

SDF News Sheet, October 2006

Sponsored by

Baird Bay Charters & Ocean Eco Tours*

AND

SA Tall Ships Inc.*

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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*We rely on the support of our sponsors and we need to show our appreciation more by supporting their businesses and services. Please give our sponsors first priority and, when you use their services, let them know that your club is a member of the SDF and that their sponsorship of the SDF is appreciated.

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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Hopefully you enjoyed the October holiday long weekend and made the most of it diving wise. Many thanks to the eight clubs and three individual members who have quickly renewed their SDF membership. Please keep those payments coming in.

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BAIRD BAY CHARTERS

Alan & Trish Payne of [Baird Bay Charters & Ocean Eco Tours](#) are one of our Federation's sponsors. They run dive, snorkelling, dolphin and sealion tours. (Baird Bay is a 'mostly enclosed' bay at the western end of Anxious Bay. It is therefore west of Venus Bay.) Check out their website at <http://www.bairdbay.com/>. They can be contacted via P.O. Box 98, Streaky Bay SA 5680 or by Phone/Fax on (08) 8626 5017. When you use their services, let them know that your club is a member of the SDF and that their sponsorship of the SDF is appreciated.

4WD SHOW

This year's 4WD Show is being held this weekend at Morphetville Racecourse (from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th October) 9am to 6pm daily. For further details phone 1800 225 226 or visit www.4wdshow.com.au.

REEF WATCH QUIZ NIGHT

The next Quiz Night for Reef Watch is being held on Friday 20th October at 7pm at the Reedbeds Community Centre. The Centre is located at Fitch Rd, Fulham, although entry is from Phelps Crt. Admission to the evening costs \$5, \$2 if unwaged. Refreshments are BYO (food & drinks). Phone 8223 5155 to book a table, or email info@reefwatch.asn.au.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is being held at the Metropolitan Hotel at 46 Grote Steet, Adelaide (by Her Majesty's Theatre) at 8pm on Tuesday 14th November. Please ensure that your club's appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Daylight saving in South Australia this Summer starts from 2am on Sunday 29th October. It ends at 3am on Sunday 25th March 2007.

CRAYFISH SEASON

The Southern Rock Lobster season in the **southern** zone started again on 1st October. The taking of Southern Rock Lobster in the **northern** zone is prohibited until 6am on 1st November when the new season starts again. The southern zone rock lobster season has been extended to the end of next May. The one-month extension has been added to the season to allow cray fishers to fish later when prices are often significantly higher. The southern zone rock lobster season is now to be extended to 31st May permanently for both recreational and commercial fishers. It could even stretch into June. The Minister for Fisheries, Rory McEwen, says he will now also examine the possibility of the season either continuing into June or beginning in September (instead of

October). For now, however, the southern zone rock lobster season each year will start on 1st October and close on 31st May. The northern zone remains unchanged and is open from 1st November until 31st May.

CLUB NEWS

SEA WOLVES DC

Kevin Newton, Secretary for the Sea Wolves, says that his club now has a much-improved website which includes items such as new trip reports. He says that the club's "new Webmistress (a new word?), Janet, has made some great changes and is harassing members to ensure trip reports are written and uploaded. The main thing is she will be keeping the "up-and-coming" page up-to-date. Meanwhile, our new compressor is up-and-running but still needs the banks to be fitted, for trips away. We should also have good news on our new clubrooms, very shortly." Thanks Kevin and Congrats to the Sea Wolves.

SODS

Congratulations to the Southern Ocean Divers club which celebrates its 13th anniversary this month, having started in October 1993.

MLSSA

Congrats to the Marine Life Society of SA which celebrates its change of name 24 years ago this month (1982). This month is also the 27th anniversary of the publication of its first Journal. Its forthcoming Journal will available in December.

FUNDING FOR AQUATIC ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS UNDER THREAT

The State Government announced in its Budget that the Education Department's "small programs" section would have its funding reduced by \$16.3m. Funding for unattached teachers will also be reduced by \$17m. The Education Department is now "looking at some of its existing programs to ensure they are operating effectively". Swim teachers were worried that swimming programs would now suffer but the Education Minister, Jane Lomax-Smith, said that programs that teach children to swim would "not be cut". This still leaves much concern regarding other aquatic activities taught in schools such as snorkelling, kayaking, sailing, fishing and wind surfing. It has been indicated that these activities will be reviewed next year but the Australian Education Union says that it has been informed that a decision will be made this month. The AEU has organized a rally for **Friday 13th October** for people who are concerned about the swimming program's future. It is being held at the Education Department at 31 Flinders St, Adelaide at 1pm.

EWENS PONDS / EIGHT MILE CREEK

A study of Ewens Ponds and Eight Mile Creek by the Australian and New Guinea Fish Association was discussed at our September meeting. The ANGFA report is now available at: http://www.angfa.org.au/ftp/Save_Ewens_Pond_low_res.pdf. Neville Skinner urges all SDF members to read it and write to Members of Parliament (as recommended in that report).

TRAILER REGULATION NOW IN FORCE

Don't forget that the new regulation (for SA), that all trailers with a gross mass over 750kg must be fitted with brakes, came in to effect on 1st October. Details on this topic were included in our June Bulletin.

NEW SHARK EXPEDITION VESSEL

The Fox Shark Research Foundation now has a new expedition vessel called the *Princess II*. More details about the vessel are included in the October issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

NEED A NEW DIVE WATCH?

If you are in the market for a new dive watch and don't mind spending a lot of money to get the best, you can save \$100 on a Citizen Aqualand Eco-Drive dive watch. A voucher to save \$100 on the purchase of a watch is included in the October issue of Dive Log. The only catch is that the purchase must be made (while stocks last) by 3rd November at a participating retailer. Grab the latest Dive Log for full details.

NAVY TO ACQUIRE AN UNDERWATER ROBOT FOR SUB RESCUES

The Australian Navy has moved to avoid a Kursk-style submarine disaster by acquiring an underwater robot to rescue stricken sailors trapped on the seabed. More details are included in the October issue of our SDFS Bulletin.

NAVY WEEK

Whilst discussing the Australian Navy, this year's Navy Week in SA is this weekend. Navy demonstrations being held at Port Adelaide all weekend include a Sea King helicopter, the Navy dive team and HMAS *Success* will be open to the public at Berth 1 at Outer Harbor on Sunday 15th October.

SARFAC NEWS

The SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council held its AGM on 19th September. Our SARFAC Rep, Rob Richards, was elected as the Council's Treasurer. Rob says that this now "gives the SDF a voice both on the Executive and the Board. Congratulations Rob. He provided us with a detailed report on the AGM at our last meeting. He also gave us a copy of the SARFAC annual report, "Fisheries R&D News" and the latest "Southern Fisheries" magazine for our library. (The annual report always comes with the dinner menu for the evening as the first page. Rob wanted us to see what we missed out on.) Incidentally, SARFAC has its own library which all members are welcome to use on request. SARFAC represents SA's recreational anglers (including divers) on many government boards, committees, etc.. Our members wishing to become involved on any such committee would be able to proceed through SARFAC. It is now about 14 years since one time SDF President, John Mate completed his three years as Chair of SARFAC in 1992. One time SARFAC Rep, Cathy Deane was also Chair for SARFAC from 1982-4.

AQUACULTURE PUBLIC REGISTER

SARFAC's Trevor Watt's informs us that the link to the aquaculture public register has just been developed. He says that it is interactive and provides all the details on any lease in SA. You will find it at <https://info.pir.sa.gov.au/aquapr/page/gui3/map.html> . Otherwise, it can be accessed as follows: -

PIRSA Website <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/> > Aquaculture > Public Register (below 'Activities')
PIRSA Aquaculture Public Register > Link to the aquaculture public register. Thanks Trevor.

DIVE SITE COORDINATES ON OUR WEBSITE

Our website includes dive site co-ordinates that have been provided either by charter operators or our web manager, Paul Macdonald. Paul says that the ones that he provided "are spot on – i.e. no need to use sounder". He says that all of the co-ordinates are datum WGS84. Nick Cundell says that "most GPS units revert to WGS84 when turned on".

DREDGE DUMP SITE INVESTIGATION

Are any diving groups interested in looking at the dredge dump site (off of Outer Harbor?)? The Friends of Gulf St Vincent wish to get truly independent verification of the condition of that site. Further details are included in the October issue of our Bulletin.

COCKLES CONTAMINATED

Whilst discussing Outer Harbor, don't forget that the Section Bank area off Outer Harbor is closed to the harvesting of all bivalve molluscs until 31st December 2006. This follows the recent detection of faecal bacteria beyond the safe threshold for human consumption in Mud cockles there.

GREAT SOUTHERN DIVE EXPO ANNIVERSARY

On 5th November it will be two years since the Great Southern Dive Expo was held at Sunset Cove/Wirrina to mark the 2nd anniversary of the scuttling of the *Hobart* in Yankalilla Bay in 2002. The movie "Bismark", which was produced by Andrew Wight, was shown on that Friday night in November 2004.

HOBART ANNIVERSARY

All of this means, of course, that 5th November marks the 4th anniversary of the scuttling of the *Hobart*. Incidentally, 31st July was the *Brisbane*'s 1st anniversary of being scuttled off of Mooloolaba. Back to the *Hobart* now though - Please let us know of anything that you have noticed in relation to the *Hobart* that needs attention.

12 YEARS AGO

Whilst discussing anniversaries, 29th October will be the 12th anniversary of the SDF's Fundraising Ball. It was held in 1994 in aid of the Divers Emergency Service at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The ball was held at the Airport Club in Sir James Scholfield Drive at the Adelaide Airport. A 60/40 band called "Flashback" provided the music for the evening.

MEMBERS FOR 30 YEARS

The Adelaide University Scuba Diving Club and the Underwater Explorers Club of SA have both renewed their subscriptions for what appears to be their 30th year of SDF membership. Both were members back in August 1976. Well done to both clubs. Both Flinders University Underwater Club and Triton Diver Club would be joining them upon renewal of their subscriptions.

GREAT BARRIER REEF STINGRAYS

Radio station Nova FM (91.9) recently reported that divers and snorkellers on the Great Barrier Reef may now be made to wear special protection against stingray barbs following the death of Steve Irwin. Two days after the report on Nova, The Advertiser reported that Col McKenzie, spokesperson for Dive Queensland, said that tourists should not be afraid to visit the Great Barrier Reef because of stingrays. He said that Steve Irwin's death was "akin to a lightning strike" and that snorkelling or diving on the Great Barrier Reef was still safe.

GRANTS NEWS

ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT FUNDING

Applications for funding for the next round of Active Club Program Grants close on 20th November. Visit www.recsport.sa.gov.au for guidelines and an application form, or phone 8416 6708 for further information.

COMMUNITY RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES PROGRAM

Remember that applications for grants through the Government of SA's Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Program for 2006-7 close on Monday 16th October. The aim of the funding program is to sustain and/or increase participation in sport, active recreation and physical activity through developing or improving facilities to meet the needs of the community. Guidelines and application packs are available through the Office for Recreation and Sport and its website at

www.recsport.sa.gov.au . The Office for Recreation and Sport plans to run a number of information sessions addressing who is eligible to apply, what can be funded and tips and hints for applying. A flyer with details of these sessions was forwarded on to our member clubs. Bookings are essential, so to register or gain any further information, please contact the Grants Unit at the Office for Recreation and Sport on 8416 6708 or email to ors.grants@saugov.sa.gov.au .

2006 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Congratulations to the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society which was the State winner of Environment & Wildlife Volunteer Ward for 2006. Congrats also to the Bay Discovery Centre which won the award for Tourism, Sport & Recreation.

OIL LEAK FROM WRECK

The wreck of the *Eleni K* at Goat Island in the Great Australian Bight is now said to be leaking oil in to the sea. The wreck is 1km from a seal breeding colony and 2kms from proposed abalone farm sites. Further details are included in the October issue of our SDFS Bulletin.

SHIELDS FOR CROCS & RAYS

SeaChange Technology believes that its Shark Shield will also prevent crocodile and stingray attacks. They are planning further research on their electronic shield following anecdotal evidence it works on both crocodiles and stingrays.

CHRISTIE CREEK WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

High school students testing water quality in southern rivers and creeks found that Christie Creek had the worst levels of phosphates and faecal matter and the lowest level of dissolved oxygen. The pollution levels are up to 47 times above safe levels. The creek is thought to be responsible for sedimentation problems on Horseshoe Reef and Port Noarlunga reef.

SUBMISSIONS FOR BATEMANS MARINE PARK

Nicky Hammond, Marine Program Manager for National Parks Association of NSW says that the deadline for Batemans Marine Park submissions is Sunday (?) 15th October. Visit http://www.marine.org.au/batemans_subform.htm . Nicky says please remember to say that you support NPA~Marine's map for increase sanctuary zones for the park and that the Grey Nurse Shark key habitat sites at Montague Island and the Tollgate Islands must be protected as sanctuary as proposed by NPA~Marine.

52 NEW MARINE SPECIES DISCOVERED OFF PAPUA

According to the ABC's website ("Sharks among 52 New Species Found Off Indonesia", 19th September 2006), "Scientists say they have found two types of shark, exotic "flasher" fish and corals among 52 new species in seas off Indonesia, confirming the western Pacific as the richest marine habitat on earth. Visit <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200609/s1743965.htm> for more information. Further details are included in our October Bulletin.

SDFS BULLETIN

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

DEH COAST AND MARINE SEMINAR PROGRAM – 2006

This month's seminar is being held on Wednesday 25th October from 12.30-1.30pm, in the Coorong Boardroom at 1 Richmond Road, Keswick. Michael Breen from the Coast and Marine Conservation Branch will discuss a Mammal Interaction Policy. For further information please contact Alison Wright, Department for Environment and Heritage on (08) 8124 4901 or via email at wright.alison@saugov.sa.gov.au. All interested persons are most welcome. Both this seminar and the final one for 2006 are listed in our October *SDFS* Bulletin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS SEMINAR

A 2-day seminar on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) will be held in Brisbane on 4th and 5th November. The seminar is an initiative of Recfish Australia and is being supported by the Australian Government's Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. Fisheries Minister, Senator Eric Abetz will open the seminar. A group of specialists will present papers on range of topics including the socio-economic impact of MPAs on the recreational sector, the knowledge gaps and the best way of consulting or engaging with the recreational sector. A registration form and the draft program are available from the Recfish Australia web site at www.recfish.com.au

OCEAN ODYSSEY

An Ocean Odyssey is a special dive promotion evening which is being held at the Clancy Auditorium at the University of NSW on Friday 17th November. Bob Halstead, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Dr Phil Nuytten, Ron & Valerie Taylor and Reg Lipson will give presentations. Read pages 59 to 61 of the October issue of Dive Log for further information.

2007 EVENTS

CORALWATCH WORKSHOP

The 4th Annual CoralWatch Focus on Corals workshop is being held at the Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef from Friday 5th to Tuesday 9th January 2007. For more details visit www.coralwatch.org.

OZTeK

The OZTeK'07 Australasian Diving Conference & Exhibition is being held 17-18th 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 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 SDFS 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 27th to 29th April 2007. Visit 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

The SDF's sponsors are: -

Baird Bay Charters & Ocean Eco Tours

AND

SA Tall Ships Inc. ☎ 8341 2004 ✉ office@satallships.com

Contact the Federation's Secretary on info@sdfs.net to be included on the mailing list for this electronic news sheet.

The SDF supports both Reef Watch & Dragonsearch

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