



# Fish 'n' Ships

## All hands on deck!

*Reduced paperwork and we're back on deck and hands - on!*



*An unexpected 'surprise' awaited us on the first of this term - Our services, and those of the purpose built vessel RORQUAL, are no longer required at Merricks Camp!*

So that leaves us with time and energy to offer a variety of programs to an increased number of groups. Our initial splash into the marketplace however, will be to simply offer excursions around areas of Port Philip Bay, stopping to view any of the unique characters that pass our bow, and discussing environmental issues, geographical and historical points of interest. Touch tanks on board is one of the unique features we will be offering and an underwater video system is in the pipeline for the new year.

### WHY CHOOSE 'MV RORQUAL' FOR YOUR NEXT EXCURSION?

- Your whole class can be on board legally!
- Cheaper than other charter boats!
- Wide, steady deck!
- Open sides allowing uninterrupted viewing
- Relaxed atmosphere encouraging interactive learning!
- Local knowledge and exceptional organisational skills!
- Flexible programming & tour options!



**You know the crew!** After 26 years in the business and with some schools working with us for up to 19 years, you can be assured that we will continue to offer quality experiences for you and your students.

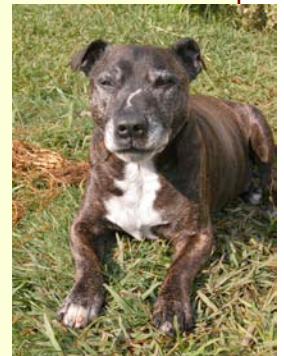
Think about a teachers' inservice or end-of-year family celebration!

## No Seadog!

Although Ribo hyperventilated if there was any possibility that he might be forced aboard a boat, he lapped up all the pats, chats and cuddles from kids on camp. He was one of the most photographed dogs in this hemisphere, a diligent and sometimes overzealous lifeguard and an amazingly patient and loyal friend.

Sadly, Ribo passed away while we were holidaying up north - a biological toxin they said!

Thanks to all those who made his life a happy one!





## WINTER TRAVELS



**Sunrise Lakes Entrance**

'MV ORCA' crewed by Euan Pennington, Warren Perry-Smith and Snowy was again chartered by the Australian Marine Ecology scientists. This time to gain information at Lakes Entrance. Bottom sampling was completed and the data used to offer changes to the dredging methods to prevent the siltation in the entrance.

On the return journey, Paul Long, Jon Lazarus, Dave W, Dave Bretherton and Warren's gutsy young son Liam, took on the elements of the sea. The first few days brought calm seas and great diving, seals and Little penguins. Not so the next few days - 5mtr seas and blowing 50 knots! Glad I wasn't there!

## SNOW BUNNIES

Jacqui and Hayley traded wetsuits and snorkels for

thermals and snowboards and worked the winter at Mt Hotham taking every opportunity to refine their skills on the snow.

Euan also spent some time on the ski slopes as an instructor at Mt Sterling while he wasn't leading uni students up a rock wall or navigating through the bush.

Jim Dyer has worked hard representing a variety of dive gear wholesalers around the country and Steve Rassmussen has worked as a Water Ski instructor at Camp America. Paul Long took on a position as Recreation Officer for Frankston Council and finished off enjoying the Grampians climbing and walking. Jon continued on with his many jobs out of the water and Morgan? I couldn't keep track! Amy Tiv has finished her Teaching Degree as has Danielle Mates, so all in all, the Aqua Camps staff as it was, was a darn good team with an enormous number of skills and dedication.

### **And our winter?**

Dave, Ribo and I travelled north to Mackay and back with all the toys. There were plenty of adventures with surfboards, snorkels, canoes, bikes and legs ... and 2,500 photos of wildflowers, coastlines and animal life. Oh .. and we bought 700 acres of forest and bush!

### **The Future for Us is YOU!**

We are looking forward to hosting groups of students, families, staff and friends on board 'MV RORQUAL'.

We would appreciate it if you could pass this newsletter onto other teachers or offer us suggestions for other groups that may be interested in what we have to offer. Why not join us for a social event sometime?

## Coastlines n Wildlife

