



Fathoms

JUNE—JULY 2020

*Cover photo:
Blue Devil Fish
by Brian
Heatherich*

**Dr Jan (Jeanette) Watson AM,
Lord Howe Island VSAG Dive Trip,
Photo Competitions - April and May 2020,
Fish Rock, Milora and more...**

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

www.vsag.org.au

Vsag Club Meetings Now on Zoom



Our next club meeting, is scheduled for :

Tuesday, 21st July 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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VSAG, Inc., P.O. Box 596, Cranbourne Vic 3977

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NOTICES

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

All Members Welcome



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

256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE

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

VSAG on Facebook

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



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

Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia

Postal Address
PO Box 382, Melville WA 6956

Email: info@uecwa.com.au

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

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

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



Your VSAG Committee 2019–2020

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

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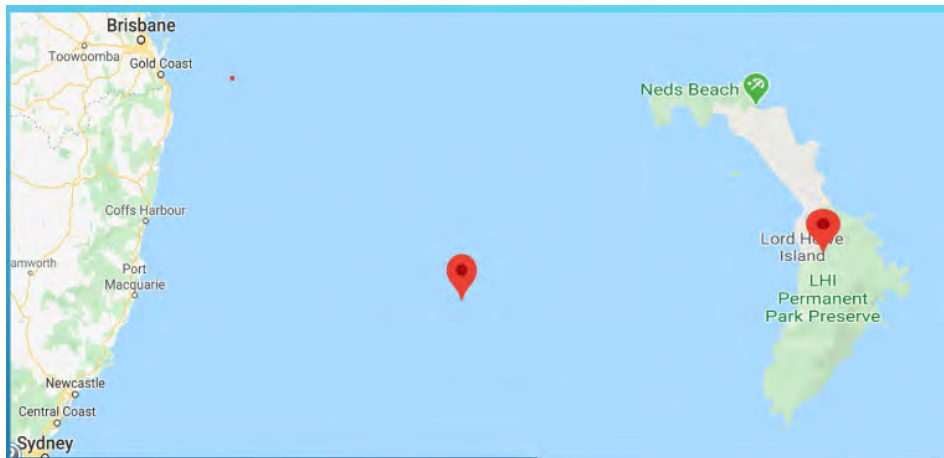
General Committee:

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john_ashley1954@icloud.com

LORD HOWE ISLAND



LORD HOWE ISLAND MARCH 2020

Dive report by Carol Penfold.

Divers: Peter Mosse, Graham Ellis, Peter Beaumont, Peter Campisano, Carole Campisano, Pam Dagley, David Geekie, Tim Forster, Carol Penfold.

Non-Divers: Peter Ellis, Judy Beaumont, Roy Penfold.

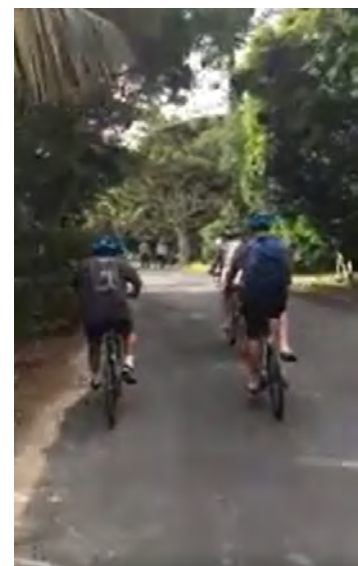
Activities on the island: Diving, bicycling – the main transport around the island, fabulous bushwalking and of course, more diving.

The group was well looked after, collected from the airport and checked into accommodation. With a quick dump of the bags, we were off to the dive shop to check in. The first dive was to be that afternoon due to the weather forecast not being so



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

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



good for the rest of the stay. Next a visit to the bike rental to hire the transport for the week. Then ready for the first dive from the dive shop at 4:30pm.

Dive 1 – North Rock – 18-35m

Dive time: 46 mins, depth 31m, temp 26°C. The features of this dive were purple and pink soft corals, tunnels and swim throughs, Kingfish and Galapagos Whaler sharks.

Dive 2 – Deacons Delight – 21m

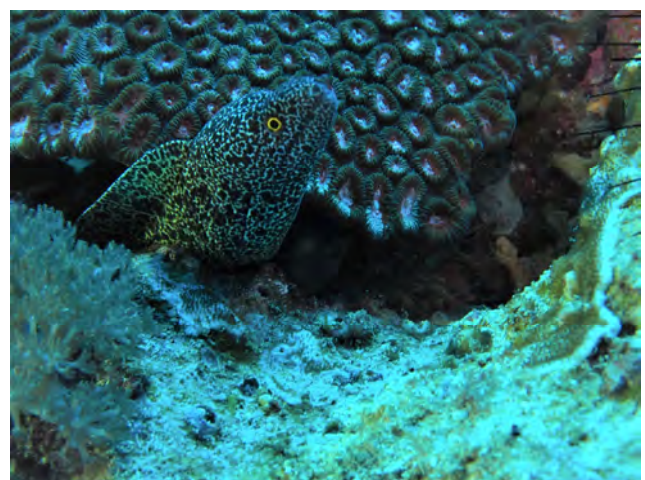
Dive time: 53 mins, depth 21m, temp 26°C. The features here were trevally, clown, trigger fish, swim throughs, Kingfish and Galapagos Whaler sharks, mauve soft corals.

Dive 3 – 10th June, Bombora – 7-18m.

Dive time 48 mins, depth 18m, temp 26°C. Here we saw Spanish dancer, Japanese Boarfish and round-backed coral crabs.

Dive 4 – South East Rock (Balls Pyramid) – 35m

Dive time 35 mins, depth 32m, temp 26°C. Features were Ballina Angelfish, Angel Japanese Boarfish - a deep water Angel that is generally only found in water in excess of 100m. On this dive there is potential for strong current.



Dive 5 – Balls Pyramid – 35m.

Dive time 47 mins, depth 25m, temp 26°C. Features here are Ballina Angelfish, Angel Japanese Boarfish, potential for strong current.

Dive 6 – Malabar West – 18m.

Dive Time 60 mins, depth 16m, temp 26°C. Here we saw Coral Crayfish, Spanish Dancer and Silver Sweetlips.

Dive 7 – Malabar Landslide – 18m

Dive time 64 mins, depth 13m, temp 26°C. Features are Coral Crayfish, Spanish Dancer, Silver Sweetlips.

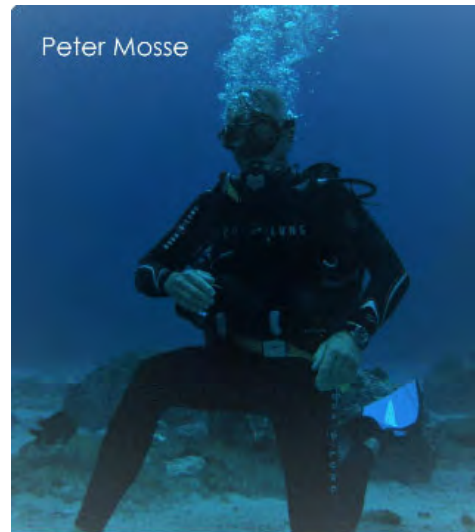
Land and Water Activities

Walkers are well catered for, with clear route markers and wonderful views. Snorkelling was available at Ned’s Beach and plenty to see – turtles, sea hare and fish feeding. Other activities were paddleboards, canoeing and surfing.

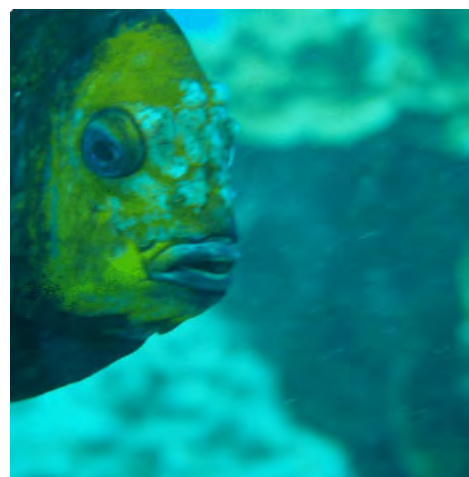
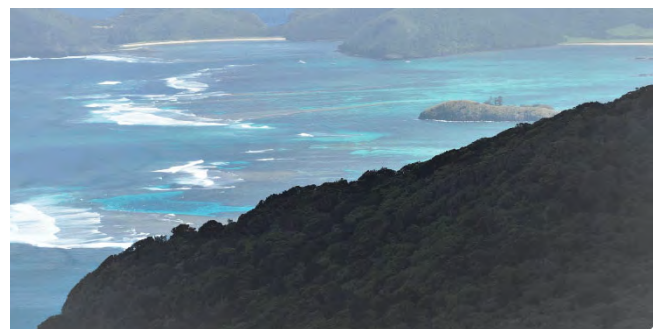
Mount Gower – Climb day.

Mount Gower is an 8-hour guided walk/climb. Challenging in parts as there is more climbing than walking. It is easier going up, than down, as a fair bit of it is hanging onto ropes and I found that rocks leave some pretty nasty bruises when descending the mountain on my butt!

And finally... A very cheeky fish and slightly out of focus.



Mount Gower and view.





Graham Ellis dive buddy, Lord Howe Island 5th March 2020 - by Peter Beaumont.



VSAG divers, Lord Howe Island 6th March 2020 - by Peter Beaumont.



Lord Howe Island 11th March 2020 - by Peter Beaumont.



Crayfish, ray, nudibranch and catfish, Lord Howe Island 7th March 2020 - by Peter Beaumont.



May Zoom Meeting

MAY VSAG CLUB MEETING

Held on 19th May, 2020.

Thanks to the members who contributed to the meeting last night, photos, presentation, discussion, those who "dressed up, had interesting backgrounds and your attendance. Also a big thank you to those who have been posting on the Facebook page, helps keep us engaged in these isolating times.

The meeting went quite well. We had about 25 attendees, including a number we haven't seen at meetings for a long time. Matthijs gave an interesting presentation on Covid-19, many thanks Matthijs. We heard from Ian Scholey, Brian Hetherich and Rowan Salger on their recent diving activities and Ian updated us on his plans for dive travel.

The discussions between members has resulted in a plan to, at some stage, dive around Beaumaris for Megalodon teeth. John Lawler is something of an expert on this topic. Allie Beckhurst had a couple available for show and tell. These teeth are around 10 million years old.

Carol Penfold and Walter Medenbach will be organising



*Peter Galvin.,
President, VSAG Inc.*

Redboats and shore diving respectively, although it's probably getting a little chill now. Water temp is about 14 degrees.

It was basically unanimous, that we should do the Zoom meeting again and we will look at making it a part of our normal meetings, once we return to normality.

So, hopefully, we will see you all again and a few more next month.

- Peter Galvin. ❖

BEAUMARIS

BEAUMARIS

31st May, 2020

Something different for me today, as I headed up to Beaumaris to grab a shore dive with John Lawler. With JL hunting for fossilised shark teeth, I was hunting for Elysia.

It took me right until the end of the dive but eventually I found an *Elysia expansa*. I also found *Eupolymnia koorangia* a type of tube worm.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



HURRICANE

HURRICANE

17th May 2020

Fantastic conditions on the bay today. With one person on each boat, Peter Beaumont and I headed out on Sea Eagle and Toucans to the Hurricane. We did two dives and both grabbed a good feed of scallops without really trying too hard. As usual, there was a great selection of fish on the wreck.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





Dr Jan Watson AM

A well deserved award for VSAG Life Member Dr Jan Watson!

VSAG Life Member, Dr Jan Watson, was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for her significant service to Marine Science and Ecology and to professional associations.

Dr Jeanette Watson (PhD in Biology)
– Managing Director, Marine Science and Ecology

Acknowledging women in diving wouldn't be complete without celebrating the accomplishments and significant contributions in the field of scientific diving of Dr Jeanette Watson. One of the first female divers in Australia, Jeanette was a pioneer in the field of scientific diving and is now an environmental consultant and a world-leading researcher of hydroids —small but complex marine organisms. Extraordinarily, Jeanette has been diving for 50 years and managing a successful independent environmental consultancy business for over 35 years.

Jan was first presented with the opportunity to learn how to dive with a small group of friends and colleagues in 1959 using the newly invented twin hose regulator system.



PIONEERING MARINE BIOLOGIST RECOGNISED

Jan Watson has always been a pioneer. She was the first female science student at School of Mines Ballarat in 1943 and one of the first marine biologists in Southern Australia to take up scuba diving.

After practicing diving in the Melbourne University swimming pool, Jan gained the confidence to take her first sea dive in southern Port Phillip (Pope's Eye). Needless to say, there has been no looking back. She earned her nickname "Jan" on her first dive – it's very difficult to call "Jeanette" over the water. She estimates she has clocked up over 10,000 dives and has loved every one of them!

It was on Jan's first dive, at Pope's Eye in Port Phillip Bay, that she first saw hydroids, sparking a curiosity that continues to burn 50 years on. Jan has committed a lifetime career

to researching hydroids, which are small, often colourful invertebrate creatures related to jellyfish, anemones and corals, that form clusters on rocks and sea weed. Hydroids are incredibly diverse (over 6000 species documented world-wide) and range in appearance from fine transparent, fern-like branches to bright flower-shaped organisms. Jan is particularly passionate about the rich biodiversity of temperate seas and holds the discovery of a whole new family of algae at 75m depth in 1969 in the Great Australian Bight as one of her most memorable and exciting dives.

Using her consultancy business (quite probably the oldest environmental consulting business in Australia) to help fund her independent research, Jan has undertaken dives in the UK, France, Italy, Japan, New Guinea, Indonesia, New Zealand and the USA. She has written and contributed to dozens of scientific papers and books which have been published in various prominent national and international scientific publications.

Over the past 50 years, using her background in applied chemistry, geology and marine biology, Jan has carved a successful career in what was once a male-dominated field, having faced and overcome prevailing oppressive attitudes from past eras towards working women.

Determined to break through the label “housewife” (reflecting a stifling attitude of pre-1970’s towards women who were working part-time due to parenting responsibilities) Jan dedicated her spare hours toward a thesis on the ecology of marine hydroids on seagrass. In 1991 she gained a PhD in Biology from Deakin University, as well as valuable traction to progress her consulting career.

As a consultant, Jan is engaged by private and government enterprises and has been contracted by large companies such as BHP, as well as channel and port authorities, and dredging companies to conduct environmental surveys and outfall monitoring programs. When asked about the best aspects of being an independent consultant, Jan replied: “It has taken me to fascinating places that I would never have visited as a recreational diver. Also the flexibility to determine the type of work I do has meant I have been able to develop a wide experience in my field”. The challenges of running an independent consultancy business were easy to identify: “No holidays, no long service leave and the need to work hard at what you do to stay current and in demand”. Jan has utilised her ADAS licence to secure consultancy work that would otherwise be restricted to university-based scientific divers/researchers.

Jan has a very practical attitude towards SCUBA diving and sticks by the adage “If you can’t look after yourself underwater, you shouldn’t be there”, and it would appear that it has worked well for her. Other than one near miss incident many years ago (before the days of octopus regulators), where Jan sacrificed her air supply to her buddy when he ran out, thus forcing her to rapidly ascend 30m leading to minor decompression illness, she has had no serious accidents or incidents whilst diving.

Up until her recent retirement, Jan was the oldest known practicing occupational diver in Australia at 82 years of age. Her love of diving has carried her through a lifelong career and has been passed down to her daughter (also a scientific diver and consultant) and her twin grandchildren, who are all passionate divers.

ADAS would like to acknowledge the remarkable career and achievements of Dr Jeanette Watson and her dedication to scientific diving. I’m sure you’ll agree, a role model for women divers around the world!

Courtesy of the ADAS website <https://adas.org.au> ADAS is the world’s foremost international occupational diver certification scheme.

Full biography <https://honours.pmc.gov.au/honours/awards/2007324>

Jan was made a VSAG Life Member in 2014, as part of VSAG's 60th Anniversary celebrations.

**From everyone at VSAG,
CONGRATULATIONS JAN!**



| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Name | Dr Jeanette Esther WATSON |
| Award | Member of the Order of Australia |
| Post-Nominal | AM |
| Date Granted | 7th of June, 2020 |
| State | VIC |
| Suburb | Clifton Springs |
| Postcode | 3222 |
| Citation | For significant service to marine science and ecology, and to professional associations. |
| Media Note | <p>Marine Science</p> <p>Founder/Owner/Director, Marine Science and Ecology consultancy, 1970's</p> <p>Councillor and Convenor (Scientific Advisory Committee), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i></p> <p>Australian Marine Sciences Association</p> <p>Foundation member.</p> <p>Secretary/Treasurer.</p> <p>Councillor.</p> <p>Memberships include:</p> <p>Environmental Institute of Australia.</p> <p>Field Naturalist Club of Victoria.</p> <p>New Zealand Marine Sciences Association.</p> <p>Royal Society of Victoria.</p> <p>Royal Society of South Australia.</p> <p>Awards and recognition includes:</p> <p>Alumnus of the Year, Federation University, 2019.</p> <p>Honorary Life Associate, Museums Victoria.</p> <p>Life Membership, Australian Marine Sciences Association.</p> |
| Announcement Event | The Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List |
| Award ID | 2007324 |

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN



*Managing COVID-19 isolation. Today's virtual dive.
Photo courtesy of Peter Beaumont.*

Boating Industry Association of Victoria

The Boating Industry Association of Victoria has an update on what the easing of restrictions means for boating. They include a great video which puts the message across in a simple and clear way. For further information, please visit:

<https://www.biavic.com.au/covid19-update>

CASTLE ROCK

CASTLE ROCK

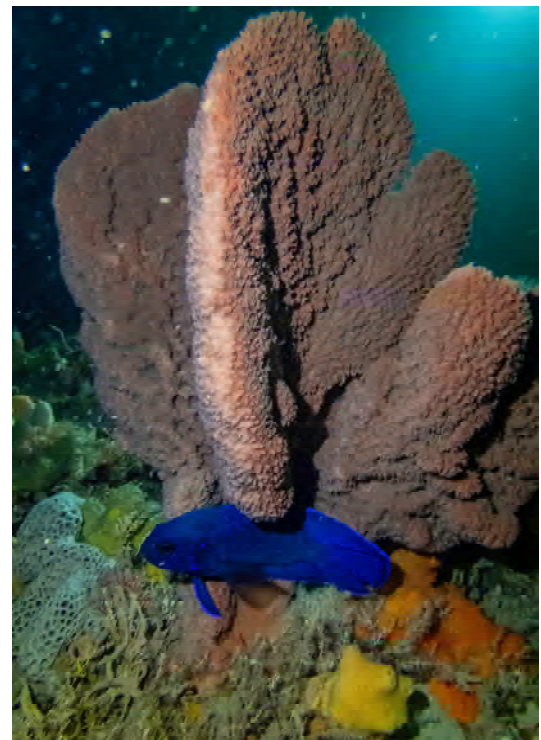
17th May, 2020.

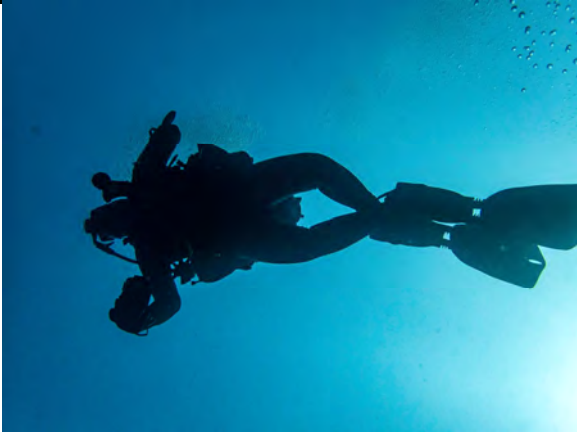
A great day's diving with Red Boats on Saturday. In typical fashion, Luke and his crew took a professional and common sense approach to diving in the current environment with only 8 divers on board and reminding us to keep apart the required distance. Missed the Dimsims though.. but totally understood the reason for them not coming out post dive. It was the first day out for the crew and you could tell they had a well thought out plan in place for boarding, diving and post dive procedures. I'm not sure, with only 8 divers, how commercially viable it is to run the boats, but appreciated the efforts to put the dives on for people comfortable in diving in this environment.

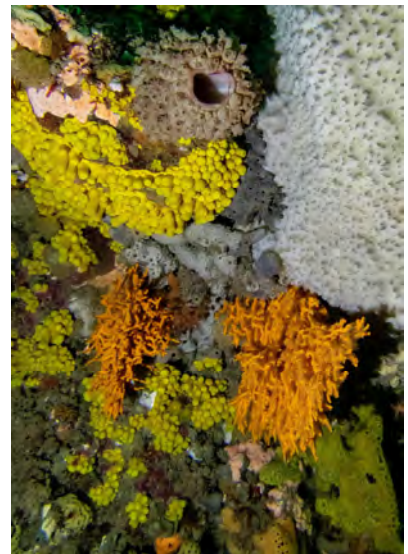
I dived Castle Rock with another single diver I have dived with before, Paolo, and North wall Corner with Mathew Leviny, another recent member to VSAG, who I have dived with previously. Although my previous tank fills were a bit low, 170 and 190 Bar, I managed two fairly decent dives. The conditions were great with minimum swell and reasonable visibility, especially at Castle Rock. Following are a few of

the more decent photos from the days dive.

- *Brian Heatherich.* ❖







PORTSEA HOLE

PORTSEA HOLE.

VSAG dive with Redboats.

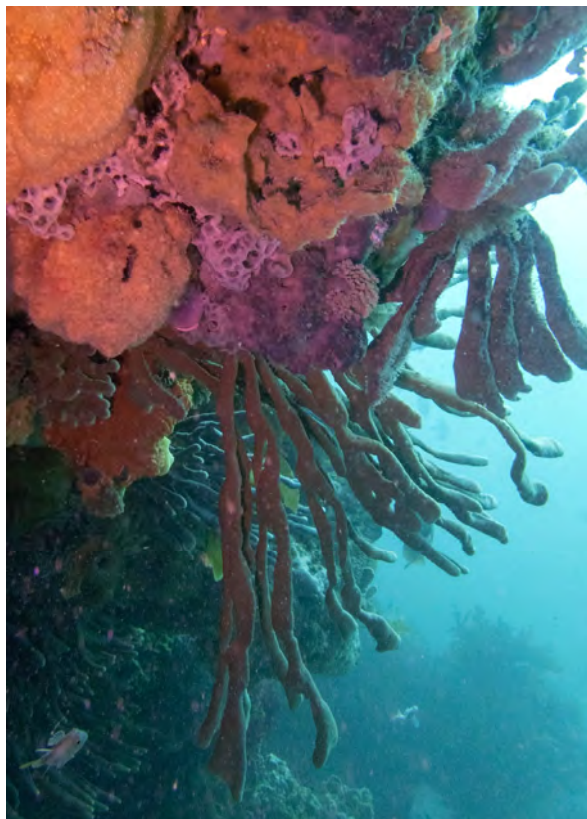
23rd May, 2020

Wind SSW 20km/h, Swell 1m at Heads.

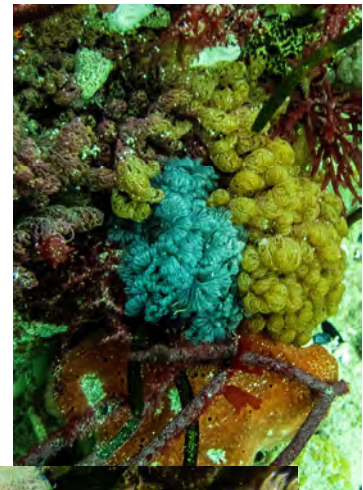
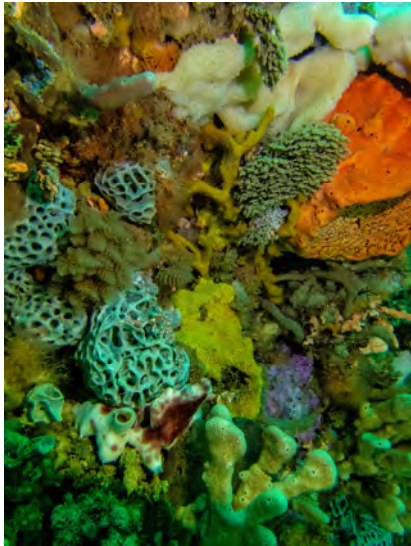
Depth 29.2m, temp 13°C, Vis 12m+.

I love how each location is remarkably different from each other. The diversity between dive spots only a few km apart is amazing.

- *Brian Heatherich.* ❖





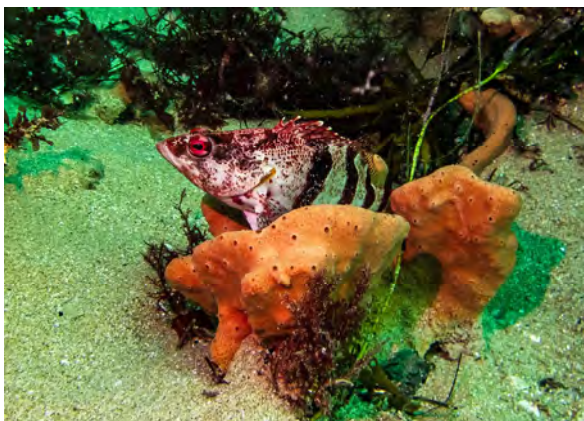
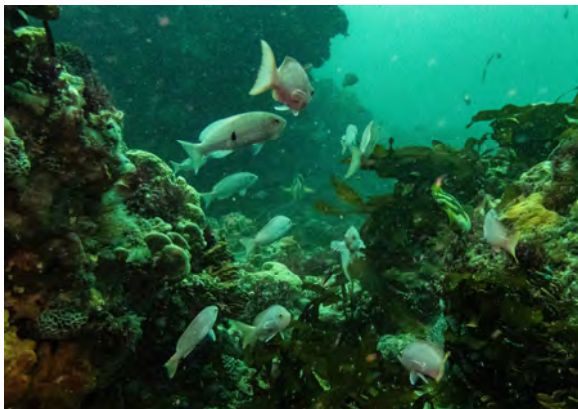


PORTSEA HOLE

23rd May, 2020

The dive was great, after being out of the water since February. Flat seas, sun shining and not crowded. There was lots of marine life, blue devils, wrasse, 3 Port Jackson sharks. Water was 14 deg, but woollen thermals under the 7mm wetsuit kept me warm. My dry suit is waiting for a neck seal replacement. There were 9 divers on the boat and while 1.5m distancing wasn't always possible, I felt comfortable with everyone trying to maintain a suitable distance.

- Bert Parker ❖



Captain Nitro's Drop-off

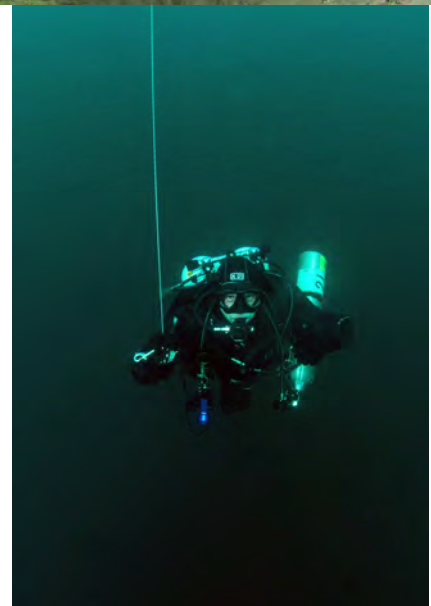
CAPTAIN NITRO'S DROP-OFF

7th June, 2020

Taxi waiting, gear ready, vis looks good. Captain Nitros Drop-off here we come.

No wind, no waves, no shipping, granted a bit chilly but it couldn't have been much better, this mornings diving. Suitably socially distanced, Chris Porter and I jumped on Redboats for a slack water on Captain Nitros Drop-off. The water was a bit green but vis was an acceptable 10-15m. We dropped down to 45m and drifted with the ebb before turning on slack and slowly making our way back up to the top of the wall. Some great territory and plenty of life around. I noticed a couple of decent Crayfish back on the boat but we didn't see any.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



MILORA

MILORA

13th June, 2020

Chris Porter and I headed out to the Ships' Graveyard this morning, on board Red Rover with skipper Luke English of Redboats, for a dive on the Milora. The Milora is the biggest wreck in the graveyard and is very accessible at 40m. Despite the strong wind warning on the bay and a bumpy start to the trip, once we were through the heads we had a smooth ride out, with dolphins shadowing the boat for a while.

We were given nice long run times, with some on board going for 90 minutes, although Chris and I stuck to 66 mins.

The wreck has quite a lot of structure and it is covered in impressive Sea Fans. There were plenty of fish around including a Port Jackson taking a snooze inside the wreckage.

The collier, Milora, was heavily damaged in a severe storm in Bass Strait, suffering engine damage and the breaking of the rudder post, rendering the vessel uncontrollable. As a result, she drifted past the Point Lonsdale lighthouse into "The Rip" and ran aground on the Rondella Reef. Bumping heavily, she



threatened to break up but as the tide ebbed, her position became more stable. As a result, the captain and crew remained aboard. Attempts were made to refloat the vessel but were initially unsuccessful. By the 28th of September, 1800 tons of coal, from a total cargo of 2800 tons, had been jettisoned and the vessel, sufficiently lightened but with all holds extensively flooded, was towed off the reef by the tugs Toorong, James Paterson and Eagle. Two of these tugs were then lashed to either side of the Milora to manoeuvre the stricken ship; the third towed the vessel to Williamstown for repair. The Milora was subsequently found to be a total constructive loss and unseaworthy. She was stripped of all salvageable items, towed into deeper water in the Ships' Graveyard and scuttled.

WRECK DATA

Name: MILORA (+1935)

Date wrecked: 08/03/1934

Protected: Protected

Comments: Ran ashore at Barwon Heads, 21, Sept. 1934, and then scuttled in Bass Strait, 8 March 1935.

VESSEL DATA

Draft(metres): 8.3

Type: Steamer screw

LOA(metres): 100.9

Builder: Commonwealth Naval Dockyard

Port built: Williamstown, Victoria

Country built: AUSTRALIA

Date built: 1921

Port registered: Melbourne

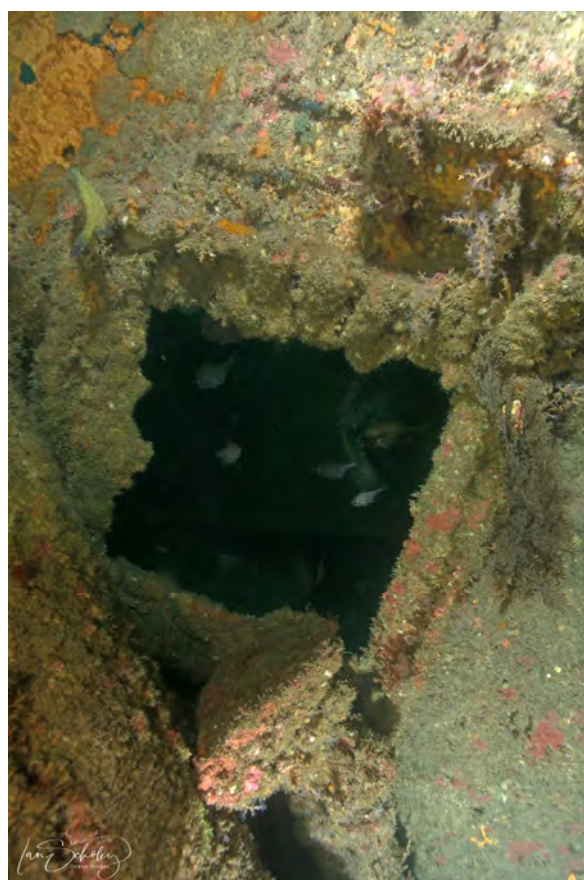
Official no.: 151541

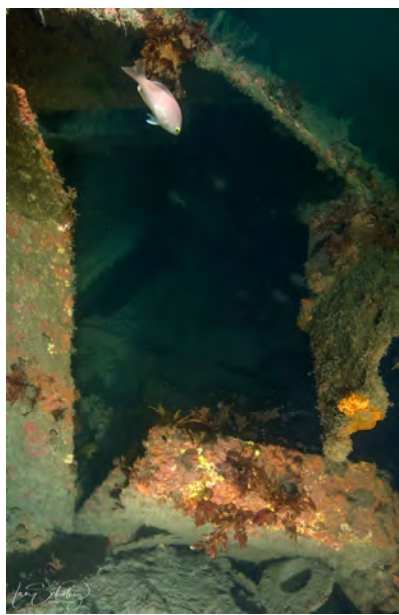
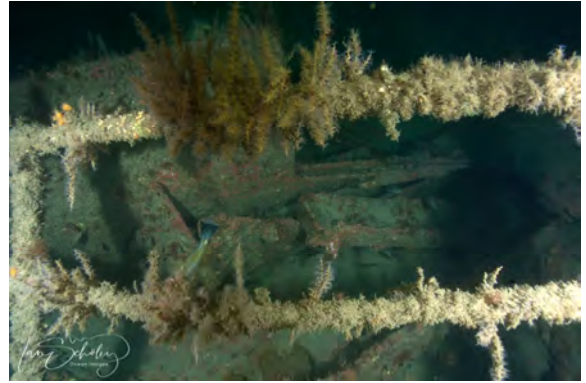
Registered no.: Melbourne 1926

Cargo: Coal

Owner: Australasian United Steam Navigation Co. 000

-Ian Scholey. ❖





MELBOURNE Sea Slug Census

Sea Slug Census Eight:

Winter Wonderland Edition

The water temperature may be dropping, but our slugs are out and about.

If you're out enjoying the ocean anytime throughout Friday 10 – Monday 13 July, take a photo of anything that looks like a marine slug and send it to:

melbourneseaslugcensus@gmail.com

This will be the eighth Sea Slug Census held in Victorian waters, and we're developing a solid data set on our southern nudibranch species. We will be accepting images taken from all along the Victorian coastline – just let us know the location and date when you submit. Further details, as well as past reports featuring images of all the species we've recorded so far, can be found on our website.

If you are heading to the coast during this time, please remember to follow all advice from health and environmental authorities around social distancing, access to sites and water quality, as well as practising safe in-water and above-water activities. Take care and stay safe

MELBOURNE Sea Slug Census

Winter Wonderland Edition

10-13 July 2020



vnpa.org.au/programs/sea-slug-census/

while enjoying our wonderful wild spaces. For more information about current advice and restrictions check with your local council, Parks Victoria, and the Victorian health department. Within Port Phillip Bay, you can check your local beach conditions and water quality at the Yarra and Bay Beach Report.

www.australia.gov.au/

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au

www.parks.vic.gov.au

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

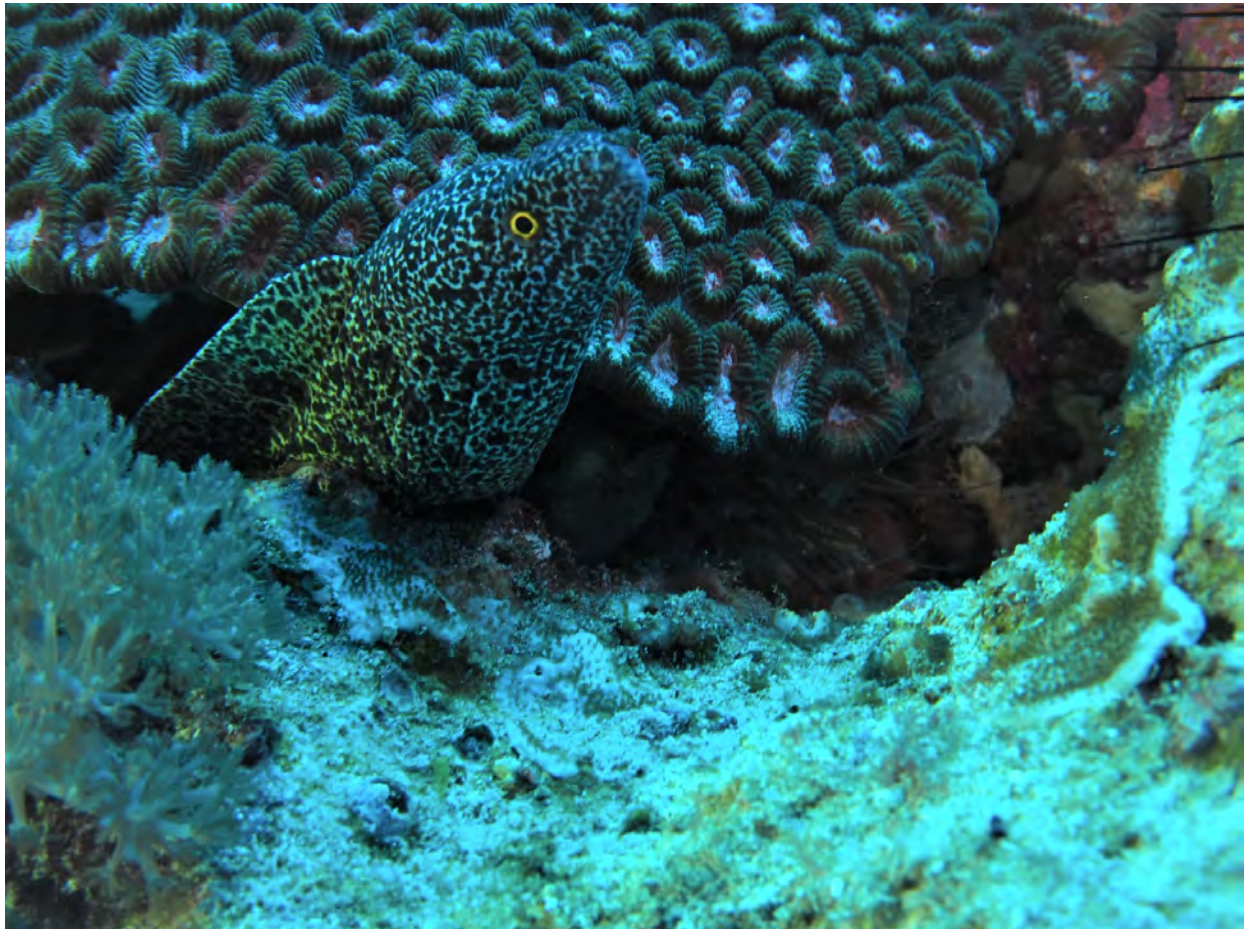
First - March/April 2020



Fiddler Ray - by Phil Watson

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - March/April 2020



Eel, Lord Howe Island - by Carol Penfold

MARCH/APRIL 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION

Despite the unusual challenges in diving over the last couple of months, there was still some travel completed in March and a bit of local diving for the photo competition. 1st for March and April was Phil Watson's Fidler, followed by Carol Penfold's Eel from Lord Howe Island. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Nice Fish, Lord Howe Island
- by Carol Penfold*



*Flat Head, Point Cook
- by Phil Watson*



Lord Howe Island - by Tim Forster



Lord Howe Island - by Tim Forster

MARCH/APRIL 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION



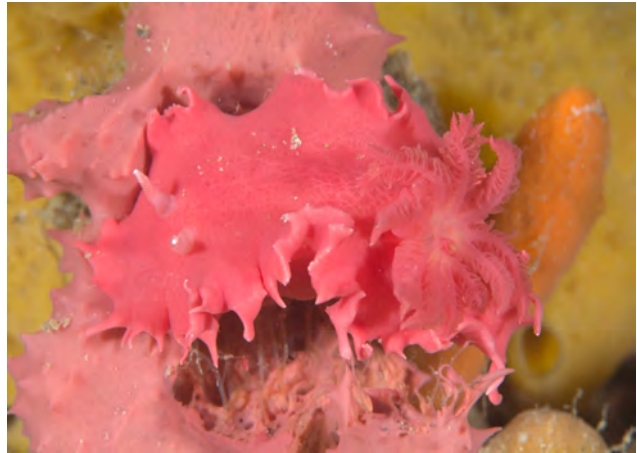
*Bazaruto Island, Mozambique
- by Mark Jeffrey*



Dogfish, Williamstown - by Phil Watson



*.Fishing yacht, Bazaruto Island,
Mozambique - by Mark Jeffrey*



*Noumea Verconis, Blairgowrie
- by Ian Scholey*



Southern Velvet Fish, Blairgowrie - by Ian Scholey

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal First - May 2020



Equal First - Big Softie, NSW - by Rowan Salger

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Equal First - May 2020



Equal First - Happy Crab, Rye - by Matthijs Smith

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST
PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**

Second - May 2020



You can't see me, Rye - by Matthijs Smith

MAY 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION

Another great collection of photos from VSAGers this month with Rowan and Matthijs taking out equal first. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



*Pipe Fish, Williamstown
- by Phil Watson*



*.Wide Bodied Pipe Fish, Blairgowrie
- by Ian Scholey*



*Blue Devil, Queenscliff
- by Phil Watson*



*Snake Skin Wrasse, Hurricane
- by Ian Scholey*

MAY 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION



*Perfect Dive Day, Flinders
- by Mark Jeffrey*



*Blue Devil, Castle Rock
- by Brian Heatherich*



*Just Chillin', Portsea Hole
- by Brian Heatherich*

KATIE'S COVE

KATIE'S COVE, WILLIAMSTOWN

13th June, 2020

Diving at Katies Cove in Williamstown this morning. Not deep but lots of diversity. Quite a few white Nudies to spot. An enjoyable dive.

- Brian Heatherich. ❖



Boat Trailer Tyre Pressure and Care

One thing which can be overlooked in boating, is correct trailer tyre pressure. Tyres are often forgotten about, as most of us simply walk past them and if they look inflated, we leave them be. Under inflation will lead to higher tyre temperatures, with the risk of over-heating, which can lead to tyres blowing out or excessive wear. Over inflation will lead to increased load on suspension components, can cause severe vibration and your trailer will tend to “float” around more than it should. Inflation past a tyre’s maximum rated pressure is dangerous and should never be done.

Two methods for determining correct tyre pressure are noted below.

This first method is an extract from NRMA web site. It involves conducting a test to ensure correct pressure for your van and its load.

It is impossible to list the correct pressures for every trailer, due to variation in size, load, etc.

This easy check will help you find the best pressure for your trailer tyres.

Inflate the tyres to the pressure recommended by the manufacturer of the trailer and the tyres you are using.

Measure and record the cold start pressure before you start out.

Tow your trailer for a distance of approximately 100km, preferable on a highway.

Recheck the tyre pressures immediately after pulling over and compare them with the cold start pressure you had at the start of your run. If the pressures are right, the hot readings should be 4 psi (28 kPa) higher than the cold start readings.

If the pressure increase is greater than 4psi (28 kPa) higher than the cold reading, the tyre temperature is too high caused by the cold start pressure being too low so the pressure needs to be increased. If there is less than 4 psi (28 kPa) difference, the cold start pressure is too high and needs to be lowered.

Large 4WD tyres will have a differential of 6 psi (42 kPa).

Be sure to use the same gauge for both readings and make sure the gauge is accurate.

The second is from Caravan World Magazine and is a method of calculating your van’s tyre pressures. These tables are for only two tyre sizes, so you may need to either use the NRMA method if you don’t have this tyre size, or get advice from your tyre retailer.

One of the biggest issues related to tyre degradation and tyres not compliant with roadworthy standards

| Inflation pressures | | Tyre Load in kg | |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------|----------|
| kPa | psi | 185R14LT | 195R14LT |
| 175 | 25 | 505 | 540 |
| 200 | 29 | 545 | 585 |
| 225 | 32 | 580 | 625 |
| 250 | 36 | 620 | 665 |
| 275 | 40 | 665 | 705 |
| 300 | 43 | 690 | 740 |
| 325 | 47 | 720 | 780 |
| 350 | 50 | 750 | 800 |
| 375 | 54 | 785 | 845 |
| 400 | 57 | 815 | 880 |
| 425 | 61 | 845 | 910 |
| 450 | 65 | 875 | 950 |

Example for single axle trailer with 185R14LT tyres.

Trailer weight on two wheels =1200 kg

20% safety margin for all the things we put in our boats =240 kg

Total load over two tyres =1440 kg

Load on each tyre =720 kg

Inflation pressure (see table above) =325 kPa(47 psi)

are when cracks occur in the walls of the tyres or valleys of the tread. This can occur due to age, inflation abuse, a lack of use, direct sunlight to name a few. Tyre walls and shoulders should be free of defects, such as bulges or visible damage. Tyres also have a life span and start to lose grip after they reach five years old. Tyres have a manufacturing date on the side wall consisting of four digits which are MMYYY, or month and year of manufacture.

It is essential that the combined tyre load capacity is sufficient for the maximum weight of the trailer, so having the correct tyre fitted is very important. Information on the tyre side walls will provide tyre loads for single and dual axles as well as load

rating number. In many cases this will mean that light truck (LT) or commercial (C) tyres must be used to be sufficient for your trailers load. If in doubt, consult your tyre retailer.

If you are unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident when towing, this is one of the many things that an insurance claims assessor will inspect. They have the right to cancel your insurance due to failure of having a road worthy vehicle.

Always remember, if in doubt, contact a tyre retailer. Correct tyre pressure will provide safe operation, maximum tyre life, the best ride, handling, and fuel economy.

- *Graham Ellis.* ❖

Courier

COURIER

8th June, 2020

Fantastic day's diving today and great to see plenty of Vsagers out making the most of some sensational conditions.

On Barcrusher were David Politakis, John Lawler, Matthijs Smith and Dylan Smith

On Dire Straits were David Geekie, Pamela Dagley and Ian Scholey

We certainly covered the full gambit of diving.

I was able to take advantage of a gap in the shipping movements to grab a dive on the Courier. David and Pam dived Lost Reef. David, JL, Matthijs and Dylan started on Chimney Rock. Matthijs and Dylan then did a second at Barwon Bluff, while I finished off at Lonsdale Arches.

- Ian Scholey. ❖

Thanks to the boat owners first.

The Geekies like Lost Reef, as on one dive occasion they did two dives due to the excellent clarity and all round excellent experience. I can endorse that.



From left: Pamela Dagley, David Geekie, Matthijs and Dylan Smith, David Politakis and John Lawler.



Thanks to my very young dive buddy, Dylan Smith, for great safety diving.. His dad, Matthijs, must be proud.

- John Lawler. ❖

Just a fantastic day all round. So much fun. Thank you everyone.

- Matthijs Smith. ❖



The moons aligned today, with excellent sea conditions and an absence of shipping movements. That allowed me to dive the SS Courier, which sits squarely in the middle of the pilot boarding area. As we approached the mark, we were surrounded by a pod of dolphins. They stayed in the area for the duration of my dive and I was lucky enough to get a swim-by while on one of my deco stops, although I wasn't quick enough with my camera.

The SS Courier was built for Huddart Parker Ltd for the Port Phillip excursion trade. It was also built as an armed auxiliary of the Victorian Navy. On 29 March 1928, after 40 years carrying passengers on the bay, COURIER (Capt. G. Bates) was stripped of fittings and scuttled in the Ships' Graveyard off Port Phillip Bay.

Today, the remains of the Courier lie in 42 metres of water and, as with many of the wrecks in the Ships' Graveyard, the hull has mostly collapsed. The bow and stern sections

are lying over to starboard and are the best preserved parts of the hull. The fore deck still retains a considerable amount of planking, a few deck fittings and some railing on the starboard side. This deck area is quite large and is an impressive sight, standing approximately seven metres off the bottom. Immediately behind this, the hull has totally collapsed, leaving the main deck hatch coaming sitting on the bottom. Behind this are the two boilers sitting in line.

The wreck is absolutely covered in colourful growth making it one of the Graveyards finest dives and one of my favourites.

VESSEL DATA

Draft (metres): 3.8

Type: Steamer screw

LOA (metres): 67.3

Builder: C. S. Swan & Hunter Port
 built: Newcastle-on-Tyne State built:
 England Country built: UNITED
 KINGDOM

Date built: 1887

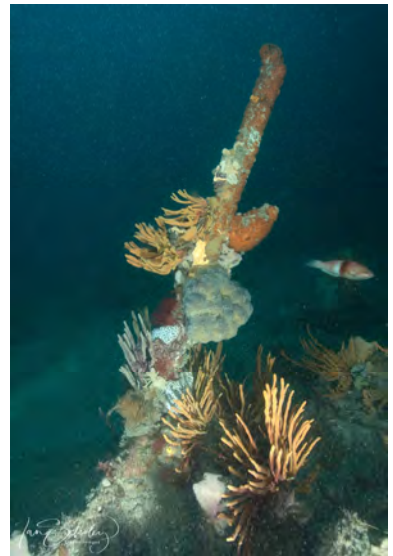
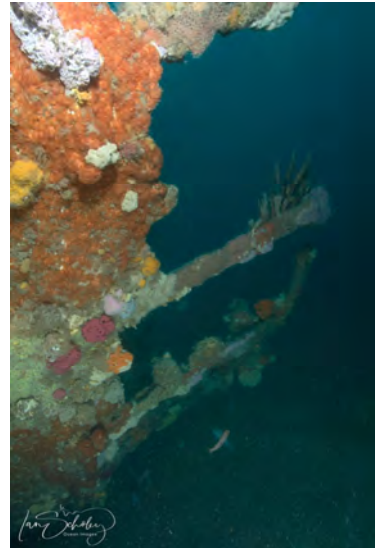
Port registered: Melbourne

Official no.: 95231

Registered no.: Melbourne No.
 24/1887 Master: Capt. G. Bates

Owner: Huddart Parker & Co. Pty .

- Ian Scholey. ❖





A couple more pics from top side yesterday. We had a pod of dolphins swimming around us while we sat above the Courier. I could hear them during the dive but didn't see them until I was on the last of my deco stops at 3m. They came in for a look and then swam off before I could even think about pointing the camera at them.



Check out the conditions for the boat ride home on Dire Straits. Barcrusher is off to our starboard side.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



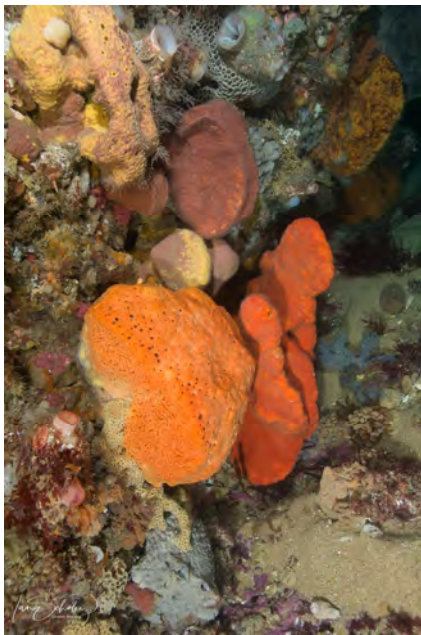
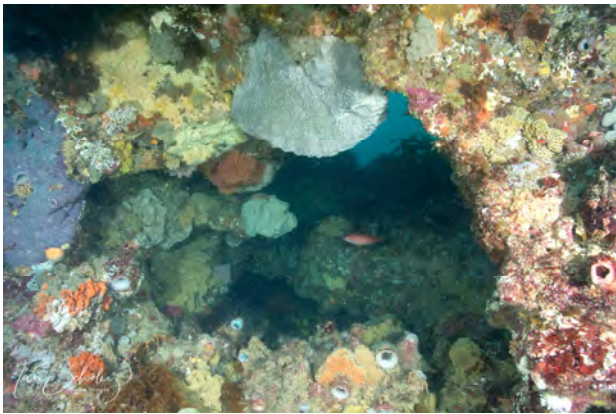
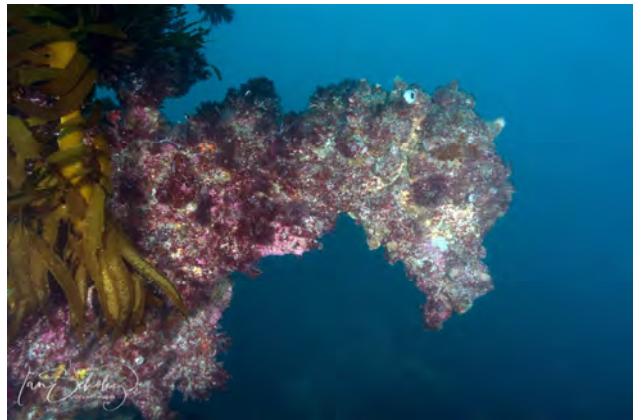
Lonsdale Arches

LONSDALE ARCHES

8th June, 2020

Second dive of the day for me was Lonsdale Arches. Some really nice territory in this area, with plenty of colour. A nice cruisy second dive.

- Ian Scholey. ❖



Cape Patterson

CAPE PATTERSON

16th May, 2020

Great conditions today at Cape Paterson, so I dusted off the kayak for a socially distanced dive. The visibility wasn't great and the water temperature was only 14c. Nice to be back in the water.

-Rowan Salger. ❖



Broughton Island

BROUGHTON ISLAND

13th June, 2020

Broughton Island, NSW. Some really close encounters with around 10 grey nurses. They're essential workers apparently.

- *Rowan Salger* ❖



Fish Rock

FISH ROCK

16th June 2020

With my international travel plans cancelled due to the coronavirus, I decided that the best thing to do would be to head north and dive a few famous places along the northern New South Wales coast. I spoke with a few VSAG members and got some fantastic recommendations of places to dive. Top of the list of places was Fish Rock, which is near South West Rocks. I got in touch with the South West Rocks Dive Centre and fortunately, they were starting to operate again. I booked a double cylinder dive, which cost \$200.

Before the dive I watched some YouTube videos, so that I knew what to expect on the dive. On the day, we met at the shop at 8 AM and loaded up the boat. We then followed the boat, in our own cars, down to the boat ramp, geared up and headed out across the bar. The bar crossing was a little treacherous, but we managed to get through unscathed. It took around 30 minutes to Fish Rock, by boat, in good conditions. We came across a pod of whales on the way to the rock and the dive operator stopped for a few minutes to allow us to enjoy the whales.



On our boat there were six divers and three crew, one skipper and two dive guides. After a quick dive briefing, we hit the water with the promise of grey nurse sharks. The water was a lovely 20°, which is nice in June. The visibility was also very good, so we descended down into the gutters that run beside Fish Rock. There were a lot of sharks and we were able to dive amongst them and get some great footage. It was amazing to be amongst these big, yet placid creatures, many of them 3m plus in size. The first dive was a maximum 29m with an average depth of 20m, for 50 minutes. We dived on a blend of 32% nitrox.

There was plenty of other things to see, including a sleeping loggerhead turtle, but the sharks keep you mostly focused on them.

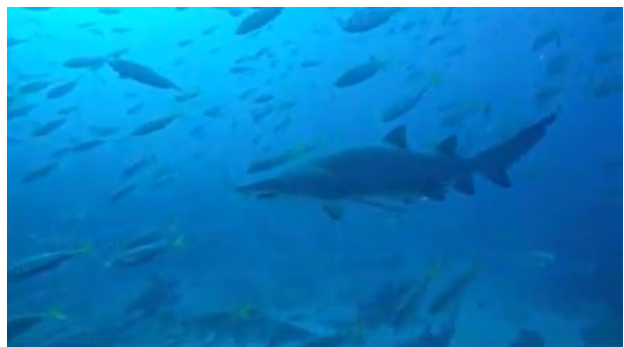
During the surface interval, the dive operator offered us a selection of snacks, biscuits, soup, coffee or tea. There were more whales in the vicinity of the rock during the surface interval, so we were kept entertained. The mosquitos, that somehow survive on the rock, soon found us and were a bit annoying.

On the second dive, we planned to swim right through Fish Rock Cave, so you'll need a good flashlight. The cave is approximately 80 m long and starts at a depth of 23 meters. There was a little bit of surge at the entrance to the cave, so we had to keep social distancing, so that we weren't pushed into each other by the surge. The cave was a little tight in some places and had quite a bit of interesting marine life. There were a lot of painted crayfish, a few big groupers, some big wobbegongs and one very big bull ray. In the center of the cave there isn't any natural light and you have to ascend 10m up a tight passage. As you approach the exit on the other side, the natural light starts to penetrate into the cave and you can see the growth on the cave walls increases, the closer you get to the natural light of the exit. Large schools of fish swim around the cave exit and this gives quite an amazing

sight. The cave exit is at around 13m and there are plenty of things to look at around the exit while you wait for the rest of the divers to exit. We still had quite a bit of air left in our cylinders, so we swam around to the shark gutters and spent the remainder of the dive with the sharks. The second dive was a maximum 23m, with an average depth of 14m for 60 minutes. This was also done on a blend of 32% nitrox.

With the diving finished, we packed up and headed back to port. I found the dive to be very enjoyable and highly recommend it to anyone visiting the Central North Coast of New South Wales. Coincidentally, the same night I watched the Australian Ocean Odyssey on the ABC, about the East Australian current. This had some amazing footage, including a 10-minute section on diving Fish Rock. I would recommend anyone interested in diving Fish Rock to go to ABC iView and watch that episode.

- Rowan Salger. ❖



Blairgowrie

BLAIRGOWRIE

13th May, 2020

Finally, the surface interval comes to a close. 6 1/2 weeks without a dive has been torture. It's the longest I have gone without a dive in 15 years. With the restrictions opening up at midnight, I cleared my diary Wednesday afternoon and headed down to Blairgowrie. First thing I noticed, was how much colder the water is now, 14 degrees. Fortunately though I was prepared for that. I had a very enjoyable 2 1/2 hour dive, before the cold finally forced me to head for shore and a hot drink. It would appear that the crabs haven't been in yet, hopefully they will find a new spot. As such, there was plenty of life to be found. As usual, I concentrated on the small stuff, but there were plenty of bigger things about including a couple of big Rays.

We will have boats out on Sunday, but with social distancing rules being followed.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





BLAIRGOWRIE

24th May, 2020.

The wind forecast caused us to cancel today's boat diving. Looking at the conditions, it was a bad call but best to be safe. Instead, Peter Beaumont and I headed down to Blairgowrie early for a shore dive.

Peter saved my day, after a failed battery almost put paid to my photography - always prepared, Pete had a spare. I really need to follow his example and carry back up's.

The vis was very good and as usual, there was lots to see. Highlight today was a Mantis Shrimp with eggs, a very cool Nudibranch to add to my collection and a baby Blueringed Octopus. I also noticed the great variety of Basket Stars about at the moment. All in all, a good day's diving.

- Ian Scholey. ❖





Home: Covered

Car: Covered

Are You?

Can You Afford Not to be a DAN Member?

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

www.danasiapacific.org

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

Rock Lobster Tagging Program

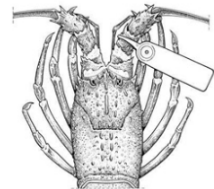
Tagging of recreationally caught rock lobsters commenced on 1 July 2017

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

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

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

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



Save the Rays

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITY

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

You can report illegal fishing activity to 13 3474.

Ray protection fishing rules



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

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

The new rules:

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



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

SafeTrx

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

How it works:

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

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

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

www.coastguard.com.au/SafeTrx

BOAT RAMPS

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

To find a free boat ramp please visit this link

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

DIARY DATES

Philippines & Palau—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

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



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

Diving with VSAG:

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

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

Full Name;

Mobile Number;

Emergency Contact Information;

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

Date/Details of last dive; and

Gear configuration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Information:

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

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

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

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

Definitions

TBA – To Be Advised

TBC – To Be Confirmed

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

| Date | Day | Event | Dive Captain |
|----------|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 04-01-20 | 05-01-20 | Sat-Sun | David Geekie |
| 11-01-20 | 12-01-20 | Sat-Sun | Ian Scholey |
| 07-01-20 | Tuesday | Committee Meeting | |
| 18-01-20 | 19-01-20 | Sat-Sun | 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 — June 2020

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

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

Tidal Streams at the Heads — July 2020

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

Times have been adjusted for Daylight Savings

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

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 | |

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 coordinates), 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 coordinates), 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



Jane Scholer
Ocean Images