

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

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GUIDELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

No. 9. December 1981

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weekend cat II'er

It has become apparent that generally people believe that some dive shops are producing a magical "Weekend" cave diver. So perhaps the time has come to tell the Cave Diving fraternity the truth and put their minds at ease.

Perhaps the roll of the "Dive Shop" in our diving community is sometimes misconstrued. I will admit that we do make profit on our sales but that is not the whole story. We also provide a service for the diver, spare parts and warranty facilities and of course training facilities, both for Scuba diver standard and specialised courses of which cave diving is one.

There could be some shops who don't care about standards of instruction but think of the stupidity of that attitude and how long that shop would last within the diving community. No! The real facts are that most dive shops care very much about the standards of ALL their dive courses and are very proud of their reputation. So when we designed our cave diving course, we designed it so that we could produce a cave diver that would be safe and competent and show a good example to those cave divers who may have forgotten a few rules (or who may never have been taught properly) so that we would not have anymore incidents that could possibly jeopardise cave diving for all of us.

The people who designed the course are all very experienced C.D.A.A. examiners, throughout the whole course C.D.A.A. examiners are used and at the end of the course students are tested by the C.D.A.A. using examiners who have not been involved with the course so as to provide an independent assessment of the students capabilities.

I hope that I have put some minds at rest and assured people that we at Adelaide Skin Diving and Southern Diving Centres have a very genuine concern for our students and divers and will continue to maintain and improve standards as long as we are involved in the industry.

John Bent Paul Lunn

The weekend CAT. II diver as the diving community saw it, was in fact the diver who having done the cave diving course and passed the CAT. I pc2, (pc2 is only an administration note to show that the diver had completed the CAT. I & II tests and theory, needing 5 hrs. fresh water experience including 5 dives to 18 metres to get their CAT. II card), then went to Mount Gambier on an organised trip. As it happened, the leader of the trip had been an instructor/C.D.A.A. examiner/committee man so that after diving with the CAT. I pc2 divers for 5 hrs., he can then issue a temporary CAT. II card on the spot. (Only committee members can do this). As was found out the 5 hrs. can only be completed successfully on a three day weekend and what better way to make sure that the 5 hrs. were actually completed, than by diving with the people doing it. Seeing only the weekend trip to Mount Gambier, people have misconstrued this to be all that is necessary to get a CAT. II card. I can say that the C.D.A.A. would not allow any lowering of standards. For seven years now, standards have been high enough to prevent fatalities among its members and will continue to do so.

John Hansen
Editor.

committee for 81-82

Proxy votes from the Special General Meetings held in South Australia (14th September) and Victoria (16th September 1981) were presented, at the A.G.M.

The following members were elected:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ian Lewis
Robin Garrad
Steve Collett
John Hansen

VICTORIA

John McCormick
Alan Joliffe
Barrie Heard
Andrew Wyatt

constitutional amendments

17a 'The Committee members shall be elected by ballot at the A.G.M. or Special State Meetings called for the purpose, to be held in Adelaide and Melbourne not less than 14 days and not more than 30 days before the date of the A.G.M.'

20c(4) 'Allocation of Officer appointments among committee members elected at the immediately preceding Special State Meetings or at the A.G.M.'

21a To read 'Each financial diving member (not prospective member) shall have one vote at any General or Annual General or Special State Meeting of the Association.'

12c to read 'Officers shall be elected to general vacant positions at either the Annual General Meeting, or Special State Meetings called for the purpose to be held in Adelaide and Melbourne not less than 14 days and not more than 30 days before the date of the A.G.M.'

15b insert at end of this clause 'Any casual vacancy may be filled by the Committee.'

news from a.g.m.

NEW SIGNS AT SINK HOLES

After some rather drawn out negotiations with the Department of Recreation and Sport, they agreed to provide new signs warning the public of the dangers of diving in sink holes. The signs are now being erected.

PICCANINNIE POT-HOLES

The state of the road into Piccaninnie Ponds was referred to and the Secretary was asked to write a letter to the relevant authorities asking that the road be graded occasionally and the holes filled.

NEW S.A. TEST LOCATION

The S.A. Committee is looking at the possibility of utilising Thornden Park reservoir as a CAT I and II training venue when it is opened for recreational use. To this end the S.A. Committee will submit a proposal to that effect.

POLICE AT PICCANINNIE PONDS

An invitation was extended by the Committee, to the representatives of the S.A. Police Underwater Recovery Squad to attend the March 1981 Category III test. The committee was pleased when Sergeant Harnath and Senior Constable Jeffrey were able to attend. A complimentary letter was subsequently received from the Officer-in-Charge of the Squad.

examiners to co-operate with committee

In South Australia, the Examiners will operate a joint veto with the Committee on the following matters:

- i) Examiners - application of new examiners
 - upgrading or conduct of existing examiners
- ii) Test Standards - vet or source new test procedures
 - oversee existing standards & procedures.

S.A. decision to remove the State Testing Officer as an elected Committee position was explained. The State Testing Officer will in future be elected by the Examiners and will chair meetings of Examiners and be a co-opted Committee member.

mt gambier rep

In recent years, it has been felt within the Association that there was a lack of local participation in the C.D.A.A. - which, in view of the early strong representation of Mt. Gambier divers in opening up the sport of fresh water diving could only be described as a serious loss to the Association. Thus it was with some pleasure that the Association greeted the formation of a new Mt. Gambier scuba diving club which was also interested in freshwater diving (Ed. - between picking up crabs, that is.). Interest in the Association by the new club was high and many box loads of Information Bulletins were despatched to the area. C.D.A.A. examiners were also sent to the Mount to explain the Categorisation system, and a satisfyingly high standard was reported from the Cat I/II tests which have been held for local divers - generally in conjunction with Cat III tests.

The revival of local interest was brought to the attention of the A.G.M. resulting in the formation of a co-opted Committee Member position to be filled by a local Mt. Gambier diver. We are pleased to announce that the position is to be taken up by Jenny Floenges with whom the Association has been corresponding with on an unofficial basis for over a year.

PRACTICAL PLASTICS

A course in plastics to give divers the necessary skills to fabricate underwater housings and guide-line reels from acrylic plastic.

COMMENCEMENT DATE February 10, 1982 for one term.

LENGTH OF SESSION 4 hours 6pm - 10pm.

COST \$40-00 (cost does not include materials) to be paid at the school by commencement date.

VENUE Sandringham TECHNICAL School,
Holloway Road, Sandringham, Vic. 3191.

Students will be working with acrylic plastic and the skills covered will be,
- design, heat forming, plastic coating and zinc plating of metals, turning, cutting, grinding, glueing, O-ring sealing and buffing. For photographers we also have the equipment to pressure mould dome lenses.

For further details contact Greg McMillan at the school. Phone: 598-7788 - Ext. 4.

the bend that wasn't

The benefits of experience and training became very evident to two Category II divers very recently, when they encountered in real life what they had practised for many times, but never dreamed they would need to use in real life.

The rumours started with an article in the 'Border Watch' which referred to a diver getting the "Bends" after a sink hole dive. Other unknown sources in the diving community contributed to the rumour until the story read something like this:

"Some divers had been diving deep, taking photographs and were heading back up to decompress, when one of them dropped his camera and dived very deep to retrieve it. (Some accounts state that it was not recovered); others say it was.) He then surfaced (with or without decompression) but soon got pains in the arms, joints and hands (etc.) The group then took him back into the water, where they went back down to about 30 feet and went through a lengthy re-decompression and when he came out of the water, the ambulance had arrived and checked him over. He had no more signs and the ambulance left. The same party, including the stricken diver, dived to the same depth (150 feet) the next day."

In actual fact, the group concerned was quite well organised and is well known and the divers actually were not on a photographic dive. At a depth of around 140 feet, one of the divers, quite probably suffering from the more silent form of Nitrogen Narcosis, (I believe he was referring to fixation on one function which causes the diver to forget all other operations) Ed.

totally forgot to watch his air consumption, until he ran completely out of air on the bottom. He and one of the other two buddy-breathed as they went to the surface but they both hit the surface at great speed with a fully-blown vest and two burping divers attached. One was breathless and his gasping on the surface prompted the surface party to immediately call for an ambulance; a wise move but unfortunately, a piece of bad publicity when the article appeared in the paper.

You might find it difficult to understand how someone could forget to watch his air supply at 140 feet; even the diver concerned can't understand it. It seems to be a good chance to remind you members that it was deep diving only 7 years ago which killed four experienced divers in ONE ACCIDENT; Many cave-divers feel the challenge of diving deep, just 'once or twice' but that short experience can be all it needs for the insidious silent killer, nitrogen narcosis to infect those divers and possibly cause another major newspaper war, with the ultimate closure of the best dives in Australia. Please remember your obligations, not just to yourselves, but to the land owners and other divers.

PETER HORNE

PLOENGES MARINE & DIVING CENTRE

343 Commercial St West
Mt. Gambier 5290
PH 087-257604

Dear Divers,

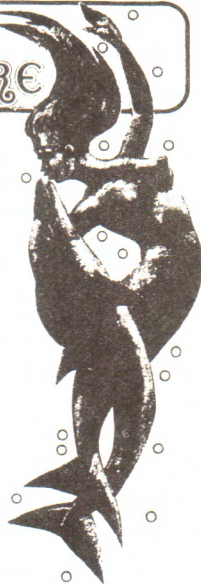
I am writing to inform you that I have now opened a professional dive shop in Mount Gambier at 343 Commercial Street.

I intend to stock a full range of dive gear of a quality and quantity that will appeal to all divers.

A full range of professional services will also be offered of a standard that all front line professional dive shops have to obtain to be in business.

For all your diving needs come in and see us and we will do our best for you.

Proprietor
Jenny Ploenges



CAT III test

Due to the large number of people who did their CAT. III at the last test and the problems with paper work for such a number, we have had to get tough and set dates and dead lines to ensure that the paper work is completed before testing takes place.

1982 CAT. III test dates are:-

27/3/82 and 18/9/82

A written application must be received by the State Testing Officer, c/- C.D.A.A. Post Box, in your State (S.A. or Vic.) by 27/2/82 or 18/8/82 respectively. Late applications will not be considered. As numbers for these tests will be limited, first applications received will get preference. Applications must include lists of CAT. I and II dives to verify that CAT. III prerequisites are met. In future a diver presenting any CAT. III dives in this list will be asked to explain themselves and could face having their application for CAT. III turned down.

Theory examinations will be scheduled for evenings of 3/3/82 and 25/8/82 respectively, location and time to be advised after application is received.

I hope this will clarify the situation and make it fair on everyone involved.

NATIONAL TESTING OFFICER

barnoolut

All the sink holes on Barnoolut have now had a gate put in their surrounding fence. This will protect live stock and prevent divers from damaging fences as they climb over them. The committee felt that by doing this it will bring about better relationships with the land owners. The committee also intends to have gates installed at sink holes on other properties. Divers will find that due to the large numbers diving at Barnoolut, there will be some restrictions placed on access and if you get told that you can't go on the property, don't push the point, it only causes bad feelings. This matter was also raised at the S.A. State meeting and ideas called for are as follows:-

1. Is it possible to lease or buy access to sink holes. This was found to be impractical.
2. No diving during peak working times.
3. Set arrival times 9.00am, 1.00pm etc., if you are late, too bad!
4. Sign on gate stating above.

Any ideas on the above, write to your committee.

A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE MOUNT GAMBIER SINK HOLES

Sea Studies Services now offers Mount Gambier fresh water divers a new dimension in their sink hole diving.

Reg Lipson, Senior Lecturer at the Hawthorn Institute of Education has designed a course to increase the pleasures of diving in the sink holes of the Mount Gambier region by increasing awareness and knowledge of the geology of these holes, the biology of the animals and plants which inhabit them and their ecology.

This course is designed for a small group of participants practising 'hands on' educational techniques in order to maximise educational effectiveness. During the excursion - all students will dive with Reg Lipson, thus extending educational interaction into underwater activities.

hell hole

Despite the shock sustained by being bathed in sunshine for the entire day, the dive in Hell Hole on the 20th August was an amazing success.

By noon, ladders and belay ropes were in position and the first of ten divers entered the duck weed free, cold but clear water. An old E.J. Holden could be clearly seen from above, however despite many attempts to start the engine it was deemed flooded (besides the rego had run out anyway).

The 130 foot ladder climb down to the water's surface is easy by comparison to the climb up.

Once in the water, gear was lowered down and the divers (two at a time) were set to explore the hole. Beyond the car, the bottom slopes off to a depth of about 80 feet where, if one looks toward the surface, people can be seen quite clearly peering cautiously over the crater's edge.

Further around, the observant diver will notice the remains of last year's A.G.M. nestling on the bottom in the form of a bullet-ridden beer keg. If this fails to interest the scubonaut, he or she can spend a few brief moments pondering the literary and intellectual capacity of the landlubber authors whose works appear grouted in the wall (no cave diver could be responsible for this - could they?!).

Apart from a small swim-through, the scenery remains much the same until about three quarters of the way round where many dead trees provide a labyrinth which the diver can explore. The trees also herald the near completion of the dive.

As only half a tank of air was used, a great deal of sweat and foul language was spared by allowing the next buddy pair to use the gear already in the water (especially if wrap-around B.C's are available); which brings me to another point.

Although horse-collar B.C's may not keep a diver's head all that far above the water, popular opinion has it that it is unnecessary to wear a Scubapro B.C. in addition to a U.S. Diver's horse-collar. Those who were present, wish Ian Lewis all the best with his CAT. I exam which he will attempt next time (pending completion of his Basic Scuba course).

I would especially like to thank Ron Allum, Snowy Wohling and Ian Ploenges for their help in the raising and lowering of equipment and divers.

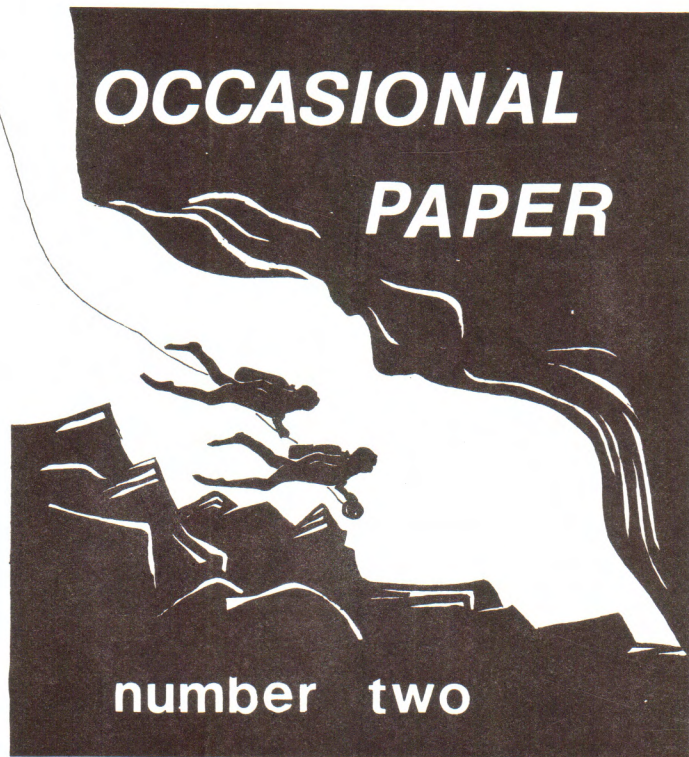
A dive in Hell Hole requires much equipment the average cave diver does not possess, and the only time that we are likely to have such an opportunity is on a CAT. III test weekend. I can thoroughly recommend this dive as both challenging and rewarding.

Rick Luff

on sale now

**Cave Divers Association
of Australia**

***OCCASIONAL
PAPER***



number two

september 1981

at most dive shops