

SDFSFA Newsletter – January 2022

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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>

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Photo courtesy of H. Wescombe-Down

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OUR LEAD STORY: A Section of the old Rapid Bay Jetty is collapsing

We have been advised by the SA Dept of Transport and Infrastructure (DTI) that a section of Rapid Bay Jetty has partially collapsed. Several divers “saw quite a lot of it fall in the water, just as we finished a dive. It was quite loud and a lot of splash”. DTI is in the process of inspecting the damage in order to scope work to make the area safe. In the meantime, please STAY CLEAR of this area.



Divers are monitoring the situation and posting photos of the unstable section on the SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions Facebook group and on the SDFS FB page. On 12 January, it was observed that the section has sagged another 2 feet. These photos illustrate the state of the jetty as of 16 January. Please continue to post updates on our Facebook page so that we can advise DTI quickly of any major changes.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

CLEARBOT is coming to South Australia! Clearbot is an autonomous boat that can detect and collect marine trash. The Marine Life Society of SA is partnering with Thomas Man, co-founder of STEM-ARK.org to bring Clearbot to our State. The Clearbot boat will arrive in June 2022, and it will be kept in South Australia for long-term use. See Steve’s Science Story below for details.

Dragon Search South Australia monitoring project. Janine Baker has been going through records from Second Valley and matching up images of Leafy seadragons since 2019, and is now seeking any photos of seadragons from Second Valley from any year. As Janine reports, “From the multiple

markers that are used to identify individuals, movements / travel paths of individuals can be determined, and also breeding patterns.” The project has a small community grant that can pay for your records to be used in this long-term citizen science project. She thanks everyone in advance for your help. You can send your photos to Janine at [jannebaker\(at\)bigpond.com](mailto:jannebaker(at)bigpond.com).

DIVE SHOP NEWS

Scuba Courses is a new PADI Dive Centre now open in the Adelaide Hills, at 1/83 Mount Barker Road, Stirling and can provide air fills.

The Dive Shack is now working in partnership with **Elite Dive Academy**, based at 88a Esplanade, Port Noarlunga, and is providing air fills. Mon-Wed by appointment only, check the website for opening hours over the weekend and call first in inclement weather.

Divers Delight has its Hydro station up and running again. Max 1 week turn around. Tested, stamped, new tank Oring and filled for \$40. Call Scott 0412189255 and Steve 0405764652 for drop off details.

SDFSА COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors, divers and snorkellers for making **Jettyfest/Divefest 2021** a huge success. **We achieved our goal to put 100 divers in the water to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Port Noarlunga jetty.** Membership in the SDFSА has increased as an outcome of the event, along with many new followers of the SDFSА Facebook page and our SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions group. We look forward to serving your interests and hosting more such events in future.



Left to right: SDFSА Committee members Heather Petty, Tony Leggatt (President) and Helena Wescombe-Down (Secretary).

The next meeting of the Committee is Tuesday, 18 January, 7-9pm, at the Arab Steed, Gilles St.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Our marine “citizen scientists”, who voluntarily monitor, record and report on SA marine life

- **Regina Durbridge** who reported seeing a sea turtle while snorkelling at Yilki in Encounter Bay last month. It was swimming in the shallows on the inside reef section near the Encounter lakes water inlet site. Although not 100% sure on the species, she thinks that it

may have been a Green sea turtle. It was in quite shallow water, less than 1 metre deep, and about 20 - 30 metres from the shore. It was about the size of a laundry basket.

- **David Muirhead** on reaching the 20,000 observations mark on iNaturalist recently.
- **Kangaroo Island/Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch** on winning the SA Citizen Science Awards.

And our underwater photographers for the recognition they are gaining

- **Wayne Leifert** and **Andy Burnell** whose photos made the top 20 in the Heritage Places Photo Competition. An award ceremony was held for the competition winners at the Botanic Gardens on 3rd December.
- **Carl Charter** on having 8 of his underwater photos, including the selfie, published in a 2-page spread in the Sunday Mail in December.
- **Diana Fernie** on having one of her images selected to represent Team Australia in the World Photographic Cup. She says that the finalists will be announced in Rome on January 17th.

And finally, marine science writers and editors!

- **Sheree Marris** on having her own column, “Mermaid Tales”, in Club Marine magazine (<https://www.clubmarine.com.au/exploreboating/articles>)
- **Jeremy Green** on resuming as Editor of the Australasian Journal of Maritime Archaeology, replacing Silvano Jung who did the job for one year. (Our thanks go to Silvano Jung for his efforts.)

2022 EVENTS

South Australia

5 March 2022, 7-10pm: The Ocean Film Festival. Capri Theatre, Goodwood Rd, Adelaide. Tickets at oceanfilmfestivalaustralia.com.au.

Interstate/International

6 March: Clean Up Australia

13th – 21st August 2022: NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2022. See www.scienceweek.net.au .

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: The ABCs of BCDs

By Alex Suslin

We love that sinking feeling at the start of a dive – dump the air out of your bcd & it’s down, down...

It’s somewhat different with an angry customer accusing you of being responsible for his wife ending up in the hyperbaric chamber on her first dive after a gear service – the bcd auto-inflated & she shot to the surface. The service report confirmed, he’d brought in her regulators – but not the bcd!

Auto-inflation happens when the inflate button is pressed to add air but instead of springing shut when finger pressure is released, it stays locked in position, filling the BCD. Don't panic – dump air & disconnect the inflator. Helps to have a handy buddy handy!

BCDs come in numerous designs – stabilizer jackets, tech vests, wings, donuts, etc. & the range of available inflators & alternate air source/power inflators increases every year. Other than holding your cylinder securely, the BCD's twin purpose is to:

- a. keep you afloat on the surface by either orally inflating the bladder through the inflator (who does that nowadays?) or pressing the inflate button to use the air in your cylinder via the first stage regulator to do the same; &
- b. allow controlled descent by dumping air by a variety of means, such as the inflator exhaust button & pull dumps/push levers of various description.

OK, the accessory fiends will point out the essential D-rings to which are appended three dive torches, two reels, a spare computer, line cutting scissors, DAN membership card, boat finder & a long stainless steel thingie which will come in useful one day!

To keep your BCD in safe working order, have it serviced with your regulators. A service will involve

- a. leak test & if required, rectification;
- b. noting any wear that may be an issue later;
- c. draining & rinsing the internals with a mild antiseptic solution to kill off the bacteria that happily breed in that moist environment;
- d. checking & cleaning dumps & seals & making sure the over-inflation air dump mechanism works;
- e. checking clips, buckles, cylinder band & locking mechanism & all pull-cords;
- f. testing those critical D-rings for metal fatigue (only kidding!); & finally
- g. servicing (including ultrasonic clean) or replacing inflator/alternate air source.

Please note that inflators come in different makes & models. Some are not serviceable & are replaced by a new unit. Some have dedicated annual service kits, as have all alternate air sources/power inflator combos. Others only have generic o-rings that need replacing.

When your regulators are due for a service, don't forget the BCD, if you want it - & you – lasting longer.

Safe diving!

HISTORY STORY for the month: The ICUCH

By Steve Reynolds

ICUCH: THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

According to the Maritime Archaeology and Heritage Institute (MAHI), "the International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH) (is) an international scientific committee for the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The committee is composed of international experts in underwater cultural heritage, representing the five geographical regions as defined by UNESCO (Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean). In 1996, ICUCH developed a charter to guide the management and protection of underwater cultural heritage that came to be known as the International Charter on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage. This charter was later

incorporated as the Annex to the 2001 UNESCO International Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.” See <http://icuch.icomos.org/> to learn more about their work.

We note a South Australia connection! Amer Khan, Director for Maritime Archaeology and Heritage Institute has been confirmed as a member of the International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage. So too has Kurt Bennett, maritime archaeologist at the Mercury Bay Museum in New Zealand. Amer Khan is Director for Maritime Archaeology and Heritage Institute. He spent some time in South Australia as Senior Maritime Heritage Officer for Heritage SA before moving first to Queensland and then on to MAHI in Pakistan. Kurt Bennett is the “Project Leader/maritime archaeologist - 'HMS Buffalo Re-examination Project' at the Mercury Bay Museum in Whitianga, Waikato, New Zealand. Kurt did his PhD at Flinders University in SA.

It’s worth noting too the excellent work of MAHI: According to their website, MAHI “is a non-profit, autonomous research organisation dedicated to the investigation and preservation of maritime cultural heritage in the Western Indian Ocean. Based in Pakistan, MAHI is led by international experts in the fields of maritime archaeology and cultural heritage management, who bring with them decades of operational experience on cultural heritage projects in the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific regions.”

Further, “The exploration and study of maritime archaeological sites requires highly specialised technical and professional skills in every stage of investigation, from initial archaeological and geophysical surveys, to more complex documentation techniques in terrestrial and underwater environments, to the conservation, interpretation and management of new discoveries for a diverse audience. As such research has not previously been undertaken in Pakistan, MAHI aims to draw on a broad network of multidisciplinary regional and international experts to deliver on its research objectives.”

MAHI “supports the aims of the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage” and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

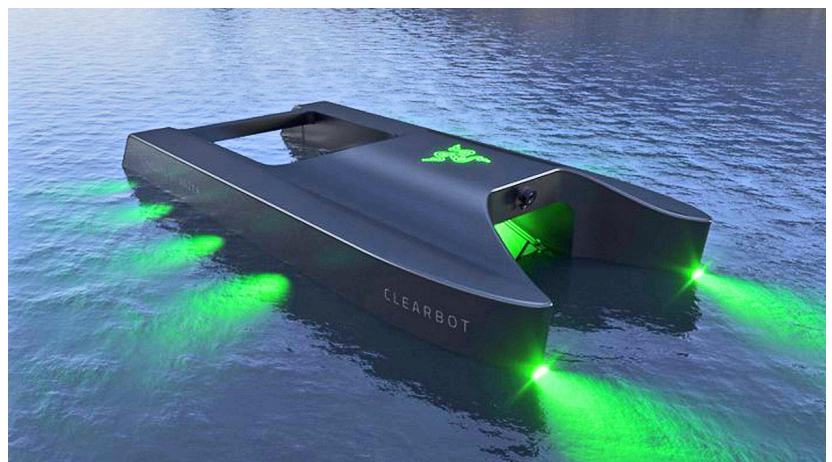
STEVE’S SCIENCE STORY for the month: CLEARBOT

CLEARBOT - AN AUTONOMOUS BOAT THAT CAN DETECT AND COLLECT MARINE TRASH

By Steve Reynolds

“Clearbot is an autonomous boat that can detect and collect marine trash, for public demonstrations and environmental education. Clearbot has won a number of internationally renowned competitions and its presence would help to focus the community on the need to protect our marine environment”.

According to www.clearbot.org, “Clearbot is a swarm of AI powered, self-driving, ocean trash collecting robots that can detect and collect trash from water. We are on a mission to clean our rivers and oceans globally, using Clearbot”.



The Marine Life Society of SA is partnering with Thomas Man in bringing Clearbot into South Australia. There will be some live (wet) demonstrations and monthly Clearbot shows (dry demos). MLSSA will connect with the SA State Government, local councils and environmental groups for endorsing the project and helping to share the information with schools and the community.

The aim of this non-profit project is to promote to the community and through schools to young people about the crucial importance of caring for our environment and particular actions to minimise marine litter in our lakes, waterways and along the coast, using Clearbot to draw public attraction and motivate learning about environmental care.

The Clearbot boat will arrive in June 2022, and it will be kept in South Australia for long-term use. Although www.clearbot.org states that Clearbot can operate as a swarm of coordinated marine robots, only one boat can be brought in next year. It is hoped that there is sufficient funding in the long-term to demonstrate the 'cobot' capability of Clearbot with multiple boats.

It is hoped, subject to SA Government and/or local council approvals, that Clearbot can be demonstrated in the River Torrens, West Lakes, the Port River, Mawson Lakes, the Gawler River and other SA waterways. MLSSA members will all be entitled to peek previews of the boat before, and priority seats reservation for public demonstrations.

YouTube videos are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lbgBvtvpeg> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkC1TdDLMvY>.

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!

You can also read about the Federation's work in monthly issues of DiveLog Australasia, Scubadiver ANZ and on our website at <https://sdfsfa.net>. Stay up to date with the latest news through our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/scubadivers/>

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