

# THE SOUTHERN SPEARO

MAR 2010 > [www.southernfreedivers.org.au](http://www.southernfreedivers.org.au)



## VICTORIA-THE PLACE TO BE

What a massive few months our club has had. The 58th Australian Spearfishing Titles, The Victorian Titles, Kingfish everywhere, and record numbers of participants in our club dives and on our website forum.

Let me start with the State Titles which were held in Port Fairy over the Australia Day weekend. Griffith Island on the first day had average vis, with solid swell and a strong current greeting those who chose to venture outside the lagoon. Drew Fenney won the day with 15 species (100% for our club series) which was a great effort on day 1.

On day 2 at Killarney, the conditions were much better, and this was reflected in the scores. The top 7 divers came in with 10 or more fish. Highlights of this day were Aaron Crocombe's Vic record Nannagai, and Louie Papas almost winning the day with 15 species. Murray Peterson also had 15 which won him the day and also the Victorian Title. This makes Murray the 8th different winner in as many years of the Victorian Title.

The 58th Australian Spearfishing Titles were held in Victoria on the 21st to 27th Feb, 2010. Details of this event are contained in the double page spread on pages 2 and 3.

This season has been by far the best in a very long time for spearing Kingfish in Victoria. In the Bay, Cape Schank, Phillip Island, and Harmers Haven have all produced in recent months. Also, the traditional haunts around Wilsons Prom have had schools of hundreds of fish of all sizes cruising around with spearos, resulting in many captures. Drew Fenney landed a 20.7kg fish there recently to claim the state record which has stood for 26 years. Hopefully, this year is the start of something more regular.

In the coming months, the Southern Bluefin and Albacore Tuna will become a target for some off the shelf near Portland. Good luck to any Southern Freedivers who get the chance to land one.



▲ *Drew Fenney with record Kingfish.*

### CLUB SERIES

Only 2 dives remain in our club series for the season. We have had a big turnout of 49 divers so far this season at our events and it has been great to see many new faces. For anybody interested in improving their diving ability, competing in these events is a very effective method. Next club dive is planned to be held on the West coast on Sunday the 11th of April. Contact Dive Convenor Murray for details. Hope to see you there.

### Southern Freedivers

Meetings held 8pm 1st Wed of each month at the Showgrounds, Bennett St Dandenong VIC 3175

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## 58TH AUSTRALIAN TITLES

This year was our turn to host the Australian Spearfishing Titles. As with every year, it takes a massive amount of time and effort to successfully run the national titles. Finalising rules, locations, the scoresheet, safety boats, sponsorship, etc. Not to mention finding the volunteers to donate their time to make it all happen is a huge task.

With 33 competitors signed on, we were all set for our first day of diving at Cape Schank. Big swell and strong currents made it challenging for all. Also, a few seals, or one very hungry seal made light work of many speared fish which were attached to our floats. At the weigh-in, talk of Kingfish up to 30kgs being seen got us excited about what could've been. Good sized Banded Morwong, King George Whiting, and a couple of Snook up to 3kgs were the notable fish caught on day one. Dave Scholefield of South Australia won the day with ten species, but with only two fish separating first and fourteenth, it was still anyone's game.

After a couple of days waiting for the swell to drop, day two of competition saw us all eager to dive at Pyramid Rock. The conditions on this day were great with low swell and the sun was shining. Due to the calmer conditions, the divers spread out a lot more than on day one. Once again Kingfish were seen, but none landed. Rob Torelli blew the competition away with seventeen species including a Rockling and a 10kg Conga Eel. Some large Boarfish and Whiting up to 800gms were also speared on this day. The rest of the field had twelve species or less, and would need something special on day three to pass Rob.

Day three was held at Y.C.W Beach, Phillip Island. The water was slightly dirty and some struggled with their entry and exit through the surf, but overall conditions were fine. Kingfish were seen again, but this time Dave Scholefield managed to land one. At 12.7kgs, it won Dave the heaviest and most meritorious fish award. Some more decent Whiting were speared and another Rockling at 3.6kgs was weighed in by day three winner Drew Fenney (12 species).

It was great to see The Southern Freedivers dominate this year's nationals on our home turf. A big thank-you to the volunteers who took time off work to help run this event. It's one thing to set aside time to dive, but

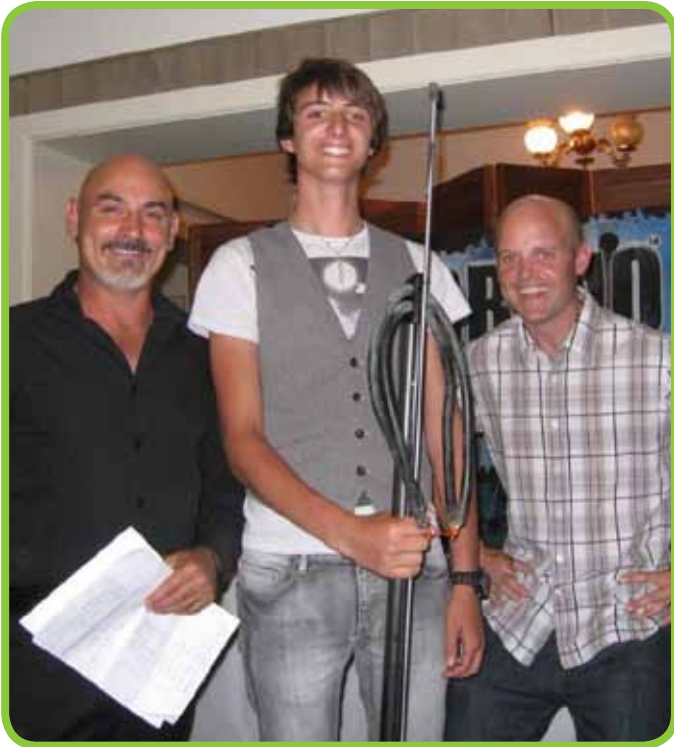
to set aside time so others can dive is a great effort. Special mention to Ziya Mustafa; Paul Dorfstatter; Luke Donnison; Paul Crane; Leigh Elliott and all the other volunteers who did their bit to allow the rest of us to dive.

Results		State
1	<b>Rob Torelli</b>	<b>VIC</b>
2	<b>Murray Peterson</b>	<b>VIC</b>
3	<b>Chris Monaghan</b>	<b>VIC</b>
4	<b>Drew Fenney</b>	<b>VIC</b>
5	<b>Garth Byron</b>	<b>NSW</b>
6	<b>Gunther Pfrengele</b>	<b>NSW</b>
7	<b>Paul Roso</b>	<b>NSW</b>
8	<b>Dave Scholefield</b>	<b>SA</b>
9	<b>Aaron Crocombe</b>	<b>VIC</b>
10	<b>Arnold Piccolo</b>	<b>WA</b>
15	<b>Louie Papadopoulos</b>	<b>VIC</b>
19	<b>Nick Lynch</b> 2nd Int	<b>VIC</b>
21	<b>Trent Crane</b> 1st Jnr	<b>VIC</b>
30	<b>Ryan Harris</b>	<b>VIC</b>
31	<b>Joseph Bednarek</b>	<b>VIC</b>
32	<b>Greg Sperring</b>	<b>VIC</b>



▲ Drew, Chris, Murray and Rob with team trophy.

## 58TH AUSTRALIAN TITLES



▲ Junior Champion Trent Crane.



▲ Overall winner Rob Torelli.

## VIC CHALLENGE

The Victorian Challenge has just over a month to run and has yet again recorded some great catches.

Ash Dew has submitted a 2.4kg Flathead, Jordan Hill a 2.5kg Snapper and a 2.8kg Salmon, Rob Torelli's 3.8kg Snook and of course the 20.7kg Kingfish from Drew Fenney. Murray Peterson and Jordan Hill are fighting it out at the top of the leaderboard, carrying on from last years rivalry. Murray looks to have it won, but Jordan still has time to cause an upset! For a full leaderboard, check out the website forum.

Dont forget, every fish submitted gives you a ticket in the draw for the major prize generously provided by LEGENDARY SPEARFISHING EQUIPMENT.



▲ Rob's 14.5kg Kingy from Cape Schank.

## NEW ZEALAND KINGFISH 2010

It was about a year back since dad Greg Hein and Grant had finally made the decision to go to New Zealand, Greg Ruby started organising the trip and booking our flights. I was "pumped" for about 6 months before the trip; it was something new for me.

When it came to the morning of us leaving all my excitement was gone it didn't feel real. We checked in and boarded our flight. That's about the time I was excited again. We arrived in Auckland and got the car and travelled our way to Whakatane. It took us about 4 hours; being in such a confined space was not the most comfortable ride. We arrived at Whakatane and went to Joes to drop all our gear off and put it in the boat so we could go straight off in the morning. We went to the house and chilled for a bit and then went to sleep. Waking up in the morning I just felt so energetic.

We got to Joes and he took us out about 40 km off shore to White Island. As we pulled in at the first spot I looked at the water and had never seen anything like it, it was just so blue. I jumped in with dad and the boys and took a few shots at some of the good sized kingies I had seen, there were rats everywhere. Through out the day we moved around and in the afternoon I shot a 20kg + king which got off. It was coming time for us to go back to Whakatane. I hopped in and we flashed for a bit and a king came in so I took a shot at it and bought it in my hands to find all bigger kings coming in but I was just happy to have got myself one. That was my aim for the trip. Greg speared a 20 odd kg king and grant and Hein and dad did also. Mine was a 7 kg which I was happy with.

The next day we went out and dived off tauranga at astrolab around 30km off main land. We swam up the whole side of the reef and saw nothing. Joe picked us up and told us the boys have seen schools of some big kings. So we went there and

there were salmon everywhere and a few kingies beneath them. I took my pick out of them after grant shot his. I landed it; it put up a good fight. Everyone got themselves a kingie. I upsized to a 17kg and all the boys fishes were over 20 kg again and Matt shot himself a 32kg kingy. After that we went to another spot where matt speared him self a nice 9 kg snapper.

The next day we went out looking for snapper. I speared my self my first snapper which was only little. Grant shot himself a nice snapper and john dory. The trip was an awesome experience for me and I would recommend it. I can't wait to go back. Thanks to Dad Greg Hein Grant Ian and Matt for helping me out over the trip and thanks to Joe for showing us a good trip.

Mathew Miler



▲ Hein Preller and Matt Miler with their catch.



# Picasso

**If anyone would like to contribute to our newsletter with stories, pictures, recipes, gear for sale, information, advertising (diving and non-diving products/services), opinions, facts or anything else I havent thought of, please do so by contacting the editor. THIS NEWSLETTER NEEDS THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLUB MEMBERS TO EXIST.**