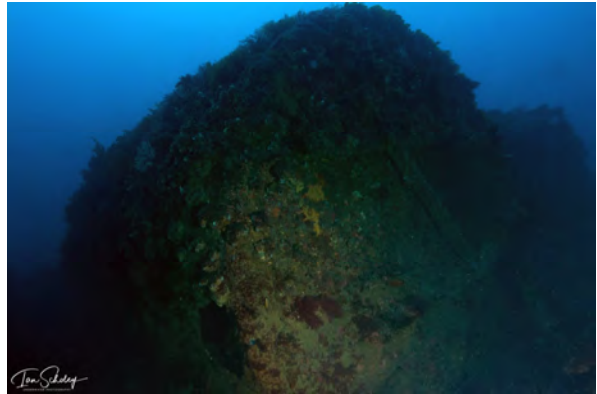
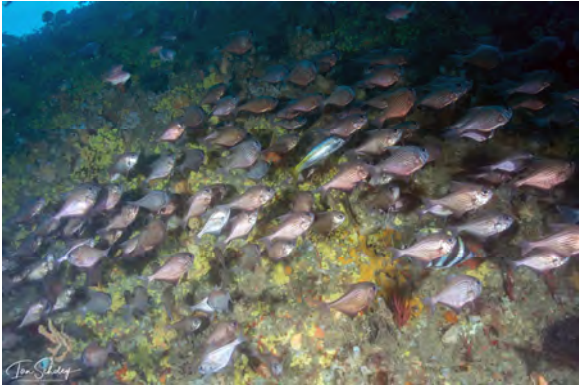
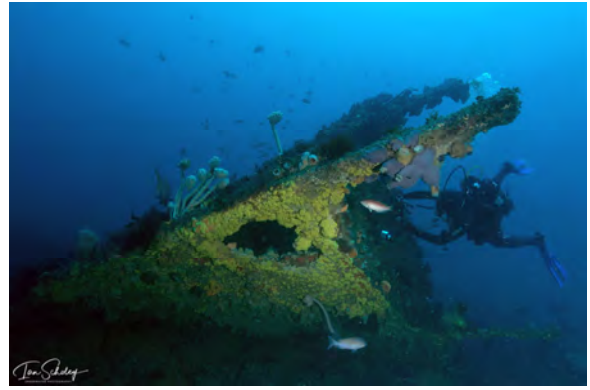
- *Christine Reynolds.* ❖

## **SS COOGEE**

17th February 2019

Third dive of the day last Sunday was the SS Coogee. I was buddied up with Mel Turner from the Under Water Explorers Club of WA. This was Mel's third visit to dive with VSAG and after her previous very bad luck with our weather, I finally managed to show her our diving at its best.

- *Ian Scholey.* ❖



# ANCHORS AWAY!

## ANCHORS AWAY - PART ONE...

### URALBA

(38 04 630 145 02 342)

Over many past years, divers have ventured out from Mordialloc or Beaumaris to dive the Uralba wreck. Located around 12 km south of Beaumaris, she rests in around 18-20 m depth.

This wreck is noted for three main things:

1. A very popular fishing mark when the snapper are running.
2. Very, very poor visibility.
3. Recreational fisher boats' anchors!

Over time, most of the diving was from my boat, Miles Ahead (AKA Signature One} and, happily, many fine divers joined in for the Uralba wreck diving from this great Haines Signature boat, when we launched from the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron {BMYS). David Flew also had many trips in his wonderful boat, Karingal. Many memories!!

The history of the Uralba....

A wooden hull, coal fuelled boilers, she was built in Australia in 1942. The boat was requisitioned by the RAN in



The Uralba in her heyday

July 1942 and used as a minefield tender!

The vessel was used for coastal trade until around 1953, after which she sank in the Maribyrnong in 1960. On the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1971, she was towed to the current site and scuttled as an artificial reef. {Stories have it that the amount of explosives used to sink the ship was “excessive”!}.

As it is now, the bow is still very impressive and (despite the poor visibility}, it is a good dive. And yes, care must be taken as there are fishing lines and anchor ropes/chains etc. on this site!!

So, to points 1. and 3.

Fishers generally sound around looking for “structures” and then drop an anchor, as something like this site seems a good mark. What

the fishos aren't aware of, is that in many cases, the dropped anchor gets solidly snagged in the wreck and can't be retrieved, so the anchor has to be cut off. Not good for a day's fishing.

Which brings us to the raising of anchors. Over, possibly, the past 15 years, when I have participated in the anchor diving retrievals, we have probably raised around 15 anchors! Anchors are Danforth, Plow, Fluke and Sarca, to name a few styles.

Our most recent Uralba dive was Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018. On board David Flew's boat out from Mordialloc, the divers were David, Owen Green, his mate, Darren Pearce and John Lawler. With a massive refurbishing and new diesel engine, the run down on Karingal was quite quick. As usual, there were a few fishos around the site, but no boats anchored right on the wreck.

David prepared ingenious systems for the retrieval of the heavy anchors, making the task quite simple and easy. Darren and I located a 15 kg plough anchor, which still had around 13 m of rope attached. So, at the end of checking out other anchors, we started the 18m ascent. Running out of rope, we shot my SMB with the anchor rope attached. A long rope was handed to Darren from the boat, so back down, attached rope to anchor rope and returned with my SBM. We then pulled the heavy anchor into the boat.

The next dive team scoured the wreck and extracted four more anchors. One was a near new stainless steel Sarca, which is one of the 'top of the range' items and very expensive.

In all, a great fun dive experience.

- John Lawler. ❖

## **ANCHORS AWAY -PART TWO...**

### **"ANCHORS REEF"**

**(38 16 524 144 41 903)**

The story as to how this reef came to be, requires an unfortunate trip back to the dredging of Port Phillip Bay heads and yet further again! It seems several anchors from the very early sailing days of ships, ended down in several areas where the dredging ship "Queen of the Netherlands" was working.

If these massive anchors where struck by the dredging plates, the cost would be massive to repair, so the anchors had to be removed. This was done by our local Commercial operators.

**Right now, there are 12 anchors on this site!**

Most of the anchors were discarded but many of the more historical units were saved. The anchors are mostly placed quite close to the West side of Popes Eye in around 10-14 m. The site is known as, “Anchors Reef”. Having been given the marks, Graham Ellis planned to dive the site. The items came up quite well on the sounder and the site was shot. We had a limited time to check the anchors, as the tide turned earlier than reported. We found about three anchors in the limited time but sufficient enough to wet our appetite for another better-timed dive.

We also noted the plaque giving some detail about the anchors, however, it was well covered, so quite hard to read. Next dive we plan to try to make the plaque readable.

- *John Lawler.* ❖



Information has been provided for  
VSAG members, courtesy of  
VSAG Life Member  
John Lawler

# EWENS PONDS

## PERMITS TO BE INTRODUCED AT EWENS PONDS

New snorkelling and diving permits for Ewens Ponds Conservation Park will be introduced in the coming months.

The Department for Environment and Water is introducing a permit system, and says it's to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the ponds.

Thousands of recreational divers and snorkelers visit the ponds each year, and underwater vegetation is being damaged due to the increasing number of visitors.

The new permit system will limit the number of people allowed in the water at any given time.

According to the department, permits will be available to purchase via the National Parks SA website, and will allow visitors to be in the water for up to one hour.

Snorkelling permits will be \$15 per adult, \$13 concession, and \$10 for children 15 years and under. Annual permits will also be available.

Permit fees will go towards the ongoing management of Ewens Ponds.

Ewens Ponds are closed each spring to let the ponds rejuvenate.





# SCALLOP DRIFT

## SCALLOP DRIFT

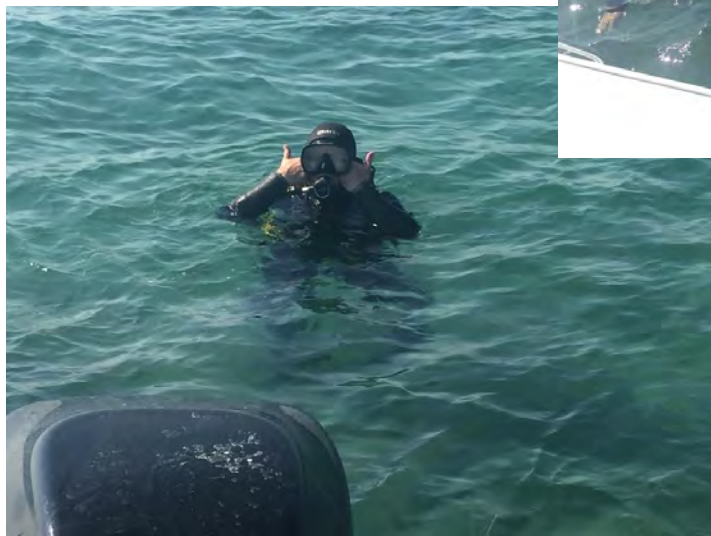
16th March, 2019

Great day out today with Brian and his family touring the southern reaches of Port Philip.

We managed a bag-out scallop drift, then snorkeling with seals at Chinamans, and finally another dive around Popes.

Great snorkeling along the way and perfect conditions on the water.

- *Andrew McKernan.* ❖



# March 2019

## Guest Speaker

**MARCH 2019**  
**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**MARK RYAN**

Our March guest speaker was Mark Ryan, owner of Aquability, member of both Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria, Inc. (MAAV) and Southern Ocean Exploration, (SOE).

Mark gave a presentation on the hunt for, the finding and diving the SS Glenelg.

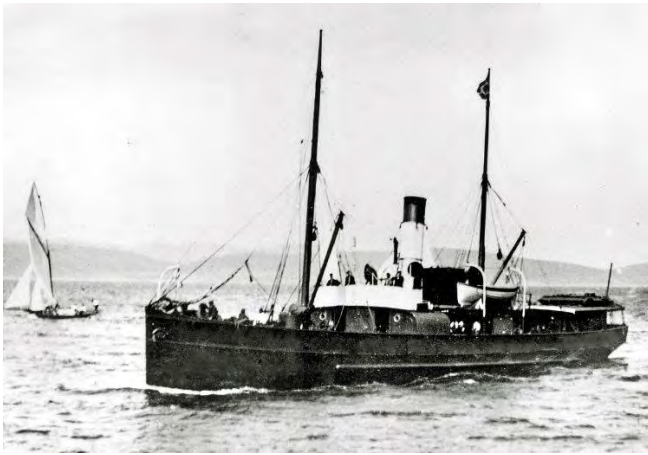
The GLENELG was a twin-screw steamer, owned by J.B. Ellerke. It was put on the coastal run during 1893, in opposition to Huddart Parker's SS DESPATCH. The vessel foundered suddenly on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1900, shortly after leaving Lakes Entrance. Only three people made it ashore in a lifeboat. At the Marine Court of Inquiry, a number of possible reasons for the disaster were suggested. However, no evidence was found to explain the sinking, which took 38 lives.



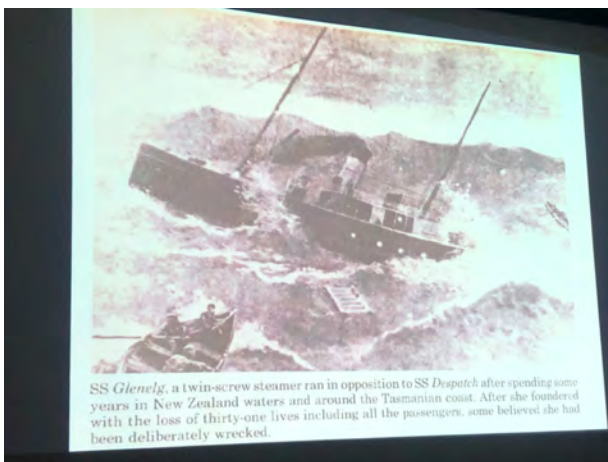
Mark explained the impact of the wreck's discovery on the relatives of the victims. The interaction with the relatives included teaching one of them to dive, so that they could see the wreck for themselves. Sadly, the wreck was robbed by persons unknown, of many of the numerous artefacts that were seen when it was first discovered.

For further information visit:

<https://soe.org.au/projects/ss-glenelg/>



*SS Glenelg*



*3D Site Plan SS Glenelg*

# The Pinnacle, Crack Cave & Cape Woolamai

## THE PINNACLE, CRACK CAVE & CAPE WOOLAMAI

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Water temp: 19°C

Vis: 10 m at The Pinnacle, 5 m at Crack Cave, 3m at Cape Woolamai

Divers: Peter Beaumont and Keith (guest diver)

Boats: Toucans

Photo's: Peter Beaumont

Just Toucans out and about at Phillip Island today, with six or so fishing boats motoring around after we dropped the shot line at the Pinnacle. We ran a 1up/1down live boat routine in fairly benign surface conditions of < 1m swell and 5kn NE wind. Vis during the dive was about 10 m and we saw the usual boarfish, beardies, old wives, 1 x blue devil plus a resident (seen it 3 times now in the same spot) brown grouper, showing small patches of blue (colour change).

With both dives completed, we headed off for a 1up/1 down dive at Crack Cave, then back to Cape Woolamai for another 1up/1 down dive. We had the boat back on the trailer by 12:30pm, so we headed off to the local café for coffee/lunch.

- *Peter Beaumont.* ❖



# MORNINTON PIER

## MORNINGTON PIER

Sunday 24th March 2019

Water temp: 18°C

Vis: 5 m

Divers: Peter Beaumont and Keith

Photo's: Peter Beaumont

Decided to do a night/day dive so Keith and I did an early dive at Mornington Pier. We geared up in the lower carpark at 6am, tossed the dive flag in, then entered the water near the rock wall and surface swam past the fishing charters, who were setting up for the day.

We tied the dive flag off on one of the shopping trollies, then commenced a 45-minute tour of the pier. We followed the pylons along on the harbour side to the pier's end, then went over to the reef edge, where there are five discarded wave screen panels lying on the seabed/reef area. There we found a couple of boarfish in amongst the newly created ledges, as well as the usual wrasse, goatfish etc. With the sun now rising we were greeted with the

first light of the day lighting up the water.

With the fishing charters well and truly departed for the morning, we recovered the dive flag and returned to the entry/exit point. After packing the gear away, we headed off to a local café for coffee and breakfast.

- Peter Beaumont. ❖



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Equal First - October 2018**



Equal First - The Pinnacle, Philip Island - by Peter Beaumont

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Equal First - October 2018**



Equal First - Sparkly short headed seahorse, Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Second - October 2018**



Second - Eyes on the worm, Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Third - October 2018**



Third - The Pinnacle, Phillip Island - by Peter Beaumont

## OCTOBER 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION

This month we had a bit of catchup to do. With the November meeting a wash out due to the rains, we had to go all the way back to October to start things off. This month we saw Peter Beaumont and Ian Scholey tie for equal first, with a couple of amazing local images. The duo were on song taking out second and third as well. Thank you to everyone who contributed. ❖



*Dive alternative,  
Blairgowrie - by  
Mark Jeffrey*



*Swimmer,  
Williamstown -  
by Phil Watson*

# HOGAN ISLAND

## HOGAN ISLAND TRIP

February 2019

Another great trip to Hogan, we had a narrow window for departure and return but it was awesome out there. At the last minute, Pam upgraded her trip, using her frequent diving points and opted for the full valet service.

David was too cheap to upgrade and had to be happy with being the water boy.



Whenever we put on a lamb roast, we always seem to attract a kayaker. Last time it was two, this time three. I am sure they wait on the other side of the island until they smell the

roast. True to form arrived Ryan, Tom and Fergus. Three lads originally from Bendigo.

They had an 11-hour paddle from Refuge Cove. On the way, they had a rudder failure. They tried to rope and tow, but this did not work, so they roped the kayaks together and Fergus had to slither in upside down and do a repair, all good and back on their way.

Soon after they arrived, they set up their camp, on went their walking boots and off to the top of the island they went.....after 11 hours of paddling!! I suppose their legs weren't tired.

Tom... 'he is an ideas man', his idea to paddle to Tassy. He also had an idea about Everest, but Fergus and Ryan didn't show too much interest in that. Finish the Tassy trip first, perhaps. What great guys! A night at Refuge Cove and back home.

Thanks Mike, Pam and David for all your efforts in preparation and on the island. It makes the trip worth it.

- Grant Callow ❖



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Equal First - November 2018**



Equal First - Baby Seahorses, Blairgowrie - by Phil Watson

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

## Equal First - November 2018



Equal First - Hang Loose, Mother Goose, Rio de Janeiro, Truk

- by Tim Forster

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Equal 2nd - November 2018**



Equal Second - Little Large, Uralba - by Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Equal 2nd - November 2018**



Equal Second - The Gardens, Devils Drop Off - by Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Equal 2nd - November 2018**



Equal Second - Still Hanging Loose, Mother Goose , Rio de Janerio, Truk

- by Tim Forster



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Third - November 2018**



Third - Seahorse, Uralba - by David Flew

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Third - November 2018**



Third - Anchor Bashing, Uralba - by David Flew

# POPES EYE ANCHOR FARM

## POPES EYE ANCHOR FARM

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

Water temp: 17°C

Vis: 5 m

Divers: Peter Beaumont and Keith  
(guest diver)

Boat: Toucans

Photo's: Peter Beaumont

With a 7:10am slack water forecast, combined with a fairly slow incoming tidal flow rate of 1.73 knots at 9:55am <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/tides/#!/vic-the-rip>, we loaded the boat and launched Toucans from Sorrento at 6:30am.

With the shot line set we ran 1 up/1 down, live boat. I entered the water at 7:15am and followed the line to the bottom. The shot had landed within a few metres of some anchors, so I swam around and took a few pics. After a satisfying 25-minute dive, I headed back to the surface and climbed back on board.

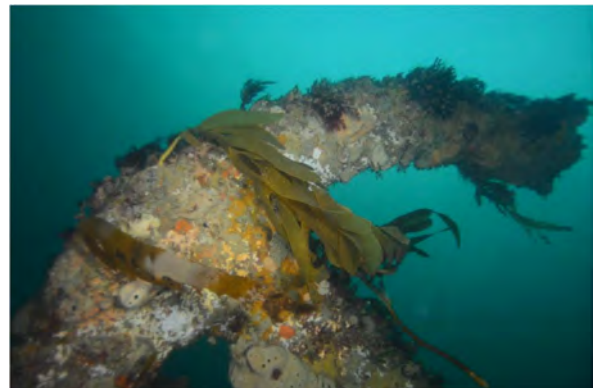
Keith geared up, so I dropped him in adjacent to the shot and he had a 20-minute dive before he noticed the current picking up, so he headed to the surface and climbed back onboard.

Overall, we had an enjoyable dive made possible by suitable slack water times, a low tidal flow rate, a second boat licence on board so we could run live boat and accurate marks supplied

by Lloyd Borrett on the Scuba Dr web page. <https://www.scubadoctor.com.au/divesite.htm?site=Popes-Eye-Anchor-Farm>

We then anchored in Popes Eye, had a bite to eat, then ran 1 up/1 down and used up our remaining air on the Western side of Popes Eye. We had the boat back on the trailer by 10:30am so we headed off to the Rye bakery for coffee/lunch.

- Peter Beaumont. ❖



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

**First - December 2018**



First - Male Rainbow fish, the Pinnacle - by Peter Beaumont

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Second - December 2018**



Second - Blue Morwong, Coogee - by Peter Beaumont

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

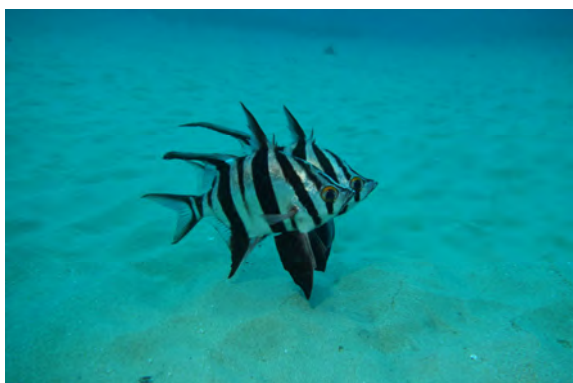
**Third - December 2018**



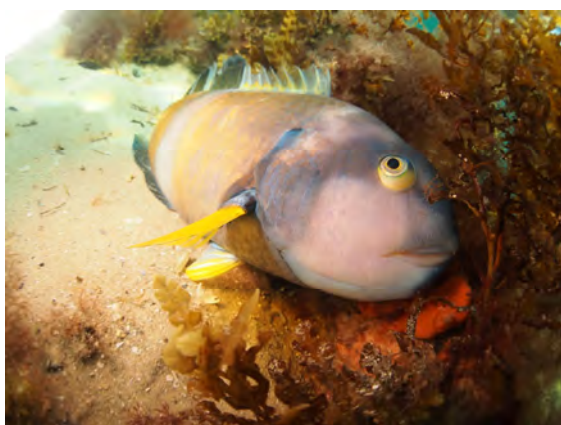
Third - Junior's First Outing, Frogmouth Reef - by Peter Mosse

## DECEMBER 2018 PHOTO COMPETITION

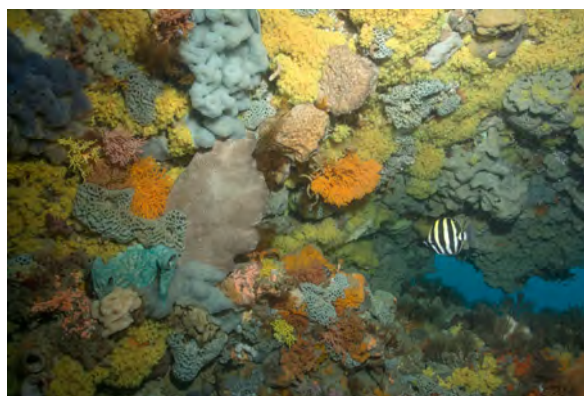
In December, it seems VSAGer's stayed closer to home but there were still a few people out and about. Peter Beaumont took his second First place for the night with his Male Rainbow Fish taken on the Pinnacle and followed it up with a second for his Blue Morwong on the Coogee, rounding out a great couple of months of photos. Third was Peter Mosse's Juniors First Outing, Frogmouth Reef. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Can I have this dance? Frogmouth Reef  
- by Peter Mosse*



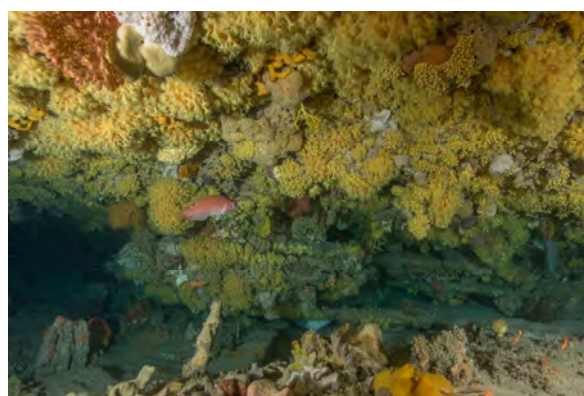
*Mr Friend, Rye - by Tim Forster*



*A colourful life, Torpedo Reef  
- by Ian Scholey*



*Ray, Shorlands Bluff - by Phil Watson*



*Yellow, Torpedo Reef - by Ian Scholey*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**First - January 2019**



First - Peacock Mantis Shrimp, Lembeh, North Sulawesi - By Ian Scholey



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Second - January 2019**



Second - Cuttlefish, Portarlinton - By Phil Watson

# SNAPPER POINT

## SCHNAPPER POINT SHORE DIVE

24th February, 2019

A trip back in time for Peter Beaumont and I this morning, with a shore dive around Schnapper Point to Mornington Pier, a dive I haven't done for at least 7 years.

The vis was a bit ordinary, as it usually is in that area, but it was a nice enough dive.

Very sad to see an explosion of Northern Pacific Sea Stars in the area. In places they blanket the sea floor.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

## Third - January 2019



Third - Alien, Lembeh, North Sulawesi - By Ian Scholey.

(Spot the little critters too!)

## JANUARY 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

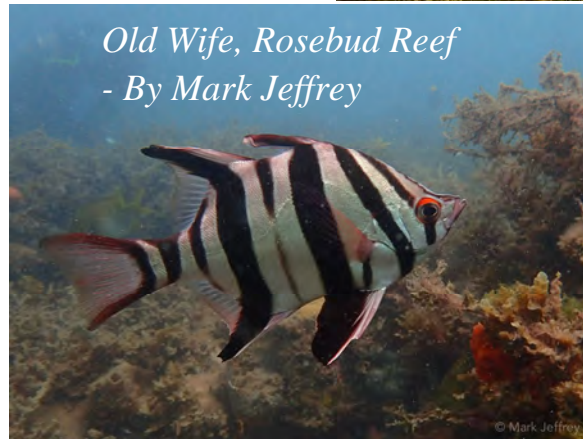
January saw two VSAGers start the year off with a trip to Lembeh Straight, North Sulawesi and they got some great images. First place this month is Ian Scholey, with his Peacock Mantis Shrimp. Second place is Phil Watson's Cuttlefish, Portarlington and third was Ian, with his photo of an alien!! Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Above: Feel,  
Lembeh, North  
Sulawesi - By  
David Flew*



*Above: St Leonards  
Pier - By Sandy  
Webb*



*Old Wife, Rosebud Reef  
- By Mark Jeffrey*

*Below: Stumpy,  
St Leonards Pier  
- By Sandy Webb*

*Below: Skeleton  
Shrimp, Mentone  
- By David Flew*



*Electric Boogaloo, Rosebud  
Reef - By Mark Jeffrey*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**First - February 2019**



First - Mantis Shrimp, Lembeh - By Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Second - February 2019**



Second - Scorpion fish, Lembeh - by David Flew

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Third - February 2019**



Third - Goatfish - by Carol Penfold

## FEBRUARY 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to our February Photo Contest winners. In a tight contest Ian Scholey just beat David Flew to take out the contest. The winning shot was of a Mantis Shrimp and was taken on our recent trip to Lembeh. Second was David Flew's Scorpion Fish. Third was Carole Penfold's trio of Goat Fish. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Photo by Carol Penfold*

*Photo by Peter Beaumont*



*Photo by Peter  
Beaumont*



FEBRUARY 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION



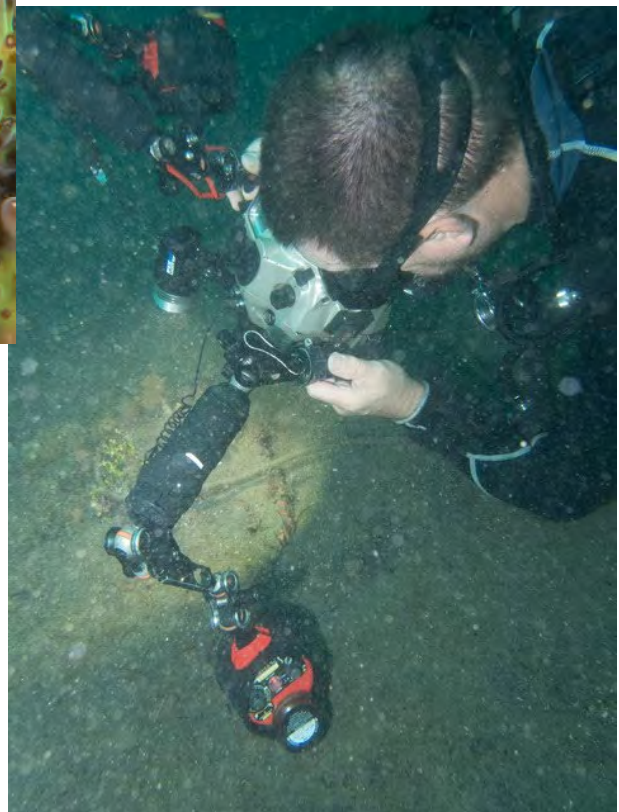
*Photo by Phil Watson*

*Photo by Phil Watson*



*Photo by Ian Scholey*

*Photo by David Flew*



# WILLIAMSTOWN ROCK WALL

## WILLIAMSTOWN

### ROCK WALL

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019

DIVE REPORT BY: Arthur  
KOKKINOS

DIVERS: Walter MEDENBACH,  
Arthur KOKKINOS

Up early this morning, meeting Walter at 8.30am for an early explorative dive in search of the rock wall located west of the Williamstown beach and adjacent to Gloucester Reserve where Hannah Street ends. We geared up and within 20 minutes we were finning out to the deep.

In all the times I've dived at Williamstown, I have never seen so many free divers with spear guns in one area, I lost count after 25. They were scattered everywhere. Once we were out at about 600 metres from the rock entrance, we placed our regs on and with the dive flag visible on the surface, we descended to about 5 metres.

Our main objective was to find the Rock wall that has a drop off to about 10 meters that leads into the sand. We were diving for about 15



minutes, heading west. We looked around and zig zagged our way forward. Visibility was at around 4 metres and water temp a warm 21 degrees. We reached a maximum depth of 7.7 metres and finally after 50 minutes of diving we never came across any wall. We signalled to each other to head back and finish the dive.

On our way back, I noticed minimal fish life. This could be the result of the many spear fishing divers converging in this particular area. As we approached the rocks towards the main exit wall, I couldn't help but notice the abundance of Black, Brown and Red sea urchins. They were everywhere in large numbers. They were in large clusters and since the last time I dived this area, about 1 year ago, they seem to have quadrupled. The effect they have is almost catastrophic. They have eaten all the sea weed and were now feeding on the nutrients from the rocks and from the sand on the bottom. Visibility was now not so good with minute particles floating in the water caused by the sea urchins sucking everything up. We finally reached our exit point and after 1 hour and 38 minutes of diving we exited the water and made our way to our cars.

Today was another enjoyable shore dive organised by Walter. Even

though we didn't find the rock wall, I'm still looking forward to the next one.

- Arthur Kokkinos. ❖



*Walter holding the line to the flag in one hand and a sea urchin in the other hand with no glove.*



*Arthur holding the string to the dive flag at a depth of 7.7 metres*



*Porcupine Puffer fish.*

# Popes Eye & South Channel Fort

## POPE'S EYE & SOUTH CHANNEL FORT

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Water temp: 18°C

Vis: 8 m at Popes Eye, 5 m at SC Fort

Divers: Peter Beaumont & Keith (guest diver)

Boats: Toucans

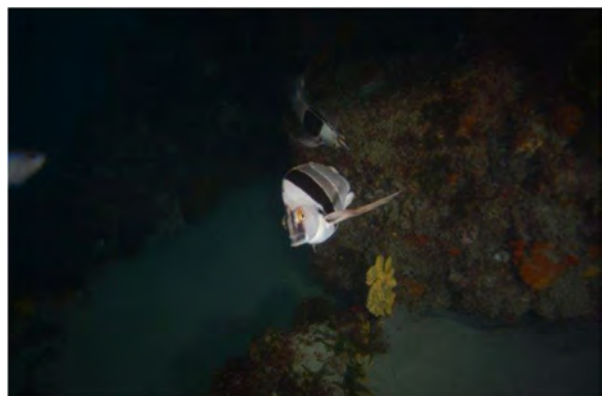
Photo's: Peter Beaumont

Launched Toucans from Sorrento at 6:30am and headed out to Popes Eye to catch the 7:45am slack water. Dived the western side and saw the usual array of fish life. With slack water over and the tide starting to run out, we returned to the boat, had a bite to eat, then headed off to South Channel Fort for the second dive.

After a quick pre-dive look at the Fort signs, Keith managed to find a fairy penguin asleep in one of the drainage pipes. After a 45-minute dive we returned to the boat and headed back to the ramp.

We had the boat back on the trailer by 11:45am, so we headed off to the Rye bakery for coffee/lunch.

- Peter Beaumont. ❖



# CHIMNEY ROCK



## CHIMNEY ROCK

4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Great conditions at Chimney Rock on Friday. We could have water skied through the Heads. The sandstone structures were incredible. Thank you to all involved.

Thank you to Sandy Webb for taking this photo of Carmin and its crew.

- *Peter Campisano.* ❖

# Blairgowrie



## BLAIRGOWRIE MARINA

Sun 17 March 2019

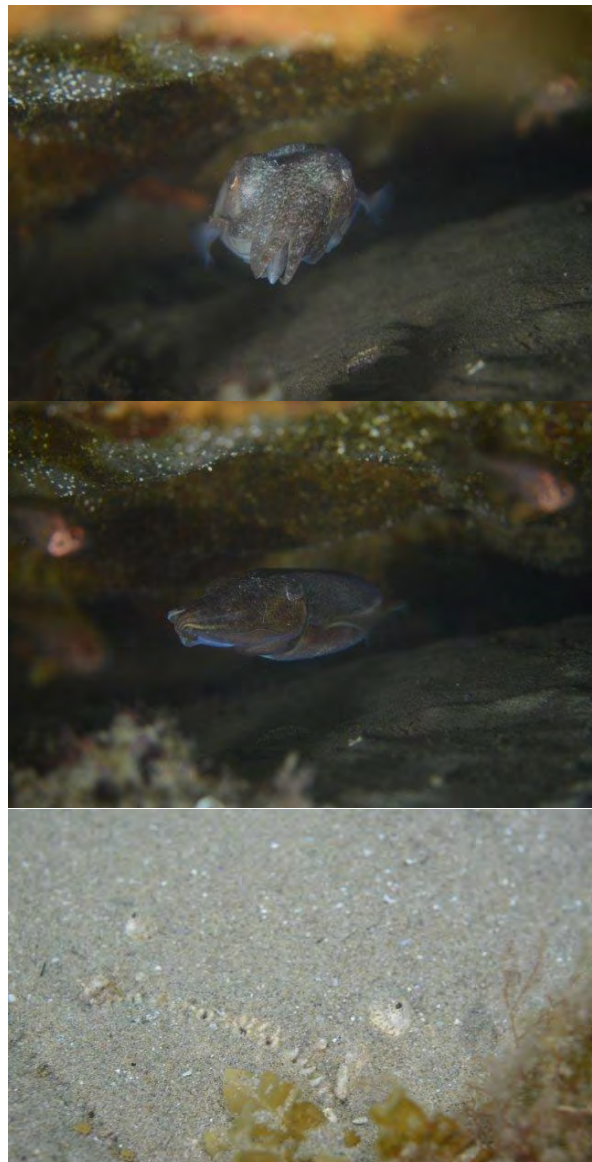
Water temp: 21°C

Vis: 8 m

Divers: Peter Beaumont

Went for an early shore dive rather than take the boat out. I was in the water at about 6:45am and swam down to the T junction. I was looking for juvenile cuttles, as well as tasselled anglers. Couldn't find any anglers but I did manage to find about half a dozen juvenile cuttles, a rather tired looking adult cuttle plus a stargazer. With my dive time approaching the 80-minute mark, I leisurely finned my way back to the exit point and returned to the carpark.

- Peter Beaumont. ❖



## VSAG SHORE DIVE, BLAIRGOWRIE.

10th February 2019

A no-go weekend for our boats this week, so we did a shore dive at Blairgowrie. Peter Beaumont and I timed our entries so that we exited together and we bumped into John Lawler in the carpark waiting for buddy, Graham Ellis, to arrive. I was glad we got there early as the carpark was packed with divers at 9.30am. Nothing much of note around, just the usual suspects but a nice dive anyway.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





Ian Scholey  
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY



Ian Scholey  
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

Home: Covered

Car: Covered

# Are You?

**DAN**  
ASIA • PACIFIC  
Divers Alert Network

## Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?

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

[www.danasiapacific.org](http://www.danasiapacific.org)

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



# Rock Lobster Tagging Program

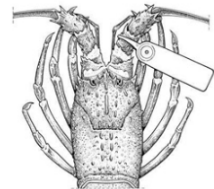
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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>



## Save the Rays

### REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITY

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

You can report illegal fishing activity to 13 3474.

### 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.

# SafeTrx

Coastguard have an excellent app that allows you to register your boat trip with them and allows them to track you, using the GPS in your phone.

How it works:

You register your trip, together with your latest return time. If you go an hour past this, without notifying

them, the wheels are set in motion to find you. Firstly, they will try and ring you or your nominated contacts and then, go from there.

Great tool for extra safety. Details can be found on the coastguard website:

[www.coastguard.com.au/SafeTrx](http://www.coastguard.com.au/SafeTrx)

## **BOAT RAMP PERMITS—MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE COUNCIL**

Annual Boat Ramp Permits are valid for a 12 month period from 1 November to 31 October. The annual permit fee is \$135.00 (GST free) which is valid until the 31 October 2019. The permit entitles the applicant to launch and retrieve boats from the Shire managed boat launching facilities and park in the designated car parks.

Daily Tickets

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

Yearly Ramp Passes and occasional parking vouchers are available from Mornington Peninsula Shire Council or pay by credit card online at:

[www.parkmobile.com.au](http://www.parkmobile.com.au)

### **Online with Parkmobile**

Set up an account online with Parkmobile by visiting [www.parkmobile.com.au](http://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.

Further information is available at:

[www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Activities/Sports-Recreation/Boating/Boat-ramps](http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Activities/Sports-Recreation/Boating/Boat-ramps)

# DIARY DATES

Yasawa Island Fiji 13-24 Jun 2019

Sea Esta, Townsville—Melbourne Cup Weekend

Ball's Pyramid & Lord Howe Island—Mid March 2020

Tawali 2020

## MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND 2019

Nov 1, 7:30 PM – Nov 4, 4:30 PM

World Class Diving on the  
Great Barrier Reef

Hi all

We will be doing something different to our usual Melbourne Cup Weekend road trip this year.

Adrenalin Snorkle & Dive are now operating a 3 night/10 dive Live-aboard departing Townsville which covers the central/southern Great Barrier Reef and includes two dives on one of Australia's top wreck dives the SS Yongala.

The Live-aboard takes a maximum of 18 divers in air conditioned cabins and includes 10 dives (2 x Night dives and 2 x Yongala ) and all



meals. There is a mixture of accommodation options available:

Share Cabin - 3 or 4 - \$930pp

Contact Ian for details.

# Ball's Pyramid & Lord Howe Island Dive Trip

## DIVING BALL'S PYRAMID & LORD HOWE ISLAND

When: **About Mid-March 2020**

Hi VSAG Divers,

Peter Mosse and Peter Campisano are organising a dive trip to Lord Howe Island for 2020. The date provided avoids the 2020 School Holidays and the Easter holidays. It is also the time of year that is best suited to diving the elusive Ball's Pyramid.

Several divers have already expressed interest and by having a minimum of eight divers in the group, Pro-Dive Lord Howe Island have said that we should be able to dictate where we dive, conditions allowing.

Also, there is a Free-On-Board (freebee) available to us, which we can share to reduce costs.

The diving around Lord Howe Island is excellent, but Ball's Pyramid ranks with the best in the World and is a "must do" dive for any diver.

### ***COSTING:***

Accommodation (8 nights) and airfare ex-Sydney is approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000 total. We would have to make



*Ball's Pyramid*

our own way from Melbourne to Sydney and back again.

**DIVING:** A ten dive package is approximately \$800.

Diving Ball's Pyramid (approx. 20 kilometres away) costs an extra \$150 per diver for a double dive.

Nitrox is available at an additional cost.

### ***NON-DIVER ACTIVITIES:***

Snorkelling off the warm, clear waters of Ned's Beach is a must for both divers and non-divers alike. It is a photographers' paradise!

There is bike riding, bowls, golf, walking, museums, etc. The list goes on.

There is a full-day guided walk/climb up Mt. Gower with magnificent views all the way.

There are several good restaurants and coffee places.

In fact, a coffee and muffin break between dives is quite common. It is also very easy to self-cater with a supermarket and a general store.

***HOW TO EXPRESS INTEREST:***

Contact Peter Mosse on:

[peter.mosse@gmail.com](mailto:peter.mosse@gmail.com)

or ring Peter on 0428-941-013.

OR: Peter Campisano on

[campo15@optusnet.com.au](mailto:campo15@optusnet.com.au)

or ring Peter Campo on

0402-110-386.



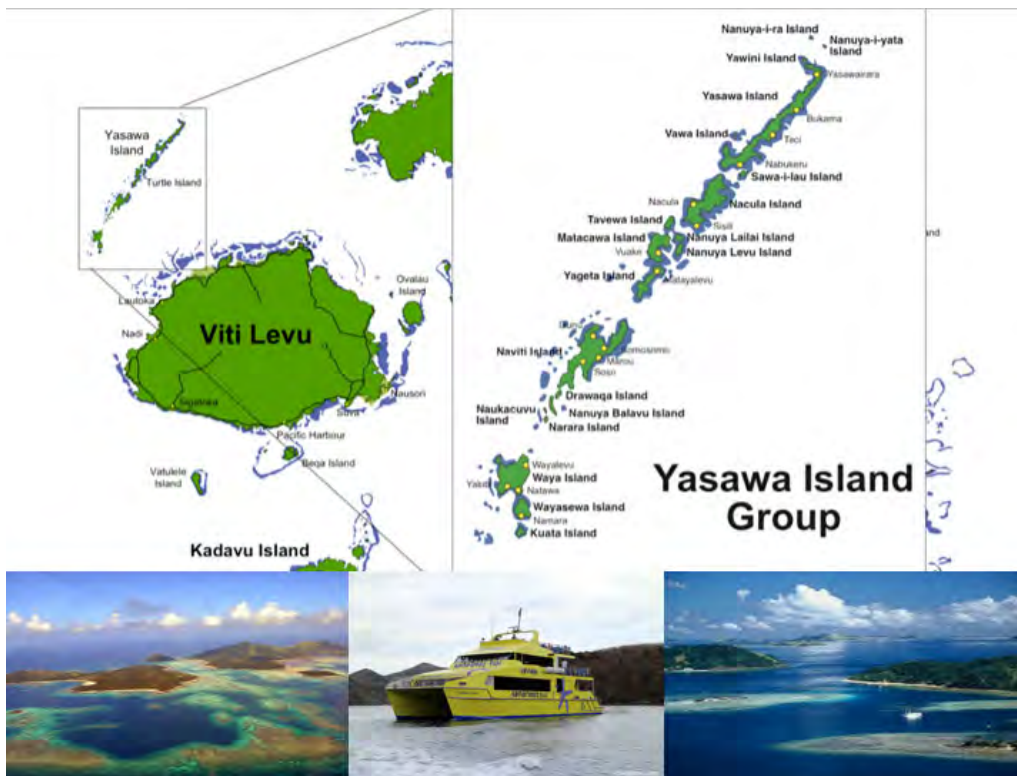
# YASAWA ISLANDS FIJI 2019



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 more importantly some great pelagic action. This fantastic shark dive offers a chance to get up close with an array of sharks: Bull, White, Silver, Black tip, reef Nurse, Lemon and Grey reef sharks are seen frequently slipping 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 Reef Bure or Beachfront Villa

Compulsory meal package \$99 FJD pp per day - paid locally

### FDI GATEWAY HOTEL

1 Night Deluxe room twin share

Included transfers

## DIVE

### BAREFOOT KAUNGA 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 2010  
DIVER \$4,635  
NON DIVER \$3,225  
REFERENCE  
DT9164

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

Exclusions: Equipment, rental, night dives, Monks, Snorkel and inflator pack, freediving included - 320 FJD Per day per diver

# VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar

*By John Ashley, Dive Roster Coordinator (DRC),*

*01 Jan 2019 - 30 Dec 2019 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](mailto: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**

If any boat dives DC is unavailable for any of the allocated dates, please contact David Geekie 0419 300 686, as he is our back up DC.

Thank you, best regards,

John Ashley. ❖



<b>Dec 1/2</b>	Boat Dives DC – Carol Penfold 0449 986 473
<b>Dec 8/9</b>	Boat Dives DC – Peter Beaumont 0403410725
<b>Dec 15/16</b>	Boat Dives DC Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Dec 18</b>	General Meeting, The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Dec 22/23</b>	Boat Dives DC Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Dec 29/30</b>	Boat Dives DC Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Jan 5/6</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
<b>Jan 12/13</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920 Shore Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
<b>Jan 15</b>	General Meeting - The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Jan 19/20</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Jan 26/27/28</b> <b>Australia Day Week- end</b> <b>Jan 28</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725 Shore Dives DC - Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
<b>Feb 2/3</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Feb 9/10</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Feb 16/17</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
<b>Feb 19</b>	General Meeting- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm Guest Speaker –
<b>Feb 23/24</b>	Boat Dives DC - Carol Penfold 0449986473
<b>Feb 24</b>	Shore Dive DC - Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
<b>Mar 2/3</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Mar 9/10/11</b> <b>Labor Day Weekend</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646 Eaglehawk Neck TAS Trip Organiser - (TBA)
<b>Mar 16/17</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
<b>Mar 19</b>	General Meeting- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Mar 23/24</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Mar 24</b>	Shore Dive DC - Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
<b>Mar 30/31</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684

<b>Apr 6/7</b>	Daylight saving ends 07 Apr – retard clocks 1hr Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Apr 13/14</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Apr 16</b>	General Meeting- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Apr 19/20/21/22 Easter</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403410725
<b>Apr 25 Anzac Day</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403410725
<b>Apr 27/28</b>	Boat Dives DC - John Ashley 0418 535 991 Shore Dive DC - Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
<b>May 4/5</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>May 11/12</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>May 18/19</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>May 21</b>	General Meeting- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>May 25/26</b>	Boat Dives DC - Carol Penfold 0449986473
<b>Jun 1/2</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684 Shore Dive DC - Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
<b>Jun 8/9/10 Queens B'day Weekend</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Jun 15/16</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Jun 18</b>	General Meeting- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Jun 22/23</b>	Boat Dives DC - John Ashley 0418 535 991
<b>Jun 29/30</b>	Melbourne Boat Show 28/29/30 -TBC <a href="http://www.melbourneinternationalboatshow.com.au">http://www.melbourneinternationalboatshow.com.au</a> Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Jul 6/7</b>	Christmas in July (TBC) Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Jul 13/14</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Jul 16</b>	General Meeting- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Jul 20/21</b>	Boat Dives DC - John Ashley 0418 535 991
<b>Jul 27/28</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Aug 3/4</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920

<b>Aug 10/11</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Aug 17/18</b>	Boat Dives DC - Carol Penfold 0449986473
<b>Aug 20</b>	Annual General Meeting & Awards Night- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00pm
<b>Aug 24/25</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Aug 31/Sep 1</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Sep 7/8</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Sep 14/15</b>	Boat Dives DC - John Ashley 0418 535 991
<b>Sep 17</b>	General Meeting- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Sep 21/22</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Sep 28/29/30</b>	AFL Grand Final Holiday (TBC) Boat Dives DC- Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
<b>Oct 5/6</b>	Daylight Saving starts 06 Oct – advance clocks 1hr Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Oct 12/13</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Oct 15</b>	General Meeting - The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Oct 19/20</b>	Boat Dives DC - John Ashley 0418 535 991
<b>Oct 26/27</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
<b>Nov 2/3</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Nov 5 Melb Cup</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920
<b>Nov 9/10</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Nov 16/17</b>	Boat Dives DC - Carol Penfold 0449986473
<b>Nov 19</b>	Christmas Party TBC/General Meeting- The Water Rat Hotel, 8.00 pm
<b>Nov 23/24</b>	Boat Dives DC - Michael Ngai 0414 894 684
<b>Nov 30/Dec 1</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725
<b>Dec 7/8</b>	Boat Dives DC - Graham Ellis 0403 070 920 Shore Dive DC - Walter Medenbach 0408 899 881
<b>Dec 14/15</b>	Boat Dives DC - Ian Scholey 0439 310 646
<b>Dec 21/22</b>	Boat Dives DC - John Ashley 0418 535 991
<b>Dec 28/29/30/31</b>	Boat Dives DC - Peter Beaumont 0403 410 725

# 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](http://www.parkmobile.com.au)*

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

## Tidal Streams at the Heads — April 2019

**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						
<i><b>MON 1</b></i>	<i><b>TUE 2</b></i>	<i><b>WED 3</b></i>	<i><b>THU 4</b></i>	<i><b>FRI 5</b></i>	<i><b>SAT 6</b></i>	<i><b>SUN 7</b></i>
0:13	1:14	2:18	3:15	3:59	4:34	4:05
<i>5:52</i>	<i>7:10</i>	<i>8:38</i>	<i>9:43</i>	<i>10:30</i>	<i>11:09</i>	<i>10:44</i>
11:12	12:19	13:44	15:08	16:15	17:07	16:50
<i>18:12</i>	<i>19:19</i>	<i>20:37</i>	<i>21:45</i>	<i>22:39</i>	<i>23:24</i>	<i>23:03</i>
<i><b>MON 8</b></i>	<i><b>TUE 9</b></i>	<i><b>WED 10</b></i>	<i><b>THU 11</b></i>	<i><b>FRI 12</b></i>	<i><b>SAT 13</b></i>	<i><b>SUN 14</b></i>
4:35	5:05	<i>0:15</i>	<i>0:49</i>	1:24	1:59	2:38
<i>11:18</i>	<i>11:51</i>	5:35	6:07	6:40	7:16	7:57
17:30	18:09	<i>12:25</i>	<i>13:01</i>	<i>13:38</i>	<i>14:18</i>	<i>15:03</i>
<i>23:39</i>		18:48	19:29	20:11	20:56	21:44
<i><b>MON 15</b></i>	<i><b>TUE 16</b></i>	<i><b>WED 17</b></i>	<i><b>THU 18</b></i>	<i><b>FRI 19</b></i>	<i><b>SAT 20</b></i>	<i><b>SUN 21</b></i>
<i>3:24</i>	<i>4:24</i>	<i>5:45</i>	0:45	1:45	2:40	3:28
8:49	9:57	11:26	<i>7:13</i>	<i>8:28</i>	<i>9:29</i>	<i>10:21</i>
<i>15:54</i>	<i>16:56</i>	<i>18:14</i>	13:03	14:32	15:43	16:42
22:39	23:41		<i>19:39</i>	<i>20:56</i>	<i>21:58</i>	<i>22:51</i>
<i><b>MON 22</b></i>	<i><b>TUE 23</b></i>	<i><b>WED 24</b></i>	<i><b>THU 25</b></i>	<i><b>FRI 26</b></i>	<i><b>SAT 27</b></i>	<i><b>SUN 28</b></i>
4:12	4:53	<i>0:21</i>	1:01	<i>1:38</i>	<i>2:16</i>	<i>2:53</i>
<i>11:07</i>	<i>11:51</i>	5:34	6:13	6:52	7:30	8:10
17:33	18:18	<i>12:31</i>	<i>13:08</i>	<i>13:44</i>	<i>14:19</i>	<i>14:54</i>
<i>23:38</i>		19:01	19:41	20:20	20:58	21:37
April		May				
<i><b>MON 29</b></i>	<i><b>TUE 30</b></i>	<i><b>WED 1</b></i>	<i><b>THU 2</b></i>	<i><b>FRI 3</b></i>	<i><b>SAT 4</b></i>	<i><b>SUN 5</b></i>
<i>3:36</i>	<i>4:27</i>	<i>5:32</i>	0:01	0:55	1:43	2:27
8:54	9:47	<i>10:57</i>	<i>6:46</i>	<i>7:49</i>	<i>8:39</i>	<i>9:22</i>
<i>15:33</i>	<i>16:17</i>	<i>17:15</i>	12:24	13:50	14:58	15:51
22:21	23:09		<i>18:35</i>	<i>19:57</i>	<i>21:02</i>	<i>21:53</i>

## Tidal Streams at the Heads — May 2019

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

**Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings**

April		May				
<b>MON 29</b>	<b>TUE 30</b>	<b>WED 1</b>	<b>THU 2</b>	<b>FRI 3</b>	<b>SAT 4</b>	<b>SUN 5</b>
<i>3:36</i>	<i>4:27</i>	<i>5:32</i>	<i>0:01</i>	<i>0:55</i>	<i>1:43</i>	<i>2:27</i>
<i>8:54</i>	<i>9:47</i>	<i>10:57</i>	<i>6:46</i>	<i>7:49</i>	<i>8:39</i>	<i>9:22</i>
<i>15:33</i>	<i>16:17</i>	<i>17:15</i>	<i>12:24</i>	<i>13:50</i>	<i>14:58</i>	<i>15:51</i>
<i>22:21</i>	<i>23:09</i>		<i>18:35</i>	<i>19:57</i>	<i>21:02</i>	<i>21:53</i>
<b>MON 6</b>	<b>TUE 7</b>	<b>WED 8</b>	<b>THU 9</b>	<b>FRI 10</b>	<b>SAT 11</b>	<b>SUN 12</b>
<i>3:06</i>	<i>3:44</i>	<i>4:21</i>	<i>4:58</i>	<i>0:34</i>	<i>1:12</i>	<i>1:52</i>
<i>10:01</i>	<i>10:39</i>	<i>11:17</i>	<i>11:56</i>	<i>5:36</i>	<i>6:17</i>	<i>7:02</i>
<i>16:36</i>	<i>17:17</i>	<i>17:57</i>	<i>18:37</i>	<i>12:36</i>	<i>13:17</i>	<i>14:00</i>
<i>22:38</i>	<i>23:18</i>	<i>23:56</i>		<i>19:18</i>	<i>19:59</i>	<i>20:41</i>
<b>MON 13</b>	<b>TUE 14</b>	<b>WED 15</b>	<b>THU 16</b>	<b>FRI 17</b>	<b>SAT 18</b>	<b>SUN 19</b>
<i>2:37</i>	<i>3:29</i>	<i>4:32</i>	<i>5:44</i>	<i>6:58</i>	<i>0:57</i>	<i>1:53</i>
<i>7:54</i>	<i>8:57</i>	<i>10:14</i>	<i>11:43</i>	<i>13:15</i>	<i>8:04</i>	<i>9:01</i>
<i>14:46</i>	<i>15:36</i>	<i>16:35</i>	<i>17:49</i>	<i>19:14</i>	<i>14:35</i>	<i>15:39</i>
<i>21:24</i>	<i>22:11</i>	<i>23:03</i>	<i>23:59</i>		<i>20:33</i>	<i>21:37</i>
<b>MON 20</b>	<b>TUE 21</b>	<b>WED 22</b>	<b>THU 23</b>	<b>FRI 24</b>	<b>SAT 25</b>	<b>SUN 26</b>
<i>2:45</i>	<i>3:33</i>	<i>4:18</i>	<i>0:01</i>	<i>0:41</i>	<i>1:19</i>	<i>1:55</i>
<i>9:52</i>	<i>10:37</i>	<i>11:19</i>	<i>5:01</i>	<i>5:42</i>	<i>6:22</i>	<i>7:02</i>
<i>16:33</i>	<i>17:19</i>	<i>18:01</i>	<i>11:58</i>	<i>12:35</i>	<i>13:09</i>	<i>13:43</i>
<i>22:32</i>	<i>23:19</i>		<i>18:40</i>	<i>19:16</i>	<i>19:51</i>	<i>20:25</i>
May					June	
<b>MON 27</b>	<b>TUE 28</b>	<b>WED 29</b>	<b>THU 30</b>	<b>FRI 31</b>	<b>SAT 1</b>	<b>SUN 2</b>
<i>2:33</i>	<i>3:14</i>	<i>4:00</i>	<i>4:54</i>	<i>5:53</i>	<i>6:51</i>	<i>0:26</i>
<i>7:44</i>	<i>8:32</i>	<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:35</i>	<i>11:57</i>	<i>13:21</i>	<i>7:45</i>
<i>14:17</i>	<i>14:52</i>	<i>15:31</i>	<i>16:19</i>	<i>17:25</i>	<i>18:51</i>	<i>14:32</i>
<i>20:58</i>	<i>21:33</i>	<i>22:11</i>	<i>22:52</i>	<i>23:38</i>		<i>20:13</i>

## Tidal Streams at the Heads — June 2019

**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	
<b>MON 27</b>	<b>TUE 28</b>	<b>WED 29</b>	<b>THU 30</b>	<b>FRI 31</b>	<b>SAT 1</b>	<b>SUN 2</b>
<i>2:33</i>	<i>3:14</i>	<i>4:00</i>	<i>4:54</i>	<i>5:53</i>	<i>6:51</i>	<i>0:26</i>
<i>7:44</i>	<i>8:32</i>	<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:35</i>	<i>11:57</i>	<i>13:21</i>	<i>7:45</i>
<i>14:17</i>	<i>14:52</i>	<i>15:31</i>	<i>16:19</i>	<i>17:25</i>	<i>18:51</i>	<i>14:32</i>
<i>20:58</i>	<i>21:33</i>	<i>22:11</i>	<i>22:52</i>	<i>23:38</i>		<i>20:13</i>
<b>MON 3</b>	<b>TUE 4</b>	<b>WED 5</b>	<b>THU 6</b>	<b>FRI 7</b>	<b>SAT 8</b>	<b>SUN 9</b>
<i>1:17</i>	<i>2:06</i>	<i>2:54</i>	<i>3:41</i>	<i>4:28</i>	<i>0:19</i>	<i>1:02</i>
<i>8:33</i>	<i>9:20</i>	<i>10:05</i>	<i>10:49</i>	<i>11:34</i>	<i>5:16</i>	<i>6:06</i>
<i>15:29</i>	<i>16:17</i>	<i>17:01</i>	<i>17:43</i>	<i>18:24</i>	<i>12:19</i>	<i>13:03</i>
<i>21:17</i>	<i>22:08</i>	<i>22:54</i>	<i>23:36</i>		<i>19:04</i>	<i>19:43</i>
<b>MON 10</b>	<b>TUE 11</b>	<b>WED 12</b>	<b>THU 13</b>	<b>FRI 14</b>	<b>SAT 15</b>	<b>SUN 16</b>
<i>1:48</i>	<i>2:37</i>	<i>3:31</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>5:33</i>	<i>6:37</i>	<i>0:13</i>
<i>7:01</i>	<i>8:02</i>	<i>9:11</i>	<i>10:28</i>	<i>11:52</i>	<i>13:15</i>	<i>7:37</i>
<i>13:48</i>	<i>14:33</i>	<i>15:22</i>	<i>16:17</i>	<i>17:24</i>	<i>18:45</i>	<i>14:27</i>
<i>20:22</i>	<i>21:01</i>	<i>21:42</i>	<i>22:28</i>	<i>23:18</i>		<i>20:07</i>
<b>MON 17</b>	<b>TUE 18</b>	<b>WED 19</b>	<b>THU 20</b>	<b>FRI 21</b>	<b>SAT 22</b>	<b>SUN 23</b>
<i>1:10</i>	<i>2:06</i>	<i>2:59</i>	<i>3:48</i>	<i>4:33</i>	<i>0:21</i>	<i>0:58</i>
<i>8:32</i>	<i>9:23</i>	<i>10:09</i>	<i>10:51</i>	<i>11:31</i>	<i>5:17</i>	<i>5:58</i>
<i>15:28</i>	<i>16:19</i>	<i>17:03</i>	<i>17:42</i>	<i>18:18</i>	<i>12:07</i>	<i>12:41</i>
<i>21:15</i>	<i>22:12</i>	<i>23:00</i>	<i>23:42</i>		<i>18:51</i>	<i>19:22</i>
<b>MON 24</b>	<b>TUE 25</b>	<b>WED 26</b>	<b>THU 27</b>	<b>FRI 28</b>	<b>SAT 29</b>	<b>SUN 30</b>
<i>1:34</i>	<i>2:10</i>	<i>2:48</i>	<i>3:29</i>	<i>4:13</i>	<i>5:02</i>	<i>5:56</i>
<i>6:40</i>	<i>7:24</i>	<i>8:12</i>	<i>9:06</i>	<i>10:09</i>	<i>11:21</i>	<i>12:41</i>
<i>13:14</i>	<i>13:46</i>	<i>14:20</i>	<i>14:55</i>	<i>15:36</i>	<i>16:29</i>	<i>17:40</i>
<i>19:51</i>	<i>20:20</i>	<i>20:50</i>	<i>21:21</i>	<i>21:55</i>	<i>22:34</i>	<i>23:20</i>

# Emergency Contact Information

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

**VHF Channel 16**  
**27 MHz AM Channel 88**

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

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

**Speak slowly and clearly**

<p><b>Mayday Call</b> – for grave &amp; imminent danger requiring immediate assistance</p>	<p><b>Urgency Call</b> – when the danger is not grave or imminent</p>
<p><b>Distress Call:</b></p> <p>Mayday, Mayday, Mayday</p> <p>This is: <u>“Boat call sign x3”</u> (Boat owners insert your call sign)</p>	<p><b>Urgency Call:</b></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><b>Distress message after contact made:</b></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><b>Follow advice given by the emergency agency – DO NOT “Sign off” until told so by agency.</b></p>	<p><b>Urgency message after contact made:</b></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><b>Follow advice given by the emergency agency – DO NOT “Sign off” until told so by agency.</b></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**

*Mantis Shrimp, Lembah Strait, Indonesia*  
- Photo by Ian Scholey

