



Fathoms

Cover Photo :

Whale Shark, Cebu

- by Christine Reynolds

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2019

VSAG AGM & Awards Evening
Dumaguete, Cebu, Philippines,
Photo of the Year 2019
A Blast from the Past 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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VSAG, Inc., P.O. Box 596, Cranbourne Vic 3977

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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



Check out St George Scuba Club at : <http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/news.php>

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

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

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



Your VSAG Committee 2019–2020

To email all VSAG committee members: committee@vsag.org.au

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VSAG, Inc. Annual General Meeting 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As another year comes to an end, there is plenty to reflect on. As a committee we have tried to live by the club motto of "Safety in Diving" and have invested heavily this year in additional safety gear. We now have top class O2 equipment on all of our regular boats, ensuring that should a DCS incident occur, we are equipped to provide the necessary first aid. The type of equipment we have enables two divers to be provided with sufficient O2 to allow us to get them back to the boat ramp and professional help. Despite a significant investment, the club remains in a sound financial position, creating the opportunity for continued investment to improve the club equipment next year.

Our local diving has been at its lowest level since I joined the club and this is a concern. Rather than sit back, the committee has been proactive in talking to our boat skippers and seeking their input into what we can do to try and turn this situation around. We are, after all, a dive club first and



foremost and it is important that we continue to create opportunities for our members to dive.

Our interstate and overseas trips have been well supported. We had an amazing group go to Truk Lagoon and PNG last year for some spectacular diving and great fun. It was nice to see everyone get along and contribute to a memorable trip. This was followed by two excellent

Australian trips, first to Jervis Bay and then our regular Eaglehawk Neck Trip. Finally, a smaller group headed off to Fiji to dive with Bull Sharks and Manta Rays, which sounded like a great experience.

We have had a good selection of guest speakers attend our General meetings. It has been good to see several club members step up and offer to talk on their own interests or experiences. It is always good to get the inside view on diving destinations and I'm sure it's given you a few more trips to add to your bucket list.

A lot of work goes into making our club what it is and I would like to finish by recognising some people:

Fathoms is a publication that we can all be proud of and we shouldn't underestimate the amount of work that Christine Reynolds does in editing the magazine. Without her hard work we wouldn't have this great magazine, so thank you for a great job, Christine.

I would also like to thank this year's committee members for all of their hard work and the contribution that each one has made to the club.

This year sees the retirement of David Geekie, our previous President will be missed as his drive and leadership have been a significant asset for the club. That said, he seems to be having a ball enjoying his retirement and a life on the open road. Happy travels, David.

Finally, I will be standing down as President of the club and also retiring from the committee. This has been a difficult decision for me but I feel it is time for the club to find a new leader with fresh ideas. I would like to thank the club for the opportunity to fill the President's role, I have enjoyed every minute of it and could not have been prouder to have held the role.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



TREASURER'S SUMMARY 2018-2019

Introduction

This document explains the controls we have in place to ensure financial integrity and provides a summary of financial transactions for VSAG for 2018-2019. The "June 2019 Treasurer's Report" shows all transactions for the year.

If you have further questions or wish to see further evidence please contact Peter Galvin. Hard copy of the year's financial transactions will be available at the AGM.

Financial Controls

Expenditure

All expenditure has been by electronic transfer from the savings account. This requires approval by 2 signatories to the account. All signatories have an electronic token that provides a random number they must use to authorise the expenditure. The signatories are;

Peter Galvin

Ian Scholey

In addition the rules of our incorporation require 2 committee

members to verify the records, this has been completed by:

Ian Scholey

Graham Ellis

Income

I provide all cash income with a receipt and then transfer the money from my account but with a reference to whoever has paid it. This saves me making trips to the bank to deposit cash and shows all transactions individually in the bank statement.

I also provide a receipt for all cheques. Most income to VSAG is by electronic transfer and members are able to check their payments by reviewing the spreadsheet and/or the monthly bank statements.

Highlights

We had 4 new individual members join.

We had no new family members join.

We had a cash "loss" of \$5,274.41 for the year, major expenditures were;

Awards	\$675.85
Safety	\$6,165.35
Meeting Expenses (Wine, Finger food)	\$638.43
Insurance	\$1,015.78
Administration	\$817.72
Fathoms	\$1,450.91

On the 30th June we had financial assets of \$14,729.89 (\$18,899.63).

	Withdrawals	Deposits	Profit/Loss
Total New Member Fees	-\$40.00	\$240.00	\$200.00
Total New Family Member Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Member Family Fees	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Total Member Fees	-\$400.00	\$5,600.00	\$5,200.00
Total Awards	-\$675.85	\$0.00	-\$675.85
Total Meeting Expenses	-\$638.43	\$0.00	-\$638.43
Total Safety	-\$6,165.35	\$0.00	-\$6,165.35
Total Fathoms	-\$1,450.91	\$0.00	-\$1,450.91
Total Insurance	-\$1,015.78	\$0.00	-\$1,015.78
Total Club Stock	-\$425.37	\$475.00	\$49.63
Total SDFV Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Xmas Party	-\$360.00	\$0.00	-\$360.00
Total Admin Expenses	-\$817.72	\$0.00	-\$817.72
Total Transfer to Online Savers Account	-\$100.00	\$0.00	-\$100.00
Total Jervis Bay	-\$3,555.00	\$2,455.00	-\$1,100.00
Note: \$1,000 raised in 2017/2018 Fin year			
Total Lord Howe	-\$9,600.00	\$9,600.00	\$0.00
Summary of Outgoings and Income	-\$25,244.41	\$19,970.00	-\$5,274.41
Total VSAG Debts			\$0.00
Total Owed to VSAG			\$0.00
Total Stock on Hand		\$126.00	
Cheque Account	\$5,472.21		
Online Savers Account	\$9,131.68		
Total Financial Assets	\$14,729.89		
Total Stock on Hand (Non Financial)		\$697.00	
Note not included in Financial Assets			

- Peter Galvin. ❖

VSAG AWARDS 2019

At the VSAG, Inc. Annual General Meeting & Awards Evening held at the Water Rat Hotel, South Melbourne on 15th September, 2019, Awards were presented for Club Champion, 1st Runner Up and 2nd Runner Up, Fathoms Award, Literary Award, Photograph of the Year and the coveted Wooden Weight Belt . Awards are based on a comprehensive point score system designed to encourage participation in club diving, improve boat safety and encourage club social activities. The following are the deserving winners for 2019!

We had 3 contenders for the Wooden Weight Belt:

Planning, planning, planning

After planning for months, then cancelling the planned dive days four times due to bad weather, then two intrepid crews driving 2½ hours to the dive site only to find the planned bar at the planned launching site is not passable, then

launching at another site, then travelling more than 1½ hours on the boats to arrive at the dive site to find the crews have missed slack water, which meant diving was not truly achievable.

Culprit: John Lawler

Let's Get Going

After failing to launch at McLaughlins Beach, due to a lack of water, the merry crowd of divers and boats head to Port Albert as an alternative launch site and launch without incident. Boat 1 leaves the ramp after observing where the locals are navigating. Boat 2 thinks he is following Boat 1 and even though is well clear of the isolated danger mark (which BTW is a painted dead tree in the water) runs aground in shallow sand. Boat 2 has to wait for Boat 1 to drag them off the sand bar.

Culprit: Graham Ellis

And the Winner of the Wooden Weight Belt is

WOODEN WEIGHT-BELT AWARD



GRANT CALLOW

I know where I am!

Two divers drove to a popular launching site, to join the candidate and other divers for a weekend of diving. They agreed to meet at the caravan park but needed a swipe card to enter and it was late evening, around 9.00 to 9:30 pm. The candidate started walking from his cabin to meet the two divers but got lost and had to ask the two divers to sound their horn and flash their lights, disturbing the entire campground!

PHOTOGRAPH of the YEAR



Photo of the Year winner
is Ian Scholey.

Award is presented by
Mark Jeffrey.



IAN SCHOLEY

LITERARY AWARD



IAN SCHOLEY

Winner of the Fathoms Literary Award is Ian Scholey.

Award is presented by John Lawler.

FATHOMS AWARD

FATHOMS AWARD 2019

It is my great pleasure to put together every 2 months, the VSAG Inc. official journal, FATHOMS.

We have a strong member following and this year, I have received exciting and interesting submissions from many members. I am sure you have all enjoyed the reading and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the magazine.

We have our regular contributors: Diary Dates – A big thank you to John Ashley, who maintains our Diary Dates calendar.

Tidal Streams – A big thank you to Graham Ellis who contributes the tidal streams each month.

Photo Comp – A big thank you to Mark Jeffrey who collates our Photo Competitions each month.

Ian Scholey – A big thank you for organising all our diary dates, trips and for maintaining the VSAG facebook page from which I extract much of the content of Fathoms.

I have spent considerable time reviewing this year's submissions of stories and photos and have decided to let the numbers select the winner of this year's FATHOMS AWARD. I have

selected the winner based on the number of stories submitted, and not the number of photos. Either way, counting the stories and the photo submissions, we have a clear winner!

The finalists are, in no particular order:

Peter Beaumont, Ian Scholey and Christine Reynolds.

Largest number of stories submitted

1st 73 stories Ian Scholey

2nd 14 stories Peter Beaumont

3rd 10 stories Christine Reynolds

Largest number of photos submitted

1st 928 photos Ian Scholey

2nd 216 photos Christine Reynolds

3rd 72 photos Peter Beaumont

Largest number of cover photos

1st 10 photos Ian Scholey

Equal 2nd
1 photo Arthur Kokkinos

Equal 2nd
1 photo Brian Heatherich

FATHOMS AWARD 2019



With a grand total of 73 stories, 928 photos and 10 cover photos submitted, it is my great pleasure to announce, that the clear winner of the FATHOMS AWARD for 2019 is Ian Scholey.

CONGRATULATIONS, IAN SCHOLEY!

VSAG, Inc.
CLUB CHAMPION
2nd RUNNER UP

GRAHAM ELLIS

Point score 930

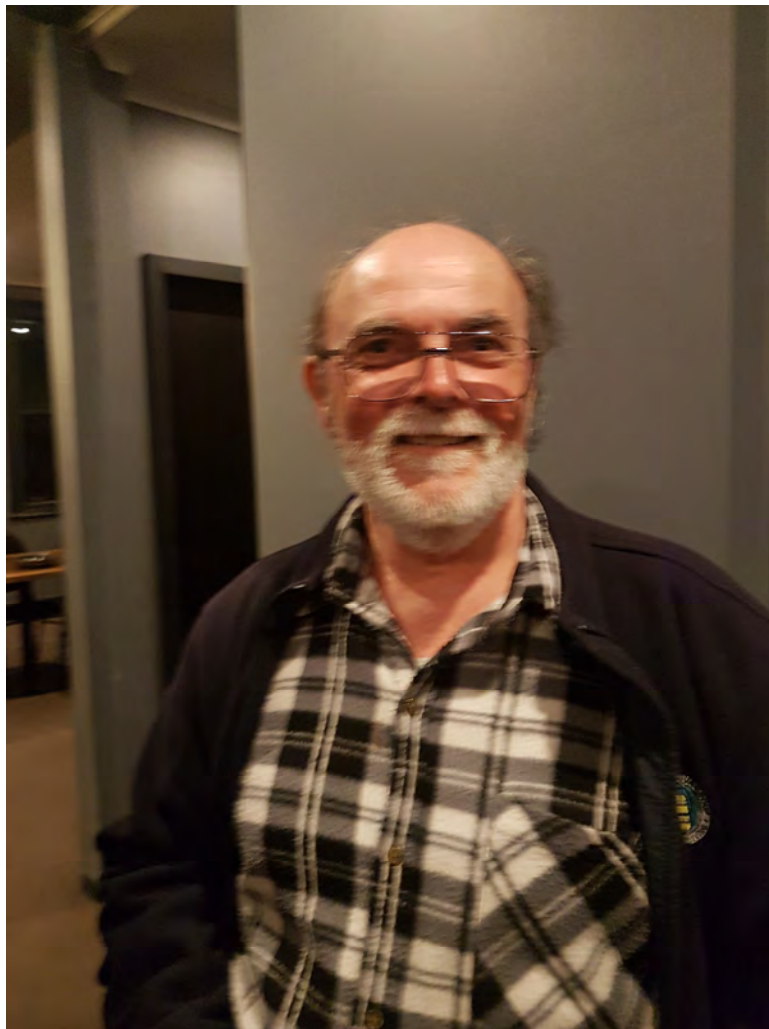


Congratulations, Graham!

VSAG, Inc.
CLUB CHAMPION
1st RUNNER UP

PETER BEAUMONT

Point score 1300



Congratulations, Peter!

VSAG, Inc.
CLUB CHAMPION
2019

IAN SCHOLEY

Point score 3720



Congratulations, Ian!

DUMAGUETE

DUMAGUETE

13th September, 2019

On Friday the 13th an intrepid group of Divers led by Paul Sorenson from Diveline Frankston, set out from Tullamarine to Manila, with destination Dauin, Dumaguete, the plan.

We banded together at 5am ready for 8am Departure onboard Philippine Airlines for the 8 hour flight direct to Manila. We arrived at 2:40pm Manila time, 2hrs behind Melbourne and having collected our luggage we were transferred to the Holiday Inn Express just opposite International at Manila airport.

Holiday Inn Express was clean, comfortable and new, offered free wifi, and a restaurant. We had a buffet breakfast before loading up and heading back to Manila Domestic Terminal for our one hour inter-island hop to Dumaguete. We were met at Domestic by staff from the Atmosphere Resort & Spa, for the 40 minute transfer to Dauin.

The day we arrived was drizzly and overcast and the for the last week before we arrived, the seas were so rough that the boats had not been able to get out. As luck would have



Banded Coral Sea Snake



it, the dawning of a new day brought calm seas, although overcast, and we were blessed with calm seas for the 2 weeks of our holiday in Dumaguete, Cebu and Porta Galera. Magnificent!

Atmosphere Resort provided a fine dining experience every meal, free nitrox every dive, spa and massage facilities, snorkelling on the house reef, happy hour every afternoon, pool 24/7, and friendly staff that waited on us hand and foot. All we had to do was, walk, talk, eat, swim and the rest was done for us.

The second storey Penthouse was the place to be. Clean, spacious, airconditioned, 2 rooms with individual ensuites, shared kitchen, dining room and lounge, with a spacious veranda and lounge area overlooking manicured gardens.

- Christine Reynolds. ❖



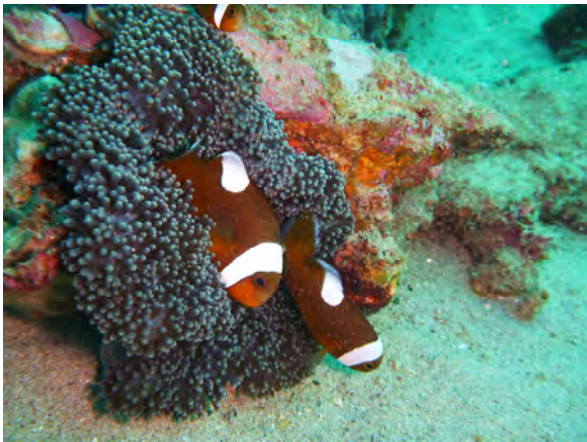




Black Frog Fish



Diveline Group





Atmosphere Resort



The Penthouse



Family Pool

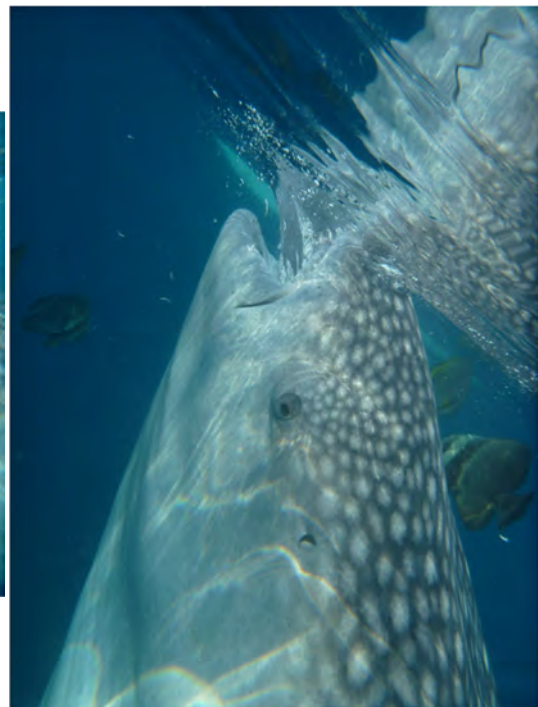


CEBU

CEBU PHILIPPINES 2019 HAVING A WHALE OF A TIME!



*Christine Reynolds and
friendly whale sharks.*





**A CROWD OF
PEOPLE GATHER
EACH MORNING TO
WATCH THE
FEEDING OF THESE
MAJESTIC FRIENDLY
GIANTS OF THE SEA**

JUST A SHORT FERRY RIDE FROM DUMAGUETE TO CEBU



Our day at Cebu started early with a short car ferry ride from Negros to Cebu, then bus to the Whale Sharks.

The crowd on and off the water was amazing. I counted 40 canoes, carrying 10 people at a time. We had to wait for a canoe to drop the swimmers back to the beach and our canoe was filled again when we had finished our snorkel with the Whale Sharks.

Only 30 minutes in the water was hardly enough time to get great photos, and difficult to get a selfie with a shark. Many thanks to my buddy for a great shot.

The trip back to Dumaguete gave us a snap shot of the real Philippines, outside of resort life.

The electric power lines are the eighth wonder of the world! An electric nightmare, I would hate to be an electrician trying to sort out what works and what doesn't.

- Christine Reynolds. ❖



In this shot, 24 canoes on the horizon, just one third of the boats that were on the water that day, waiting their turn to swim with a whale shark.





Bikes and Tuk Tuks were the preferred method of transport. There was a bike hire shop on nearly every street corner. They were often ridden in thongs and no helmet, even though it was law to wear a helmet, and of course, everyone drives on the wrong side of the road!



Tierra Alta

TIERRA ALTA

RESIDENTIAL RESORT

On one of our excursions we toured some of the most expensive real estate in Valencia, Negros Oriental.

Built on the slopes of Palinpinon in Valencia, Negros Oriental, at 800 ft above sea level, 8.5 km from Dumaguete City, is the Tierra Alta Residential Resort, with hotel and restaurant, it features a Greece-inspired clubhouse and pavilion, lagoon type infinity swimming pool, picnic and bonfire areas, lighthouse viewing deck, cliff-side boulevard and café with breath taking views of the mountains and sea.

Deluxe rooms in the hotel boast flat screen TV, air conditioning, wi-fi, complimentary coffee and breakfast and a shower! For 1-2 guests, just A\$65 per night.

Sports such as basketball and tennis courts are soon to be added on this 33-hectare development with 24-hour security, perimeter fence, main entrance Façade, electrical and water facilities, street lights and wide concrete roads with covered drainage!

Lots are available and selling.



Very nice but a bit far to travel for a dive.

- *Christine Reynolds.* ❖





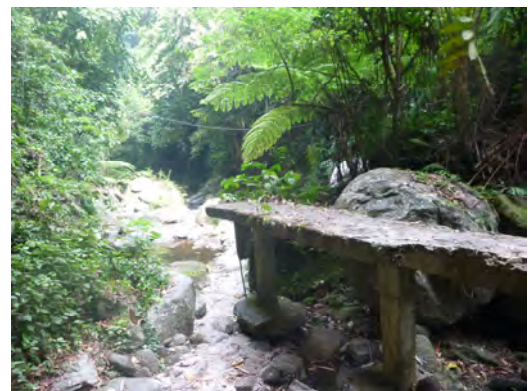
Limottakna Waterfalls

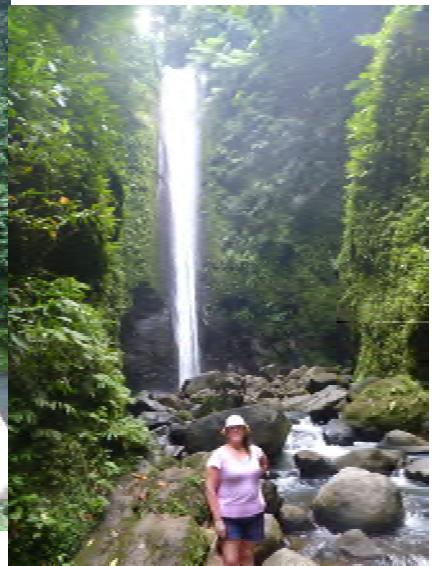
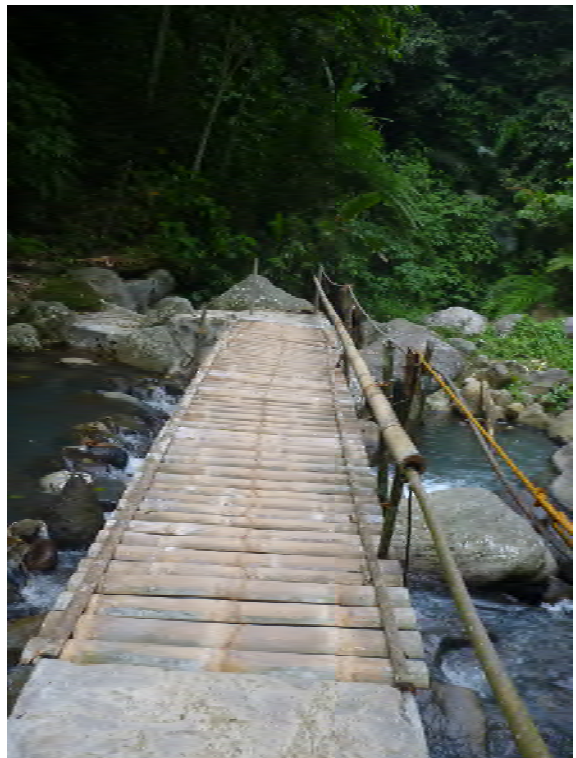
LIMOTTAKNA WATERFALLS

Another of the land excursions from Dumaguete is Limottakna Waterfalls, in Valencia, Negros Oriental, Philippines.

The walk is a very steep climb down into a narrow valley and a moderate level of fitness is required, particularly to climb back up. There is no swimming allowed at the water fall as it is the town's water supply but it was a very pretty walk.

- *Christine Reynolds.* ❖





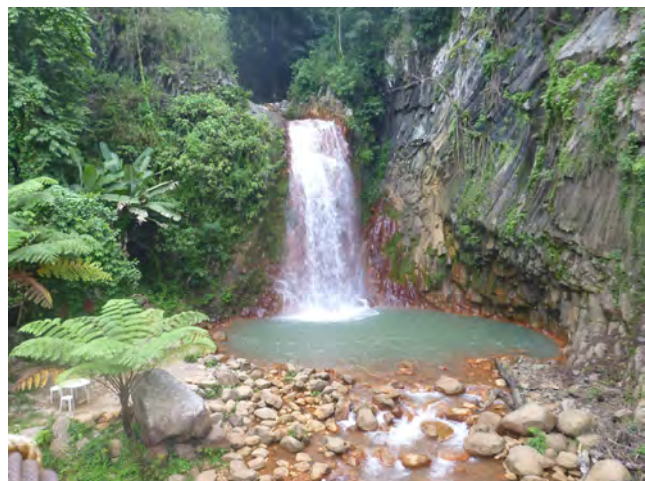
Pulangbato Falls

PULANGBATO FALLS

Another land excursion and a short drive from Dumaguete is Pulangbato Falls, Valencia, Negros Oriental, Philippines.

No fitness required for these falls, and swimming is allowed. Just a short walk from the car park, on flat ground, past the café. Yes!

- *Christine Reynolds.* ❖



RED ROCK HOT SPRINGS

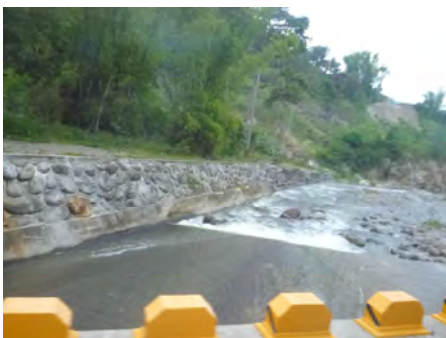
RED ROCK HOT SPRINGS

Valencia, Negros Oriental,
Philippines.

After a gruelling walk to Limottakna Falls and Pulangbato Falls, the Red Rock Hot Springs offers a relaxing end to a very physical afternoon. Be sure to wear dark clothing. They don't call it Red Rock Hot Springs for no reason. The colouring is caused by an abundance of iron oxide in the ground.

Energy generated by a thermal power plant, powers the island of Negros.

- *Christine Reynolds.* ❖



*Steam rises out of
the hill side and
fills the valley.*



August 2019 Guest Speaker

AUGUST 2019

GUEST SPEAKER

BRIAN HEATHERICH

At our August General Club meeting, club member, Brian Heatherich, provided us with an informative, interesting insight into his volunteer days, controlling the

Crown of Thorns Starfish in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Brian volunteered with the Australian Government Department of Fisheries, for one year 2013-2014, in an effort to save the magnificent coral reefs of Port Vila, from the plague of Crown of Thorn Star Fish which threatened to devour it.

The most effective method of control was found to be injecting the star fish with chlorine. ❖



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

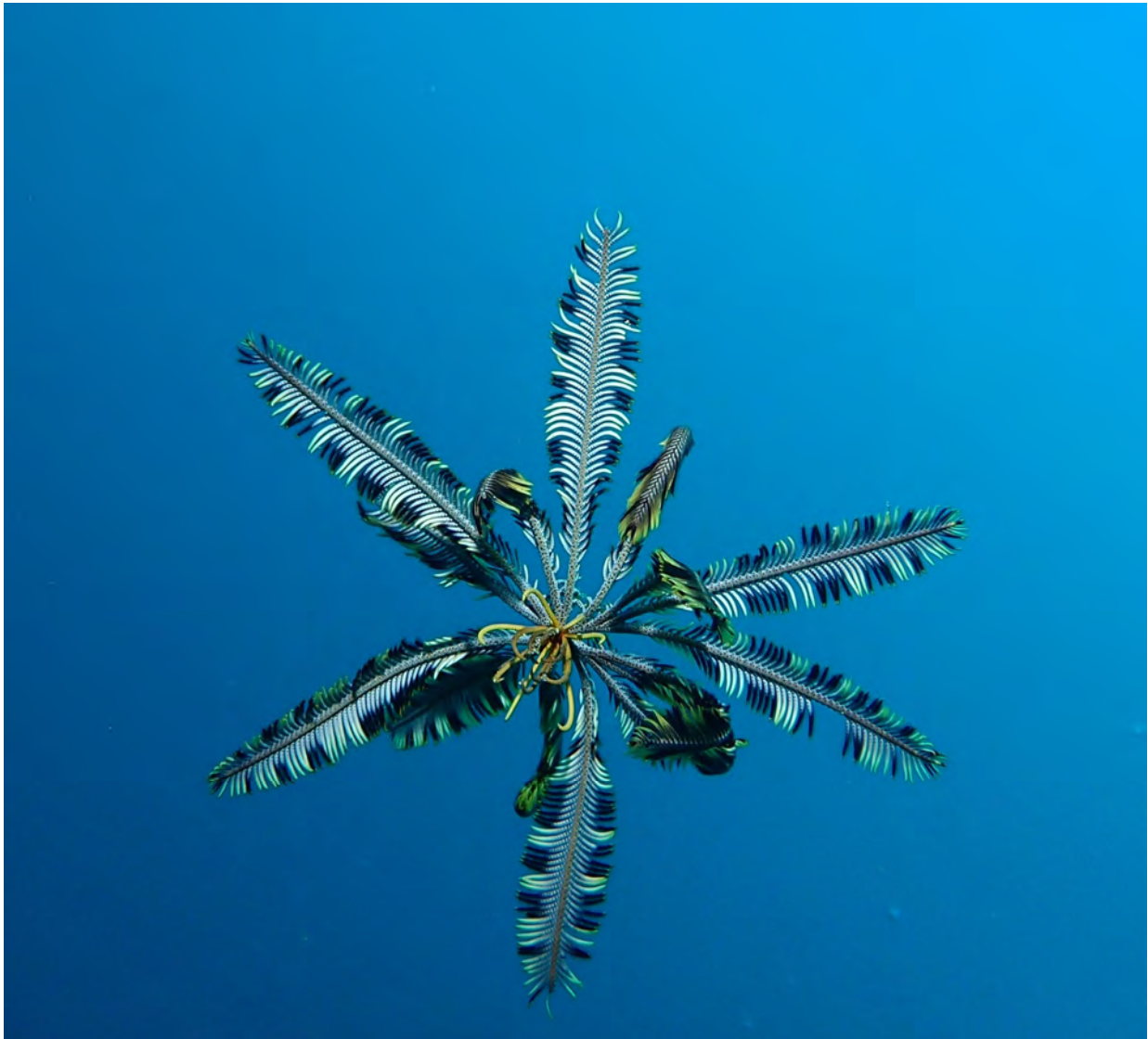
First - July 2019



First - Nudibranch, Rote Island Indonesia—by Mark Jeffrey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - July 2019



Second - Feather Star, Tanjung Sari Padang Bai - by David Flew

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Third - July 2019



Equal 3rd - Squid, Williamstown - by Phil Watson

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Third - July 2019



Equal 3rd - Lion Fish, Sipadan Island - by Denys Smerchanskyi

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Equal Third - July 2019



Equal 3rd - Lakes Entrance - by Hannah Smeeton

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal Third - July 2019



Equal 3rd - Blue Ringed Octopus, Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey

JULY 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

The July comp had a great selection of photos from home and overseas. It seems Indonesia was a popular destination in July with people escaping the winter. 1st this month was Mark Jeffrey's nuddie, 2nd was David Flew's feather star with a number of entries coming equal third from Hannah Smeeton, Denys Smerchanskyi, Phil Watson and Ian Scholey. Thank you to everyone who contributed. ❖



Still not enough water to dive, Lake Eyre
- by Hannah Smeeton



What the? Blairgowrie
- by Ian Scholey



Shrimp thingy, Rote Island
- by Mark Jeffrey



Crocodile fish
- by Denys Smerchanskyi

JULY 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION



Reminiscing old times - by Tim Forster



*Cuttlefish, Queenscliff
- by Phil Watson*



*Young Ladies Playing, Bali
- by David Flew*



Wave lines - by Tim Forster



Cuttlefish, Whyalla - by Sandy Webb

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
PHOTO OF THE YEAR WINNERS**

1st - Photo of the Year 2019



First - Seal - Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
PHOTO OF THE YEAR WINNERS**

2nd - Photo of the Year 2019



Second - Nuddie, Rote Island, Indonesia - by Mark Jeffrey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
PHOTO OF THE YEAR WINNERS**

3rd - Photo of the Year 2019



Third - Silent sentinel, Aqaba, Jordan - by Mark Jeffrey

PHOTO OF THE YEAR 2019 COMPETITION

On 17th September, we had the AGM and our photo of the year competition from all our monthly winners. First for 2018/19 was Ian Scholey's seal photo. Coming in second and third were two photos from Mark Jeffrey with his nuddie and silent sentinel. It was a great year with a fantastic collection of diving and water related photos. Thank you to everyone who contributed. ❖



Mantis Shrimp, above.

Lembeh Strait, Indonesia

- by Ian Scholey

Peacock Mantis Shrimp, below.



Clown Fish and Anemone, Maldives

- by Hannah Smeeton



Clean up - by Ian Scholey

PHOTO OF THE YEAR 2019 COMPETITION



Bull Shark, Fiji
- by Carole Campisano



Pinnacle, Philip Island
- by Peter Beaumont



Dive time, Maldives
- by Hannah Smeeton



Baby Seahorses, Blairgowrie
- by Phil Watson



Hang Loose Mother Goose
- by Tim Forster



Male Rainbow Fish, The Pinnacle - by
Peter Beaumont



Sparkler Short Headed Seahorse,
Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Blast from the Past

A Look Back at Fathoms

In this edition I will take you back to October-November 2006 and an article written by Niamh Whelen-Reiter who seems to have been lucky/unlucky enough to end up sharing a Liveaboard experience with the club. Niamh was nothing to do with the club, residing in Chicago, USA and was in Australia with husband, Scott, on holiday. I will leave you to make up your own minds whether she enjoyed the VSAG experience but she took the trouble to write this article for Fathoms.

A Girls' Guide to Surviving a Liveaboard Trip with the VSAG Crew.

When Scott and I arrived at the Nimrod Explorer offices to check in for our dive trip, I was excited and just a little apprehensive. This was my first liveaboard dive trip and I really wasn't quite sure what to expect: What if I didn't want to do 4 dives a day? What if I was seasick?

What if I didn't like the other people on the boat?

With that last thought resounding in my head, I got my first surprise: I was the only female passenger. The second surprise: 12 of the other divers were from a very quiet and reserved scuba club in Melbourne. So quiet in fact, that the first thing they said to me was: "What are you going to do on nudie night then?!" I knew then that the trip was going to be very different indeed....

You've already read the various club members reports of the trip, so I won't go into details about it. The diving was fabulous and everyone seemed to get along famously. However, for those females in the club who are considering participating in the next liveaboard trip, here are my top 10 do's and don'ts:

1. Don't hold back in the queue for meals, otherwise you'll end up with whatever the boys didn't want. Get in line earlier, or better yet, use your female charm to strike up a conversation with someone already in

line, then slip in, right in front of them.

2. Don't worry about having a bad hair day. Some of them don't have enough hair to worry about and most of them won't notice either way.

3. Do join the banter by innocently throwing in the use of local expressions such as "Ken Oath" and "big Lloyds". You're guaranteed to get a laugh from them.

4. Do try to embarrass them by constantly asking what said expressions mean (even if you've already figured it out with the help of the boat crew) I've never seen such a reluctant group when I asked for explanations - to the point where one of them (who shall remain nameless) promised to write it down and give it to me once we'd dropped them off at the airport.

5. Don't worry about their "nudie night" or "toga night" conversations. By 9pm, the majority of them are already asleep - party or no party.

6. Do follow their advice about bringing your own alcohol on board, especially when you're in the off-licence in Cooktown. The wine on board isn't good and costs too much.

7. Do expect to hear tall tales of the snoring abilities of the various group members. I think they finally figured out on this trip what all the wives, girlfriends and partners have known

for years: your husbands, boyfriends and partners snore and LOUDLY.

8. Don't be alarmed if you meet divers by themselves during the dive. It seems that they regularly try to reduce club numbers by abandoning their buddies underwater.

9. Don't go back out on the dive platform immediately after a dive. Apparently, the open-air bathroom is a faster, more convenient option when you are sharing a quadruple room below deck.

10. Do expect there to be sing-alongs in the evening... I still can't listen to the song "Amore" without smiling about the VSAG rendition of it.

In conclusion, these guys were great craic (and that's an Irish expression for "fun and merriment" in case you're worried) and watching our dive video now makes me feel nostalgic. Let me know next time you're heading off on a trip because Ken Oath I'll come and join you Lloyds!

It sounds like quite a trip doesn't it? Apparently, it was organised, as was the go back then, by one, Mick Jeacle.

The club officers in 2006 were:

President & Fathoms Editor: Alan Storen

Vice President & Membership Officer: John Lawler

Diving & Development Officer: Trevor Williams

Social Secretary: Priya Cardinaletti

Treasurer: Andy Mastocwicz

Point Scorer: Darren Pearce

Secretary: John Mills

Property & Safety Officer: Gabriel Sekias

Assistant Secretary: Leo Maybus

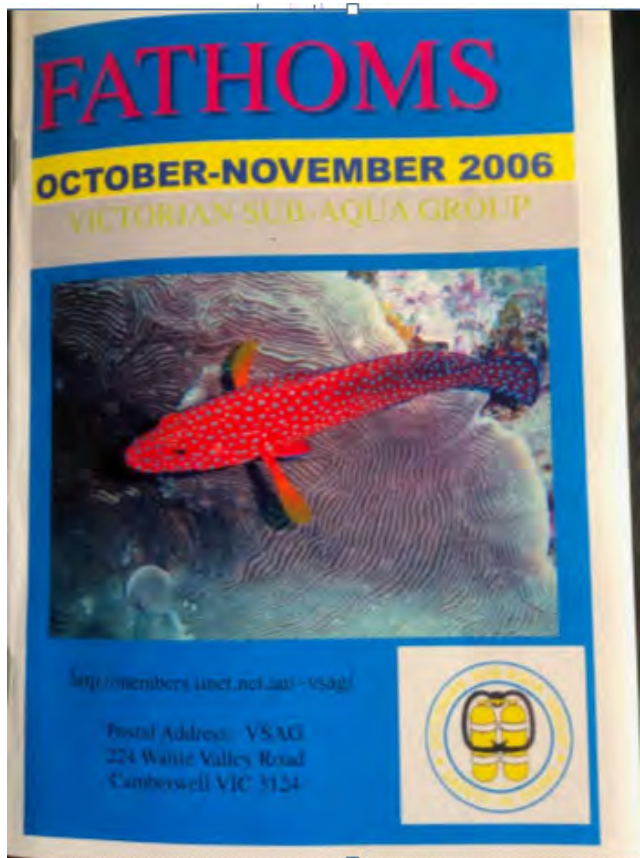
Committee: Mick Kakafikas



At this time, the club meeting was at the Bells Hotel in South Melbourne.

The club Christmas Party was coming up and was to be a BBQ in Jells Park. Tickets were \$20.

- John Lawler. ❖



A Warming Story

A WARMING STORY

As a diver, I suffer badly from cold water, even in a dry suit and thermal underwear. Recently, I was offered a trial of a member's electronic heat vest for a dive which, fortunately, the dive did not eventuate!

I used Google to search for heat pads and one major dive equipment supplier had a good unit but commented at the bottom: Do NOT use with a Pacemaker". I am fitted with this device.

Searching further, I found a medical supply company in West Footscray, which had a range of different heat pads. I called and spoke to a consultant, explaining why I was seeking a heat pad. A great conversation followed, with the result that a heat pad would be sent. It arrived the next day...no freight charge!

This pad is green and the use and reuse is printed on the outside. I activated the pad and placed it between my shirt and jumper. It was very (comfortably) hot, with a gradual cooling over around an hour. Perfect! To reuse, it is placed in a tray of boiling water and after about 30 minutes, it is ready for use after cooling down.

Thinking about the use under a dry suit, I designed a rough vest type prototype. We have a great Chinese seamstress in our area who attends to the locals clothing repairs and adjustments and we had a conversation about the design. I was advised to go to Spotlight, select suitable material for the vest and webbing, this from Bunnings, and it would be made in few days. The end result was very good, but several adjustments were needed, again done. I had an opportunity to "test dive" and the result was excellent. In 11°C water, I was still warm, but the vest was on my chest and my back was cold, so a second pouch was made for the upper back. Another dive and the result was even better. With all this, more winter diving is on the way!!

COST: Material.... very light flexible black canvas...1/4 metre \$15.... Webbing \$12

SEAMSTRESS: \$70

MEDICAL PADS: 2 \$60

- John Lawler. ❖



CAPE WOOLAMAI

CAPE WOOLAMAI, PHILLIP ISLAND

TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 2019

DIVERS: Peter GALVIN, Peter CRONIN, Claudio PLUCHINO, Arthur KOKKINOS

Dive Report: Arthur KOKKINOS

DIVE:1

We all met at Newhaven Boat ramp at a scheduled time of 10.00 am. After launching Stroker and reaching our destination for Dive # 1 at approximately 10.15am, we anchored at a safe location near Cape Woolamai. Weather conditions were just perfect for diving. The sun was out and no sign of clouds. There was no wind and hardly no swell. The surface conditions can be best described as “flat as a tack”. We geared up and Peter and I went in first, using Hookah, while Peter Cronin and Claudio went in on SCUBA. Visibility was 10 to 12 metres and water temp a nice 18 degrees. The dive location was amazing with plenty of fish life and



Claudio PLUCHINO, Peter CRONIN, Peter GALVIN standing next to STROKER.

lots of holes, ledges and rock walls to dive in and around. The major highlight of this dive was when we were diving through a small canyon like formation that was about 8 metres in length and full of fish life and overhanging kelp. As I dived forward and coming to the end of this amazing dive-through, I reached a ledge that dropped down to about 5 metres. I continued diving down. I came right into the centre of a large half dome formation. I looked around and right there in front of me, all the way around, there was a large school of Port Jackson Sharks ranging from about 2 to 3 metres in length. I spotted and counted 9 in total. They were just nestled on the sandy floor and didn't even move when I dived right up close and past them, only centimetres away. I was so upset that I didn't have my diving camera with me to take some pictures of these beautiful creatures. After a long 82-minute dive, diving at a depth of 23.3 metres we decided to finish our dive. As I was ascending, my computer indicated that I had gone into Deco and that I was required to stay down and decompress. I stayed down at 5 meters for 12 minutes and then I finally surfaced once I completed my safety stop. When I initially didn't surface Peter had realised that I went into Deco and kept the air flowing by not switching off the compressor. When diving on Hookah, you can

easily dive for a very long time at any depth. it is important to keep track of time, depth and especially your computer readings. Once on board with all the other divers, we all shared the same opinion, that this dive location was absolutely marvellous.

DIVE :2

After having a lunchbreak and discussion for approximately 70 minutes, we decided to move dive location.

The weather was still superb, so we anchored right up close to a large Bommie. The surface conditions were excellent, there was no wind and no swell. We got up very close to the Bommie, almost on top of it. We geared up and down we went. Visibility was amazing, easily 15 to 20 metres. Peter GALVIN and I dived on Hookah and immediately we came across some nice sized crays. Fish life was everywhere, and the underwater topography was breath-taking. The Bommie had kelp and sea vegetation all around it, creating many places for the abundance of sea life to call home. We reached a diving depth of 12.9 metres and the water

temperature was still a warm 18 degrees. As we were diving, we came across a large school of sweep, around 50 to 60 in total. They were all big in size. We dived down and nestled in between two large boulders and managed to get 6 large sized sweep. Every time we got a fish, more and more of them were coming closer and closer, making it easy to choose the biggest ones for our catch bag. This part of the dive was so exciting and most enjoyable. By the time we finished our dive we had many different schools of fish swimming all around us. Peter Cronin and Claudio were also diving in this location. They also caught a few sweep and a nice sized cray. After 62 minutes of awesome diving, we decided to call it a day and up we went. After completing our safety stop, we surfaced and safely boarded Stroker. It was another top dive. We all agreed that both dives were just magic.

-Arthur Kokkinos. ❖



Arthur KOKKINOS and Peter GALVIN



HARMERS HAVEN

HARMERS HAVEN

INVERLOCH

TUESDAY 20TH APRIL 2019

DIVERS: Peter GALVIN, Rowan SALGER, Angus STUART-ADAMS, Arthur KOKKINOS

DECK HAND: Dave SIMPSON

DIVE :1

A mid-morning start today, with perfect weather conditions. The sun was out and not many clouds in the sky. We launched from Inverloch and safely made our way past the channel. Peter has mastered the crossing and makes it look easy. But I can tell you, it is not easy at all. The channel crossing out past the Inverloch sand bar is a very difficult crossing and should not be attempted if you are not experienced. There is a large sign located near the boat ramp that clearly tells you, if you are not familiar with this location, you should not attempt to cross the bar. After about 20 minutes we finally reached our first dive location. Harmers Haven is a beautiful dive location. I have dived this area on numerous occasions and I have never found it to be non-exciting. Peter and Angus went in first on Hookah. Rowan and I geared up on SCUBA and went in straight after.

This dive location has many formidable rock and ledge openings with a large amount of sea life spread all over. I managed to find my quota of Black Lip Abs in the one location (under a large 3 metres round boulder) and bagged out in almost a minute of being under. After diving for about 23 minutes and searching around for crays, I lost sight of Rowan. I continued diving for a short time and then decided to resurface. After completing my safety stop, I safely boarded the boat and waited for the others to surface.

DIVE :2

After having a lunchbreak and completing our surface interval, we all decided to stay at the same location and dive the opposite end. Peter and Angus went in first on Hookah and Rowan and I went in straight after on SCUBA. Searching for crays on SCUBA can be quite exhilarating. You are freer than being connected to a Hooker hose and most times you find yourself immersed in holes and under deep ledges. Whilst searching for crays it can be quite easy to lose sight of your buddy and 9 out of 10 times you finish the dive, diving solo. During this dive I found my first cray, a nice sized one. It took me a while to catch it. The cray was hiding deep inside a hole and I had to

stick my hand and my whole body deep inside to grab it. After bagging the cray, I looked up and lost sight of Rowan. I continued diving solo in search for another cray but to no avail. Water temperature was still 18 degrees and the bottom current was very comfortable to dive in. After 33 minutes of diving I decide to complete my dive. When I reached 5 metres, I started my safety stop for 3 minutes and once time was up, I surfaced about 150 metres from the boat. I

inflated my BC and turned around and slowly finned my way back to the boat. After 15 minutes of slowly finning back and enjoying the blue sky, I finally reached Stroker. Shortly afterwards everyone else had surfaced. Everyone had something in their catch bag and one thing for sure, everyone had a smile on their face. Both dives today were absolutely brilliant.

- *Arthur Kokkinos.* ❖



*Rowan SALGER
ready to dive.*

*Angus STUART-
ADAMS with a
monster cray.*



*Peter GALVIN and
Angus STUART-
ADAMS*

*Arthur KOKKINOS
and Peter GALVIN*



Cape Woolamai

CAPE WOOLAMAI PHILLIP ISLAND

SUNDAY 23rd MAY 2019

**DIVERS: Rowan SALGER,
Arthur KOKKINOS**

**DECK HAND: Peter GALVIN,
Frank VAN PELT**

DIVE :1

Due to weather forecast, Peter had decided to plan an afternoon dive, hoping weather conditions would improve. We launched STROKER at 12.00pm from Newhaven Boat ramp. As we were rounding the point and proceeding towards our dive location at Cape Woolamai, weather conditions were not that good. The wind was quite strong and the swell was around 2 metres.

Even though it wasn't good dive conditions, we still decided to dive. We all geared up with Peter and Rowan on Hookah and I on SCUBA. We were all ready to go, when disaster struck. Frank and Peter were unable to get the compressor started. There was a major change in plans. Peter couldn't dive, so Rowan and I went in on SCUBA.

As we hit the water, I immediately lost sight of Rowan. I followed the

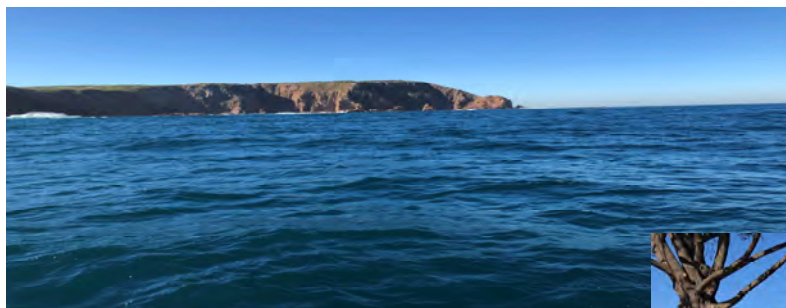
anchor line down to 22.2 metres. I noticed that visibility was terrible. It was only 2 to 3 metres, with small sediment particles floating everywhere. Water temperature was quite cold at 16 degrees. The current was very strong. I searched around for Rowan and soon realised that there was no way I would find him in these conditions. I decided to dive solo and the plan was stay close to the anchor and start searching for crays. The current was taking me away from the immediate area. The dive conditions can be best described as extreme and quite dangerous. I searched for crays for a further 15 minutes and checked my compass. I was heading east away from the boat. I knew that I must have drifted a fair way. After diving for 21 minutes in really murky type conditions and unable to spot a cray, I decided to end the dive. I ascended to 5 metres to do my safety stop. Whilst doing my safety stop, I could feel that I was drifting slowly. The closer I got to the surface I could feel the current slowing down. This was a good sign. However, when I surfaced, I was some distance away from the boat. I was about to inflate my SMB when I noticed Peter and Frank waving at me. I inflated my

BC fully and rolled onto my back and waited for them to pull the anchor up and come and pick me up. It was absolutely pointless trying to fin back to the boat. Every time I was moving forward, the large swell would take me back twice the distance. After, what felt like a very long time, I was safely back on board.

Ten minutes later Rowan surfaced. He was about 200 metres away from the

boat. He also had drifted quite a distance. We picked up Rowan and to our surprise, he had managed to catch 2 big monster crays. I was totally shocked that he had managed to catch 2 crays in such extreme conditions. Well done Rowan! Excellent effort mate.

- Arthur Kokkinos. ❖



Conditions at Cape Woolamai were not favourable.

Peter GALVIN, Arthur KOKKINOS and Rowan SALGER in front of STROKER



Arthur KOKKINOS and Peter GALVIN enjoying the day!

Rowan SALGER with two nice sized crays.



CAPE WOOLAMAI PHILLIP ISLAND

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2019

**DIVERS: Angus STUART-
ADAMS, Rowan SALGER, Arthur
KOKKINOS**

DIVE :1

An early start today, meeting at the Newhaven Boat ramp at 8.00 am sharp. We safely launched the boat

(Mistress) and almost immediately headed off under the San Remo bridge and out past the head towards Cape Woolamai. As we were leaving, there was no wind and the water surface was flat. We were hoping that conditions out past the point would be similar. As we were approaching our first dive site, conditions changed. There was a slight wind and about one to one and half metre swell. We were pleased with the conditions and anchored the boat near a small bay around 100 metres offshore. Rowan and I geared up and went down on Hookah. Angus stayed on board monitoring the compressor. Once we hit the bottom at around 16 metres, I spotted a nice sized cray, tucked in under a large rock. Rowan and I tried for almost 10 minutes to catch it, but it was just too smart for us and quickly bore itself deep into the crevice. We decided it was too difficult and to move on. The fish life was very healthy with many species of fish spotted, many in small schools.

We continued the hunt and within minutes Rowan and I found a couple of nice crays. We caught them quite easily and after that we dived for another 50 minutes without sighting another cray. We had dived up close towards the cliff face and the current was very strong. We had reached a depth of around 5 metres and the above wave current was quite extreme pushing us a good 5 metres forward and back. We held onto the kelp and pulled our way back along the top of a small underwater bommie slowly making our way back to the boat. By doing this we had also completed our safety stop. After 78 minutes of diving we finally surfaced and entered the boat safely.

DIVE :2

Second dive of the day was also at the same location but on the opposite end. The temperature was still at 18 degrees and visibility was around 7 to 10 metres. We reached a depth of 19.1 metres and almost immediately Rowan pulled out a monster cray. I bagged out on Abalone, getting 2 monster Green Lips and 3 Monster Black lip Abs. We continued diving covering a lot of underwater terrain, searching for that monster Cray. Highlight of this dive was when we both came into a large opening with a large wall on one side going down to about 23 metres. We were hovering around the 15-metre mark

when we spotted a large school of Port Jackson Sharks ranging from 2 to 4 metres in length. I counted 15 in this area alone. I have never seen so many congregating in one location. At one stage we were diving right in the middle of the whole school and I could see each and every one of them looking straight at me. They appeared to be wondering who we were and what we were doing in their home. Luckily for us they are not an aggressive species and thank god they

haven't got the same characteristics as their cousin the Great White. We slowly made our way up and around this opening and continued on with our search for Red Gold. We couldn't find any more crays and after 60 minutes of awesome diving we finally decided to head back to the boat. We completed our safety stop and within minutes we were safely back on board.

- Arthur Kokkinos. ❖



Rowan SALGER



*Arthur KOKKINOS
with a cray.*



*Rowan SALGER
and Angus
STUART-ADAMS.*



The day's catch.

THE EURO

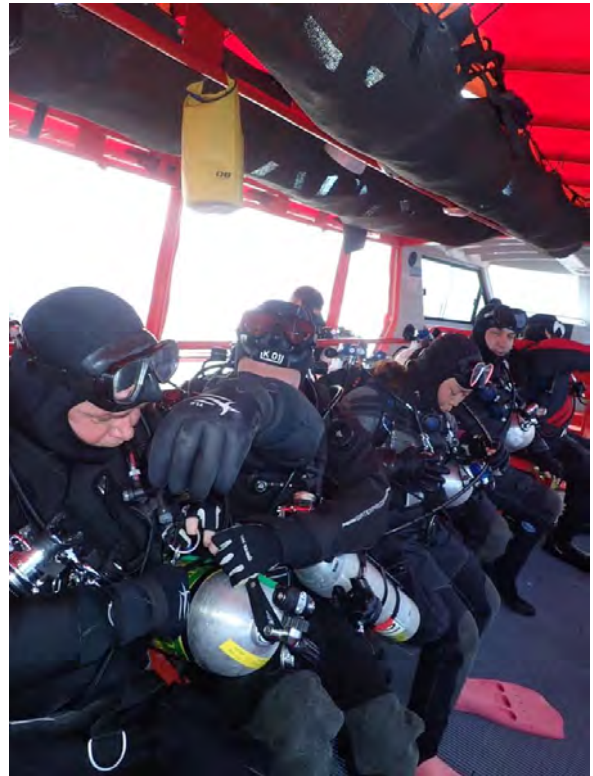
THE EURO

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.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





FLINDERS PIER

FLINDERS PIER

1st September, 2019

I headed out very early to meet Peter Beaumont for a 7am dive at Flinders this morning. We had a pretty good dive although perhaps a wide angle lens would have been a better choice today. Highlights were a huge school of quite large Trevally, a Maori Octopus having a snooze in the engine block and weedies everywhere. I had a 105mm macro lens on, so only the small stuff from me. There was plenty to snap although it was light on Slugs.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





The Hurricane

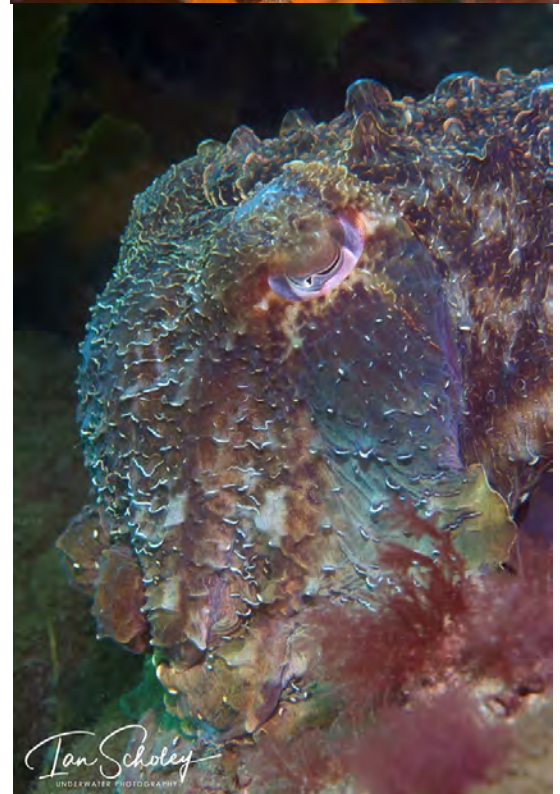
THE HURRICANE

4th August, 2019

Finally got some weather for boating today, so Peter Beaumont and I took Sea Eagle out from Rye. We headed down to the Wreck of The Hurricane in perfectly still conditions, it was just fantastic. On the wreck the current was ripping at over 5 knots, so we sat on top and waited for slack water. We had a great dive. The wreck is covered in the biggest school of Pinkies I've seen for a while and there was a Seal grabbing a feed. I was concentrated on the smaller stuff and as usual with this wreck, the goods were delivered.

After a quick hot drink to warm up, we shifted to Rosebud Reef and I sat a surface cover while Peter grabbed a second dive.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





Blairgowrie

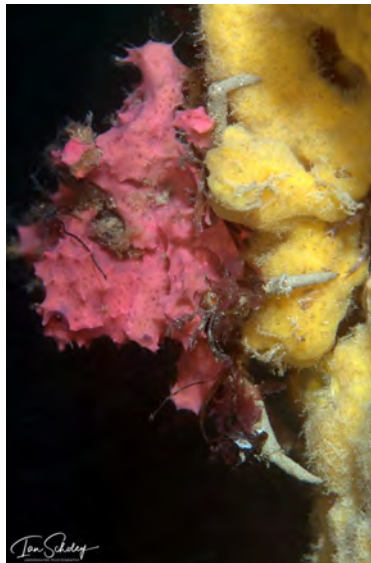
BLAIRGOWRIE

10th August 2019

Looking out of the window at the pouring rain and gale force winds, I thought I'd check in first with Peter B before setting off for our PM dive at Blairgowrie. Peter's response was, "I'm cold and wet anyway, so may as well be that underwater." Ok by me, so off we went. Blairgowrie was nicely tucked in out of the wind and, actually, conditions were quite good. I even got my gear washed, once we got out of the water, by a nicely timed downpour.

Once again, I decided to shoot small and once again, Blairgowrie delivered the goods. Unexpectedly, we had a great dive. Will be heading back there for more of the same.

- Ian Scholey. ❖









Home: Covered

Car: Covered

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DAN Membership Costs Less than AUD\$6* per month
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Rock Lobster Tagging Program

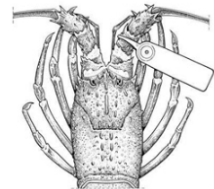
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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 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

Online with Parkmobile

Set up an account online with Parkmobile by visiting www.parkmobile.com.au call 1300 564 564 or download the free smart device application at iTunes, Google Play or Windows markets. You will be guided to register your vehicle (car) registration number and your credit card details.

Further information is available at:

www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Activities/Sports-Recreation/Boating/Boat-ramps

DIARY DATES

Sea Esta, Townsville—Melbourne Cup Weekend

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

Philippines & Palau—June 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

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 Dumaguete 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 onc 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 95316818 | allwaysdive.com.au

Lic # 32311

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'.

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. ❖

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

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

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

Tidal Streams at the Heads — October 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

Sept	October					
MON 30	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6
3:05	4:11	5:09	6:02	0:34	1:17	1:59
9:47	10:41	11:30	12:13	6:52	7:39	9:25
15:38	16:19	16:59	17:38	12:55	13:35	15:14
22:11	23:02	23:49		18:18	18:58	20:40
MON 7	TUE 8	WED 9	THU 10	FRI 11	SAT 12	SUN 13
3:40	4:21	5:07	6:01	0:22	1:44	3:01
10:12	11:01	11:55	12:55	7:11	8:29	9:37
15:55	16:40	17:36	18:53	13:58	14:55	15:40
21:24	22:12	23:09		20:17	21:21	22:09
MON 14	TUE 15	WED 16	THU 17	FRI 18	SAT 19	SUN 20
4:03	4:52	5:34	6:12	0:29	1:02	1:36
10:30	11:14	11:52	12:26	6:48	7:25	8:04
16:16	16:46	17:15	17:44	13:00	13:32	14:05
22:48	23:23	23:56		18:14	18:45	19:18
MON 21	TUE 22	WED 23	THU 24	FRI 25	SAT 26	SUN 27
2:12	2:51	3:34	4:23	5:23	6:38	1:30
8:43	9:26	10:12	11:05	12:03	13:06	8:05
14:38	15:14	15:56	16:50	18:05	19:32	14:07
19:52	20:32	21:22	22:29	23:55		20:49
October				November		
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
2:58	4:11	5:11	6:04	0:22	1:05	1:45
9:25	10:31	11:26	12:14	6:51	7:35	8:17
15:03	15:53	16:39	17:23	12:58	13:39	14:19
21:53	22:47	23:36		18:06	18:48	19:30

Tidal Streams at the Heads — November 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

October				November		
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
2:58	4:11	5:11	6:04	0:22	1:05	1:45
9:25	10:31	11:26	12:14	6:51	7:35	8:17
15:03	15:53	16:39	17:23	12:58	13:39	14:19
21:53	22:47	23:36		18:06	18:48	19:30
MON 4	TUE 5	WED 6	THU 7	FRI 8	SAT 9	SUN 10
2:25	3:02	3:40	4:21	5:07	0:00	1:26
8:57	9:37	10:18	11:01	11:49	6:08	7:31
14:58	15:38	16:21	17:13	18:17	12:41	13:34
20:13	20:57	21:46	22:46		19:29	20:31
MON 11	TUE 12	WED 13	THU 14	FRI 15	SAT 16	SUN 17
2:46	3:49	4:39	5:21	5:59	6:37	0:35
8:54	9:58	10:48	11:31	12:08	12:44	7:14
14:24	15:08	15:48	16:27	17:04	17:40	13:20
21:22	22:05	22:43	23:21	23:57		18:17
MON 18	TUE 19	WED 20	THU 21	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24
1:13	1:52	2:33	3:16	4:05	5:01	0:08
7:52	8:31	9:10	9:51	10:34	11:23	6:11
13:55	14:32	15:12	15:59	16:56	18:04	12:17
18:56	19:38	20:27	21:27	22:40		19:18
November						Dec
MON 25	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI 29	SAT 30	SUN 1
1:39	3:02	4:10	5:06	5:54	6:38	0:38
7:35	9:01	10:12	11:10	11:59	12:44	7:18
13:16	14:15	15:11	16:04	16:53	17:39	13:26
20:27	21:28	22:22	23:11	23:56		18:24

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						
MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7	SUN 8
<i>1:18</i>	<i>1:56</i>	<i>2:31</i>	<i>3:06</i>	<i>3:42</i>	<i>4:21</i>	<i>5:08</i>
<i>7:56</i>	<i>8:32</i>	<i>9:06</i>	<i>9:39</i>	<i>10:13</i>	<i>10:49</i>	<i>11:28</i>
<i>14:05</i>	<i>14:43</i>	<i>15:22</i>	<i>16:02</i>	<i>16:47</i>	<i>17:38</i>	<i>18:35</i>
<i>19:08</i>	<i>19:51</i>	<i>20:35</i>	<i>21:24</i>	<i>22:22</i>	<i>23:31</i>	
MON 9	TUE 10	WED 11	THU 12	FRI 13	SAT 14	SUN 15
<i>0:51</i>	<i>2:13</i>	<i>3:22</i>	<i>4:17</i>	<i>5:03</i>	<i>5:45</i>	<i>6:24</i>
<i>6:13</i>	<i>7:43</i>	<i>9:10</i>	<i>10:14</i>	<i>11:04</i>	<i>11:48</i>	<i>12:27</i>
<i>12:13</i>	<i>13:02</i>	<i>13:56</i>	<i>14:49</i>	<i>15:39</i>	<i>16:27</i>	<i>17:13</i>
<i>19:34</i>	<i>20:28</i>	<i>21:18</i>	<i>22:04</i>	<i>22:48</i>	<i>23:31</i>	
MON 16	TUE 17	WED 18	THU 19	FRI 20	SAT 21	SUN 22
<i>0:15</i>	<i>0:57</i>	<i>1:40</i>	<i>2:23</i>	<i>3:07</i>	<i>3:53</i>	<i>4:43</i>
<i>7:03</i>	<i>7:40</i>	<i>8:17</i>	<i>8:52</i>	<i>9:28</i>	<i>10:06</i>	<i>10:47</i>
<i>13:07</i>	<i>13:46</i>	<i>14:27</i>	<i>15:12</i>	<i>16:00</i>	<i>16:54</i>	<i>17:54</i>
<i>17:59</i>	<i>18:47</i>	<i>19:37</i>	<i>20:34</i>	<i>21:37</i>	<i>22:50</i>	
MON 23	TUE 24	WED 25	THU 26	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29
<i>0:12</i>	<i>1:36</i>	<i>2:54</i>	<i>4:00</i>	<i>4:55</i>	<i>5:42</i>	<i>6:24</i>
<i>5:44</i>	<i>7:01</i>	<i>8:29</i>	<i>9:49</i>	<i>10:53</i>	<i>11:45</i>	<i>12:31</i>
<i>11:35</i>	<i>12:30</i>	<i>13:31</i>	<i>14:34</i>	<i>15:35</i>	<i>16:30</i>	<i>17:21</i>
<i>18:57</i>	<i>20:01</i>	<i>21:01</i>	<i>21:58</i>	<i>22:49</i>	<i>23:35</i>	
December		January				
MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<i>0:18</i>	<i>0:58</i>	<i>1:34</i>	<i>1:34</i>	<i>2:07</i>	<i>2:40</i>	<i>3:12</i>
<i>7:01</i>	<i>7:36</i>	<i>8:07</i>	<i>8:07</i>	<i>8:36</i>	<i>9:03</i>	<i>9:31</i>
<i>13:12</i>	<i>13:51</i>	<i>14:27</i>	<i>14:27</i>	<i>15:02</i>	<i>15:38</i>	<i>16:16</i>
<i>18:08</i>	<i>18:52</i>	<i>19:35</i>	<i>19:35</i>	<i>20:19</i>	<i>21:05</i>	<i>21:56</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>Mayday Call – for grave & imminent danger requiring immediate assistance</p>	<p>Urgency Call – when the danger is not grave or imminent</p>
<p>Distress Call:</p> <p>Mayday, Mayday, Mayday</p> <p>This is: <u>“Boat call sign x3”</u> (Boat owners insert your call sign)</p>	<p>Urgency Call:</p> <p>Pan Pan, Pan Pan, Pan Pan</p> <p>All Ships, All Ships, All Ships (or the emergency service you want to contact)</p> <p>This is: <u>“Boat call sign x3”</u> (Boat owners insert your call sign)</p>
<p>Distress message after contact made:</p> <p>Mayday</p> <p>“2 DIVE 4”</p> <p>Give position-(see GPS for co-ordinates), nature of the problem, number on board plus any other relevant information</p> <p>Over</p> <p>Follow advice given by the emergency agency – DO NOT “Sign off” until told so by agency.</p>	<p>Urgency message after contact made:</p> <p>Pan Pan</p> <p>“2 DIVE 4”</p> <p>Give position-(see GPS for co-ordinates), nature of the problem, number on board plus any other relevant information</p> <p>Over</p> <p>Follow advice given by the emergency agency – DO NOT “Sign off” until told so by agency.</p>

All passengers on a boat should be familiar with the use of marine radio(s) in case of emergency.

Emergency Contact Information

Telephone contacts

Police – Ambulance – Fire : 000

Water Police no longer use the 1800 088 200 number

The new 24/7 No is : 03 9399 7500

DAN International Emergency Hotline: +1-919-684-9111 (from mobile)
0011 1 919684 9111 (from landline)

State Emergency Service (VIC): 132 500 (new number)

Alfred Hospital Hyperbaric Unit: 03 9076 2269

Alfred Hospital switchboard: 03 9076 2000

Mornington Peninsula Area

Diving Emergency Service: 1800 088 200

Dr. John Roth:
Mornington Medical Group 03 5975 2633

Rosebud Hospital:
1527 Nepean Hwy, Rosebud 03 5986 0666

Frankston Hospital:
Hastings Road, Frankston 03 9784 7777

The Bays Hospital:
Main Street, Mornington 03 5975 2009

Southern Peninsula Rescue: (Sorrento) 0417 038 944

Mornington Bay Rescue Service: 0419 233 999

*Coast Guard (Queenscliff) 03 5258 2222

*Coast Guard (Hastings) 03 5979 3322

*Coast Guard (Safety Beach) 03 5981 4443

***Coast Guard is not always manned & operates mainly during daylight hrs**

Diving Doctors:

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

Dr Vanessa Haller (Carrum Downs) 03 9782 6666

Dr Adrian Murrie (Sorrento) 03 5984 4322

Dr Guy Williams (Rosebud) 03 5981 1555

Dr John Roth (Mornington) 03 5975 2633



Squid, Williamstown - by Phil Watson