



# Fathoms

**DECEMBER 2020—JANUARY 2021**

*Cover photo:*

*Cuttlefish Love, on Rosebud Reef*

*- by John Lawler.*



**VSAG CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**GUEST SPEAKERS—CARL CHARTER, KADE MILLS  
AND STUART COUSINS.**

**PHOTO COMPETITIONS—SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020**

**DIVE REPORTS AND MORE.....**

Postal Address:

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

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

# Vsag Club Meetings Now on Zoom



Our next club meeting, is scheduled for :

**Tuesday, 16th February 2021 at 8pm.**

Download the [zoom.us](https://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.

In this December 2020 - January 2021 issue...

Article	Author	Page
VSAG Christmas Party	Arthur Kokkinos	06-09
Goblinfish Eye Camouflage	Peter Mosse	10-11
Arthur's Dive Book Review #2	Arthur Kokkinos	12-13
The Story of Mac's Mural	John Lawler	14-15
October Guest Speaker, Carl Charter, Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries		16-18
Smith's Beach	Peter Mosse	19-21
Point Scoring	Arthur Kokkinos	22-23
Photo Comps September/October	Brian Heatherich	25-34
November Guest Speaker, Kade Mills, Great Victorian Fishcount 2020		35
November Guest Speaker, Stuart Cousins, Victorian Volunteer Coast Guard		36
Local Dive Reports		37-73
Lobster Tagging/Save the Rays	Victorian Fisheries	74
Safe Trx, Boat Ramps		75
Diary Dates		
Philippines 2021		76-78
VSAG Dive and Meeting Calendar	VSAG Committee	79
Tidal Streams	Graham Ellis	80-83
Emergency Contact Information		84-85

#### Editorial Submissions:

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

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# NOTICES

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

**All Members Welcome**



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

**256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE**

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

## VSAG on Facebook

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



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

## Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia

**Postal Address**  
PO Box 382, Mel-  
ville WA 6956

**Email:** [info@uecwa.com.au](mailto:info@uecwa.com.au)

**Meetings**  
Esplanade Hotel  
The Esplanade, Fremantle, WA  
**Boat**  
Port Coogee Marina  
Chieftain Esplanade, North Coogee, WA

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

The club is the Tas Uni Dive Club. You can check them out at : [www.tudc.org.au](http://www.tudc.org.au)





# Your VSAG Committee 2019–2020

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[i](#)

# VSAG CHRISTMAS PARTY 2020

## VSAG CHRISTMAS PARTY 2020

**Saturday 5 December 5pm-9pm**  
Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron

This year's VSAG Christmas Party was a huge success, with 30 attendees from 21 memberships attending. Life member and 11 times VSAG Club Champion, John Lawler, cooked up a magnificent Greek-themed dinner. Upon arrival members were able to purchase drinks at the bar and help themselves to a variety of dips and very delicious Kalamata olives provided by club President, Matthijs SMITH. The meat was cooked to perfection and sliced up in strips. Everyone helped themselves to the lovely Greek salad and Pita bread, quietly making themselves a delicious Souvlaki. Once the food was served you could almost hear a pin drop. Everyone was loving John's

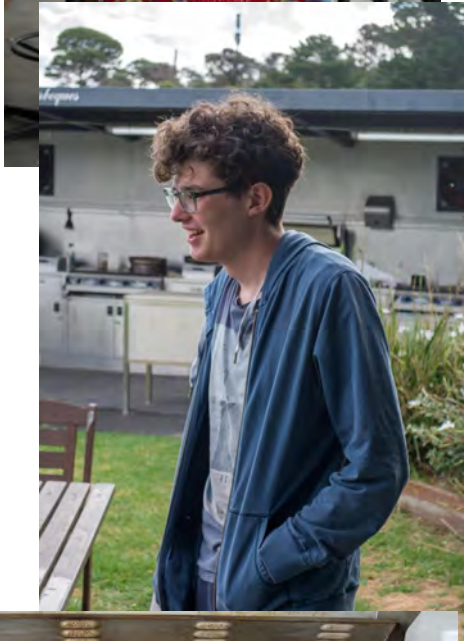
menu; no one was dissatisfied. A short time later Matthijs and his son Dylan served up a variety of Greek sweets for dessert, which were absolutely delicious. During the night, a presentation was made by Matthijs to all VSAG Award winners for the 2018-2019 season. A speech by Treasurer Angus STUART- ADAMS, thanking the organisers of the event and for everyone attending, completed all formalities for the night.

It was great to catch up with VSAG members, who I haven't seen for a very long time. Coming out of the COVID-19 lockdown, it felt so good to be socialising with people again. What a great way to start enjoying yourself after 6 months of mayhem. Attending the VSAG 2020 Christmas Party, in the company of fellow scuba divers at a magnificent location (The BEAUMARIS MOTOR YACHT SQUADRON reception) which overlooks Port Philip Bay



and is directly opposite to Indented Head and Portarlinton. A big thank you to John LAWLER and Matthijs SMITH for organising the event. Well done Guys!!!!

- Arthur Kokinnos. ❖





2020-2021  
VSAG COMMITTEE

*From Left Standing: Walter MEDENBACH: Vice President, Sherryn AMOR: Secretary, Peter CAMPISANO: Committee member, Angus STUART-ADAMS: Treasurer, Arthur KOKKINOS: Points Scorer/ Awards.*



*Sitting From left: Stuart COUSINS: Committee Member, Matthijs SMITH: President, Brian HEATHERICH: Photo Comp/ Equipment and Dive Co-ordinator*



*Photo of the Year Winner  
Sherryn Amor*



*Ian Scholey*



*Arthur Kokkinos  
Joint Literary Award Winner*









# Goblinfish Eye Camouflage

## Goblinfish Eye Camouflage

By Peter Mosse

The Goblinfish, or Saddlehead, is found in southern Australia on rocky reefs from 3m-60m. It is highly cryptic and rarely encountered (Last *et al* 1983, Fishes of Tasmania). The Goblinfish belongs to the Scorpion Fish family (Scorpaenidae) which are known for their toxic spines.

During a recent dive at San Remo jetty and beyond, I found the first one by putting my hand on it resulting in a sharp stab of pain to one of my fingers. Luckily it would appear this species, or at least, this individual, doesn't have very toxic spines

although I did immediately suck the wound as hard as I could just in case.

As I slowly moved in closer to photograph the fish, I noted that the camouflage included the eye itself. Something I had never seen before. In the first photograph, note the roughly triangular “flaps” over the eye ensuring it blends in with the cryptic colouration of the rest of the animal. When I touched the fish gently on the tail, it moved a little and settled in next to a pylon, and the camouflage over the eye was gone! The second photograph clearly shows the open eye and the triangular flaps “retracted”. The third photograph shows another Goblinfish seen later





in the dive with the characteristic eye colouration and appearance.

The open eye and coloured eye ring are very striking and “eye catching”. So it makes sense that the fish has evolved an adaptation to allow it to camouflage the eye as well. A quick search of the internet shows several photos of Goblinfish but none with the camouflaged eye.

Eyelids of any form in fish is very unusual.

Has this phenomenon been observed before? I really don't know, but one thing for sure is that not many people have witnessed it firsthand. It is one of the wonders of diving that keeps me coming back again after many decades. I just keep finding new things.

Aren't we lucky to be able to see these things, as long as we keep *our* eyes open? ❖



# Arthur's Dive Book Review #2

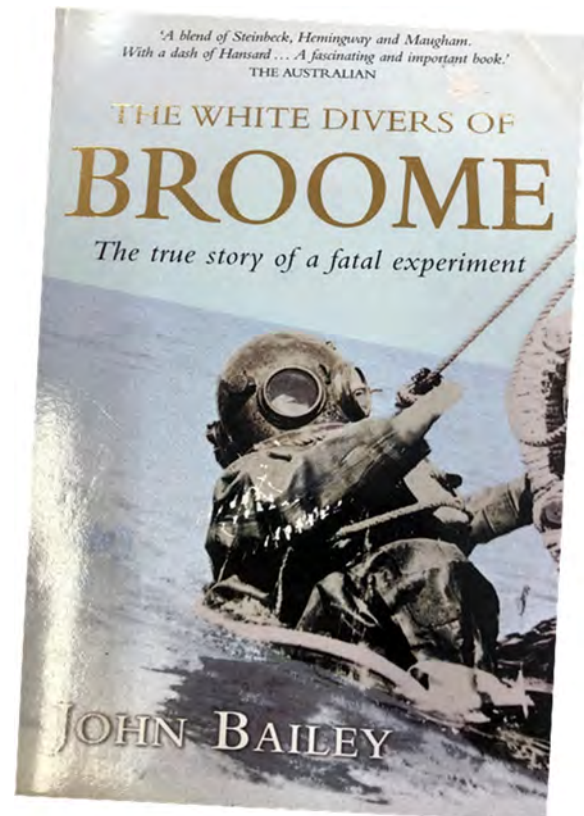
## Dive Book Review #2

By Arthur KOKKINOS

The White Divers of Broome is a historical account of a diving experiment consisting of 12 White deep sea divers from England. The experiment was an idea put forward in Parliament in 1912. The Labour, Liberal and Country parties of the time were all in agreement that white man could dive and find pearls just as good or even better than the Japanese and Malayan divers.

The experiment was a catastrophic failure, all 12 divers failed. Many died, some getting long term affects from the bends and some just gave up and walked away. The author covers an enormous amount of important factual information that will astound you to no end. John BAILEY takes you on a rollercoaster ride back into time, creating wonderful mind images of how life was back then and how the Pearl divers dived for pearl shells.

Whilst reading this book, I had to put it down many times and take a



breather and shake my head in disgust. The politics of that era would make you cringe. The Lugger's (boat owners) treatment and abuse of Aborigines, Japanese and Malayan divers was absolutely disgraceful. I found it very hard to understand and comprehend their behaviour, even when these divers were virtually sacrificing their lives everyday to find pearls. During this time the pearling industry was huge and many people became rich from this industry. The Luggers were ruthless and treated the



divers with little respect and had little consideration for their safety. Hundreds of Japanese divers perished from getting the bends and there are over 900 Japanese buried in the Broome Japanese cemetery. The author gives detailed descriptions of what it was like to be a diver and what it was like to suffer from the bends, inner ear pressure injuries/ infections and painful limb paralysis.

This book is so captivating and thought provoking, it astounds me how no one in the movie industry hasn't turned this book into a major movie. ❖



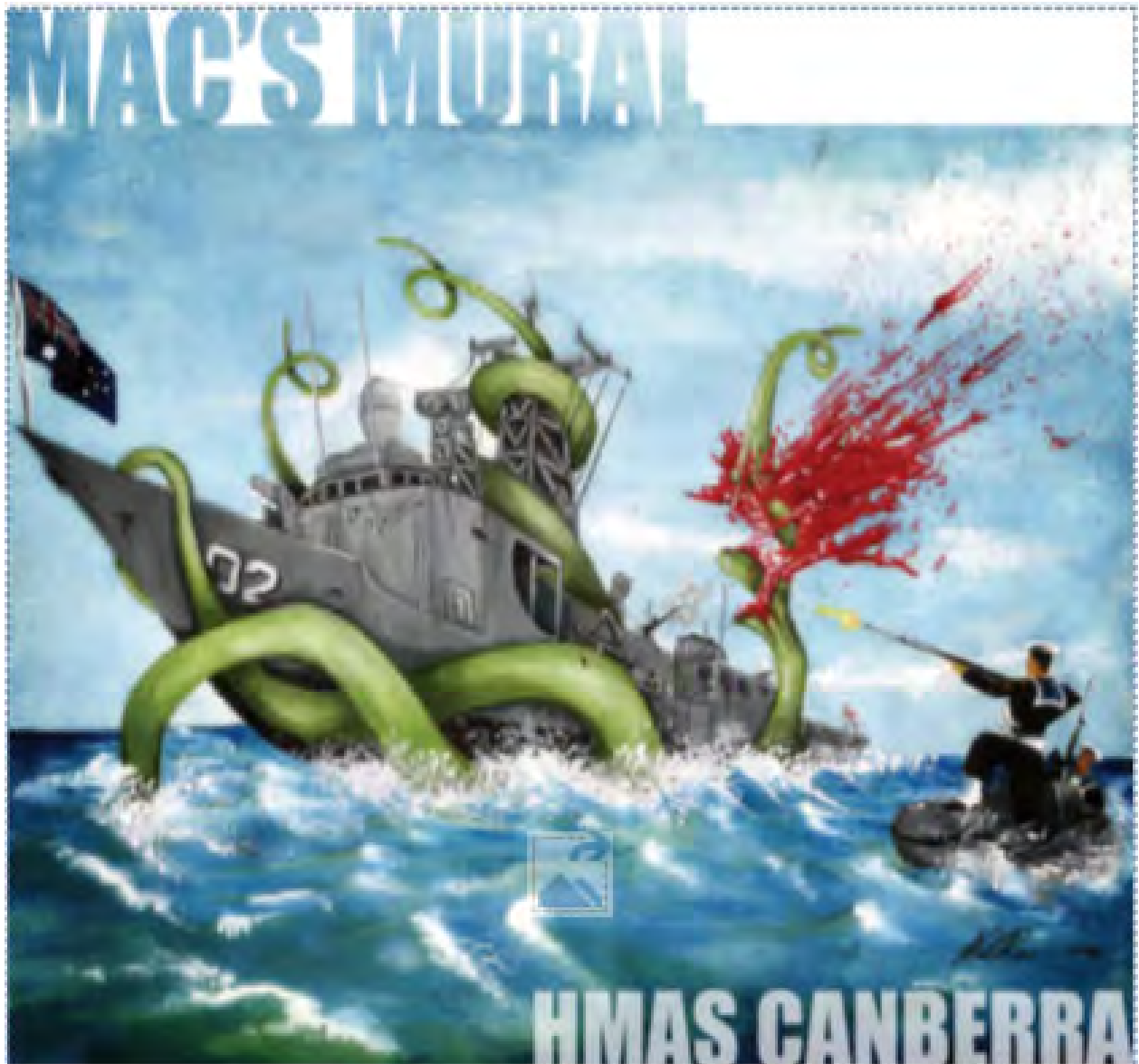
*A Lugger's boat with pearl shells on deck.*



*The Luggers on the beach seeking shelter and waiting for a storm to subside.*



# The Story of Mac's Mural



When a young sailor painted a large Jules Verne inspired mural in the Junior Sailors' Cafe of HMAS Canberra a decade ago, he never imagined it would become a tourist attraction.

The guided missile frigate, commissioned in 1981, is now a world-class dive site, following its magnificent scuttling off Ocean Grove, Victoria recently by the Victorian Artificial Reef Society.

Several features of the ship have been preserved as special attractions, most notably a large mural of the ship engaged in battle with a 'monster from the deep', hand-painted by the then Able Seaman Kade Rogers. LSPH Rogers, who joined the Navy at 18 years old as an Electronics Technician, has enjoyed a 14-year career in the Royal Australian Navy. A career change saw him deploy to the Republic of the Sudan, the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Iraq and most recently Afghanistan, as a Navy combat photographer and cameraman.

LSPH Rogers, who served on board HMAS Canberra for three and a half years, painted the mural on the bulkhead of the Junior Sailor's Cafe while the ship was berthed alongside Fleet Base West. "The painting depicts two sailors in a small boat, taking a shot at the monster that enveloped our beloved 'Zero Two War Canoe', who are supposed to

resemble my brother and I. I deliberately painted a crossed lightning bolt rate badge on one of the uniforms, to poke a bit of fun at the rest of the crew," LSPH Rogers said. "Every now and then during my remaining years on board the ship I would notice someone had drawn over the rate badge, replacing it with a propeller or something. I guess I asked for that one."

During his career, LSPH Rogers has also lent his artistic ability to designing T-shirt emblems for class groups and dive teams, hat badges and, while he has none himself, "about a billion tattoos" for his shipmates. A talented artist and musician, LSPH Rogers is currently creating a collection of art, inspired by his experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq, and has recorded an album of music under the name Liquidsound. Demand for his creative insights has also inspired LSPH Rogers to establish his own photography business ([www.kaderogers.com.au](http://www.kaderogers.com.au)).

The 4100 tonne, 138-metre warship had a crew of 210 when fully operational, in her time deploying to the Persian Gulf, Solomon Islands, Africa and Russia. More than 650 tonnes of dangerous material was removed from the ship in preparation for its scuttling. Additionally, 350 tonnes of concrete ballast and 400 tonnes of water ballast were installed to help sink the frigate.❖

# OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER

**VSAG**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 2020**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**CARL CHARTER**

**EXPERIENCING MARINE  
SANCTUARIES**

At the October VSAG General Meeting, Carl, the Executive Officer from Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries, or EMS, discussed his experience with encouraging more people to visit and enjoy South Australia's Marine Sanctuaries.

EMS, a not-for-profit NGO, was started only a few years ago, with the purpose of making South Australia's Marine Sanctuaries more accessible to the general public, primarily through assisted snorkeling trips and education programs aimed at children and their parents.

Carl, an experienced diver with over 30 years of diving experience, is a firm believer that snorkeling is a 'gateway drug' to scuba diving and through encouraging more people to snorkel, not only encourages more people to be aware of marine issues and their contributions to it, but has a



*CARL CHARTER*

*Public Officer, Co-founder,  
Executive Officer & Program  
Manager, Experiencing Marine  
Sanctuaries, South Australia*

downstream impact of introducing more people into diving.

Carl provided an overview and understanding of the EMS program and impact of it to date within South Australia. Carl also provided additional information on some of South Australia's best Marine sanctuaries for divers of all abilities to explore.

Further information on EMS can be found on Facebook and on their website <https://www.emsau.org/>

Many thanks to Carl for the opportunity to learn more about



South Australian Marine Parks and what one organisation is doing to encourage a greater awareness of Marine conversation.

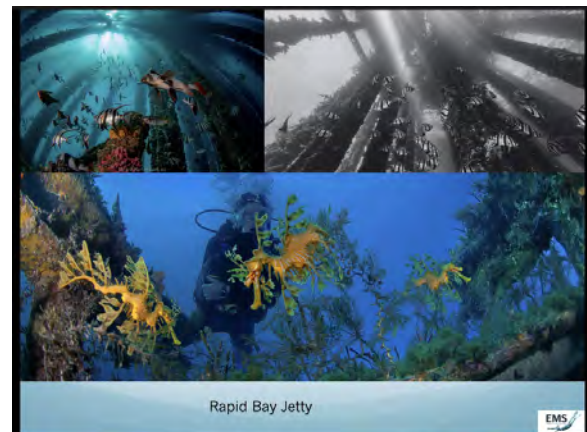
- *Brian Heatherich.* ❖



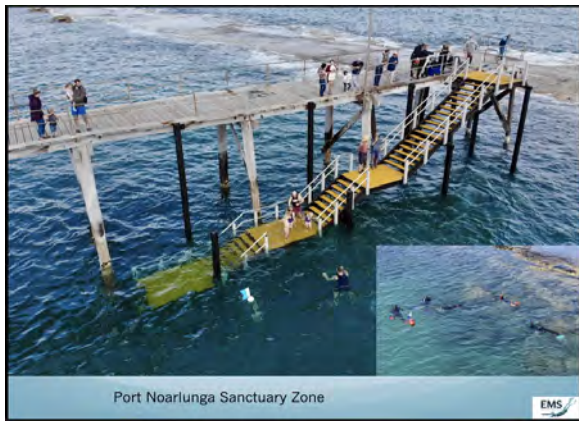
Port Noarlunga Sanctuary Zone



Rapid Bay Jetty



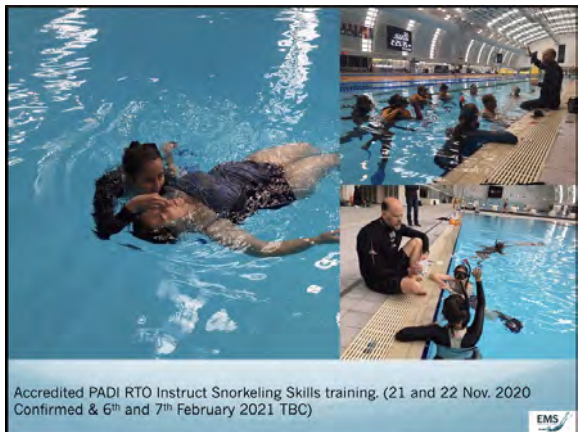
Rapid Bay Jetty



Port Noarlunga Sanctuary Zone



Cuttlefish Coast Whyalla – CuttleFest! (30 June -12th July 2020)



Accredited PADI RTO Instruct Snorkeling Skills training. (21 and 22 Nov. 2020 Confirmed & 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 TBC)



Accredited training in First Aid, CPR and Oxygen administration. (11 and 19 November /3, 8 and 17 December)





First time snorkelers and those living with disability participate in 'snorkel 101' sessions at SA Aquatics Centre – open to all abilities (First Saturday of each month starting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020)



Inclusive Program

Inclusive Program for those of all abilities. Equipment to make snorkeling possible for anyone who can swim.



Marino Rocks – by boat



VR360 Experiences developed in partnership with 360underwater.com.au and Henley Beach Marine Discovery Centre & funding from Marion City.





# Smiths Beach

Shore Diving Phillip Island during a Pandemic

## *Part 1 Smiths Beach. A Pictorial Essay.*

The Covid-19 pandemic meant many different things to different people. I was lucky, I guess, to be living in regional Victoria. But, then again, it wasn't a question of working from home for me, but no work at all! Most of my work is interstate and in indigenous Queensland communities assessing drinking water supply systems.

Involuntary retirement had arrived!

OK, so boats were out but I could still access the coast, legally at times and other times not so legally. But I had to do something to save my mind.

I decided to shore dive Phillip Island. I have dived the Island for decades, but usually straight to a boat and on out the channel to the south coast; Pinnacles, Dragons Lair, Dinner Gully, Cape Woolamai and George Kermode to name a few.

I had never thought about diving Smiths Beach. I had dived Kitty Miller Bay several times, and Surfies Point and Cowrie Beach, but never Smiths Beach. My daughter had observed divers heading back along the sand at Smiths Beach, carrying large camera rigs. There must be something worthy of lugging that

gear all the way on a shore dive! We didn't know where to go and although the internet served up information that it was indeed a dive site and there were a few clubs that dived it, there was nothing more informative.

On an ill-fated dive to San Remo Jetty (more on that stunning location in a future article) we missed the tide. Don't ask! BUT don't trust Willy Weather for tide times! So we decided to give Smiths Beach a try. We bundled our gear into the car, left our wetsuits on and headed for Smiths. We chose the wrong side of the reef and the tide was rising rapidly by the time we got in and consequently we were buffeted by even the tiny waves and couldn't find any deeper water.

Back in the car park, a beach goer asked how we went. After responding we didn't do so well, he described where he thought the divers went. He had snorkelled there. So we book marked Smiths for another attempt.

So, choosing dead low tide on a sunny winter's day, we walked further along the reef to the eastern side where we entered through

shallow sea grass beds, brightly illuminated in the shallow clear water. We quickly found a ledge on our right and swam out along it and what a stunning ledge it is. Undercut with a shallow cave completely

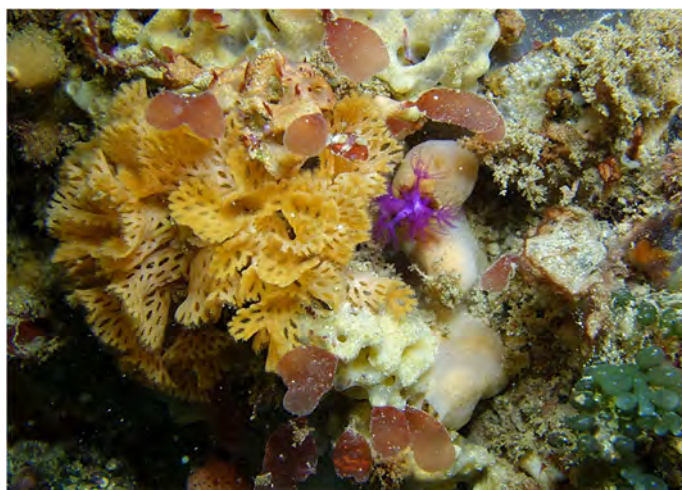
adorned with a rich southern reef ecosystem. Bryozoans, hydroids, gorgonians, sponges, algae, ascidians and a healthy variety of fish. Perhaps the following photographs might whet your appetite to try it.



*Smiths Beach dive site. The walking route is shown in red and the dive route we took is in yellow. The ledge definitely continues out further.*



*Dappled sunlight amongst a seagrass forest and brilliant white sand, greet you as you enter from the beach.*



*I saw this tiny purple “thing” that looked like it might have been a nudibranch but photographic enhancement revealed a hydroid. Amazing Colour.*

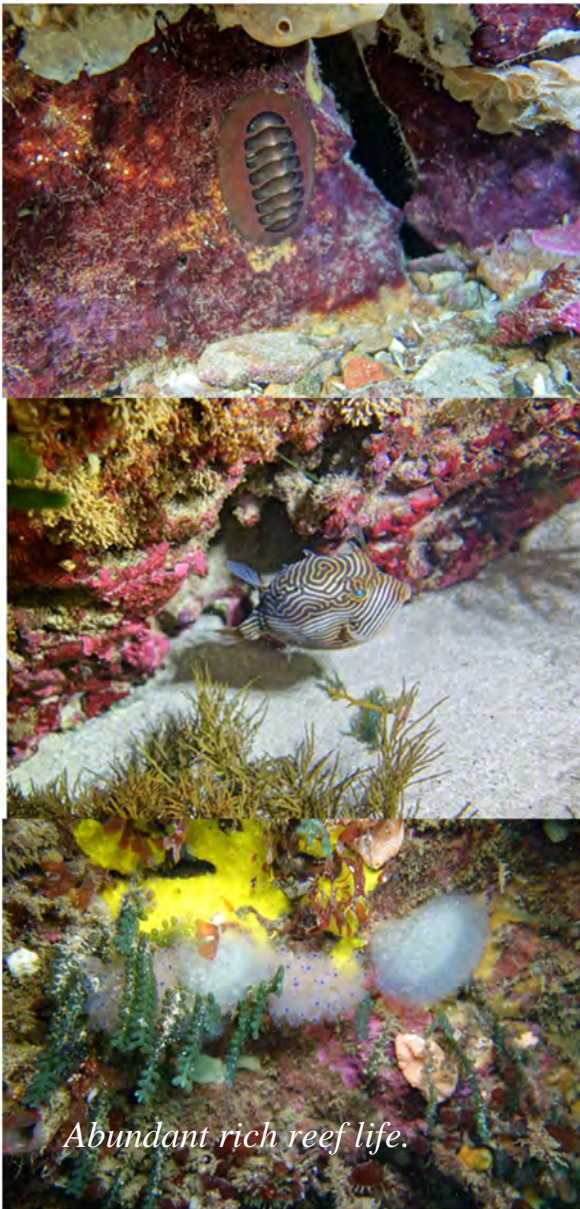




*Cavern walls and roof beautifully adorned with gorgonian fans. Some feeding, some not.*



*An extensive field of tubularian hydroids, waving to and fro in the gentle wave action.*



*Abundant rich reef life.*

It's a great dive but perhaps I will wait until slightly warmer water. Walking from the car park, down the stair/ramp and along the beach for roughly 500 metres and then back at the end of the dive and up the stair/ramp is hard work. A thinner wetsuit and lighter belt would make it a bit easier.

While I can't promise clear water every time, there is a tendency for the shallow inshore reef water to be clearer than out in the deeper water. Also, avoid the summer school holiday period! You will be very lucky if you can get a park.

Swell size and wind don't really matter that much, but avoid large swells and very strong southerly (SE-SW) winds.

*- Peter Mosse. ❖*

# VSAG

## POINT SCORING 2020—2021

To all VSAG members, I am the new points scorer for the VSAG Club Champion award. There is a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> category for this award. After much deliberation and thinking, I have modified the competition to make it easier to monitor and most importantly score. The VSAG Club CHAMPION award is a competition that has been going since 1972. There are many of you who would love to win this prestigious award and forever be remembered with their name engraved on the VSAG CLUB HONOURS board. In keeping with tradition and respecting past winners, whoever wins this season (2020-2021) will be a worthy winner.

There are now 16 categories where you can score points. Refer to the next page for category description and points allocation. As you can all understand and appreciate, keeping scores for this competition is a monumental task. It would make my job a lot easier if you send me an email of the following information:

- The DIVE you did and with whom you dived.
- If you are lucky enough to be a boat owner, tell me when you used

your boat for a dive (must have at least 1 VSAG member on board).  
Name of everyone on the boat.

- Shore dive (names and date)
- Full name please.

To get the points, there are 2 rules:

1. All dives MUST be made available to all VSAG members. Email must be addressed to all members, inviting them to the planned dive.

Email address is:  
[Diving@vsag.org.au](mailto:Diving@vsag.org.au)

2. No SOLO diving .

Private dives with a select few VSAG members will not earn POINTS!!

Thank you,

Arthur KOKKINOS

You can text or email me anytime with dive information for point scoring. Remember full name please.

Mobile: 0404 073 342

[arthurkokkinos1718@gmail.com](mailto:arthurkokkinos1718@gmail.com)





## 2020-2021 POINT SCORING COMPETITION

JULY-2020 TO JUNE -2021

### CATEGORIES AND POINTS LIST



**ATTENTION:** POINTS WILL ONLY BE ALLOCATED TO DIVES OPEN FOR ALL VSAG MEMBERS. TO SCORE POINTS THE DIVE HAS TO HAVE AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL VSAG MEMBERS. PRIVATE DIVES FOR A SELECT FEW DO NOT SCORE POINTS.

1. Organise a dive. (Organising a Local, Interstate or Overseas DIVE. (Logistics, Pricing, Accommodation etc.) Must have 1 or more VSAG members participating in the dive. **25 POINTS**
2. Participating in a FIFO/Dive trip anywhere outside of Victoria, Interstate and also overseas (Must have 1 or more VSAG members participating). **20 POINTS**
3. Bringing your boat to a dive. (Must have at least 1 VSAG member on board). No solo diving. **15 POINTS**.
4. Participating in a dive off a boat. (Must have at least 1 VSAG member on board) Anywhere in Australia. **10 POINTS**
5. Participating in a shore, river, lake, pier or cave DIVE. (Anywhere in Victoria with at least 1 VSAG member or more) **10 POINTS**
6. Organising a club/ social outing (Must have min 5 VSAG members present). **20 POINTS**
7. Attend a committee meeting. **5 POINTS**
8. Attend a club meeting. **5 POINTS**
9. Entering photo comp at club meeting (2 photo entries). **5 POINTS**
10. Photo Comp 1<sup>st</sup> **15 POINTS**
11. Photo Comp 2<sup>nd</sup> **10 POINTS**
12. Photo Comp 3<sup>rd</sup> **5 POINTS**
13. Organising a club presentation / guest **15 POINTS**
14. Safety moment presentation **10 POINTS**
15. Fathoms News Article/Dive report **10 POINTS**
16. Fathoms Dive report 300 words or more **10 POINTS**

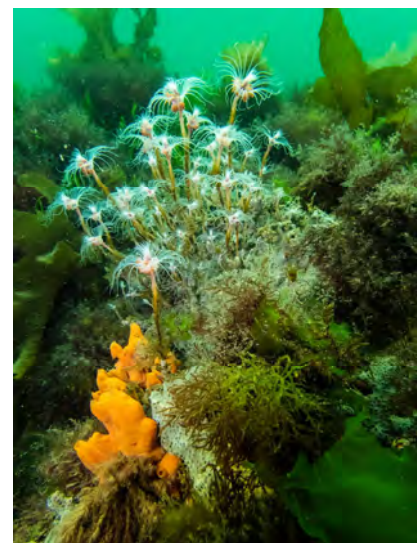
# Jawbone Marine Sanctuary

## JAWBONE MARINE SANCTUARY

24th October, 2020

Managed to find a narrow window of favourable weather to do a morning dive at the Jawbone. Other than having to go back to the car for some additional 'ISO' weights, it was an enjoyable dive. With pretty good conditions considering, with perhaps 5-8 Metres Visibility. 17 degrees in the water already.

- *Brian Heatherich.* ❖





# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

**First - September 2020**



First Place - Cuttlefish Love, on Rosebud Reef - by John Lawler

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Second - September 2020**



Second Place - At least, I have not put on weight - by Sandy Webb



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

## Third - September 2020



Third Place - Trying to Snorkel in a dry suit - by Sandy Webb

## SEPTEMBER 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION

September saw some fine photos contributed for our September photo competition. First place went to John Lawler for Cuttlefish Love on Rosebud Reef. Second place went to Sandy Webb for At Least, I Have Not Put On Weight. Third place was Sandy Webb with Trying to Snorkel in a Dry Suit. Congratulations to all. Thank you to everyone who contributed❖



After more than 20 years of diving with VSAG, John had to cease diving due to ear and hearing problems and so bought a 35-year-old wooden, ex Bass Strait cray boat, converted to a motor sailer, which he has now owned for 22 years and uses frequently for fishing and cruising.

*How retired divers spend their time and money, Hastings - by John Goulding*



*Wendy the Whale, visiting boats off Queenscliff—by John Lawler.*



*Spring has sprung - by Brian Heatherich*



SEPTEMBER 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Frogmouth Owls - by Ian Scholey*



*The arrival of the Ex HMAS Canberra from Perth Base - by John Lawler*



*I have eyes on you - by Peter Mosse.*



*Garden visitor - by Peter Mosse*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**First - October - 2020**



First Place - Cryptic Eyes, San Remo Jetty - by Peter Mosse



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST  
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

**Second - October 2020**



Second Place - Big-Bellied Seahorse, Daveys Bay - by Ian Scholey

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

**Third - October 2020**



Third Place - Fairies at the Bottom of the Garden, Jawbone Sanctuary,  
Williamstown - by Brian Heatherich



## OCTOBER 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION

An interesting array of photos for October Photo Competition. First was Peter Mosse with Cryptic Eyes, Second was Ian Scholey with his Big-Bellied Seahorse and Third was Brian Heatherich with Fairies at the Bottom of the Garden. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who contributed. ❖



*Tasmanian Clingfish, Daveys Bay  
- by Ian Scholey*

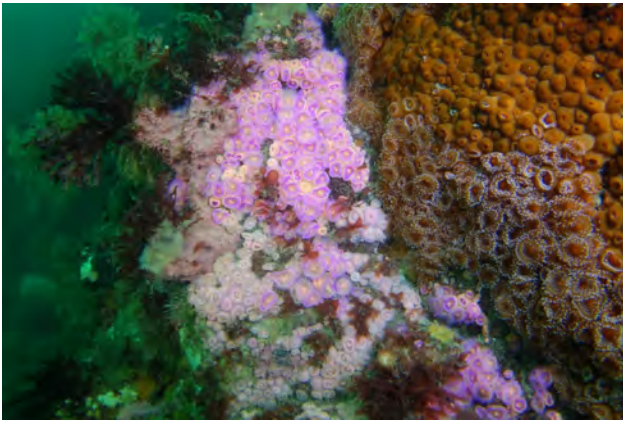


*A Bad Hair Day, Williamstown  
- by Sandy Webb*



*Big red - by Rowan Salger*

OCTOBER 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Jewelled Sea, San Remo Channel  
- Peter Mosse*



*Knock, knock, who's there?  
- by Rowan Salger*



*Blubber No More, Williamstown  
- by Sandy Webb*



*Waiting for Dinner, Jawbone Sanctuary,  
Williamstown - by Brian Heatherich*



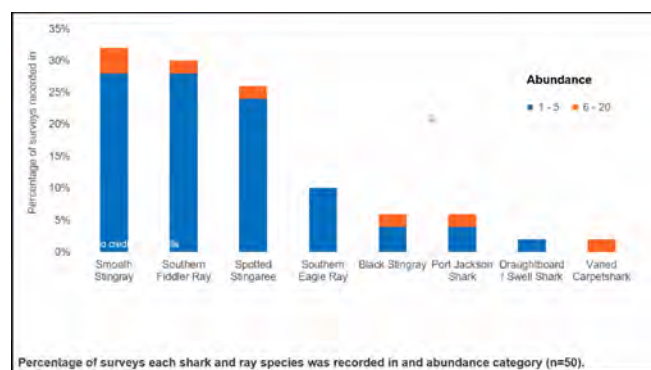
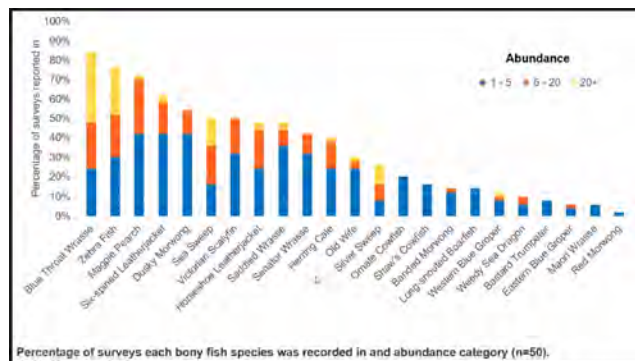
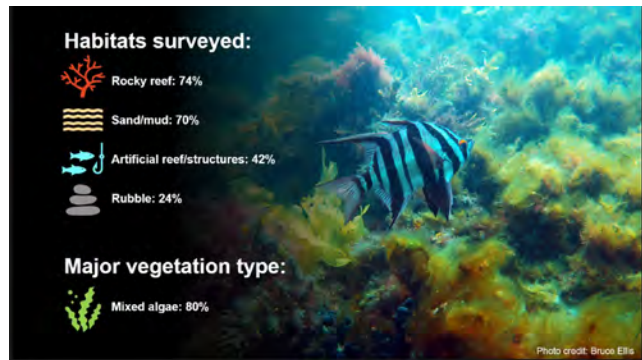
# NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKERS

**VSAG  
GENERAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2020  
GUEST SPEAKER  
KADE MILLS  
GREAT VICTORIAN  
FISH COUNT 2020**

At our November General Meeting, our very special guest speaker was Kade Mills, of Victorian National Parks Association, ReefWatch, Co-ordinator, speaking on the Great Victorian Fish Count 2020.

Since 2002, hundreds of divers and snorkelers have dropped below the waves in November and December to take part in the biggest citizen-science event on Victoria's marine calendar, the Great Victorian Fish Count.

Visit [www.vnpa.org.au/fishcount](http://www.vnpa.org.au/fishcount) for results of the Great Victorian Fish Count. Get involved! Send in your photos! No idea what you have snapped? Visit [www.vnpa.org.au/marine-life-of-Victoria](http://www.vnpa.org.au/marine-life-of-Victoria)



**VSAG  
GENERAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2020  
GUEST SPEAKER  
STUART COUSINS**

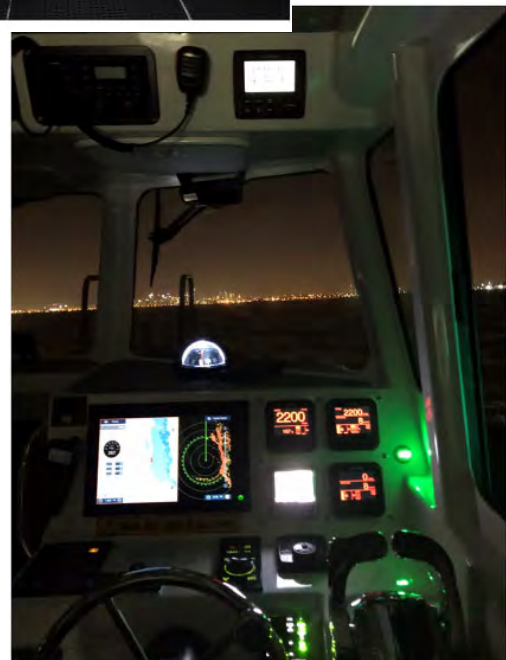
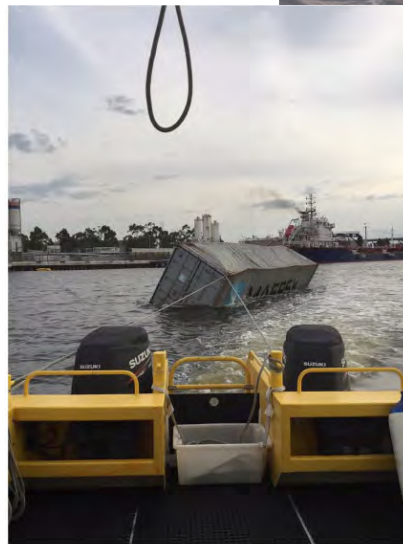
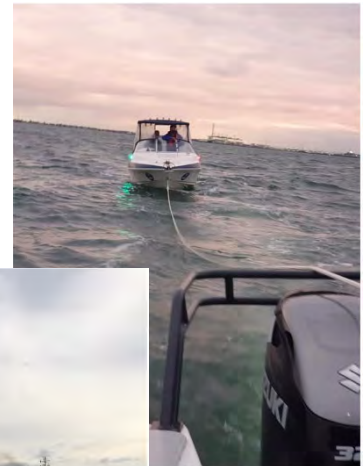
**VICTORIAN VOLUNTEER  
COAST GUARD**

At our November General Meeting, our very special guest speaker was Stuart Cousins - Victorian Volunteer Coast Guard, speaking on the amazing app What3words and the ability to locate anyone on the planet within a 3m x 3m square.

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what3words.com/guard.cling.radio](https://what3words.com/guard.cling.radio)

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products/what3words-app/](https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app/)





# FLINDERS PIER

## FLINDERS PIER

15th November, 2020

I have been meaning to do this for so long (Sorry Kade Mills & Chrissy Tustison), but on Sunday I finally headed over to Flinders, set up to shoot Dragons for both our local Reefwatch Dragon project and [Seadragonsearch.org](http://Seadragonsearch.org).

I was getting worried as I didn't see any at first, turns out they were not under the pier but hiding out in the Sea Grass. In the end I managed to find half a dozen including some egg loaded males.

I was so engrossed in Dragons that I missed a Draughtboard Shark which swam a couple of meters away from me despite the best efforts of Christine Reynolds to attract my attention.

Also diving was Peter Beaumont and given the strong Northerlies, most of the rest of the Melbourne Dive community. Still good to see people getting out again.

- Ian Scholey. ❖







*Christine Reynolds*  
*Great Victorian Fish Count 2020*





## FLINDERS PIER

15th November, 2020..

Under Flinders Pier, with Ian Scholey and Peter Beaumont, and 30 other scuba divers flocking around 10 weedy sea dragons and one little draughtboard shark.. My first dive since March or April and COVID-19, when I dived with Peter Beaumont under Blairgowrie Pier.

It is the first time that I have gone diving with one buddy and ended up with another. Not sure who he was, but he was happy with me tagging along, showing me items of interest and lighting them so that I could take a photo of them. It looked for all the world like Ian, with his camera and strobes. I must learn how to identify my buddy under water! I knew that I was quite safe and I know that Ian is a solo diver, so many thanks to Mr. Anonymous. One of my more interesting dives.....!

I am looking forward to more diving! It was nice being back in the water, nice sunny day, flat calm, good company with a chat and coffee after the dive. Many thanks to Ian for the invitation to join them. I hope VSAG is going to resume organising club dives, I am always looking for a buddy, even before I get into the water!

- *Christine Reynolds.* ❖





# Flinders Pier

An unexpected encounter on a dive at Flinders Pier...



*Photo by Christine Reynolds*



# CAPE PATERSON

## CAPE PATERSON

11th November, 2020

Conditions have been great the last two days, so I took my new rib, tentatively named “Kingfisher”, out for some action. The water is 15c and viz really good. Surface conditions were ideal. We enjoyed a bit of cray spotting but left them all in place until next week when season opens. With Summer just around the corner I’m looking forward to plenty of dive action.

- *Rowan Salger.* ❖



# RIP BANK & LONGSDALE ARCHES

## RIP BANK & LONSDALE ARCHES

14th November, 2020

Oh, how good it was to be back on Redboats and out doing some boat diving. Chris Porter and I jumped on for a double dive on Saturday afternoon. First up, was a slack water on Rip Bank. It was spectacular with 20m vis and loads of life. Of course, two days out from Cray season, I found a monster in a very easy position to grab. All I grabbed though, was a picture. All up, a cracking dive and a few unusual sightings, including the first Warty Prowfish I have seen in years.

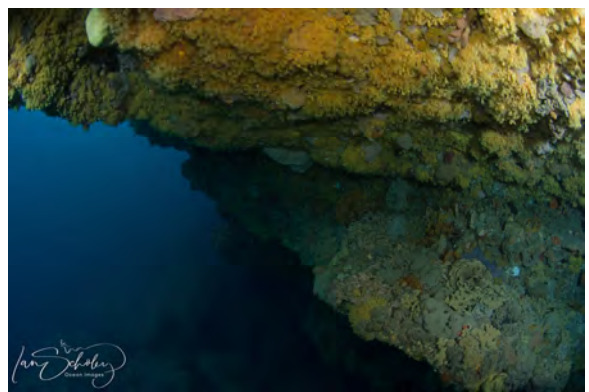
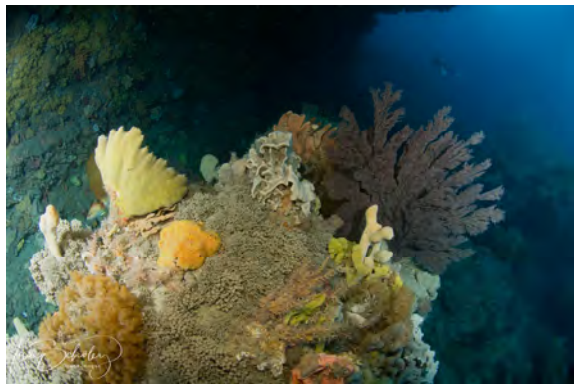
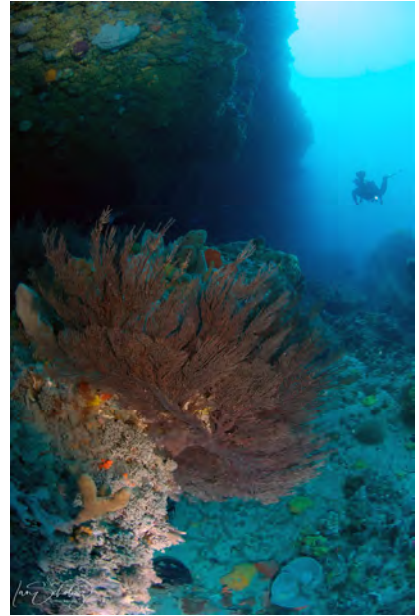
We then headed out to Lonsdale Arches. There was a little bit of surge but it was still a nice dive. On the way back, we stopped to watch a seal shredding a fish it had just caught in the Rip. I can't wait to get back out there again.

Thanks for the ride Luke English at #Redboats.

- Ian Scholey. ❖







# SPECTACULAR REEF

## SPECTACULAR REEF

Whilst returning from the Lonsdale Drop Off late one afternoon, the echo sound, which had inadvertently been left on, took a dramatic plunge downwards from 20m to 40m and then right off the chart. It did not take long for us to realise that we had found another potentially good dive location, but due to the lateness and empty tanks, we took a rain check to come back and dive the location at a future date.

It was about two weeks later, when we slipped over the side at the end of the ebb, to drift over this new site. (A drift dive is quite often a good method of checking dive locations, as you can cover a large area in a very short time). We bottomed at 20 metres amongst sparse reef and drifted slowly deeper to 30 metres, with the reef and marine life becoming more prolific. A large dark 'shadow' to the right caught our attention and on inspection, turned out to be a vertical wall which we ascended. This took us back to our starting depth of 20 metres.

We followed the top of this ledge along with the current for about 100

metres or so, until it swung to the right. The current took us straight ahead and over the wall and we slowly glided down the drop to level off at a small ledge at 30 metres. The fish life there was prolific and of much greater size and number than the famous 'Drop Off'. There were many large silver trumpeter, Blue Devils, Leatherjackets, the Rosy Wrasse and inquisitive White Ear along with literally thousands of small bait fish, who turned as one, the sun reflecting from the scales in a rainbow of colours.

The ledge at 30 metres was only a narrow one and on the other side, dropped vertically into blackness. We could only guess at the depth of possibly 40 – 60 metres, as no bottom was in sight. Swimming over this ledge can make the diver feel apprehension or sheer exhilaration as there is no wall to be seen plummeting downward, as the ledge is significantly undercut, giving it the appearance of hanging. This is one of the only places in the Bay where this large undercutting occurs to such an extent. The Portsea Hole, Nepean Wall and the Drop Off each have these same features, but nowhere



near to the same extent as Spectacular Reef.

## SPECTACULAR REEF

Spectacular Reef is very aptly named, as the only way to describe it is 'spectacular'. The scenery, rock formations, the sheer drop-offs and the most abundant fish life in the Bay, make this, without doubt, the best dive in the Bay, and generally in the Melbourne area.

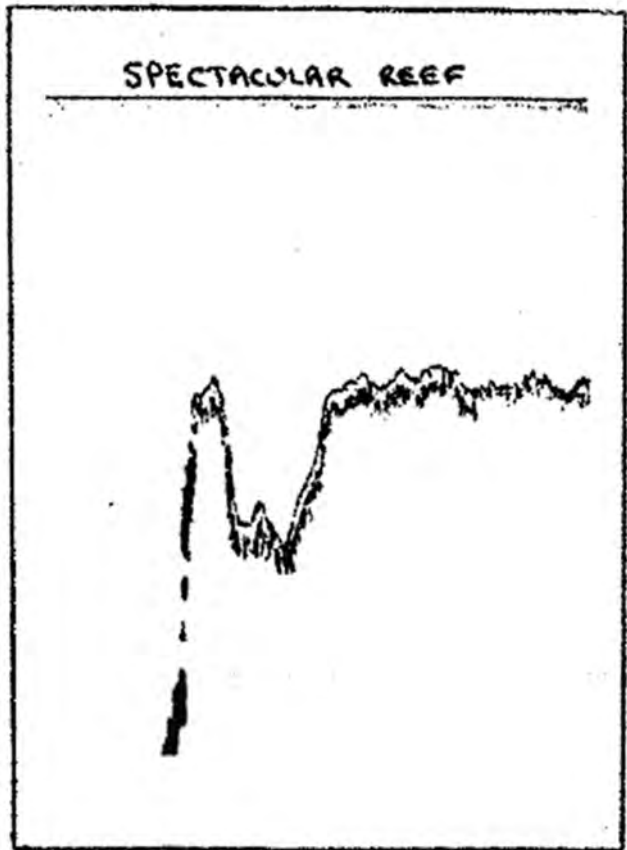
Approximately 100 metres only of this reef has been explored and, to date, even though at least four other areas have been sounded in the near vicinity, including the other side. (The reef drops to sand at 60 metres and then eventually rises again, vertically, at the other extremity). This side is almost, but not quite, as spectacular as Spectacular Reef. When these areas have been dived fully, they will be documented.

Spectacular Reef is unfortunately in the middle of the shipping channel and can only be dived on from boats containing permits.

Please note:

If there was any confusion, this Spectacular Reef article which appeared in the last edition of Fathoms, was by no means the finding of Graham Ellis.

Spectacular Reef was found by Russell Kitt and Barrie Heard of Southern Cross Divers. ❖



Max Depth 60 m    Vis. 5 - 30m.

Best diving 20-30m, typically 15m

Courtesy:

*Kitt, R., & Heard, B. (1983). DIVE VICTORIA, A Directory of Dive Locations In and Around Port Phillip Bay. Burwood: A Southern Cross Publication.*

# Daveys Bay

## DAVEYS BAY

11th October 2020

Still in COVID-19 Lockdown. The only possible dive site for me within the 5km limit is Daveys Bay and I finally got the right weather to grab a long overdue dive this morning. I concentrated the dive on Beacon Reef and it was actually pretty nice. I found a few critters to snap and it was a pretty, if shallow reef.

Hopefully, we get cut some slack by Dictator Dan next weekend and we can get back to some more interesting diving. Fingers crossed.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





# Mornington Pier

## MORNINGTON PIER

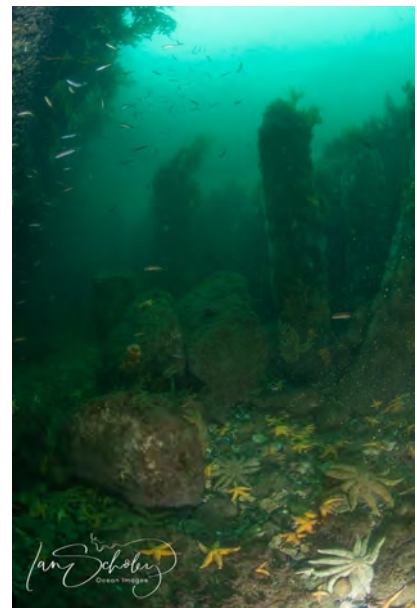
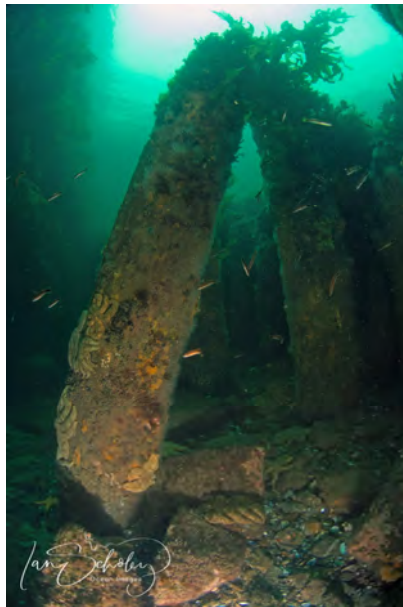
23rd October, 2020

Given the 25km travel limit due to COVID-19, I was pleased to get so many VSAG-ers out diving today. A late rush left 5 of us, with myself, Peter Beaumont, Greg Richards, Sherryn and Mick Young. Word was that the vis at Mornington was a bit ordinary (no surprise there then), but it was Ok if not spectacular. As usual it was very green, but I think that makes for a good background colour. There was plenty of life about making for a really enjoyable dive. We had agreed on 1 1/2 hours dive time and all came back at about the same time, after doing our own thing. It was just nice to get wet and then sit and talk diving, with a socially distanced coffee afterwards. A good start to the weekend, so looking forward to getting out again on Sunday and also to see what Dan throws our way on Sunday. Come on - time to kill the 25km limit please!!!

- Ian Scholey. ❖













## MORNINGTON PIER

1st November, 2020

Come on Dan - open things up, buddy. I can't keep diving Mornington Pier - now can I?

Back we went for the third time in 10 days. Seriously, I am grateful that I have somewhere within my 25Km limit as I know a lot of people haven't. You guys must be busting for a splash, so fingers crossed for some good news next weekend, just in time for Cray season.

Four of us dived this morning. Peter Beaumont and I did our own thing, while Mick and Sherryn Young practiced some cave skills. It isn't a bad dive at all, you can't complain about the amount of life, as there are plenty of fish under there.

I found a fish I don't recall seeing before, which doesn't happen very often. Could be a juvenile but not sure of what.

The water is warming up and is now a pleasant enough 14 degrees. We were under for 1 1/2 hours and had the usual post-dive coffee.

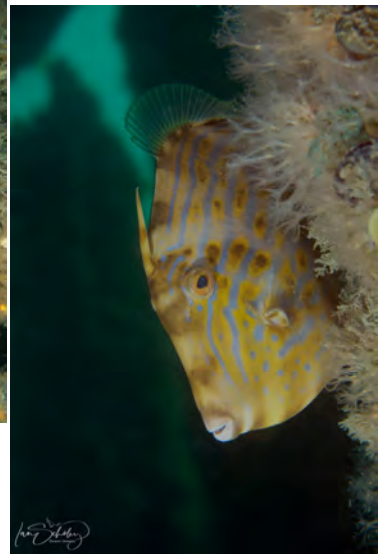
- Ian Scholey. ❖



*Alison's Blue Devil*









# Cup Day Dive

## CUP DAY DIVE

3rd November, 2020

It was a perfect Cup Day on the coast. I did a shore dive in the morning, kayak dive in the afternoon and even flew the drone just to show how great it was. Water 14c here.

- Rowan Salger. ❖





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VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION



UTS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

UC San Diego





# CAPE PATERSON

## CAPE PATERSON

18th November, 2020

Two dives today, on Kingfisher at Cape Paterson, with Tony Hood for the fish count. Plenty of fish were counted, including 2 crays, which I'm now enjoying for lunch. The water was 16c but visibility wasn't very good.

- Rowan Salger ❖





## CAPE PATERSON

25th November, 2020

Jeremy Van Der Beek and I did a double cylinder dive at Cape Paterson today. The surface conditions were great but the visibility wasn't particularly good. We bagged a cray each and enjoyed the warmer 17c water temperature.



- Rowan Salger. ❖



# SNAPPER POINT

## SNAPPER POINT

3rd November, 2020

Peter Beaumont and I headed back to Mornington again today. This time we clambered across the rocks and headed around Schnapper Point before exiting at the pier. It's literally years since I have done that dive. It was really nice with some good reef and bommies and the vis was considerably better than the area around the pier. First thing we found was a snoozing Port Jackson.

As I had a 120mm lens on today, I was slug hunting. I did pretty well and found some interesting things. All in all a very nice dive.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





## SNAPPER POINT

8th November, 2020.

Peter Beaumont and I headed back to Schnapper Point this morning. It really is a pretty nice dive, if you haven't done it yet.

Highlights today, were half a dozen PJ's hanging out at the base of one of the bommies, a very large Smooth Ray and a Doto Pita Nudibranch. We took the one way swim, exiting at the pier after 90 minutes. The good news for those that feel the cold, is that the water temp is up a degree on last week and is now 15 degrees.

After today's easing of the restrictions, I am looking forward to more variety in dive sites again. But first up will be a trip to Blairgowrie tomorrow, just to make sure it's still there.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





# Channel Fort & Hurricane

## CHANNEL FORT & HURRICANE

22nd November, 2020

Perfect conditions for a boat check out yesterday, so both Sea Eagle and Toucans headed out from Rye for a check out. We shot over to South Channel Fort first. The jetty has had some work done on it and new ladders have been put in, which is good. We then headed up to Capel Sound. While I did a double dive on the Hurricane, Peter Beaumont did his second on Rosebud Reef. The water was pretty dirty which made pics difficult, but at least the water temp is up another degree. As usual the wreck was well stocked with all sorts of fish and the Scallops I grabbed went down well last night.

With a half empty boat ramp, I am already liking the mid week retirement diving.

- Ian Scholey ❖









# Rye Pier & Elsa's Reef

## RYE PIER & ELSA'S REEF

15th November, 2020

Great turnout for today's dive under Rye Pier, with a side trip to Elsa's Reef, with 9 divers in the water for an early morning Sunday dive. First day back in the water for most of us, just enjoyed being back under the surface. Conditions were OK: Viz 4-5m, temp 17C, bit of surface chop but no problem with the great new dive platform. Incredible to see how much the weed has grown back. Beasties included a stable full of seahorses, decorator crab, ghost shrimp, and star-gazer.



*In the Photo (from left to right) are: Stuart Cousins (with trumpet), Dani (non-VSAG diver), Matthijs Smith, Mike Mossveld, Mark Howells, Dylan Smith, Grant Britten.*

- Matthijs Smith. ❖





# PORTSEA PIER

## PORTSEA PIER

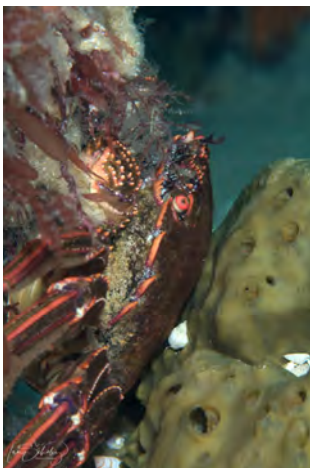
24th November, 2020

Peter Beaumont and I opted for a change of scenery this afternoon and by-passed Blairgowrie for Portsea. Conditions looked perfect from the surface but, as usual, there was a bit of surge to make taking pics a little harder.

I found plenty to snap. I'm gutted, as I missed the best find of the day, noticing a *Crimora multidigitalis* Nudibranch sticking it's head out of a hole, in one of my snaps of a *Lamellaria australis*, when I looked through my pics on a big screen. Repeat ten times "I must remember not to get distracted by the main subject"

Weather looking good tomorrow, so boats out it is.

- Ian Scholey ❖



# SS COOGEE

## SS COOGEE

25th November, 2020

Over the years, I have done a few dives on the SS Coogee and I have seen it in all sorts of conditions. Yesterday was one of those rare days when the visibility was perfect. Although there were some particles in the water column, once I hit the bottom at 32m, it was very clean. I took a nice slow tour around the wreck and snapped away happily as usual. I am pleased with the results, these are probably some of the best shots, I think, that I have of the wreck.

There was a bit of a swell on top, although the interval was good, so we headed into Port Phillip for our second dive in the shelter of Popes Eye. Not the best dive but acceptable and the vis was good there as well.

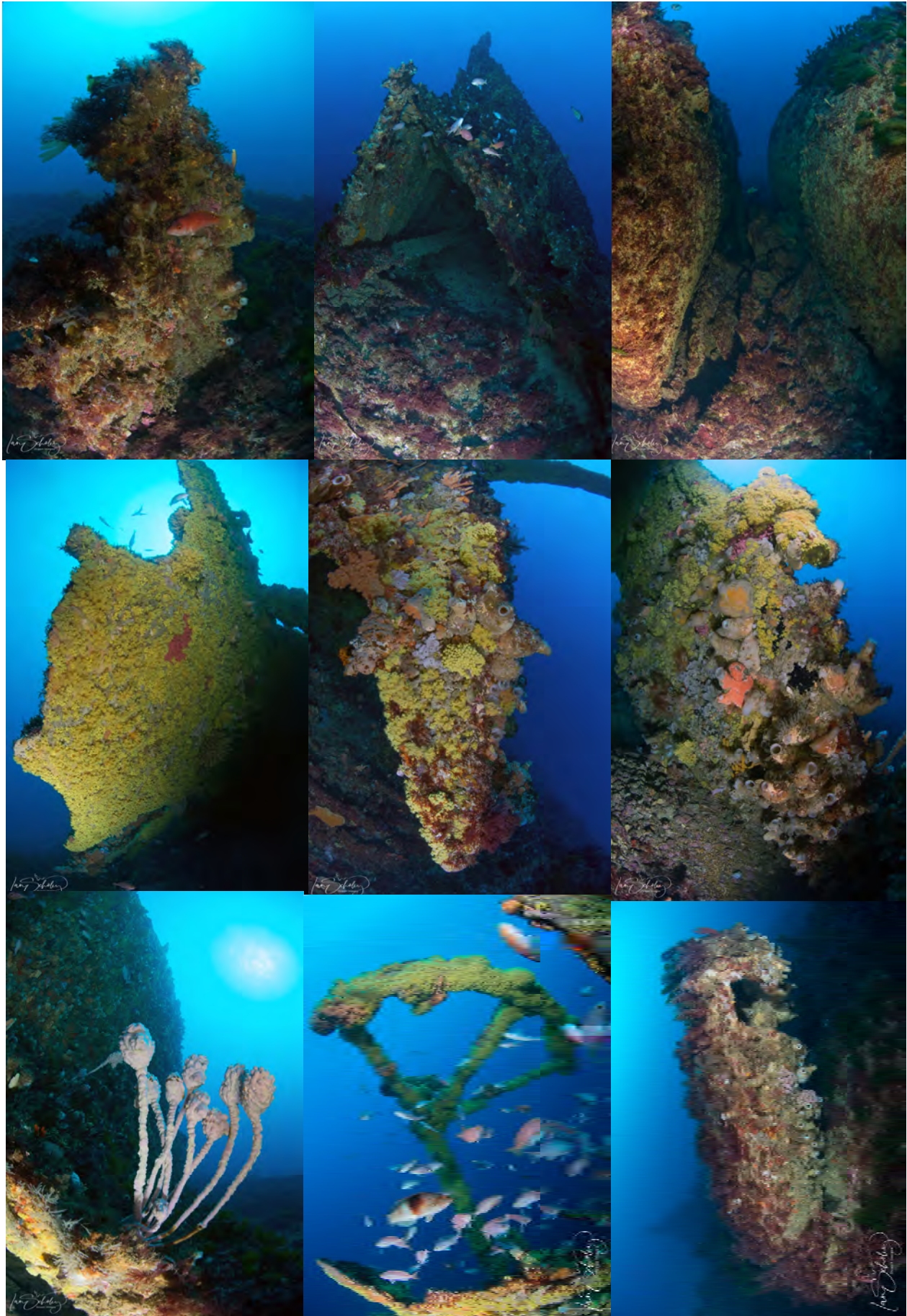
I'm hoping the vis hangs around for a while, with more boat dives coming up over the next few days. Fingers and everything else, well and truly crossed.

We had two boats out today, with myself on Sea Eagle and Peter Beaumont on Toucans.

- Ian Scholey. ❖









# PHIL'S REEF

## PHIL'S REEF

27th November, 2020

I jumped onto David Flew's boat, Karingal, with John Lawler, Matthjis Smith and Dylan Smith. We headed out from Mordialloc to Phil's Reef. This is a shallow reef off shore from Mentone. Being top end, the water was a bit dirty but vis was an acceptable 3-4m. The objective of the dive was to complete a Fish count, somewhere a bit different.

Alongside the Fish count, I was on the lookout for Nudi's and found loads of them but a limited selection of species. What I did notice, was the absence of pink colouration in the *Phyllodesmium serratum* and *Noumea haliclona*, of which I found a white specimen. Obviously a lack of Red food about.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





# THE PLATEAU

## THE PLATEAU

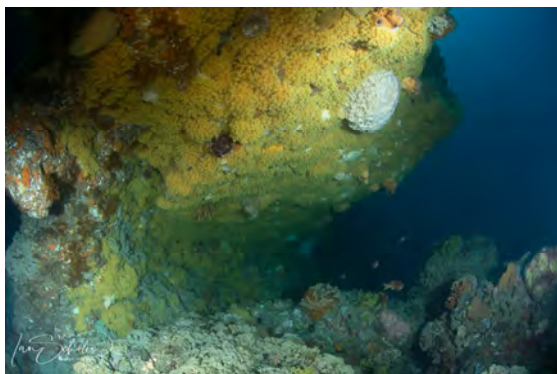
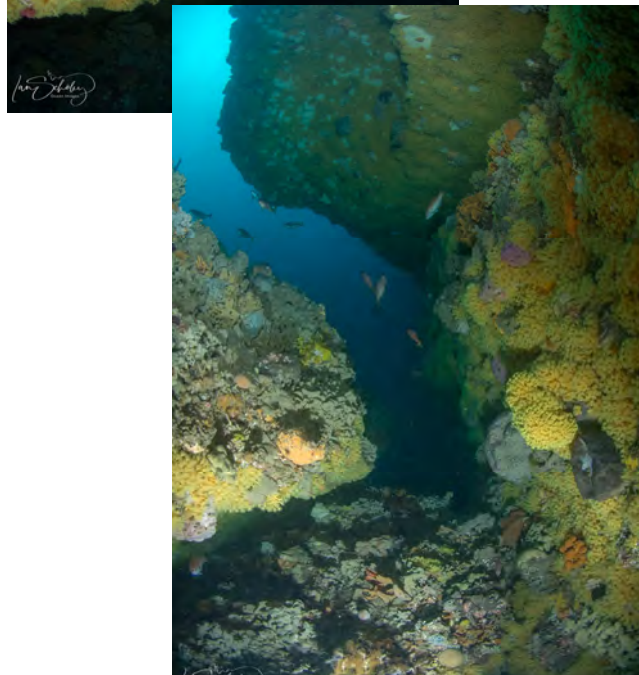
28th November, 2020

Chris Porter and I were booked on with #Redboats for a dive on Hanging Gardens. On the boat skipper, Luke English, offered us the chance to dive a rarely dived spot on the edge of The Plateau. The currents were right and there was no shipping, which normally makes the site a no-go area.

The boat was unanimous about the change, with the Cray Bashers very keen for virgin territory. It was a spectacular dive, although I didn't get too many pictures, as I have to admit, getting distracted by Crayfish myself.

There were some beasts caught and the boat was a very happy bunch. We were surrounded by Jellyfish on our final deco stop, which helped kill the time. A nice start to the day and worth getting up early.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



# J5 SUBMARINE

## J5 SUBMARINE

28th November, 2020

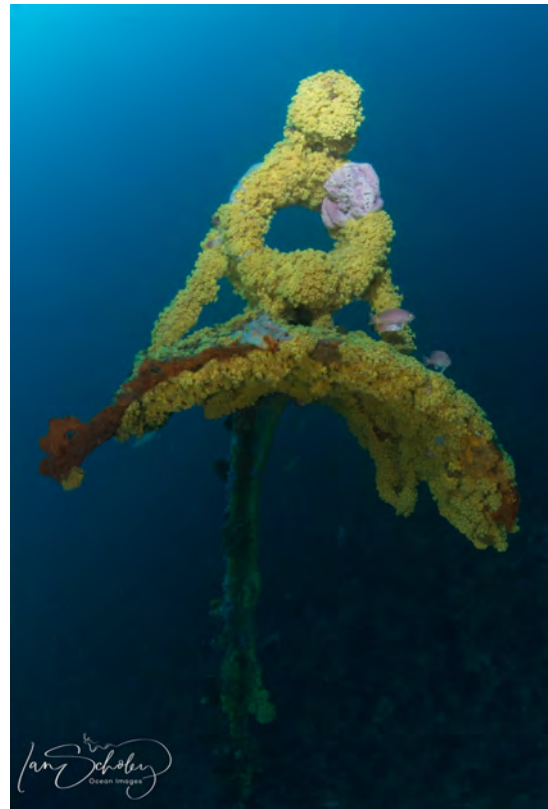
The second dive for the day for Chris Porter and I was the J5 Sub.

We headed out through the RIP in near perfect conditions on #Redboats. We completed our 65-minute dive and were surprised when we hit the surface, to see the conditions had deteriorated markedly. It does show how quickly things can change in Bass Strait and it was an interesting experience climbing back up the ladder with twins and stage, to say the least.

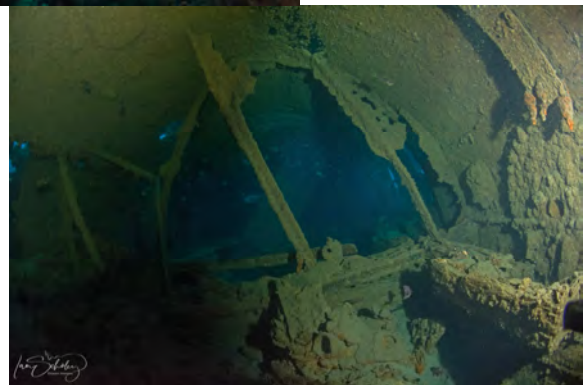
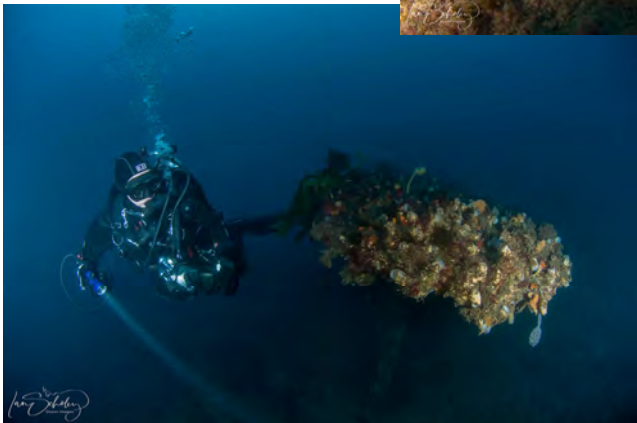
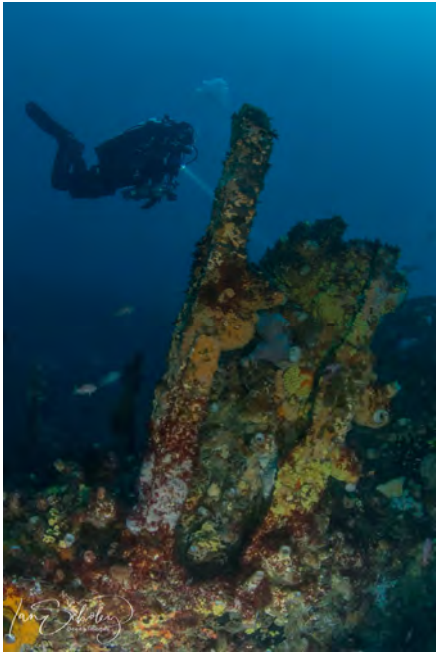
The dive itself was excellent. The vis was bad in the top of the water column but past 20m it really cleared up and it was really good on the bottom. We completed a swim-through of the sub and I was saddened to see that it is starting to collapse in areas. Like most of our wrecks, time is starting to take its toll.

On the outside, the wreck is a kaleidoscope of colour - they don't call it the yellow submarine for nothing.

- Ian Scholey. ❖







# Blairgowrie

## BLAIRGOWRIE

9th November 2020

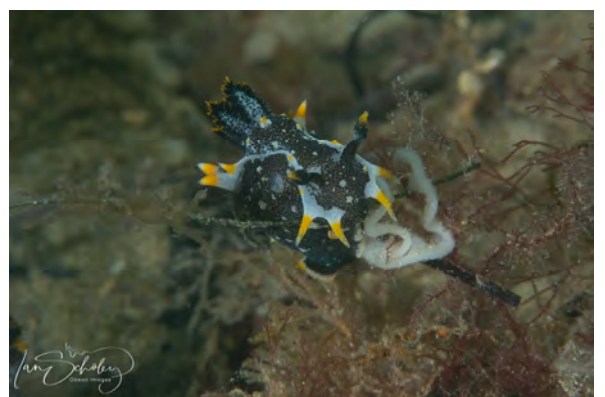
I couldn't resist it, so took the opportunity of great weather and a quiet work diary, to grab a dive at Blairgowrie yesterday afternoon. It is looking really good under there at the moment, with the absence of divers obviously good for growth. I was looking for the small stuff and found plenty of interest. A couple of nice Nudi's for the collection. But as usually happens when I have a super macro on, the big stuff was around as well. I found a PJ, the usual big rays were there in numbers and there was a school of decent sized Trevally.

Great to be back, after so long away - a very nice dive. .

- Ian Scholey. ❖











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



## BLAIRGOWRIE

20th November, 2020

I headed down to Blairgowrie for a solo Critter hunt. I found Peter Beaumont and Keith just packing up after their dive. They were planned for Mornington but switched due to poor conditions. I took my time and had a 3 hour dive. I found some interesting stuff but nothing too exciting. There were plenty of Nudibranch around but nothing I hadn't seen before. That said, some of the old favourites are back in good numbers and there are heaps of eggs at the moment.

- Ian Scholey. ❖







## BLAIRGOWRIE

29th November, 2020

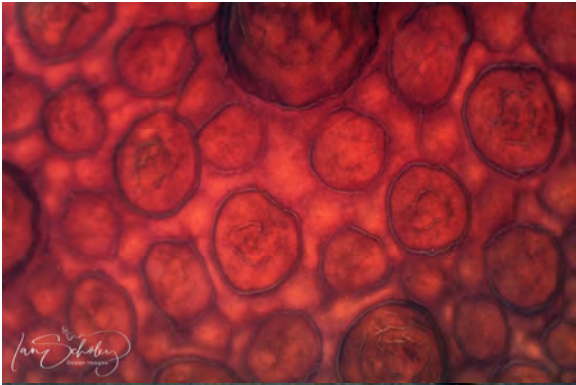
After two big tech dives yesterday, I was feeling the pace a little this morning. When I looked out the window at 5am and saw the state of the weather, the temptation to go back to bed was strong but I had arranged to meet Peter Beaumont, so up I got. Not exactly feeling it, I headed down to Blairgowrie and was in the water at 6.30am to time my exit to Peter's, so we could catch up over coffee.

I was so glad I made the effort and finished up with a 3 hour dive. There was so much to see today and I had one of the best dives at Blairgowrie, that I can remember. The variety of life blows me away. The Nudi's were out in force and I even found one that I hadn't found before and that isn't in Bob Burns book.

A top dive despite the rain and wind.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





# Rock Lobster Tagging Program

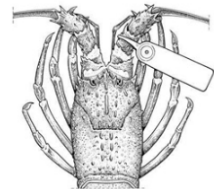
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

Tags are free and can be ordered online or collected from selected Victorian Government Offices.

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/tagging-of-recreationally-caught-rock-lobsters>

To Create an account, Order/Report/Transfer tags please visit:

<https://lobstertag.agriculture.vic.gov.au>



## Save the Rays

### REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITY

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

You can report illegal fishing activity to 13 3474.

### Ray protection fishing rules



We are making changes to ray, skate and guitarfish fishing rules.

These new rules commence on **Tuesday 7 November 2017**.

The new rules:

1. Prohibit the take or possession of sting rays, skates or guitarfish greater than 1.5 metres in width;
2. Reduce the combined daily bag limit for rays, skates and guitarfish from 5 to 1, which are smaller than 1.5 metres in width;
3. Prohibit the take of these species within 400m of any pier, jetty, wharf or breakwater;
4. Require these species to be landed whole so they can be measured by Fisheries Officers.



An education and awareness program will be conducted to educate fishers about these new rules.



## SafeTrx

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

How it works:

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

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

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

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

## BOAT 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

JOIN VSAG IN THE PHILIPPINES

22—29/05/2021

EXTEND TO PALAU

30/05/2021—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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ischoley@iinet.net.au) | 0439 310 646 | [vsag.org.au](http://vsag.org.au)

### ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

[res@allwaysdive.com.au](mailto:res@allwaysdive.com.au) | 03 95316818 | [allwaysdive.com.au](http://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



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 TBA

## 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](mailto:editor@vsag.org.au)

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

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

## Additional Information:

**Tidal Stream Information for Port Phillip Bay Heads is location here:**

**<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/tides/#!/vic-the-rip>**

**Rates in RED are the maximum forecast outgoing (ebb) tidal rate.**

**Rates in BLUE are the maximum forecast incoming (flood) tidal rate**

## Definitions

**TBA – To Be Advised**

**TBC – To Be Confirmed**

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

# 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 — December 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**

Nov	December					
<b>MON 30</b>	<b>TUE 1</b>	<b>WED 2</b>	<b>THU 3</b>	<b>FRI 4</b>	<b>SAT 5</b>	<b>SUN 6</b>
4:23	5:04	5:40	6:16	0:02	0:38	1:15
10:23	11:08	11:48	12:24	6:50	7:24	7:58
15:03	15:45	16:27	17:06	12:58	13:31	14:04
22:10	22:48	23:26		17:45	18:23	19:03
<b>MON 7</b>	<b>TUE 8</b>	<b>WED 9</b>	<b>THU 10</b>	<b>FRI 11</b>	<b>SAT 12</b>	<b>SUN 13</b>
1:52	2:29	3:10	3:55	4:46	0:16	1:44
8:32	9:06	9:41	10:17	10:59	5:51	7:14
14:40	15:19	16:04	16:56	17:58	11:47	12:43
19:45	20:35	21:36	22:50		19:05	20:11
<b>MON 14</b>	<b>TUE 15</b>	<b>WED 16</b>	<b>THU 17</b>	<b>FRI 18</b>	<b>SAT 19</b>	<b>SUN 20</b>
3:05	4:12	5:09	5:58	6:43	0:44	1:28
8:45	10:01	11:04	11:57	12:46	7:25	8:04
13:44	14:47	15:47	16:45	17:40	13:32	14:17
21:14	22:12	23:06	23:56		18:33	19:25
<b>MON 21</b>	<b>TUE 22</b>	<b>WED 23</b>	<b>THU 24</b>	<b>FRI 25</b>	<b>SAT 26</b>	<b>SUN 27</b>
2:09	2:47	3:23	4:01	4:43	0:26	1:42
8:40	9:15	9:47	10:19	10:52	5:35	6:47
15:01	15:44	16:27	17:13	18:01	11:28	12:10
20:17	21:10	22:08	23:13		18:53	19:46
<b>December</b>				<b>January 2021</b>		
<b>MON 28</b>	<b>TUE 29</b>	<b>WED 30</b>	<b>THU 31</b>	<b>FRI 1</b>	<b>SAT 2</b>	<b>SUN 3</b>
2:53	3:53	4:41	5:23	6:01	6:36	0:22
8:19	9:39	10:37	11:24	12:04	12:41	7:09
13:00	13:57	14:54	15:48	16:38	17:25	13:17
20:38	21:27	22:14	22:58	23:41		18:11

## Tidal Streams at the Heads — January 2021

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

**Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings**

December				January 2021		
<b>MON 28</b>	<b>TUE 29</b>	<b>WED 30</b>	<b>THU 31</b>	<b>FRI 1</b>	<b>SAT 2</b>	<b>SUN 3</b>
2:53	3:53	4:41	5:23	6:01	6:36	0:22
8:19	9:39	10:37	11:24	12:04	12:41	7:09
13:00	13:57	14:54	15:48	16:38	17:25	13:17
20:38	21:27	22:14	22:58	23:41		18:11
<b>MON 4</b>	<b>TUE 5</b>	<b>WED 6</b>	<b>THU 7</b>	<b>FRI 8</b>	<b>SAT 9</b>	<b>SUN 10</b>
1:01	1:41	2:20	3:00	3:42	4:29	0:09
7:41	8:12	8:42	9:13	9:45	10:22	5:24
13:53	14:31	15:11	15:56	16:44	17:38	11:05
18:58	19:47	20:42	21:43	22:52		18:38
<b>MON 11</b>	<b>TUE 12</b>	<b>WED 13</b>	<b>THU 14</b>	<b>FRI 15</b>	<b>SAT 16</b>	<b>SUN 17</b>
1:30	2:49	3:58	4:56	5:45	6:28	0:30
6:35	8:06	9:36	10:47	11:45	12:36	7:06
11:59	13:05	14:17	15:29	16:34	17:34	13:21
19:43	20:48	21:52	22:50	23:43		18:28
<b>MON 18</b>	<b>TUE 19</b>	<b>WED 20</b>	<b>THU 21</b>	<b>FRI 22</b>	<b>SAT 23</b>	<b>SUN 24</b>
1:13	1:51	2:26	2:58	3:31	4:06	4:46
7:41	8:12	8:40	9:06	9:33	10:00	10:30
14:03	14:42	15:19	15:54	16:31	17:11	17:55
19:19	20:07	20:54	21:43	22:35	23:33	
<b>MON 25</b>	<b>TUE 26</b>	<b>WED 27</b>	<b>THU 28</b>	<b>FRI 29</b>	<b>SAT 30</b>	<b>SUN 31</b>
0:40	1:54	3:07	4:09	4:58	5:38	6:12
5:36	6:46	8:26	9:55	10:54	11:39	12:18
11:06	11:52	12:51	14:03	15:14	16:18	17:15
18:45	19:42	20:42	21:40	22:34	23:23	



## Tidal Streams at the Heads — February 2021

**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**

Jan	February					
<b>MON 1</b>	<b>TUE 2</b>	<b>WED 3</b>	<b>THU 4</b>	<b>FRI 5</b>	<b>SAT 6</b>	<b>SUN 7</b>
<i>0:08</i>	<i>0:51</i>	<i>1:32</i>	<i>2:13</i>	<i>2:52</i>	<i>3:32</i>	<i>4:15</i>
6:44	7:13	7:43	8:12	8:43	9:16	9:52
<i>12:57</i>	<i>13:35</i>	<i>14:15</i>	<i>14:57</i>	<i>15:41</i>	<i>16:27</i>	<i>17:16</i>
18:08	19:00	19:53	20:48	21:45	22:47	23:54
<b>MON 8</b>	<b>TUE 9</b>	<b>WED 10</b>	<b>THU 11</b>	<b>FRI 12</b>	<b>SAT 13</b>	<b>SUN 14</b>
<i>5:03</i>	1:07	2:24	3:36	4:36	5:24	6:04
10:36	<i>6:05</i>	<i>7:32</i>	<i>9:15</i>	<i>10:35</i>	<i>11:33</i>	<i>12:21</i>
<i>18:12</i>	11:30	12:39	14:02	15:23	16:35	17:35
	<i>19:16</i>	<i>20:26</i>	<i>21:35</i>	<i>22:38</i>	<i>23:32</i>	
<b>MON 15</b>	<b>TUE 16</b>	<b>WED 17</b>	<b>THU 18</b>	<b>FRI 19</b>	<b>SAT 20</b>	<b>SUN 21</b>
<i>0:18</i>	<i>0:59</i>	<i>1:34</i>	<i>2:06</i>	<i>2:36</i>	<i>3:07</i>	<i>3:38</i>
6:38	7:09	7:35	8:00	8:24	8:49	9:16
<i>13:02</i>	<i>13:39</i>	<i>14:12</i>	<i>14:44</i>	<i>15:15</i>	<i>15:48</i>	<i>16:23</i>
18:26	19:12	19:55	20:35	21:16	21:59	22:47
<b>MON 22</b>	<b>TUE 23</b>	<b>WED 24</b>	<b>THU 25</b>	<b>FRI 26</b>	<b>SAT 27</b>	<b>SUN 28</b>
<i>4:12</i>	<i>4:50</i>	0:48	2:05	3:19	4:15	4:57
9:46	10:18	<i>5:41</i>	<i>7:02</i>	<i>8:56</i>	<i>10:12</i>	<i>11:03</i>
<i>17:02</i>	<i>17:48</i>	10:59	11:58	13:23	14:52	16:08
23:42		<i>18:44</i>	<i>19:51</i>	<i>21:02</i>	<i>22:07</i>	<i>23:03</i>
<b>March</b>						
<b>MON 1</b>	<b>TUE 2</b>	<b>WED 3</b>	<b>THU 4</b>	<b>FRI 5</b>	<b>SAT 6</b>	<b>SUN 7</b>
<i>5:32</i>	<i>6:03</i>	0:39	1:22	2:03	2:43	3:23
11:47	12:29	<i>6:35</i>	<i>7:06</i>	<i>7:39</i>	<i>8:14</i>	<i>8:50</i>
<i>17:12</i>	<i>18:09</i>	13:11	13:53	14:36	15:20	16:05
23:53		<i>19:02</i>	<i>19:55</i>	<i>20:47</i>	<i>21:40</i>	<i>22:35</i>

# Emergency Contact Information

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

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

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

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

**Speak slowly and clearly**

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

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



# Emergency Contact Information

## Telephone contacts

**Police – Ambulance – Fire : 000**

**Water Police no longer use the 1800 088 200 number**

**The new 24/7 No is : 03 9399 7500**

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

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

**Alfred Hospital Hyperbaric Unit:** 03 9076 2269

**Alfred Hospital switchboard:** 03 9076 2000

## Mornington Peninsula Area

**Diving Emergency Service:** 1800 088 200

**Dr. John Roth:**  
Mornington Medical Group 03 5975 2633

**Rosebud Hospital:**  
1527 Nepean Hwy, Rosebud 03 5986 0666

**Frankston Hospital:**  
Hastings Road, Frankston 03 9784 7777

**The Bays Hospital:**  
Main Street, Mornington 03 5975 2009

**Southern Peninsula Rescue: (Sorrento)** 0417 038 944

**Mornington Bay Rescue Service:** 0419 233 999

\*Coast Guard (Queenscliff) 03 5258 2222

\*Coast Guard (Hastings) 03 5979 3322

\*Coast Guard (Safety Beach) 03 5981 4443

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

**Diving Doctors:**

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

Dr Vanessa Haller (Carrum Downs) 03 9782 6666

Dr Adrian Murrie (Sorrento) 03 5984 4322

Dr Guy Williams (Rosebud) 03 5981 1555

Dr John Roth (Mornington) 03 5975 2633



*Ian Scholey*  
Ocean Images

*Cover photo - Big-Bellied Sea Horse - by Ian Scholey.*