

SDFSA Newsletter – November 2019



Monthly newsletter of the
SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.

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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.

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Did you know Tuesday 5th November is both Melbourne Cup Day and the 17th anniversary of the scuttling of the ex-HMAS Hobart in 2002?

UPDATE ON SA SCUBA WEEK

As SA Scuba Week draws closer we invite you to participate in the events on offer, most of which are available through Eventbrite bookings.

The week commences with *Splash Hunt*, an underwater spud hunt (some *great* prizes will be awarded) and exhibition of diving related organisations at Port Noarlunga Jetty. The Spud Hunt commences at 7.30am and concludes at 10.30. Cost of the Splash Hunt is \$10 per diver. The exhibition will be open from 8.00am to 1.00pm. Port Noarlunga Surf Life Saving Club will be running a sausage sizzle on the day from 9.00am to midday. Bookings through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sa-scuba-week-splash-hunt-tickets-65173759469>

In conjunction with the *Splash Hunt* Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries are conducting snorkelling activities – see information below “Nakudla Sharkfest Snorkel”.

Next item on the agenda is Twin Hose Tuesday, to be held at Port Noarlunga on Tuesday 19th November from 9.00am. Join the oldies, boldies and baldies – come along and have a look, or in if you have your own “twin hose” regulator.

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 how cave diving has become a respected activity due to documentaries and the miracle rescue of the young boys in Thailand. Gold coin donation at the door, but bookings must be made via Eventbrite: :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sa-scuba-week-splash-inn-tickets-74689786161>

On Saturday 23rd November from 9:00 to 11:00 am, Sea Shepherd & SDFSA will be co-hosting *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. Cost: \$39. Silent auctions will be held throughout the evening, with all profits being donated to the Sea Rescue Squadron. Bookings via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sa-scuba-week-splash-party-tickets-74684923617>. Hope to see you all there! The events page of our website will be updated regularly as more information becomes available: <https://sdfsa.net/events/>

NAKUDLA SHARKFEST SNORKEL

The Nakudla SharkFest Snorkel hosted by Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries, in conjunction with our SA Scuba Week, is being held at Port Noarlunga Jetty on Saturday 9th November and Sunday 17th November. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/1124725084384543/> for more details.

SA SCUBA WEEK PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The closing date for the photographic competition has now been extended.

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 Wednesday 13th November 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/> .

JETTY ACCESS UPDATE

Temporary repairs were undertaken on the platform at Rapid Bay jetty during October. More permanent repairs will be undertaken as soon as the weather permits. DPTI have advised that the platform is safe to use. The steps at Port Noarlunga jetty are now not expected to be replaced until sometime in November or December.

FAREWELL TO BOB RAMSAY

Vale Bob Ramsay who passed away in September. Bob was SDFSA Public Officer 1987 -90 (at least, and Secretary (briefly) & Minutes Secretary in 1990. He has also been President for the Historical Diving Society and was a technician at the RAH Hyperbaric Unit for many years. Bob was a person dedicated to preserving diving history. Smooth sailing Bob.

FUND-RAISING BBQ

Our first fund-raising BBQ at Bunnings Warehouse at Edwardstown in October successfully raised some money to help fund SA Scuba Week and other SDFSA projects. Many thanks to those who organized the BBQ and also those who assisted on the day. We plan to have a couple of BBQs each year from now on.

DIVE LOG MAGAZINE IS CONTINUING

Contrary to what was reported last month, Dive Log magazine is continuing, albeit online only. The print version finished this month, coinciding with the retirement of Barry Andrewartha. The rest of the Dive Log team, however, are attempting to keep the magazine going in all of its online versions.

HMAS MELBOURNE (III) DECOMMISSIONED

The Adelaide class guided missile frigate HMAS *Melbourne* (III) was decommissioned in October, after nearly 28 years of service. The fate of the ex-HMAS Melbourne is unknown at this stage. The Federal Government is putting the vessel up for sale. It has been suggested that, if a buyer cannot be found, she'll either be scrapped or possibly scuttled as a dive site.

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM PHOTOGRAPHING WEEDY SEADRAGONS

According to the web page found at <http://vnpa.org.au/programs/dragon-quest> , Victorian recreational divers are being urged to join a citizen science program involving the weedy seadragon. Reef Watch coordinator Kade Mills says that divers are being asked to send in images of any weedy seadragons they spot "so we can get an idea of the size of the population". "Images submitted by

the public are processed using pattern software to recognise the unique markings on the side of each seadragon, like a fingerprint. This means individual weedy seadragons can be identified without the use of tags or physical interference.

NEW SCIENTIFIC PAPER ON SHARKS

There is a new scientific paper titled “Evidence for non-random co-occurrences in a white shark aggregation” by Adam Schilds, Johann Mourier, Charlie Huveneers, Leila Nazimi, Andrew Fox & Stephan T. Leu. The paper concerns a more qualified investigation into what had previously been termed “Shark Clans”. Large numbers of white sharks can be sighted throughout the year at the Neptune Islands, including during periods of low seal abundance. A combination of photo-identification and network analysis was used “based on co-occurrence of individuals visiting the site on the same day to elucidate the population structure and behaviour of Australia’s largest aggregation of sub- adult and adult white sharks”. 282 sharks (183 males, 97 females, 2 unknown) were photo-identified “over a 4.5-year period (June 2010–November 2014) and it was found that white sharks did not randomly co-occur with their conspecifics, but formed four distinct communities”. The “study adds to the growing literature of animals showing non-random interaction or co-occurrence patterns, providing important comparative knowledge for other researchers as it broadens our knowledge to marine top predators”.

GREAT WHITE SHARK FILMED SWIMMING ON ITS BACK

According to the web page found at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRyq7QeKhuv&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0k-tSzKJsbVaSBzsHcSO_t9NhFhgvTHXJqdGnU015FngB5JsGwoHuKMLQ ,

a woman on a shark cage diving trip in the Neptune Islands took some rare footage of a great white shark swimming on its back in early October. Her footage “captures the moment the female shark emerges from the water and swims upside down with her mouth open, before flipping over and disappearing under the water. The video was quickly flooded with comments from shocked people who had never seen a shark float upside down before. Sharks are not known to swim upside down, but on rare occasions, they will flip over to assume a position known as tonic immobility. Tonic immobility is a natural state of paralysis sharks enter by stimulating the tiny sensory pores located on their snout, according to conservation group Shark Trust. Scientists are not entirely sure why sharks enter tonic immobility, but some suggest it may be related to mating.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Chelsea Haebich, Ember Catherine, Alex Lea and Emma Louise. four newly accredited Reef Life Survey Foundation (RLS) divers.
- Shannyn, Renate, Josie and Barb for passing their Instruct Snorkelling Skills course snorkel skills and rescue assessments at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre for EMS (Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries).
- Adelaide Scuba’s newest Rescue Divers, Justin, Andrew, David, Gerard and Anna.
- Dr Hazel Vanderleur on being awarded the 2019 Rural Regional and Remote Award in the Women in Innovation Awards for reimagining the contaminated sediments near smelters in Port Pirie as a resource in order to recover and repurpose desirable metals.
- Dr Zoe Doubleday, Project Leader for Uni SA’s study on the biology and sustainability of the octopus fishery at Port Lincoln, and finalist in the Women in Innovation SA Awards held in October. Zoe also won a \$738,020 Future Fellowships grant from the Australian Research Council for her work on a new way to trace the geographic origin of our seafood. She is

developing technology that will help authorities to determine where in the world seafood comes from. This will assist authorities to catch out illegal and unsustainable fishing.

- David Harasti on being awarded an Early Career Excellence Award for outstanding 'early career' contribution to fish or fisheries research at the Australian Society for Fish Biology conference dinner in October.
- Diving Adelaide for winning the annual PADI Award for Outstanding Contribution to Entry Level Training in South Australia for the 4th year in a row. The Diving Adelaide team celebrated their award during a staff dinner.
- Rodney and Andrew Fox and Mark Tozer on their new 32m-shark tour boat, named *Rodney Fox* during its stay in Port Adelaide last month.
- Joe Shields & Kevin Smith on being awarded the Reef Life Survey Foundation's 2019 Scoresby Shepherd Awards.
- Ross Gudgeon for coming 4th and 5th in the Australian Photography Awards 2019. Another entry came 10th and was 'Highly Commended'. All the results can be seen at https://www.australianphotographyawards.com.au/galleries/2019-wildlife/?fbclid=IwAR1gTkZ_LzVqK6X7WwiB_YPApivgH5_eO5Q_vMr3bAXAlpR2-11BHUjJP_8. Ross' images look great!
- The other SA photographers, such as Diana Fernie and Sebastien Landat, who also figured prominently in the awards.
- Ian Patterson whose "Sulawesi Night Dive – Lionfish" entry won the Nature category in the Through the Lens 2019 competition and was also declared the overall winner in the competition. View all of the 2019 finalists and the winning photos at https://www.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/576854/TtL-2019-exhibition-flyer.pdf. (Ian's award-winning photo featured in the centre pages of the Sunday Mail on 27th October.)
- Allan Kessler who received the Ted Eldred Award from Christopher Deane at the Historical Diving Society Australia-Pacific AGM in October. The award is named in honour of Australian Ted Eldred, the first person in the world to mass produce single hose, 2 stage scuba regulators. The award "may be awarded to an HDS Aus-Pac member who contributes to the history of diving and/or supports the goals of HDS Aus-Pac. It can be awarded annually but only if someone is nominated and deemed worthy by the committee".
- John Dalla-Zuanna & Warrick McDonald on being awarded life membership to the Cave Divers Association of Australia at their AGM.
- Drs Craig Challen & Richard Harris on their appointment to the CDAA Hall of Fame at the AGM.

SEASONAL CLOSURE OF EWENS PONDS

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-WSyX1SmrvM0KMKJpoCwVp45ZY_zPKzoo#fees

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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> .

DEMA SHOW 2019

This year's DEMA Show is being held In Orlando Florida 13-16th November. Visit www.demashow.com for more details.

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.

2020 OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

Next year's Ocean Film Festival World Tour is being held on Saturday 21st March 7 – 10pm at the Capri Theatre, 141 Goodwood Rd, Goodwood.

6TH INTERNATIONAL ECOSUMMIT CONFERENCE

The 6th International EcoSummit Conference will be held in Gold Coast, Australia, June 21-25, 2020. There will be a session on "Restoring coasts, estuaries and wetlands: large scale science, big data and embracing technological advancement". The spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas continues to compromise the utility of estuaries and coastal wetlands as productive flora and fauna habitat. The unplanned and unregulation of coastal urban sprawl in the worlds' estuaries increasingly contributes to poor water quality, altered freshwater flow, contaminant pollution, loss of habitat, light pollution, invasive species, sedimentation/eutrophication – the list goes on. Although these impacts have been widely studied, less is known about mitigative attempts, nor have strategies been developed and coordinated to deliver system repair and protection outcomes at a large enough scale to truly corroborate to ecosystem improvement. With major advancements in technology and deep learning technology, ecologists are now able to tackle more central research questions, and at scale, in order to deliver more meaningful and impactful solutions for government, industry and community members. This session brings together managers and scientists to share new research directions, and to hear how innovative technology assists in delivering coastal system repair and eco-engineering outcomes in a changing coastal seascape.

FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our next Committee meeting is scheduled at the Arab Steed Hotel, 241 Hutt St, Adelaide at 7pm on the Wednesday 27th November. Dinner will be held at 6pm before the 7pm meeting upstairs. Please let us know if you wish to book for the dinner.

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@sdfs.net.au . No meetings will be held in December. Our meetings commence again in January (on 4th Wednesday of the month).

SDFS MEMBERSHIP

The SDFS is now offering individual memberships at no charge. 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 SDFS committee that you are passionate about, whether they concern jetty maintenance, or conservation, or good diving practices. Members can attend the monthly SDFS Committee meetings to learn about issues and events involving the diving community. Members receive the minutes from Committee meetings and the monthly SDFS info sheet. All individual members have a vote at Annual General Meetings and can stand for election to the SDFS Committee. Opportunities to volunteer your time may be possible throughout the year on events like the upcoming SA Scuba Week, 17-23 November. And membership may entitle you to some discounts at events. If you are interested in becoming a member of the SDFS for 2019-20, please join online at <https://sdfs.net/membership-form/> .

SDFS 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**

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