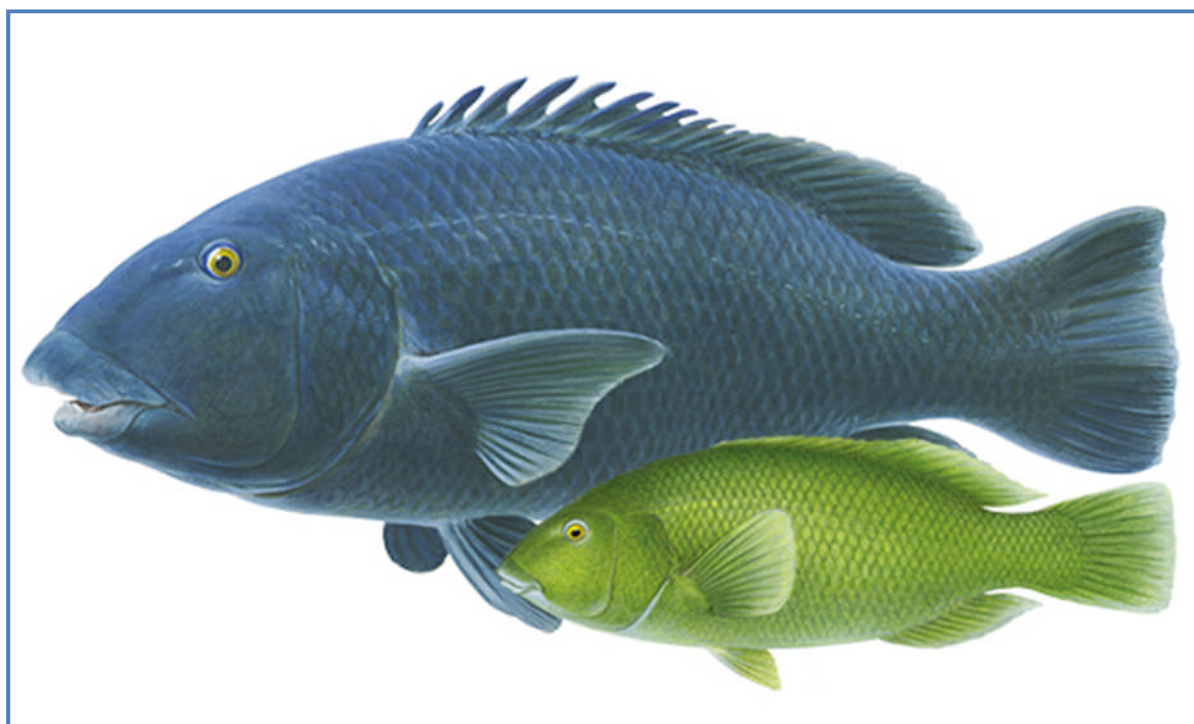


Underwater Explorers Club of SA Inc

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-2019





# GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday – 2nd

# October

1945 for 2000



**Nailsworth Community Club**, 31 Derlanger Avenue, Collinswood  
All members, past members and potential members are invited to attend.

*Recently, a group of our members did a return trip to the Cocos-Keeling Island group, and took in Christmas Island also during their time away.*

**Bob Butterfield** has put together a pictorial record of the trip, and will present the first part at this meeting

*Deferred judging of the “Big Uns” theme from the photo competition will be conducted as part of the proceedings of this meeting*

Prior to the meeting, you are invited to join with those members enjoying a meal at the Hampstead Hotel on North East Road, Collinswood. Meet there at 1815.

## COMMITTEE 2019-2020

Treasurer..... Robyn BUTTERFIELD  
Secretary..... Keith LOCKWOOD  
Safety Officer ..... Sue CUCCHIARELLI  
Committee Person..... Mary HOOD  
Committee Person..... Hugh SPARROW  
Newsletter Editor..... Peter MANSFIELD

## CONTACTS 2019-2020

SDF Representative..... Kevin McCARTHY  
Email..... [secretary@uecofsa.org.au](mailto:secretary@uecofsa.org.au)  
Website..... [www.uecofsa.org.au](http://www.uecofsa.org.au)  
Postal Address..... Underwater Explorers Club of SA Inc  
P.O. Box 74  
Kent Town SA 5071

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# Waters to be Explored



## OCTOBER

 Sun 6th > Mon 7th

### Edithburgh

**Tide times** — [H] 0738 **2.11** [L] 1358 **0.75** [H] 1927 **1.49** Saturday  
[L] 0110 **0.57** [H] 0806 **1.93** [L] 1428 **0.93**


*There are plenty of dive sites around Edithburgh and this area is a photographer's dream.*

*The town jetty is an easy entry dive from steps close to the carpark. The dive to 9M is a riotous mix of colourful sponges on the pylons as well as nudibranchs, starfish, and seahorses. Close observation may reveal cowries or anglerfish, and a large school of kingfish frequent the end of the jetty. It is interesting to enter from the ocean 'swimming pool' further along the coast to finish at the jetty.*

*Pt Giles, just north of Edithburgh, is an interesting dive to 12M, which has huge growths of hard coral on the pylons. Large nudibranchs as big as plates, the side-gilled slugs, have been seen here in abundance. Leafy seadragons may be spotted closer to shore. A trolley is useful to reach the entry from the carpark. Permission is needed to dive here.*

*The less-dived Klein's jetty(8M) is reputed to have leafy seadragons and the shallow Wool Bay jetty (4M) has plenty of seagrass & algae to hide various invertebrates. There are plenty of interesting sites along the south coast where you'll find swim-throughs and even a seal to entertain you. Care must be taken with entries and exits but you'll be rewarded with good dives.*

*If a boat dive is possible, the wreck of the Clan Ranald is worth it., but be wary of strong currents here.*

 Sun 20th

### Noarlunga Reef

**Tide times** — [L] 0114 **0.51** [H] 0744 **2.09** [L] 1422 **0.49**

*The Noarlunga reef is broken into the Northern and Southern sections that run parallel to the shore with depths of around 8 m on the inside, 10 m on the outside and around 15 m in the gap between the reef sections.*

*We will access this dive by boat from O'Sullivan's Beach boat ramp.*

*The Southern Reef is a pretty easy dive with good visibility and prolific fish life at relatively shallow depths. You can follow the underwater trail (12 underwater markers on the Northern section). Small caves and overhangs will reveal leather jackets, Blue Devils, cuttlefish, old wives, strongies, schools of silver drummer, and rays. With over 200 species of marine plant and animals, and over 73 types of fish and invertebrates, this Marine Reserve is an excellent dive, but remember nothing is to be taken.*

*Be aware there may be a current especially through the Gap.*

## History of the Wool Bay Jetty

The town of Wool Bay was formerly known as Pickering from 1876 but the name changed in 1940. In 1879, the town petitioned for a jetty. The town said there was deep water close to shore and Adelaide could be supplied with cheaper firewood. Also it could be a holiday destination.

The jetty was constructed of Jarrah in 1882. It was 155M long and had a depth of 2.1M at low tide.

Initially, cuttings into the cliffs were too narrow for wagons so bales of wool were rolled down by hand. In the early 1900's, lime burning became a big industry. Six kilns were built near the jetty, three on top of the cliffs and three at the bottom of the cutting.

Due to the large demand for lime, a large 'updraft' kiln was built in 1911 with the jetty extended to 173M. The remains of this kiln still remain today. However, the kiln never reached its' full potential due to the increasing use of cement.

In 1954, dredging took place and the jetty was upgraded to serve the district for the export of wool and grain and this continued up to the 1960's. With the introduction of bulk handling and the building of the facility at Port Giles, the importance of Wool Bay decreased.

The last load of grain from Wool Bay was shipped in 1968 and the last ship to load was a seismic, recording vessel in 1969.

The lime kiln and jetty are included in the State Heritage Register. The little hamlet is worth a visit.

## ► *Safety Officer*

### CHOOSING DIVE SITES

Choosing where to go to dive may change from day to day and you will want to be aware of certain conditions at the site to have an interesting dive and to dive safely, or you might be more adventurous and want to dive at a new site where you've never dived before.

*Here are some points to consider —*

#### ***New Dive Sites***

- *Do your homework and plan.* Seek out local information from shops or experienced divers
- You can use land maps to check out coastlines – for your specific interest and entries & exits
- Rocky coasts will give you interesting ledges and terraces, good for photographers
- Marine life is richer where there is more water movement
- Nautical charts will give you depth and the location of known reefs and wrecks
- And never dive in a shipping channel
- Wrecks – check if you need permission or a permit to dive on the site; some are restricted  
Wrecks are always better in deeper water – the bigger, deeper, and newer....the better.  
They may be better preserved but are they safe?
- Working jetties – these may also require permission to dive

#### ***All Sites, New and Familiar***

- Weather is so important: for divers it is the wind direction and wind speed  
Sea conditions are usually better in early morning before the sea breeze comes up  
In SA, winds usually blow from the SW in winter and E in summer  
Always think of an alternative site. Seek favourable conditions
- Check for tides and currents (and any rips at new sites); bigger tide change means greater current.
- Cold water: avoid sites which require a long snorkel or where the site is obscure or difficult to find
- Organise a support crew and extra equipment for tricky situations – e.g. vertical ladders or rocky sites
- Checking your entry and exit is so important. Do not assume steps are in place; go and look before gearing up. Step exits are easy but not 'step exits'! And consider whether a beach with rolling surf or a rocky shore is safe!

*And finally  
Plan your dive. Take nothing for granted  
Know your capabilities and limitations*

Safe Diving

*Sue*



**VIET THAI  
RESTAURANT**

### **Asian Banquet**

Viet Thai Restaurant  
427 Henley Beach Road — Brooklyn Park  
26 October 7:30 pm

*Bookings can be made through the website*

## ► *Past Dives*

### *Ardrossan Town Jetty – 1 September*

Hugh and I headed to Ardrossan this Sunday morning anticipating a good dive, Winds were predicted to be quite strong but offshore so we thought we would have a good dive. The skies were gradually clearing as we left Adelaide and it was a sunny day. In winter, Yorke Peninsula is often sunnier than Adelaide and the eastern side calmer. We arrived at the jetty and conditions looked great. There was a slight surface chop but waters looked clear. The entry was easy as it was quite a high tide (in and out) and both sets of steps and handrails are in good condition.

Getting in was a bit chilly at first but we soon got used to the temperature. We would not be disappointed. The visibility was excellent, 10-15M and the sunny skies made all look brighter.

We made our way up one side and returned the other. The pylons were a riot of colour with so many bright types of ascidians and sponges. And we found a newer metal pylon covered in numerous bryozoans. I had never seen so many together before. There were only a few fish, small wrasse and magpie perch. But there were plenty of crabs, small ones hiding on the pylons and in the bottom rubble. But we saw 4 decorator crabs scooting across the bottom putting on a show, wearing their hats of red and green algae. There were quite a few of the common orange nudibranchs, some in pairs. There were biscuit stars as well as Patriella on the pylons and juvenile stars of the common Australis Irregularis moving along the bottom.

We had been searching up and down the jetty examining the brown algae for seahorses but were beginning to think they had disappeared. A lot of the algae had a brown 'muck' clinging to it. But nearer to the steps when we were almost at the end of our dive, we spotted a small big-bellied seahorse! It was wrapped around some clean algae and its tummy seemed to be slightly swollen. So perhaps it was a pregnant male! And nearby, was a very small strange blunt bright green fish (not a pipefish) sitting on some weed. I had never seen anything like it before.

All in all it was a great dive with no current and good visibility. Although the water was a cool 13, we managed 70 minutes. But spring is coming and the water will quickly get warmer. I always love Ardrossan in winter!

After the dive, we 'retired' to the Ardrossan Hotel to have an excellent pub lunch of local garfish.

*Sous Marin*

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Display your skills and submit 3 photographs for consideration in our on-going competition which runs tri-monthly

New themes have been decided for future competitions –

The current theme is \* **Stripes**  
and will be followed by \* **Faces**

Photographs should be 7" x 5" which is  
**2100 x 1500** pixels when resolution is **300** pixels/in

File should be **jpeg**, with a size less than **400** Kb

Forward to [secretary@uecofsa.org.au](mailto:secretary@uecofsa.org.au)  
by **15-November-2019**





Cocos-Keeling Islands



Christmas Island

## A visit to the Indian Ocean August—September 2019

### *Cocos-Keeling Group*

It looked like a giant seal emerging from the blue waters, in awe we starred not daring to believe our eyes as it swam overhead it was a DUGONG. This was the loneliest dugong in the world with the nearest species play mate over 1000 kms away. It had suddenly arrived at the atoll in 2002. It quickly adapted to its lonely existence feeding on the abundant sea grasses and interacting with Manta Rays and the occasional diver.

The Cocos Keeling atoll consists of 27 islands surrounding picture perfect aqua blue and green lagoons abounding in a diverse range of Indian Ocean marine life with a few Pacific Ocean species dropping in. The Black Tipped Reef Sharks patrol the shallows among a colourful array of tropical fish.



The White Tipped Sharks sleep on the ocean floor among numerous Garden Eels wavering in rhythmic unison while sea cucumbers vacuum up the detritus from the ocean floor. Grey Reef Sharks lurk in the deeper waters along the steep rock walls where huge Manta Rays scoop the zooplankton up in their mouths. Green Turtles abounded both in the ocean and in the shallow bays especially at night while the Hawksbill was rarely spotted. The waters with over 20 metre clarity abound in colour and variety to produce a kaleidoscope of colour on top of magnificent coral tables, with an abundance of eels, shrimps, Lionfish and Bullseyes sheltering underneath.

The history of Cocos Keeling Islands is dramatic and fascinating making a great read. Starting with the Clunes-Ross dynasty from 1827 to 1978, five generations Lorded over the islands and its inhabitants. The sinking of the Emden in Australia's first naval battle of the first world war by the battleship Sydney. The establishment of the Telegraph Relay station on Direction Island and even Charles Darwin's visit to this atoll in 1836.

The islands highest point is 3 metres above sea level, fresh water is siphoned off the top of the water table. The fresh water sits like a lens atop the saline water in small ponds under the islands and is carefully extracted to supply potable water to the 2 habitable islands. Island paradises with their quiet laybacked lifestyle and warm tropical weather are rare Cocos Keeling has this and more.

*Keith Lockwood*



# Christmas Island

The Christmas Island is the peak of a basalt volcanic seamount which rose steeply from the ocean floor about 60 million years ago. The highest point of the island is Murray Hill, which rises 361 m above sea level. Captain William Mynors on the East India Company vessel, the Royal Mary sighted and named the island on Christmas Day in 1643. Phosphate was discovered in 1887 by a party from the British naval vessel HMS Egeria. In 1888 George Clunies-Ross and his brother, Andrew and a small party of Cocos Malay workers formed a settlement at Flying Fish Cove to preempt any other claim to the island's resources. Murray and Clunies-Ross were offered a joint 99 year phosphate lease by the British in 1891. 200 Chinese labourers, 8 European managers, 5 Sikh policemen and a small number of Malays arrived in 1898 to make up the workforce. The island was invaded and occupied by the Japanese from March 1942 to 1945. On 1 October 1958 Christmas Island became an Australian Territory after a payment of 2.8 million pounds.

The Territory lies in the Indian Ocean, 2,600 km's northwest of Perth and 500 km's south of the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. The island is 135 sq kilometres in area with 73 km's of rugged limestone coastline fringed by a narrow coral reef that drops away steeply, sometimes vertically to ocean depths. In recent years Christmas Island has come to notoriety for the Boat people arriving on its shores and the Detention Centre. Currently, it understood the Detention Centre only houses 1 family that overstayed their visitor visas. Christmas Island is also still noted for its phosphate mines.

The vegetation, debris and low grade phosphate is removed from the surface and the high grade phosphate picked up by big Caterpillar front end loaders. They continue until the basalt layer is reached. Our accommodation on Christmas Island was the "Cocos Padang". It was originally accommodation for mine workers but has been refurbished into 3 bedroom apartments with small kitchen facilities to prepare meals.

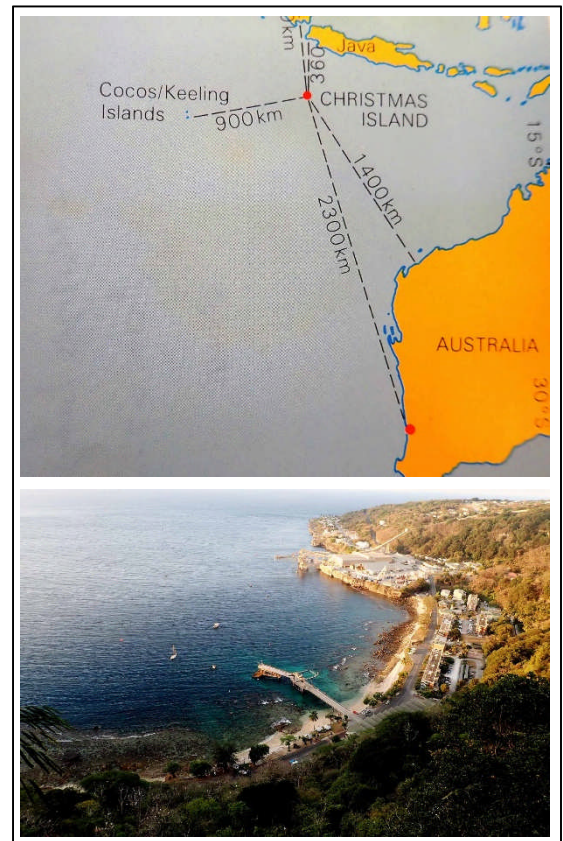
As on the Cocos Keeling Islands, we have visited Christmas Island toward the end of their dry season. The plants and grasses are in need of soaking rains. During the dry season the South East Trade winds blow. In the wet the seas flatten off but the humidity increases and Christmas Island will get most of its 80 inches of rain and a slight chance of cyclones. Linney (Dive Leader) said they have only had 3 cyclones in the past 10 to 15 years.

Our Indian Ocean touring party consisted of Judy Hani, Michael Heinjus, Keith Lockwood, Gary and Sue Doubleday and me. We had been on Cocos Keeling Island for a week and flew Virgin Australia into Christmas Island on Friday 30 August. Gary and Sue continued on, returning via Perth on their way home.

We collected our hire car from the airport and made our way to Cocos Padang. Judy, Michael, Keith and I then went to one of the local 2 supermarkets to buy our provisions for the next week. Most food items are considerably more expensive than home but some items such as alcohol are about the same as the mainland because it is duty free. Our Dive Operator Teruki Hamanaka "Hama" called around at 6.00pm to complete paperwork in readiness for our first day of diving on Saturday morning. We were to meet Hama at Flying Fish Cove at 8.00am.

Hama was very punctual and was soon ready to launch "Feral" a purpose built aluminium dive boat with a 200hp Four stroke Yamaha outboard. The Feral is licensed to carry 11 people. We booked 5 days of diving with 2 dives each day. On most days we had another 2 guests on our dives. Hama and Linney, his 70 year old Dive Leader take it in turns leading dives on alternate days to give them a rest. Linney is remarkable, she advised that she was about to become a Great Grandmother. They have been working together for about 15 years. The weather was windy with some surface chop but Hama always finds a sheltered dive site or a calm spot for our surface interval

Over the ensuing 5 days we would dive, Linney's site just around Smith Point from Flying Fish Cove, where we saw all the usual tropical fish and corals including Painted Crayfish and Nudibranchs. For the surface interval, Hama took us to the place where the local fisherman Mark Rockfort cleans his catch. Giant Trevally and Whitetip, Blacktip, Grey Reef and Silky Sharks gather for an easy feed. We had snorkels among these magnificent fish. The 2nd dive on day 1 was "The Morgue" because the site is just offshore from the island's original morgue. On this dive we saw the usual fish and corals including Lionfish, Moray and Ribbon Eels, Christmas Tree Worms, Banded Shrimp and a Regal Angelfish.





**Day 2** saw us dive Rhoda Beach. It is not a beach but a cliff shore. I saw the usual marine life including a Yellow Boxfish, Anemone and fish, Porcelain Crab and a Goby that is endemic to Christmas Island. During the surface interval we sat near 2 Refugee Boats, built in Australia and decked out with all the modern cons. Hama says they have been moored there for 2 years and would be used to send Boat People back to Indonesia, if their boats were not seaworthy. The 2nd dive was on Smith Point. Hama pointed out a Hairy Spider, so small and opaque I could hardly see them and a Machine Gun casing from a WW2 battle. I also saw Neon Fusiliers and Clownfish.

**Day 3** we dived Perpendicular Wall, as its name suggests, it is a wall with overhangs, Gorgonian, a school of inquisitive Batfish that followed us around, Whitetip Reef Sharks patrolling the drop-off. During our surface interval we enjoyed the usual cups of soup, tea, coffee or milo, Linney's Muffins or Apple Turnovers and Hama's snake lollies. Our 2nd dive was on the wreck of the "Eidsvold" a Norwegian Phosphate carrier that was sunk by a Japanese submarine in WW2. The wreck is broken up on the edge of the drop off, part of the wreck is in 15 to 25 metres and the remainder over the drop off. It is now covered in corals of all varieties, other marine flora and the home of hosts of tropical fish. Linney was our dive guide today and Hama, the boatman. Some of the fish that I could identify included lots of different Butterfly fish, Angelfish, Moorish Idols, Clams, Peacock Groper and Soldierfish.

**Day 4**, we dived on Million Dollar Bombie. Among the usual myriad of tropical fish, I saw more Painted Crayfish, Sea Urchins, Triggerfish and Bluestreaks. Our second dive was at "Daniel Roux Caves". The caves are a circuit, the top opening at 6 metres and the exit at 9 metres. During our surface interval we snorkelled the cave but this trip we didn't dive the caves. As well as the usual I saw Dancing Shrimp, a number of large Oysters and small Seastars.

**Day 5**, we dived "The Old Tip Site" on the north side of the island, east of Rocky Point. On the way out we came across a school of Spinner Dolphins, although they hung around for a few minutes, they weren't in the mood to play. It was choppy but we didn't notice that once we were

down a couple of meters. There are lots of varieties of beautiful coral and heaps of fish, including Moorish Idols, Butterflyfish, Lionfish, Fusiliers, Parrotfish and Clams. After a surface interval off the Phosphate loading facility with Hama's and Linney's treats, Hama took us to Fuel Buoy 2 site for our 2nd dive. On entry we descended among a school of Giant Trevally. Later Hama said the black Trevally are the mature males and the silver grey, the females. Also later, Hama identified the Yellow Basslet, we had been seeing schools of these fish on the tops of reefs. I saw Bluestreaks, a cleaner fish among the many other varieties of fish.

Most of our dives were a maximum of 20 to 25 metres and a bottom time of 50 minutes. Visibility ranged from 20 to 30 metres with water temperature of 26 degrees C. I dived in my 1mm Neoliner or Gary Doubleday's 3 mm Steamersuit, using an Aluminium tank and took 6.8 kg's of weight.

Each day Hama had us back to the ramp between 12.00 noon and 12.30pm, provided us with lunch which we ate on the shore of Flying Fish Cove. Hama takes care of the rinsing of all the gear. We brought our cameras back to our accommodation to rinse and download the shots. This gave us the rest of the day to tour the island. We visited every location we could get to (some sites were closed due to road works and maintenance to boardwalks) did some walks and learnt a lot about this incredible island.

We were lucky to have our accommodation virtually opposite Mark Rockfort's "Shorefire" fishing tackle and you name it store. He also sells fresh Yellowfin Tuna and Wahoo which we made the most of.

Michael was our chef and he did a marvellous job preparing our meals, Judy made the salads, Keith and I did the washing up.

On the last night after some debate, we shouted Hama, his wife, 2 daughters and Linney dinner at the Golden Bosun Tavern. What an enjoyable way to finish our Indian Ocean holiday and acknowledge Hama and Linney's efforts looking after us.

*Bob Butterfield*



# Seafood Sensation—

## Chilli Soy Salmon with Wok-Fried Noodles

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup (90g) honey
- 100ml light soy sauce
- 1 long red chilli, seeds removed, finely chopped
- 4 x 180g salmon fillets, pin-boned
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 200g baby spinach leaves
- 2 tsp grated ginger
- 300g fresh Singapore (wok-ready) or thin hokkien noodles
- Lime wedges, to serve

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Combine honey, soy sauce and chilli in a small bowl, then set sauce aside.
- Season the fish with sea salt. Heat a frypan over medium heat. Add 2 tsp olive oil and 1 tsp sesame oil to the pan, then cook fish, skin-side down, for 5 minutes or until skin is crisp. Turn and cook the fish for a further 2 minutes or until just cooked but still pink in the centre.
- Meanwhile, heat remaining 2 tsp olive oil and 1 tsp sesame oil in a wok over high heat. Add the spinach and ginger, and stir-fry for 1 minute. Add the noodles, tossing to combine and heat through.
- Pour half the chilli soy sauce over the salmon, then pour remaining sauce over the noodles and toss to combine. Serve salmon with the noodles and lime wedges to squeeze over.

## AROUND THE WORLD UNDER THE SEA—





You too can take in these underwater views.  
Do an underwater tour using Google Street View at —  
<https://www.google.com/streetview/gallery/#oceans>  
and navigate to your hearts content !



# CALENDAR




 All Sunday dives to be booked **on the Website**  
by the **Thursday** before the dive 

(Dive **departure** times as shown)

## OCTOBER

*DL – Jeanette Smith (0436 007 459)*

*SO – Mary Hood (0427 716 938)*

ä	Wed 2nd	General Meeting — Nailsworth CC, 31 Delanger Ave. Collinswood	2000
	Fri 4th > Mon 7th	LWE <b>Edithburgh</b>	
ä	Tue 8th	Committee Meeting	1930
ä	Fri 18th	<b>Newsletter items due</b>	
	Sun 20th	Noarlunga Reef	O'Sullivan Beach 0830
ä	Wed 23rd	SDF Meeting — Arab Steed Hotel, 241 Hutt St., Adelaide	1900
ä	Sat 26th	<b>Asian Dinner</b>	1830

## NOVEMBER

*DL – Robyn Butterfield (0419 866 460)*



*SO – Bob Butterfield (0417 838 387)*

ä	Wed 6th	General Meeting — Nailsworth CC, 31 Delanger Ave. Collinswood	2000
ä	Tue 12th	Committee Meeting	1930
ä	Fri 22nd	<b>Newsletter items due</b>	
ä	Wed 27th	SDF Meeting — Arab Steed Hotel, 241 Hutt St., Adelaide	1900

## DECEMBER

*DL – Gary Doubleday (0417 886 942)*

*SO – Sue Cucchiarelli (0438 882 509)*

ä	Wed 4th	General Meeting — Nailsworth CC, 31 Delanger Ave. Collinswood	2000	BBQ
	Fri 6th > Sun 8th	Fleurieu Peninsula - Hobart		
	Sun 15th	Rapid Bay Jetty	0830	

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Send them **by the date shown** in the calendar to —

Peter Mansfield, 4 Delange Avenue, Banksia Park SA 5091 or email to [petermsf1@bigpond.com](mailto:petermsf1@bigpond.com)

