

# SDFSFA Newsletter – September 2022

Editor: Heather Creech



## SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

*Our Patron: Dr. Richard Harris*

Email: [info@sdfsfa.net](mailto: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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**Spring Diving is here!**



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Photo courtesy of Karolyn Landat

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## SCIENCE ALIVE! August 2022



SDFSA participated in Science Alive! for the third year in a row. Thousands of young people and parents attended to explore the frontiers of science, technology and engineering, including the latest in understanding and enjoying our marine environment. We were delighted to have our booth situated near EMS, Marine Discovery Centre and other champions of the ocean world. Science Alive! is now a significant event in the SDFSA Calendar, with many opportunities to promote diving to the next generation of scuba and free divers, to encourage those who have stopped diving due to family and other commitments to consider taking it up again, and to sign up new members to the Federation.

**Our thanks to Adelaide Scuba** for generously providing three Try Dive vouchers for a draw held at the SDFSA booth. We are delighted that three attendees at Science Alive! will have an opportunity to explore scuba as a sport and a skill that may be useful in their future careers





*Andy Burnell, Tony and Sara Leggatt at the SDFS Booth.*

## INTRODUCING YOUR 2022-23 SDFS GOVERNING COMMITTEE

We are delighted to announce the SDFS Committee for 2022-2023.

### **Executive:**

President: Tony Leggatt  
 Vice President: Alex Suslin  
 Secretary: Helen Wescombe-Down  
 Treasurer: Farzad Atefi

### **Members at Large:**

Sara Leggatt (Membership Officer)	Kerry Cook
Heather Creech (Communications Officer)	Merv Brash
Heather Petty	Brendan Toohey
Emma Johnson	Carrie Loudoun
Andy Burnell	Rodrigo Lopes
	Sue Booth

Our heartfelt thanks to the members of the 2021-22 Committee who stepped down this year due to relocation interstate or travel plans for 2022-23:

Cathy Johnson, Karolyn Landat, Sebastien Landat and Steve Simmons

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

- Port Giles Jetty will be closed to the public for maintenance from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 1 October 2022.
- The Australasian Diving Safety Foundation (ADSF) is offering an Oxygen Unit Subsidy Grant. This may be of interest to all clubs and diving groups wanting to add to their current safety equipment. For details, contact <https://adsf.org.au>.

## SDFSFA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

At the recent SDFSFA AGM, members agreed to an important change to our membership structure. All shops, clubs and organisations can now join the SDFSFA for free as Associate members. With the success of our efforts to raise funds through Bunnings sausage sizzles, grants and sponsorships, we are no longer reliant on membership dues to sustain and advance the work of the Federation. An Associate member is entitled to one vote at SDFSFA General Meetings, such as the AGM.

### Relevant sections of the SDFSFA Constitution:

#### Article 5.1.1 (2)

Clubs, shops and organisation members can nominate one of their members to represent their organisation. A scuba diving club or organisation shall be classed as an associate member of the Association. A scuba diving club or organisation shall nominate its delegate in writing and must advise the Association in writing of any change in delegate.

#### And Article 8.5 (d)

An associate member shall be entitled to appoint one person as a delegate to represent it at a particular General Meeting or at all General Meetings of the Association. The named delegate is entitled to vote on behalf of the associate member at all General Meetings of the Association. If the named delegate is also an individual member in their own right, they shall be entitled to one vote only.

SDFSFA will be in touch in the coming months with shops and clubs to expand our membership and find ways that we can support the work of your organisations.

**SDFSFA Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Results:** We raised just over \$2,000 at the recent Edwardstown Bunnings. Our thanks to the support from Bunnings and to all of you who dropped by for a snag!

**Next Committee meeting** of the SDFSFA: 21 September, Arab Steed, Gilles St, Adelaide, 7-9pm.

## NEWS FROM SHOPS AND CLUBS

**Underwater Sports** is running a PADI Dive against Debris specialty course Saturday 24 September at Edithburgh, with \$20 from each course fee to be donated to the PADI AWARE Foundation. This is an opportunity to support PADI AWARE, help with debris cleanup at Edithburgh, and add to your diving skill set.

Manny Katz from **Coffin Bay Scuba** reports that they are exploring and building a selection of great dives sites on the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula. It's a timely reminder that Peter Cetra's initiative, **DiveDB** (<https://divedb.net>), is growing as a central repository of dive site information across South Australia.

And we see that with winter slowly giving way to spring, scuba and free divers are getting out onto the water in greater numbers. Some excellent photos of a recent dive on the Claris were posted on SA Dive Sites by members of the **University of Adelaide Scuba Club**. The **Adelaide Freedive Tribe** has also been busy exploring the calmer side of the Yorke Peninsula, with reports of excellent visibility and even a sea lion or two at Edithburgh.

We look forward to hearing more from clubs and shops this coming year.

**South Australia Archaeology Society (SAAS)** recommends an interesting youtube video of a 19-minute dive at 35m on a recently discovered site called the Anchor Graveyard. Check out "The Anchor Graveyard Guernsey on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nt9ZhysEmA> . According to the page, "This new dive site has caused quite a stir with the discovery of 50 plus large anchors laying in a pile in 35 m of water off Guernsey's west coast... More dives will be done on this site to try to establish what, when and why. A shipwreck without a name has no history so fingers crossed we can establish why they are on the sea bed."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Mark Tozer on successfully completing his TDI rEvo re-breather course with Deep Blue Ventures in Victoria. (Mark had to resort to spending some 7 hours underwater in just a wetsuit in 11°C after his dry-suit started leaking on the first dive!)
- Calypso Star Charters on their recent purchase of Adventure Bay Charters.
- Richard Harris on the recent publication of the young reader's edition of "Against All Odds".
- Dr Peta Straiton on the completion of her PhD assessing the economic and sociocultural value of maritime cultural heritage using case studies from South Australia. Details can be found at [Flinders University - RHD Theses](#).
- The winner in the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of The Year competition, especially the South Australian winners (& runners-up). South Australians and SA locations are both well-represented. South Australian William Godward was a runner-up in the Astrophotography section. James Dorey was the winner in the Botanical section. Jarrod Koh was a runner up in the Monochrome section. Jiayuan Liang was a runner-up in the Our Impact section. Alejandro Trevino from New South Wales was the winner of the Portfolio section. The winning entries are on display at the SA Museum until the end of October.
- Rob Kirk on the release of his latest book titled "Dr John Woodforde and six parrot puddings".

## DIVE GEAR REPORT: Dive Computers

By Alex Suslin

What did we do without dive computers? The correct answer is dive tables, but when was the last time you saw someone use them to calculate surface intervals, depths & dive times – or used them yourself? Yes, they're going the way of the slide rule.

If you're in the market for a computer, there's a mindboggling array to choose from. Not like the "good old days" when your sole option was to blow the kids' inheritance on a chunky "bend-o-matic". Now you've got dive watches in different sizes & colours with fancy straps & bezels & mini TV screens for the wrist, pucks that fit in your gauge boot in place of the depth gauge, air integrated ones on your



high pressure hose that may or may not be easily disconnected for safe storage & hoseless ones holding two-way conversations with the transmitter on your first stage.

Features? The mind boggles. Navigation, multi-gas mixes – no wonder many instruction manuals are the size of a block-buster novel. Literally a model to suit every diver. So how does one choose?

Often, cost is the main factor & unless you're a serious tech diver or aspire to be one, there's a large range well under the four figure mark. Do some on-line homework, read dive magazine reviews & narrow down the range, then discuss with your dive shop professionals. Buying new gives you warranty protection. And you're supporting the folks who support you. Older divers (like me) whose eyes aren't as sharp as they used to be will find a large screen unit easier to read than a dive watch. Computers with user replaceable batteries can save big dollars compared to having them sent away to a specialist.



Used dive computers can be an expensive trap. Buying off a buddy who's upgrading or – heaven forbid! – hanging up the fins, should allow you to try it out before parting with your cash. On line, buying from a reputable seller on eBay & using PayPal at least means you can be refunded if the item's a dud. Definitely avoid the “needs new battery” ones. That phrase can cover a multitude of problems.

Happy shopping!

## STEVE'S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

### THE OVERALL WINNER OF THE AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

WA's Ashlee Jansen was the overall winner of the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of The Year competition (and the \$10,000 prize money). Taken in July 2021, Ashlee's photo features the carcass of a sub-adult Humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, that had died whilst making the annual migration north along Ningaloo Reef. Ashlee found the humpback whale carcass “on the ocean floor, stripped clean of its flesh by surrounding sharks”. A Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, is to be seen swimming next to the carcass. According to The Advertiser of 26<sup>th</sup> August, Ashlee had simply jumped in to the water to take her winning photo, despite the presence of several ‘well-fed’ shark species.

According to the competition's judges, “This captivating image of a dead whale speaks to the circle of life – one death supports the renewal of other ocean communities. The beauty of the image lies in its artful circular composition, seen in the curves of the whale's skeletal ribs mirroring the patterns in the sand, keeping our eye within the frame moving between the living and the dead.” Ashlee's photo was taken in Coral Bay, Western Australia using a Sony A7R II with a Canon EF 8–15mm, f/4, 1/320, f/10, ISO 400, hand-held in a Nauticam underwater housing.

### A DISCUSSION ABOUT IDENTIFICATION OF A COMMON ASCIDIAN AT PORT HUGHES JETTY

Identifying photos of marine invertebrate species such as sponges and ascidians is tricky at best. In November 2019, I posted 4 photos of ascidians that I found at Port Hughes jetty on iNaturalist at <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/35600304>. I suggested that they were all *Didemnum*

*delictum*, as featured on page 283 of “A Field Guide to the Marine Invertebrates of South Australia” by Karen Gowlett-Holmes. I mainly used that ID as a way of finding out from others if I was correct. I’m repeating all these comments here now in a vain attempt to get my head around it all.

Comments made by others about my photos went as follows: -

- “I'm not sure this one is *D. delectum*. From <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/40460926#page/173/mode/1up>, (p171): "Branchial apertures [the small ones] are conspicuously stellate". It also states that the zooids are dark and visible through the test.”
- “Just to throw a spanner as I do, this has some affinities with *Trididemnum cerebriforme* in Part 111 of Marine Invertebrates of Southern Australia (Shepherd, Davies 1997).”
- “(It is) *Didemnum delictum* (a member of Overgrowing Tunicates Family Didemnidae).”
- “as this is a colonial ascidian, not a solitary ascidian, the atrial and branchial siphons are very tiny, and associated with each individual zooid, you would have to zoom in a lot closer to see the stellate shape of the branchial (incurrent) siphons. The outcurrent siphons are internal and channel waste into the 'common cloacal openings', which are the openings you see here.”
- “(It is) *Didemnum delictum* (a member of Overgrowing Tunicates Family Didemnidae).”
- “I think (although I could be wrong) the branchial apertures are visible enough in image #1 that you should be able to see the stellate rims if they were there, such as in my observation below. You can clearly make out the aperture shape in the close up, but also (with some difficulty, granted) in the other images. <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/46964745>. You also can't see dark zooids. If else some of these should be visible through the cloacal apertures (i.e. you can see zooids in the cloacal aperture on the lobe on the far right of image 1 with seagrass attached)”
- “@steve\_reynolds did you get *D. delectum* from Gowlett-Holmes (p. 283)? FWIW, I think this species more closely resembles the L/H image of *D. lissocinum* on p. 284, but I wouldn't necessarily put too much stock in that (I also note that the two images shown for that species entry don't even look much alike). \*Edit - Kott's description of this species also mentions stellate branchial apertures.”
- “This will be a maverick ID but suggesting *D. lissoclinum* per KGH p. 284. I'm not certain, since the two photos of this species in the guide don't seem to show the same characteristics.”
- Then finally, “Based on p. 283 of the same guide, I think this is *D. delectum* - <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/61454035> . KGH mentions conspicuous cloacal canals, which probably line up with the zooid-free areas on the surface of the test (radiating from the cloacal apertures) in my observation, but there's nothing suggesting these channels in the observation here (although assuming internal structure from external features isn't totally reliable).”

## NEW WORM SPECIES DISCOVERED

Well-known marine scientist David Harasti first discovered a Bobbit worm in Port Stephens 20 years ago. The marine worm has just been described as a new species, called *Eunice dharastii* after David. Short video footage of the worm can be seen at <https://t.co/0v9OZ1CuKf> . It grows to over 1m in length! Full details can be read at “A new species of giant Eunice (Eunicidae, Polychaeta, Annelida) from the east coast of Australia” at <https://zookeys.pensoft.net/article/86448/>.

A common species of Bobbitt worm found in SA is *Eunice laticeps*. Details can be found on iNaturalist at <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/368331-Eunice-laticeps> . Details of all Bobbitt worms reported from SA on iNaturalist can be found at <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/88296-Eunice> .

## SHRIMP SPECIES CHANGES ITS GENUS

*Ancylomenes aesopius* is the recent new name for the Palaemonid shrimp, *Periclimenes aesopius*. It belongs to the Superfamily Palaemonoidea and the large Family Palaemonidae. According to iNaturalist at [https://www.inaturalist.org/taxon\\_changes?taxon\\_id=649576](https://www.inaturalist.org/taxon_changes?taxon_id=649576) there was a taxonomic change or taxonomic swap committed on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (Taxonomic Swap number 108952). What is a taxonomic swap? Basically, it's when a species (such as *aesopius*) is placed in a different/new genus (such as *Ancylomenes* instead of *Periclimenes*).

Taxonomy is described as "the practice of categorizing and naming of species". ("The official "scientific name" of an organism consists of its Genus and its Species Identifier in a naming system called binomial nomenclature. The current taxonomic system gets its roots from the work of Carolus Linnaeus in the early 1700s.") According to <https://txmarspecies.tamug.edu/invertfamilydetails.cfm?famnameID=Palaemonidae>, "Palaemonid shrimps live in a wide range of environments, from freshwater to the deep ocean. .... Most are small, rarely reaching longer than 5 cm (2 in), but some get large enough to be of some commercial value. This family includes many transparent or nearly transparent species. Many are commensal (living on or in another organism without causing harm to the host organism), attracted to hosts such as sponges, corals and anemones. The more colorful ones are able to alter their color to match their background or hosts." A 1998 photo of *Ancylomenes aesopius* by David Muirhead can be seen on iNaturalist at <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/observations/36610436>.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### *South Australia*

**16 September: Seadragon Science in the Pub, at the Yankalilla Football Club, 6pm to 9:30, held by Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries.** Book now for an evening of discovery, including talks by experts, EMS Virtual Reality experience and the latest in photographs and artwork. Meals can be ordered from 6-7pm. Book now at the EMS website, [www.emsau.org](http://www.emsau.org).

**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.

**On display until 31 October, SA Museum: AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR EXHIBITION.** The winning entries in the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of The Year competition are on display at the SA Museum.

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.diveforcancer.com.au).

### *Interstate/International*

**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](http://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](https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/annual-conference?fbclid=IwAR2fi13zFeWkYOayVaXAylaVnyqrHMNfthi9ebjioL4eWcXqvL_xpGm8rAM) .

## ABOUT THE SDFS...

**SDFS** 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.

## **SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.**

PO Box 287, Christies Beach SA 5165. Email: [info@sdfs.net](mailto:info@sdfs.net)

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