

SDF News Sheet – April 2019

Scuba diving news for South Australians

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)
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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>.

April is the highlight of the public holiday calendar, with three holidays occurring this month – Good Friday & Easter Monday (as part of a 4-day break for Easter) and Anzac Day the same week as Easter Monday. Easter is from 19th to 22nd April, whilst Anzac Day is on Thursday 25th April. If you include the weekend at the end of March, there are five weekends in April. This should provide plenty of time for diving. Our April meeting has been postponed until 1st May -see below.

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NEXT MEETING

Please note that our next meeting is now being held at 7pm on Wednesday 1st May at the Rob Roy Hotel, 106 Halifax St, Adelaide. Our April meeting scheduled for 24th April (Anzac Day Eve?) has been postponed until Wed 1st May. We won't have any meetings in April, despite

that date in the April issue of Dive Log. We will have two meetings in May - 1/5 and 29/5 (1st Wed & 5th Wed). Keep the Rob Roy Hotel in mind for your next function (8223 5391).

AGM

We are considering a suggestion that we hold our July AGM on Tuesday 16th July.

END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS FOR 2019

Daylight savings ends at 3am on Sunday 7th April when all clocks are put back one hour (back to 2am).

ALL SYNGNANTHIDS PROTECTED IN SA

Following some discussion with different members of the diving public recently, we can report that all members from the family Syngnathidae, which includes seahorses, pipefish and seadragons, were declared, protected species under the South Australian Fisheries Act regulations in 2006.

NEW POSTAGE STAMPS FEATURING FISH

According to page found at <https://australiapostcollectables.com.au/stamp-issues/sustainable-fish>, Australia Post has issued three new postage stamps featuring fish and sustainable fishing practices. The three \$1 stamps are of Patagonian Toothfish, Blue Grenadier and Tiger Flathead.

HYDROSTATIC TESTING

In Australia, the applicable Australian Standards require that scuba cylinders are hydrostatically tested every twelve months. So why is a hydrostatic test only required every five years in the United States and European Union countries, every four years in South Africa and every two years in Norway? (In European Union countries, a visual inspection is required every 2.5 years, and a hydrostatic test every five years. In Norway, a hydrostatic test (including a visual inspection) is required 3 years after production date, then every 2 years. In South Africa, a hydrostatic test is required every 4 years, and visual inspection every year.) It has been suggested that a hydro test every 2nd year with a visual inspection in-between will not compromise safety.

“THE MAP TO PARADISE”

The Adelaide screening of “The Map to Paradise” is being held at the Mercury Cinema, 13 Morphett Street, Adelaide on Tuesday 9th April, 6:10 – 8:40pm (Doors open at 6.10pm | Film 6.30pm | Q&A with the filmmakers 8.10-8:40pm). It is an adventure-filled tale of the birth of the global movement to protect the sea, featuring Prince Albert II of Monaco and President of Palau Tommy Remengesau. Martin Sheen is the Executive Producer.

“From underwater worlds of ice to glistening coral sanctuaries, discover what it takes to build a movement and to create positive change. Filmed across six continents, the filmmakers have set out to challenge the mainstream narrative of hard-hitting environmental documentaries with a “doom and gloom” message, and replace it with one of hope and courage. Along the way, we meet a prince, a president, a pirate, and also an island chief — among others — who are all playing a role in the quest to save the planet. Mixing colourful character-driven stories

and hand-rendered animations, “The Map to Paradise” is a rare urgent environmental wake-up call that retains a sense of awe and wonder for the kind of beauty that is still possible.” A trailer can be found at www.themaptoparadise.com/trailer . Tickets to all screenings can be found at www.themaptoparadise.com/tickets .
<https://www.facebook.com/events/399236204204575/>

MARION MARINE ART EXHIBITION - 12TH APRIL 2019

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 is being held on Friday 12th April. Further details can be found in our SDFS Bulletin for April 2019.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Reef 2 Ridge on being awarded the Halcyon Dive Systems (Halcyon Australia) Australian dealer of the year award during their very first year.

Mark Tozer on being MC at OZTek2019.

Matt Carter (Media Excellence), David Strike (Industry Recognition) Ryan Kaczowski (Tech Diver of the Year), and Stephen Fordyce (Emerging Explorer) on their awards at OZTek2019. Dive for Cancer who raised \$20,381 for the Cancer Council of SA at this year's Adelaide event.

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. Further details can be found in our SDFS Bulletin for April 2019.

SEVENTEEN SHARK AND RAY SPECIES ARE NOW FACING EXTINCTION

According to the Shark Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), many are closer to the brink than feared. Seventeen of fifty-eight species assessed are now facing extinction. The Shortfin Mako Shark, now listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is of particular concern.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE WELFARE OF LEAFY SEADRAGONS AT RAPID BAY

Our Federation recently issued the following statement: -

“With the steps at the Noarlunga jetty out of commission, the number of divers and diver training courses using the Rapid Bay jetty has increased. Concerns have been expressed that the leafy seadragons may be disturbed by diver traffic.

We would kindly remind all divers and instructors using Rapid Bay to not disturb the sea grass beds and to refrain from actions such as following seadragons or inadvertently touching them as that would cause them stress.

We recognize that the high number of divers at Rapid Bay may be temporary until the Noarlunga steps are repaired but, in the meantime, we hope that every effort will be made to minimize our impact on South Australia's iconic species.

With thanks for your consideration

Scuba Divers Federation of South Australia”

Further details can be found at <http://mlssa.org.au/2019/03/17/concerns-about-the-welfare-of-leafy-seadragons-at-rapid-bay/> .

BSAC'S NATIONAL TRAINING DIRECTOR VISITED ADELAIDE

BSAC Adelaide was recently host to Mike Thomas, National Training Director for the British Sub Aqua Club. Based in the United Kingdom, he visited Australia as part of his BSAC responsibilities. The Adelaide club took Mike to sites such as Rapid Bay and Edithburgh.

SA SCUBA WEEK - SUN 17-SAT 23 NOVEMBER

We are holding a SA Scuba Week from Sun 17th to Sat 23rd November. We're starting with a dive with a spud hunt at Port Noarlunga early on Sun 17th November, followed by a BBQ. We are also looking at getting shops, clubs & related organisations to set up display booths. On Saturday 23rd November, we're holding an evening event at the Barcoo Function Centre. More details will be provided as they come to hand.

JETTY NEWS

Onkaparinga Council has signed a contract with the builder for the new steps at Port Noarlunga jetty. Fabrication of the steps commenced in February. The installation of the steps was due to commence this month, with completion due mid-May, subject to favourable weather conditions.

Edithburgh Jetty is a very popular dive site for photographic enthusiasts. It is the busiest diving jetty, but it is also the most dangerous jetty as there are no means of easy recovery of an unconscious diver at the site due to the lack of beach. The northern steps at the jetty have been closed due to damage and the southern steps are tricky to exit at low tide. The SDFSA strongly supports the repair or replacement of the northern steps. We will endeavour to approach the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, the Edithburgh Progress Association and the Yorke Peninsula Council with our concerns.

Work on the new Whyalla jetty is expected to start in April with the demolishing of the old jetty. The new jetty construction is due to start in late May, with its structural completion expected in December. It will be 165m long, with a 145m circular boardwalk. An official opening for public use is planned for January 2020. The jetty will have a lifespan of around 80 years.

We recently advised the authorities about loose steps at both Rapid Bay and Second Valley jetties. With the steps at the Noarlunga jetty out of commission, the number of divers and scuba courses using the Rapid Bay jetty has increased. Concerns have been expressed that the seadragons may be getting disturbed by the increased diver traffic. We remind all divers using Rapid Bay to not disturb the sea grass beds and to refrain from actions such as following seadragons or inadvertently touching them and cause them stress. Underwater photographers should not physically handle them or attempt to shepherd them or unduly disturb their immediate environment. The use of flash & torches should be kept to a minimum. We recognize that the high number of divers at Rapid Bay may be temporary until the Port

Noarlunga steps are repaired but, in the meantime, we hope that every effort will be made to minimize our impact on seadragons.

SUBMERGED - STORY OF AUSTRALIA'S SHIP WRECKS.

The exhibition "Submerged- Story of Australia's Ship Wrecks" is running until 6th May at the Signal Point Gallery in Goolwa. 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). Further details can be found in our SDFS Bulletin for April 2019.

LEATHERBACK TURTLE AT PORT NOARLUNGA

School students were able to snorkel close to a good-sized Leatherback turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea* at Port Noarlunga jetty in March. Leatherbacks are the largest turtle species in the world. They can weigh as much as 700kg. The one seen at Port Noarlunga was thought to be a young adult. They rarely come up the Gulf of St Vincent. It has been suggested that not many people in the world would have swam with a leatherback. For further reading about the leatherback turtle visit "Sea Turtle Sighting At Somerton" by Steve Reynolds in the September 2001 MLSSA Newsletter at

<http://seadragon.podzone.org/nletters/september2001.htm> and "Leatherback Turtles, *Dermochelys coriacea*" by Steve Reynolds, Amber Compton & Nolan Powers in the 2014 MLSSA Journal at <http://mlssa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Part-1-of-2014-Journal.pdf> .

DIVER SWALLOWED BY A WHALE

A dive tour operator spent moments in the dark mouth of a whale which swallowed him whilst he was filming a sardine run. The large mammal soon spat him out again, but not before causing the man some grave concerns. See <https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/world/the-real-life-jonah-incredible-moment-a-diver-is-spat-out-by-a-whale-after-getting-sucked-in-as-the-giant-beast-feasted-on-sardines/ar-BBUyIkQ?ocid=spartandhp> .

ABALONE DIVER'S NERVOUS WAIT

An abalone diver had to spend a nervous one hour decompressing next to a 'half-eaten' white pointer shark off of Flinders Island during March.

PYROSOME SIGHTING OFF THE COAST OF NEW ZEALAND

Last October, divers Steve Hathaway and Andrew Buttle came across a 26-foot long translucent worm-like creature that looked like a giant wind sock at the island of Whakaari off the coast of New Zealand. The island of Whakaari is about 30 miles off the NZ mainland. It is also known as the White Island and it is a tourist attraction known for its active stratovolcano. The worm-like creature was a pyrosome and it was big enough to swim through. A pyrosome is a free-flowing colony of hundreds or thousands of individual organisms called zooids, small multicellular creatures that filter feed by pumping water through their bodies and catching

phytoplankton, bacteria and anything else they can. Swimming around it “was pretty incredible,” Buttle said. “We could see hundreds of thousands of tiny creatures right up close.” Andrew Jeffs, Professor of marine science at the University of Auckland says that the pyrosome (and its cousin, the salp) are both hugely important and super abundant in mainly tropical waters as a food source. Both are food for sea creatures, including turtles and spiny lobsters. Predators can cling to the tubes for weeks and dine. Pyrosomes swim vertically to the ocean surface at night to catch phytoplankton and then return to the depths when daylight comes, possibly to avoid daytime-feeding predators. Buttle and Hathaway both ended up swimming around the pyrosome for about forty minutes. Visit https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/02/giant-sea-worm-pyrosome-sighted-new-zealand/?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=Editorial::add=Animals_20190228::rid=7315819595 for more details.

NEW HYPERBARIC UNIT IN WA

A new \$4.6m hyperbaric unit has been established at the Fiona Stanley Hospital in Perth, WA. It is said to be a big triple-lock unit capable of ‘dives’ to 60m.

RARE SUNFISH WASHED UP IN CALIFORNIA

A rare 2m+ hoodwinker sunfish, *Mola tecta*, washed up at Southern California recently. The species was only discovered by Australian marine scientist Marianne Nyegaard in 2017. Visit <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2019/02/28/us/hoodwinker-sunfish-north-america-trnd/index.html> or <https://us.cnn.com/2019/02/28/us/hoodwinker-sunfish-north-america-trnd/index.html> for more details.

OCEAN SUNFISH WASHED UP IN THE COORONG

No sooner had the hoodwinker washed up, when an Ocean sunfish was found washed up dead in the Coorong, near the Murray Mouth. Visit https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-19/giant-sunfish-found-washed-ashore-in-south-australia/10915266?fbclid=IwAR1c0IoNQKJT_ZZinMQ6rIFrthzcTTc7gjotDWIw1HVu23nPxPTNVE1p3aY for more details, including the hoodwinker sunfish.

SUNFISH SIGHTING AT VIVONNE BAY

Yet another sunfish sighting occurred at Vivonne Bay jetty on Kangaroo Island at 10.30pm during January - see <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10156760038560831&set=pcb.2109057412528852&type=3&theater&ifg=1>

DAYS TAKEN BY DIVERS TO DIG DOWN TO DOG

The Cave Rescue Team which assisted in the Thai cave rescue last year recently spent days rescuing a poodle-cross dog from a Welsh cave. The South & Mid-Wales team was called in to rescue the dog after it had been trapped down a small hole for more than 8 hours. They took another 3 days to dig down to the dog, who was successfully rescued.

COMBINED DIVE CLUBS WEEKEND 2019

The 15th anniversary Combined Dive Clubs Weekend is being held in Tasmania over the June long weekend.

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. Further details can be found in our SDFSA Bulletin for April 2019.

APRIL 2019 SDFSA BULLETIN

Our SDFSA Bulletin for April 2019 includes the following:

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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.divelog.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.

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 April? 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 April issue of Dive Log for more details.

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/> .

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 28-29 in the April 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". More information on the conference can be found at <http://amsa19.amsa.asn.au/> .

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 April issue of Dive Log for more details.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

This year's National Science Week is being held 10 – 18th August 2019. See www.scienceweek.net.au .

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.

2019 ASFB CONFERENCE

The Australian Society for Fish Biology conference is being held 14–17th October at the Australian National Library in Canberra, ACT. ASFB 2019 will showcase and celebrate the many ways we can illuminate the wonderful world of fishes in the hearts and minds of people spanning a range of cultures, backgrounds and perspectives. The conference program includes workshops, special events and sessions that will explore how effective communication via the visual arts, digital media, and the spoken and written word can bring new understanding and inspiration to the millions of people who value and depend on fishes for their wellbeing. See the conference website at <http://asfbconference.org/> for more details.

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.gov.au/reef_watch

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