

# DOWN UNDER

Adelaide University Scuba Club Newsletter

**May 2008**

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**Fur Seal at Althorpe Island, by Matt Gibbs**

## **Adelaide University Scuba Diving Club – Presidents Report for January – April 2008**

Welcome to another year at the Adelaide Uni Scuba Diving Club! It is fantastic to see so many members rejoining for the year as well as plenty of new faces to get to know. It has been a hectic start to the year with an abundance of public holidays and Easter all seeming to happen at once! With so many days off there have already been multiple trips to Coobowie, the South East and of course the annual trip to Marion Bay for Easter. While the Easter weather left a lot to be desired everyone still enjoyed some fantastic dives and generally had a great time. Thanks to Luddy for organising the trip and thanks to those who towed boats, drove boats, filled tanks and all the other essentials on a trip like that. It always makes it a pleasant experience when everyone helps out.

March saw the club hold its annual general meeting. While we had one false start it was great to see so many people turn out to the second attempt. For those who couldn't make it, there was a general round up of 2007 followed by the elections. I would like to thank all the committee members for 2007 and welcome the new committee of 2008. There are some new faces amongst the positions as well as people taking on new roles:

President – Lizzie Perkins  
Vice President & Webmaster – Michael Slade  
Treasurer – Jo Weekley  
Secretary – Sarah Cumpston  
Boating Officer – Philip Moore  
Equipment Office – Jevon Hughes  
Newsletter Editor – Paul Bierman  
General Committee Member 1 – Matt Gibbs  
General Committee Member 2 – Brendan Hennessy

With some fresh and enthusiastic new faces on the committee as well as some old hands it's looking like another prosperous year for the club. Of course there are always plenty of things to be done around the club so if you can help out please do so!

While the best of the summer weather seems to have slipped us by that definitely doesn't mean the best diving is over. Winter often delivers some stunning visibility and some spectacular dives. Getting a little cold is a small price to pay when it's that good, so don't be put off and keep coming out! Also keep an eye out for the usual social events, like the infamous cocktail party. With membership already up over 70 it's looking like another big year for the club with plenty of diving and plenty happening above the water. Make sure you don't miss out on any of it!

Lizzie

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President

Adelaide University Scuba Diving Club –  
2007/08

### **Editorial**

Welcome to the first Adelaide University Scuba Club Newsletter for 2008. This year will have a new newsletter format, with monthly newsletters and new features to get members involved. Each month one AUSC member will have a chance to have a picture selected as picture of the month and printed on the newsletter cover. This month's winner is Matt Gibbs for his picture of a fur seal at Althorpe Island. If you would like to have a picture on the next newsletter cover, email pictures to me at [paul.bierman@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:paul.bierman@adelaide.edu.au). Member also have the chance to have an article published in the AUSC newsletter, if you have had an enjoyable diving experience and would like to share it with other members of the club start writing and your story could be in the next issue of Down Under.

The newsletter will continue to report on AUSC trips and events, look ahead for Matt Gibbs' wrap-up on the 2008 Easter trip to Marion Bay. The newsletter will also provide details of upcoming diving and dive trips. Look to the back of each newsletter for a calendar of upcoming diving activities.

Also each newsletter will include a few interactive activities for readers such as quizzes. This newsletter contains a short fish ID quiz which will help divers to identify the fish commonly seen when diving in SA a word search to keep you entertained.

Paul Bierman

### Marion Bay Easter Trip 2008

Over the Easter long weekend a group of 20 divers made the annual trip to Marion Bay, to find that after two weeks of 40 degree heat and water “too flat for fishing” (according to the caravan park manager) the weather had turned to be slightly less favourable for diving.

It was decided that it was too rough to take the boats out on Friday to start off the weekend, so a group of divers took on the Stenhouse Bay jetty. After the walk down the steep hill from the car park to the jetty and the climb down the narrow ladder, the keen divers were greeted with strong surge and 2m visibility for their efforts. At times a compass was required to get from one pylon to the next. Schools of Whiting and Old Wives amongst other were seen, making the dive still worthwhile.



Crayon at Cable Bay (Sarah Cumpston)

There was no rush to get up and going on the Saturday, as the forecast was for the wind to drop off mid-morning. As time went on it was looking more and more like a repeat of Friday, and after reports Flinders Uni didn't find better conditions out at the Gap or Haystacks the day

before, it was starting to look like another jetty dive might be the order of the day. After another survey of the water Mostyn decided it wasn't really that bad, which was all it took to get two boatloads of divers to head out to the inside of Haystack Island. Conditions were still challenging, with visibility below 5m, but there were lots of little jellyfish in the water to provide some entertainment.



The Gap (Verity Bone)

In the low visibility, only two of the eight divers in the water managed to find their way back to the vicinity of the boats, the others surfaced 200m away at the other end of the island, after being swept away in the current while doing a safety stop. This highlighted the importance of carrying a safety sausage on boat dives; otherwise it could have been a while before they were seen in the rough water. We did get to pretend that we were on Bondi Rescue or one of the many other rescue shows on TV though, which added to the excitement! With not much diving going on for the first few days of the trip, hopes were raised Saturday night by the forecast for calmer seas and less wind for the next day.

We awoke on Sunday to find much better conditions for diving, and relatively calm water was on offer. This could mean only one thing, and it was out to Althorpe Island to dive with the seals. Divers played with the seals on both sides of the protected bay, for what is always a fantastic dive. A number of Abalone and a big crayfish or two were collected, and there were a number of other attractions like schools of sweep and a big grouper.



Fur Seal at Althorpe Island (Matt Gibbs)

Having less than two boat loads of divers meant that the day was much more relaxed than usual, and after a bit of time at Cable Bay to change tanks and have some lunch it was around to the Gap for the second dive of the day. Conditions were similar to the rest of the weekend, but with its many swim-throughs and colourful growth the Gap was still as enjoyable as ever. The regular Blue Devils were seen in abundance, lots of little nudibranchs, along with another crayfish for the pot and more abalone. The crayfish was cooked up Sunday night and shared around, much to Rob's delight!



Orange Tipped Flabellina Nudibranch at The Gap (Matt Gibbs)

The plan was to head out to Chinaman Hat Island on Monday morning for those that were hanging around to get one last dive in. On the way out to the site it was clear that a surfboard would be better equipment for Chinaman's, so it was back out to Haystacks to dive the other side of the island. A playful sea lion or two were the highlight of the dive, and a very fitting

way to cap off another successful Easter trip for the AUSC.



Crayfish at Althorpes, before... (Paul Bierman)



... and after (Verity Bone)

While the weather wasn't the most favourable for diving it was still a great trip, a big thankyou to everyone that made it a success. Special thanks must go to Luddy for organising the trip, and Trent and Mostyn for towing and driving the boats. Let's hope that next year the good weather can hang around for one more week!

Matt Gibbs

## Fish ID Quiz – Part I



- (a) Silver Drummer
- (b) Strongfish
- (c) Sea Sweep
- (d) Scaly Fin



- (a) Bullseye
- (b) Old Wife
- (c) Moonlighter
- (d) Zebra Fish



- (a) Magpie Perch
- (b) Goatfish
- (c) Gurnard Perch
- (d) Western Blue Devil



- (a) Magpie Perch
- (b) Long-snouted Boarfish
- (c) Old Wife
- (d) Black-banded Sea Perch



- (a) Black-banded Sea Perch
- (b) Zebra Fish
- (c) Magpie Perch
- (d) Gurnard Perch



- (a) Moonlighter
- (b) Black-banded Sea Perch
- (c) Old Wife
- (d) Zebra Fish

## Word Search

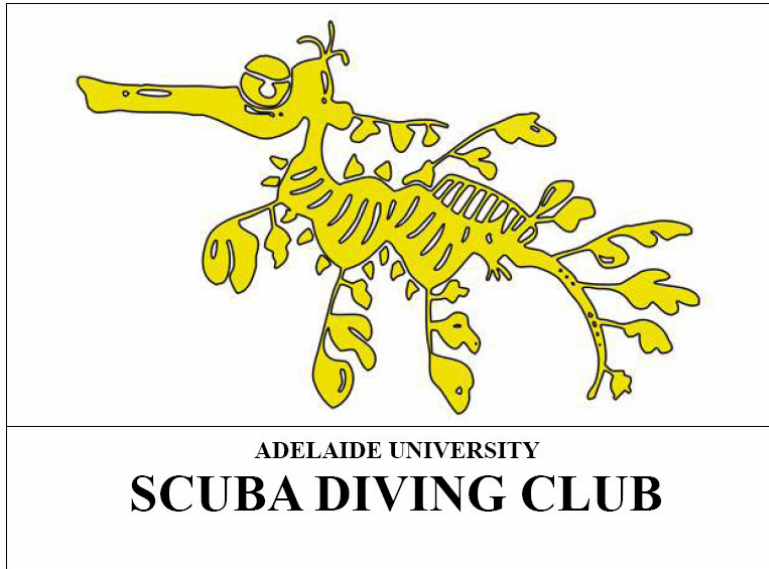
F L Z N D A H A R Q A K D A B B X M S X  
N K N O G A R D A E S Y F A E L O W U H  
H G H G B L F M M D Y K R U Y O N X B K  
S S C A L L O P I W Y C C Y N K D D M I  
F L R R E M M U R D R E V L I S P F B P  
S D E D H T Q A H E R M I T C R A B B V  
P X P A H S S H M F P G M A Y H E K R Y  
I Z D E T S I M R Y H O X X P F G V L E  
D A R S E H I F L T U R R I T P E I F M  
E K A Y E W E F E H A N X G R E Y N O L  
R P N D S T S R Y L N L I V E D E U L B  
C X R E A T O A J A T D B H T U S D D G  
R V U E H E R D E A R T C L C V L I W O  
A L G W X G S O D S C C U P I R L B I A  
B L E N N Y M B N L I K C C M O U R F T  
A D M I X S T A R G A Z E R L Z B A E F  
L P T D A E H T A L F A I T D E Q N E I  
O S U P O T C O P H S I F R A O B C B S  
N E H U F C V M L G T H S A U V E H M H  
E N R U J U H B Q E X Z R H S Q C R C I

ABALONE  
BLENNY  
BLUEDEVIL  
BLUEGROPER  
BLUESWIMMERCRAW  
BOARFISH  
BULLSEYE  
CRAYFISH  
CUTTLEFISH  
FLATHEAD  
GOATFISH  
GURNARDPERCH  
HERMITCRAB  
LEAFYSEADRAGON  
LEATHERJACKET

MOONLIGHTER  
NUDIBRANCH  
OCTOPUS  
OLDWIFE  
SCALLOP  
SEASWEEP  
SEAURCHIN  
SILVERDRUMMER  
SPIDERCRAW  
SQUID  
STARGAZER  
STINGRAY  
STRONGFISH  
WEEDYSEADRAGON  
WRASSE

## Disclaimer

The opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Adelaide University Scuba Diving Club Inc, its officers or its members (the "AUSC"). Scuba diving is an inherently risky activity and no reader should act on the basis of any material contained in this newsletter without first obtaining appropriate instruction from a qualified scuba diving instructor. The AUSC expressly disclaims all and any liability to any person in respect of anything arising from or caused by any material published in this newsletter.



## Dive Calendar – May 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		<b>April 30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Seacliff Reef</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Milkies Reef</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Seawolf &amp; Lumb</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Dredge</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Barge</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Northern Outer Reef</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Glenelg Tyre Reef</b>	<b>June 1</b> <b>Dredge</b>

If you would like more information about the upcoming dives or would like to reserve a spot on a dive, drop by the clubrooms or check out the announce emails with details about the dives and dive organisers.