

SDF News Sheet, March 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 info@sdfsa.net www.sdfsa.net

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

Our next meeting is being held at the Marden Senior College on Marden Road, Marden at 8pm on Easter Tuesday (10th April). Please ensure that your club's appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting.

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS

Daylight saving ends on Sunday 25th March. Make sure that you remember to wind all of your timing devices forward one hour at 3am (or before going to bed). Best head off to bed early because the night will be one hour shorter.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Easter is just around the corner again. Good Friday is on 6th April and Easter Monday is on 9th April. The extra-long weekend created by these two public holidays allows plenty of time for some serious diving.

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.

RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE

We haven't had much to report lately re progress regarding the building of a new jetty at Rapid Bay. Progress has been generally slow. We understand that the authorities were surprised to find that the substrate at the proposed site was extremely hard. This will have a hard impact (pardon the pun) on the pile-driving for the new jetty. It will also impact on the building costs. This may result in a shorter jetty being built. We have finally got word of a meeting of the [Rapid Bay Jetty Design Reference Group](#). They are meeting at Dame Roma Mitchell House 5.30 to 7pm on Tuesday 20th March.

DES CARD UPDATE

We haven't forgotten about the proposed DES cards. We are endeavouring to keep the cost down by inviting the participation of the SA dive industry. We will keep you updated when we know the result.

GRANTS UPDATE

No news re new grants. The Coastal Waters Dive Club were successful in their grant application for the purchase of a large marquee. Some clubs, however, were unsuccessful. We can only advise you to keep on trying.

CLUB NEWS

The Sea Wolves are involved in a 'Come 'n' Try Diving' event at Port Noarlunga this Sunday, 18th March.

SPORTING EVENT ADMINISTRATION, SAFETY CHECKLIST, SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Richard Mellon, Manager Industry Development & Training Branch of Recreation and Sport Development for the Office for Recreation and Sport says that you may be interested in a series of four flyers released in November 2006 by Safework SA on event safety for small to medium

community events, including sporting events. There are sheets on Event Administration, Event Safety Checklist, Event Safety Management and Event Risk Assessment. Check them out at http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show_page.jsp?id=5852 . There are also new guidelines in the same section (see menu to the left of the page) on the use of First Aid Kits (July 2006). Richard also says that they have had some sports raise the issue that their volunteers/members are increasingly unwilling to provide even basic first aid to other members for fear of being held personally liable if they do the wrong thing. He says that here in SA we have 'Good Samaritan' legislation in place for this purpose. It protects a person who goes to the aid of another person in an emergency, provided that they do not do anything that is grossly negligent.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

As we reported in our January news sheet, 2007 is the 10th anniversary of the first International Year of the Reef (1997). Little did we realize that there were plans to do it all again. Further details are included in the March issue of our SDFS Bulletin.

SPEARFISHING WITNESSED IN AQUATIC RESERVE

It seems that spearfishing activities have been occurring under the Port Noarlunga jetty within the Port Noarlunga Aquatic Reserve. This is not only illegal, it is downright dangerous. Just imagine the possibilities when an inexperienced spearfisher gets too carried away in low visibility water with swimmers, divers and snorkellers all around. If you witness any such activities, report it to either the Police or FishWatch so that they can take prompt action.

NEW FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2006

The Fisheries Management Bill 2006 was passed by State Parliament in February. Penalties for offences under the resulting Act have now increased (doubled?). Fisheries Officers will now have new powers and a new Fisheries Council is being established. There are strict new bag limits and new possession limits are being proposed. Nominations for the new Fisheries Council are being sought by the State Government. More details are included in the March issue of our SDFS Bulletin.

NEW DISCOVERIES

Here are a few new discoveries that have been reported in the newspapers recently: -
1000 new marine habitat areas, including reefs, sandy bottoms and seagrass beds, have been found in SA with the help of satellites.

Two deep sea trenches containing sponge gardens were discovered in Backstairs Passage.

A new form of algae of interest to medical researchers was found in one of the newly discovered habitat areas.

A research team at the University of Melbourne's zoology department have discovered that River Murray yabbies have a sophisticated 6th sense which alerts them to prey and predators.

Twenty new species of sharks and rays have been discovered in Indonesia by a group of Australian researchers from CSIRO. The group conducted a 5-year survey of catches at the local fish markets. The study represents the first review of Indonesia's sharks and rays in almost 150 years. The Dutch scientist Pieter Bleeker apparently studied them between 1842 and 1860.

During the 1800s Bleeker described dozens of fish species that occur in Australian waters. At least eight fish species around the world carry his name (*bleekeri*) including the Eastern Blue Devil, *Paraplesiops bleekeri* (not to be confused with the Western Blue Devil).

COMEDY CORNER (Marine Laughs)

In February some New Zealand fishermen discovered a 10m-long squid weighing about 450kg. It apparently had a penis “the size of a man”. That would’ve been hard to see on such a large creature.

ONE AND ALL NOW BASED AT PORT AUGUSTA

The tall ship *One and All* is now based at the Port Augusta wharf, having relocated from Port Adelaide. The ‘out of action’ *Falie* is now moored in her place near the lighthouse at the Inner Harbour at Port Adelaide.

LUMB’S SCUTTling

The people at Southern Diving have been able to tell us that the *HA Lumb* was scuttled on December 9th in 1994. As mentioned in last month’s news sheet, she is located off of Port Noarlunga in 24m of water. Southern Diving have some details about the wreck on the walls of their shop. They actually have displays about many things around their shop walls, including seadragons, Hallett Cove reef and destroyers that have been scuttled around the country. Check it all out at 1 Roy Tce, Christies Beach.

PRESENTATION RE PROPOSED DESALINATION PLANT AT WHYALLA

BHP Billiton is proposing 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. BHP Billiton and the State Government signed a memorandum of understanding in February 2006, agreeing 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. Anita Poddar from BHP Billiton will be giving a PowerPoint presentation and answering questions regarding the proposed desalination plant at Port Bonython that will service the Roxby Downs expansion at the next SARFAC Council meeting on 17th April beginning at 5.30pm at the rooms of the Australian Physiotherapy Association, unit 8, 15 Fullarton Rd, Kent Town. The presentation will convey this information as well as information about the Environmental Impact Statement process.

BURSATELLA SEA HARE SIGHTING

NARCD member (Vice-President) Nathan Crettenden found four *Bursatella* sea hares on a dive at Rapid Bay jetty on 14th January 2007. The single species of *Bursatella* featured in “Australian Marine Life” by Graham Edgar (page 273-4) is said to be found only in WA. *Bursatella leachii*, a related species, is said to occur in the tropics. The Sea Slug Forum, however, says that a sub-species (*B. leachii leachii*) is found in the Coffs Harbour region of northern New South Wales, Australia. The following details about *Bursatella leachii* were found at

<http://www.seaslugforum.net/factsheet.cfm?base=bursleac>.

Bursatella leachii (de Blainville, 1817) - Order: ANASPIDEA, Family: Aplysiidae.

DISTRIBUTION: Found in warm temperate and tropical waters throughout the world. Seven or eight geographical subspecies are recognised by some authorities.

WHALEBONES

Whilst we're discussing NARCD dives, their March newsletter gives these details about the Whalebones at Victor Harbor: -

“Whalebones, it is a natural reef formed from the dumping of processed whale carcasses by the whaling station in the 1930's. Now the canopy of the reef is in 3m with the sand in 7m. You can swim around under the canopy through the various tunnels with the beautiful garden hanging from the roof. There are lots of yellow, orange, red and pink lace corals on the walls and lots of fish around.” Check it out at www.narcd.com .

RECREATIONAL ABALONE FISHING INFORMATION WEB PAGE

For information about recreational abalone fishing in SA visit http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/rec_fishing/mf_abal.htm.

FERRY UPDATE

The new ferry to replace the *Seaway* Wallaroo to Lucky Bay ferry will arrive from the Philippines this month. The *Sea Scope I* will then undergo trials prior to commencing service. The \$8.5m 49m-long vessel carries up to 60 cars and 350 passengers. It is a drive-through vessel which ensures quicker loading and unloading. It should begin operating by 25th March.

ANNIVERSARIES

23rd March is the 5th anniversary of the scuttling of the *Seawolf* by the Seawolves Dive club on 23rd March 2002.

23rd March is also the 1st anniversary of the scuttling of the 3500 tonne North Korean freighter *Pong Su*. She was struck by a missile from a RAAF F-111. Two explosions ripped through the vessel and sent it to the bottom about 140km off of Jervis Bay, NSW. The ship had been used to import (smuggle) 150kg of heroin into Australia in 2003. The vessel was seized by Australian authorities after a 4-day chase.

26th March is the 64th anniversary of the disappearance of a B-17 Flying Fortress plane during a flight from PNG to Brisbane on 26th March 1943. The plane was carrying US Army Air Force Brigadier General Howard K Ramey and 9 other men when it vanished. Ben Cropp found some wreckage from the plane recently.

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: -

International Year Of The Reef	Error! Bookmark not defined.
New Fisheries Management Act 2006	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Ewens Ponds And Eight Mile Creek	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Free Dive Master Internship Course	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Body Recovered From Black Hawk Wreckage	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Illegal Baiting Attracts Sharks To Jetties	Error! Bookmark not defined.
The State Of Horseshoe Reef (& Port Noarlunga)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Fish Are Vital For Coral Reef Protection	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Neville Coleman And Rodney Fox's Recent Induction Into The International Scuba-Diving Hall Of Fame	Error! Bookmark not defined.
The Ships On Display At The Australian National Maritime Museum	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.

WORLD POLICE & FIRE GAMES

The World Police & Fire Games are currently being held in Adelaide (from 16th to 25th March). There will be netball at ETSA Park, ice hockey at the Ice Arena, golf at Kooyonga Golf Club, lawn bowls at Lockleys Bowling Club, Softball at the SA Softball Association at West Beach Badminton at the SA Badminton Centre at Lockleys, and both track & field events and the “Toughest Competitor Alive” event at Santos Stadium. Visit www.2007wpfg.com for more details.

POLICE DIVING IN SE OF SA

SA Police divers were back down in the south-east practising their diving skills last month. They held a 10-day camp and practised at sites such as Piccaninnie Ponds.

Source: “The Border Watch” 16th February 2007

POLICE DIVING AT PHILLIP ISLAND

Meanwhile, Victorian Police divers have been searching under the Cowes pier (jetty) at Phillip Island for evidence regarding the disappearance of Terry Cotter in October 2003. We wouldn't normally mention such an event but the police say that recreational divers may long have picked up any relevant evidence at the site. If you know of anything that has been found at the site in the past three years or so, please report the matter to the police as it may be crucial in their investigations.

SEX CHANGE IN FISHES

‘Protandry’ means a change from male to female and ‘Protogyny’ means the opposite – a change from female to male. The terms ‘protandrous’ and ‘protogynous’ may be used in relation to both flowers and animals. In the case of animals, ‘protandrous’ means ‘producing first sperm, and then eggs’, whereas ‘protogynous’ means ‘producing first eggs and then sperms’. Some species of flathead and gobies are ‘protandrous’ (males become females) and some species of wrasse are ‘protogynous’ (females become males). Sea Bream change sex in both directions.

Further reading: “Some Terms for Fish Genders and Gender Changing” by Steve Reynolds, MLSSA Newsletter September 2005, No 325.

SHARK BIRTH IN MANLY AQUARIUM

20-year old Pallas, one of the female Grey Nurse sharks in the Oceanworld aquarium at Manly in NSW, recently gave birth to a male shark pup. It is the second young Grey Nurse born in the aquarium in the past five years. A female shark pup named Maia was born to a different mother at Manly five years earlier. I was able to meet Maia when I did a shark dive in the aquarium in July 2005. She was an imposing size even then.

VULNERABLE DEEP SEA SHARKS

Meanwhile, scientists recently added several species of deep sea sharks to the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Red List of vulnerable species. Three species of Thresher Shark have been designated as “vulnerable globally” and the Shortfin Mako has been designated as “vulnerable today”.

SEARCH FOR WWI SUBMARINE

The Royal Australian Navy has been searching off of Papua New Guinea for the wreckage of the WWI E-class submarine HMAS AE1 which was Australia's first sub. The survey ships HMAS *Benalla* and HMAS *Shepparton* were conducting the search for the AE1 which was lost ‘with all hands’ somewhere near Rabaul on 14th September 1914. The sub was on patrol after the

successful taking of Herbertshohe. There were 35 people on board the sub which was in calm but very deep waters. The Navy may have found the missing sub but is not revealing too much at this early stage. It seems that the *Benall* was towing side scan sonar and detected a man-made object about 25-30m* long and 4m high. The Navy now intends to use an ROV with imaging capabilities to positively ID the object found. The AE1's sister ship (submarine) HMAS AE2 sank in some 73m of water in the Sea of Marmara 7½ months later on 30th April 1915. That site was located in 1998. Details were reported in the February 2007 SDFSA Bulletin.
*Both subs were 56m long, so the wreckage found may be, at best, only half a sub.
The subs were built in England and sold to Australian prior to WWI in 1914.

TWO DIVE EXPOS FOR BANGKOK

It now seems that there are going to be two dive expos in Bangkok this year. The Asia Dive Expo is being held at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Thailand from 27-29th April 2007. The Thailand Travel & Dive Expo 2007 is being held 24-27th May 2007 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand. Further details are given below.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CLIMATE LAW IN AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

The Climate Law in Australia Conference is being held in Canberra 12-13th April 2007. It is the first Australian conference to focus exclusively on the emerging legal dimensions of global warming. Climate change has become the focus of intense global and Australian media interest, public concern and political and policy activity. It not only offers significant technological and economic challenges relating to the reduction of greenhouse emissions, but also presents novel legal problems. Visit <http://law.anu.edu.au/accel/Events.asp> for further details.

LEAFY SEADRAGON FESTIVAL

The 2007 Leafy Seadragon Festival is being held from 20-29 April. Phone 08 8558 2999 for more details. Details were also included in the March issue of Dive Log (page 21).

WA UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

An underwater photography competition is being held at Rottnest 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 February 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).

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 at the Putra World Trade Centre, Hall 4, 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 March 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.

Ben Fitzgibbon from the ACRS Conference Organising Committee says "The aim of this year's conference is to attract participation from a wide range of scientists, managers, industry representatives and students from around the country, and the theme is 'East Meets West: Science and Management of Australia's Coral Reefs'. The conference will include three days of presentations, talks from Australian and International plenary speakers*, several social functions, and workshops for presenters and students on the following day. The cost of students travelling from interstate will be heavily subsidised, and registration costs will be kept low to encourage attendance."

*Australian and International plenary speakers are soon to be confirmed. Check the website at www.australiancoralreefsociety.org for updates.

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 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.