

# SDFSA Newsletter – February 2020



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.

**JOIN US FOR FREE: <https://sdfs.net/membership-categories/>**

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.

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**If you wish to be included on the mailing list for our newsletter, join the Scuba Divers Federation of South Australia (SDFSA).**

## OUR LEAD STORY: SDFSA's Recommendations on the State of SA Jetties

The **Scuba Divers Federation of South Australia (SDFSA)** was invited by the South Australia Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) to prepare a written submission on what should be considered in a State-wide jetty management plan. Jetties are important structures for the sports of scuba diving, freediving and snorkelling as locations for training, unique dive experiences, marine citizen science research, and underwater photography. They are also easy dive sites for those with disabilities. The State's jetties serve a South Australian diving community of 50,000 certified divers. They have the potential to attract thousands more from a global community of 28 million active divers.

We have submitted 4 recommendations:

1. **Put in place a standard for a safe and useable jetty and maintain jetties to that standard.**  
That standard should consist of:
  - **Safety and accessibility:** Good design of wide stairs with non-slip treads and handrails, and subsurface platforms; Availability of safety equipment (life buoys, etc.); Discourage the potential presence of sharks (enforcing rules against dumping unused bait, etc.); Clear signage and enforcement of rules (eg, no spearfishing); Consider accessibility for disabled persons taking up the sport.
  - **Related amenities to support divers:** Adequate parking near jetties, benches for gearing up and places to lock gear trolleys near jetty stairs; Shade/sun protection, seating, toilets and fresh water sources.
  - **Ecosystem protection considerations:** Enforce littering fines for those who damage the ecosystem by allowing plastic bags and other debris to blow into the water; Consider ecosystem impacts of changes to jetties (damaging ecosystems through the removal of pylons; ensuring jetty surfaces allow light penetration below).
2. **Priority jetties to address:** Edithburgh, Port Hughes, Second Valley (stairs, accessibility); Edithburgh and Rapid Bay (amenities), Kingscotte and Vivonne Bay jetties (revitalizing tourism on Kangaroo Island); All jetties, but Second Valley and Rapid Bay in particular (signage).
3. **Address impediments to jetty maintenance:** Repair jetties in a timely manner; Consult with stakeholders when major works will be done on jetties that might irrevocably change their character (such as removing pylons or resurfacing with materials that block sunlight to waters below); Put mechanisms in place for long term funding.
4. **Invest in research** that will increase our appreciation of the value of the SCUBA industry to the State economy, and find ways to promote SA diving nationally and internationally.

Our full report is available on the SDFSA website: <https://sdfsa.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SDFSA-DPTI-jetty-submission-2020.pdf>

Our thanks to everyone who provided input to the report, and a special note of thanks to Dean Spraakman, Carl Charter and Chelsea Haebich for the use of their photos both in the report and on our website.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR SA DIVERS

### **PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY**

We have been advised by the Onkaparinga Council that work on the jetty stairs will begin Saturday February 8. There will be an 80m exclusion zone around the end of the jetty from Saturday while piling works are on. THERE WILL BE NO DIVING or SWIMMING in the zone while the work is underway. The exclusion will be in place until the work is completed. It is not known how long the work will take, so plan your diving accordingly for the next few weeks.

### **JOIN THE CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSED SHELLFISH REEFS**

Three community events are being held during February to gather feedback on the possible location of South Australia's new metropolitan shellfish reef. We encourage our members to attend!

- Wednesday 19th February at 6.30-7.30pm, Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club
- Thursday 20th February at 6.30-7.30pm, Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club
- Friday 21st February at 6-7pm, The Nature Conservancy's office

## 2020 EVENTS

### ***South Australia:***

**DOLPHIN SPIRIT DREAMING FESTIVAL** Saturday 22 February

The Dolphin Spirit Dreaming Festival is happening all day on Saturday 22nd February at the Semaphore foreshore.

**DIVE FOR CANCER 2020** Sunday 23 February

The 2020 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.

**2020 OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR** Saturday 21 March

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

**WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS 2020** 11 – 15 October

The World Fisheries Congress 2020 is being held in Adelaide 11-15th October – see <https://wfc2020.com.au/>.

### ***Interstate/International:***

#### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES AND AQUATIC SCIENCES**

An International Conference on Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences is being held in Sydney, NSW 27–28th February – see <https://waset.org/fisheries-and-aquatic-sciences-conference-in-feb-2020-in-sydney>.

## **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

## **MIDE 2020**

This year's Malaysia International Dive Expo is being held 12-14<sup>th</sup> June. See [www.mide.com.my](http://www.mide.com.my) for more details.

## **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".

## **AUSTRALIAN MARINE SCIENCES ASSOCIATION/NEW ZEALAND MARINE SCIENCES SOCIETY 2020 CONFERENCE**

The Australian Marine Sciences Association/New Zealand Marine Sciences Society 2020 Conference is being held in Sydney from 5-9th July – see <https://amsa2020.amsa.asn.au/>.

## **AIDE 2020**

The Australia International Dive Expo is being held from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August – see [www.australiadiveexpo.com](http://www.australiadiveexpo.com).

## **OZTEK CONFERENCE & OZDIVE EXPO 2021**

Next year's OZTek, the Advanced Diving Conference & Exhibition, will now combined with the OZDive Expo. It will cover every aspect of exploration, diving, dive training, underwater photography and dive travel. It will be held in Jeff's Shed at the Melbourne Conference & Exhibition Centre 11-12th September 2021. There will still be OZTek talks which will concentrate on everything technically advanced, whilst the OZDive Expo will encourage divers to learn more and be inspired by dive travel, photography, new training and equipment. The OZDive Expo will also offer more recreational and conservation-based talks. Visit <https://OZTek.com.au> and <https://OZDive.net.au> for more details.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO...**

Drs Richard Harris and Craig Challen on the completion of 12 months as the joint 2019 Australian of the Year. This year's honour went to SA's Dr James Muecke, an ophthalmologist in the mould of Dr Fred Hollows.

## **FOR RESEARCHERS AND HISTORIANS**

### **MLSSA DIVE MAGAZINE COLLECTION**

The Marine Life Society of SA has established a dive magazine collection in their library with an extensive coverage of back issues of Dive Log and other titles. Magazines have been donated by Steve Selbach of Elite Dive Academy, Peter Horne, Andrew Hunter, Diving Adelaide, Sam Powrie and Steve Reynolds. It is available for loan from the Port Environment Centre, 27 North Parade, Port

Adelaide Wed to Fri 10am to 3pm, or by arrangement through MLSSA. A complete list of magazines can be found at <http://mlssa.org.au/2020/01/31/dive-magazine-collection-in-our-society-library/> .

And a bit of humour...

#### MISTAKEN IDENTITY

We were surprised to receive a notification about the SDFSA being mentioned on Facebook by the City of San Marcos – Government recently. Further investigation revealed that the SDFSA in question was actually the San Diego Food System Alliance.

#### SDFSA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7pm on Wednesday 26 February at the Arab Steed Hotel, 241 Hutt St, Adelaide. Of particular note will be a discussion of lessons learned from SA Scuba Week and what the Committee should consider in planning future events in support of our members and the diving community of South Australia. All SDFSA members are welcome to attend Committee meetings.

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