

G'day from Scuba Dive SA

SDFSFA Bulletin – April 2019

This bulletin is provided as a service to members of the

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA

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The SDFSFA is the peak body in South Australia, representing all recreational scuba divers.

The SDF is also the 'Safe Diving' Federation. We promote Safe Diving.

We are publishing this electronic bulletin as a separate publication to our normal monthly SDF News Sheet. Future issues of this "SDFSFA Bulletin" will include lengthy articles about matters of interest to recreational divers. We welcome contributions from our readers.

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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 Cooke 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> .

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. The various State Outdoor Sector peak bodies are planning to run further AAAS workshops later in the year. Details of these will be issued 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.

MARION MARINE ART EXHIBITION - 12TH APRIL 2019

Have you ever looked beneath the water from Marino Rocks to Hallett Cove? Are you interested in seeing and learning more about the local marine environment and the amazing plants and animals that live there? Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries (EMS), in partnership with the City of Marion and Force of Nature, present “Totally Immersed”: a night of marine discovery, underwater photography, video, virtual reality and fine art celebrating the marine and coastal environment of the City of Marion. The launch of the exhibition on Friday 12th April will begin with a Welcome

to Country by Kaurna elder Mickey O'Brien. Next, marine scientist Janine Baker will provide a visually-rich 20-minute presentation on the biodiversity of Gulf St. Vincent. Dan Monceaux will also be demonstrating the website iNaturalist.org and will show you how you can contribute your own photographs to Citizen Science. A slideshow presentation of photographs taken during EMS snorkelling events in the City of Marion will be on show and professionally judged awards will be presented for outstanding contributions. Professionally shot and printed photographs of iconic local species will be hung on the gallery walls. There will be plenty of time for guests to view the combination of hanging and sculptural art, soak in the large-scale projected video and take a "virtual dive" in South Australian waters using a virtual reality headset. Some of the artworks and photographs on display will be available to purchase directly from the artist and a selection will be for sale via silent auction. 100% of silent auction proceeds will go to supporting disadvantaged people in the City of Marion area. "Totally Immersed" is a family-friendly, licensed event with complimentary finger food and wine provided. Entry to the launch event is FREE for all participants in the "Totally Immersed" snorkelling days/EMS volunteers and \$5 for the general public.

Program:

Pre-launch activities:

- 4.30pm – Exhibition doors open. 360 video experience, photography competition entries displayed, Marion marine videos.

Launch of art exhibition:

- 6.30pm – Welcome to Country, Mickey O'Brien.
- 7pm - Thank you and welcome to the exhibition - Carl Charter
- 7.15pm – Guest speaker – Janine Baker
- 7.45pm – Wine and finger food, more 360 video & Dan Monceaux demonstrates iNaturalist.org project
- 9pm - Close

Venue: City of Marion Council Chambers. 245 Sturt Road, Sturt.

Enter off Sturt Road. No stairs. Accessible Venue.

The Totally Immersed Marion Marine Art Exhibition will be open business hours all of April.

RECREATIONAL FISHING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Congratulations to the recently announced members of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council. It has been announced that Shane Mensforth, David Scholefield, Amanda Whitehorn, Peter Teakle and Brian Wheadon will join the four appointed recreational fishing organisation representatives to provide feedback and advice to government on recreational fishing development, initiatives and big picture policy issues that impact the sector. The Council will directly engage with the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on recreational fishing issues. It 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 full list of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council members is:

Shane Mensforth

David Scholefield

Amanda Whitehorn

Peter Teakle - inland fisher
Brian Wheadon - representing the tackle sector
Tracey Tito - representing FishinSA and the South Australian Fishing Alliance
John Thomas - representing FishinSA
Ian Fitzgerald - representing RecFish SA
Graham Keegan - representing the South Australian Fishing Alliance

For more information visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing .

'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>)

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 bulletin, contact Steve Reynolds, the Federation's Secretary, on info@sdfsa.net for more details.

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