

SDF News Sheet September 2006 – Sponsored by  
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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](mailto:info@sdfsa.net) [www.sdfsa.net](http://www.sdfsa.net)

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### **NEW JETTY FOR RAPID BAY**

The wait is finally over, now the waiting begins again. The State Government’s announcement regarding its plans for the Rapid Bay jetty has finally been made. The announcement was made at Rapid Bay on 8<sup>th</sup> September. It was featured on the early evening news services for channels 7, 9 & 10 (at least). Hank van der Wijngaart, our President, featured on the 5pm news for Channel Ten plus one of the radio stations. Hank is our representative on the Rapid Bay Jetty Design Group which meets again on 21<sup>st</sup> September. The Advertiser of 9<sup>th</sup> September reported the announcement. A Government news release was on-forwarded to our members. This is being posted to our website. Christopher Deane’s South Aussie Snippets column on page 71 in the September issue of Dive Log describes in detail the plan to build a new jetty adjacent to the old jetty. Now the waiting begins for the work to actually start on the new jetty next year. Our best hope at this stage is that the jetty will be ready to use by the end of 2007. The hard work of stakeholder groups such as the Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty, SARFAC and ourselves has paid off. Well done to all concerned. For further information visit [www.rapidbayjetty.org](http://www.rapidbayjetty.org) .

### **JETTY TALK**

Whilst discussing jetties, Neville Collins, author of “The Jetties of South Australia”, will talk about his book at the Semaphore Library at 6pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Please contact the library on 8405 6570 for bookings or enquiries.

### **OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October is a public holiday for Labour Day. This is the last holiday long weekend before Christmas. It is the unofficial start to the new diving season. Start dusting off you dive gear now if you haven’t had it in the water lately.

### **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 10<sup>th</sup> October. Please ensure that your club’s appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting.

## **ANNUAL SUBS NOW DUE**

Fees are now due again for membership and sponsorship. Invoices have been sent out to all previous members and sponsors. If your club delegate is unable to attend our next meeting, please mail your payment to us as soon as you can.

## **PIRSA FISHERIES SHARK SIGHTINGS**

Divers are able to check on the PIRSA Fisheries website for recently reported shark sightings. Visit <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/fisheries/sharksightings> for details. Further details on this topic are included in the September issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

## **HMAS HOBART**

The location of the *Hobart* site is still a hot conversation topic due to travel distance and strong currents. It must be remembered that the ship had to be scuttled in deep water away from shipping channels. It was also sited off of Worrina to draw visitors to that part of the Fleurieu Peninsula. The wreck is now part of a diving triangle which also comprises of Rapid Bay jetty and Second Valley. Its location has ensured good marine growth on her. The strong currents during tidal movement are a nuisance but, all things considered, the *Hobart* is an excellent dive.

## **HOBART DIVE STORIES NEEDED**

Whilst discussing the *Hobart*, your *Hobart* dive stories are still required for posting to the *Hobart* website. These should be emailed to our President, Hank van der Wijngaart at [hvander@ozemail.com.au](mailto:hvander@ozemail.com.au). An example of such a story is included in our September Bulletin.

## **DEATH OF STEVE IRWIN**

Everybody was shocked to hear the news of Steve Irwin's death on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Irwin died as a result of a lance to the heart from a stingray at Batt Reef off of Port Douglas, Queensland. More details about stingrays and Steve Irwin are included in the September issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

## **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 23/9, 5,10,12,17 & 28/12. Twilight sails cost \$99pp and are planned for 21/10, 18 & 25/11, 3/12, 7-9/12, 14-17/12, 19/12, 21-22/12, 26 & 29/12. For more information or bookings, contact Inika on 8341 2004, 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

## **PORT JACKSON SHARK CONGREGATIONS**

Be on the lookout throughout the next couple of months for large numbers of Port Jackson Sharks, *Heterodontus portusjacksoni*. They will congregate together in shallow waters in summer to mate. Don't expect to find the sharks 'at it', however, since mating is said to only occur under cover of darkness. Visit <http://www.mlssa.asn.au> to read a copy of the September issue of the Marine Life Society of SA's newsletter for more details about Port Jackson Shark congregations.

## **SEPTEMBER IS BIODIVERSITY MONTH**

Every September is Biodiversity Month. This year's theme for Biodiversity Month is 'Building Resilience in Threatened Species and Their Habitats' in the face of climate change. Biodiversity Month activities are held across Australia throughout September. These activities include field days, presentations, displays, surveys, monitoring and planting. National Threatened Species Day is held on 7th September each year. These events are used not only to raise awareness of

threatened species issues, but also to help celebrate the work of so many dedicated groups and individuals to protect our threatened species and communities. Events registered with the Threatened Species Network for Biodiversity Month are listed at: <http://wwf.org.au/act/events>.

### **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

September also marks anniversaries for several past SDF events. 12<sup>th</sup> September was the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ultimate Splash Party held at St Paul's in 1998. 18<sup>th</sup> September was the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dive Leaders Seminar in 1982. 20<sup>th</sup> September is the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Splash Party at the Semaphore Palais in 1997. 26<sup>th</sup> September is the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Discover Diving" held in 1987.

### **INTERNATIONAL CLEAN UP DAY**

This Sunday (17th September) is International Clean Up the World Day. Visit <http://www.projectaware.org/asiapac/english/activities/icd.asp> for more information.

### **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY**

An anniversary that falls in October is our President's birthday. Hank's birthday is on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Congratulations Hank.

### **REEF WATCH QUIZ NIGHT**

Reef Watch's next Quiz Night is being held at the Reedbeds Community Centre at 7pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. The evening costs \$5pp (\$2 for unwaged people). BYO food & drinks. Email Reef Watch at [info@reefwatch.asn.au](mailto:info@reefwatch.asn.au) to book a table or seat, or phone them on 8223 5155. Further details are available online at <http://www.reefwatch.asn.au/quiznight.html>.

### **NEW INQUIRY INTO COASTAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Environment, Resources & Development Committee is conducting yet another inquiry into coastal matters. It is specifically coastal development this time, with particular reference to matters such as environmental impacts. Issues such as development needs, council development and the most appropriate means of addressing coastal developments will be examined. Lyn Breuer MP chairs the committee. Submissions to the inquiry close on 27<sup>th</sup> October. These should be sent to the Secretary of the committee at GPO Box 572, Adelaide SA 5000. Further details are included in the September issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

### **INSHORE FISH GROUP WEBSITE**

Visit <http://ifg.bioteck.org/> to view the website of the Inshore Fish Group. The Inshore Fish Group is based in South Australia and focuses on Southern Australasian fish. Species tables describing each inshore fish species and their biology will eventually be available. IFG says that Southern Australasia has a very high diversity of marine life and ecosystems. It also has the longest cool temperate coastline in the world. The region serves as the ecotone between the southern Pacific Ocean and the south-eastern Indian Ocean.

### **NEW FISHERIES VESSEL FOR YORKE PENINSULA**

Fisheries Officers at Yorketown, southern Yorke Peninsula now have a new >\$100,000 6.5m Olympian Seaquest aluminium boat with a centre cabin powered by a 225hp Evinrude Etec outboard motor. The *Sea Eagle* will be used to check commercial and recreational fishers and to investigate any suspected breaches of fisheries legislation.

## **AUF SPEARFISHING POLICY**

The Australian Underwater Federation has drafted a national policy on spearfishing in marine protected areas in an effort to be proactive, share information, has an agreed framework for consistent management and negotiation of their needs. The draft policy can be viewed at [www.auf-spearfishing.com.au](http://www.auf-spearfishing.com.au) . A copy is available from ourselves. The AUF is a member of RecFish Australia which is holding a major seminar on marine protected areas in Brisbane on 4-5th November. The “National Seminar on Marine Protected Areas – Stocking the Tool Box” is being held at the Mercure Hotel, Brisbane. Visit [www.recfish.com.au](http://www.recfish.com.au) for a registration form.

## **SDF LIBRARY**

Whilst discussing spearfishing, the SDF has a library of books and reports for reference by our members. These items are maintained as part of the Marine Life Society of SA’s library. And what does this have to do with spearfishing? Well, the latest addition to the library is a paper about spearfishing. It was tabled at our last meeting. I should have pointed out that the paper is titled “The Impacts of Spearfishing: notes on the effects of recreational diving on shallow marine reefs in Australia” by Jon Nevill. We have both a hard copy and an electronic version of the paper. We can also put you in contact with the author of the paper. A complete list of all items in our small library is included in the September issue of our *SDFSA Bulletin*.

## **DRAFT MARINE PARKS BILL 2006**

The State Government’s Department for Environment & Heritage has released a draft Marine Parks Bill 2006 for public consultation until 13<sup>th</sup> October. This concerns the 19 new MPAs planned to be established by 2010. Copies of the draft are available from the DEH at Adelaide & Keswick or by phoning 8124 4900. Copies can also be downloaded from [www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/mpas](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/mpas) . Our Federation received two copies of the draft and these were tabled at our September meeting. Public meetings around the State have been held since 11<sup>th</sup> September and will continue in rural area until 28<sup>th</sup> September. The draft legislation and zoning will be presented at these meetings. Venues open at 6pm for document inspection and meetings themselves start at 7pm. Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au) for a list of venues. The metropolitan meetings have, however, already been held.

## **MPA NEWS**

Whilst discussing MPAs, Trevor Watts from SARFAC recently sent us an electronic version of the US “MPA News” Vol. 8, No. 2. Subscriptions to MPA News are free. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to [mpanews@u.washington.edu](mailto:mpanews@u.washington.edu) . Type "subscribe" on the subject line, and include your name, mailing address, and daytime phone number in the text of the message. Also, please note whether you would like your subscription to be delivered electronically or in paper form.

## **DOCUMENTARY ON FOSSIL FIND**

Neville Skinner reports that ABC TV’s “Catalyst” program on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August focused on the major fossil cache found by cavers, including Cave Exploration Group of SA members in 2002, particularly Thylacoleo. Neville says that it was really interesting stuff. He says that these fossils are dated around 500,000 years old. Their discovery just blew the paleontologists away. Further more, the same (secret) cave was full of old skeletons. The paleontologists are still absorbing what they found. The cave where the fossils were found was first spotted by someone (a caver or cave diver?) flying around in an ultra light plane looking for 'possibilities'. The cavers who found the fossils had the sense not to touch anything until staff from the WA Museum had a chance to get out there and stabilise the bones. They (WA Museum) spent a week doing this before they could remove them.

## **NEW DEEP-WATER CHANNEL UP SPENCER GULF**

Huge bulk carriers (Cape Size) will soon be sailing up a new deep-water channel up Spencer Gulf. The installation of navigation buoys for the channel should be completed by March 2007.

## **AUSTRALIAN 4WD & ADVENTURE SHOW 2006**

This year's 4WD Show is planned to be held in Victoria Park (pending public approval) from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

## **PREMIER'S SCIENCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Our February news sheet reported the activities of Kangaroo Island Community Education. KICE is the amalgamation of three schools on KI. They won one of the Premier's Science Excellence Awards (worth \$15,000) in August for their programs. Congratulations to KICE and Tony Bartram, the Marine & Environmental Education co-ordinator, on achieving the prestigious award.

## **STORMWATER TO BE RECYCLED**

The Federal Government will spend \$90m on wetlands to recycle 17 gigalitres p.a. of stormwater for industry and drinking water. This means that the 17 gigalitres of stormwater will no longer flow into Gulf St Vincent each year, polluting our coastline, affecting marine life and reducing visibility.

## **THE DISCOVERY, NAMING & SURVEYING OF KANGAROO ISLAND**

I recently discovered two errors published in a daily newspaper (nothing new there). I raised these points with the daily paper but, since the paper refused to publish them, I have decided to publish them myself. The item in the paper said that: -

"KI . . . was first surveyed by Nicolas Baudin in 1802" and "Soon after Baudin's voyage, the English explorer Matthew Flinders . . . went ashore . . . (and) named the island (etc)".

In actual fact, Flinders had sighted Kangaroo Island in March 1802 and landed and named the island on 22<sup>nd</sup> March (before Baudin had seen the island). Baudin first sighted Kangaroo Island in April 1802 but was unable to find anchorage. His ship then sailed into Gulf St Vincent. Baudin returned to KI and surveyed its coastline in January 1803.

## **DIVING IN SOUTH WEST TASMANIA - JAN 2007**

George Evatt is attempting to organise a 10-day liveaboard dive trip to South Western Tasmania in Jan/Feb 2007 (details below). If you are interested or know someone who might be interested could you please contact George on 0412 777 330 or at [coralsea@intercoast.com.au](mailto:coralsea@intercoast.com.au). Further details about the trip are included in the September issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

## **SS KNIGHT DISCOVERY & PROTECTION**

Senator Ian Campbell, the Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, has announced that the wreck of the SS *Iron Knight*, sunk in Australian waters during the Second World War will be protected as an historic shipwreck due to its maritime heritage significance. Further details about the shipwreck are included in the September issue of our SDFSA Bulletin and the September issue of Dive Log (page 57).

## **SS YONGALA**

Our VP, Judy Hani, has just returned from Queensland where she did a dive on the Yongala. The SS *Yongala* sank in 33m of water 48nm south-east of Townsville, Queensland during a storm on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1911. Everyone on board, a total of 122 people (& a race horse), died in the incident.

The site of the 111m-long wreck was not discovered until 1958. It is now considered by many to be the best wreck dive in Australia and one of the best in the world, mainly due to the magnificent marine life on and around her. In an effort to preserve the wreck, no one is allowed inside her. The 3722 tonne (617 tons) SS *Yongala* had been built in 1903 and she was owned by the Adelaide Steamship Company. There is an article about diving on the *Yongala* on page 19 of the September issue of Dive Log.

### **SEARCH FOR WRECK OF HMAS SYDNEY**

According to the 8<sup>th</sup> September issue of The Advertiser, "Two major expeditions will soon begin to try to find the wreck of the (HMAS) *Sydney* in a vast area of ocean off the WA coast". The Navy cruiser was sunk by the German ship *Kormoran* (or *Kormorant*) off of Geraldton on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1941. There were 645 men on board the *Sydney* at the time.

### **SDFV**

The SDFV held its AGM on 1st August. John Hawkins is the Federation's new Chairman, replacing Ian Williams. The rest of the committee (& their positions) is as follows: - Secretary - Daniel Grimm, Treasurer - Richard Day, Public Relations/VRFISH (Victoria's Recreational Fishing Peak Body) - Priya Cardinaletti, VRFISH - Ian Williams, HSAC - Des Williams. We thank the SDFV for keeping us posted on Victorian scuba diving issues such as the following items.

### **2006 ROCK LOBSTER AND GIANT CRAB TAC-MANAGEMENT FORUM**

A Management Workshop will be held on the day before the TAC Forum, at 10.30am on Tuesday 3rd October 2006. The purpose of the Workshop is to provide the opportunity for Fisheries staff, fishers and other stakeholders to discuss any issues related to the management and operation of the rock lobster and giant crab fisheries (other than issues that will be discussed at the TAC Forum). Fisheries Victoria will present the 2005/06 compliance report at the workshop. The TAC Forum is being held at 9.00am on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Both the Workshop and the TAC Forum will be held at the DPI Queenscliff Centre, 2A Bellarine Highway, Queenscliff. The Workshop and Forum are open to all stakeholders. People wishing to attend, however, need to register with Fisheries Victoria for organisational and catering purposes. For any inquires about the TAC Forum or Management Workshop, or to register, please contact David Molloy on (03) 5258 0252 or by email [David.Molloy@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:David.Molloy@dpi.vic.gov.au) .

### **NEW VICTORIAN CONTROL MEASURES FOR ABALONE FISHING**

According to Fish-e-Fax Issue 178, a (Victorian) Fisheries Notice issued on 15th August 2006 applies to both recreational and commercial abalone fishers. The Notice is in effect for 60 days (until 15<sup>th</sup> October?). Further details are included in the September issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

### **STARFISH DAMAGE**

John Hammond, from the Scallop Fishermen's Association says that video evidence shows that the north pacific starfish are destroying the ecosystem on the Tasmanian east coast faster than anyone realises. The scallop fishermen have been dredging up thousands of the north pacific starfish and Mr Hammond says the damage caused by the starfish is widespread. "These north pacific starfish are munching their way through the whole ecosystem on this east coast of Tasmania," he said.

### **AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR APPLIED MARINE MAMMAL SCIENCE**

The Federal Government is also going to establish an Australian Centre for Applied Marine Mammal Science. It will be Australia's first major national research centre focused on protecting and conserving whales and dolphins. The \$2.5m centre will be based in Hobart at the Australian

Antarctic Division. It will be funded through the \$100-million Commonwealth Environment Research Facility program.

Source: Australian R&D Review September 2006

### **ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT FUNDING**

Applications for grants through the Government of SA's Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Program for 2006-7 close on 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 has been 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](mailto:ors.grants@saugov.sa.gov.au).

### **SEA CUCUMBER FARMING**

900 species of holothurians (sea cucumbers) occur in Australian waters. These make up about 80% of the world's total species of sea cucumbers (1150). They are edible and also have many other uses. They are being farmed and the Northern Fisheries Centre in Cairns, Queensland is trying to determine whether or not SA species of sea cucumber (~ 40 species) can also be farmed.

### **60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIKINI**

The Advertiser has now confirmed that this year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bikini. This important piece of swimming attire was invented in 1946. Two Frenchmen developed similar designs about the same time. One of them named his creation after Bikini Atoll. One of the creators died in Switzerland on this day (16<sup>th</sup> September) in 1984.

### **CLUB NEWS**

Whilst discussing the bikini, we were very surprised to receive the latest issue of the Adelaide Scuba Diving Club's newsletter with a 4-S insert (surprise separate sealed section) featuring bikinis and the very latest in swimwear design for men.

### **RECENT SPILLS OVERSEAS**

No pun intended! During August about 4,500 tonnes of crude oil spilled from the Japanese tanker *Bright Artemis* in the eastern Indian Ocean near the Nicobar Islands after a collision with a cargo ship and the tanker *Solar I* was leaking 2m litres of fuel in the Philippines. More information about these two incidents is included in our September *SDFSFA Bulletin*.

### **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.

### **DEH COAST AND MARINE SEMINAR PROGRAM – 2006**

This month's seminar is being held on Wednesday 27th September from 12.30-1.30pm, in the Coorong Boardroom at 1 Richmond Road, Keswick. Brett Pendlebury, Senior Ranger for the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary will discuss the Sanctuary. 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](mailto:wright.alison@saugov.sa.gov.au). All interested persons are most welcome. A list of the remaining 2006 Department of Environment Coast and Marine Seminars is included in our July *SDFSA Bulletin*.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **SARFAC AGM**

The South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee's AGM is being held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup> November. Bob Halstead, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Dr Phil Nuytten, Ron & Valerie Taylor and Reg Lipson will give presentations. Read pages 58 to 60 of the September issue of Dive Log for further information.

## **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).

### **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 Dove 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

The SDF's sponsors are: -

Baird Bay Charters & Ocean Eco Tours

AND

SA Tall Ships Inc. ☎8341 2004 ✉ [office@satallships.com](mailto:office@satallships.com)

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.