

SDF News Sheet, January 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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Happy New Year to all of our members and news sheet readers. We trust that you had a merry Christmas and enjoyed some good diving.

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.

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Welcome to 2007!

NEXT MEETING

Please note that we are not holding a January 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 13th February. Please ensure that your club's appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting.

NEW LEVEL OF WATER RESTRICTIONS

Level 3 water restrictions are now in force in SA. To check on restriction details, phone the Water Restrictions hotline on 1800 130 952 or visit www.sawater.com.au . We contacted the hotline ourselves to obtain a ruling regarding the washing of our dive gear. We were advised that the washing of dive gear is allowed during the day due to health and safety issues. We recommend that, wherever possible, dive gear is rinsed out in a tub of water or hosed down on your lawn area. Use as little water as necessary to wash your gear and dispose of the used water on your lawn.

COASTAL WATERS FORECASTS

Recorded coastal waters forecasts are available from the Bureau of Meteorology on 1900 969 975. This service is updated several times daily. You can also obtain details at www.bom.gov.au/weather/sa .

Source: Jon Huie (Advertiser)

BOATING INFORMATION

Information about mandatory safety equipment for boats is available at www.transport.sa.gov.au/safety/marine/index . General safety tips for boating are also available there.

Source: Jon Huie (Advertiser)

ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARY OF JETTY CLOSURE

23rd December was the 2nd anniversary of the final closure of the old Rapid Bay jetty. The jetty was closed to the public two days before Christmas in 2004. Fortunately, much has happened since that day and we hope to be diving from a new jetty at Rapid Bay by next Christmas.

ANNIVERSARY OF 'INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF'

2007 is the 10th anniversary of the 'International Year of the Reef' which occurred in 1997.

SHOP NEWS

There have been lots of changes and movements between SA's metropolitan dive shops recently.

ADELAIDE SCUBA

At Adelaide Scuba, Ray Cotton & Melanie Cross took over as the shop's new owner late last year. Their team now comprises of instructors Nicole Strzelecki & Tim Paterson and Von Milner. They look forward to helping you with all of your diving needs. To find out more about Adelaide Scuba visit <http://www.adelaidescuba.com.au/> .

GLENELG SCUBA

Jamie Lowden is the new owner of Glenelg Scuba. He replaces Derek Randell who will continue to run the slipway and the marine side of things. John Morris is the operations manager for Glenelg Scuba.

PORT NOARLUNGA DIVE & SNORKEL

Glenelg's Jamie Lowden is now renting Port Noarlunga Dive & Snorkel from Divers Service's Mark Snadden.

DIVERS SERVICE

Mark Snadden has been so busy instructing throughout SA that the Divers Service shop hasn't been open as much as normal for this time of year. *Ghostbuster* has been sold to a Tasmanian concern.

BOAT CHECKS BY SA POLICE

The water operations unit of SA Police kept busy over the Christmas holiday period by checking that all boats met safety regulations and that operators were licensed. Some boats still go out without enough lifejackets to cover everyone on board. It may soon become compulsory that everyone on board boats must wear a lifejacket. The police were also educating boaties about the new towing regulations concerning brakes on boat trailers.

HALLETT COVE SEWAGE SPILLS

On 28th December 2006 a sewerage main overflowed, spilling an estimated 100 KL of raw sewage in to a section of the Field River at Hallett Cove. The incident was said to have been caused by tree roots blocking a sewerage main. The sewerage main apparently overflowed through a manhole and the sewage flowed down the bank of the Field River into the water. There was concern about the possibility of the sewage reaching the beach at Hallett Cove. There are more details about the incident in the January issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

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: -

[Christie Creek & Port Noarlunga Aquatic Reserve](#)..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[More About Anthony Cheshire](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Hallett Cove Sewage Spills](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Marine Science Portal](#) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

[Solar Saltfield For Exmouth Gulf In Western Australia](#)... **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.

NEXT CLEAN UP DAY

Clean Up Australia Day 2007 is being held on Sunday 4th March. Register your site with Clean Up Australia at www.cleanup.org.au or call 1800 CUA DAY / 1800 282 329. *Register before 1st February 2007 and enter the draw to win a Kyocera Digital Camera valued at \$399.

COMEDY CORNER (Marine laughs)

NEED SOME MARRON?

If you're still looking for some marron after Christmas you're sure to find plenty at the Marron Nursing Home at Salisbury.

BEHIND ON THE MENU?

Wobbecong sharks are bottom feeders, so whatever you do, don't ever sit on one.

KI GOES IT ALONE

It seems that Kangaroo Island has gone out on its own now. [I always thought that KI](#) used to be part of South Australia! It must have seceded from SA to become an independent colony. I've discovered [a book titled "Beaches of South Australia and Kangaroo Island"](#).

BAY NOT SO LUCKY

Couldn't believe it when the new *Seaway** ferry was grounded in (the poorly named) Lucky Bay on its first day of operations.

STROLLER SHIELDS

If Shark Shields are a shark deterrent, then what are stroller shields? Do they help to keep baby strollers at bay?

FISH GUIDES

Ned de Loach (DeLoach) is the name of the co-publisher of the Reef Identification series books "Reef Fish," "Reef Creature" & "Reef Coral" and other marine guides.

DIVING WITH SUNNIES

Make sure that you remove your sunglasses before you go diving next otherwise you could be charged with 'diving with an obscured vision'.

***FERRY UPDATE**

The use of the *Seaway* ferry between Wallaroo and Lucky Bay (near Cowell) is only temporary. A new vessel will take over the service in February. It is then quite likely that the *Seaway* will then resume service between Wirrina and Kingscote.

JELLYFISH & FISH STING TREATMENT

A study by doctors and medical students at Busselton Hospital in WA found that hot water is the most effective way to relieve the pain of a jellyfish sting. The team wrote the findings in the "Medical Journal of Australia" following tests on themselves. They stung themselves with jellyfish to compare the results of treatment by ice, vinegar, aluminium sulphate and hot water. The best treatment by far was the hot water. It relieved 88% of the pain whereas other treatments were incomplete and temporary. Dr David Muirhead wrote about the hot water treatment of non-venomous fish spine injuries and venomous fish spine puncture wounds in "Fish Spine Injury and Envenomation" (MLSSA Journal No.11, December 2000). Three articles in the MARIA Journal Vol.1, No.4 (May 1980) discussed the treatment of bites and stings. Dr Michael Corkeron from WA wrote about treating jellyfish stings in the May/June 1997 issue of "Scuba Diver" (p.5). Evan John discussed the treatment of a venomous fish puncture wound in the article "The South Australian Cobbler" (Fish Profile – MARIA Journal Vol.2, No.2, December 1981). Hot water was recommended to alleviate the pain of a sting. A diver stung by an SA Cobbler suffered for about three weeks and a subsequent dive into cold water brought renewed pain.

FISHERY BEACH ACCESS

A lot has been going on down at Fishery Beach, near Cape Jervis. Alison Eaton, the Coastal Regional Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation with the Coastal Protection Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage recently advised us of the latest attempts to control vandalism and unrestricted vehicle access on Coast Protection Board land at Fishery Beach. Alison said that shore divers who access the area will find some changes to the access arrangements. She filed the following report to keep us posted of the latest developments: - "As you may be aware, the land at Fishery Beach has been subject to unrestricted off road vehicle impacts for some time and has tended to attract a certain element who have vandalised fences, light fires, signs, etc.. Over the past 8 years, Greening Australia has been undertaking a revegetation project on the Board's land and many other volunteer groups have undertaken conservation work on the land. The Board's prime consideration is the protection of the conservation projects and heritage items contained within the area (namely the ruins of the crushing and dressing works (c1863) related to the Talisker silver/lead mine and the Cape Jervis Whaling station) as well as the safety of Heysen Trail users. The Board also has to consider the privacy and security of land holders who rely on the private track through this land to gain access to their properties. Uncontrolled off-road vehicle access continues to impact on the conservation works being undertaken on the land and on heritage items on the foreshore and has led to wear and tear to the private road. Last year the Board, in liaison with Yankalilla District Council, commenced works to control vehicle access to Coast Protection Board land and the Fishery Creek Water Reserve under care and control of Council at Fishery Beach and funded the upgrade to the car park, providing formalised footpaths down to the beach, etc.. It is planned that vehicle access will be limited to authorised vehicles and adjoining land holders who require access to be

maintained to their properties and to groups who undertake heritage and conservation work at Fishery Beach as well as emergency service units. As stated above, it is acknowledged that divers do utilise the site (including myself) and that, in the past, the site has been accessed via driving onto the beach. In effort to increase protection of the area, we are asking that shore divers limit their impacts on the area by parking in the car park provided, even if the fences have been vandalised and cut and pad locks removed (as they are at the moment). I've just taken on the role of coordinating conservation projects on the Coast Protection Board land and we are trying to promote sustainable access to the area, to encourage people to explore the site on foot and are trying to discourage general vehicle access to the area and to set an example for people to do the right thing by parking in the designated areas.”

Thanks Alison. For further information contact Alison on 8124 4891.

CANAL PROPOSAL

A canal cutting across the ‘foot’ of the Yorke Peninsula has been proposed. The canal (or channel) would run for 20kms between Point Turton and Port Moorowie. The proposal includes the building of marinas and hotels along the new waterway. The proposed channel is said to be suitable for water sports and sailing. Diving would probably be banned in the channel. The developer is seeking backing for the plan at this stage. The plan has not yet been presented to the Yorke Peninsula’s development assessment panel.

HMAS CANBERRA SCUTTLING

The HMAS *Canberra* is expected to be scuttled around Port Phillip Heads in April.

SHARK DIVES AT UNDERWATER WORLD

A dive with Grey Nurse Sharks at the UnderWater World aquarium in Mooloolaba, Queensland costs little more than \$100 (without a dive lesson). The aquarium is the same spot where five Power players enjoyed swimming with seven 3m Grey Nurse Sharks (and a few other species of shark) late in 2005. The dive was their prize for winning a quiz night. Visit www.scubaworld.com.au for more details about the aquarium.

MALDIVES REEFS RECOVERED FROM TSUNAMI

Boxing Day (26/12) was the 2nd anniversary of the tsunami in areas of South-East Asia. It was claimed that only 10% of coral reefs were damaged by the tsunami. The reefs in the Maldives were said to have suffered more damage than those of Thailand. It seems, however, that the coral reefs in the Maldives were largely unaffected by the tsunami. The reefs were later on inspected by Australian scientists from AIMS and they were happy about both their condition and their chances of complete recovery. One of the main diving attractions in the Maldives was still occurring there. That is the gathering of huge Manta Rays to be cleaned by remora fish.

“ROAR OF THE WILD” TV SERIES

The channel 9 TV series “Roar of the Wild” featuring Lin Sutherland returned to our screens on 24th December. That was episode 6 out of a total of 13 episodes. Here are some details from <http://www.belowh2o.com.au/roarofthewild> about the series: -

“Evoked by the call of nature, Lin's exploration of the globe and its inhabitants explores habits and survival instincts of creatures otherwise uncovered. Both above and below the sea, Lin’s natural ability to communicate and interact with colourful species brings the personality of the beasts to light, up close and personal. Lin also highlights the importance of maintaining the balance between mans changing needs and the health of our planet. Roar of the Wild confronts nature’s predicaments as Lin dives in, gets her hands dirty, usually off the beaten track and sometimes in dangerous situations, embracing our wild world like no other female has before”.

Episode 7 ("Wide Wide West" - 31 Dec 06) and Episode 8 ("Big Marine Encounters" - 07 Jan 07) have now screened. Here is a list of the few remaining episodes which you may still get a chance to see: -

Episode 9 – Cascading Kimberley

Episodes 10 – Eastern Jewels

Episode 11 - Deep Safari

Episode 12 – Blue Paradise

Episode 13 – Reef Running

A DVD of the first three episodes from the series is available at http://order_dvds/form.htm (or <http://www.belowh2o.com.au/roarofthewild>) for just A\$29.95 + p&h. Each episode runs for 23 minutes.

FIVE NEW INDUCTEES FOR INTERNATIONAL SCUBA DIVING HALL OF FAME

Neville Coleman and Rodney Fox are among five new inductees in to the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame. An induction ceremony is scheduled for 11th January 2007 in Grand Cayman. The five new inductees are: -

1. Paul Humann – co-publisher (with Ned DeLoach) of the Reef Identification series books "Reef Fish," "Reef Creature" and "Reef Coral," and other marine guides.
2. Neville Coleman – discoverer of more than 450 species, documenter of more than 12,000 species and author of more than 60 books.
3. Rodney Fox – for his efforts in protecting sharks.
4. Carl Roessler - led the first diving expeditions to many of today's most famous remote diving sites. He has popularized the idea of diving remote, pristine reefs using live-aboard boats.
5. Ralph Erickson – the late co-founder of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). Ralph died on 25th May 2006.

For more information, visit www.scubahalloffame.com.

Source: <http://www.dtmag.com/09-06-Dive%20Observer.shtml>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WORLD POLICE & FIRE GAMES

The World Police & Fire Games are being held in Adelaide from 16th to 25th March 2007. Visit 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. You can receive the latest news from OZTeK'07 direct by visiting www.diveoztek.com.au to sign up.

ADEX

The next Asia Dive Expo is being held in Bangkok from 27th to 29th April 2007. Visit www.asiadiveexpo.com for more details.

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.

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@sdfsfa.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.