

SDFSFA Newsletter – April 2024

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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SDFSFA Patron:
Dr. Richard Harris



Mark Tozer, presenting at our Inaugural Splash Inn, 22nd March

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SDFSMA MAJOR PROJECT: Next steps

In December, we put out a call for ideas for a major project that the SDFSMA could undertake that would enhance an existing dive experience or open up new experiences and opportunities for scuba, free diving and snorkelling in South Australia.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our survey — we received over 25 great ideas, all with merit and thoughts on practicality and implementation. Suggestions included new navigation trails to improve access to sites, underwater sculpture gardens, new platforms or stairs to make difficult sites easier to access, establishing more oyster reefs, opening up a quarry for freshwater diving, removing exclusion zones in some locations, and more underwater cleanups tied into a whole green strategy for the SDFSMA.

But of course given the limitations of time, capacity and available resources, we have had to focus on just one or two ideas to begin work on. Based on discussions at the SDFSMA Committee over the past couple of months, we propose to follow up on the following:

1. Short term project: Install a star dropper navigation trail to the T-section at Rapid Bay.

The exclusion zone around the unstable section of the old Rapid Bay jetty will remain in place for some months to come — at least to Christmas, according to our most recent meeting with DIT. We have had a very short, preliminary conversation with DIT about the feasibility of installing a navigation trail to the T-section. We will be pursuing this idea actively over the coming months.

2. Longer term project: Opening up a fresh water quarry or reservoir for diving at times when winter storms prevent open water ocean dives.

This is a project that is of significant interest to the diving community but will require several years of planning and working with different levels of government as well as significant fund raising. We are in the process of organising a small committee to look into what has taken place in the past with respect to developing abandoned quarries for recreation zones.

We were also encouraged by one contributor to put a Green Strategy in place for the SDFSMA. The SDFSMA is moving into the final year of our current Strategic Plan 2020-2025, so it is very timely to begin to work on new strategies that will protect and enhance the South Australia underwater environment and diving experiences. Some of the major project proposals fit well within the context of a green strategy - ideas for clean up days, another oyster reef, an annual fish count. We will be developing this strategy over the coming months.

Once again, many thanks to all the contributors to our major project survey. We will keep all ideas on file in case opportunities arise to take another idea forward.

OUR INAUGURAL SPLASH INN

Friday 22nd March - over 75 divers and guests dived in to the Rob Roy Hotel, Halifax Street, Adelaide, for the first SDFSA Splash Inn. We were thrilled to have Mark Tozer as our inaugural guest speaker - Mark has been a long time supporter of the SDFSA. As usual Mark entertained us with his passion for diving with his presentation on "Shipwrecks in Darwin Harbour", from finding the stern of the USS Peary to a glowing dive with a crocodile in the Rum Jungle uranium mine! The full house was very engaged, with many questions thrown at Mark following his presentation. Heather Creech, SDFSA Communication Officer, gave a brief update on the current priorities that the SDFSA committee are working on.

A big thank you to the Rob Roy Hotel for the use of the function room and providing ample delicious snacks throughout the evening.

It was a great night to mingle, catch up with some old friends, and meet a few new ones. There will be two more Splash Inn's in 2024. Watch this space....



Mark Tozer with Neville Grovermann and John Bent

IMPORTANT NOTICES

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.

PROTECTING THE GORGONIAN FAN, Port Noarlunga Reef

Diving the Gap at Port Noarlunga and coming across the two metre wide Gorgonian fan for the first time is something of a rite of passage for scuba divers. Several who have been diving for over 50 years claim it was a metre wide back in the day and conservatively estimate its age at 70 years. Kayaks and other crafts who may wish to stop temporarily in the Gap and drop a weighted line should be aware of the location of the fan, as should free divers who may be using weighted lines. To avoid damaging or destroying the fan, please drop lines on the southern side of the Gap or towards the middle at the deep western end. *Thanks to Alex Suslin for this report and photo.*



NEWS FROM SHOPS AND CLUBS

EMS Adaptive Diver Training: 25% off for SDFSA Members!

Join EMS - Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries May 3rd to 5th for an exceptional training opportunity presented by EMS and PADI Instructor Sally Watson. EMS are thrilled to offer the PADI Adaptive Support Diver and PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty courses at a subsidised rate. Instructor Sally Watson, a specialist in PADI Adaptive Techniques, will journey from Victoria to lead this unique training. Whether you're a certified PADI Divemaster, PADI Master Freediver, or simply passionate about diving and snorkeling, these courses are tailored for you.

If you're eager to enhance your skills and make a difference, don't hesitate to contact Carl at EMS. Secure your spot by sending your details (Name, mobile, DOB, and dive certification) to info@emsau.org as soon as possible.

Here's a breakdown of the costs:

- PADI Adaptive Support Diver (1.5 days): \$480.

- PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty (2.5 days): Including the Adaptive Support Diver course, the total cost is \$800.

Join the EMS Inclusive Team and receive an additional 75% off above course costs.

Only 3 places remain on course so be quick!

For further insights into what these courses entail, check out PADI blog post: [PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty Course: What You Need to Know](<https://pros-blog.padi.com/padi-adaptive-techniques-specialty-course-what-you-need-to-know/>).

Seize this chance to broaden your diving horizons and contribute to a more inclusive diving community. We look forward to seeing you there!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Congratulations to the 'Fab 5 Team' on the publication of their paper on engaging communities with marine parks - to be found at

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320724000764?via%3Dihub>

NINGALOO NYINGGULU wins documentary of the year at the Screen Producers Australia Awards! Congratulations to everyone at Artemis Media, Matter of Factual and the hard working crew who brought the series to life. Thanks also to Hazel Cooyou Walgar, and all the other Traditional Owners, locals and scientists who helped us showcase this wonderful and fragile place.

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

CoastSnap: Help monitor changing coastlines

Compiled from CoastSnap.com, an article by Mitchell Harley and Fred Chaaya in The Conversation and the City of Marion

CoastSnap is a global citizen science project that relies on people taking snapshots with their cell phones at the same locations and recording the event through the CoastSnap App. In South Australia, the first locations for CoastSnap are Hallett Cove and Marino.

“CoastSnap relies on repeat photos at the same location to track how the coast is changing over time due to processes such as storms, rising sea levels, human activities and other factors. Using a specialised technique known as photogrammetry, CoastSnap turns your photos into valuable coastal data that is used by coastal scientists to understand and forecast how coastlines might change in the coming decades. Photogrammetry enables the position of the coastline to be pinpointed from your snaps to an accuracy similar to that of professional coastal survey teams.”

“The City of Marion is the first South Australian council to join the CoastSnap community beach monitoring initiative. This means when you visit Hallett Cove or Marino, you can join thousands of others visiting Australian coastlines to help measure how our beaches erode and recover over time due to changing ocean conditions.”

The organisers of CoastSnap ask that you download the CoastSnap App, take your photos at the same location by using one of the official CoastSnap camera cradles set up on location and record the precise photo time in the App.

For more information, see coastsnap.com and <https://theconversation.com/become-a-beach-scientist-this-summer-and-help-monitor-changing-coastlines-214307>

STEVE’S SCIENCE STORIES FOR THE MONTH

As many of you know, our regular contributor (and former editor of the SDFSA Newsletter for many years) Steve Reynolds has had to step back from his many activities due to illness. We wish Steve well over the coming months, and hope that he will be able to return to all his volunteer work with Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries, MLSSA, and contributing to his Facebook feed, SDFSA News and DiveLog — not to mention getting back on the water in his kayak or under the water with scuba.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

3-4 August 2024: Science Alive! at the Adelaide Showgrounds. SDFSA will be there, along with EMS and other marine science groups.

Interstate/International

22-26 April: The 8th European Conference on Scientific Diving is being hosted by Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in Crete, Greece.

28-29 May: The 3rd Australasian Coastal Restoration Network 2024 symposium is being held in Sydney, NSW- Venue to be confirmed.

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.

10 – 18th August 2024: National Science Week.

August 7 to 17, 2025: According to https://www.deeperblue.com/2025-world-games-to-include-freediving-as-part-of-its-program/?mc_cid=2a9b8e09dd&mc_eid=d4cc43123c, “The 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China will include dynamic freediving and para-freediving as part of its athletic program, according to the World Underwater Federation (CMAS). The 12th edition of the World Games will take place between August 7 to 17, 2025, and Freediving and Para-Freediving will join Finswimming and 35 other sports.”

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://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.

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://sdfs.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 Viz and Conditions for current diving conditions shared by the group members.

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