

SDF News Sheet, April 2007

This news sheet is provided as a service to members of the
SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA

Working to develop the sport of Scuba diving in SA

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ANZAC Day is coming up mid-next week (Wednesday 25th April). Hope that you get to enjoy some good diving then (if you're not attending the ANZAC Day march and ceremonies). If the weather is unsuitable for either, Harbour Town (by the Adelaide Airport) is open from 12noon to 5pm on the day.

If you don't have the time to read through everything in this news sheet, take advantage of the following table of contents (which contains **most** of the headings). Click on any item of interest to proceed straight to that section.

CONTENTS:

NEXT MEETING	2
PRESENTATION RE PROPOSED DESALINATION PLANT AT WHYALLA	2
DIVE IN TO EARTH DAY	2
COMEDY CORNER	2
ULTIMATE SPLASH PARTY	3
SCUBA AAS	3
REEF WATCH NEWS	3
TEMPERATE REEFS DVD SET	3
SHOP NEWS	4
CLUB NEWS	4
DATA ON 2006 SHARK ATTACKS	4
SHARK SHIELD FOR SURFERS	4
RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE	5
SOUTHERN SIDE-GILLED SEA SLUG SIGHTING	5
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SA WHALE CENTRE	5
NEW FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT	5
FERRY UPDATE	5
OZTeK NEWS	6
MORE NEW FROM OVER THE BORDER	6
HMAS <i>CANBERRA</i> UPDATE	6
PORT PHILLIP BAY CHANNEL DEEPENING	6
BEN CROPP	6
STAYING ALIVE	6
HOWEA DIVERS PTY LTD - LORD HOWE ISLAND	7
ANNIVERSARIES	7
FORTHCOMING EVENTS	7
LEAFY SEADRAGON FESTIVAL	7
JERVIS BAY UNDERWATER SHOOT-OUT	7
WA UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION	7
ADEX	7
LORD HOWE ISLAND UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIVING WEEK	8
BYRON BAY UNDERWATER FESTIVAL	8
THE 1770 FESTIVAL 2007	8
HIDEAWAY ISLAND DIVE FESTIVAL 2007	8

THAILAND TRAVEL & DIVE EXPO 2007	8
MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL DIVE EXPO 2007	8
AUSTRALIAN CORAL REEF SOCIETY CONFERENCE	8
SDFSA BULLETIN	8

NEXT MEETING

Our monthly meetings are now well and truly settled at the Marden Senior College on Marden Road, Marden Our next meeting is being held there at 8pm on 8th May. We will have two presentations at our meeting which will be open to all divers. The first presentation will be given by Alex Delaney from the City of Onkaparinga Council. He is presenting details of the proposed foreshore redevelopment at Port Noarlunga. This topic is of great interest to divers at Port Noarlunga reef. The second presentation is being given by Anita Poddar, Senior Public Affairs Advisor, Base Metals, for BHP Billiton and Darren Niejalke. They are giving a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed desalination plant at Port Bonython. Darren Niejalke is closely involved in the research work that is being undertaken for the Environmental Impact Statement for the plant. Please ensure that your club’s appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting.

PRESENTATION RE PROPOSED DESALINATION PLANT AT WHYALLA

As mentioned above, Anita Poddar and Darren Niejalke from BHP Billiton are giving a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed desalination plant at Port Bonython at our 8th May meeting. The presentation will detail BHP Billiton’s proposal for a significant expansion of its operations at Olympic Dam in South Australia’s north. As part of this expansion project, the company has proposed building a desalination plant at Whyalla. As described in last month’s news sheet, BHP Billiton and the State Government signed a memorandum of understanding that the proposed plant would not only supply water for BHP Billiton’s operations but would also provide water for the towns of the Upper Spencer Gulf and Eyre Peninsula in an effort to reduce their reliance on the dwindling waters of the River Murray. BHP Billiton is now significantly advanced in the preparation of its environmental impact statement and has commissioned significant tidal movement monitoring and biological studies to understand the potential impacts of reinjecting brine from the desalination plant into Spencer Gulf. The proposed plant will also have to meet EPA requirements that brine levels fall to 10% of background levels within 100m of discharge to the Gulf.

DIVE IN TO EARTH DAY

Dive In To Earth Day* is held each year during the week of Earth Day (22nd April) to ensure that the 72% of the planet covered by water is not forgotten during the annual Earth Day celebrations. It is coordinated each year by the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL). This year’s Earth Day is next Sunday (22nd April). For more information visit: <http://www.coral.org/divein> or read page 50 of the April issue of Dive Log.

*“Dive In To Earth Day” would have been “Dive Into Earth Day” but the acronym would have been DIED so it was made “Dive In To Earth Day” (or DITED) instead.

COMEDY CORNER

(The only contender for this month)

‘SCUBA DIVING’ COWS

ABC TV’s “Landline” program which aired on 15th April featured ‘bovine scuba divers’. kitted out with methane canisters. More details are included in the April issue of our SDFSA Bulletin. Visit <http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2006/s1897018.htm> for further details.

ULTIMATE SPLASH PARTY

The Dive Industry Association of SA is holding a “Splash Party” on Saturday 26th May. It is being held at the Somerton Surf Lifesaving Club, The Esplanade, Somerton Park from 7.30pm to 1am. It is a “black tie” event with music from Two Hard Basket, 2 hours of hors-d’oeuvres, door prizes and a scuba auction. Tickets cost \$45 each and all profits from the party go towards recreational diving in SA. Contact Nicole at Adelaide Scuba on 8296 0577 to arrange your tickets.

SCUBA AAS

The Scuba Adventure Activity Standards (Snorkelling, Scuba Diving & Wildlife Swims AAS) were completed late last year. Although these standards are guidelines only and not mandatory, we suggest that clubs use them as a risk management tool and check list. Try to adhere to the standards i.e. appoint a leader, adopt a plan, consider risks, etc.. The standards can be viewed and downloaded from http://www.recreationsa.org/default.php?bgc=304798&pid=aas/aas_updates .

According to the Recreation SA web page at

<http://www.recreationsa.org/default.php?bgc=304798&pid=aas/home> : -

“The Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) are voluntary guidelines aimed at leaders of dependant groups undertaking potentially risky activities in a manner designed to promote:

Safety for both participants and providers

Protection for providers against legal liability claims and criminal penalties

Assistance in obtaining insurance cover.

South Australia's AAS project seeks to address and provide clarity on such issues as equipment use and standards, benchmarks for group size, planning including emergency procedures, competency of leaders, risk management and environmentally sustainable practices for South Australia's adventure sector, which includes commercial and not-for-profit providers.”

REEF WATCH NEWS

2007 marks the 10th anniversary of Reef Watch! Congratulations to the Reef Watch team. The Reef Watch program has extended out to some new areas including Port Lincoln, Whyalla and the south-east. Reef Watch’s instructors have been training groups in both subtidal and intertidal monitoring techniques. The Yorke Peninsula and KI are both also locations visited by Steve & Mark from Reef Watch. Murray-Jones spent 3 months setting up some basic marine monitoring programs in Mozambique last year. She will give a talk about it on Friday 4th May at SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Hamra Ave., West Beach at 5.30 pm. This is a joint event for Reef Watch and the SA chapter of the Australian Marine Sciences Association. Nibbles & drinks will be available afterwards (for a donation). For more information or to RSVP, contact Sue at murray-jones.sue@saugov.sa.gov.au or 8124 4895.

World Environment Day is held on 5th June and World Ocean Day is on 8th June. Check out some of the events and ideas at the World Ocean Day website at www.theoceanproject.org/wod.

While you’re there, sign the petition to ask the UN to officially endorse World Ocean Day.

Source: “Reef Watcher”, Issue 10.1, 2007.

TEMPERATE REEFS DVD SET

SARDI Aquatic Sciences and Flinders University have collaborated to produce this 2-DVD set of short films documenting our temperate reefs and how we can all take actions to help prevent their degradation. The documentaries have been written, filmed and produced by students in the Masters of Natural History Film-making course at Flinders University. These DVDs are said to be ideal teaching aids. It is also said to be the first time that anyone has documented the southern seas temperate reefs on film and made it available for general distribution. The set costs only \$5

and is available from Reef Watch: www.reefwatch.asn.au, info@reefwatch.asn.au, or call the Conservation Council of SA on 8223 5155 to speak to one of the Marine Team.

SHOP NEWS

We heard on the diving grapevine that Divers Delight at St Peters is now under new management. The shop is located at (1b) St Peters Village, 103-111 Payneham Rd, St Peters. Their phone number is 8363 7518.

CLUB NEWS

Mildura Desert Divers

The Mildura Desert Divers March Newsletter features their Come and Try day Photos as well as a trip report on Cocos Island by three lucky Desert Divers. The newsletter is available on the web at <http://web.aanet.com.au/desertdivers/pages/Newsletter/march07.pdf>.

Marine Life Society of SA

At the April meeting of MLSSA, Helena Wescome-Down, President of the Coastal Waters Dive Club, is presenting a talk about diving off Exmouth, WA i.e. Diving at Ningaloo Reef and diving with Whale Sharks. The meeting is being held on Wednesday 18th April at 8pm at the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield St, Adelaide.

NARCD

Members of the NARCD club were gearing up for a dive at the Port Giles jetty when an employee from the silo company operating the jetty paid them a visit. The man informed them that, while they were welcome to dive, a great white shark had been spotted several times hanging around the area. Apparently the shark was coming in so close to the shore that it was even struggling to move at times. It had also been reportedly seen around the Edithburgh Jetty in the last couple of weeks. The NARCD members had a quick chat and decided that anyone that wasn't happy to continue to dive was welcome to sit it out but everyone was still keen to get in the water. They had already done a dive at the Edithburgh jetty. Fortunately, the shark didn't show up during their dive. The NARCD members did, however, spot a few nice things including blue flat worms, a large jellyfish and a juvenile leafy seadragon. They then enjoyed a post-dive dinner at the pub.

(It is important to note that no shark contact occurred on either the Edithburgh or Port Giles dives despite all of the earlier sightings.)

DATA ON 2006 SHARK ATTACKS

Whilst on the topic of shark contact, according to the International Shark Attack File, only four people were killed and another 58 people attacked by sharks world-wide last year. The total (62) was an increase of just 1 on the 61 attacks the previous year. The four deaths was the same number as for the previous year. There were 79 attacks, 11 of them fatal, in 2000. The US had more shark attacks than any other nation last year (38). That was down from 40 the previous year and well below the 53 recorded in 2000.

There were seven attacks in Australia in 2006. The International Shark Attack File says that, despite the attention shark attacks receive, the data shows they are a rare occurrence.

Source: "Fish Facts" at www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing

SHARK SHIELD FOR SURFERS

Whilst discussing shark attacks, Shark Shield has now produced a shield for surfers. The shield weighs about 80g in the water and it does not affect the performance of the user (the surfer).

Visit www.sharkshield.com for more details.

RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE

The Department for Transport Energy and Infrastructure advertised for expressions of interest (No.07C012) in the design and construction of the proposed new Rapid Bay jetty in The Advertiser on 3rd April. The Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty have downloaded all of the tender documents and have put them in a folder on their website at <http://www.rapidbayjetty.org/docs/tender/>. Further details are included in the April issue of our SDFSFA Bulletin.

SOUTHERN SIDE-GILLED SEA SLUG SIGHTING

Whilst discussing the Rapid Bay jetty, it seems that the side-gilled sea slug *Pleurobranchus hilli* has again been sighted at Rapid Bay jetty. According to Dr Richard C. Willan, Senior Curator of Molluscs at the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, "*Pleurobranchus hilli* is the large, endemic southern Australian side-gilled sea slug. It extends all round temperate south-eastern Australia, but is markedly more common in South Australia. There are lots of records of it from the jetties in SA, especially Rapid Bay. It eats compound ascidians and is mostly nocturnal. It is included on page 755 and plate 47.6 in the book "Marine invertebrates of Southern Australia - Part 2" edited by Shepherd & Thomas (1989). Classification is as follows: - *Pleurobranchus hilli* (Opisthobranchia: Pleurobranchida; Pleurobranchidae).

SEA TURTLE SIGHTING AT OUTER HARBOR

A huge Leatherback sea turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*, was sighted off of Outer Harbor, SA on 1st April. No, it's not an April Fools joke! It was reported in The Advertiser on 3rd April. Fishermen sighted the turtle among some jellyfish 10km off of Outer Harbor. Further details about the sighting are included in the April issue of our SDFSFA Bulletin, along with other information about Leatherback sea turtles.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SA WHALE CENTRE

The SA Whale Centre at Victor Harbor has now closed for redevelopment. The whale sighting and information services for the 2007 whale season will operate from the Victor Harbor Visitor Information Centre. A booth is being set up within the centre and operated by the whale centre staff and volunteers to ensure the public still have access to the latest information.

NEW FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

The new Fisheries Management Act (2007) replaces the 24-year old Fisheries Act 1982. It creates a new fisheries management structure and tougher penalties for fishing offences in South Australia. Offences under the new Act have a maximum penalty of \$120,000 and up to four years imprisonment. The Act also provides for a new system of demerit points for anyone found guilty of consistent offences under the legislation. Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister, Rory McEwen says the new Act adopts contemporary management practices and promotes ecologically sustainable development within the state's fisheries. It is expected that the Fisheries Management Act 2007 will come into effect from 1st September 2007.

Source: "Fish Facts" at www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing

FERRY UPDATE

The *Sea Scape I*, the new Wallaroo to Lucky Bay ferry, began operating on 2nd April. The \$8.5m 49m-long ferry carries up to 60 cars and 350 passengers. It is a drive-through vessel which ensures quicker loading and unloading. Trips are made 7 days per week, 365 days per year. The *Sea Scape I* departs from Wallaroo at 5.45am, 10.45am and 3.30pm each day. Departures from Lucky Bay (near Cowell) are at 8.15am, 1.15pm and 5.45pm each day. The trips each take about 2¾ hours. Costs vary for foot and vehicle passengers, from free (under 3yrs old) to \$100 per car.

Other vehicle types are charged per metre. Phone 8823 0777 or visit www.seasa.com.au for more information.

OZTeK NEWS

Des Williams from SDF of Victoria says that last month's Australasian Diving Conference & Exhibition (OZTeK '07) held at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney was a great weekend.

MORE NEW FROM OVER THE BORDER

The SDFV advise us that from 25th August 07 the cost to apply for a permit for a recreational diver to go into a protected zone is jumping from \$20 to \$50. It seems that the permit fee applies to the *City of Launceston* wreck. Visit www.heritage.vic.gov.au or www.dse.vic.gov.au/ris to download pdf's.

HMAS CANBERRA UPDATE

John Lawler, President of the Victorian Artificial Reef Society Inc, tells us that VARS held a meeting with the Minister for Defence, Dr Brendan Nelson, and several members of his staff at Barwon Heads on Wednesday March 14th 2007. He says that VARS continues to lobby the Government and its agencies to have the Gifting Deed signed, but progress is slow. VARS is quietly confident, however, that the ex-HMAS *Canberra* could be scuttled off Point Lonsdale around November or Decemer 2007. Much has yet to done for this to become reality though. We are able to keep up to date with the (Let's Sink the HMAS) *Canberra* project at www.hmascanberra.com.au and www.vars.org.au .

PORT PHILLIP BAY CHANNEL DEEPENING

John Lawler is also a member of the Blue Wedges who are opposed to the Port Phillip Bay channel deepening. He tells us that the Port of Melbourne Corporation has released its Supplementary Environment Effects Statement (SEES) regarding the channel deepening and is committed to this project. He says that the Blue Wedges have considerable data suggesting that this (poorly justified) project will destroy Port Phillip Bay. The Victorian State government has only allowed 6 weeks for the community to respond to over 15,000 pages of documents and data. An action meeting is being held at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron at 7.30pm on Monday 16th April.

BEN CROPP

Ben Cropp won the World Underwater Photographer of the Year award in 1964. In 1977 he found the wreck of the *Pandora* which was considered to be Australia's most significant shipwreck. In 2000 he was inducted into the Scuba Divers Hall of Fame, along with Jacques Cousteau, Emile Gagnan, Lloyd Bridges, Sylvia Earle, Al Giddings, Stan Waterman, Ron and Valerie Taylor, Jack McKenney and Hans & Lotte Hass (to name a few). Ben's life story is covered in the book "Ben Cropp – Blood in the water" which is available from Mountain Ocean & Travel Publications via email to books@motpub.com.au for \$39.95 plus \$8.50 postage. On 9th April Ben was featured on ABC TV's "Talking Heads" program. The complete text from the show can be viewed at <http://www.abc.net.au/talkingheads/txt/s1890441.htm> .

STAYING ALIVE

When it comes to chest compressions for resuscitation, you should always deliver compressions at the rate of 100 per minute. This is faster than the average heart rate and helps to increase the output created by CPR. 100 chest compressions per minute works out at almost two compressions per second, or you can follow the beat to "Staying Alive" by the BeeGees (104bpm). How appropriate!

Source: TQEH Resuscitation Committee Newsletter, February 2007, 30:2.

HOWEA DIVERS PTY LTD - LORD HOWE ISLAND

Brian Busted from Howea Divers Pty Ltd says that their new website is now online at <http://www.howeadivers.com.au/>. "We've had an exciting summer season of diving this year at Lord Howe Island. We hope that you consider Lord Howe Island as a dive destination in the future, and encourage you to browse the website if you're not familiar with the World Heritage listed marine park. If you have any questions about diving Lord Howe Island, or would like more information about the island, marine park or lodging, feel free to contact me anytime. All the best and happy diving! Brian. Phone Brian on (02) 6563 2290 for further information.

ANNIVERSARIES

As already mentioned, Reef Watch is 10 years old this year, having started in 1997.

10th April was the 95th anniversary of the RMS *Titanic*'s maiden voyage on 10th April 1912. The *Titanic* sank in the early hours of 15th April 1912 after hitting an iceberg on the 14th April.

Robert Ballard located the site of the *Titanic* in September 1985.

Friday 13th April was the centenary of the sinking of the *Willyama* at Marion Bay on the Yorke Peninsula. The 2704-ton steamship sank near Rhino Head on (Saturday) 13th April 1907, just 10 years after being built. So much for Friday 13th being unlucky!

11th April was the 59th anniversary of the destruction of the old Glenelg jetty due to a huge storm on 11th April 1948.

Saturday 21st April will be the centenary of the sinking of the *Norma*. At least two dive clubs are planning dives on the wreck that very day.

8th February was the 6th anniversary of the official adoption of the Leafy Seadragon as SA's marine emblem. The Leafy was adopted as our marine emblem by the State Government on 8th February 2001.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LEAFY SEADRAGON FESTIVAL

Whilst discussing Leafies, the 2007 Leafy Seadragon Festival is being held from 20-29 April. There will be an official opening on the 20th, a street party in Normanville on the 21st, a family beach party on the 28th and a finale on the 29th. Phone 08 8558 2999 or visit www.yankalilla.sa.gov.au for more details. Details were also included in the March issue of Dive Log (page 21).

JERVIS BAY UNDERWATER SHOOT-OUT

This year's Jervis Bay Underwater Shoot-Out is being held 20th – 23rd April. For more information visit [Digital Photography Competition](http://www.oceantrek.com.au/frames.html) or <http://www.oceantrek.com.au/frames.html>. Details were also included in the April issue of Dive Log (page 52).

WA UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

An underwater photography competition is also being held at Rottneest Island, WA on Saturday 21st April 2007. Phone 08 9336 6282 for more details. Details were also included in the March issue of Dive Log (pages 10 & 16).

ADEX

Asia Dive Expo and Boat Thai 2007 will join forces to deliver more substantial content and deeper synergies for exhibitors and visitors. Spanning wall-to-wall floor space of 7,000 square metres, ADEX and Boat Thai will be co-located in Hall 106 of the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC) in Bangkok, Thailand from 27-29th April 2007. Visit www.asiadiveexpo.com for more details. Details were also included in the April issue of Dive Log (page 53).

LORD HOWE ISLAND UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIVING WEEK

Pro Dive Lord Howe is holding an underwater photography and diving week on Lord Howe Island from April 28th to May 5th 2007. Visit www.lordhoweisland.info or www.prodivelordhowe.com for more details. Details were also included in the March issue of Dive Log (page 14).

BYRON BAY UNDERWATER FESTIVAL

UF07, the 2007 Byron Underwater Festival, is being held in Byron Bay from 10-13th May. The festival is for everyone with an interest in the marine environment. Visit www.underwaterfestival.com.au for more information. Details were also on page 10 of the April issue of Dive Log.

THE 1770 FESTIVAL 2007

The Annual 1770 Festival celebrating the historic landing of Captain James Cook will be held from May 24-27th 2007 on the foreshore of the Town of 1770 on the Central Queensland Discovery Coast. Visit the 1770 Festival Website for more information www.1770Festival.com.

HIDEAWAY ISLAND DIVE FESTIVAL 2007

The next Hideaway Island Dive Festival and Digital Photo Shoot is being held at the Hideaway Island Resort and Marine Sanctuary from 20-27th May 2007. Visit www.hideaway.com.vu for more details. Details were also included in the March issue of Dive Log (pages 34-5).

THAILAND TRAVEL & DIVE EXPO 2007

The Thailand Travel & Dive Expo 2007 is being held 24-27th May 2007 at the National Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand. Visit http://www.thailanddiveexpo.com/eng_index.php for more details. Details were also included in the March issue of Dive Log (page 64).

MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL DIVE EXPO 2007

The Malaysia International Dive Expo 2007 is being held in Hall 4 at the Putra World Trade Centre, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 6-8th July 2007. The expo is open to all. Admission is free. Visit www.mide.com.my for more details. Details were also included in the April issue of Dive Log (page 67).

AUSTRALIAN CORAL REEF SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The Australian Coral Reef Society's 83rd Annual Conference is being held in Fremantle, Western Australia from 9-11th October 2007. Visit www.australiancoralreefsociety.org for details.

SDFSA BULLETIN

Attached along with this *SDF News Sheet* is a copy of the latest issue of our *SDFSA Bulletin*. This is an electronic bulletin separate to our normal monthly *SDF News Sheet*. Items featured in this issue of the Bulletin are: -

[Rapid Bay Jetty Update](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Discovery Of Ael Site?](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Scuba Dive The Great Barrier Reef With Dive 1770](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Cownose Ray Population In U.S. Has Grown Tenfold In 30 Years](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Diving In The Pearse Resurgence In New Zealand](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Colour-Change For Crays](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Largest Squid Ever Caught](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[‘Scuba Diving’ Cows](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[More From “Landline”](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Future issues of the *SDFSA bulletin* will include lengthy articles about matters of interest to recreational divers. We welcome contributions from our readers.

The Scuba Divers Federation of SA is a member of the following: -

[Rapid Bay Jetty Design Reference Group](#)

[SARFAC](#) (SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council)

Fleurieu Reef Management Committee (Ex-HMAS *Hobart*)

TRAIL COMMITTEES - SA Trails Coordinating Committee (Office of Recreation & Sport)
and Port Noarlunga Reef Underwater Trail [South Australian Trails](#)

Contact the Federation's Secretary on info@sdfs.net to be included on the mailing list for this electronic news sheet.

The SDF supports both [Reef Watch](#) & [Dragonsearch](#)

Disclaimer – The opinions expressed by authors of material in this news sheet are not necessarily those of the Federation.