

SDFSA Newsletter – March 2023

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

Email: info@sdfsa.net or Web: <https://sdfsa.net>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scubadivesa/>

SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568109670769809>

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SDFSA Patron:
Dr. Richard Harris



REMINDER:

Port Noarlunga Jetty will be closed 17 April to 2 June

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BIG EVENTS on the SA DIVE CALENDAR

Dive for Cancer: Sunday 26 March 2023, Port Noarlunga: Tickets now available on EventBrite. SDFSA is helping Mark Tozer and Dive for Cancer to relaunch this important event. As Mark says, "The more who dive, the more survive". Dive for Cancer has raised thousands of dollars for cancer research. Buy your tickets now and enjoy a great dive followed by lunch, speakers, silent auction and more. Donations are already coming in from dive shops and dive equipment companies; let's all join in to support this important event.

SAVE THIS DATE: **Friday, 19 May 2023: SDFSA Dinner and presentations. SDFSA is hosting an evening with our patron, Dr. Richard Harris, for the SDFSA Lifetime Membership Awards.** Dr. Harry will be speaking on his latest adventures into deep diving and other initiatives; followed by the presentation of the SDFSA Lifetime membership awards to several longstanding champions of the Federation, who have contributed significantly to the sport of diving in SA. This year's recipients include those who helped to create the Federation, saved the old Rapid Bay jetty, worked to protect the Blue Groper in all Gulf waters, and influenced the creation of the Port Noarlunga Dive Trail. The recipients of the award will be announced later this month; tickets for the event will go on sale late March.

Edithburgh Jetty 150th anniversary, 7-8 October 2023. There will be multiple events, including a period costume ball at the Edithburgh Institute on the Saturday night, historic vehicles, presentations on the history of the Edithburgh jetty, a historical diving display and possibly demonstrations and much, much more. SDFSA is working with the organisers to have a booth there, so it's an opportunity to drop by, have a chat and celebrate one of our most favoured jetties in South Australia.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- Port Noarlunga jetty will be closed to the public from the 17 of April to the 3rd of June. The first third of the jetty walkway boards are being replaced; and other structural issues will be addressed.
- Edithburgh steps: Council have agreed and are in the process of making a set of steps to attach to the bottom of the southern steps so divers and swimmers can at least enter and exit safely at low tide.

- We've been in touch with the Port Lincoln dive shop; the owners have been working with DIT and the Council on what might be possible to reopen Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln jetties for divers but as usual it will be a question of cost and time.
- Second Valley: many have noted that at low tide, the bottom step is out of the water. While this may be inconvenient to divers, council has no funds to address the problem. Divers are advised either to time your dive to avoid low tides or exit on the beach nearby.
- **Have your say on expanding the Animal Protection Act to include fish and marine invertebrates.** According to InDaily.com. au, at the present time "all fish [and] aquatic invertebrates (such as octopuses, starfish and jellyfish) ... are not defined as animals for the purposes of the Act." The SA Government is seeking input in its review of the Act to determine whether the definitions should be expanded, and what protections might then be afforded to fish and invertebrates, including sharks and rays. Go to <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/animal-welfare-act-review>: **submissions close 26 March 2023.**
- AusOcean is working to expand its Network Blue program which involves getting STEM students to help build floating platforms for ocean video observations. AusOcean is looking for divers to help high schools to look after their rigs. Contact AusOcean for more information: <https://www.ausocean.org/>
- And a reminder about DiveDB: Your dive photos, and dive details, can be added to the DiveDB - Dive Sites site at <https://divedb.net/>.

IMPORTANT OCEANS PROTECTION UN TREATY SIGNED

The Australian Marine Conservation Society reports as follows: "a historic agreement to protect international waters has been agreed on by 190 nations! This landmark agreement will allow the creation of international marine parks on the world's High Seas - which are the oceans beyond countries' national waters.

The High Seas are home to incredible marine life and unique ecosystems that underpin all life on Earth. There are remarkable deep water corals, whale and shark superhighways, massive canyons, deep-sea vents, abundant fish stocks, and other wonders that are only yet to be discovered.

Now, finally, there is a pathway to protect these waters. The High Seas Treaty aims to place 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030, to safeguard and recuperate marine nature."

SDFSA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Our next meeting is 22nd March at the Arab Steed Hotel, 7pm in the upstairs meeting room.

NEWS FROM SHOPS AND CLUBS

Time to get your tank tested? Underwater sports do on site tank testing every Wednesday. Both Diving Adelaide and Adelaide Scuba offer a drop off service: drop your tank off before a Friday, get it back the next Friday. Tanks are tested by All Pressure Testing.

EMS — Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries want to expand its program to serve those with mobility challenges who wish to enjoy SA's marine environment, but it needs trained support volunteers. To that end it is offering the PADI Adaptive Support Diver & PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty - Adelaide - **24th, 25th and 26th March** at a subsidised rate. PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty Instructor Sally Watson is travelling from Victoria to teach this course. You can do both courses

together if you are a certified PADI Divemaster (or PADI Master Freediver) or above and Adaptive Support Diver/snorkeller if you are certified PADI Open Water (or PADI Freediver) or above. **Let Carl at EMS know if you'd like to join one or both courses ASAP by sending your details (Name, mobile, DOB and dive certification).**

PADI Adaptive Support Diver (1.5 days) – subsidised to \$295 (usually \$480)

PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty -includes Adaptive Support Diver (2.5 days) – subsidised to \$495. (Usually \$800)

Send you details to bookings@emsau.org.

Australian Sea Lion Recovery Foundation: A new charity just recently established to support Sea lions. The founders produced the documentary “Sea Lions: Life by a whisker”, filmed on the Eyre Peninsula and available on the ABC. If you support their mission, you can ask to Follow their FB page for more information in the coming months as they get up and running.

Coffin Bay Scuba: The Coffin Bay Scuba Co. opened up a full service dive shop at Coffin Bay, South Australia on 1st December. Their trading hours are 9:00-3:00 Monday to Friday, 61/2 Esplanade, Coffin Bay, phone 0401811020. They offer PADI courses, gear hire, guided dives & tank fills.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Our Patron, Dr Richard Harris and the Wet Mules team on the first use of hydrogen in autonomous diving at Pearse Resurgence in New Zealand. (It was the first “autonomous dive in a hydreliox recycler (oxygen, hydrogen, helium); with the amount of hydrogen used, and the effects felt at -230m”.)

Joyce Bradnam, the 88-year old diver from Auckland, NZ on her retirement from diving after over 1000 dives between 1999 (when she was 64) and 2023. See https://www.nowtolove.co.nz/news/real-life/meet-the-scuba-granny-who-swims-with-sharks-4708?fbclid=IwAR2xH5gT8Pg_QOTz1bwPZkwwXdpun7UiaISUQ1f92qiQgQyCjTJ2kjm5ziU

Captain Paul Watson and the Captain Paul Watson Foundation on the purchase of their first ship, the JOHN PAUL DEJORIA II. See <https://www.paulwatsonfoundation.org/> .

Associate Professor Natalie Harkin, Associate Professor Ian Moffat and Professor Justin Chalker, a trio of Flinders University researchers who have been awarded Future Fellowships worth almost \$3 million in the Australian Research Council’s first round of 2022. Read about their success in Fearless Research: <https://bit.ly/3F7AeVn>

Blake Wilson and Steve Cox who are part of a group of cave divers with the Woodville Karst Plain Project. Divers with the Project found a connecting passage between the 38-mile-long Wakulla Cave System and 7-mile-long Chip’s Hole Cave System. They had spent more than a decade looking for the connecting passage. Visit <https://www.wctv.tv/2023/01/17/cave-divers-make-significant-connection-deep-beneath-surface-wakulla-county/?fbclid=IwAR0glB2SzcysWn2KpFkm9z4zyyTZGDRPSuX4Pp954sTlb1gf1ULarihDDuY> for further details.

Gear Reports

UPDATE ON AVAILABILITY OF UWATEC GALILEO DIVE COMPUTER BATTERIES

There has been a supply issue with the Lithium 3 volt battery CR12600SE. Alex Suslin informs us that Scuba pro is expecting a limited number “any day” now. Strict rationing will apply so no one shop can snaffle the lot. In the meanwhile, they’re still looking for an alternative battery.

And from Steve Reynolds....

FOLDING FINs

I reported on the “World's First Folding Fins” in the November 2022 newsletter after Max Szymański (max@foldingfins.com) told me that Exotech had just started the production of folding fins. Max invited us to “take a look at the photos, videos from the production and action as well, adding “If you have any troubles with viewing the video, simply download it.” The Folding Fins website is at <https://foldingfins.com/> . Take a look at the page found at <https://foldingfins.com/pages/folding-fins>. I have now received a follow-up message from Max, saying “If you are curious how it is to put them on under water, how to swim with frog kick, scissors or other technique, check out the video of our friend from Taiwan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjXxqC4uLuA> . “Awareness about our fins is gaining momentum, we recently appeared in the prestigious PADI magazine, right next to the latest Apple Watch (Ultra with Oceanic + app)”.

Max also said, “Please take a look at our folding fins being used during cave diving”.



SURF WET SUITS CAN NOW BE RECYCLED

According to a Facebook post by Sustainable Onkaparinga, “wet suits can now be recycled as part of the Rip Curl Free Recycling program! Simply drop your old, damaged surf wetsuits off to Rip Curl at

330 Seaview Road, Henley Beach. These wetsuits will be used to make new material such as soft fall matting for playgrounds. Any brand of used surf wetsuits can be dropped off! However, please note that the program does NOT accept:

- ✗ Booties
- ✗ Gloves
- ✗ Helmets
- ✗ Diving suits.

No need to clean the suits but please make sure they are dry – they won't accept any dripping items. If unable to get your old, damaged suit to Rip Curl, please dispose of it in the WASTE to landfill bin.

For more information on this program visit <https://stewardshipexcellence.com.au/.../Rip-Curl-Case>.

HISTORY STORY for the month

By Steve Reynolds

PHOTOS OF OLD LADDERS AT THE PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY

We now have a few photos of the old ladders at the Port Noarlunga jetty taken by Christopher Deane & Peter Horne: -



Christopher Deane points out that the first ladders went onto the reef during the 1960s and 70s. He also adds that “British Sub Aqua Club fabricated and fixed the last vertical ladder at the end of the jetty after (the) end of (the) jetty perished in a storm. That fell straight down and that’s where it sits to this day.”

Thanks Chris & Peter for your input.

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

REPORT YOUR OBSERVATIONS OF FISH TOOL USE

According to a Facebook post by ASFB (@AustSocFishBiol), "Report your observations of fish tool use! A new citizen science project by @TarielJuliette and @CulumBrown is inviting divers, snorkellers and aquarium-goers to submit their observations of tool use behaviour, in which fish use anvils to crack open prey. According to the web page at <https://fishtooluse.com>, "Have you seen fish using tools? Let us know!

What to look for?

A fish uses a hard surface to help it open a hard-shelled prey item (such as a sea urchin or shell). After grabbing the prey in its mouth, the fish slams it quickly and repeatedly on the hard surface until it breaks.

If you have seen this (kind of) striking behaviour, try to remember the species/genus/family of the fish... And then fill this participation form or send ... an email (to) juliette@gmail.com . Any information is helpful, so don't hesitate, even if you have no idea about the fish species.

If you have never seen this behaviour, open your eyes. You might see a fish using a rock as a tool very soon.

The use of tools allows fish to access food resources that would otherwise be inaccessible to it. It would not have been able to break open these prey items using only its mouth and teeth. Given the high advantages of tool use, why did not all fish ... evolve it? In the research project, your participation would help determining all fish species that use anvils so we can (1) find out whether this behaviour evolved once or several times in the evolutionary history of fish, and (2) test hypotheses about the factors driving the evolution of tool use, such as that tool use only evolves in species with large brains.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any comments or would like to get more involved."

Juliette Tariel-Adam says that fish use a rock as a tool to help them to break open hard-shelled prey (molluscs) and that 15 wrasse species have been observed using such tools to date.

UPDATES: Juliette Tariel-Adam reports that Susan Prior has observed a new species of fish using a rock as a tool to break up its prey at Norfolk Island. Details can be found at <https://twitter.com/TarielJuliette/status/1623522980725932033?cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjcw%3D%3D&refsrc=email>.

A recent Twitter post at <https://twitter.com/TarielJuliette/status/1626448721578971136?cxt=HBwWgMDS8dafp5ItAAAA&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjcw%3D%3D&refsrc=email> shows some video footage by Wolf Rock Dive Centre of a wrasse using a rock to smash open an urchin.

(Meanwhile, scientists filmed AROUND 10 gloomy octopus (*Octopus tetricus*) in Jervis Bay, NSW tossing material such as silt & shells at each other by using their siphons.)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

Sunday 26 March 2023: **Dive for Cancer** returns with diving at Port Noarlunga reef followed by food and drinks, a guest speaker, some prize giveaways, silent and live auctions. See www.diveforcancer.com.au .

Friday 19 May 2023 **SDFSFA Lifetime Membership Awards Dinner** with a presentation by our patron, Dr. Richard Harris

7-8 October 2023: **150th Anniversary of the Edithburg Jetty**

Interstate/International

18-19 May (New Dates): the Australian Coastal Restoration Network (ACRN) symposium will be held at James Cook University, Townsville - www.acrn.org.au.

2nd to 7th July 2023: The 57th Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) 2023 annual conference will be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. "This is a national marine science forum that will provide a space to exchange traditional knowledge and modern science. Together, this will provide a strong foundation for understanding marine ecosystems, and inform marine management decisions"

13th to 21st August: National Science Week – see www.scienceweek.net.au .

13-15th September: 2023 Joint Conference of the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) and the ICOMOS - International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH). The Conference theme is 'Connected by Water' and will be held in Canberra.

7-13th November: National Recycling Week – www.recyclingweek.planetark.org .

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 V1z and Conditions for current diving conditions shared by the group members.

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