



# The Discovery News



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Thankyou to our sponsors.....

Welcome to the fifth edition of **The Discovery News** and our second Newsletter for this year. Just a reminder, newsletters will be emailed to all who have an email address. If you don't have one, a hard copy will be given to you.

As this is a volunteer and MDC supporter's newsletter, you are all encouraged to submit photos, information, news and/or stories. To do this you can email us, Ursula or Tim:

[uquack@star.adl.catholic.edu.au](mailto:uquack@star.adl.catholic.edu.au) or  
[thoile@star.adl.catholic.edu.au](mailto:thoile@star.adl.catholic.edu.au)

# Senator The Hon. Eric Abetz

## Great News!!

On Monday the 30 April 07 Senator Abetz, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation presented a cheque for a special grant that we have recently won.

Part of the email we received below:

*Tim*

***Congratulations on the success of your grant application - great to pass on good news to hard working people who enjoy promoting sustainable fishing practices!***

And part of the media Release follows:

### ***Education: the key to sustainable recreational fishing***

*The Henley Beach Marine Discovery Centre achieved funding to day which will help educate future generations about responsible fishing practices and how best to manage our fish stocks for all recreational fishers. The Marine Discovery Centre will have the responsibility to develop **8 different projects** that will assist our next generation and their understanding of recreational fishing.*

Special thanks to the **MDC Volunteers and students** who attended this event on Monday during their holidays. We are thrilled to achieve this level of support and we look forward to achieving the required outcomes. We will also be continuing with the projects and requirements of our other important MDC sponsors - **43 different organisations!**



Michael Honey, Sen. Eric Abetz, Tim Hoile, Rita Bouras & Simon Birmingham



Star of the Sea Teachers, Parents and MDC Volunteers



Sen. Eric Abetz talking to the students



Star of the Sea school students Lisa and Patrick with the cheque

## MDC Leadership Program

On Wednesday the 21 February a group of students from **Rakuno University** in **Japan** visited the **Marine Discovery Centre**. This was the first time for our selected **Yr 6/7** students to be the Ambassadors for our School. Our students have the opportunities to be **Marine Leaders** and to educate our visiting students. We are delighted to see our students doing well in this Leadership Program.



Star of the Sea students with the Rakuno University students



Group photo

# **WEB CAM – e-experience, a first for the MDC**

## **“Browsing at the Beach”**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, two of our **Year 6/7 Leadership students**, Paula and Michael, were involved in educating students from other schools through our web cam. The MDC was linked up to **Lockleys** and the **Kangaroo Island Primary Schools**.

Our Leadership students answered questions about our marine creatures and the environment.

Sue Prince, the E-Teacher from Wakefield District Auburn Primary School approached the MDC to do the link up. The event was a great success. This was co-ordinated with our IT back-up team including Ursula Quack and Sr. Deb.



**Michael, Paula and Kay**



**on the other end of the web-cam**



**Michael and Paula answering questions**

# Display Workshop 2007

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April, **Alison Harvey** co-ordinated another **display workshop**. A group of **5** volunteers met at the MDC and changed displays, revamped areas and put up posters in preparation for this Term's theme..

We were grateful that Alison initiated this, allowing for input from various volunteers to make our Centre even **more inspiring!**

Thank you very much Alison, Wayne, Brian, Skye and John.

## Skye's biography



My name is Skye Sheridan and I completed my Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) at the end of 2006. I am now currently undertaking a one year add-on degree Bachelor of Innovation and Enterprise (Science and Technology). This degree involves preparing science students to enter into business and management within their respective disciplines.

As part of the Innovation and Enterprise I must undertake a 3 month full time placement within my industry. My passion in Marine Biology is management, community awareness and policy/planning. I believe that to get the best results in community awareness and management of the marine environment is in educating the children. They are our future. That is why I chose to come to the Marine Discovery Centre.

My placement involves two days (Monday and Tuesday) helping out the Marine Science teacher at Star of the Sea - Mr Hoskin and Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at the Marine Discovery Centre. The time I have spent here so far has been awesome and I hope over the next three months I will get to know all the volunteers who make it such an enjoyable place to work and have fun together discovering our unique marine life together with the students.

# Term two Theme - Wonders of the Sea

by Skye Sheridan

It is estimated that in southern Australian waters 85 % of fish species and 75% of algae species are endemic (only live in a particular region). South Australia's marine environment is very diverse; many different species of marine creatures can live in our region because of the warm waters coming from the west and the cold waters coming from the south. There is also significant nutrient upwelling (Cold nutrient waters upwelling to the surface) which provides a hefty nutrient source for the marine life.

The warmer waters of the West provide habitat for brown algae such as Sargassum, and sessile assemblages including sponges, bryozoans (Lace Coral) and ascidians (Sea Squirts.) Ascidians in SA have the richest assemblages found in the world. Fishes which inhabit this area include Blue-Throated Wrasse and Silver Drummond. If you're lucky during winter you may be able to spot the Southern Right Whales which move up to the warmer waters of the Great Australian Bight to breed.



[sargassum](#)

In the Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent the habitats are shaped by the varying light and water movement. This allows different species gradients and high species richness. In the past large seagrass beds were found in Gulf St Vincent but these now are slowly declining. The Gulfs' provide refuge for species that are found nowhere else in the state. Species of Pipefish are only found in the Gulfs' and in southern QLD. The Spencer Gulf also plays host to a wide spread cuttle breeding event May through to August.



[Pipefish](#)

([www.seahorses.de](http://www.seahorses.de))

South East South Australia is known for its limestone reefs. Abalone is found in this habitat and provides a commercially viable Rock Lobster fishery. Red Algae such as *Sonderopelta* provide habitat for sessile assemblages of sponges, soft coral and Bryozoans. Common Kelp is also found in these cooler waters.



[Kelp](#)

([www.hickerphoto.com](http://www.hickerphoto.com))

Seadragons, commercial fish species and other marine creatures such as nematodes (sea slugs) and echinoderms (sea stars etc) are also found widely throughout the state.

# Volunteer Profile 1

**Name:** Fiona Kidman

**DOB:** 13 February 1967

**Study:** Before having a family I worked in the Dispensary of a Pharmacy, processing the scripts and doing all the orders for the stock (14 years).

**Hobbies/Interests:** Gardening, cooking, football (POWER) TV and getting involved in my children's interests.

**What days do you volunteer at the MDC?**

I volunteer on a Thursday.

**How long have you been a volunteer at the MDC?** 22 February 2007

**Why did you become a volunteer at the MDC?**

To find out more about marine life! Also give something back to the school and the community.

**What have you enjoyed most about being a Volunteer at the MDC?**

I enjoy seeing the expression on the children's faces and being involved with the centre and meeting the other volunteers.

**Any special story to share?**

I am trying to grow my hair longer and everyday seems like a bad hair day!

## THANK YOU

We would like to say thank you to Karen  
for donating **4 Yabbies**

and

thank you to the Victor Harbor Whales Centre  
for donating **5 seahorses.**

# Workshop 1

On request, from Li and other Volunteers, we held this Term's Workshop at **Port Noarlunga Aquatics** again.

The Port Noarlunga Aquatics team were again fantastic as our team were involved in a number of activities including a Marine Trail, fishing, snorkelling and surfing.



**Marine Trail:** this time the marine trail was on the reef



They all made it safe back to the beach.



**Fishing:** instructions first, fun later



Patty gives Diana a helping hand with the bait



**Snorkelling:** getting in the boat



they all had fun in the water



The Cormorant is keeping an eye on our volunteers



**Surfing:** Lyndon coming in



Tim in his element



Surfing is fun.....



and Alison agreed



**Volunteer Lunch**



**enjoyed by everyone**

The Workshop lunch was held at Quattro Restaurant, Comfort Inn, Holdfast Shores.

It was a great way to finish our first Term – hopefully with an even better one to follow.

## ***Did U know ?***

### **What is it that has –**

A foot but no leg,

A heart but no lungs, but it does have gills

The ability to change their sex as conditions dictates

Blood that is clear & transparent

A kidney but no liver.

And a lot of muscle?

**A Cockle!**

**Thank you Wayne for this contribution**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO ALL THE FOLLOWING MDC VOLUNTEERS

**Tim** for the **13<sup>th</sup> May**  
**John N** for the **18<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Patty** for the **26<sup>st</sup> May**  
**Rae** for the **27<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Li** for the **4<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Karen** for the **9<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Tommy** for the **9<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Michael N** for the **2<sup>nd</sup> July**  
**Wayne** for the **9<sup>th</sup> July**

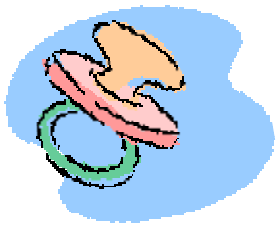
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## It's a GIRL

**Congratulation to Kerri and Brett Brown  
on the birth of their first child**

**Sienna Isabelle**

**born February 23, 2007**



## It's a BOY

**Congratulation to John and Maxine  
on the birth of their first grandchild**

**RILEY MAX**

**7lb 13 oz or 3550 grams**

**born March 27, 2007**

**Volunteer Update:** We would like to welcome our new volunteers:  
**Fiona, Diana, Karen, Amelia, Skye, Albert, Amy Claire and Jen**

# Term 2 Theme

## Wonders of the Sea

There are so many “**Wonders of the Sea**”, some special examples include:  
the **male** seahorse giving birth to live fry, seahorse babies;  
**Seastars** can replicate themselves or re-grow a lost arm;  
if **crabs** lose a leg they can grow one back;  
**Cuttles** have blue/green blood and 3 hearts;  
and many marine creatures can **camouflage** themselves so that predators can't see them.

Next time you go for a walk at the beach look around you.

There are so many things to see:

**fibre balls**, they are from the seagrass *Posidonia australis* and only found in Southern Australia;

shells with **holes** in them, caused by **snails drilling** in to eat them;

an empty **shark egg case**;

**sausage jellies**, which are actually an **egg sac** from the sea snail;

**and Cuttle bones** - some even have bite marks from predators.



**SAUSAGE JELLY**



**FIBRE BALLS**

# **THANKYOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

We are very proud of the organisations which support the Marine Discovery Centre including:

**Star of the Sea School and Parents**

**Catholic Education Office**

**Henley Parish**

**Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board**

**Coastcare**

**Primary Industries and Resources SA Fishwatch**

**Envirofund**

**Department for Environment and Heritage**

**The City of Charles Sturt**

**The Ian Potter Foundation**

**Adelaide Shores**

**M.E.S.A Marine Education Society of Australia**

**Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme**

**Adelaide Metropolitan Area Consultative Committee**

**Landcare Australia**

**Hanson Australia**

**United Water**

**Coast Protection Board**

**SA Water**

**Fish Protech Services PTY. LTD.**

**Southmet PTY. LTD.**

**Telstra**

**SARDI**

**Catholic Church Insurance Limited**

**Jacobs Creek Reserve**

**Nippy's**

**South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**

**Adelaide's Living Beaches**

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**Gold Coast Logic Integration**

**AMCOR RECYCLING**

**Holden**

**Department for Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation**

**Norman Wettenhall Foundation**

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**Banrock Station**

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**Cooper's**  
**South Seas Tackle**  
**Surf Culture**  
**Bar-A-Mal**  
**Programmed Maintenance Services**  
**Brock Harcourts**  
**Hamilton's Laboratories**  
**Catholic Women's League**

\* We are also very grateful for the many private donations that we receive.

**Marine Discovery Centre Contact:** p/f: 8356 8943

Ursula: [uquack@star.adl.catholic.edu.au](mailto:uquack@star.adl.catholic.edu.au)

Tim: [thoile@star.adl.catholic.edu.au](mailto:thoile@star.adl.catholic.edu.au)

**DISCLAIMER:** The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Star of the Sea School Marine Discovery Centre.