

**SDF News Sheet – February 2019**

**(The news source for South Australian divers)**

Monthly newsletter of  
The SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION of SA

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**We also acknowledge the support of the Rob Roy Hotel, Stubbys Ink (Wetsuit Coolers)  
Dell'uva Wines Estate and Aussie Divers Phuket**

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>.

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### **NEXT MEETING**

Our monthly meetings will be held at the Rob Roy Hotel, 106 Halifax St, Adelaide at 7pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month from now on. Our next meeting is being held at 7pm on Wednesday 27th February. Keep the Rob Roy Hotel in mind for your next function (8223 5391).

### **NEW SDFSFA FACEBOOK PAGE**

Our new Facebook page (SDFSFA) is available at [www.facebook.com/scubadivesa](http://www.facebook.com/scubadivesa) . Be sure to ‘Like’ our page to keep in touch.

### **SDFSFA BBQ**

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/sdfsa-new-year-bbq-tickets-53083564370> .

### **CLARIFICATION RE THE SDFSAs INVOLVEMENT IN “SCUBA IN THE PUB”.**

There has been much confusion over the SDFSAs involvement in the Friday night events at the Rob Roy Hotel now being called “Scuba in the Pub”. We wish to clarify the matter by declaring that we are no longer involved in these events, and we haven’t been for some time now. Gail Jackman is running these events privately now, and we wish her all the best for the future.

### **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/9GDXV9N> . The survey closes at 5pm on 8th February 2019.

### **AUSTRALIA’S UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT**

Australia’s Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 became an Act of Parliament on 24th August 2018. Details can be found at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018A00085> .

It is anticipated that the Act will come into force on 1st July 2019. Heather Creech wrote about the Act in her “Spotlight on Citizen Science” column in the January issue of Dive Log. The column can be read either through our website at

<http://www.sdfs.net/2019/01/30/citizen-explorers-and-historians-and-the-new-underwater-cultural-heritage-act/> , or on pages 36-37 at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jd5fzfxw6pezvoo/366.pdf?dl=0> . Our Federation is committed to

the protection of South Australia’s underwater cultural heritage. We believe that we have an important role to play in informing the diving community of the rules surrounding designation, access and use of sites. Highlights of the Act for divers are:

1. The Act expands coverage from shipwrecks to submerged aircraft and other types of underwater cultural heritage along with their fragile natural environments.
2. The Act also guides actions by Australian divers in waters outside Australian jurisdiction, helping protect sunken Australian vessels and aircraft overseas.
3. The Act will now provide protection for associated human remains.
4. The Act improves the government’s ability to declare an area containing underwater cultural heritage to be a protected zone by allowing the size of the zone to be tailored to suit each individual site and the prohibited conduct in each zone to be specific to the site’s need for protection or for environmental conditions.
5. The Act provides for a simple online process to apply for permits to access protected zones.
6. It will also be easier to transfer artefacts – once applicants have received a permit under the new Act. The new transferable permits system will reduce the burden on individuals in

possession, custody and control of protected underwater cultural heritage artefacts and enable better regulation of their movement.

7. All six States and the NT have agreed to align their legislation with the Act: this will give clarity to obligations wherever divers are located in Australia.

8. The Act has been aligned with the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage to facilitate Australia participating in global responses to illegal salvaging, looting and trafficking of marine artefacts.

## **SHARK NEWS**

### **SHARK BITE-RESISTANT WETSUIT BEING TESTED**

According to the web page found at <https://www.surfertoday.com/surfing/14838-scientists-test-a-shark-bite-resistant-wetsuit>, scientists have been testing a shark bite-resistant wetsuit. A group of researchers from Flinders University is said to be developing a wetsuit made of material similar to Kevlar and designed to prevent the wounds that cause blood loss. Associate Professor at Flinders University, Charlie Huveneers says, "The majority of fatalities from shark bites is due to blood loss or the shock resulting from blood loss,". Meanwhile, an interview with Charlie can be seen at <https://youtu.be/9zQ8QDa2hyY>.

### **LONG-RANGE SHARK DETERRENT**

The Ocean Guardian BOAT01 (formerly called the LR10) is the world's first innovative long-range shark deterrent system designed specifically for boating. Pre-orders can be made at <https://sharkshield.com/product/ocean-guardian-boat01-pre-order/>.

### **SHARK REMAINS FOUND AT JETTY**

As reported last month, the remains of a bronze whaler were found at Edithburgh jetty over the Christmas/New Year period. Still I'll let people know that although there were probably some breaches given they took the jaw and fins off the shark, cut it in half and dumped it off the jetty. The shark carcass was thought to "endanger the lives of divers by attracting other large pelagics". Our investigations found that there is no restriction on shark fishing away from the metropolitan coast, apart from gear sizes. There is no restriction on fishing for sharks at Edithburgh at all. There is only a code about releasing unwanted catches, and treatment of sharks, etc.. The matter needs to be investigated still, esp. from a safety view. Meanwhile, a Port Jackson shark carcass was found on the side of Cox Road by someone walking through the Aldinga conservation area and a shark carcass was found at Rapid Bay jetty.

### **SWIM WITH SHARKS IN SOUTH AFRICA IN JULY**

July is said to be the time to swim with great white sharks in South Africa. The winter season is the time that sightings are pretty much guaranteed. It is also the time of year that coincides with humpback whale migrations.

## **"SEA HUNT" ACTOR AWARDED LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Former "Sea Hunt" actor Jeff Bridges has been awarded the Cecil B DeMille lifetime achievement award at the Golden Globe Awards. Jeff got his start in acting with his father Lloyd Bridges in the "Sea Hunt" series. Years later, in 1988, Bridges would eat lots of ice cream before going to bed every night.

## **WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES FOR 2019**

The late Dr. Susan Williams has been inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame. The 67-year old marine biologist, conservationist and sanctuary advocate died last year. She was a Distinguished Professor of Evolution and Ecology at the University of California, Davis where she directed the Bodega Marine Laboratory from 2000-2010. Susan used her scuba skills in many marine coastal ecosystems such as seagrass, seaweed and coral reef habitats, and how they are affected by human activities. The many other inductees into the Women Divers Hall of Fame for 2019 can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wdhof>.

## **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.recreationsa.org](http://www.recreationsa.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/RecreationSA/>.

## **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:**

The Underwater Explorer's Club of SA which will celebrate its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, having started in 1954.

The Cave Diving Association of Australia which turns 46 years this year. The first CDAA meeting was held in Allendale East Hall in 1973.

Dr Richard Harris and Dr Craig Challen on being jointly awarded the Australian of the Year award.

## **50-YEAR OLD PLANE WRECK FOUND IN ENGLISH CHANNEL**

An American plane that crashed into the English Channel 50 years ago has been found. Further details can be found at <https://www.9news.com.au/2019/01/18/12/37/news-plane-crash-usa-50-years-stone-hercules-aircraft-found>

## **BOEING 747 CENTREPIECE IN UNDERWATER THEME PARK**

According to CNN, Bahrain will soon have a new 100,000 sq.m underwater theme park diving site with a sunken 70m-long Boeing 747 as the centrepiece. The site will also feature a replica Bahraini pearl merchant's house, artificial coral reefs and art sculptures. They say that the attraction will promote marine life growth and be eco-friendly. The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Agency said that the aircraft will be specially prepared, with all surfaces high-pressure washed with "bio-friendly detergents to ensure all post-production coatings, oil and grime are removed", before it is lowered into the water. All contaminants have been removed from the aircraft, including all hydraulic, pneumatic and fuel systems, all wiring, adhesives, insulation, plastics, rubbers, chemicals and other potential toxic substances.

## **ARTIFICIAL REEFS NOT NECESSARILY ECOLOGICALLY SOUND**

Adriana Humanes, with a PhD in Marine Ecology from James Cook University, however, says that artificial coral reefs are not always ecologically sound. He says that there may be downsides. "... copper, copper alloys, aluminium, lead and steel, petroleum hydrocarbons and other potential pollutant can be subject to corrosion, [passing] heavy metals into the seawater and affecting the surrounding marine organisms. Corrosion will also lead to the subsequent loss of structural integrity, potentially affecting marine life living in the area or becoming a safety threat to visitor divers," he says.

## **OTHER PLANE REEFS**

A Boeing 727 jet was sunk off the coast of Miami in 1993, but it was damaged by Hurricane Gordon in 1995. A Boeing 727 is now underwater at Mermet Springs in Illinois as part of a popular diving site. Divers can explore a decommissioned Boeing 737 in the Stuart Channel near Chemainus, British Columbia. An Airbus was lowered into the waters off the Aegean coast to become an artificial reef a couple of years ago.

## **TASMANIA'S KELP FORESTS ARE DISAPPEARING**

Tasmania's giant kelp forests have almost disappeared over recent decades. More than 95% of the forests that once dominated Tasmania's east coast have been lost. Ocean warming has been blamed for the loss of the forests. The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies and the Climate Foundation have commenced a new joint research project to study the possibility of restoring the forests. They aim to assess whether the surviving kelp has survived due to greater thermal tolerance. If that is the case, it may form the basis for restoration. Meanwhile, IMAS scientists Prof. Reg Watson and Prof. Graham Edgar were both named in the Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers 2018, recognizing researchers who've "demonstrated significant influence through publication of multiple highly cited papers during the last decade".

## **REEF LIFE SURVEY ANNUAL REPORT**

The latest Reef Life Survey Annual Report is now available at [https://reeflifesurvey.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RLS-2017\\_18-Annual-Report\\_final.pdf](https://reeflifesurvey.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RLS-2017_18-Annual-Report_final.pdf). 941 RLS surveys were completed by 64 divers across 355 sites in 2017-18. RLS has now started in Canada. The first group of divers had to be trained in the RLS methodology in the frigid waters of Newfoundland.

## **AQUATIC PLANTS GROWN FOR EWENS PONDS**

Many thanks go to the students at Millicent High School who grew some aquatic plants for divers to place in Ewens Ponds late last year, probably during the ponds' spring closure. ABC South East SA said that the planting was "part of efforts to help rejuvenate the site that is often used for snorkelling and scuba diving." National Parks South Australia says that some of the plants in the ponds are not found growing fully submerged underwater anywhere else in the world. It is the clarity of the water in the ponds that enables the plants to grow to a depth of about six metres.

## **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 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](mailto:info@aussiediversphuket.com) and tell them that you heard about special discounts being offered to SDFSA 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.

## **BRIGHTON JETTY CLASSIC**

The Brighton Jetty Classic (open water swim & street festival) is being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Visit [www.brightonjettyclassic.com](http://www.brightonjettyclassic.com) .

## **FLEURIEU FILM FESTIVAL**

The Fleurieu Film Festival is being held on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Visit [www.fleurieufilmfestival.com.au](http://www.fleurieufilmfestival.com.au) .

## **LET'S GO CARAVAN AND CAMPING SHOW**

The Let's Go Caravan and Camping Show is being held at the Adelaide Showgrounds from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. There will be caravans, camper trailers, tents, RVs, motorhomes and camping accessories. See <https://www.facebook.com/pg/LetsGoCaravanCamping/events/> .

## **DIVE FOR CANCER 2019**

Next year's Dive for Cancer event is being held at 9.30am on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 16-17th. Visit [www.oztek.com.au](http://www.oztek.com.au) for more details. Some details can be found on pages 60-61 of the February issue of Dive Log.

### **OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL**

The Ocean Film Festival will also be held at the Capri Theatre, Goodwood on Saturday 16th March. Tickets can be bought at: <https://oceanfilmfestivalaustralia.com.au/tickets/> .

### **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/> .

### **ADEX 2019**

ADEX is being held in Singapore from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019. See [www.adex.asia](http://www.adex.asia) or page 55 of the February issue of Dive Log for more details.

### **14TH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SHELL SHOW**

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

### **2019 FESTIVAL FLEURIEU**

Festival Fleurieu is being held from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (just 10 days) which includes the Easter holiday long weekend.

### **SA WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL**

The SA Wooden Boat Festival is being held at Goolwa on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April. Visit [www.sawoodenboatfestival.com.au](http://www.sawoodenboatfestival.com.au) .

### **MIDE 2019**

The Malaysia International Dive Expo is being held in Kuala Lumpur from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019. See [www.mide.com.my](http://www.mide.com.my) or page 65 of the February 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 67 of the February issue of Dive Log for more details.

## **UNDERWATER TOUR**

The Underwater Tour comes to a yet to be announced venue in Adelaide on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – see <http://underwatertour.com.au/> or pages 28-29 in the February issue of Dive Log.

## **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](mailto:info@sdfsa.net) for more details.

The SDF supports both Reef Watch & DragonSearch

[http://www.conservation.sa.gov.au/reef\\_watch](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.