

SDFSA Newsletter – October 2021

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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PJ Squid, Port Noarlunga. Courtesy Karolyn Landat

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A CELEBRATION OF DIVING: SA DIVING EVENTS from October to December

Warmer weather (and warmer waters!) are starting, and with the better conditions for diving come a series of events for divers to celebrate our sport.

Friday, 15 October, 6:30 pm, Rob Roy Hotel, 106 Halifax St. Adelaide: The SDFSA Lifetime Membership Awards. A Dinner with the SDFSA to recognise and honour 3 long time champions of the Federation and of SA diving. Come join us to celebrate the contributions of **Steve Reynolds**, **Peter Koszegi** and **Hank van der Wijngaart**, who collectively have given 56 years of service to the Federation. Bookings are through Evenbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/170564962394/>.

Sunday, 7 November: Nakudla SharkFest Christies Beach: Hosted by Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries. Come celebrate the annual Port Jackson Shark Aggregation with EMS: "In early November the PJ's come into shallow water to mate, lay eggs and rest - often aggregating in the hundreds on one small area of the reef." For more details, check out the EMS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/experiencingmarinesanctuaries/events>. Additional dates may be planned depending on demand and weather conditions.

Friday, 19 November to Sunday, 21 November: Science Alive! at the Adelaide Showgrounds. SDFSA will be there alongside Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries. We will be promoting diving for science and recreation to the next generation of scuba, freedivers and snorkellers. Tickets are available at <https://tickets.lup.com.au/science-alive-adelaide?cat=CAT-REGISTRATION>.

Friday, 10 December to Sunday 12 December : Centenary Celebration of the Port Noarlunga Jetty. Follow the planning for the **100 Year Jump** on Facebook: "The current Jetty has its 100 year birthday in December 2021. The Port Noarlunga Tourism and Business Association are currently working on creating a celebratory weekend including re-enactments of events of the 1920s, in and around the Township of Port Noarlunga."(<https://www.facebook.com/100-year-Jump-102492435171685/>). SDFSA is working with the organisers to contribute to this event, and will be present on the Esplanade that weekend. Details of our events will follow in November, but be sure to keep the dates open so you can join us in celebrating the jetty, one of best dive sites in South Australia.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

WEST BEACH BOAT RAMP CLOSURE

The West Beach boat ramp is closed until December (sometime) due to a major upgrade. According to the web page at https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/infrastructure/major_projects/westbeachboatramp, "The upgrade works will include replacement of the concrete slabs; extension of the boat ramp into deeper water; modification to the inner northern breakwater; and minor maintenance and remediation work on steel piles. While the Department is undertaking the ramp upgrade works, the pontoon infrastructure will also be repaired and restored."

GALLIPOLI WRECKS NOW OPEN TO DIVERS

According to the web page found at <https://theglobalherald.com/news/sacred-gallipoli-waters-open-to-divers-7news/>, the "waters off Gallipoli have officially opened as a dive site. For the first time the wrecks of a dozen World War I battleships are accessible to the public."

A REMINDER: SEASONAL CLOSURE OF EWENS PONDS

Ewens Ponds is closed to all water based activities for its annual spring break until 1st December.

AND ANOTHER REMINDER: S.A. ROCK LOBSTER SEASON RE-OPENING

The Southern zone (East from longitude 139°0'4.80" to the Victorian border) rock lobster season is now open. The Northern zone (West from longitude 139°0'4.80" to the Western Australia border including Kangaroo Island) season re-opens at 12pm on 1st November.

SDFSA COMMITTEE BUSINESS: *Re: Diving in Reservoirs*

The SDFSA has been exploring the possibility of diving in SA Reservoirs as an alternative to ocean dives during poor conditions and to explore new diving experiences. We contacted SA Water and received the following response from the Manager, Land, Catchments and Recreation:

Thank you for your enquiry regarding diving at reservoirs.

We understand the desire for recreational diving at our reservoirs, however, activities such as diving and swimming are not permitted because it presents a significantly higher risk of prolonged and deliberate contact with the water – increasing the risk of contamination from harmful pathogens carried by humans. For this reason, we are not currently considering water-immersion activities such as scuba-diving.

A number of our reservoirs directly supply water treatment plants, which treat and provide the tap water South Australians drink every day, and the ongoing protection of our drinking water is paramount. Enabling activities like canoeing and kayaking on some of our reservoirs have been rigorously assessed to ensure they can be undertaken safely without compromising water quality.

We hope that your membership can still continue to enjoy their time at the reservoirs.

The next SDFSA Committee meeting will be at the Arab Steed Hotel, 7pm, 27 October.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- David Muirhead and Andrew Fox on having photographs published in “The Action Plan for Australian Sharks and Rays 2021”. The 442-page Plan is available at https://www.nespmarine.edu.au/system/files/Shark_Action_Plan_FINAL_Sept7_2021_WEB_RGB.pdf
- The numerous award winners for the Ocean Photographer of the Year. They and their photos are all listed at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2021/sep/20/ocean-photographer-of-the-year-2021-winners-in-pictures>.
- Dr Amanda Vincent, the 2021 Indianapolis Prize winner. Amanda was among the first to study seahorses underwater and she helped to put seahorses on the global conservation agenda. Seahorses are now considered a flagship species thanks to her dedication and research.
- Prof. Gretta Pecl on being awarded the Australian Society for Fish Biology's K. Radway Allen Award for 2021 in recognition of her "outstanding contribution to fish or fisheries science."
- Graham Short & Thomas Trnski on having described *Cylix tupareomanaia*, a new genus and species of pygmy pipehorse from temperate New Zealand. See <https://bioone.org/journals/ichthyology-and-herpetology/volume-109/issue-3/i2020136/A-New-Genus-and-Species-of-Pygmy-Pipehorse-from-Taitokerau/10.1643/i2020136.full> or “Ichthyology & Herpetology”, VOL. 109 · NO. 3, SEPTEMBER 2021.
- Dr Dominic McAfee, Alice Jones, Linda Armbrrecht and seven other Tall Poppies of SA Science Award winners (for early career researchers) by the Australian Institute of Policy & Science.

Marine ecologist Dr McAfee is a post-doctoral researcher from the University of Adelaide. Alice Jones and Linda Armbricht are both research fellows from the University of Adelaide. Alice's award is for marine and coastal ecology. Linda's award is for marine sedimentary ancient DNA.

- "Underwater Photography" magazine, which celebrated its 20th anniversary recently.
- The five inductees for 2022 Women Divers Hall of Fame. The Women Divers Hall of Fame has announced its list of five inductees for 2022 at https://www.deeperblue.com/women-divers-hall-of-fame-announces-five-new-inductees/?mc_cid=7a23ea9e3d&mc_eid=d4cc43123c: "This year's women represent an incredibly diverse field of activities from military explosive ordnance disposal to underwater archaeology and training and education. The five inductees for 2022 are: -
 - Pamela Balash-Webber– posthumous Inductee – Acclaimed PADI Course Director, conservationist, and founder of the Virgin Islands Diving Association.
 - Autumn Blum- Entrepreneur, cosmetic chemist, and founder of Stream2sea.
 - Valerie Langstaff, TMCM, EOD, USN (ret) – Facility / Internal Threat Program Security Officer and Master Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician.
 - Stephanie Miele- Businesswoman, Owner, and COO of International Training, Inc., the parent company of TDI/SDI.
 - Cheryl Thacker- NOAA working diver, NAUI Course Director, and a previous AAUS and NAUI Board Member."

And a note of commiseration to :

- David Muirhead for his challenges in identifying a "Very small demersal fish caught by hand net at the Lady Bay Road Reef Watch site at low tide" early 2020. David has a permit to collect specimens for the SA Museum. During this particular collection event, David thought that the tiny fish was either a juvenile goby or, less likely, a type of clingfish. The almost 'moribund' fish had rather frilly margins around the head and mouth. Unfortunately, David had placed the fish in a small container, along with a tiny jellyfish, *Olindias* genus, whilst he photographed them. He then returned them back to the water. Later, when David posted the photos of the fish on iNaturalist, he was told that it may be either a Cryptic Bearded Goby, *Barbuligobius boehlkei*, or an undescribed species. Ralph Foster from the SA Museum added, "Would've liked to have examined this one - we only have two SA specimens in the museum collection". David regrets having let this little fish go. Details can be found at <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/observations/38517795> .

2021 EVENTS

South Australia

15 October, 6:30 pm, Rob Roy Hotel Adelaide: The SDFSA Lifetime Membership Awards Dinner.

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.

7 November: Nakudla SharkFest Christies Beach: Hosted by Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries

19, 20, 21 November: Science Alive! at the Adelaide Showgrounds.

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 .

10 -12 December, Port Noarlunga Jetty, Esplanade: Centenary Celebration of the Port Noarlunga Jetty.

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: HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

By Alex Suslin

Low pressure (lp) hoses run from the 1st stage to deliver breathing gas at around 10 bar/145 psi to the 2nd stage, occy & inflator. Modern 1st stages have at least four lp ports, the fourth to cater for dry suit use. These hoses are typically 3/8” UNF, though some makes like Apeks, Aqualung & Mares have ½” ports on some models for “high flow” hoses to improve air delivery to the 2nd stage.

Hose condition is checked during annual servicing but it’s something you can easily do. Hp hoses were covered last month. Indicators of impending lp hose failure are different. Look for fine cracks, separation of the outer case or a small part of the outer case “blistering” when pressurised. These tell-tale signs usually occur at the 1st stage end, so it’s important to check under hose protectors, if you have them fitted. Sand & moisture can build up under them, contributing to hose deterioration, so it’s important to slide them off the hose ends after each dive, clean out any residue & allow to dry.

The length of the 2nd stage hose can impact on diving comfort. If the hose is too short, the 2nd stage will pull against your mouth when you turn your head. Too long & the hose may catch if you dive in restricted environments. Another option for comfort is fitting an elbow between the hose & 2nd stage, angling the latter at a more convenient angle to your mouth.

Many divers opt for a combined occy/inflator, Scubapro’s AIRII being the most well-known. The quick disconnect (QD) valve on these is different from the standard inflator, so all the more important to check hose condition, as some of those hoses may not be readily available.

Scubapro’s current generation of AIRII & Balanced Power Inflator (BPI) hoses have removable QD valves. When a hose with one of those fails, take off the QD valve & fit to a new lp hose of the same length. Saves you money & good for the environment!



STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month: Blue Carbon Strategy for SA

By Steve Reynolds

The Department for Environment and Water's Good Living blog recently reposted a 'story' about blue carbon at https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2019/11/blue-carbon?fbclid=IwAR2d7R5ZnGOjutDEMtTyUR5DXYmiPxrQ4OSjB64VPEnC4QgqG7YcrFAWfD8#disqus_thread. The story was originally posted in November 2019 and has now been updated with new information.

The new story (at least) is titled "Unpacked: Blue carbon and how it benefits South Australia". It gives a simple explanation of blue carbon and how it helps combat climate change. It explains that "Blue carbon is carbon captured and stored in coastal environments like seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and mangroves. More simply, it's a bunch of plants in water that suck in carbon and then store it in the soil. This helps the plants grow and removes excess carbon from the Earth's atmosphere." It goes on to say, "Seagrass meadows help remove excess carbon from the atmosphere" and "It isn't bad. It's a chemical element like oxygen and it's in every living thing". Further, "Carbon-rich materials like oil, coal and natural gas give energy to things like cars, planes, trains and heaters. But the emissions from those machines cause excess carbon in the atmosphere. When lots of excess carbon exists in the atmosphere it causes the planet to heat up by acting as a blanket that traps heat near the surface. This leads to rising sea levels and extreme weather events."

As to just how blue carbon can help combat climate change, "If the planet had more coastal environments like seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and mangroves it would mean more plants to help remove excess carbon from the atmosphere, which would contribute to reducing the Earth's temperature. "The special thing about blue carbon is that these coastal environments store far more

carbon than land-based forests. This is because carbon stored in coastal soil can remain trapped for longer periods of time.”

The story says that there are also other benefits. “Healthy and rich coastal environments also attract wildlife, support fishing and provide economic benefits.” The story adds that there is blue carbon in South Australia. “South Australia has over one million hectares of mangroves, saltmarsh and seagrass meadows. Blue carbon sites are scattered all along the SA coast, with some key sites to the north of Adelaide at the wetlands in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park - Winaityinaiyti Pangkara, as well as the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland. The two gulfs – Spencer and St Vincent – are also blue carbon hotspots. “All of South Australia’s coastal environments combined capture and store up to 3.6 per cent of the state’s carbon emissions each year. That’s roughly the equivalent of taking 300,000 cars off the road. But, over time, South Australia’s coastal environments have become degraded and need help. That’s where South Australia’s new plan for blue carbon comes in.”

The story says that “A five-year Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia has been developed to restore and establish coastal environments across the state. There is already an Australian Government Emissions Reduction Fund which provides funding to Australian businesses and managers of land and sea to adopt smarter practices to reduce their carbon emissions. But there are no blue carbon projects funded by this program yet.”

This 5-year Blue Carbon Strategy “aims to plan upcoming scientific investigations, trial projects and form public and private partnerships to finance blue carbon opportunities right here in South Australia.”

The story says that SA is investing in blue carbon projects, saying “Our state’s reputation as a world leader in blue carbon has been bolstered with nearly \$2 million of new investment in projects to restore coastal wetlands and improve South Australian blue carbon capability and knowledge. A \$1.2 million partnership with The Nature Conservancy and COMON Foundation will restore up to 2,000 hectares of wetlands across hundreds of kilometres in St Vincent and Spencer Gulfs. This is complemented by about \$600,000 of partnerships with Green Adelaide, Flinders University and University of Adelaide to deliver four Blue Carbon Futures Fund projects to explore the value of carbon stored along Adelaide’s coastline, and how it can be enhanced by restoration.”

If you would like to get involved in the Blue Carbon Strategy, you can start by reading the Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/programs-and-initiatives/climate-change-blue-carbon-strategy> .

Businesses with an interest in coastal environments and coastal community groups should subscribe to the SA coasts eNews at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coasts/subscribe> , visit the Department for Environment and Water coasts website at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coasts> or touch base with the SA coasts team via DEWcoasts@sa.gov.au to find out how to get involved in blue carbon projects.

Meanwhile, Clare Peddie wrote a report on Blue Carbon in The Advertiser of 31st July. Clare is “the climate and environment editor at The Advertiser, driving the Green Zone campaign”. According to the online report of the time, <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/blue-carbon-investment-boosts-coastal-wetland-restoration-projects-with-multiple-benefits/news-story/e12b8fe2e9e8d8b4c240338377de67eb> , “Blue Carbon investment boosts coastal wetland restoration projects with multiple benefits - The state’s growing investment in blue carbon is using coastal wetlands to capture and store greenhouse gases with potential economic as well as

environmental benefits. “Blue carbon is shaping up as one of South Australia’s new growth industries and has proven to be more efficient in capturing greenhouse gases than current land-based methods, according to experts.

Environment and Water Minister David Speirs has stated that the storage of carbon by marine and coastal ecosystems was also crucial in tackling climate change. “Blue carbon is brimming with potential ... SA is poised to grab hold of the opportunities it presents,” he said. “Developing blue-carbon projects presents us with multiple benefits, from significant sequestration opportunities, to strengthened resilience of our precious coastline, to habitat restoration for nationally threatened species as well as new economic opportunities.”

Four research projects will strengthen the evidence base, while a \$1.2m partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the COmON Foundation will restore up to 2000ha of wetlands across Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf. This will be one of the first coastal wetland restoration projects funded under the Commonwealth Emissions Reduction Fund’s new blue-carbon methodology. It will also help to establish a blue-carbon credit scheme, which will provide an extra financial incentive for revegetation. Oceans program director for The Nature Conservancy Dr Chris Gillies said he had high hopes for sustainable financing of wetland protection. “SA is a leader in this area,” Dr Gillies said. “If successful, this model could be applied globally and contribute significantly to reducing emissions worldwide.”

COmON Foundation chief executive officer John Loudon said coastal wetlands – consisting of mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes – “absorb and store carbon at concentrations up to four times greater than terrestrial forests and provide countless benefits for biodiversity and local livelihoods”. “They protect coastal communities from flooding and are nursery areas which support commercial fisheries,” he said. “We are particularly excited to see the potential to restore mangrove wetlands in South Australia’s unique and biodiverse gulf estuary systems.”

Previous research has found SA has more than one million hectares of seagrass, close to 20,000ha of tidal saltmarsh and 16,420ha of mangroves. That adds up to 1.12 million hectares of blue-carbon ecosystems. Dr Alice Jones, of the University of Adelaide, is analysing soil cores to improve carbon maps for the Green Adelaide area. Flinders University marine biology professor Sabine Dittmann found reintroducing tidal flows to one pond in the Dry Creek salt field worked well and will now put a dollar value on tidal flows. “The seaward sections of the salt field north of St Kilda, which are mostly on Crown land, are especially suitable for introducing tidal flow, which could provide substantial carbon offset opportunities,” Prof Dittmann said.

A separate report by Michelle Etheridge reads: -

“New bags of tricks for our seagrass forest: Thousands of sandbags are being submerged off the coast between Glenelg and Semaphore in the nation’s largest-ever project to restore disappearing seagrass. Seagrass is a vital component in healthy marine environments, reducing erosion, storing blue carbon and forming habitats for marine animals. But much of our seagrass has been lost to historical practices associated with stormwater run-off, industrial effluent and wastewater treatment.

South Australian Research and Development Institute’s principal scientist for environmental assessment and rehabilitation, Associate Professor Jason Tanner, said the organisation was making about 50 boat trips in the area to drop sandbags on to the sea floor. Each trip would leave about 1000 bags in the area, to which young seagrasses would attach. “The sandbags provide a stable substrate and the hessian rots away – it’s biodegradable. And by then the seedlings are big enough

that they can survive on their own,” Prof Tanner said. The \$1m project will re-establish about 10ha of seagrass.

Environment Minister David Speirs said seagrass meadows were an important buffer for the ocean’s wave and current energy to prevent erosion, also supporting biodiversity and good water quality. “Over the last half-century, around one-third of seagrass along the Adelaide coast has been lost and while we have seen some natural regeneration, it’s imperative that we work to restore these seagrasses as they’re really important to the marine environment,” he said. “Per hectare, seagrasses can store up to twice as much carbon as terrestrial forests.”

NEW LIFE-SAVING TECHNIQUE FOR SHARK ATTACK VICTIMS

Steve Reynolds

The web page found at <https://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/new%20life-saving-technique-for-shark-attack-victims> says that, according to a new study by The Australian National University (ANU), “A simple new first-aid technique could help avoid fatalities from shark attacks The method involves a bystander using their own bodyweight to make a fist and “push hard between the hips and the bits”.



According to the lead author of the study report, Dr Nicholas Taylor, Associate Dean of the ANU Medical School, said that “the method reliably stops or reduces blood loss by using immediately available resources to treat lower limb haemorrhage. In shark attacks, most people don't actually get bitten twice and they can make it back to the shore. I thought, if you make it to the beach with a friend and they're bleeding from the leg, what would be the best thing you could do? I knew from my background in emergency medicine if people have massive bleeding from their leg, you can push very hard on the femoral artery and you can pretty much cut the entire blood flow of the leg that way. If someone has been bitten on their leg, you only need to

find the middle point between the hip and the genitals, make a fist and push as hard as you can. We found people can do this for a long period of time and making a fist covers the area you need. It's not hard to find. It could even be marked with an X on a wetsuit.”

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(Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=4583692781691928&set=a.733819193345992>)

According to <https://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/new%20life-saving-technique-for-shark-attack-victims>, “The method requires bodyweight to be applied via a fist to the midpoint between the hips and the genitals, the mid inguinal point. It stops blood flow to the lower limb by compressing the femoral artery. The study, published in Emergency Medicine Australasia (EMA), compared artery blood flow of 34 healthy people when the midpoint was pushed by bodyweight compared to an improvised tourniquet made with a surfboard leg rope. The study showed this easily taught first-aid technique stopped 100 % of blood flow in 75 % of participants. Blood flow was stopped on average by 89.7 % by making a fist and pushing hard on the midpoint, compared to using a leg rope tourniquet, which only reduced blood flow by 43.8 %.

"Most people could completely stop all blood flow. This new method saves time and works better than using a leg rope or looking for something else to use as a tourniquet," Dr Taylor said. In the study, comparisons were also done with and without wetsuits, which had no significant influence. Dr Taylor hopes his new method can now be used at beaches not only across Australia but around the world. "It is easy to do and easy to remember - push hard between the hip and the bits and you could save a life," Dr Taylor said. "I want posters at beaches. I want to get it out in the surf community. I want people to know that if someone gets bitten you can pull out the patient, push as hard as you can in this midpoint spot and it can stop almost all of the blood flow."

"Dean of the ANU College of Health and Medicine, Professor Russell Gruen, a trauma surgeon who has worked in Australia's largest trauma centres said: "Saving lives is often about stopping the bleeding in time, and when every second counts, simple measures that anyone should be able to do at the scene can be the difference between life and death."

Details can also be found at the 27-minute mark at <https://10play.com.au/theproject> up until Christmas Eve.

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.

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 bimonthly 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