

VARS

ANNUAL REPORT VICTORIAN ARTIFICIAL REEF SOCIETY



Victoria—World Class Temperate Water Diving Destination

www.vars.org.au

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Victoria—World Class Temperate Water Diving Destination

VICTORIAN ARTIFICIAL REEF SOCIETY INC. (VARs)

Committee: 2006/2007

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

It is with great pleasure and a high degree of pride that, as the President of the Victorian Artificial Reef Society, I submit this first Annual Report of the Society.

From humble beginnings on the 8th February 2006, the Committee of VARS has been admirably consistent in meeting the Society's objective of securing the EX-HMAS Canberra as an Artificial Reef and Recreational Scuba Dive location in Victorian waters. **It is pleasing to advise that objective has been achieved.**

The Committee has lobbied hard and long to secure the commitment from both State and Federal Governments to finance and gift the vessel which will make Victoria a world class temperate water diving destination with the ex-HMAS Canberra the centre piece of that goal.

Our Partner in the Canberra Project, the lead agency, Tourism Victoria has, from day one, added great support to the project and their contribution, ongoing support and advice has been very substantial. For this VARS is most grateful.

The achievement of securing the vessel could not have been completed, in part, without the financial support of many people and organisations. The seed finances donated by the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria, Dive Industry Victoria and the Victorian Sub Aqua Group enabled some of the costs to be covered. Thank you.

The day to day minor expenses have been mainly covered out of pocket by the generosity of the VARS committee members. Thank you

To the current members who have joined VARS with their valuable contributions of \$50, your support and commitment is acknowledged and appreciated, thank you.

The need to have an operational working base for the VARS committee has been provided by Aquability in Mentone, our thanks to Adrian Kellett and Mark Ryan for their generous offer.

To ensure the Canberra is laid to rest in the most appropriate position has taken some considerable private and work time and effort by members and associates of the VARS team, including Tom Wende. Tom funded these exercises by making his charter vessel and knowledge available. To those who conducted those valuable marine site exercises VARS extends gratitude.

The success of the project, to date, would not have been at all possible without the dedication, passion and professionalism by the VARS committee and the VARS associate members. To the core Committee Members Alan Storen, John Allsop, Mick Jeacle, Tom Wende, Mike Reed, thank you very much.

The VARS committee member's contributions are, and have been, of a very high standard, yet it is appropriate to make some further comments.

To give the Committee Members confidence and direction in the communications and meetings with Governments and agencies, we owe much to Mike Reed for his direction and document preparation which have been exceptional. Thank you.

To Alan Beckhurst, truly a person with great understanding, wisdom and incredible knowledge of the marine environment, who gave me personally and VARS much professional direction, advice and support and made himself available for so many meetings to assist the VARS cause, my sincere thanks.

Alan Storen put a substantial amount of input into the transferring the domain name hmascanberra to VARS, ensuring the minutes were done, and is responsible for all the preparation of the VARS AGM report, format and preparation...thank you Alan

Thanks also to the many others who have provided help and /or assistance to VARS including Trevor Williams, Rubens Monaco, Bryan McGoldrick, Jason Salter, Peter Brennan, Amber Nelson, Daniel Grimm and also politicians Brendan Nelson, Greg Hunt, Lisa Neville, Stewart McArthur, Tim Holing and their support staff.

The hmascanberra.com.au and vars.org.au websites are without doubt amongst the most impressive and professional sites in the world of the scuba diving community. One the Victorian scuba diving community can be truly proud of. This site has, and will now, carry the ongoing messages and updates on the project nationally and internationally. To Lloyd Borrett and his brother Kim Borrett, VARS and the dive industry extends much gratitude.

From this point on moving forward, the Victorian dive industry has a wonderful opportunity to capitalise on the development of all their dive businesses with the Canberra Project and it would be to the satisfaction of the Victorian Artificial Reef Society and to all who have contributed to it's success, that this opportunity is not lost.

John Lawler
President



VARS committee
meets with the
Minister for Defence,
Brendan Nelson and
Stewart McArthur

Treasurer's Report

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	
Surplus for the period	<u>\$ 2,131</u>
Represented by assets:	
Cash at bank	\$ 2,131
Less: Liabilities	<u>Nil</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,131</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD FROM DATE OF INCORPORATION (29 MARCH 2006) TO 30 JUNE 2007

INCOME	
Joining fees	1,500
Donations	1,502
Bank interest	6
	<u>\$ 3,008</u>
EXPENDITURE	
Stationery	125
Postage	40
Hospitality	381
Parking	30
Miscellaneous	<u>301</u>
	<u>\$ 877</u>
NET SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD	<u>\$ 2,131</u>



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