

SDF News Sheet – May 2011

This monthly electronic news sheet is provided as a service to our members
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We are the peak body in South Australia, representing all recreational scuba divers.
We act as a voice for all divers and other associations on all diving related matters (because deep down, divers care).

Welcome to our May news sheet. Hopefully everyone had lots of time for some diving over Easter. Our thoughts can now turn to cool winter diving*, whales migrating and cuttlefish mating. Then there is the Kernewek Lowender every 2nd year. This year's Cornish festival is being held from Friday 13th to 15th May.

*** (According to the Channel 9 Brenton Ragless Almanac for 2011, Adelaide's weather for May is "usually mild and the likelihood of showers increase", "Some cold nights and frost may occur", "Wind speeds on ½ of the days exceed 10km/h at 9am & 14km/h at 3pm" and "Main directions are NE at 9am & SW at 3pm".)**

The next public holiday long weekend is the Queen's Birthday holiday long weekend (from 10-13th June). More time for diving!

If you don't have the time to read through everything in this news sheet, take advantage of the following table of contents (which contains **most** of the headings). Click on any item of interest to proceed straight to that section.

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NEXT MEETING

We are holding our next meeting at 7.15pm on Tuesday 10th May at the Hilton RSL, 147 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Hilton.

AGM

The SDFSА is holding its AGM on Tuesday 12th July.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Spiros Dimas, (Manager, Marine Facilities, Transport Services Division, Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, South Australia) attended our April meeting to discuss our jetty wish list and matters about Rapid Bay jetty in particular. Spiros was accompanied by Nadio Correani. We discussed our concerns with them both. The end result was that they said that they would try to do what they could for us and promised to let us know the outcome. We are keeping our fingers crossed that many of the jetty problems can be fixed. (We reported a loose step on Rapid Bay jetty to DTEI recently.) We also discussed our draft press release re marine park sanctuary zones at our meeting. The end result was that delegates were asked to send in any suggested changes prior to our next meeting on 10th May.

DA VINCI MACHINES EXHIBITION

Looking for a diving-related activity during winter? Details regarding the first known scuba diving apparatus are on display at the Da Vinci Machines Exhibition at the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds until 26th July. Although Australian Ted Eldred developed the first single-hose open-circuit scuba in the late 1940s & early 1950s, Leonardo Da Vinci designed a scuba diving apparatus around 1500. It included a mask that went around the diver's head, with two tubes leading to a diving bell floating on the surface. The exhibition is open every day from 9am to 5pm (Fridays until 8pm). Visit www.davincimuseum.com.au for more details.

HISTORY WEEK

History Week is being held this month. Visit www.historyweek.sa.gov.au for more details. One of the free events being held during History Week is a talk about the forthcoming arrival of the clipper ship *City of Adelaide* later this year. It is being held at the Port Adelaide Caledonian Hall, 189 Semaphore Rd, Exeter at 2pm on Saturday 21st May.

KERNEWЕК LOWENDER

This year's Cornish festival, the Kernewek Lowender, is being held from 13 to 15th May. Visit www.kernewek.org for more details.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S MARINE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

The Conservation Council SA has been working closely with communities and other environmental groups towards the establishment of management plans and no-take sanctuary zones in the State's marine parks. A recent workshop with South Australia's Marine Conservation Alliance (SAMCA) of environmental groups advocated comprehensive, adequate and representative marine parks designed in accordance with world's best scientific principles and benchmarks to achieve the long-term conservation of South Australia's marine life. The Alliance will soon release its Position Statement and organisations supporting it will be welcome to sign on.

VIDEO FOOTAGE NEEDED

Video footage of SA's marine environment is needed to help people understand exactly what is at stake in the debate over marine sanctuaries. Contact Julia on 8223 5155 or email Julia at Julia.winefield@conservationsa.org.au if you can help.

TELL YOUR FRIEND BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Scuba diving is a risky activity, especially if you decide to go off diving on the day of an important event such as Mother's Day or Valentine's Day. Your family and/or closest friends may not appreciate your absence from them on such days. You may need to give them plenty of warning about your dive plans for such days. In fact, right now may be a good time to tell your family/friends that the SDF meeting next February is being held on Tuesday 14th February 2012, Valentine's Day. (By the way, Mother's Day is on 8th May this year.)

2012 CALENDARS OF SA MARINE LIFE

The Marine Life Society's 2012 calendars of SA marine life are now available. They are still priced at \$10 each. They will be available at monthly meetings of the SDF. Enquiries may be made through our Secretary at sdfsa@adam.com.au.

CLUB NEWS

Marine Life Society of SA

Speaking of MLSSA, the Society held its AGM in late April. Philip Hall was re-elected as the Society's President, Neville Skinner as Secretary, Phill McPeake as Treasurer and Chris Hall as Committee Member. David Muirhead also returned as a Committee Member following a year off of the committee. Philip Hall handed the reins of Editor over to Steve Reynolds, after some 14 years in the position. A new position of Reef Monitoring Rep was established, with Steve Reynolds also taking on that position. It replaces that of Reef Watch Officer, as it now includes responsibility for other groups such as Reef Life Survey Foundation. No Society meetings will be held for the next 5 months, the next one being held in October.

GUIDE ON MOLLUSCS

The Malacological Society of SA has published a guide on the "Molluscs of South Australia". The guide is a hard cover folder of 48 pages with back & white photos of shells, cephalopods and echinoderms. Contact the MSSA at sashellclub@gmail.com.

FAREWELL TO MATT GURN

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Matthew Gurn. Matt had been the Fleet Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the SA Maritime Museum before his death on 15th April. He had worked with the volunteer crewmen of the ST *Yelta* and the MV *Archie Badenoch* as part of the SAMM. Matt made a successful visit to Europe as part of a

Fellowship regarding the restoration of iron-hulled heritage vessels in 2010. Matt's trip was for an International Specialised Skills Institute Fellowship sponsored by The Pratt Foundation. He visited places such as England, Scotland and Germany for his study tour. He completed a fellowship report titled "Iron Hulled Heritage Vessel Restoration" on his return to Adelaide. A copy of this report has been placed in the MLSSA library (mlssa No.2287).

CAPTIVE-BRED WOBPEGONG SHARKS RELEASED

According to the web page found at <http://www.ecovoice.com.au/eco-news/2841-shark-release-provides-insight-into-captive-breed-survival->, "The Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund, in conjunction with the Sydney Aquarium, released four captive-bred wobbegong sharks at Long Reef Aquatic Reserve, NSW in March." Further details are included in the May issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

OLDEST KNOWN SHIPWRECK FOUND NEAR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Utah based Deep Blue Marine believes they located the oldest known shipwreck off the coast of the Dominican Republic. Divers have uncovered gold coins, jade statues, and ancient Mayan jewelry. Further details are included in the May issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

NAVY FRIGATE HMAS ADELAIDE FINALLY SCUTTLED

The ex-HMAS *Adelaide* was finally been scuttled off of the New South Wales central coast on 13th April. Further details are included in the May issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

TRUK LAGOON WRECKS STARTING TO LEAK OIL

The deteriorating WW2 shipwrecks in Truk (Chuuk) Lagoon are starting to leak oil, threatening the area. Further details are included in the May issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

MV SEAWOLF

The *Seawolf* was originally named the *Matsu Maru*. From 1993, her partially stripped hull laid unused off Lincoln Cove Marina. After negotiations by Christopher Deane, and fundraising by the Sea Wolves Dive Club and the rest of the SA dive community, the hulk was towed from Port Lincoln to Port Adelaide in October 2001. On 23rd March 2002, she was scuttled off of Port Noarlunga. She lies on her starboard side, some 20m slightly to the south east of the hull of the *HA Lumb*, making the site a 2-wreck dive, with a tyre reef thrown in for good measure! The GPS location is 35 deg 08.879 min S, 138 deg 26.525min E, using the WGS 84 datum. Look for the "bomb" on her deck and other Sea Wolves markers below decks. Further details regarding the scuttling of the *Seawolf* can be found at http://www.sdfsa.net/adelaide_metro.htm .

VIRGIN OCEANIC

Virgin's Richard Branson is planning to do five dives over the next 2 years to the deepest part of Earth's 5 oceans" in a revolutionary carbon fibre and titanium submarine called *Virgin Oceanic*. Further details, including video footage, can be found at http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/04/06/virgin_oceanic/ .

ADMIRALTY ANCHOR ON HUTCHINSON SHOAL

Would you like having a large lost anchor named after you? That's just what happened to Mary Simmonds. Mary found the anchor in question during a dive on Hutchinson Shoal, Queensland in September 2004. Hutchinson Shoal is a large rocky reef system off of Moreton Island, near Brisbane. Mary and her buddy had been following a stingray when they stumbled

over a large admiralty anchor. The anchor was over 3m long and standing up proud off the bottom. The source of the anchor remains unknown to date. In the meantime, divers are referring to the anchor as “the Queen Mary anchor”, presumably after Mary ‘mermaid’ Simmonds.

TASMANIAN COMBINED DIVE CLUBS WEEKEND

Tasmanian Combined Dive Clubs Weekend event is being held at Bicheno over the Queen’s Birthday holiday long weekend (from 10-13th June). Visit www.ccwtasmania.com for more details.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations again to Luke Baade on having his leafy seadragon photo (published on page 9 of the January issue of Dive Log magazine) republished on page 71 of the April issue. Congrats to Phil Mercurio on the use of his Carijoa soft coral image on the front cover of the Marine Life Society’s 2012 calendar of SA marine life. It is absolutely stunning! Phil took the shot at Port Hughes jetty, using his self-designed and built snoot. He also had 4 other shots included in the calendar. Congrats also to David Muirhead who had some 11 of his shots included in the calendar. Congrats to both Paul Macdonald & Phil Mercurio, who each had 5 shots in it. Congrats also to the 3 other photographers – Antony King, Steve Reynolds & Anne Wilson. (Even the calendar’s printers thought that it is the best one yet. They are still priced at \$10 each. They will be available at monthly meetings of the SDF. Enquiries may be made through our Secretary at sdfsa@adam.com.au .)

ANNIVERSARIES

108 YEARS AGO, a large sunfish was found in the Port River on 9th July 1903. Almost 108 years later, another sunfish (1.2m) was found in the Port River on 13th April.

96 YEARS AGO, the first troop landing occurred on Gallipoli Beach on 25th April 1915.

ONE YEAR AGO, Project Beneath Gallipoli first began its search for underwater relics from the Gallipoli campaign in May 2010. The team uncovered a number of new shipwrecks at Anzac Cove, including a deep water barge and a towed landing barge. Visit <http://www.beneathgallipoli.org/> for more details.

67 YEARS AGO, the Japanese transport ship *Sapporo Maru* was sunk in Truk Lagoon (Chuuk) on 29th May 1944. The wreck was found in 2002.

63 YEARS AGO, both the Brighton and Glenelg jetties were damaged during a storm on 11th April 1948. The 1420-ton naval survey frigate HMAS *Barcoo* was blown aground on a sand bar at West Beach in the storm. Three freighters broke their moorings in the Port River and were badly damaged. Dozens of yachts were also sunk.

ONE YEAR AGO, the coal carrier *Shen Neng 1* struck Douglas Shoal on the Great Barrier Reef, off the central Queensland coast, on 3rd April 2010. She gouged a 3km-long scar on the reef and ruptured a fuel tank. About 4 tonnes of heavy oil from the fuel tank was spilled on the reef as a result. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau found that the chief mate was too fatigued to monitor the ship’s position.

SDFSA NEWS SHEETS

Our monthly newsletters and bulletins can now be downloaded from our website at <http://www.sdfsa.net/newsletters.htm>.

OPEN SEASON FOR ROCK LOBSTERS IN SA WATERS CLOSES THIS MONTH

The SA rock lobster season for 2010-11 for both the Southern Zone and the Northern Zone ends at 6pm on 31st May 2011. According to the web page found at

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries/recreational_fishing/closures/seasonal_closures, the closed seasons are as follows:-

Northern zone - (west from longitude 139° 0' 4.80" including Kangaroo Island to the Western Australia border)

Closed season from 6pm 31 May to 12noon 1 November

Southern zone - (east from longitude 139° 0' 4.80" to the Victorian border)

Closed season applies from 6pm 31 May to 6am 1 November.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SUNDIVE BYRON BAY PHOTO SHOOT-OUT 2011

The Sundive Byron Bay Photo Shoot-Out is being held from 21st to 29th May. Details were published on page 22 of the April issue of Dive Log magazine. Visit www.sundive.com.au for more details.

MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL DIVE EXPO

The 6th Malaysia International Dive Expo (MIDE) is being held 1st – 3rd July at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur. MIDE is a trade, consumer and conservation exhibition. Major brands of all equipment will be showcased, as well as dive destination packages and diving courses. Details were published on page 67 of the April issue of Dive Log magazine. For more information visit <http://www.mide.com.my> .

SUNDIVE BYRON BAY PHOTO SHOOT-OUT 2011

The Sundive Byron Bay Photo Shoot-Out is being held from 21st to 29th May. Details were on page 22 of the April issue of Dive Log. Visit www.sundive.com.au for more details.

LAYANG LAYANG UNDERWATER PHOTOSHOOT 2011

The Layang Layang Underwater Photoshoot 2011 is being held 20-26th July. Details were on pages 36 of the April issue of Dive Log. Visit www.avillion.com for more details.

UNDERWATER WORLD SHOOT-OUT 2011

The Underwater World Shoot-Out (International Underwater Photo Shoot-out Competition) is being held 1st to 8th August. Visit <http://www.eilatredsea.com/?CategoryID=206&ArticleID=235> (www.eilatredsea.com) for more details.

UNDERWATER FESTIVAL (UF11)

The 5th Underwater Festival - The Australasia Challenge is apparently being held 2nd-11th September (NOT during the Oceania Dive Expo being held at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane from 7-9th October). That gives participants 10 days of shooting pictures. The 2011 Underwater Festival breaks new ground in underwater shootout competitions. UF11 will feature a photo and video shootout competition that happens simultaneously all over Australasia. There are over \$150,000-worth of prizes on offer and 20 categories to compete in. "The event encompasses 25 countries spanning both hemispheres. Every dive site you can imagine will be a shootout locality and every dive centre, liveaboard, dive resort in the area will be part of this new kind of shootout. You can dive your local favourite spots, go out with your dive club or shore dive with your buddy - or travel and join in one of the many Underwater Festival Fringe Events that will be happening all over Australasia. Details were published on page 49 of the April issue of Dive Log magazine. For more information visit <http://www.underwaterfestival.org>.

HERON ISLAND DIVE FESTIVAL 2011

The Heron Island Dive Festival 2011 is being held from 5th to 11th September. Details were published on page 39 of the April issue of Dive Log magazine. Visit www.heronisland.com for more details.

2011 OCEANIA DIVE EXPO

The inaugural Oceania Dive Expo at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane is now being held from 7-9th October. The water sports equipment trade and consumer show will be held in conjunction with the annual Underwater Festival. ODEX will showcase products and services relating to water sports and underwater recreational activities such as scuba, snorkelling, spear fishing as well as free and technical diving. Commercial equipment and businesses involved in filming, photography, military, emergency, and scientific projects will also be represented at the Expo. Highlights of this event will include product launches, workshops, seminars, guest speakers, a charity silent auction and associated social events. Details were published on pages 48-9 of the April issue of Dive Log magazine. Visit <http://www.oceaniadiveexpo.com> for more details.

NATIONAL SHELL SHOW 2012

The 9th National Shell Show is being held here in Adelaide in 12 month's time. It is being held at the Goodwood Community Centre, 32-4 Rosa St, Goodwood from 13-15th April 2012. It is run by the Malacological Society of SA. Register your interest at sashellclub@gmail.com to receive your personal information pack about the show, plus updates & newsletters.

GROUP OXYGEN PROVISION TRAINING SCHEME FOR DIVERS

Don't forget that we are willing to coordinate group oxygen provision training (& Re-training) courses for groups of divers (max.8) through Jason Graefling. All courses can be run over evenings or weekends locally. Jason is registered to certify participants for Nationally Recognised Training through DAN Asia Pacific. Visit <http://www.danasiapacific.org/main/training/external.php> where Jason's name is listed under South Australia. Jason can run a program for a minimum of 4 participants. He would use local O2 setups for participants to ensure knowledge of their equipment. The training can be arranged for your chosen time & location (as long as there is access to projection equipment). If need be, the SDF may be able to organise the use of a venue for you. Please let us know of your preferred time & location and we will try to coordinate it with Jason. He can accommodate weekend and evening training. This is a great opportunity for dive club members to be professionally trained in all the skills of oxygen provision. Please let Steve Reynolds know your preferred time & location and it will be organised with Jason. Email Steve at sdfsa@adam.com.au.

SDFSA BULLETIN

Attached along with this *SDF News Sheet* is a copy of the latest issue of our *SDFSA Bulletin*. This is an electronic bulletin separate to our normal monthly *SDF News Sheet*. Items featured in this issue of the Bulletin are: -

Oldest Known Shipwreck Found Near Dominican Republic **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Navy Frigate Scuttled After Dolphin Delay**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
The Blue And The Black**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Captive-Bred Wobbegong Sharks Released**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Future issues of the *SDFSA Bulletin* will include lengthy articles about matters of interest to recreational divers. We welcome contributions from our readers.

The Scuba Divers Federation of SA is a member of the following: -

Rapid Bay Jetty Design Reference Group

SARFAC (SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council)

Fleurieu Reef Advisory Group (Ex-HMAS *Hobart*)

TRAIL COMMITTEES - SA Trails Coordinating Committee (Office of Recreation & Sport)
and Port Noarlunga Reef Underwater Trail South Australian Trails

If you wish to be included on the mailing list for this electronic news sheet, contact Steve Reynolds, the Federation's Secretary, on sdfsa@adam.com.au for more details.

The SDF supports both Reef Watch & Dragonsearch

Disclaimer – The opinions expressed by authors of material in this news sheet are not necessarily those of the Federation.