Marine Life Society of South Australia Inc.

Newsletter

March 2014 No. 409

"understanding, enjoying & caring for our oceans"

Our Next Meeting
(Annual General Meeting)

We are holding our AGM at 7pm on Wednesday 16th April 2014 at the Holdfast Bay Community Centre, 51 King George Ave, Hove. Nominations are required for committee positions. A retiring Committee Member shall be eligible to stand for re-election without nomination but no person not being a retiring Committee Member shall be eligible to stand for election unless a member of the Society has nominated him / her. Notice of all persons seeking election to the Committee shall be given to all members of the Society with the notice calling the meeting at which the election is to take place. 21 days' notice may be needed for any special resolutions to be proposed at the AGM. A member shall be entitled to appoint in writing a natural person who is also a member of the Society to be his/her proxy.

Editorial

I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that last month's newsletter and our 2013 Journal are not expected to be published in hard copy form in the future, unless any one is able to do the printing of them for us. The good news for myself is that this saves me an awful lot of work preparing the newsletters and Journals for printing and posting. The good news for our members is that there now needn't be any size restriction (up to a point) on newsletters from now on. (The 54-page 2013 Journal was clearly a very large file though and future Journals will need to be kept smaller in (data) size.)

MDC information signs

These are the three MLSSA/MDC information signs that MLSSA sponsored/gave a grant for which will be in place for Seaweek starting on 2nd March. They are to be erected at the West Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, the Henley Sailing Club and at the end of Marlborough St, Henley Beach.

Slender Blindfish, *Dermatopsis radiatus*

Wendy Butvila found and photographed this little fish at Edithburgh jetty: -

She posted the photo on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10202924801349459&set=a.10201823367214294.1073741832.1485836943&type=1&comment_id=4138202&offset=0&total_comments=7 . Janine Baker identified the fish as being a Slender Blindfish, (= Yellow Eelpout), *Dermatopsis radiatus,* and reported the following*:* They are live-bearing. Fertilisation is internal, which is very unusual in the fish world. Probably occurs more widely than known, but they have very cryptic habits so are not often seen. Lives in shell and stone rubble, and under ledges, on shallow reefs, and mixed seagrass and reef habitats. Recorded down to about 15m so far. Mainly found in WA, and most SA records are from the gulfs region, with KI the eastern edge of the range. Very few photos; most previous records in SA are museum specimens. Other than the Edithburgh photo, one of the most recent photos is from diver Helen Crawford, who photographed this species in April 2013 on one of SACReD's field trips (northern KI), at the same location where possibly the first photo of a live specimen was taken several decades ago by Rudie Kuter. Although some species have non-functional eyes and live in darkness, most blindfishes are not blind; some use their eyes to swim around in the open at night. Blindfish are strongly site associated, and would be vulnerable to benthic disturbance due to the life history", Janine said.

Goblin Fish

At the beginning of January this year, Daniel Kinasz asked members of the ME Dive Club, "Can anyone tell me what this is?"

Following a few random comments by ME Dive Club members, I was able to say, "It's clearly a Goblin Fish (True)!" My comment was immediately followed by one by Chris Rapson who said, "Yes goblin fish..." "I haven't seen one of those for years! Where was it found?" I said. "Thanks", said Daniel, "was at The Pinnacles (Aldinga)

on NYE. I noticed it deep underneath a rock so went under and snapped a pic or 2." "It's great to finally see one again after all these years", I said. "Used to find some at The Bluff. Always great to see out in the open."
Somewhere about this time, I discovered this second photo taken by Daniel Kinasz of the goblin fish: -

Daniel Kinasz's 2nd goblin fish photo
(Taken at Aldinga Pinnacles)

There were comments made about the fish's eyes, shape and weight. Chris Rapson became involved in the conversation, having seen a goblin fish at Rapid Bay in early December. "I found one on a ledge a few weeks back at Rapid Bay (in the) vicinity of the 'T' (section)", Chris said.
Chris then posted the following photo of his goblin fish sighting on Facebook, alongside Daniel's two photos: -

Chris Rapson's goblin fish
(Taken at Rapid Bay jetty)

Janine Baker became involved in the two conversations about this time, saying "Goblinfish not often seen because they are nocturnal. Also well camouflaged and can change skin colour."

Local Sea Mysteries – Part 8
The "lost jetty" at The Sir Joseph Banks Group
by Eric Kotz

During the course of a lot of research on local shipwrecks over a long period of time, I came across several vague references to a stone jetty (?) at the Sir Joseph Banks Group. Most of my enquiries to the old-time cutter fishermen who fished the Group in the early days were scoffed at, "There has never been a jetty out there, and if there had been it would be easy to see – you can't lose a stone jetty!"

The three mentions of a jetty I had come across were all from different sources but all referred to a stone jetty, 115 feet long, the width of a dray and with a minimum 5 feet depth at low tide. The logical place for such a jetty would have been at Reevesby Island to service the farming and pastoral enterprises there, which have been well documented, but we had dived there so extensively that I knew we weren't going to find anything there. Three independent mentions of the dimensions of a stone jetty couldn't be a coincidence but why build one anywhere else?

Several years later while following one of my wild theories about the location of the *Vivid* we actually found a ship-wreck on the western side of Sibsey Island. I knew immediately that it wasn't the *Vivid*, it was just too big, but we retrieved the propeller and shaft for the National Trust museum at Tumby Bay and then I started researching what the wreck might be. It wasn't hard; she was the *Ina* and had been wrecked so many years before that she hadn't been "lost", simply forgotten about. During my research I found that she had been loading Guano, (the phosphate fertiliser from bird droppings) when a sudden wind change caught her out and she bashed against the rocks and sank not far away in deep water. I read that the *Ina* had been laying up against a natural long flat granite rock which served as a wharf while the Guano was slid down from the top of the Island on a wooden chute – and then the penny dropped! How did they load the Guano from the more extensive mine on Marum Island at the top end of the Group - they must have had a jetty or wharf there of some sort?

William Haigh of "Grantala" near North Shields had taken up Reevesby Island in 1895 and also set up the "Penguin Guano Company Mine" at the same time on Marum Island. Over 150 tons were mined there from a cave on the south-western side which was 15 metres wide by 6 metres deep as well as other trenches and pits all over the Island. In 1909 this evolved into the South Australian Fertiliser Company and eventually into "Cresco" - a humble beginning for one of Eyre Peninsula's most vital companies over the years.

Marum is low, flat and featureless and rarely visited but there would have been an ample supply of rock for a jetty as a result of blasting from the mining operations. It was common in South Australia for the old flat-bottomed ketches to be bought in close on a high tide so that drays could be brought out on the low tide and the bags transferred across at deck level. This could mean that the "jetty" would not necessarily project above water level but merely be a man-made solid base for the drays and perhaps hidden from sight underwater. Another possibility is a stone wharf along the side of the Island where the water is deeper but this is on the more exposed sides, remains on land would surely be noticeable and all references had been of an actual jetty not a wharf.

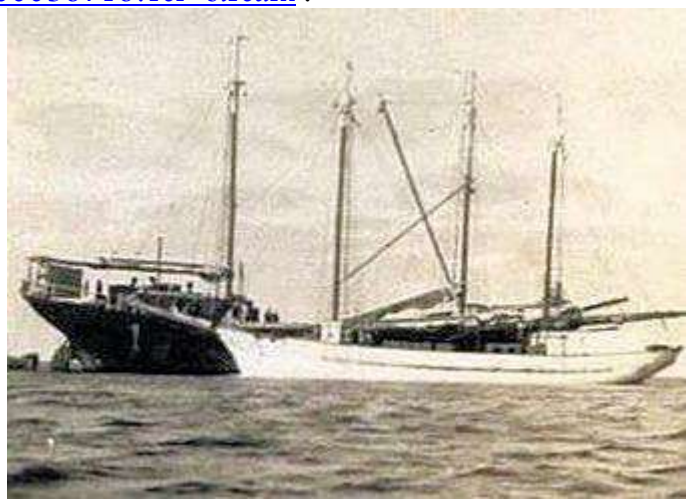
Some local fishermen still fish an area between Marum and the neighbouring Partney Island they have always called "the stones" and these stones are in almost un-natural symmetrical lines. They are closer to Partney Island but are in a very sheltered area from all but north winds which would have suited year round loading operations. There was always some confusion by the older fishermen over which were Marum and Partney Islands mainly because the well-known Marum Reef is actually closer to Partney than Marum, but I have always trusted

Mathew Flinders' version – he did chart and name them after all! Hopefully this summer, the location of the "lost jetty" will be found and another local mystery of the sea will be cleared up! The next challenge then could be the captain's gold fob-watch and sextant from the *Governor Gawler* at Smith's Rocks.

More About the *Forbes Brothers*

by Steve Reynolds

In February 1932, the *Falie* ran aground 3 miles north of Port Rickaby. The ketch *Forbes Brothers* assisted her by lightering off 500 bags of wheat to help her to float free. Dave Bishop provided these two photos showing the two vessels together to The South Australian Ketch Fleet's Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-South-Australian-Ketch-Fleet/234583500036716?ref=stream .



The ketch *Forbes Brothers* (in the foreground) lightering wheat from the *Falie* (in the background)

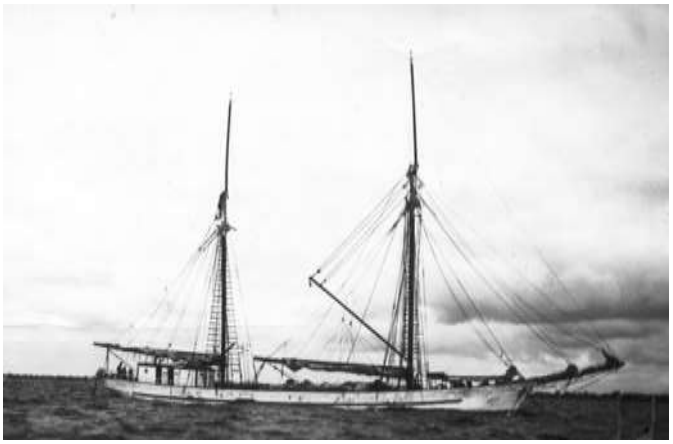
(Source: https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=245346288960437&set=pcb.245347005627032&type=1&theater)

The ketch *Forbes Brothers* (on the right) lightering wheat from the *Falie* (on the left)

(Source: https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=245346278960438&set=pcb.245347005627032&type=1&theater)

The Port Victoria Maritime Museum has this photo of the *Forbes Brothers*: -

As reported in my article "The *Leprena*" in our September 2013 newsletter (No.405) – http://www.mlssa.asn.au/nletters/MLSSA_NL_405_September_2013.pdf - the *Forbes Brothers* had been built as a ketch at Phillip B. Forbes, Lake Macquarie, NSW in 1912 (Official Number ON131506). She had a 30bhp auxiliary engine that could do 6 knots.
The *Forbes Brothers* was registered in Port Adelaide in November 1923, under the ownership of TH Dibbs. She was then owned by Webb & Harvey in 1925. Under the ownership of Webb, Harvey & others, she was re-named as *Leprena* in May 1938 after being lengthened by over 17 feet. This increased her gross tonnage from 70 to 105 tons. She was requisitioned by the Commonwealth Government during World War II and her registration was closed for this period.



The *Leprena* as a 105-ton (75-tonne?) wooden two-masted fishing trawler
(Image courtesy of the Kingston (South East) branch of the National Trust of SA)

She was re-registered in Melbourne in 1946 when she was owned by a K. Warren (Registration no. 5/1946). She was later converted into a fishing trawler.

I found this photo of the *Leprena* on the Facebook page for South Australian Ketch Fleet: -

It was taken at the Port Victoria jetty. It shows the schooner *Ena* alongside the jetty and the *Forbes Brothers* outside her on the right.

The Port Victoria Maritime Museum also has this photo of the *Leprena*: -

On 12th February 1964, the *Leprena* and her crew of six were lost when she was destroyed by fire off Port Moorowie on the Yorke Peninsula. The fire had started in the vessel's engine room and she sank after several dramatic explosions.

The wreck site of the *Leprena* was 'discovered' around 1995 when Kym Bray revealed its location to the Department of Environment's State Heritage Branch. The wreck was found 30m off an isolated beach between Black Hill and Port Moorowie.

Identification of a Melaleuca

by Steve Reynolds

In January, I received an email message from David Muirhead saying, "I doubt (that) your (*Melaleuca*) *lanceolata* image in (the 2013) MLSSA journal* is *lanceolata*, and I know you were unsure hence the (?) prefix. I'm leaning towards *Melaleuca halmaturorum* (sapling/shrub as you know), or perhaps *brevifolia*, or perhaps another local *Melaleuca* sp."

* ("Adaptations of some Coastal Species" by Brian Brock)

I replied, "Thanks for that, David. I'm not at all sure why that image (see below) was even used for the article by Brian (Brock)."

I found a key to Melaleuca species at http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/water_spotting_species_key_melaleuca

1.	Leaves alternate (or if in pairs, not decussate)	2
1.	Leaves opposite and decussate (each pair at right angles to the next)	4
2.	Flower clusters along old wood (tips not growing into leafy shoots)	*Melaleuca brevifolia* (Mallee Honey-Myrtle)
2.	Flower spikes on terminals of new growth (tips growing into leafy shoots)	3
3.	Leaves 1 mm wide or terete (cylindrical) and blunt, flowers in terminal heads or spikes less than 3 cm long	*Melaleuca ericifolia* (Swamp Paperbark)
3.	Leaves 1-3 mm wide and acute, linear-lanceolate, flowers in spikes 3-6 cm long	*Melaleuca lanceolata* (Moona)
4.	Leaf broadly ovate with 5-7 veins, acute, wide spreading	*Melaleuca squarrosa* (Scented Paperbark)
4.	Leaf narrow to linear with 1-3 veins or obscure, more or less erect	5
5.	Leaf acute, 5-15 mm long, flowers pink or purplish in spikes along branches	6
5.	Leaf obtuse, 3-8 mm long, flowers white/cream in	*Melaleuca halmaturorum*

	spikes on terminal branches	(Salt Paperbark)
6.	Flower clusters 1-1.5 cm wide, fruits immersed in swollen stem	*Melaleuca decussata* (Totem Poles)
6.	Flower clusters 2-3 cm wide, fruits not immersed in stem	*Melaleuca wilsonii* (Violet Honey Myrtle)

I also found photos of both Mallee Honey-myrtle leaves (*M. brevifolia*) and Moona leaves (*M. lanceolata*) there.
There were also links to species there i.e. *Melaleuca brevifolia*, which was then described as follows: -

Other Common Names: Short-leaf Honey-myrtle, d'Altons Melaleuca

Status: Native to South Australia and Victoria

Plant Description: Straggling shrub to 2.5 m high with rough, corky bark. Leaves often in pairs but not decussate, linear to oblanceolate, 3–7 mm long, 1–2 mm wide with a blunt apex. Flower clusters, white to yellowish, 6-11 mm wide, on previous seasons growth. Fruit capsules wrinkled, corky and warty, 4-6 mm wide.

Habitat: Occasional, fringing swamps, lakes and streams in heathlands and shrublands. Sometimes on edges of saltland.

Melaleuca lanceolata was described as follows: -
Other Common Names: Black Tea-tree, Dryland Tea-tree, Rottnest Island Tea-tree, Western Tea-tree
Description: Medium sized shrub or small tree, to 7 m high, often with a large domed canopy. Bark finely cracked, rough and grey-brown. Leaves alternate, narrow to linear-lanceolate, 5–10 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, smooth, dull-green, stiff, shortly stalked, often curved downwards. Flowering in summer, flowers white to cream, intermixed with leaves in an irregular bottle-brush like spike 3–6 cm long, the stamens in bundles of 12 and much longer than the petals. Fruit a spherical to ovoid woody capsule, 4–5 mm.
Habitat: Found on red clay loams in the Mallee and on reddish-brown, often saline, heavy clays subject to periodic waterlogging. Can be found on lighter soils in association with yellow box, or on highly calcareous soils scattered throughout the Mallee and Wimmera. Also occurs on white alkaline clayey sands around the margins of dry lakes.

Melaleuca halmaturorum, the species suggested by David, was described as follows:-
Other Common Names: Blistered Paperbark, South Australian Swamp Paperbark, Kangaroo Island Paperbark.
Status: Indigenous to Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.
Plant Description: Shrub or tree, 2–7 m high with white and papery, often peeling, bark. Leaves opposite, each pair at right angles to the preceding pair, lanceolate, 3–8 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, thick, flat on top, curved below. Flowering in spring to early summer with flowers white, few to many, crowded into spikes at the ends of the branches. Each flower with 8–12 stamens much longer than the 5 minute petals. Fruit an ovoid capsule, 4–5 mm diameter, borne singly or a few together on the old wood.

Habitat: Usually grows in low lying areas with saline soils and around salt lakes. Mature trees can withstand waterlogging. More common in the north-west of Victoria but occasionally found further south.

Golf Ball Sponges

According to the web page found at
http://portphillipmarinelife.net.au/species/7696 "Golf Ball Sponge - Tethya sp.
Taxonomy - Porifera : Demospongiae : Poecilosclerida : Tedaniidae
General Description - An orange sponge species with spherical form.
Size of about 5 cm.
Biology - Sponges in the genus Tethya often exhibit budding propagules, a form of asexual reproduction whereby the parent sponge produces a stalk of spicules at its surface, terminating in a bud that detaches and floats away to become a separate individual.

A golf ball sponge with budding propagules
(Taken by Steve Reynolds)

Almost a third of the world's known species of Tethya occur in Australia with 15 species found in southern Australia. This is the only genus of this family group to be found in Australian waters, the other species are in tropical areas and have been recorded up to depths of 2000 m.
Habitat - Reef and jetty areas, at depths of 3-30 m. Sponge gardens, Reefs"