

SDFSA Newsletter – May/June 2024

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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:

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SDFSA Patron:
Dr. Richard Harris



Problems with your shark shield? We want to hear from you!

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PROBLEMS WITH YOUR SHARKSHIELD?

The SDFSA has become increasingly concerned with the multitude of reports of malfunctioning Shark Shields. We have been in correspondence with the company but have not been reassured by their suggestions that problems are due mainly to user lack of care and improper battery maintenance.

We want to hear from you. If you currently own and use a Shark Shield, or have done so in the past, which has malfunctioned, we would very much appreciate your help in collating data by completing this short survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZV7TVY>

Our intention is to gauge the extent of issues within South Australia and determine whether and how SDFSA needs to investigate further, possibly with representations to consumer protection groups such as South Australia's Consumer and Business Services and the national Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

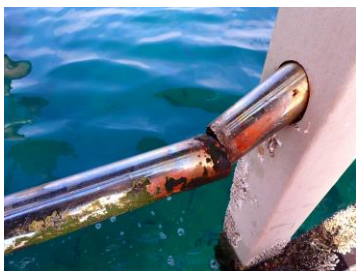
SPLASH INN 2: Friday 19 July, 6:30 pm, Rob Roy Hotel

Register now on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/splash-inn-002-tickets-918351362647>

We are absolutely delighted to report that our guest speaker for the next Splash Inn will be SDFSA's Patron, Dr Richard Harris SC OAM.

Dr. Harry will be talking about Boesmanggat - South Africa's Greatest Cave Dive. - In May 2024 he travelled to South Africa to dive the historic cave known as Bushman's Hole. The site is known for its great depth and significant altitude, and has been pushed by legendary divers like Sheck Exley, Nuno Gomes and Dave Shaw. Two of these three divers who reached the bottom subsequently died during deep dives, or at the bottom of Bushman's itself. The plan for our expedition was to do the first mapping of the site, and to record the first clear images of the bottom whilst doing further testing of hydrogen as a breathing gas. With daily sightings of the deadly Cape Cobra around the dive water's edge, the trip was action packed from the start. The final exploratory dive nearly ended in disaster, with all three deep divers suffering significant decompression sickness in this remote location.

IMPORTANT NOTICES



PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY STEPS REPAIR UPDATE

SDFSA has been in touch with Council about the repairs. The middle step is planned to be repaired in 2 weeks. The hardwood for the repair is coming from Western Australia. The handrails on the end steps of the jetty are also planned to be repaired, at the same time. However, this is weather-dependent.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE DRAFT ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Submissions for the draft Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Management Plan (by Department for Environment & Water) close at 5pm Friday 28th June. The draft plan has been released for public

consultation and you're invited to have a say on the strategic directions proposed in the plan. See <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/adsreview-2> for more details.

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.

The first GO Diving Show is being held this September 28-29 at the Sydney Showgrounds. Free entry, with a huge lineup of events like international guest speakers that include Steve Backshall. We have underwater photography competitions and a demo pool where the latest equipment will be shown off. See [Go Diving Show](#) for more details.

SDFSA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Wine Fundraiser

With the generous support of Bleasdale and Pikes Wines, we are once again raising funds through the sale of select wines. Funds will be used to support the work of the Federation.

You can register your order on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdfsa-wine-fundraiser-2024-tickets-907528902377?aff=oddtcreator>.

Your SDFSA Committee have the pleasure to offer you a choice of two wines:

- Bleasdale's 2019 Bremer River Cabernet - \$150 per dozen / \$80 per 1/2 dozen
- Cleanskin Riesling from Pikes Wines - \$125 per dozen / \$70 per 1/2 dozen

Due to liquor licensing laws, wine payment and collection can only occur on our nominated collection date of Sunday 14 July - if you are not able to attend on this date, please arrange for a proxy to pay and collect on your behalf.

Details on how to order are on Eventbrite.

Next Committee meeting is at the Arab Steed Hotel, Wednesday 26 June, 7pm in the upstairs meeting room.

DIVER SAFETY REPORT

Welcome to a new section on diver safety! We have been encouraged to remind readers of good diving practices for divers, their buddies, and their dive groups. For this first edition, we point to important resources already available, including those developed by the SDFSA.

The Federation was formed in 1968 in response to the State government's intention to regulate the sport of SCUBA. This was successfully stopped on the condition that the sport self-regulate with an acceptable set of rules and regulations. The Federation developed a series of safe diving procedures for the sport:

- Procedures for Diving Safely
- Emergency Process Dive Planning
- Emergency Process Missing Diver
- Emergency Process Missing Diver (Boat)
- Emergency Process Injured Diver

These can be downloaded at: <https://sdfs.net/sdfs-issues/sdfs-safe-diving-procedures/>.

We would also encourage our readers to consult DAN - Divers Alert Network, for their excellent resources on diver safety and accident prevention, at <https://dan.org/safety-prevention/>. Here you can find guides on how to return to diving after a long absence; how to dive safely; and dive operation safety, important for clubs and shops.

For future columns, we hope to explore simple skills and good practices for divers of all levels of certification and experience.

WHYALLA CUTTLEFISH REPORT: BRING YOUR TROLLEY!

The Cuttlefish are arriving now, and a number of shops and clubs are organising tours and group events. Whyalla Diving Services is busy providing guided tours, gear rentals and airfills. The team at Coffin Bay Scuba Co. have packed up all of their gear and have migrated to Whyalla for the cuttlefish season. They are running small group (3 max) dives, including involvement with an exciting cuttlefish research project. Diving Adelaide is organising a number of dive and snorkel tours, with spots booking up quickly. And EMS is getting ready for its involvement in Whyalla's annual Cuttlefest; go to their website for more information on planned tours and other activities.

Note that the main access area has changed quite a bit. Farzad Atefi, SDFS's Treasurer, reports the following from his recent trip:

"The council has put up buoys to mark a "protected" snorkelling/dive area (pic 1). As you can see, this is not next to where divers usually go in along the chain.

The area to the left of the chain is a "no go" apparently only if a ship is present in the wharf (see pic 2) - otherwise it is open.

On the left hand side of the chain is the mooring for the glass bottom boat - which has been now operational for 2 weeks. The operator likes to go to the left of the mooring (if no ship is present), or around the designated snorkel/dive area.

All snorkelers went in straight into the designated area and not along the chain as in the past.

We went in as usual along the chain, but then swam over to the designated area. Nobody complained...

The cuttlefish were present in the shallow part, which was also nice and clear. As you got further away from shore to a depth of around 2.5m there was orange algae everywhere - quiet sad and no cuttlefish there. Several divers noted that the further to the right one goes (towards Black point), the better the diving gets and the orange algae starts to disappear.

The old car park area does not exist anymore (pic 3) - it is all chained up, there is a coffee cart and apparently more vendors will be there soon. They were erecting semi-permanent marquees in the area and the new car park is quite far away (pics 4/5).

My tip - definitely bring your trolley."

Please note: SDFS & EMS are currently in discussion with the company engaged by the Council to manage the changes to the area, as we believe the current situation is untenable and introduces a number of safety issues. We will keep you informed.



SUPPORTING SHARKS AND RAYS IN SA WATERS

From Madison Baker

I am a marine biologist, currently completing my honours at the University of Adelaide in shark ecology. I am passionate about educating the general community about the importance of sharks and rays and co-existing with them.

In 2022 a submission was sent to PIRSA documenting deliberate harm to sharks and rays, bought forward by concerned SA community members. This submission highlighted the need to modernise shark and ray recreational fishing regulations, by promoting education, awareness, bag and size limits and proper handling techniques. All in order to deter the unethical treatment of non-target sharks and rays.

It has been 16 months since we have had any correspondence regarding the development of our proposal and we, members of Supporting Sharks and Rays in SA, feel we need to send an updated submission of the continued mistreatment, as bought forward by the community. This will hopefully trigger a response and conversation with PIRSA, to then push our proposal through to the decision-makers in Government.

We are looking for photos documenting the mistreatment of sharks and rays. These will be submitted, with your permission, as evidence in the update. We need photos taken since September 2022 of intentional harm to these animals (e.g. stab wounds, fin or tail amputations, live discarding on land).

If you have evidence of this and wish to contribute to our campaign, please email them to madbaker179@yahoo.com.au along with the location, date and any other information about the sighting. You can also post photos in the Supporting Sharks and Rays of SA Facebook group.

Unfortunately, unwanted killing of non-target species is not criminalised, but certain aspects of shark and ray fishing are - especially around the metro area. Go to:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/recreational_fishing/rules/fishing_skills/shark_fishing_and_safety/recreational_fishing_for_sharks_and_rays to find out more. If you see illegal fishing activity, you can report it anonymously to FishWatch by calling 1800 065 522, or by using the SA Fishing app by PIRSA.

Sharks play an important role in providing top-down pressure spatially and temporally across ecosystems as predators. They also keep the food webs in balance. Rays are ecosystem engineers, creating and changing habitats as they feed.

Without regulations in SA protecting them from deliberate harm and non-target killings, this behaviour unnecessarily puts pressure on this already vulnerable group.

Please send in photographic data for the database, our plan is to ask for meetings and provide continued updates as we progress. Keep the pressure on.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- ★ Dr Richard Harris on getting to explore and map Boesmansgat (or Bushman's Hole) in South Africa with a group of experienced cave divers.
- ★ OzFish volunteers for the latest batch of Robust Oyster Baskets that were made at the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron recently. The baskets will be filled with clean Pacific oyster shells and deployed in spring to form more native shellfish reefs in the Port River. See <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=830205889144816&set=pcb.830212622477476> .
- ★ The Semaphore Largs Dunes Group on being awarded the Premiers Certificate for recognition of outstanding volunteer service and a certificate of appreciation for 5 years of service at the Green Adelaide Annual Volunteer Celebration.

- ★ The Port Environment Centre which was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for 5 years contribution to conservation in the Adelaide Region at the Green Adelaide Annual Volunteer Celebration.
- ★ Dan Orr on being given the 2024 Lifetime Explorer Award from the Sea of Change Foundation Each year, the Foundation’s Board of Directors honours an individual for a lifetime of excellence in environmental awareness and exploration, and Orr joins the esteemed ranks of past Lifetime Explorer awardees.
- ★ Georgia Laurie on being awarded the King's Gallantry Medal for punching a crocodile in the face to save her twin sister Melissa, as reported at https://www.scubadivermag.com/crocodile-rescue-hero-awarded-kings-gallantry-medal/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign

STEVE’S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

SAND DREDGING TRIAL TO BE HELD BETWEEN NORTH HAVEN & TAPEROOIN SEPTEMBER

The Department for Environment and Water plans to “Replenish West Beach with 200,000m³ of quarry sand while investigating the viability of dredging offshore sand to supplement the quarry sand in subsequent years.” Further, they will “Investigate the feasibility of dredging nearshore sand deposits from the northern beaches (Taperoo-North Haven) as a long-term, sustainable method to recycle sand to West Beach.: -

“Sand is expected to be dredged from a nearshore zone between North Haven and Taperoo and delivered by dredge or barge to West Beach, where it will be placed in a zone near West Beach Surf Life Saving Club. The dredging trial is expected to run for about 8 weeks and be completed by early November 2024, pending approvals and the availability of dredging vessels.”

According to The Advertiser of 25th May, “Under the trial, 90,000sq m of sand will be collected close to shore between Taperoo and North Haven and delivered by barge to West Beach, to be pumped near the shore and wash onto the beach.”

“INTRODUCTION TO OCEAN SCIENCES” IS FREELY AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 5th edition (2024) of the book titled “Introduction to Ocean Sciences” by Douglas A Segar is freely available online for downloading (46.8mb) in its entirety at <https://www.reefimages.com/oceansci.php>. According to that web page, “The textbook would sell through a publisher for over \$150”. (The 1998 edition of the book cost almost \$76 back in 2000.)

NEW MARINE NOTICE ON REDUCTION OF UNDERWATER NOISE

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) have issued a new marine notice on the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Revised guidelines for the reduction of underwater radiated noise from shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life. The revised IMO guidelines provide updated information on approaches applicable to designers, shipbuilders, ship operators and other stakeholders to reduce the underwater radiated noise (URN) of ships. They are intended to assist relevant stakeholders in establishing relevant mechanisms and programmes through which URN reduction efforts can be achieved. The marine notice can be read at

<https://67ab84ea62024ed2941587d4021bd12d.svc.dynamics.com/t/t/6mRJQfi6cwxLaQJuWVhWZc1>

[g5yMghrBQVbxQqXRyo3lx/4aK9ZGmNxEJ54XpnFkQ8O6O3voxxV9xzkwelxa38Gsx?targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amsa.gov.au%2Fabout%2Fregulations-and-standards%2Fmarine-notice%2Fmarine-notice-202401-reduction-underwater-radiated%3Futm_source%3Dmarine-notice%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Denvironment](https://www.amsa.gov.au/about/regulations-and-standards/marine-notice-202401-reduction-underwater-radiated-utm_source%3Dmarine-notice%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Denvironment) .

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

8th June: Saturday 8th June is World Oceans Day – see <https://worldoceanday.org/> .

19 July 2024: Splash Inn 2, with Dr. Richard Harris presenting on his recent expedition to map Bushman’s Hole in South Africa

Interstate/International

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

1st-4th August: The 55th Sydney International Boat Show -see https://sydneyboatshow.com.au/news/?utm_campaign=SIBS%202023%20EDMs&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-uCND9-UxXsaTW98KmWXHgLM-3hERANlBJETMxcMhCYq8nnXmCSkK9fYJD6Fm4JEsg6wbG711U7fYxRvBE6deD28jrVchQEsQj45JG2IOF2LerU3s&hsmi=301999176&utm_content=301999176&utm_source=hs_email .

10 – 18th August: National Science Week – see <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/> .

23rd -25th August: Friends of Parks Forum – see <https://friendsofparkssa.org.au/news-events/33rd-friends-of-parks-inc-forum/> or <https://events.humanitix.com/33rd-friends-of-parks-inc-forum> .

31st Aug – 8th Sept: Royal Adelaide Show- see <https://theshow.com.au/> .

2nd -16th September: The 2024 Freediving Depth World Championships are being held in Corsica.

15-20th September: The AMSA & NZMSS 2024 Conference is being held in Hobart, Tasmania.

28-29th September: The GO Diving Show ANZ is being held in Sydney – see <https://godivingshow.com/anz/home/> .

September 30 - October 7th: Deep Week is being held in Greece.

18 -20thOctober: the Portugal International Diving Show is being held in Lisbon (where they get >300days of sunshine per year)– see <https://www.divingtalks.com/>

15th-18th November: The Archaeology of Waterways Conference is being held in Durham, England see https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/annual-conference?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR1u1FRafIvdwNSa9BHiTGbG8ghNL08Y01oKaJd6qQ3IUxOfiOrretlGgSQ_aem_AU0xE1hbTIH-wtcU0N9eH4okB29piKGqjED2bCbCD73NxWU9noufuxi2J1ldtk9Plo-yhL15qYbf2GD5PT5P3mhA .

19th-22nd November: This year’s DEMA Show is being held in Las Vegas.

15-16th March 2025: ADEX Australia, incorporating OZTek Advanced Diving Conference 2025 is being held at the Sydney International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour Hall 2. OZTek Advanced Diving Conference will be celebrating 25 years whilst ADEX celebrates 30 years this year. See <https://diveoztek.com.au/> for more details.

4-9th May 2025: The 25th International Seaweed Symposium is being held in Victoria, BC, Canada.

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

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The opinions expressed by authors of material in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Federation