

SDFSA Newsletter – May 2021



SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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

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HOW KIDS CAN LEARN ABOUT PROTECTING THE OCEAN...

Elizabeth Solich has published a new children's book: Aqua-Clare's Ocean Adventures -- Cedric Finds Artificial Artefacts.

The world's growing plastic problem is huge, and the challenge to bring about change is daunting. How can we inspire our children and bring awareness to this subject? With the aid of her friend Aqua-Clare, author, artist and photographer Elizabeth Solich has found a way by making connections with fun and interesting ocean characters. Elizabeth and Aqua-Clare introduce some of South Australia's most iconic marine species -- all of which have a story to tell of the ocean's unwanted artefacts.

Who wouldn't want to help Cedric the Old Wife out and then hang around for more adventures with a sleepy Squid or Cyril the Seahorse? Aqua-Clare takes it all in her stride, as she goes on a scuba diving adventure to help her new-found friends remove rubbish from the ocean.

Through this story and adventure, Elizabeth brings two big worlds together to deliver one simple message about just what you can do to make a difference to the world around you and the often-unseen world of the Ocean.

The book can be purchased from the Oceanic Soiree website, at <http://oceanicsoiree.com/product/aqua-clares-ocean-adventures-cedric-finds-artificial-artefacts/>

Price: \$15.

ADSF AED SUPPORT FOR DIVE CLUBS:

Survival from a cardiac arrest relies on a number of factors, including early activation of the emergency services, early CPR, early defibrillation, and early Advanced Cardiac Life Support. Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) plus defibrillation within 3-5 minutes of cardiac arrest can produce survival rates as high as 49-75%. However, the longer the delay, the lower the chance of survival.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are electronic devices that assess heart rhythm and can deliver an electric shock when a lethal but shockable rhythm is detected. They have been shown to be safe and effective and are increasingly common in public spaces and workplaces for use by bystanders, with or without training. All CPR courses now include an orientation to using an AED.

Diving and cardiac problems

The diving population is aging and, currently, the average age of active divers is around 45 years old. Over more recent years, around 25-30% of diving-related deaths are the result of cardiac issues, which are often undiagnosed so the victim may be unaware of any potential problem. Diving is conducive to cardiac problems and usually takes place in locations where there will be inevitable delays to the arrival of emergency services. As a result, the likelihood of early defibrillation is low. A diver's chance of survival can be increased if they are rescued swiftly, CPR is begun with minimal delay, and there is an AED available at the dive site.

The AED promotion

To this end, the Australasian Diving Safety Foundation (ADSF) is trialling a new Diving Safety Promotion to encourage dive clubs to purchase an AED and have it available when their members are diving. Suitable AEDs are available on the market for around \$1,800 - \$2,300.

Application

The ADSF promotion includes reimbursement of \$1,250 of the purchase price of a new AED.

An application process including a questionnaire applies. Based on responses to these, the ADSF will assess whether it will provide support. The process is confidential and there will be no right of appeal if an organisation's application is unsuccessful. It may be wise to await confirmation of a successful grant prior to purchasing a unit.

An authorised dive club representative would need to provide evidence of purchase of the AED and a completed application form. We are very interested in the outcome of this project and plan to maintain contact with grant recipients annually, to learn of any issues and outcomes associated with the AED. **For further information and to access the application form, visit the ADSF website:**

<https://www.adsf.org.au/r/dive-club-aed-grant>

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

The top of the wave generator that sank 1500m offshore at Carrickalinga seven years ago is being partially removed from the structure. The structure left below the surface will form an artificial reef in 16m of water. The works are expected to be completed in late May, depending on weather conditions. A lit navigation beacon will mark the site and a sign will advise of a 100m exclusion zone, which means that any vessels have to stay out of the area.

The road to The Bluff at Victor Harbor was closed for a few days during April due to storm damage. However, after prompt clean up and repairs by the Council the Bluff Jetty access road has now been re-opened. Approval for a new \$31.1m Granite Island Causeway was granted on 1st March. Details of the construction timelines are yet to be announced, but according to the Victor Harbor Times "Given the new Causeway will run alongside the current one during construction ensures a seamless transition from the old to the new and enables business and tourism to keep operating at full capacity..

The historic One Mile Jetty at Carnarvon, WA has been badly damaged by Cyclone Seroja. We will be monitoring reports of other damage to the marine environment and structures along the popular snorkelling and diving areas of the Coral Coast.

SDFS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The SDFS Newsletter for June and July will be a combined issue. Members can look for it in their inboxes in early July.

Our next meeting will be at the Arab Steed Hotel, 7pm, 26 May.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Marine Life Society of SA founder, and life member, Tony Isaacson who featured on Channel 9's "60 Minutes" along with shark attack survivor, Paul de Gelder. Tony took Paul diving with bull sharks in Fiji for a "60 Minutes" report.
- Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries' Chloe Williams who talked on air with ABC Radio's Peter Goers about diving, marine life, fishing, shark & ray abuse, leafy seadragons and more during April.
- Adjunct Associate Professor Mark Staniforth on being awarded a Flinders University Distinguished Alumni Award recently for his work on maritime archaeology. A story by Steve Reynolds on Mark's work will appear in the June/July issue of the SDFSA newsletter.
- Dr. Lauren Meyer also received a Flinders University Alumni Award for her studies on Shark Trophic Ecology -- sharks and their behaviour. She has been diving off Norfolk Island to study tiger sharks, and she has researched both the diet of endangered skates in the arctic and of sharks and rays in Japan, using cutting-edge biochemical ecology techniques. She has also researched the impacts of the cage-diving industry on the diet of white sharks.

The Flinders University Distinguished Alumni Awards acknowledge the significant contributions made by Flinders' graduates to the community, the University or within their chosen field, locally, nationally and internationally. The full list of award recipients can be found at <https://www.flinders.edu.au/alumni/our-alumni/awards-and-honours/alumni-award-recipients.html>.

2021 EVENTS

South Australia

Friday 14th May, 6-8 pm, SCUBA IN THE PUB. This month's presenters are Peter Lesty, introducing his DiveDB app (a free fish identification app) & Charlie Huveneers on the topics of "bite proof wetsuit material research" and "technology used to track and research sharks". Bookings essential: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/scuba-in-the-pub-tickets-150542008199?fbclid=IwAR0Tt_1RnBw0xPsONK9FMHYftTnRFe_lomzWi4odEmcAjRAR5GyGjtAudA

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/>.

10-12 December 2021, CELEBRATING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY: The current jetty was completed 100 years ago in 1921. The Port Noarlunga Business and Tourism Association will present a 3 day event to celebrate what has happened on, under, above or around the Port Noarlunga Jetty for the past century. There will be a significant number of events spanning over the 3 days – **watch this space for further info.**

Interstate/International

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 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.

POSTPONED TO 2022: OZTEK CONFERENCE & OZDIVE EXPO 1-2 October 2022

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.

HISTORY STORY for the month

By Steve Reynolds

It is now over 13 years since my article titled “B-25 Mitchell Bomber” was published in the December 2007 issue of Dive Log magazine. The article concerned the American B-25D Mitchell Bomber which plunged into the sea off of Papua New Guinea in August 1943 after being hit by ground fire. The history of the plane features in a DVD titled “The Bomber Reef – War in the Pacific”

I recently saw a little bit of a documentary about the wreck of a B-24 bomber called the “Tulsamerican” on SBS TV. I was only able to see the middle part of the documentary at the time, so I looked it up in the TV guide when I got home. It was titled “The Last B-24”, a 2018 documentary made in the USA. I found it online at <https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1711496771566> (but that content should have disappeared by now). I was then able to watch the whole documentary.



A snip from the documentary

The online details stated, "In 1944, a smoking, battle-scarred B-24 Liberator bomber known as the Tulsamerican crashed into the choppy seas off the coast of Croatia, entombing three of its occupants under 100 feet of water. For years they were lost to their world - and their families. But in 2010, seventy years after the crash, the Department of Defense discovered the plane's location and, aided by the Croatian Navy and some of the world's leading underwater archaeologists, set to work to investigate the wreckage."



A snip from the documentary

One of the things that caught my eye was that the wreck was near the Island of Vis, 'vis' being a popular diving term. According to Wikipedia, "Vis is a small Croatian island in the Adriatic Sea. It is the farthest inhabited island off the Croatian mainland. Once known for its thriving fishing industry in the late 19th and early 20th century, having gained considerable notoriety for its isolation during the times of Yugoslavia, the main present-day industries on the island are agriculture and tourism."



A snip from the documentary

Further investigation revealed that there is a 'B-24 Diving Center' on the island. It is located in the town Komiža and it is said to rank "among the largest and the most beautiful diving centers in the Adriatic".

Searching further, I found the website at <https://diving-croatia.hr/> and the web page at <https://diving-croatia.hr/diving-locations-komiza-vis/consolidated-b-24-liberator-tulsamerican> . This web page gave the following details regarding the B-24 Liberator bomber Tulsamerican: -

- "Consolidated B-24 Liberator "Tulsamerican"
- Depth: 40m → 55m
- Entry: boat
- Descent Line: Yes
- Size: the airplane is scattered; the airplane size is 20 x 33 m (wing span)
- Type: heavy US bomber, crashed on 17 December 1944 by air defence forces
- Diverse flora and fauna, very large fish specimens"

This led to the following details about the B-24 (by Wikipedia): -

"The Consolidated B-24 Liberator is an American heavy bomber, designed by Consolidated Aircraft of San Diego, California. It was known within the company as the Model 32, and some initial models were laid down as export models designated as various LB-30s, in the Land Bomber design category. At its inception, the B-24 was a modern design featuring a highly efficient shoulder-mounted, high aspect ratio Davis wing. The wing gave the Liberator a high cruise speed, long range and the ability to carry a heavy bomb load."

Other planes featured in "The Last B-24" documentary, including a B-17. I found the following details at <https://diving-croatia.hr/diving-locations-komiza-vis/boeing-b-17-flying-fortress> : -

- "Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress

- Depth: 65m → 72m
- Entry: boat
- Descent Line: Yes
- Type: Airplane Wreck
- Size: 22x31m
- Sunk: 6. November 1944

“The mighty "Flying fortress" looks like it landed untouched near the coast of Vis island. A must do dive for all wreck enthusiasts and worth getting a Trimix license for.

Notable: One of the best preserved WW2 airplane wrecks in the world, due to its depth and challenging dive conditions it has been preserved better than some museum specimens.”

Then there were these details about a B-24H Liberator at <https://diving-croatia.hr/diving-locations-komiza-vis/b-24-liberator> : -

- “B-24H Liberator "Lady Luck"
- Depth: 86m → 93m
- Entry: boat
- Descent Line: Yes
- Type: Heavy Bomber
- Size: 22*33 m
- Armaments: 10*50 cal M2 Browning machine guns
- Propulsion: 4 x 1200hp P&W Twin Wasp R-1830-65 14cylinder air-cooled
- Crashed: 19.11.1944”

According to Wikipedia, “In 1943, the model of Liberator considered by many the "definitive" version was introduced. The B-24H was 25 cm longer (than the B-24), had a powered gun turret in the upper nose to reduce vulnerability to head-on attack, and was fitted with an improved bomb sight (behind a simpler, three-panel glazed lower nose), autopilot, and fuel transfer system. Consolidated, Douglas and Ford all manufactured the B-24H.”

Searching for a web page that may still show details about “The Last B-24” documentary, I found these details at <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9252728/> : -

“Underwater archaeologists and technical divers excavate the wreckage of the B-24 Liberator bomber Tulsamerican in hopes of finding out what happened to the three airmen who went missing when the plane crashed off the coast of Croatia in 1944.”

Further details regarding the “Tulsamerican” B-25 can be found online. At <https://nauticalarch.org/projects/b-24-tulsamerican-survey/> , the Institute of Nautical Archaeology says “Tulsa, (Oklahoma) community and factory workers pitched in to buy war bonds that would build a B-24 Liberator in the Douglas aircraft plant at the Tulsa airport in 1944. They named her Tulsamerican This B-24 was the last produced in Tulsa and it became a community icon. The aircraft flew to Europe and participated in missions across the continent until its defeat on December 17th, 1944. After surviving a dog-fight with Luftwaffe fighters the crew dropped their bomb load and the Tulsamerican limped home, badly damaged. The aircraft almost made it but went into the water while circling an island emergency airstrip. Three crew members were lost and remain with the wreck site underwater.”

I have a DVD titled “Black Jack’s Last Mission”, a Tara Promotions production, written & produced by Steve Birdsall. It is a documentary about a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress called “Black Jack” that sank at New Guinea during WWII, and its eventual discovery by divers.

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://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.

You can also read about the Federation’s work in 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/> and our FB group, SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/568109670769809>.

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PO Box 287, Christies Beach SA 5165

Email: info@sdfs.net

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