

SDFSFA Newsletter – September 2020

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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Announcing SDFSFA's New Group on Facebook!



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OUR LEAD STORY: A place to share SA dive site viz and conditions

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568109670769809>

We all know that diving in South Australia is world class, with unique marine life, glorious colour, and fantastic experiences to be had for novice divers and the most experiencing technical divers alike.

We also know that there are days when conditions may not be as stellar as we would like them to be. So the SDFSFA has set up a new group in Facebook to share information about South Australia dive site conditions and visibility.

This group is for everyone exploring South Australia underwater – including scuba, free divers and snorkellers (anyone who uses a mask!). Use this group to share information about water visibility and other diving conditions at sites across the State.

Visibility, wind, swell, current and other conditions can vary from site to site, and from high to low tide: sharing those details can help other divers decide whether to take a run out to one site or choose a different location or time. Sharing information about dive sites can also inspire divers to explore new locations if they haven't been on those sites before. It helps to know about unusual sightings and information about access (or temporary barriers to access) too – everything that can help divers to plan their dive.

So please: at the end of a dive, post a note to SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions – and feel free to share some photos or video too.

Anyone can find it on Facebook; but if you want to see what's been posted or to share viz and conditions info from a recent dive, you need to join the group. We've made it as simple as possible to join, but it may still take a day or two for requests to join to be approved.

Alex Suslin, SDFSFA committee member, is the moderator of the group.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Port Hughes jetty remains closed while the Copper Coast Council secures a structural assessment. Divers should be aware that not only is the jetty closed, no diving is permitted under the jetty at this time. SDFSFA VP Tony Leggatt is in regular contact with the Council to get progress reports.



Management of the Wirrina Cove Marina and boat ramp has been taken over by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI). Only patchwork maintenance is planned. At the time of the writing, the boat ramp is free of charge to use; however there is no fuel available at the Marina.

Australasian Diving Safety Foundation (ADSF) www.adsf.org.au

Australasian Diving Safety Foundation is an Australian Health Promotion Charity, formed with the funds from the closure of DAN Asia-Pacific. The Foundation has a general mission to reduce diving-related illness and injury.

There is a broad range of injuries and illnesses that a diver may suffer from. Some of these are directly related to diving itself, while other may be incidental. However, in any case, prompt first aid and diving medical advice is often required to minimise the impact.

Check out the ADSF website for more information, research reports and online education and training modules.

SDFS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

With the generous support of Bunnings, the SDFS held a sausage sizzle fundraiser in August and raised over \$1200. We hope to hold two such fundraisers every year, as a major source of revenue to support the work of the Federation.

Throughout September, the Committee will be working on a new directory of SA diving resources to be added to the SDFS website.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Each of the award winners in the 2020 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year competition, especially the underwater photo winners. Richard Robinson's photo of a female jewel anemone spawning finished as a runner-up in the competition. Alex Kydd's photo of a group of cownose rays (known as a fever of stingrays) won the Animal Behaviour category. Entries to the competition are on display at the SA Museum until 15th November.

Chelsea Haebich once more. Not only did she win the Guru Award, along with a whale trip to Tonga with Darren Jew, she also featured on pages 3, 28 & 53 of the Sunday Mail on 9th August. Chelsea was also interviewed about her win in Scuba Diver magazine – see <https://www.scubadivermag.com.au/q-a-chelsea-haebich-the-guru-award-2020>.

Heidi Newton on being named downunderpix's photographer of the month for August.

Elizabeth Solich for her wonderful marine-themed SALA art display at the Red Rhino Room Exhibition Space & Studio in August - see <https://www.facebook.com/Oceanic-Soiree-104057571114838/?eid=ARCrcwALOUJtqooYvahXS2O8XFIV7HJ5ce-4l4gY881LkInv0m-maGhIhjcfczccciNaBWVFqONxeJx4&fref=tag>. One of Elizabeth's pieces has been put on display at the new Rodney Fox Shark Experience Museum and Learning Centre.

Mark Tozer, Rodney and Kay Fox, and Andrew Fox on the opening of the new Rodney Fox Shark Experience Museum and Learning Centre. SCUBAPRO's Brett Blackwell visited the new Museum and Learning Centre and presented Mark and Andrew with some great new dive gear for their expeditions to the Neptune Islands to experience great white sharks.

Ian Moffat on being named one of SA's Young Tall Poppies for 2020.

Paddy O'Toole on being named the South Australian Historian of the Year for 2020 by the History Council of SA.

Divers Adrian Bullock & Andrew Lomakin who both had a memorable dive with a juvenile humpback whale at Lady Elliott Island, Queensland – see <https://www.9now.com.au/today/2020/clip-ckdqjbvic00350htdduddw73i> .

2020 - 2021 EVENTS

South Australia

SCIENCE ALIVE! November 2020. This year's Science Alive! Exhibition at the Adelaide Showgrounds may take place this November, dates TBC.

WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS- Adelaide -- 20-24 September 2021 – <https://wfc2020.com.au/>.

Interstate/International

PADI AWARE WEEK 2020 19-27th September

The 3rd annual PADI AWARE Week: <https://projectaware.org/news/aware-week-2020> .

MIDE 2020 - Malaysia International Dive Expo –4-6 December 2020 - www.mide.com.my .

6th International Eco Summit Conference - Gold Coast, Queensland – 14-18 June 2021.

ICRS 2021 – International Coral Reef Symposium 18th to 23rd July 2021

The 14th ICRS is being held in Bremen, Northern Germany the primary international conference on coral reef science, conservation and management, bringing together leading scientists, early career researchers, conservationists, ocean experts, policy makers, managers and the public. Visit <https://icrs2021.de/> for more details.

OZTEK CONFERENCE & OZDIVE EXPO 21 11-12th September 2021

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

Australian Marine Sciences Association 2021 will be held in Sydney with the theme - 'Marine Science in the Anthropocene'. Dates TBC. <https://amsa2020.amsa.asn.au/>.

New Zealand Marine Sciences Society will be held separately, dates and venue TBD.

AIDE 2020 - Australia International Dive Expo - CANCELLED - www.australiadiveexpo.com .

STEVE'S HISTORY and ARCHEOLOGY STORY

HMAS *PERTH* (1942) DEVASTATED BY SYSTEMATIC, UN-AUTHORISED SALVAGE WORK

By Steve Reynolds

Kieran Hosty, James Hunter & Shinatria Adhityatama have jointly written a report titled "HMAS Perth Project 2017, Sunda Strait, Republic of Indonesia". The project is a joint maritime archaeological project between the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) and Pusat Penelitian Arkeologi Nasional (PPAN) in Indonesia. In late 2013, divers visiting the wreck site of HMAS *Perth* (1942) in Indonesia reported to the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) that the warship was being systematically salvage by commercial divers. The ship was the grave of some 300 RAN and RAAF personnel. The RAN subsequently approached the Department of the Environment (Canberra) and the ANMM requesting their assistance in carrying out an archaeological survey of the *Perth*. It was not until December 2017, however, that the first Australian led remote sensing survey was carried out on the *Perth*. A second in-water survey in May 2017 carried out by the ANMM and PPAN revealed that the *Perth* has been devastated by systematic, large scale and un-authorised salvage work. Less than 40% of the once intact warship remained. *Perth's* wreck site was discovered by South Australian diver David Burchell, as described in his book "The Bells of Sunda Strait"

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month

SHARKS SEEK SAFETY IN SUBMARINE VOLCANOES

by Steve Reynolds

According to [Hordes of sharks found living in volcano](#) by Raffaella Ciccarelli, reef and hammerhead sharks are thriving in the explosive crater of Kavachi volcano in the Solomon Islands. (Sharks have also been found in an active volcano called Piton de la Fournaise at Réunion Island in the Indian Ocean.)

Kavachi is one of the world's most active submarine volcanoes. National Geographic's Dr Brennan Phillips discovered the sharks there in 2015. This led to a National Geographic documentary titled "Sharkcano".

Michael Heithaus from Florida International University's Department of Biological Sciences has since been studying why the sharks are attracted to the volcano. Water temperatures there reach near-boiling point 18 metres below the surface. Kavachi is so active that further studies into the sharks have been somewhat hampered.

Just how do the sharks survive in such an active crater? Professor Heithaus believes that the sharks' ampullae of Lorenzini (cluster of pores on their snout) enables them to detect changes in the earth's magnetic field before an eruption occurs.

It is thought that the ampullae of Lorenzini may also help the sharks to find other volcanic islands. "It looked like the sharks in the volcano were used to dealing with eruptions," Professor Heithaus said. "You would think it's dangerous, but studies have shown us they can detect approaching hurricanes and cyclones, so they may be able to detect when something bad is about to happen and move out of the way."

Although his research is still ongoing, Professor Heithaus says that the correlation between sharks and volcanoes is undeniable. His studies have also taken him to an active volcano called Piton de la Fournaise on the shores of Réunion Island. Swimming was banned there in 2013 because sharks are so abundant and 11 people have lost their lives in attacks, mostly by bull sharks, since 2011.

Professor Heithaus believes the bull sharks at Piton de la Fournaise are taking advantage of the sediment that washes down the volcano's slopes. He says that the cloudy waters at the volcano make an ideal hunting ground for the sharks.

Sharks have been found to be "functionally extinct" on nearly one in five coral reefs. Ironically, the extreme habitat of the volcano provides a safe-haven for them according to Professor Heithaus.

"The biggest threat to sharks by far is overfishing. There are just too many being caught and that is being driven by the demand for fins and shark meat," he said. "You're not going to go fishing around a volcano and probably some of the bigger sharks, who are predators, will be less inclined to go in there. We may not know exactly why they are there but the fact we saw so many in a fairly short window of time, suggests it is an importance place to those sharks. If it wasn't a great place to live they probably wouldn't be there... who doesn't like a hot tub?"

ABOUT THE SDFSА...

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

JOIN US FOR FREE:

<https://sdfsа.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 SDFSА!

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

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