

## ADAS Newsletter Issue 29, August 2021

### Introduction

Welcome to Issue 29 of the ADAS newsletter.

This issue of the newsletter is full of news, updates, and safety items. We share details of three programs which can give support to people in the industry: a mental health survey; a recruitment website; and a mentoring program.

Along with safety items, we also give you reminders and clarification in areas which ADAS has received increasing enquiries lately: how to renew ADAS certifications; what First Aid certifications are accepted by ADAS; and occupational diver medical requirements.

We give you a reminder about the WHS Certificate course which is now available for Australian general divers; and share a personal touch from the ADAS office where staff were recently involved in tree-planting to reduce ADAS' carbon footprint.

Unfortunately, one ADAS school in New Zealand closed its doors in July but there are plans underway for a new school to open in the near future which will fill the gap for training in New Zealand.

As always, your thoughts and comments, or any ideas for future issues of the ADAS Newsletter, are both welcome and appreciated.



Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

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### Subsea Training Centre Closure

The New Zealand based ADAS training school, Subsea Training Centre, ceased trading on the 9th of July 2021.



The training school, based in Huntly, has closed its doors after many years of providing high quality training in a range of ADAS certifications including diving, diving supervision and diver medic.

Training options in New Zealand will not be adversely impacted by this closure, though, with an application from a new training facility currently being assessed by ADAS. The new facility plans to conduct training in diving, diving supervision (both onshore and offshore), diver medic, and remotely operated vehicle. More details of the new facility will be shared when the application has been approved and the school is fully operational.

[Click here for the article online](#)

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## Offshore Worker Mental Health Survey

In an effort to understand and develop support for mental health issues affecting offshore workers, especially those affected by COVID-19, a tripartite Mental Health Working Group (MHWG) has worked with two major Australian universities to develop a mental health survey for offshore workers. The survey will allow people in the offshore workforce to provide insight into how they've been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and working life in general.



The Mental Health Working Group has been developed by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA), and the Offshore Alliance – who all worked with Curtin University and the University of Western Australia to develop the survey.

The survey aims to gain insight from people in the offshore workforce as a way to understand the main issues impacting workers, and what strategies can be developed to support people in the areas of mental health and well-being.

To have your say and provide your unique input, go to NOPSEMA's Call for Action: [Offshore Worker Mental Health Survey website page](#).

[Click here for the article online](#)

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## Safety

This issue we share four Safety Events reported by the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA), including valuable lessons learnt from a real time recovery of an incapacitated diver from a wet bell; and a NOPSEMA Safety Alert relating to a lifting operations incident.



IMCA Safety Flash 15/21 LTI [Hand injury during diving operations](#).

IMCA Safety Flash 15/21 [Learning outcomes from a real time diver recovery](#).

IMCA Safety Flash 17/21 [Failure of EGS valve stem on dive helmet](#).

IMCA Safety Flash 20/21 [Failure of dive chamber overhead door centre pin](#).

NOPSEMA Safety Alert 73 [Injury during lifting operations](#).

[Click here for the article online](#)

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## MarineJobs Recruitment Website

A new recruitment website, MarineJobs, has recently been launched to provide both job seekers and employers a centralised platform to search for jobs and workers in the maritime industry.



MarineJobs is a collaborative effort by Marina Industries Association, Boating Industry Association, and Superyacht Australia, and aims to support "training, skills, jobs and careers in the marine industry across Australia".

The website allows both employers and people searching for work to create profiles and undertake searches in a variety of maritime industries.

Go to the [MarineJobs website](#) to set up your profile today!

[Click here for the article online](#)

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## ADAS Mentoring Program

Are you an experienced female diver or diving supervisor who would like to provide guidance and assistance to ADAS students and new graduates? Then we need you!

The ADAS Board of Directors has recently approved the development of a mentoring program which will provide support to people, particularly those from minority groups, who are undertaking or have recently completed ADAS training and who would like to connect with experienced people for guidance and assistance.



The aim of the mentoring program is to allow students and new graduates to connect with experienced hyperbaric workers as a way to gain support in all aspects of working in the hyperbaric industry. The program will primarily focus on people in minority groups in the industry such as females, those that are culturally diverse, and people in the LGBTQI+ community – to name a few.

ADAS is currently looking for experienced female divers or diving supervisors to begin the first stage of the program which will provide support to female students and new graduates. If you feel that your experience and knowledge in the industry could assist up-and-coming hyperbaric workers to navigate the world of commercial diving, then please [contact ADAS](#) for more information.

[Click here for the article online](#)

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## ADAS Renewal Requirements

In order to continue holding current ADAS certifications, all ADAS members must apply to renew their certification every five years. This article gives a reminder of how that can be done and what supporting documentation is needed.

While divers and diving supervisors make up the majority of renewal applications received by ADAS, other certifications which require five yearly renewal include Chamber Operators, Life Support Technicians, ROV pilots/technicians, and Tunnelling workers/lock operators.

Each of the above certifications can be renewed by submitting an application to ADAS via the ADAS website.

To continue holding a valid certification, there are a number of items that all certificate holders are required to maintain, including:

- Current First Aid certification (issued within the last 3 years)
- Current CPR and Oxygen Administration certifications (issued within the last 12 months)
- Current dive medical (issued within the last 12 months) – not required for some types of certification
- Competency evidence showing they have been active in the industry in the last two years

Although the items above are not required to be submitted at the time of renewal, ADAS undertakes random audits of renewal applications and will ask for these items to be presented if your application is selected for audit.

An important component of the renewal application form is the Applicant Declaration which is a legal agreement stating that the applicant holds all of the items required for certification. Unfortunately, in recent times, there has been an increase in the number of people who do not hold the items listed above and who have provided a false declaration on the renewal application form. Many people do not hold current First Aid related certifications or dive medicals, and others are unable to show competency evidence.

ADAS understands that with COVID-19 restrictions across the world it can be difficult to gain some of the supporting documentation, but wants to remind people that these items are vital to your ADAS certification. They have been identified as crucial aspects of ensuring your own safety, and the safety of people in your workplace/dive team.

People who are found to not hold the asked for documentation during the audit will be asked to gain those certifications/documents before their ADAS certification can be renewed. This will lead to delays in your application being processed and will ultimately affect your ability to work in areas where an ADAS certification is required.

If you believe that you may not meet the renewal criteria, its best if you contact ADAS to discuss your options rather than submit a false declaration. ADAS is here to support and assist all people in the hyperbaric industry, and wants to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

[Click here for the article online](#)

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## Approved First Aid Certifications

Holding a current First Aid certification is a mandatory component of most ADAS certifications, read on for clarification about which certifications are accepted for initial ADAS training and renewal applications.

ADAS training and certification requirements are based on the AS 2815 and AS/NZS 2299.1 Standards, which both state that current First Aid, CPR and Oxygen Administration certifications are required to be held by students undertaking training, and by people who are working in the hyperbaric industry.



While there is an abundance of First Aid certifications available around the world, not all of them are suitable for people working in the hyperbaric industry. The AS/NZS 2299.1 Standard states that:

*“All divers and attendants shall be trained in first aid so that, as a minimum, they are able to:*

- a. control bleeding;*
- b. administer 100% oxygen;*
- c. care for an unconscious patient; and*
- d. carry out cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).*

*The above requirements are met by most general first aid courses leading to certification, incorporating or supplemented by an oxygen administration course.*

*A dive supervisor shall be trained in first aid to the standard required for a diver. In addition, a dive supervisor shall be trained in the recognition and first aid management of diving related medical problems, and communicating findings to medical support.*

*Competency in first aid shall be maintained through regular practice and re-certification every 3 years. CPR and oxygen resuscitation skills should be demonstrated to a first aid instructor on at least an annual basis."*

In addition to the requirements shown in the Standard above, divers and diving supervisors also need to complete training in the use of bag-valve masks during their Oxygen Administration training.

For people located in Australia, the above requirements can be met by completing a First Aid course which is shown on the First Aid Certifications table. ADAS has identified that courses which include units of competency with a code beginning with "HLTAID" are the best fit for ADAS certification holders.

People who live outside of Australia will not be able to complete training in a course shown on the First Aid Certification table, but they will be able to find courses that have similar content. When you're searching for a First Aid course, make sure that it runs for at least three days and that it includes practical training and assessment.

More details can be found on the [First Aid page](#) of the ADAS website.

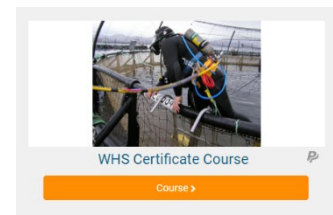
[Click here for the article online](#)

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## WHS Certificate Reminder

The diving WHS Certificate course is now up and running. Beat the rush and get in now to complete this short online course.

In 2019, the AS 4005.2 Standard was removed from publication which means that people who undertake general diving work under this qualification no longer meet the legislative requirements to perform general diving work, especially in New South Wales (Australia).



To be able to continue working as a general diver, all workers who are AS 4005.2 qualified must update their training by December 2022. This can be done by completing the diving WHS Certificate course which is a short online course that is self-paced and self-directed.

While the deadline for the upgrade is still some time away, there will no doubt be a rush of applicants which is likely to cause delays in processing upgrade applications. To ensure that your work commitments are unaffected by this change, complete the course now before the rush begins.

More details can be found on the [WHS Certificate page](#) of the ADAS website.

[Click here for the article online](#)

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## Diver Medical Requirements

A vital safety aspect of occupational diving is that all dive team members hold current occupational dive medicals, which is mandated by AS/NZS 2299.1 Standard. While it can be a confusing area to navigate, there are ways to ensure that the medical you undertake meets Standards requirements.



According to the AS/NZS 2299.1 Standard, an occupational diver medical is required to be undertaken every 12 months with a doctor who is suitably qualified in hyperbaric medicine and is authorised to conduct occupational diving medicals.

The [South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society \(SPUMS\)](#) provides a database of doctors who have been approved to conduct occupational diving medicals. You can perform a search on the SPUMS website to find a suitable diving doctor in your area. The [International Marine Contractors Association \(IMCA\) Diver Medicals](#) page also provides guidance on identifying appropriate doctors to conduct occupational diving medicals.

When your medical is completed, it is important that the diving doctor provides you with a [Diver Medical Fitness certificate](#) (or similar) which clearly states that you are “fit to dive”. This certificate must also show the diving doctors full name and signature, and is ideal to also show a stamp showing the doctors details. Australian and New Zealand diving medical certificates must also state that the medical has been conducted in accordance with the AS/NZS 2299.1 Standard.

ADAS receives diving medical certificates from all over the world and undertakes validity checks for each medical that is submitted. This includes not only the validity of the certificate itself, but also the qualifications of the doctors who conducted the medical. If the medical certificate or the doctor’s qualifications do not meet Standards criteria, divers will be asked to undertake another medical with a properly qualified doctor.

To assist you in determining if the diving doctor you go to, and the medical provided, are acceptable, follow the below guidelines:

- Conduct a search on the SPUMS website to find an occupational diving doctor
- Check that the diving doctor is appropriately trained (see details below)
- Complete the [Medical Questionnaire](#) before your doctor’s appointment
- Ensure that the certificate includes the wording “fit to dive” and, if issued in Australia or New Zealand, also states that it is in compliance with the AS/NZS 2299.1 Standard

### **Diving Doctor Training**

If your doctor is not listed on SPUMS they may still be approved to undertake occupational dive medicals, but it can be difficult to know if they are suitably qualified. The [Scott Haldane Foundation Courses page](#) on the SPUMS website shows international courses approved for diving doctors, and the IMCA Diving Medicals page may also be helpful as it includes guidance on recognising approved diving doctors in other regions of the world.

More information about commercial diving medical can be found on the [Medical Fitness page of the ADAS website](#)

[Click here for the article online](#)

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## **Carbon Offset Tree Planting**

The ADAS team recently worked together to offset ADAS’ carbon footprint by planting trees for a local Landcare group.

In May the ADAS team ditched the office for a morning and headed for a nearby property to pitch in to an ongoing bush restoration project along the banks of Rocky Creek. Located only a few kilometers from the ADAS office in the rolling hills of Dunoon, Rocky Creek is a locally important waterway providing habitat for threatened plants and animals including Nightcap Oak trees, Koalas and the Giant Barred Frog.



With the guidance of George from Whian Whian Landcare and property owner Jules, the team planted over 100 native trees and shrubs along the creek banks. Recent rains had ensured the site was ready for planting,

and plenty of sunshine on the day made it a nice change from the office. The trees were planted to contribute to the ADAS office carbon offsets for 2021 and will provide habitat and homes for native fauna into the future.

[Click here for the article online](#)

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