

SDFSFA Newsletter – September 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>

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



SEASONAL CLOSURE OF EWENS PONDS NOW IN EFFECT!

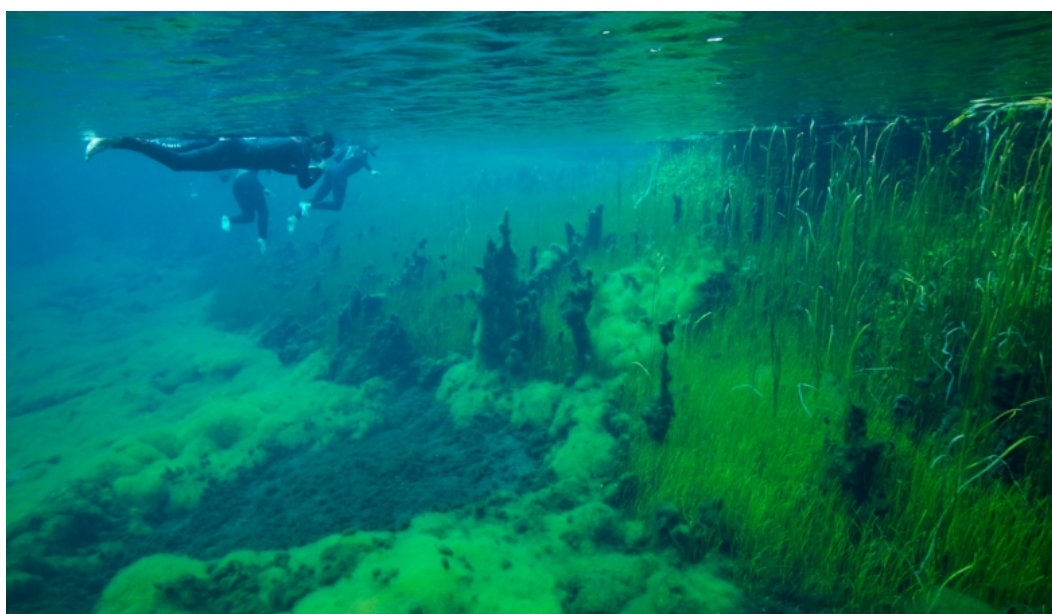


Photo credit: Michel Roggo, downloaded from the Dept. Environment and Water website.

In this month's issue

OUR LEAD: DTI asks SDFSFA for input to jetty improvements	2
SDFSFA NEW CAMPAIGN: Snip those face mask ties!	2
IMPORTANT NOTICES	2
SDFSFA COMMITTEE BUSINESS	3
CONGRATULATIONS TO... ..	4
2021 EVENTS.....	4
DIVE GEAR REPORT	5
HISTORY STORY for the month	6
STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month,	7
ABOUT THE SDFSFA... ..	8

OUR LEAD: DTI asks SDFSa for input to jetty improvements

In January 2020 the SDFSa made a submission to the SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DTI) on a state wide jetty management plan and investment in jetty infrastructure. We are pleased to advise that SDFSa has recently been contacted by the DTI project lead and invited to become involved in the planning stage, by providing further input.

During the latter part of August we asked the diving community for their views on essential components to include in the construction of jetty steps and platforms, and whether and where additional amenities might be helpful, such as shade, fresh water, toilet blocks, etc. Over 75 people responded with excellent suggestions that we are now compiling for DTI. We will keep you informed of progress on making SA and its jetties one of the best places in the world for diving, free diving and snorkelling.

We are of course very pleased that the Federation is now well regarded by DTI as a peak body to be consulted for input on these matters. We hope to continue to build a positive relationship that will benefit the diving community.

SDFSa NEW CAMPAIGN: Snip those face mask ties!

SDFSa is launching a new awareness campaign on the proper disposal of used face masks. Divers are beginning to see used face masks on beaches and drifting in coastal waters, complete with their elastic ties still attached and risking getting marine life entangled in them. We will be working to educate the general public to snip the ties on facemasks before disposing of them, to reduce the risk of trapping wildlife and marine creatures.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

SEASONAL CLOSURE OF EWENS PONDS

Ewens Ponds will be closed to all water based activities from 1 September and re-open 1 December for its annual spring break. During this period all water based activities, including diving and snorkelling will be off limits. Each year the ponds are closed to give the unique aquatic plant life a chance to rest and recover ready for visitors over summer. For further information phone the National Parks & Wildlife Service Mt Gambier office on (08) 8735 1177.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (SAA)

The Society for Underwater Historical Research (SUHR) has been revived and relaunched as the SAAS. Read Steve Reynolds' story below in Historical Notes.

SA STATE HERITAGE PLACES

DEW have reported that the Rosetta Head Well & Whaling Station Site designated as a place of archaeological significance has been confirmed in the SA State Heritage Register. Meanwhile, Green Waterhole - Tank Cave Fossil Complex has been provisionally entered in the SA State Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

S.A. ROCK LOBSTER SEASON RE-OPENING SCHEDULE

The **Northern zone** (West from longitude 139°0'4.80" to the Western Australia border. Area includes Kangaroo Island) rock lobster season re-opens at 12pm on 1st November 2021.

The **Southern zone** (East from longitude 139°0'4.80" to the Victorian border) rock lobster season re-opens at 6am on 1st October 2021.

SDFSFA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The SDFSFA Annual General Meeting and 2021-22 Committee election was held 25th August at the Arab Steed Hotel.

Introducing the SDFSFA 2021-22 Governing Committee

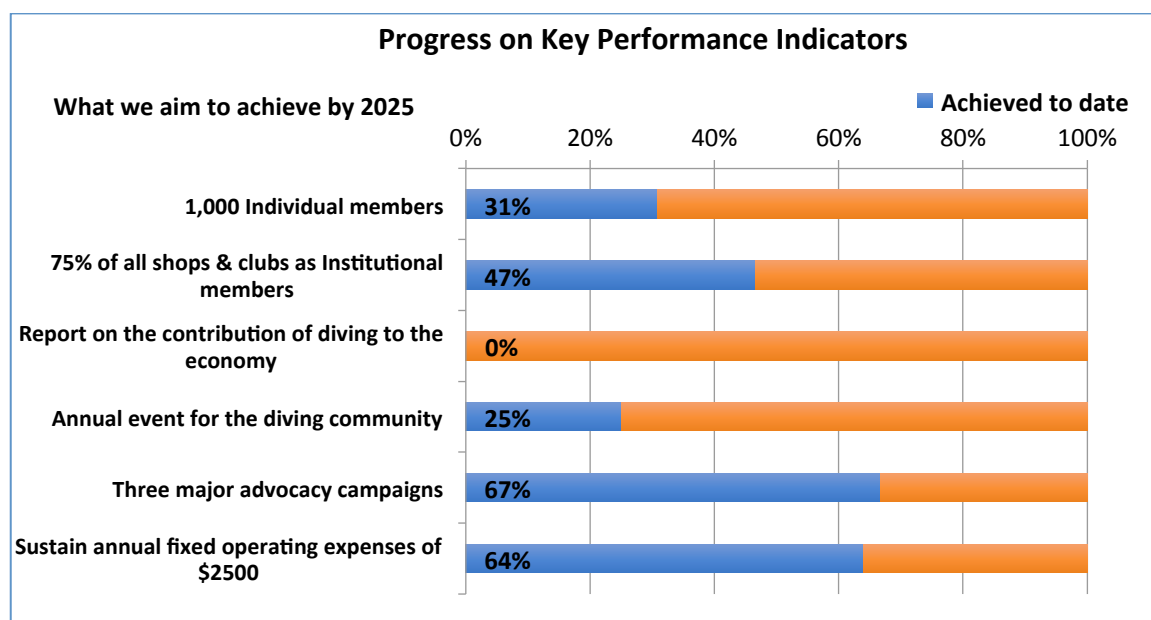
Executive	General Committee Members	
President: Tony Leggatt Vice President: Alex Suslin Secretary: Helena Wescombe-Down Treasurer: Karolyn Landat	Sara Leggatt (Membership) Heather Creech (Communications) Farzad Atefi Merv Brash Kerry Cook	Cathy Johnson Sebastien Landat Heather Petty Steve Simmons Brendan Toohey

This is one of our largest committees in the history of the Federation and we hope to be able to accomplish much in the coming year. We have a regional member this year, Steve Simmons in Edithburgh, and we are looking forward to bringing his perspectives to the Committee via Zoom!

What we've achieved in the first year of our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Our 6 strategies.

1. Build the membership
2. Strengthen and expand our information, communications and engagement tools.
3. Increase promotion and marketing of SDFSFA and SA Diving.
4. Hold or participate in special events, advocacy campaigns and projects.
5. Strengthen the governance and management of the Federation.
6. Build the financial resources for the Federation.



The full progress report on the Strategic Plan is available on the SDFSFA website, at:
<https://sdfsfa.net/about-sdfsfa/who-we-are-and-our-strategic-plan/>

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Scott Portelli on winning the \$10,000, 2021 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year competition with his night-time shot of a leafy seadragon at Second Valley.
- SA Police's Water Operations Unit on the launch of their new vessel, a 8.6m-long boat with lots of helpful technology to aid search & rescue.
- Karen Gowlett-Holmes on being made an honorary life member of the Australian Marine Sciences Association recently. It's a great pity, however, that CSIRO recently declared Karen's position redundant after 25 years.
- Those people who made the Advertiser/Sunday Mail top 50 list of SA's most influential green leaders.

2021 EVENTS

South Australia

20-24 September 2021: World Fisheries Congress, to be held in Adelaide – <https://wfc2020.com.au/>. This is the largest gathering of the global fisheries community.

On now to October 31: 2021 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year Exhibition. The Exhibition is at the SA Museum until 31st October. Check out Scott Portelli's winning 'Leafy Night', a night-time shot of a leafy seadragon at Second Valley.

19, 20, 21 November: Science Alive at the Adelaide Showgrounds! SDFSA will be there, in partnership with Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries.

4th December: BBC Blue Planet II Live in Concert with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra at the Adelaide Showground. The Concert will bring the wonders & mysteries of the oceans to the stage. Dr Karl Kruszelnicki hosts the evening. Book your tickets at www.aso.com.au.

Interstate/International

11-13 November 2021: 2021 AIMA Conference, "Oceans of Heritage: The Next Decade", will be held in Townsville from 11-13th November. Visit <https://www.aima-underwater.org.au/app/events/events/view?event=5988> for more details.

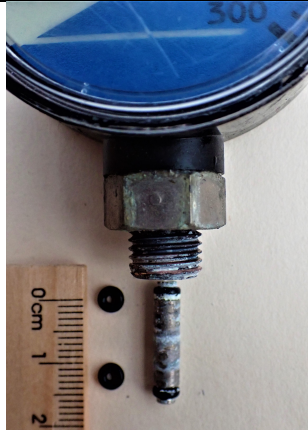


Australian International Dive Expo - AIDE 2021—postponed to 2022. See www.australiadiveexpo.com.

OZTECK Conference and OZDIVE Expo 21 – Postponed to 1-2 Oct, 2022. Visit <https://OZTek.com.au> and <https://OZDive.net.au> for more details.

DIVE GEAR REPORT

By Alex Suslin

HIGH PRESSURE!

SPG, spool and new orings	HP air reg outlet and hose inlet	Air leaks along the hose – replace!
		

The high pressure (hp) hose delivers air at cylinder pressure from the first stage regulator to the submersible pressure gauge (spg). Nowadays, this hose has a 7/16" male end that fits in the corresponding size female port in the first stage, usually marked "HP". Low pressure (lp) ports are 3/8" or 1/2", so there is no chance of accidentally fitting a low pressure hose to a high pressure port & having it dramatically blow apart when the cylinder valve's turned on. Not like the "good old days", when both the hp & lp ports were the same 3/8" size!

Modern hp hoses are marked with a 350 bar rating. They come with a couple of important safety features. The outer case is pre-perforated with tiny pinholes, so when the hose starts to fail, little bubbles will stream along the entire length of the hose, spreading the pressure, rather than having the hose blow apart, with the potential to cause injury. The other feature is that the male end inlet port is pinhole-sized (as is the first stage outlet). This means that even in the unlikely event of catastrophic hp hose failure under water, the diver should still have sufficient air reach their buddy, or ascend at a safe rate.

The spg screws into the hp hose but the assembly's made air-tight by two tiny o-rings that fit onto the spool. The latter has one end going into the spg inlet & the other into the hose. These o-rings work hard for their size & are replaced at the annual regulator service or whenever a hose is replaced. If they fail, air will leak out from around the hose swivel.

Spgs have their own safety feature – a little rubber plug in the back, that is designed to blow out harmlessly in case of an internal pressure leak, rather than have the gauge explode.

We shouldn't take our dive gear for granted & ensure it is serviced regularly. Pre-dive self-checks & buddy checks should be routine & once you're in the water, cast an eye over each other's gear to ensure there are no air leaks. It's comforting to know that equipment manufacturers design & produce "failsafe" gear. It's up to us as the "end users" to ensure it remains that way.

HISTORY STORY for the month

By Steve Reynolds

The South Australian Archaeological Society, formerly known as the Society for Underwater Historical Research (SUHR)

I recently took up the challenge of resurrecting the former Society for Underwater Historical Research (SUHR), now known as the South Australian Archaeological Society (SAAS). Many people helped me to research the history of the SUHR. I found that the SUHR was first formed 47 years ago on 30th Sept 1974. Incorporation followed in Nov 1976 (45 years ago). Much of the SUHR membership came from the Underwater Explorers Club of SA (UEC) which had its beginnings 67 years ago in 1954 as the Explorer's Division of the Underwater Spear Fishermen's Association. The Explorer's Division was incorporated as the Underwater Explorers Club of SA 56 years ago on 31st August 1965 (after almost 12 months delay).

According to founding member Brian Marfleet (2012), the SUHR started in 1974 and it was the first such group formed in Australia, pre-dating MAWA. One of the objectives of the Society was to foster interest in Maritime Archaeology (including within South Australia). "This does require that the membership play an active role in the community and particularly within the diving community in promoting this aspect towards the awareness of a need to preserve what we have left before it is lost It is from within the diving community that submerged historical sites are at great risk, along with commercial development."

I was able to gather much of the old SUHR archives together with the help of past members. I discovered that the following people were made Life Members of the SUHR: - Brian Marfleet (1987), Peter Christopher (2000) and Terry Drew (2007). As part of my research into the history of the Society, I have also been gathering information, photos & video of expeditions to both the Loch Vennachar & the HMS Buffalo* wrecks. My thanks go to John Mate, Peter Christopher, Kurt Bennett & others who have been very helpful with this.

* (The HMS Buffalo expedition to Mercury Bay, NZ in 1986 was made by members of the Nautical Archaeology Association of SA (NAASA), a SUHR breakaway group. According to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nautical_Archaeology_Association_of_South_Australia, when the Nautical Archaeological Association of South Australia (NAASA) was founded in 1982 (by individuals who resigned from the Society for Underwater Historical Research (SUHR) in April 1982 following a dispute), "The newly formed Association had proposed to be known as the Maritime Archaeology Association of South Australia. However, the SUHR quickly altered its official name to "The Society for Underwater Historical Research (Maritime Archaeology Association of South Australia) Incorporated" to prevent this action. The reason given by the SUHR for its action was that it 'has been known interstate as the Maritime Archaeology Association of South Australia for some years.") Mark Staniforth kindly donated books by Dr Robert D Ballard - "The Discovery of the Titanic", Exploring the Bismarck", "The Lost Ships of Guadalcanal", books by Hugh Edwards - "Islands of Angry Ghosts" and "The Wreck of the Half Moon Reef", other books: "Pandora - An archaeological perspective" by Peter Gesner, "Wreck of the Sydney Cove" by Max Jeffreys, "Submerged - Adventures of America's most elite underwater archaeological team" by Daniel Lenihan, "Spirit Dive - An American journey to uncover a sunken slave ship's past" by Michael H Cottman, DVDs - "The Gallipoli Submarine" (ABC TV 21.6.09), "Shipwreck Detectives" series 1 & 2 (ABC TV), video - "Caught in Time" (XANTHO). Many thanks for your generosity, Mark Staniforth.

The video "Caught in Time" kindly donated by Mark Staniforth is about the wreck of the SS Xantho. Patrick Baker and Jeremy Green are amongst the producers of the video. The SS Xantho is a

shipwreck in WA. It was an iron-hulled paddle steamer built in 1848 for use in Scottish waters. In 1871 it was refitted with screw propulsion and was then purchased by Charles Broadhurst for use as transport in the north-west Australian pearling industry.

The DVD "The Gallipoli Submarine" is about the search for the AEII submarine. Episode 1 of the three-disk DVD set "Shipwreck Detectives" series 1 is titled "Batavia's Bones", which is self-explanatory. Episode 2 called "Pacific Graveyard" is about Truk Lagoon (Chuuk). It features Jeremy Green, Bill Jeffery & Corioli Souter (as they all looked 19 years ago). Malcolm Ludgate did the underwater filming for this episode. Episode 3 is "Bay of Fire", all about WA plane wrecks. All three episodes of "Shipwreck Detectives" series 2 feature Jeremy Green & Corioli Souter, with filming by Malcolm Ludgate. Episode 1 titled "Vanishing Ships of War" is about the wrecks of HMS Hermes & Vampire. Dr Craig Challen can be seen diving on the wreck of the Hermes, along with the late Fred Evans who died in 2006. According to www.thaiwreckdiver.com, "Veteran UNOCAL commercial diver and local wreck diving legend Fred Evans died during a CCR rebreather dive on the Japanese shipwreck Tottorri Maru in the South China Sea. Fred was perhaps the most respected, skilled and totally competent diver in Southeast Asia".

Episode 2 titled "Secrets of the Ancient Seas" is about searching for ancient wrecks in the Aegean Sea. Episode 3 titled "Teardrop of Treasure" is about maritime archaeology around Galle, Sri Lanka. It concludes with the 2004 tsunami that destroyed Galle.

These items from Mark Staniforth, and others from Peter Christopher, are now available for loan from the "Diving & Shipwreck" section of the Marine Life Society of SA library at the Port Environment Centre, 27 North Parade, Port Adelaide (Wed to Fri, 10 am to 3pm).

If you want to do some maritime archaeology at present, underwater or above, join GIRT Scientific Divers <https://www.facebook.com/GIRTscientificdivers>. If you just want to help to preserve shipwrecks, etc., join the Underwater Explorers Club of SA <https://www.facebook.com/uecofsa>, if you want to preserve the underwater environment generally, join the Marine Life Society of SA <https://www.facebook.com/MarineLifeSouthAustralia>. If you want to do some maritime archaeology at present, join <https://www.facebook.com/groups/997025516980147> and do some anchor measurement recording, underwater or above.

If you want to get involved in Australia's Heritage, check out these websites: -

- Scuba Divers Federation of SA: www.sdfsa.net
- Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeology:
- www.aima-underwater.org.au/
- Australian Archaeological Association: www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/
- Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology: www.asha.org.au/
- Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites: <http://australia.icomos.org/>

Please consider being a member of the SAAS Facebook group by visiting the page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/suhrsa>.

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month,

By Steve Reynolds

Paper written by father & son

The paper titled "Nuclear-follower foraging behaviour between Western Australian common octopus and brown-spotted wrasse" by father & son, Ruchira Somaweera and Rehan Somaweera can

be seen at

https://scholar.google.com/scholar_url?url=https://www.publish.csiro.au/mf/pdf/MF21059&hl=en&sa=T&oi=ucasa&ct=ufr&ei=HhwaYZu7KYzyyAThmqbgDw&scisig=AAGBfm2-tB0u1td7sVgE9VmWu_MSpTlx7A .

According to the abstract for the paper, “A common feeding association among reef fishes involves nuclear and follower species, where the former disturbs the bottom, during which the latter opportunistically feeds on items exposed. Here, we report such interactions between Western Australian common octopuses (*Octopus* (cf) *tetricus*) and brown-spotted wrasse (*jo*) observed on eight occasions while snorkeling at four temperate-water reefs along the coast of Perth in Western Australia. We compare the interactions observed to other octopus-fish nuclear–follower associations known. In general, these interactions usually benefit the follower species and could play a significant role on reef trophodynamics.”

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/>.

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.

PO Box 287, Christies Beach SA 5165

Email: info@sdfs.net

Disclaimer

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