

ADAS Newsletter Issue 39, September 2024

Introduction

Welcome to Issue 39 of the ADAS Newsletter

In this issue, we share our latest Strategic Plan; information on our student surveys; and requirements for student diver medicals. We also congratulate Dafydd Phillips, from the Underwater Training Centre South Australia, on receiving the 2024 Maurie Vierow Award at the ADAS Accredited Training Establishment (ATE) Meeting in August.

A highlight of the ATE Meeting was a round table discussion with WHS regulators from 7 jurisdictions, providing the ADAS schools an opportunity to discuss the regulations in their regions.

The safety article in this issue gives details of five safety incidents that have been shared by the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA).

Finally, we share an update from IMCA on the release of resources for Air Diving Supervisor candidates including a study guide with links to resources, test questions and guidelines for preparing for the exam.

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

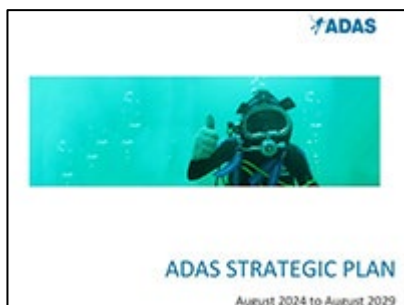


Amanda Sordes

Executive Director

ADAS Updates

In ADAS news, we share our latest Strategic Plan; information on our student surveys; and requirements for student diver medicals. We also share internal staff updates and highlights from the annual ADAS Accredited Training Establishment (ATE) meeting held in Melbourne during August.



ADAS Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan defines ADAS' direction, activities and tasks over the next five years. This Plan recognises the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (currently Department of Industry, Innovation and Science) as a fundamental input to the function of ADAS.

The Strategic Plan also defines ADAS' direction, approach and pursuits in wider occupational diving activities, such as construction and engineering industries, law enforcement, the scientific community and military applications.

The 2024-2029 Strategic Plan was recently approved by the ADAS Board of Directors and is available through the ADAS website.

[Find out more](#)



Student Surveys – Your Feedback Matters

ADAS conducts surveys of all students who take part in courses at our Accredited Training Establishments (ATEs), including new students and divers returning to ADAS schools to upgrade or refresh their certifications. So, if you have recently completed training, expect to hear from us.

Your feedback is very important to ADAS and the ADAS schools, as it helps us to understand what's going well and what needs improvement. ADAS will contact you by phone or by email - we're looking forward to hearing your feedback about your training experience.



Diver Medical Verification

Students undertaking ADAS courses must pass an initial occupational dive medical examination in compliance with the requirements of AS/NZS 2299.1, and provide a copy of the dive medical to the ADAS school they are enrolled with

The examination is to be carried out by doctor specifically trained in underwater medicine to ensure you are medically fit to dive.

Students who reside outside of Australia must supply a diver medical certificate which has been created using the template provided in the AS/NZS 2299.1 Standard. Students preparing to undertake an ADAS course can contact their school for a copy of the template to be completed by their selected doctor.

[Find out more about the requirements of Medical Fitness to Dive](#)



ADAS Activities

Internal Staff Changes

There have been several changes of staff in the ADAS office in the past month, and as a result some services may experience slight delays, including license renewal and crossover applications.

[Please contact us](#) if you have questions about the timeframe for your application.

Internal and External Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

Standards Australia participation: ten technical committee meetings for SF20 and one meeting for SF17

ADAS Board of Directors: Annual face-to-face meeting in August, following the ATE Meeting in Melbourne. Three working group meetings.

Quality assurance May - August 2024

Desktop audits: Three finalised

- These are audits of completed student training records against ADAS course requirements to ensure compliance with ADAS and AS 2815.

Phone and email post-course surveys: 122 students contacted; 46 responses received

- All students are contacted after their training is completed to allow them to provide feedback on ADAS courses, trainers, and training facilities.

ADAS Accredited Training Establishment (ATE) support

- ATE conference: Two-day face-to-face conference in Melbourne. Highlights included:
- A WHS regulator round table session to discuss Regulations in each jurisdiction.
- Presentation from Les Cameron, Worksafe Victoria, covering a general introduction to the legislative and regulatory framework around occupational diving in Victoria, a case of employer malpractice and a case study of the HUET training / OPITO standards.
- In-depth discussions of Training Processes including practical training and exams
- Updates from international certifying agencies and Standards Australia committees.

[Read this article online](#)

Regulator Round Table Discussion

A highlight of the 2024 ADAS Accredited Training Establishment (ATE) Meeting was a WHS regulator round table session to discuss Regulations, with regulators from 7 jurisdictions attending either in person or by video link.

This provided the ADAS schools a unique opportunity to connect with the regulators and discuss the challenges and opportunities in their regions.

- Regulators who attended in person: Nathan Lee (SafeWork Australia), Les Cameron (VIC), Brad Parker (TAS), Richard Taylor (NZ).

- Attended via video link: Mark Moskvitch (NSW), Vanessa Hahn (WA), Robert Shutte (QLD)

Each WHS regulator gave an introduction of their role and relevant legislation in their jurisdictions, and how that relates to occupational diving and diver training. They also provided an overview of the main areas of concern for their portfolio.

The discussion was an excellent opportunity for the ADAS schools to ask questions of the regulators from their jurisdiction and discuss some of the challenges they face, including providing guidance to students who will potentially enter the workforce in locations governed by differing regulations to where they are trained.

Other topics explored included:

- The place of Codes of Practice in legislation, and the application and understanding of language used within the codes
- The applications and relevance of Rules Based Regulation and Goals Based Regulation in the sector
- Australian and New Zealand Standards relating to scientific diving
- Industrial manslaughter legislation in different jurisdictions



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Dafydd Phillips presented with Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence



Congratulations to Dafydd Phillips on receiving the 2024 ADAS Maurie Vierow Award of Excellence.

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

Dafydd Phillips, owner, manager and ATAM (ADAS Training and Assessment Manager) of the Underwater Training Centre SA (UTCSA), was presented with the award at the 2024 ADAS ATE Meeting by the ADAS Chair, Dr Stuart Cannon.

Dafydd has been involved with ADAS for over 20 years, active in both the onshore and offshore industries in diverse hyperbaric fields including construction, aquaculture and ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicles). Gaining his first ADAS certification in 2004, Dafydd progressed to formally become an ADAS Diver Trainer in 2010. He currently represents the NAODTE (National Organisation of Diver Training Establishments) to the ADAS Board of Directors and liaises with ADAS in the development of training and assessment materials.

In addition to these contributions to the hyperbaric industry, the award recognises Dafydd's exceptional skills as a trainer, demonstrated by consistent positive feedback to ADAS from his students and fellow ADAS trainers. Dafydd strives for improvements to the training and experience delivered to his students, including reviewing and updating school policies & procedures, introducing new technology to facilitate training and ensuring a high level of safety and compliance

[Read this article online](#)

Safety Flashes



Five safety incidents have been shared in recent International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) Safety Flashes.

- IMCA SF 14/24 - [Loss of pressure to diver's primary air supply](#)
- IMCA SF 13/24 - [ROV dropped to seabed](#)
- IMCA SF 11/24 - [Diver's umbilical trapped during a pipeline flooding operation](#)
- IMCA SF 18/24 - [Near miss: lift bag released unintentionally from crane hook](#)
- IMCA SF 18/24 - [Nitrogen cylinder ruptured](#)

[Read this article online](#)

IMCA Air Diving Supervisor Examination – Recommended Study Material



The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) has published an Information Note containing comprehensive information for Air Diving Supervisor (ADS) candidates.

The IMCA ADS exam is primarily based around the content of the material contained in IMCA's guidance documents, and it is essential that supervisor candidates are familiar with all the relevant material these documents contain.

[Read this article online](#)

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