

SDFSFA Newsletter – March 2025

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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SDFSFA Bunnings Sausage Sizzle 10 March

SDFSFA Committee members (LtoR): Sara Leggatt, Andy Burnell, Helena Wescombe-Down

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SYNOPSIS OF INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF ARDEBBY OH CHUA: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In December 2017, 41-year-old Ardebby Oh Chua, a tourist from the Philippines, drowned during a commercial snorkelling tour near Port Lincoln, South Australia. There are a number of learnings from the *Finding of Inquest* that dive and snorkel operators, clubs and individuals may find useful and wish to adopt. We encourage everyone to review the report, consider measures for retrieving distressed divers and snorkellers into boats and other emergency procedures, and to practice these from time to time.

Synopsis

1. Despite the efforts of staff and other medically qualified tour participants, Ms Chua could not be revived. The medical evidence presented at the Inquest, and subsequently accepted by the Coroner, was that Ms Chua met her death by means of saltwater drowning via a mechanism of laryngospasm.
2. The Coronial inquest into her death commenced in March 2023. Evidence presented during the inquest led to the Coroners findings listed below. Please note, this is a summary only – a full list of findings can be found in the *Finding of Inquest*.
 - 2.1 Ms Chua did not have any snorkelling experience but had undertaken swimming lessons as a child. Pre-dive interviews were conducted with the participants on site, but no information regarding their swimming or snorkelling abilities was sought prior to the tour commencing. This was a missed opportunity to have mitigated the risk during the swim.
 - 2.2 Ms Chua was provided with adequate floatation and snorkelling aids in good working order. She was provided with a level of positive buoyancy.
 - 2.3 After the boat was moored a safety briefing was provided to the participants. This briefing was perfunctory and focused on practical matters such as interactions with marine life and where not to swim, but was not tailored to address safety issues for those who lacked swimming ability and confidence in the water.
 - 2.4 The snorkelling demonstrations provided by crew to the low-ability swimmers were inadequate, both in how to clear the water from the snorkel and mask and the demonstrations taking place in deeper water.
 - 2.5 Buoyancy vests compatible with the activity of snorkelling should have been made available for the low-ability swimmers and any other participants who requested them.
 - 2.6 Supervision of the participants in water was reasonable.
 - 2.7 Ms Chua experienced difficulties with her mask and snorkel at various times throughout the swim.
 - 2.8 A period of between 2 to 3 minutes passed between the time Ms Chua was observed by a snorkelling guide to when she was found face down in the water unresponsive.
 - 2.9 At the time of being found unresponsive, Ms Chua's snorkel was no longer in her mouth, but her face mask was in situ.
 - 2.10 The crew's response when alerted to the emergency was swift.
 - 2.11 In water resuscitation efforts were conducted by a retired respiratory nurse and her family at a muster rock, while a number of participants held her body above the water in an attempt to provide a stable surface for CPR. This saw ineffective resuscitation efforts take place.
 - 2.12 A surfboard or backboard would have assisted in retrieving Ms Chua back to the boat more quickly. One was not available.
 - 2.13 Upon being found unresponsive Ms Chua should have been retrieved immediately back to the boat where effective resuscitation could be attempted. This would have improved her chances of survival.

- 2.14 The absence of a practised drill for the event of a drowning with a suitable in-water rescue procedure contributed to the extended delay in commencing effective resuscitation on board the boat.
- 2.15 The absence of supplemental oxygen as part of the first aid equipment decreased Ms Chua's chances of survival.
- 2.16 There was no AED on board the boat, however the absence of this was not found to have contributed to her death.
- 2.17 Ms Chua's death was not preventable on the balance of probabilities, however it is important to acknowledge that had she been retrieved to the boat within a few minutes of being found unresponsive her death may have been prevented.
3. In January 2024, Coroner Naomi Kereru made the following recommendations;
 - 3.1 Recommendations directed to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing
 - 3.1.1 That the carriage of oxygen should be mandatory for persons operating commercial snorkelling tours.
 - 3.1.2 That the carriage of an Automated External Defibrillator should be mandatory for persons operating commercial snorkelling tours.
 - 3.1.3 That SafeWork SA conduct an audit of snorkelling tours in South Australia and report to the Coroners Court on its findings.
 - 3.1.4 That SafeWork SA advise the Coroner of the extent to which operators within South Australia are compliant with the SafeWork SA Snorkel Safety Guide Guidelines and whether SafeWork SA are of the view that the current legislation allows them to enforce any incidence of non-compliance.
 - 3.1.5 That persons operating commercial snorkelling tours consider the purchase and placement of defibrillators within their workplaces where patrons are undertaking snorkelling activities.
 - 3.2 Recommendations directed to the Attorney-General
 - 3.2.1 That legislation be introduced requiring all businesses conducting snorkelling activities to carry an emergency oxygen unit as part of their first aid supplies and that operators ensure that there is always a member of staff available who is appropriately trained to administer oxygen.
 - 3.2.2 That legislation be introduced requiring all businesses conducting snorkelling activities to carry an Automated External Defibrillator.
4. In response, SafeWork SA initiated a campaign in November 2024 with a webinar for recreational snorkelling and dive tour operators and industry stakeholders setting out proposed initiatives for improving safety within the industry. In December 2024 SafeWorkSA announced that from January 2025 approximately 20 audits would be conducted throughout South Australia, culminating in the Spencer Gulf during the cuttlefish season in mid 2025.
5. SafeWork SA will report to the Coroner on the outcomes of these audits and about the extent to which business operators are compliant with work health and safety legislation. Further, the report to the Coroner will detail where business operators have implemented industry best practices to demonstrate compliance with their workplace health and safety and regulatory duties.
6. SafeWork SA will recommend amendments to the *First Aid in the Workplace Code of Practice June 2020*, which serves as an enforceable instrument under the WHS Act, to make emergency oxygen units and automated external defibrillators mandatory for snorkelling tour operators. Amendments requiring the training of staff and their ability to administer the equipment will also be recommended.
7. The outcome of the Inquest and the reaction of SafeWork SA underscore what is seen within the industry to be a critical need for the immediate improvement of safety standards, both in terms of equipment and staff training.

SDFSa MEETING WITH DIT ON SA JETTIES

SDFSa recently met with the Department of Infrastructure & Transport (DIT) in order to get an update on the Jetties Pilot Project which was announced some years ago, and consisted of looking into repairs for: Rapid Bay, Edithburgh, Tumby Bay, Kingston, Port Germein.

It is worth noting that of these four jetties, all are managed by the relevant Councils, with the exception of Rapid Bay, for which the State Government is responsible.

All Councils were invited to bid for funds to help with upkeep of the jetties. We are unaware of the status of Tumby Bay, Kingston and Port Germein, but updates on Rapid Bay and Edithburgh follow.

Rapid Bay:

Minor maintenance is being conducted on the new Rapid Bay Jetty, which will include the replacement of the existing stairs (same design) – timing unknown.

The old Rapid Bay Jetty continues to be monitored through drone surveys. Nature will continue to affect the jetty, however the state of the jetty is being monitored, and if invasive action is required it will be undertaken by DIT.

DIT are committed to keeping the area as safe as possible, and thus will be erecting industrial strength buoys at the exclusion area surrounding the jetty. **There is no plan to remove the exclusion zone.** A reminder to all that the exclusion zone is there for a good reason and divers and snorkellers MUST stay away from this zone. DIT does not deem it acceptable that people are disregarding this directive.

See later item in this newsletter about the proposed amenities block at Rapid Bay.

Edithburgh Jetty:

As many of you would know, the northern stairs were removed and the area blocked off some time ago. An extension ladder to the southern stairs was added, which now enables easy access and exit at low tide.

In 2022 the dive stairs project was developed in collaboration with the local community and key stakeholders, of which the SDFSa was a part. From media reports, it appears the Yorke Peninsula Council is working towards the installation of stairs on the northern side of the jetty designed for divers. In May 2024 – Yorke Peninsula Council announced they will receive \$550k in Commonwealth Funding through the *Growing Regions Program*. Edithburgh Progress Association will contribute a further \$10k towards the dive stairs project: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/550000-for-edithburgh-jetty-improvements/>

In October 2024 Yorke Peninsula Council invited tenders for jetty pile replacements to Ardrossan & Edithburgh Jetties: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/about-us/events/request-for-tender-ardrossan-and-edithburgh-jetty-pile-replacement/>

Very recently, on 6th March 2025 – Yorke Peninsula Council invited tenders for the construction of the Edithburgh Dive Stairs. Tenders open 6th March and close 21st March 2025: <https://www.tenders.sa.gov.au/tender/view?id=286450>

While the news regarding Rapid Bay and Edithburgh Jetties is encouraging, the reality is that there are many competing demands for maintenance of jetties around the State, and unfortunately not enough funding to manage them all as the public may wish to see.

RAPID BAY DIVE SITE PUBLIC AMENITIES

Recently SDFSa sought clarification from the District Council of Yankalilla regarding the proposed installation of new public amenities adjacent to the twin-jetties at Rapid Bay.

In 2021 it was announced that the District Council of Yankalilla had secured grant funding to the value of \$210,000 for the construction of new public amenities adjacent to the twin-jetties at Rapid Bay. At that time the total project cost was estimated at \$420k. This was to be funded through a *Commonwealth Government Building Better Regions Fund* grant (50% of the cost) and the remaining 50% funded by Adelaide Brighton Cement (AdBri). However in August 2023 the Council received confirmation from AdBri that they were withdrawing their funding, as the cost of the project had risen considerably, exceeding double the initial estimate provided by the quantity surveyor's first report.

The District Council of Yankalilla have advised they recognise the need and importance of this project and they remain committed to delivering these much-needed facilities. The Council further advised that AdBri has demonstrated its commitment to our local and South Australian communities and remains dedicated to monitoring the regional construction landscape, with the goal of finding a viable path forward for the amenities facility. Both AdBri and Council share a desire for this initiative, given the time and resources invested thus far and the well-established need for improved local amenities to the various users and visitors of this site.

However, the funding initially secured through the Building Better Regions Fund was deemed no longer viable in light of the updated cost estimates and the funding agreement was terminated.

WHYALLA CUTTLEFISH SEASON OPERATIONS

In 2024 the City of Whyalla engaged a consultant, Mr Greg Grabasch of *Brave and Curious*, to come up with a proposal for short-term and long-term plans to develop a “*significant visitor amenity for Whyalla’s Cuttlefish Coast*”. The project objectives include the collaborative development of concept plans for visitor infrastructure aimed at supporting safe and meaningful visitor experiences while enhancing the strategic management of the Cuttlefish Coast’s cultural, environmental and scientific values. Council has accepted and will adopt this plan, which has a 10 year timeline, once funding has been made available, which in today’s economic climate is a challenge.

Part of this plan is to eventually distribute various user groups across four key locations: White Point, Stony Point, Black Point and Point Lowly, each catering to specific activities e.g. vendor / boat activities on one site; snorkelling and diving at a separate site. However this is not something that was introduced last year, and unfortunately will not be in place for 2025 either.

As part of the short-term plan, a *Designated Zone* was introduced at Stony Point by the Whyalla Council for divers and snorkellers in 2024. However there was a lot of confusion surrounding this zone, and appropriate communication was lacking. In July 2024 the SDFSa approached the Whyalla City Council offering feedback and outlining various concerns in relation to the designated zone and the close proximity of divers/snorkelers to a commercial glass bottom boat operation.

Last week SDFSA were invited to attend two meetings in relation to improving the situation for this year. Both meetings were organised and hosted by the Tourism Industry Council South Australia (TiCSA).

The first meeting was attended by representatives from TiCSA, tourism operators, operating at Stony Point throughout the Cuttlefish season, Whyalla Dive Shop, EMS and SDFSA. It was acknowledged at the meeting that there was significant room for improvement from last year and it was agreed two Codes of Conduct would be drafted, in parallel to each other: one code of conduct for tourism operators, one code of conduct for visitors to the site. Whyalla Council will also be involved in the drafting of these codes. These codes of conduct will go through an appropriate consultation process.

The second meeting was attended by TiCSA, SA Tourism, tourism operators, SDFSA and representatives from the Whyalla Council, who provided us with an update of what measures would be implemented for the 2025 season. A summary of those measures follows:

- Council would have preferred to be able to move the divers/snorkellers to a designated area at White Point, but that will have to be part of a future plan;
- A designated zone will again be in place at Stony Point;
- There will be a distance of 40m from the entry point for divers/snorkellers and the boats (of which there will be 2 this year we believe);
- A communications plan will be drafted which will include appropriate signage and other forms of ongoing communication;
- Introduction of a (Santos funded) Council appointed site Ambassador, who will be on site Thursday to Monday throughout the season to answer any questions and deal with any issues (*what an excellent initiative*);
- Introduction of a visitor information booth at Stony Point;
- Installation of a temporary (toughened plastic) modular boardwalk which will be installed at the beginning of the season by a crane and removed at the end of the season. The ultimate goal will be installation of a permanent ramp in future years;
- Sustainability study.

There were approximately 15,500 visitors to the Stony Point site last year, and it is expected there will be between a 10%-20% growth in numbers this year. All planning will take into account the future growth of the site(s), with long-term sustainability, environment protection and management. SDFSA will continue to be involved in the planning and will continue to keep our members updated.

SPLASH INN FRIDAY 21 MARCH, 6:30PM at the Rob Roy

Featuring guest speakers Janine Baker, Carl Charter and John Bent. A reminder to register for this free event on Eventbrite at https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/splash-inn-004-tickets-1231784784449?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Southern Zone abalone closure due to virus. Due to the spread of AVG and depleted abalone stocks, **the take of any abalone (commercial or recreational) is prohibited** from the River Murray Mouth to the Victorian Border.

https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/aquatics/aquatic_diseases/abalone_viral_ganglioneuritis#toc_Closure-of-the-Southern-Zone-abalone-fishery

Ewens Ponds has closed again after an initial staged reopening. Water levels are very low making it impossible to go between ponds without damaging the vegetation. **Piccaninnie Ponds** is remaining closed for immersive water activities until further notice.

SDFS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Thanks to all those who supported the **SDFS Fundraiser at Bunnings on 10 March**, and a special shout out to Bunnings and Woolworths for their support. We raised \$1,627. Leftover sausages and bread were donated to Westcare Adelaide. Funds will go towards our general operating costs, including our public liability insurance and web communications, as well as towards special projects, including repairing our underwater trail at Rapid Bay.

The next meeting of the Committee is Wednesday, 26 March, 7pm at the Arab Steed upstairs meeting room.

NEWS FROM SHOPS AND CLUBS

Thanks to those groups that participated in clean-ups over the Clean Up Australia Day weekend this month, including the **Sea Wolves, the Big Blue Crew, Flinders Uni Underwater Club, OzFish, and the Adelaide Canoe Club**.

How kids can learn about protecting the ocean: Scubanews 19 February features **Elizabeth Solich's** work on educating and awareness raising about the ocean environment for kids.

<https://www.thescubanews.com/2025/02/19/how-kids-can-learn-about-protecting-the-ocean/>

Whyalla Dive Shop: Manny Katz, the new owner of Whyalla Dive Shop, informs us that among their many initiatives, they plan to renovate the Whyalla Dive Shop and create a comprehensive service centre for in-depth maintenance, repairs, and equipment servicing. As strong advocates for conservation, they hope to collaborate with marine researchers by providing in-kind support, including dive gear, air-fills, cameras, and other essential equipment to facilitate ongoing research into the cuttlefish and other local marine life. This may include the possibility of setting up a compressor on-site to allow divers to stay out at Point Lowly for longer periods.

Ozfish: As part of their efforts to restore native oyster shellfish reefs in the Port River-Barker Inlet Estuary, Ozfish have several upcoming working bees to build Robust Oyster Baskets (ROBs) at [Angas Inlet Boat Club](#), Garden Island. They welcome volunteers to help build and fill ROBs with shells, ready for deployment at the restoration sites. Dates: Thursday 3 April, 9:30am and 1pm, Tuesday 15 April, 9:30am and 1pm, and Friday 2 May, 9:30am and 1pm. Register for one or more of these working bees at <https://ozfish.org.au/organiser/ozfish-adelaide-chapter/>.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- The Sea Wolves Dive Club on its recent official unveiling of the plaque for historic admiralty anchor now on display at the entrance of the Port Noarlunga Surf Lifesaving Club.
- AusOcean on the launch of their AusOceanTV which is now operating live. "You can now experience the incredible underwater world at Rapid Bay.... through our real-time live stream. Head to ausocean.tv to tune in and see marine life like never before."

- Julie Huber from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) on being elected to the American Academy of Microbiology. Julie was one of 65 Fellows elected to the Academy . Visit <https://bit.ly/3EPiVid> for more details.
- Alvaro Herrero on being named Underwater Photographer of the Year 2025. “Underwater Photographer of the Year is an annual competition, based in the UK, that celebrates photography beneath the surface of the ocean, lakes, rivers and even swimming pools, and attracts entries from all around the world.” Visit <https://www.scubaverse.com/humpback-mother-and-calf-win-underwater-photographer-of-the-year-2025/> for more details.)
- Dr. Sylvia Earle on being appointed as PADI’s first Emeritus AmbassaDiver. Visit <https://www.scubaverse.com/dr-sylvia-earle-announced-as-first-padi-emeritus-ambassadiver> for more details.
- Lillian Bradshaw, Florida State University, Christopher Crowder, University of Central Florida, Morgan Jarrett and Rainer Moy-Huwyler, Florida International University, Dakota Lewis and Kelli O’Donnell, University of Florida, Hallie Repeta, University of South Florida, Emily Yeager, University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science, on being announced as Florida Sea Grant’s Guy Harvey Fellows for 2025. “The Guy Harvey Foundation (GHF) works with local, national and international organizations to conduct scientific research and fund affiliated researchers committed to ocean conservation. One of GHF’s initiatives is to recognize graduate students and candidates in graduate programs across colleges and universities in the US state of Florida who conduct research aimed at supporting the sustainable management of marine fish.” Visit https://www.deeperblue.com/florida-sea-grant-announces-2025-guy-harvey-fellows/?mc_cid=5501f255bc&mc_eid=d4cc43123c for more details.)

STEVE’S SCIENCE STORIES

By Steve Reynolds

DECLINE IN ABUNDANCE OF EASTERN BLUE GROPER ALONG THE NSW COAST?

According to the IMOS Bulletin for February (Integrated Marine Observing System Bulletin), The study titled “Trends in eastern blue groper (Achoerodus viridis) abundance along south-eastern Australia (New South Wales): the influence of latitude, climate change and potential depth refuges” Marine and Freshwater Research 76, MF24130 <https://doi.org/10.1071/MF24130>, investigates changes in the abundance of eastern blue groper along the New South Wales coast, using baited remote underwater video (BRUV) and underwater visual census (UVC). Results show a clear latitudinal pattern, with lower numbers in the warmer northern region and higher abundance in central and southern areas. Populations on shallow reefs declined in some regions, while those on deeper reefs remained stable, suggesting that deeper habitats may serve as thermal refuges. The findings concluded that groper abundance could be in decline because of warming oceans due to climate change. Data from the Reef Life Survey (RLS) and the Australian Temperate Reef Collaboration (ATRC) are sourced from and managed by IMOS.”

“Trends in eastern blue groper (Achoerodus viridis) abundance along south-eastern Australia (New South Wales): the influence of latitude, climate change and potential depth refuges” is written by Nathan A. Knott, Matthew J. Rees, Tom R. Davis, David Harasti, Hamish A. Malcolm B , Matthew D. Taylor, Belinda G. Curley D , Stephen Morris E , Neville S. Barrett F , Rick D. Stuart-Smith F , Graham J. Edgar F and Rachel Przeslawski.

PROTECTION FROM FISHING FOR NSW GROPER

According to Instagram, blue groper have been protected from all forms of fishing in NSW for another three years. “NSW Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty has announced today that eastern

blue groper will be given some welcome relief. A trial that protects the beloved fish from all forms of fishing will be extended for another three years. Research released this month found eastern blue groper populations have dropped by at least half around some of the state's most populated areas, including Sydney. The three-year extension will give the state government sufficient time to conduct more research and create a monitoring program that will aid blue groper recovery, and should give us a better idea for how their populations are responding along the coast."

The Australian Marine Conservation Society says, "It's a great first step, but protecting this beloved species through a permanent ban on all forms of fishing and the creation of new marine sanctuaries would be preferable given their recent declines."

HEAT-RESISTANT KELP STRAIN IDENTIFIED BY SCIENTISTS FROM THE WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

According to <https://bit.ly/4ihcHC4>, "Scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution identify heat-resistant kelp strain". It goes on to state, "A new strain of kelp can help support sustainable farming. Images and videos available for use can be found (at <https://bit.ly/43Bh1BB>).

"Like most aquatic vegetation, kelp is being negatively impacted by climate change. Warming ocean temperatures have led to shorter growing and harvesting seasons, including for sugar kelp, one of the most commonly farmed kelp species. The loss of kelp populations can significantly impact ecosystems, and potentially the growing demand for sustainably farming food, feed, fertilizer, medicine, and cosmetics.

To give kelp a chance against climate change, scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) have identified kelp species with natural adaptations to cope with heat. In a new study published in the Journal of Applied Phycology, WHOI experts identify new strains that could prove to be more resilient in warmer waters.

Researchers first assessed the heat tolerance of kelp gametophytes, the microscopic male and female stages that fertilize and produce kelp blades. Gametophytes were isolated from 14 different populations collected from nearshore waters between New York and Maine. Prior to testing their tolerance to temperatures as high as 24°C (75°F), these were grown in a lab environment for 4.5 years until the second round of research.

In the second round of research, gametophytes that were more heat-tolerant were crossbred with other, more heat-tolerant strains. At the same time, strains with lower heat tolerance were crossbred. Researchers then tested the heat resistance of their offspring (kelp blades) in a controlled environment.

"There is genetic diversity among sugar kelp populations, so it's likely that some kelp may already have useful adaptations to cope with warmer temperatures," said Sara Gonzalez, a guest investigator in WHOI's Applied Physics and Ocean Engineering Department and lead author of the study. "We found that when we crossed gametophytes that we identified as heat-tolerant, they produced kelp blades that grew better under heat stress compared to the offspring of gametophytes that were not heat-tolerant. This is an important step toward understanding how to breed heat-tolerant kelp and helping kelp farmers increase reliability in their yields in warming ocean waters."

This study area focused on strains found in the Northeastern U.S., where kelp beds are declining, and in some cases, no longer growing. This is particularly important to note in the Gulf of Maine, which is the fastest-warming body of water in the world. Productive kelp farms here play a role in the fight against global warming, acting as a carbon sink by sucking up carbon dioxide from the

oceans. Kelp can also elevate pH levels in their immediate surroundings and supply oxygen to help mitigate the local effects of ocean acidification.

“Kelp is incredibly versatile. It can also be converted into new fuel sources and can potentially reduce greenhouse gasses and our dependence on fossil fuels,” said WHOI’s Scott Lindell, a research specialist in aquaculture technology and co-author of the study. “In a hotter and drier world of the future, it will be hard to find a better resource for biofuels than farmed seaweed. This study allows us to accelerate the breeding of heat-tolerant kelp strains, thus helping sustain the industry.”

“Future research could address whether one kelp parent transfers more heat tolerance to their offspring,” Lindell continued. “A larger sample size and further work could also show which part of kelp genes is related to heat tolerance.”

TAXONOMIC SWAP FOR RED SAUSAGE WEED

I have just caught up on a taxonomic swap committed on 2021-09-24! That was when Red Sausage Weed was changed from *Gloiosaccion* genus to *Chrysomenia* genus (now *Chrysomenia brownii*).

TAXON CHANGES

According to https://www.inaturalist.org/taxon_changes?taxon_id=1556594, there has been a taxon change for the Southern Eagle Ray. *Myliobatis tenuicaudatus* has now been replaced by *Myliobatis tenuicaudata*. This means that the interpretive signage at Seacliff beach is already outdated when it comes to the scientific name for the Southern Eagle Ray. (My ‘fish books’ were still showing *Myliobatis australis* for the Southern Eagle Ray, so I have had to make two changes there.)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

18-20th March 2025: Seagiculture: 2nd International Seaweed Conference Asia Pacific, Adelaide. Event will be opened by renowned climate scientist Professor Tim Flannery. See <https://seagiculture-asiapacific.com/>

21 March, 6:30 pm: Splash Inn at the Rob Roy, featuring winners of the 2025 SEA STAR Award.

22nd March, 5-9.30pm at Yankalilla. EMS Science and Art in the Pub. Guest speakers Ecologist & Educator Marine Janine (Janine Baker) (Seadragons and their friends) and Dr Nic Human (Role of Art in marine conservation). Book via emsau.org or EMS Facebook page.

25th March: A community open day is being held at the Adelaide Desalination Plant. This free event will take you behind the scenes at the Lonsdale facility, to learn about its important role in providing safe, clean drinking water to homes and businesses right across the city. Registrations are essential, so book online at <https://bit.ly/ADPOpenDay>.

1st to 3rd August: Science Alive! at the Adelaide Showgrounds

Interstate/International

4-6 th April: ADEX Ocean Festival Singapore 2025 is scheduled to be held at Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Until 27th April: The “Ocean Photographer of the Year” display at the Australian National Maritime Museum. See <https://bit.ly/4hinRWY>.

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.

June 2025: World Environment Day 5th, World Oceans Day 8th.

7-17 August 2025: 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China to include dynamic freediving and para-freediving.

11-14 November 2025: DEMA show will be held in Orlando, USA.

2025 Deep Week organised by The FreeDiving Family (<https://freedivingfamily.com/deep-week>): 24-29 March - Finland Family Reunion; 5 -12 April - Deep Week Philippines; 26 April -3 May - Deep Week Bali; 17-24 May Deep Week Mexico.

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 Vlz 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