

# VARS

## Annual Report 2008



### President's Report 2008



As President of the Victorian Artificial Reef Society Incorporated, it is again my pleasure to present the second Annual Report of the Society.

The year passed has witnessed positive advances and achievements with the EX-HMAS Canberra Project, to a point where the vessel is now in Victorian waters and currently being professionally prepared for her eventual resting place and positioning as a national and international dive destination and the centre piece to make Melbourne a “world class temperate water dive destination.”

As I made mention in this place last year, the success to date of the project is the result of the then existing committee and the inclusion of new members to the committee. All 8 committee members have been strongly positive and committed to the application of their respective roles.

To all the VARS Committee, Alan Storen, Warrwick McDonald, Mick Jeacle, Jason Salter, Alan Beckhurst and Bryan McGoldrick, sincere thanks for your valuable commitment to the project.

I hasten to add, that the articles and regular updates to the dive community and Dive Log prepared and written by the Communications member Mike Reed, have been of an exceptionally high standard and served to ensure the dive community at large was kept up to date with the information at hand at the time of preparation.

Jason Salter has made a much appreciated contribution to the Project by making his charter vessels available for the arrival of the EX-Canberra and subsequent trips to take dive teams out to survey the proposed scuttle site, and has developed a very strong relationship with the Contractor in his role as head of the ship preparation Sub Committee.



To Lieutenant Commander Mackenzie (Mac) J Gregory, RAN (retired) we express our pride and appreciation in having you as Patron to VARS Thank you Mac.

The VARS Committee has been most appreciative of the strong, positive working relationship which exists with the contractor, the Birdon Group, who have, from the very outset of the project, given and received valuable advice on the project since the arrival of the vessel in June. VARS extends our gratitude to the Birdon Group for its support.

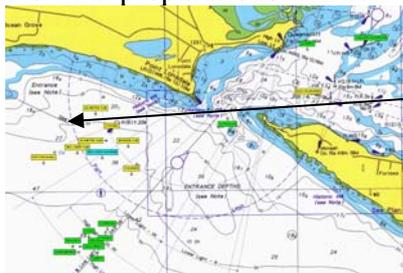
To the advisors to the Birdon Group, Ken Stenning, Lynn Curnow, Geoff Paynter and Norm Lineham VARS extends our thanks for the professional advice to both the contractor and VARS.

A project of the magnitude of the Ex- Canberra requires the valuable input from the Victorian Government and selected agencies. VARS has appreciated the working involvement with the lead agency, the Department of Sustainability under Dick Ford and Caroline Douglas.

Federally, VARS has been well informed and directed by the Project Manager The Defense Material Organization ( DMO) through John O'Reilly and David McCartney.

Along this journey over the past year VARS has been supported by many volunteers, too many to mention in this report, however they know who they are and VARS will remain extremely grateful for their input.

With the proposed time frame for the much anticipated scuttle looming into sight, that is, early in 2009, the final preparations will call on, far more than ever before, the available time of VARS and Volunteers.



Approximate Site

The site management involvement with Parks Victoria, the best outcome for the depth setting of the mast with the Port of Melbourne Authority and Marine Safety, a proposed Code of Practice for safe diving formulated in conjunction with the Victorian dive community, the placement of memorials to the Ex-Canberra at Portsea and Queenscliff and the excitement of the festivities celebrating the scuttle day and the Dive industry celebratory Black Tie ball will hastily consume that available time.

Finally, VARS is pleased to advise that Geelong Otway Tourism, under Roger Grant and his team will work closely from this point on to ensure that the EX-Canberra is marketed strongly, both Nationally and Internationally to ensure that the vessel is the centre piece to make Melbourne a world class temperate water diving destination. Part of that promotion is a professionally made 3D swim through of the vessel...part funded by the GOT.

Complimenting this also is a documentary on the Canberra Project which is well advanced at this stage.

Beyond the completion of the Ex-Canberra project, VARS will continue to monitor the probable listing of other Navy vessels which could be decommissioned and secured as dive sites in Victorian waters.

Thank you.

John Lawler  
President.  
Victorian Artificial Reef Society Inc

**VICTORIA- WORLD CLASS TEMPERATE WATER DIVING DESTINATION**  
**[www.vars.org.au](http://www.vars.org.au)**

# Treasurer's Report

## **STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 JUNE 2008**

<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	
Surplus for the period	\$ 556
Balance brought forward	\$ <u>2,131</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ <u>2,687</u></b>
Represented by assets:	
Cash at bank	\$ 2,687
Less: Liabilities	<u>Nil</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ <u>2,687</u></b>

## **STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE** **FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2008**

<b>INCOME</b>	
Joining fees	\$ 1,300
Bank interest	<u>12</u>
	<b>\$ <u>1,312</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Stationery	64
Postage	88
Hospitality	168
Website renewal fee	249
Lodgement fees – State Government	105
Miscellaneous	<u>82</u>
	<b>\$ <u>756</u></b>
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ <u>556</u></b>