

SDFSA Newsletter – October 2023

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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SDFSA Patron:
Dr. Richard Harris



Christopher Deane, Historical Diving Society Demo, Edithburgh Jetty 150th!

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CELEBRATING 150 Years of the EDITHBURGH JETTY

By Helena Wescombe-Down, SDFSA Secretary

The town of Edithburgh, its citizens and visitors from far and wide celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Edithburgh Jetty on 7th & 8th October. The jetty was actually built in January 1873. Originally wooden rails were placed along the jetty for small flat trucks, pulled by Clydesdale horses, to carry produce to the ketches and steamers. In the mid 1920's Edithburgh was the third busiest port in South Australia. From 1912 onwards over 80,000 tons of bagged salt was being shipped out every year. Other cargo included wheat, barley, oats, chaff, eggs, livestock, hides, salt, gypsum and lime. While the port of Edithburgh closed on 11th January 1973, the jetty itself remains a focal point of activities within the town, and a particular draw card for divers. The jetty is a macro photographers' delight.

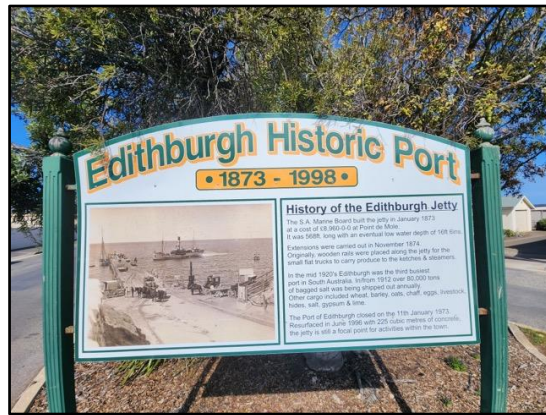
Darren Braund, the Mayor of the Yorke Peninsula Council opened the official proceedings Saturday morning. To preserve the history of both the Clydesdale Horse and Edithburgh's own jetty truck, a life size Clydesdale sculpture, made of metal was commissioned and unveiled at the opening ceremony. Known as Edith, the sculpture is made up of a variety of different tools, farm machinery, golf clubs, chains and more, and is a fascinating piece of artwork. Fraser Ellis, local State Member of Parliament spoke about the importance of the jetty to local tourism and advised he has been advocating in Parliament for the new divers' steps to be installed.

Celebrations over the weekend included Jetty talks, underwater photos shown by Paul Macdonald, salt bagging demonstrations, wheelbarrow salt run, shipwreck talks, wool spinning displays, but the highlight for yours truly was the Standard Diving Dress (also known as hard-hat or deep sea diving suit) displays held on both Saturday and Sunday by the Historical Diving Society (HDS). Christopher Deane, President of the Historical Diving Society (and incidentally a Life Member of the SDFSA) explained how the equipment worked, what it weighed (up to 86kg for a full suit) and talked through the history of the use of the suit. The concept of standard diving dress emerged during the 18th century. Interestingly the first successful diving helmets were produced by two other "Deane's", Charles and John Deane. If you are interested in reading more about the history of this equipment: [Standard diving dress - Wikipedia](#)

Divers put on an in water display of the use of the equipment at the jetty. The HDS also offered "dry tries" of the suit. I can attest to the fact that it is very heavy! Information on the Historical Diving Society can be found here: [Historical Diving Society | Australia - Pacific](#)

The Marine Life Society of South Australia was also involved, contributing to the new Interpretive signage installed at Edithburgh for the anniversary. Signs been placed at the jetty and more signs have been placed on the walkway between the tidal swimming pool and the caravan park.

This was a great opportunity for the town of Edithburgh to showcase its history and importance of the jetty and was a great 2 day event enjoyed by many. Thanks to everyone involved in organising such an important celebration of South Australia's maritime history and marine environment.





IMPORTANT NOTICES

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ANNUAL ROCK LOBSTER SEASON CLOSURE

PIRSA advises that the South Australian annual Rock Lobster season closure in the Northern Zone continues until 12noon on 1st November. You must not take Rock Lobster from the northern zone (west from longitude 139°0'4.80" to the Western Australian border) during this period. The Southern zone (extending east from longitude 139°0'4.80" to the Victorian border) seasonal closure reopened on 1st October.

ANNUAL SPRING CLOSURE OF EWENS PONDS

Ewens Ponds have been closed to all water activities for their annual rejuvenation. The annual closure runs from 1st September to 1st December. The closure helps to protect the ponds' unique aquatic wildlife and allow them to "rejuvenate before an influx of visitors over summer".

PICCANINNIE PONDS STILL CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

According to <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/piccaninnie-ponds-conservation-park>, Piccaninnie Ponds is/are closed to the public for water-based activities until further notice. It is best that you check the current situation before making any plans to visit the ponds.

SDFSА COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Our next meeting is Wednesday October 25 at the Arab Steed Hotel, 7pm in the upstairs meeting room.

NEWS FROM SHOPS AND CLUBS

- **Dive for Cancer** will take place 25 February 2024.
- **Go2Dive** summer hours will begin November 2023.
- **Cave Divers Association of Australia** is hosting its 50th Anniversary AGM and Symposium on the weekend of 3rd-5th November, at the Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre, Mount Gambier. <https://www.cavedivers.com.au/home>.
- The **Underwater Explorers Club of South Australia** turns 70 in 2024 and the club is seeking to contact past members to help them to celebrate. If you haven't yet been in contact with the club, phone Sue on 0438 882 509

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

SDFSА's SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions Facebook Group. We are now 2500 members, and continuing to grow. Thanks to all of you for your contributions: notices of conditions, photos and tips on problems with jetty stairs and other access challenges.

Those participants that achieved **Freediving National Records at the AIDA Depth World Championships** off Limassol, Cyprus recently. Fatima Korok from Hungary successfully dived down to 96m, a national record as well as the overall women's Free Immersion discipline (FIM) gold. Jung A Kim from South Korea dived down to 86m, giving her both the women's FIM silver medal as well as a national record. Nikita Fima Atriyu from Indonesiawas 3-for-3 on the national record front at the competition with her 63m. Israel's Shlomit Wallerstein and Hong Kong's Jiaoyi Li added their second national records at the competition, with dives to 71m & 58m respectively. Sanda Delija from Croatia's 94m gave her a bronze medal in the overall results.

Should Have Known Better: A Diving Tip

By Alex Suslin

As an Instructor, I should have known better but how often does one get the chance dive Encounter Bay's Seven Mile Reef?

"Sure", I replied on Friday to the invite for Sunday's dive, "got the tail end of a mild cold but will be 100% on the day."

It turned out to be more like an optimistic 90%, so I volunteered to be boat boy on the morning's dive off Rapid Head, which I'd dived recently anyway. After lunch, we cruised to the Reef & kitted up. I told the group that it may take some time for me to equalise my ears & they should go on ahead. All going well, I'd tie my reel off the anchor & join them in due course. Otherwise, if things weren't ok by the 10 metre mark, I'd abort the dive.

We rolled in - the others vanished into the murk until only streams of bubbles marked their location & soon, even they disappeared. Frequent clearing stops got me to ten metres but by then, mild discomfort had turned less mild.

A cardinal rule of diving is, "what goes down, must come up" but starting the ascent, I got a nasty shock. Whilst the ears were cooperating, the sinuses on one side of my head were becoming increasingly more painful & despite rest stops, they refused to clear. By 5 metres, the pain level was high. By 2 – extreme & after several minutes, nothing changed. Bracing myself for the pain, I hit the surface, seeing stars & clung onto the ladder.

"You ok?" the skipper called out.

"Reverse squeeze," I managed to reply.

He helped me into the boat & to de-kit. No blood in the mask & no dizziness – small mercies.

"Oxygen?" he offered. I shook my head.

"How about an ambulance to meet us at the boat ramp?"

Yes, that magic green stick would have been a blessing but I opted to lie down, see more stars & try to manage the pain. By the time the others started coming up, I was able to sit. They expressed concern & sympathy & concluded, as far as the dive went, I hadn't missed out, visibility was that poor.

"How are you feeling?" was the question at the boat ramp.

"Like being whacked on the side of the head with a cricket bat."

It took many a warm compress, pseudoephedrine tablets & several weeks before I was symptom-free & able to dive again.

Over subsequent years, when other divers shared their experience of a reverse sinus squeeze, two factors have stood out – the excruciating pain & no dive being worth it.

HISTORY STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

PORT STANVAC JETTY

The jetty at the former Port Stanvac oil refinery was completed in 1963. The refinery itself closed down, 40 years later, in 2003. The site took about a decade to be demolished. During this time, there were calls for the jetty to be retained for diving and fishing. Fishing and diving groups lobbied for the jetty to be saved from demolition. It wasn't long, though, before it became clear that the jetty would be demolished. Only jetty piles in deep water would be retained to maintain the marine habitat and the site would be opened up to diving in 7 years' time.

During all of this time (about 50 years), the site remained a marine exclusion zone.

According to the Scuba Divers Federation of South Australia web page <https://sdfsa.net/sdfsa-issues/sa-jetties/>, "In 2016, Exxon Mobil and the State government began work to tear down the historic jetty, on the grounds that the jetty was not safe, in spite of efforts by the diving and fishing communities to retain the jetty for recreational purposes." According to the web page found at <https://www.news.com.au/national/south-australia/port-stanvac-jetty-to-go-but-foreshore-will-open-to-public/news-story/831645f386c8da84123e17750a0de5ea> (Oct 2015), a contractor said, "Once works are completed, the marine exclusion zone will be lifted, allowing boaties to launch from nearby boat ramps and access the area for fishing and diving." Another web page found at <https://acapmag.com.au/2015/10/port-stanvac-former-oil-refinery-foreshore-to-open-to-public->

[within-seven-years/](#) (also Oct 2015) stated “The foreshore at Port Stanvac south of Adelaide will be open to the public, but not for another seven years, despite closing down as an oil refinery more than a decade ago.”

Divers have been anxiously waiting since 2015 for the foreshore at Port Stanvac to be open to the public. Eight years have now passed and there is still no suggestion that the area will be opened to the public any time soon. According to the web page at <https://www.exxonmobil.com.au/-/media/Australia/Files/Energy-and-environment/Environmental-performance/Adelaide-Wharf-Exclusion-Zone-Fact-Sheet.pdf>, “Although the Port Stanvac wharf has been removed, a marine exclusion zone remains in the area. To ensure safety, we remind the local community that a 400 metre marine exclusion zone remains around the area where the wharf was constructed as imposed by Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. It is important that the exclusion zone..... is respected. Any vessels or persons breaching the exclusion zone will be reported and face a penalty under Harbours and Navigation Regulation 14 (\$1250).” According to the web page at <https://dit.sa.gov.au/news?a=499588>, “Notice to Mariners No 30 of 2018, Monday, 8 October 2018, SOUTH AUSTRALIA – PORT STANVAC – NEW BEACON, Mariners are advised that following the removal of the Port Stanvac jetty and the navigation beacon (F WG) at the end of the jetty, a new lit west cardinal navigation beacon has been installed in position 35° 06’ 25.708” S, 138° 27’ 53.796” E, flash characteristics Q(9)W 15s, range 5 nautical miles, to mark the remnants of the old jetty. Piles on the existing jetty have been cut down to -6.0 metres Lowest Astronomical Tide. **The 400 metre exclusion zone around the remnants of the old jetty remains in force.** Mariners are advised to proceed with caution in the area.”

Boat divers have been risking a \$1250 fine for entering the area and anchoring there.

It is now being suggested that sand from Port Stanvac could soon be used to replenish beaches on the Adelaide metropolitan coast. I am not confident at this stage that divers will ever have access to the Port Stanvac site. There has been a suggestion that the Adelaide Desalination Plant site is preventing the area from being opened to the public.

DEEP ‘SHIPWRECK’ DISCOVERIES

The problem with most recent ‘shipwreck’ discoveries is that they are at great depth. The *Corneila B. Windiate* was found at a depth of over 56m in 1986.

The *Corneila B. Windiate* disappeared (in a gale?) in November 1875. It was thought to have sunk in Lake Michigan, but it was found in Lake Huron. According to Becky Kagan Schott, “It sits upright in 185’ of water looking as if it were still sailing on the bottom. The 139-foot long ship sits very intact with its anchors, wheel, cabin, spiral stair case upright masts and so much more.” The ‘Windiate’ is indexed as just that (Windiate, Cornelius B.) in “The Great Lakes Diving Guide” by Cris Kohl. Details of the vessel’s disappearance are on pages 340-1 of the book. According to page 584 of the book, Paul Ehorn and John Steele found the wreck on 11th May 1986.

Although it’s a plane wreck rather than a shipwreck, according to <https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2023/04/22/world-war-ii-pacific-navy-bomber/>, a Navy team of divers dived to a depth of over 60m to search for the lost crew of a bomber called ‘Heaven Can Wait’ lost during WWII. The bomber was shot down off New Guinea in 1944. And the WWII wreck of the *Montevideo Maru* is definitely not a dive wreck at 4000m depth! The *Montevideo Maru*

was a Japanese auxiliary ship that was sunk by the US Navy in WWII, resulting in the drowning of 1054 Australians who were being transported from Rabaul to Hainan.

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

TAXON CHANGES FOR CUTTLEFISH SPECIES

According to [iNaturalist](#), there have been more taxon changes recently. These, however, include the Australian Giant cuttlefish. The page at <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxa/1500730-Ascarosepion-apama> gives the scientific name for the Australian Giant Cuttlefish as now being *Ascarosepion apama* rather than *Sepia apama*. Further, the page at https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxon_changes/131479 gives the scientific name for the Slender Cuttlefish, *Sepia braggi* as now being *Doratosepion braggi*.

FROGFISH FACTS

According to "The Life of Frogfish" in the [Marine Megafauna Foundation's](#) latest Ocean Giants magazine at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fb45e1d56031c342ebab398/t/64ea6abf6a5337765f41cb29/1693084379033/MMF-OceanGiants-Magazine-Issue-08.pdf>, frogfish can swim (kinda!). Frogfish can move around when they want to. Using their pectoral and pelvic fins, they can either walk or hop along the sea floor. They can also use a form of jet propulsion when they need to move quickly, although it's more like sucking in water through their mouth and pushing it out through their gills. They don't have brakes though, so they can't stop easily. They can only glide into a new position or bump into something. Some frogfish females, such as the marble-mouthed frogfish, *Lophiocharon lithinostomus*, carry their eggs against the side of their body until they're ready to hatch. The babies are fully formed when they're born. ([The Marine Megafauna Foundation](#) works to protect the world's most endangered ocean animals through pioneering research, conservation, and outreach.)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

Saturday 14th October: Diving Adelaide is holding a Dive against Debris cleanup event. Meet at Henley Beach Jetty at 9.00am.

1 - 15th of October: This year's Nature Festival will be slightly longer, running during the full Spring school holidays. The Nature Festival is a program of activities and experiences all dedicated to celebrating South Australian nature in positive, creative, and meaningful ways. A Nature Fun Day is being held at Carisbrooke Park, Main North Road, Salisbury Park from 11am to 3pm on Saturday 14th October. The Marine Life Society of SA is one of the groups participating in the Fun Day. See <https://www.naturefestival.org.au/>.

3rd – 13th October: The [Rodney Fox Shark Museum and Learning Centre](#) is participating in this year's Nature Festival. Young adventurers have the special opportunity to embark on The Great White Expedition Scavenger Hunt exploring the fascinating world of sharks and their underwater homes. Through a series of engaging clues and challenges, kids will dive into the deep blue to uncover the mysteries of these creatures and their habitats. After completing the scavenger hunt, adventurers will receive a free shark poster and they will be entered into a competition to win some fantastic Rodney Fox merchandise. The actual dates that this occurs are:

October 3-6, 10am-2pm

October 9-13, 10am-2pm

Book tickets via <https://events.humanitix.com/the-great-white-expedition>.

7-14 October 2023: The [Australian Masters Games](#) are being held in Adelaide. There will be [finswimming events](#) at the Games at the SA Aquatic Centre on 9th October.

31 October 2023: EMS's Nakudla SharkFest Science in the Pub is being held on Tuesday 31st October, 5.30pm - 8.30 pm, at the Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club, 246 Esplanade, Seacliff. https://emsau.rezdy.com/597454/nakudla-sharkfest-science-in-the-pub-seacliff-beach-31-october?fbclid=IwAR2hElt4Rd24xWggWLDkldOG5CbyAAmUyzNtRMVvnXzv_0UFG_q7ySnkZbY

3-5 November: Cave Divers Association of Australia 50th anniversary and Symposium

12 - 17 November 2023: Port Lincoln. White Sharks Global White Sharks Global is an international scientific conference aiming to provide an in-person forum for the white shark community to meet, share ideas, update information and report on the progress of recent scientific studies.

14 – 17th November: The Australasian Mangrove and Saltmarsh Network Conference — 'Living Coasts' is being held in Adelaide – see <https://www.amsn.net.au/conferences-events>.

25 February 2024: Dive for Cancer

Interstate/International

27th October: The Australia and New Zealand Scientific Diving Association (ANZSDA) AGM will be held in Sydney (UNSW), 3-5pm AEDT. Register via Eventbrite (free) by 13th October at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/anzsda-agm-27th-october-unsw-sydney-tickets-685405364897?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshwebdesktop> .

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

18th – 25th November: Deep Week Taiwan is being held on Xiaoliuqiu Island, a small island paradise off the southwestern coast of Taiwan. The island is known for its clear water, amazing coral reefs. For all the details visit https://freedivingfamily.com/deep-week-taiwan?ss_source=sscampaigns&ss_campaign_id=643e354f6de4ca72918017aa&ss_email_id=643e5c6454dfcc67f77f586a&ss_campaign_name=New+Deep+Weeks+are+here%21&ss_campaign_sent_date=2023-04-18T09%3A01%3A39Z

18th - 19th November: The First Freediving and Finswimming World Championship for Disabled are being held 18th - 19th Nov 2023 at Lignano Sabbiadoro (Ud) in Italy - <https://www.cmas.org/apnoea/1st-freediving-and-finswimming-world-championship-for-disabled>. Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques (CMAS)* freediving events for the rest of this year can be found at <https://www.cmas.org/events>.

7 - 9 June 2024: The 18th Malaysia International Dive Expo (MIDE) 2024 being held at Level 1, Hall 2, Malaysia International Trade & Exhibition Centre (MITEC) Kuala Lumpur.

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 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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