

# SDFSA Newsletter – September 2019



Monthly newsletter of the  
**SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.**

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<https://www.facebook.com/scubadivesa/>

The Scuba Divers Federation of SA Inc. (SDFSA) is a non-profit, incorporated membership association dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our unique underwater world. The more members we have, the stronger our influence. We serve as a peak body representing the interests of South Australian recreational scuba divers and the related sports of freediving and snorkelling, including the provision of

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## Membership Renewals Now Due

The Scuba Divers Federation of South Australia (SDFSA) invites you to join as an individual member. The SDFSA has recently changed its membership and fee structure. Individual memberships are now free.

SDFSA is a non-profit, incorporated membership association dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our unique underwater world. The more members we have, the stronger our influence. We serve as a peak body representing the interests of South Australian recreational scuba divers and the related sports of freediving and snorkelling, including the provision of information to government and the general public. Together we can have real impact on the issues affecting the South Australian diving community.

As an individual member, you can raise issues with the SDFSA committee that you are passionate about. SDFSA has recently launched its new website. Membership applications can now be made online at <https://sdfsa.net/membership-form/>

We would like to thank all members who have supported the SDFSA in the past through your individual membership dues.

## Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Arab Steed Hotel, first floor, 241 Hutt St, Adelaide at 7pm. If you'd like to join us for dinner beforehand at 6pm, let us know via email [info@sdfsa.net](mailto:info@sdfsa.net) so we can increase the dinner booking.

Dates of the next three meetings are as follows:

Wednesday 25th September

Wednesday 23rd October

Wednesday, 27th November

Please note no meeting is held in December.

## SA Scuba Week Photographic Competition

South Australian Photographers are invited to enter their digital photographs in a celebration of scuba diving in South Australia. Search your files or start taking photos and find something creative, unusual or that tells a story about diving in South Australia. The SDFSA is holding its first photo competition in the lead-up to SA Scuba Week, 17-23 November. Entries are open from now until 5:00 pm Thursday 31 October 2019. The top 10 winners will be announced at the Splash Party on Saturday evening 23 November 2019. The first prize winning image will be published on the front page of the January 2020 Edition of Dive Log Australasia. First and second prize winners will receive a mounted print of their image. All winning images will be featured in the January 2020 Edition of Dive Log Australasia. For further information on how to enter visit: <https://sdfsa.net/photographic-competition>

## Seasonal Closure of Ewens Ponds to All Water Based Activities

Ewens Ponds will be closed for its annual spring break from 1 September 2019 until 2 December 2019. Each year the Ponds are closed to give the unique aquatic plant life a chance to rest and recover ready for visitors over summer. During this period all water-based activities including diving and snorkelling will be off limits. For further information phone the Mt Gambier Natural Resources Centre on (08) 8735 1177. For further details, visit <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/closures-and-alerts/190820-ewens-ponds-spring-closure>

## New Guidelines for Access to Ewens Ponds

There are now some new guidelines for access to Ewens Ponds, as follows:

\$15 pre-booked hourly time slots for Ewens Ponds. All snorkellers and divers must enter at the first pond and exit at the third pond.

“A permit is required to snorkel and dive at Ewens Ponds. Permits are issued to individuals on an annual or a single basis. You must purchase a permit and book your dive or snorkel sessions before arriving at the park. Time slots are one hour long, with a maximum of two dives or snorkel sessions per person, per day. Bookings are essential. If you book two time slots, they may follow each other, but a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 people per diving or snorkelling group is allowed. You must be out of the water before your time slot expires.

All snorkellers and divers must enter at the first pond and exit at the third pond. Each snorkeller must wear a full-length wet suit, fins, face mask and snorkel. No weight belts to be worn for snorkelling (INCLUDING FREE DIVING). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Divers must meet the minimum standard of ISO 24801-2 (Autonomous diver) which is equivalent to PADI Open Water Diver, CMAS one star, SSI Open Water Diver or NAUI Scuba Diver.”

Snorkelling and diving

Adult: \$15.00

Annual adult: \$59.00

Concession: \$13.00

Annual concession: \$47.00

Child: \$10.00

Annual child: \$36.00

Annual family: \$163.00

(2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children. Any additional children to be charged at 50% of a Child rate.) Now need to book, pay, abide by rules and finish in 1 hour

[https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park/Browse\\_by\\_region/Limestone\\_Coast/ewens-ponds-conservation-park?fbclid=IwAR0iTdalv\\_I91JVw5FjwKKM5t3-WSyX1SmrvMOKMkJpoCwVp45ZY\\_zPKzoo#fees](https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park/Browse_by_region/Limestone_Coast/ewens-ponds-conservation-park?fbclid=IwAR0iTdalv_I91JVw5FjwKKM5t3-WSyX1SmrvMOKMkJpoCwVp45ZY_zPKzoo#fees)

## Dive for Cancer 2020

Next year's Dive for Cancer is being held at Port Noarlunga on Sunday 23rd February.

## This Year's Investigator Lecture

2019 joint Australian of the Year, Dr Richard Harris was interviewed by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki at this year's Investigator Lecture at the Adelaide Town Hall last month. Dr Harris, a Flinders University graduate, is a world-renowned specialist anaesthetist, who played a vital role in the rescue of 12 boys and their soccer coach from within the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Thailand in July 2018. Thousands of people attended the evening and gave Dr Harris a standing ovation.

## Forthcoming Thai Cave Rescue Book

"Against All Odds" by Craig Challen & Richard Harris is the inside account of the Thai cave rescue. The release date in Australia is 5th November. Pre-orders can be made through Booktopia. See [https://www.booktopia.com.au/against-all-odds-craig-challen/book/9781760890957.html?fbclid=IwAR0MtriDCbvTOvkaC49VqYEUrmxbvRlzW0zWu\\_eGsTnNtKMEKtwVLxovogs](https://www.booktopia.com.au/against-all-odds-craig-challen/book/9781760890957.html?fbclid=IwAR0MtriDCbvTOvkaC49VqYEUrmxbvRlzW0zWu_eGsTnNtKMEKtwVLxovogs)

## Deep Week November 2019

Another freediving Deep Week is being held 23rd to 30th November. You can join the World Record holder, Alexey Molchanov and British Record Holder, Dean Chaouche for 8 days of freediving training.

## Underwater Anchor Park in Port Phillip Bay

Peter Harvey, Senior Maritime Archaeologist for Heritage Victoria says that there is an underwater anchor park in Port Phillip Bay. It consists of a collection of anchors with interpretation plaques just off the north side of the Pope's Eye annulus in southern Port Phillip. "There are several anchors there that have been recovered from different locations around the bay. If you plan to dive there its best to go on the slack water at the end of a flood tide. Currents are very strong while the tide is flowing." Peter couldn't give a precise location but says that the anchors show up clearly on the echo sounder. According to the web page found at [https://www.scubadoctor.com.au/divesite.htm?site=Popes-Eye-Anchor-Farm&fbclid=IwAR3T\\_eZBDdywII-RAcUQYLm1L8zfnsImMX-ZfpolLuEJNJZkZ993obEa0is](https://www.scubadoctor.com.au/divesite.htm?site=Popes-Eye-Anchor-Farm&fbclid=IwAR3T_eZBDdywII-RAcUQYLm1L8zfnsImMX-ZfpolLuEJNJZkZ993obEa0is) "Popes Eye Anchor Farm - Depth: 9 to 11m - The Pope's Eye Anchor Farm has been created with some 13 anchors . . . . Most of these anchors were uncovered as a result of the Channel Deepening Project undertaken by the Port of Melbourne. The anchors were discovered in shipping channels, or near piers, where they posed a potential hazard to navigation, so were relocated to create the Pope's Eye Anchor Farm. There are two plaques at the dive site which provide information about the anchors."

## 'Nurse' Shark Attack Rescue

Have you ever dreamed about climbing into a boat full of nurses? That's just what happened to a Florida spearfisherman recently. According to the web page found at <https://www.wwaytv3.com/2019/08/06/diver-attacked-by-shark-rescued-by-fishing-boat-full-of-nurses-in-florida/> "A spearfisherman .... attacked by a shark over the weekend in Florida was saved by a group of medical professionals who just happened to be in a boat nearby. The .... diver was bitten by a shark while diving near Key Biscayne ..... and his companions flagged down a passing charter fishing boat to help him.....Little did (he) know that the boat he was climbing into was full of nurses ready to assist him during his emergency."

## Underwater Memorial Honouring America's Veterans

Speaking of Florida, an underwater veterans' memorial called the Circle of Heroes recently opened to divers there. The 100-foot memorial honouring America's veterans is in Clearwater (no pun intended), Florida. It is situated at a depth of 40 feet. It displays 12 life-size concrete statues representing the men and women from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. An additional 12 statues will be installed in 2020 to complete the memorial. For details see [https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/nations-underwater-veterans-memorial-opens-divers-florida/story?id=64828212&cid=social\\_fb\\_abcn&fbclid=IwAR1tLBdnmb3OWfDzygIJJRM2mEya\\_F1ARKSnpGyFI2RWOGKgiLrHIJ50fB8](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/nations-underwater-veterans-memorial-opens-divers-florida/story?id=64828212&cid=social_fb_abcn&fbclid=IwAR1tLBdnmb3OWfDzygIJJRM2mEya_F1ARKSnpGyFI2RWOGKgiLrHIJ50fB8)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Royal Adelaide Show 2019

This year's Royal Adelaide Show is being held until 8th September. See <https://theshow.com.au/> for more details.

### Project Aware Week

AWARE Week is being held from 14th - 22nd September 2019. With a focus on encouraging more scuba divers to remove, record and report marine debris found on the seafloor, including reporting debris-free sites (which is just as important), this year's AWARE Week provides a new opportunity to build bridges between community action and policy change. Further information can be found at: <https://www.projectaware.org/news/aware-week-2019>

### 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>

## Australian Shellfish Reef Restoration Network Meeting

The Australian Shellfish Reef Restoration Network meeting & 11th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration is being held at Port Stephens, NSW from 17-20th March 2020

### **SDFSFA would like to thank and acknowledge our sponsors:**

- **Mile End Office Furniture (Major sponsor)**
- **Stubbys Ink (Wetsuit Coolers)**
- **Dell'uva Wines Estate**
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