



Fathoms

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2020

*Cover photo: Aeolidina,
Williamstown - by Brian
Heatherich.*



**Central North Coast, NSW
Vanuatu, hunting COTs
June Guest Speaker, Gareth Lock
South Africa and more....**

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www.vsag.org.au

Vsag Club Meetings Now on Zoom



Our next club meeting, is scheduled for :

Tuesday, 18th August, 2020 at 8pm.

Download the zoom.us app and click on join meeting. Enter meeting ID and password which will be emailed prior to meeting time.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!



Fathoms

Est. 1954

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

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NOTICES

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

All Members Welcome



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

256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE

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

VSAG on Facebook

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



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

Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia

Postal Address

PO Box 382, Melville WA 6956

Email: info@uecwa.com.au

Meetings

Esplanade Hotel
The Esplanade, Fremantle, WA

Boat

Port Coogee Marina
Chieftain Esplanade, North Coogee, WA

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

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



Your VSAG Committee 2019–2020

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Diving the Central North Coast of New South Wales

Diving the Central North Coast of New South Wales

With winter well and truly here and campgrounds in NSW reopening, I made a plan to dive several places along the central north coast of New South Wales. I loaded my car up with camping, surfing, kayaking and dive gear and headed north up the Hume Highway.

First stop was Nelson Bay, north of Newcastle. I arranged to dive with Feet First Diving located in Nelson Bay. \$150 for a double cylinder boat dive. We headed out to Broughton Island and did a dive with some grey nurse sharks. It took around 30 minutes by boat to the dive site. The visibility was fantastic and the water was a pleasant 18° for mid-June. There were around nine big sharks and they didn't mind us diving in amongst them. There was a lot of other things to see but when you're in the water with 3m to 4 m sharks they certainly keep your focus on them. We'd been instructed to sit motionless and allow the sharks to

cruise by and I was able to get some wonderful footage with my GoPro. Certainly, one other highlight was a giant cuttlefish, but the whole dive had me amazed at the amount of interesting stuff at this one spot. The second dive was at a place called The Looking Glass. This was a narrow swim through that was around 80 m long, with big wobbegongs, blue groper, moray eels and even a slipper lobster. It was a very, good day and a great start to my trip. I also rented a cylinder from Feet First Dive and did a solo shore-dive off Fly Point. This is a Marine Park located at Nelson Bay and is a very, interesting place to dive. You need to time the dive so that the tide is almost full, which allows you to slowly drift along before it brings you back on the ebb tide. This was an amazing little dive site with very, easy parking and access and I'd highly recommend it.

The next stop on my journey was at South West Rocks. I booked a double cylinder dive with the South West Rocks Dive Centre. A double cylinder boat dive at Fish Rock was \$200. It took around 30 minutes by

boat to the rock and this included a fairly, rough bar crossing. The first dive was with the grey nurse sharks and the second dive was a complete penetration of the Fish Rock Cave. The visibility was great and the water was 18°. I've already written about this day trip in last month's Fathoms and it's another highly recommended location.

After this, I headed up to Byron Bay and booked a dive with the Byron Bay Dive Centre. Julian Rocks are located 2.5 km off Byron Bay and this seems to be the preferred local dive site. The Byron Bay DC do single cylinder dive trips which cost \$95 per dive. They beach launch their rib and it's a very short 2.5km trip to Julian Rocks. The water temperature was a lovely 21° but the visibility wasn't quite as good as my previous dives on this trip. It starts to get a little bit more tropical at Byron Bay, so there were anemonefish and corals, plenty of painted crayfish, spotted eagle rays, grey nurse sharks, turtles and big wobbegongs. Big fish such as Jewfish, Sweetlips, Snapper, Cods, Queensland Gropers, Kingfish and Trevally were all to be found. We had been promised a visit to the Cod Hole but strong(ish) currents meant this was not possible. A few days later, however, I did another single dive with the BBDC and luckily the conditions were much better. We managed to get to the Cod

Hole and it is a spacious swim-through which takes you from 15 to 18 metres. Inside the Cod Hole, there was a large school of cod and they didn't mind me getting up close for a bit of footage. The hole itself is large enough for a small number of divers to fit comfortably, without any social distancing drama. Another great highlight was that we could easily hear whales in the vicinity, whilst watching the nurse sharks cruising by.

Byron Bay was my most northerly destination on this trip, as the border to Queensland was closed. This meant heading back south for Coffs Harbour and the South Solitary Island Marine Park. I booked with Jetty Dive in Coffs Harbour 9 days beforehand, giving a visa card number and called again 2 days before the dive, to talk about weather conditions. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't looking particularly good for that day or any of the following 3 days I'd be in the area. I arrived at 7:30am as instructed but, to my surprise, not only was the dive cancelled, they had no record of my booking. Fortunately for them the weather was bad, as I promptly showed them my email confirmation and recounted my 2 separate phone calls. It seems that an error had occurred with their booking process and I must be sure to triple check with dive operators for future big occasion dive trips.

The following 3 days were all bad but a dive seemed possible on the day I'd planned to relocate to Forster-Tuncurry. This meant an early start to pack up my campsite before doing a double cylinder dive, then a 3-hour drive before setting up camp again in the dark. The things we do for this sport!

We geared up in the car park at Coffs Harbour marina and headed out for a 30-minute boat ride to the island. All was going to plan and we were about to descend, when the dive guide realised that he'd forgotten to put on his weight belt. How awkward? Once again, I was immediately impressed by the water temperature (20°C) and the visibility. There were plenty of nurse sharks and a very, interesting underwater topography. The area had numerous large canyons and a fairly, large underwater arch. I got some great footage of the sharks swimming through it, as I passed by going in the other direction. This dive, I noticed the sharks behaving a little differently, as they'd swim in one direction then, without warning snap their tails and turn. You could clearly hear the sound of the water being violently disturbed when they did it and it was something, I hadn't encountered on my previous five shark dives along the coast. In addition to the approximately 20 grey nurse sharks, there were plenty of other creatures including turtles, rock

cod, sweet lips, wobbegongs and spotted eagle rays. It was a great location as well, with the lighthouse standing on the island from another era, when people could only imagine what wonders sat just below the surface. The final highlight was the sheer number of whales that could be seen breaching in the distance on the journey home. It was quite a sight.

My final destination on this trip was Forster. I'd booked with Dive Forster at Fisherman's Wharf and called by in person the day before, to do the paperwork and to make sure my booking was in place. It's a lovely area and I enjoyed plenty of kayaking and surfing as well. The boat is located across the road from the dive shop and inside the intercoastal estuary. Another 30-minute journey to the dive site and we were at Latitude Rock. Although I had seen plenty of grey nurse sharks, turtles, wobbegongs, rays, crays and more I was still very, excited. The weather was almost perfect and the water temperature was hovering around 19/20°C. Visibility was excellent again and we had 2 great dives. I briefly glimpsed a dolphin as it swam by on the surface, but it was too fast and distant to get any footage. Dratts!

I had hoped to squeeze in one more day of diving as the weather looked great, so I asked about other dive sites. With a bit of gentle begging I

managed to convince the proprietor to consider diving a pinnacle located not far offshore but this was dependent on conditions (of course). Fortunately, it was blue sky, light wind and no apparent current, so off we went. This was a deeper dive at 33m. We headed down the anchor line onto a large rounded rock pinnacle that dropped off to much deeper water. Some grey nurse sharks were cruising by a small canyon on the pinnacle, but this was my 11th dive on this trip with nurse sharks, so I knew they were pretty, relaxed. I spotted a very, large rock cod and was slowly moving in to get some footage when one of the sharks snapped its tail nearby. I hadn't seen the first shark initially, as I was focused on the cod, when I saw another shark heading towards me. I moved to the side to try and give it some room but it turned towards me. I continued filming without any concern as I'd become very relaxed about nurse sharks over the past 11 dives. It swam up to me and then did a sudden snap of its tail as it turned a full 180 degrees in front of the camera. I could feel the water disturbance it caused like a shockwave. After this I decided that perhaps I should move to slightly shallower water to try and extend my NDL. We slowly moved back to the anchor line and then up the line hoping to see something special (I was hoping for either a whale or a

great white) but sadly, it wasn't our day. We did one final dive at Latitude Rock but it was a sad feeling on the boat ride home, knowing that the diving was all finished.

The trip ended after 13 dives, at five different locations, along the northern NSW coast. I was fortunate to have predominantly good conditions and small diver numbers on the charters. All of the operators had Covid strategies and for the first 2 weeks of the trip it felt like Covid was a distant memory. Sadly, the news from Victoria was getting progressively worse, to the point where I felt it necessary to make it clear, that although I was from Victoria, I was not from Melbourne. With school holidays approaching, I packed up and headed home to the safety of Cape Paterson. But I'm now thinking of my next diving, surfing, kayaking trip in November/December. Mallacoota to Jervis Bay.

- Rowan Salger. ❖





SOLITARY ISLANDS

30th June, 2020.

The weather gods finally allowed me to dive the Solitary Islands and it was worth the wait. I went out with Jetty Dive from Coffs Harbour. Plenty of sharks, turtles, big schools of fish but sadly no underwater whales. They were breaching constantly on the boat ride home. Saw quite a few splashing around. The water was 20°C. Next dive is Forster before my East Coast Odyssey ends. BTW, don't mention you're from Victoria at the moment.

- Rowan Salger. ❖

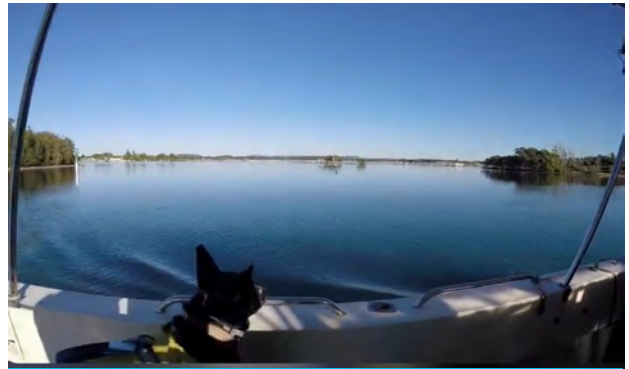


FORSTER

2nd July, 2020

Fantastic conditions today at Forster, NSW. Double dive at Latitude Rock then a paddle at Wallis Lake in the afternoon. Saw my first mermaid.

- Rowan Salger. ❖



Vanuatu Hunting COTs

Vanuatu-Hunting COTs (Crown of Thorn Starfish)

By *Brian Heatherich*.

I see this current forced hiatus from diving as a great opportunity to look back and reflect on some of my best diving experiences to date. As many who were at my presentation a few months ago, this experience was while living in Vanuatu for a year. Based on the response from this presentation, and on a story I wrote for our WordPress site at the time, I thought it would be useful to update this story for the VSAG magazine while not much diving is happening. I hope you enjoy.

During 2013-2014 our family spent a year living in Vanuatu, with my wife working on behalf of the Australian Government, with Vanuatu Customs and Inland Revenue (DCIR), developing their OH&S capability. This position was based in Port Vila, the main town on the island of Efate and the country's capital.

Although I gained some work with DCIR in my profession during the later stages of our stay, my initial role was to be 'Man blo house', or house husband. Although this role kept me



busy, setting up our new life in Vanuatu and ensuring the family and house remained operational, I confess, it was not a role that came naturally to me.

After a few months in this role, I discovered through my slowly developing network, that Vanuatu Fisheries Department and a local dive operator were looking for volunteers to assist them with the control and reduction of Crown of Thorn Starfish (COTs) around more pristine areas of the island. Up to that time, although loving the water, I had only logged a few dozen dives post gaining my certification in 1996; all of them while on holidays overseas. This seemed like a great opportunity to develop my diving skills in an environment more conducive to diving than where I had come from.

The role was to assist local dive operators to clear the reef of plagues of Crown of Thorn starfish (COTs) that seemed to devastate the local reef, systemically harming both local food chain systems and tour operators. Many of these cleared COTs would then be sent to the local Dept of Fisheries for further research into how best to manage and control them and to investigate how they, once 'dealt with', might assist with local agricultural systems as compost or biofuel.

To give you an idea of the issue at hand, it is understood that one COTs will consume its own body area in coral each night. This relates to a rough consumption of 13 square metres a year for around its estimated 8 years of life. This works out to be roughly 100 square metres over their lives. Now multiply this for a plague of between 600-1000 COTs and you gain a sense of the devastation these critters can do.

One research paper from a few years ago, suggests that 42% of the damage to the Great Barrier Reef up until 2012, was due to COTs with an estimated 5 million COTs busy destroying 50 square km of coral every year. There is little to suggest anything has changed today, except for additional damage caused by bleaching which makes the impact of the COTs even more devastating. Indeed, it is reported that Vanuatu has cleared around 40,000 COTs over the last 2 years alone with additional waves being recently reported in early 2020.

In normal circumstances, COTs assist in keeping hard coral growth in check. However, when plagues of 1000s of COTs arrive, like locusts, to devastate a coral environment, and these plagues arrive in waves before coral can sufficiently regenerate, the effects are similar to our bushfires of recent times but devastating local

marine ecologies, rather than land communities.

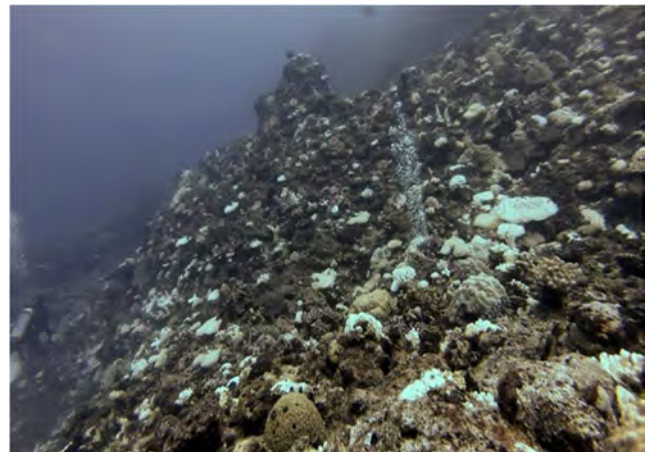
This is one reason why they are such an issue in areas such as the Great Barrier Reef, along with cyclones and coral bleaching due to the effects of more recent climate change. It is thought that in the past, COTs have been controlled by other marine predators and in the right numbers, have an important role on the reefs, but it is thought that a combination of overfishing of these natural predators, nutrient runoffs from mainlands and other changes to the environment, have resulted in circumstances where COTs are now thriving. During the spawning season, one COTs can produce over 60 million eggs, ready to be fertilised and start the next wave of COTs a year or two down the track.

In Vanuatu, there had been various methods tried to remove COTs, including injecting them with chlorine at the time, but from a cost perspective, the most efficient way to clear the reefs, for us during my time there, was manually, using a hook and flour-bag.

This manually intensive process started by reviewing reports from locals and tour operators and then searching the surrounding reefs for coral with bright white scars which would indicate COTs in the area, having consumed the coral within the



Peter, the team leader, working out where to look for COTs.



Showing scarring from a recent wave of COTs, showing the possible devastation.



past few days. This scaring would quickly turn dull after only a few days and be more difficult to locate before being covered with black algae a few weeks later; resembling an underwater version of a bushfire devastated landscape, which many of us are now all familiar with here in Australia.

As a small group of volunteers, lead and organised by a local sailing/diving operator, we would go out on weekends with the objective of finding and culling COTs plagues when we found them. At times this was a hit and miss operations, but often we struck a major COTs congregation.

In general, COTs attempt to hide under or in the reef system during the day and come out at night to feed, although this is not always the case. To find them, we snorkelled or dived over the reef until we discovered clusters of once beautiful and healthy coral that had been scarred white with the life sucked out of it. Collection was done by a combination of SCUBA diving or/and snorkelling, depending on depth and numbers of COTs reported over the previous week. With ever changing diving conditions, skill and concentration was required to handle the various tools required to capture them, whilst also avoiding being stung by the COTs.

As a further difficulty, each COTs has a number of sharp, poison tipped calcium spikes that break off, if care is not taken while removing them. This is a sharp reminder to take care when handling these ‘thorny aliens’ and we were regularly cautioned by our expedition lead. The effects of a sting, even a light brush, resulted in the surrounding area being inflamed, at times like a balloon, as your body battled the toxins injected by the COTs. The associated intense pain would last several hours before subsiding to a dull ache. Unfortunately, I experienced this on several occasions and it was not an enjoyable experience.

In addition to normal diving equipment, we were supplied with a levering tool or hook to help us dislodge and extract the COTs from their hiding spots. This tool was essentially a long metal rod with handle at one end and a 70-degree bend at the other forming a subtle hook. We also used a large flour-bag with draw-string at the top, that we placed the COTs into once we removed them from the reef.

The idea was to tie off the bag, once full, and leave it in the water for 2 days, for the COTs to die of oxygen starvation, as they rely on water-flow over their bodies to absorb oxygen. Alternatively, we

would haul the bags onto the boat and take ashore for counting and burial.

A thick rubber glove was also on offer, but after an initial sting that easily pierced this thick membrane, this was discarded as more of a burden than assistance.

Today, alongside hooks and bags, the volunteer teams now use a cost-effective system of syringe applicators, filled with either vinegar or commercially available Ox-Bile Salts. This process was only starting to be researched during my time on the team.

On most occasions, as we levered the COTs off the coral and pulled them from their hiding places, they curled up to protect their soft underbelly with their shield of spines, resembling a thorny basketball. This ball shape assisted us with using the levering hook to ‘juggle’ them in the water, while trying to open the sack facing into the current. When the sack decided to be cooperative, which was not always the case, we pushed them in. With the COTs inside the sack, we moved on to find the next telltale scarred outcrop, which suggested another COTs lurking near by.

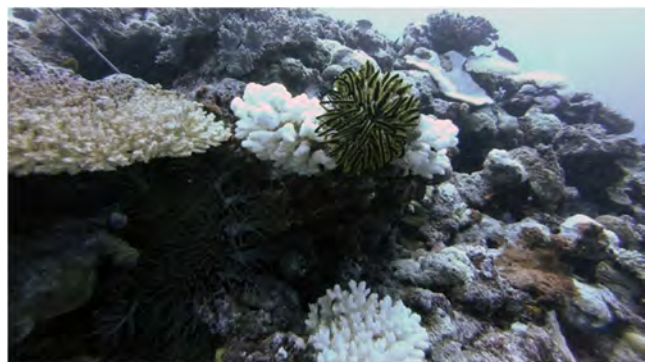
With currents and trying not to get stung, this was easier said than done. The COTs tended to sink if



Peter, the COTs volunteer leader, showing our tools of the trade of the time; rubber glove, home-made COTs hook and a number of flour-bags. (BCD was optional)



COTs hiding during the daylight. making our job all that more difficult.



you were not juggling them with the hook. Juggling required fine balance and skill in trying to get the bag to stay open, ensuring the other COTs don't escape, and trying to 'bounce' the intended COTs into the bag with the hook, almost an underwater COTs version of paddleball. The hard calcium spines of the COTs would grab at the entrance, or on the pull string that closes the rice bag, meaning additional force would be required to push them into the bag to join the others. At times you had to push the hook through the soft underbelly of the COTs and out of its back where it became stuck and you had to somehow, without touching the COTs, extract the hook from it. During this tedious battle you also had to ensure that you had not drifted too far away and remained safe with enough air to surface and get back to the boat if required.

The experienced and well-coordinated Ni-Vanuatu local divers had developed a technique to quickly shuffle the smaller COTs into bags, but the bigger COTs over 35 cm diameter, barely fitted through the mouth of the bag and wasted underwater time, usually 50 minutes for a dive.

In addition to the care required to put the COTs in the bag, you also need a constant awareness of the location of the bag, which is hopefully, gradually



Team Member 'Slam Dunking' another COTs into his bag. In the background you can see bags already full of COTs with damaged coral in the foreground. We collected around 300-400 COTs during this cull.



filling up with COTs. This is because some spines manage to pierce the sides of the bag and, with some of the currents we experienced, the bag can easily brush into you causing you a number of injuries.

Once we had collected the number of COTs, we usually disposed of them by securing the full sacks in an underwater graveyard area selected for the purpose. Due to the tied-off drawstring on the bag, the COTs basically suffocated within a day. After a few days they started to decompose, but before they decomposed too much, they were removed from the sacks to be fed to the resident fish population who quickly learnt that a fresh feast was on its way. Once the decomposing COTs were released, a feeding frenzy would ensure. One regular visitor, a Queen Trigger fish tried to protect its hoard by attacking surrounding fish until it realised that there were too many other fish to compete with, so it swam away to its lair with whatever COTs' remains it could.

If required, we would provide healthy samples for the Department of fisheries who would do a number of research experiments on them.

Towards the end of my time there, they had discovered lemon juice or citric acid injected into COTs,

was looking to be more effective and environmentally friendlier, than either chlorine or sodium bisulphate. Ox-bile was the current best practice on the GBR, but expensive to buy and ship to Vanuatu.

During my time there and till this day, these operations were run on an extremely limited budget, with any funds being gratefully received from local or overseas Government bodies. More recently (2020) the New Zealand High commission (MFAT) have generously supplied Emergency Funding to assist with the expenses involved in the latest culling by the Dive Operators.

Although the work was arduous, I remembered it as an enjoyable experience and saw that it was making a difference to the coastal environment surrounding Vanuatu and more particularly to Efate, the island where we lived at the time.

For me, that time provided me with a sense of not 'just' diving. Assisting in COTs removal helped me experience my diving to a deeper level, moving it from being just a diving voyeur, aimlessly diving over the coral, to an experience where I was interacting with the eco-system and through searching and removing the COTs, I felt that I was making a



COTs bound for research projects with the Department of Fisheries.



COTs ready for research with the Vanuatu Dept of Fisheries.



Testing lemon juice to assist in controlling COTs... this seemed to work!

positive difference, however small that difference may be.

For those who may be interested, a recently released video of “Vanuatu COTs Culling” is available at the following address.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYufCyeUgSI&feature=youtu.be>

and for some of the research being undertaken by some of the Pacific Nations

<https://youtu.be/dZei-c1TFpk>

Latest reports from Efate, indicate that a new outbreak starting in 2018, has all the Dive Operators around Efate Island, culling COTs that are approaching their favorite dive-sites.

Divers seem to be winning the War for now, with around 40,000 COTs removed in the last 2 years and with mainly individuals, rather than groups, being encountered at present. ❖



Another experiment to see if blending COTs would provide a source of gases or biofuels.... not this time.

June Zoom Meeting

JUNE

GENERAL MEETING

22nd June, 2020

Great meeting last night, special thanks to Matthijs Smith for organising Gareth Lock as our guest speaker. We had quite a few guests from other clubs which was great. also thanks to Angus for technical support and general organisation, Mark for running the photo comp - surprisingly we had quite a few very good photos this month. I am surprised how good these Zoom meetings can be! And thanks to members for attending.

-Peter Galvin. ❖

To All Members & Guests (please forward as necessary),

Thank-you all for joining us and your engagement with Gareth Lock last Tuesday night.

It was a great night and welcoming old friends from other clubs made it even better.

It truly makes it easier to engage global speakers (during Covid times) when the broader diving community comes together.



*Peter Galvin.,
President, VSAG Inc.*

Thanks again for joining us on the night.

If you have any questions or want to join our next session (the 3rd Tuesday night every month), please let us know. We're happy for guests to join.

Cheers,

Angus Stuart-Adams

Treasurer , VSAG Inc. ❖

JUNE GUEST SPEAKER

June General Meeting Guest Speaker **GARETH LOCK**

Tuesday, 21st July 2020, 7pm.

At our June General Meeting we were fortunate to have Global presenter and high-risk diver and human factors expert, **Gareth Lock**, join us on Zoom to share his insights into counter-errorism and human factors in diving.

Many thanks to Gareth for his time.

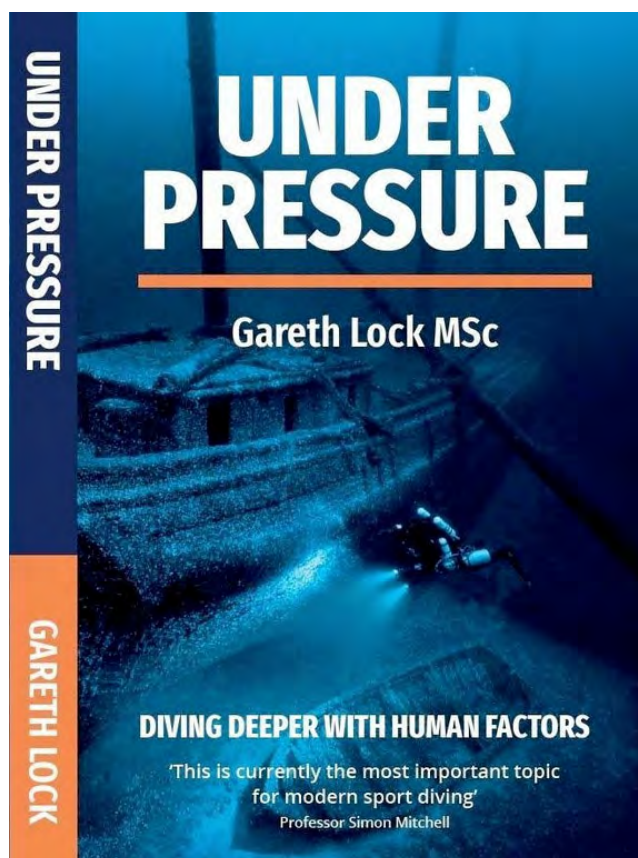
Please follow the inks to Gareth's presentations:

Psychological Safety and Just Culture: What are they and why should I care?

<https://vimeo.com/410128892>

The additional video that was mentioned during the presentation is called "If Only".

This was the military diver, rebreather incident mentioned which is a great reminder of the impact and care we need to take when diving for

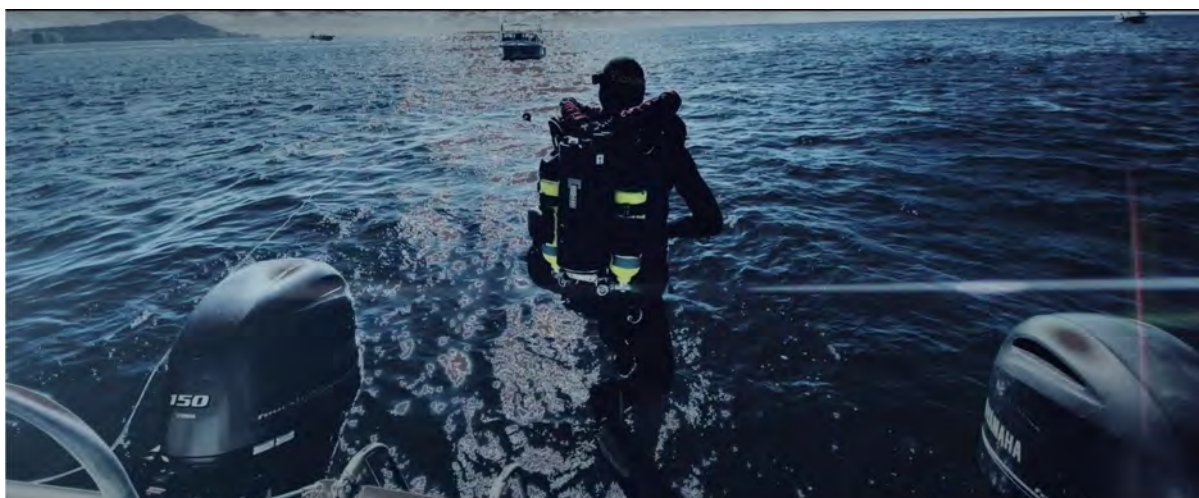
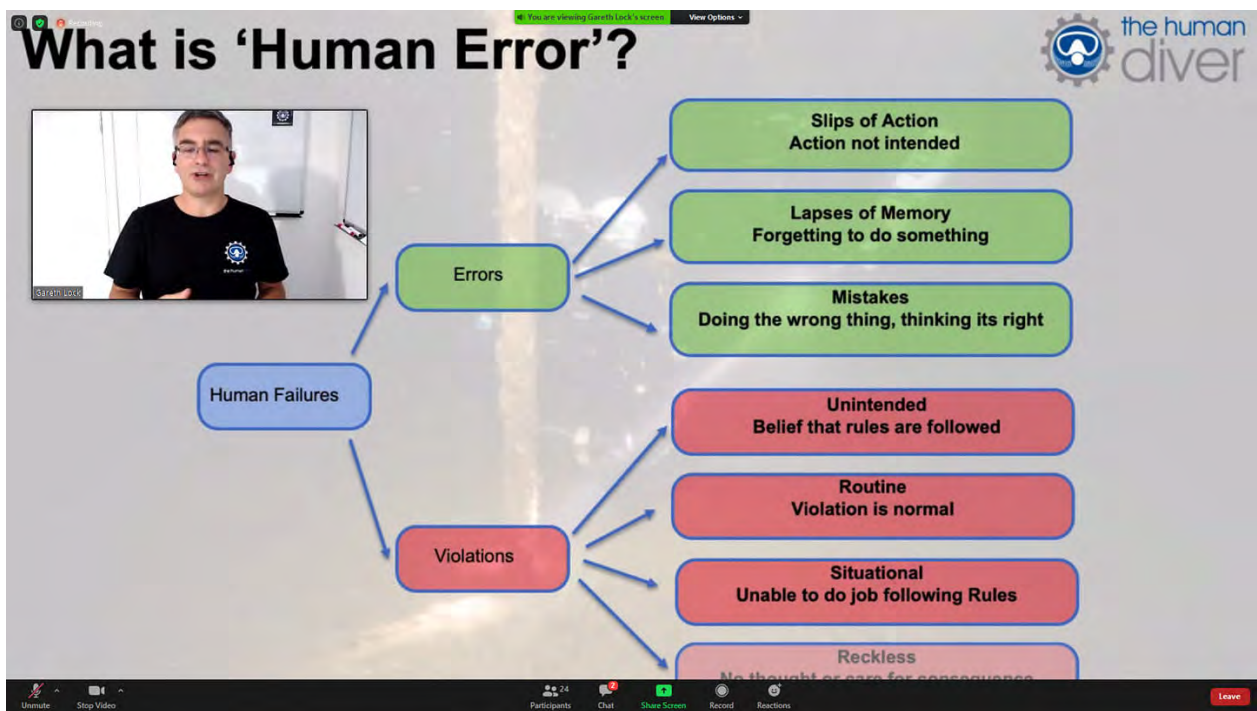


ourselves and other divers. This is free for everyone to download.

<https://www.thehumandiver.com/ifyonly>

Book by Gareth Lock <https://www.thehumandiver.com/underpressure>

Gareth Lock is a retired Royal Air Force senior officer Navigator of 25 years, who was both a senior supervisor and a tactical flight instructor on an operational C-130 flying squadron. He has a MSc in Aerospace Systems from Kingston University and spent his last 5 years in the RAF as a Requirements



If Only...

the human diver
counter-errorism in diving

Paradigm
Human Performance Ltd

Boathouse Media / JP Bresser

Manager for Defensive Aids Systems working across all levels of industry, research and the military from front-line user to very senior officers, both in the UK and in the US, often at highly classified levels.

Gareth is an Open Circuit advanced trimix diver (Technical Diver Level 2 with Global Underwater Explorers) and normoxic trimix CCR diver (JJ-CCR with TDI) with around 800 dives over 12 years of diving. He is also an accomplished underwater photographer with a deep interest in cold, green water wreck diving.

Shortly after leaving the RAF in 2014, he delivered eight months of Well Operations Crew Resource Management (WOCRM) training and coaching to oil workers in an offshore environment, the results of which were presented by Gareth and Phil Smith (Managing Director of Critical Team Performance) at the oil and gas industry's international (IADC Human Factors) conference in Houston. In June 2015, Gareth completed the TOP-SET three-day Senior Investigator root cause analysis course, considered an industry standard in Oil & Gas, heavy industry, and rail incident and accident investigation.

In 2012, Gareth started his PhD, examining the role of human factors in scuba diving incidents. He is published in a number of magazines

and journals, has presented at nine international diving conferences on Human Factors in diving, and manages the Diving Incident and Safety Management System incident database.

He has recently been appointed Global Underwater Explorer's Director for Risk Management, responsible for developing the performance of instructors and instructor trainers and building a Just Culture within this learning-cultured organisation.

In 2016, he developed and launched the Human Factors Skills in Diving high performance development programmes to improve the knowledge, skills and safety of all divers. These consist of an online programme suitable for all divers and a classroom-based class aimed at instructors, instructor trainers and those undertaking higher risk diving such as technical divers and cave divers. ❖

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

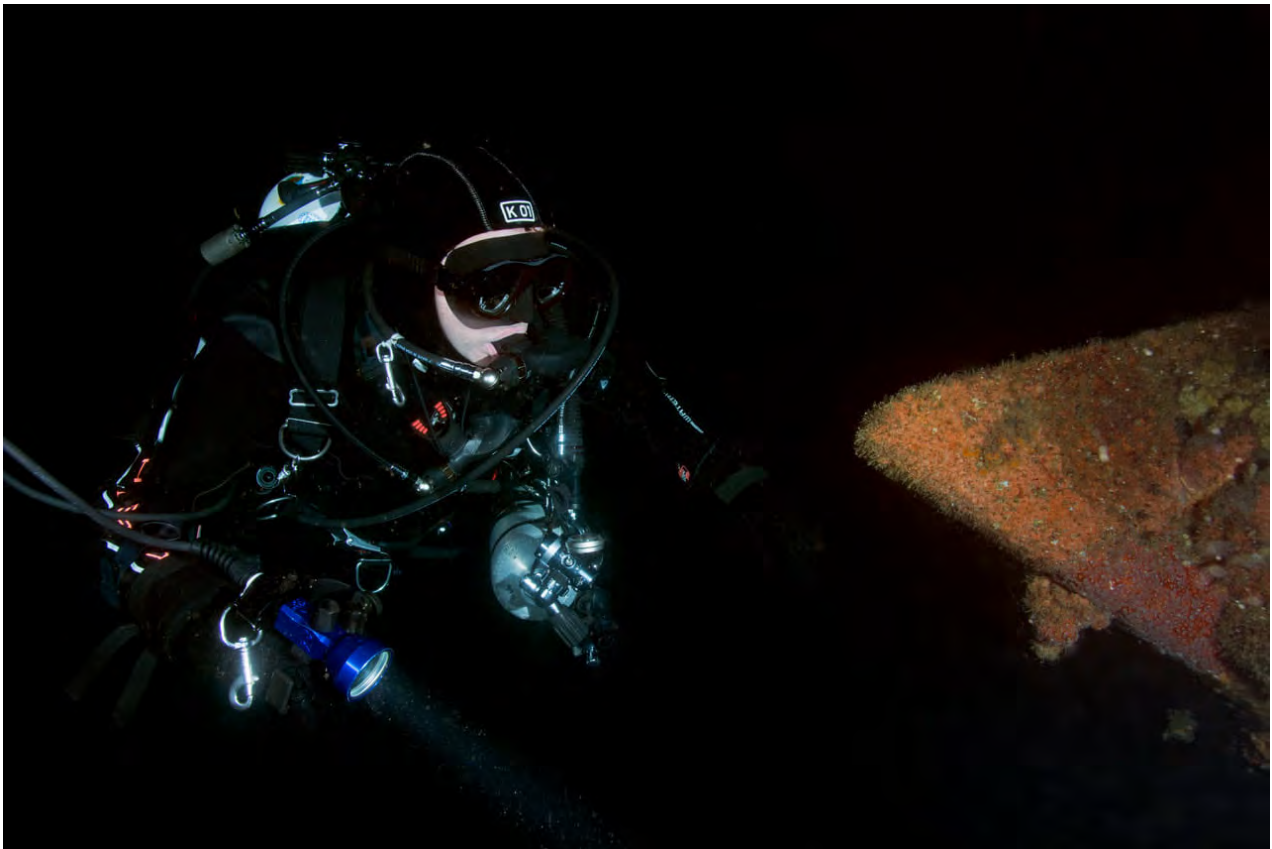
First - June 2020



Easy Rider Spider, Elsa's Reef - by Mattihjs Smith.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Second - June 2020



Diver on the Bow of the Canberra - by Ian Scholey.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Third - June 2020



San Remo - by Peter Mosse.

JUNE 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION

June saw a few lucky ones get out for a dive. First this month was Matthijs's easy rider spider, 2nd Ian's Diver on the Bow of the Canberra and 3rd was Peter Mosse. Thank you to everyone who contributed. ❖



Aeolidina, Williamstown - by Brian Heatherich.



Beach Day, Gunnamatta Beach - by Mark Jeffrey.



Four legs good - by Matthijs Smith.



Chromodorid, Blairgowrie - by Brian Heatherich.

JUNE 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION



PJ, Queenscliff - by Phil Watson.



Look at moi - by Rowan Salger.



SS Coogee - by Ian Scholey.



Curious Morey - by Rowan Salger.



San Remo - by Peter Mosse.

A Blast from the Past...

SUBMARINE BECOMES AIRCRAFT CARRIER

10th July, 2020.

Found this interesting bit of film of one of the more unusual attempted adaptations of Subs. I actually dived the wreck of this Sub when I was in the UK in the early days of my diving. It sits in 30m off the UK south Coast.

- Ian Scholey. ❖

SUBMARINE BECOMES
AIRCRAFT-CARRIER
Aeroplane is catapulted
from converted turret of
M2, riding surface
of the Solent
British Movietone



*A swing-wing biplane, lifted
back onto deck by a crane fixed
to the turret of the submarine.*

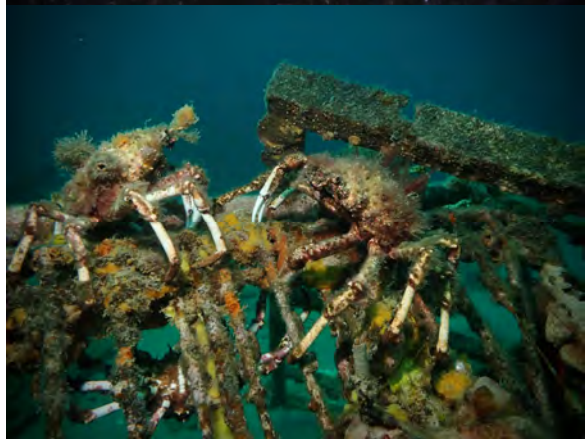
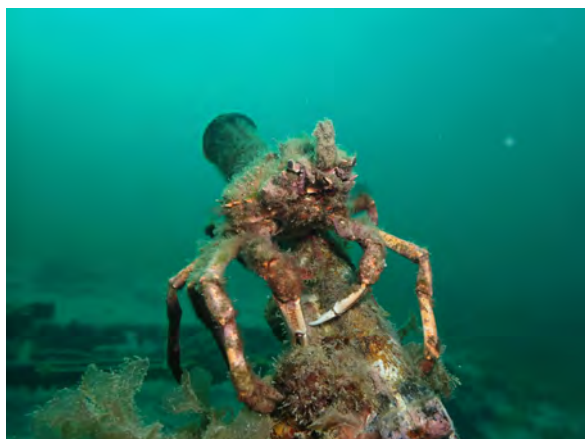
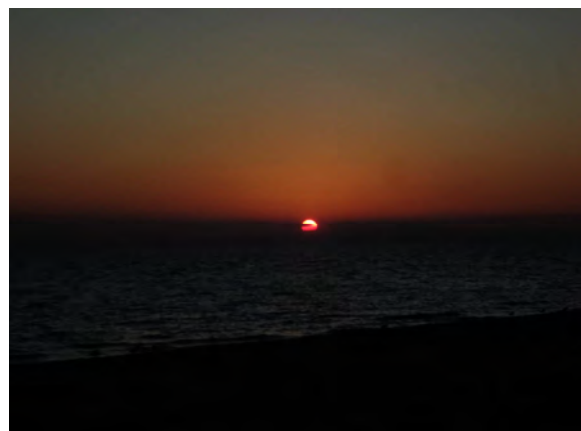
Rye Pier & Elsa's Reef

RYE PIER & ELSA'S REEF

28th June 2020

Pics from today's dives at Rye Pier and Elsa's Reef. Beautiful conditions. Temp 12-13C. Viz 8m-10m. Very crabby.

- *Matthijs Smith.* ❖



JAWBONE SANCTUARY

JAWBONE SANCTUARY

26th July 2020

A few photos from our evening dive last night at Jawbone. Being a bit underweight for the shallow depth, we both needed to find a rock to help keep us down. This meant difficulty with taking photos. Lots of great macro and a few rays were observed and a dumpling squid towards the end. I always forget how nice Jawbone is to dive. Nice to get out again.

- *Brian Heatherich.* ❖

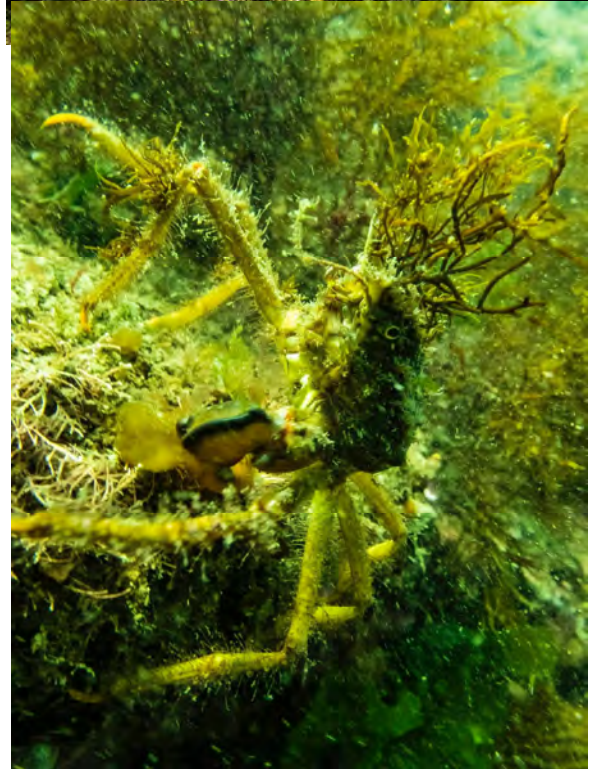


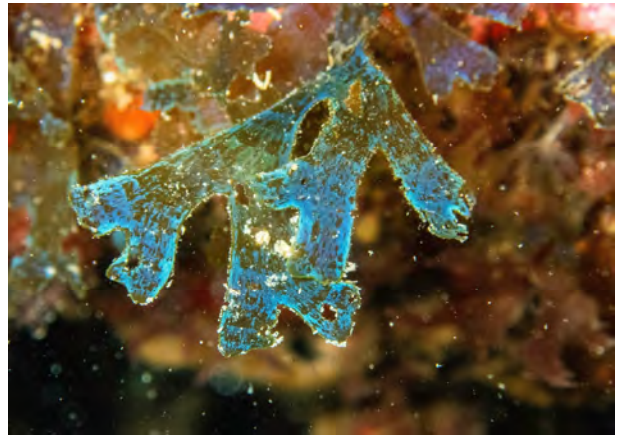
JAWBONE SANCTUARY

2nd August, 2020.

Took advantage of the local Jawbone to get wet with Liam. Was after some cleaner shrimp and nudis, but instead came across a sea spider (I think) and other macro life. Also good practice for Liam, as it is only his 8th dive. He is certainly becoming a good macro spotter, finding a baby squid/cuttlefish and other beauties that I could not capture or not see. Temp 12°C, max depth 3.7m, 80 min dive. Might be the last for a while, by the sounds of it, if stage 4 comes into effect.

- *Brian Heatherich.* ❖





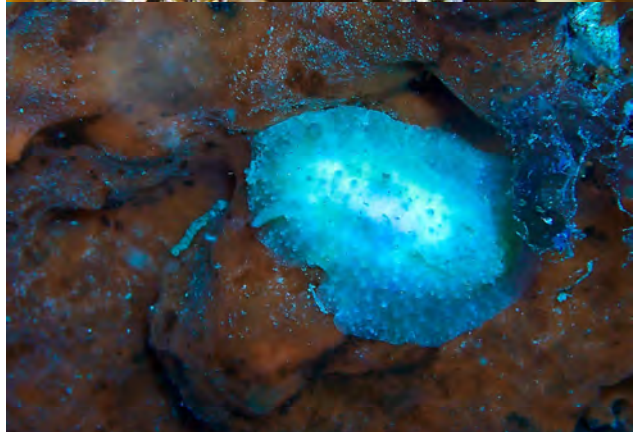
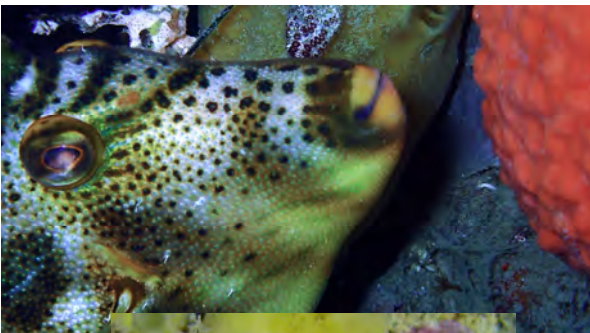
Blairgowrie & Rip Bank

BLAIRGOWRIE PIER & RIP BANK

21st June, 2020.

Diving with Matthew Leviny (a newish VSAG member) yesterday. Blairgowrie Pier and then Rip Bank with Luke and Redboats. Some great conditions, considering the predicted weather reports. Found the mother of all Nudies.... Did not realise they could grow so big. Here are some of the better shots.

- *Brian Heatherich.* ❖



South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

9th August, 2020

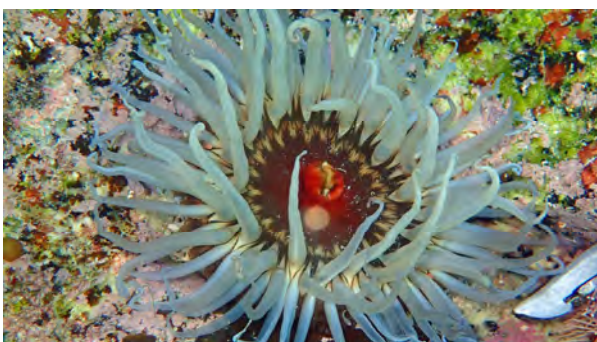
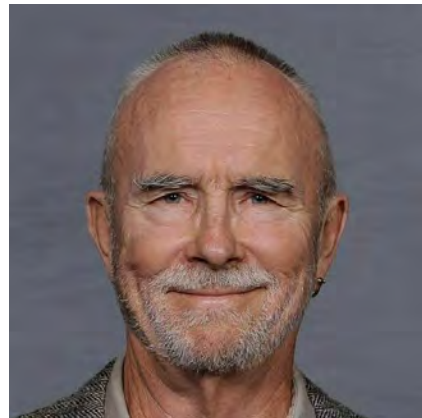
This is my "old" Divebuddy, Rob Koch, whom I used to dive with, in the seventies and early eighties, on the South African Coast, as well as Mocambique, where I met Rob, on a remote beach, just south of the Tanzanian border in Central Africa.

Rob still dives about 3 times a week, in Cape Town environs and spends a lot of time on his underwater photography

Back in the 1970's, I recollect Rob held the World Record for spearfishing and landing the largest ZAMBESI SHARK, shot off the East African coast, Mocambique, but about 8 months later, someone else claimed that record, when they shot a larger one.

(In South Africa, it is illegal to use both a spear gun and tanks together, on the same dive.)

- Herb Epstein. ❖



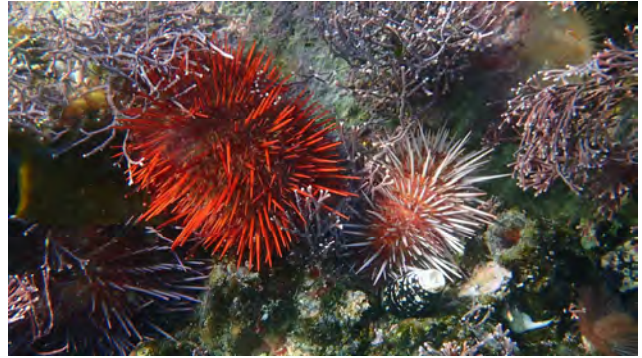
Sea urchins have an endearing propensity for wearing seashells as hats - one here below is wearing some soft coral and another a shark egg.



28th July 2020

The strange case of *Dedrofiurella scutellum* - a species of keyhole limpet seashell with a body much larger than its shell and a liking for burying in the sand with tentacles waving. Said to eat seaweed, but probably eats a lot else beside. Lots of them in the Miller's Point tidal pool that stick their heads out towards sundown. Their mantle usually spreads to cover their vestigial shell. I put him into a perlemoen shell to recover from being picked up. On my return a klipvis had moved in with him and the limpet had extruded his numerous feeding polyps and nozzles.

- Robert Koch. ❖



Late afternoon snorkel in Miller's Point pool. A red sea squirt, some urchins, a little black underwater baobab, a nice size perlemoen, and a curious "klipvis" looking for a handout.

- Robert Koch. ❖



HMAS Canberra & SS Coogee

HMAS CANBERRA & SS COOGEE

27th June, 2020

Perfect conditions for a double night dive today. Hmas Canberra first, then the SS Coogee. Should be good.

What a night! Check out the heads, below.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



EX HMAS CANBERRA

NIGHT DIVE

28th June, 2020

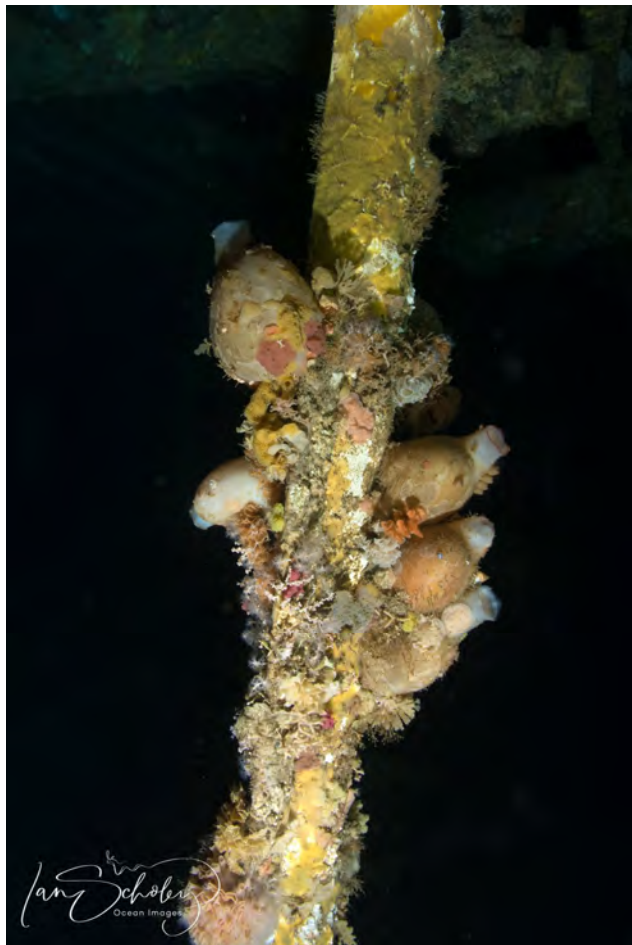
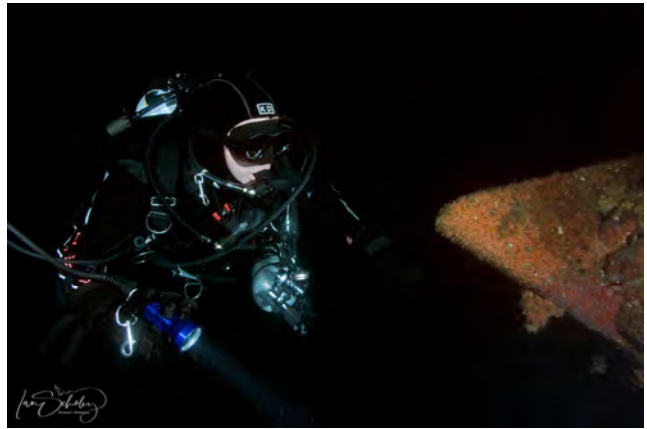
Over the years I have dived the Bass Straight wrecks a lot. Hence, it was great to get a chance to see a couple of those very familiar wrecks in a new light yesterday.

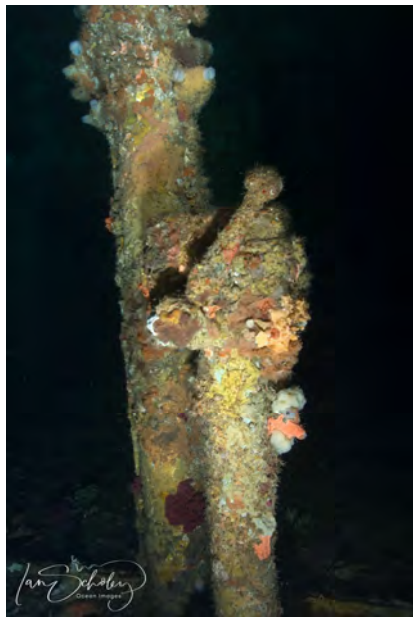
Thanks to Luke English, Redboats and some excellent weather conditions, Chris Porter and I headed out last night for a double night dive. First up was the Canberra. I don't think I have ever noticed the truly amazing colours on the wreck now. It has certainly changed since the early dives we did just after it was sunk. Back then it was bare metal but now - just wow!

We went in with a plan to get a shot of Chris next to the bow, I thought it would be a good shot with the black behind. I think I nailed that shot - what do you think?

If you ever get the chance to do a night dive on Canberra, grab it folks, it's a fine dive.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



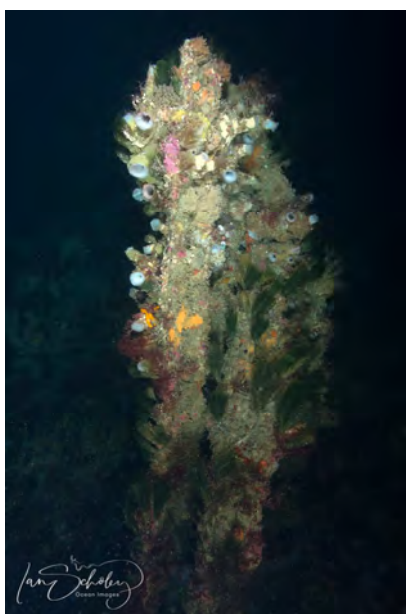
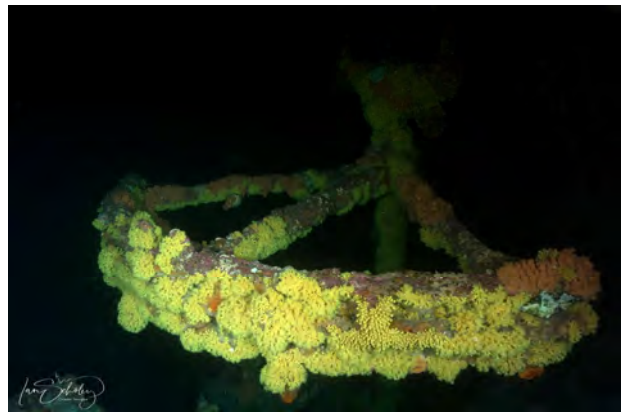


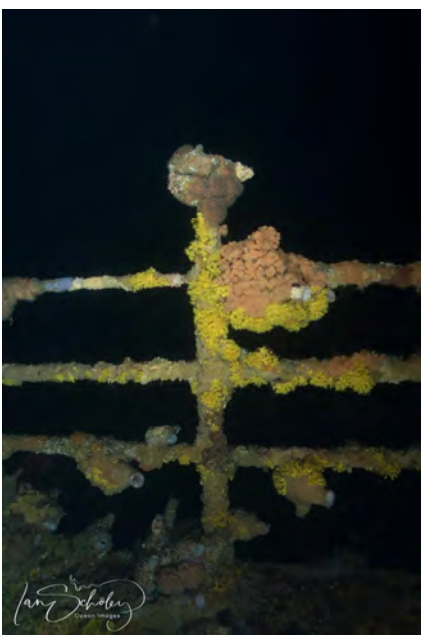
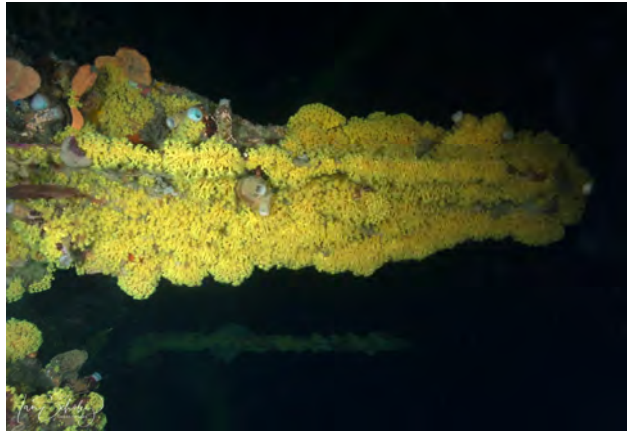
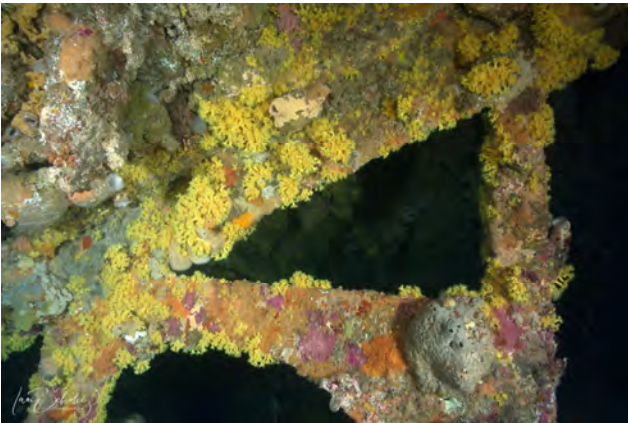
SS COOGEE NIGHT DIVE

28th July, 2020

Our second night dive yesterday, was on the SS Coogee. If the first dive was great, this one was even better. Without the surge we experienced on the Canberra, we had a much easier time of it on the Coogee. Conditions were very nice and once again, it was a kaleidoscope of colour everywhere we pointed a torch. An epic diving day finished about 9pm and I went to bed very happy, especially with the prospect of a lie-in looming.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





Bushranger Bay & Bismark Reef



From left: Jeremy Van Der Beek, David Politakis, John Lawler, Ian Scholey.

BUSHRANGER BAY & BISMARCK REEF

21st June, 2020.

A good days diving done. Barcrusher launched at Stoney Point and we dived Bushranger Bay and Bismarck Reef. Conditions were not quite as good as anticipated, but still a great day out.

- Ian Scholey. ❖

Blairgowrie

BLAIRGOWRIE

5th July, 2020

After getting the call yesterday to let me know our planned Graveyard dive on VHB54 was a victim of the weather, I had one of those, shall I-shan't I, days today. In the end, I forced myself out of bed for a dive in the cold and rain at Blairgowrie. I have been hearing that Blairgowrie was not at its best, with people recommending Rye instead.

Ah no, are you guys swimming around with your eyes closed? I found a load of cool critters and I had the place all to myself. A good warm up dive for next weekend's Sea Slug census with a few nice ones about and a mass of Short-headed Seahorses. A nice dive in the end and I was pleased I made the effort.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





Divers Alert Network

30th July, 2020.

Each year, DAN Research tracks and analyzes diving injuries and fatalities occurring throughout the world. We do not publish our findings to scare divers; We publish our findings and highlight numerous cases to teach divers how they can best avoid injury when doing what they love.

As we continue to gather data, we continue to deepen our understanding of behavioral and environmental risk factors that lead to accidents, but some mechanisms that drive incidents remain understood. Thanks to the generous support of our members, we are able to continue our efforts to explain these risk factors, develop interventions and recommendations to help make every dive a safe dive and keep this information freely available to all divers.

Ready to download your copy of the latest Annual Diving Report? Visit <https://apps.dan.org/publication-library>



The advertisement features a blue background with a photograph of divers underwater. At the top, it says 'Home: Covered' and 'Car: Covered', each followed by a white checkmark in a square box. Below this, the text 'Are You?' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, there is a logo for DAN ASIA • PACIFIC Divers Alert Network, which includes a red and white square with a white cross. Below the logo, the text reads 'Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?' in yellow, followed by 'DAN Membership Costs Less than AUD\$6* per month' and 'Be Prepared. Join the Experts in Dive Accident Management.' in white. The website 'www.danasiapacific.org' is listed in white. At the very bottom, in small white text, it says '*DAN Membership provides up to US\$150,000 Worldwide Emergency Evacuation Coverage. DAN Dive Injury Insurance is additional.'

Rock Lobster Tagging Program

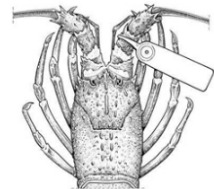
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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—22/05/2021—06/06/2021



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

22—29/05/2021

UPGRADE OPTION

Eat Sleep Dive package

Includes all meals

Unlimited diving

Free nitrox

Add \$900pp



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



DAYS



NIGHTS



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



30/05/2021—
06/06/2021

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:

◆ 1 DAN First Aid Kit

◆ 2 Scuba Tanks.

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

Tidal Streams at the Heads — August 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

MON 3	TUE 4	WED 5	THU 6	FRI 7	SAT 8	SUN 9
0:25	1:36	2:45	3:46	4:40	0:10	0:46
8:03	9:03	9:57	10:44	11:26	5:28	6:12
15:10	16:02	16:46	17:23	17:55	12:03	12:36
20:50	21:55	22:47	23:31		18:24	18:49
MON 10	TUE 11	WED 12	THU 13	FRI 14	SAT 15	SUN 16
1:19	1:53	2:26	3:02	3:41	4:25	5:16
6:55	7:37	8:22	9:11	10:05	11:09	12:22
13:07	13:37	14:08	14:42	15:19	16:03	17:05
19:13	19:38	20:04	20:33	21:04	21:42	22:29
MON 17	TUE 18	WED 19	THU 20	FRI 21	SAT 22	SUN 23
6:17	7:23	0:52	2:09	3:18	4:21	5:20
13:39	14:45	8:27	9:27	10:20	11:09	11:55
18:35	20:11	15:35	16:15	16:51	17:24	17:57
23:35		21:17	22:09	22:57	23:43	
MON 24	TUE 25	WED 26	THU 27	FRI 28	SAT 29	SUN 30
0:29	1:16	2:02	2:49	3:38	4:30	5:27
6:17	7:14	8:11	9:09	10:10	11:15	12:26
12:38	13:20	14:01	14:42	15:27	16:21	17:33
18:30	19:04	19:41	20:20	21:05	21:57	23:01
August	September					
MON 31	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6
6:33	0:16	1:35	2:47	3:47	4:37	5:20
13:37	7:43	8:48	9:43	10:31	11:10	11:45
19:08	14:42	15:33	16:14	16:48	17:16	17:41
	20:35	21:38	22:26	23:05	23:40	

Tidal Streams at the Heads — September 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

August	September					
MON 31	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5	SUN 6
<i>6:33</i>	<i>0:16</i>	<i>1:35</i>	<i>2:47</i>	<i>3:47</i>	<i>4:37</i>	<i>5:20</i>
<i>13:37</i>	<i>7:43</i>	<i>8:48</i>	<i>9:43</i>	<i>10:31</i>	<i>11:10</i>	<i>11:45</i>
<i>19:08</i>	<i>14:42</i>	<i>15:33</i>	<i>16:14</i>	<i>16:48</i>	<i>17:16</i>	<i>17:41</i>
	<i>20:35</i>	<i>21:38</i>	<i>22:26</i>	<i>23:05</i>	<i>23:40</i>	
MON 7	TUE 8	WED 9	THU 10	FRI 11	SAT 12	SUN 13
<i>0:12</i>	<i>0:42</i>	<i>1:13</i>	<i>1:44</i>	<i>2:18</i>	<i>2:56</i>	<i>3:37</i>
<i>6:00</i>	<i>6:37</i>	<i>7:14</i>	<i>7:54</i>	<i>8:37</i>	<i>9:25</i>	<i>10:21</i>
<i>12:16</i>	<i>12:46</i>	<i>13:16</i>	<i>13:46</i>	<i>14:17</i>	<i>14:50</i>	<i>15:29</i>
<i>18:05</i>	<i>18:28</i>	<i>18:54</i>	<i>19:21</i>	<i>19:51</i>	<i>20:23</i>	<i>21:02</i>
MON 14	TUE 15	WED 16	THU 17	FRI 18	SAT 19	SUN 20
<i>4:27</i>	<i>5:28</i>	<i>6:43</i>	<i>0:42</i>	<i>2:07</i>	<i>3:20</i>	<i>4:23</i>
<i>11:27</i>	<i>12:41</i>	<i>13:49</i>	<i>8:00</i>	<i>9:07</i>	<i>10:04</i>	<i>10:55</i>
<i>16:24</i>	<i>17:47</i>	<i>19:28</i>	<i>14:43</i>	<i>15:26</i>	<i>16:05</i>	<i>16:40</i>
<i>21:54</i>	<i>23:11</i>		<i>20:42</i>	<i>21:39</i>	<i>22:30</i>	<i>23:18</i>
MON 21	TUE 22	WED 23	THU 24	FRI 25	SAT 26	SUN 27
<i>5:20</i>	<i>0:05</i>	<i>0:51</i>	<i>1:37</i>	<i>2:22</i>	<i>3:09</i>	<i>3:58</i>
<i>11:42</i>	<i>6:15</i>	<i>7:07</i>	<i>7:59</i>	<i>8:51</i>	<i>9:45</i>	<i>10:43</i>
<i>17:16</i>	<i>12:25</i>	<i>13:07</i>	<i>13:48</i>	<i>14:30</i>	<i>15:14</i>	<i>16:08</i>
	<i>17:53</i>	<i>18:32</i>	<i>19:13</i>	<i>19:57</i>	<i>20:46</i>	<i>21:44</i>
September			October			
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4
<i>4:54</i>	<i>6:01</i>	<i>0:18</i>	<i>1:42</i>	<i>2:51</i>	<i>3:47</i>	<i>5:31</i>
<i>11:47</i>	<i>12:54</i>	<i>7:18</i>	<i>8:29</i>	<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:13</i>	<i>11:53</i>
<i>17:20</i>	<i>18:54</i>	<i>13:58</i>	<i>14:50</i>	<i>15:30</i>	<i>16:02</i>	<i>17:30</i>
<i>22:54</i>		<i>20:15</i>	<i>21:11</i>	<i>21:55</i>	<i>22:31</i>	

Tidal Streams at the Heads — October 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

September			October			
MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4
<i>4:54</i>	<i>6:01</i>	<i>0:18</i>	1:42	2:51	3:47	5:31
11:47	12:54	<i>7:18</i>	<i>8:29</i>	<i>9:27</i>	<i>10:13</i>	<i>11:53</i>
<i>17:20</i>	<i>18:54</i>	13:58	14:50	15:30	16:02	17:30
22:54		<i>20:15</i>	<i>21:11</i>	<i>21:55</i>	<i>22:31</i>	
MON 5	TUE 6	WED 7	THU 8	FRI 9	SAT 10	SUN 11
<i>0:03</i>	<i>0:34</i>	<i>1:04</i>	<i>1:35</i>	<i>2:06</i>	<i>2:40</i>	<i>3:17</i>
6:10	6:45	7:19	7:54	8:30	9:09	9:53
<i>12:27</i>	<i>12:58</i>	<i>13:28</i>	<i>13:58</i>	<i>14:28</i>	<i>14:58</i>	<i>15:31</i>
17:55	18:20	18:47	19:15	19:45	20:17	20:52
MON 12	TUE 13	WED 14	THU 15	FRI 16	SAT 17	SUN 18
<i>3:57</i>	<i>4:45</i>	<i>5:46</i>	<i>0:09</i>	1:44	3:10	4:22
10:41	11:37	12:40	<i>7:04</i>	<i>8:29</i>	<i>9:45</i>	<i>10:46</i>
<i>16:11</i>	<i>17:05</i>	<i>18:25</i>	13:43	14:40	15:30	16:14
21:36	22:40		<i>19:56</i>	<i>21:09</i>	<i>22:09</i>	<i>23:02</i>
MON 19	TUE 20	WED 21	THU 22	FRI 23	SAT 24	SUN 25
5:23	6:16	<i>0:39</i>	<i>1:25</i>	<i>2:10</i>	<i>2:54</i>	<i>3:39</i>
<i>11:39</i>	<i>12:27</i>	<i>7:07</i>	<i>7:55</i>	<i>8:42</i>	<i>9:29</i>	<i>10:15</i>
16:56	17:38	<i>13:11</i>	<i>13:54</i>	<i>14:36</i>	<i>15:19</i>	<i>16:06</i>
<i>23:52</i>		18:21	19:04	19:50	20:39	21:33
October						Nov
MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 31	SUN 1
<i>4:24</i>	<i>5:15</i>	<i>6:18</i>	1:20	2:43	3:49	4:40
11:05	11:59	12:58	<i>7:38</i>	<i>8:59</i>	<i>10:03</i>	<i>10:52</i>
<i>17:00</i>	<i>18:09</i>	<i>19:30</i>	13:57	14:49	15:32	16:07
22:35	23:52		<i>20:40</i>	<i>21:33</i>	<i>22:15</i>	<i>22:51</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



Spider Crab—by Brian Heatherich