



## DECEMBER - JANUARY 2021-22



*In addition to the increasing number of dives as we enter summer, there were also several social events over the past two months. This is going to continue with the Christmas BBQ in December (with a quiz after the BBQ as part of the meeting) and the beach picnic in January. We hope to see some of you there!*

*The committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas, New Year and holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in or out of the water in 2022.*



## **CHRISTMAS BBQ & DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

*Nailsworth Community Club  
31 Derlanger Ave, Nailsworth*

*6pm BBQ 8pm meeting and QUIZ*

*BYO meat and drinks, plus salad (or dessert) to share*

*There will be a fun quiz during our December meeting on general, ocean and diving topics so brush up on your knowledge! And there will be PRIZES...*

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## **RODNEY FOX SHARK MUSEUM**     30 October

About 20 UEC members and friends were allowed to have a private viewing of the yet to be opened shark museum in Mile End, set up by Mark Tozer. The museum houses several interesting artefacts relating to sharks including teeth, newspaper articles and the history of shark attacks including the one on Rodney Fox. There is also memorabilia relating to movies made featuring sharks and old underwater cameras and scuba gear. The display is not limited to sharks though and there is also information and specimens relating to crocodiles and other marine life. Mark's passion for underwater life and conservation is evident. It will be exciting to see the finished product and we will visit again! After the visit we all enjoyed a coffee on Henley Beach Road. Thanks to Jeanette Smith for arranging this visit for us.

*Marianne Chi*



*photos Lisa McLean*

## **PAST DIVES**

### **PORT NOARLUNGA REEF**     24 October

Bob, Phil, Sue and Mary met at O'Sullivan's Beach at 8am to get the boat ready and prepare our gear. The water surface was reasonably flat but there was a small swell as we headed south.

On anchoring outside the northern reef, the visibility did not look terrific. Sue and Mary went in first and descended on the anchor line and headed south. As we were close to the reef and the tide was dropping there was a surge that we had to contend with. We thought the visibility was about 5 metres. We saw a few of the usual inhabitants; leatherjackets, parrot fish, drummer, magpie perch, starfish etc. Sue spotted a cowrie in a sponge. I thought I saw

a couple of boar fish, but on reflection think they were a pair of large old wives. No nudibranchs were spotted. We retraced our route north and found the anchor rope right in front of us, surfacing at about 50 minutes. Water temperature was 16 degrees. Bob and Phil went in next, rather ambivalent about whether it was worth it. They surfaced after about 20 minutes, having had a quick look around and moving the anchor to the sand for easy retrieval. Not such a great dive, but a pleasant outing.

*Mary Hood*



*photos Sous Marin*

## **PORT NOARLUNGA REEF** 7 November

Bob and I arrived at Port Noarlunga on a cloudy day. It was rather choppy inside the reef as the tide was high but dropping. So we decided to give it a go. We had an easy entry off the upper platform and went straight down to avoid the surface chop. The viz was a bit better than we expected. Lots of fish met us. We swam to the reef and headed south. There was a slight current but it didn't bother us in spite of a 2M tide change. There was lots of surge so the fish were active, plenty of moonlighters and leatherjackets. Colourful sponges and ascidians clung to the rocks. We saw some bright orange hard coral under a rock inshore of one of the cairns. We continued on to the anchor, quite clear here. A small but colourful orange nudibranch was clinging to the anchor. We soon turned back and saw schools of

bullseyes under ledges, magpie perch, moonlighters, and active large silver drummer. There was a colourful juvenile *Australis Irregularis* and crab wedged in a crevice. We had an easy trip back with the current pushing us along. Then we spent some time at the jetty admiring all the different kinds of leatherjackets at the old fallen ladder, some in large schools. We were down to 9M for 65min. and viz was 5-6M. Water temperature is going up and it turned out to be a pretty good dive. Summer will be here soon.

*Sous  
Marin*



*photos Bob Butterfield*

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## **EDITHBURGH WEEKEND 19-21 NOVEMBER**

5 of us had a great time diving, eating and playing games at Schnapper Court, Edithburgh while 2 stayed at Edithburgh Caravan Park.

## **EDITHBURGH JETTY    Friday 19 November**

On Thursday when reviewing the weather forecast for the coming weekend, I wondered whether we would get in the water. Jeanette Smith had booked the SA Ambulance Association house in Edithburgh. Jeanette, Marianne Chi, Keith Lockwood, Robyn and I travelled over on Friday morning, arriving at about 12.45pm. Phil and Jan Hall came over with their caravan the day before and were already in Edithburgh. Phil phoned early on Friday with a disappointing report that the wind from the SE was whipping up a 1+ metre swell, white caps everywhere. Perhaps we should have packed our surfboards. But we pressed on. By the time we arrived in Edithburgh the wind had dropped off and a dive was a half chance.

Phil reported there were some divers in the water, so we decided to have some lunch and get the good oil from them on their exit. The divers turned out to be Dave Jackson and his BSAC buddies. Dave thought it was ok, viz of 2-3 metres? However to quote Mel Turner, you have to remember that Dave would be happy diving in a puddle. We pondered on it a while, unloaded at our accommodation, with a worsening forecast as the weekend progressed, Marianne reminded us we didn't come all this way not to dive. She and I went back for another look and talked ourselves into it. We entered sometime after 4.00pm with the assistance of "The Jetty Boy" Phil Hall. Very grateful for your help Phil. I recorded water temperature of 17C. It would have been warmer than the air temperature with the chilly south easterly. Viz was about 6m and despite the chop on the surface quite comfortable below. We saw cowries, Shaw's cowfish, nudibranchs, magpie perch, decorator crabs, hermit crabs, a sponge crab, magnificent sea stars, 5 leg sea star, velvet sea stars, rut shells, razor fish, scallops, squirts, sponges, sea cucumbers, grubfish, false coral, ascidians and goatfish. Marianne pointed out nudibranchs, a seahorse in the bubble weed and an anglerfish which I wouldn't have seen without her. We turned around before the end of the jetty despite being 17C I was getting cold. I registered 6.2m depth and bottom time of 60 minutes. Well worth the effort and far better than what I was expecting. Thanks for your persistence, Marianne.

*Bob Butterfield*



*photos Bob Butterfield*

## **EDITHBURGH JETTY NIGHT DIVE    Friday 19 November**

The cold, dark, choppy waters on a chilly night in November did not dampen the enthusiasm of Jeanette and me from scuba diving under the Edithburgh Jetty on a blustery Friday night in November. Jeanette started the hunt with the first of many Sea Horses tightly wrapped in the Warty Seaweed, some with bloated stomachs.

Decorator, Sand and Spider Crabs roamed the seafloor, while Blue Swimmer Crabs reared up with their claws extended daring us to try to capture them. Abalone, Whelks, and other snails slowly hunted over rocks, fallen piers and the sandy floor while Urchins and Sea Stars made their even slower nightly procession. Bullseyes, Sweep and Old Wives startled by our torchlight dashed off into the darkness. A Short Head Worm Eel kept us entertained as it slithered under logs and rocks striving to find a secure hidey hole.

A very small, but highly venomous Blue Ringed Octopus clung tenaciously to a strand of Neptune's Necklace its brilliant purple rings on an orange background signalled potency. A Southern Keeled Octopus kept us enthralled as it circled us occasionally flaring its web,

turning a dark grey colour, and dropping to the sandy bottom.

Jeanette found a large reddish Leafy Sea Dragon near the end of the jetty, which completed a very enjoyable and rewarding night dive.

*Keith Lockwood*

## **PORT VICTORIA    Saturday 20 November**

After diving at Edithburgh yesterday, we (Marianne, Keith, Bob and Phil and I) decided to dive at Port Victoria. We headed off from Edithburgh shortly after 10.30am and went in two cars. Just as I was about to put my BCD on I noticed that it was light and thought, oh my weight pockets. I was just about to get them when I realised they were in my car which was at Edithburgh. Luckily Phil had a spare weight belt in his car and I was able to scrounge enough weights to dive.

I buddied with Marianne and Keith, Bob and Phil buddied up. The visibility was excellent and we all enjoyed seeing the colours and different vegetation and growths that are at Port Victoria. Marianne and I dived for 90 minutes to a maximum depth of 4.1 metres and the water temperature was 18 degrees Celsius.

Critters spotted included a large fiddler ray, pipe fish and schools of very tiny pipefish, sea urchins (identified by Bob as being Indian or Heart Sea Urchins), Western Talma, Moonlighters, Magpie Perch, the common orange nudibranchs (*Ceratosoma brevicaudatum*) which were paler and prettier than usual, Bullseyes, crabs, decorator crabs, shrimp and a large variety of sponges and corals adorned the pylons. We managed to get out at the steps where only the bottom step was slightly submerged.

A very enjoyable dive with no current but I got a bit cold near the end. It was 1 degree warmer than the dive the night before but it seemed colder. We arrived back at Edithburgh, very hungry around 3.30pm. We tried to get something to eat after the dive but nothing was open.

Regarding the weekend, a good time was had by all and the weather was fine and sunny and not rainy as forecast.

*Jeanette Smith*



*photos Jeanette Smith*



*photos Bob Butterfield*

## **EDITHBURGH JETTY    Sunday 21 November**

Only Keith and I decided to dive on our last day. Conditions once again were surprisingly good underwater with reasonable 10m viz and little current or surge. We lasted almost 1.5 hours in 16C. Keith spotted the highlight of the dive, a heavily pregnant seahorse hanging at the top of a piece of seagrass. We also saw several nudibranchs and a lovely fish (dragonet?). We warmed up afterwards with coffee and cake at Location Cafe. An excellent end to the weekend.

*Marianne Chi*



*photos Marianne Chi*

**PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS**



*Congratulations to Sue C, Bob B and Marianne C for coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the latest photo competition "leatherjackets"*



The theme for the next quarter is

## ***SHELLS***

Please send your entries (up to 3 per person) to [petermsf1@bigpond.com](mailto:petermsf1@bigpond.com)

Please ensure photos are 2400 x 1800 pixels when resolution is 300 pixels/in jpeg format  
<400kb

Judging will take place at the February General Meeting so please have your entries in by **January 21st 2022**

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### **SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT**

#### *Diving in Threes*

Ideally, we should be diving with one buddy but sometimes we will dive with two buddies. When a group meets, always put buddies in pairs first, then have a threesome only if necessary. A group of six means three buddy pairs, not two groups

of three.

Diving in a threesome makes communication more difficult. Invariably, two divers drift together and the third easily becomes separated. And if conditions are not ideal, e.g., poor visibility or a current, then chances are the three divers will become even more easily separated.

Some strategies:

- Talk about your dive. Plan carefully and talk about how you are going to communicate
- Name each other as diver 1, diver 2, and diver 3. Diver 1 looks after diver 2, diver 2 looks after diver 3, and diver 3 looks after diver 1. This works well and helps to keep the group together.
- At the start of your dive, on descent, face each other. Then gather on the bottom before you head off.
  - Show your intended direction clearly, or you may soon be separated.
- During your dive, swim side by side, not following each other. In no time one diver lags behind to look at something and disappears. On a jetty dive, two divers can swim along each pylon with the third diver in the middle.
- Communicate often. Always tell your buddies if you want to stop and look at something or change direction.
- If any problem occurs, (e.g., an equipment problem) which cannot be solved on the bottom, or one diver has to exit the water, (e.g., cold, low on air, feeling unwell), then the diver must tell their buddies their intention to exit and does not merely swim away and get out! The other two buddies go to the exit and must see that diver safely out of the water. Only then, can they discuss going back to finish the dive. And, with any buddy pair if one diver has to exit, the pair exits. Never go back in the water and dive without a buddy

***And.....of course, all these strategies also apply to buddy pairs.***

Safe diving

Sue

## UPCOMING DIVES

### THE LUMB/SEAWOLF 5 December [book here](#)

Both [these](#) sites lie in 22M. The *Seawolf* was sunk in 2002 and is the bigger structure of the two. It lies on its' [starboard](#) side with many holes and hatches to explore. It is 50M west of the Pt. Noarlunga Tyre Reef so you may have a bonus dive site to explore. There are plenty of fish to find including [boarfish](#) and [blue devils](#), The *Lumb*, formerly a tug then a fishing trawler, was sunk in 1994. It is a small structure, 28M long. Look for sponge growth, bryozoans, and nudibranchs. [It may be possible to swim between the two wrecks via star droppers.](#) Remember to monitor your air closely and do a safety stop. This could be a double dive so bring 2 tanks.

### PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY 12 December [book here](#)

This dive [site](#) is reputed to be the most-dived site in Australia. [Access](#) is from the [platform and steps at the end of the jetty](#). Depth at the reef is 9M. Head into the current: south to follow the marker trail or north to find a big school of silver drummer. You'll see sweep, zebrafish, moonlighters, schools of leatherjackets, [and](#) colourful sponges [and](#) starfish. Rays, cowrie, nudibranchs, flatworms, [and](#) blue devils have been spotted here [too](#). A torch is handy to look under ledges [and](#) a trolley would be useful. [Bring your camera.](#) Remember it is a marine reserve so nothing must be taken.

### RAPID BAY JETTY 28 December [book here](#)

Rapid Bay jetty must be one of the best jetty dives in SA. Waters are usually quite clear with depth to 11M and an easy entry from the platform. A haven for photographers, the old jetty [has been](#) home to leafy and weedy seadragons. [Look in a variety of places to find them.](#) There are large schools of old wives, drummer, and trevally at the "T". Colourful

sponges, ascidians, and crabs cling to the pylons. Nudibranchs **are found** on the bottom too.. You may even see boarfish, a large stingray, **colourful wrasse, leatherjackets, or a blue devil**. Large brown algae hides crabs and scaly fin, and weed attracts curious cowfish. Look under fallen debris for the blue-ring octopus, but only if you have gloves on, and do not touch or annoy them. **Brittle stars live there too**. You are having so much fun, remember to monitor your air and that of your buddy's. **It is a long jetty so a trolley would be useful**.

### **ALDINGA/STAR OF GREECE** 3 January [book here](#)

Aldinga **is** a wonderful dive in 22M to the Arches or Drop-off. Lucky to find cowries or leafy seadragons, but plenty of gorgonia and colourful sponges. **Nudibranchs live along the drop-off wall**. Report a rare harlequin fish if you spot it. You cannot remove anything as this is a marine reserve. Remember your safety stop.

The Star of Greece **is a good site to visit after Aldinga**. It lies in only 6M on clean white sand and is visible at the surface at low tide. A dive or snorkel will give you schools of fish. This iron ship sunk in 1888 is a protected site.

### **GLENELG BARGE/BLOCKS** 9 January [book here](#)

The Barge was sunk in 20M as an artificial reef. It has plenty of schools of bullseyes and you may see some cuttlefish on the bottom. Bring a torch to peer into the many hatches. Look for any 'funny characters' left by divers.

The Blocks, part of the old original storm-destroyed Glenelg jetty, are in 6M. They are 200M long and lie parallel to shore. They provide hiding places for old wives and the occasional wobbegong. Look closely for nudibranchs too. There are plenty of colourful sea urchins clinging to the outsides.

### **PORT HUGHES WEEKEND** 14-17 January [book here](#)

This is a jetty dive weekend with great diving on the Yorke Peninsula! Bring two tanks if you have them. A torch and a cyalume (or light for your tank) are required for a night dive. The Club compressor will be available for tank fills.

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. An angler fish would be a treat or try to spot the octopus hiding in a razor shell.

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.

A dive is possible at *Moonta Bay*, reputed to be a shallow 6M with good viz. A set of angled ladders make entry and exit look relatively comfortable. This may be new for you, so let's explore!

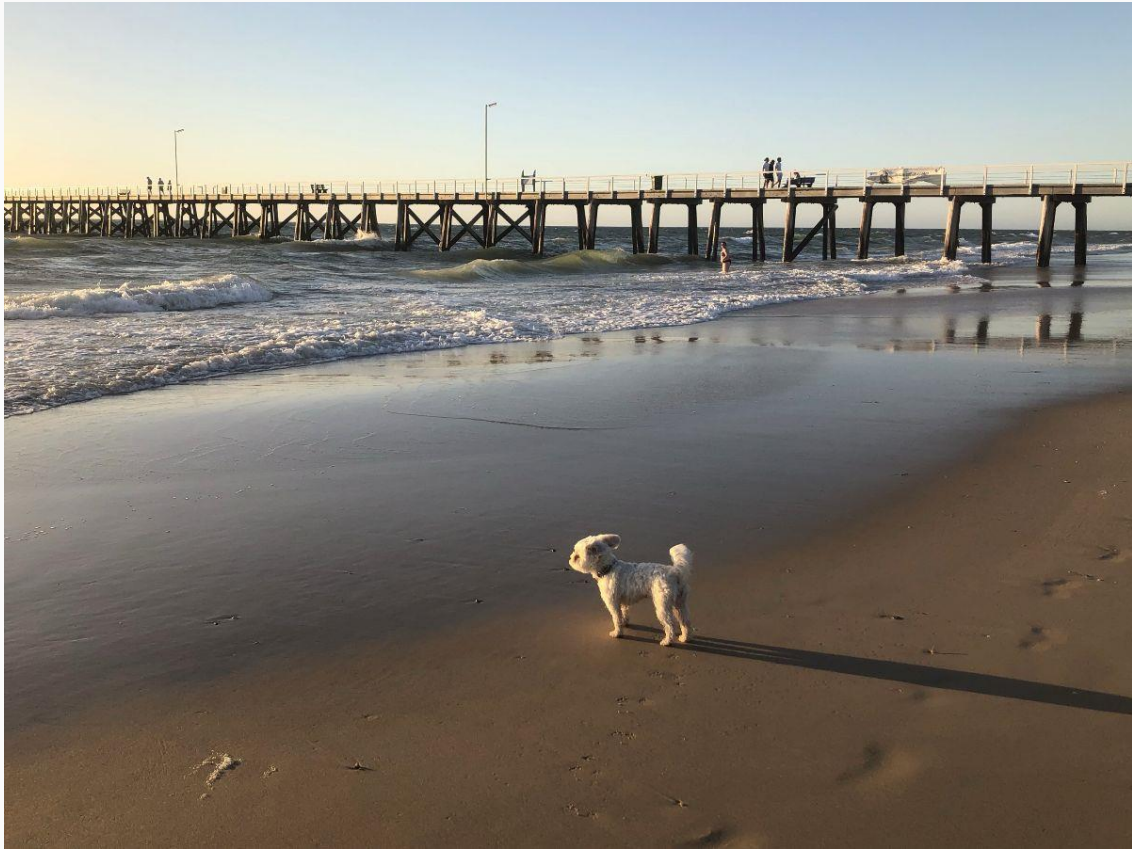
Further afield, the colourful Pt Victoria jetty is also worth a visit

## **SECOND VALLEY** 23 January [book here](#)

Second Valley entry is via the beach or southern bay as the jetty has lost its steps. Hopefully, if repaired, entry is from the jetty. A dive to the point is in 8M and will give you plenty of wrasse and herring cale. You should see blue devils. It is possible to walk to the second bay, do a shore entry, and then dive the small caves. Bring a torch. Leafy sea dragons have been seen here and as close as the rocks or in sea grass near the jetty.

**For general information or enquiries about any of the above please visit our website** <https://uecofsa.org.au/>  
**or email** [secretary@uecofsa.org.au](mailto:secretary@uecofsa.org.au)

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**BEACH PICNIC** Wednesday 6 January at 6pm

Meet at the barbeque opposite South Tce, Semaphore South. Entry to the carpark is just north of the Hart St roundabout.

***BYO chairs, food, drinks etc***



## **COMMITTEE 2021-2022**

Treasurer.....Robyn Butterfield  
Safety Officer.....Sue Cucchiarelli  
Events Organiser.....Mary Hood  
Web Manager.....Hugh Sparrow  
Facebook/Newsletter.....Marianne Chi

## **CONTACT**

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