

SDF News Sheet – March 2019

(The South Australian scuba diving 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, 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 7pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month from now on. Our next meeting is being held at 7pm on Wednesday 27th March at the Rob Roy Hotel, 106 Halifax St, Adelaide. Keep the Rob Roy Hotel in mind for your next function (8223 5391).

SUBMERGED- STORY OF AUSTRALIA’S SHIP WRECKS.

A new exhibition called “Submerged- Story of Australia’s Ship Wrecks” will be starting at the Signal Point Gallery in Goolwa on Monday 25th March, running to 6th May. Entry to the exhibition is free.

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH’S GREAT BARRIER REEF DIVE VR EXHIBITION

David Attenborough’s Great Barrier Reef Dive VR Exhibition is being held at the South Australian Museum 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm daily until 14th July 2019. Admission is \$16 (\$12 Museum Members). It is not recommended for children under the age 13 and people with certain medical conditions; glasses can be worn under the headset, but the focus cannot be adjusted. Please read the health and safety notice before you book. The exhibition is “an award-winning fully immersive virtual reality experience produced by Alchemy VR. In 360 video virtual reality, dive deep beneath the waves on the Great Barrier Reef, sitting next to your guide, David Attenborough. Taking you through vibrant corals, darting fish and sleek

reef sharks, this immersive VR experience will allow you to experience this great natural wonder of the world. In a state-of-the-art Triton submersible, with David Attenborough you dive through a wonderland with over 3000 reef systems forming one of the most important natural resources on Earth. It is an extraordinary opportunity to come face to face with the incredible diversity and abundance of the Great Barrier Reef, and learn how researchers are using certain species of corals to predict how the reef will react to environmental changes. Alchemy VR's team worked alongside renowned research institutions from across the world including the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University and the University of Queensland to showcase the beautiful diversity on the reef and uncover the incredible research being done to decode it." Visit <http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/explore/exhibitions/david-attenboroughs-great-barrier-reef-dive-vr> .

PORT PHILLIP BAY SEA URCHINS POPULATION GROWTH AND DESTRUCTION OF KELP BEDS

An IMAS University of Tasmania study of urchin growth and population dynamics at five sites in distinct regions of Port Phillip Bay found that sea urchins have the potential for further future population growth and destruction of kelp beds. Visit both <https://bit.ly/2DWxSZP> and <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.2577> .

ILLEGAL GILLNET DISCOVERED IN RESEARCH AREA

Meanwhile, the Tasmania University Dive Club recently reported that some of their divers had discovered an illegal gillnet at Crayfish Point, within the Taroona Waters Research Area. Some juice containers were used as floats for the net, which was full of an array of alive and deceased marine life. The divers managed to free the live animals and remove the net from the protected area. Video footage of the clean-up can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/TasUniDiveClub/videos/39374831182131/> .

COMBINED DIVE CLUBS WEEKEND 2019

Still on the topic of Tasmania, the 15th anniversary Combined Dive Clubs Weekend is being held over the long weekend in June 2019.

SEA STAR DISCOVERY COULD BE A BLESSING

According to the web page found at <https://phys.org/news/2019-02-dreadful-discovery-crown-of-thorns-starfish-silver.html#jCp> , "A dreadful discovery about the crown-of-thorns starfish contains a silver lining for the Great Barrier Reef". A team in William & Mary's Department of Biology discovered that the sea star can reproduce by larval cloning. The discovery is described in the paper titled "Larval cloning in the crown-of-thorns sea star, a keystone coral predator," published in the journal Marine Ecology Progress Series.

SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE PROVEN THAT FISH ARE ‘SELF-AWARE’.

“Scientists from the Max Planck Institute of Ornithology have established that fish can recognise themselves in mirrors. Cleaner wrasse surprised the researchers when they injected brown dye into the throats of the fish to see if the fish could recognise their reflection in a mirror. If the fish were able to recognise their reflection in a mirror, they would have fulfilled “one of the primary tests of animal intelligence”. They did just that! Rather than mistaking the dye for a parasite and trying to clean their reflection, the cleaner wrasse tried to scrape their body against rocks. This led the scientists to declare that the fish were ‘self-aware’.

(Taken from www.mlssa.org.au/2019/02/10/scientists-believe-that-they-have-proven-that-fish-are-self-aware)

TOBRUK WRECK SITE OFFICIALLY OPENED

The ex-HMAS Tobruk dive wreck site was officially opened on 25th February. During a recent inspection of the site, divers were amazed by the rapid colonisation of marine species that are now living in and around the ship. Video footage can be seen at

<https://www.facebook.com/exHMASTobruk/videos/319808552205722/> .

AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE ACTIVITY STANDARDS

Details regarding the Australian Adventure Activity Standards can be found at <http://australianaas.org.au/> . The Australian Adventure Activity Standard (AAAS) and the completed activity Good Practice Guide’s (GPG’s) have been published, prior to the official launch in September 2019. The following completed documents are available now:

Australian Adventure Activity Standard (AAAS)

Core GPG (common good practice for all activities)

Activity specific GPG’s:

Abseil & Climbing GPG

Bushwalking GPG

Camping GPG

Canyoning GPG

Cycling, Cycle Touring and Mt Biking GPG

Horse Trail Riding GPG

Inland water paddle-craft GPG (canoeing, kayaking, rafting & associated activities)

These can be downloaded from the www.australianaas.org.au website. The Challenge Courses GPG (low and high ropes) will soon be available. The Angling, Caving, Sea kayaking and Snorkelling GPG’s will be released at the official launch in September 2019. During a recent webinar regarding the Standards (AAAS briefing and Q & A), we were able to ask, “Will the Scuba AAS be reviewed nationally i.e. AAAS?” Liz Horne from Outdoors NSW responded, “Not at this time. The SCUBA industry is currently transitioning from the Australian standard for SCUBA diving to the International Standard for SCUBA”.

Our late mail says that video of the webinars is now available at

<https://us04web.zoom.us/recording/share/DMXJyIgmCRpJseQ9XGm3PaPHOR-CoW2KDHDs770pNeWwIumekTziMw?startTime=1549934907000>

and <https://us04web.zoom.us/recording/share/4aBhl4T3ULeHIROeK7FRhsMfxL6CmiaC-hnjzJAaNOWIumekTziMw> . Also, “The various State Outdoor Sector peak bodies are planning to run further AAAS workshops later in the year. Details of these will (be) issue(d) closer to the time..... The Challenge Courses Good Practice Guide (GPG) (low and high ropes) is nearing completion. This should be available for pre-release in March 2019.

Work has recently started on the final four GPG’s:

- Angling
- Caving
- Sea kayaking
- Snorkelling.

These four GPG’s:

- will go to public consultation in the middle of the year
- will have their released at the official launch in September 2019.”

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE COORONG AND LOWER LAKES

A newly released book explores the Coorong and Lower Lakes’ natural history. “Natural History of the Coorong, Lower Lakes, and Murray Mouth region” is a volume in the Natural History Series published by the Royal Society of South Australia (RSSA). Edited by Luke Mosley, Qifeng Ye, Scoresby Shepherd, Steve Hemming & Rob Fitzpatrick, it provides a historical overview of the Coorong and Lower Lakes region and also explores the natural history of this region. A free pdf version can be downloaded at <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/press/titles/natural-history-cllmm/cllmm-ebook.pdf> .

THE MAGICAL LAND OF OZ (OCEAN)

SA featured at least a couple of times in episode 1 of “The Magical Land of Oz” (Ocean) on ABC TV during February. The episode is also available on iView at <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/magical-land-of-oz> .

NEW SDFSA FACEBOOK PAGE

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

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 and <https://www.facebook.com/RecreationSA/> .

MARINE PESTS WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPDATED

The national marine pests website has been updated. Check it out at www.marinepests.gov.au. The website provides information on marine pest identification, distribution and management in Australia. It also houses nationally developed publications on a range of marine pest issues.

ST JOHN'S WOOD, LONDON DIVING CHAMBER TO CLOSE

The London Diving Chamber at St John's Wood, London closes at the end of March 2019 after 15 years of providing a medical service to the diving industry and recreational divers. This is a result of NHS England's intention to reduce the number of Recompression Chambers in London to just one chamber only. The London Hyperbaric Medicine Chamber at Whipps Cross Hospital has been awarded the NHS contract for treating decompression illness in the London area. Visit https://www.scubadivermag.com/sad-day-as-london-diving-chamber-closes/?fbclid=IwAR2D5co7CC0rFr_5hlfboQyMxLbwF_WLOwvUgj4W81aJ-3utro2LgWD88vw for more details.

OCEANS PREDICTED TO TURN A DEEP GREEN

Our oceans are predicted to turn a deep green colour due to climate change according to a recent study. The change is predicted to occur by the end of the century as climate change affects the planet. "Rising global temperatures will mean that over half of the world's waters will shift colour by 2100, according to the report. This is because warmer waters will change how populations of tiny aquatic creatures called algae grow." Dr Stephanie Dutkiewicz, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology says that the changes won't appear huge to the naked eye, and the ocean will still look like it has blue regions in the subtropics and greener regions near the equator and poles. Visit https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/technology/climate-change-could-cause-oceans-to-turn-green-by-2100-study-warns/news-story/675622fbecfa3262ec85411fe62a259b?utm_source=The%20Advertiser&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial for more details.

USB STICK FOUND IN LEOPARD SEAL POO

New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research reports that scientists analyzing the scat of leopard seals found a USB stick still in working order in the poo. The USB stick was full of photos & video footage, including that of kayakers filming seals. The NIWAR is now searching for the owner of the USB stick. 37 seconds of video footage can be seen at either <http://ow.ly/tBcR30nA3Tm> or at <https://twitter.com/i/status/1092610541401587712> .

MARINE MEGAFUNA FOUNDATION

The Marine Megafauna Foundation reports that last year they completed the manta and mobula ray re-assessments for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The results of these

assessments will be released later this year. Also, their microplastics review was reportedly “a stellar achievement and the research priorities to support manta and devil ray conservation will be very important for future research efforts on these species”. They also ran successful back-to-back research expeditions in the Mexican Pacific. These helped their team to source much-needed genetic samples. They did a lot of work in Indonesia, including placing the first acoustic tags on reef mantas, and continued their research on the putative new species of manta ray. During a trip to the Galapagos, they were able to use underwater ultrasound to examine the massive "mega-mamma" female sharks that cruise through those waters. The trip proved that the group can perform ultrasounds and take blood samples from adult whale sharks successfully in the wild. Dr Clare Prebble used "biological passports" to discover that whale sharks don't roam as far as was thought. Stella Diamant found that Madagascar is an important feeding hotspot for juvenile whale sharks, and recently identified her 300th shark from the site. Some work with LAMAVE highlighted just how critical Philippine waters are for whale sharks, and how successful well-managed marine protected areas can be at rebuilding reef shark populations.

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.

OZTek2019

OZTek2019 will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney, Darling Harbour on March 16-17th. Visit www.oztek.com.au for more details. Some details can be found on pages 58-59 of the March 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 11th to 14th April 2019. See www.adex.asia or page 61 of the March 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 13-14th 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 13th April to Monday 22nd 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 27th & 28th April. Visit www.sawoodenboatfestival.com.au .

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 63 of the March 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 2019

The Underwater Tour 2019 presents an evening with David Doubilet, Jennifer Hayes & William Tan at the Space Theatre at the Adelaide Festival Centre at 7pm on Monday 13th May. Visit <https://underwatertour.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fb64f94d726775164076a97d&id=b921b5b92b&e=ff14df6e0e> to book your tickets (\$80 - \$160 (+ \$8.95 per transaction). See <http://underwatertour.com.au/> or pages 36-37 in the March issue of Dive Log.

AMSA 2019 CONFERENCE

The AMSA 2019 conference is being held in Fremantle, WA from 7-11th July. This year's theme for the conference is "Marine Science for a Blue Economy".

AIDE 2019

The Australia International Dive Expo is being held at the Exhibition Convention Centre (level 1, Hall 3) in Sydney from 1st to 5th August 2019. Visit www.australiadiveexpo.com or see page 65 of the March 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@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.