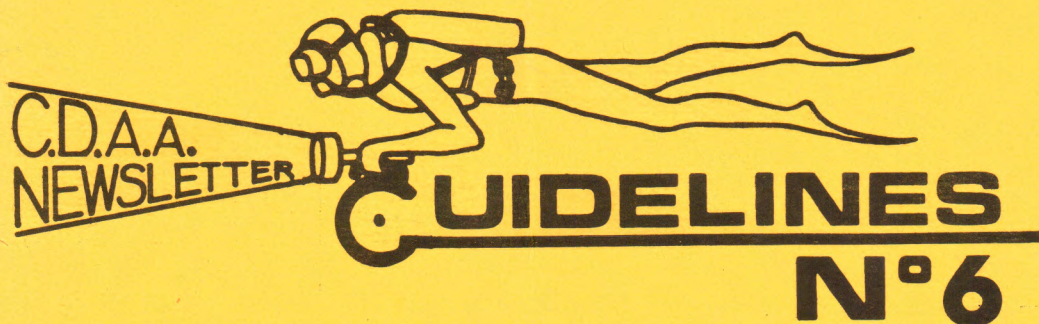


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CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

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GUIDELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

No: 6, March 1981

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OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1980-81

The following persons were elected to the C.D.A.A. Committee at the Annual General Meeting held at Mt Gambier in September 1980.

South Australian

Ian Lewis	vice-President
Robin Garrad	National Secretary
Ron Allum	Treasurer S.A.; Records Officer S.A.
Neville Groverman	Testing Officer S.A.

Victoria

Russell Kitt	President
Alan Jolliffe	National Testing Officer
Christine Sutherland	Records Officer Vic.
John McCormack	Secretary Vic.; Treasurer Vic.

CATEGORY 3 TEST

In 1980, two Category 3 tests were held. The examiners were pleased with the high standard of candidates presenting; of 24 divers, 19 passed. Preparation and training for the test have been cited as the reason for the high pass rate.

The next Category 3 test will be held at Piccaninne Ponds on Saturday 28th March 1981. Examiners are to assemble at 8.30am and candidates at 9.00am (S.A. time). The conditions of the test will be explained to the candidates who are asked to clarify all points before entering the water.

It is strongly recommended that candidates should arrange a buddy with whom to undertake the test. However, any individual unable to do so should make sure that he plans carefully with the unfamiliar buddy before entering the water for the tests.

Any persons wishing to attend this Category 3 test, contact

S.A.	Neville Groverman	44 4907 (home)
Vic.	Alan Jolliffe	874 7669 (home)

Ian Lewis is offering to run another Hell's Hole trip on Sunday following if there is enough interest. He will supply necessary ladders and safety rope.

TEMPORARY PERMIT SYSTEM

A Temporary Permit Card similar in size to the normal Category card has been printed, and these may be issued under three circumstances:

- (i) As a Category 1 certification. At the discretion of the State's Record Officer, for example when a student is undertaking a Cave Diving Training course to Category 2 standard.
- (ii) When a financial, categorised member of the C.D.A.A. is for some reason unable to obtain his/her card for a forthcoming trip - this may be due to loss etc.. Can be issued at the discretion of the State's Records Officer or State Committee member.
- (iii) When persons who are non-members of the C.D.A.A. are for some reason claiming a special dispensation and requiring admittance to a hole on a limited basis- for example, scientific expeditions, visiting qualified overseas cave divers. Issued only with the assent of an entire state committee.

'BARNOOLUT' PROTOCOL

Please note the following points when considering a dive at 'Barnoolut'.

- (i) Mr. Watson is concerned at the large numbers of divers wanting to dive on his property. Please be aware that at certain times of the year access may be restricted due to farming activities.
- (ii) A diving party should consist of at least three persons, one of whom is a surface observer able to contact the authorities in case of an emergency.
- (iii) Arrive at 'Barnoolut' at the agreed time because Mr Watson will not be inconvenienced in his daily work. Should you be late, under no circumstances proceed any further onto the property.

*** ISSUE OF SCUBA AND SNORKEL DIVING PERMITS FOR PICCANINNIE PONDS. ***

As most divers will be aware, the Pics Permit system has been updated. Any diver renewing (or being issued with) a Category 2 (or higher) certification, is issued with a small acknowledgement card. This card is valid for 1 year and contains the details of your name, address, membership number and certification. Should you have taken out biannual membership, the Records Officer in your state will issue you with a new acknowledgement card at the end of May.

The official National Parks and Wildlife Service attitude is given in the following letter from Mr. L.C. Jolley, the Regional Superintendent of the South-East Region of National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Mount Gambier,
23rd September 1980

Dear Sir,

The assistance of C.D.A.A. in implementing the revised procedure for the issue of scuba diving permits for Piccaninnie Ponds is appreciated. The success of the procedure now depends on the members.

Persons requiring either scuba or snorkel diving permits are to apply in writing two weeks prior to an intended dive to ensure adequate time for a reply. A self-addressed envelope and the appropriate mailing card (issued by C.D.A.A. and indicating current category endorsement) should be enclosed by those requesting scuba diving permits. A self-addressed envelope is required from those requesting snorkel diving permits.

All permit requests are to be forwarded to the Regional Superintendent, South-East Region, National Parks and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1046, Mount Gambier, 5290.

Scuba diving permits for Piccaninnie Ponds will only be issued to:

- (i) Divers who hold a current C.D.A.A. category 2 endorsement. Unless the endorsement is current there is no assurance that the diver is still competent.
- (ii) Divers who are non-C.D.A.A. members and who hold a current certificate of endorsement (or Temporary Permit) from C.D.A.A..

It is the responsibility of divers to obtain permits for Piccaninnie Ponds prior to their arrival in the Mount Gambier area. Every C.D.A.A. member would be aware of this requirement through your Newsletter, Guidelines No. 4 (January, 1980).

Persons, who because of special circumstances, are unable to obtain permits before reaching the Mount Gambier area must apply for permits at;

- (i) The Regional Office in Mount Gambier during normal working hours (note that there cannot be an assurance that the office will always be manned), or
- (ii) The Dingley Dell Conservation Park (only by prior arrangement with the Ranger-in-Charge, Mr Michael Hinsliff).

Rangers cannot be on duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Divers are asked not to go to Dingley Dell Conservation Park for a permit without prior arrangement. Neither are they to go to Mr. Phillip Menhennett's residence in Mount Gambier for a permit (Mr. Menhennett is the Ranger-in-Charge of the Mount Gambier district).

I ask for the assistance of your members in publicising the above procedures to their fellow divers.

If there are any enquiries I can readily be contacted at the Regional Office, S.G.I.C. Building, 3-5 Helen St., Mount Gambier on (087) 24 1511.

Yours faithfully,

L.C. Jolley.
Regional Superintendent
South-East Region
National Parks & Wildlife Service

ED: Note that when obtaining permits in person from Mt. Gambier offices of National Parks and Wildlife Service, divers still require an acknowledgement card (and take your Cat. card).

For continued good relations between C.D.A.A. members and N.P. & W.S., it is important that all C.D.A.A. members follow this procedure (and respect Rangers' right to their own weekend).

Frank and Ernest

by Bob Thaves



FILM REVIEW--- "THE LAND THAT SANK"

A few weeks ago on ABC television, a 30 minute documentary was screened on the underwater life in and around Ewens and Piccininnie Ponds. Well-known Oceans MC Reg Lipson took a party of biology students on a series of dives examining all the tiny beasties that inhabit the ponds. Some excellent macro-photography revealed to the boggling eye a vast range of aquatic insects on the pond floors and in the reed beds. Some eye catching movie footage of cave diving in the Cathedral at Pies rounded out the programme, which had opened with a dive in Allendale and a selection of aerial shots of the sinkholes around 'Barnoolut'.

The film has been video recorded and it is hoped we can show it at a later date this year when we can get cave divers together in one place (not an easy task).

Congratulations to Reg and the ABC on a sensitive and professional production.

Ian Lewis



AIR FILLS

(i) Brian Vauser of Allendale East store would like to point out that under no circumstances will he fill tanks that are out of test.

(ii) For divers that are visiting the Mount during business hours, there is another small air compressor located at the Arena Sports Store on Compton St.. His hours are strictly business hours however and he will not fill out-of-test tanks either.

THE "MOUNT GAMBIER ITCH"

On a recent trip, one of South Australia's "leading diving Instructors" (quote from 'Border Watch') was introduced to some of the not-so-well known inhabitants of certain Mt Gambier diving locations. These 'inhabitants' invaded his wetsuit and skin whilst he was diving in Ewens or Piccaninnie Ponds (he is uncertain which is the culprit). The 'invaders' were never actually seen, but the resultant weals and itching he described as "like dozens of mosquito bites"! The local divers informed him that this kind of invasion is well documented from these two ponds as well as the lakes of Mt Gambier township.

Consultation with Edmonds (Dangerous Marine Animals), suggest the phenomena is similar to Bather's itch. The "invaders" responsible for the 'Mt Gambier Itch' are not listed but the victim assures me the symptoms are consistent. The culprit is the larvae of a parasitic flatworm and the skin reacts to the protein of the invasive organism. Not all people react to the organism so contact is no guarantee of itches. Clinical features of Bather's Itch include a mild red coloured rash (1hr - 2 days duration), lumps which may develop into blisters (2 - 10 days) and itching is prominent (aggravated by rubbing, sweating and hot showers). A trip to the doctor for a prescription of antihistamine (oral and/or cream) should relieve the problem.

The 'victim' indicated that it is also important to eradicate the larvae from ones wetsuit or else you could be reinfected (as he was!). He recommends liberal and several washings in a mixture of disinfectant and detergent for the wetsuit.

note: The 'victim' requested that his name be suppressed from publication for family reasons...

Jenny Hiscock

NEW SOUTH WALES EXAMINER

For New South Wales, a C.D.A.A. examiner has been appointed. He is Doug Olding,

P.O. Box 236,

WILLOUGHBY, N.S.W. 2068.

ARTICLE FROM 'BORDER WATCH' -

SINKHOLE DUMPING UPSETS SCIENTIST

Some biologically unique sinkholes in SA's South-East are being used as rubbish dumps, an expert says.

He is Dr J.N. Jennings who says he is horrified at the practice.

Dr. Jennings is a visiting fellow at the department of biogeography and geomorphology at the Australian National University, Canberra.

The Mount Gambier "Border Watch" newspaper recently published a letter from Dr Jennings pointing out the value of the sinkholes and the need for a clean-up.

Dr Jennings, told "The Advertiser" from Canberra he was particularly disturbed that the Caroline sinkhole, about 32 kilometres south-east of Mt Gambier, was being used to dump old cars.

The Caroline Sinkhole was a cenote - a cave that had collapsed and with a water table at the bottom exposed to the surface.

The South-East was one of the few places in the world where cenotes existed.

The only other areas he could name were the Yucatan province of Mexico and the Turkish plateau.

Dr Jennings visited the South-East in November with an ANU team to study underground water flow.

A "National Geographic" magazine team had been in the South-East at the same time to photograph sinkholes.

Dr Jennings said cenotes were biologically interesting because the holes connected with underground water passage.

Small animals which had adapted to the darkness lived in the underground water and cenotes provided access to study these creatures, and the cave and water system.

The Caroline Sinkhole was geologically interesting because it cut through two kinds of limestone of very different ages, and archeologically interesting because Aborigines had lived in a shelter in its walls.

Dr Jennings said he believed other sinkholes and cenotes were being used as rubbish dumps.

He praised the cleaning-up at

two sinkholes - Umpherstone's Cave near Mount Gambier and Engelbrecht's Cave in the city. They had been "in a sorry mess" through being used as rubbish dumps when he previously had seen them 15 years ago.

VALUABLE

They were being transformed from "smelly eye-sores" to valuable recreational and educational resources.

Dumping rubbish in cenotes destroyed a natural tourist asset and polluted the underground water.

"Muck" also was being thrown into Little Blue Lake near Mount Gambier and he understood there were worse cases than the Caroline Sinkhole.

It would be difficult to do anything about sinkholes on private land, but the Caroline Sinkhole was in the Port MacDonnell District Council area.

It should be made an offence to dump rubbish in these places. In some cases stout barbed-wire fences should be erected with stiles for access.

If sinkholes which did not reach to the water table had to be used as rubbish dumps, then two or three should be set aside for this purpose.

The Port MacDonnell clerk, Mr D.M. Tregoweth, said there were two or three car bodies in the Caroline Sinkhole.

It had been cleaned-up a few years ago, but this was difficult because it was about 40 metres deep.

The hole was surrounded by pine trees and was on Crown land.

The Council had written to the Department of Lands six months ago asking for the hole to be fenced.

This would stop people driving cars to the edge and pushing them off.

No reply had been received yet.

It was hard to police rubbish dumping as people had to be "caught in the act".
