

SDFSFA Newsletter – June 2022

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions:

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DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS: PORT GAWLER MANGROVE CLEANUP



Photo courtesy of Chloe Williams

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OUR LEAD STORY: Historic Flinders pier to be restored

South Australians are not alone in wanting to see protections for our historic jetties. Our neighbours in Victoria have recently campaigned successfully to protect the old wooden pier at Flinders on the Mornington Peninsula.

Some years ago, a new concrete pier was constructed alongside the old wooden pier built in 1864. As the wooden pier has deteriorated over time and is becoming unstable, plans have been in place to begin to remove sections of it.

But the wooden pier is a haven for weedy sea dragons – Victoria’s state marine emblem -- and other marine life, and the community raised the alert that demolishing it would ruin the marine habitat. Protests at the pier, petitions to council and government, and even the involvement of Sir David Attenborough have led to a change of plans.

According to *The Age*, the State government has now set aside \$1.5 million for immediate repairs to the wooden sections of Flinders pier. The Flinders community is also continuing to proceed with its efforts to have the pier heritage listed, a decision on which is expected next month.



Image from Parks Victoria

The detailed story can be found in *The Age* at <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/jubilation-from-community-after-plans-to-restore-flinders-pier-20220505-p5aipa.html>, and on the Flinders village website at <https://flindersvillage.com.au/save-flinders-pier/>.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

GIANT CUTTLEFISH AGGREGATION PROTECTION ZONE ENLARGED

As reported by Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries, a closure within the waters north of a line between Arno Bay and Wallaroo for the take of Cuttlefish has been reinstated until 13 May 2023, and formally Gazetted on 16 May 2022.

THE CUTTLEFISH AGGREGATION HAS BEGUN

...and will continue through June and July. For more information on timing, location, tours and events, contact Whyalla Council about its annual Cuttlefest, Whyalla Diving Services and Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries.

CAPE JERVIS BOAT RAMP UPGRADE

Work on the Cape Jervis boat ramp upgrade began last month.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RE CHARTER BOAT FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

A draft Management Plan prepared by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) for the SA Charter Boat Fishery has been released for public consultation. Documents are available at

www.pir.sa.gov.au/charter-boat-consultation. Online feedback and written submissions (pirsa.feedback@sa.gov.au) re the draft plan and summary report close at 11.59pm on 21st June.

NEWS FROM SHOPS AND CLUBS

A Successful Dive against Debris, 29 May at Port Gawler Mangroves

The Port Gawler Mangroves are a prime ecosystem for the Gulf. As Janine Baker has noted on FB, “as well as all the important ecological functions of the mangroves, it’s a significant fish and crustacean nursery area and also habitat for *Kaupus costatus*, an uncommon estuarine pipefish of limited distribution in SA.” Chloe Williams reported recently through her FB feed the results of the Project Aware Dive Against Debris organised by Diving Adelaide to help clean up this important area.

Chloe writes that “The sun was out, visibility was sensational and water temperature was a lovely 15 degrees. We had a special guest -- Jackson from Clean Up Eudunda, who was given a showbag of goodies in recognition for all the wonderful initiative, inspiration and hard work- starting up Clean up Eudunda at the age of 12. What a legend!”

In addition to the pile of debris removed from land and water, a whole car was also spotted. Chloe is in the process of reviewing how they might make arrangements to go back to pull it out for disposal.

Chloe is grateful for the support and donations from Diving Adelaide & Online Dive Gear, Scubapro Australia, Rodney Fox Great White Shark Expeditions, The

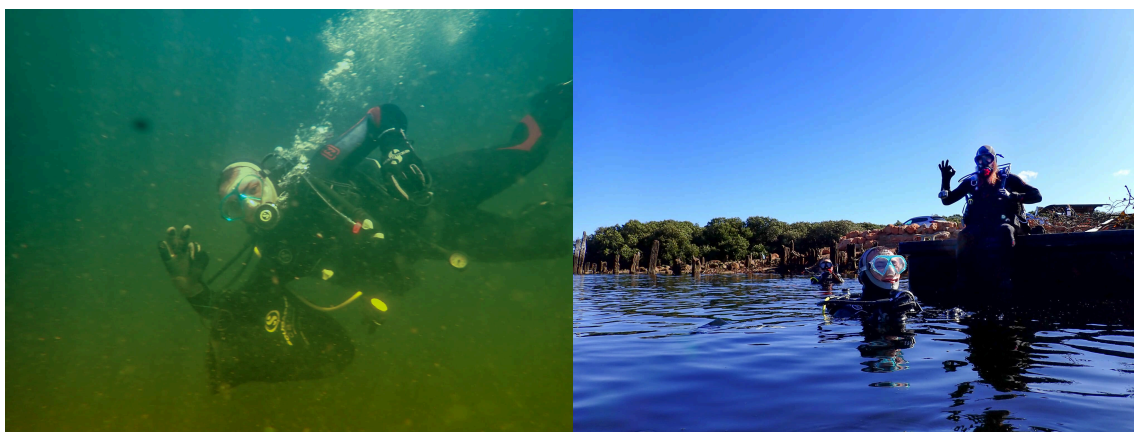


Retrieved from land and ocean:

86 bottles,
70 smoke butts,
40 bricks,
20 fishing weights,
16 Tyres ,
10 Bottle caps,
10 bags of all types of plastic waste ,
8 broken plates ,
7 pieces of timber,
6 tins,
5 jars,
5 plastic bottles,
3 shotgun bullets ,
4 Tyre alloys ,
3 ropes ,
3 fishing lines,
2 Car number plate,
2 Fish Lure,
1 Car door,
1 crate,
1 crab net,
Lots of broken glass,
Computer board bits,
Some cardboard,
Nearly a whole car in pieces- doors, windows, seats, glove box,
A bag of clothes and rags.

Big Blue Crew,
Clean up Australia,
PADI AWARE,
Adopt A Spot Scheme, Adelaide Plains Council,
Scuba Divers

Federation of South Australia (SDFS) and Independent scientist Peri Coleman. And she thanks everyone who helped and volunteered on 29 May: “You’re all amazing!”



Photos courtesy of Chloe Williams

South Australian Archaeology Society

A new website has been set up for the [South Australian Archaeology Society](#). Although it is still early days for the site, there is a blog section that already has several maritime blogs posted there; blogs such as [The Wreck of the Hesperus](#). Just visit the [website](#) to find any of the six blogs currently posted to the site.

The Marine Life Society of SA

MLSSA reports that it is now a member of the Global Waste Cleaning Network (GWCN).

MLSSA continues to advocate for tougher laws to protect our dolphins from harassment. As Steve Reynolds from MLSSA notes, "Our Port River dolphins are under constant threat from human pressure. Not enough is being done to protect them. We need tough laws just like those apply in Hawaii. It is, for example, a felony to touch or harass a monk seal. Also, coming within 45m of a spinner dolphin that is within 3.7km of the shore is prohibited. Similar laws in SA would help to protect our dolphins from harassment."

Sherwood no longer has an authorised distributor in Australia

For those of you with Sherwood products, SDF Vice President Alex Suslin, who is the proprietor of Scuba Servicing & Sales, reports that with Sherwood no longer having a presence in Australia, parts for servicing Sherwood regulators have run out, at least in here in South Australia.

Scuba Servicing and Sales has secured approval through Sherwood Head Office to import annual service kits for Sherwood regulators & also their Atlantis & Genesis range. If you have Sherwood equipment that needs servicing, you can contact Alex at alexs@adam.com.au.

SDFS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Building a relationship with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT): The SDFS President has been invited to participate in meetings with DIT to advise on matters related to SA jetties maintenance that are relevant to divers, freedivers and snorkellers and those interested in the value of jetties as marine habitats. We are very pleased to be building a strong and positive consultative relationship with DIT on behalf of the diving community.

Connecting with the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria (<https://www.sdfv.org.au/>). We have been invited to join the SDFV annual general meeting by video conference. As part of strengthening a

relationship with our fellow federation next door, we are sharing with them our 5 year strategic plan and our reports to DIT and local councils on the state of SA jetties.

The next SDFSFA Committee meeting is 22 June, 7pm, at the Arab Steed Hotel, Gilles St., Adelaide.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Dr David Muirhead on being awarded the downunderpix photographer of the month for May. Details can be found at https://mailchi.mp/e39ea65200cd/downunderpix_newsletter_may_2022?e=2cd4f7f994. According to David's profile page on iNaturalist, he has posted over 22,000 observations since 2016. These observations include some 12514 identifications and 2373 species. He also has 77 followers through iNat. You can check out David's 'Life List' at <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/lists/501246-davemmdaves-Life-List>.
- Dr Richard Harris on the publishing of his first children's book "Alfie the Brave".

DIVE GEAR REPORT, on Regulators this month

By Alex Suslin

WHAT COULD BE GREATER THAN A BRAND- NEW REGULATOR?

Your first new regulator set purchase should not be done on the spur of the moment. A bit of consideration could save you money & prevent you buying something you're not entirely happy with. Consider what you want to use it for. Why, diving, of course, you reply. There's diving & diving.

If you want to potter around local jetties & maybe the occasional boat dive & look for cray & scallops, you don't need to pay top dollar for a balanced first & second stage. A standard or "unbalanced" set will do. Skipping the technical differences, balanced regulators will deliver the same air flow, whether your cylinder is full at the start of the dive or not so full at the finish. A standard set will get fractionally harder to breathe as air pressure falls. Around 50 bar, whilst you won't be forced to suck air to survive, the breathing effort will be noticeable. Not a bad way to remind you to check your gauge & head safely to the surface.

Standard sets are more simply engineered & cheaper to buy & service, whilst still being suitable for non-extreme open water diving. They are designed & built to safety standards though their performance is arguably not as good as balanced regs. In reality, you probably won't notice the difference.

If you plan to do more advanced deeper diving, such as the wrecks around Sydney, or overseas, then spend the extra money on a balanced set. And budget for a dive computer. You don't need the expense of a balanced octopus. A standard one will breathe just fine, if it ever gets used.

You can also have a combined power inflator/octopus, such as Scubapro's AIR2. Advantage – no occy on a long hose. The rationale for it is, in an emergency, a panicky diver will rip the second stage out of your mouth, instead of politely giving the out-of-air signal & asking for your occy. With the AIR2 immediately at hand, you don't need to panic!

There are a number of makes & models, so do your research. Look on line & in dive magazines for user reviews, talk to your buddies & most importantly, your local dive shops. They are authorised distributors for usually a couple of makes & can help you select the right model & assemble & check everything before your first dive. You may save a little, buying on line, but buying local means you get local support if you have any questions or issues – well worth paying a bit extra for.

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

MEDICINAL BENEFITS FROM MARINE MICROBES

We need to care for the oceans and all that live in the sea. A research team from Flinders University recently found that “A fungus-like microbe from Australian waters could prove to be a vital ingredient in making everything from nutritional supplements, medicines and biofuels to animal-free meat.” They found that “a group of marine microbes called thraustochytrids, from the sea off the South Australian coast, can produce single-cell oil that can be used for supplements and other nutraceuticals. It doesn't require agricultural land and can be cultivated in a controlled environment.”

MY, WHAT A LOVELY BIG SNOUT YOU HAVE, SIR!

Size does matter, especially if you're a bull elephant seal! According to [whoi.ocean](https://www.whoi.edu/page.do?pid=35&tid=3&cid=1204) (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) on Instagram, “Elephant seals are among the largest carnivores in the ocean (with) a body that weighs as much as a cargo van.” However, it is (apparently) the male's snout that is a serious turn-on for the ladies. The more pronounced their snout, the better chance they have to attract a mate.

ALA'S DATA PROVIDES SOLUTIONS TO SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS

According to details found at <https://www.ala.org.au/blogs-news/ala-labs-new-site-offering-technical-solutions-to-scientific-problems/>, you can use ALA Labs' technical know-how and detailed solutions to specific scientific problems using the ALA's data.

The web page asks, “Do you conduct research using Australian biodiversity data? Do you analyse data or make data visualisations?” It then goes on to say, “ALA's newest website, ALA Labs, is here to help. ALA Labs provides technical know-how and detailed solutions to specific scientific problems using data in the ALA.” There is a good bit more to the web page. Check it out if this interests you.

MORE TAXON CHANGES

Even more taxon swaps – the scientific name for Slender Weed Whiting, *Siphonognathus attenuatus* has been replaced with *Sheardichthys attenuates*. Sharpnose Weed Whiting, *Siphonognathus caninis* has been replaced with *Parodax caninis*.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

Now until 24th July: The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition run by the Natural History Museum in London is on display at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

5th June - World Environment Day. It's the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

8 June 2022: World Oceans Day: South Australia Events. Now's the time to start preparing your celebrations for World Oceans Day! Go to Worldoceanday.org for information on planning, listing and promoting your event. So far, there are no ocean events listed for Adelaide or South Australia, although several are planned in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Streaming 8th June 2022 8:30am - 5:00pm: 2nd Blue Water Summit 2022 - The Great Southern Ocean. The Blue Water Summit is designed to encourage our global family to think broadly about the ongoing effects of population and climate change affecting our oceans, and how changes within the Southern Ocean have far reaching impacts worldwide. Our oceans operate as a single interconnected organism and what impacts locally effects globally. The Summit will stream up to eight hours of content gathering from environmental thought leaders, ocean advocates, and storytellers and with a focus on the Great Southern Oceans. <https://www.facebook.com/events/blue-water-institute/blue-watersummit/23406172695716>

21-23 September: Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) Conference, Adelaide. The theme for the conference is 'Decolonising Maritime'. It is the 40th anniversary of AIMA and the 20th anniversary of the Maritime Archaeology Program at Flinders. There will be speakers at the conference discussing topics such as the SUHR and the *City of Adelaide*. There will also be a session on Avocational and Public Initiatives.

Sunday, 5th March 2023: Dive for Cancer, Port Noarlunga. Diving at Port Noarlunga reef will be followed by food & drinks, a guest speaker, some prize giveaways, silent and live auctions. See www.diveforcancer.com.au.

Interstate/International

21st–23rd June, Bergamo, Italy: The Waste Management Europe Exhibition & Conference. WME 2022 will form the basis for an annual platform to eradicate unnecessary waste in supply chains. From the role of new technologies to better process our waste to the circular economy, participants will meet with a common goal in mind – to better manage and process our finite resources and deliver an ecologically sound future: <https://wme-expo.com/>.

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

19th to 21st August 2022: 15th Australian National Shell Show - Sydney

1-2 October 2022: OZTEK Conference and OZDIVE Expo. Held at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre. Visit <https://OZTek.com.au> and <https://OZDive.net.au> for more details.

6-10 November 2022: Australian Society for Fish Biology conference, Surfers Paradise. www.asfb.org.au

18th-21st November: The 2022 Nautical Archaeology Society Conference will be held in Ireland: https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/annual-conference?fbclid=IwAR2fi13zFeWkYOayVaXAylaVnyqrHMNfthi9ebjioL4eWcXqvL_xpGm8rAM .

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

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/scubadivesa/>. And follow our FB group, SA Dive Sites Vlz and Conditions for current diving conditions shared by the group members.

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