

SDF News Sheet, December 2006

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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**A Merry Christmas to all of our members and news sheet readers.**

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:**

<a href="#">NEXT MEETING</a> .....	1
<a href="#">FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BILL</a> .....	2
<a href="#">EWENS PONDS / EIGHT MILE CREEK</a> .....	2
<a href="#">CAR BUMPER STICKERS &amp; DES CARDS</a> .....	2
<a href="#">RECREATIONAL HOBART BOOKINGS</a> .....	2
<a href="#">TRANSPORT SA ENQUIRIES &amp; REPORTS</a> .....	2
<a href="#">RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE</a> .....	2
<a href="#">CLUB NEWS</a> .....	2
<a href="#">REEF WATCH UPDATE</a> .....	3
<a href="#">SHARK PATROLS</a> .....	3
<a href="#">SHARK ALERTS TO END</a> .....	3
<a href="#">RECENT SHARK PHOTO</a> .....	3
<a href="#">NEWS IN BRIEF</a> .....	3
<a href="#">SDFSFA BULLETIN</a> .....	4
<a href="#">ANNIVERSARIES</a> .....	4
<a href="#">65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SINKING OF HMAS SYDNEY</a> .....	4
<a href="#">32<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CYCLONE TRACY SHIPWRECKS</a> .....	4
<a href="#">20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR MARITIME MUSEUM</a> .....	4
<a href="#">9<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR SWAN'S SCUTTLING</a> .....	4
<a href="#">DIVE WRECKS FOR NSW?</a> .....	4
<a href="#">VICTORIAN ROCK LOBSTER &amp; ABALONE FISHERIES</a> .....	4
<a href="#">OCEAN ODYSSEY</a> .....	5
<a href="#">FORTHCOMING EVENTS</a> .....	5
<a href="#">CORAL WATCH WORKSHOP</a> .....	5
<a href="#">WORLD POLICE &amp; FIRE GAMES</a> .....	5
<a href="#">OZTEK'07</a> .....	5
<a href="#">ADEX</a> .....	5

**NEXT MEETING**

Our first meeting in 2007 is being held at the Metropolitan Hotel at 46 Grote Street, Adelaide (by Her Majesty's Theatre) at 8pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February (NOT January). Please ensure that your club's appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting. (Please ignore the mention of a January meeting in the January issue of Dive Log.)

## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BILL**

The Fisheries Management Bill 2006 was recently introduced in to State Parliament by Rory McEwen, the Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister. It will replace the Fisheries Act 1982. The new Bill is expected to come in to effect in July 2007.

## **EWENS PONDS / EIGHT MILE CREEK**

The Australian and New Guinea Fish Association (ANGFA) report at [http://www.angfa.org.au/ftp/Save\\_Ewens\\_Pond\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://www.angfa.org.au/ftp/Save_Ewens_Pond_low_res.pdf) of a study of Ewens Ponds and Eight Mile Creek has caused quite a stir down at Mount Gambier. The "Border Watch" newspaper ran a series of articles on the topic during November (15<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>). Don't be surprised if it all leads to seasonal bans on diving in Ewens Ponds. One of the articles (page 6, 15/11) reported that "The Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation has launched a four-year study into Ewens and Piccaninnie Ponds. The project will specifically focus on spring discharge complexes to the south of Mount Gambier, including Ewens and Piccaninnie Ponds".

## **CAR BUMPER STICKERS & DES CARDS**

Re car bumper stickers, due to new technology we are now able to purchase 200 copies of any design in 2 colours for less than \$2 each. This could be say 200 individual club stickers, 200 general stickers such as DES, divers flag, etc.. Please let us know your thoughts and needs in this regard. As for the DES cards, we need triple the demand received to date to be able to go ahead with the project – a total of 200 cards at about \$3 each. Please consider participating in this project by committing your club to say 20 or 30 cards so that we can reach our target of 200.

## **RECREATIONAL HOBART BOOKINGS**

You can get your *Hobart* dive permits at the boat ramp at Wirrina Cove. Make sure that you have your dive ticket handy and a person who can act as an observer during the dive. The observer needs to fill out the permit documentation but does not have to pay a fee if they are not diving. The permit costs \$12 per diver per dive. The *Hobart* Code of Conduct is available from <http://www.diveexhmashobart.com/dive/dive.html> . If your boat is longer than 6m, a temporary exemption is also available from <http://www.diveexhmashobart.com/dive/dive.html> . A side view of the Hobart indicating the buoy locations is available there as well.

## **TRANSPORT SA ENQUIRIES & REPORTS**

For SA recreational boating enquiries phone the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure on 13 10 84. Phone them on 8260 0088 for boat control and safety enquiries. To report marine faults, jetty damage and navigation beacon faults, phone them on 1800 018 313.

## **RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE**

The Rapid Bay Jetty Design Group, which is overseeing the building of a new jetty at Rapid Bay, has changed its name. Not that you would notice any significant difference. It is now called the Rapid Bay Jetty Design Reference Group.

## **CLUB NEWS**

Marine Life Society of SA

The Department for Environment and Heritage has created a feature wall on level 5 of Chesser House at 91-97 Grenfell St, Adelaide. The wall now features a large photo of a Leafy Seadragon, courtesy of David Muirhead and the Marine Life Society of SA. There is also a plaque stating "Copyright MLSSA" there. Meanwhile, the 2006 issue of the MLSSA Journal was published this month. The Journal is a whopping 72 pages and includes many articles of interest.

Southern Ocean Divers

SODS AGMs will be held in March instead of January from now on.

### **REEF WATCH UPDATE**

Reef Watch has made a number of simplifications to their methods and identification codes. They have also added a new invertebrate survey that involves a search for crabs, shellfish, sea stars and urchins. Steve Leske is now coordinating Reef Watch activities. Mark Kaehne is assisting him with the training. Steve is now the point of contact for Reef Watch. James Brook is supporting both Mark and Steve in their roles, but he is no longer using the [info@reefwatch.asn.au](mailto:info@reefwatch.asn.au) email address.

### **SHARK PATROLS**

The Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter is patrolling beaches on weekends. Patrols operate from 1 to 5pm generally but may be extended longer on particularly hot days. Surf Life Saving SA beach patrols are using rescue jet boats and (now four) jet skis. The four jet skis will be sent to areas of most need and to special events in the state. Fixed-wing aerial patrols are operating between North Haven and Normanville from 11am to 7.45pm on weekdays until March 30th 2007. These patrols are being conducted by the UniSA State Emergency Shark Patrol team which consists of 25 people. There will be six flight runs of up to two hours duration each day. The Volunteer Marine Rescue Service will have boats patrolling much of the SA coastline. The Volunteer Coast Guard at North Haven is using a jet ski as a rescue craft and for shark patrols. All water users are reminded to report any shark sightings, where the sharks pose an immediate threat to humans. Report the sighting immediately to SA Police on 000. Any other positive sightings of large sharks should be reported to Fishwatch on 1800 065 522 (if 500m or more offshore) or SA Police on 131 444 (if within 500m of the beach).

### **SHARK ALERTS TO END**

The South Australian Research & Development Institute will, for legal reasons, no longer be able to forward shark alerts to us. Instead, they suggest that we should check out the Fish Watch shark sighting log at [www.pir.sa.gov.au/sharks](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/sharks) or [http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/sharksightings/shark\\_sighting\\_0506.htm:sectID=2396&tempID=1](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/sharksightings/shark_sighting_0506.htm:sectID=2396&tempID=1). This sighting log is updated on a weekly basis. Should you require further information, please contact Fish Watch on 1 800 065 522.

### **RECENT SHARK PHOTO**

Whilst on the topic of sharks, does anyone have any idea why The Advertiser issue of 23<sup>rd</sup> November included an old Chris Fallows photo of a White Pointer grabbing a cape fur seal near Seal Island off of South Africa? The dramatic photo took up about half of the page (p.7), and for no apparent reason other than sensationalism. One correspondent to The Advertiser considered the photo to be disturbing and believed, after viewing the "Planet Earth" BBC TV series from which the photo was taken, that the fated seal appeared to have been drugged. Unfortunately, the same correspondent later called for all Great White sharks to be destroyed.

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

A \$21.2m Australian Tsunami Warning Centre was opened in Canberra in November.

The Port Lincoln Seahorse Farm is moving to Port Adelaide in January.

R Inglis of Westbourne Park believes that a proposed desalination plant at Whyalla will harm the Spencer Gulf marine environment.

A Killer Whale at the SeaWorld Adventure Park in San Diego attacked and injured a trainer during a show.

A multi-million dollar study of SA's coastal waters has found that there are elevated levels of nitrogen which is killing off seagrass.

The Yorke Peninsula-to-Eyre Peninsula ferry service (Wallaroo to Lucky Bay, near Cowell) began operating during December.

A power cable now runs 105kms across the bottom of the Gulf of Finland.

The Adelaide Bank is now advertising its services by way of a giant inflatable billboard. The floating billboard is being towed by SLSSA boats from Hallett Cove to Semaphore

## **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.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SINKING OF HMAS SYDNEY**

19<sup>th</sup> November was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Sydney off WA. The *Sydney* was sunk by the German ship HSK *Kormoran* off of Geraldton on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1941. 645 men, including 60 South Australians, were on board the *Sydney* at the time. There is a memorial to the men at Birkenhead Naval Reserve at the corner of Semaphore and Fletcher Roads. A memorial service was held at the site at 5pm on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Information about a renewed search for the site of the *Sydney* is included in the December issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

### **32<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CYCLONE TRACY SHIPWRECKS**

Last Christmas Day was the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Cyclone Tracy which led to the wrecking of several ships off of Darwin, including the *Mandoora Queen*, *Bluebird*, *Belle Bird*, *Demon*, *Darwin Princess* and the *Booya*. For further information visit <http://www.mlssa.asn.au> (April 2005 MLSSA Newsletter, No.320), <http://www.coraldivers.com.au> or read the July 2004 issue of Dive Log.

### **20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR MARITIME MUSEUM**

The South Australian Maritime Museum celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 6<sup>th</sup> December, having opened in 1986.

### **9<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR SWAN'S SCUTTLING**

14<sup>th</sup> December was the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HMAS *Swan's* scuttling off of WA in 1997.

## **DIVE WRECKS FOR NSW?**

Whilst on the topic of scuttled dive wrecks, the NSW Opposition is promising to scuttle three dive wrecks if it wins the next election. The Leader of the Opposition says that \$8-\$10m would be spent on the project which is hoped to include HMAS *Adelaide*.

## **VICTORIAN ROCK LOBSTER & ABALONE FISHERIES**

The Victorian rock lobster fishery opened its fishing season for both the recreational and commercial industry on 16th November. The fishery contributes an estimated \$14 million per year to the Victorian economy. The first open day for the recreational take of abalone in Victorian central waters (between Aire River and Arch Rock) was on 18th November. It was the first nominated day out of 60 days permitted for the taking of abalone species over the 2006/07 season in these waters. This seasonal restriction does not apply to waters in the western and eastern coastlines of the state. Recreational fishers are reminded that regulations apply for the take of both rock lobster and abalone in Victorian waters. For more information on fishing regulations for these species and a full list of the abalone open days in Victorian central waters, visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing) or refer to the 2006/07 Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide.

## **OCEAN ODYSSEY**

Dive Log's Barry Andrewartha reports that the recent Ocean Odyssey was a huge success. He says that well over 900 divers packed into the Auditorium. A brief report is included in the December issue of Dive Log. The December issue also includes brief reports on DEMA 2006\* and the PADI Digital Shootout results. Full reports on all three events will be published in the January 2007 issue. \*Visit <http://www.mares.com/news> for more details about DEMA (Diving Equipment & Marketing Association) 2006. DEMA is the scuba diving industry's trade show held in America each year to showcase the latest of everything in diving.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **CORALWATCH WORKSHOP**

The 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.coralwatch.org).

### **WORLD POLICE & FIRE GAMES**

The World Police & Fire Games are being held in Adelaide from 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Visit [www.wpfg.com](http://www.wpfg.com) for more details.

### **OZTEK'07**

The OZTeK'07 Australasian Diving Conference & Exhibition is being held 17-18th March 2007 at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney. The latest news from OZTeK'07 is included in the December issue of our SDFSA Bulletin. You can receive these reports direct by visiting [www.diveoztek.com.au](http://www.diveoztek.com.au) to sign up.

### **ADEX**

The next Asia Dive Expo is being held in Bangkok from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Visit [www.asiadiveexpo.com](http://www.asiadiveexpo.com) for more details.

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@sdfsa.net](mailto:info@sdfsa.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.