

Underwater Explorers Club of SA Inc

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL-2021



ISSN: 2209-590X



# GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday – 7th

## April

1800 for 2000



**Broadview Uniting Church Hall**, Cnr Galway Ave and Collingrove Ave, Broadview SA  
All members, past members and potential members are invited to attend.

*Our guest presenter for this meeting is club member, **Michael Adams**  
Michael has had an interesting life in the navy, air force, and police force.  
At the meeting, he will talk about his extensive 3 month overseas travel in 2019,  
including the diving he did in Europe and the Caribbean.”*

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 2020-2021

- Treasurer..... Robyn BUTTERFIELD
- Secretary..... Peter MANSFIELD
- Safety Officer ..... Sue CUCCHIARELLI
- Committee Person..... Mary HOOD
- Committee Person..... Jeanette SMITH
- Web Manager..... Hugh SPARROW

### CONTACT 2020-2021

- Email..... [secretary@uecofsa.org.au](mailto:secretary@uecofsa.org.au)
- Website..... [www.uecofsa.org.au](http://www.uecofsa.org.au)

*Cover Photograph by Marianne Chi*

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# Waters to be Explored



## APRIL

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Fri-9 > Mon-12

### Port Hughes

FRI 9 Apr	SAT 10 Apr	SUN 11 Apr	MON 12 Apr
2:16 am 1.26m	3:08 am 1.27m	3:41 am 1.28m	4:08 am 1.28m
9:54 am 0.55m	10:00 am 0.58m	10:08 am 0.59m	10:20 am 0.58m
5:15 pm 1.16m	4:24 pm 1.25m	4:20 pm 1.38m	4:29 pm 1.51m
9:47 pm 0.95m	10:08 pm 0.79m	10:31 pm 0.66m	10:55 pm 0.58m

Great diving on Yorke Peninsula!

This is traditionally a jetty dive weekend. Bring two tanks if you have them, a torch, and a required cyalume or tank light for a night dive.

Dives here include the Pt Hughes Jetty. A beautiful dive to 8M, it usually has excellent viz in summer. It boasts a huge school of yellowtail and two species of cowfish that are very tame and found in large numbers. Soft coral cover the pylons; look closely in the seagrass for pipefish, hermit crabs and nudibranchs. Bring your camera! Wallaroo jetty. A dive to 9M, with lots of pylons housing soft coral. Blue crabs crawl on the bottom; globefish, cowfish, and colourful sponges there too. Look for a ray. Bring a trolley. You'll need permission to enter the jetty if a ship is in. Take care as soft silt on the bottom can be easily stirred up.

A dive is possible at Moonta Bay, a shallow 6M dive with good viz. A set of angled ladders make entry and exit relatively comfortable. A variety of fish and crabs hide in the seagrass.

Sun-25

### Seacliffe Reef

Tide times — [H] 0359 **2.07** [L] 1009 **0.48** [H] 1624 **2.14**

Seacliff reef is a small rising reef of about one metre, in 14M, but has a bounty of sealife. You'll spot blue devils, old wives, scaly fin, parrot fish, and schools of bullseyes. There are big cup sponges too. On the sandy bottom near the reef, we've seen weedy and leafy seadragons, and huge rays. A pleasant dive of often good visibility. Bring your camera!

## MAY

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Sun-2

### Broken Bottom

Tide times — [L] 0102 **0.55** [H] 0622 **1.47** [L] 1142 **0.49** [H] 1837 **2.45**

Broken bottom is part of the old shore line and consists of a series of naturally formed rock piles spread over a large area 2kms north west of Glenelg in 10m of water. Access is by boat from the West Beach boat ramp. Fish life is sparse to prolific with no set pattern. If fish life is sparse you can investigate the rock piles, sea tulips and razor shells. At other times the whole dive can be taken up swimming amongst schools of Old wives, Bullseyes and the occasional Yellowfin whiting. Many Spider Crabs inhabit this area and occasional Rays and Flatheads may be found.

The NORMA was a steel 4 masted iron barque of 2122 tons, measuring 278 feet, that sank in the main shipping channel of Outer Harbour in 1907 when it was rammed whilst at anchor by the Ardenraig. The day after the sinking the Jessie Darling ran over the wreck and sank on top of the Norma breaking her back. The Jessie Darling was subsequently refloated. Because of the danger to shipping, the Norma was dynamited. The wreck lies about 5kms offshore from North Haven in 14m of water and is subject to strong tidal currents. Access is by boat from North Haven boat ramp. The wreck of the Norma is spread out over quite a large area and consists of a large area of twisted metal lying on the bottom. The bow area is still recognisable and acts as a marine haven for fish. The remains are very interesting, The fish life is prolific with wobbegongs frequently seen. If diving the Norma be aware it is still in the shipping channel and it is unwise to leave your dive vessel without surface support as large ships still use the channel. A marker buoy is positioned about 25m due west of the wreck.

## ► Safety Officer

### NIGHT DIVING

Night diving involves some special techniques and added equipment. Divers love night dives because you are concentrating on a small area and can often see more as you are not distracted by lots of marine activity. Water visibility is often better. Animals that are shy during daylight often emerge at night to feed. The artificial light from your torch or camera flash bring out wonderful colour. And the phenomena of phosphorescence makes plankton glow when you agitate the water. We are still having good weather; the water is warm and the end of daylight saving means you can get in the water earlier. It is always a good idea to dive the same site earlier in the day to familiarise yourself with the current conditions of the site.



#### *Special equipment*

You will need a main torch, a back-up torch, a light or cyalume on your tank, and a compass. You can place a light or cyalume underwater at the entry and exit point, also on a weighted line.

#### *Special considerations and techniques*

- Dive only in good calm conditions, with no current
- Dive no deeper than 10-15 metres
- Post a lookout on the jetty or boat to monitor the dive, especially entries and exits
- At the briefing, emphasise all safety procedures, close contact, and lost buddy procedure
- Stay close to your buddy and side by side at all times during the dive as communication is more difficult
- Face your buddy on descent and ascent
- Set your compass before descending
- Concentrate on your buddy's torch beam to stay together
- Shine your torch onto your hand to signal, not into your buddy's eyes
- Rapid torch movement can get your buddy's attention
- Exaggerate your signals and **always answer a signal**
- On the surface, verbal communication is often better than using your torch
- Jetty lights or the moon's reflection may aid in lighting your site
- If any buddy's torch fails, abort the dive

### *Some other general reminders*

Descents and ascents: Face your buddy at all times and use a reference. On a jetty dive face a pylon. If it is rough or there is a current, hold onto the pylon. On a boat dive, buddies stay on either side of the anchor line. Hold onto it if rough or there is a current BUT *do not pull on it*. Make a 'ring' with your thumb and forefinger and allow the line to slide through your fingers.

Ascents: You may come up under a ladder, steps, decking or a boat. Extend your arm up pointing to the surface and look up while ascending.

New gear: If you have new gear to try out, do it only in ideal conditions, that is, calm, shallow water with no current. And don't do it on a deep dive, night dive, or at an unfamiliar site. And certainly at home well before a diving trip away.

*Safe Diving*

*Sue*

## ► *Past Dives*

### *FLEURIEU PENINSULSA — 22>26 JANUARY 2021*

#### **Rapid Bay —**

Jeanette and I dived at around 2pm Friday afternoon for 90 mins, in 21c with 8 metre viz. Saw four or so blue devils, and two cuttlefish, as well as the usual tessellated leatherjackets, big school of scad, old wives, a number of strong fish. Some leafies had been spotted there recently, but we were not lucky enough to see any. That aside, it was a very pleasant dive

*Mary*

#### **Rapid Bay Night —**

Mary, Marianne and I joined the throng of night divers under the old Rapid Bay jetty for an insight into the night-time activities of the nocturnal marine life.

Worms were abundant on the pylons and the sandy floor some had their tentacles extended collecting detritus as it drifted by. Other worms swam in the water column attracted by our lights, they swam at us and we in turn strove to wave them away. Marianne with her keen eyesight found many of the high lights of the dive including a Leafy which seemed to periodically have a vicious spasm.

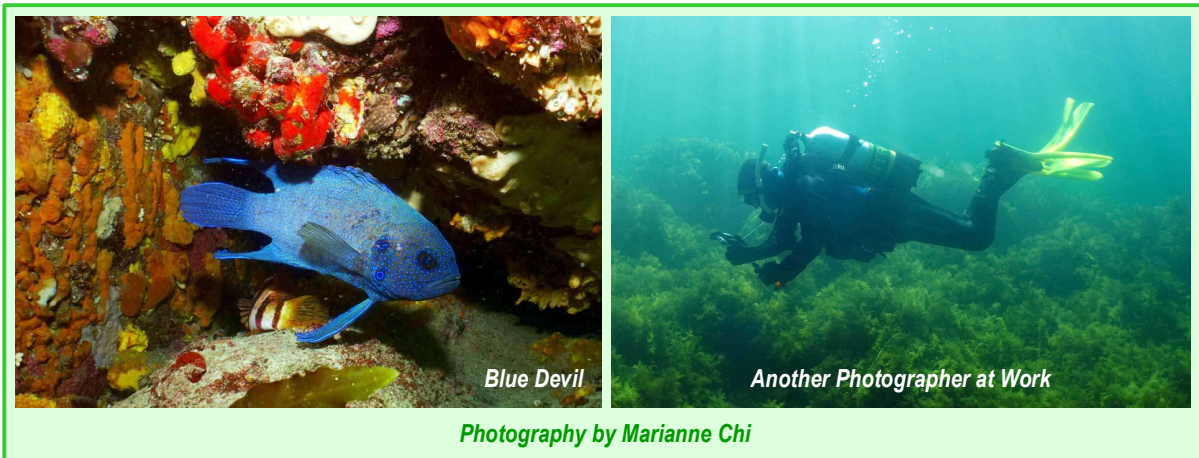
Sea snails were on the march, from the Abalone to the Whelks all intent in getting to their destination in a hurry, Seastars with their tube feet extended meandered about looking for a meal, while small hermit crabs scurried about with their first home carried upon their back. Scallops and other Bivalves with their fringe of sensory tentacles extended showed that night-time was the time for feeding.

The three of us were very cold at the end of the dive and because none of us either knew how to show the others that they were cold or simply did not want to spoil what was after all a great dive.

*Keith*



## Second Valley —



## PORT VICTORIA — 5-9 MARCH

### Point Turton Jetty —

After a morning dive at Port Victoria, Marianne Chi, Phil Hall and I decided to do a mid-afternoon dive on the Point Turton Jetty, only 20 odd km's from our accommodation at Hardwicke Bay. By the time we got geared up and ready to enter the water, the wind had picked up from the SE causing choppy conditions.

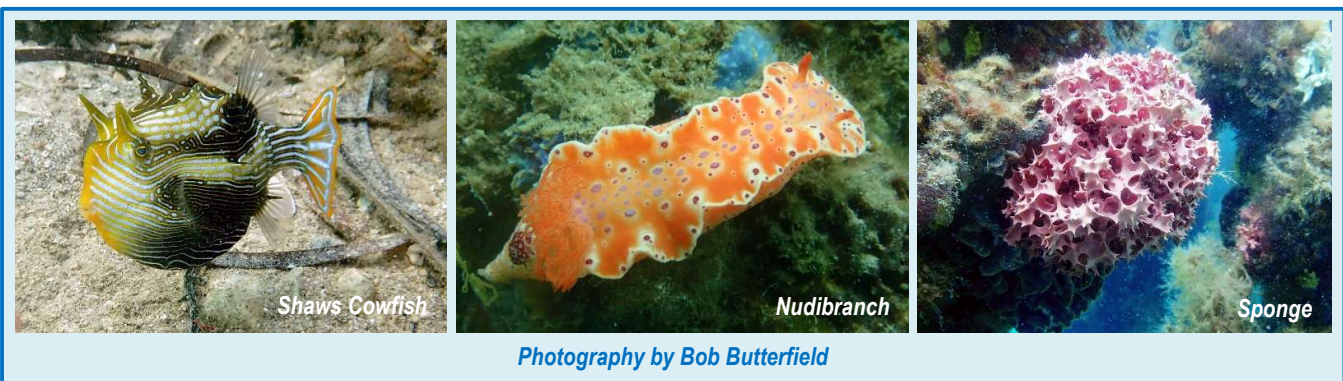
We were planning to do the jetty and then swing out to Al's Reef. But if we had to snorkel back across the surface it would be difficult so we opted for Plan B and restrict our dive to under the jetty.

We entered via the steps which are a very well designed. There is still plenty to see under the jetty. There are rocky out crops covered in brown Algae and other marine growth. I saw plenty of Shaw's Cowfish, Sponges of many varieties, Golfball, Pink Spikey Goatfish, Blue Swimmer Crabs, a Pt Jackson Shark terrorising Cowfish, Ascidians, lots of unknown green pylon growth the same as that at Port Victoria, Clingfish, Hermit Crabs, Red Crabs, Sea Cucumbers, Big orange Nudibranchs (common according to Marianne), Moonlighters, Magpie Perch, Southern Hulafish, Silver Drummer and an 11 Arm Sea Star and Phil Halls monument to a Deceased Salmon.

The water temperature was 21 degrees C, visibility was a bit ordinary only 5 metres, I guess caused by the wind. We were down for 60 minutes and a maximum depth of 5 metres. It was a good enjoyable dive. Thanks Marianne and Phil for your company on the afternoon dive and everyone else for your company over the long weekend.



Bob





## Port Hughes Jetty —

Mary, Marianne, Phil, Bob and I experienced one of the great dives, at Port Hughes.

With keen eyesight the marine life revealed itself in all its magnificent diverse forms, for many had found ingenious hiding places. Defunct Razorfish were popular hiding spots, with an octopus clinging to the rim peering out at the passing traffic, a frogfish (handfish or angler fish) snugly waited for passing morsels inside another.

Blue swimmer crabs relaxed under the jetty no longer enticed by the myriad of crab nets dangling from the jetty, while Shaws Cowfish took advantage of the bait in the nets for a hearty meal. Decorator crabs squatted motionless as the divers passed, and large Hermit crabs nibbled at the pieces of discarded bait. Sea Horses and Pipe fish clung tenaciously to the many patches of Warty Seaweed, while numerous Goat fish foraged in the sand seeking out worms.

The pylons festooned with Carijoa Soft Coral provided an idyllic playground for the numerous Blackthroat Threefins to play chasey. A lone mobility scooter starkly waited at the end of the jetty for its next patient, with a poignant message to experience and enjoy life while you can.



*Keith*

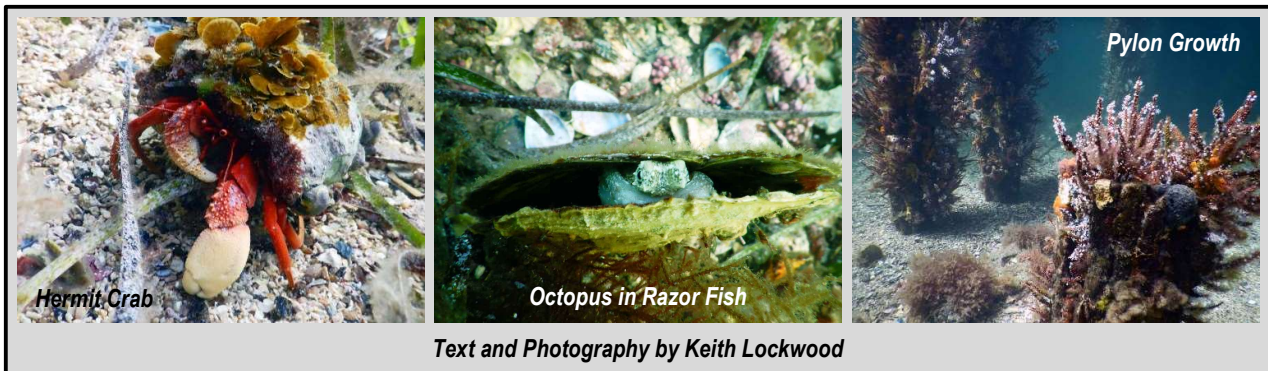
## Night Dive Point Turton Jetty —

With no current, good visibility and a moonlit night, 5 experienced divers descended into the dark waters under Point Turton jetty, what could go wrong. Mary, Marianne, Phil, Bob and I explored the nocturnal marine life, this was a night for seashells to feed, there were numerous clusters feeding on the carcasses of dead crabs, while hermit crabs scavenged on any titbits they could find. Sea Cucumbers roamed slowly with their feeding tentacles extended collecting detritus from the ocean floor. I picked up one to study its tube feet and tentacles before remembering that they vomit their intestines out when threatened, and quickly returned it to its foraging.

It suddenly occurred to us that we were swimming past landmarks that we had seen before, we had turned around during our dive, Marianne and I blamed the other divers as we are completely useless at navigation and rely on the directional sense of others, who this time failed.

Once we had sorted ourselves out we saw a large eagle ray suddenly loom out of the dark night on its hunt for shellfish and crabs. A smaller ray was found contentedly munching on a luckless crab that it had uncovered quite unconcerned by the hovering divers as it enjoyed its repast. A Port Jackson shark was also successful that night chewing on a fish that had had a very bad night.

A strong cold wind greeted our exit after a pleasant dive witnessing the behaviour of marine life at night.



## Port Minlacowie —

Bob was keen to take the boat out from Port Minlacowie after hearing from a fisherman/ex diver that there could be relics on the bottom, being the site of a shipping jetty in the past. Google tells me that the jetty was 365m long, made of redgum and jarrah and was opened in 1877 and closed in 1953. The depth at the end of the jetty at low tide was about 4.5m.

Bob, Keith, Phil and I jumped on the boat just north of the site and then motored to the area directly in line with the old jetty site, ably marked by Robyn standing on shore in a brightly coloured jumper! Bob then located an area that appeared to be raised on the sea floor, representing possible ballast that had been dumped by ships in that day.

The landscape was of rocky outcrops and ledges all covered in a fuzzy green-yellow algae, interspersed with areas of beaded sea grass. We didn't see any remnants of the jetty.

I enjoyed poking around and exploring, and did find a few pipefish, shrimp and a cardinal fish. Maximum depth was only 3.6m and we dived for about an hour. On surfacing Keith spotted a couple of dolphins nearby but unfortunately they did not hang around.

An enjoyable exploratory dive, a good thing to do on a weekend like this. Thank you again Bob for towing, driving and cleaning the boat for us.

*Marianne*



## RAPID BAY JETTY — 20 MARCH

Mary and I arrived at Rapid Bay to find a slight chop on the sea surface. The tide was up so we had an easy entry. We descended at the jetty and followed the star droppers to the old jetty. The viz seemed a bit murky but it improved as we swam out deeper. There was a fairly strong current running from our right to left so we tried to stay under the jetty.

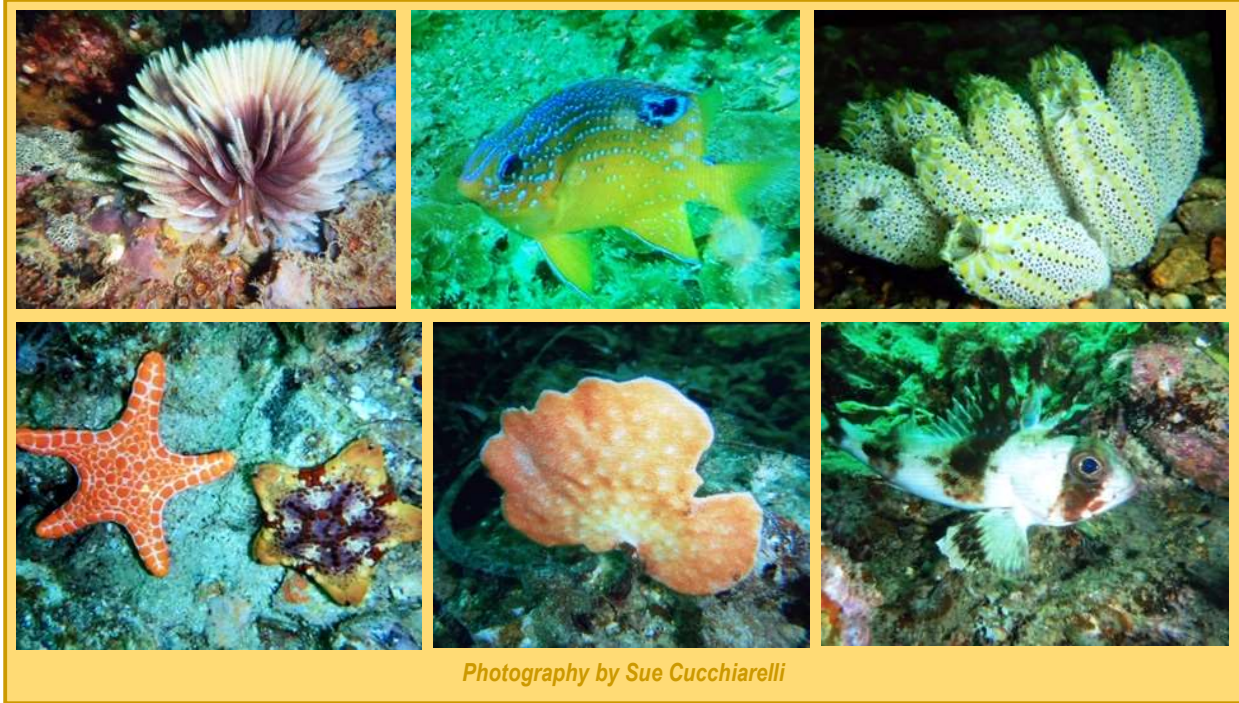
We had word of a leafy out in the seagrass, but couldn't find it and were cautious about having to battle the current to get back. The current also eased as we made our way to the 'T'. There were plenty of bright conspicuous and biscuit stars as well as brittle stars under debris. There were colourful ascidians and sponges on the pylons and an usual white and green colonial ascidian on the bottom. There were leatherjackets of every pattern and the mosaic ones some in large schools. There were the usual magpie perch, moonlighters, strongies, talma, a large school of zebrafish, as well as scalyfin (pretty juveniles too), rainbow wrasse and a big blue-throat wrasse.

The bottom gave us lollipop bryozoans, large cuttlefish, and sea tulips. A lovely fan worm was out feeding from a pylon. We spotted a couple of blue devils on our way out, bold and not hiding. At the 'T', it was sunny and clear with plenty of old wives, trevally, and yellow tail. But no boarfish this time. We searched for a leafy in the fallen beams and on the sandy bottom but no luck, so we headed over to the fallen ladder structure. There was a bright blue devil underneath and lots of fish around.

When I ascended a little and looked up I just about 'got smacked in the face' by an adult leafy sea dragon! It was quite high up on the structure. What a pleasant surprise. So now it was time to return and the current had eased. On our return, we found cowfish on the bottom as well as a school of feeding, juvenile goatfish. We went to 10M and were down for a 100min. Viz was about 10M. So it was a great dive: Rapid Bay never disappoints.

Afterwards, we headed to the Yankalilla Bakery for a well-deserved lunch.

*Sous Marin*



Photography by Sue Cucchiarelli

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Display your skills and submit 3 photographs for consideration in our on-going competition which now runs every four months, with judging occurring in April, August and December

New themes will be decided for future Competitions and will be advised when that decision is made.

The current theme is \* **Leather Jackets**

Photographs should be **8"x 6"** which is **2400 x 1800** 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-Jul-2021**





A sign such as this in the vicinity of a dive site would certainly make you think twice. However, not all dangerous dive sites can be sign posted this way.

There are many dangerous dive sites around the world, and for some divers this is their attraction.

South Australia has one such site, known to Cave Divers as **The Shaft**. This sink hole is located south of Kilsby sink hole to the west of Allandale East.

On the website of the CDAA (Cave Divers Association of Australia) which can be found at –

<http://www.cavedivers.com.au/shaft>

there is more detail of the history of this site, and detail of incidents which have occurred there in the form of two pdf documents.

The Shaft is ranked early amongst the ten most dangerous dive site in the world.

Descriptions of these location can be found at –

<https://www.deeperblue.com/top-10-most-dangerous-dive-sites-in-the-world/>

## ► *Seafood Sensation*

### Prawn and salmon mornay pie with devilled mash

#### INGREDIENTS

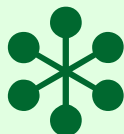
- 4 eggs
- 50g butter, plus 20g extra, melted, to brush
- 2 leeks, cut into 1cm thick slices
- 40g (1/4 cup) plain flour
- 625ml (2 1/2 cups) milk
- 500g salmon fillets, cut into 2.5cm pieces
- 300g peeled green prawns, tails off
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh continental parsley
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon rind

#### Devilled Mash

- 600g potatoes, peeled, chopped
- 1/4 small (about 300g) celeriac, peeled, coarsely chopped
- 40g butter
- 75g (1/3 cup) sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon Tabasco sauce

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Place the eggs in a small saucepan of cold water. Bring to the boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and gently boil, uncovered, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes. Drain, then cool under cold running water. Peel and quarter.
- Meanwhile, to make the mash, cook the potato and celeriac in a large saucepan of boiling water for 10 minutes or until tender. Drain and use a potato masher to mash until smooth. Add the butter and sour cream and stir until well combined. Stir in the Tabasco sauce.
- Preheat the oven to 220C/200C fan forced. Melt the butter in a frying pan over medium heat. Add the leek and cook, stirring often, for 5 minutes or until soft but not browned. Add the flour and stir until well combined. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Remove from heat. Gradually stir in the milk. Return to medium heat. Cook, stirring with a wooden spoon, for 5 minutes or until the sauce boils and thickens.
- Add the salmon, prawn, parsley, dill, mustard and lemon rind to the white sauce and stir until well combined.
- Place half the boiled eggs into the base of a 7cm deep, 2.25L (9 cup) ovenproof dish. Spoon over half the seafood mixture. Top with remaining egg and seafood mixture. Spoon the devilled mash over the top. Smooth the surface. Use a fork to create lines in the top of the mash. Place the dish on a baking tray. Bake for 10 minutes or until a crust starts to form on the top. Brush the top with the melted butter and bake for a further 20-25 minutes or until golden.





# CALENDAR



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

(Dive Site **meeting** times as shown)

## APRIL

➤	Wed 7th	General Meeting — Broadview Uniting Church Hall. Cnr Galway Ave and Collingrove Ave, Broadview SA	2000
📅	Fri 9th > Mon 12th	Away — <b>Port Hughes</b>	
📅	Sun 25th	Seacliff Reef	O'Sullivan Beach 0800

## MAY

📅	Sun 2nd	Glenelg Dredge / Blocks	Adelaide Shores 0800
📅	Sun 16th	Norma	North Haven 0800
➤	Fri 19th	<b>Newsletter items due</b>	

## JUNE

➤	Wed 2nd	General Meeting & Annual General Meeting — Broadview Uniting Church Hall. Cnr Galway Ave and Collingrove Ave, Broadview SA	2000
📅	Sun 6th	Ardrossan	1000
➤	Sat 19th	<b>Annual Dinner</b>	

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER ARE ALWAYS WELCOME  
Send them by the date shown in the calendar to the Newsletter Editor  
Email: [newsletters@uecofsa.org.au](mailto:newsletters@uecofsa.org.au)

