

# PROFESSIONAL DIVERS TRAINING ACADEMY

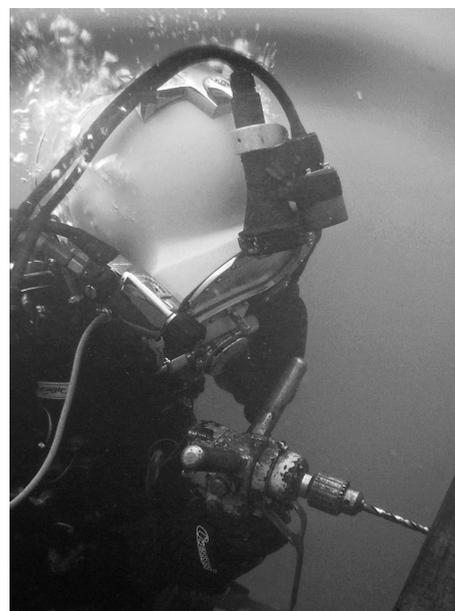
## Professional Divers Group acquires Descend Underwater Training Centre

The Professional Divers Group Pty Ltd has recently acquired 'Descend Underwater Training Centre' in Albury, NSW. Professional Diving Services, which is the commercial diving arm of the Professional Divers Group, brings in excess of 30 years of diving industry experience and expertise to a brand new purpose-built occupational diver training facility in Albury. The new diver training facility will operate as 'Professional Divers Training Academy'. This is a significant investment by the Professional Divers Group, in what will be a first-class occupational diver training centre operating under the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS).

Professional Diving Services began in 1980 when Frank Zeigler opened the first PDS facility in Portland Victoria, servicing both the commercial diving needs of the busy Port of Portland and the recreational diving community in the area. In the mid 1990's Frank was joined by Mal Venturoni in Melbourne, when PDS opened a brand new premises to service their diving contract work, which has continued to grow rapidly ever since. Both Frank and Mal are energetic, hard working Directors, with a combined "can do" vision and attitude always focusing on client satisfaction and commercial diving excellence and above all safety.

The new 'Professional Divers Training Academy' will retain the ADAS Occupational Diving Program under the leadership of senior instructor, Rick Austin,

who has had 15 years experience at Descend and training under the ADAS system. The diving school was the first ADAS approved occupational diver training facility in Australia and has trained in excess of 500 students, whom have gone on to commence an exciting diving career. The new facility will also offer separate programs for the needs of scientific and commercial/construction divers. Professional Divers Group also brings to

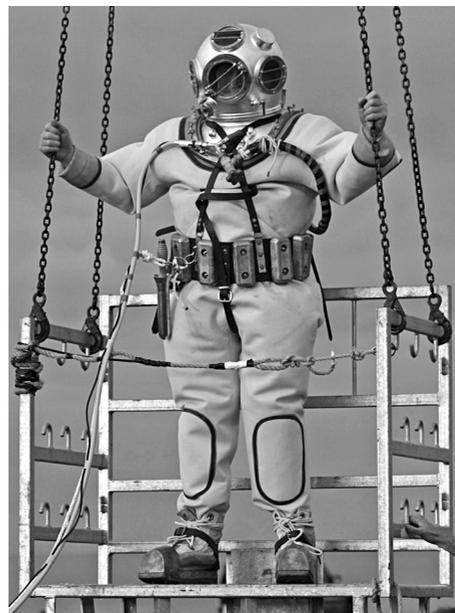


the training facility an extensive range of equipment to expose student divers to the tools they will encounter during their career.

The new combination of the three PDS facilities located in Melbourne, Portland and Albury, will further increase their fast response to all commercial diving infrastructure work across Victoria and interstate. Professional Divers Group also operate 'Hyperbaric Technologies Australia' and the OH&S registered training organization 'Smarter Safer Solutions' and develop products to increase safety in the workplace.

The Professional Diving Services facilities will continue to offer the recreational diving industry service and NAUI diver training through its dive shops located at each of its offices in Melbourne, Portland and Albury.

A world-first addition to NAUI specialty diving courses was introduced by PDS two years ago, when a Standard Dress Diver training program was developed to specifically service the training requirements of members of the Historical Diving Society. More recently, PDS also ran its first NAUI Vintage Scuba diving specialty course, again for HDS members. Professional Diving Services strongly support the activities of the Historical Diving Society.



Professional Diving Services large team of divers attend daily, to the majority of the major and minor port facility diving requirements, including works for the Ports of Melbourne, Geelong and Portland. PDS divers also work extensively throughout inland Victoria, in the State's rivers and water supply reservoirs. These include the installation of underwater pipelines, major wharf and marine infrastructure construction, demolition projects and the salvage of vessels of all sizes. From small diving services work to multi-million dollar contracts, PDS has obtained a wealth of experience from such projects.

Professional Diving Services also supply diving services for the maintenance and survey of underwater structures, including wharves, piers and reservoir inlet towers. The recent Channel Deepening Project within Port Phillip Bay also required a great deal of underwater construction, survey work and environmental monitoring, which was undertaken by the divers at PDS.

One of the more unusual contaminated environmental diving jobs undertaken by PDS, is the routine inspection and maintenance of a 90 million litre methane reactor. According to the divers "this is like



crawling through a tub of rotting cottage cheese, at 40 degrees". Major works have also been conducted at the same plant to relocate piping inside the reactor and to dredge and remove approximately 1000 cubic metres of dead bacteria, from the floor of the reactor.

With an excellent record for friendly and reliable professional service in the commercial diving industry, PDS also offers the following services:

- Underwater construction, demolition and maintenance
- Ship surveys, repairs and salvage
- Underwater structural surveys of marine infrastructure and reporting
- Contaminated diving in all fluids including sewerage, chemicals and oil
- Underwater cutting and welding
- Sediment sampling, environmental monitoring & heritage surveys
- Underwater digital still and video photography
- Ultrasonic thickness testing and magnetic particle inspection
- Potable water tank inspection and cleaning
- Vessel hire - PDS have a fleet of work vessels and barges

Occupational Diving programs will commence at the Professional Divers Training Academy in July 2011. Visit [www.professionaldiverstrainingacademy.com.au](http://www.professionaldiverstrainingacademy.com.au) for further details.

# dive safety begins with me.

A diver collapses after a dive.

She urgently needs oxygen.

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