

SDF News Sheet, November 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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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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**November events:**

**MARINE PARKS AND MARINE PLANNING OPEN DAYS**

The Coast & Marine Conservation Branch of the Department for Environment & Heritage recently completed a series of 16 public meetings around SA on the Draft Marine Parks Bill. They are now gearing up for another round of community open days promoting marine parks, marine planning and other marine conservation programs. The open days will be a chance for the community to learn more about these initiatives and to ask questions in a relaxed and informal setting. You are invited to come along and to bring your family and friends. Learn more about your local marine environment. Bring your kids along to meet 'Gavin the Leafy Sea Dragon' (animated DVD). Find out how to get involved in marine planning and marine parks. Please drop in anytime between **3:00pm and 7:00pm**. The next open days scheduled for 2006 will be as follows: -

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Marion Bay	Marion Bay Community Hall
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Ceduna	Ceduna Memorial Hall, Poynton Street
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Streaky Bay	Rural Transaction Centre, 21 Bay Road
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Elliston	Community Hall, 6 Memorial Drive
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Port Lincoln	Lincoln Marine Science Centre
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Port Wakefield	Eagle Sports and Community Centre
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Port Pirie	Port Pirie Yacht Club, Main Road

Information on these sessions and future DEH marine information sessions can be accessed via the DEH Coast and Marine website [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/latest\\_news.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/latest_news.html)

**DEH COAST AND MARINE SEMINAR**

The final Department of Environment Coast and Marine Seminar this year is being held on Wednesday 29th November from 12.30pm - 1.30pm in the Coorong Boardroom at 1 Richmond Road, Keswick. It will be presented by Liz Barnett (Senior Project Officer, Estuaries Policy, Coast and Marine Conservation Branch). Liz will discuss the Estuaries Action Plan. All welcome.

**ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF MARINE SCALEFISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The annual public meeting of the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Committee is being held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at the SA Sea Rescue Squadron, Barcoo Rd, West Beach. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Andrew Sullivan on 8226 2961 or at [Sullivan.Andrew@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:Sullivan.Andrew@saugov.sa.gov.au) for more details.

**December events:**

**SCUBA SYMPOSIUM**

Adelaide University Scuba Diving Club is hosting a *Scuba Symposium* at 7pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006. Entry is by gold coin donation (to assist with costs). The symposium is being held in the Union Cinema on the North Terrace Campus. Ken Smith will speak about the recent exploration of Kija Blue sinkhole in the Kimberly that he was part of. His presentation, titled "Kija Blue Discovery & Expedition", will feature images by Dr Richard "Harry" Harris. John Lippmann from the Divers Alert Network will give a talk titled "Dangerous Marine Creatures". Bookings are not essential but please advise the AUSDC of your intention to attend by phoning

8210 0064 or email to [president@adelaidescuba.com](mailto:president@adelaidescuba.com) . The Union Cinema is on level 5 of Union Building East, University of Adelaide, North Terrace Campus.

### **COASTCARE WEEK**

The first week of December is Coastcare Week, a national initiative held in December each year to raise community awareness of coastal and marine issues, and promote support for the Australian Coastcare communities and natural resource management. Coastcare is a group of community volunteers caring for their coast. These volunteers identify local environmental problems and work together to achieve practical solutions. Coastcare (and Landcare groups) tackle problems like dune erosion, loss of native plants and animals, storm water pollution, weeds and control of human access to sensitive areas. For further information visit <http://www.landcareonline.com/page.asp?PID=78> .

### **OCEAN CARE DAY**

This year's Ocean Care Day is being held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY**

International Volunteers Day is being held on Tuesday 5th December.

### **POLICE EXPO**

A Police Expo is being held at the Fort Largs Academy on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Demonstrations being performed by the SA Police includes diving.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Christmas is just around the corner now. Our last meeting for the year is being held at the Metropolitan Hotel at 46 Grote Street, Adelaide (by Her Majesty's Theatre) at 8pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please ensure that your club's appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting.

### **Other news & items of interest:**

#### **TALL SHIP NEWS**

It has now been confirmed that the 87-year old *Falie* will never sail again due to her costly unseaworthiness. A taskforce has now been set up to consider plans for her future (and that of the *Nelcebee*). The name of the *Falie* comes from the original Captain's pet name for his wife. The *Nelcebee*'s name is taken from Nelshaby Springs near Port Pirie. Nelshaby is also spelled either as 'Nelshiby' or 'Nelcebee'. It is Aboriginal for 'boiling spring'. Meanwhile, it seems that Port Augusta may become the new home port for the *One & All*. A decision is expected to be made at the end of this year. The move to Port Augusta would then take place by mid-2007.

#### **ONE & ALL DINNER CRUISES**

Our sponsor, SA Tall Ships offer dinner cruises on the *One & All* tall ship. You can enjoy a buffet meal during relaxing voyages either day or evening (Twilight sails). Daily sails cost \$110pp and are planned for 5/12, 17/12 & 28/12. Twilight sails cost \$99pp and are planned for 25/11, 7-10/12, 14-17/12, 22/12 & 29/12. For more information or bookings, contact Inika on 8341 2004, 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

### **CLUB NEWS**

Mildura Desert Divers Club

The MDDC has a new committee for the next 12 months. The previous committee was re-elected as was other than the position of Vice-President, which has been filled by Peter Holt, and Trip Coordinator, which has been filled by Steve Sheedy. Mick Bobstchinsky remains as the President of the Desert Divers.

### **SHOP NEWS**

[Salisbury Dive & Tackle World](#) has now moved to new premises at 1A Salisbury Highway, Salisbury. Kym is able to arrange airfills for you if you don't mind a delay of a few days. Taylors Marine has moved from Port Adelaide to 451 Victoria Road, Taperoo.

### **NEW FERRY UPDATE**

The new ferry from Wallaroo to Lucky Bay on the Eyre Peninsula will make its first trip across Spencer Gulf on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### **NEW [SA CAMPAIGNER FOR THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY](#)**

Congratulations to [Heidi Bartram](#) who has now become the new [SA Campaigner for the Wilderness Society](#).

### **MARINE WEATHER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Trevor Watts represents SARFAC on the Department of Meteorology's SA Marine Weather Consultative Committee. Rob Richards, our SARFAC Rep, reminds us that, if SDF has any issues on marine forecasting, Trevor can have them discussed. Meetings are held at the Bureau of Meteorology, 25 College Rd. Kent Town. The last meeting of the Marine Weather Consultative Committee (held on Thursday 9th November) discussed topics such as: - Hurricane Force Wind Warnings, Verification of Metropolitan Waters Forecasts, Marine Services Education Pamphlets and a Marine Forecast Holder. Items for each agenda need to be listed one week before the meetings. Send details of any items that you wish to be put on to the agenda to [trevor@sarfac.com](mailto:trevor@sarfac.com). The Bureau of Meteorology's website is at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

### **CRAYFISH SEASON**

The Southern Rock Lobster season in the **northern** zone started again on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Both the southern and northern zone rock lobster seasons close on 31st May.

### **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BILL 2006**

The Fisheries Management Bill 2006 was introduced to the SA Parliament on 26<sup>th</sup> October. The Bill has taken some 5 years to complete. It will increase maximum penalties for fishing offences. Fisheries Officers will be given new powers under the Bill.

### **SHARK PATROLS**

The Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter has started patrolling beaches on weekends. Patrols will operate from 1 to 5pm generally but may be extended longer on particularly hot days. Surf Life Saving SA beach patrols will use rescue jet boats and three jet skis. The three new \$18,000 jet skis will be sent to areas of most need and to special events in the state. Five lifeguards have been trained in jet-ski use. Fixed-wing aerial patrols will operate between North Haven and Normanville from 11am to 7.45pm on weekdays during summer (1st December 2006 until March 30th 2007). The Volunteer Marine Rescue Service will have boats patrolling much of the SA coastline. The Volunteer Coast Guard at North Haven will have a jet ski for use as a rescue craft. It will also be used 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 or SA Police on 131 444.

### **SHIPWRECK CENTENARIES**

Last year it was the *Loch Vennachar*, this year it's the *Montebello*, and next year it's the *Norma* and the *Willyama*. After that it will be the *Sir Wilfred Lawson* and the *Ellen*, followed the next year by the *Clan Ranald* and the *Monarch*. Each of these well-known SA shipwrecks has either reached, or is about to reach, the centenary of their sinking. There are also a few others in the same boat, as it were. There have been many shipwrecks before them and many more since. At least three other shipwrecks celebrate (?) their centenaries next year besides the *Norma*. Apart from the *Jessie Darling*, which ran onto the *Norma* but was later raised, there is the *Mary Ellis*, the *Postboy* and the *Aagot*. September 2005 was the centenary of the wreck of the *Loch Vennachar*. 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006 is the centenary of the sinking of the *Montebello* near Stun' Sail Boom River, Kangaroo Island. She was a 3-masted iron barque. She was forced on to rocks during a storm on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1906. There was no loss of life since all of her crew was taken ashore via a makeshift flying fox. The storm quickly broke the ship up and scattered her remains on the seabed. The *Montebello* was built in France in 1900. Her length was 276 feet and her beam was 38 feet.

### **MARINE LIFE POSTAGE STAMPS**

Australia Post has released a new series of postage stamps featuring marine life such as the Blue-ringed Octopus and Great White Shark. The "Dangerous Australians" series comprises of six stamps as follows: - 50c - White Shark *Carcharodon carcharias*, 50c - Eastern Brown Snake *Pseudonaja textiles*, 50c - Box Jellyfish *Chironex fleckeri*, 50c - Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*, 50c - Blue-ringed Octopus *Hapalochlaena lunulata*, \$1.00 - Yellow-bellied Sea Snake *Pelamis platurus*. Visit

[http://www.auspost.com.au/philatelic/stamps/stampshop\\_2.asp?pid=182022984&product\\_type=8&category\\_id=538](http://www.auspost.com.au/philatelic/stamps/stampshop_2.asp?pid=182022984&product_type=8&category_id=538) for more details. Another stamp series featuring marine life which was released recently is "Fish of the Australian Antarctic Territories". This stamp issue features four fish species found in waters around the Australian Antarctic Territories. They are presented in a style reminiscent of 19th-century scientific specimen sketches. The four stamps are: - 50c - Mackerel Icefish, 50c - Lanternfish, \$1.00 - Eaton's Skate, \$1.00 - Patagonian Toothfish. There is also a stamp series featuring whales such as the Humpback and Blue Whale. Visit [http://www.auspost.com.au/philatelic/stamps/stampshop\\_2.asp?pid=385723287&product\\_type=8&category\\_id=532](http://www.auspost.com.au/philatelic/stamps/stampshop_2.asp?pid=385723287&product_type=8&category_id=532) for more details.

### **SA LEGISLATION WEBSITE IS NOW ONLINE**

The Attorney-General is pleased to announce that a new South Australian legislation website is now online. Developed by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Attorney-General's Department, this website is a very valuable resource for anyone seeking information on SA legislation. The website at [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au) provides access to current and historical versions of public general Acts, regulations, certain rules and certain aquaculture and environment protection policies, Bills of the current session of Parliament and of previous sessions of Parliament (from 2005), proclamations and notices made by the Governor (from 2003), as made versions of Acts and regulations, rules, proclamations and notices made by the Governor (from 2003), legislative index information, information about regulations due to expire under the Subordinate Legislation Act, Ministers to whom Acts are committed, and other matters. Legislation is available in both PDF and RTF formats.

## **22 YEARS AGO**

A diving medical seminar was held at the Royal Adelaide Hospital on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1984. The seminar was sub-titled “To Bend Or Not To Bend – What Is The Answer?”. It was run by the SA Post Graduate Medical Education Association Inc. in association with the then Scuba Divers Association of SA\*. It was described as being a practical seminar for divers and the medical profession on the physics, physiology and clinical presentation of diving medicine. Participants at the seminar included Drs Dean Beaumont, Carl Edmonds, Tony Swain and Des Gorman. Back then the decompression chamber was situated in Dequetteville Terrace at Kent Town. It was open for seminar participants to visit.

\*The Scuba Divers Association of SA changed its name to become the Scuba Divers Federation of SA at its AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1985.

## **21 YEARS AGO**

The SDFSFA participated in a Hobby Fair being held at the Wayville Showgrounds on the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 1985. We displayed things such as diving equipment, photographs, slides, artifacts, a mini submarine and inflatable boats. Handouts promoting the pleasures of diving, dive courses and dive clubs were given to the public. A swimming pool was set up to allow people to try scuba gear out i.e. breathing on a regulator. There were also diving demonstrations. The following weekend the SDFSFA held the “Dive ‘85” seminar on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1985. It was held at AMDEL (the Australian Mineral Foundation) in Conyngham Street, Glenside. There were several displays by dive shops, distributors, clubs and travel groups. A marine aquarium was one of the items on display. Several speakers, including Peter Stone, presented talks at the seminar.

## **9 YEARS AGO**

After two years of lobbying by the SDFSFA to have diver access steps installed on the Port Noarlunga jetty, new jetty steps were officially opened by Ray Gilbert, the Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga, on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1997.

## **MORE ON STINGRAYS**

Our October news sheet reported that a spokesperson for Dive Queensland had said that snorkelling or diving on the Great Barrier Reef was still safe and that tourists should not be afraid to visit the Great Barrier Reef because of stingrays. He also said that Steve Irwin’s death was “akin to a lightning strike”. In the meantime, an 81-year old Florida man was stabbed through the heart by a stingray. The man was piloting his boat through an inlet when a 1.5m Spotted Eagle Ray leapt aboard. The stingray stabbed the man with its tail barb when he picked it up to throw it back out. The man survived the attack but the stingray died in the boat. Spotted Eagle Rays often jump out of the water, although no one seems to know why they do it. This particular one may have received a fright causing it to leap in to the boat. It’s my guess that they wouldn’t intend jumping in to a boat any time. Spotted Eagle Rays, *Aetobatus narinari*, are said to occur worldwide in tropical and temperate seas. They don’t seem, however, to occur in SA waters.

## **HMAS CANBERRA TO GO TO VICTORIA**

The *Canberra* is going to Victoria and the *Adelaide* could go to New South Wales! It has now been announced that HMAS *Canberra* will be scuttled in Victorian waters as a dive wreck. Read the November issue of our SDFSFA Bulletin for more details.



## **SDFSFA BULLETIN**

Attached along with this *SDF News Sheet* is a copy of the latest issue of our *SDFSFA bulletin*. This is an electronic bulletin separate to our normal monthly *SDF News Sheet*. Future issues of the *SDFSFA bulletin* will include lengthy articles about matters of interest to recreational divers. We welcome contributions from our readers. The November issue of our SDFSFA Bulletin includes different details about submarines.

## **CUSTOMS TO USE REMOTE CONTROLLED MINI-SUBS**

Whilst on the topic of submarines, remote controlled mini-submarines will be used by customs officers to check ship's hulls for drugs, weapons and bombs in Australia's busiest ports. Five remote controlled mini-sub's are needed by the Australian Customs Service for use in four states.

## **WA DIVERS TO HELP COLLECT MARINE ENVIRONMENT DATA**

"Scuba divers and snorkellers along the Western Australian south coast are being recruited to gather information about the region's marine environment. The Salt Water Treasures program aims to involve schools and local community groups in collecting information on different marine species and monitoring sites at risk of being infested with introduced marine pests. Divers and snorkellers will be provided with the training and equipment required to gather data that will be used in conjunction with other information collected by marine scientists. The program is being coordinated by the south coast's natural resource management group SCRIPT." Source: The Marine & Coastal Community Network's "Wetstuff News" dated 15th November 2006 and <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200611/s1784412.htm> .

## **BLUE ROCK DIVE CENTRE**

The Blue Rock Dive Centre is in the (Aussie owned and run) "Blue Rock Resort" in Subic Bay in the wreck diving mecca of the Philippines. Matt from the Blue Rock Dive Centre invites us to check out their web site at [www.divebluerock.com](http://www.divebluerock.com) . Matt would be happy to discuss possible trips to the Blue Rock Dive Centre. He says that he is a fellow Aussie and previously worked out of Melbourne in the dive industry. He believes that he understands what we Aussies want and would like to have the opportunity to show everyone what Subic Bay has to offer to the Aussie dive community. So please check out his web site and let him know if there is any interest in what the Blue Rock Dive Centre, (63) 47 224 7802, have to offer.

## **WWII PLANE SALVAGED**

A German World War II plane was recently salvaged from the sea off of the island of Sotra, near Bergen in western Norway. The aircraft is a Focke Wulf 190 which made an emergency landing in the sea in December 1943.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **2007 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 5<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

The OZTeK'07 Australasian Diving Conference & Exhibition is being held 17-18<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney. OZTeK expect a raft of new products to be on

display during the exhibition. A wide range of rebreathers will be on show with the manufacturers again running unit seminars for users. Digital photography will again be a part of the technology theme and all underwater photographers will be interested in the latest developments to be seen. The OZTeK'07 web site at [www.diveoztek.com.au](http://www.diveoztek.com.au) provides news and updates on exhibitors, speakers, prizes, seminars, new products, photo competition, the famous gala dinner and all the events and action that will make OZTeK'07 the highlight of the 2007 Dive Calendar. Read our August SDFSA Bulletin for further information about some of the speakers. Further details are in the September issue of Dive Log, pages 51

#### **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 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.