

SDFSA Newsletter – October 2019



Monthly newsletter of the
SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.

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

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

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UPDATE ON SA SCUBA WEEK

Plans are well underway with the launch, exhibition, and underwater spud hunt (prizes awarded) to start at 7:30 at Port Noarlunga jetty, Sunday 17th November. Port Noarlunga Surf Life Saving Club will be running a sausage sizzle on the day from 9.00am to midday. At the Splash Inn on the evening of Wednesday 20th (Balcony Room, Holiday Inn, from 6:30) John Bent and Paul Lunn will regale us about their adventures searching for the Spanish Galleon, the Pilar. Ian Lewis (the cave diver who trained Dr. Harry) will talk about his record breaking discoveries under the Nullarbor. On Saturday 23rd November from 9:00 to 11:00 am, Sea Shepherd will be helping to organize our "Clean Splash" -- a beach and underwater clean up at Port Noarlunga. And on the evening of Saturday 23rd get out of your dive suits into your finest attire and dancing shoes, join one of Adelaide's great party bands, the Smarty Boys, for the Splash Party at the Barcoo Function Centre, West Beach, starting at 7pm. Hope to see you all there! These events will be open for bookings soon via Eventbrite, with members notified via Facebook and our website.

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. Our Federation is holding its first photo competition in the lead-up to SA Scuba Week, 17th to 23rd November. Entries are open from now until 5:00 pm Thursday 31st October 2019. The winners will be announced at the Splash Party on Saturday evening 23rd November 2019. First and second prize winners will receive a mounted print of their image. Winning photos will be printed in Scuba Diver magazine. For further information on how to enter visit: <https://sdfsa.net/photographic-competition/> .

LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY LONG WEEKEND

The Labour Day holiday long weekend is being held in SA from 5th to 7th October. The weekend is often regarded as the start of the new diving season. It is the last long weekend before Christmas.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS STARTS 6TH OCTOBER

Daylight savings in SA comes into effect at 2am on Sunday 6th October, during the Labour Day holiday long weekend.

FINAL DIVE LOG MAG

After more than 30 years, the November issue of Dive Log magazine will be the last one. We thank the team at Dive Log and wish them all the best for the future.

FUNDRAISING BBQ

Our fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Warehouse will be held on Sunday 27th October at the new Edwardstown store. Funds raised will help fund our SA Scuba Week. If you'd like to volunteer to help out on the day please contact: sara.leggatt@adelaide.edu.au

RAPID BAY DIVERS' PLATFORM HAS FALLEN OFF OF THE STEPS

The divers' platform at Rapid Bay jetty was reported as having fallen off of the steps at the end of September. This meant that divers were only able to exit the water on a high tide.

MORE JETTY UPDATES

One of the new life buoys that were installed on the Port Noarlunga jetty recently was stolen within one week. We recommend that our members immediately report to the police any activity they may witness of people interfering with safety equipment.

The proposed new \$7.8m Whyalla jetty is on track to be completed by early 2020 despite the occurrence of a fire during the demolishing of the old jetty.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE

Membership renewals are now due. Individual memberships are now free. Please consider joining, as the more members we have, the stronger our voice. Dive club memberships are now based on the number of members – further information and online membership forms are available at:

<https://sdfsa.net/membership-categories/>.

FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our next 2 meetings are scheduled at the Arab Steed Hotel, 241 Hutt St, Adelaide at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month, as follows:

Wednesday 23rd October

Wednesday, 27th November

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the dates that our meetings will be held. Dinner will be held at 6pm before the 7pm meeting upstairs. Please let us know a few days ahead if you wish to book for the dinner – email membership@sdfsa.net.au . No meetings will be held in December. Our meetings commence again in January (on 4th Wednesday of the month).

DIVE LOG MAG TO FINISH

After more than 30 years, Dive Log magazine will finish with the November issue. Excerpts of our newsletter have been published in Dive Log since December 2004, plus the odd article related to our Federation. We thank the team at Dive Log and wish them all the best for the future. You can ensure that you still receive our monthly newsletter by becoming a member of our Federation for free.

Membership applications can now be made online at <https://sdfsa.net/membership-form/> .

QUEENSLAND LOSES SHARK CULLING APPEAL

According to the web page found at <https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/state-government-can-no-longer-cull-sharks-on-great-barrier-reef/news-story/eef54b19afc31ab3a23f92dbc0ba11a6?fbclid=IwAR2TrAvZDw-cCWUqrrMXb9ftvHnllpHRDtpK1bpimX3O2zXBQlg1gSscXRc>, drum lines have been pulled out of the Great Barrier Reef following the State Government's lost an appeal against a decision to prohibit shark culling.

SEASONAL CLOSURE OF EWENS PONDS TO ALL WATER BASED ACTIVITIES

Ewens Ponds will be closed for its annual spring break until 2nd 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

Remember that there are new guidelines for access to Ewens Ponds, see:

https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park/Browse_by_region/Limestone_Coast/ewens-ponds-conservation-park?fbclid=IwAR0iTdalv_I91JVw5FjwKKM5t3-WSyX1SmrvMOKMkJpoCwVp45ZY_zPKzoo#fees

JILL HEINERTH'S BOOK

Canadian cave diver Jill Heinerth, a technical cave diver known for numerous rescues in Florida's underwater caves, is the author of a hardcover book titled "Into the Planet: My Life". It is said to be "a firsthand account of exploring the earth's final frontier: the hidden depths of our oceans and the sunken caves inside our planet". Jill is described as "one of the world's most renowned cave divers" and "the first person in history to dive deep into an Antarctic iceberg and leader of a team that discovered the ancient watery remains of Mayan civilizations (she) has descended farther into the inner depths of our planet than any other woman". She apparently "works with biologists discovering new species, physicists tracking climate change, and hydrogeologists examining our finite freshwater reserves".

CLASSIC DIVE BOOKS

If you are looking for any classic dive books, check out the lists at both <http://classicdivebooks.customer.netspace.net.au/oeclassics-australia.html> and <http://www.timebooksellers.com.au/mar510.html>.

SOUTH FLORIDA MAY BE A NURSERY GROUND FOR GIANT MANTAS

The Marine Megafauna Foundation team in the US reports having discovered that the shallow, coastal waters of south Florida may be a nursery ground for giant manta rays. They began studying the manta rays of Florida in 2016. They used in water photography to identify individuals, record sex and maturity status, as well as document anthropogenic impacts. They found that all manta rays observed were juveniles, and 50% of them have been re-sighted. To gain even more insight into the

manta rays frequenting the area, they collaborated with NOAA Fisheries to satellite tag five juvenile mantas. They already have live tracking data to share – see <https://marinemegafauna.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cf22bdb3c0ebf2055ab07160d&id=c7d3ba1a9d&e=cda0685a20> .

MORE ON MANTAS

Meanwhile, Andrea Marshall, co-founder of the Marine Megafauna Foundation, recently visited Komodo National Park, Indonesia. 175 mantas were seen and identified over two expeditions. All the IDs contributed to the global manta ray database at www.mantamatcher.org .

NEED FOR CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES AT SHARK HOTSPOTS

The Marine Megafauna Foundation also contributed to a global study led by the Marine Biological Association, which "demonstrated an urgent need for conservation and management measures at high-seas shark hotspots" across the world. You can read the full study, published in Nature, at <https://marinemegafauna.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cf22bdb3c0ebf2055ab07160d&id=04cfd56686&e=cda0685a20> . The press release on their website can be seen at <https://marinemegafauna.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cf22bdb3c0ebf2055ab07160d&id=bc76f4094f&e=cda0685a20>

“WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RESEARCH AND PRESERVE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE”

A paper titled “Why is it important to Research and Preserve Underwater Cultural Heritage” by Bill Jeffery can be found at:

https://www.academia.edu/40238964/Why_is_it_important_to_Research_and_Preserve_Underwater_Cultural_Heritage?email_work_card=view-paper . According to the summary, “Cultural Heritage is preserved as it reflects a society’s cultural identity, which combined across the world, reflect the many varied cultural identities and therefore the cultural diversity of human kind. Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) is part of a society’s cultural heritage. It consists of man-made objects and sites such as lighthouses, fish weirs, sunken cities, wharves, shipwrecks, settlements and sacred sites, and much more. In association with Living Heritage (Intangible Heritage) associated with the sea, it forms a rich and vibrant cultural landscape and seascape, and is an integral part of a society’s cultural identity. This is particularly important in island countries such as throughout Asia-Pacific, where the sea and its cultural and spiritual connections are as strong today as they have been for many thousands of years. Research has found that artefacts from underwater or wet archaeological sites, particularly the organic materials are much better preserved than from dry archaeological sites. It is vital that this material be preserved and researched. Much information could be lost if it is not studied as an essential component in the overall cultural heritage of human kind. The United Nations advocate that there are over 3 million shipwrecks worldwide , and perhaps only a few thousand have been studied. Technology to explore the deep waters has only come available in the very recent years. There have been limited systematic studies of many types of UCH, as an example, the stone tidal fish weirs that are abundant in Taiwan can be found spread throughout Asia-Pacific, yet no studies have been conducted to investigate if there is a regional connection and perhaps an Austronesian Cultural Identity. This paper will provide examples of the cultural heritage in a few countries in the Asia-Pacific region to help to illustrate why it is important to research and preserve UCH.”

MORE ON BILL JEFFERY

Bill Jeffery has been working as a maritime archaeologist for over 40 years. Bill's background in maritime archaeology is in Australia, where after studying with the Western Australian Museum, he formulated and coordinated a maritime heritage program for a state government agency, Heritage South Australia from 1981-2001. He went onto working with the Federated States of Micronesia National Historic Preservation Office and completing a PhD on the World War II shipwrecks in Chuuk Lagoon. He is a consulting maritime archaeologist to ERM Hong Kong, and Research Associate with the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. Since 2002, he has been working on various aspects of maritime archaeology in Hong Kong and more recently the training of a number of local divers, and the implementation of maritime archaeology research and excavation projects, the first such projects to be conducted in Hong Kong. He has implemented various types of archaeological and heritage investigations in Australia, the Pacific region, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and various countries in Africa. Bill has lectured in cultural heritage preservation, maritime archaeology and conducted maritime archaeology field schools with Flinders University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Guam and James Cook University in addition to teaching Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) training programs in eleven different countries. In 2015, he began his current position as Assistant Professor of Archaeology at the University of Guam.

NORFOLK ISLAND MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

According to "Building Capacity in the South West Pacific – The Norfolk Island Maritime Archaeological Association" by Andrew Viduka, "The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy administers the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 and the National Historic Shipwrecks Program. This Program enables the Department to work with the States, the Northern Territory and Norfolk Island to protect historic shipwrecks. With the wealth of maritime history on Norfolk Island and the strong associations with Pitcairn Island, the potential for involving the broader community in documenting and protecting Norfolk Island's wonderful maritime heritage is significant. In 2010, at the request of the Norfolk Island Delegate, the first in a series of community focussed capacity building activities in maritime archaeology was conducted on the island. These activities resulted in the creation of the Norfolk Island Maritime Archaeological Association (NIMAA), Australia's newest maritime archaeology association. This paper briefly outlines the history of maritime archaeological associations in Australia and their engagement with management agencies. As a case study for other small island communities, the paper highlights some of the activities of NIMAA since its creation, issues faced for participants and the management agency and the potential for NIMAA into the future."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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-uilulrby-q/> for more details. The Department's complete newsletter can be found at <https://coasts.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/D1F6C0614C2C73872540EF23F30FEDED/9383F812BD46EA993EDEEDC46EB9B960>.

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.

DIVE FOR CANCER 2020

Next year's Dive For Cancer is being held at Port Noarlunga on Sunday 23rd February. See <https://www.diveforcancer.com.au/event/dive-for-cancer-south-australia-the-festival-state/> for more information.

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**
- **Aussie Divers Phuket**

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