



Fathoms

APRIL—MAY 2020

*Cover Photo :
Neptune Island -
by Tim Forster*



**Photo Competitions - November 2019,
December 2019 and January 2020,
COVID-19 Lockdown,
Local Dive Sites and more...**

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

www.vsag.org.au

Christmas in July



Saturday, 7th July 2020, 7pm

Hi all

We will once again be holding our Christmas in July event at PJ O'Briens on Southbank.

Bring your friends and family and enjoy a traditional Christmas Meal and a glass of the black stuff.

Cost will be \$38

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



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

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

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LORD HOWE ISLAND

VSAG DIVE TRIP

LORD HOWE ISLAND

New South Wales, Australia.

4th March, 2020

Well , we've arrived at Lord Howe Island and it's everything Graham Ellis and Peter Mosse have said it was, they weren't lying. This place is packed full of awesomeness. A few dives and meals together so far and its going down a treat.

- Peter Campisano. ❖



*Arriving at Lord Howe Island.
Beautiful clear water.*

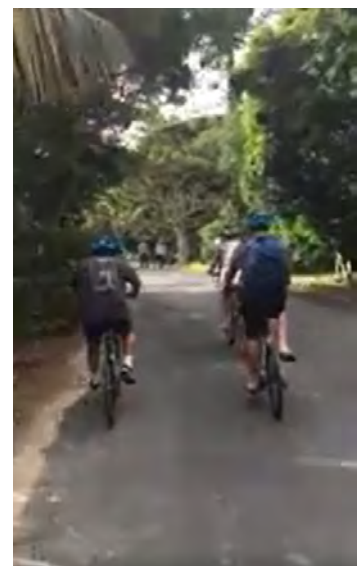


*Bustling Lord Howe Island airport
with Peter Mosse, Graham Ellis and
Peter Campisano.*



Crack in rock, through to Ned's Beach.

*BMX bandits.
The only way
to get around.*



LADY CHERYL

LADY CHERYL

5th January, 2020

Yesterday, I took Claude and Corey diving on the Lady Cheryl, just inside the heads near point Nepean. We were joined by Kenny who is visiting from California.

We also did a drift dive over the reef.

Visibility was over 20m until wind picked up.

We chose to stay close to the peninsula side for protection from the strong southwest wind.

- Andrew McKernan. ❖



Corey & Kenny.

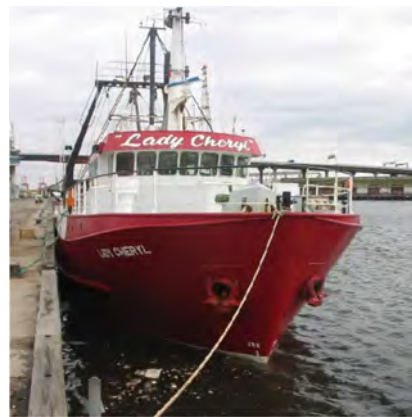


Sinking of

FV Lady Cheryl

Point Nepean

24 March 2012



On the evening of 23 March 2012, the commercial fishing vessel FV Lady Cheryl departed Williamstown for a 10 day deep sea fishing voyage to the West Coast of Tasmania. However, in the early hours of the following morning, while still within the bay, the vessel altered course towards Point Nepean.

An error in judgement by the master, fatigue and alcohol contributing factors, and the Lady Cheryl ran aground on the outlying reef at Point Nepean.

The vessel was holed below its waterline and sank a short time later.

Guest Speaker

VSAG

FEBRUARY 2020

GUEST SPEAKER

MATTHIJS SMITH

At the VSAG February 2020 General Meeting, our Guest Speaker was club member and our newest Committee Member, Matthijs Smith, who presented on his trip to Niue Island.

Niue is an island country in the South Pacific Ocean, 2,400 kilometres (1,500 miles) northeast of New Zealand, east of Tonga, south of Samoa, and west of the Cook Islands. Niue's land area is about 261 square kilometres (101 sq miles) and its population, predominantly Polynesian, was about 1,600 in 2016.

The island is commonly referred to as "The Rock", which comes from the traditional name "Rock of Polynesia". Niue is one of the world's largest coral islands. The terrain of the island has a central limestone plateau, reaching approximately 60 metres (200 feet) high above sea level. A coral reef surrounds the island, with the only major break in the reef being in the central western coast, close to the capital, Alofi. A notable feature are the many limestone caves near the coast. ❖



HMS M No. 33

HMS M No. 33

20th March 2020

Back in early March, I was fortunate to be able to revisit the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard in the UK.

With a strong Australian link, here is one of the highlights.

HMS M. No. 33 is a unique survivor. Launched in May 1915, she is the sole remaining British veteran of that year's bloody Gallipoli Campaign and the only British warship from the First World War that is open to the public and one of only two that survives at all.

The ship sits in No.1 Dock, alongside HMS Victory, in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

This little survivor, a 'Monitor' of 568 tons with a shallow draft allowing it to get close-in to shore and fire at targets on land, carried two powerful and oversize 6" guns, but was a basic metal box lacking in comforts. The hull was so thin it had little chance of surviving a direct hit. It was incapable of sustaining a continuous barrage, as each time it fired a gun, the ship rolled so much that they had to wait for her to settle before firing again.



The 72 officers and men who sailed for the Gallipoli Campaign, were crammed inside and away from home for over 3 years. The accommodation was basic to say the least.

A fantastic piece of history.

- Ian Scholey. ❖

" AFT 6" IN SHELL ROOM "		Nº
6" Shell, Lyddite Fuzed.....		72
" " " Common.....		52
" " " Shrapnel.....		41
" " " Practice.....		55
Boxes, Fuze, Time & Percussion.		2
Key, Base Fuze & Plug.....		1
Metal Lined Shell Gauge.....		1
Bags, Projectile. 6".....		12





COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

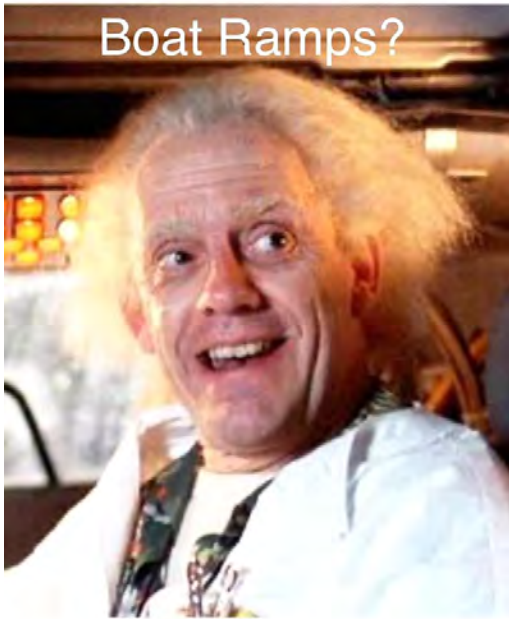
Amidst the world-wide pandemic of Coronavirus, Government lockdown and self-isolating laws, dedicated divers are finding unique ways to engage in their favourite pastime.



Managing COVID-19 isolation.



23.03.2020. Mornington Peninsula Beaches and boat ramps closed until further notice.



Where we're going we don't need boat ramps!



I've been out stockpiling lobster.

Will swap for toilet roll! 😊

- Rowan Salger. ❖





Safety in Diving - Matthijs Smith.



DIAA DIVE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

8th April, 2020

Finally. Clarification from the NSW Office of Sport.

We have been advised the activity of scuba diving falls within the right to exercise locally outdoors during this current period.

This is excellent news but also comes with a caution...

Other restrictions APPLY, including no more than 2 people not from the same household, keeping a minimum physical distance of 1.5m and no congregating after dives.

IMPORTANT:

Please bear in mind, the ability to keep diving has been granted but can just as easily be taken away.

Staying local is a major aspect of the restrictions. The local dive spots we all know and love are where we ought to be diving.

Summary:

Please stay local, stay safe, be mindful of others and keep diving with level heads. If we all do the right thing, we will get through this together and be fortunate enough to

continue to dive throughout. Most stores are open for air fills and gear rental, rig to check if you are not sure.

Please contact us if you have any specific questions on:

admin@diveindustry.com.au

Dive Industry Association of Australia.

All these useful articles are on the DIAA website:

<https://www.diveindustry.com.au/industry-news/>



J2 BROKEN SUB

J2 BROKEN SUB

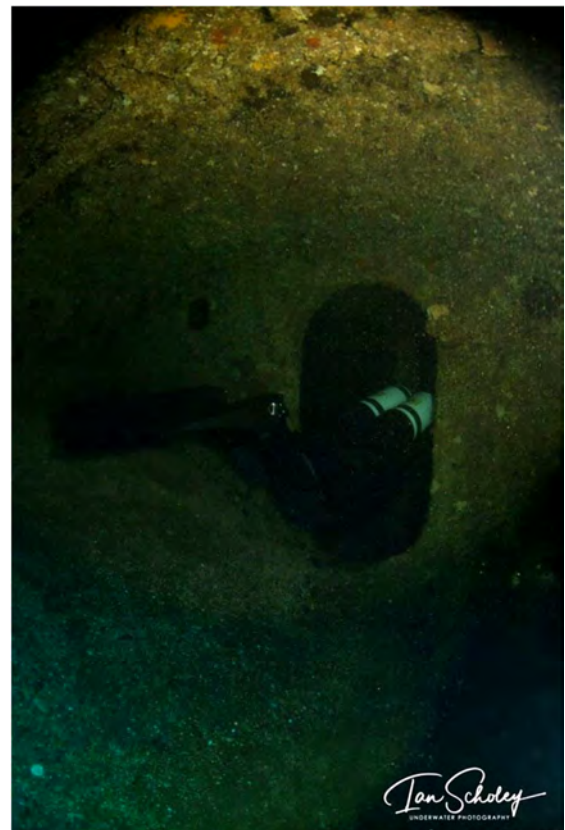
23rd February 2020

Today it was back to more challenging dives with a couple of deeper tech dives for Chris Porter and I. We started with a great dive on the Nepean Wall - is it me or are there loads more fish on that side of the heads? It seemed that way today. Sadly, I had some camera fogging issues so no pics from that dive. It is a spectacular area and worth a look as a change from Lonsdale Wall.

We were then lucky enough to get onto the J2. It's in the pilot boarding area, so you have to be lucky with shipping movements. Accordingly, this was only my second dive on this wreck. We had a good swim through the inside. It gets very tight in some areas as it's filled with a pretty deep layer of sand. After exiting at the stern hatch, we swam back along the deck past the conning tower before beginning our ascent from the bow.

Thanks to Redboats for their usual excellent service.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





J1 SUB

J1 SUB

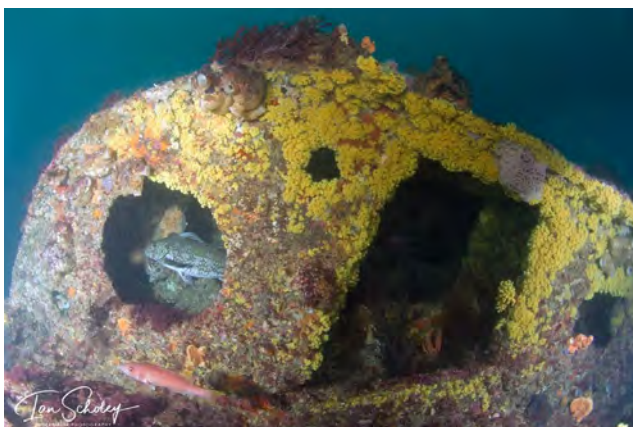
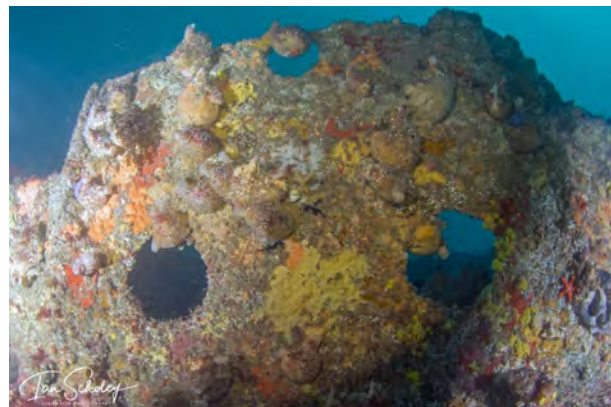
27th March 2020

Today I will be social isolating. Sea Eagle and Toucans out - one person on each boat. Should be safe.

Peter Beaumont and I got our boats out yesterday, for the last time in a while, I'm guessing. The conditions were excellent on top but terrible down under. The current dredging in the bay has killed the vis.

Peter dived the Coogee and reported 2m vis. Not fancying that, we moved further offshore and I dived the J1. The vis was just as bad out there, making photography almost impossible. We came back inside and PB did a second dive at Popes Eye. I did surface cover and not fancying a second dive, we called it a day early.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal First - November 2019



Equal First - Neptune Island—by Tim Forster

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal First - November 2019



Equal First - Neptune Island - by Tim Forster

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - November 2019



Second - Self portrait - by Matthijs Smith

NOVEMBER 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

November 2019 Photo Comp. The winner was Tim Forster with photos of his trip to Neptune Island, 3rd was Matthijs's self portrait. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.



*Alien at Blairgowrie
- by Ian Scholey.*



*Seaside Beach Treasure, Bushman's
Bay - by Hannah Smeeton.*



*The Ocean's Bounty, Bushman's Bay
- by Hannah Smeeton.*



Baby Seahorse - by Phil Watson.

NOVEMBER 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION



Critter on Coral, Northern Great Barrier Reef - by Arthur Kokkinos.



Motionless Snapper, SS Yongala - by Arthur Kokkinos.



SS Yongala - by Ian Scholey.



Sea horse, St Leonards - by Matthijs Smith.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - December 2019



First - Blue Devil Fish, Lonsdale Wall - by Ian Scholey.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - December 2019



Second - Noumea Verconis Nudibranch, Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Third - December 2019



Third - Sunset Guard's Watch, Rye Back Beach - by Hannah Smeeton.

DECEMBER 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

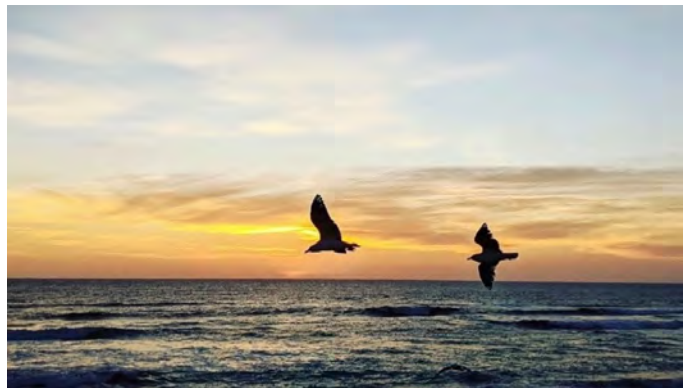
December photo comp - This month Ian Scholey took First and Second, with a great portrait and nudi shots. Third was Hannah Smeeton's Sunset Guards Watch. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Soft Coral on the Ramsden
- by Brian Heatherich.*



The Sands of Time - by Brian Heatherich.



*Sunset Flights, Rye Back Beach - by Hannah
Smeeton.*



*Catch bags - by
Arthur Kokkinos.*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

First - January 2020



First - Soft Coral Condos - by Brian Heatherich.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - January 2020



Second - Watching You from My Safe Space - by Brian Heatherich.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - January 2020



Third - Baby Blue Devil Fish, Queenscliff - by Phil Watson.

JANUARY 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION

January 2020 Photo Comp - This month was Brian Heatherich's with First, his Soft Coral Condos and Second, Watching You from My Safe Place. Third was Phil Watson's Baby Blue Devil. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Tambja Verconis Nudibranch pair,
Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey.*



*Goniobranchus sp Nudibranch,
Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey.*



*Peninsula Dusk Dive Serenity -
by Hannah Smeeton.*



PJ at Blairgowrie - by Bobbi O'Riley.



*Hookah Diver ready to go down, Cape
Woolamai - by Arthur Kokkinos.*

*Photo - by
Arthur
Kokkinos.*



Cape Woolamai

CAPE WOOLAMAI

8th February, 2020

A big thank you to Walter Medenbach for letting Arthur and I play with his Mistress on Wednesday. The conditions off Cape Woolamai, Phillip Island were fairly reasonable and we managed 2 good dives. I won't go into specifics about how many or how big our catch was but I sure ate well on Wednesday night.

- Rowan Salger. ❖



Arthur KOKKINOS, Rowan SALGER and Walter MEDENBACH

CAPE WOOLAMAI PHILLIP ISLAND

WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY
2020

DIVERS: Walter MEDENBACH,
Rowan SALGER, Frank VAN
PELT (Deck Hand) and Arthur
KOKKINOS

Dive Report: Arthur KOKKINOS

DIVE:1

Today's weather was not really good. The wind appeared to be picking up and the weather forecast was for severe wind and rain in the late afternoon. We all wanted to get out early and do the dives before the weather changed.

This was the first time I had been on board Mistress with Walter at the helm. The trip out past the channel opening was a bit rough and I was starting to get a bit concerned about the surface conditions.

We reached our first dive location, which seemed ok and not as bad as I thought it would be. We hit the water at around 10.20 am. Walter and Rowan dived on Hookah and I was on air tanks. Once I entered the water, the current was almost non-existent. I descended to the bottom and kept in close proximity to the anchor line. I reached a depth of 18.5 metres and the water temperature was 18 degrees. The visibility was at around



Frank VAN PELT performing a safety check on Walter MEDENBACH.



Walter MEDENBACH getting ready to go into the water.

5 to 6 metres. I immediately started looking for crays, but this dive location did not have many rock ledges or holes, which made the search difficult. After about 20 minutes of searching for crays and unable to spot one, I turned to spearfishing. The amount of fish in this area was unbelievable. As soon as I got my first sweep, I was immediately surrounded with schools of Sweep, and many other fish such as perch, parrot fish, leather jackets, bream, snapper and small pike. After diving for almost 35 minutes and with my catch bag full of fish, I regrettably had to finish the dive and make my way towards the anchor line. Once I completed my safety stop, I slowly surfaced and safely boarded the boat. About 15 minutes later Walter and Rowan surfaced and made their way back onto the boat.

DIVE :2

While we were having lunch during our surface interval, we noticed the weather slowly changing. The wind was getting a bit stronger and the swell was starting to pick up. We decided to dive the second bommie for our last dive of the day. Rowan was sure that we would find big crays at this dive site, making our decision so much easier. After an hour and half, we geared up again



Rowan SALGER getting ready to enter the water.



A day of diving and we ended up with a seafood basket.

and down we all went. Walter and Rowan went in first and 10 minutes later I entered the water at 12.45 pm.

For this dive, I stayed at a depth of around 18.5 metres. The water temp was 19 degrees which made the dive really comfortable. Visibility was poor at around 5 metres. There was a lot of sediment in the water, which blocked a lot of light from the surface. After vigorously searching for crays for nearly 25 minutes, I couldn't help but notice the amount of fish that were all around me. I immediately changed my plan and started adding fish to my catch bag. There were schools of Sweep everywhere and schools of small pike and bream swimming in all directions. The fish life around this bommie is phenomenal and the health of all the underwater vegetation is quite astounding. I filled my catch bag and luckily, I checked my gauge, I was close to 50 bar. I slowly ascended to the top of the bommie and hovered around, doing my safety stop. I hung onto the kelp to stop me moving back and forth with the swell surge. Once I completed my safety stop, I headed east towards the boat. After being under water for over 41 minutes I finally surfaced and within minutes I was safely back on board. Not long after, I was joined by Walter and Rowan.

We all had a great dive and after taking our dive gear off and getting ready for the trip back to Newhaven, we were all in agreeance that today's two dives were absolutely first-class dives.

- *Arthur Kokkinos.* ❖



*Arthur KOKKINOS, Rowan SALGER
and Walter MEDENBACH.*

Blairgowrie

BLAIRGOWRIE

24th March, 2020

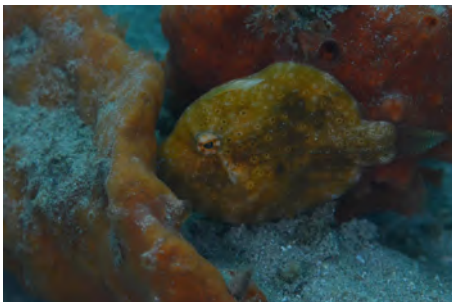
On Sunday morning, at a very respectable 7:30 am, I met Peter Beaumont for a splash under Blairgowrie marina, in the hope of finding the many species of nudibranch, which constantly elude me.

With the assistance of Peter's expert eye, we found many of the delicate, colourful nudibranchs and spent an enjoyable 1 1/4 hours photographing the inhabitants. Water temp was a cool 17°C and we finished with a very welcome cup of coffee and a snack on the foreshore, while respecting the COVID-19 social distancing rules.

Also taking in the sights under the marina this morning was Ian Scholey.

Many thanks, Peter, for the excellent tour and photos

- Christine Reynolds. ❖



Peter Beaumont



Peter Beaumont



Peter Beaumont





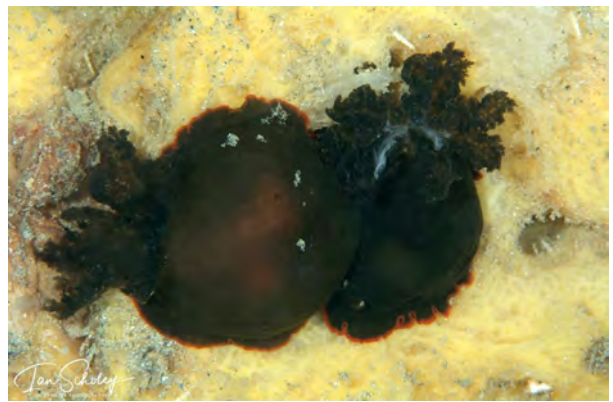
BLAIRGOWRIE

22nd March 2020

Oh my word, what a fabulous dive at Blairgowrie this morning. So many critters, it was hard to know which direction to point the camera. The Nudibranch have exploded in numbers on recent weeks and I found a mind boggling selection today. This really was Blairgowrie at its best, so get down there soon folks before we are confined to our homes and/or unable to get fills.

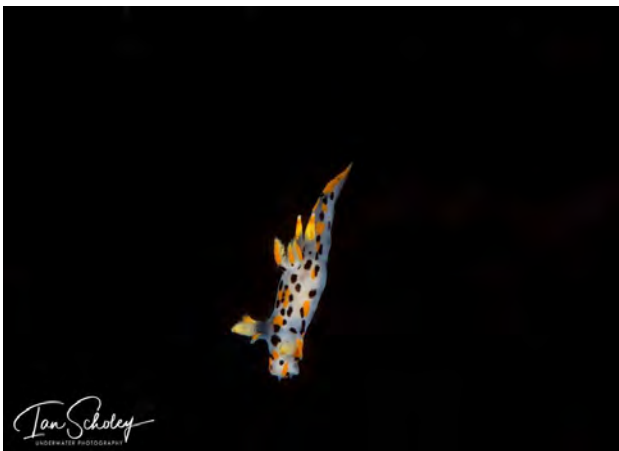
Also splashing today were Peter Beaumont and Christine Reynolds.

- Ian Scholey. ❖









BLAIRGOWRIE

8th February 2020

Given the bad weather forecast for the weekend, I decided to make the most of a great day on Friday and sneak in an afternoon splash at Blairgowrie.

Losing track of time as usual, I eventually got out after 3 hours 21 minutes. There are still a great selection of Nudibranch about with the *Phyllodemium serratum* species in absolute plague proportions from the T junction onwards. Aside from slugs, I found a Blueringed Octopus and there were a couple of large Rays buzzing about.

It's going to be tough to find a dive spot tomorrow but thinking I may head to Ricketts Point. Not a spot I go to very often, but at least it should be out of the wind.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





BLAIRGOWRIE

16th February 2020

What is going on with our weather at the moment? The south easterly winds, once again, did a good job of blowing diving out today. For once, the forecast was spot on and a start before dawn saw me entering the water with conditions really nice. As I exited at 9.30am, the wind had come up and waves were smashing into the pier from the east.

The early start gave me the place to myself and as usual, I had a good hunt for the small stuff. I found a good selection, including a couple of *Paradoris dubia* which I have only seen once before. Also interesting, were some very tiny Arrow worms (*Spadella* sp). I found one and then noticed that they were on almost every bit of sponge. I have to admit to keeping an eye out for sharks today, after Friday night's reported sighting of an aggressive 3m Bronze Whaler. With a macro lens on, I would have expected to bump into it for the customary eye shot on the bigger stuff!!!

Also diving was Peter Beaumont.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





BLAIRGOWRIE

NIGHT DIVE

21st March 2020

After the week that was, I needed to destress so headed to Blairgowrie for a night dive last night with Peter Beaumont. It can and was tough taking pics with clouds of shrimp following the lights, but I managed a few. There were some excellent critters about, including a couple of Nudi's I have been looking for, after seeing other's pics recently.

With no boats this weekend, I'm heading back there tomorrow morning.

- 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

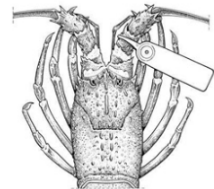
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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

Philippines & Palau—June 2020

VSAG Christmas In July—7th July 2020



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



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

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 Informationd:

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	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	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	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	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	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:

◆ 2 Scuba Tanks.

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

Tidal Streams at the Heads — April 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

March		April				
MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5
<i>1:43</i>	<i>2:13</i>	<i>2:44</i>	<i>3:15</i>	<i>3:50</i>	<i>4:32</i>	<i>0:07</i>
<i>7:07</i>	<i>7:36</i>	<i>8:05</i>	<i>8:35</i>	<i>9:10</i>	<i>9:53</i>	<i>4:31</i>
<i>13:56</i>	<i>14:28</i>	<i>15:01</i>	<i>15:38</i>	<i>16:20</i>	<i>17:10</i>	<i>9:59</i>
<i>20:14</i>	<i>20:51</i>	<i>21:32</i>	<i>22:17</i>	<i>23:08</i>		<i>17:14</i>
MON 6	TUE 7	WED 8	THU 9	FRI 10	SAT 11	SUN 12
<i>0:12</i>	<i>1:17</i>	<i>2:14</i>	<i>3:03</i>	<i>3:47</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>5:11</i>
<i>5:57</i>	<i>7:31</i>	<i>8:44</i>	<i>9:44</i>	<i>10:37</i>	<i>11:26</i>	<i>12:12</i>
<i>11:31</i>	<i>13:11</i>	<i>14:40</i>	<i>15:52</i>	<i>16:53</i>	<i>17:47</i>	<i>18:38</i>
<i>18:34</i>	<i>19:59</i>	<i>21:12</i>	<i>22:14</i>	<i>23:06</i>	<i>23:54</i>	
MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THU 16	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19
<i>0:38</i>	<i>1:21</i>	<i>2:02</i>	<i>2:44</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>4:23</i>	<i>5:33</i>
<i>5:53</i>	<i>6:35</i>	<i>7:19</i>	<i>8:04</i>	<i>8:52</i>	<i>9:47</i>	<i>10:57</i>
<i>12:56</i>	<i>13:39</i>	<i>14:21</i>	<i>15:02</i>	<i>15:44</i>	<i>16:32</i>	<i>17:32</i>
<i>19:25</i>	<i>20:12</i>	<i>20:57</i>	<i>21:43</i>	<i>22:32</i>	<i>23:26</i>	
MON 20	TUE 21	WED 22	THU 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26
<i>0:25</i>	<i>1:23</i>	<i>2:13</i>	<i>2:53</i>	<i>3:26</i>	<i>3:57</i>	<i>4:27</i>
<i>6:54</i>	<i>8:04</i>	<i>8:55</i>	<i>9:36</i>	<i>10:11</i>	<i>10:45</i>	<i>11:17</i>
<i>12:24</i>	<i>13:52</i>	<i>15:02</i>	<i>15:54</i>	<i>16:36</i>	<i>17:13</i>	<i>17:48</i>
<i>18:50</i>	<i>20:09</i>	<i>21:11</i>	<i>22:00</i>	<i>22:41</i>	<i>23:18</i>	<i>23:52</i>
April				May		
MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
<i>4:58</i>	<i>0:25</i>	<i>0:57</i>	<i>1:29</i>	<i>2:03</i>	<i>2:41</i>	<i>3:28</i>
<i>11:49</i>	<i>5:29</i>	<i>6:02</i>	<i>6:35</i>	<i>7:12</i>	<i>7:55</i>	<i>8:51</i>
<i>18:23</i>	<i>12:22</i>	<i>12:56</i>	<i>13:32</i>	<i>14:10</i>	<i>14:53</i>	<i>15:42</i>
	<i>18:59</i>	<i>19:36</i>	<i>20:14</i>	<i>20:55</i>	<i>21:39</i>	<i>22:28</i>

Tidal Streams at the Heads — May 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

April				May		
MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3
4:58	0:25	0:57	1:29	2:03	2:41	3:28
11:49	5:29	6:02	6:35	7:12	7:55	8:51
18:23	12:22	12:56	13:32	14:10	14:53	15:42
	18:59	19:36	20:14	20:55	21:39	22:28
MON 4	TUE 5	WED 6	THU 7	FRI 8	SAT 9	SUN 10
4:30	5:48	0:19	1:16	2:10	3:01	3:49
10:08	11:41	7:07	8:16	9:15	10:08	10:57
16:43	18:01	13:19	14:42	15:50	16:47	17:37
23:22		19:29	20:47	21:52	22:46	23:35
MON 11	TUE 12	WED 13	THU 14	FRI 15	SAT 16	SUN 17
4:36	0:20	1:04	1:47	2:31	3:17	4:08
11:43	5:23	6:10	6:57	7:45	8:36	9:34
18:24	12:28	13:10	13:49	14:28	15:06	15:49
	19:08	19:50	20:30	21:11	21:52	22:35
MON 18	TUE 19	WED 20	THU 21	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24
5:07	6:11	0:07	0:54	1:38	2:20	3:01
10:44	12:09	7:11	8:03	8:46	9:26	10:04
16:41	17:51	13:34	14:42	15:35	16:17	16:56
23:20		19:18	20:32	21:28	22:14	22:54
MON 25	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI 29	SAT 30	SUN 31
3:40	4:19	0:07	0:42	1:17	1:56	2:39
10:41	11:18	4:57	5:35	6:17	7:02	7:56
17:32	18:08	11:55	12:32	13:11	13:52	14:35
23:31		18:44	19:21	19:57	20:34	21:12

Tidal Streams at the Heads — June 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

June						
<i>MON 1</i>	<i>TUE 2</i>	<i>WED 3</i>	<i>THU 4</i>	<i>FRI 5</i>	<i>SAT 6</i>	<i>SUN 7</i>
<i>3:29</i>	<i>4:29</i>	<i>5:36</i>	<i>6:44</i>	<i>0:26</i>	<i>1:24</i>	<i>2:21</i>
<i>9:03</i>	<i>10:22</i>	<i>11:52</i>	<i>13:21</i>	<i>7:48</i>	<i>8:47</i>	<i>9:41</i>
<i>15:23</i>	<i>16:20</i>	<i>17:32</i>	<i>18:58</i>	<i>14:38</i>	<i>15:41</i>	<i>16:35</i>
<i>21:53</i>	<i>22:38</i>	<i>23:30</i>		<i>20:21</i>	<i>21:29</i>	<i>22:27</i>
<i>MON 8</i>	<i>TUE 9</i>	<i>WED 10</i>	<i>THU 11</i>	<i>FRI 12</i>	<i>SAT 13</i>	<i>SUN 14</i>
<i>3:16</i>	<i>4:09</i>	<i>0:04</i>	<i>0:49</i>	<i>1:32</i>	<i>2:15</i>	<i>2:58</i>
<i>10:32</i>	<i>11:19</i>	<i>5:00</i>	<i>5:50</i>	<i>6:39</i>	<i>7:28</i>	<i>8:19</i>
<i>17:23</i>	<i>18:07</i>	<i>12:03</i>	<i>12:43</i>	<i>13:21</i>	<i>13:57</i>	<i>14:33</i>
<i>23:17</i>		<i>18:48</i>	<i>19:26</i>	<i>20:02</i>	<i>20:36</i>	<i>21:09</i>
<i>MON 15</i>	<i>TUE 16</i>	<i>WED 17</i>	<i>THU 18</i>	<i>FRI 19</i>	<i>SAT 20</i>	<i>SUN 21</i>
<i>3:42</i>	<i>4:30</i>	<i>5:22</i>	<i>6:15</i>	<i>7:07</i>	<i>0:25</i>	<i>1:17</i>
<i>9:16</i>	<i>10:21</i>	<i>11:37</i>	<i>12:56</i>	<i>14:08</i>	<i>7:56</i>	<i>8:42</i>
<i>15:10</i>	<i>15:54</i>	<i>16:49</i>	<i>18:06</i>	<i>19:34</i>	<i>15:06</i>	<i>15:54</i>
<i>21:42</i>	<i>22:17</i>	<i>22:55</i>	<i>23:37</i>		<i>20:45</i>	<i>21:40</i>
<i>MON 22</i>	<i>TUE 23</i>	<i>WED 24</i>	<i>THU 25</i>	<i>FRI 26</i>	<i>SAT 27</i>	<i>SUN 28</i>
<i>2:08</i>	<i>2:58</i>	<i>3:46</i>	<i>4:33</i>	<i>0:25</i>	<i>1:05</i>	<i>1:48</i>
<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:11</i>	<i>10:54</i>	<i>11:36</i>	<i>5:21</i>	<i>6:12</i>	<i>7:07</i>
<i>16:35</i>	<i>17:14</i>	<i>17:52</i>	<i>18:27</i>	<i>12:17</i>	<i>12:59</i>	<i>13:40</i>
<i>22:27</i>	<i>23:08</i>	<i>23:47</i>		<i>19:02</i>	<i>19:36</i>	<i>20:09</i>
June		July				
<i>MON 29</i>	<i>TUE 30</i>	<i>WED 1</i>	<i>THU 2</i>	<i>FRI 3</i>	<i>SAT 4</i>	<i>SUN 5</i>
<i>2:34</i>	<i>3:24</i>	<i>4:19</i>	<i>5:19</i>	<i>6:21</i>	<i>7:23</i>	<i>0:48</i>
<i>8:07</i>	<i>9:15</i>	<i>10:31</i>	<i>11:52</i>	<i>13:13</i>	<i>14:26</i>	<i>8:23</i>
<i>14:23</i>	<i>15:09</i>	<i>16:01</i>	<i>17:06</i>	<i>18:26</i>	<i>19:53</i>	<i>15:28</i>
<i>20:43</i>	<i>21:19</i>	<i>22:01</i>	<i>22:50</i>	<i>23:45</i>		<i>21:08</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

