

SDFSFA Newsletter – November 2021

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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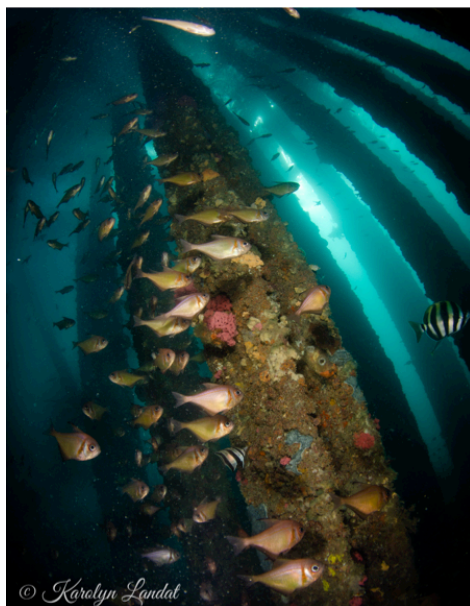
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Rapid Bay: Becoming a world class dive destination



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COMMONWEALTH AND ADBRI TO INVEST \$420,000 at RAPID BAY

Over the past two years and more, the SDFSa has advocated for a significant investment at Rapid Bay to turn it into a truly world class dive location, with proper amenities, water, shade and other enhancements. We have worked with Brighton Cement (now Adbri), Yankalilla Council and the Department of Transport and Infrastructure (DTI) to advance the case for investment.

We are thrilled that the hard work of our diving community has paid off.

The following is the official media release from Adbri on 8 October:

Adbri Limited ("Adbri") welcomes the Commonwealth Government's funding contribution of \$210,000 under the Building Better Regions Fund to support the proposed development of a new public amenities block at Rapid Bay. In partnership with the District Council of Yankalilla, Adbri applied for a grant to create the first purpose-built amenities block at Rapid Bay. Adbri, by matching the Commonwealth Government's funding, is contributing half of the funds towards this important community project.

The proposed amenities block is architecturally designed to strongly reflect the coastal location and will comprise of family friendly changerooms, toilets, showers, changing benches, storage, and fish cleaning facilities.

Adbri Chief Operating Officer – Cement and Lime, Brett Brown, said: "The Building Better Regions Fund aligns strongly with Adbri's commitment to Build a Better Australia. This is a welcome commitment that matches our financial contribution to deliver new and improved amenities for the community at Rapid Bay.

"We are delighted to partner with the District Council of Yankalilla on this project to improve access and amenities at Rapid Bay to help make it a more family-friendly and socially inclusive location for coastal recreation activities."

The plans for the proposed new amenities block at Rapid Bay jetty are available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H6QRzuxbf-3PUbz0GMBvoGptorJ_dCLp/view?fbclid=IwAR3PGly3Gb_gEoF-DXDJva6ifUj1e-6a5NW5zuPN-NB6ck7Y47ZXvHjKF8w. The amenities block is designed specifically for divers. The plans show toilets, showers, hooks for diving gear to be hung up, a long bench to use, seating and an area for food vans.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

SECOND VALLEY: Work is underway on the repairs to the jetty stairs at Second Valley.

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."

SEASONAL CLOSURE OF EWENS PONDS: Ewens Ponds is closed to all water based activities for its annual spring break until 1st December. 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.

S.A. ROCK LOBSTER SEASON RE-OPENING: The Northern zone (West from longitude 139°0'4.80" to the Western Australia border. Area includes Kangaroo Island) rock lobster season re-opened at 12pm on 1st November 2021. The Southern zone (East from longitude 139°0'4.80" to the Victorian border) rock lobster season re-opened on 1st October 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Hank van der Wijngaart, Peter Koszegi and Steve Reynolds

on being awarded the Scuba Divers Federation of SA's Lifetime Membership award of merit. The award is made in recognition of the "significant contribution made to the Federation and to the sport of diving on South Australia". The awards were presented by Dr Richard "Harry" Harris at a special dinner held at the Rob Roy Hotel during October.



And other congratulations are due to:

- Port Noarlunga jetty, which turns 100 in December. Although construction commenced in 1919, the jetty was eventually opened on 10th December 1921.
- The Aquatic Reserve at West Island in Encounter Bay, which turns 50 this month. According to Wikipedia, "West Island Encounter Bay Aquatic Reserve is a marine protected area. It was proclaimed on 30 November 1971 in order to protect sites used for abalone research in the waters within 100 metres (330 feet) of West Island." The Aquatic Reserve is classified as an IUCN Category VI protected area.
- IMAS marine ecologist, Professor Gretta Pecl on being nominated as a finalist for the 2022 Tasmanian Australian of the Year Award.

SDFSFA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Introducing the new SDFSFA Committee "uniform"! With thanks to Chelsea Haebich and Karolyn Landat for the use of their photos. In future, at SDFSFA events, Committee Members and Volunteers will be wearing these excellent shirts, to help promote the work of the Federation and the beauty of South Australia's underwater world.



You will find us at the following upcoming events: 19, 20 and 21st November: Science Alive! at the Adelaide Showgrounds; 3 December Bunnings sausage sizzle fundraiser, Edwardstown; and 10-12 December, the 100 year anniversary of the Port Noarlunga jetty.

Next meeting of the Committee: 24 November, 7pm Arab Steed Hotel.

WHAT SDFS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS HAVE BEEN UP TO...

MLSSA ANNUAL SCORESBY SHEPHERD SCUBA DIVE

The Marine Life Society of SA held its inaugural Annual Scoresby Shepherd scuba dive at Port Noarlunga reef on 2nd October 2021. Dr Scoresby Shepherd AO had been MLSSA Patron for over 15 years up until 2018. The main focus of the dive was to inspect the growth on the 'stairs reef' in the bay north of the jetty. The growth on the stairs was found to have become more established in the past year or so. They are now a macro-photographer's dream site.



As described at <http://mlssa.org.au/2021/10/04/our-inaugural-annual-scoresby-shepherd-scuba-dive/> , "The stairs had been in that position for less than three years. They had certainly been submerged for all that time, since becoming dislodged in 2018. Prior

to that, they had been just partly submerged, as part of the jetty structure, for about 21 years. All up, they have been in the water one way or another for some 24 years." Video footage of the stairs in 2018 can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb-7HFM-1zQ> .

PORT GAWLER MANGROVES CLEANUP

Many thanks go to the team of 20 people who recently cleaned up the Port Gawler mangroves. They did a fantastic job by removing numerous tyres and bottles, and lots of glass, plastic bags, clothing, gloves, mats, fishing line and sinkers, plus a tv, rifle and a statue, just to name a few items. The rifle was handed in to the SA Police. Organiser Chloe Williams thanked many people such as Diving

Adelaide, Scubapro Australia, the Department for Environment and Water, the Adelaide Plains Council, PADI Aware, Dr Peri Coleman, the Flinders University Underwater Club, Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries volunteers and several individuals. Photos of the team and some of the items removed from the mangroves can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10161991148788079&set=pcb.10161991184713079> .

RECLINK SA'S EXPLORE SA

During October, Reclink SA called for volunteers to assist with the Learn to Snorkel component of Explore SA, helping teach participants to snorkel. Explore SA was an "8-week Adventure, Wellbeing and Resilience program designed to encourage self-esteem, a sense of accomplishment and to break away any barriers for participants." Tim Brown & Steve Reynolds both answered the call. They were both able to assist Reclink with snorkelling (and kayaking) through October & November. ("Reclink SA is a not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to enhance the lives of people experiencing disadvantage or facing significant barriers to participation, by providing unique sports programs to create pathways to improved health and wellbeing. The programs are targeted to develop and deliver life changing opportunities for people experiencing mental health, domestic violence, social isolation, addiction, homelessness, or long term unemployment.") Our thanks go to Reclink SA for their Explore SA program. Thanks also go to Tim & Steve for assisting Reclink in the program.

2021 EVENTS

South Australia

21 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.

ALEX'S DIVE GEAR REPORT

TED WHO? , By Alex Suslin

Jacques Cousteau & engineer Emile Gagnan developed the double hose Aqua-Lung regulator in 1943 & Cousteau's Post-War entrepreneurial flair "brought diving to the masses" with it.

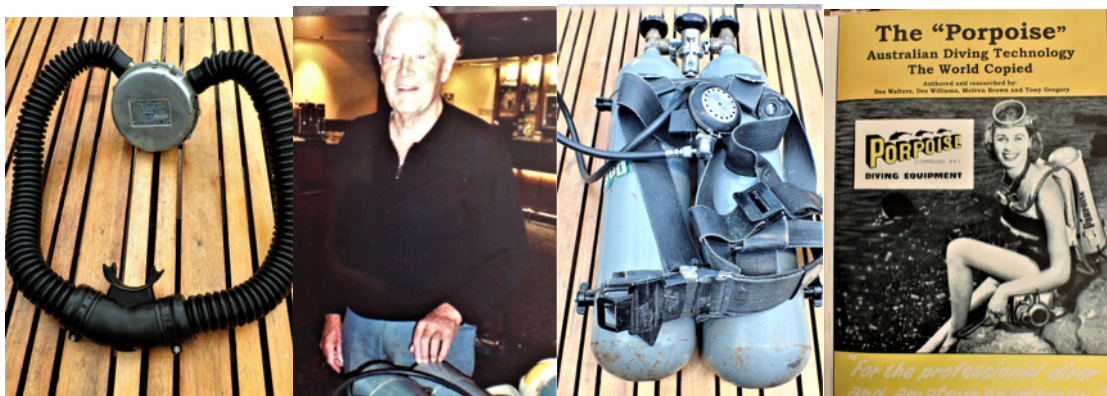
Initially, this unit was of a single stage design, having only a high-pressure seat. This was followed by the two stage, which included a low-pressure seat & there were even three stage models, that stage being a pressure relief valve. All but the latest models did not have submersible pressure gauges but as they were "unbalanced" – i.e. breathing was affected by cylinder pressure – a diver soon learned that when breathing became harder, it was time to head for the surface. By the 1960s, top-of-the-range ones were balanced, with a gauge & some even had silicon mouthpieces, instead of uncomfortable hard rubber ones. But their time was up.

The man who invented & manufactured the more compact & superior breathing single hose two stage regulator (separate first & second stages joined by one hose) was Victorian Ted Eldred (1920-2005). He completed the first prototype in 1949 & began marketing it as the Porpoise "CA" in 1952 through the Breathing Alliance Company that he registered. With limited production facilities & advertising budget, the Porpoise was not an immediate world-wide sensation. However, the Royal Australian Navy adopted it in 1954 over overseas competitors & word of its performance began to spread amongst the international scuba community, with divers coming to Australia & hiring Porpoise gear to enjoy their favorite sport.

Ted claimed taking out a patent was too expensive & instead made regular improvements to stay ahead of the competition. In 1960, he sold the Breathing Alliance Company to La Spirotechnique, who changed the name to Australian Divers Co. In the following year, Porpoise gear was used in Lake Eucumbene for what was then Australia's deepest commercial diving operation, down to 80 meters.

Production of Porpoise equipment ceased in 1968 but by then, two stage single hose units the world over were relegating their double hose predecessors to a shrinking band of die-hard scuba-masochists.

Today, Ted Eldred is virtually unknown outside of Australia, though the Historical Diving Society SE Asia & Pacific commemorates his achievements with their annual Ted Eldred Award. So the next time you hit the water & breathe effortlessly from your two stage single hose reg, spare a thought for Ted.



STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month

THE TRIANGLE CRAB, *TRIGONOPLEX LONGIROSTRIS*, by Steve Reynolds

I came across a strange crab recently whilst I was assisting the Estuary Care Foundation to check their oyster baskets at Outer Harbor. I hadn't seen such a crab before.



I took some phone photos of the crab before grabbing my specimen sampling kit. I quickly put the crab in some fresh seawater so that I could collect it for the SA Museum. I took the crab home and quickly sent my photos to the Museum. Their immediate response was that the crab was the Triangle Crab, *Trigonoplax longirostris*. I had never heard of such a species. They said that they already had some specimens of the crab, including some from Outer Harbor. They then suggested that the crab could be released if it was still alive. I promptly took the crab to my local beach and let it go in the water.

After posting my photos of the crab on [iNaturalist](#), I discovered that there had been only two previous sightings of the crab in SA recorded on iNaturalist. Both sightings were made at Edithburgh.

It appears that Edithburgh is a good spot to find *Trigonoplax longirostris*. My posting of the crab photos on [Facebook](#) led to revelations that SA divers "see them regularly on Edithburgh night dives" (Karolyn Landat). Karolyn added that she "thought they must be pretty common so didn't bother logging them or letting anyone know!"

Paul Macdonald commented, "We photographed / filmed one at Edithburgh in September. They are so cool. But we also thought they must be common if we found it." Dean Spraakman also commented that he had also filmed them at Edithburgh.

ABOUT THE SDFSFA...

SDFSFA is a non-profit, incorporated membership association dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our unique underwater world.

JOIN US FOR FREE:

<https://sdfsfa.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 SDFSFA!

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