

SDFSFA Newsletter – May/June 2026

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

Email: 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>

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SDFSFA Patron:
Dr. Richard Harris

Coming soon to Adelaide waters!



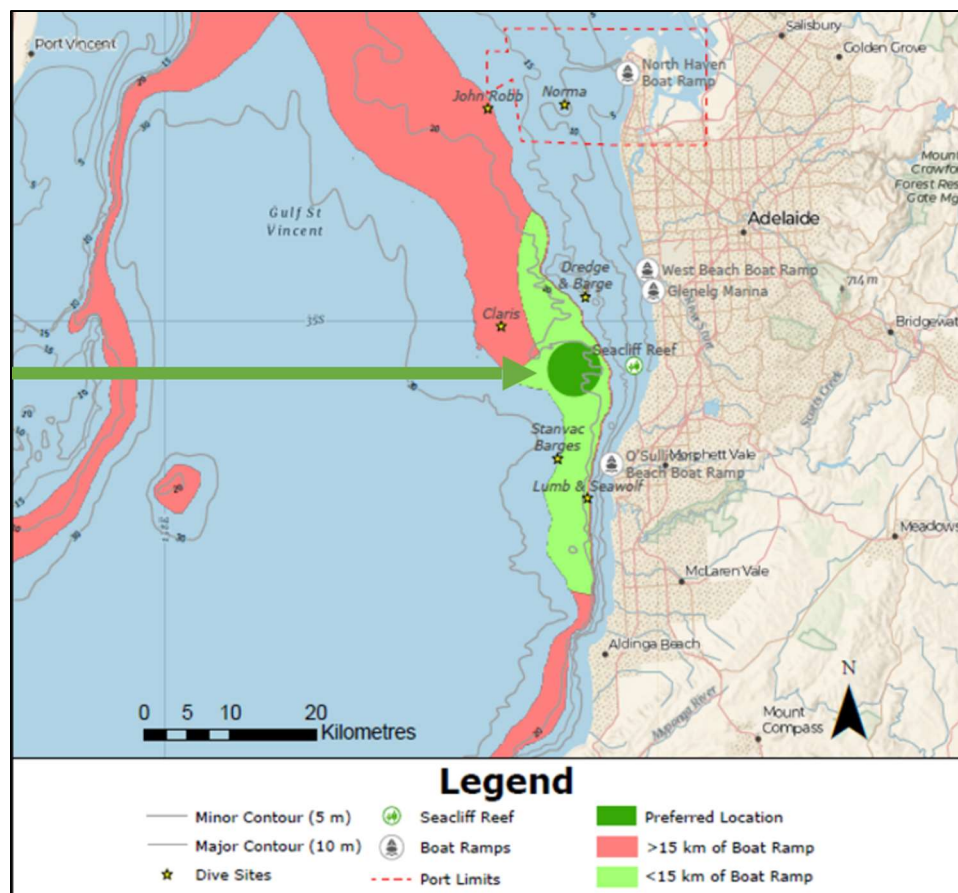
Funding now confirmed to scuttle the MV Andrew Wilson

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A New Wreck Dive for Metro Adelaide Waters

The MV Andrew Wilson is a 40m x 10m construction vessel owned by Maritime Constructions and donated to the SA Government to create a new wreck dive and serve as an artificial reef for fishers. SDFSAs was approached late last year for advice on a suitable location; after consultation with our members and Recfish SA the following location has been proposed: approx. 6km west of Seaciff Reef, midway between West Beach & O'Sullivan's Beach Ramps, at a depth of 20 metres at low tide. An underwater survey of the proposed site was conducted by SeaWolves & BSAC volunteers, with video footage provided to DIT. In principle support of the location has been received from the SA Govt, subject to confirming suitability of the site once they have conducted their own underwater survey.



The government has recently confirmed they will fund the preparation of the vessel for scuttling. Maritime Constructions will manage the project and prepare the vessel. SDFSAs has a consultancy role with respect to preparation and location, with regular site visits to be conducted. We are very pleased to have the help of Christopher Deane on the SDFSAs working group. Chris spearheaded the scuttling of the ex HMAS Hobart and has extensive experience in the preparation of vessels for scuttling for divers. The SDFSAs working group also includes Mark Tozer, Marc Berry, Helena Wescombe-Down and Tony Leggatt.

This is very exciting news for South Australian divers. We thank both Maritime Construction and the Government of SA for undertaking this major project in support of SA divers and fishers. All going well, the aim is to scuttle the vessel later this year.

Know a Marine/Freshwater Champion? Nominate Them for the 2026 Sea Star Award!

The SDFSA is on the hunt for South Australia's ocean/freshwater heroes — and we need YOUR help to find them.

The Sea Star Award celebrates individuals making waves in diving, snorkelling, or freediving who are also championing the protection of our marine and freshwater environments and cultural heritage.



Who Should You Nominate?

Think of someone who:

- **Lives in South Australia** (though their impact can reach far beyond)
- Is an **active, recognised member** of the SA diving/snorkelling/freediving community
- Goes above and beyond for **marine conservation, education, or dive tourism**
- May be connected to industry, government, NGOs, or educational institutions

They don't need to tick every box — just most of them.

How to Nominate

A nomination form will be sent out to all SDFSA voting members on 8 June 2026. Remember to look for it in your email inbox. Submissions close **6 July 2026** and must be emailed to Heather Petty at project@sdfsa.net



Heads up:

- Late nominations won't be accepted
- You must be an SDFSA voting member to nominate (not a member yet? Sign up at www.sdfsa.net)
- Self-nominations aren't allowed
- SDFSA may contact independent referees

Got someone in mind? Don't let their contributions go unrecognised — nominate them today!

Come and celebrate their achievements with them at a Splash Inn Event.

Economic Value of Scuba Diving & Snorkelling to SA: A New Study to be launched by the SDFSA

In 2025, a major global study into the economic value of Scuba was published by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, supported by PADI, National Geographic and other stakeholders. The findings suggested up to 20 billion USD in direct and indirect economic benefits around the world.

[\[https://scripps.ucsd.edu/news/scuba-diving-generates-20-billion-annually\]](https://scripps.ucsd.edu/news/scuba-diving-generates-20-billion-annually).

However, there was little data available from South Australia. So the SDFSA has commissioned the lead researcher from the global study to undertake a similar investigation focused specifically on SA.

This economic analysis will provide the SA diving community with badly needed evidence of the value of scuba, free diving and snorkelling to our State. Based on that evidence, we will be better able to encourage the State and local Councils to make significant investments in diving infrastructure, promotion, support and safety.

An online survey will be run by the consultant to collect the data (and all data submitted will be kept in confidence by the consultant). **The SDFSA will promote the survey to all shops, clubs, tour operators, and related services to attain as high a return rate as possible.** In a small market like South Australia, it is essential to get as close to 100% participation as possible.

The cost of the research – AUD 7,500 – is funded by the following generous contributors:

- ★ \$1955 Office of Recreation and Sport Algal Bloom grant
- ★ \$500 Yankalilla Council
- ★ \$2000 PADI Asia
- ★ \$3000 Australasian Diving Safety Foundation (ADSF)
- ★ \$45 SDFSA cash reserves

The survey will launch in July and run for 2 weeks, with a final report from the consultant in August. Watch for our emails, Facebook posts, shop visits and phone calls once the survey is up and running!

Australian Red Cross support for communities impacted by the algal bloom

The algal bloom is continuing to impact South Australia, and the Australian Red Cross, in partnership with Preventative Health SA, is offering the following free support to the SA scuba community:

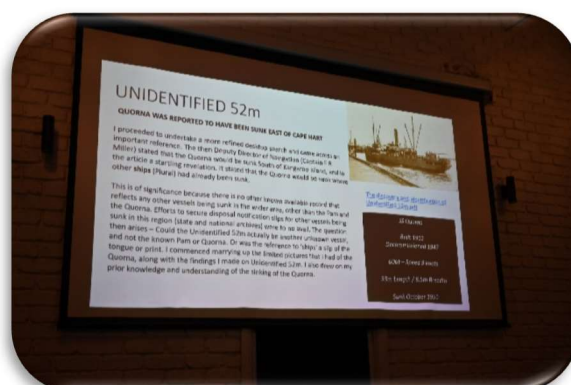
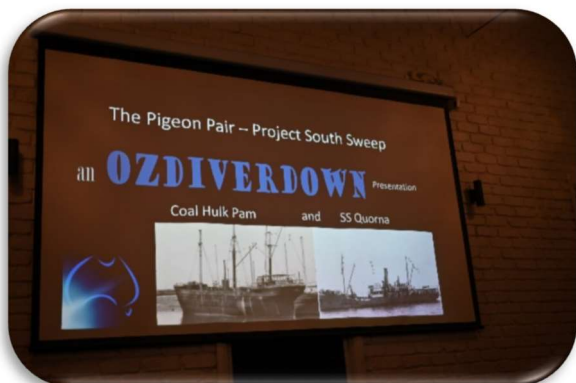
- visiting your groups, listening to people's concerns and reporting the community sentiment back
- providing psychological first aid, including linking people to available services and supports
- facilitating wellbeing Supporting the Supporters workshops designed for people experiencing disasters
- facilitating Understanding Psychological First Aid training, designed to provide locals on the ground with the skills and framework to support people experiencing a crisis

To register your interest, please complete this short form provided by Red Cross:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/cwK35K8wdw>

Splash Inn May 2026

On Friday the 29th of May, members of the diving community attended the SDFS A Splash Inn at the Rob Roy Hotel. We were entertained throughout the evening by Steve Saville, maritime researcher, passionate diver and shipwreck enthusiast. Among the many famous shipwrecks of South Australia, Steve presented a medley of a few, amongst which were the Pam and SS Quorna. Many thanks to Steve for a richly rewarding look into our maritime history.



Important Notices

Giant Cuttlefish Aggregation: The cuttlefish are starting to be seen at Whyalla. The June issue of [Dive Log magazine](#) includes a feature about Whyalla's cuttlefish.

Recfish SA Artificial Reefs: Recfish SA, in collaboration with the SA Govt., are spearheading major artificial reef and habitat projects. Recently a total of 100 varying size reef recovery oyster modules and structures, which were built here in Adelaide, were placed in two locations: Wirinna (Fleurieu Peninsula) at a depth of 27 metres and Nepean Bay (Kangaroo Island) at a depth of 14 metres. Fishing restrictions are in place on these sites for 12 months, however "Citizen Science" diver monitoring will take place regularly over this period. These reefs are part of South Australia's algal bloom recovery efforts and are designed to help rebuild fish stocks, improve marine habitat and support future recreational fishing opportunities.



The concrete modules at McMahon's Port Adelaide dockyard prior to sinking.



One of the modules being placed into position.

Congratulations and Thanks to...

- Faith Coleman on being honoured with the 28th Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection at the Conservation SA Environment Awards evening, and Jochen Kaempf on being a finalist for his independent algal bloom modelling.
- NASA and Spatial Informatics Group for the satellites and AI that can now be used to detect algal blooms. According to [NASA Develops New AI Tool To Identify Harmful Algal Blooms From Space](#) “Researchers said the tool performed well even in difficult coastal waters filled with sediment, plants and runoff.”
- OzFish Onkaparinga, SA Chapter who are doing black pygmy mussel restoration in the Onkaparinga River. See <http://bit.ly/49cXUqb>.
- The ocean-focused Rodney Fox & Mark Tozer’s Museum. Last year, they had over 3,000 visitors through the museum, and this year they are already on track to beat that number.

News from Shops and Clubs

The **Rodney Fox & Mark Tozer’s Museum** would love to help showcase talent in our community. If you’re a local artist or photographer, they’re happy to display your work in the museum.

“You can set your own price and if someone falls in love with it, it could head home with them. As an ocean-focused museum, we’re looking for ocean-inspired or marine-themed artwork and photography that fits in with our displays and story. There’s no commission, no fees, just a genuine effort to support local creatives and give your work exposure. It’s a fantastic opportunity to get your work seen (and possibly sold). If you’re interested, reach out to Amanda at amanda@rodneyfox.com.au. We’d love to support you and our local creative community.”

See https://www.instagram.com/p/DX7e-p-kx3q/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==

Sea Wolves Dive Club: The Sea Wolves’ Annual General Meeting was held on 19th May following the General Meeting at 8pm.

Marine Life Society of SA: The Marine Life Society of SA held its AGM during April. The existing committee was re-elected for another 12 months. The committee is now busy preparing for MLSSA’s 50th anniversary celebration on 20th June 1-5pm at Rodney Fox and Mark Tozer’s Museum and Research Centre. Green Adelaide presented milestone awards to volunteer groups at their Annual Volunteer Celebration Event on 14th May. The awards recognized the long-term service and contribution of volunteer groups. The presentations included a 50-year service award to the Marine Life Society of South Australia.

Rubab Nazar is presenting re seadragons on behalf of MLSSA at <https://u3asouthcoast.org.au/> one-day special event on Marine life of the Great Southern Reef at Victor Harbor on Thursday 24th September. There will be a focus on seadragons (Weedy and Leafy) and sustainable fishery management, with a case study on either the snapper or the tuna fishery in SA.

Green Adelaide’s Rocky Reef Program: New research findings from Green Adelaide’s Rocky Reef Program bring together “more than 18 years of biodiversity data from over 40 monitoring sites, providing one of the most consistent records of reef condition in South Australia...The program focuses on reefs across metropolitan Adelaide, Gulf St Vincent and parts of the Fleurieu Peninsula [using Reef Life Survey methods]... Large sections of SA’s coastline, particularly more remote regions and offshore systems, still lack comparable long-term monitoring and baseline ecological data.”

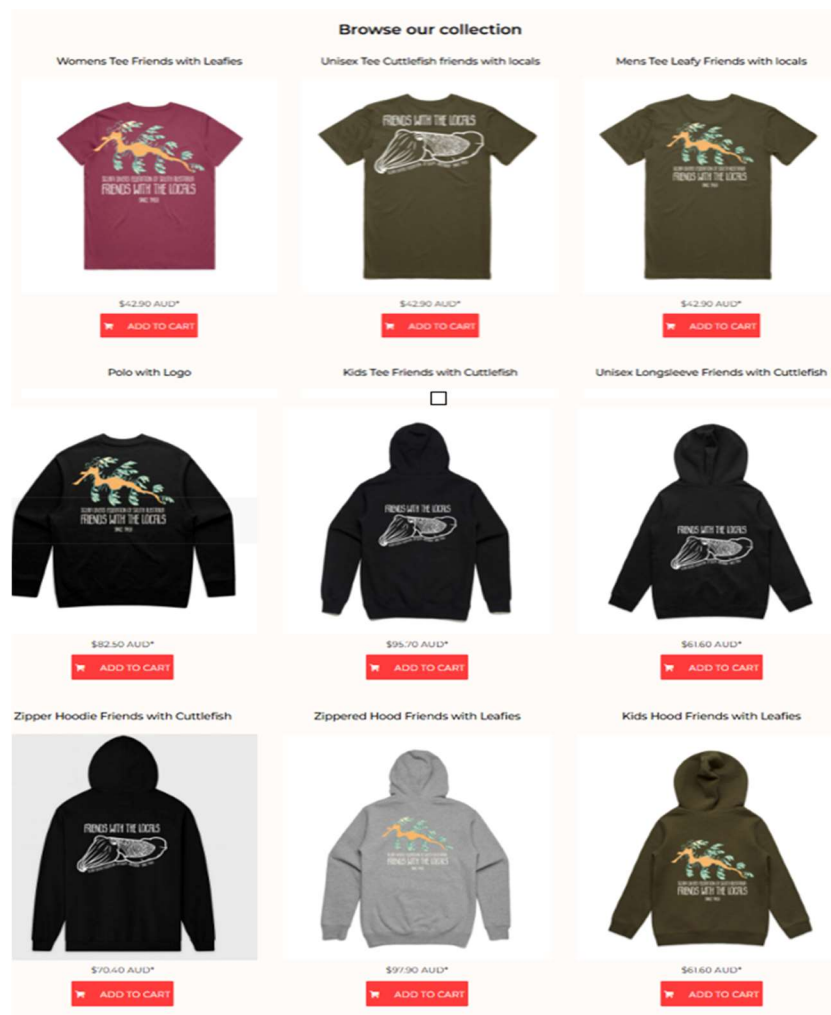
Read more at <https://www.greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/projects/reef-ecosystems#:~:text=Learn%20more%20in%20our%20reports%3A,southern%20blue%20devil%2C%20Paraplesiops%20meleagris>

SDFSa Merch!

Thanks to Committee members Lukasz Halbryt and Rob Blackburn, the SDFSa is launching its new line of merchandise! T-shirts and hoodies are now available, with two designs: a Leafy and a Cuttlefish. You can order on demand through our website: go to <https://sdfs.net> and click on Merch in the top menu



And here's a small sample.....



SDFSFA Committee Business

Our next fundraiser: we are holding a Bunnings BBQ at Woodville on Sunday 21 June. Drop by, get a snag and support your SDFSFA.

Upcoming Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 22 July, 7pm at Arab Steed Hotel, level 1 meeting room. Like what we do? Don't like what we do? Then come along and have your input into your community. All are welcome. Join the Committee for dinner beforehand from 6pm. Contact info@sdfsfa.net if you are interested in attending.

The June meeting of the Committee is Wednesday 24 June, 7pm, Arab Steed upstairs meeting room.

For Your Calendar

South Australia

20th June, 1-5pm: **MLSSA's 50th anniversary celebration**, 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 your intentions to attend.

21 June: **SDFSFA Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser**, Woodville Bunnings.

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

Wednesday 22 July, 7pm: **SDFSFA AGM** at Arab Steed Hotel, level 1 meeting room

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 August: **Science Alive** at the Adelaide Showground. SDFSFA will be there showcasing the wonders of our underwater world.

24th September 10am - 2pm: **U3A South Coast** event on Marine life of the Great Southern Reef at the Church of Christ Hall in Seaview Rd at Victor Harbor. There will be a focus on seadragons and sustainable fishery management, with a case study on either the snapper or the tuna fishery in SA. Rubab Nazar is presenting re. seadragons on behalf of MLSSA.

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

Interstate/International

5-7th June 2026: Malaysia International Dive Expo <https://mide.com.my/>

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 April issue of Digital Dive Log Australasia <https://user-80925338.cld.bz/Dive-Log-Australasia-417-April-2026/>. To book for the Heron Island Dive Festival, contact the event manager, Kaitlin at Heron Island Resort at events@heronisland.com or phone 07 49729055. (June is Manta Ray season and the beginning of Whale season.)

30 June - 2 July **Australian Coastal and Oceans Modelling and Observations (ACOMO)** workshop.
Hobart, Tasmania

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

30 Aug to 3 Sept. **Australian Marine Sciences Association**. Canberra, ACT. [More info](#)

5-6th September: **Go Diving Show in Sydney**.

19th-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/membership-categories/>.

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA Inc.

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