

SDF News Sheet – June 2019

Scuba diving news from South Australia

Monthly newsletter of
The SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION of SA

Contact us via:

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www.sdfsa.net , info@sdfsa.net , <http://www.facebook.com/pg/scubadivesa/>

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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>.

June is a busy month as can be seen below. The Queen's Birthday public holiday long weekend is being held from Saturday 8th (World Oceans Day) to Monday 10th June. More time for diving, especially with the cuttlefish at Whyalla. Make the most of this last long weekend until October.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is now being held at 7pm on Tuesday 25th June. Our members will be notified of the venue when more details are known.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is now being held at 7pm on Tuesday 16th July. Our members will be notified of the venue when more details are known. A new committee will be elected at the AGM. Nominations for committee positions close on 30th June. A committee nomination form is attached to the end of this news sheet.

WORLD TRAVEL EXPO

The World Travel Expo is being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre 10am to 4pm on Sunday 2nd June. Book your free tickets at www.travelexpo.net.au .

W.E.D. on WED 5/6

The 48th World Environment Day is being held on Wednesday 5th June.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

World Oceans Day is being held on Saturday 8th June, the start of the Queen's Birthday public holiday long weekend.

ANTIQUÉ BOTTLE SHOW

For all bottle addicts, the annual antique bottle show is being held from 10am 8-9th June at the Recreation Centre, 50 St Vincent St, Port Adelaide.

“IT CAME FROM THE HARBOUR”

A photographic and video exhibition about the flora and fauna of the Port River system is on display at Gallery Yampu, 1 Jenkins St, Birkenhead each Friday, Saturday & Sunday until 9th June (11am to 4pm). “It Came From The Harbour” features video, photography, citizen science and community art-making. Admission is free.

“DEFEND, CONSERVE, PROTECT” PREMIERE IN NORTH ADELAIDE AND SEMAPHORE

The Sea Shepherd Society's film “Defend, Conserve, Protect” will premiere in North Adelaide and Semaphore on Wednesday 12th June, revealing the real-life battle being fought in the Southern Ocean. Visit <https://au.demand.film/defend-serve-protect/> to reserve your tickets.

SNORKELLING DRAFT RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

The draft activity good practice guide for Snorkelling has just been released for public comment. Members of the outdoors community can have their say about this activity good practice guide by visiting <http://yoursay.australianaas.org.au/snorkelling/>. The draft good practice guide is available to download or readable online via the yoursay website. Feedback submissions can be lodged via the website's submission forms. These include 'general impressions', as well the opportunity to provide detailed and 'specific feedback' on any piece of content or section. Feedback submissions will close on the 24th June 2019 (at 9.00am AEST - Melbourne time).

Have your say by:

- Getting involved in the public consultation and download the draft GPG at <http://yoursay.australianaas.org.au/snorkelling/>
- Providing feedback on the snorkelling draft at <http://yoursay.australianaas.org.au/snorkelling/your-say/>.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2019

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

UBER SCUBA

It was only a matter of time before underwater Uber became a reality! People are now able to rideshare through scUber on the Great Barrier Reef.

LINK DISCOVERED BETWEEN AUSTRALIA'S DEEPEST & THIRD DEEPEST-KNOWN CAVES

According to the web page found at

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-27/deepest-caves-connected-record-tasmania-mt-field/11151930?fbclid=IwAR0NW6ENTwA-pkdKlyqLe847QF6sQpL-7Pvqu7QRpQ90uWqtWUboFZ8dSCY> ,

“A Tasmanian cave diving team has discovered a link between Australia's deepest and third deepest-known caves. The divers from the Southern Tasmanian Caveneers connected the Niggly Cave and the Growling Swallet systems via a flooded, 200-metre-long passageway beneath Mount Field National Park, north-west of Hobart. The team also set a new depth record of 395 metres during the daring endeavour. Cave diver Stephen Fordyce said he had spent years preparing for the dive, and was supported by a team of 10 people. "We had to first walk for about an hour and a half up the very steep hill to the [Niggly Cave] entrance, then we had to squeeze for about an hour with all of our gear through [a] passage, which is tight and winding," he said.”

SHOP NEWS

The Scuba Clinic has re-located to Unit 16, 937 Marion Road, Mitchell Park. The winter opening hours for The Scuba Clinic for the months of July / August / September are Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 5.30pm, closed on Fridays. This will not affect turnaround time or service.

AIR TRAVEL TIP

Steve Jones struck some problems with airline authorities when he went to fly to Cairns, Queensland recently. Jetstar were concerned about the batteries in Steve's underwater camera lights. The 'dangerous goods' department eventually gave Steve's lights clearance to travel. He will, however, now have to apply online for a yearly clearance certificate for all dive trips.

THE NEW STAR OF GREECE (AND OTHER SHIPWRECKS) BOOK

The Willunga Branch of the National Trust launched the new book “The Star of Greece and other shipwrecks of the Tragic Shore” during May. The publication was launched by Deb Morgan, the President of the National Trust of South Australia, at the Willunga Courthouse Museum. The book was primarily written and researched by Deb. The book is intended to complement a permanent exhibition on display at the Willunga Courthouse Museum. The book was made possible by a grant through the South Australian History Trust's Community Museums Program. This new publication brings to light other less well-known maritime incidents along the SA coastline.

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST SEAGRASS RESTORATION PROJECT

The SA Department for Environment and Water says that “Australia's biggest seagrass restoration project begins in SA”. The South Australian Government is investing \$1m in the country's largest ever seagrass restoration project. The project is starting along Adelaide's

metropolitan coast. It will contribute to re-establishing seagrass meadows off Adelaide's metropolitan coast between Glenelg and Semaphore. The project is part of the South Australian Government's \$5.2 million investment to implement the New Life for our Coastal Environment commitments. The commitments include funding for beach replenishment, seagrass restoration, research and development, works to limit damaging stormwater run-off from entering Gulf St Vincent and a reef project. Visit <https://coasts.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jilrldk-uilulrbly-h/> for more details. The Department's complete newsletter can be found at <https://coasts.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D1F6C0614C2C73872540EF23F30FEDED/9383F812BD46EA993EDEEDC46EB9B960> .

OUTER HARBOR CHANNEL WIDENING PROJECT

Dredging of the Outer Harbor shipping channel commenced in June. This dredging will continue throughout winter, subject to weather conditions. Details about the Outer Harbor Channel Widening Project can be found at <https://www.flindersports.com.au/channelwidening/about-the-project/> .

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW 2019

This year's Royal Adelaide Show is being held from 30 August - 8 September.

STICKLEBACKS ARE NOT CLOSE RELATIVES OF SYNGNATHIDS NOW

According to the Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group (formerly the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Stickleback Specialist Group) "Phylogenetic revisions have shown that (sticklebacks) are not close relatives (of Syngnathids) and there is no longer any justification for keeping them together." See <https://iucn-seahorse.org/2019/02/28/seahorse-pipefish-seadragon/> for more details.

RECFISH SA NEWS

RecFish SA's Government funding has been cut. See <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/down-the-gurgler-state-government-pulls-recfish-sas-funding/news-story/8ca521dd491768c7dc65c3639761f595> for details. Meanwhile, RecFish SA reports that the Windara recreational fishing reef near Rogues Point is becoming our new fishing hotspot, with the reef starting to turn up some good catches of King George whiting and tommies. It seems that recent rough weather has brought the reef to life.

NEW DIVE SITE IN THE BIGHT?

A new dive site may have been created when some parts of a meteor landed in the Great Australian Bight, about 300km west-south-west of Mount Gambier during May.

EDITHBURGH JETTY STEPS UPDATE

The northern steps at the Edithburgh jetty have now been fixed by the District Council of Yorke Peninsula. A new support beam has been installed at the bottom of the steps and one step has been replaced. The installation of a platform at the bottom of the southern steps would aid in extracting injured people such as divers from the water.

PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY STEPS UPDATE

The rebuilt steps for Port Noarlunga jetty have not yet been fixed to the jetty due to bad weather conditions during May. The contractors need some four weeks of good weather to be able to complete the job. We don't expect this to happen until the spring season now.

JETTIES LIFELINE

The Sunday Mail reports that the State Government announced a strategic plan to better manage our jetties. According to the Mail, "The strategic plan will examine jetties, evaluate their economic and community value, benefits and use, and provide a management plan." The paper (and the online version) went on to state, "The push for action was backed by SA's peak recreational fishing body, Rec Fish SA, and the Scuba Divers Federation of SA. "Jetties are very important for marine life to grow and give South Australians the opportunity to dive close to shore," SDFSFA president Tony Leggatt said. Its members have raised particular safety concerns over Edithburgh jetty, known internationally for its colourful sea grasses and corals. "We have divers travel from all over the planet to photograph ... iconic species like our marine emblem, the leafy seadragon," SDFSFA vice-president Andrew Hunter says. "Frankly, the state of our jetties, and the (lack of) facilities associated with them, can be embarrassing." " Visit <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/plan-to-better-manage-ageing-sa-wharves-and-jetties-to-be-announced/news-story/ae8ce477d8cd33b2dba8c084171d67a5> for more details.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Carl Charter whose photograph was featured with the above-mentioned article in the Sunday Mail.

Diana 'Daisy' Fernie on being awarded the 2019 AIPP South Australian Epson Signature Worthy Award for her photo of a brittle star on a barrel sponge. Diana was also a finalist for the 2019 AIPP South Australian Documentary Professional Photographer of the Year award. See http://stateawards.aipp.com.au/SA/2019-sa-awards?fbclid=IwAR0VoDpM9et_ugG-TJNObu6ZMks2md2R6iKLwCcvoclt0Gblz0OYtZA2hJk .

Barb & Lance Leopold whose many jetty photos featured in the third edition of Neville Collins' book "The Jetties of South Australia – Past and Present".

INSIDE ACCOUNT OF THE THAI CAVE RESCUE

Speaking of books, the inside account of the Thai cave rescue, "Against All Odds" by Craig Challen, Richard Harris is now available for pre-ordering. It is due out on 5th November as an e-book, a paperback book and an audio download. Visit https://www.penguin.com.au/books/against-all-odds-9781760890957?fbclid=IwAR1F56x5wFi3HtXuMxnqNkqTMFAxdxFMYx1LbgQPJcDGjUa2vAbiwmbmkM0&utm_expid=.JC69wDioR_Kc4RimyKASfg.0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F for more details.

DIVERS CAN NOW VISIT AN UNDERWATER ART MUSEUM IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

There is now an underwater art museum in the Florida Keys which can be visited by divers. According to the web page at <https://www.wptv.com/news/state/divers-can-view-underwater-art-museum-off-florida-keys> , "Divers finished placing a series of artworks on a sunken ship

Saturday (25/5) about seven miles south of Key West in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The project consists of 24 large photo illustrations created by Austrian artist Andreas Franke. They were placed on the Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg..... ship that was intentionally sunk 10 years ago to create an artificial reef. Franke calls it the "Plastic Ocean Project" and said he wants it to draw attention to the need to eliminate plastics in the world's oceans." Divers were to unfurl a giant American flag on the ship on Monday (27/5) to commemorate Memorial Day and the tenth anniversary of the ship's sinking. The Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, a former U.S. Air Force missile tracking ship, is 159m-long.

UNDERWATER HAIRCUT

Visit

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBnU2G0UKiY&fbclid=IwAR3beOxeqgsb6Pndm89ECPcqgHL8VwqxqYGcooKCKc_CF-MyTWUJLIYaUZc to see how an underwater haircut was trialled at Rapid Bay jetty.

RESEARCH ON WHITE'S SEAHORSE

Dr David Harasti has been undertaking various research projects on the White's Seahorse (*Hippocampus whitei*) in eastern Australia since 2005. His research has involved collaboration with researchers and students from universities, including the University of British Columbia, Sydney University, the University of Technology – Sydney and the University of NSW. This research has “focused on various components including life history and population parameters, management of artificial habitats to benefit seahorses, habitat use and movements, impacts of flash photography, effects of predation within no-take marine protected areas and environmental correlates within seagrass meadows. More recently, research has focused on the impacts of habitat loss on this endangered species, particularly in relation to the loss of natural habitats that caused localised population declines that has led to the species being listed as Endangered. Current research being undertaken is assessing the viability of artificial habitats, known as ‘Seahorse Hotels’, to help recolonise *Hippocampus whitei* populations in areas where natural habitats are lost.”

FOUR THREATENED SHARK SPECIES NOMINATED FOR LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION

Shark Champions recently nominated four threatened shark species for legislative protection under Australia's federal environment laws, the Environment Protection of Biodiversity and Conservation (EPBC) Act. They were the whitetip shark (Critically Endangered), the narrow sawfish (Endangered), the grey skate (Endangered) and the longnose skate (Critically Endangered). See <https://sharkchampions.org.au/issue/endangered-species/> .

LARGE SUNFISH FOUND WASHED UP AT PORT AUGUSTA

A large Bump-head sunfish (*Mola alexandrini*) was found washed up on a Port Augusta beach last month. Details can be found at <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/24424332> .

WoRM WEBSITE UPDATE

According to the web page found at

<http://www.marinespecies.org/news.php?id=6824&p=show> , “A new functionality on the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) now easily allows the search and display options to be limited to only marine and extant species”.

AWARE WEEK

Domino Albert, Project AWARE Associate Director Global Communications says, “the 2nd edition of AWARE Week is scheduled to take place globally the week of September 14-22, 2019. In celebration of Life Below Water - the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal focused on the ocean - this year's AWARE Week theme is Building Bridges.”

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 April 2019 SDFSA Bulletin at <http://www.sdfsa.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-04Bulletin.pdf> .

COMBINED DIVE CLUBS WEEKEND 2019

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

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 61 of the June 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.

2019 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COASTAL CONFERENCE

The 2019 South Australian Coastal Conference will be held in Adelaide on 7th-8th November. The conference will demonstrate the important work that others are doing to care for our coast. Attendees can share their own work and network with people passionate about coastal issues. Presentations will cover areas such as coastal collaboration, blue carbon, coastal restoration, hazards and conservation, and more. The conference is convened by the South Australian Chapter of the Australian Coastal Society. Visit <https://coasts.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jilrldk-uilulrbly-q/> for more details. The Department's complete newsletter can be found at <https://coasts.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D1F6C0614C2C73872540EF23F30FEDED/9383F812BD46EA993EDEEDC46EB9B960>.

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.

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

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

ABN 68 760 819 404

Email: info@sdfsa.net

Nomination for the Executive – 2019-2020

Nominations for the SDF Executive Committee are required for our AGM to be held on 16th July 2019. One form is required for each nomination. Please return your nominations to us by 30th June 2019.

Elections to fill the following positions will be held at our AGM on Tuesday 16th July 2019.

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Members

a) I, being a financial member of the SDF or an affiliated club,

namely. (Club), do hereby nominate the following person for a position on the Executive: -

Name

for the position of

Signed Date

My nomination is seconded by: - **Name**

Signed Date

b) I confirm that I am willing to accept a position on the Executive

Signed Date

The closing date for written nominations is the last mail received 30th June 2019.
Verbal nominations will be accepted at the AGM.

**Please return this form to: -
The Returning Officer
Scuba Divers Federation of SA
1/23 Kolapore Ave,
Largs North SA 5016** Or email to info@sdfsfa.net

Dedicated to the preservation of our underwater world