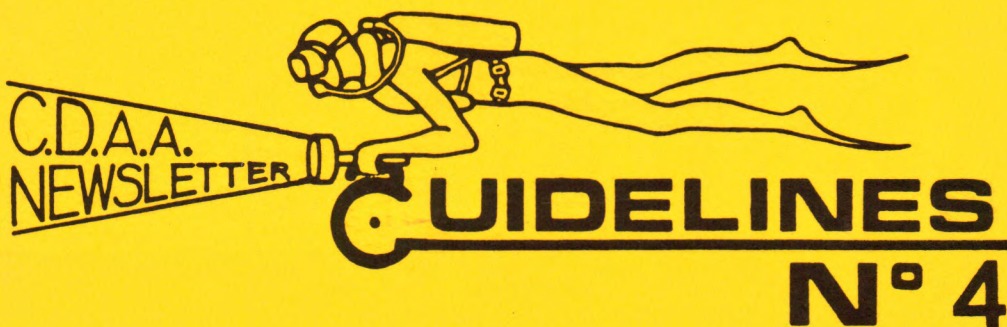


Registered for posting as a publication category B



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: 4, January, 1980

CONTENTS

NOTICE OF NEXT S.A. GENERAL MEETING	1
TESTING DATES	1
ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR TESTING?	1
PIOGANINNY PONDS PERMITS - New Arrangements	2
1980 COMMITTEE	2
AIR FILLING AT ALLENDALE	3
IT ISN'T WORTH IT....Divers fined	3
THE SECOND CAVE-DIVING CONFERENCE, Mt. Gambier, 1979	4
REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	5
THE ONE-THIRD RULE	6
ANOTHER VIEWPOINT	7

Editor and News Items - Ian Lewis.

NOTICE OF NEXT S.A. GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on Monday, February 11th, 1980 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sports Medical Centre (Room 3), 70 South Terrace, Adelaide.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Mt. Gambier on 27th September, 1980.

TESTING DATES

In South Australia, a combined Category 1 and 2 test will be held at West Lakes (the Southern end) on Saturday, February 2nd, 1980. The theory test and the Buoyancy Practicals will be held in the week before, on Tuesday, 29th January at the Adelaide Skindiving Centre, so bring your diving gear! Contact Neville Grovermann - the S.A. Testing Officer C/- Box 290, North Adelaide, 5006 for the details on arrangements (or ring him on 258 9680).

Category 3 tests for this year will be held at Piccaninny Ponds near Mt. Gambier, on 2 dates - 29th March and 27th September, 1980. (The second one coincides with the 1980 Annual General Meeting).

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR TESTING?

You are required to submit all the following requirements to the Cave Divers Association before contacting the Testing Officer (unless you have already done so previously) -

- o A completed Application Form.
- o \$10.00 Subscription and Joining Fee.
- o 2 passport-sized photographs.
- o Evidence of passing a Basic Scuba Diving Course.
- o Evidence of completing 20 dives to depths of 18 metres and 2 night dives.

Please note that a \$5.00 testing fee is required, payable on the testing day (this covers tester's costs).

PICCANINNY PONDS PERMITS - NEW ARRANGEMENTS

The C.D.A.A. Committee has had some discussions with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and have come up with some modifications to the arrangements for obtaining permits -

1. The National Parks Office is in the SGIC Building, Helen Street, Mt. Gambier (C/- P.O. Box 1341, Mt. Gambier, 5290).
2. You are requested not to go to the Ranger's residence in Canavan Road.
3. The National Parks will now receive a complete list of up-to-date C.D.A.A. members each year. When you want to dive in Pics, send a photo-copy of your current Category 2 card to the Helen /street address. They will check it against their list and issue your permit.
4. Send a self-addressed envelope so they can post it to you. Write 2 weeks before your dive so everyone (including Australia Post) can have adequate time to deal with things.

1980 COMMITTEE

At the Annual General Meeting in Mt. Gambier in September, 1979 the following persons were voted onto Committee -

Russell Kit (Vic.)	President
Ian Lewis (S.A.)	Vice President & Editor of Guidelines
Neville Grovermann (S.A.)	Testing Officer S.A.
Allan Jolliffe (Vic.)	National Testing Officer
Barrie Heard (Vic.)	Victorian Secretary
Robin Garrad (S.A.)	South Australian Secretary
Robyn Allum (S.A.)	SA Treasurer & Records Officer
John Dalla Zuanna (Vic)	Vic. Treasurer & Records Officer

The outgoing members were Peter Stace and Ron Allum, both after long stints on the Committee. The C.D.A.A. owes these two a great deal of thanks for the vast amount of behind-the-scenes work that they have both done in the areas of testing, training, policy, development of gear and maintaining good relations between the Association and the Government bodies. Thanks, both of you, and now you can get some diving done!

AIR FILLING AT ALLENDALE

Brian Vauser now has a 15 cubic ft. compressor + a bank of air cylinders and a small back-up compressor. The shop is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. and if you want to, you can drop off tanks at the end of a day and pick them up filled in the morning. Cost is ~~\$2.50~~ **2.50** per fill.

IT ISN'T WORTH IT.....

The following is a cutting from the Mt. Gambier "Border Watch" of 31st July, 1979.

IN THE LAW COURTS PONDS' DIVE COST \$100

DIVING in Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park, near Nelson without permission of the National Parks and Wildlife Service cost three Strathalbyn men \$100 and costs of \$10 in the Mount Gambier Court on Friday.

The Wildlife Service alleged that the men had dived in the well known ponds on May 18.

They were Keith James Orken of George Street, Warwick Allen Rayner of Avenue Road, and Peter Walter Pope of Height Street, Strathalbyn, S.A.

\$110.00 is the cost of 44 air fills at Allendale! So if you know of unqualified divers diving in Piccaninny Ponds, warn them that court action will be taken by the National Parks Service.

THE SECOND CAVE-DIVING CONFERENCE, MT. GAMBIER, 1979

5 Speakers presented talks on topics relating to diverse aspects of the Sport of Cave Diving. Fred Aslin of Mt. Gambier gave us a very interesting discussion on the formation and presence of the Mt. Gambier Sinkholes, and particularly why there is a concentration of the deep holes around Barnoolut Station. It was an excellent talk.

Dominic Williams and Peter Rogers described in detail the results of their work in Fossil Cave, recovering a large number of extinct species of mammals, reptiles and birds. A complete specimen of an extinct kangaroo was laid out bone-by-bone as part of the display.

Ian Lewis ran over time (!) with a lively summary of recent cave diving at Jenolan in N.S.W., where an underground streamway in one of the tourist caves has been explored for over 1,000 metres in several directions, connecting with other caves in the area. Evidently, getting permission to dive was the most difficult operation of all.

Peter Stace presented a broad history of cave diving in this country and traced the exploration of Mt. Gambier holes from the early days of Scuba gear. In a comprehensive series of slides, he took us from splashing around in Ewens Ponds to the very latest discoveries on the Nullarbor Plains. The Nullarbor slides were definitely worth seeing.

And Ron Allum showed how to secure equipment and descend into sinkholes by flexible ladders - a technique not widely known amongst cave divers. Of special note was the caution raised that vigorous activity after a decompression dive (such as ladder climbing) is likely to agitate any residual nitrogen in your bloodstream and could have serious consequences. A warning to remember.

The conference was a good success and many questions and discussion followed during the evening. Amongst the books, badges and T-shirts etc. on sale was an international caving magazine with a feature article on the Nullarbor cave diving, written by Ian Lewis. It contained several maps and 8 colour photographs including front and back covers of the magazine. Copies of this are still available from Ian at \$2.50 each, and he can be contacted through the S.A. address of the Assoc.-P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, S.A.

And a query from our Marine Medical Centre -

Do deep-sea divers with chicken-pox come up to scratch?

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 22nd September, 1979

The meeting was held at the C.W.A. Hall, Mt. Gambier. About 40 people attended, following the Biennial Conference in the afternoon.

Thanks were given to people who assisted during the year, including Dave Green who bought all the S.A. Membership records up to date, Les Gray who assisted with Newsletter editing, Dave Warnes and Phil Prust who frequently assisted with Practical Tests.

More information had been available to members over the past year and much testing carried out. There were **no fatalities** at Mt. Gambier in the Sinkholes this year. Ewen Ponds water was leased to Mr. Dirk Versher for setting up a trout farm. Water that he uses will be returned to the ponds upstream of the intake, to ensure water quality. At Tantanoola Lake Cave, members of the C.D.A.A. removed the gate using a Land Rover. Those concerned were prosecuted and C.D.A.A. membership withdrawn. They were C.R. Bolten, M.A. McDonough, R.I. Boreham, E.F. Dickson, B.J. Gough, all from Melbourne.

The Woods and Forests Dept. advised that trees and fences destroyed during the bushfire would be replaced with new fences and the creation of a native reserve around Hell's Hole.

3 Motions were put and carried after some discussion -

- o Membership fees increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per annum.
- o Membership fees can be paid on an optional 2-yearly basis.
- o Phil Prust was made a Life Member of the C.D.A.A. in recognition of all the work he has done for cave diving over many years. Phil has taught most of us the finer points of cave diving and is still as keen as ever.

Committees over the years have been especially grateful for his help in making himself available for testing sessions at Mount Gambier. **Congratulations Phil.**

Other points discussed were -

- o Assistance with Newsletters, testing and training is sought from other members besides the committee, **please.**
- o Some testing sessions are being run at a loss in Victoria because of pool hire costs. The Testing Officer is attempting to organise sessions to eliminate this problem by combining some Category 1 and 2 tests.

o ATTENTION TO CATEGORIES

Hell's Hole was elevated to Category 2 standard, while the Sisters was dropped to Category 1. This means the addition of 2 more dives to a depth of 18 metres for Category 1 divers to gain experience in before going on to Category 2 work.

2 more holes are now added to Category 1 - Tear Tree Hole and Horse-and-Cart Sinkhole. They are 2 of what was known as "3 holes at corner of Port Macdonnell Road", on the road towards Nelson. (The third hole is dry and never was a dive).

The Committee thanks everyone who attended. Proceedings will be published sometime this year and made available to all members.

THE ONE-THIRD RULE

During examination of various Category Theory Papers last year, we have found all kinds of variations in answers to air consumption problems. People miss out entire phases of the dive (e.g. air used from surface to turn-around point) or calculate turn-around pressures without allowing much safety margin. For many years now, cave divers here and overseas have operated on a system of air consumption known as

— THE ONE - THIRD RULE —

Haven't you heard of it? It's simple and it's specifically designed for cave diving penetrations, to allow a thoroughly realistic safety margin for **you** and your **buddy** to exit from beneath a solid rock roof and have sufficient reserve for any Out-of-Air emergency. It states-

ONE THIRD OF YOUR TANK PRESSURE IN

ONE THIRD COMING BACK OUT

.... plus

ONE THIRD RESERVE FOR EMERGENCIES.

Whenever you calculate air consumption for a cave dive your total consumption exceeds two thirds of your original air supply. **CHANGE THE DIVE PLAN** to the **ONE-THIRD RULE**, and **REMEMBER** this when you're diving in a cave.

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

An extract from the
"Blue Lake Holiday
Guide" —

a promotional
pamphlet for the Mt.
Gambier area....

Perhaps they don't
realize that cave
divers bring thousands
of dollars per year in
to the city!



One of the first things you should know about the South East is that it has hundreds of caves, some are large, well-known, open to tourists and made much of by those who administer them; others are generally known vaguely by all but a few of our residents, respected as dangerous and are not open to visits by anyone.

The so called "Sink Holes" are out of bounds to everyone... they are dangerous!

South Australian legislation prohibits people going into the sink holes without special permits. Water filled, deep, dark, unexplored and likely to have the water "gluggy" from stirred up sediment, they are not the place for tourists.

Some sink-holes have been explored by sensible, self-caring local divers and are one of the mysteries of the South East which we would prefer to have remain just that.

Many lives have been lost in these holes through unthinking, or deliberate, flouting of safety requirements by inexperienced divers; and many lives have been put at jeopardy as South Australian Police Rescue Squad members and local divers have dived against the clock in strong-hearted but vain attempts to save people already dead.

If you discover a "sink-hole" — stand back, look at it, talk about it, but keep out of it. We live above these things — we know they are there, we respect their devilish humours. Do thou likewise!



*Dangerous — a "Sink Hole" near Mount Gambier.
Photo Ray Fowler*

HELL'S HOLE