

SDFSFA Newsletter – March 2021



SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

Email: info@sdfsfa.net or Web: <https://sdfsfa.net>

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

SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions:

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

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Rapid Bay, 2021. Photo courtesy of H. Creech.

In this month's issue

OUR LEAD STORY: Announcing the recipients of the SDFSFA LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP award of merit..	2
IMPORTANT NOTICES	3
Celebrate SCUBA in March! SA Scuba Week(s) for the 2020-21 Dive season	3
Spearfishing at Rapid Bay	3
SDFSFA COMMITTEE BUSINESS	3
CONGRATULATIONS TO	3
2021 EVENTS.....	4
HISTORY STORY for the month	5
Marineland	5
STEVE'S SCIENCE STORIES for the month	5
FEEDBACK ON FISH PHOTOGRAPHY	5
DR IAN MOFFAT on understanding past climates	6
ABOUT THE SDFSFA.....	6

OUR LEAD STORY: Announcing the recipients of the SDFSa LIFE MEMBERSHIP award of merit

The SDFSa Life Membership honour was proposed and approved at a Special General Meeting of the Federation in October 2020 as a way to recognise and celebrate the significant contribution that an individual has made to the Federation and to the sport of diving in South Australia. This recognition is long overdue to those who have so generously volunteered their time to make South Australia one of the best places in the world for diving.

The first three recipients of the SDFSa Life Membership are Steve Reynolds, Peter Koszegi and Hank van der Wijngaart.

STEVE REYNOLDS

Steve's Life Membership award recognises his tireless service on the SDFSa Committee for 32 years, starting in 1988 as the representative for the Marine Life Society of South Australia (MLSSA), and stepping down from his role as Secretary in 2019. He has been an enduring presence in South Australia diving, working with the Federation through many issues and challenges, including the impact of drains on Aldinga reef, the sinking of the ex-HMAS Hobart, the desalination plant, the construction of artificial reefs and many others. He has provided continuity for the Federation as Committee members have come and gone, and served in many respects as a guiding light, keeping the diving community informed and engaged through hundreds of newsletters and DiveLog columns over several decades.

PETER KOSZEGI

In his 10 years of service as SDFSa President from 1993 to 2004, Peter brought together all the Scuba Diving clubs to have a strong voice with government and industry to represent the interests of divers and the protection of the marine environment. Notable among his achievements was how he fought for and secured the installation of the original divers steps at Port Noarlunga jetty. Port Noarlunga's emergence as one of the premier dive sites in South Australia is largely due to his efforts to ensure access and safety for SCUBA divers, free divers and snorkellers.

HANK van der WIJNGAART

Hank served as SDFSa President for eight consecutive years, with another six years in the roles of Vice-President, Treasurer and Public Officer. Among his many contributions was the redevelopment of the Rapid Bay jetties (old and new) into a world class dive venue that has attracted divers to South Australia from around the world. His role on various government consultation groups has led to the establishment of protocols for shark cage diving, diving with Sea dragons, setting up and maintaining buoys on the ex-HMAS Hobart and other actions to ensure both the safety of divers and of South Australia's marine life.

The SDFSa Life Membership awards will be presented at the Dive for Cancer gala dinner, Friday 19 March 2021, from 6:45 to 10:15pm, U City Function Centre, 43 Franklin Street, Adelaide SA 5000. In addition to the presentation of Lifetime Memberships, the evening will include a three course dinner and drinks, a charity auction and Dr Richard Harris as Guest Speaker for the evening. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Celebrate SCUBA in March! SA Scuba Week(s) for the 2020-21 Dive season

The SDFSa will be coming to you this month to share in your love of all things scuba, freediving and snorkelling. You will find the SDFSa Marquee and SDFSa Committee members at the following locations and dates (weather permitting):

- Edithburgh jetty: Saturday, 6th March, 10 am – 2pm.
- Rapid Bay jetty: Saturday, 13th March, 10 am – 2 pm.
- Port Noarlunga jetty, in concert with Dive for Cancer: Sunday, 21 March, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Drop by the Marquee to say hi and chat with us about what you love about diving in South Australia and how we can help to make South Australia a world class diving destination.

March is a great month for celebrating diving – come to hear Dr. Richard Harris at the Dive for Cancer gala dinner; or join the dive itself on Sunday at Port Noarlunga, and stay for the sausage sizzle (tickets on Eventbrite). You can catch a film too at the Ocean Film Festival on Saturday 20 March: Matinee 2-5pm; Evening 7-10pm. Held at the Capri Theatre, Goodwood.

Spearfishing at Rapid Bay

Members have alerted us to possible infractions of the prohibition on spearfishing around the old Rapid Bay jetty. The rule is no spearfishing within “100m of jetties, landings and wharves, including foreshore areas.” The SDFSa has contacted PIRSA, they are aware of people spearfishing at Rapid Bay jetty and signs reminding spearfishers of the restrictions will be going up in the next 2- 3 weeks. Call Fishwatch **1800 605 522** to report any incidents of spearfishing under and around jetties.

SDFSa COMMITTEE BUSINESS

We have several small changes to the Committee to announce!

- President: Tony Leggatt (formerly the Vice President)
- Vice President: Andrew Hunter (formerly the President)
- Acting Secretary: Sara Leggatt (Brendan Toohey to remain as a Committee Member)

And we have two new Committee members: Welcome to Sebastien Landat and Karolyn Landat.

Next Committee meeting will be 24 March 2021, at the Arab Steed Hotel, 7pm.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Dr Scoresby Shepherd AO on his official farewell held at PIRSA/SARDI at West Beach on 1st March.
- Steve Reynolds & David Muirhead on the publication of their article titled “Chance Dance in Paradise” about pipefish mating in the February issue of Dive Log (p. 66-67). The whole magazine can be found at <https://user-80925338.cld.bz/DIVE-LOG-AUSTRALASIA>.
- Dr Ian Moffat on being a 2020 SASEIA* Finalist in the SA Tall Poppy of the Year awards – see details further below. (* SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards -- Department for Innovation and Skills)

- Steve Reynolds on being published in the latest issue (Autumn 2021?) of the Historical Diving Society Asia-Pacific's "Classic Diver" magazine. Visit <http://www.historicaldivingsociety.com.au/> for more details.)

2021 EVENTS

South Australia

March 2021 SA SCUBA WEEK(S) – (weather permitting): Edithburgh Saturday 6 March; Rapid Bay Saturday 13 March; Port Noarlunga Sunday 21 March to coincide with Dive for Cancer

7 March: CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY Visit <https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/create-a-clean-up> to register. Think about adopting a marine venue as your Clean up spot!

19 MARCH and 21 March: Dive for Cancer. Friday the 19th 6:45 – 10pm will be an evening gala and charity auction, with guest speaker Richard Harris and the presentation of SDFS Lifetime memberships; on Sunday there will be a group dive and sausage sizzle. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/diveforcancer>. Tickets on Eventbrite.

20 March: OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL. Matinee 2-5pm; Evening 7-10pm. Held at the Capri Theatre, 141 Goodwood Rd., Goodwood. Book tickets at oceanfilmfestivalaustralia.com.au.

3-17 April, FESTIVAL FLEURIEU 2021

The 2021 Festival Fleurieu is being held from 3rd to 17th April. Visit either <https://www.festivalfleurieu.com.au/> or <https://www.facebook.com/FestivalFleurieu/> for more details.

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

20-24 September 2021: World Fisheries Congress, to be held in Adelaide – <https://wfc2020.com.au/>.

Interstate/International

APRIL: CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH 2021

Citizen Science Month is being held in April 2021. With support from the National Library of Medicine, you can organize, facilitate and/or promote events and citizen science projects throughout April. Visit CitizenScienceMonth.org to find free, downloadable, customizable resources, event planning guides, best practices, summative evaluation outcomes and a link to join the Citizen Science Month mailing list. You don't have to be a citizen science project leader to organize a Citizen Science Month event with SciStarter. Contact them via email to info@scistarter.org.

MAY: NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 2021

This year's National Archaeology Week runs from 16th to 22nd May. Visit <https://archaeologyweek.org/> for more details.

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

JULY: 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.

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

OZTek, the Advanced Diving Conference & Exhibition has 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.

HISTORY STORY for the month

Marineland

Check out Channel 7 News' February Flashback feature regarding Marineland, including an interview with Steve Reynolds. Marineland was a marine park complete with performing dolphins located at West Beach, Adelaide, between 1969 and 1988. The park closed in 1988 "amid mounting opposition to keeping animals for public entertainment" (MLSSA). A copy of the Channel 7 story can be found at https://www.instagram.com/p/CLYyOGZhNxG/?fbclid=IwAR1-6s_hREl2wOGgHnKdmEXUKV3_UTPvxtqKE4BfsGeKU0ieuLPUTYdgm0.

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

FEEDBACK ON FISH PHOTOGRAPHY

Following on from last month's article titled "What Are the Effects of Flash Photography on Fish?", downunderpix's Paul Macdonald wrote to me, saying "Hi Steve, Good article re seahorses and photographers in the newsletter. Appropriate behaviour is important. As a result, I have asked some photographers / videographers on our weekend at Edithburgh, this weekend. Edithburgh is a popular spot to see short-headed sea horses and they are easy to find. I asked if anyone had ever seen dead sea horses at Edithburgh. I haven't, and no one else reported they had seen one dead. I would have thought if flashes and video lights were a problem, we would see some dead ones around. But we don't.

It would be interesting to know if any SA divers have seen dead ones and if so what dive sites. (It) could add some weight to any arguments about photographic impacts. None of the people I spoke to handle the animals and that would be poor form and strongly discouraged.

My 10 cents worth mate. All the best. Cheers, Paul Macdonald, DOWNUNDERPIX, www.downunderpix.com.

I thanked Paul for his input and asked him to advise me of any further findings on this topic.

DR IAN MOFFAT on understanding past climates

Dr Ian Moffat was a 2020 SASEIA* Finalist in the SA Tall Poppy of the Year awards. (* SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards --Department for Innovation and Skills).

According to the web page found at <https://www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au/tall-poppy-2020>:

“Humans and our ancestors have lived through many periods of dramatic climate change, which have unquestionably influenced our evolution. Unfortunately, high quality climate records are often not available from archaeological sites making it difficult to directly measure the impacts of changing temperature, sea level and rainfall on how humans have evolved over time. Dr Moffat’s research is focused on examining the sediments in archaeological cave sites using exciting new techniques, such as sub-surface imaging and analyzing the chemistry of teeth, to try to better understand past climates.

Dr Moffat has partnered with many community groups to map unmarked graves within historic and Indigenous cemeteries which has involved many presentations and he has run workshops for a number of Indigenous schools on using geophysical and geomatic methods in archaeology. He has written several articles for The Conversation and worked with Channel 7 and SAPOL on the 2018 investigation of the Castalloy Factory to attempt to locate the Beaumont children which attracted extensive national media.

Dr Moffat completed his PhD at the Australian National University in 2013. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Archaeological Science at Flinders University.”

ABOUT THE SDFS...

SDFS 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.

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 SDFS!

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

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