

SDFSA Newsletter – April 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



Congratulations, Dive for Cancer 2023

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Changes to Rapid Bay

The SDFSAs has been working closely with DIT over the past few months on options for Rapid Bay. The old jetty is continuing to deteriorate, with growing safety issues where remaining sections are in danger of collapse and must be taken down. Following our advice, DIT has assured us that the pylons will be placed on the seabed. We have asked that if possible, to have some crossed over each other, adding to the light and shaded areas to support marine life. We have been advised that the wood walkway will not be placed on the seabed as this is considered toxic. As for the main Tee section of the jetty this will stay. The walkways between the main structures at the Tee will only be removed if they look as if they are going to fall into the sea.



Other modifications have been discussed with DIT, including using the wood from the walkway for other enhancements to the Rapid Bay parking area. Under consideration as well is the placement of blocks and star droppers from the end of the new jetty to the Tee section of the old jetty. We have no assurances from DIT at this stage about these additional suggestions other than they will be considered later as work progresses.

For more details on the exclusion zone:

<https://www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au/newsletter-items/marine-safety-sa-april-easter-2023->

[newsletter?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Marine+Safety+SA+April+Easter+Edition+2023&utm_content=Marine+Safety+SA+April+Easter+Edition+2023+CID_fcd5eedce23c17e1adda00d9a91a8d94&utm_source=Marine+Safety+EDM&utm_term=Find+out+more&fbclid=IwAR1DJJCA8mW7kAs2nkswSGFiw-Jydx5SBVtmxftIQGqJ6WuFE0oKovDSmQw#old-rapid-bay-jetty-please-keep-clear](https://www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au/newsletter-items/marine-safety-sa-april-easter-2023-newsletter?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Marine+Safety+SA+April+Easter+Edition+2023&utm_content=Marine+Safety+SA+April+Easter+Edition+2023+CID_fcd5eedce23c17e1adda00d9a91a8d94&utm_source=Marine+Safety+EDM&utm_term=Find+out+more&fbclid=IwAR1DJJCA8mW7kAs2nkswSGFiw-Jydx5SBVtmxftIQGqJ6WuFE0oKovDSmQw#old-rapid-bay-jetty-please-keep-clear)

Port Noarlunga jetty to be closed to the public 1 May

The jetty will be completely closed to the public for 6 to 8 weeks as much of the work involves the first 30% of the jetty walkway.

Where to dive while both the old Rapid Bay jetty and Port Noarlunga jetties are closed?

So long as divers remain outside the exclusion zone at Rapid Bay, divers can still swim out to the Tee section. At Port Noarlunga, divers can enter from shore and swim out to the reef or explore the shallow reef nearshore to Witton Bluff. This may be an excellent time to explore other dive/free dive/snorkelling sites, including Second Valley and Lassister's Reef, and a lovely shore dive to the nearshore reef at Carrickalinga. Members of the SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions suggest great dives at Pt Hughes, Moonta and Wallaroo. There is a small but very interesting jetty at Ardrossan but be sure to dive it at high tide as the site is very shallow. Go to <https://divedb.net> for more information and coordinates.

19 May, 6:30 to 9:30: An Evening with Dr. Richard Harris and the 2023 SDFSA Lifetime Members

Join us for an evening with Dr. Richard Harris and the 2023 recipients of the SDFSA Lifetime Member Honours. Book now on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdfsa-life-membership-award-night-tickets-561330854697>.

On Friday, 19 May the SDFSA invites you to join us for dinner and an evening with our patron, Dr. Richard Harris. Dr. Harry will be talking about his latest adventures with diving at depth, followed by the presentation of the 2023 SDFSA Lifetime Membership honours.

The SDFSA Lifetime membership recognises those individuals in our South Australian diving community who have contributed significantly to the work of the Federation, the sport of scuba diving and the enjoyment of our spectacular and unique marine and freshwater environments. We are very pleased to announce the following recipients of the honour for 2023.

Con Penglis



Con was a pioneer of scuba diver representation in South Australia and gave “birth” to the current day Scuba Divers Federation. In 1970 and '71, Con was very aware of the lack of scuba diver representation by both the Council of Underwater Activities of South Australia and its controlling body, the Australian Underwater Federation. With assistance from New South Wales scuba diver colleagues, who were setting up their own association, Con and co-founders established the Scuba Divers Association of South Australia and became the inaugural president.

Among many achievements Con played a significant role in cave diving safety through the establishment of cave diver qualifications and the issuing of permits at Picanninie Ponds. And like many divers, he was also a conservationist, working towards the establishment of the first

aquatic reserve in Australia at Port Noarlunga and the protection of blue groper in South Australian Waters.

Judy Hani

Judy is another inveterate South Australian diver who started out exploring the underwater world in places like Hawaii, Galapagos, Vanuatu, PNG and Micronesia. After returning to Australia to live, Judy joined the SDFSA Committee. Scuba diving offered her a sport that she could feel passionate about, but it was more than that. It was the friendships and fellowship she shared among other divers and joining the SDFSA was a way to give back to the diving community.



Judy served for 20 years on the Committee, including a number of years as Vice-President. During that time, she represented the Federation at

SA Trails, successfully encouraging them to include underwater trails as part of the SA Trails network. In particular, Judy was instrumental in influencing SA Trails to create the Port Noarlunga Dive Trail, which every new diver experiences as part of their training. She was also the representative for the Hobart boat tours.

Christopher Deane

Christopher Deane started diving back in 1969 – his first dive being, of course, Port Noarlunga (but with a twin hose reg and zero visibility). Since that time diving has been an enormous part of his life, with all sorts of experiences under his belt. Chris, along with his wife Cathy, became serious advocates for diving in general. Chris was a long serving committee member of the Scuba Divers Federation of SA, worked in the Fisheries Dept as a technical diving officer, was a part owner of Divers International, PADI dive instructor from 1983 - 2006, foundation member of the Cave Divers Association of Australia, President of the Historical Diving Society Australia Pacific for the last 10 years, monthly contributor of Dive Log Australia for the last 30 years....and the list goes on.



Chris was a major player and instrumental in both the scuttling of the ex-HMAS Hobart and the design and build of the new Rapid Bay Jetty. He is unable to join us for the evening but we were happy to present his award earlier this year at Dive for Cancer. He is pictured here at Dive for Cancer with SDFSAs Vice President, Alex Suslin.

The SDFSAs event is being held at the Rob Roy Hotel Friday 19 May from 6:30 to 9:30. Dinner will be followed by Dr. Harry's talk and the awards presentation. Join us to recognise the contribution that Con, Judy and Chris have made to diving in South Australia. Tickets on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdfsas-life-membership-award-night-tickets-561330854697>

Our thanks to all of you for supporting Dive for Cancer

The DfC team (which included SDFSAs Committee members) are thrilled to announce that on Friday 31st March we donated the sum of \$12,839.05 to the Cancer Council SA. With only 5 weeks to organise this event, the team are extremely proud of this effort.

It was an incredible experience to dive deep and raise funds for such an important cause. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against cancer. Without the support of our sponsors and those who attend and spend on the day (and pick up some amazing bargains) this great result would not have been possible. We'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank and recognise the following donors/sponsors:

ACURA Group | Adelaide SCUBA | Aviation Museum | Birdwood Mill Motor Museum | Mike Bossley | British Sub Aqua Club | Busch ANZ Pty Ltd | Sharon Capriotti | Cressi Australia | Divers Alert Network | Diving Adelaide | First Stage Pty Ltd | Lukasz Hal | Historical Diving Society | Stratis Kas | Alby Mangels | Maritime Museum | B Mayfield | Mile End Office Supplies | OI Wetsuits | Ocean Pro (AUP) | PADI | Josh Richards | Rodney Fox Shark Expeditions | Scubapro | Sea Wolves Dive Club | Matty Smith | Elizabeth Solich | Sterling Leisure | Thomson & Associates | TUSA | Underwater Housing Servicing | Underwater Sports

Next year is the 10th anniversary of Dive for Cancer, with planning already underway for this major event. Stay tuned.....

IMPORTANT NOTICES

PICCANINNIE PONDS IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. At the time of writing (27th March), “Piccaninnie Ponds is closed for immersive water activities until further notice. The conservation park remains open to the public however entry into the water for diving and snorkeling is not permitted and permits are not being issued.” DEW advised back in February that Piccaninnie Ponds was being closed to the public for water-based activities until further notice because they were experiencing a significant bloom of filamentous algae. It is best that you check the current situation before planning a trip.

EDITHBURGH JETTY SOUTHERN STEPS have been repaired with an extension to the ladder.

PROPOSAL TO PREPARE A DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SE MARINE PARKS NETWORK.

Comments on the proposal to prepare a draft management plan for the SE Marine Parks Network to be submitted by 22/5. Visit www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/south-east/.

HMAS HOBART MEMORIAL. Yankalilla Council recently resolved to continue negotiations to acquire a portion of land at Lady Bay in order to widen Main South Road and to include the HMAS Hobart Memorial land as “public road/ road reserve for parking, lookout and memorial benefit”.

SDFSA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Our next meeting is Wednesday, 26 April at the Arab Steed Hotel, 7pm in the upstairs meeting room.

NEWS FROM SHOPS AND CLUBS

Reclink SA receives support from Adelaide Scuba

The SDFSA Committee would like to congratulate and recognise the efforts of Tony Leggatt, SDFSA President, who on behalf of Reclink Australia, successfully sought the support of Adelaide Scuba to train and qualify Angie Mitchell, senior Coordinator at Reclink, as a SCUBA instructor, free of charge. This will enable Reclink to continue to provide SCUBA instruction to disadvantaged Australians.

Tony would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the support of Lissi Whyte, owner of Adelaide Scuba.

Reclink Australia provides evidence-based sport and recreation programs to disadvantaged Australians to create socially inclusive, life-changing opportunities. In partnership with more than 500 community organisations, Reclink Australia's programs create pathways to improved health and wellbeing, education and employment outcomes for all participants. www.reclink.org

MARINE LIFE SOCIETY'S AGM

MLSSA has reverted to holding its AGM in April. This year's meeting will be held on 19th April at the home of MLSSA's Patron rather than the regular location of the Port Environment Centre. Meanwhile, the Centre is celebrating its 4th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Carl Charter on being named Scuba Diving magazine's Sea Hero for April for making the underwater world accessible to non-divers via virtual reality. Carl gets a nice new watch for being the month's Sea Hero and he is inline for the annual prize of \$5000. The watch made a good birthday present for April-born Carl.
- All those that worked towards the Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary Zone being included on the National Heritage List.
- Elizabeth Solich of Oceanic Soiree whose artwork "Pyjama Squid Armageddon" won the "Satire/caricature expressing people's responsibility" prize at the 14th Solar Art Prize - Caring for our Planet.
- Cathy Henkel on being awarded the Stanley Hawes Award "in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Australian documentary and factual sector at the Australian International Documentary Conference in Melbourne" in March. Cathy's first film titled Heroes of Our Time, co-produced by Catherine Marciniak, highlighted an oil company's dumping of waste into Australian waters. Since the film first aired in 1991, Cathy has made 10 long-form films, and more than 100 short-form films. Each film focuses on either environmental or social justice issues. Further details can be found at https://www.thesenior.com.au/story/8114525/filmed-for-purpose/?j=607503&sfmc_sub=98593339&l=385_HTML&u=13963568&mid=514009172&jb=2008 .



HISTORY STORY for the month

Disaster at Sea: 3 South Australian Shipwrecks

In the latest issue of the RAA Newsletter, John Pedlar presents tales of SA Shipwrecks. Take a dive into his research at:

https://samotor.raa.com.au/disaster-at-sea-3-south-australian-shipwrecks/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=samotor%20-%206%20April%202023&utm_content=samotor%20-%206%20April%202023+Version+A+CID_0521875807967b5cceaee9165c0293ec&utm_source=raaenews&utm_term=Take%20a%20dive

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

NEW FISH SIGHTING AT PORT NOARLUNGA. As described in my article "Observations made during our recent dive at Port Noarlunga Reef" at <http://mlssa.org.au/2023/03/27/observations-made-during-our-recent-dive-at-port-noarlunga-reef/> , a Western Crested Morwong (aka WA Magpie Morwong), *Goniistius gibbosus*, has been sighted by several divers at Port Noarlunga jetty and reef for a couple of months. Western Crested Morwong were previously not recorded in SA waters. As the name suggests, they were only seen in southern WA. Their sudden occurrence in SA is a huge range extension for the species.

PROPOSED PORT MACDONNELL WIND FARM COULD HARM LOBSTER POPULATIONS. There are suggestions that a proposed wind farm off Port MacDonnell could harm southern rock lobster populations in the area.

CORMORANTS PLUCKING REMORAS FROM WHALE SHARKS. Why might cormorants follow whale sharks? To get a good feed from them, it seems. How so? Whilst the giant whale shark is busy feeding on krill-like creatures, many remoras are attached to its body. Cormorants have learned to dive down into the water and pluck a remora from the body of the whale shark. The remora makes a good feed for the cormorant. Such an incident can be seen at <https://twitter.com/i/status/1628893214408155138> .

PLAN TO FARM OCTOPUS. A Spanish aquaculture company called Nueva Pescanova is planning to open the world's first octopus farm in the Canary Islands. It aims to raise the octopuses intensively and then kill them by submerging them in frigid water. Scientists and animal welfare groups are slamming the proposal as "cruel" to the intelligent creatures.

MELTING ICE SHELF WILL SLOW DOWN OCEAN CURRENTS. Researchers say that rising global greenhouse gas emissions that lead to sustained melting of Antarctic ice will slow down ocean currents. The rate of circulation of deep water currents in the southern hemisphere will cause a serious loss of oxygen in the ocean. That will have dramatic implications for the fishing industry. Professor Matthew England says that the very bottom of the ocean would become depleted in oxygen, leading to a reduction in the upwelling of cold nutrient-rich water coming to the surface.

“The upwelling is very important because it provides nutrients for the base of the food chain, phytoplankton and so on”, he says. “This will impact on our ecosystems and fisheries over the long term..... Ocean life needs oxygen and nutrients to thrive.

It is suggested that changes in currents are already affecting the fishing industry. The strengthening of the East Australian Current “is getting warmer and pushing everything further south” according to News Corp fishing writer, Al McGlashan.

TOXIC SHIP SCUTTLED BY BRAZILIAN NAVY. The Brazilian Navy scuttled the Sao Paulo, a decommissioned aircraft carrier, recently. The former French vessel is 6 decades old and “packed with toxic materials”. Environmentalists say that it contains tons of asbestos, heavy metals and other toxic materials that could leach into the water and pollute the marine food chain. Defence officials said that the vessel was sunk in the safest area.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

Friday 19 May 2023 SDFSA Lifetime Membership Awards Dinner with a presentation by our patron, Dr. Richard Harris. Tickets on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdfsa-life-membership-award-night-tickets-561330854697>

Sunday 11 June 2023 Victor Harbour Ocean Film Festival World Tour will be screening in Victor Harbour at the Victa Cinema as part of the annual whale festival!

7-8 October 2023: 150th Anniversary of the Edithburgh Jetty. 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.

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 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://sdfsa.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://sdfsa.net>. Stay up to

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