

G'day from Scuba Dive SA

SDF News Sheet – August 2018

Monthly newsletter of

Scuba Dive SA

(The SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION of SA)

Contact us via:

PO Box 287, Christies Beach SA 5165

www.sdfsa.net , info@sdfsa.net , <http://www.facebook.com/groups/448643155213641/>

Major sponsor - Mile End Office Furniture

**We also acknowledge the support of the Rob Roy Hotel,
Dell'Uva Wines Estate and Aussie Divers Phuket**

Scuba Dive SA is the peak body in South Australia,

We represent all recreational divers in SA.

We have helped to protect the ocean environment.

We have been instrumental in preserving jetties, sharks, etc..

We need your support to continue to serve all divers.

This monthly electronic news sheet is provided as a service to our members. Our monthly newsletters (and any bulletins) can be downloaded from <http://www.sdfsa.net/newsletters.htm>.

The October holiday long weekend starts as early as next month. The actual Labour Day public holiday is on Monday 1st October, which means that the long weekend starts on Friday 28th September. The weekend should be the trigger for some warmer weather to kick off the new diving season.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is being held at 7pm on Tuesday 28th August 2018 in the Conference Room on level 2 in The Braggs building (see <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/campuses/northtce/>) at the University of Adelaide. The address is Victoria Drive, Gate 8. Car parking is available on Victoria Drive. Walk in Gate 8 and through the big double doors in The Braggs building. The meeting is open to all financial members, including members of financial clubs.

RESULTS OF OUR AGM

Many thanks to the people who attended our AGM last month. A committee was elected for 2018-19. The new committee is as follows: - President - Tony Leggatt, Vice-President – Andrew Hunter, Secretary – Steve Reynolds, Treasurer – Alex Suslin, Committee Members – Judy Hani, Haixia Wen, Heather Creech, Stephanie Grovermann, Emma Daly, Helena Wescombe-Down, Merv Brash & Sara Leggatt. Congratulations go to all of these people on their being elected. Tony Leggatt stepped up to become our new President. Andrew Hunter was elected to replace Tony as our Vice-President. Steve Reynolds, Alex Suslin and Judy Hani are continuing as our Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Member respectively. That is where any similarity to last year's committee ends, with Haixia Wen, Heather Creech, Stephanie Grovermann, Emma Daly, Helena Wescombe-Down, Merv Brash & Sara Leggatt

all becoming Committee Members as well. That means that we have doubled our committee from the previous year. (It also means that we have good female representation on the committee now.) This should ensure that our monthly meetings can go ahead even when some committee people are unable to attend them. It is encouraging to have so many new people wanting to be on our committee. Helena Wescombe-Down has been there before, however, having been on our committee years ago. We are not giving too much away when we disclose that Helena was our Secretary for three years and Treasurer for one year in the 1990s. Our thanks go to Gail Jackman, Tim Brown and Hank van der Wijngaart for their work on our committee last year. We enjoyed a huge supper late in the evening. Many thanks to everyone for bringing a shared supper plate along. There was more than enough to go around and some items did not even need opening at all.

SCIENCE ALIVE!

Science Alive! is at the Adelaide Showground from 9am Sat & Sun 4-5/8. Groups such as Reef Watch, EMS, Malacological Society of SA, Port River Shellfish Restoration project and Estuary Care Foundation will be displaying there.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Reef Watch SA is looking for volunteers to help enter data from the Intertidal Reef Monitoring Program (into new porthole which is now in early test phase). Please contact carl.charter@conservationsa.org.au if you are able to assist.

This is a great networking opportunity for anyone who works in Marine Science /Education/Community Engagement. If you, or someone you know, are keen to get a foot in the door to work with a marine education organisation that is celebrating 20yrs of community citizen science, then pass this information on.

GIANT AUSTRALIAN CUTTLEFISH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATERS

(Sprigg lecture series: Professor Bronwyn Gillanders)

On Tuesday 14th August, 6pm – 7pm, the South Australian Museum will have a Sprigg series lecture where Professor Bronwyn Gillanders of the University of Adelaide will present some of the scientific detective work that she and her team have done on the biology of the giant Australian cuttlefish. The Museum will open to guests at 5:30pm, with a complimentary glass of wine available prior to the talk. To find out more about the event, visit

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sprigg-lecture-series-prof-bronwyn-gillanders-giant-australian-cuttlefish-tickets-47491585611> .

WHYALLA CUTTLEFISH AGGREGATION

Lots of divers visited Whyalla for the winter cuttlefish aggregation. Many of them also attended the CuttleFest event which had over 500 participants. A 2-page article about the Whyalla Cuttlefish Aggregation can be found on pages 38-9 of the August issue of Dive Log.

STAR OF GREECE

The recent anniversary celebrations for the *Star of Greece* were enjoyed by many people. Many thanks go to the organisers for their efforts. The month-long display at the Aldinga library has now ended.

30M EXCLUSION ZONE AROUND WRECK OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

It was announced in The Advertiser on 5th July that the site of the 1837 wreck of the *South Australian* at Victor Harbor has been established and will now have a 30m exclusion zone around it for protection. Five prohibited activities were listed, plus details of liability for criminal prosecution and \$1,000 fine. Details can be found at https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/maritime-heritage/Protecting_shipwrecks/Protected_zones/South_Australian . (A reliable source says that snorkelling may still be allowed on the site and that permits to conduct non-disturbance dives may be applied for soon.)

The wreck was found in April 2018 by a team of maritime archaeologists and students who conducted magnetometer searches and metal detector surveys by SCUBA diving, snorkelling and walking. Visit <https://www.victorharbortimes.com.au/story/5509462/sas-oldest-shipwreck-found-off-encounter-bay/?cs=1537#slide=1> for more details. The web page found at <http://spatialwebapps.environment.sa.gov.au/naturemaps/?locale=en-us&viewer=naturemaps&runWorkflow=ZoomtoShipwreckID&inputParam=1144> gives Latitude -35.5773 S, Longitude 138.6035 E for the wreck. A notice published in The Advertiser on 10th July about the new 'Protected Zone' gives the centre point for the zone as 35.34.641' S, 138.36213' E.

2019 WORLD WHALE CONFERENCE AND WHALE HERITAGE SITES SUMMIT

The 2019 World Whale Conference and Whale Heritage Sites Summit are both being held in Hervey Bay, Queensland in October (2019). The World Whale Conference is being held from 7-9th October and Whale Heritage Sites Summit is being held from 10-11th October. The event will be hosted by Fraser Coast Tourism and Events and the World Cetacean Alliance.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the nine Australians who each received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) from Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove in Canberra for their part in the recent rescue of 12 boys and their soccer coach from a cave in Thailand. Dr Richard Harris & Dr Craig Challen both also received Star of Courage bravery medal awards. Visit <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2018/07/24/thai-cave-heroes-given-top-honour/> for further details. Dr Richard "Harry" Harris also received a further recognition when the South Australian Governor, Hieu Van Le put on a reception in his honour at Government House. Meanwhile, some of the Thai volunteers were involved in another rescue when they saved a baby boy after a dam collapsed in southern Laos. The baby boy had to be carried through swirling floods and waist-high mud by the rescuers.

Congratulations also go to any SA divers in their 70s and 80s who are still able to dive regularly. It was recently revealed on air that Adelaide Scuba's John Bent is still diving at the age of 78, something that many of us can only aspire to. And if 78 sounds impressive, what about Cave Diver #1, Dave Warnes still diving in Tank Cave for 85 minutes at the age of 82?

ANNIVERSARIES

182 YEARS AGO, the first SA settlers embarked from the *Duke of York* on Kangaroo Island on 27th July 1836.

CEMETERY REEFS

According to the web page found at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-18/underwater-cemetery-idea-floated-council-gold-coast-qld/10006824>, an underwater cemetery and dive site on the Gold Coast has been proposed. The council is considering building a site for burial urns in the city's Broadwater. Based on the Neptune Memorial Reef in Florida in the United States, it is hoped that the cemetery would attract diving tourism. The Gold Coast Mayor suggested that people's ashes could be mixed with environmentally-friendly materials to create a dive precinct. He said the precinct could be positioned about 2 nautical miles off the spit, near a proposed underwater dive pyramid.

NEW GREAT BARRIER REEF POSTAGE STAMPS

A series of 5 postage stamps depicting marine creatures from the Great Barrier Reef are being released by Australia Post on 1st August. The "Reef Safari" set features 4 X \$1 stamps and 1 X \$2 stamp. They feature a nautilus, a green sea turtle, an olive sea snake, an emperor angelfish and a grey reef shark (\$2). Details were published in the July-August 2018 issue of "Stamp Bulletin". Visit www.auspost.com.au/scm for details.

NEW NORFOLK ISLAND STAMPS

Also featured in the July-August 2018 issue of "Stamp Bulletin" were two Norfolk Island stamps depicting the island's Crystal Pool at Point Ross (on the south-western end of Norfolk Island). The tidal pool was formed from volcano lava beds and eroded lava tunnels. It is a popular location for swimming and snorkelling. Access to the pool, however, is difficult. Ropes have to be used for part of the journey down some cliffs.

SHOP NEWS

The Scuba Clinic is closed on Fridays until the end of September. Also, their annual break means that they will be closing on 2nd August and will return on 27th August. Underwater Sports Diving Centre will be closed until 19th August, re-opening on 20th August.

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

The Sydney International Boat Show is being held 2-6/8 - see www.SydneyBoatShow.com.au .

DFC COMBINED CLUBS MOVIE NIGHT

The Dive for Cancer movie night is being held on Thursday 23rd August at 6:30pm. The movie will be "Mission: Impossible – Fallout". Tickets cost \$28 per person which includes the movie, a drink and some popcorn. There will only be 75 tickets for the event this year.

FRIENDS FORUM

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent are holding a forum on waste and the damage it is doing to the sea life in the Gulf in October.

NEW KI FERRY SUFFERS ENGINE TROUBLE

According to the web page found at https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/new-ki-ferry-service-out-of-action-after-engine-trouble-causes-accident/news-story/82f4b14a32b142e088deedeec1be35cd?utm_source=The%20Advertiser&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial , The Advertiser 3rd July, "The new Kangaroo Island passenger ferry will be out of action until the spring following a relatively minor berthing accident that destroyed a \$10,000 propeller". A proposed bridge from the mainland to Kangaroo Island would have a negative effect on any ferry service.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bob Butterfield on being awarded life membership of the Underwater Explorers' Club of SA. The club's Patron, Peter Christopher presented Bob with his Life Membership award following Bob's many years of club membership, many of them as a committee member, including several years as President.

Congratulations also to Peter Christopher himself on his recent volunteer recognition award from Mark Butler MP.

Congratulations too for Tony Bazeley from the Port Adelaide Residents Environment Protection Group on receiving a volunteer recognition award of his own from Mark Butler MP.

'SEAHORSE HOTELS' BEING TRIALLED IN N.S.W.

Wild storms at Port Stephens on the NSW coast from 2010-13 destroyed habitat and also almost destroyed one of the largest concentrations of seahorses in the world. The seahorse population declined by 90% in just a three-year period. Artificial habitats called them seahorse hotels are yielding positive results. Three different seahorse hotel designs are being trialled and they are proving an early success. Further details are given below: -

'SEAHORSE HOTELS' BRING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES BACK FROM THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION

One of the largest concentrations of seahorses in the world was once found at Port Stephens on the New South Wales coast, until wild storm seasons from 2010 to 2013 destroyed habitat and almost destroyed the population. "If you wanted to see seahorses, you'd come to Port Stephens. You'd hop in here and you'd see 30 to 40 seahorses on every single dive, it was fantastic," said Dr David Harasti from NSW Fisheries. "But in just a three-year period the population declined by 90 per cent. One site where I used to get 400 animals, I saw 10 there. On another site the population of 200 went down to about 20. "The decline was quite dramatic and because of that decline the species became the second endangered seahorse listed in the world." Dr Harasti said several large East Coast Low storms shifted large volumes of sand in the port which smothered the seahorse habitat of soft corals and sponges. A number of poorly located moorings and anchor damage from boats also contributed to the habitat destruction and left behind vast tracts of barren sand. Fortunately, Dr Harasti was struck with inspiration. "I used to see old discarded crab traps underwater covered in sponges and algae and just by chance I'd see seahorses living on them," he said. "So we decided to introduce our own artificial habitats and I've called them seahorse hotels. "I've always got this whole concept underwater — if you build it they will come — so we've built the infrastructure for the seahorses, the hotels are there and now the seahorses are colonizing them." It is still early days, but after just six months underwater, the seahorse hotels are yielding positive results. "Where we used to have no seahorses. We've had around 20 or so animals living on the seahorse hotels," he said. "Each time we survey a hotel there are adults

on there, there are juveniles and we're finding they're very territorial, so we tag the seahorses and we find the same animals from three or four months ago still living on them which is great." Seahorses rely on their habitat to camouflage themselves from predators, as a holdfast to prevent being washed away and as a source of food, predated on the micro-crustaceans that live on the habitats. The success of the seahorse hotels is being closely monitored by Michael Simpson, who is conducting his PhD on the experiment with Sydney University. Three different seahorse hotel designs are being trialled for their effectiveness, and so far all the hotels are proving an early success. "It was a bit of a surprise how quickly seahorses appeared on there," Mr Simpson said. "It's a good thing in the sense that you may not need additional complexity in a seahorse hotel to promote seahorse numbers. "It may be as simple as putting a cage out." The goal of his research is to design a cheap and easy model for building seahorse hotels that could be used in sites all over the world where populations are declining. Mr Simpson is also trialling the effectiveness of swimming nets as an artificial habitat in Sydney Harbour, another population centre of White Seahorses that is on the decline." (Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-08/seahorse-hotels-bringing-endangered-species-back/9924454>)

MARC SLUSZNY

According to the web page found at <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/en/2018/06/30/belgian-adventurer-marc-sluszny-gone-missing/> , Belgium's Marc Sluszny went missing after a diving accident in southern France. Rescue workers have stopped the search; maybe a specialised team will start a new search at a later stage. Sluszny visited an underground cave with a friend in Salses-le-Chateau, in southern France..... When the two were at a depth of 125 metres, things went wrong. Sluszny lost contact with his fellow diver when the cable between the two men snapped. His companion managed to return, but Sluszny went missing. A long search proved fruitless." It was later reported that one of the cave divers attempting to recover Marc's body died in the process. The recovery diver apparently died in the staging area (30-40m?).

CLOSED SEASON FOR ROCK LOBSTER

The annual SA closure for Rock Lobster fishing will remain in place in the Southern Zone until 6 am on 1st October and in the Northern Zone until midday on 1st November. All Rock Lobster taken by recreational fishers must have the middle tail fan clipped in half to a recognisable straight line before landing. Visit http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/closures_and_aquatic_reserves/fishing_closures .

ScuBAR

Our ScuBARs are currently undergoing a review. Depending on the results of the review, our next ScuBAR is being held at 6pm on Friday 14th September at the Rob Roy Hotel. Scott Jamieson, General Manager DAN and Rick Bullers, Senior Maritime Heritage Officer with Department Environment and Water were the speakers at our July ScuBAR. Our ScuBARs are sponsored by the Rob Roy Hotel, Mile End Office Furniture and Dell'Uva Wines Estate. Our thanks go to the Rob Roy Hotel, Mark Tozer of Mile End Office Furniture, Darren Gaspari of Aussie Divers Phuket and Wayne Farquhar at Dell'Uva Wines for their generous support of our Federation.

NOVEMBER SCUBAR

Also depending on the results of the review, our November ScuBAR will be held (later than usual) on Friday 23rd November. The evening will be a special celebration of 50 years of scuba diver representation in SA. Scuba diver representation in SA began in 1968, some 10 years before the SDF was formally incorporated. (1968 was the same year as the introduction of the Big Mac.)

AUSSIE DIVERS PHUKET OFFER TO OUR FACEBOOK GROUP MEMBERS

Darren Gaspari at Aussie Divers Phuket is offering our Facebook group members discounts for diving in Phuket. He is offering 10% discount on all PADI Courses, 15% off liveaboards and scuba diving day trips and 20% discount on our luxury day trip speedboat. “We love to see some of the group over here. Happy to take good care of them when they are here,” he says. To take advantage of this generous offer, email info@aussiediversphuket.com and tell them that you heard about special discounts being offered to Scuba Dive SA Facebook group members. Visit either <https://www.aussiediversphuket.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/AussieDiversPhuket/> for more details. Follow them on Instagram via <https://www.instagram.com/aussiediversphuket/> .

UNDERWATER STATUES & SCULPTURES

A ‘coralarium’ in the Maldives features lots of statues and sculptures. It is situated in the centre of a 600- hectare coral lagoon on the island resort of Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Many events are listed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/> . Details for many other forthcoming events can be found at <http://www.dive-log.net.au/news-events/>. Visit the web page found at <http://www.tourism.sa.com/events/event-news-edition-two.aspx> to see the latest from Events South Australia.

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

The Sydney International Boat Show is being held 2-6/8 - see www.SydneyBoatShow.com.au .

AIDE 2018

The Australia International Dive Expo is being held at the International Convention Centre in Sydney 2nd to 6th August 2018 (in collaboration with the Sydney International Boat Show). Details can be found on pages 61 & 68 of the August issue of Dive Log. Visit www.australiadiveexpo.com for more details.

SCIENCE ALIVE!

Science Alive! is at the Adelaide Showground from 9am Sat & Sun 4-5/8. Groups such as Reef Watch, EMS, Malacological Society of SA, Port River Shellfish Restoration project and Estuary Care Foundation will be displaying there.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2018

This year's National Science Week is being held from 11 – 19th August 2018. Visit www.scienceweek.net.au for more details.

GIANT AUSTRALIAN CUTTLEFISH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATERS

(Sprigg lecture series: Professor Bronwyn Gillanders)

On Tuesday 14th August, 6pm – 7pm, the South Australian Museum will have a Sprigg series lecture where Professor Bronwyn Gillanders of the University of Adelaide will present some of the scientific detective work that she and her team have done on the biology of the giant Australian cuttlefish. The Museum will open to guests at 5:30pm, with a complimentary glass of wine available prior to the talk. To find out more about the event, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sprigg-lecture-series-prof-bronwyn-gillanders-giant-australian-cuttlefish-tickets-47491585611>.

AIMA/ASHA 2018 CONFERENCE

The AIMA/ASHA 2018 Conference is being held 27-28th September. The joint conference will be held at the UNE Parramatta Campus, located at 211 and 232 Church Street Parramatta, NSW. Visit <http://www.aima-underwater.org.au/> for more details.

4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ANCHIALINE ECOSYSTEMS

The 4th International Symposium on Anchialine Ecosystems is being held Lanzarote, 1st to 7th October 2018. (An anchialine pool is an enclosed water body or pond with an underground connection to the ocean. Lanzarote is a Spanish island in the Canary Islands.) Further details can be found in the July issue of our Scuba Dive SA Bulletin.

PORT ADELAIDE WOODEN AND HERITAGE BOAT FESTIVAL

The inaugural Port Adelaide Wooden and Heritage Boat Festival will be held in Port Adelaide from 13-14th October 2018.

DAY AT THE 'BURGH

A Day at the 'Burgh is a festival of food, music and the arts. It is being held at Blanche Street, Edithburgh on 19th November 2018. Enjoy talented local musicians, artists, gourmet food and wine tasting. There will be a vintage car and motorcycle display, jumping castle, face painting, fashion parade and more. Visit www.edithburgh.org.au for more details.

JAMES CAMERON – CHALLENGING THE DEEP

James Cameron – Challenging the Deep is an exhibition of film-maker James Cameron's achievements in deep ocean science, technology and exploration. It includes his record breaking 11,000m (36,000 ft) dive to the Mariana Trench in the submersible vessel *Deepsea Challenger* in 2012. The exhibition is currently being held at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney and it runs until 30th Jan 2019. Visit <http://www.anmm.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/coming/james-cameron> for more details.

MEDITERRANEAN SYMPOSIA ON MARINE KEY HABITATS AND NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES

The Mediterranean Symposia on marine key habitats and non-indigenous species will be held in Antalya, Turkey from 14 to 18th January 2019. It will bring specialists from across the Mediterranean region together to discuss the state of knowledge available on species, key formations in the Mediterranean and non-indigenous species and to present the latest developments in their conservation, the results of research and their impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity.

DIVE FOR CANCER 2019

Next year's Dive for Cancer event is being held at 9.30am on Sunday 24th February at Port Noarlunga – see <https://www.facebook.com/diveforcancer/> or <http://www.diveforcancer.com.au/buy-ticket/> .

OZTek2019

OZTek2019 will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney, Darling Harbour on March 16/17, 2019. Visit www.oztek.com.au for more details. Some details can be found on page 59 of the August issue of Dive Log.

2019 FESTIVAL FLEURIEU

Next year's Festival Fleurieu is being held from Saturday 13th April to Monday 22nd April (just 10 days) which includes the Easter holiday long weekend.

14TH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SHELL SHOW

The next Australian National Shell Show is being held in SA next April. It will be held at the Goodwood Community Centre in Rosa St, Goodwood from 13-14th April 2019. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/Malacological-Society-of-South-Australia-Inc-502260489866315/>.

2019 WORLD WHALE CONFERENCE AND WHALE HERITAGE SITES SUMMIT

The 2019 World Whale Conference and Whale Heritage Sites Summit are both being held in Hervey Bay, Queensland in October (2019). The World Whale Conference is being held from 7-9th October and Whale Heritage Sites Summit is being held from 10-11th October. The event will be hosted by Fraser Coast Tourism and Events and the World Cetacean Alliance.

Scuba Dive SA www.sdfsa.net (The Scuba Divers Federation of SA) is a member of the following: -

RecFishSA (SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council) <https://recfishsa.org.au/>

SA Trails Coordinating Committee* <http://www.southaustraliantrails.com/>

* (Office of Recreation & Sport) <http://www.ors.sa.gov.au/>

Recreation SA <http://recreationsa.org/>

If you wish to be included on the mailing list for this electronic news sheet, contact Steve Reynolds, the Federation's Secretary, on info@sdfsa.net for more details.

The SDF supports both Reef Watch & DragonSearch
http://www.conservation.sa.org.au/reef_watch

Disclaimer – The opinions expressed by authors of material in this news sheet are not necessarily those of the Federation.