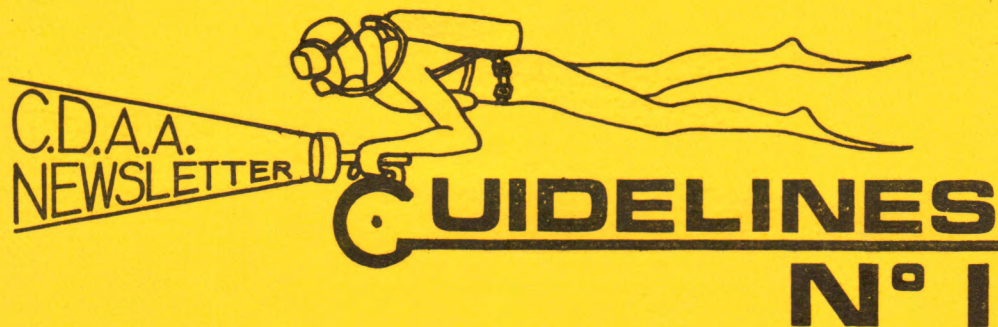


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CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

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GUIDELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NO. 1, OCTOBER, 1978

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GUIDELINES

NO. 1, OCTOBER, 1978

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NOTICE OF NEXT S.A. GENERAL MEETING.

This will be held on Wednesday, 8th November, 1978, at 7.30 p.m. in the Sports Medical Centre (Room 3), 70 South Terrace, Adelaide. There will be a film entitled "Underground Water", which explains the formation of caves in limestone, and gives some insight into what we are actually diving in under the surface of the landscape.

REPORT ON THE 1978 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MT. GAMBIER.

The recent A.G.M. at Mt. Gambier was very poorly attended although extensive publicity was given, the committee elections were due, and an interesting speaker was arranged. The response was extremely disappointing, and elections were made difficult as a result. Does this mean that a large percentage of the Association's members are only concerned with getting their Category Cards updated? The committee certainly hopes not, as the continued accessibility to the Mt. Gambier sink-holes and caves depends on an active and supported CDAA policy. How can we achieve this without you? State meetings are better attended, and the problem of distance and timing is appreciated, but for ONLY ONCE A YEAR??

As things turned out, Peter Stace gave an interesting talk with slides on a recent cave diving expedition to Tasmania, as the guest speaker, Ian Lewis, was unable to attend due to illness. Dr. Ray Leitch also demonstrated and led discussion on 100% Oxygen treatment techniques, which was appreciated.

At the A.G.M. elections, the following persons were voted onto committee:

Peter Stace (S.A.)	President
Russell Kitt (Vic)	Vice-President
Ian Lewis (S.A.)	National Secretary and Newsletter Editor
Ron Allum (S.A.)	National and S.A. Testing Officer
Dave Pratt (Vic)	since resigned - Vic. position vacant.
John Dalla Zuanna (Vic)	Treasurer and Records Officer(Vic)
Robyn Allum (S.A.)	Treasurer and Records Officer(S.A)
Alan Joliffe (Vic)	Testing Officer for Victoria
Hugh Morrison (W.A.)	Testing Officer for Western Aust.

Three further important issues were discussed and voted upon:

1. All changes to the Constitution, as notified in the last Newsletter, were passed.
2. The CDAA - FAUI proposal for testing was ratified by the meeting. A summary of this proposal is included in this Newsletter.
3. The CDAA policy on cave diving on the Nullarbor Plains was also ratified by the meeting. A statement on this policy appears in this Newsletter also.

THE NEWSLETTER

As you can see, the newsletter now has a name and a change of appearance. You must admit that the name is appropriate! Your editor hopes that from now on we can maintain this style of publication, so members can collect their "Guidelines" and file them conveniently. One of the objectives of your new committee is to increase communication to members, but we don't intend posting "Guidelines" to all and sundry. If your newsletter is stamped UNFINANCIAL, you are no longer a member of the CDAA and will receive no more newsletters. Got it???

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OCCASIONAL PAPER NO. 1.

The proceedings of the first CDAA Cave Diving Conference, held at Mount Gambier in 1977, were released at the A.G.M. This report is now available FREE to members who pick them up at a meeting, or if posted, at a cost of 50 cents. The cost to non-members is 50 cents or \$1.00 if posted. The report includes papers on the following topics:

The first years of the CDAA
A Summary of Cave Diving Deaths in Australia
Cave Diving Lights and Reel - construction and design
Geology of Caves
Underwater Cave Surveying
Cave Diving Activity on the Nullarbor Plains

Stocks are limited, so get yours now. Members will get preference until a reprint is done, if this is considered necessary.

The next conference on Cave Diving will be held in conjunction with the A.G.M. in 1979. Over the next few months, if you feel you could contribute something to our knowledge and experience of cave diving, give some consideration to presenting a paper next year, or getting someone to present it for you. The committee would like to hear from you.

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TESTING PROGRAM - VICTORIA.

For testing in Victoria, contact Allan Jolliffe, C/o P.O. Box 2161T, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001. The Category 1 and 2 test for Saturday, December 2nd, is POSTPONED to the following weekend, December 9th, at Oakleigh Pool, commencing with theory at 10.00 a.m. and followed by practical at 12.00.

TESTING PROGRAM - SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

For testing in South Australia, contact Ron Allum, C/o P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, 5006. Ron will arrange tests whenever he has enough people (6 or more) to justify it. A time can then be arranged. (He's keen this guy! I watched him crawling through the slime on the bottom of West Lakes last weekend, taking 8 "Cat. 2" divers through their tests, while I 'assisted' from the bank by holding the information bulletin in my hot little fist - had to do my part! Ed.)

POLICY ON CAVE DIVING ON THE NULLARBOR

(Effective from 1st August, 1978)

Due to the increasing cave diving interest on the Nullarbor Plains, a policy has been prepared to protect the interest of all parties concerned, and to promote safe diving.

In the past, diving in this region has been, in general, conducted by well prepared and organised groups. It is expected, however, that the completion of the highway will see an increasing number of divers travelling through this area, who may attempt to dive these caves.

Because of the extreme difference in the type of caves in the Nullarbor from any other region, it is felt that the unprepared diver visitor will be subject to great risk.

To assist and promote safety amongst persons wishing to dive these caves, the Cave Divers Association of Australia have adopted the following policy:

The Policy.

Approval to dive the water filled caves of the Nullarbor Plains region will only be given to persons complying with the following:

1. All diving personnel in any party must be financial members of the C.D.A.A. and hold at least Category 3 Certificate.
2. A written report on the intended expedition must be forwarded to the secretary of the C.D.A.A. at least one month prior to departure.
Information which is required in the report is:
 - (a) Names and addresses of all diving members of the party.
 - (b) Name and address and phone number of the leader of the party, and any groups, organizations or clubs associated with the expedition.
 - (c) Number of any non-diving members of the party.
 - (d) Purpose of the visit, (e.g. scientific, exploration, etc.)
 - (e) Names of caves and expected dates of the visits.
 - (f) A brief description of diving methods to be employed, equipment to be taken, experience of members (e.g. rock climbing, caving, first aid, etc.) to give the committee an overall view of the preparation and experience of the party.

Approval.

Approval will be given in writing by the committee subject to permission to enter properties on which the caves are located, being given by property owners, the appropriate government department and/or private organizations having an interest in the caves (e.g. Speleological Groups).

Cont.p4.

POLICY ON CAVE DIVING ON THE NULLARBOR continued

Approval will be denied to any group or individual who, in the opinion of the committee, is not sufficiently competent to undertake safe cave diving in this region.

It is envisaged that the committee may make suggestions which will make the expedition safer and more enjoyable. Peter Stace

Editors Note: The committee is not "playing God" by stating these requirements. Diving conditions are quite unique in this area, and the complications that could arise with an accident, above or below water, are much more than any problems in Mt. Gambier. Consider the cost of the Flying Doctor alone . . . It cannot be stressed enough, that PROPER ORGANIZATION and DETAILED PREPARATION are paramount out there. The South Australian and West Australian Speleological Groups are familiar with the conditions and several members of the C.D.A.A. committee (past and present) also have developed expertise in this type of diving. Make certain you know what you're up against before you go by writing to the C.D.A.A. Committee in Adelaide.

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EXPLANATION AND SUMMARY OF CDAA - FAUI AGREEMENT

An agreement has been reached under which certain FAUI instructors, suitably qualified and acceptable to the CDAA, will be able to fully train and test divers wishing to qualify for Category 1 and 2 standards and to assist with Category 3 testing.

This agreement is an addition and extension to the present testing system and in no way replaces it. It is important to note that all card issues will still be the responsibility of the CDAA, either on the recommendation of the instructor or through the present system. Any changes to the present testing standards or classification remain the responsibility of the CDAA.

Full information regarding instructor pre-requisites will be tabled by FAUI in the near future and all subsequent applications will be lodged with the CDAA for selection.

It is hoped by the implementation of this agreement, that CDAA Category testing will become more easily available, especially to divers in States other than S.A. and Victoria. Other advantages will include:

1. The introduction of professional Training which at present cannot adequately be dealt with because of lack of manpower.
2. The reduction of the testing load on the committee, which will enable them to pursue other important aspects of cave diving, such as education, training and scientific research.
3. With training and education available, the upgrading in the standard and competency of cave divers will lead to safer and more enjoyable diving.

Peter Stace

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WOT'S IN A NAME? CONFUSION OVER THE NAMES OF SOME SINKHOLES.

The CDAA has been producing its information bulletins for some years now with the Category listings of caves and sinkholes. However, somewhere along the line, the original list of names decided upon by the S.A. Government Investigatory Committee (from which the C.D.A.A. began) was not followed, and mistakes have persisted.

Other organizations and individuals have had parts to play in the naming of these special features. Governor Grey was one of the early explorers of the Mt. Gambier area, and named many of the sinkholes on what is now Barnoolut Station and the nearby farms, long before these farms were established (actually 1884).

Over the last 20 years, too, the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) has been exploring and systematically recording and naming many of the smaller caves that are so common in the South East. They have assigned a special numbering system which is regarded as official by the S.A. Museum and is cross-referenced by the S.A. Mines Department.

Thus there exists some confusion over the real names of several of the holes. The following is a corrected list of the names:

CORRECTED NAME	CEGSA Ref.No.	COMMENTS
<u>Category 1.</u>		
Goulden's Hole	L-8	Not Goolders. Named after a previous landowner.
Little Blue Lake	L-9	Divers' name "Baby Blue".
Hell's Hole	L-40	Enormous sinkhole entrance to a black lake.
Evens Ponds	L-159	First Pond
	L-160	Second Pond
	L-161	Third Pond
		A CEGSA Ref. number is allotted to each separate geological feature.
<u>Category 2.</u>		
One Tree Hole	L-7	Original name given by Grey in 1844 as "Wurwurlooloo", the local aboriginal word for "tea tree place" or "swamp".
Ela Elap	L-14	Not Elohe Elap. The name has nothing to do with "Pale Hole" spelt backwards. It comes from the aboriginal words meaning "small fish".
Ten-Eighty	L-42	Officially named "Simpson's Hole" by Grey.
The Sisters	L-43	Also named by Grey. Another local name is "Double Well".
The Black Hole	L-47	Officially named by Grey as "Devil's Punchbowl" in 1844. There are other "Devil's Punchbowls" around the Mt. Gambier area, including one

WOT'S IN A NAME? continued

CORRECTED NAME	CEGSA Ref.No.	COMMENTS
The Black Hole continued		in the side of the Valley Lake crater, but this is the only official one. Also known by divers and other as "The Big Hole".
Piccaninnie Ponds	L-72	Did you know that the word "piccaninnie" is not an aboriginal word at all? It comes from the Spanish and Portuguese "pequeno" meaning "small".
<u>Category 3.</u>		
Allendale Sinkhole	L-11	Also known as "Allendale East".
The Pines	L-61	Named for the surrounding pine forest.
Fossil Cave	L-81	Some skulls were once recovered from here.
Max's Hole	L-100	Also known as Max's "R" Hole, or more colourfully "asshole" because of the incredibly thick black silt found in it. "Max" was (is?) the owner.
The Shaft	L-158	Named for the shaft of sunlight down the entrance.
The Bullock Hole	L-163	A young bullock once fell in the thing, and I'm not certain if it's still down there as a pile of bones!

So these are the corrected names. I hope that divers will use them, if only for the sake of consistency and a little accuracy. It's of interest to know the origins of these names anyway, as they often reflect curious events of one kind or another.

Some of you may ponder the point that somewhere along the line there are at least 163 caves or sinkholes known and numbered in the South East. The great majority are small and quite uninteresting to divers, as they are dry. There are some of passing interest to divers, in that they are small and don't go far, and are often soupy, but the committee is carefully looking into the aspect of including one or two on the lists. Most are Category 1 standard only, and in fact, just about all the best accessible dives are known and categorised anyway, and are listed above.

Obviously there are some rather nasty grotty dives around too, and it is the policy of the C.D.A.A. not to release information on these, on the grounds that they really are dangerous. Announcing these things to all and sundry would be negligence anyway!

IAN LEWIS.

Special Footnote: To obtain permission to dive in GOULDEN'S HOLE (Cat 1), please contact Mr. Trevor Telford, Mt. Schank, Tel. 385.319.

THE RECENT CATEGORY 3 TEST AT PICCANINNIE PONDS

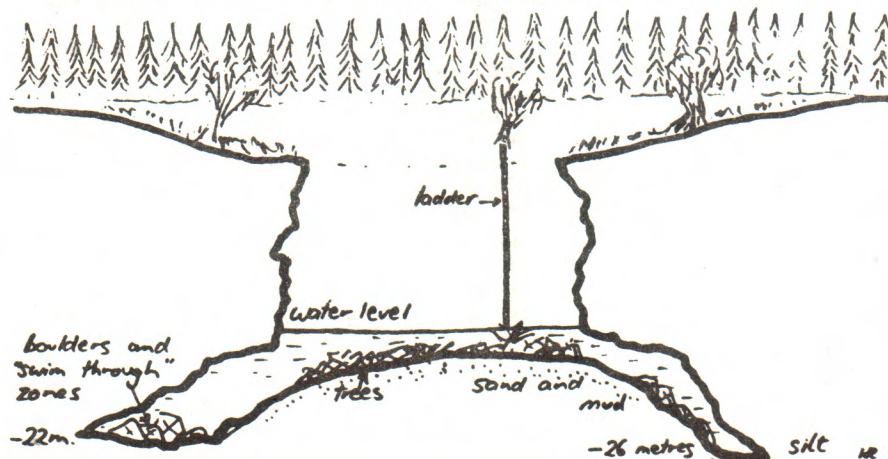
On Saturday, September 29th, a number of divers were tested for Category 3 standard at Pic's Ponds. About 14 took the test, including people from Adelaide, Melbourne and Canberra (a long trip for them!). Buoyancy, buddy breathing and line handling techniques were examined in the shallow pond, which rapidly became a pool of murk and actually suited the testing conditions a little better. A comprehensive navigation test was conducted in the top half of the Cathedral, where a fixed line was strung around the cavern, and had to be followed wearing a blacked-out mask.

Most passed the test and some didn't, but that is to be expected for this standard. The testers are to be thanked for their time and congratulated on the length of time they stayed in the water!

.... AND A "HOLE" DAY AT HELL'S HOLE.

After all the testing, the majority of the Cat 3 people and the testers got together over a decent meal (should I say "descent" meal? Upon my word!) at the Jens Hotel. We all decided to go and dive Hell's Hole because the weather was great, we had the gear and a keen bunch of people all wanting an interesting dive. We got permission from the Woods and Forests at Myora and organised the 11 divers into buddies. 30 metres of ladder was tied to a tree on the eastern side of the hole, but it was only necessary to climb 20 metres to get to the water, which was welcome after the hot sun. Everyone not diving just lazed around sunbaking.

To our credit, 11 divers managed to keep the silt down to nearly nothing, and we all got a look around. Visibility was fair and the water fairly cool. Several teams circumnavigated the hole at a depth of about 10 metres and reached a maximum depth of about 26 metres at the north end overhang. There are several places where large boulders have collapsed in, giving rise to "swim-through" sections, and it could be considered that Hell's Hole may rate a Category 2 label. The climb up the ladder is the killer! It was a good team effort and a successful and enjoyable dive, and a map was produced afterwards while all the detail was clear in our minds. Hell's Hole is the largest sinkhole by far in the South East, being 50 metres in diameter and dropping 30 metres to water. Here it is



CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC
A.S. CZ18 DECOMPRESSION TABLES

10	3	—	5	10	5	15	10	20	15	10	25	20	15	30	25	20	15	35	30	25	20
20	6	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	5	5	—	5	5	—	5	5	10	—	5	5	10
30	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5	—	—	5	5	—	—	5	5
FEET	M	MAXIMUM BOTTOM TIME IN MINUTES - DECOMPRESSION TIMES ABOVE																			
30	9	∞	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40	12	135	165	195	—	225	—	255	—	—	330	—	—	—	—	—	—	660	—	—	—
50	15	85	105	120	—	135	—	145	—	—	160	—	—	—	—	170	—	—	190	—	—
60	18	60	70	—	80	—	90	—	100	—	—	110	—	—	—	120	—	—	130	—	—
70	21	40	55	—	60	—	70	—	75	—	—	85	—	—	—	90	—	—	—	95	—
80	24	30	40	—	50	—	55	—	60	—	—	70	—	—	—	75	—	—	—	—	—
90	27	25	30	—	40	—	45	—	50	—	—	55	—	—	—	—	60	—	—	65	—
100	30	20	25	—	30	—	35	—	40	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	55	—
110	33	17	20	—	25	—	30	—	35	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—
120	36	14	20	—	25	—	—	—	30	—	—	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
130	39	11	15	—	20	—	25	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	—	—
140	42	9	10	—	15	—	20	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	—
150	45	8	10	—	15	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—
160	48	—	—	—	10	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
170	51	—	—	—	10	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
180	54	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—
190	57	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
200	60	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

REPEAT DIVES - FOR SUBSEQUENT DIVES BELOW 10M (30FT) WITHIN 6HRS DECOMPRESS FOR COMBINED DURATIONS AND GREATEST DEPTH. WHERE EITHER DIVE EXCEEDS 42M (140FT) PERIOD BECOMES 12HRS. RATE OF ASCENT 18M PER MIN (60FT PER MIN). GREATEST TIME IS THE LIMITING LINE AT THAT DEPTH.