

SDF News Sheet March 2008

This monthly electronic news sheet is provided as a service to our members
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We are the peak body in South Australia, representing all recreational scuba divers.

We act as a voice for all divers and other associations on all diving related matters.

We trust that everyone enjoyed some diving over the Adelaide Cup holiday long weekend. The Easter holiday long weekend is this weekend, Friday 21st to Monday 24th March, providing more time for diving.

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 on Tuesday 8th April at 8pm at the Marden Senior College on Marden Road, Marden. Please ensure that your club's appointed delegate, or a proxy, attends the meeting.

(Our meetings on 10th June & 8th July 2008 will be held at the Hilton RSL, 147 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Hilton.)

PROPOSED DESALINATION PLANT FORUM

Don't worry too much if you missed the recent (Mayor's) forum at O'Sullivan Beach on 16th March re the proposed desalination plant at Port Stanvac. A community forum about the proposed desalination plant at Port Stanvac is being held from 7.30 to 9.30pm on Monday 31st March at the Jimmy Deane Function Centre, South Adelaide Football Club. State Ministers, John Hill and Karlene Maywald, will both be present. The forum will introduce the project, outline ways that the State Government will consult with the community as the project progresses and also outline studies currently underway. The Greens have revealed that the possible sites for the location of a desalination plant were never discussed between the State Government's Desalination Working Group and its leading environmental departments. The environmental implications of a desalination plant were never discussed with either DEH or EPA before making the decision to place it at Port Stanvac. By July, a pilot plant will begin operating at Port Stanvac to test the technology for the proposed main plant. According to Greens MLC Mark Parnell, the State Government has not allowed the departments "closest to our marine experts" to take part in "their proper role in the decision-making process".

COASTAL INFORMATION EVENING

A coastal information evening put on by the City of Charles Sturt, the Environment Protection Authority and Department for Environment and Heritage is being held at the Adelaide Sailing Club, Barcoo Road, West Beach from 7 to 8:30pm on Thursday 3rd April. Peter Pfennig will present a talk on the science of the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study. The action plan for the Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan and a brief outline of the 'Sellicks to Port Parham Coastal Conservation Assessment & Action Plan' that is underway in the region will also be discussed. Light Refreshments provided. RSVP to Linda-Marie McDowell, Scientific Officer, Water Quality Branch, Science and Sustainability, Environment Protection Authority (South Australia) by Monday 31st March on 8226 4117 or via linda-marie.mcdowell@epa.sa.gov.au.

HOBART UPDATE

Recreational Permits suspended

The issuing of recreational dive permits for the *Hobart* has been suspended for the present due to the fact that there aren't any buoys available for recreational divers to use. There are only two buoys for use by commercial operators at present (one of which is about to be re-fixed). It is thought that recently newly installed buoy attachments failed during heavy weather. It seems that a new type of shackle being used may have failed. Three buoys 'let go' very soon after they were 'repaired'. These had ropes and the a shackle eye still attached. The one remaining single buoy is being checked and the second buoy, which is currently at the marina, is to be re-attached

(making 2 in total) with a better shackle that will be 'locked' so that it cannot be undone. There are three further buoys which are currently in storage either at the Council Depot or at the marina. Smaller buoys may be installed in their place at a later date. The Advisory Group is meeting again in April to discuss these matters. Let us know of any suggestions that you would like to be considered regarding these issue.

RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE

According to Robert Jenkins, Project Director, Office of Major Projects and Infrastructure, tenders for the design and construction of the new Rapid Bay jetty don't close until 10th April. "Tenders will then be assessed and, subject to pricing meeting the available funding, a contract will then be awarded. It is expected that construction would commence in early September 2008 and should be completed by the end of February 2009 subject to delays due to inclement weather," he said.

SARFAC Rep REQUIRED

Rob Richards recently resigned as our SARFAC Rep. We thank Rob for his efforts in the position over the past few years. Unfortunately, Rob's resignation means that we now require someone else to fill his shoes. SARFAC meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at Norwood about every six weeks. Although it would help immensely if you were able to attend these meetings, the main thing would be to be able to liaise with SARFAC, process all of the information of relevance to recreational divers and report as necessary to the SDF and its members. Please let us know if you think that you, or someone that you know, can help us to fill this position.

LATEST ISSUE OF "ONE DECK"

The latest issue of "On deck" is now available. It can be downloaded at http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/pdfs/On_Deck_Issue_10.pdf . You can subscribe to "On Deck" at www.transport.sa.gov.au/personal_transport/rec_boating/on_deck_form.asp or you can email at: dtei.recboating@saugov.sa.gov.au . To help correctly identify you on the Recreational Boating System (RBS) database, please remember to include in your request either: your Boat Operator's Licence number if you hold one; the registration number of a recreational vessel registered in your name; or your date of birth.

RECREATION WEEK 2008

Recreation SA will be hosting Recreation Week in September 2008. Clubs such as our member clubs are encouraged to participate by promoting their activities during Recreation Week (Sept. 8-14). Recreation SA needs to receive an expression of interest form from clubs by 28th March. Let us know if your club is interested in participating. We will then be able to send you a form to complete for them.

FERRY NEWS

Sea Spirit I, the second ferry for the Wallaroo to Lucky Bay crossing, starts work on Thursday, 20th March. The \$16m 64m catamaran carries up to 93 vehicles and 300 passengers. It has many luxury facilities. It will be working in tandem with *Sea Scope I*. There will now be four services running from Wallaroo and Lucky Bay each weekday and two services each Saturday and Sunday. Phone 8823 0777 for more details.

MAJOR ROADWORKS

Allow plenty of driving time for your trips to country areas as there are going to be plenty of roadworks going on. For example, key intersections on Port Wakefield Road will be modified over the next three months as part of the Northern Expressway project. Work has already commenced on the Waterloo Corner intersection and is expected to last some three weeks. Other key intersections such as Bolivar Rd, Martins Rd and Ryans Rd will follow suit. There are likely to be speed restrictions and delays, so allow plenty of driving time for your diving trips.

CLEANUP DIVES

Many thanks to those dive clubs which participated in cleanup dives for Clean Up Australia Day on 2nd March. The Adelaide Scuba cleanup dive was held on Saturday 1st March at Edithburgh jetty, with lots of rubbish found and collected. The UEC and MLSSA combined together for a cleanup beneath the Screwpile Jetty at Granite Island, Victor Harbor. A picnic and/or barbecue were then held at Kings Reserve in the afternoon. The SODS, in conjunction with Reef Watch, did a clean up at Brighton jetty where divers removed feral European fan worms from about half of the jetty. They then returned to the jetty the following weekend to try and complete the job. Neville Skinner filed this report: -

“About 6 divers turned up both Saturday (8th) and Sunday (9th) and we all did about 2 hours in the water both days. I left the water on Sunday as the last few pylons were being done; I have a feeling they would have run out of air before running out of worms though. Based on a removal rate of one every three seconds, each diver would have removed 1200 per hour, therefore (about) 2500 in two hours. In summary, the six of us removed around 15,000 on Sunday alone! There were also about 6 divers on Sat - another 15,000? And there was also a group the previous weekend! So, if you're into bigger numbers than 9 hot days in a row... Reef Watch divers removed about 40-50,000 European fan worms from under Brighton Jetty over two weekends.”

CUTTLEFISH TALK

A good crowd heard Professor Steve Donnellan talk about some new biological discoveries of the SA Museum, including Giant Australian Cuttlefish, at the SA Museum's Armoury Building on 29th February. Steve started his talk with details of Greg Rouse's work on *Osedax* worms which were found living on the bones of dead whales. He also spoke about the recent discoveries by the CSIRO research vessel *Southern Surveyor*. As reported in our February news sheet, the *Southern Surveyor* recently collected coral samples from deep in the Southern Ocean. The research team also took lots of photographs using a remotely operated submersible vehicle. They captured images of life found on deep-sea pinnacles and valleys up to 3kms down. During a 3-week voyage, scientists retrieved samples of live and fossilized deep-ocean corals from a depth of 1650m near the Tasman Fracture Zone, south-east of Tasmania. The team then moved to SA's south-east coast to continue their work. The main point to come out of Steve's discussion about cuttlefish was that DNA analysis around Australia has identified 5 populations of Giant Australian Cuttlefish, each with separate gene pools. And we have different species (2 different populations?) in SA, with the 5th population being from upper Spencer Gulf. Much of the discussion towards the end of the talk concerned the possible impact of the proposed desalination plant at Port Bonython. Steve responded to several questions from the audience before running out of time and the questions had to be cut short. The evening had been held by the Friends of

the South Australian Museum (FoSAM). A supper break was held after Steve's talk and, presumably, a meeting was held after that.

NEW BERLEYING RULES

The use of berley specifically designed to attract sharks has the potential to endanger the lives of swimmers and divers in the same area. For this reason, the rules regarding berleying have recently been amended to minimize the impact this activity may have on the safety of all water users. It is now illegal to use blood, bone, meat, offal or the skin of any animal, including birds as berley. This includes the bait used in crab nets. Fishers are now able to use fish or fish based products only as berley.

Source: http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries/products/fishfacts_e-newsletter

PORT NOARLUNGA FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Stage 2 of the Foreshore Access Plan proposes a major upgrade for Port Noarlunga South, recognizing the importance of the area as a recreational destination and its location in a sensitive coastal cliff environment. The upgrade includes a new shared use path; crossing points and traffic calming; landscaping; scenic lookouts and rest points; parking; and the management of cliff stability and erosion. The City of Onkaparinga is inviting comments via a community survey. An information brochure and survey form are available from Lisa Macdonald via lismac@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au or phone 8384 0562. This survey closes on 28th March.

THE ANCHORS AT PORT NOARLUNGA REEF

We recently received an interesting email message from David Cowan to inform recreational scuba divers about the presence of another two more anchors within the Port Noarlunga Aquatic Reserve. David felt that the known presence of two additional anchors within the Port Noarlunga Aquatic Reserve would enhance the diving experience there by providing more places to visit whilst diving. Further details are included in the March issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

CONCLUSION OF DAYLIGHT SAVING

According to the web page found at <http://www.abc.net.au/backyard/timezone.htm>, daylight saving in SA will end at 3am on Sunday 6th April. This is the same date that Tasmania, the ACT, NSW & Victoria all finish daylight saving. WA will end their daylight saving the week earlier. Remember to turn all of your clocks, etc back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday 5th April. Sunday 6th April just happens to be the date for the Reef Watch Marathon Dive at Port Noarlunga reef, so an early night is recommended.

MARINE PARKS ROAD SHOW VISITS THE YORKE PENINSULA

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) marine parks tent travels around the Yorke Peninsula, from Port Broughton to Yorketown, in March and April as follows: -

March 27 - **Yorketown** - Weaner's Flat Reserve (10am - 7pm)

March 28 - **Minlaton** - Main Street Rest Area (10am - 7 pm)

March 29 - **Moonta Bay** - Foreshore (10am - 7pm)

March 30 - **Port Wakefield** - Boat Ramp (10am - 7pm)

April 11 - **Ardrossan**- Foreshore (10am - 7pm)

April 12 - **Port Victoria**- Foreshore (10am - 7pm)

April 13 - **Stansbury** – Seaside Markets (9am - 2pm)

Further details, including a marine parks update, are included in the March issue of our SDFSA Bulletin. For more information contact DEH's Coast and Marine Conservation Branch on (08) 8124 4900 or visit www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/marineparks.html

ENCOUNTER MARINE PARK UPDATE

According to a Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) news release dated 22nd February re the proposed Encounter Marine Park, the timetable for finalising the marine park zoning arrangements is as follows: -

- Step 1 – August 2008 (anticipated): an outer boundary will be released for public comment.
- Step 2 – early 2009: public information will be invited, to help prepare a draft management plan with zoning arrangements.
- Step 3 – late 2009: broad public consultation on the draft management plan will be held.
- Step 4 – 2010: management plan will be finalised.

Full text: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/data/press/encounter.pdf>

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

It will be a holiday long weekend for ANZAC Day this year with the public holiday for ANZAC Day falling on Friday 25th April. Try to make the most of the holiday long weekend because the next public holiday is not until 9th June (Queen's Birthday*).

* There will be a holiday long weekend in SA for the Queen's Birthday (7-9th June). World Oceans Day falls on the Sunday of the long weekend (8th June).

ANZAC Day may be 'lost' as a public holiday in 30 years time because 25th April will be Easter Sunday. The last time that Easter Sunday fell on 25th April was back in 1943. The dates for Easter changes each year because Easter Sunday is set according to the phases of the moon. It has been that way for some 1700 years. The Council of Nicaea established (in the 4th century) that Easter Sunday would fall on the Sunday following the full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox for the northern hemisphere (see both

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vernal_equinox).

WIDE ANGLE LENS FOUND

Congratulations to Phil Mercurio who found the wide-angle lens that Steve Reynolds had lost under the Port Hughes jetty on Australia Day. Phil found it four weeks later, during one of his two dives there on 24th February. Steve was very relieved and grateful to get his lens back from Phil. Many thanks to Phil and everyone else who tried to help find the lens for me.

ADELAIDE COASTAL WATERS STUDY

The final report of the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study (Adelaide Coastal Waters Study Final Report, Volume 1 Summary of Study Findings November 2007) can now be viewed at <http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/acws.html>. The \$3m, 6-year Adelaide Coastal Waters Study began in 2001. Over 20 technical reports have been published. Visit <http://www.csiro.au/solutions/AdelaideCoastalWaters.html> and <http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/acws.html> for further details re the study.

ANNIVERSARIES

The Seahorse Farm first opened its doors at 20 Divett Street in Port Adelaide on 10th February last year, having moved from Port Lincoln.

Sea Scape I began operating as the Wallaroo to Lucky Bay ferry in March last year.

“SA Angler” magazine recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Visit

<http://www.saangler.com.au/> to view the magazine’s new website.

The *Seawolf* wreck turns six this month, having been scuttled on 23rd March 2002.

Also scuttled on the same date was the 3500-tonne North Korean freighter *Pong Su*. 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. She was struck by a missile from a RAAF F-111 on 23rd March 2006. Two explosions ripped through the vessel and sent it to the bottom about 140km off of Jervis Bay, NSW.

23rd March also marked the 97th anniversary of the sinking of the 3664-ton *Yongala* east of Cape Bowling Green off of Townsville, Queensland on 23rd March 1911. It was another 47 years before she was first dived on, in August 1958. So next August will be the 50th anniversary of the first dive on the wreck. Visit

<http://www.cs.miami.edu/~geoff/Personal/Diving/Briefings/Yongala.html> for more details.

26th March is the 65th anniversary of the date that the B-17 Flying Fortress plane carrying US Army Air Force Brigadier General Howard K Ramey and 9 other men disappeared during a flight from PNG to Brisbane in 1943. Ben Cropp found some wreckage from the plane over 60 years later.

These “*Titanic*” anniversaries are coming around quicker each year. 15th April will be yet another anniversary of the sinking of the RMS *Titanic* in 1912. So it’s been 96 years now. Time to start getting ready for the centenary in 2012.

14th April also marks another anniversary for a South Australian shipwreck. The 2128-tonne iron ship *Songvaar* sank at Wardang Island the very same day that an iceberg struck the *Titanic*. The *Songvaar*, however, sank after sitting on her own anchor and piercing her hull 96 years ago in 1912. The *Titanic*, of course, didn’t sink until the early hours of the next day.

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the recovery of six cannons (cannon?) jettisoned by Captain James Cook when his ship, HMS *Endeavour*, ran aground on 11th June 1770. The cannons are said to have been recovered from Endeavour Reef, off Cooktown in north Queensland, 199 years later, on 13th January 1969*. Source:

<http://www.geocities.com/milesago2001/1969.html> .

* (February 1969 has also been mentioned. There were apparently several expeditions over a period of time. All six cannons were eventually recovered, along with several other artifacts, including pig iron ingots, stone ballast, a bower anchor and the anchor’s headstock rings. The *Endeavour*’s bower anchor was found Christmas 1971, 201 years after its loss.) Further details are included in the March issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

“Encounter 2002” was held six years ago in April 2002, celebrating the bicentenary of the voyages of discovery by both Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin in 1802.

16th March this year marked the birth of Matthew Flinders, the navigator, 234 years ago in 1774. This year marks the 20th anniversary of work commencing on the replica of HMS *Endeavour* in January 1988.

The 2008 calendar of SA Marine Life was the tenth one produced by MLSSA, with the first one having been produced in 1999. Production of the 2009 calendar is already well underway.

BOATING SAFETY

SA's Notices to Mariners for 2008 have already reached 16 at the time of writing. Visit http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/quicklinks/notice_to_mariners/notice_to_mariners.asp to keep up to date with the latest notices. Visit http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/safety/marine/rec_boating/index.asp for details on Recreational Boating Safety.

And don't try this 'at home' folks. A group of people recently launched their motorboat at Outer Harbor at night and 'followed' their GPS to an offshore destination. The result was that they crashed their vessel straight into the breakwater, which they hadn't taken into consideration.

MARINE LAUGHS

STRANGE PICTURE IN FEBRUARY NEWS SHEET

Oops! Last month's news sheet included a surprise picture which had crept into the document via stealth. It was hidden in our screen version and only revealed itself during the printing of a hard copy. The picture appeared on page 8 of the news sheet in the midst of the "Anniversaries" section. It had been inadvertently sourced from the web page found at <http://www.policejournal.sa.org.au/0209/08a.html>. It showed Major Crime detective Chris Chamberlain digging up the proceeds of a robbery from a suburban backyard. We apologize for any confusion caused by this error.

NEW WOBBERGONG SPECIES

Two new species of wobbegong sharks have been found in WA, bringing the total of known wobbegong shark species in Australia to eight. Researchers who discovered the two new species say that they spotted a Floral banded wobbegong and banded an adult Dwarf spotted wobbegong which they found in shark fishery catches. Putting it another way, the banded wobbegong was spotted and the spotted wobbegong was banded. The Floral banded wobbegong (*Orectolobus floridus*) was spotted between Geraldton and Augusta. It is mainly dark brown with yellowish blotches on the upper surface and white on the underbelly. The banded Dwarf spotted wobbegong (*Orectolobus parvimaclatus*) was found between Green Head and Mandurah. It apparently looked similar to juveniles of the Spotted wobbegong (*Orectolobus maculatus*). It was a lighter yellowish-brown with large white blotches on top and creamy coloured underneath.

SHIPWRECK FULL OF BEER

The MV *Don Wilfredo*, a cargo boat, recently capsized off of Bulusan, 400km SE of Manila in the eastern Philippines, during stormy weather. The vessel was apparently loaded with beer. It is likely that, like the Japanese midget submarine off Sydney, the authorities will try to keep the boat's location a secret and, if it is ever in danger of being found, they will place a ban on the area.

NEWS FROM VRFish

"Latest reports from the Victorian Abalone Divers Association have reported the abalone virus front at London Bridge; the virus has only moved approximately 500 metres east. This places the virus front at approximately 500 metres to the west of the Arch. The slow movement of the virus may be due to the inability of people to access this area during the rough weather conditions recently occurring. People are reminded to ensure that they use good bio-security procedures, ensuring that they wash and sterilize their gear and equipment between sites. It is recommended that all human activity should not be conducted in the areas where the virus is active. This will ensure the slowing and or stopping of the spread of the virus."

Source: Monthly Report from the VRFish Office - February 2008

OTHER NEWS FROM VICTORIA

Twelve teenagers participating in swimming trials at the Brighton Lifesaving Club in Victoria were stung by jellyfish recently. Four of the victims were taken to hospital for treatment. Another 'Victorian', AFL player Jarrad Grant from the Western Bulldogs was stung by stingrays close to shore on a beach.

“SHARKWATER”

”Sharkwater” is a shark documentary by Rob Stewart. Already the winner of more than 15 awards, it is being released in Australia in May. It strives to dispel common myths about sharks and also to expose the current threats that they face. The website at <http://www.sharkwater.com> offers some great underwater images, short videos and wallpaper downloads. You are also able to pledge your support though “Sharkwater”. When you do you will be given a brief list of things you can do to help sharks, plus information regarding how you can keep informed of shark issues online. Give it a try. Your pledge will make a difference!

LATEST SHARK ATTACK STATISTICS

There's good news and bad news. The good news is that human deaths from shark attacks hit a 20-year low in 2007. The bad news is that there has already been one death in 2008. According to the “University of Florida News”, “Fatal shark attacks worldwide dipped to their lowest levels in two decades in 2007”. According to http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/statistics/sharksummary_2007.pdf, the sole casualty in 2007 was a swimmer vacationing in the South Pacific. The latest fatality is an Austrian (NOT Australian) scuba diver who died after a shark (not surprisingly) bit his leg during a diving tour where bait was put into the water to attract sharks in the Bahamas. Visit <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/isaf/diverstats.htm> for more info re shark attack statistics. Further details are included in the March issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

QUEENSLAND DIVING INCIDENTS

A 42-year old British woman, who was diving with her husband off the Whitsunday Islands in Queensland recently, suffered a seizure and a cardiac arrest 6m below the surface. She was saved by a holidaymaking Australian doctor and nurse who performed CPR when she was brought to the surface. Dr Fran Kinnear said that the heart attack was a result of pressure changes while diving. "The decompression injury resulted in a number of neurological effects to the patient including temporary blindness. If not for the immediate treatment the patient received from the doctor and nurse on board the dive boat, the outcome might have been very different," she said. The woman had been unconscious for 10 minutes after the incident, but was revived. She was taken to the Mackay Base Hospital in a critical condition and later transferred to Townsville Hospital for decompression treatment.

Source:

http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/1036908_great_escape_of_scuba_diver

An 82-year old British man recently drowned at Dumbell Island, north Queensland during a snorkelling trip. He had kept snorkelling despite suffering breathing difficulties. He then lost consciousness in the water and could not be resuscitated.

OTHER NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

The bridge from HMAS *Brisbane* (D-41) is at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. According to the web page found at

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/photos/2007/09/26/2044230.htm>, it was lowered into position there on 26th September 2007. There is a photo of it being lowered into position (on the web page). The HMAS *Brisbane* was scuttled off of Queensland's Sunshine Coast, 2.8nm east of Mudjimba Island, on 31st July 2005.

'DIVING DEATH' ARTICLES IN SDF LIBRARY

We now have several hard copies of the article "Diving Related Deaths in New Zealand 2000-2006" by Andrew McClelland (from *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine*, Vol.37, No.4, Dec.2007). Let us know if you would like a copy. It has now been placed in our library (sdf12), alongside other papers such as "Provisional Report on Diving-Related Fatalities in Australian Waters 2001" by Doug Walker (sdf10) and "SA Diving-Related Deaths 2001-2002 – A Coroner's Inquiry" by Chris Acott (sdf11).

DISCOVERY OF HMAS SYDNEY WRECK

The wreck of HMAS *Sydney* has finally been found. The discovery of the wreck came within days of the discovery of HSK *Kormoran*. The actual announcements of the discovery of the two wrecks came within about 24 hours of each other. According to the web page found at <http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,23384538-5006301,00.html>, "*Sydney's* hull, apparently largely intact in about 2470m, was found 12 nautical miles from the scattered wreckage of the *Kormoran* - located last week - and some eight nautical miles from the reported scene of their actual battle. Both wrecks were found following scans by the survey vessel SV *Geosounder* using low-resolution search sonar. Scans using higher-resolution sonar were used to confirm the identity of the ships. Finding Sydney Foundation chairman Ted Graham said the plan was for the SV *Geosounder* to return to Geraldton on Thursday (20/3) or Friday (21/3) to collect a deep water ROV equipped with high resolution cameras. It will head back to sea on Tuesday (25/3) or Wednesday (26/3) next week. "We will go out and will go to both the sites of the *Kormoran* and *Sydney* and the battle site," he said in Canberra. Mr Rudd said Environment Minister Peter Garrett was in the process of issuing an interim protection declaration in relation to both vessels. "I'm advised it provides immediate and early protection of the sites against any unauthorised intrusion," he said."

HMAS *Sydney* was sailing off the West Australian coast on 19th November 1941 when it encountered what purported to be the Dutch freighter *Straat Malakka*. The ship was actually the *Kormoran* and the two ships fired at each other. Both ships sank, the *Sydney* going down with all hands. This represented the greatest ever loss of life in an Australian warship. The Finding Sydney Foundation discovered the *Kormoran* first. She was found at a depth of about 2560 metres. The team also found a significant amount of debris in an area about 2740 metres below the surface. On 17th March, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd confirmed that the wreckage of the *Sydney* had been found the day before, about 250km south-west of Carnarvon on WA's west coast. She was apparently some 12nm from the location of the *Kormoran*. Next week, the salvage team will use an ROV, equipped with high resolution cameras, to film both HMAS *Sydney* and the *Kormoran* in a bid to solve the 66-year-old mystery. There have been four HMAS *Sydney* ships in the past century.

The first one served in WWI, the second one was sunk by the *Kormoran* during WWII, the third one saw action in Korea and Vietnam and the present one has served in the Persian Gulf and Timor.

OTHER NEWS FROM WA

Between 1947 and 1948, the defence force dumped a variety of ordnance into Albany Harbour in WA's south. Items such as a 250lb aerial bomb, 18lb artillery shells and rifle ammunition have been found at the bottom of the harbour. The latest find was the discovery of another artillery shell by divers.

According to the web page found at

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=62964>, "Nature lovers are in for a treat with the annual mass autumn coral spawning about to happen. It is one of the most spectacular natural events on the calendar in WA and happens off several parts of the coast during the last week of March.

More than 250 coral species have been identified in areas such as the Dampier Archipelago, Abrolhos Islands and Ningaloo Marine Park.

WA Environment Minister David Templeman said most coral synchronised reproduction to spawn only a few nights of the year.

Mr Templeman said that meant corals spawned seven to 10 days after the full moon in March-April during hot and balmy weather.

"By spawning at the same time and when the water movement is minimal, corals maximise the concentration of eggs and sperm thereby increasing the chances of fertilisation," Mr Templeman said.

"The simultaneous spawning of many different species at night ensures enough coral larvae survive predators which will have an excess of food over a short period."

A minor coral spawn took place in February in WA and another is expected in April. It is predicted that this year's major coral spawning period will be overnight between March 28 and 31.

Mr Templeman said if coral spawning happened in extremely calm weather, the spawning could be so dense it effectively 'choked' the surrounding waters - leading to massive numbers of fish deaths due to a lack of oxygen.

During mass spawnings, coral eggs and sperm are released into the water and float to the surface before fertilization begins.

Coral spawning coincides with the arrival of whale sharks that like to munch on microscopic organisms."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SHARK WEEK 2008

The Micronesian Shark Foundation and Fish 'n' Fins are holding Shark Week 2008 in Palau from 27th March to 3rd April. Shark Week is specially planned to take place during the shark mating season. Dr Mark Meekan from AIMS will be returning for the 2008 week and he is planning to start the first shark satellite tagging research program in Palau. Participants will get the opportunity to dive world famous sites like Blue Corner, Peleliu Corner and Shark City. There'll also be a full evening programme of seminars, talks and films, all with a Gala Dinner to finish the week off. Visit <http://www.fishnfins.com/> for more details.

DEEP Indonesia 2008

DEEP Indonesia 2008 will be held at the Jakarta Convention Center from the 28th to 30th March 2008. DEEP Indonesia 2008 is the only international Diving, Adventure Travel and Water Sports exhibition to be held in Indonesia. It will incorporate seminars, workshops, special events and more. The event focuses on Indonesia's fabulous ocean life and is designed to promote marine tourism through diving, water sports and adventure travel as well as to encourage people to love the ocean and its resources. Visit the DEEP Indonesia website at <http://www.deepindonesia.com/> for more details.

REEF WATCH MARATHON DIVE

The next Reef Watch Marathon Dive is being held at Port Noarlunga reef on Sunday 6th April. ADEX 2008

The Asia Dive Expo is being held in Singapore from 18th to 20th April 2008. Details are available on page 51 of the March issue of Dive Log magazine. Visit www.asiadiveexpo.com for more details.

NATIONAL MARINE SAFETY CONFERENCE

The National Marine Safety Conference is being held in South Australia next year. It is being held at the Hilton Adelaide from 27-29th May 2008. The conference will feature Australian and international experts as speakers. It will deal with a wide range of current issues impacting on the marine industry and it will cover Recreational Boating, Commercial Operations, Seafood, Industry, Engineering, Boat/ship Design and Building, Training, Safety & Environmental Management, Surveying and possibly more specialist topics (depending on papers submitted). Visit either http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/safety/marine/nmsc_conference_2008.asp or <http://www.nmsc.gov.au/> for more details.

MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL DIVE EXPO 2008

MIDE '08 is being held from 4-6th July at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur. Details are available on page 55 of the March issue of Dive Log magazine. Visit www.mide.com.my for more details.

AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL TOURISM CONVENTION

The next Australian Regional Tourism Convention is being held at the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort from 10-12th September 2008.

OZTeK'09

The next OZTeK is being held at Australian Technology Park in Sydney from 21st to 22nd March 2009. Visit www.diveoztek.com.au for more details.

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: -

MARINE PARKS UPDATE**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

MARINE PARKS ROAD SHOW VISITS THE YORKE PENINSULA**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

WESTERN BLUE GROPER AND HARLEQUIN FISH UPDATE**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

LATEST SHARK ATTACK STATISTICS.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

MARINE MAPPING.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

THE ANCHORS AT PORT NOARLUNGA REEF**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

ANNIVERSARY OF RECOVERY OF CANNON FROM HMS *ENDEAVOUR* ... **Error!**
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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 Advisory Group (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.