

SDFSA Newsletter – November 2020



SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

Email: info@sdfsa.net

Web: <https://sdfsa.net>

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

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SDFSA BOOTH ON OPENING DAY AT SCIENCE ALIVE! 2020

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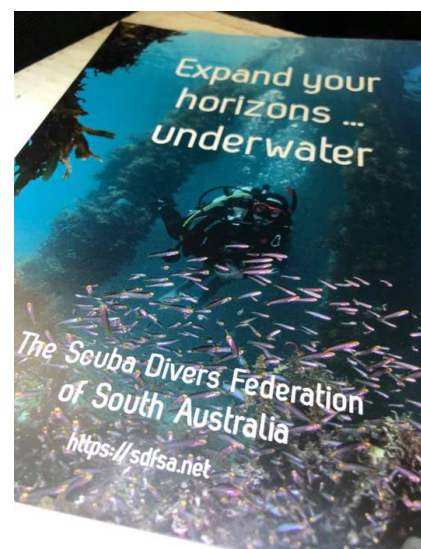
OUR LEAD STORY: SDFSA at Science Alive! 2020, November 6,7,8

Science Alive! is one of the largest interactive science exhibitions in Australia, held at the Adelaide Showgrounds every year. This year, over 60 exhibitors showcased state of the art experiences in science and technology, with a strong showing from the marine science community. SDFSA was there for the first time, promoting diving as a skill useful for marine science and marine archaeology, as well as something to enjoy for life. Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries had the adjoining booth promoting their Virtual Reality experience of the reefs of South Australia.



We launched the brand new SDFSA marquee, with the back wall photograph generously provided by Sebastien Landat, the winner of our marquee photo competition. We also released the new SDFSA brochure, with photos from the competition “runners up” – photos that were just too good not to put to use another way.

We were so impressed with the hundreds of people who came by our booth – young people and adults alike interested in learning to dive, and others who were either active divers, or had stopped diving while their children were young, but hoped to take it up again in future. As a result of our booth, we’ve signed up a number of new members to the Federation, and



encouraged others to check out the SDFSA directory of resources to find dive shops and clubs to join.

We also promoted the petition to reinstate fishing restrictions for the Giant cuttlefish, with several pages of signatures obtained over the three days of Science Alive.

Lots of lessons learned from our first time at Science Alive, including asking the organisers to group the marine science organisations more closely together. We have lots of ideas about more novel ways to get people to drop by the booth, more interactive elements including contests with draws for prizes, and even (in a post Covid scenario) ways for young people to try on masks and take a breath from a regulator.

It was great fun to be part of the larger science and technology community, and we will definitely have a booth there again.

Many thanks to Science Alive! for providing free booth space and signage for volunteer community organisations like the SDFSA.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Eddie Hughes has held open the petition until after Science Alive as a last effort to collect as many signatures as possible before tabling in the State legislature. The Science Alive petition sheets have been delivered to his office.

Several cars received parking tickets at the Second Valley car park next to the beach. Signage at the car park is being investigated, but in the meantime, divers should be aware that “if you are parking in the parallel parking section on the right hand side as you face the water then your car MUST FACE AWAY from the water/up the hill (ie in the direction of travel)” (many thanks to Simone Hebert for bringing this to everyone’s attention.

Look for the new SDFSA brochure – coming soon to a dive shop near you!

SDFSA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

At the October 28 2020 Special General Meeting, members voted to accept an amendment to the SDFSA Constitution section on membership. The provision to be able to award Lifetime Membership of the SDFSA to eligible members who have made a significant contribution to the work of the Federation and the sport of diving in South Australia has been adopted.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Sebastien Landat, winner of the SDFSA photograph marquee competition.

Carl Charter, Richard Harris, Michelle Kaczurowski and Chelsea Haebich, runners up in the competition, for the use of their photos in the new SDFSA brochure. Many thanks to all who entered the competition, we will be running more such competitions in the future.

Karen Gowlett-Holmes, on being inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame recently. Karen hails from South Australia and was a member of the predecessor to the Marine Life Society of SA before moving to Tasmania some years ago.

2020 - 2021 EVENTS

South Australia

2021 UNDERWATER TOUR

The 2021 Underwater Tour, hosted by Underwater Australasia and Underwater Tour, is being held at the Star Theatre, Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Hilton on Monday 17th May 6 – 10pm. Presenters include Aaron Wong, Richard Smith and Janet Lanyon.

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

Interstate/International

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.

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.

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.

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

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month

By Steve Reynolds

I confess that I maintain only a limited interest in molluscs, even less interest in deep-water species or fossilised specimens. This is despite having a few friends with a great interest in either. A report about the discovery of a large rare gastropod (sea snail) fossil at a Mount Gambier quarry on page 13 of The Advertiser of 20th October 2020, however, took my attention, mainly because it mentioned the name of a palaeontologist that I was familiar with. I knew the name of Adam Yates through my (limited) involvement with iNaturalist - www.inaturalist.org . I decided to find out more about Adam Yates and the gastropod in question.

(It does appear, however, that there are at least three 'Adam Yates' who are involved with iNaturalist.)

I found The Advertiser report online at <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/messenger/mount-gambier/rare-23millionyearold-fossil-uneearthed-at-mount-gambier-quarry-now-its-up-for-sale/news-story/13f7590ea939aa9e9b6871a032ecd143> . The article stated that the 23m-year-old fossil was being put up for sale. It had been found in a Mount Gambier dolomite mine by local miner.

The article went on to explain that "Adam Yates, senior curator of earth sciences at the Museum of Central Australia in Alice Springs, has studied a latex rubber peel of a mould from the specimen, labelling it a peretrochus, from a time period stretching 33.9 – 23m years ago."

Mr Yates said, "The whole South-East of SA, in the Oligocene Epoch was under the sea..... It probably is the best of peretrochus fossil from Australia." He also said that "peretrochus was still alive today but restricted to very deep water – mostly below 150m – whereas during the Oligocene, it lived in a shallow sea covering the South-East..... It might be the same species of peretrochus that lived in Victoria, of which there are six specimens, or a new related species only known from the Mount Gambier region." There is apparently only one other peretrochus fossil specimen from the Mount Gambier region.

At this point, I had no idea just what a peretrochus actually was. Some of my library books were not have any help at all. Even iNaturalist wasn't helpful to me, with my limited knowledge, so had to resort to "Googling" it.

The ever faithful Wikipedia told me that "Peretrochus (are) species of large sea snail, a marine gastropod mollusc in the family Pleurotomariidae, the slit snails". Now I had another name to look for in my books - Pleurotomariidae. Even that word eluded me. The closest word I could find in my books was 'Pleurotomaria'. I managed to find one old book, "Molluscs" by JE Morton, that listed 'Pleurotomaria' in the index.

When discussing spiral coiling, the book went on to state, "In Pleuromaria, though spirally coiled, there are still two gill and hypobranchial glands, about equally large..... In the living Pleurotomaria..... the body whorl of the shell and mantle are slit open by a long fissure as far back as the anus." I now felt like I was on the right track regarding slit snails.

According to "The Pleurotomariidae of the J. Batt Collection" by John Batt at <https://www.britishshellclub.org/pleurotomariidae---batt.html> , there are many species of Pleurotomariidae. This web page features numerous photos taken by Roberto Rodolico. It also stated, "There are two essential publications available on this remarkable family. The first is "The Living Pleurotomariidae" by Patrick Anseeuw and Y. Goto, 1996. The second is Visaya supplement 1, "Pleurotomariidae: An Iconographic Visit", 2005 by P. Anseeuw and G.T. Poppe."

It seems that there are four genera (plural of 'genus') that fall within the family Pleurotomariidae. Genus Peretrochus is just one of these. There are around a dozen species of Peretrochus. You are unlikely to find any specimens during your dives though.

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/>.

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.

PO Box 287, Christies Beach SA 5165

Email: info@sdfsa.net

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