



Fathoms

DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

Cover Photo :
Short-headed Sea Horse
- by Ian Scholey



**Puerto Galera, Dumaguete, Philippines,
Rabaul, Conflict Islands, PNG**
VSAG Cup Weekend Dive Trip And more...

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

www.vsag.org.au



The destination for next year's club overseas trip is Dumaguete in the Philippines. This will be a great trip to bring the family along, as there is plenty for them to do while we are out diving.

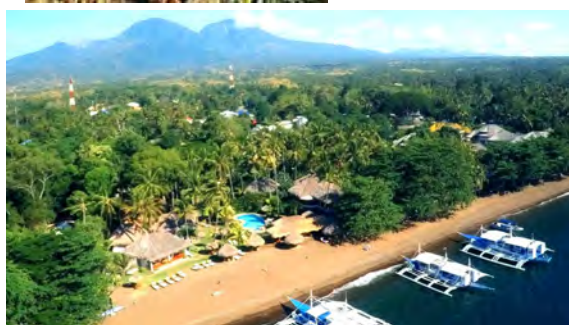
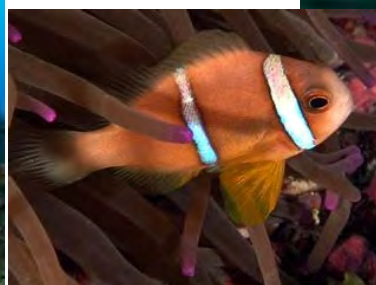
If anyone is interested please contact me for a booking form at:

President@vsag.org.au

While we are in the Philippines, it seems silly not to take the opportunity to extend the trip in Palau. Koror is just a 2 hour flight from Manila and has some of the best diving anywhere.

If anyone is interested please contact me for a booking form at:

President@vsag.org.au





Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

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NOTICES

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

All Members Welcome



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

256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE

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

VSAG on Facebook

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



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

Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia

Postal Address

PO Box 382, Melville WA 6956

Email: info@uecwa.com.au

Meetings

Esplanade Hotel
The Esplanade, Fremantle, WA

Boat

Port Coogee Marina
Chieftain Esplanade, North Coogee, WA

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

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



Your VSAG Committee 2019–2020

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EX HMAS CANBERRA 10th ANNIVERSARY DIVE

EX HMAS CANBERRA

10TH ANNIVERSARY DIVE.

4th October, 2019

A big VSAG crew out with Redboats today to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the scuttling of Ex HMAS Canberra. The rip was a little feisty but we got through under the skilled skippering of Luke English and it really wasn't that bad on the wreck. A bit of surge but spectacular vis. Buddy Chris Porter and I did a nice 60 minutes exploring the wreck. We started at the bow where, of all things, I found a Weedy Sea Dragon before entering on the lower deck and meandering our way through the ship to the stern and then back to the bridge. Diving from VSAG today were: John Lawler, Graham Ellis, Carol Penfold, Rowan Salger, David Politakis, Owen Green, Tony Hood, Tony Knott, Peter Mosse, Claire Cooper, Chris Porter and myself.

- Ian Scholey. ❖

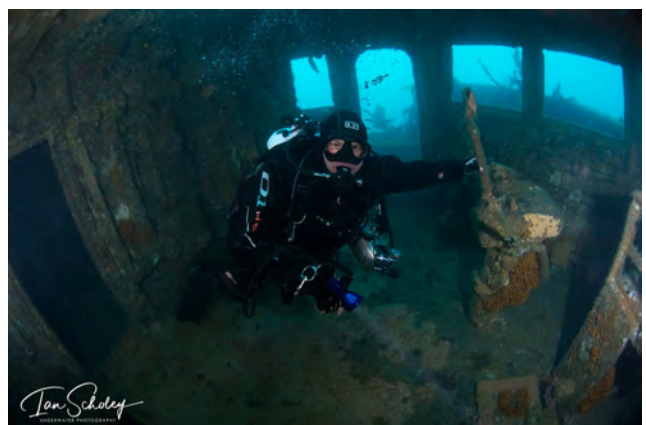
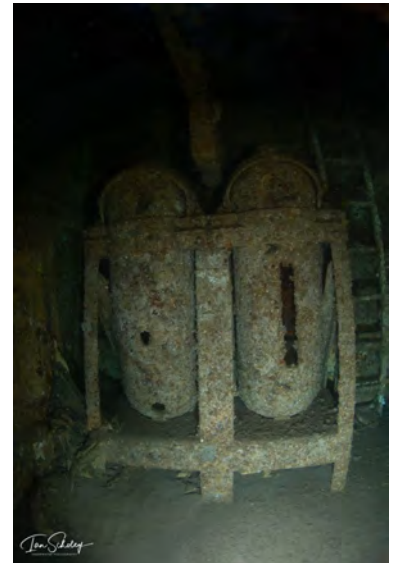
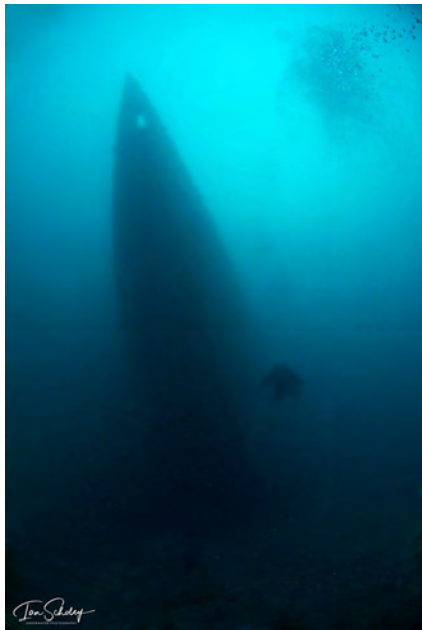
Many thanks to the Victorian Artificial Reef Society for making this reef wreck a reality. For further information on the preparation and sinking of the Ex HMAS Canberra Frigate, please visit <http://www.hmascanberra.com.au/>



HMAS Canberra Frigate being towed to the dive site.



John Lawler



PUERTO GALERA

PUERTO GALERA

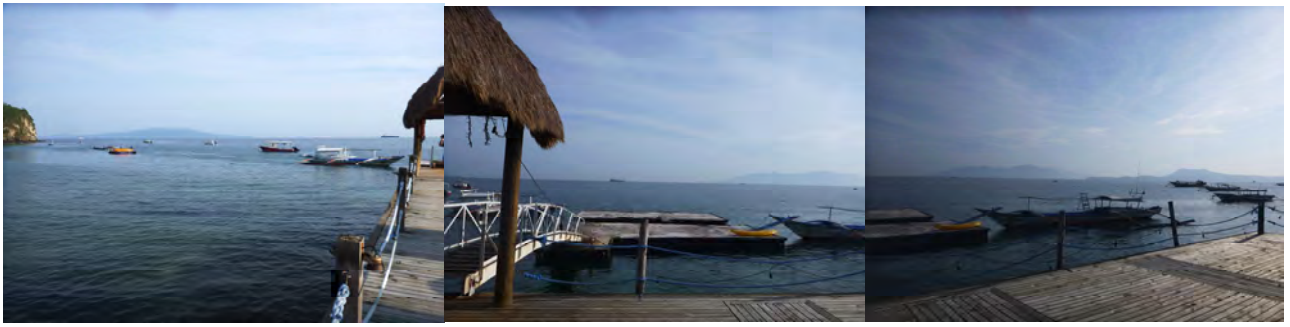
Island of Mindoro, Philippines

21st September, 2019

Just a short 2 hour bus trip and a one hour ferry ride from Manila, onboard the Mindoro Sprinter, is the pretty little sea side village of Puerto Galera.

Here our adventure begins with Asia Divers, Padi Dive Centre and El Galleon Hotel and Spa. The dive shop was right beside our hotel, extending onto the pier. Everything was extremely convenient, well organised and friendly.

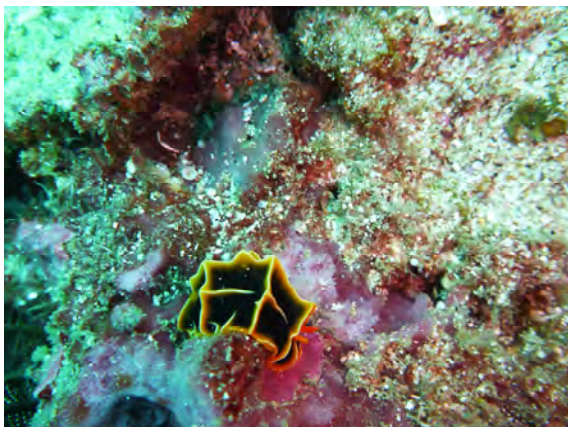
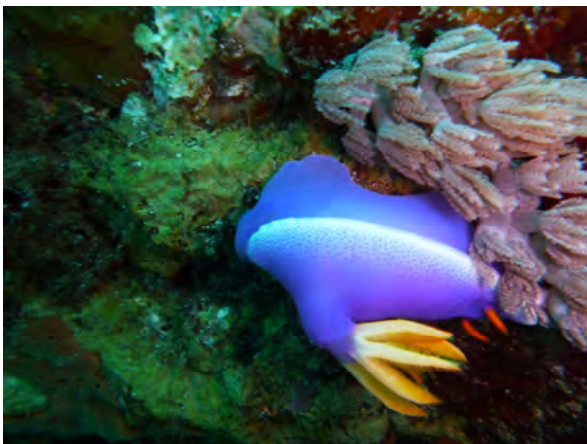


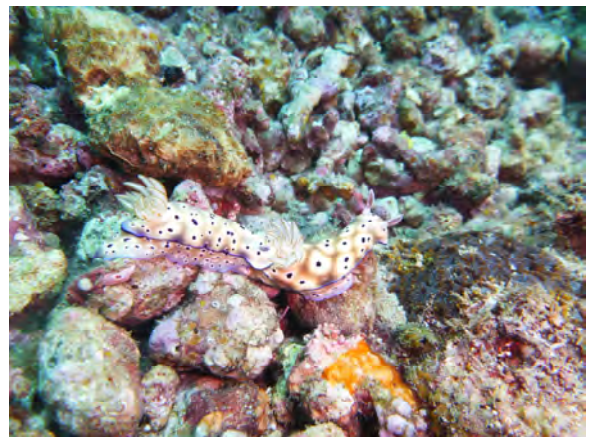
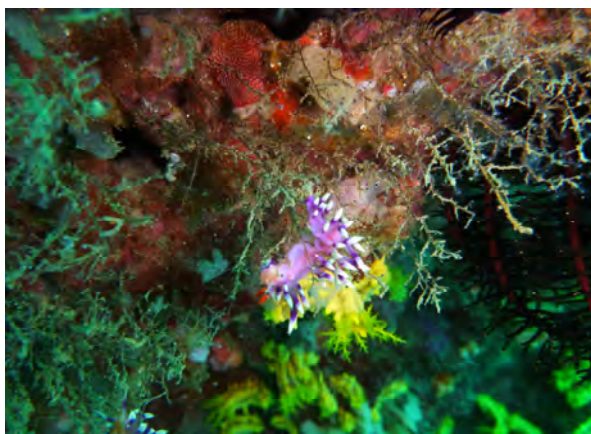
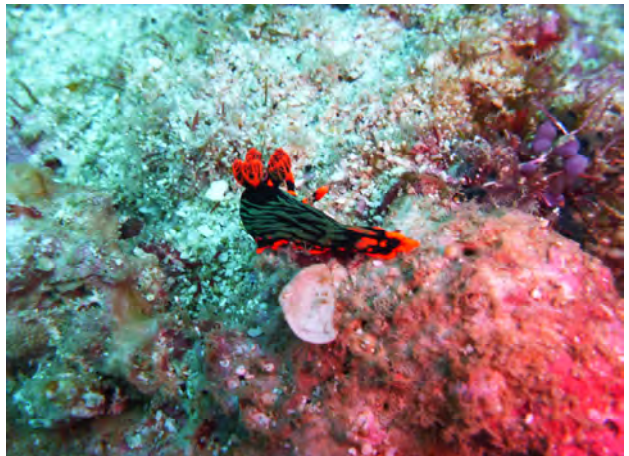


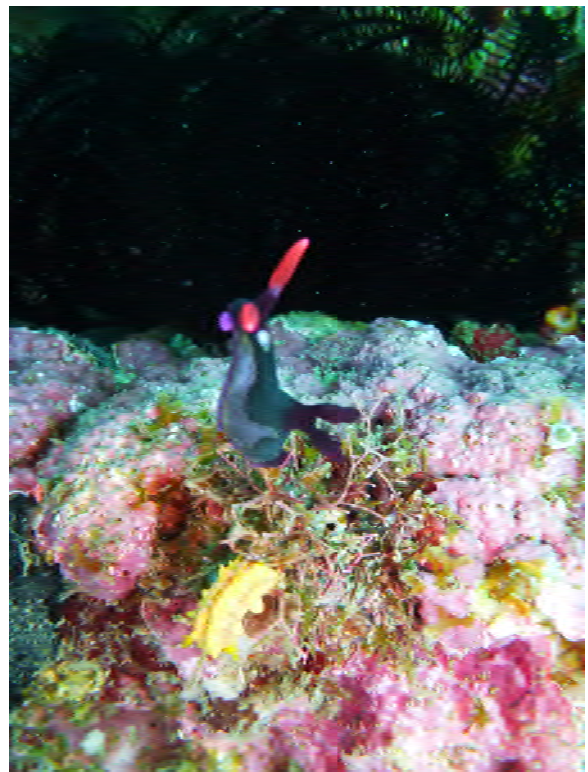
The weather was picture perfect for the duration of our stay and the locals made us feel extremely welcome.

We had booked 5 dives per day, with free nitrox and the many dive sites did not disappoint with abundance of sea life.

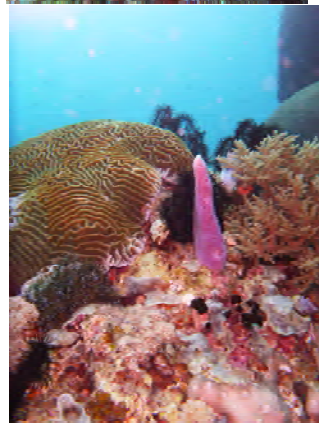
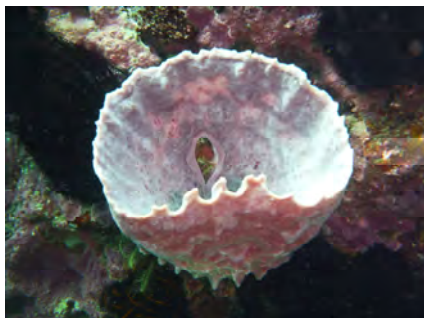
For anyone interested in nudibranchs, this is the place to be for variety. Here are just a few..

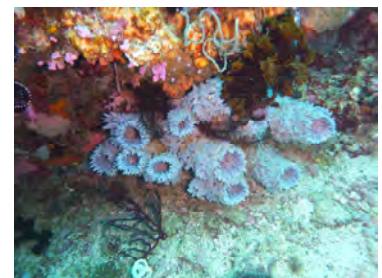
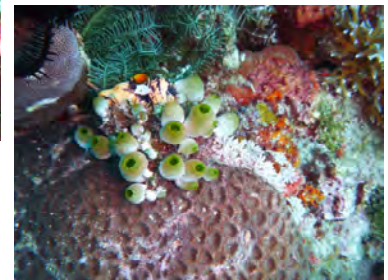
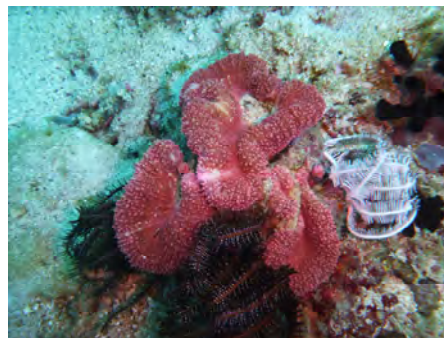
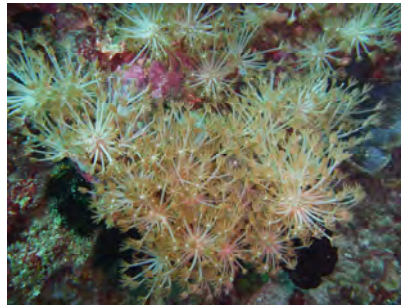




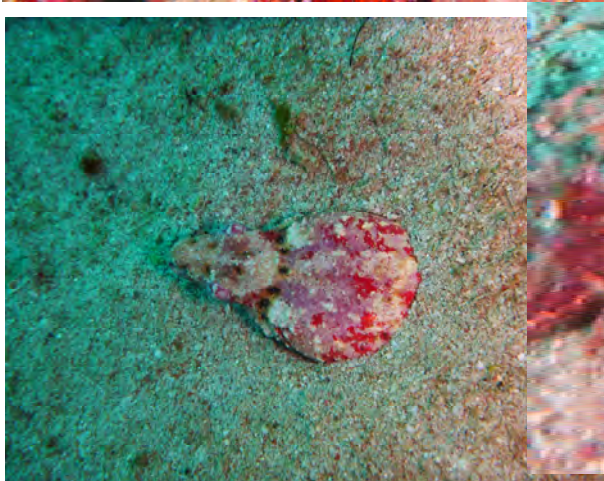


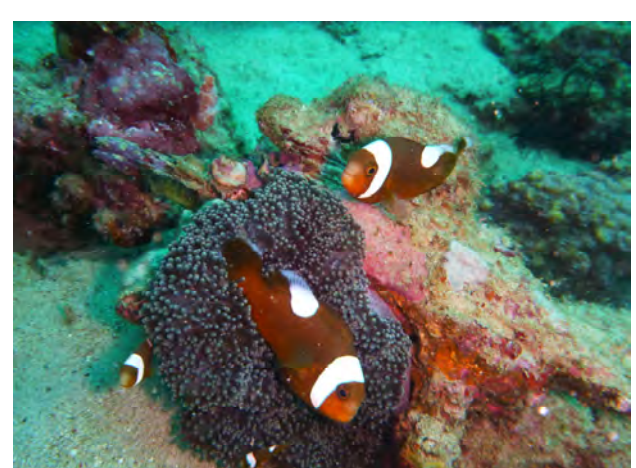
Puerto Galera has a wealth of very colourful hard and soft corals, walls, swim throughs and wrecks.



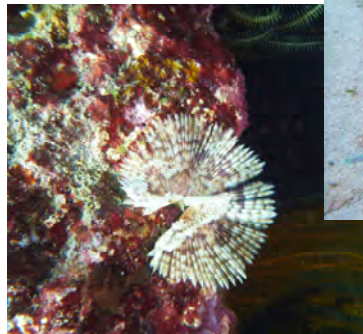
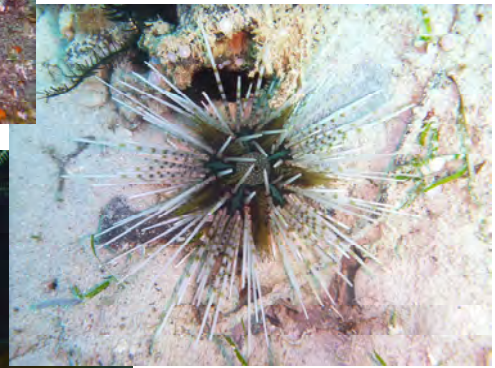
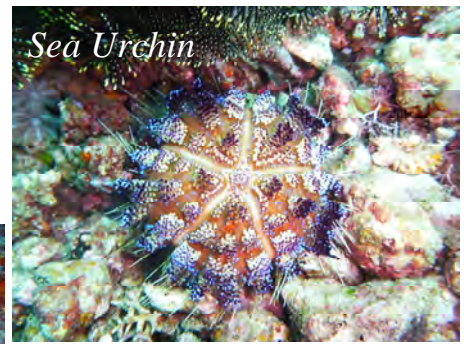


Eels, Anemone Fish and an array of exotic fish life are a photographer's delight at Puerto Galera.





Puerto Galera has a wealth of very diversified sea life, brittle sea stars all colours, frog fish all colours, a photographer's delight..







Lion fish



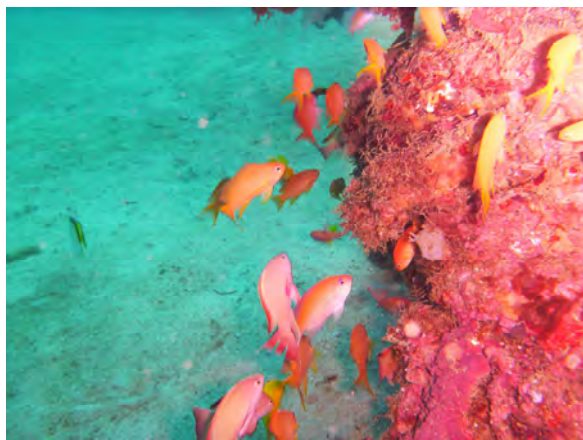
Scorpion Fish



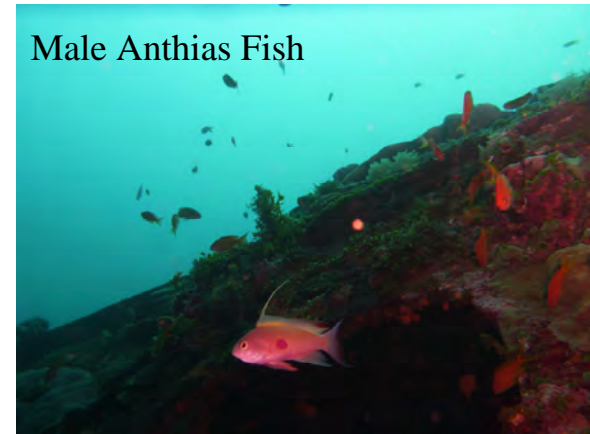
Electric Clam



Male Anthias Fish



Female Anthias Fish





Bat Fish



Banner Fish



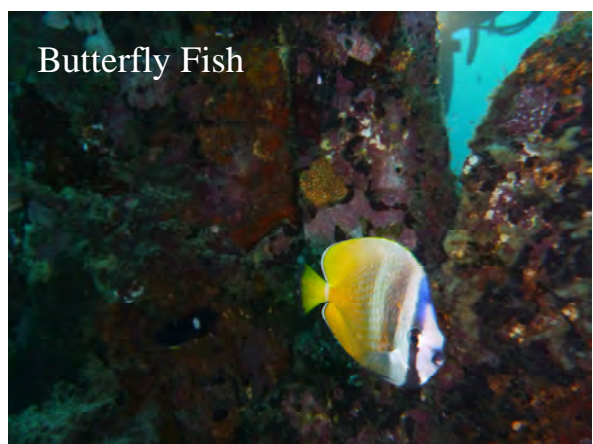
Moorish Idol



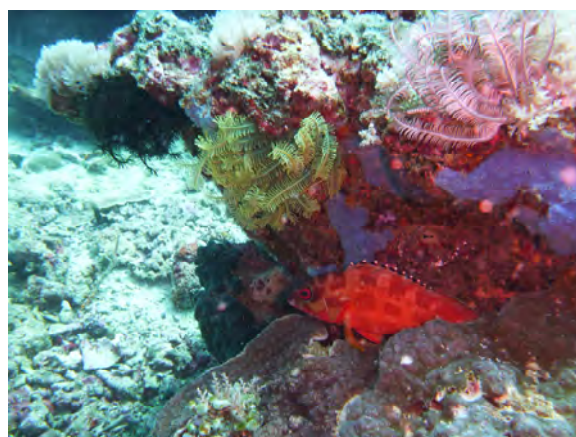
Banded Coral Sea Snake



Octopus



Butterfly Fish



Butterfly Fish



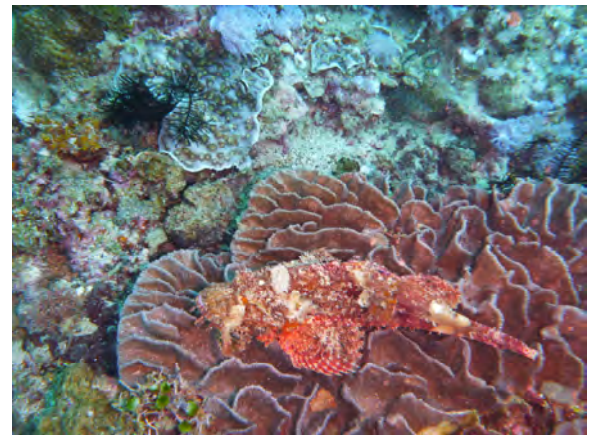
*San Antonio Island,
Manila Chanel*



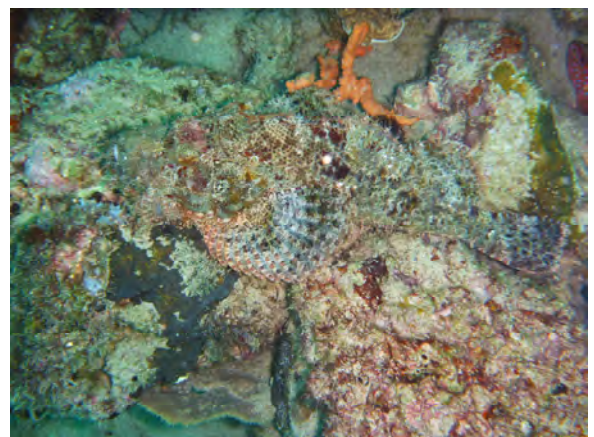
Monkey Beach Dive Site



Dive Boats



Stone Fish





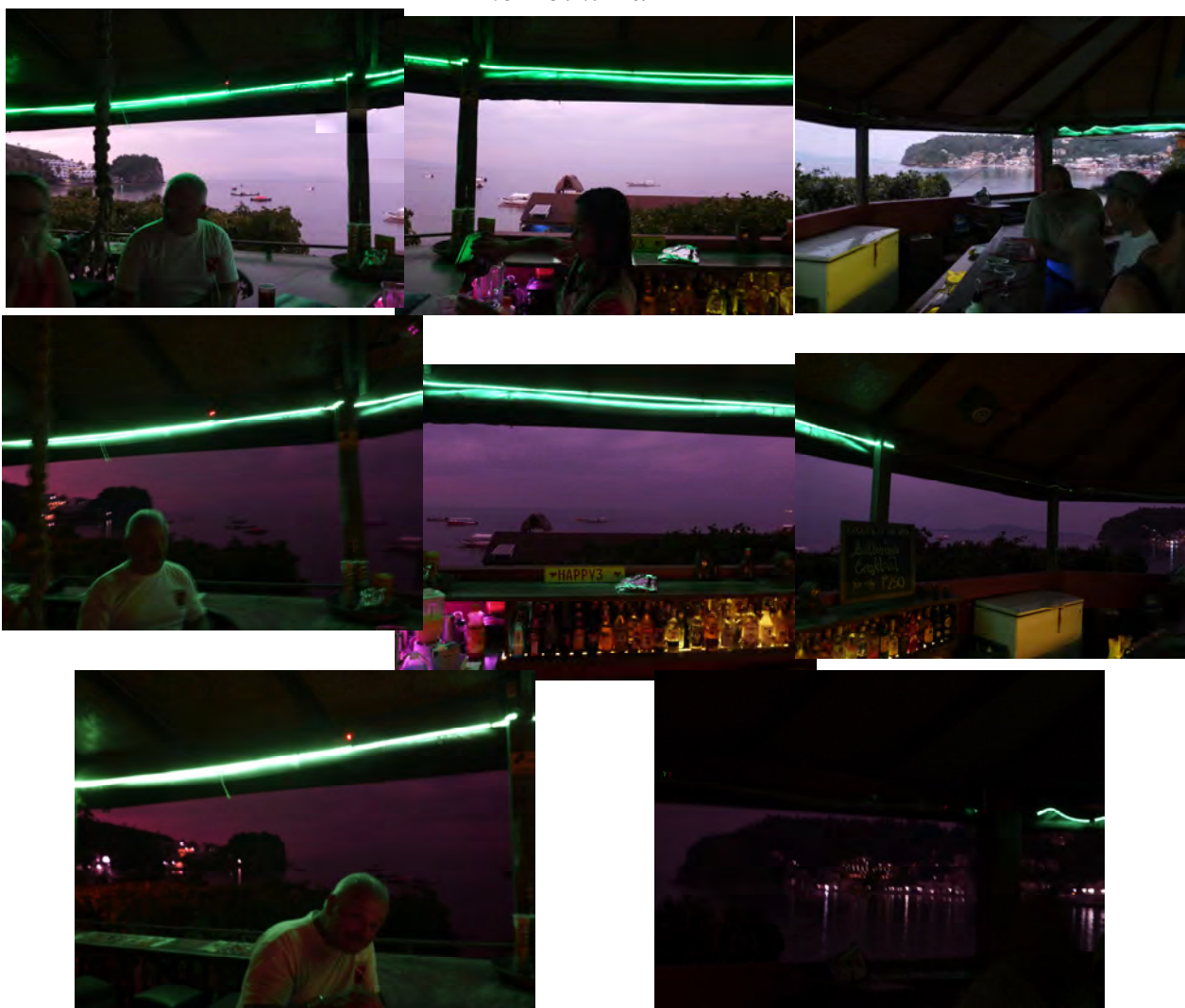
Happy hour began every evening in the Point Bar above the dive shop, between 5-6 pm, 2 cocktails for the price of one, only P242, approx AUD \$6. The view was amazing as were the sunsets!



Our dive guide was also head chef, and his meals were second to none. An international cuisine, with an Indian smorgasbord on the Friday evening.

- Christine Reynolds.❖

The Point Bar



VERDE ISLAND

VERDE ISLAND

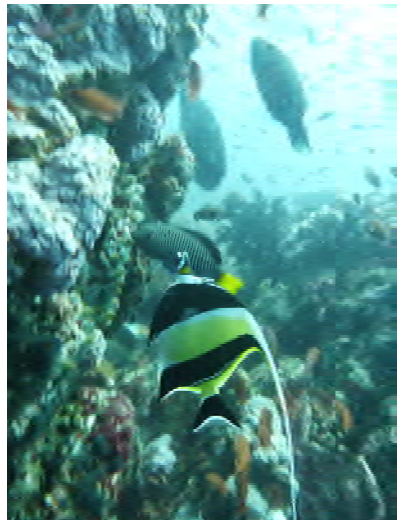
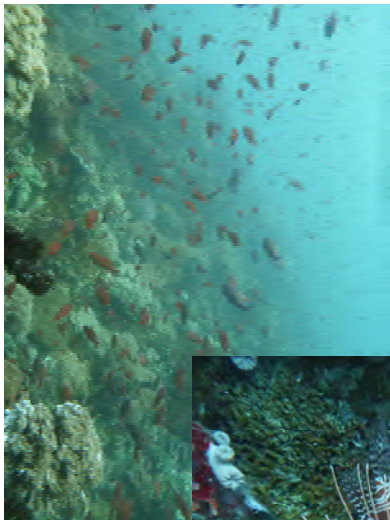
Philippines

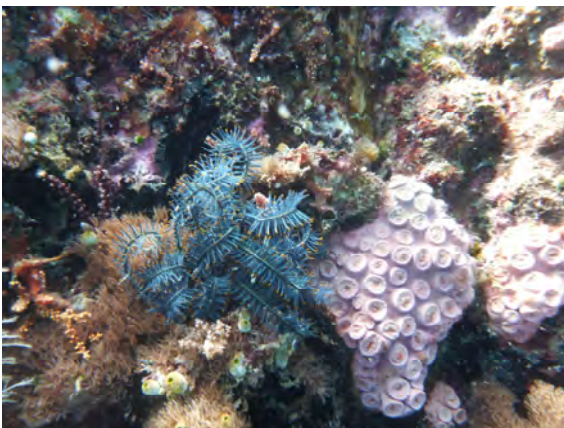
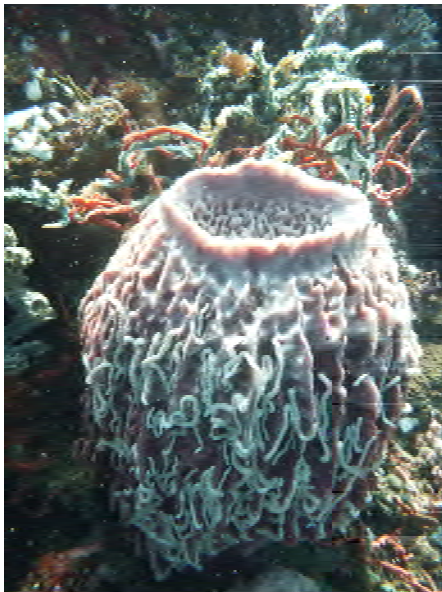
24th September, 2019

Just a short 30 min trip from Puerto Galera, a day trip to Verde Island is a must, with pristine reefs, turtles and more. Snorkelling, diving or sunbaking on the beach. Snacks are available from a roadside stall. Viz can be unpredictable, dependant on weather and tides.

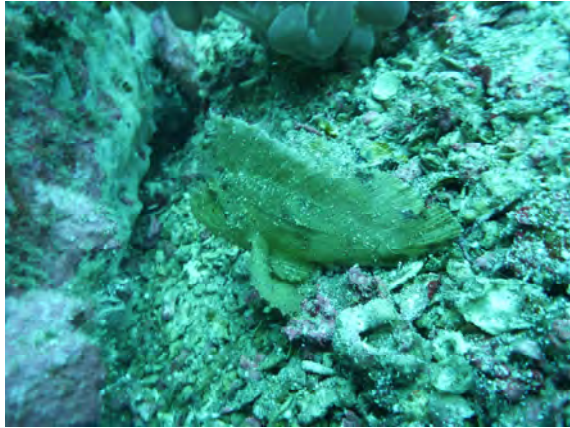
- Christine Reynolds. ❖



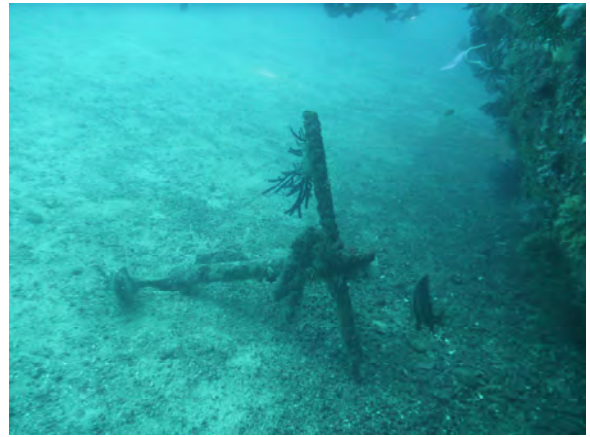




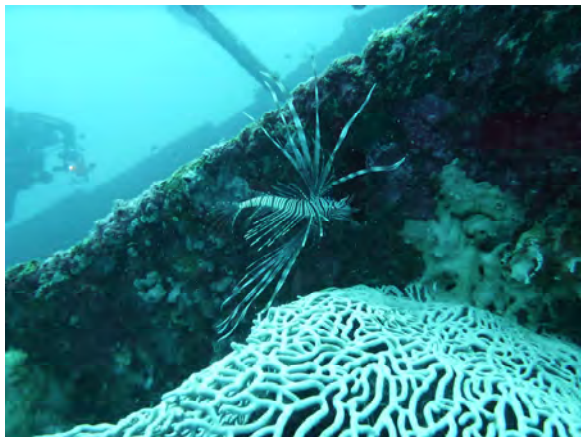
After a half day trip to Verde Island, we had a late afternoon dive on the Alma Jane Wreck, sitting upright in 30 metres of water almost directly in front of our accommodation, El Galleon Hotel and Spa.

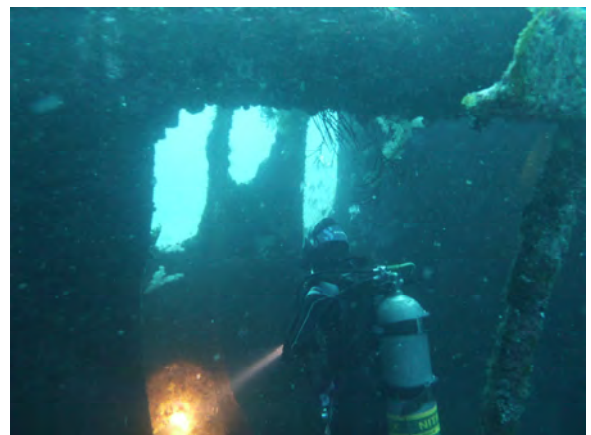


Leaf fish above



Lion fish, below



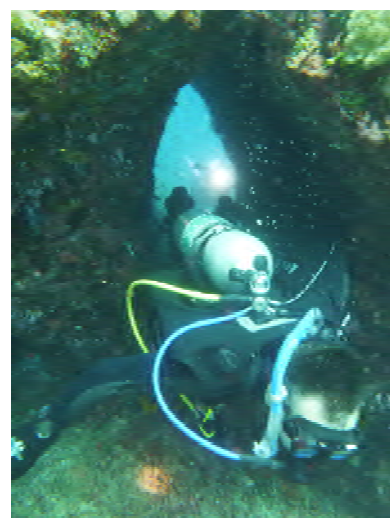
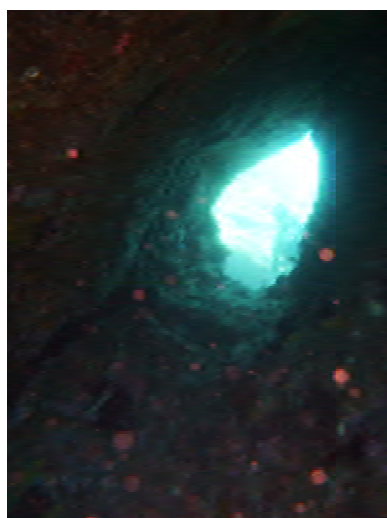
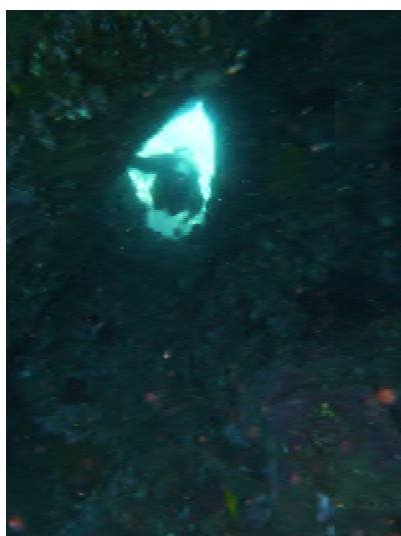


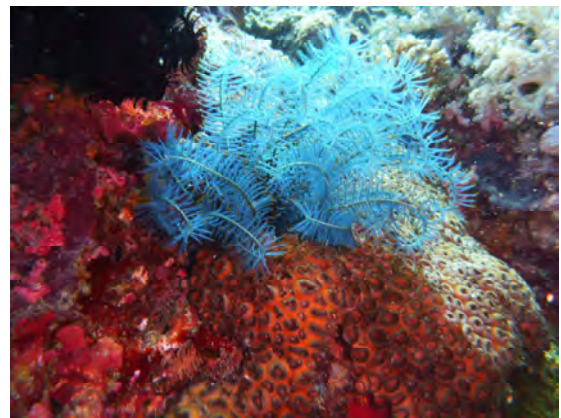
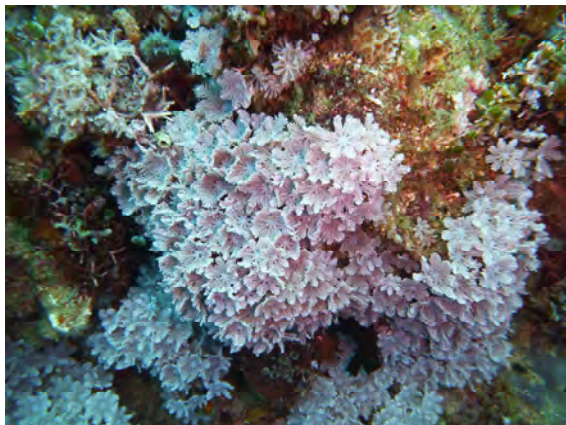
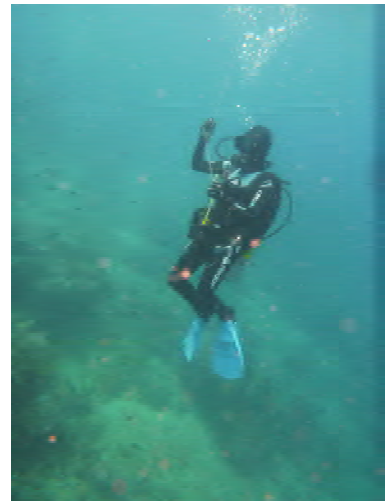
HOLE IN THE WALL

Puerto Galera, Philippines

26th September, 2019

One of the many dive sites was the Hole In The Wall. A swim through at the 20 metre mark, surrounded by colourful corals and fish life. A very pretty dive.







View of Asia Divers dive operations from open air restaurant at El Galleon Resort

We had one last excursion, an afternoon trip to White beach on the other side of the island for some souvenir hunting, our transport for the day was a jeepney (open air bus body on a jeep), quite an experience.

Our gracious hosts, presented us with a souvenir T shirt on the final evening as a memento of our stay.

Many thanks to Asia Divers, El Galleon Resort & Spa and Paul Sorenson of Diveline Frankston for organizing this trip.

- Christine Reynolds. ❖





MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND 2019

2019 VSAG DIVE TRIP TO:

**GREAT BARRIER REEF
SS YONGALA WRECK with**

**ADRENALINE SNORKEL &
DIVE: LIVEABOARD**

BOAT: SEA ESTA

Skipper – Paul CROCOMBE

Cook /Deckhand-Keri MITCHELL

**Assistant Skipper/Deckhand-Jason
EDWARDS**

Hostie/Deckhand- Yoav TEVET

**DIVERS: Ian SCHOLEY, David
FLEW, Peter CAMPISANO,
Carole CAMPISANO, Matthijs
SMITH, Arthur KOKKINOS**

**DIVE REPORT BY: Arthur
KOKKINOS**

I was looking forward to this particular VSAG dive trip with much anticipation, Last time I dived the Northern end of the Great Barrier Reef was 10 years ago and I was anxious to see what condition it was currently in. With media reports highlighting the epidemic of coral bleaching, crown of thorns starfish and the never ending threats of cyclones, I was worried as to what



*Meeting up at the Seaview hotel before
boarding the Sea Esta*

*From Left front: Ian SCHOLEY, Arthur
KOKKINOS, David FLEW*

*Right back: Peter CAMPISANO, Carole
CAMPISANO, Matthijs SMITH*



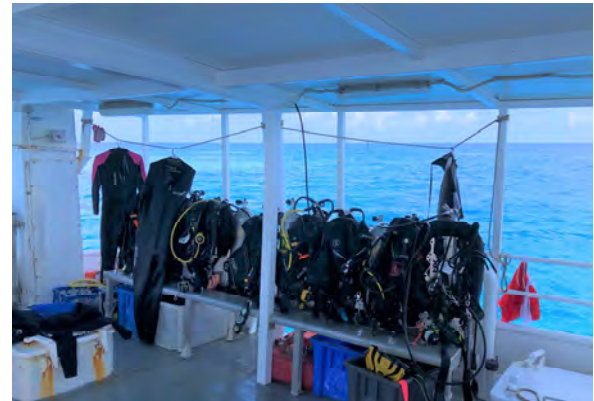
The Dive boat Sea Esta

state the great Barrier Reef would be like. I was hoping to experience the full beauty and splendour that the Great Barrier Reef is well known for throughout the diving world. I was also equally excited with the thought of diving one of Australia's premium wrecks the SS YONGALA. I have read many dive reports about this wreck and all of them have said: put this diving wreck experience on your bucket diving list, it's a MUST dive.

The day before we set off to sea, we all met up at one of the premium hotels in Townsville (The Seaview Hotel) overlooking the main beach. We had lunch and a few glasses of fresh cold STELLA ARTOIS which tasted amazing. The schedule departure time was for 10.00 pm so we had a bit of time to kill. We all eventually boarded the boat at around 8 pm. A short time later we met all the other passengers and crew members. We were briefed by the skipper in relation to safety, rules of the boat and to what gear we had to set up for the following days diving. We were then escorted to our sleeping quarters below deck. Sea Esta is a fairly old boat with average comforts. As I was getting organised in my room, I couldn't help but notice a pair of noise reduction plugs neatly placed on my pillow. It never occurred to me that these plugs would play an important role for the 4-day journey that I was about to embark. Once we



The size of the cabins on Sea



The dive gear deck on Sea Esta



Arthur KOKKINOS getting his dive gear ready before first dive

were all settled and organised our diving gear, it was time to relax and mentally plan our dives for the next 3 days. Right on time Sea Esta was off and powered full steam ahead towards the Great Barrier Reef. The estimated time of arrival was planned for around 6.00 am. We all called it a night at around 10.30pm. As I entered my cabin it felt like the engine room was right next to my bed. I was hearing a thundering repetitive clunking noise that never stopped. It was almost impossible to fall asleep. Those hearing plugs became my best friend for the whole trip. Without them I would not have slept for a minute. I finally fell asleep with the hearing plugs fully compressed and pushed hard into the inner tubes of my ears. In the morning when the engines stopped and we had reached our first diving destination I got up and tried to get the plugs out. They were so far in I was unable to get them out with my fingers. I started to panic and there was no way I was going to miss out on diving so I searched around for something to help me to get them out. I found a pen and with force and precision I slowly scratched them out. Once I got my hearing back I was up and running, meeting everyone else on top for a light breakfast. The view all around me was absolutely sensational. The pristine blue water and the clear blue sky was what I first saw as I made my

way to the communal dining table located on the top deck. My excitement was beyond words. We couldn't have wished for better diving conditions. As we were eating, everyone was talking about the noise and how we all slept. We had all shared the same experience. Peter best summed up the first night's sleep by saying that in the morning when the ship stopped to anchor, he thought the anchor had landed on his head. Every cabin was next to some mechanical component. We were in for a real diving cruise experience.

Day 1: Date: 02/11/2019

Dive Site: KEEPER REEF-WEST ENTRANCE

(Dive #1)

On Saturday the 2nd of November 2019, was the first day of diving the Great Barrier Reef. The surface condition was excellent, with no wind and a warm day gearing up to a high of 36 degrees. We all gathered on the diving deck and had a full diving brief from Paul the skipper. We then all paired off into our diving buddies where we remained the same for the whole trip. Ian – David, Peter - Carole, Matthijs-Arthur. Within a short time, we were geared up and entered

the water from the side of the boat. As we slowly descended down to the bottom reaching a depth of around 13.4 metres. The visibility was astonishing clear and a good 20 to 25 metres. The water temp was a warm 26 degrees. The diving conditions were perfect with many fish, small tiny creatures, vegetation and coral all around us. Tropical fish were in abundance and the life of the coral appeared to be healthy and vibrant. The different colours observed were overwhelmingly beautiful to see. There were nice long rock ledges everywhere with a huge Bommie extending all the way up to about 3 to 4 metres below the surface. There were fish all around and coral in different sizes and shapes slowly taking form wherever you looked. After 65 minutes of being underwater we surfaced and entered the boat from the stern. If this dive was a sign of what was to come, I was in diving heaven. Keeper Reef-West Entrance was just magical.

Dive 1.

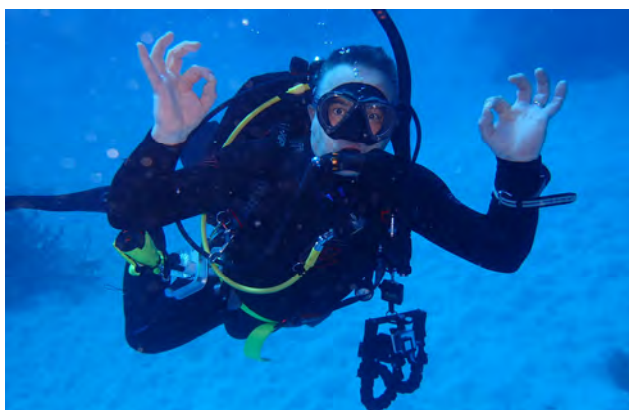
Time: 9.00 am

Water Temp: 26 degrees

Max depth reached: 13.4 metres

Bottom Time: 62 minutes

Length of dive: 65 minutes



Matthijs SMITH enjoying the first dive of the trip.



The size of the clams at Keeper Reef was huge.



*Arthur KOKKINOS says:
This dive is number 1.*

Dive Site: KEEPER REEF-WEST ENTRANCE

(Dive #2)

After a long surface interval and a hearty breakfast served up by the cook, we were ready for our second dive of the day, again at the same location. Descending down to the bottom, we were in amongst the most beautiful school of Barracuda that were passing through. This was spectacular to see. The Barracuda had completely circled us and kept together as if they were all part of one big family. The concentration on their faces and their intense precision in following each other was a captivating experience that I will cherish forever. Many other fish were also spotted such as New Fish also known as Queen, Morwong, Angel Fish, Sweet Lips, Yellow Butterfly Fish, Antheus, Razor Fish and Large Snapper. There were also 2 large giant clams peacefully waiting for food (algae) to enter their open mouths. They were nestled on the sand in amongst large rock formations that were covered in coral. The beauty of all these living creatures made the first and second dive of this location truly memorable.

Dive 2.

Time: 11.56 am

Water Temp: 26 degrees

Max depth reached: 14.2 metres

Bottom Time: 56 minutes

Length of dive: 61 minutes



Matthijs SMITH diving through an opening at West.



Carole and Peter CAMPISANO doing their safety stop before resurfacing.



Razorfish always swam together like synchronised swimmers.

Dive Site: KEEPER REEF-VIC'S PATCHES

(Dive #3)

After the second dive we had a nice lunch and then retreated to our cabins for an afternoon nap. After nearly a 3-hour sleep, we all gathered on deck where we were greeted with our third dive location. It was the same reef but another section, a few kilometres away. We were once again briefed on the dive location and plan. The outside temperature was a searing 37 degrees and the water surface was calm and flat with no breeze. Diving conditions were just perfect. We all geared up and in no time we had all entered the water, descending down to a depth of 18.5 metres. The visibility was again at around 20 to 25 metres. Diving through the many rock formations and along the steep sides of the overhanging ledges, there were a few varieties of sea cucumbers in various sizes scattered along the sea floor. Sea cucumbers cost over \$3,000 a kilo and if they feel threatened, they release a white sticky substance which is toxic to humans. If this substance comes into contact with your eyes it may lead to permanent blindness. So, no taking off your mask around these creatures. Everywhere you looked there was tropical fish large and small peacefully swimming by or just curiously coming up to you and having a look. A nice brightly yellow

coloured Nudibranch, comfortably sitting on top of a rock, was spotted by everyone. It must have felt like a rock star by the way we descended down onto it, taking photos of it. The fish life and coral were again in abundance, the colours and movement of all the sea life observed was just breath taking.

Dive 3

Time: 4.09pm

Water Temp: 26 degrees

Max depth reached: 18.5 metres

Bottom Time: 45 minutes

Length of dive: 50 minutes



A beautiful yellow Nudibranch nestled in amongst the floral vegetation in Vic's Patches.



The inner sanctum of a feather star fish..

Dive Site: KEEPER REEF-VIC'S PATCHES

(Night Dive)

(Dive #4)

After a nice long break and rest, we were once again briefed for our first night dive of the trip. The night dive was at the same location and everyone was feeling excited. The temperature was around 30 degrees and the water temperature was still 26 degrees. We geared up and with our torches, we all entered the water and descended to a planned depth of 16 to 17 metres. The visibility was amazing and the sea life all around us, whilst diving in the dark, was diving bliss. Looking up at the boat with the boat lights fully lit, it looked crystal clear. Night diving is just another level of diving. Wherever you pointed the torch the coral just came to life. The colours and brightness of the coral shined with complete elegance. The many species of tropical fish that swam past looked so peaceful. We were the lucky few experiencing underwater Mother Nature at its finest moment, a moment that made me feel special and fully alive. We continued our dive around the same rock formations as previously dived during the day dive, however everything around us seemed so different and more exhilarating. We continued diving further away from the boat where we came across an area not dived during the day. I followed



Small critters were nicely camouflaged.



Sea cucumbers can cost up to \$3,000 a kilo.



The night dive was full of small critters spreading their tentacles searching for food.

Matthijs towards a canyon like formation and came over an opening. As I was exploring, I witnessed Matthijs enter the opening and disappear up into it, with his light dimming as he continued up. I approached the opening and there was no light. Matthijs had exited the top and went over and down into a large opening. I soon followed and went into the opening. As I went up it actually felt like I was in a large cylinder. I shined my torch all the way around and I spotted many varieties of fish and very small creatures popping in and out from the many little holes located all around the inside. This formation must have been at least 10 metres long and had another world living in it. It was surreal diving in this enclosed vertical dive-through at night, with the only light coming from my torch. After a couple of minutes exploring this astonishing feature, I slowly came out and soon re-joined Matthijs who was busy looking at 2 crayfish peacefully sitting out on an open ledge. They looked amazing and the closer I went the more crayfish I spotted. Their colours of deep dark red and crimson looked so different to the ones in Victoria. We had just explored an area not visited by us on the first dive and we were quite far from the boat. The calmness of the water around us and the night dive tranquillity created an atmosphere of pure pleasure. I was

lucky enough to have spotted a Redtail Parrotfish, Meyers Butterfish, Oblique Banded Sweetlips, Bar cheek Trevally, Eastern Clown Anemone fish and a Silver Tip Shark roaming in the distance. With the boat lights beaming down, we were able to see how far we were. We slowly made our way towards the boat, stopping along the way and observing everything that was around us. We slowly ascended to our safety stop and at 5 metres. I extended my stop not wanting to surface. I was just mesmerised with my surroundings and captivated with what I had just experienced. Three awesome dives in one day and to cap it all off with a night dive, it was like fireworks on New Year's Eve.

Dive 4

Time: 7.40 pm

Water Temp: 26 degrees

Max depth reached: 16.6 metres

Bottom Time: 40 minutes

Length of dive: 45 minutes

Day 2: Date: 03/11/2019

Dive Site: WHEELER REEF-STUDENT BOMMIE

(Dive #5)

After a nice well-deserved sleep with the ear plugs snugly fitted in my ears, we woke up at our new dive destination. With a light breakfast and a well-informed briefing out of the way, we were ready for our first dive of day two.

We geared up, entered the water and made our way towards a large Bommie. We descended to 22 metres and stayed at that depth, diving around the Bommie a number of times, exploring the many holes and cracks that are home to many small sea creatures. The colour and fish life all around this amazing structure was healthy and in abundance.

Wherever you looked there were schools of fish from barracuda to snapper in large numbers. There was flowing vegetation with many varieties of anemone fish living in amongst its strands. For our safety stop, we all hovered on top of the Bommie, which was less than 7 metres from the surface. The top of the Bommie was full of fish life, with coral spread all around. The colours were in full strength, being so close to the surface. It was almost therapeutic, just gliding above this Bommie and just looking down on

all the colour and sea life that was scattered everywhere. Everyone was busy taking many photos and video, capturing on film whatever they could take away, as everlasting memories from this awesome dive.

Dive 5

Time: 8.24 am

Water Temp: 26 degrees

Max depth reached: 22 metres

Bottom Time: 44 minutes

Length of dive: 49 minutes



Descending on top of Student Bommie.



A beautiful Anemone fish coming up out of the coral.



Snapper were everywhere.

Sudden Change of Dive plan due to compressor breakdown:

As we were relaxing after our morning breakfast during our surface interval, Paul conveyed some bad news to us. The compressor for our air fills had broken down and that we had no more air for the other dives. In order to continue the dive trip, a decision was made. We agreed to complete the second dive then once everyone was safely on board, immediately go back to Townsville (6 hours) and get enough air tanks for everyone to dive the SS YONGALA. Once loaded with nearly 40 air tanks Sea Esta would then power back overnight to the SS YONGALA, (7 hours from Townsville). Because we missed out on the third dive on day two, the agreement was to do three dives on the SS YONGALA. Many of us thought this was a bonus. Three dives on the SS YONGALA was an amazing opportunity. But the catch was to get up early at 5.00am and be in the water for the first dive at 5.30 am. The reason being Sea Esta was booked for another dive trip to go out on the same night. No one objected and everyone was eager to do the three dives.

**Dive Site: DAVIES REEF-
PEACOCK BOMMIE**

(Dive #6)



Ian SCHOLEY enjoying the dive on Peacock Bommie.



David FLEW enjoying the dive.



Everywhere you looked, it was full of life. Living vegetation came in different colours and shapes.



Whilst completing our surface interval Sea Esta arrived at our new dive location. This time assistant Skipper Jason briefed us on the dive and we were assured that this dive location was an extremely popular diving spot with lots to see and places to explore. I thought what a way to end day two. My anticipation was now at an all-time high and I was geared up and ready to enter the water. The water surface was perfect and the temperature was still 26 degrees. We all hit the water and finned towards the top of the Bommie. Peacock Bommie extends down to around 32 metres. As we closed in, we all descended down the side and hit a depth of around 25 metres. As planned, we stayed at that depth and towards the end of the dive, we slowly made our way up circling the Bommie a number of times. The Bommie had amazing fish life living in and around the Bommie. There were many little critters living in amongst the coral and sea vegetation. The colours were strong and some of the coral appeared to be in full bloom. Halfway up the Bommie on the other side about 15 metres deep there was a large opening with an overhanging ledge protruding over the side. Deep inside was the home of many small and large tropical fish with small clams sitting peacefully on the floor. Large circular spiked vegetation in all

different colours also were in healthy numbers. Schools of yellow tailed tropical fish were circling the Bommie with smaller schools of fish twisting and turning in amongst the coral. Everywhere you looked there was something new to see and explore. We all did an amazing safety stop on top of the Bommie which was only 5 metres from the surface. Again, we were hypnotised with the enormous variety of life, vibrantly living all over this beautiful Bommie. It was just another example of how lucky we all were on this trip to experience something that truly defies belief. But it was all there in front of us. A diving paradise. I kept saying: Great Barrier Reef. I thank you with all my heart for letting me enjoy all that you have to offer.

Dive 6

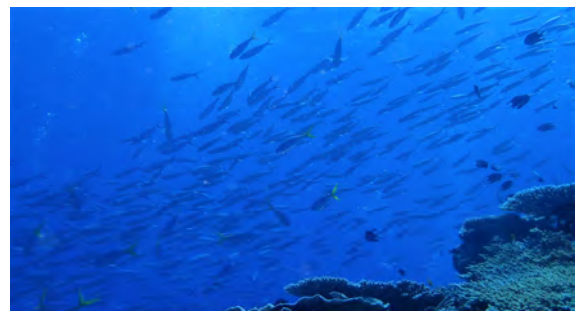
Time: 11.42 am

Water Temp: 26 degrees

Max depth reached: 24.6 metres

Bottom Time: 35 minutes

Length of dive: 40 minutes



School of Yellow Fin Snapper.

Night Before the dive on the SS YONGALA

After finishing our last dive on day two, we had a nice lunch and Sea Esta was now already powering back to Townsville to get the enough air tanks for our 3 dives on the SS YONGALA. After lunch we all retreated to our cabins for an afternoon nap. With my ear plugs fully inserted into my ears, I managed to get a bit of a sleep, waking up in time for dinner.

After dinner, Paul gave us a full one-hour briefing on the history of the SS YONGALA and a thorough dive and map plan of the wreck. He also spoke about what we could possibly see (fish life) and what to look out for.

After the briefing we went back to our cabins for our last sleep before waking up early for our three dives on the SS YONGALA. Finally, after a long trip back, Sea Esta arrived at Townsville, at around 9.00pm. The crew quickly unloaded all the empty tanks and then reloaded up with full tanks. Within two hours of arriving we were off again powering full steam ahead to the SS YONGALA.

The wreck of the SS YONGALA lies within the central section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. It is 89 kms south east of Townsville and 22 kms east of Cape Bowling Green. The upper section of the wreck is 16 metres below the surface and the hull

lies on the sand at 30 metres below the surface. The SS YONGALA was a steel passenger and freight steamer built in 1903. It was named after a small town in South Australia, called YONGALA. YONGALA is an aboriginal word meaning, "Good Water". On the 23rd of March, 1911 The SS YONGALA sank off Cape Bowling Green after hitting head-on a Tropical cyclone. Everyone on board (122) perished and only cargo and wreckage were found many days later. The wreck was discovered 47 years later in 1958. It is now known as one of the largest, most well preserved historic shipwrecks in all of Australia and visited by thousands of divers every year.

INTERESTING FACTS OF THE SS YONGALA:

OWNER: Adelaide Steamship Company

COST: 102,000 Pounds

LAUNCHED: 29 April 1903

TONNAGE: 3664 Tons

TONNAGE ON BOARD: 617 Tons

LENGTH: 107 Metres

ENGINE: Triple expansion Steam Engine single screw, driving a single propeller

FUEL: 67 Tonnes of coal per day

SPEED: 15.6 Knots (29.3 km/h)

CAPTAIN: William KNIGHT

VOYAGE: 99th in Australian waters

LAST KNOWN SIGHTING:
Whitsunday passage

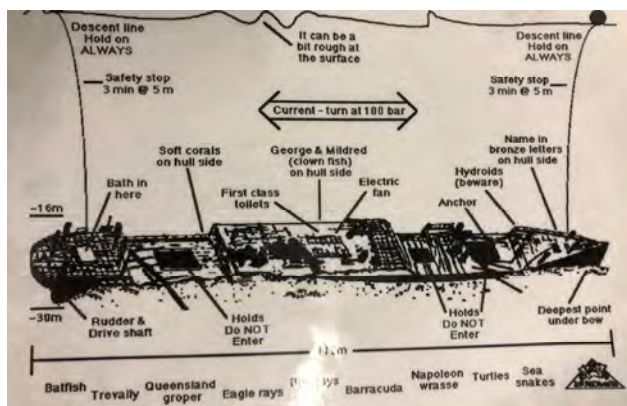
SANK: 23 March 1911

DEATHS: Everyone on board perished (49 passengers and 73 crew)

PROTECTED: SS YONGALA is protected under the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act of 1976.

ACCESS: Via permit only, obtained from the Maritime Archaeology section of the museum of Tropical Queensland.

Day 3: Date: 04/11/2019



Dive Site: SS YONGALA SHIPWRECK

(Dive #7)

Around 4.35 am. Sea Esta finally arrived at the site of the SS YONGALA.

At around 5.00 am we all assembled on the top deck, munching into a light breakfast before our first dive. The surface conditions were absolutely perfect. No wind, flat surface, the sun had started to shine and the visibility was excellent. You could see the outline of SS YONGALA from above the surface.

Right on 5.30 am everyone was geared up and hitting the water at 7 second intervals. As a group, we all slowly made our way to the drop line and slowly descended to a comfortable depth of around 23 metres. As we descended towards the wreck, visibility was clear to around 15 to 20 metres. My first vision of the SS YONGALA was truly a moment I will never forget. The wreck was peacefully lying on its side and it felt like it was welcoming all of us to explore its intact body before time took its toll on the wreck. Over 108 years ago, this wreck had sunk and it was still very much in one piece but clearly disintegrating underneath the soft and hard coral and sea vegetation, consisting of sponges and various other forms of plankton growing all over it. The fish life was everywhere and the fish looked big, real big as if they were on steroids. Schools of snapper, giant trevally, coral trout, angel fish, maori wrasse, coral rock cod, red emperor, chinaman fish, scribbled puffer, blotched fantail ray, brown sweetlips,

tropical fish, and schools of barracuta leisurely passing by. I followed the full length of the wreck from bow to stern appreciating the size and shape of the SS YONGALA. This dive definitely lived up to all the hype and if this first dive was just a taste of what was to come, I was already anticipating the next 2 dives on this glorious wreck.

After 23 minutes of bottom time, I slowly started my ascent up the main line to the surface. I completed the various safety stop stages (15mtrs x 1 min, 10mtrs x 2 min, 5mtrs x 3 min, 3mtrs x 1 min) and at the same time never lost sight of the SS YONGALA. From far above the wreck, it was hard to ignore and kept me truly mesmerized. Once on board we all shared our experiences and we all agreed that the dive was absolutely world class.

Dive 7

Time: 5.29 am

Water Temp: 26 degrees

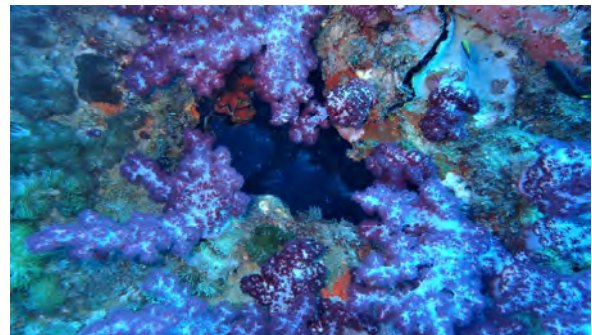
Max depth reached: 23 metres

Bottom Time: 30 minutes

Length of dive: 35 minutes



The SS YONGALA overlooking the bow.



The deck covered with coral growth.

Dive Site: SS YONGALA SHIPWRECK (Dive #8)

After a light breakfast and a safe surface interval, we all geared up again and anxiously hit the water, descending the line to the SS YONGALA for our second dive on this beautiful wreck.

Conditions were perfect, just a slow drift along the hull of the wreck. The slow drift was strong enough to take you effortlessly, without finning too much, from the bow to stern as if you were gliding. Reaching down to my planned depth of around 23 metres I wanted to experience the full length

of the various decks of the wreck. It was very hard to resist from entering one of the many openings to explore inside. Diving right up to every opening and looking inside was as equally exciting. Halfway along the wreck we were greeted by a turtle, who was busy munching into some food. Ian, Matthijs and I hovered around this turtle taking many photos and video footage of this unique opportunity. Our presence did not concern the turtle and we were able to get in real close and take some amazing footage. Continuing towards the bow I couldn't help but notice that this wreck was showing signs of stress, with some sections starting to fold and bend. The sea life surrounding the SS YONGALA is also another reason why you should put this wreck on your diving bucket list. The colour and the many different varieties of sea life encompassing the wreck is nothing short of spectacular.

With the second dive completed and everyone safely on board, we all gathered on the upper deck for a well-deserved breakfast. During breakfast everyone was talking about their encounter with a sea snake. During the last two dives everyone had seen a sea snake or two and I was feeling quite disappointed because I have never been lucky enough to have ever seen a sea snake. Everything about this Dive trip so far had fully met all

of my expectations, however, spotting one of the many sea snakes that live in and around the SS YONGALA had eluded me in the first two dives. For the third dive, I made it my mission to spot a sea snake.

Dive 8

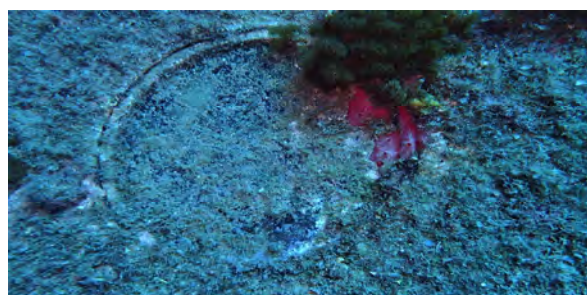
Time: 7.44 am

Water Temp: 26 degrees

Max depth reached: 22.3 metres

Bottom Time: 35 minutes

Length of dive: 40 minutes



*Porthole with glass still intact,
with coral starting to grow on top.*



*A pair of Snapper finding refuge
under the bow.*

Dive Site: SS YONGALA SHIPWRECK

(Dive #9)

After a hearty breakfast and a safe surface interval, we were all geared up and again anxious to dive the SS YONGALA for our final dive. I was still excited, as if I was going down for the very first time to see this amazing wreck.

At around 9.58 am, I entered the water and descended towards the wreck. On this dive, we were also joined by the skipper, who just couldn't resist the almost perfect conditions. As we hit the bottom near the bow at around 27 metres deep, we were greeted by a very large Beaked Eagle Ray, peacefully sitting on the sandy floor and minding its own business. Matthijs and I went up to it and from a very close distance, we slowly hovered above, getting some really good close up film footage. As we circled the ray we were getting up real close. The ray must have felt that we were too close and suddenly with force, it flapped its way towards us and turning sharply away at the last second, so as to not run us both over. It chose to gracefully glide out into the distance and away from human interaction. This experience was truly unforgettable. The enormous size and speed of the Ray coming towards us was quite surreal. It felt like I was filming a National Geographic



Sea Snake.



Underneath the hull at the bow.



VSAG group after our last dive. From left: Peter CAMPISANO, David FLEW, Matthijs SMITH, Ian SCHOLEY, Arthur KOKKINOS and Carole CAMPISANO.

Documentary. The moment was just too good.

We then turned around and made our way towards the wreck and continued diving along the hull, admiring the present structure and the abundant sea life that embraces this wreck. As I looked up, I noticed to my complete excitement, a Sea snake out to the right, about 10 metres away from the wreck. This was my first visual contact with a sea snake. I was so excited, I was not scared, I didn't even feel jittery, instead I powered full throttle and made my way right on top of it. I was hovering above it, only about 10 centimetres away and I slowly started following this beautiful white coloured sea snake which was about 2 metres in length. I felt like I had accomplished a major milestone. Finally, here I am on Australia's premium diving wreck, filming a sea snake only centimetres away and for a good 3 minutes I was in diving heaven. After years of watching Ben and Eva CROPP and Ron and Valerie TAYLOR filming tropical sea snakes, I was now actually living my dream. After following the sea snake for a while, I slowly looked around and the SS YONGALA was in the distance. I was in my zone filming the sea snake and drifted away. I turned around and re-joined the diving group.

I resumed, diving along the hull and around the stern. I had



Ian SCHOLEY and Matthijs SMITH.



David FLEW having a great time.



Carole and Peter Campisano.

circumnavigated the whole wreck a number of times in the last 3 dives and if given half the chance, I would do it again and again. We then slowly made our way towards the top of the wreck and then headed towards the bow. Along the way I had another brief encounter with a sea snake. This time it was a brown spotted one, about 1.5 metres long. This was also another amazing encounter. I followed the sea snake for almost half the length of the wreck. It was elegant, smooth and just going about its own business looking for food. Sea snakes move in the water using their muscle strength and paddle-shaped tail and are known to be highly venomous. Only 2 people have ever been killed by a sea snake in this region, a pearl diver in 1935 and a trawler fisherman in 2018.

After 30 minutes of compelling diving, we made our way towards the drop line. We completed our safety stops and surfaced metres away from Sea Esta. As soon as we were on board, the journey back to Townsville had already begun. It was hard to accept that our diving journey had now ended. We were all part of a group of divers who had the privilege to experience the magic of the Great Barrier Reef and the rare opportunity to dive the SS YONGALA three times in perfect weather conditions and with visibility underwater at its

very best. To best describe this trip in one sentence is this:

“In the last three days, we all experienced moments of diving eminence.”

Dive 9

Time: 9.58 am

Water Temp: degrees

Max depth reached: 27.6 metres

Bottom Time: 30 minutes

Length of dive: 35 minutes



From Left: Arthur KOKKINOS, Peter CAMPISANO, Carole CAMPISANO, Ian SCHOLEY, David FLEW, Front Row: Matthijs SMITH.

Thank you to Ian SCHOLEY for organising another memorable VSAG Dive trip.

- Arthur Kokkinos. ❖

VSAG

Great Barrier Reef Trip

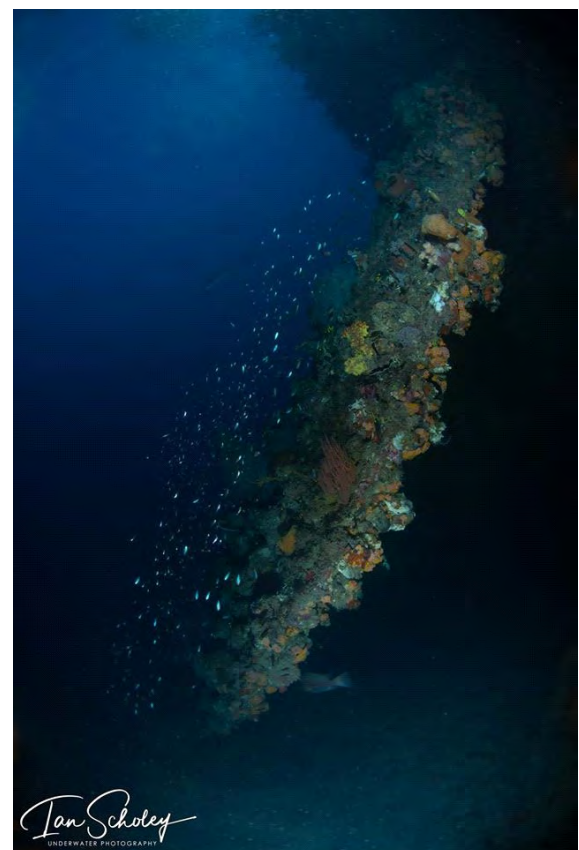
SS YONGALA

9th November, 2019

I make no apologies for the size of this album, as the SS Yongala truly lives up to its reputation as one of the worlds best wreck dives. The passing of 10 years since my last dive on it, had dimmed my memory somewhat. The sea conditions were perfect, the sun was shining, the water was 26 degrees and we could see the wreck at 30m from the surface. We were delighted that, owing to some technical issues with the onboard compressor the previous day, we were given an extra dive on her, making it three dives instead of the planned two. The only drawback was a 4.30am wake-up call but it was oh, so worth it.

Here is a little bit about the SS Yongala:

On the evening of 23 March 1911, under the command of Captain William Knight, one of the most capable and experienced captains then working the busy Australian coastal route, the SS Yongala, a stout and well-maintained vessel, sailed past the lighthouse on Dent Island in the Whitsunday Passage and was never seen again.



As the eight-year-old SS Yongala steamed leisurely out of Mackay, aboard were 49 passengers, 73 crew, a racehorse named “Moonshine” and a prize bull.

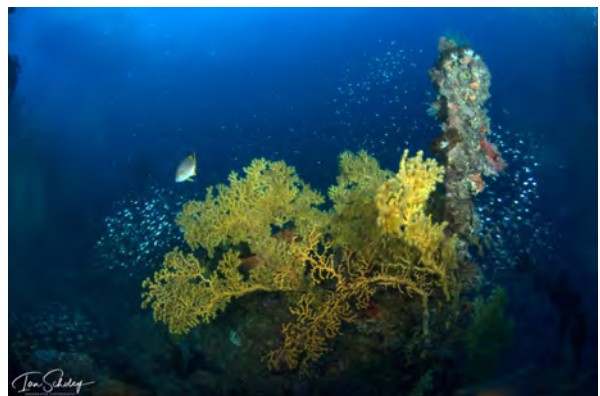
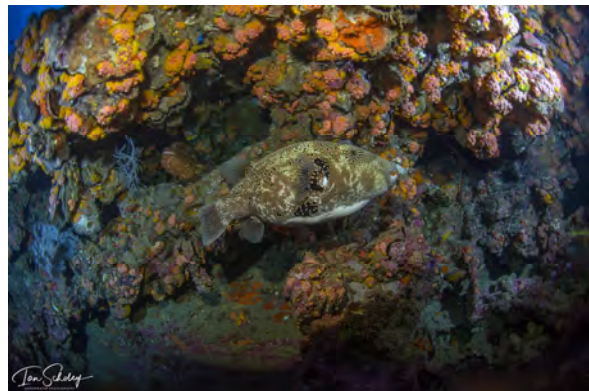
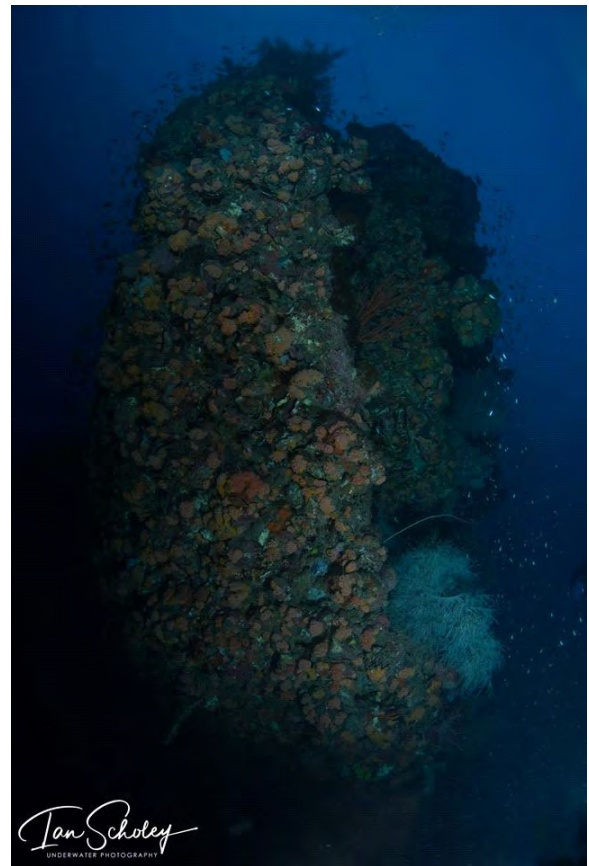
What the 14-year veteran master didn’t know, was that a cyclone warning had just been received and with her brand new Marconi radio still on its way from England, the frustrated keeper could only watch her sail away. He was the last person to ever see the Yongala.

In the raging cyclonic seas, a wave or waves broke over her side, immediately filling her with water and sending her quickly to the bottom.

Three days later, concern escalated and Yongala was posted as missing. Every possible vessel was thrown into the search but apart from some debris washed up on the beaches, no trace was ever found and the subsequent inquiry was inconclusive.

The doomed racehorse washed up in a creek three miles south of the Ross River, near Townsville. This was the only body to be found.

During WWII, a minesweeper fouled on something 11 miles east of Cape Bowling Green and a subsequent postwar search by an RAN survey vessel, HMAS Lachlan, all but confirmed the Yongala’s location in



around 30m of water. But the Navy did nothing more.

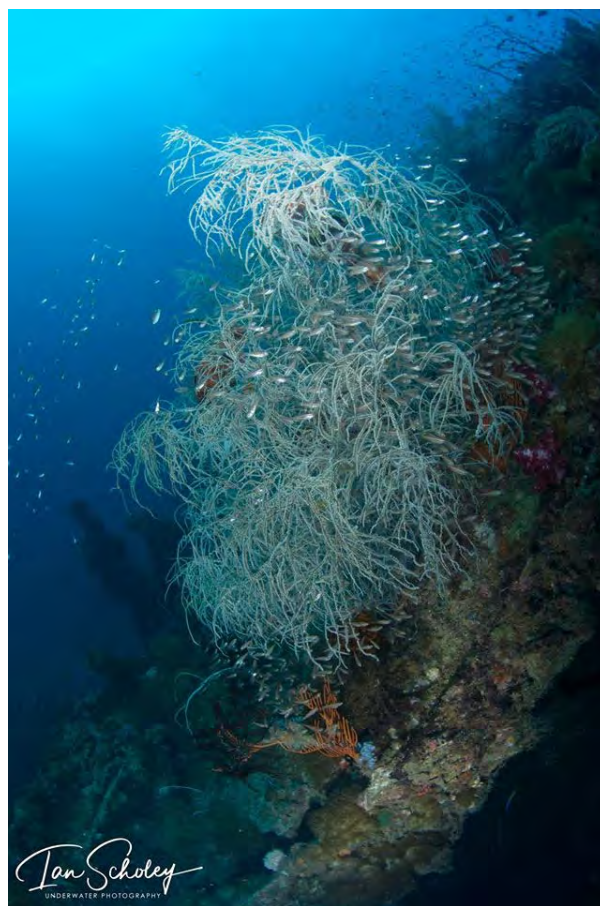
It wasn't until 1958, when local skin-divers, Don MacMillan and Noel Cook, brought back a steel safe from a wreck, that the world was forced to remember the Yongala.

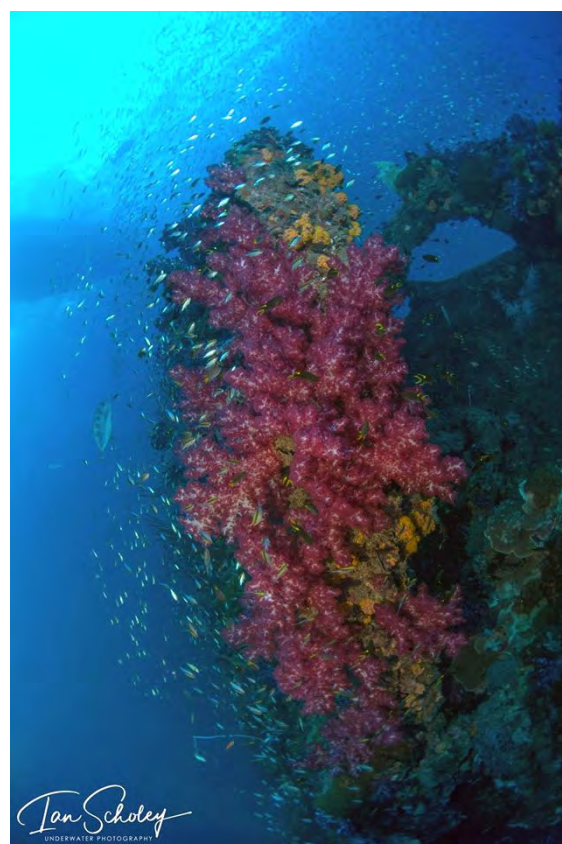
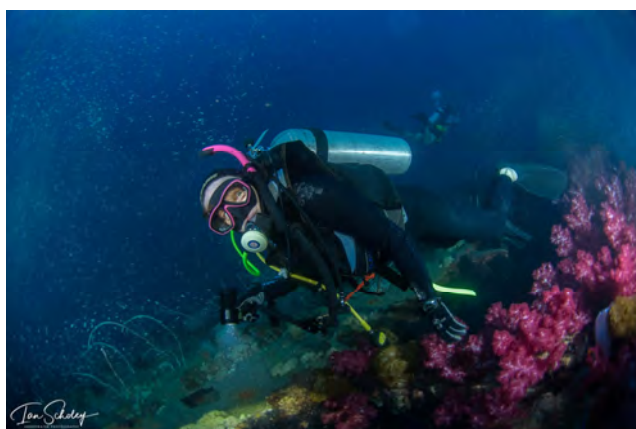
The anticlimactic opening revealed only mud, but the safe's serial number was traced back to Chubb in the UK, who confirmed it was installed in the purser's cabin aboard SS Yongala in 1903.

Launched in Newcastle, England, in 1903, the 3700 ton SS Yongala was named after the tiny South Australian pastoral town of the same name.

It remains Australia's worst maritime disaster and as a grave site and protected wreck, quite rightly but a little frustratingly, no penetration inside is allowed. Unfortunately Nitrox was not available on our Liveaboard. We were supposed to do no decompression dives and some of us, allegedly, may have taken a few small liberties on the day but hey, it was fantastic. We were even lucky enough to have a Bull Shark swimming around on one of our safety stops but not close enough to make a picture worth while.

- Ian Scholey. ❖







Dumaguete

DUMAGUETE

8th October, 2019

It's not easy shooting Turtles with a 105mm Super Macro lens but these came out well. Loving life in Dumaguete, Phillipines. The water is 30 degrees and the sun is shining.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



A few pics of the resort and dive facilities at Dumaguete, where we will stay on the forthcoming VSAG Dive Trip in June 2020.

Details of the VSAG Dive trip are on pages 92-94 in Fathoms.





Rabaul Kokopo Resort

RABAUl KOKOPO RESORT

18 Aug 2019

Water temp: 26 deg C

Vis: 30mtrs +

Divers: Peter Beaumont and 3 other divers from P & O Ship Pacific Aria

<https://www.travelweekly.com/Cruise/PO-Cruises-Australia/Pacific-Aria>

Pacific Aria info:

9 guest decks

219 mtrs in length

55,820 gross tonnage

1260 guests, lower berths

With Pacific Aria having stopped off at a couple of the smaller PNG islands before berthing at Alotau, I tracked down the contact details for Rabaul Kokopo dive :

+675 7947 4892

admin@rabaul-kokopodive.com

and booked on for a couple of dives whilst the ship was alongside, visiting Rabaul. Some other divers were keen to come along, so they



P&O Pacific Aria



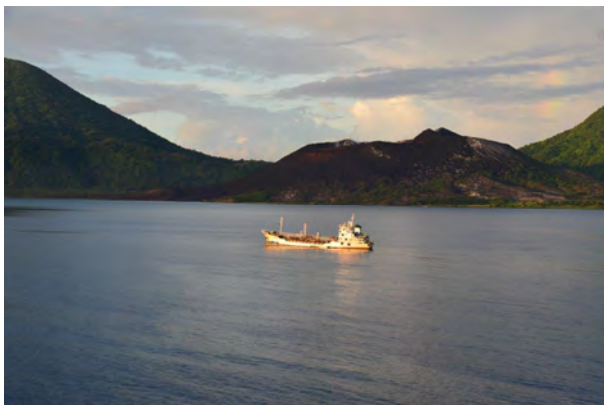
Lion fish – a few of these to be seen.

booked on as well and we all jumped on the resort's bus for the 50-minute trip to the dive shop. As the resort's boats were pre-booked, we jumped in for a shore dive on the house reef and wreck, had some lunch, then headed off for a reef wall drift dive, followed by a boat ride back to the ship, which saw us back onboard 1 hour before the ship's scheduled departure. Despite being a day stay, the diving was quite good and is worthy of a dive package to further explore the reefs and the remaining WW2 wrecks, which weren't buried when Mt Tavurvur erupted in 1994.

- *Peter Beaumont.* ❖



House reef wreck.



*Departing Rabaul - Mt Tavurvur
(what's left of it)*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tavurvur>

Conflict Islands

CONFLICT ISLANDS

20 Aug 2019

Water temp: 26 deg C

Vis: 30mtrs +

Divers: Peter Beaumont and various other divers (12) from P & O Ship Pacific Aria

<https://www.travelweekly.com/Cruise/PO-Cruises-Australia/Pacific-Aria>

Pacific Aria info:

9 guest decks

219 mtrs in length

55,820 gross tonnage

1260 guests, lower berths

The Conflict Islands are a coral atoll 152 km off the tip of mainland PNG, comprising 21 separate islands. The atoll has a deep channel through the outer reef system, which allows cruise ships to safely enter the lagoon. The islands were first chartered in 1886 and are named after HMS Conflict, a British naval ship built and based in Sydney, Australia.

With the Pacific Aria's itinerary offering dives at The Conflict Islands, I booked on for all 3 dives (drifts) and spent the day ashore. A couple of other divers were keen to do the 3 dives on offer, so they booked on as



Pacific Aria

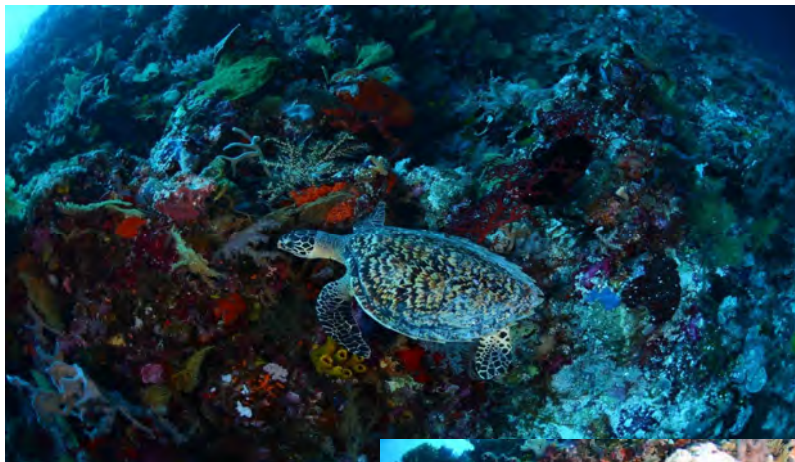


well, while the remaining divers (less keen) opted for single dives.

With all passengers back onboard and accounted for, the ship set sail for Brisbane.

Despite being a day stay, the reef diving was excellent and worthy of a dive package to further explore the inner and outer reefs.

- Peter Beaumont. ❖



*Turtles were out
and about (saw
about 6)*



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Equal First - August 2019



Equal First - Bastion Beach Mallacoota - by Carole Campisano

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

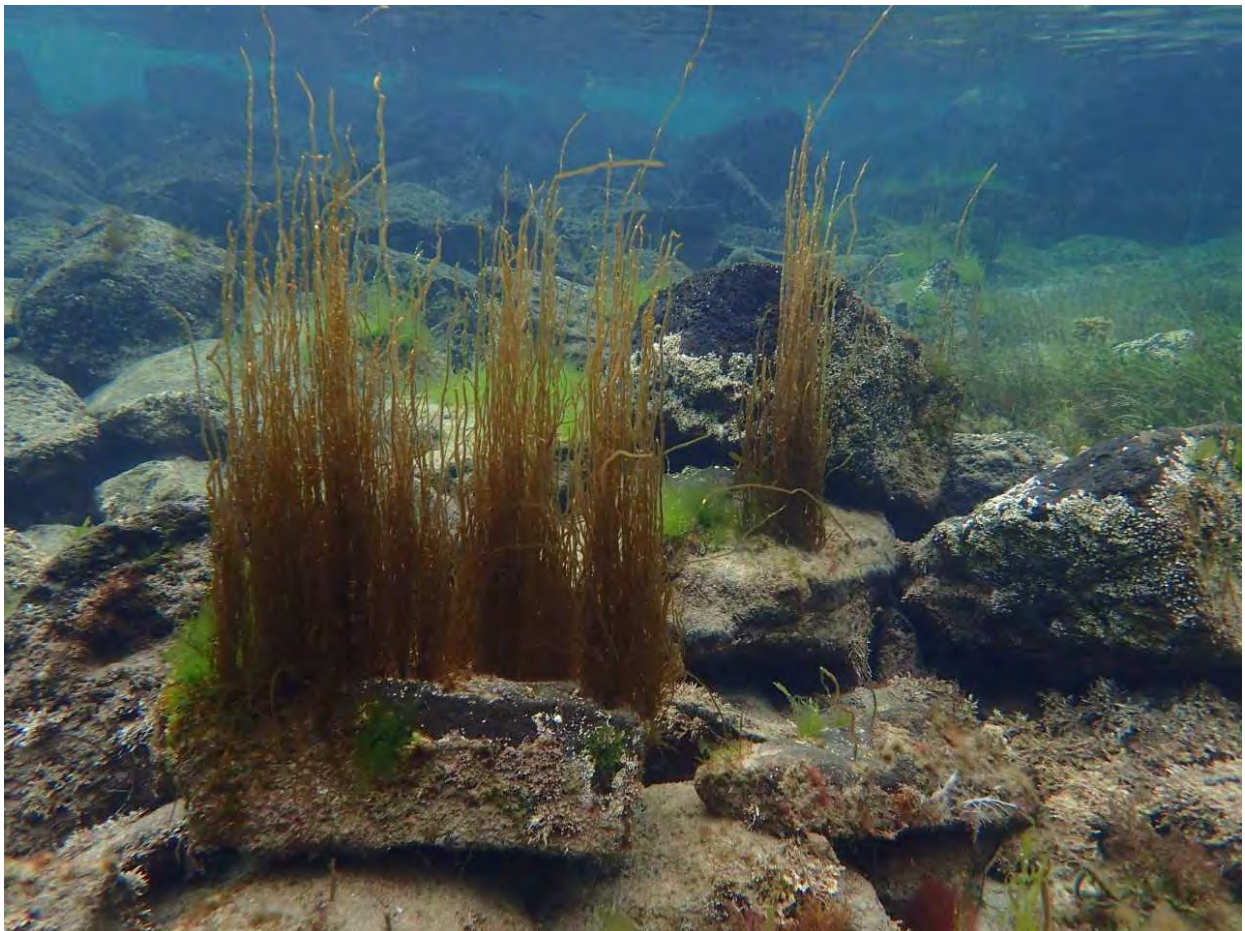
Equal First - August 2019



Equal First - Short Headed Seahorse, Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Second - August 2019



Second - Winter Wonderland, Williamstown - by Sandy Webb

AUGUST 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

August photo comp saw Carole Campisano drawing with Ian Scholey for Equal First. Closely followed by Sandy Webb for Second, with her local winter wonderland. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Bermagui Harbour
- by Carole Campisano*



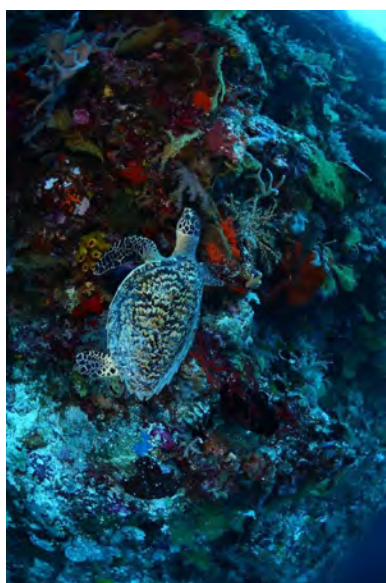
Lion Fish, PNG - by Peter Beaumont



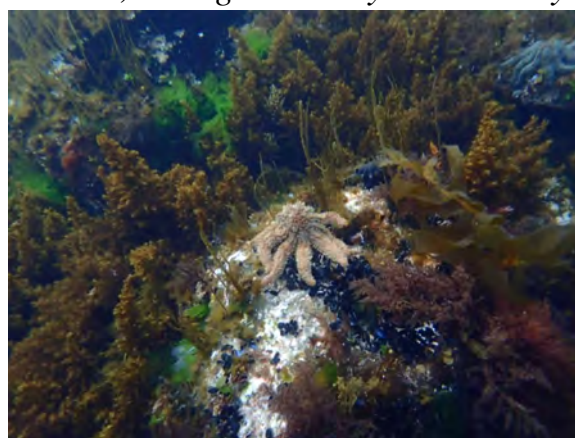
Spring is here - by Hannah Smeeton



*Hands up if you want your picture
taken, Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey*



*Turtle,
Conflict
Islands,
PNG
- by Peter
Beaumont*



*A cold 11-arm seastar
- by Sandy Webb*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

First - September 2019



First - Whale Shark, Cebu Island, Philippines - by Christine Reynolds

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Equal 2nd - September 2019



Equal 2nd - I come to talk to you on behalf of my people, Neptune Islands

- by Hannah Smeeton

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

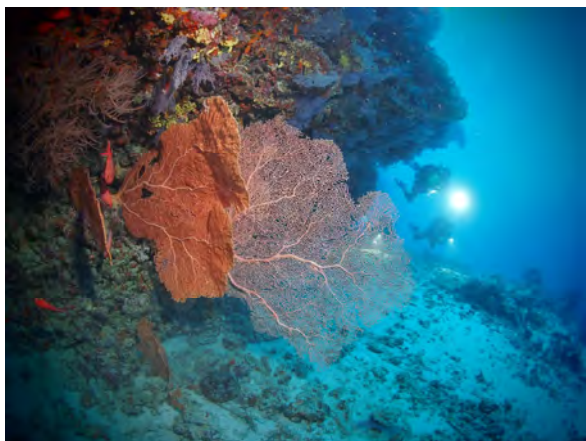
Equal 2nd - September 2019



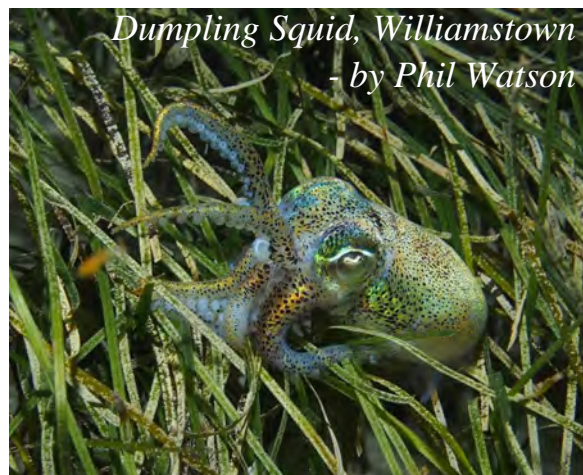
Equal 2nd - And we want to talk to you about equal photo rights. Neptune Islands
- by Hannah Smeeton

SEPTEMBER 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

Spring still saw VSAG divers heading overseas and diving locally. September saw another first time winner, with Christine Reynolds taking out the month with her whale shark, closely followed by Hannah Smeeton taking out equal second, with her two photos from the Neptune Islands, South Australia. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



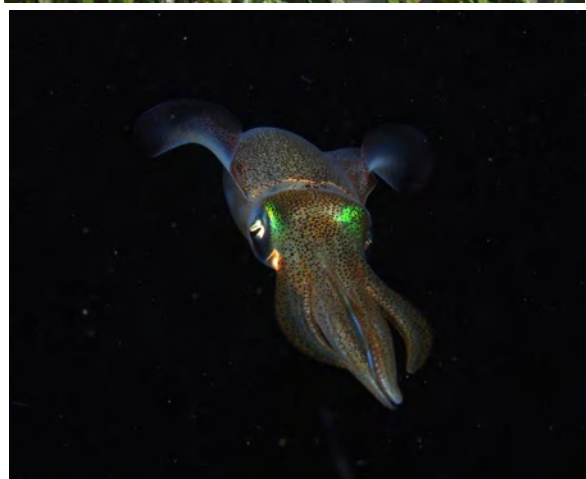
Maldives - by Tim Forster



*Dumpling Squid, Williamstown
- by Phil Watson*



*Banded Coral Sea Snake, Apo Island,
Philippines - by Christine Reynolds*



Squid, Williamstown - by Phil Watson



*Spanish Dancer, Fiji
- by Angus Stuart-Adams*



Shark Dive, Maldives - by Tim Forster

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Equal First - October 2019



Equal First - Morey Eel, Dumaguete, Philippines - by Ian Scholey

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Equal First - October 2019



Equal First - Diver in Cenote, Mexico - by Sherryn Amor

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

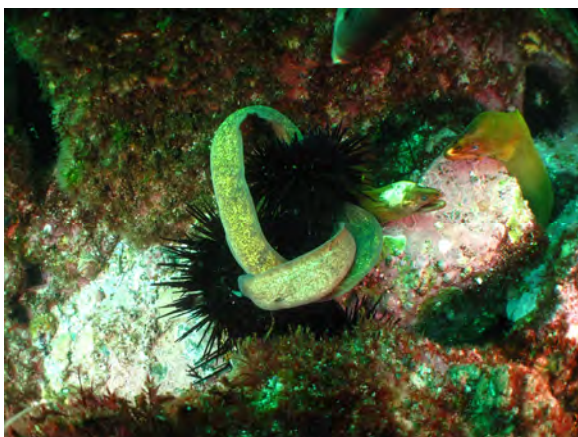
Second - October 2019



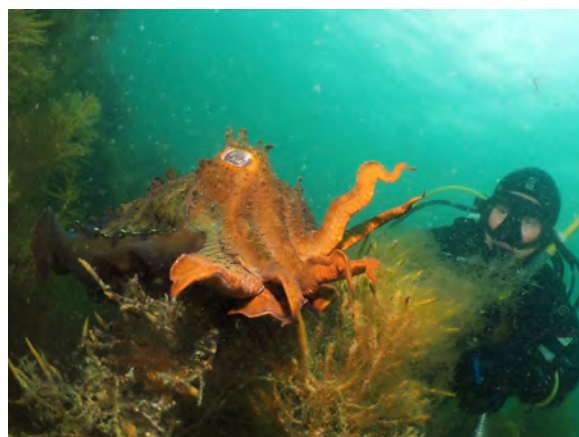
Second - Diver with Stalactites, Mexico - by Sherryn Amor

OCTOBER 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

We had an Equal First at October's photo competition between Sherryn Amor's Cenote photo from Mexico and Ian Scholey's morey photo from the Philippines. Sherryn also got second with her diver with stalactites. It would seem that VSAGers are still travelling far and wide despite the local water temperature finally warming up. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Eels eating open sea urchin, South West Rocks - by Peter Beaumont



Cuttlefish and diver, St Leonards - by Phil Watson



Long neck turtle - by Phil Watson



Black water dive, Dumaguete, Philippines - by Ian Scholey



Underbelly, Fish Rock Cave, South West Rocks - by Peter Beaumont

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

"BLAST FROM THE PAST"

A look back at Fathoms.

This edition's blast from the past is from April 1979 and was submitted by Life Member, John Goulding, I hope you enjoy it.

- Ian Scholey. ❖

"The Mystery of The Silver Ship"

A few months ago, a shipwreck at least 150 years old, was discovered on the barren shores of Australia's north west coast near Point Cloates. The find was not part of a well-prepared treasure hunting expedition but the result of a chance discovery by a spear fisherman, named Frank Paxman.

Paxman and his companions stumbled upon a copper rod protruding from the sand and realising it must have come from a ship, searched the area nearby. They found three anchors, many copper spikes and nails, cannons and hundreds of silver coins. During October and November, a team from the Western Australian Museum accompanied Paxman to the wreck site to piece together the story of this



mysterious wreck and to salvage its treasure.

To date, a total of nearly 20,000 silver coins have been removed and through a properly co-ordinated survey of the wreck and its relics, a picture can be pieced together of the history surrounding this wreck.

The ship had been constructed of wood, with external sheathing of copper on her hull, to protect her against torpedo worm. She was about 145 feet in length and probably weighed less than 600 tonnes. (Perhaps similar in size to the Eliza Ramsden)

It would appear that the stern of the ship was ablaze either before she hit the reef and this might indicate that the captain was trying to beach the

burning ship or that fire broke out after the ship was blown onto the reef. There was no cargo to be found and ballast was achieved using many tons of river stones to stabilise her in the huge swells she would experience in the Southern Indian Ocean.

One theory is that the ship may have sailed from the east coast of America, perhaps Boston or Salam, and was carrying the 20,000 silver coins, that were readily available from the Spanish colonies in South America during the 18th and early 19th Century, to trade with the East Indies or even China.

As the latest coins found are dated 1809, it is believed that the ship could have been American and historians estimate that it sank in 1811. The wreck has been proclaimed a historic shipwreck under the Historic Shipwrecks Act of 1976, which, hopefully, will preserve this wreck for others to view without plunder and for the full mystery of the “Silver Ship” to be unfolded.

- John Goulding. ❖”

—oOo—

I did a bit of digging about this wreck and managed to find out that the ship was an American China Trader, named the “Rapid”. Here is some further insight on what happened to her from the Western Australian Museum Shipwreck database:

Rapid

An American China trader wrecked at Ningaloo reef in 1811. The first example of an outward-bound American China trader to be examined from the archaeological perspective. Reported in the Columbian Sentinel, dated 3 August 1811, to have had \$280,000 in specie on its outward journey from Boston. Rapid departed Boston for Canton on 28 September 1810. After rounding the Cape of Good Hope, sailed across the southern Indian Ocean and then north-east towards North-West Cape on the Australian coast but was wrecked on the 98th day of the voyage. The next day, a storm was raging and the crew set fire to the ship, sacrificing everything so that the wreck would not appear above water and attract other ships to the scene before the Captain could return to save the \$280,000 American dollars being carried on board. The entire crew of the Rapid reached Java alive, though a number died afterwards. Captain Henry Dorr, his clerk and three sailors survived 37 days of deprivation in the 16-foot, very leaky jolly boat with only limited rations. They found rats and crabs to eat on Christmas Island en route to Bencoolen, but no water other than rainwater that they collected in the sails. Six weeks after arriving in Batavia

(Jakarta), the opportunity of a passage home presented itself. The American schooner, General Greene, had lost its captain and most of its crew at Batavia, so Henry Dorr and part of the Rapid's crew offered to navigate the schooner to America, arriving in Philadelphia on 27 July 1811.

Salvage of the specie was a matter of immediacy for the owners of the Rapid. The town of Boston was already suffering commercial distress, added to which were the deteriorating relations between America and Britain that eventuated in war in 1812. Most of the specie was salvaged during the months after the wreck, the ship Meridian transporting c. 91,000 to Canton in 1813, with more held by the salvagers at Madras and Java. All but about 19,000 coins were salvaged in the months following the wrecking.

In 1978 a spear-fishing group comprising F. Paxman, B. Paxman, G. Dromey, and L. Paterson discovered the wreck. During three seasons of excavation between 1979 and 1882, archaeologists from the Department of Maritime Archaeology, led by Graeme Henderson, surveyed the ship's timbers and removed the artefacts from within the hull, including 18,548 remaining Spanish silver dollars. Ship's fittings, provisions and the personal possessions of crew

members had survived in reasonable condition on the site. The hull survey provided sufficiently comprehensive data for the lines of the interior of the vessel to be reconstructed and the exterior to be estimated. The excavation provided information about a vessel type, often referred to in the literature but never comprehensively described. A film 'Wreck at Madman's Corner', popular works and an exhibition at the Shipwreck Galleries ensued.

Information courtesy of the Western Australian Museum.

<http://museum.wa.gov.au/research/collections/maritime-archaeology/maritime-shipwrecks/rapid>

POPES EYE & SCALLOP DRIFT

POPES EYE & SCALLOP DRIFT

3rd November 2019

Divers: Andrew McKernan and Christine Reynolds.

Bright and early Sunday morning, and exactly what you don't need, a gear failure. An emergency call to Scuba Doctor for some hire gear solved the problem. As luck would have it, a quick inspection by Lloyd Borrett and a \$3 part, had me on my way again. Many thanks, Lloyd, for your excellent service.

The sun was shining when I left home but was overcast when I arrived for a sensible 11am start from Sorrento Caravan Park with Andrew McKernan and his mate, Kevan Howell, as second driver. John Lawler was a last-minute cancellation due to illness but Andrew kindly agreed to take me diving anyway.

We had a short walk across the sand to Andrew's boat, which was moored close. Conditions were calm, with light winds. We loaded our gear into the boat and headed out for a scallop drift off Rye. We bagged out relatively quickly and returned to the boat to ponder our next dive.

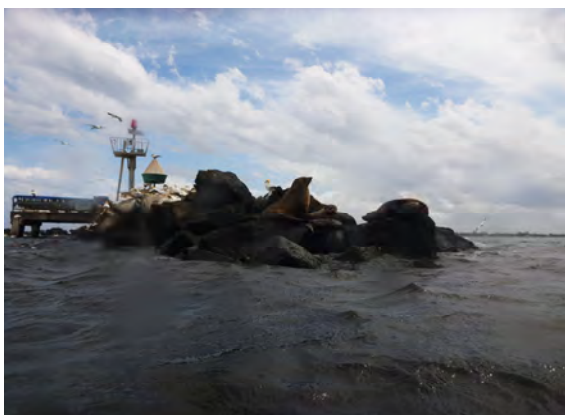


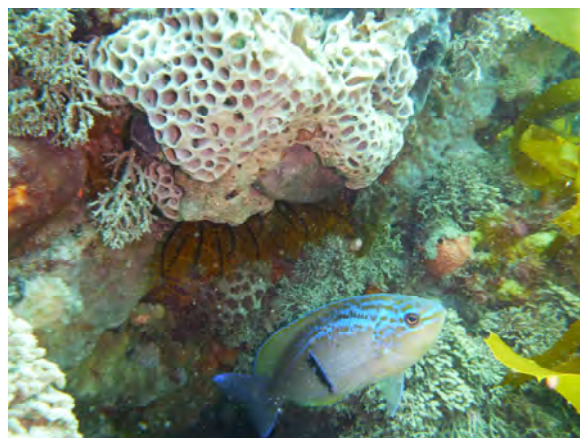
We decided on Rob's Reef but as we neared this location, the wind had picked up, so we headed for the shelter of Popes Eye. Watched by the local seals and sea birds, we headed off to the lee side of the rocks, where the current was least and viz approx. 10-15 metres. With some great photo opportunities, we completed our dive and headed back to Andrew's boat for the trip back to Sorrento.

Many thanks to Andrew for organising the dive day and to Kevan for manning the boat, while Andrew and I completed our dives safely.

A lovely day on the bay, with great company. Many thanks.

- *Christine Reynolds.* ❖





CAPE SHANCK

CAPE SHANCK

13th October, 2019

This morning 5 of us met at Stony point boat ramp and David Politakis took us out on a couple of exploratory dives off Cape Shank. We first went looking for some great caverns that Dave had dived a number of years ago. Although we all felt this was a great dive, Dave felt it was not the dive he remembered but thought it was a little north of where we dived. The second dive was in the location of a Bommie. Here are a few of the better photos of today's diving. I hope you enjoy.

- *Brian Heatherich.* ❖





THE EURO

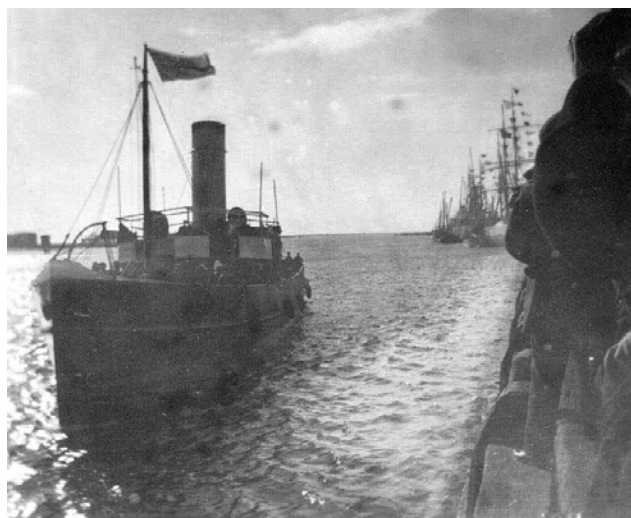
THE EURO

29th September, 2019

Finally, finally, finally we got out for a boat dive today. Chris Porter and I jumped on Redboats for the trip down to the Ships' Graveyard for a tech dive on the Euro.

For those that haven't done this one, it's a great little wreck. The former tug sits listing to one side in 47m. It's still pretty intact and you can enter the wreck for a look at the boiler. The anchor sits on the foredeck and there is plenty of growth. It was great to see the boat full of eager divers and they were rewarded for the bumpy ride down, with excellent vis on the wreck site. Sadly, I didn't have my best day with the camera but managed a few shots to give you a flavour.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



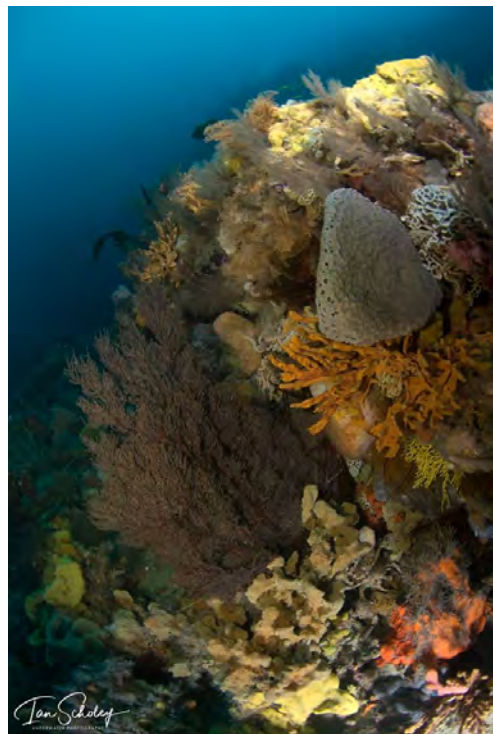
LONSDALE WALL

LONSDALE WALL

5th October, 2019

Second dive of the day yesterday was an absolute cracker on the Lonsdale Wall. The vis was excellent and as last dive of the day for Redboats, we were given a nice long run time. Most of the earlier crew had called it a day with the Canberra dive, so just myself, Chris Porter and Rowan Salger on this one.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



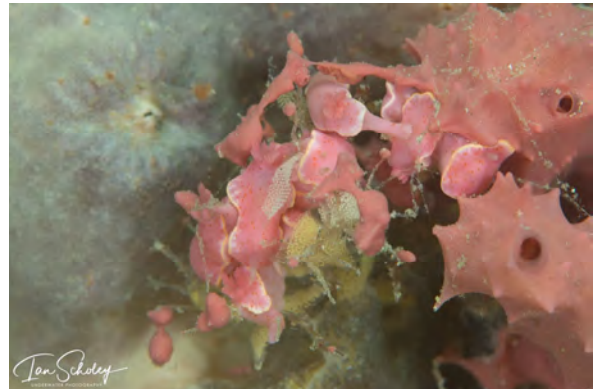
Blairgowrie

BLAIRGOWRIE

24th November, 2019

Another monster dive for me today. The water is warming up nicely, with the heater coming on only for the last hour of my 3 1/2 hour dive. I didn't manage to find anything new today but all the old favourites were on show again. The *Polycera hedgpethi* Nudibranch (Black/White/Yellow) are in egg laying mode, so set to explode in numbers again shortly. Right at the end of the dive, in 1.5m, I found a Mantis Shrimp out of it's hole but failed to get a decent shot of it.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





Home: Covered ☒

Car: Covered ☒

Are You?

Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?

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

www.danasiapacific.org

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

Rock Lobster Tagging Program

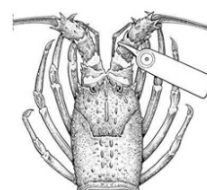
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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

BOAT RAMPS

Better Boating Victoria has been working with boating asset managers to remove all fees and make it cheaper and easier for all people to get out on the water.

To find a free boat ramp please visit this link

<https://betterboating.vic.gov.au/>

DIARY DATES

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

Philippines & Palau—June 2020

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

or ring Peter on 0428-941-013.

OR: Peter Campisano on

campo15@optusnet.com.au

or ring Peter Campo on

0402-110-386.





The destination for next year's club overseas trip is Dumaguete in the Philippines. This will be a great trip to bring the family along, as there is plenty for them to do while we are out diving.

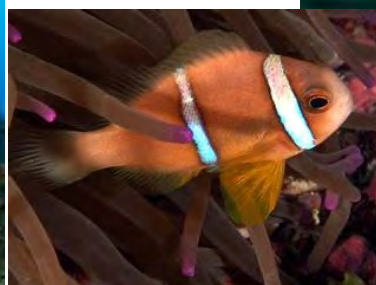
If anyone is interested please contact me for a booking form at:

President@vsag.org.au

While we are in the Philippines, it seems silly not to take the opportunity to extend the trip in Palau. Koror is just a 2 hour flight from Manila and has some of the best diving anywhere.

If anyone is interested please contact me for a booking form at:

President@vsag.org.au





VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

DUMAGUETE- THE PHILIPPINES



8

DAYS



7

NIGHTS



12

DIVES

Join the Victorian Sub Aqua group on this memorable trip to the Philippines, with the option to extend further and dive Palau too! Diving in Dumaguete can take place on either the magnificent Marine Sanctuary of Apo Island or the amazing Dauin Coastline. Find walls densely covered with hard and soft corals, schooling fish, turtles and crystal clear waters. In contrast, the Dauin coastline is home to exquisitely rare macro critters. Spot wonderpus, hairy frogfish, mandarin fish performing their mating dances at dusk and the extremely rare clown frogfish.

FLY

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES & CEBU PACIFIC

Return Flights Melbourne to Dumaguete via Manila

All airline taxes & fuel surcharges

STAY & DIVE

ATLANTIS DUMAGUETE RESORT

7 nights standard room twin share

Breakfast daily

Return airport transfers

10 dives per person

Apo island day trip including 2 dives pp

Oslob whale shark snorkel day trip

Tanks, weights, airfills

UPGRADE OPTION

Eat Sleep Dive package

Includes all meals

Unlimited diving

Free nitrox

Add \$900pp

05-12 JUN 2020

\$3189 PP

REF ADE 1724



CONTACT VSAG FOR MORE INFORMATION

ischoley@iinet.net.au | 0439 310 646 | vsag.org.au

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

res@allwaysdive.com.au | 03 95316818 | allwaysdive.com.au

Lic # 32311



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP PALAU EXTENSION



8

DAYS



7

NIGHTS



9

DIVES

Following on from diving Dumagute in the Philippines, come along with Victorian Sub Aqua Group to dive Palau! This destination offers some of the most diverse waters in the world. Its marine ecosystems include barrier and fringing reefs, lagoons, sea grass beds, marine lakes and mangrove forests. Palau's waters boast some of the world's best reefs and concentrations of the most spectacular marine life in the world. Inquisitive sharks, friendly dolphins, manta rays, tuna and barracuda - all are prolific in the rich Palau waters and every dive holds something new and breathtaking. There are dive sites to suit all levels of experience with the two best sites being "Blue Corner" and "Blue Holes". These pristine habitats support some of the world's richest populations of marine life. With over 1,500 species of fish, pelagics, corals and a number of WWII wrecks, Palau should be on every diver's bucket list.

FLY

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES

Return Flights Manila to Koror
All airline taxes & fuel surcharges

STAY & DIVE

PALAU CENTRAL, KOROR

7 nights standard room twin share
Breakfast daily
Return airport transfers

SAM'S TOURS PALAU

8 dives per diver inc Tanks, weights and airfills
Third residual air dive Chandelier Cave
Jellyfish Lake snorkel stop
Unlimited diving on Sam's macro wall
FREE Sam's water bottle
FREE nitrox for certified divers
Excludes :
Dive permits including Jellyfish Lake \$100USD paid locally



12 - 19 JUN 2020

ADDITIONAL
\$2989 PP

REF ADE 1724

CONTACT VSAG FOR MORE INFORMATION

ischoley@iinet.net.au | 0439 310 646 | vsag.org.au

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

res@allwaysdive.com.au | 03 9531 6818 | allwaysdive.com.au

Lic # 32311

VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar

Diving with VSAG:

Each week the nominated Dive Captain will issue an email on or close to the Wednesday advising if there are any boats available and, if known, where the locations.

If you are interested in booking on one of the boats for a dive weekend, you should Email the Dive Captain ASAP after receiving the notification email with the following information:

Full Name;

Mobile Number;

Emergency Contact Information;

Preferred boarding location (if different locations are offered e.g. Sorrento/Queenscliff)

Date/Details of last dive; and

Gear configuration.

Available boat owners will be confirmed by email prior to the weekend.

Dive site(s) and dive day will be determined by the DC in consultation with the Boat Owners, depending on the forecasted conditions.

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

The boat owner and /or one of the divers will prepare and forward a Fathoms Dive Report to: editor@vsag.org.au

You must confirm your intention to dive with the Dive Captain and the boat owner by 6:00pm the day prior to the dive.

Failure to confirm your intention to dive may result in the boat owner allocating your spot on the boat to a confirmed diver and placing your spot on the “standby diver list”.

Additional Information:

Tidal Stream Information for Port Phillip Bay Heads is location 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

Definitions

TBA – To Be Advised

TBC – To Be Confirmed

See VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar 01.01.2020 – 31.12.2020. Please note that the calendar is subject to change when circumstances require. – VSAG Committee.

Date		Day	Event	Dive Captain
04-01-20	05-01-20	Sat-Sun		David Geekie
11-01-20	12-01-20	Sat-Sun		Ian Scholey
07-01-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
18-01-20	19-01-20	Sat-Sun	Red boats	Graham Ellis Walter Medenbach
21-01-20		Tuesday	General Meeting	
25-01-20	26-01-20	Sat-Sun		Andrew McKernan
27-01-20		Monday	Australia Day	
01-02-20	02-02-20	Sat-Sun		David Politakis
08-02-20	09-02-20	Sat-Sun	Red Boats	Carol Penfold Walter Medenbach
11-02-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
15-02-20	16-02-20	Sat-Sun		John Lawler
18-02-20		Tuesday	General Meeting	Hannah Smeeton
22-02-20	23-02-20	Sat-Sun		Carol Penfold
29-02-20	01-03-20	Sat-Sun		Andrew McKernan
07-03-20	08-03-20	Sat-Sun		David Geekie
10-02-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
14-03-20	15-03-20	Sat-Sun	Dive Club Event	Ian Scholey Peter Galvin
17-03-20		Tuesday	General Meeting	
21-03-20	22-03-20	Sat-Sun		Graham Ellis
28-03-20	29-03-20	Sat-Sun		David Politakis
04-04-20	05-04-20	Sat-Sun		John Lawler
11-04-20	12-04-20	Sat-Sun		Michael Ngai
14-02-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
18-04-20	19-04-20	Sat-Sun		Andrew McKernan
21-04-20		Tuesday	General Meeting	
25-04-20	26-04-20	Sat-Sun	Red boats	David Geekie Walter Medenbach
02-05-20	03-05-20	Sat-Sun		Ian Scholey
09-05-20	10-05-20	Sat-Sun		Graham Ellis
12-05-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
16-05-20	17-05-19	Sat-Sun		David Politakis
19-05-20		Tuesday	General Meeting	
23-05-20	24-05-20	Sat-Sun	Dive Club Event	N/A TBC
30-05-20	31-05-20	Sat-Sun		Hannah Smeeton
06-06-20	07-06-20	Sat-Sun		Michael Ngai
09-06-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
13-06-20	14-06-20	Sat-Sun		Graham Ellis
16-06-20		Tuesday	General Meeting	
20-06-20	21-06-20	Sat-Sun	Red boats	John Lawler Walter Medenbach

Date		Day	Event	Dive Captain
27-06-20	28-06-19	Sat-Sun		Michael Ngai
04-07-20	05-07-20	Sat-Sun		Ian Scholey
11-07-20	12-07-20	Sat-Sun	Red boats	Carol Penfold
14-07-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
18-07-20	19-07-20	Sat-Sun		David Politakis
21-07-20		Tuesday	General Meeting	
25-07-20	26-07-20	Sat-Sun		Carol Penfold
01-08-20	02-08-20	Sat-Sun		Graham Ellis
08-08-20	09-08-20	Sat-Sun	Red boats	Carol Penfold Walter Medenbach
11-08-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
15-08-20	16-08-20	Sat-Sun		Michael Ngai
18-08-20		Tuesday	General Meeting	Hannah Smeeton
22-08-20	23-08-20	Sat-Sun	Dive Club Event	TBC
05-09-20	06-09-20	Sat-Sun	Red boats	Ian Scholey Carol Penfold
08-09-20		Tuesday	Committee Meeting	
12-09-20	13-09-20	Sat-Sun		Graham Ellis
15-09-20			General Meeting	
19-09-20	20-09-20	Sat-Sun	Red boats	Carol Penfold Walter Medenbach
26-09-20	27-09-20	Sat-Sun		Michael Ngai
03-10-20	04-10-20	Sat-Sun		David Politakis
10-10-20	11-10-20	Sat-Sun		Carol Penfold
13-10-20			Committee Meeting	
17-10-20	18-10-20	Sat-Sun		Ian Scholey
20-10-20			General Meeting	
24-10-20	25-10-20	Sat-Sun		Graham Ellis
31-10-20	01-11-20	Sat-Sun		John Lawler
03-11-20			Melbourne Cup	
07-11-20	08-11-20	Sat-Sun		David Geekie Carol Penfold
10-11-20			Committee Meeting	
14-11-20	15-11-20	Sat-Sun		Hannah Smeeton
17-11-20			General Meeting	
21-11-20	22-11-20	Sat-Sun	Dive Club Event	N/A TBC
28-11-20	29-11-20	Sat-Sun		David Politakis
05-12-20	06-12-20	Sat-Sun		Ian Scholey
08-12-20			Proposed Christmas Party	
12-12-20	13-12-20	Sat-Sun		Graham Ellis
19-12-20	20-12-20	Sat-Sun	Red boats	John Lawler Walter Medenbach
26-12-20	30-12-20			TBA

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

Better Boating Victoria

♦ 1 Oxygen Medical Kit

To find a free boat ramp please visit this link:

♦ 1 DAN First Aid Kit

♦ 2 Scuba Tanks.

<https://betterboating.vic.gov.au/>

♦

Tidal Streams at the Heads — December 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

December						
<i>MON 2</i>	<i>TUE 3</i>	<i>WED 4</i>	<i>THU 5</i>	<i>FRI 6</i>	<i>SAT 7</i>	<i>SUN 8</i>
1:18	1:56	2:31	3:06	3:42	4:21	5:08
7:56	8:32	9:06	9:39	10:13	10:49	11:28
14:05	14:43	15:22	16:02	16:47	17:38	18:35
19:08	19:51	20:35	21:24	22:22	23:31	
<i>MON 9</i>	<i>TUE 10</i>	<i>WED 11</i>	<i>THU 12</i>	<i>FRI 13</i>	<i>SAT 14</i>	<i>SUN 15</i>
0:51	2:13	3:22	4:17	5:03	5:45	6:24
6:13	7:43	9:10	10:14	11:04	11:48	12:27
12:13	13:02	13:56	14:49	15:39	16:27	17:13
19:34	20:28	21:18	22:04	22:48	23:31	
<i>MON 16</i>	<i>TUE 17</i>	<i>WED 18</i>	<i>THU 19</i>	<i>FRI 20</i>	<i>SAT 21</i>	<i>SUN 22</i>
0:15	0:57	1:40	2:23	3:07	3:53	4:43
7:03	7:40	8:17	8:52	9:28	10:06	10:47
13:07	13:46	14:27	15:12	16:00	16:54	17:54
17:59	18:47	19:37	20:34	21:37	22:50	
<i>MON 23</i>	<i>TUE 24</i>	<i>WED 25</i>	<i>THU 26</i>	<i>FRI 27</i>	<i>SAT 28</i>	<i>SUN 29</i>
0:12	1:36	2:54	4:00	4:55	5:42	6:24
5:44	7:01	8:29	9:49	10:53	11:45	12:31
11:35	12:30	13:31	14:34	15:35	16:30	17:21
18:57	20:01	21:01	21:58	22:49	23:35	
December		January				
<i>MON 30</i>	<i>TUE 31</i>	<i>WED 1</i>	<i>WED 1</i>	<i>THU 2</i>	<i>FRI 3</i>	<i>SAT 4</i>
0:18	0:58	1:34	1:34	2:07	2:40	3:12
7:01	7:36	8:07	8:07	8:36	9:03	9:31
13:12	13:51	14:27	14:27	15:02	15:38	16:16
18:08	18:52	19:35	19:35	20:19	21:05	21:56

Tidal Streams at the Heads — January 2020

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

December		January				
<i>MON 30</i>	<i>TUE 31</i>	<i>WED 1</i>	<i>THU 2</i>	<i>FRI 3</i>	<i>SAT 4</i>	<i>SUN 5</i>
0:18	0:58	1:34	2:07	2:40	3:12	3:47
7:01	7:36	8:07	8:36	9:03	9:31	9:59
13:12	13:51	14:27	15:02	15:38	16:16	16:57
18:08	18:52	19:35	20:19	21:05	21:56	22:56
<i>MON 6</i>	<i>TUE 7</i>	<i>WED 8</i>	<i>THU 9</i>	<i>FRI 10</i>	<i>SAT 11</i>	<i>SUN 12</i>
4:25	0:05	1:22	2:39	3:46	4:40	5:26
10:31	5:13	6:18	7:49	9:22	10:30	11:22
17:43	11:07	11:51	12:45	13:49	14:56	15:58
	18:34	19:30	20:28	21:25	22:19	23:11
<i>MON 13</i>	<i>TUE 14</i>	<i>WED 15</i>	<i>THU 16</i>	<i>FRI 17</i>	<i>SAT 18</i>	<i>SUN 19</i>
6:07	0:00	0:47	1:33	2:17	3:00	3:43
12:07	6:45	7:21	7:55	8:29	9:03	9:39
16:56	12:50	13:34	14:19	15:05	15:52	16:42
	17:52	18:47	19:43	20:42	21:44	22:50
<i>MON 20</i>	<i>TUE 21</i>	<i>WED 22</i>	<i>THU 23</i>	<i>FRI 24</i>	<i>SAT 25</i>	<i>SUN 26</i>
4:28	0:02	1:17	2:32	3:40	4:38	5:26
10:17	5:20	6:26	7:51	9:22	10:35	11:31
17:34	11:01	11:52	12:54	14:03	15:13	16:15
	18:30	19:30	20:33	21:33	22:29	23:19
January					February	
<i>MON 27</i>	<i>TUE 28</i>	<i>WED 29</i>	<i>THU 30</i>	<i>FRI 31</i>	<i>SAT 1</i>	<i>SUN 2</i>
6:06	0:03	0:42	1:17	1:48	2:19	2:50
12:16	6:40	7:10	7:37	8:02	8:26	8:51
17:10	12:56	13:31	14:04	14:36	15:08	15:41
	17:58	18:42	19:24	20:05	20:47	21:32

Tidal Streams at the Heads — February 2020

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

January					February	
<i>MON 27</i>	<i>TUE 28</i>	<i>WED 29</i>	<i>THU 30</i>	<i>FRI 31</i>	<i>SAT 1</i>	<i>SUN 2</i>
6:06	0:03	0:42	1:17	1:48	2:19	2:50
12:16	6:40	7:10	7:37	8:02	8:26	8:51
17:10	12:56	13:31	14:04	14:36	15:08	15:41
	17:58	18:42	19:24	20:05	20:47	21:32
<i>MON 3</i>	<i>TUE 4</i>	<i>WED 5</i>	<i>THU 6</i>	<i>FRI 7</i>	<i>SAT 8</i>	<i>SUN 9</i>
3:22	3:55	4:34	0:27	1:44	3:02	4:06
9:17	9:46	10:17	5:22	6:31	8:11	9:45
16:17	16:56	17:41	10:55	11:46	12:58	14:22
22:23	23:20		18:35	19:39	20:48	21:54
<i>MON 10</i>	<i>TUE 11</i>	<i>WED 12</i>	<i>THU 13</i>	<i>FRI 14</i>	<i>SAT 15</i>	<i>SUN 16</i>
4:57	5:39	6:16	0:38	1:24	2:08	2:50
10:50	11:42	12:30	6:51	7:25	7:59	8:34
15:41	16:50	17:52	13:17	14:03	14:49	15:34
22:53	23:48		18:50	19:47	20:44	21:41
<i>MON 17</i>	<i>TUE 18</i>	<i>WED 19</i>	<i>THU 20</i>	<i>FRI 21</i>	<i>SAT 22</i>	<i>SUN 23</i>
3:31	4:13	5:00	0:47	1:58	3:09	4:10
9:11	9:50	10:33	5:57	7:15	8:55	10:15
16:20	17:07	17:58	11:24	12:26	13:42	15:00
22:40	23:41		18:56	20:00	21:08	22:10
February						March
<i>MON 24</i>	<i>TUE 25</i>	<i>WED 26</i>	<i>THU 27</i>	<i>FRI 28</i>	<i>SAT 29</i>	<i>SUN 1</i>
4:59	5:37	6:09	0:26	0:59	1:30	2:01
11:11	11:54	12:31	6:35	7:00	7:23	7:47
16:10	17:06	17:53	13:03	13:33	14:02	14:32
23:02	23:47		18:35	19:13	19:51	20:29

Emergency Contact Information

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

VHF Channel 16
27 MHz AM Channel 88

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

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

Speak slowly and clearly

Mayday Call – for grave & imminent danger requiring immediate assistance	Urgency Call – when the danger is not grave or imminent
Distress Call: Mayday, Mayday, Mayday This is: <u>“Boat call sign x3”</u> (Boat owners insert your call sign)	Urgency Call: Pan Pan, Pan Pan, Pan Pan All Ships, All Ships, All Ships (or the emergency service you want to contact) This is: <u>“Boat call sign x3”</u> (Boat owners insert your call sign)
Distress message after contact made: Mayday “2 DIVE 4” Give position-(see GPS for co-ordinates), nature of the problem, number on board plus any other relevant information Over Follow advice given by the emergency agency – DO NOT “Sign off” until told so by agency.	Urgency message after contact made: Pan Pan “2 DIVE 4” Give position-(see GPS for co-ordinates), nature of the problem, number on board plus any other relevant information Over Follow advice given by the emergency agency – DO NOT “Sign off” until told so by agency.

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:

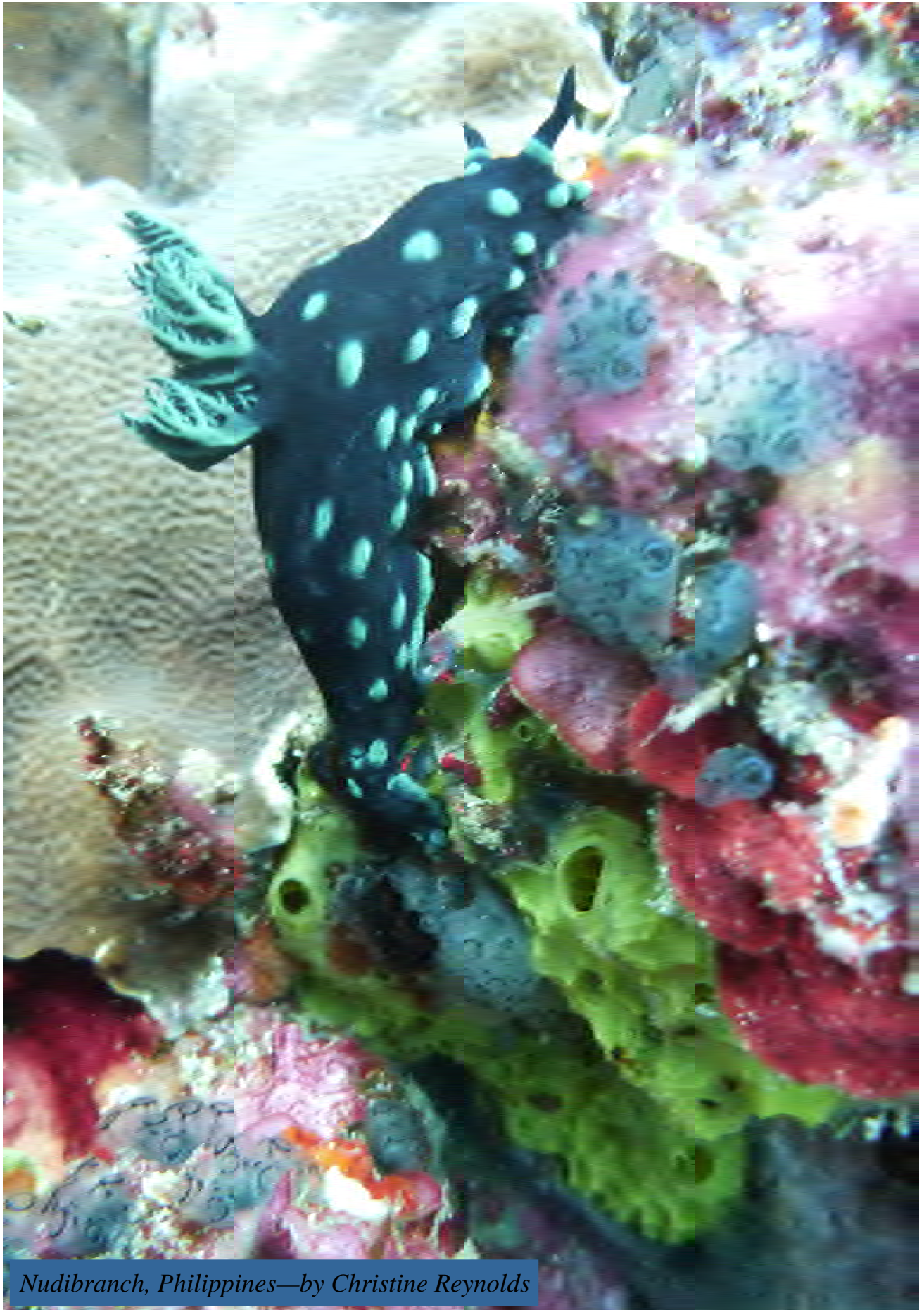
Dr Pamela Dagley (Eltham) 03 9439 2222 (VSAG member)

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



Nudibranch, Philippines—by Christine Reynolds