

SDFSA Newsletter – MAY 2020



SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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Welcome to Alex’s Amazing Alphabet of South Australian Underwater Wonders!

Starting MAY 1 on the SDFSA Facebook page!

A

Colonial ASCIDIANS thrive in our southern water
And if we keep that water clean, well then, so
they oughtta.

The moral’s clear, the message plain:
Don’t flush your rubbish down the drain!

Text and photo: A. Suslin, 2020



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BREAKING NEWS

Temporary restrictions on fishing for the Giant Cuttlefish have been lifted by PIRSA. Watch our Facebook page for more information.

FOR THE NEXT 26 DAYS on the SDFSA Facebook Page...

We know that many of you have not been in the water for weeks now, and are missing the connection with many of your diving friends (not to mention all the marine life we love). With ongoing social distancing restrictions, and with no options at present for escaping winter to tropical dive sites, we are all looking to get our diving “highs” online.

And so, in the absence of exploring the richness of the marine world in real time, we bring you:

Alex’s Amazing Alphabet of South Australian Underwater Wonders.

From 1 May, every day for the next 26 days, Alex Suslin will share with us his photos and epigrams that capture the marine world we love and are missing so much at the moment.

Go to the SDFSA Facebook page for your daily dose of Alex’s Amazing Alphabet.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR SA DIVERS

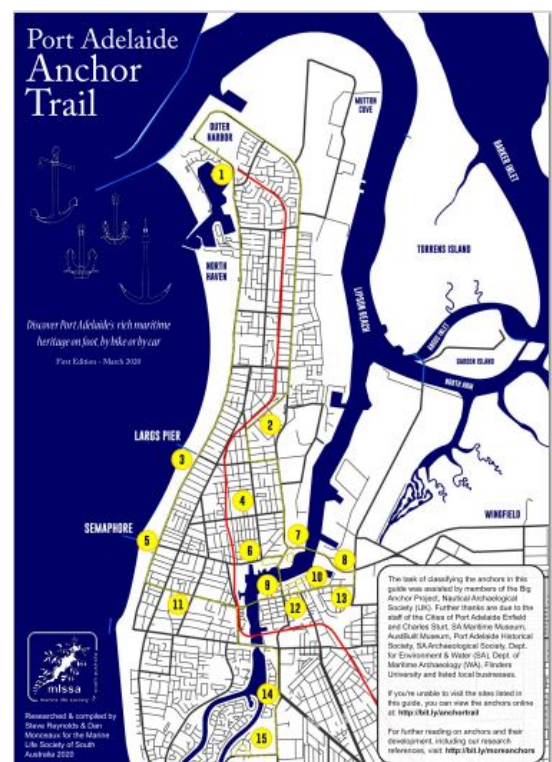
The SDFSA Committee reminds divers that while the social distancing restrictions may in the coming weeks be loosened, they are still in place. For the latest information on the State of SA's guidelines, go to <https://www.sa.gov.au/covid-19>. And consult the guidelines on diving and COVID-19 put forth by DAN-Europe: <https://www.daneurope.org/>.

Going for a dive just with your buddy falls within the guidelines. But remember that all divers need to keep to the 1.5 metre distance rules. Each diver must therefore be able to get into and out of their gear, and into and out of the water, without assistance from their buddy.

Many of you will choose to continue diving within the guidelines for social distancing. We do ask that you consider diving closer to home for the time being. We also draw your attention to the additional strain on emergency services should a dive accident occur: we ask those who are continuing to dive to be exceptionally cautious and diligent in your diving practices.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

The Marine Life Society of SA on the completion of their Port Adelaide Anchor Trail comprising 15 large anchors on the Lefevre Peninsula. Support for the guide was provided by a City of Port Adelaide Enfield grant. The double-sided A3 page folds down to pocket-size. Additional information is available at <http://mlssa.org.au/2020/03/20/further-reading-on-the-topic-of-anchors>.



SDFSA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Committee is continuing to meet monthly via Zoom, with additional video conferences to develop the basis of a strategic plan for the next 3 to 5 years. Once a draft version is available we will be consulting with dive clubs, shops and our members on the way forward, to further connect and support the diving community in South Australia and to promote South Australian diving as world-class.

2020 EVENTS

A number of upcoming events have been postponed or cancelled. Keep checking on the following events by visiting the relevant websites:

- MIDE 2020 - Malaysia International Dive Expo – POSTPONED to 4-6 December 2020 - www.mide.com.my.
- 6th International Eco Summit Conference - Gold Coast, Queensland – POSTPONED to 14-18 June 2021.
- Australian Marine Sciences Association/New Zealand Marine Sciences Society 2020 Conference - Sydney – POSTPONED, dates TBD – <https://amsa2020.amsa.asn.au/>.
- AIDE 2020 - Australia International Dive Expo – CANCELLED --www.australiadiveexpo.com.
- World Fisheries Congress 2020 - Adelaide - POSTPONED to September 2021 (dates TBD) – <https://wfc2020.com.au/>.

SCIENCE ALIVE!

This year's Science Alive! Exhibition at the Adelaide Showgrounds has been postponed until further notice.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2020: Deep Blue

National Science Week 2020 will now only be conducted as an online science festival. National Science Week is an annual festival of science that takes place in August each year. The school theme for this year's National Science Week is "Deep Blue: innovation for the future of our oceans". National Science Week 2020 runs from 15th–23rd August. It will, however, only be conducted as an online science festival this year. Visit www.scienceweek.net.au for more details.

OZTEK CONFERENCE & OZDIVE EXPO 21

Next year's OZTek, the Advanced Diving Conference & Exhibition, will be combined with OZDive Expo, Melbourne Conference & Exhibition Centre 11-12th September 2021. Visit <https://OZTek.com.au> and <https://OZDive.net.au> for more details.

SCIENCE STORIES for the month

GIANT KELP RESTORATION PROJECT

According to the Australian Marine Education Network (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/510101945695277/>), a Tasmanian marine permaculture project

team that had bred baby kelp bred in the laboratory is now growing the kelp on Australia's first seaweed platform in Storm Bay near Hobart. The team includes the University of Tasmania, the Climate Foundation and (the) The Intrepid Foundation. Marine permaculture is described as being “a regenerative solution that sequesters carbon and restores balance to our oceans”.

SCIENTISTS’ PLAN TO REPLENISH MARINE LIFE BY 2050

UN Sustainable Development Goal number 14 aims to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". Scientists have now put a 30-year plan together to achieve that aim. These scientists think that our underwater ecosystems can be restored and become thriving again despite issues such as climate change, plastic pollution and many other environmental concerns. Their plan points to the resilience of many marine species. They suggest that if these species are given a chance to recover, marine life can be replenished within a generation. The research has been published in “Nature”.

To gauge the health of the oceans, the scientists investigated a wide variety of studies, reports and statistics. They found that 50% of marine life populations have suffered a decline over the last four decades.

They suggest nine key components form the basis of a recovery plan: salt marshes, mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs, kelp, oyster reefs, fisheries, megafauna, and the deep sea. The researchers say that we need to focus on these key components, saying that salt marshes and sea grasses can lock away carbon in the atmosphere and mangroves have proven to be effective barriers against floods and waves.

They also pointed to previously successful conservation efforts to rescue species, such as elephant seals and green turtles, as evidence that all is not lost when it comes to keeping underwater ecosystems going. They also identified six "recovery wedges" to focus on: - protecting species, protecting spaces, harvesting wisely, restoring habitats, reducing pollution and mitigating climate change.

They said that if we get all of these wedges working together at scale, we should see an abundance of marine life recovery by 2050. (They stress that it is possible, but it will need a massive effort in terms of finances and international cooperation.)

They say that marine life “can flourish again and expand to support a growing human population on land. These ecosystems feed us, support us, and even keep us protected from unknown viruses. If we don't act to guarantee the future of the world under the seas, then we don't have much of a future ourselves.”

Marine scientist Carlos Duarte, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia says, "We are at a point where we can choose between a legacy of a resilient and vibrant ocean or an irreversibly disrupted ocean. Our study documents recovery of marine populations, habitats and ecosystems following past conservation interventions. It provides specific, evidence-based recommendations to scale proven solutions globally."

Susana Agustí, a marine scientist from KAUST says, "Rebuilding marine life represents a do-able grand challenge for humanity, an ethical obligation and a smart economic objective to achieve a sustainable future."

(Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/techandscience/scientists-just-laid-out-a-detailed-plan-to-replenish-marine-life-by-2050/ar-BB12cFix?ocid=msedgdp>)

HISTORICAL NOTES

WWII'S OPERATION DAVY JONES' LOCKER

Between June 1946 and August 1948, the UK and US undertook Operation Davy Jones' Locker. It involved the dumping at sea of captured German chemical weapons following the end of World War II. The allies found large amounts of chemical weapons stockpiled by Germany following its defeat in WWII. A quickly convened Continental Committee on Dumping made an agreement for the destruction and disposal of the (296,103 tons) stockpile. The operation involved the scuttling of 38 ships containing tons of the captured weapons. Eleven of those 38 ships were scuttled in the region of Scandinavia over the course of five separate dumpings. Nine of those 11 ships were scuttled in Skagerrak Strait in the Baltic Sea. The other two out of the 11 were sunk in the North Sea.

ABOUT THE SDFSA...

SDFSA is a non-profit, incorporated membership association dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our unique underwater world.

JOIN US FOR FREE:

<https://sdfsa.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.

Together we can have real impact on the issues affecting the South Australian diving community.

If you wish to be added to the mailing list for this Newsletter, join the SDFSA!

You can also read about the Federation's work in monthly issues of DiveLog Australasia, Scubadiver ANZ and on our website at <https://sdfsa.net>. Stay up to date with the latest news through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/scubadivesa/>.

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