

SDF News Sheet – January 2019

(Your dive news source)

Monthly newsletter of
The SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION of SA

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We also acknowledge the support of the Rob Roy Hotel,
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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 diving access, facilities, 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>.

We wish our members and News Sheet readers a happy new year. There is a second holiday long weekend in January due to Australia Day (Saturday 26th January). The Australia Day public holiday is being held on Monday 28th January. (The next SA public holiday after that is the Adelaide Cup holiday in March.)

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SDFSFA NEW YEAR BBQ

To celebrate the start of another year, we are holding a free BBQ lunch at 12 noon on Sunday 3rd February 2019 at Mellor Park, 3 Myzantha Street, Lockleys. The park has some nice lawn, toilets and car parking. We will supply sausages, bread and soft drinks. Please bring your own chair, a salad to share, dessert, alcohol and other meat if desired. Partners are welcome. Please join us and meet your SDFSFA committee and enjoy a relaxed social atmosphere. Please confirm your attendance for catering purposes on EventBrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdfsfa-new-year-bbq-tickets-53083564370> .

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF THE PROTECTED ZONE FOR THE EX-HMAS HOBART

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is holding a stakeholder survey re the proposed removal of the ex-HMAS Hobart protected zone. DEW is currently “assessing the feasibility of removing the historic shipwreck declaration and/or the protected zone. The Department is seeking feedback on the proposal. You can provide feedback by filling out an on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9GD XV9N> . The survey closes at 5.00 pm on 8th February 2019.

SHARK REMAINS FOUND AT JETTY

The remains of a bronze whaler, approximately 9 feet when whole, were found at Edithburgh jetty over the Christmas/New Year period. A diver who reported the discovery said, “it endangers lives of divers by attracting other large pelagics, not to mention the senseless death of this wonderful creature. We are investigating the matter further.

SA'S SANCTUARY ZONES PROTEST

Save Our Marine Life's campaign to preserve SA's sanctuary zones led to a protest at Glenelg jetty in December. Valerie Taylor was there to speak to ABC News, along with Kathy Warhurst, Denise van der Marel, Steve Reynolds, Chrissie Mitchell, Abby Buckley and others. The news item can be found at https://iview.abc.net.au/show/abc-news-sa/series/0/video/NU1806S302S00?fbclid=IwAR1ySHdx1h8O9on1eGbrUiBeHUc6HLXejf--Uo9srQI_OBwvDANHJnr3mTI (about 16.40).

DIVING IN THEIR 80s

Jane Fonda and Valerie Taylor are still both continuing to scuba dive now that they are in their 80s.

ALLAN POWER AND BOB HALSTEAD

We lost both Allan Power and Bob Halstead during December. Our condolences go to their family and friends. According to the details found at <https://www.facebook.com/AllanPowerDiveTours/posts/1350079425133402> , Allan Power died late on Monday 17th December, aged 85. His book “The Great Barrier Reef” was first published in 1969. Allan later established Allan Power Dive Tours in Vanuatu. He was inducted into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame in 2011. Bob Halstead was inducted into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame in 2008. He wrote several books such as “Asian Diver Scuba Guide Papua New Guinea” (with Telita Bates) and “The Dive Sites of Papua New Guinea”. He also wrote for several dive magazines.

PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY DIVERS' STEPS

As reported last month, the divers' steps at the end of Port Noarlunga jetty were completely dislodged during storms in November. It still seems that the steps will not be replaced until March - April 2019. More video footage of the dislodged steps sitting on the sea bed can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb-7HFM-1zQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR05--QF66V60WWYmGTBrFqUSsIJqKaYbONUspDFHJq9zouLqOr6QBBR8E> . Many fish have taken up residence in the steps, which are said to have been moved away from the jetty. It is hoped that the steps will be left there for them. Meanwhile, the storms dislodged many large rocks at Port Noarlunga reef, including by the large anchor. Video footage can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoflhMLYF50> . The stock on the big anchor appears to have been scraped by rocks. It's worth a dive at the reef just to check out the changes, but of

course the divers' steps are not there on the jetty at present. Boat dives may be the way to go for now. Otherwise, the middle steps are the only option other than shore entries.

THAI CAVE RESCUE BOOKS

The Thai cave rescue was one of the biggest stories of 2018. Two books, “The Great Cave Rescue” by James Massola and “The Cave” by Liam Cochrane, are available from stores such as K-Mart and Target for \$19. Cochrane is the Australian Broadcast Corporation's Southeast Asia correspondent.

AWARDS FOR THAI CAVE RESCUERS

Awards have now been given to British divers involved in the Thai cave rescue. Joshua Bratchley, Lance Corporal Connor Roe and Vernon Unsworth have each been made Members of the Order of the British Empire. Christopher Jewell and Jason Mallinson have each been given the Queen’s Gallantry Medal. Richard Stanton and John Volanthen have each been awarded the George Medal. As reported earlier, Australians Dr Richard Harris and Dr Craig Challen were both awarded SA & WA Australian of the Year (for their respective states).

INCREASED EXPERIENCES AT KILSBY SINKHOLE

Kilsby Sinkhole recently announced some changes which will allow the site to be more accessible. They have, for example, launched an initial summer season of small-group snorkelling experiences inclusive of a site tour, gear hire and in-water guide. This is a great way to explore the site and new facilities ahead of the commencement of additional above-ground tours and water-based experiences which will become available in 2019. Bookings via www.kilsbysinkhole.com are essential.

DON'T TRESPASS IN PRIVATE QUARRIES

Meanwhile, Holcim Australia have stated that they would prosecute anyone found swimming or diving in any of their 65 quarries with trespass.

SA LINK FOR AQUAMAN

“Aquaman” actor, Jason Momoa spent some three years living in SA. He was also once engaged to SA actor Simone Mackinnon

RECREATION SA AND PARKS AND LEISURE AUSTRALIA SA/NT 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Recreation SA with Parks and Leisure Australia SA/NT will again be co-hosting an annual conference in Adelaide on Thursday 9th May 2019. The conference theme will focus on community well-being. Mark Aiston will be the Master of Ceremonies and the program will include guest speakers and presenters. To keep updated with details of the conference, visit www.recreation.sa.gov.au and <https://www.facebook.com/RecreationSA/> .

DIVERS LOSE THEIR BOAT

Three WA divers learned the hard way that there needs to be an observer in their dive boat (& SMBs are an essential piece of equipment). According to the web page found at <https://www.facebook.com/9NewsPerth/videos/356513438470170/UzpfSTExMTIxMzI4OTAyMDg3ODoxMjk0OTU0NzczOTgwMDUx/> , “Three stranded divers have described their panic forced to swim for hours after they lost their boat. It sparked a massive air and sea search off Fremantle. Their boat spotted drifting out to sea with no one on board.”

AAS FOR SNORKELLING

Drafting of the AAS for snorkelling is planned for Feb to around May 2019. The public consultation stage of the AAS should occur sometime around June 2019. The best way to stay updated is by subscribing to the newsletter at <http://australianaas.org.au/contact-us/newsletter-2/> . Public consultations are always advertised via this newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Ralph Foster from the Ichthyology Section of the South Australian Museum on being made a curator for the Australasian Fishes Project via iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/australasian-fishes>).

Rodney Fox on his recent lifetime achievement award for Conservation – see <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/shark-survivor-and-advocate-rodney-fox-wins-conservation-council-lifetime-achiever-award/news-story/93f017c071108ed6e9289e1671ebb648> .

Dan Monceaux who will be conducting environmental interviews for a new Enviro Show that will air for the 1st time on local radio station Tribe FM 91.1 in January. The show will be produced monthly and will air several times each month.

Kathy Warhurst who is working for the Australian Marine Conservation Society as their Director of ‘Save our South Australian Marine Sanctuaries’ on saving our marine parks.

The Port River Shellfish Restoration Project Group on having built several artificial reefs in the Port River in the past few months. See <https://estuary.org.au/category/shellfish-restoration/> and <http://www.bowerbird.org.au/projects/11169> for more details.

Ryan Kaczkowski who recently found some large teeth in a flooded collapse chamber at Mount Gambier. He got a positive identification on one of the prehistoric remains. He says that there were plenty more other species littered within the room. Visit <https://www.msn.com/en-nz/news/other/giant-kangaroo-and-carnivorous-marsupial-lion-bones-found/vi-BBQS4rD> . See below for further details.

NEW FOSSIL FIND IN TANK CAVE SYSTEM

The CDAA recently reported that some divers had “discovered a cache of fossils littered throughout a submerged collapse chamber whilst exploring a new section of the Tank Cave system”. The CDAA has immediately declared this part of the cave a control zone. The CDAA will then map and survey the area so that an expert team will be able to coordinate further research and potential excavation of the fossils later in 2019. Access to the area will be strictly limited to those conducting research and/or documenting the find on behalf of the CDAA to prevent unnecessary disturbance of any fossils. Access will require written consent from the CDAA National Committee. To date, some of the remains have been identified as being from various species of extinct megafauna such as the marsupial lion, Thylacoleo

carnifex, and numerous species of kangaroo, including representatives of the short-faced kangaroo sub-family (Sthenurinae). Further details are available at <https://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-13/cavediver-finds-large-fauna-bones-south-australia/10599218?fbclid=IwAR1QIDDyP68I6BBbizg1Da-ObZcMgnTLAAO-wcLjGEp8RacpB7LImd3LI-Q> . Visit <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/flinders-university-reveals-the-marsupial-lion-thylacoleo-carnifex/news-story/f77b7cddd91f1eaecf99d5aceb2e32d2> for more details about the marsupial lion.

EXPANSION OF WINDARA REEF

According to the web page found at http://pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/publications/fishfacts_e-newsletter/fish_facts_november_2018/windara_reef_works_progress, the second phase of Windara Reef was well underway. The reef was on track to expand over a further 16 hectares by the end of 2018. 9,000 tonnes of limestone was to be deposited over the new area to provide the necessary solid reef base. More than 7m juvenile were to be laid on top of this base. Recent diving surveys have shown promising signs of changes to fish diversity since 28,000 native oysters were placed on stage one of the reef in January 2018. Schools of leatherjackets, and the occasional weed whiting, snapper, cuttlefish, scallops and various crab species have been observed and colonizing species such as sponges and algae have taken hold. The survival of pre-seeded oysters was better than expected, and the discovery of wild oyster recruitment is a strong indicator of the positive impact of the reef.

PORT RIVER BAN ON TAKING BIVALVES EXTENDED

The ban on taking bivalves from West Lakes and the Port River has now been extended. According to the web page found at http://pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/publications/fishfacts_e-newsletter/fish_facts_november_2018/port_river_ban_on_taking_bivalves , “Fishers are reminded of the ban on removing bivalve shellfish from the Port River and surrounding area. The ban on removing all bivalve shellfish (this includes oysters, mussels, cockles and razorfish) was introduced in February 2018 after the detection of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) virus in feral Pacific Oysters in the Port River. The closure applies to the Port River system from West Lakes to Port Gawler, including Section Bank. There are no human health concerns associated with POMS, however the virus causes rapid and high mortality rates in farmed Pacific Oysters and if spread poses a significant threat to South Australia’s \$41 million oyster growing industry – a much-loved seafood delicacy. To reduce the risk of POMS spreading, bivalves such as oysters, mussels, cockles and razorfish should not be taken from the Port River area for any purpose, including bait or berley. All SA oyster growing areas are currently free of disease, but you can help protect our oyster industry: Adhere to the ban on removing bivalve shellfish from the Port River system from West Lakes to Port Gawler, including Section Bank. SA oysters are safe to eat, but do not use Pacific Oysters, oyster shells, or seafood sold for human consumption (including imported seafood) as bait or berley, or discard or store them in the ocean. Under the Fisheries Management Act 2007 it is an offence to release or deposit exotic and/or aquaculture farmed species (such as Pacific Oysters) into the waters of South Australia and penalties of up to \$120,000 may apply. Boat owners should also refer to the guidelines for good vessel cleaning practices.

MARINE LIFE MAGAZINE NOW BLOGGING INSTEAD

Marine Life Magazine says that they aren't doing PDF issues anymore, just posting on their web site at <http://marinelife.org.au/> instead.

AUSSIE DIVERS PHUKET OFFER TO OUR FACEBOOK GROUP MEMBERS

Darren Gaspari at Aussie Divers Phuket is offering our Facebook members discounts for diving in Phuket. He is offering 10% discount on all PADI Courses, 15% off liveboards 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 SDFSFA Facebook 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.

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. The event is now being run by Andrew Hunter. 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 pages 64-65 of the January issue of Dive Log.

2019 SUSTAINABLE TRAILS CONFERENCE

The 2019 Sustainable Trails Conference is being held at the Marlborough Vintners Hotel in the Renwick Wine Region of Marlborough in New Zealand from 1st to 4th April 2019. The conference will bring together trails experts to deliver insights and share their knowledge with other experts, budding experts and those completely new to trails who wish to learn or who might have ideas and knowledge of their own to share. See <https://www.trctourism.com/> .

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.

ADEX 2019

ADEX is being held in Singapore from 11th to 14th April 2019. See www.adex.asia or page 60 of the January issue of Dive Log for more details.

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/>.

MIDE 2019

The Malaysia International Dive Expo is being held in Kuala Lumpur from 3rd to 5th May 2019. See www.mide.com.my or page 56 of the December issue of Dive Log for more details.

2019 AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL DIVE EXPO

The 2019 Australian International Dive Expo is being held at the International Convention Centre Sydney from 1st – 5th August 2019. See pages 56-57 of the January issue of Dive Log for more details.

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@sdfs.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.