

SDF News Sheet, June 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

PO Box 360, Goodwood SA 5034 www.sdfsa.net sdfsa@adam.com.au

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Please note that we now have a new email address. Please contact us via sdfsa@adam.com.au from now on.

Did you enjoy some good winter diving over the Queen's Birthday long weekend? The next public holiday is 1st October (for Labour 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.

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NEXT MEETING (AGM)

We will be holding our AGM at **7.30pm** on Tuesday 10th July. Please bring a plate of food along for a shared supper. Details of any important issues for discussion at our AGM need to be given to us by 20th June. We need to give our members plenty of notice regarding the discussion of important issues. Twentyone days notice is required under our constitution for the proposal of any special resolutions. Annual reports need to be in the hands of the Secretary by 4th July. Written nominations for positions on the Executive Committee also need to be received by 4th July. Nomination forms have been sent out to our member clubs. The AGM is being held at the Marden Senior College on Marden Road, Marden. Please ensure that your club's appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting.

STATE BUDGET

Julie Pettet, CEO for the Conservation Council of SA, says that there wasn't much in the recent State Budget for environmental matters. She says that although the Council supports the Government's commitment to spend \$4.2m (\$4.152m?) over the next 4 years on the establishment of 19 Marine Parks, it does, however, have major concerns about whether this funding will be sufficient, given the history of neglect of our state's unique and precious marine environment. Treasurer Kevin Foley said that a total of \$4.2m over 4 years will go towards preserving the state's marine environment, \$1m of it in 2007-08. "The 19 marine parks will be zoned for multiple use in order to protect marine and esutuarine ecosystems", he said. The Wilderness Society criticized the Government for not yet passing legislation for the 19 marine parks. The Conservation Council thought that insufficient funding had been allocated towards meeting the sustainability targets outlined in the state's Strategic Plan. Environmentalists said that the Budget failed to address climate change at all. An extra \$300,000 is being provided to allow aerial shark patrols on weekdays when holiday VacSwim classes are conducted in the summertime.

FIND A FISH

Visit <http://www.austmus.gov.au/fishes/fishfacts/index.cfm> where you can view fish species either by scientific name, common name or type of fish. To search for a particular scientific or common name, enter the details in the 'Search the site' box on the left of the screen.

SA CRAY SEASON CLOSURE

The SA cray season (both zones) is now closed for the winter breeding season. The southern zone will re-open at 6am on 1st October. The northern zone re-opens at 6am on 1st November.

MORE ON ROCK LOBSTER

Whilst discussing Rock Lobster, Will Zacharin from PIRSA says that as the Fishery Management Committees were recently disbanded (pending the new legislation), there are no public meetings on rock lobster planned this year. He says that with the transition to the new Fisheries Management Act 2007, which comes into effect on 1st September 2007, the new Fisheries Council will be established. The new Council will determine what Advisory Committees it will establish and public consultation processes on fisheries management. Will also advises us that the southern zone and northern zone rock lobster stock assessment reports should be available in late August (as always), and these reports will then be posted on the PIRSA website.

ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLANS

According to PIRSA's "Fish Facts", Issue 10, June 2007, "PIRSA Fisheries has released revised management plans for the northern and southern rock lobster fisheries. Copies of the plans are available on the PIRSA Fisheries website and all stakeholders are invited to comment on the documents with a submission deadline of June 29, 2007. Recreational fishers are keenly involved in the rock lobster fisheries and the management plans are relevant to all stakeholders. To view the management plans on the PIRSA Fisheries web site, Visit either http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/comm_fishing/nzrlf_management_plan_public_comment_may07.pdf (for the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery Draft Management Plan) or http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/comm_fishing/szrlf_management_plan_public_comment_may07.pdf (for the Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery Draft Management Plan). Also visit http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/comm_fishing/comm23.pdf to view the Management Plan for the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery and http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/comm_fishing/fish_man29.pdf to view the Management Plan for the Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery. Links to several PIRSA management plans can be found at <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/dhtml/ss/section.php?sectID=502&tempID=10>.

RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE

Expressions of interest to build the new jetty at Rapid Bay closed on 16th May. The State Government received seven submissions. They are now short-listing just two contractors prior to selecting which one of them will be given the job. Trial piling at the site is planned to start in October this year. The actual construction of the jetty is then planned to start in November. It should then be finished sometime late in 2008.

CLUB NEWS

Club AGMs

The Glenelg & NARCD clubs are both also holding their AGMs in July. The Marine Life Society of SA held its AGM in May. Its committee was re-elected for another 12 months of hard work. The Sea Wolves club also held its AGM and elected a new committee recently. Kevin Newton tells us that the President and Secretary remain unchanged, but Tim Scutter is the new Treasurer now. The club has also changed its postal address (now 17 Meyer Rd, Lonsdale 5160).

NARCD

The NARCD club achieves its 25th anniversary on 3rd August 2007. They are having a get-together at the Port Noarlunga Hotel (their first meeting place) on Saturday 11th August at 7.00pm.

Mildura Desert Divers

Every month, the Desert Divers advise us when their latest club newsletter can be downloaded. Their May issue (No.200) can be downloaded from: -

<http://web.aanet.com.au/desertdivers/pages/Newsletter/may07.pdf>.

SOCIAL NEWS

This is a new section to cover announcements such as these following items: -

Well done to Nick Turich, Research Officer for the Abalone Sub-Program for SARDI Aquatic Sciences at the Lincoln Marine Science Centre in Port Lincoln. Nick recently won tickets in an RAA competition to go and see the Melbourne Comedy Festival Roadshow. He says that he enjoyed the comedy show greatly.

Diving couple Matthew and Penelope became Mr & Mrs Bressington when they both took the plunge at the Grange Surf Life Saving Club lawns at Grange. Our congratulations go to the happy couple.

Our congratulations also go to Adelaide Scuba's Ray Cotton and his new wife Paula. Ray and Paula were married in April at the Soffitel Resort Chapel in Fiji. The lovely couple were shown in The Advertiser's "Weddings" page on 21st May. Ray says that a great time was had by all.

SHOP NEWS

ADELAIDE SCUBA

Apart from the news of his recent wedding, Ray Cotton advises us that Adelaide Scuba will look after all SDFSA members by offering them special hardware and software pricing. So when you next pay Adelaide Scuba a visit on Brighton Road, tell the sales team there that your club is an SDFSA member and they will do their best for you. It was thanks to the support of Adelaide Scuba that we were able to produce the new Divers Emergency Service Cards. As explained in last month's news sheet, these are a newly-designed card. They are waterproof and credit card size. They may be kept in a purse or wallet, glovebox or BCD pocket, etc.. They provide the Freecall number (1800 088 200) and the international number (+61 8 8212 9242) for the Divers Emergency Service. They also explain how best to discuss an emergency with DES plus attendance of the victim(s) and how to reassure them. Cards were first issued to our member clubs at our May meeting and they will be available at future monthly meetings. Many thanks go to Adelaide Scuba, the Divers Emergency Service and John Lippman from DAN for their assistance with the cards.

WHYALLA CUTTLEFISH SEASON

It's winter again! Have you seen the cuttlefish at Whyalla yet? The annual cuttlefish-spawning season at the top of SA's Spencer Gulf runs until September. Contact Whyalla Diving Services at whydive@ozemail.com.au to arrange for a dive with the cuttlefish. Tony Bramley from WDS advises us that this year's Cuttlefish season began on 4th May. He says that the cuttlefish numbers are good and appear to at least match last year's. Two fishermen saw way too many cuttlefish this month when they caught (stole?) 442 at the protected Whyalla breeding grounds. The two were caught themselves by authorities and had their catch confiscated. They now face serious fishing charges. Phone any of: - 8645 7900, 1800 088 589, or 8682 4688, or visit either of <http://www.whyllacuttlefish.com/cuttlefish/index.htm>, <http://www.whyllacuttlefish.com/cuttlefish/Cuttlefish%20A4%20brochure.pdf>, www.tep.com.au or www.cuttlefishcapital.com.au to find out more about the cuttlefish.

WHALE SIGHTING SEASON

Winter doesn't just mean 'Whyalla'. It also means 'Whales'. The Whale-sighting season has already started again. Don't forget that the SA Whale Centre at Victor Harbor has temporarily

closed for redevelopment. The whale sighting and information services for the 2007 whale season will operate from the Victor Harbor Information Centre. A booth has been 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. Visit www.sawhalecentre.com for more details.

NEW SEADRAGON BOOK

A book for children titled "Seadragon Sea" is available for \$14.99. The story about a baby seadragon's quest to find his home in the seagrass meadow is written by Margaret Spurling and Danny Snell. It teaches children all about the amazing underwater world and the creatures that live there. Young children will also be able to learn how to count up to ten.

GABMP CLOSURE

The waters of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park are closed to all boats until 31st October. Visit either <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/gabmp/> or <http://www.ea.gov.au/coasts/mpa/gab/index.html> for more details on the 6-month closure.

VOLUNTEER DAYS

South Australia's Volunteers Day 2007 was held on the Queen's Birthday public holiday, Monday 11th June. Many thanks again to the delegates who volunteer some of their time to SDF matters by attending meetings and participating on committees, etc.. International Volunteer Day is on Wednesday 5th December 2007. Visit the Office for Volunteers website at www.ofv.sa.gov.au for more details.

ANOTHER PRESENTATION RE THE PROPOSED DESALINATION PLANT AT PORT BONYTHON

Did you miss the presentation at our May meeting? Or would just like to see it all again? Anita Poddar from BHP Billiton is giving another PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed desalination plant at Port Bonython. It is being held at MLSSA's meeting on Wednesday 20th June at 8pm at the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield St, Adelaide. Darren Niejalke, BHPB's Senior Sustainability Advisor will again be available to answer any questions. Come along to hear the answers to questions such as: -

What are the possible effects on marine life?

Will the giant cuttlefish be affected?

What safeguards are there against marine environmental harm?

More details about the desalination plant proposal are included in the June issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

GREAT BARRIER REEF NAMED WORLD'S BEST TOURIST DESTINATION

The Great Barrier Reef was recently voted as the world's best tourist destination at an international awards ceremony in Portugal. According to the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, however, farming in coastal areas of northern Queensland, is to blame for boosting algal growth on inshore reefs and killing them.

JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINE

31st May was the 65th anniversary of the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour during WWII on 31st May 1942. The site of the long-missing Japanese midget submarine M-24 was discovered by a group of divers last November. The discovery of the sub was reported in the December 2006 issue of our SDFSA Bulletin We have previously said that "although the precise location of the sub is not known, it is in 70m of water 3nm off of the coast between Long Reef and Barrenjoey Headland (near Broken Bay and Palm Beach)." We can now advise that the

location is 5km off of Sydney's northern beaches at Bungan Head in 54m of water. That places it within the area previously suggested (between Long Reef and Barrenjoey Headland).

Divers from the navy clearance diving team one took some footage of the wreck of the sub during May. It showed the submarine sitting upright and largely intact on the ocean floor. There was, however, damage to the exterior of the sub, said to have been caused by commercial trawling operations over the past 65 years. More details are included in the June issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

WORLD'S LARGEST PROTECTED MARINE AREA

It was on 15th June 2006 that US President George W. Bush announced the creation of the world's largest protected marine area. Bush designated a 1,200mile-long chain of small Hawaiian islands (and surrounding waters and reefs that are home to a spectacular array of sea life) as a national monument. Under the National Antiquities Act, Bush enacted a suite of strict rules for the area, including a 5-year phasing out of commercial and sport fishing. The chain of largely uninhabited atolls, seamounts, reefs and shoals, which sweeps NW from the big islands of Hawaii, is called the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. It is home to some 7,000 species of marine life, including endangered green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals and millions of breeding seabirds.

SUNKEN ASSETS 2007

On Sunday 19th August 2007, Heritage Victoria is celebrating the 25th anniversary of Victoria's Historic Shipwrecks Act. The Act was introduced in 1982 to protect Victoria's rich maritime heritage. To celebrate the anniversary, Heritage Victoria is holding a one-day seminar titled Sunken Assets 2007. The seminar will be a day of exploring Victoria's maritime heritage. It is open to the public and the SDF of Victoria will be involved. They (SDFV) say that it will be a fascinating day discovering links to our sea-faring past. Visit

<http://www.sdfv.org.au/events/SunkenAssets2007flyer.pdf> to view a flyer for the seminar.

SPIDER CRAB-GATHERING SEASON?

Now is the time to start keeping an eye out for spider crab gatherings. It was in June last year that a large crab-gathering event was witnessed at Rapid Bay. Three divers were diving at the right (eastward) end of the 'T' section, out from Rapid Bay jetty on 25th June, towards the open sea. They said that an area of at least 50 square metres, possibly 100sq.m, was covered in spider crabs. The very same thing reportedly occurred in Port Phillip Bay, Victoria in June 2005. A report taken from our July 2006 SDFSA Bulletin has been reproduced in the June 2007 issue of the Bulletin.

THE REPLICA TALL SHIP *DUYFKEN*

It is also one year since the 24m-long replica of the Dutch ship *Duyfken* was at the Queen's Wharf, Port Adelaide from 18th to 28th May. The replica tall ship left Fremantle, WA on 6th April 2006 to sail 12,000km, visiting 25 ports, to mark the 400th anniversary of European contact with Australia. In 1606, the original *Duyfken*, or 'Little Dove', was commissioned by the VOC (Dutch East India Company) to discover "the great land of Nova Guinea and other unknown east and south lands". Skipped by Willem Janszoon and with a crew of 20, she headed south-east from the Indonesian Banda Islands, past the coast of what we now know as New Guinea on an unintended course that took her to the northern coast of Australia. Janszoon charted 300kms of the coastline. The captain and crew became the first Europeans in authenticated history to set foot on Australian soil when they made landfall at the Pennefather River. (Details taken from <http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2006/mr18mar06.html>)

SHIPWRECK CENTENARIES

Each of the following SA shipwrecks has, this year, either reached, or is about to reach, the centenary of their sinking: - *Willyama*, *Norma*, *Jessie Darling* (which ran onto the *Norma* but was later raised), *Mary Ellis*, *Postboy* and *Aagot*. In 2008, it will be turn of the *Sir Wilfred Lawson* and the *Ellen*, followed the next year by the *Clan Ranald* and the *Monarch*. The 89-ton ketch *Mary Ellis* was wrecked at Sleaford Bay on 5th April 1907. The 2704-ton steamship *Willyama* was wrecked at Marion Bay on 13th April 1907. The 2122-ton steel barque *Norma* was wrecked off of Semaphore on 21st April that same year. The 289-ton steamship *Jessie Darling* ran onto the sunken *Norma* that same day (21st April). The 59-ton *Postboy* was wrecked at Arno Bay in July 1907. The 1242-ton iron barque *Aagot* was wrecked at Wardang Island on 12th October 1907.

OTHER SHIPWRECK ANNIVERSARIES

The *Star of Greece* was wrecked on 13th July 1888.

2nd May was the 154th anniversary of the sinking of the two-masted schooner *Emu* near Frenchman Rock at Port Elliot on 2nd May 1853. The crew of four were all lost and presumed drowned in the tragic incident.

This year is the 385th anniversary of the sinking of the Spanish galleon *Santa Margarita* (sister ship to the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*) which sank in 1622. Further details are included in the June issue of our SDFSAs Bulletin

The Spanish galleon *San Jose* was wrecked in the Upper Florida Keys on 8th June 1708. More details follow below.

The *Batavia* was wrecked on Morning Reef, near the Wallabi group in the Houtman Abrolhos, WA on 4th June 1629.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BICENTENIAL EXHIBITION “SHIPWRECK!” AND THE SHIPWRECK SYMPOSIUM

1st May was the 19th anniversary of the Bicentennial Exhibition “Shipwreck!” and the shipwreck symposium. These were both held at the SA Museum in Adelaide. The “Shipwreck!” Exhibition and the shipwreck symposium were both held in May 1988. Three ‘workshops’ were also held after the symposium, including a tour of the State Conservation Centre. The other two workshops were Underwater Photography And Surveying (with Patrick Baker & Paul Clark) and Researching Shipwrecks (with Bob Sexton).

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

12th May was the 7th anniversary of the decommissioning of HMAS *Hobart* in Sydney on 12th May 2000. The ‘Green Ghost’ was commissioned in 1965 and provided 35 years of naval service.

It is now one year since we issued our ‘safe diving’ documents. The documents can be downloaded from our website at http://www.sdfsas.net/safe_diving_guidelines.htm.

It is two years since the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary in the Port River estuary was opened on 4th June 2005.

It is now 40 years since the Suez Canal was blockaded against Israel by Egypt on 5th June 1967, sparking the 6-day War. The canal re-opened almost 8 years later on 10th April 1975.

25th June marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Jacques Yves Cousteau on 25th June 1997. He was 86 years old.

It seems that 2007 is the 70th anniversary of the first pair of flippers. A Louis de Corlieu is said to have first exhibited flippers at the 1937 World Exposition in Paris where a young Hans Hass

purchased a pair of them. There are more details about this breakthrough event (and more about Hans Hass) in the June issue of our SDFS Bulletin.

SUHR MEETINGS

Peter Roberts gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the current position of the 1864 clipper *City of Adelaide** at the June meeting of the Society for Underwater Historical Research. The meeting was held at The Institute Building, North Tce, Adelaide on 3rd June. The meeting started with a talk on River Murray boats by Peter Christopher. Free information and books for sale were perused during a short interval. The Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) were displaying some of their resources. Peter Roberts was then a surprise speaker for the day. It seems that SUHR meetings are held at 2pm on the 1st Sunday of each month. The July meeting will also be held at The Institute Building, corner of Kintore Ave & North Tce, Adelaide (next to the State Library). There may once again be a surprise speaker in addition to the scheduled speaker. Contact Suzanne Montana Jones on 8363 1552 for more details about the SUHR.

* The *City of Adelaide* is now under a “deconstruction/demolition order” in Scotland. With the demise of the *Cutty Sark*, there is now a greater need to save the *City of Adelaide*. The 1869 tea clipper *Cutty Sark* at Greenwich, England was damaged by fire on 21st May this year.

COMEDY CORNER (Marine Laughs)

Vodafone’s Prepay Jumbo Cap is popular with divers ‘cos it apparently allows them to “talk underwater” (or talk ‘til the cows come home, or talk the leg off a chair).

Lots of divers would have attended the Evermore concert at Thebby Theatre on 14th June just to see the special guest band called “Aqualung” (reviving memories of the Jethro Tull album & song of the same name).

It was disappointing to find out that the editorial headline “Diving is good for economy” in The Advertiser last month was only about submarine contracts.

‘Nessie’ has re-surfaced in Scotland’s 230m deep Loch Ness. The earliest known reference about the famous Loch Ness Monster dates back to about 565AD, some 1442 years ago.

A NSW oyster farmer is lacing his oysters with Viagra to turn them into the ultimate aphrodisiac for the overseas market.

A Hawaiian development company is going to be selling underwater blocks for less than \$50. The blocks cannot be inspected before purchase is made because they are on a volcano which is 900m underwater.

8th June each year is appropriately both World Oceans Day and International Love Day.

PROHIBITED BAD LANGUAGE?

Last month we received the final newsletter from OZTeK’07 by email. We on-forwarded the newsletter to our members by email. It so happens that a Catholic school is a member of one of our member clubs. We were extremely surprised when our email message to the school “bounced back” to us with the following explanation – “This message was bounced for the following reason(s): The message contained prohibited bad language”. We were keen to investigate the actual cause of this bounced message and so we re-read the entire newsletter to try to see just where the so-called bad language occurred. The subject title of the email message was “FW: OZTeK’07 Newsletter - Post Event Review: The Excitement, the Winners, the News!” Nothing amiss there! But according to the bounced message the title of the subject was just “The Excitement the Winners the News!” Could the word “excitement” be the problem? We scanned the entire newsletter once more and discovered words such as “P Technology”, “KISS rebreather”, “X-Contact” and names such as “Westerdyk”. Surely these could not be the

offenders. We can only apologise profusely should anyone have found any offensive words in the newsletter.

MYTH BUSTED

All of those divers who feared the possibility of being sucked up and carried away by either a fire-fighting plane or helicopter can now rest easy. The Channel SBS TV & Discovery Channel program "Mythbusters" has now busted the myth that such an occurrence is possible.

BRUCE HARRIS'S DEATH

SA fishing identity Bruce Harris passed away on Saturday 19th May. He was aged 76. It may not be well known that Bruce took a major interest in the environment. He warned scientists back in the 1970s that effluent was killing the seagrasses off the Adelaide coastline and waged a campaign to change this practice. Our condolences go to Bruce's family and friends.

BLUEFIN TUNA PROTECTION PLANNED

The WWF warns that over-fishing could wipe out major culinary marine species such as bluefin tuna, shark and abalone within 50 years. Other experts believe that bluefin tuna could be extinct within 3 years. Japan is the world's largest consumer of bluefin tuna. The country plans to limit fishing for the species in its own waters to help to protect it from extinction. The Japanese fisheries agency was due to set up a special council by the end of June to draft a plan for the protection of young tuna.

ITEMS IN THE NEWS

A WA Labor MP was allegedly caught with an excessive number of abalone last month. Fisheries Officers found him with more than twice the legal bag limit of abs despite the closure of the season.

Large boats in Queensland will need to be insured for pollution cleanup from now on. New legislation requires owners of boats longer than 15m to take out insurance against environmental damage.

Researchers say that whale shark numbers are declining, possibly due to over-harvesting throughout the world.

A 50-year old man training with SES divers in the River Murray at Mildura on 19th May failed to surface and was feared drowned. NSW Police and SES volunteers had to commence a search of the river for the man's body.

The CSIRO shark-tracking program is now targeting juvenile white pointers, although a recent expedition to WA failed to find any other than a 4m specimen to tag.

The claim by Timothy Akers, the British maritime researcher, that he has discovered the wrecks of the HMAS *Sydney* and the *Kormoran* off the coast of WA, have been disputed by a WA company called HMAS Sydney Search.

NEWS FROM NASA

A NASA-funded robotic submarine recently reached the 318m bottom of the El Zacatón sinkhole in Mexico. El Zacatón is said to be the world's deepest sinkhole. The sub generated a sonar map of the sinkhole's inner dimensions with its autonomous navigation and mapping systems which had been developed by Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Institute.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/05/070531142103.htm>

Meanwhile, NASA astronauts are conducting space-training exercises underwater off of Key Largo, Florida. A spokesperson said that the underwater exercises simulate conditions found on the moon. It seems that working underwater simulates what it is like in space.

HUGE AMOUNT OF SUNKEN TREASURE SALVAGED

Whilst discussing Florida, Tampa-based Odyssey Marine Exploration has salvaged a huge amount of sunken treasure from a shipwreck in the Atlantic Ocean. Details were reported in the 19th May issue of The Advertiser. There are suggestions that the booty came from a 400-year old shipwreck found near the English Channel off of England. Our April 2006 *SDFSA Bulletin* reported some of Odyssey's shipwreck projects of the time, including the *SS Republic* Project and the *HMS Sussex* Project. Our *SDFSA Bulletin* for February 2006 featured the article titled "New Battle Over The *Sussex*". Those details were taken from http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/28/international/europe/28wreck.html?_r=1&oref=slogin . The details were first published in the New York Times on 28th January 2006. Additional information about Odyssey, its projects and archaeological methodologies, is available at www.shipwreck.net. Visit <http://shipwreck.net/pr134.html> to read more about the latest haul of sunken treasure salvaged.

COURT FIGHT FOR RIGHTS TO SAN JOSE TREASURE.

8th June (World Oceans Day) was the 299th anniversary of the sinking of the Spanish galleon *San Jose* in the Upper Florida Keys on 8th June 1708. The ship reputedly carried gold, silver and emeralds now worth more than \$2.3b. The commercial salvage company Sea Search Armada claims to have found the site of the wreck at a depth of 213m in 1982. Sea Search has had to fight in the courts for the rights to the wreck for the past 25 years. They started searching for the wreck back in 1979. Details were published in The Advertiser on 9th June.

UNDERWATER SEARCH EQUIPMENT

To all those 'would be' treasure hunters – JW Fishers Mfg Inc send us copies of their "US Treasure Hunters Newsletter", "Search Team News", "Underwater Search Equipment it Pays to own", "'07 Products" list and "2007 Orders Blank" sheet. The latest copies were tabled at our June meeting. If you need to know more about JW Fishers, check out their website at www.jwfishers.com .

WWII LANDING BARGE REDISCOVERED

A WWII landing barge which sank in Darwin Harbour in the early 1960s has now been rediscovered by a local fisherman. The amphibious Buffalo barge sank during a crossing of Darwin Harbour in the 60s. It had been used during WWII as a landing barge but it ended up being transferred to Darwin to help ferry people between the city and Mandorah. A local man found the barge on a recent fishing trip to the area.

(A 90-foot barge of unknown origin was discovered off of Boston, Massachusetts, USA when Ocean Scan Systems were searching for two sailboats (yachts?) which had sunk during a sudden brief storm. Source: JW Fishers Mfg Inc "Search Team News" Issue 8-1.)

SEARCH FOR RING IN PORT PHILLIP BAY

A couple's romantic weekend cruise went terribly wrong recently. The couple was/were on a borrowed \$500,000 luxury cabin cruiser in Port Phillip Bay near Melbourne. Nathan Smith had intended to propose to his girlfriend and had sailed his friend's motor cruiser from Sandringham. They were bound for Portsea but, before they could reach their destination, a fire started in the galley. The fire was soon out of control and the vessel was almost completely consumed by the flames. Nathan and his girlfriend both escaped on the cruiser's tender. They were unharmed but suffered from shock at the loss of their friend's vessel. Nathan had been preparing to propose to his girlfriend as the fire broke out in the galley (burning love?). The all-important engagement ring was lost as the boat burned and partially sank. The boat, it seems, was insured but the ring wasn't. As it happens, Nathan is a scuba diver and, the last thing that we heard, he was planning

to attempt to recover the ring from the bottom of Port Phillip Bay. Hope that he had some JW Fishers underwater search equipment with him when he made the dive.

Sources: Channel 9 News, <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=266866> , The Advertiser and Nova FM 91.9.

MALE SHARKS NOT REQUIRED

Captive hammerhead sharks are doing their best to build up their numbers. The Nebraska Zoo in the USA had three female hammerheads together in a tank. One of the girls apparently gave birth to a baby recently, despite no previous contact with a male shark. A stingray in the tank unfortunately soon devoured the young hammerhead. The surprise event led to researchers finding that female hammerheads do not require any sperm from male sharks to fertilise their eggs because it seems that they are able to fertilise their own eggs.

SHIPBREAKING INDUSTRY IN BANGLADESH

The shipbreaking industry in Bangladesh featured on Channel 9's "60 Minutes" program on 13th May 2007. Details can be found at <http://sixtyminutes.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=266294> . Our Federation has electronic copies of several papers on shipbreaking, including a position paper regarding a proposed South Australian shipbreaking industry. This paper was prepared in 1999 at the request of a member club. To the best of our knowledge, this was the only academic type paper prepared by any SA non-government body and it gained wide circulation as a briefing paper in conservation, media and parliamentary circles.

BREAKING WAVES

Breaking Waves is a daily digest of ocean news compiled by the World Ocean Observatory from more than 200 media sources around the world. The World Ocean Observatory says that it is "distributing these articles to 18,500 organizations and 8,000 individual subscribers in a bi-monthly digest, organized by theme, including conservation, marine and aquatic biology, climate change and weather, ocean energy, research, pollution and health threats, fisheries, fresh water, governance, ocean culture and traditions, ocean oddities and many more." The World Ocean Observatory is "dedicated to information, education and public discourse about the ocean defined as an integrated global social system. They believe that informed citizens worldwide can unite to sustain the ocean through mitigation and change of human behavior on land and sea." You too can join the World Ocean Observatory (W2O) network. All services and information from the World Ocean Observatory are available free of charge. If you have suggestions for improvements or additional sources, please do not hesitate to contact them at info@thew2o.net. Archived Breaking Waves digests are accessible at <http://www.thew2o.net/forum.html>.

INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

The World Ocean Observatory is pleased to announce the launch of our World Ocean Forum On-Line Event: International Polar Year. Many physical and biological systems on the Earth appear to be experiencing substantial recent changes, beyond the expected range of natural variability. These changes show most clearly, and appear to happen most quickly, at the poles. Between 2007 and 2009, thousands of physical, biological and social scientists from more than 60 nations will study the polar regions as part of a large internationally-coordinated research effort known as the International Polar Year (IPY). The World Ocean Observatory is working in partnership with IPY on several projects during this time. These will be available on this site as they occur over the next two years. Visit <http://www.thew2o.net/events/polaryear/index.html> for interviews with preminent scientists involved with IPY. For information on other International Polar Year projects and initiatives, visit the IPY website: <http://www.ipy.org>

ADELAIDE & MT LOFTY RANGES NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD COMMUNITY CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

During June 2007, the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board will be holding a series of community consultation workshops to seek public input on their draft NRM Plan that is currently being prepared. Once completed, this Plan will guide the Board's actions for the next 10 years. It is therefore vital that the views of conservation groups are incorporated. Attend a community workshop to give your input and ideas for local NRM actions. Play a part in developing a comprehensive plan for managing, protecting and restoring our region's precious water, land, marine, coastal and biodiversity assets. All workshops are from 7 to 9.30pm. Refreshments are provided. Please RSVP to the Board on phone 8273 9100 or email reception@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au no later than three days prior to your selected workshop. Visit www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au for more details.

Community workshops being held are as follows: -

Victor Harbor – Monday 18 June

Victor Harbor Civic Centre, 1 Bay Road, Victor Harbor

Yankalilla – Tuesday 19 June

Yankalilla Sporting Club, Memorial Park,
Main South Road, Yankalilla

Tanunda – Wednesday 20 June

Tanunda Senior Citizens Centre, 150 Murray Street, Tanunda

Hahndorf – Thursday 21 June

Upper Heidi Room, Hahndorf Resort, 145 Main Street, Hahndorf

Seaford – Monday 25 June

Seaford Ecumenical Centre, Main Street, Seaford Town Centre

Birdwood – Tuesday 26 June

Birdwood Community Hall, Shannon Street, Birdwood

Woodville – Wednesday 27 June

City of Charles Sturt Civic Centre, 72 Woodville Road, Woodville

Salisbury – Thursday 28 June

John Harvey Gallery, City of Salisbury Office,
12 James Street, Salisbury

Unley – Tuesday 3 July

Unley Civic Centre, Oxford Terrace, Unley

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ADELAIDE BOAT SHOW

This year's Adelaide Boat Show is being held July 19th –22nd at the Adelaide Convention Centre in North Terrace. Visit www.adelaideboatshow.com.au for more details.

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

Workshops and shootout competitions are being held at the Seraya Resort in Bali from 11-17th August. Details were published on page 14 of the April issue of Dive Log. Application forms are available by emailing download@underwaterartists.com.

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.

OZTeK'09

The next OZTeK Diving Technologies Conference and Exhibition - OZTeK'09 - has been tentatively scheduled for March 2009, and will again be held in Sydney.

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: -

Yet Another Presentation Re The Proposed Desalination Plant At Port Bonython .. **Error!**

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New Deepwater Rescue System For European Naval Forces **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Deep-Sea Sponge Gardens **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Spider Crab Gatherings..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

B-25 Mitchell Bomber **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Hans Hass **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Barry Andrewartha - Recipient Of The 2007 Oztek Industry Recognition Award... **Error!**

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Japanese Midget Submarine **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

“Japanese Wwii Sub Largely Intact..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Costs Delay *Canberra* Plan **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Nuestra Señora De Atocha And Santa Margarita **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Penguins’ Cruel End **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Cold Corals Shine Light On Ocean History **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Coral Disease Linked To Ocean Warming **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Two 1860s Clipper Ships..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Grey Nurse Shark Numbers **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 sdfsa@adam.com.au 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.