

# SDFSA Newsletter – December 2021

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## SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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## PORT NOARLUNGA DIVEFEST 100: \$4000.00 WORTH OF PRIZES

**Sunday, 12 December at the Port Noarlunga jetty.**

Adelaide's most popular dive site, the Port Noarlunga jetty, turns 100 in December. We want to put 100 divers in the water to celebrate! Come and join the Scuba Divers Federation of SA (SDFSFA) in the festivities by being one of those 100 divers. No buddy? No problem! We are an inclusive lot in the SA dive community and we will help you join in with others.

The entry fee for DiveFest100 is only \$10.00 – which includes a commemorative mask tamer and a chance to win one of 24 prizes totalling over \$4000! Thanks to the generous support of the dive industry and local businesses, we have a wide range of prizes available, from training, to tours, to gear. What a great way to celebrate the 100 years of the Port Noarlunga jetty!

Sign up right away on Eventbrite at [https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/port-noarlunga-jetty-divefest100-jettyfest100-tickets-210550290587?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/port-noarlunga-jetty-divefest100-jettyfest100-tickets-210550290587?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1)

Registration on Sunday 12 December will be at the SDFSFA Marquee near the entrance to the jetty from 9am onwards. Divers can enter the water anytime between 10am and 1pm. The draw will take place between 2pm and 3pm.

Come join us to have a great dive and maybe win a fantastic prize. We would like to thank the sponsors for their incredibly generous donations to this event.

Item	RRP	Donated by
Scubapro Mk19/D420 first and second stage regulator	\$1400	Scubapro Australia
Probe iDry7mm wetsuit	\$700	Probe Wetsuits
Scubapro A1 dive computer	\$500	Scubapro Australia
Rapid Bay Leafy tour & hire gear	\$300	B. Toohey & Diving Adelaide
Everflex 1.5mm top (3 x ladies, 3 x men prizes on offer)	\$155 ea	Scubapro Australia
Nitrox course	\$139	Diving Adelaide
Double boat dive with Adelaide Scuba	\$110	Adelaide Scuba
\$100 Underwater Sports gift voucher	\$100	Underwater Sports
\$100 Atkins Photo Lab gift voucher	\$100	Atkins Photo Lab
T-shirts (10 prizes on offer)	\$30 ea	Diving Adelaide

In addition Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries will be organising 100 snorkellers on the day - bookings here: <https://emsau.rezdy.com/346318/snorkel-port-noarlunga-reef-to-celebrate-jetty-centenary?fbclid=IwAR3wsjnF42QQzO8-Uu5NdqJyRyNKFRfwAP9XAs4fKg9XEPXx4fnKu0XU-00>

### And the winner at Science Alive! Is...

Congratulations to Thomas Saunders, winner of a Try Dive experience with Adelaide Scuba, including a mask and snorkel pack. Thomas is thrilled. His 7 year old son is becoming very keen on snorkelling. Thomas hopes that his own testing out of scuba will encourage his son even further. We may have two divers joining the SA dive community in the years to come!. Many thanks to Adelaide Scuba for the donation of the Try Dive package.

## SHARK NET FOR EDITHBURGH

By Steve Simmons

The Edithburgh Progress Association has been seeking approval to retro fit a shark net to the existing poles surrounding the Edithburgh Tidal Pool. There was a shark net there many years ago and Progress see it as a draw card for a safe swimming area for tourists and locals alike once all the appropriate approvals have occurred.

The shark net will be made of netting that is commonly used by tuna farmers and has been purchased along with a considerable number of buoys. The plan is to place a loop around the existing pole with a mooring point near but not attached to the shore. Every metre or so a buoy will be attached so the net can move up and down with the current. The net will be placed inside of the poles so the net does not foul or rub against the poles and in the off season the net which is negatively buoyant will be dropped to the sea bed for longevity of the net which they hope will last at least 6 years.

Signage will be erected to educate people about the shark net and provide any warnings required. Divers, snorkelers, swimmers, kayakers etc will still be able to cross the net at the surface to access open water outside of the net.

A section of the net will be independent so it can be dropped to the sea floor to allow any unwanted, stressed sea life (Sting Rays etc) to easily leave.

It is hoped the net can be put in place before the end of 2021.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

**RE-OPENING OF EWENS PONDS:** Ewens Ponds should now be open following the recent closure for the annual spring break.

## MEET YOUR SDFSFA COMMITTEE

This month we are starting a new feature – an introduction to the various members of your Committee – the people working on your behalf to support diving, free diving and snorkelling in South Australia.

This month – meet Stephen Simmons, one of our first regional representatives, based in Edithburgh.

“Simmo” has been diving since 1988; he was a Master Scuba Instructor in the past and Cave Diver. He also spent many years teaching Hyperbaric Emergencies at Flinders University to degree student Paramedics. 60 years old and now retired Steve was himself an Intensive Care Paramedic with SA Ambulance for 30 years. He is still an active diver averaging 100 dives per year and has logged more than 1700 dives. Steve is a member of the Historical Diving Society and has a strong interest in the history of diving.

## SDFSFA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Karolyn Landat, Treasurer and Sebastien Landat, Committee member, are relocating to Sydney in 2022. They will be greatly missed by the SA diving and underwater photography community and we wish them well in their next adventures. Farzad Atefi has kindly stepped up to serve as SDFSFA Treasurer in place of Karolyn.

There is no Committee meeting in December. The next meeting of the Committee is Tuesday, 18 January, 7-9pm, at the Arab Steed, Gilles St.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Maritime Archaeologist **Jonathan Benjamin** on featuring in an advert for Flinders University on TV.
- **Graham Edgar** from the University of Tasmania for being named on the 2021 Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers List (in the environment & ecology category).
- **Cayne Layton** from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies for receiving the Tasmanian Young STEM Researcher of the Year award for his research into kelp ecology and marine habitat restoration.
- BSAC Adelaide's **David Jackson** on being awarded an Australian Government Volunteer Award for 2021.
- **Dom McAfee**, University of Adelaide, marine ecologist and specialist on shellfish reefs on receiving his recent SA Tall Poppy Award from SA Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC.
- **Ian Moffat**, Flinders University, on being awarded the 2021 H.G. Andrewartha Medal (for outstanding published research by a scientist in an early stage of their scientific career).
- Freediver **Anh Tu**, Cave divers **Ken Smith**, **Adrian Richards** and **Liz Rogers** on all featuring in the recent Sunday Mail's 2-page spread about extreme athletes (adrenaline junkies). The paper included photos of Anh, Ken & Adrian (whose photo was taken in Tank Cave by Liz).
- **Andrew Viduka** on his new position as Assistant Director Underwater Cultural Heritage at Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
- **Mark Polzer** on being appointed as the Senior Maritime Heritage Officer (& Archaeological Permit Officer) for Heritage South Australia in the Department for Environment and Water.
- **David Muirhead** on his new regular column titled "Pretty Fishes of Yankalilla Bay" in the monthly Yankalilla Regional News.
- **Dean Spraakman** of Sea Dragon Films on having his video footage of an 11ft male great white shark off of the Neptune Islands, South Australia feature in The Sun and the New York Post ([https://nypost.com/2021/11/05/worlds-most-battered-shark-covered-in-bite-marks-video/?fbclid=IwAR0b8iJaZj0XF\\_eSXu2RBT6O6hFLOq3\\_SNp7NKj5Gjt0N0ID7Vo8P9sK6Y](https://nypost.com/2021/11/05/worlds-most-battered-shark-covered-in-bite-marks-video/?fbclid=IwAR0b8iJaZj0XF_eSXu2RBT6O6hFLOq3_SNp7NKj5Gjt0N0ID7Vo8P9sK6Y)). The video "shows a battered great white shark covered in scars and bite marks after years of battles.
- **Adelaide Scuba** on becoming South Australia's first XDEEP PREMIUM Dealer.
- IMAS early career researcher **Dr Kirsty Nash** on receiving a L'Oréal-UNESCO Australia & NZ For Women In Science Fellowship for her exploring the link between our health, climate change & coral reef fisheries.
- **Scoresby Shepherd** (AO) on his 2021 SA Lifetime Achiever Award, along with **Uncle Kevin Buzzacott**, **David Mitchell** (AM), **Jasemin Rose** & the late **Joan Paton** (AM).
- **Peri Coleman** on being awarded the Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection.
- The **Conservation Council of SA** for reaching its 50th anniversary in 2021.
- **Alan Noble** on being inducted into the Pearcey Foundation 2021 Hall of Fame.

## 2021 EVENTS

### *South Australia*

**4 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](http://www.aso.com.au) .

**10 December: Scuba in the Pub. Rob Roy Hotel, Adelaide. 6-8pm.** Featuring Stella Diamant, Founder: The Madagascar Whale Shark Project. Second presenter TBA.

**10 -12 December, Port Noarlunga Jetty, Esplanade: Centenary Celebration of the Port Noarlunga Jetty. SPECIAL EVENT: Sunday, 12 December, 10-1pm: DIVEFEST100,** hosted by SDFSA. Entry \$10.00 on Eventbrite. Raffle for prizes included in entry fee. Let's put 100 divers in the water to celebrate!

**5 March 2022, 7-10pm: The Ocean Film Festival.** Capri Theatre, Goodwood Rd, Adelaide. Tickets at [oceanfilmfestivalaustralia.com.au](http://oceanfilmfestivalaustralia.com.au).

### ***Interstate/International***

**6 March:** Clean Up Australia

**13th – 21st August 2022: NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2022.** See [www.scienceweek.net.au](http://www.scienceweek.net.au) .

Australian International Dive Expo - AIDE 2021—postponed to 2022. See [www.australiadiveexpo.com](http://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: Regulators, New v Used**

By Alex Suslin

DIVING is an equipment-intensive sport & the equipment is not cheap, particularly a regulator set. The asking price for a new one may be difficult to justify on economic grounds, so the temptation can be to buy “used”. It's easy enough to go on line & check out user forums & equipment reviews, then look on eBay, Gumtree & similar platforms to source the set you're after. But are you really saving that much, compared to buying new from your local dive shop?

Buying used regulators on line is a proverbial minefield. You'll come across phrases like “recently serviced” & “only used a couple of times”. Regulators should be serviced annually, so in the former case, ask for a service report & check its date. In the latter, was the gear thoroughly washed after use & how long has it been hanging around for – presumably in a hot shed?

Allow \$250-\$300 for a service on top of the purchase price. That only includes labour & annual service kits. A worn high-pressure hose could add almost another \$100. Low-pressure ones around \$50. Mouthpieces at around the \$10 mark don't seem much but it all adds up. The trend amongst several manufacturers is to do away with purge buttons & have a flexible front cover. These can crack over time – replacements may not be available or if they are, it could be another \$50 on your bill. Note that second hand items are not covered by warranty, so don't expect the seller to offer a refund if you're not satisfied.

A safer way is to buy local. That way you can check the gear in detail & test it on a cylinder. If it looks as though it's been sitting uncared for in that hot shed for a few years &/or has extensive scratches & scuff marks, give it a miss. Your best bet may be buying from someone you know & trust – they may be upgrading or (heaven forbid!) giving up diving, or from a diver who is recommended to you, with the reputation of looking after their gear.

Buying new from your favourite dive store has the big advantage that the gear is covered by warranty. You don't need to buy top-of-the-range, unless you're about to do a cave diving course. A standard piston 1<sup>st</sup> stage with a non-adjustable 2<sup>nd</sup> stage & occy may be half the price of a set with all the bells & whistles. OK, that 1<sup>st</sup> stage may not deliver enough air to supply 4 divers at 50 meters, which was a testing procedure at one stage but how often would you try that? It's still tested & certified as complying with international standards that ensure it's more than adequate for all the demands of non-extreme diving that you're likely to do.

Dive shops also regularly upgrade their hire gear – regulators you may have used & felt comfortable with in your Open Water course, so if their basic set's still outside your budgetary limits, an ex-hire set in nice condition may be the way to go.

## STEVE'S SCIENCE STORY for the month

### RIVERS, COASTAL WATERS, DOLPHIN WELFARE AND RESCUE ORGANISATIONS

by Steve Reynolds

We all need to care for our rivers, coastal waters, dolphins and animal rescue organisations.

#### HOW OUR RIVERS AFFECT OUR COASTAL WATERS

The health of the sea is directly linked to the health of our river systems. Most rivers are of no interest to divers, but the Port River and Gawler River have both become of interest to snorkellers and freedivers recently.

It is said that when excessive algal growth dies and decomposes, it releases carbon dioxide into coastal waters and increases acidity.

According to the US EPA's [Understanding the Science of Ocean and Coastal Acidification](#) (at the end), "Excessive algal growth increases acidity when it dies and decomposes, releasing carbon dioxide into coastal waters".

It states alongside that, "Excess Nutrients Delivered Via Streams - The elements nitrogen and phosphorous are essential nutrients for living things. For this reason, farmers, homeowners and gardeners supply nitrogen and phosphorous to crops, lawns, and gardens to stimulate plant growth. However, water can carry excess nutrients down streams and into coastal waters. Agricultural activities are a major source of nutrients to coastal waters, but other sources include sewage, wastewater treatment plant effluent, and nitrogen oxide air pollution. In coastal waters excess nutrients stimulate the growth of algae. Algae multiply rapidly under ideal growing conditions and algal blooms can impair water quality by causing hypoxia, foul odours and even toxins. A less well-known fact is that algal blooms can contribute to acidification. When algae die their decomposing tissue releases carbon dioxide directly into the water, resulting in acidification."

I have increasing concerns about the state of our rivers, particularly our estuaries. The state of the Port River, for example, where the number of resident dolphins has fallen dramatically. The Port River, Onkaparinga River, Bungala River, Gawler River and River Torrens are all areas of concern.

I recently reported to a community forum that pollution, litter and bad practices were all of concern (in relation to the Port River). The same could be said about all of our rivers.

## Quick Facts

- Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) increased 40% from preindustrial levels to the early 21st century, ten times faster than has occurred on Earth for millions of years.
- The ocean surface layer absorbs about one third of human-released CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Ocean acidity has increased about 25% from preindustrial times to the early 21st century, a pace faster than any known in Earth's geologic past.
- The acidity of the ocean is greater than any point in the past two million years.

(Source: <https://www.epa.gov/ocean-acidification/understanding-science-ocean-and-coastal-acidification> )

## REVIEW PENDING FOR THE ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY ACT

Preparation of the above details only came about because of my concerns regarding recent dolphin deaths within the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary. The [ADS Act](#) (South Australia Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005) does little to protect the dolphins. It needs to be amended to ensure that the dolphins get the care and attention that they need and deserve.

According to the Act, “The Minister must review the Plan at least once in every 7 years” and it is up to the Minister “to prepare and keep under review the ADS Management Plan” and “to keep the state of the Sanctuary under review”.

(There are said to be 3 “Responsible Ministers – the Minister for Environment and Water, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation and the Minister for Environment and Conservation”. These all sound very much the same.)

It appears that the Act was last reviewed 1.7.2015. This would suggest that the Act is due to be reviewed in 2022. It seems that the Minister takes advice from the Parks and Wilderness Council.

There are at least 11 different Acts related to the ADS Act. The Act includes the protection of the water quality for the Port Adelaide River (in order to protect the dolphins). I believe that water quality is a big issue relevant to the recent dolphin deaths.

It is vital that there is intensive lobbying of the Government over the next few months if the review of the Act is to be done effectively. If you care for the Port River dolphins and/or our coastal waters, please lobby the Government to tidy up the ADS Act and reverse the current trends.

## AUSTRALIAN MARINE WILDLIFE RESEARCH & RESCUE ORGANISATION

The [Australian Marine Wildlife Research & Rescue Organisation](#) (AMWRRO) were one of the stakeholders that sought the initial establishment of a dolphin sanctuary in the Port River. Unfortunately, the ADS Act now largely prevents AMWRRO from caring for the dolphins there. This situation is just one of the many things that need to be rectified when the Act is reviewed.

Meanwhile, if you find an injured animal, call AMWRRO on (08) 8262 5452.



## 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 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/>.

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