
ADAS Newsletter Issue 32, September 2022

Introduction

Welcome to Issue 32 of the ADAS newsletter.

In this issue of the newsletter we share good news for people wanting to migrate to Australia with the reduction in education requirements from the Australian Government authorised VETASSESS organisation. There is also a reduction in renewal requirements with the ADAS Board of Directors recently electing to remove the stipulation for certificate holders to provide First Aid related certifications during the renewal process.

The safety article in this issue gives details of a surface decompression near miss, and a close call when a grinder disc was set up incorrectly.

In ADAS news we congratulate the 2022 winner of the Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence, and introduce the new manager of the Underwater Training Centre South Australia (UTCSA).

Finally, we provide details of an Australian Government initiative to increase awareness of marine pests and how people in the hyperbaric industry can help reduce the environmental impact of pests.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Sordes', with a horizontal line underneath.

Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

VETASSESS – New Skills Assessment Criteria for Divers

VETASSESS has revised the assessment criteria for occupational divers who require a skills assessment for migration purposes.

Traditionally, occupational divers who wished to migrate to Australia were required to hold a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification in order to submit a migration application, something which was extremely difficult to obtain since the majority of divers in this situation had completed their training internationally and were not eligible to receive a VET qualification.

In August 2022, VETASSESS removed the certificate-level qualification requirement after discussions with ADAS Executive Director, Amanda Sordes. Amanda confirmed to VETASSESS that “skilled divers are in demand and many divers have wanted to bring their skills to Australia but found that while their skills were highly valued in the industry, they were not recognised for migration purposes”.

ADAS and VETASSESS worked together to develop new assessment options which include:

- Hold a VET qualification recognised by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), or



- Hold a current ADAS diver certification and have at least two (2) years of highly relevant employment undertaken in the last five (5) years

This change took effect on 15th August 2022 and will be beneficial to many internationally trained divers and to Australian contractors alike.

More information can be found on the [VETASSESS website](#), and a detailed guide can be found on the [VETASSESS Diver Information Sheet](#).

[Click here for the article online](#)

Change to Renewal & Crossover Requirements

ADAS certification holders are no longer required to submit First Aid, CPR and Oxygen Management certifications during the renewal or crossover processes.

In August 2022, the ADAS Board of Directors unanimously elected to remove the requirement for applicants to provide First Aid, CPR and Oxygen Management certifications to ADAS when they renew their existing ADAS licence or apply for an ADAS certification via the crossover process, effective from September 1, 2022.



Although First Aid requirements are found in the hyperbaric industry world-wide, there are often regulations which are different to Australian legislation and can lead to a lot of confusion for certification holders. Because of this, the ADAS Board determined that checking the validity of First Aid certifications is to remain the responsibility of employers and will no longer be something that ADAS checks or verifies during the renewal or crossover processes.

People who are enrolling in an ADAS training course are still expected to hold First Aid certifications in line with AS/NZS 2299.1 which states that divers and diving supervisors must hold the following:

- Current First Aid qualification (3 yearly recertification)
- Current CPR qualification (12 monthly recertification or demonstration)
- Current Oxygen Administration qualification (12 monthly recertification or demonstration)

More information about Australian industry requirements can be found on the [First Aid page of the ADAS website](#).

[Click here for the article online](#)

Safety Update

It has fortunately been relatively quiet in relation to serious incidents recently.

There are two IMCA safety alerts in this issue which relate to a surface decompression near-miss and the incorrect set-up of a grinder.

- SF 13/22 – [Surface decompression near-miss](#)
- SF 13/22 – [Near miss: grinder disc rotation set up in the wrong direction](#)



[Click here for the article online](#)

2022 Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence

Congratulations to Darren Shea on receiving the 2022 ADAS Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence.

The Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence is an annual award overseen by ADAS and presented to an ADAS trainer who has shown exceptional dedication to the support and training of people in the hyperbaric industry in such a way that encourages high levels of safety, cooperation, and skill.



In August, Darren Shea of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) was chosen by the ADAS Board of Directors as the ideal candidate, and was presented with the award during the 2022 ADAS ATE Meeting held in Melbourne.

Darren's navy career began in 2010 when he undertook Able Diver Warfare training before being posted to the operational dive team. Since that time, Darren held a number of positions within the RNZN including being involved with the dive training school, and is now the ADAS Training and Assessment Manager (ATAM) at the school with full responsibility for all training and assessment processes within the dive school.

In addition to being heavily involved in diver training, Darren was also integral in training program development specific to the RNZN's new dive and hydrographic vessel HMNZS Manawanui – a vessel which is able to operate offshore and has full working Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), dynamic positioning, and SSBA to 50m diving capability.

External to the RNZN dive school, Darren has also been involved in a number of search and recovery tasks that have led to him being awarded a Chief of Navy Commendation for commitment and courage, which is in addition to his NZ Defence Service Medal and Good Conduct badges.

Congratulations Darren, on this outstanding achievement.

[Click here for the article online](#)

New Management at the Underwater Training Centre South Australia

Long-standing ADAS school, the Underwater Training Centre South Australia, is under new management.

As of the 1st of July 2022, management of the Underwater Training Centre South Australia (UTCSA) is now in the capable hands of Dafydd Phillips. Dafydd takes over all management of the school from his parents Martin and Lyn Phillips, who have recently retired after more than 25 years in the hyperbaric training industry.



Dafydd began his diving career in 2003 as an onshore construction and aquaculture diver and moved into offshore work after gaining his ADAS Part 3 diver certification in 2010. He later branched out to become a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) pilot/technician and travelled the world in this role.

During his time working in Australia and internationally, Dafydd also became an ADAS Diver Trainer and later an ADAS Training and Assessment Manager (ATAM) working at UTCSA.

Dafydd plans to maintain the range of courses currently on offer at UTCSA, and is looking forward to modernising some processes and implementing more digital learning techniques.

Visit the [UTCSA website for information](#) on the range of ADAS courses available and contact details.

[Click here for the article online](#)

Marine Pest Awareness Campaign

The Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry need your help in reporting marine pests in Australian waters.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are developing visual materials to raise awareness on marine pest biosecurity issues in Australian waters and to increase marine pest reporting.

**MARINE
PESTS**

Dr Rene Campbell of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment says that the department has identified that the diver sector could play an important role in increasing awareness, education and reporting of marine pests which can damage both the local marine environment and business operations (i.e., biofouling of vessels and marine infrastructure). Dr Campbell also stated that, "Divers, including specialist divers trained in commercial diving, are the eyes of the underwater world and are therefore an important audience for marine pest surveillance."

Materials being developed are relevant for both recreational and commercial divers, and include an A3 poster, supplementary fact sheet, virtual background, email signature, social media tile and PowerPoint slide. These materials can be utilised by divers, supervisors and contractors alike to spread the word about the campaign and the ways people can report pests.

See the [Marine Pests website](#) for more information about this campaign or to order educational material.

[Click here for the article online](#)

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