# CUTTLEFEST WHYALLA

# PROGRAM

## JUNE-JULY 2026



EXPLORE

WHYALLA.COM

WHYALLA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE WILD SIDE EYRE STH·AUS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Government of South Australia

South Australian Tourism Commission




# Table of contents

CUTTLEFISH EXPERIENCES 2
ART & SOUL 4
KID'S ACTIVITIES 6
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE 8

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Barngarla people as the traditional custodians of Whyalla and the surrounding region. We respect the Barngarla people's spiritual relationship with their country, with land, sea and sky and acknowledge their Elders – past, present and future.

EXPLORE WHYALLA.COM FOR ALL EVENT DETAILS AND BOOKING LINKS

SCAN HERE

# WELCOME TO Cuttlefest

Each winter, Whyalla hosts one of nature's most extraordinary events as tens of thousands of Australian Giant Cuttlefish gather to breed.

Cuttlefest celebrates this remarkable migration — a unique winter festival held each June and July, dedicated to showcasing these fascinating marine creatures and the environment they call home.

Visitors flock to the coastline for unforgettable encounters with the aggregation - snorkelling, diving and glass-bottom boat tours offer rare, up-close views of this natural spectacle.

On shore, the festival comes alive with markets, art, talks, workshops and family-friendly activities that celebrate marine life, creativity and community spirit.

The highlight is the Salty 'Sea'esta held on the Saturday of the June long weekend in Ada Ryan Gardens. — a high-energy celebration of music, entertainment and coastal culture, bringing people together in a shared experience of joy and discovery.

Cuttlefest is Whyalla's signature winter event — a powerful blend of nature, community and conservation, and a standout experience within the spectacular Eyre Peninsula region.

We invite visitors to experience Whyalla at its most vibrant — and to be part of something truly unique.

# Cuttlefish Experiences

**The Australian Giant Cuttlefish aggregation is a natural phenomenon, so although we're looking forward to a vibrant season this year, timing and numbers may vary. In addition to natural fluctuations in numbers, any potential impacts from the algal bloom also remain unknown at the time of printing. For safety and environmental reasons, commercial operators reserve the right to adjust schedules or cancel tours in response to conditions.**

## Cuttys



### Glass Bottom Boat Tours

Some people snorkel or dive, but if you want all the thrills without getting your feet wet, our glass-bottom boat tours are for you! Come and witness the annual spectacle of tens of thousands of Giant Cuttlefish in winter at Point Lowly. Join our knowledgeable guides, fascinating stories, and captivating sights, a Cutty's glass-bottom boat tour is an unforgettable experience.

**WHERE** Cuttlefish Dive Site

**BOOK ONLINE**

## Cuttys



### Coffee Van and Souvenirs

Is there food and beverages available on site? Yes! The Cuttys van is onsite, ready for you to check-in for your tour and offers a small range of locally sourced food and hot drinks to cater for the season.

**WHERE** Cuttlefish Dive Site

## Spencer Gulf Adventures



### Cuttlefish Glass Bottom Boat Tour

Experience the extraordinary phenomenon of the Australian Giant Cuttlefish aggregation from the comfort of our glass-bottom boat, staying dry while enjoying spectacular underwater viewing. Tours depart from Point Lowly Marina with safe boarding and are led by local skipper Steve, who brings more than 26 years of experience on these waters. Our clean, well-maintained vessel features shaded seating and travels close to shore for a safe and comfortable journey. Warm yourself up with a complimentary coffee before boarding.

**WHERE** Point Lowly Marina

**BOOK ONLINE**

# JUNE-JULY SEASONAL ONLY TOURS

## Get up close & personal



### Cuttlefish Concierge

Keep an eye out for Carlo Possagno, our Cuttlefish Concierge! Thanks to a collaboration between Santos and Whyalla City Council, Carlo will be stationed at the Cuttlefish Coast dive site to greet visitors, share marine knowledge and help you enjoy a safe and enriching experience. And he also has some giveaways for the kids!

**WHERE** Cuttlefish Dive Site




### Pop Up Information Stand

Our Visitor Information team is on site daily throughout Cuttlefest, ready to provide expert advice, local insights, merchandise, and helpful resources to enhance your visit. Discover must-see attractions and experiences across Whyalla and the wider region. Don't forget to grab your Cuttlefest Coupons to unlock exclusive discounts and bonus offers at participating local businesses!

**WHERE** Cuttlefish Dive Site



## Why Dive

### Snorkel or Dive with the Giant Australian Cuttlefish

Guided snorkelling and diving experiences led by experienced local guides, each tour prioritises safety, education and minimal environmental impact. Snorkellers can enjoy relaxed surface level encounters in calm, shallow conditions suitable for all skill levels. Certified divers can descend into the heart of the action to witness remarkable colour transformations and intricate behaviours in stunning detail. Why Dive is committed to sharing this natural phenomenon responsibly, offering a deeper appreciation of the species and the unique ecosystem it depends on.

**WHERE** Cuttlefish Dive Site

**BOOK ONLINE**

# Art and Soul



## Cuttlefest Art Prize Exhibition

Enjoy the Cuttlefest Art Prize, showcasing a vibrant collection of works with the popular People's Choice voting running throughout June. Artworks will be displayed in the Middleback Arts Centre Foyer throughout June and July.

**WHEN** June & July
During opening hours

**WHERE** Middleback Arts Centre



## Cuttlefest Art Prize Awards Night

Celebrate creativity, community and coastal inspiration at the Cuttlefest Art Prize Opening and Awards Night. In partnership with Whyalla Business & Tourism, Whyalla City Council and Country Arts SA, the exhibition showcases artworks inspired by cuttlefish and Whyalla's marine environment. Everyone welcome to attend and enjoy an evening of art, connection and celebration.

**WHEN** Tue 2 June
6pm-9:30pm

**WHERE** Middleback Arts Centre



## Open Air Gallery: Whyalla Jetty Edition

See the Whyalla Jetty transformed into an Open-Air Gallery! In partnership with Alligator Energy and Whyalla City Council, this unique installation showcases artwork created by local young people, brought to life as vibrant sticker decals. The iconic circular jetty becomes an art exhibition under the open sky during Cuttlefest - wander the jetty and take in this colourful public showcase of student creativity.

**WHEN** June & July
24/7

**WHERE** Whyalla Circular Jetty



YEAR ROUND

## Whyalla Art Trail

Explore Whyalla's vibrant public art scene through the Art Trail, showcasing a diverse collection of murals, sculptures and installations. Spread throughout the city, the trail reflects Whyalla's creativity, culture and sense of place. Art Trail maps are available from the Visitor Centre and the Foreshore Visitor POD.

**WHERE** Around Whyalla

# Immersive art experiences



## Open Air Gallery: Inside Edition

Discover a wave of creativity with this special Cuttlefest showcase! This display gives a sneak peek at the designs that have transformed Whyalla's circular jetty into a colourful Open-Air Gallery. Inspired by ocean life and our big bright Cuttlefish, these young artists have turned their ideas from paper into public art for the whole community to enjoy.

**WHEN** June & July
During opening hours

**WHERE** Westland Shopping Centre



## Cuttlefest Photography Exhibition

Celebrating the underwater world of Whyalla and its surrounds and featuring an expanded range of photography categories, this exhibition highlights marine life alongside iconic local scenes and includes a People's Choice public voting component.

**WHEN** June & July
During opening hours

**WHERE** Westland Shopping Centre





## Whyalla Art Group

### Turtle in Watercolour

You will be led through a step by step process using watercolour paint, brushes, sponges & salt to create an amazing framed painting to take home.

**WHEN** Sun 7 June & Sat 5 July
11am-2pm

**WHERE** Whyalla Art Gallery

**BOOK ONLINE**

# Kid's Activities



## Cuttlefest Scavenger Hunt

Collect your hunt card, find the cuttlefish posters around the centre, complete your card with the correct answers and claim your FREE 3D printed cuttlefish as your prize!

**WHEN** Mon 6 July until Fri 17 Jul
During opening hours

**WHERE** Westland Shopping Centre



## Cuttle Craft Corner

Join us for edible crafts activities, painting 3D cuttlefish, Tim the magician and a visit from Spencer the NEW cuttlefish mascot! A fun activity to celebrate Cuttlefest during the July school holidays!

**WHEN** Wed 15 July
10am-12pm
Thu 16 July
10am-12pm

**WHERE** Westland Shopping Centre



## Cuttlefish Chaos

Take on our fun fact-finding challenge! Collect your information sheet, search the museum for hidden cuttlefish, and uncover amazing facts about the Australian Giant Cuttlefish. Every child receives a certificate and a take-home activity pack. Get curious and dive into the chaos!

**WHEN** June & July
Everyday 10am-4pm

**WHERE** Whyalla Visitor Centre & Maritime Museum

**BOOK ONLINE**



## Whyalla Rec Centre

## Cuttlefish Pool Party

A natural phenomenon is coming! The Cuttlefish are migrating from the Spencer Gulf, heading down the Lincoln Hwy, chucking a quick "beachie", and going straight to the Whyalla Recreation Centre for one afternoon only. Swim, dive and play with the Cuttlefish as they make themselves at home in the pools. Best of all when you're done, feel free to take one home with you - there will be over 200 up for grabs.

**WHEN** Mon 8 June
12pm-5pm

**WHERE** Whyalla Recreational Centre - YMCA

**BOOK ONLINE**




## Cuttlefest Seek and Find

Who and what is hiding around the library? Dive into our Cuttlefest Seek and Find and discover all the beach and ocean-themed pictures tucked away in every corner. Search high and low as you explore the library, then swim up to the counter once you've found them all to claim your prize. A fun and engaging activity for children and families to enjoy together!
***Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**WHEN** June & July
During opening hours
**WHERE** Whyalla Public Library



## Cuttlefest Slime

Children can make their own colourful glow in the dark slime inspired by the bioluminescence of cuttlefish.
***Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**WHEN** Mon 6 July
10:30am-11:30am
Tue 14 July
1:30pm-2:30pm
**WHERE** Whyalla Public Library
**BOOK ONLINE**





## Marine Munchies

Join us on a delicious nautical adventure. Get creative with biscuits, icing and sweet treats to create your own sea themed treats.
***Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**WHEN** Thu 9 July
10:30am-11:30am
Wed 15 July
1:30pm-2:30pm
**WHERE** Whyalla Public Library
**BOOK ONLINE**

## Sparkles the Cuttlefish

Step inside Sparkles the Cuttlefish for a truly unique Story Time experience! Gather inside this magical space to enjoy a fun-filled session of stories, songs and shared moments. Perfect for young children and their caregivers, this interactive session encourages imagination, creativity, and a love of reading. Join us for a memorable adventure where stories come to life in a cosy and exciting setting
***Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**WHEN** Fri 17 July
10:30am-11:30am
2:30pm-3:30pm

**WHERE** Whyalla Public Library

# Something for Everyone



YEAR ROUND

## Cuttlefish: A Virtual Encounter

Step into the world of the Australian Giant Cuttlefish through an immersive virtual reality experience. Enjoy spectacular underwater footage from the comfort of a warm, dry seat and gain a unique insight into the cuttlefish habitat.

**WHEN** All year
During opening hours

**WHERE** Whyalla Visitor Centre & Maritime Museum



YEAR ROUND

## Spectacular Scenic Surprises - Whyalla coastal interpretive walking trails

You are walking on Barngarla Country. Experience fresh salty breezes along these coastal trails and experience the beauty of our region. Respect wildlife, do not remove native plants and leave no trace or rubbish.

**WHEN** All year
In your own time

**WHERE** Northern coastline and Southern coastline



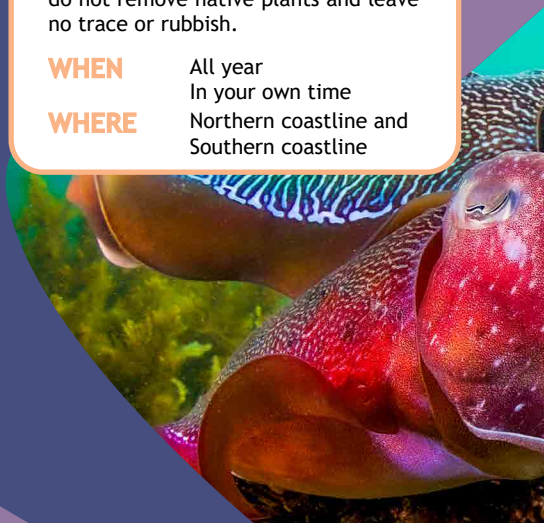
YEAR ROUND

## Cuttlefest Citizen Science and School Activities

Cuttlefest provides an opportunity for schools, community groups and citizens to learn about our local coast and marine environment and to get involved in on-ground conservation projects. For great ideas on how to get involved in citizen science and school activities for Cuttlefest and throughout the year use the link below.

**WHEN** All year
In your own time

**WHERE** Online Resources





## Why Dive

### Science in the Pub

Enjoy a relaxed, engaging evening hosted by Whyalla Dive Shop, bringing together community, science and storytelling. Hear from speakers across leading organisations with short, accessible talks on marine research, conservation and innovation. Enjoy curated short films, ocean-inspired art, and a vibrant atmosphere celebrating our coastal environments—an inspiring night to connect, learn and be inspired.

**WHEN** Wed 8 July
**WHERE** Roopena Football Club
**BOOK ONLINE**



### Salty Seaesta

Salty 'Sea'esta brings the community together with lively market stalls, delicious food and beverage vendors, roving performers and interactive entertainment for all ages. Sparkles the Inflatable Cuttlefish adds colour and fun to the festivities. With a FREE bus service making it easy for everyone to attend, Salty 'Sea'esta is the perfect way to gather with family and friends and celebrate.

**WHEN** Sat 6 June
11am-4pm
**WHERE** Ada Ryan Gardens



### Cuttle Shuffle

A dazzling, one-of-a-kind experience that brings the magic of cuttlefish season to life after dark. This silent disco invites guests to slip on their headphones and dance the night away in an immersive wonderland with glittering décor and glowing accessories. Enjoy this joyful fusion of music, marine inspiration and sparkling creativity—and celebrate Whyalla's unique natural phenomenon in true Sparkly Event style.

**WHEN** Sat 11 July
5:30pm-8:30pm
**WHERE** Whyalla Visitor Centre & Maritime Museum
**BOOK ONLINE**



# Something for everyone



## Connect with the Past People in the Landscape

People in the Landscape is a talk on Barngarla country with Maritime Museum Curator Paul Mazourek about the amazing story of the landscape development and people's histories in the Northern Spencer Gulf. Simply rock up and wait near the lighthouse. For large groups/ schools/ private bookings please contact paul.mazourek@whyalla.sa.gov.au or phone 08 8640 3444.

**WHEN** Every Thu 2pm-3pm
June 4, 11, 18, 25
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**WHERE** Point Lowly Lighthouse



## Tanderra Craft Village

### Under the Sea Market

Celebrate Cuttlefest with Under the Sea-themed markets. Explore 20 specialty shops, a bustling market hall and resident hobby groups, enjoy mini golf and a bite in the tearoom, and let the kids loose on an under-the-sea themed trail or creative making tables. There's something for everyone at Tanderra Craft Village.

**WHEN** Sat 27 & Sun 28 June
11am-2pm
Sat 25 & Sun 26 July
11am-2pm

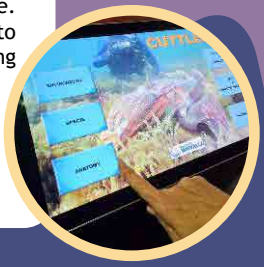
**WHERE** Lincoln Highway (Port Augusta Road) 300m North of Maritime Museum

## All You Need to Know About Cuttlefish

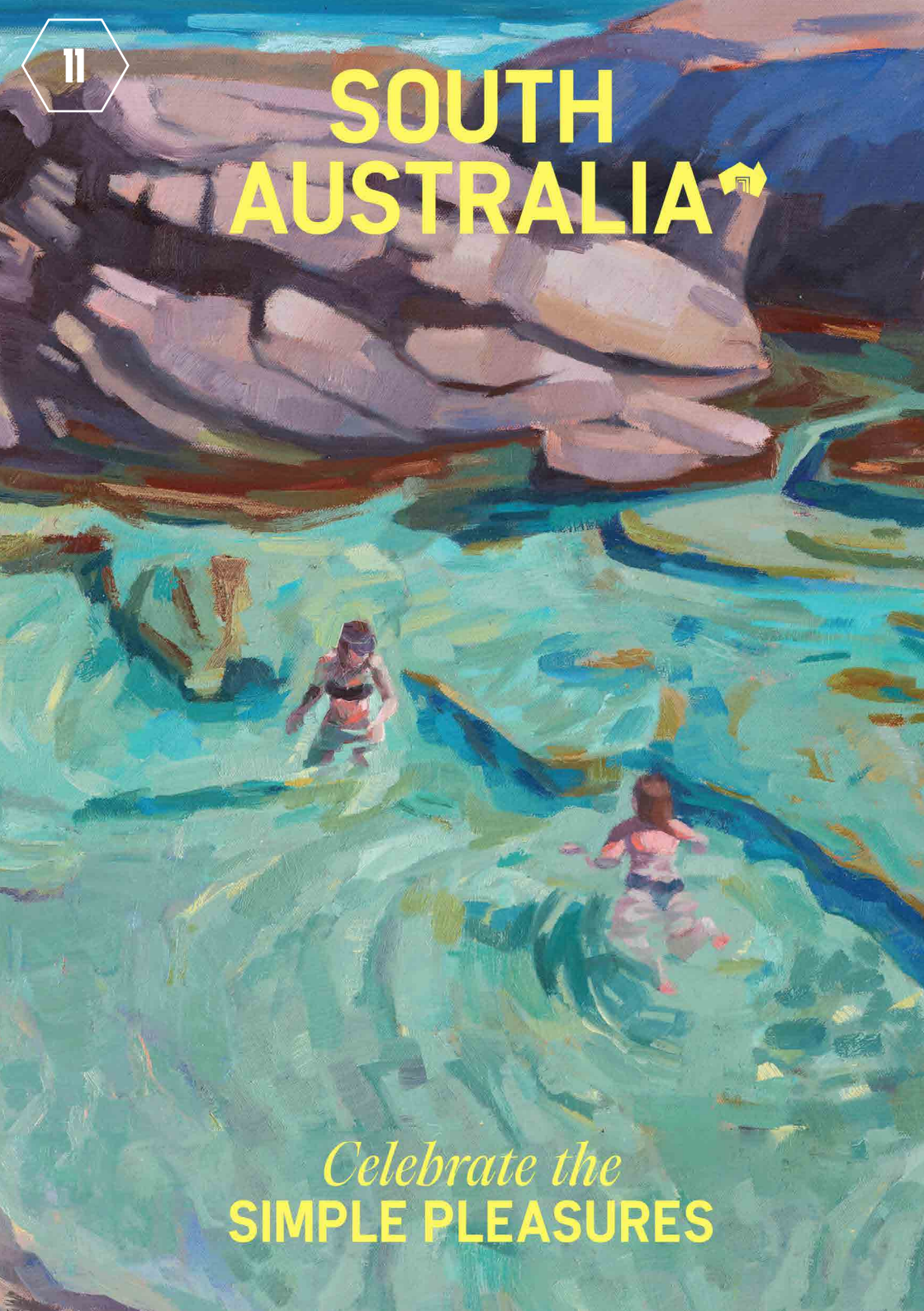
Discover the incredible world of the Australian Giant Cuttlefish through our touchscreen kiosk with chapters covering habitat, life cycle, hunting skills, communication, and much more. Visit the Whyalla Maritime Museum to explore fascinating facts and surprising insights.

**WHEN** June & July
Everyday 10am-4pm

**WHERE** Whyalla Maritime Museum



**Fun for the whole family!**


SOUTH
AUSTRALIA
Celebrate the
SIMPLE PLEASURES

# SALTY SIESTA

CUTTLEFEST WHYALLA

a cuttlefest celebration










**Saturday June 6**
**11am- 4pm**
**Ada Ryan Gardens**

market stalls
entertainment
food & drink
**FREE BUS**

# Events Table

- Cuttlefish experiences
- Art and Soul
- Kids Activities
- Something for everyone

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JUNE | 2 | Cuttlefest Art Prize - Awards Night |
| | 4 | Connect with the Past |
| | 6 | Salty 'Sea'esta |
| | 7 | Turtle in Watercolour |
| | 8 | Cuttlefish Pool Party |
| | 11 | Connect with the Past |
| | 18 | Connect with the Past |
| | 25 | Connect with the Past |
| | 27 & 28 | Tanderra Craft Village Under the Sea Market |
| JULY | 2 | Connect with the Past |
| | 5 | Turtle in Watercolour |
| | 6 | Cuttlefest Slime |
| | 6 - 17 | Cuttlefest Scavenger Hunt |
| | 8 | Science in the Pub |
| | 9 | Marine Munchies<br>Connect with the Past |
| | 11 | Cuttle Shuffle |
| | 14 | Cuttlefest Slime |
| | 15 | Marine Munchies<br>Cuttle Craft Corner |
| | 16 | Cuttle Craft Corner<br>Connect with the Past |
| | 17 | Sparkles the Cuttlefish |
| | 23 | Connect with the Past |
| | 25 & 26 Jul | Tanderra Craft Village Under the Sea Market |
| | 30 | Connect with the Past |

## ALL SEASON EVENTS

- Cuttlefish Concierge
- Cuttys Glass Bottom Boat Tours
- Cuttys Coffee Van and Souvenirs
- Pop Up Information Stand
- Snorkel or Dive with the Giant Australian Cuttlefish
- Spencer Gulf Adventures Cuttlefish Glass Bottom Boat Tour
- Cuttlefest Art Prize - Exhibition
- Cuttlefest Photography Exhibition
- Open Air Gallery: Inside Edition
- Open Air Gallery: Whyalla Jetty Edition
- Whyalla Art Trail
- Cuttlefish Chaos
- Cuttlefest Seek and Find
- All You Need to Know About Cuttlefish
- Cuttlefish: A Virtual Encounter
- Cuttlefest Citizen Science and School Activities
- Spectacular Scenic Surprises - Whyalla coastal interpretive walking trails

UNEARTH WHYALLA

Looking for merch, maps, tour info, local knowledge? We've got you covered! Visit our friendly staff and pick up your Cuttlefish Coupons to unlock exclusive discounts and bonus offers at local businesses!




**Whyalla Visitor Centre**
Lincoln Highway
(northern entrance)

**Find us at one of our 3 locations**



**Cuttlefish Dive Site**
Pop Up Stand




**Foreshore Pod**

## Whyalla Visitor Centre

1800 088 589
visitor.centre@whyalla.sa.gov.au
whyalla.com

2025 South Australian Tourism Awards WINNER

Quality Tourism Accredited Business

#visitwhyalla