

# SDFSFA Newsletter – April 2021

## SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

Email: [info@sdfsfa.net](mailto: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>

Join us for free! <https://sdfsfa.net/membership-categories/>



SDFSFA at Port Noarlunga...



SDFSFA setting up at Edithburgh...

## *In this month's issue*

OUR LEAD STORY: SDFSFA March Madness .....	2
IMPORTANT NOTICES .....	2
Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone .....	2
New underwater monitoring camera at Rapid Bay .....	2
SDFSFA COMMITTEE BUSINESS .....	3
CONGRATULATIONS TO... ..	3
2021 EVENTS.....	3
HISTORY STORY for the month .....	5
STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month .....	5
ABOUT THE SDFSFA... ..	7

## OUR LEAD STORY: SDFSa March Madness

March was our month for the SDFSa Mini Scuba Weeks, where we came to you! We took our marquee and committee members to Edithburgh and Port Noarlunga to meet you, listen to your interests and to promote diving and snorkelling to those who haven't yet experienced the beautiful waters of South Australia. We had hoped to get to Rapid Bay as well but the weather didn't cooperate – our tent would have blown all the way to Victor Harbour had we tried to set it up! But we do intend to get to Rapid Bay at some future date.

Our combined event with Dive for Cancer – the presentation of the SDFSa Life membership awards to Steve Reynolds, Peter Koszegi and Hank van der Wijngaart – has been postponed to Dive for Cancer's future date. Stay tuned for details.

March was also a major membership drive for the Federation: support for our work has grown considerably this year, with almost 600 divers, free divers and snorkellers following our Facebook page, and over 800 people now using our SA Dive Sites Facebook group to share information about visibility and other conditions for our favourite and new spots around the State.

But we need more! We would ask that everyone in our Facebook community also sign up for full Membership in the SDFSa. It's free, and takes only a minute or two to join. We need solid membership numbers to support our work to State and local councils – it is crucial in order to increase our ability to advocate for stronger protections for marine life like the Giant cuttlefish, and to improve access to SA dive sites for local, inter-state and international tourists.

So – if you are reading this Newsletter, but you haven't yet signed up as a member, click the Sign UP button on our FB page, or go to <https://sdfs.net/membership-2/membership-form/> and join today!

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone

The Department for Environment and Water has made the former Port Stanvac jetty area a sanctuary zone as part of the Encounter Marine Park. The area has been declared a sanctuary zone to allow marine life to flourish. When the old jetty site re-opens, divers will be allowed to visit the area, but fishermen will be excluded. Details can be found in the Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Amendment 2020 at [https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/marine\\_parks/sa-marine-parks-review/park\\_management\\_plans\\_dec\\_2020\\_updates/encounter-marine-park-management-plan-amendment.pdf](https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/marine_parks/sa-marine-parks-review/park_management_plans_dec_2020_updates/encounter-marine-park-management-plan-amendment.pdf)

### New underwater monitoring camera at Rapid Bay

AusOcean has successfully installed a low-cost camera beneath the waves at Rapid Bay to produce live monitoring of the all the action (and the divers!) under the old jetty. Thanks to the generous of many who contributed to the crowd funding for the camera, AusOcean was able to develop the mechanical underwater housing and comms/power support and software for video capture and analysis. Tap into this live feed anywhere in the world to experience Rapid Bay: <https://bit.ly/3sDLIaC>

## SDFS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Our thanks to Sara Leggatt for stepping in as Acting Secretary. Helena Wescombe-Down will be Secretary for the balance of 2020-21, with Karolyn Ruc serving as the SDFS Treasurer.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Whyalla City Council on being awarded state government funding for its Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary Tourism and Environmental Management Project. Further details can be found at <https://www.whyllanewsonline.com.au/story/7181466/cuttle-coast-focus-of-2m-tourism-project/>.

Marine archaeologist Dr Jeremy Green on being invested as an Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau during March. Video footage of the presentation can be found at [https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1268121476978623&notif\\_id=1616571528250158&notif\\_t=watch\\_follower\\_video&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1268121476978623&notif_id=1616571528250158&notif_t=watch_follower_video&ref=notif).

Anita Futterer and all the SA Nudibranch enthusiasts on the launching of the new FB group, "Nudibranchs South Australia". <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1139158499833023>.

The Big Anchor Project which has received a funding boost from the Honor Frost Foundation. The funding will help the Big Anchor Project to update their website and resources, and also help to launch a new project. More details about the grant can be found at [https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/big-anchor-project-funding?fbclid=IwAR0xO6MdQBWwthKwi1sVyugN34qaHVM\\_AolK3QyCuswsLJtDIU6Y60xsMZ4](https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/big-anchor-project-funding?fbclid=IwAR0xO6MdQBWwthKwi1sVyugN34qaHVM_AolK3QyCuswsLJtDIU6Y60xsMZ4).

Dave Harasti on having the Red Wide-bodied Pipefish, *Stigmatopora harastii* named after him last year. To top things off, *Stigmatopora harastii* has also been selected in World Register of Marine Species' top-ten species of 2020. See Steve's story about "The Red Wide-bodied Pipefish, *Stigmatopora harastii*" below.

## 2021 EVENTS

### **South Australia**

**16 April, 6-8 pm, SCUBA IN THE PUB at the Rob Roy Hotel.** Janine Baker, Seadragons and their friends: citizen science projects in the SA diving community. Steve Saville, passionate Shipwreck Hunter. Book your ticket on Eventbrite.

### **3-17 April, FESTIVAL FLEURIEU 2021**

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

**1-30 May, SOUTH AUSTRALIA HISTORY FESTIVAL.** This year's History Festival is being held 1-30 May. For details, see <https://festival.history.sa.gov.au/about>.

**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.

### **Late May to June: GIANT CUTTLEFISH BREEDING AGGREGATION**

The Giant Australian cuttlefish breeding aggregation returns to the Whyalla area at this time of the year (late May/early June) and they remain there for 2-3 months. Most SA dive clubs arrange their annual trips to the area well in advance.

**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](https://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](mailto:info@scistarter.org).

#### **14 April: OCEAN CLIMATE ACTION CAPITOL HILL LOBBY DAY, via Zoom**

Ocean Climate Action 2021 Capitol Hill Lobby Day, with Dr Sylvia Earle giving the opening remarks. Visit <http://bit.ly/3v01b67> for more information and to sign up.

#### **MAY: NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 2021**

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

#### **5 JUNE: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

#### **8 JUNE: WORLD OCEANS DAY**

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

#### **JULY: ICRS 2021 – International Coral Reef Symposium 18<sup>th</sup> 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

By Steve Reynolds

### SHIPWRECKS OF THE ROARING FORTIES

A book titled “Shipwrecks of the Roaring Forties” (edited by Drs Alistair Paterson and Jeremy Green) was published recently. According to the web page found at <https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/products/shipwrecks-of-the-roaring-forties>, “The Shipwrecks of the Roaring 40s project was funded by the Australian Research Council to investigate some of the earliest and most important shipwrecks in Western Australia, including the four Dutch East Indiamen wrecked in the 17th and 18th centuries. A wide range of research was conducted, often deploying new scientific and investigative technologies. The story of the project is told in this richly illustrated book for the first time.”

## STEVE’S SCIENCE STORY for the month

By Steve Reynolds

### The Red Wide-bodied Pipefish, *Stigmatopora harastii*

Dave Harasti had a pipefish named after him by Dr Graham Short (@syngnathids) and Andrew Trevor-Jones (@ATJ777ATJ) last year. Harasti first spotted the Red Wide-bodied Pipefish in Jervis Bay, NSW. It has since been found to inhabit semi-exposed bay entrances and ocean embayments in sandy areas, interspersed amongst rocky reefs at depths of 12-25 metres. Most notably, it associates with finger sponges and red algae in contrast to the other members of *Stigmatopora* that associate with brown algae and seagrass in shallow coastal and estuarine habitats. To top things off, the Red Wide-bodied Pipefish, *Stigmatopora harastii* has also been selected in the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS, @WRMarineSpecies) top-ten species of 2020. WoRMS is “an authoritative classification and catalogue of marine names”.

The Red Wide-bodied Pipefish was “listed as one of the top ten remarkable new marine species from 2020 - the only fish and Australian institution to make this year’s list. This colourful new species of pipefish has been chosen for the Top-Ten for its clever camouflage, among red algae and sponges, and the fact that it has been described from Sydney’s underwater doorstep, a popular dive site where it has been hiding for years without anyone realising.”

Further details about the Top-Ten listing can be found at <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/theres-so-much-more-to-learn-about-our-planet-researchers-name-top-10-marine-species-discovered-in-2020>, including photos & video footage. The Top-Ten includes some incredibly cool creatures. A complete list, including details, can be found at [https://lifewatch.be/en/worms-top10-2020#Advhena\\_magnifica](https://lifewatch.be/en/worms-top10-2020#Advhena_magnifica).

You can read more about the Red Wide-bodied Pipefish at <https://bit.ly/3lvkL66>. David Harasti is a Senior Research Scientist with NSW DPI Fisheries. Andrew Trevor-Jones is a “naturalist, diver, photographer & FrogID Validator” at the Australian Museum. Dr Graham Short is a “Research Associate (in) Ichthyology (at the) Australian Museum Research Institute. He is also the Overseas Ambassador for the Marine Life Society of SA. Dr Short lists his interests as “Phylogenetics and taxonomy of syngnathids (seahorses, pipehorses, pipefish, and seadragons) at the California Academy of Sciences and Australian Museum”.

The paper describing the Red Wide-bodied Pipefish is “Short G & Trevor-Jones A (2020) *Stigmatopora harastii*, a new species of finger sponge and red algae associating pipefish from New South Wales, Australia (Teleostei, Syngnathidae)”. It can be found in Zookeys at

<https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.994.57160> . There is an Australian Museum Animal Factsheet “Parkinson, K. 2020, Red Wide-bodied Pipefish, *Stigmatopora harastii*, Short & Trevor-Jones, 2020”.

#### The Sea Anemone Expert, Professor Daphne Fautin

Professor DG (Daphne Gail) Fautin died on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (in Medford, Oregon, USA). The taxonomist contributed to the description of numerous new sea anemone species. She was apparently a “font of knowledge of all rules nomenclatural”. She also is said to have “had the most amazing personal library of old literature, where you could find the original description of just about any sea anemone species ever published” and “She developed and ran the Hexacorals of the World website (Hexacorals: Hexacorallians of the World in the Catalogue of Life), where you could find information relating to type localities, specimens, distribution, synonymies, and literature citations”.

According to the web page found at <https://www.gbif.org/dataset/c06b4a6f-13a8-4081-b00a-1fccc2baa86f> , “This database contributes data on members of the order Actiniaria (sea anemones) to the Catalogue of Life. The original Hexacorals database also provides information on the taxa, literature, type specimens, distribution maps, and images of extant hexacorallians. As well as the order Actiniaria, the Hexacorals database also includes data on members of the orders Corallimorpharia, Ptychodactiaria, and Zoanthidea (sea anemones in the loose sense), Ceriantharia (tube anemones), and Scleractinia (hard or stony corals).”

According to Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daphne\\_Gail\\_Fautin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daphne_Gail_Fautin) , “Daphne Gail Fautin was an American professor of invertebrate zoology at the University of Kansas, specializing in sea anemones and symbiosis. She is world-renowned for her extensive work studying and classifying sea anemones and related species. .... Fautin has published numerous scientific articles and texts — including co-authoring Encyclopædia Britannica's entry on cnidarians—and her publications have been widely cited by other researchers in the field.”

She was the “curator of the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and served as vice president and commissioner of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, overseeing the naming of new species.”

“Fautin has been called “the world authority on [sea] anemones” ..... She has personally identified at least 19 new species and has co-created with her husband, Prof. R. (Robert) W. Buddemeier of the Kansas Geological Survey, an extensive database of hexacorals and related species as part of the census... A large sea anemone-like cnidarian species has been named in her honor, originally called *Bolocerooides daphneae*, but recently renamed to *Relicanthus daphneae*, after it was discovered (using DNA-based identification techniques) to belong to a previously unknown cnidarian order.”

She received her Ph.D. in zoology in 1972 from the University of California. “Her Ph.D. dissertation was “Natural History of the Sea Anemone *Epiactis prolifera* Verrill, 1869, with Special Reference to Its Reproductive Biology”.”

According to the web page found at <https://www.reef2rainforest.com/2021/03/20/dr-daphne-fautin-1946-2021/> , Dr. Daphne Fautin and her husband, oceanographer Dr. Robert Buddemeier had co-published papers on climate change and its impact on coral reefs.

Also, “Dr. Daphne G. Fautin (was) an invertebrate zoologist who pioneered research into sea anemones and their symbiotic associations with anemonefishes”. She was a “Professor Emerita at the University of Kansas, where she taught for 23 years”.

Dr. Fautin is said to have described herself as follows:

“An invertebrate zoologist, I do research centered on sea anemones. Because one of my major interests is symbiosis, I have worked also on a variety of organisms that live with sea anemones, including fishes, crustaceans, and algae. A recurring theme of this research is choice among species of potential symbiotic partners. Many of the symbioses I have studied—such as those of anemonefishes and anemone shrimps—are associated with coral reefs, one of my environmental foci. My doctoral research was on sea anemone reproduction. That interest continues, with some of my current research being on reproductive periodicity of an abyssal species. I am also interested in general natural history, particularly with regard to habitat specificity. My post-doctoral research was in pharmacognosy—I extracted biologically active compounds from sea anemones for possible development as new pharmaceuticals.”

Also according to the web page found at <https://www.reef2rainforest.com/2021/03/20/dr-daphne-fautin-1946-2021/>, Dr Fautin was the author of numerous scientific papers. She “teamed up with reef fish ichthyologist Dr. Gerald R. Allen to publish “Anemone Fishes and Their Host Sea Anemones” in 1994”.

## 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/>.

## **SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.**

PO Box 287, Christies Beach SA 5165

Email: [info@sdfsа.net](mailto:info@sdfsа.net)

### *Disclaimer*

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