

SDF News Sheet April 2006

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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A Happy Easter to all of our members and news sheet readers.

Our next meeting is being held upstairs at [247 Currie Street, Adelaide](#) at 8pm on Tuesday 9th May.

[It's a stand alone, 130-year old double story building known as 'Darnley House' \(but it's not mentioned on the building yet\). No.247 is almost to West Tce on southern side of Currie Street, just a few houses down from the Edinburgh Castle Hotel. It has Clifton Place running down the western side. There is street parking in Clifton Pl, Gray St and West Tce \(only 150m away\).](#)

We will continue to hold our meetings at Currie St whilst the Hilton Hotel is being renovated.

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

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HOBART UPDATE

We understand that most things concerning the *Hobart* have now been fixed, repaired, corrected, etc.. i.e. the web site, brochures, ramp signage, moorings, etc.. The moorings should have been upgraded and repaired by now. Dive stories about your *Hobart* experiences are still needed for posting to the web site. These should be forwarded to Hank van der Wijngaart at hvander@ozemail.com.au . FRMC meetings will now be held every six weeks, instead of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 1st May.

RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE

There have been plenty of rumours going around regarding what is likely to happen with the Rapid Bay jetty. It seems certain that demolition of the jetty is NOT an option. We have called on the Department of Transport to arrange another meeting of stakeholders to discuss the options that are being considered and the timeframes involved.

PORT STANVAC JETTY

If you've thought about doing a boat dive under the Port Stanvac jetty now that the refinery has closed, think again. The Government is giving out fresh warnings about a 400m-exclusion zone around the Port Stanvac wharf. There is 24-hour video surveillance and breaches of the exclusion zone could result in the maximum penalty of \$1250. The exclusion zone is apparently covered under Regulation 14 of the Harbours and Navigation Regulations 1994.

MARINE SAFETY CHECKS

The Government's Marine Safety people have been busy checking that boaties are carrying all of the necessary safety equipment in their vessels. Trailer condition and registrations are also being checked so make certain that your trailer is in good shape and registered.

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

DAYLIGHT SAVING?

Did you follow last month's instructions re advancing all timing devices by one hour at the conclusion of daylight saving on 2nd April? It wasn't an April Fool joke, just one confused editor who got it all back to front. Clocks were to be wound back one hour at 3am.

SCUBA DIVERS REUNION

A reunion for scuba divers from 1950s to 1970s was held on 2nd April at the SA Sea Rescue Squadron HQ at West Beach. It was a great success and the organizers did a great job. It was well attended by many of SA's diving pioneers and legends. There was great demand for an annual reunion. Read our April *SDFSA Bulletin* for more details.

UNDERWATER PHOTO PRESENTATION

The South Australian Underwater Photographic Society's presentation on Vanuatu shipwrecks and reefs and SA sinkholes is being held at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th April at the SA Photographic Federation, 260 Portrush Rd, Beulah Park, Adelaide. Richard Harris's presentation will be on some of his images from 2 years in Vanuatu and Neville Skinner's will be a presentation on SA's freshwater sinkholes in the Mt Gambier region. All members of scuba clubs are invited to attend. SAUPS will be actively looking to recruit new members. Admission is by gold coin donation. Email Dave Teubner at dteubner@msn.com.au to let him know (for supper catering purposes) if you will be attending.

JETTY LITTER

A diver recently visited the jetty at the Bluff at Victor Harbor early on a Saturday evening. He found that fishers there were doing their best to litter the jetty, the parking area and the seabed. Such people may never read this but could someone please let them know that this behaviour is entirely unacceptable?

GLENELG JETTY ANNIVERSARY

Whilst discussing jetties, 11th April was the 58th anniversary of the storm that destroyed the original iron pile jetty at Glenelg in 1948.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF OCEANS '76 CONGRESS

This year's Queen's Birthday holiday long weekend marks the 30th anniversary of the Oceans '76 Congress at Monash University in Melbourne. A trade night was held on the Friday evening. A large working decompression chamber was displayed outside on the university's lawns. Many lectures on topics such as fish behaviour and cave diving were given over the weekend. It seems that the first Oceans Congress was held in 1974. The Oceans Congress is said to have led to the formation of the Scuba Divers Association (SDA) which incorporated the Scuba Instructors Association, but this is not yet clear. A South Australian branch of the Scuba Divers Association was first established in 1968. This SA branch went on to be known as the Scuba Divers Association of South Australia (SDASA). It became incorporated in about 1973-4. The association comprised only of individuals back then. The association reformed itself in 1975 to cater for clubs only.

HERBARIUM NEEDS FUNDS

An unfinished job is worthless! The State Herbarium maintains records of local plants, including marine species. The herbarium used to have a scheme to database all of its collections but the scheme was discontinued due to lack of funds. Some 90,000 specimens have not yet been added to the original database. About \$400,000 is needed to be able to complete the scheme. If you ever get the opportunity, please persuade our politicians to inject some cash into the scheme so that our plant records may finally be completed. Compare this situation with the following: -

INTERNET-BASED RECORD OF WA'S MARINE PLANTS

WA has an Internet-based record of its marine plants, the FloraBase information system. The database provides on-line access to about 1,000 species of WA's marine macro algae and access to some 20,000 specimen details. All of WA's marine macro algae specimens are now housed in the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Herbarium's algal herbarium, and about 14,000 have now been entered on the database and added to the original 6,000 sheets at the herbarium. Visit <http://www.naturebase.net/florabase> .

SA SHARK NETTING PROPOSAL

Some SA councils are still considering putting shark netting along their coastlines. The West Torrens Council is in discussion with the Charles Sturt Council, the State Government and Adelaide Shores over the matter.

NSW SHARK NET REVIEW

NSW is reviewing its shark net program which was introduced in 1937. A summit was held in Sydney on 11th April. There are no plans to change or abandon the shark net program. Measures to prevent creatures such as dolphins getting caught in the nets are being considered.

DIVE SAFETY TIPS

Robert Hewitt, the NZ diver who survived more than 3 days (75hours?) at sea in the Cooke Strait, near Wellington, New Zealand has suggested a couple of tips that a lost diver could use to assist a search party. He says that any diver that carries a fluorescent catch bag and a dive knife is also carrying a signal flag and mirror. He suggests that an open fluorescent catch bag held above your head on the surface makes a good signal flag and a shiny dive knife makes a good mirror-like reflecting device. The use of both of these devices, backed up by a dive whistle, would assist a search party in locating you. (Source: *Dive Pacific*.)

DIVE BOOKS

Our *SDFS* *Bulletin* gives details of some sources of books of interest to divers.

ANNIVERSARY OF ZANONI'S DISCOVERY

The wreck of the 3-masted barque *Zanoni* was discovered 23 years ago in April 1983. The *Zanoni* was built in Liverpool, England in 1865. She sank 13km SE of Ardrossan on 11th February 1867. The wreck was discovered intact in 1983 by divers Ian O'Donnell and John McGovern when a fisherman took them both out to a Snapper fishing site in Gulf St Vincent off of Ardrossan. The State Government soon declared a 550m protection zone around the historic wreck to prevent damage by divers and fishermen. A permit is required to enter the zone and dive on the *Zanoni*. Fishing is not allowed in the zone whatsoever.

GREAT SOUTHERN DIVE EXPO?

The last Great Southern Dive Expo was held in November 2004 to mark the second anniversary of the scuttling of the *Hobart*. Another such expo is not likely to happen in the near future unless someone is prepared to match the extraordinary efforts of Bob Ramsay who is much too busy with work commitments to contemplate repeating the process himself. Bob is a previous Secretary of the SDFS and very involved in the Historical Diving Society SE Asia-Pacific.

ONE YEAR AGO

In April last year the: -

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Bill passed through the Upper House.

Building of two new opening bridges across the Port River was announced.

1st Leafy Seadragon Festival was being held in the Yankalilla district.

Newly restored underwater trail at Port Noarlunga was launched.

Last remains of the *New Endeavour* were removed from the Port River.

James Cameron film "Titanic 3D – Ghosts of the Abyss" was showing at cinemas.

MORE ON THE TITANIC

Whilst discussing the *Titanic*, this month marks the 94th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS *Titanic* on 15th April 1912. The *Titanic* was located by Robert Ballard in September 1985.

Maritime enthusiast (& artist) John Ford will present a talk about the *Titanic* at 7pm on Friday 26th May at the Black Diamond Gallery, 66 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide. Phone 8449 3987 for bookings (which are essential).

DUYFKEN REPLICA'S PORT ADELAIDE VISIT

The replica of the Dutch ship *Duyfken* will be at the Queen's Wharf, McLaren Parade, Port Adelaide from 19th to 28th May. There will also be lots of fun activities around the Port over both weekends that the *Duyfken* is there. More details about the *Duyfken* are included in our April *SDFSA Bulletin*.

MORE ON MARITIME MATTERS

Whilst discussing matters maritime, the SA Maritime Museum at 119 Lipson St in Port Adelaide now has a new exhibition "South Australia on the Map 1606 to 2006". It traces the history of exploring SA, including European charting of the coastline. The exhibition runs from 13th April to 21st June. It marks the 400th anniversary of the first charting of the Australian coast by the crew of the *Duyfken*. The museum is also holding a festival of marine trades on 21st & 28th May. Sail makers, boat wrights, tinsmiths, coopers, model makers and marine painters will be demonstrating their traditional skills 11am to 5pm. 28th May is also Port Adelaide's Museums & Heritage Day. There will be special half price entry to major museums in the Port Adelaide area. There will also be other special events held on the day. Phone Port Adelaide VIC on 8405 6560 for more details.

GRANTS NEWS

Applications for the latest round of Active Club Program Grants close on Friday 19th May. For more details contact the Office for Recreation and Sport on 8416 6708 or visit www.recsport.sa.gov.au .

"FERAL OR IN PERIL" KITS

The Reef Watch "Feral or In Peril" program enables recreational divers to help keep track of marine organisms of special concern. The program has been designed to identify introduced marine life that are a potential threat to the marine ecosystem as well as local species that may be in danger of disappearing. Reef Watch has issued "Feral or In Peril" kits for distribution through clubs, dive shops, at Reef Watch events or at the Conservation Centre. The kits consist of three A5-size underwater slates and a brochure. The brochure is illustrated and gives some brief information about the program and notes on threats, habitat and similar native species. One of the three slates covers species "In Peril" and the other two slates cover "Feral" species (one for "Red Alert" species that are of particular concern, and the other to help monitor a number of species that have already become established in SA waters). For more information about the program, visit <http://www.reefwatch.asn.au/feralInPeril.html> or contact James Brook on 8223 5155 or at info@reefwatch.asn.au . The above web site lets you view a pdf file of the underwater slates and brochure. You can also enter details of a relevant sighting.

CLUB NEWS

MLSSA

Tony and Judith Wingate from Kangaroo Island Community Education will be speaking at the 19th April meeting of the Marine Life Society of SA. Tony is a Marine and Environmental Education Coordinator at KICE and Judith is a Consultant Marine Biologist.

MDDC

For the first time in its 12-year history, the Mildura Desert Divers Club's Club Person of the Year trophy was awarded to two members. The 2005 award was presented to both Tony Lay and

Julie Cohrs. Both were equal winners in the club voting held at the Christmas breakup. Well done Tony and Julie!

CWDC

It seems that members of the Coastal Waters Dive Club have been busy testing diver recall systems such as mini hammerheads, fog horns and the use of engine revs. They found that engine revs were the most reliable recall. It also seems that they discovered that responses to any recall was affected by the age of the diver and the terrain at the dive site.

SHIPS FOR SCUTTLING

It seems that old ships keep coming available for possible scuttling as new dive wrecks. The latest possibility at the time of writing is the *Jian Seng* of unknown origin. This was the unmanned tanker found drifting in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The Government would be able to keep the vessel if the owner cannot be traced. NSW are still actively looking for a ship to scuttle as a dive wreck. They missed out with the *Pong Su* which was used for target practice by an RAAF F-111 fighter plane on 23rd March (The 4th anniversary of the scuttling of the *Seawolf* which was scuttled by the Sea Wolves Dive Club on 23rd March 2002). A missile fired from the F-111 exploded through the ship, sending it to the bottom some 140km off of Jervis Bay, NSW. The *Pong Su* had been involved in drug smuggling activities.

DIVE IN TO EARTH DAY

This year's Dive In To Earth Day is being held on April 22nd. It is coordinated by the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL). For more information visit: <http://www.coral.org/divein> .

ASIA DIVE EXPO 2006

The Asia Dive Expo is being held at the International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore from 21st to 23rd April. Read pages 16 and 56-7 of the April Dive Log for details. Visit www.asiadiveexpo.com for more details.

SCUBANAUTICS DIGITAL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPO 2006

The Scubautics Diving Academy in Rockingham, WA is holding a digital underwater photographic expo from Thursday 27th to Saturday 29th April. Phone the Academy on 9527 4447 or visit www.scubautics.com.au . Details can also be found on page 7 of the April issue of Dive Log.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HIDEAWAY ISLAND DIVE FESTIVAL

The Hideaway Island Dive Festival & Digital Photo Shoot is being held in Vanuatu from 21st to 28th May. Visit www.hideaway.com.vu for more details (or read pages 38-9 of the April Dive Log).

COAST TO COAST 2006

Australia's National Coastal Conference, Coast to Coast 2006, will be held 22nd-25th May 2006 at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.iceaustralia.com/coasttocoast2006/index.html> or email coasttocoast@iceaustralia.com .

UNDERWATER PHOTO CHALLENGE

Malaysia's Layang Layang Island Resort is holding an underwater photo challenge from 25th to 31st July 2006. Details can be found on page 22 of the April Dive Log. Visit www.layanglayang.com for more details.

AUSTRALASIAN AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW 2006

The Australasian Aquaculture Conference And Trade Show 2006 is being held Sunday 27th to 30th August 2006 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, SA.

Contact the Australasian Aquaculture Conference Coordinator, Claudia Metti for more details on 8226 2269 or at metti.claudia@saugov.sa.gov.au , or visit <http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/austaqua/aa06.html> .

PADI ASIA PACIFIC DIGITAL PHOTO SHOOT-OUT

A digital photo shoot-out is being held in Sydney in early November. Details were given on page 5 of the March Dive Log. More details will be published in the May issue of Dive Log.

2006 AN OCEAN ODYSSEY

This is a special dive promotion evening. It is being held at the Clancy Auditorium at the University of NSW on Friday 17th November. Presentations will be given by Jean-Michel Cousteau, Dr Phil Nuytten, Ron & Valerie Taylor and Reg Lipson. Read pages 60-1 of the April Dive Log for further information.

2007 CORALWATCH WORKSHOP

The 4th Annual CoralWatch Focus on Corals workshop is being held at the Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef from Friday 5th to Tuesday 9th January 2007. For more details visit www.coralwatch.org .

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

Sport SA (SA Sports Federation Inc.)

Recreation SA

Recreation SA's Adventure Activity Standards Working Committee for Snorkelling, Scuba and Aquatic Wildlife Tours

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

The SDF's sponsors are: -

Baird Bay Charters & Ocean Eco Tours

SA Tall Ships Inc. § 8341 2004 ✉ office@satallships.com

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 Reefwatch & Dragonsearch

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