

G'day to all of our facemask friends

SDF News Sheet – September 2018

Monthly newsletter of
The SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION of SA

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SDFSA 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>.

Spring is finally here! Happy Father's Day to all the diving dads. The October holiday long weekend starts this month (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 25th September 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.

NEW COMMITTEE PROGRESS

Our new committee has been busy working with Adelaide Brighton Cement and Yankalilla Council regarding facilities at Rapid Bay jetty and diver access at Port Noarlunga jetty (see below). We will keep everyone posted on our progress in these matters.

POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE ROOMS AND TOILETS NEAR RAPID BAY JETTY

Onkaparinga Council is currently considering the possibility of placing change rooms and toilets near Rapid Bay Jetty for the benefit of divers and other jetty users alike. They are working with the private landholders to assess whether this is achievable. They will soon circulate a survey to the diving community in SA about what divers might be looking for. They want SDFSA to provide contacts at dive clubs, etc... for circulation of the survey. The survey needs to be completed by the end of September, so your prompt response would be appreciated.

PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY HAND RAIL

Take care when diving at Port Noarlunga jetty because the inside (southern) hand rail on the steps to the reef has come loose, leaving the steps quite dangerous for heavily-laden divers. There is every chance that Council may close the steps until the railing can be repaired or replaced. We are expecting some new steps to be built in the next few months. There has been a delay in this happening, but it is due to occur later this year. We can only hope that this latest incident speeds up the process. Be very careful getting in & out in the meantime, and don't crowd the steps at all. Any rescue attempt may result in the need to rescue more than the initial victim.

DIVE TRAILS

We are a member of the SA Trails Coordinating Committee. New President, Tony Leggatt will be attending Trails meetings on our behalf. The SA Trails website at <http://www.southaustraliantrails.com/> currently lists some 14 scuba diving locations (trails). Most of these, however, are offshore shipwreck sites.

DREDGING AT WEST BEACH & GLENELG

Dredging of the West Beach boat ramp to remove seagrass blocking the channel will continue until late September. Caution is required when using the ramp in the meantime. There's now a possibility that more dredging could occur in the Glenelg area if a proposal to have large cruise ships berth there goes ahead.

'DIVING' FIX IN "SA MOTOR" MAGAZINE

You can get a small 'diving' fix in the Spring issue of the RAA's "SA Motor" magazine. There is a giant cuttlefish photo (with a snorkeler) on page 24. It can be seen at <https://samotor.raa.com.au/6-of-sas-best-animal-encounters/>. An article on page 82 about travel to Iceland discusses diving in Silfra, a freshwater fissure in Thingvellir National Park. The fissure lies between the American and Eurasian continental plates, and it has some of the clearest water in the world. Admittedly, the waters there are glacial (read 'icy cold'). Snorkelling or diving in the fissure is said to be a wonderful experience due to light 'playing and bouncing off' the rocks and algae below the surface.

CLUB NEWS

BSAC Adelaide reported two whales just off the Rapid Bay jetty late last month. The whales were reported on the 6pm Ch.7 News as being a mother (Southern Right?) and her calf.

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2018

The Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year exhibition is being held at the South Australian Museum 10am - 5pm daily until 11th November. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for concession, \$5 children aged 5-15, Family Ticket (2 adults + 3 children) \$25, Children under 5 years FREE. Visit <http://samuseum.sa.gov.au/explore/exhibitions/australian-geographic-nature-photographer-of-the-year-2018> for more details. Tracey Jennings was the overall winner for the competition

with her image 'Hide and Seek'. The full winner gallery can be seen at <https://naturephotographeroftheyear.com.au/gallery/?year=2018&category=0&iswinneronly=true> .

ANNIVERSARIES

96 YEARS AGO, well-known shipwreck salvor, Mel Fisher was born in Indiana on 21st August 1922. Mel is best known for finding the 1622 wreck of the Nuestra Señora de Atocha. He died on 19th December 1998, aged 76.

UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE BILL PASSED

Andy Viduka, Assistant Director of Maritime and Commonwealth Heritage reports that the Underwater Cultural Heritage Bill 2018 has finally been passed. He says that, amongst other technical and policy changes, the bill:

- broadens protection to all underwater cultural heritage in relevant jurisdictional waters;
- modernizes, broadens and strengthens the range of investigation and enforcement powers, enabling a proportionate response for breaches;
- retains the successful framework for collaborative administration with the States and Northern Territory that has been in place since 1983;
- includes the role of the public in the objects of the Act;
- enables protection of Australia's underwater cultural heritage located outside Australian waters (from actions by Australians); and
- has been aligned with the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage to facilitate Australia participating in the global community's response to illegal salvaging, looting and trafficking of underwater cultural heritage.

EXCLUSION ZONE TO CONTINUE AT WAVE GENERATOR

The 3000-tonne wave generator stranded at Carrickalinga sank there over 4 years ago, whilst under tow from Port Adelaide to Port MacDonnell. In March last year, we reported that 40% of respondents to a survey by the Yankalilla District Council about what residents feel should happen to the wave generator wanted it towed away from the area. There were options to leave the generator there, 1500m from shore in 16m of water, where it would make a good artificial reef. One of the options suggested was to "Level the structure by explosive blasting such that it forms an artificial reef . . .". Another option suggested was to "Cut the structure such that it is at least 7.5m below low water and the top cut off section be placed alongside so that both pieces form an artificial reef . . .". Another suggestion was to "tow it to deep water (greater than 25m) in Gulf St Vincent where it can be sunk . . ." or "tow it to very deep water (greater than 50m) south of KI and sink it". There was a total of 6 options to choose from. Although 40% of respondents may have indicated that they wanted it towed away entirely, it was possible that a majority would have wanted a solution that provided an artificial reef. Nigel Morris, the District Council of Yankalilla's CEO, recently reported, "the DPTI (Transport Dept.) have received State Govt. Development Approval for work to be performed on the wave generator.....removal of the steel structure on top of the concrete base, leaving the concrete structure intact below the water line and partly exposed at low tide levels.....The approval requires an exclusion zone to be created around the structure as a navigational hazard and a beacon light to be attached to the pole on top of the structure. A timetable for work to be done is not currently known."

“TANGERINE REEF” AUDIOVISUAL ALBUM

“Tangerine Reef” is a full-length audiovisual album by Animal Collective in collaboration with Coral Morphologic. The album commemorates the 2018 International Year of the Reef. It is a visual tone poem consisting of time-lapse and slow pans across surreal aquascapes of naturally fluorescent coral and cameos by alien-like reef creatures. Check it out at: <http://tangerinereef.myanimalhome.net> . You can watch a short trailer on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukxab7NnN20> .

UNDERWATER SOUTH AUSTRALIA PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

A group exhibition of underwater photography from South Australia opens on 27th September at the Auditorium Gallery in the City of West Torrens Civic Centre. Visit <http://www.forceofnature.eco/> for more details

NEW MINISTER’S RECREATIONAL FISHING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

According to the web page found at http://pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/publications/fishfacts_e-newsletter/fish_facts_august_2018/new_ministers_recreational_fishing_advisory_council_for_south_australia , “The formation of a new advisory body for recreational fishing in South Australia, an election commitment of the State Government, is progressing well. The Minister’s Recreational Fishing Advisory Council will provide feedback and advice to government on recreational fishing development issues and initiatives and big picture policy issues that impact the recreational fishing sector. The Council will include representatives from FishinSA, Recfish Central, RecFish SA and the SA Fishing Alliance. There will also be other individual members with regional or sector specific expertise, including the inland fishing and retail sectors. Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Tim Whetstone, has met with members from the four representative fishing groups regarding the structure and function of the new body.”

ACTOR RESCUED DURING FILMING

New ‘shark’ movie “The Meg started in SA cinemas in August. It is about a giant megalodon shark. It stars actors Ruby Rose, Jason Statham and Jess McNamee. During the filming of the movie, Ruby Rose was swimming in a tank in clothes and shoes (& a wetsuit). She sank to the bottom of the tank when her shoes filled up with water and she had to be rescued by the set’s safety divers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Eliza Dalziel & Claire Galvin from St Monica's College, Cairns on being finalists in the Australian Museum & University of Sydney Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize. They are finalists as a result of their research examining the important role that sea cucumbers play in protecting our coral reefs through their potential role in raising calcium carbonate levels. This helps to rebuild reefs, increase nutrient recycling & counteract the harmful effects of climate change. Video footage about the topic can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/citizensGBR/videos/2147812438766463/> .

FRANKLIN HARBOUR JETTY TEMPORARY CLOSURE FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS

According to the web page found at http://pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/publications/fishfacts_e-newsletter/fish_facts_august_2018/franklin_harbour_jetty_temporary_closure_for_improvement_works, “improvement works to Franklin Harbour jetty on the Eyre Peninsula are underway and a temporary closure (has been in place since) mid-June.”

The jetty will be ‘temporarily’ closed until early September. A spokesperson said.

“These works are required to maintain the jetty’s long-term structural integrity, enhance public facilities and continue to provide a safe jetty for all users.” Work on the jetty will be undertaken between 7am and 7pm.

SCIENCE ALIVE!

Groups such as Reef Watch, EMS and the Malacological Society of SA were at Science Alive! held at the Adelaide Showground last month. The event ran for three days, with just schools attending it on the Friday. The event was then open to the general public over the weekend.

CUTTLEFISH SEASON TO END NOW

The 2018 cuttlefish season has possibly come to an end now. Hopefully everyone had a chance to witness this phenomenon. If not, check it out in 360 video at <https://www.facebook.com/360uw/videos/2083765965208199/>.

BOAT RAMP FUNDING

Recfish SA says “The SA government collects \$3m annually from recreational boat registrations yet approx. only \$1m goes back to ramps and associated facilities. Of the rest, \$1m goes to the VHF radio network which is essentially a commercial network and \$1m goes to maintenance of navigation beacons which are critical to recreational and in particular commercial boating & shipping. It is understood that commercial boating contributes only about \$120,000 to the fund but that this will be withdrawn once new legislation is introduced that aims to manage commercial boating at a federal level. It is very apparent that the recreational boating sector is subsidising commercial boating and shipping in SA in what is a classic case of cost shifting. Fortunately, the new government have promised to unshackle the \$8m + sitting in this account. We hope this means using the money for what it was originally intended for - better boat ramps for recreational boaters!” Details about a similar situation in Victoria can be viewed at

<https://www.facebook.com/ramprager/videos/1845559712147922/UzpfSTI1NjI5OTc3NDUzOTI2NToxMDE4Mzc5OTk4MzMxMjM1/>.

REEF 2050

According to the web page found at <https://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/long-term-sustainability-plan>, “An updated Reef 2050 Plan was released by the Australian and Queensland governments in July 2018 and is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Reef until 2050. In light of the mass coral bleaching of 2016 and 2017 and the deteriorating outlook for the Reef, the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum brought forward the scheduled mid-term review of the Plan to ensure it addresses current pressures and remains effective. The updated Reef 2050 Plan is a result of the mid-term review. The Plan is

a world-first document that outlines concrete management measures for 35 years to ensure the Outstanding Universal Value of the Reef is preserved now and for generations to come. The Plan sets clear actions, targets, objectives and outcomes to drive and guide the short, medium and long-term management of the Reef. The Plan firmly responds to the pressures facing the Reef and will address cumulative impacts and increase the Reef's resilience to longer term threats such as climate change."

FOUNDATION DONATION

\$444m has been allocated to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation by the Federal Liberal Government (without any tender process or transparency). ABC TV's "7.30 Report" has questioned the circumstances. Details can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/GetUpAustralia/videos/10155427218541455/UzpfSTEzNTI3MDU2NDU0OIZLOjEwMTU1NDI3MjE4NTQxNDU1/> . Michael West investigated the GBR Foundation. Details can be found at <https://www.michaelwest.com.au/great-barrier-reef-funding-links-to-climate-sceptics-and-political-donors/> .

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 .

SMART DRUMLINES REPLACING SHARK NETS

Smart drumlines are replacing shark nets on the coasts of NSW. According to the web page found at <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/smart-drumlines-may-replace-shark-nets-during-the-warmer-seasons/news-story/e6515a1f7d51b10f55e43a7554479946> , "Shark nets could be pulled from beaches in the state's north this spring and summer, with smart drumlines used to protect beachgoers. New data reveals smart drumlines snared eight times more "target sharks" than nets between November and May in a trial at five north coast beaches. The nets caught just two bull sharks, one of which died, among 145 animals. Rays, turtles and dolphins were among "non-target" animals caught in the nets, with 57 animals dying." In a recent TV report, a NSW Primary Industry spokesperson said that the smart drumlines would send SMS messages to departmental crews, a 'shark smart' app, drone surveillance and aerial surveys would be used. According to the May 2018 web page found at <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/nsw-government-offers-to-loan-wa-government-five-smart-shark-drumlines/news-story/8321c16be27d6757e3f8ff1b52e73e5a> , "The NSW government (will offer) to loan the WA Government SMART drumlines following a spate of attacks".

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/>.

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.diveblog.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.

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.

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.

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 63 of the September 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.

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.gov.au/reef_watch

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