

# SDFSFA Newsletter – March 2026

Editor: Heather Creech



## SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

Email: [info@sdfsfa.net](mailto:info@sdfsfa.net) or Web: <https://sdfsfa.net>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scubadivesa/>

SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568109670769809>

Join us for free! <https://sdfsfa.net/membership-categories/>

SDFSFA Patron:  
Dr. Richard Harris



Leatherjackets reappearing at Mac's Ground, 15 March 2026. Credit: H.Creech

### *In this month's issue*

Latest reports on the Harmful Algal Bloom	2
Deep Creek Bush Fire	2
Gear Tip: Marking your anchor	3
Sea Turtle Park Opened at Port Noarlunga	3
Congratulations and Thanks to...	3
News from Shops and Clubs	3
SDFSFA Committee Business	4
Steve's Science Reading	4
For Your Calendar: Forthcoming Events	4
About the SDFSFA...	5

## Latest reports on the Harmful Algal Bloom

It is hard to juxtapose the bad news with the good this month. All reports from Port Hughes and area suggest that the HAB has reached and is impacting those waters. We've had a reminder from a member of the diving community to be cautious when diving in the green water. Saltwater aspiration from a broken or malfunctioning regulator could lead to an exposure to brevetoxins that may be present, so divers should be reminded to have their regulators serviced and in good operating condition.

The HAB has been front and centre in the news over the past few days, with more comprehensive coverage than we've seen for some months. InDaily covered the disappearance of Leafy seadragon populations in Rapid Bay and Second Valley, with interviews with Carl Charter, EMS and Divers for Climate — State Emblem Disappears from Diving Hotspot:

<https://www.indailysa.com.au/news/just-in/2026/03/11/state-emblem-seadragon-disappears-from-diving-hotspot>. Then Springmount Advisory released its report, prepared in partnership with

Conservation Council SA about the huge cost of the algal bloom on SA's coastal communities, sports and businesses: <https://www.springmountadvisory.com.au/polluters-pay-the-cost-of-sa-algal-bloom>.

InDaily covered that story as well, interviewing Rob Blackburn, Adelaide Scuba.

<https://www.indailysa.com.au/news/just-in/2026/03/12/algal-bloom-disaster-sinks-millions-of-taxpayer-dollars-new-report-reveals>. The Guardian followed quickly with its own story — Stripped of life:

the deadly South Australian algal bloom is still spreading one year on:

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2026/mar/14/algal-bloom-south-australia-update-one-year-on?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2026/mar/14/algal-bloom-south-australia-update-one-year-on?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other). Finally, Monday night 16 March the ABC

broadcast its Four Corners investigation "Toxic Tide", focusing in large part on the health impacts of the bloom and the response of the State.

So — flooded with difficult news, but with better news on the horizon. Slowly but surely, based on divers' observations posted on SA Dive Sites and on findings from the Edithburgh Wool Bay Marine Watch project, it would appear that the coastal waters of the Gulf of St. Vincent are starting to recover. Every sighting is being celebrated, from Goatfish to Yellowheaded Hula Dancers, schools of Zebrafish and Silver drummers, and much more.

If you are looking for ways to support the recovery, check out the SDFSA page on the Algal Bloom:

<https://sdfsa.net/algal-bloom/>.

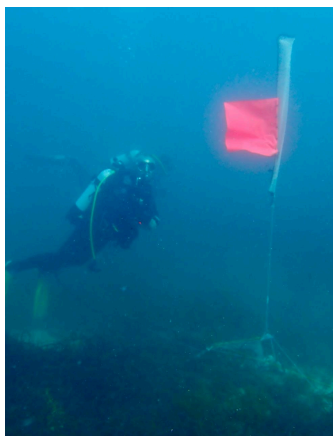
## Deep Creek Bush Fire

Peter Corrigan from Sea Dragon Dive Lodge in Second Valley shared the following story with us:

"This photo is what remains of a full 10 litre scuba that was in a shipping container that was burnt in the recent Fleurieu peninsula fires. As they evacuated they put all their treasures they wanted to safeguard into the container, but the fire was so intense nothing survived. [When the tank was subjected to the extreme heat] the force of the explosion was so great that the tank smashed my friend's compressor to bits and punctured two shipping containers and cut down a tree. "



## Gear Tip: Marking your anchor



Ever had trouble finding the anchor and its line back to your dive boat? Especially in low viz conditions?? Hot tip from Tony Leggatt: Try attaching an SMB and flag to your anchor. The first diver who descends down the anchor line can inflate the SMB. When the anchor is being winched back into the boat, have someone positioned in the bow to sweep up the SMB and flag back into the boat before motoring back to shore. Tony has tested a small light on the marker as well, but the flag is simpler and serves its purpose nicely.

## Sea Turtle Park Opened at Port Noarlunga

According to the [Port Noarlunga](#) Facebook page, there's a new Noarlunga park featuring a 13-metre-long giant sea turtle that is "promising to keep the kids entertained for hours. With everything from a climbing net for the little monkeys, to basketball and netball courts for your little sports-stars-in-training, parents will be able to sit back and soak up the southern suburbs sun whilst the little ones run amok. More details can be found at <https://glamelaide.com.au/giant-13-metre-sea-turtle-lands-at-port-noarlunga-south-for-epic-new-playground-opening/>. Sea Turtle Park is at Grand Boulevard, Port Noarlunga South. Might be a great spot for your family to play while you slip away for a dive 😊!

## Congratulations and Thanks to...

- Port Victoria on the Yorke Peninsula on celebrating its 150th anniversary over the March long weekend with a series of events and activities.
- Everyone who participated in underwater, coastal or aquatic cleanups for Clean Up Australia Day this month. Their efforts help to stop so much litter entering our oceans and waterways.

## News from Shops and Clubs

**BSAC Adelaide** is holding a dive and play day on Sat 11 April at Port Noarlunga - open to non-members. Register on Eventbrite.



<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bsac-adelaide-scuba-play-fest-a-community-social-dive-underwater-games-tickets-1982320529065>

**Friends of Gulf St. Vincent** are conducting a Pinna Project (razorfish). They hope to set up a network with a platform to share information, while ensuring that Pinna locations are protected from being further damaged or taken.

**Marine Life Society of South Australia** is holding its AGM at the home of Patron Wolfgang Zeidler on Wed 15th April.

## SDFSA Committee Business

The next meeting of the Committee is Wednesday, 1 April, 7pm at the Arab Steed upstairs meeting room.

## Steve's Science Reading

By Steve Reynolds, SDFSA member 0001 and Inaugural Life Member.

Marine Life Society of SA Blogs by Steve and other MLSSA members:

[Underwater Drones Used to Identify the Process Behind the Formation of Algal Blooms](#)

[Pilchards Found Washed Up at Seacliff](#)

[Recent Snorkels on the Fleurieu Peninsula](#)

## For Your Calendar: Forthcoming Events

### *South Australia*

24 March 2026, Port Noarlunga Arts Centre. **Reef Resilience Photo & Art Showcase** opening event.

11 April: **BSAC Scuba Playfest**, Port Noarlunga. Register on Eventbrite.

1st to 31st May: The **2026 History Festival** is being presented by the [History Trust of South Australia](#).

20<sup>th</sup> June: **MLSSA's 50th anniversary celebration**, 1-5pm at Rodney Fox and Mark Tozer's Museum and Research Centre at 107 Henley Beach Road, Mile End. Past & present members are welcome to attend. There will be food and a licensed bar. Please RSVP to [info@mlssa.org.au](mailto:info@mlssa.org.au) your intentions to attend.

27 June 2026 7:00-10:00pm: **Ocean Film Festival**. Victa Cinema, 37-41 Ocean St, Victor Harbor.

19 – 22 October 2026: **The Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia's SERA 2026 Conference**: Hilton Hotel, Adelaide

### *Interstate/International*

Open to 3 May 2026: **Ocean Photographer of the Year**, at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

<https://sea.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=068dd7e7a243d9d1c1d267220&id=60eachcd9e&e=3e0893bfed>

20 to 27th June 2026: **Heron Island Dive Festival**, organised by Mike Scotland, Dive Log. Expert speakers include: Max Gleeson talking on shipwrecks, Lyndi from Scuba Gym - Adaptive Diving, Syed

Abd Rahman - Dive Heart Malaysia, David Mullins on Nudibranchs, Mike Scotland on Sharks, Dive Log on Tropical fish at Heron Is., Elliot Peters on the state of the Reef. Further details regarding the Festival and its speakers are available in the [February issue of Dive Log magazine](#). To book for the Heron Island Dive Festival, contact the event manager, Kaitlin at Heron Island Resort at [events@heronisland.com](mailto:events@heronisland.com) or phone 07 49729055.

15th–23rd August: **National Science Week** (Australia’s annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).)

19<sup>th</sup>-23rd October: The **Australasian Coastal Restoration Network’s** ACRN 2026 Symposium:  
Thursday 22 October - Friday 23 October | Venue TBC.

## About the SDFSA...

*The Scuba Divers Federation of South Australia is a non-profit, incorporated membership association dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our unique underwater world. You can join us for free: <https://sdfsa.net>.*

### **SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.**

PO Box 287, Christies Beach SA 5165

Email: [info@sdfsa.net](mailto:info@sdfsa.net)

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