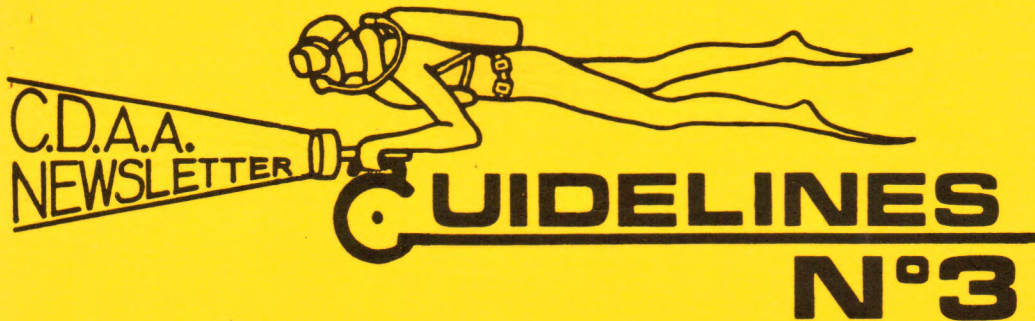


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CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

C.D.A.A.

P.O. Box 2161 T

G.P.O. Melbourne. 3001

C.D.A.A.

P.O. Box 290

North Adelaide 5006

GUIDELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

No: 3, August, 1979

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Editor and General News Items - Peter Stace.

GUIDELINES

No: 3, August, 1979

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. of the C.D.A.A. is to be held in Mount Gambier on Saturday 22nd September commencing at 7.30 p.m. It will be held in the C.W.A. Hall, the location of which is shown on the rear cover of this Newsletter.

Election of committee for the next year will take place at this meeting as well as annual reports and general business. Because of the unique structure of the C.D.A.A. the appointment of committee members is of major importance and it cannot be too strongly emphasised that all members should attend. It is also an opportunity to voice your opinions and bring about changes that you may believe necessary

SECOND CONFERENCE ON CAVE DIVING

In conjunction with the A.G.M. a conference on cave diving will be held at the C.W.A. Hall, Mt. Gambier commencing at 1.00 p.m. SHARP (if you want a seat, be there by 12.30).

These conferences are arranged to provide a forum in which different aspects related to our sport can be discussed. The previous one held in 1977 was a great success and proved stimulating and educational. Conference No: 2 is planned to follow the same pattern. Its FREE and open to everyone.

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS ARE:-

- 1) An Assessment of Karst of the lower S.E. of S.A. - Age - Extent - Physical constraints to dimensions. by: FRED ASLIN.

Fred is a resident of Mt. Gambier and has been a leading figure in speleology in that area for many years. Through his work in the Mines Department he has both a wide practical and theoretical knowledge of cave and karst formation. In his talk he will explain why the geology of the S.E. is as we know it today.

2) Fossil Cave Fossils

by: DOMINIC WILLIAMS.
School of Biology,
Flinders University.

In the previous issue of Guidelines you will find an article which relates some of the practical problems successfully overcome in retrieving fossils from Fossil Cave. Dominic will speak further on this as well as detail what was found and its importance. This will be especially interesting since C.D.A.A. members were involved in this work.

3) Jenolan Cave Diving

by: IAN LEWIS - C.D.A.A.

At Easter of this year a small group of divers gained permission to enter some of the Jenolan tourist caves to explore underground rivers. This is only the second time permission has been given the first being in 1953. Ian will talk on what was discovered and the benefits of cave diving in the development of greater understanding of cave systems.

4) Safety in Laddering and Verticle Techniques

by: RON ALLUM,
C.D.A.A.

Because most cave divers come from diving rather than caving backgrounds, few have been instructed on how to use flexible ladders and the safe lowering of equipment. Several sinkholes in the Mt. Gambier region require knowledge in this field. Ron will discuss techniques and equipment which is available with special reference to safety factors.

5) Cave Diving equipment and Techniques - the latest

by: PETER STACE,
C.D.A.A.

During the short history of cave diving in Australia considerable headway has been made in the production of more suitable equipment. Out of necessity different styles and systems of going about a dive have developed to cope with varying forms of caves and conditions. The evaluation of equipment and techniques will be discussed using slides of the range of cave diving situations to be found in Australia.

CHANGES IN POLICY

For various reasons it has become necessary to review and in some cases to initiate new policies. These items are of importance and should be noted by all members and especially all would-be members.

1) MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

It has been decided that any person who allows their membership to lapse for more than 12 months without paying fees will be completely removed from the records. If they wish to renew their interest in cave diving and become a member they will be required to pass all tests and pay all fees as would any other non-member.

2) CHANGE OF CATEGORY - HELLS HOLE and THE SISTERS

Recent review of the category system has brought us to the conclusion that the following changes should be made.

HELLS HOLE previously Category 1 is now CATEGORY 2.

THE SISTERS previously Category 2 is now CATEGORY 1.

3) CHANGE IN PREREQUISITES FOR CATEGORY 2

The minimum requirement of experience to take part in a Cat. 2 test now is:-

LOG at least 5 hours of Cat. 1 standard dives with at least 5 dives to 18 meters or more.

(Depth of The Sisters and Gouldens are 18m+)

With this change the committee will be looking for a history of diving in as many (if not all) Cat. 1 holes so that the prospective Cat. 2 diver has had a wide range of experience as possible.

4) MEMBERSHIP FEES

It is proposed that membership fees be increased to \$5.00 per year. This will require ratification at the A.G.M.

5) OTHER FEES

Apart from \$5.00 membership fee (or \$3.00 if it is unaltered) there will be a levy of \$5.00 for new member to cover paper work, new cards etc. as has been the practice in the past.

Further to this again however, there will be a \$5.00 Test Fee charged to cover testing costs, and to reimburse instructor-testers who have in the

past received NO compensation.

In summary this will mean it will cost \$15.00 to join, be tested and receive your Cat. 1 card. Each year it will cost \$5.00 membership until you want to step up to Cat. 2 which will cost \$5.00 test fee. The test fee for Cat. 3 which is conducted in Mt. Gambier is usually more than \$5.00 since tester travelling expenses are obviously much greater.

6) PRACTICAL TESTS

In future practical tests, a strict equipment check will be made first thing after the collection of test fees. Any diver who fronts up for a test without ALL the equipment required as shown in the information bulletin will be told where to go - home, without a refund of test fee. Further more, membership fees, applications, photos, log-books etc. must have been handed to the testers prior to the test.

7) CAT. 1 and 2 THEORY

Theory tests for both these tests now include:-

1. Plan a 6 man dive in a Cat. 2 hole with known silting problems under the following headings: (1) Potential Problems (2) Pre-dive Plan (include decompression requirements if any and air consumption calculations) (3) Special equipment required (4) Procedure during dive (5) Post dive procedures.
2. Calculate decompression requirements for single and repetitive dives using CZ18 and U.S. Navy tables.

THE MOUNT GAMBIER SINKHOLE FORMATION - THE OTHER THEORY

In the C.D.A.A. Occasional Paper No: 1 you will find an interesting article on cave formation as given by Winston Board at the first Conference. This year we are going to be enlightened by further information on the geology of this unique area by Fred Aslin, however there is a theory of the formation of which little is known to those of us of European extraction.

The story is set in the aboriginal dream time period when a giant man called Craitbul and his sons lived in the area we now know as Mt. Muirhead. The men lived for a long period in this region digging in the ground for food with their bare hands and sticks. What they collected they then cooked over a large oven which they had made. (Mt. Muirhead).

One night they were attacked by their enemy and fled west to a new area where they felt safe once again. They constructed a new oven and began digging for food once again, creating the sinkholes we know today. However, one day they found to their alarm that the oven fire had gone out because the crater had filled with water (the Blue Lake). A further oven was dug by Craitbul but it also filled with water.

Two more ovens were made nearby but they too were extinguished and drowned, leaving Craitbul and his sons so dejected that they left the area in search of a place where they might live undisturbed, but no one knows where that place is.

A. G. M.
CONFERENCE
22-9-79

