

# Peek into depths of the ocean

**CLARE PEDDIE** SCIENCE REPORTER

FORGET your facemask and snorkel, now you can look into our ocean depths from the comfort of your computer desk.

South Australian scientists have joined a national project to log details of what lies beneath and post them free on the internet, for all to see.

At the web portal launch in Hobart yesterday, director of the \$100 million Integrated Marine Observing System, Professor Gary Meyers, said the view of the oceans around Australia was “better than ever”.

He said it was important to provide “free, open and timely access” to information gathered during the course of the project, which would support research into climate change.

The wide range of hi-tech equipment maintained at sea includes autonomous underwater vehicles called sea gliders.

SA Research and Development Institute Associate Professor John Middleton said the sea gliders were able to capture “huge amounts of data and



**AT WORK:** Flinders University’s Sophie Leterme lowers a sampling device.

provide unparalleled resolution in space and time”.

“They are basically the oceanographer’s Hubble telescope because they provide us with absolutely fantastic resolution and detail,” he said.

“We’re seeing things that we don’t understand and that we haven’t seen before and we’re getting that data in real time on our desks.”



**BREAKING BARRIERS:** Crew members look on from the deck of their boat as one of the revolutionary underwater receivers is deployed into the ocean.