

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.

No. 10 May 1982.

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EDITORIAL



There is some confusion over which sinkholes the "PC2" grading entitles cave divers to dive in - in particular Piccaninnie Ponds. This grading is granted to CDAA candidates who satisfy all pre-requisites for Category 2(two), have passed the Cat. 2 theory test and the practical test but who have not completed their 5 hours of sinkhole diving. The diver then gets a Temporary Category card stamped 'PC2' and retains this until he or she completes the required 5 hours sinkhole diving (including 5 dives to 18 metres). These dives are logged on the back of the Temporary card which is forwarded to the CDAA and an official Cat. 2 card (with photo and rating stamps) and Pics mailing card is then

Only when these cards are received can you dive in Category 2 holes - National Parks will only accept a Pics mailing card (which you mail to them) - they will not accept a 'PC-2' Temporary card because your full training is not complete ie. your hours are not sufficient. Your official Category 2 card is necessary for Reg Watson on 'Barnoolut' and Myora Forest Reserve for Hell's Hole.

Recently, some divers from other States (N.S.W., W.A. & Tasmania) have been applying for membership and requested that they be tested in their own States to Category 2 standard. The Association applies the same rule to these people as it does to South Australians and Victorians – specifically, that \underline{no} diver can attain full Category 2 status, or dive in Category 2 holes until they have done the prescribed 5 hours Category 1 diving since successful completion of theory and practical tests. It is this diving which ensures that the Cave diver knows enough about the Mt. Gambier diving environment to dive Category 2 holes \underline{safely} .

REMINDER - 'Barnoolut'

We would like to remind everybody that access to Bullocks, Ten-Eighty and Black Hole is not available until the end of June. We would appreciate it if all members comply with this request and not seek entry permission until July.

1982 AGM & CAT. III TEST

This years AGM and Cat. III test will be held on the 18th September, 1982 at Mount Gambier. Dates for the Special State Meetings which preced the AGM in Adelaide and Melbourne are yet to be set byt the next 'Guidelines' will provide these as well as locations. If any member has any particular item they wish to be included on the agenda for the Special State Meetings about which they would like all the membership to think about, they are welcome to write to their State Committee. The next 'Guidelines' should be published in late July.

To qualify for testing at the September Cat. III test, a written application must be received by the State Testing Officer in your State, c/o the CDAA post box by 18/8/82. The application must include a list of the prerequisite dives for Cat. III. The theory examination will be held on 25/8/82, the location and time to be advised after the close of all applications. As numbers for the test are limited, the first applications received will get preference.

IN SUMMARY :

Annual General Meeting	18tr	Septemb	er	1902
Santambar Category III Test				
: .: Closing Date	.18th	August,	198	32
Theomy Evamination Date	25th	August,	190	20
Practical Examination	18th	Septemb	er,	1982

MARCH MT. G. TEST WEEKEND

CATEGORY III TEST

Seven candidates (four from South Australia and three from Victoria) were tested on the Saturday, 27th March 1982 at Piccaninnie Ponds. Examiners were Alan Joliffe (National Testing Officer) and Andrew Wight from Victoria, together with Robin Garrad, Phil Prust and Dave Warnes from South Australia. The examiners were impressed with the level of skill shown by most candidates and the preparation which had obviously been done.

As with all tests, the Category III Test Program is constantly under review and over the last two tests, some development has occurred in the octopus and reel tests. The octopus test has been added on to the end of the blacked out line following through the Cathedral and some obstacles introduced. Buddy breathing has been re-introduced on one leg of the reel test with the test now being conducted twice - once using octopus regs, then buddy breathing. Candidates performance was closely watched in both these areas and the new tests found to be satisfactory.

Five candidates successfully completed all tests.

Cont

MOUNT GAMBIER CATEGORY I/II TEST PROGRAM

Coincident with the Category III Test, CDAA provided examiners to conduct a Category I/II Test Program at Ewen's Ponds, mainly to meet the needs of local divers. Six members of the new club the 'South East Scuba Divers Club' along with two candidates from Adelaide were tested. All of the local divers were successful and have since obtained Category II.

It is intended that in conjuction with any future Category III test, a Category I/II Test Program will be made available for Mt. Gambier divers. The CDAA State Testing Officer in South Australia should be notified at least on month in advance so the necessary arrangements can be made. (Mt. Gambier divers would be advised to contact the CDAA Mt. Gambier representative, Jenny Ploenges well before this date.)

DINNER VENUE

The Committee, examiners and test candidates from the March test discovered first hand one of the benefits of local representation on the Committee when Jenny Ploenges organised a dinner venue at Mac's Hotel in the Mount on the Saturday evening following the test. After agonising over numbers (timidly reduced from an estimated thirty to twenty places the week before) the final turnout was fifty-three! Fortunately Mac's was able to accomodate us all and an excellent meal enhanced the opportunity for members of the Association to meet and talk.

The Committee would like to thank the proprietor of Mac's Hotel for the provision of a private room for the National Examiners Meeting and National Committee Meeting which followed the dinner.

CAVE DIVING BOOK REPRINT

Finally......the book 'Cave Diving in Australia' is being reprinted. The 1982 version has been revised and updated; it includes details on ladders, climbing safety, full sinkhole descriptions, some interesting local history, and a thoughtful and thorough comparison of all 3 available decompression tables - Australian, RNPL/BSAC and US Navy. The tables section is the result of a lot of hard work by Peter Stace, who's well known in Adelaide for the quality of his dive theory and deco calculation lectures in both open water and cave diving instruction.

Although we've exercised our author's prerogative and delayed the reprint for awhile, the revised 'Cave Diving in Australia' should provide all future Cave divers with as much information as they need! and more .

Ian Lewis and Peter Stace.

PLASTICS COURSE

Question: Which two items of basic cave diving equipment shrink the size of the murky black depths, banish the yawning caverns (which go to 'at least 300ft'), fight narcosis, lead one back through silty mazes besides:

a) making sinkhole/cave diving more pleasurable and b) make you look like a real cave diver?

Give up? (No, the answer is not a pair of Bob Evans' Force Fins!)

You need a real light and a real reel! - basic cave diving equipment.

Unfortunately, nobody manufactures the real thing, it needs to be lovingly handcrafted and what better person to do so than you, the diver and user?

Accordingly, to fill in some of the long winter evenings when one can only talk about diving, CDAA in conjunction with the Underwater Explorers Club has organised with the Department of Further Education to conduct an inaugral course entitled 'Working With Plastics'.

This course is specifically intended to enable divers with little or no previous plastics/workshop experience to construct cave diving reels and torches to a proven design under the guidance of a professional instructor with the use of special equipment.

Venue: ... Nailsworth Technical High School, Regency Road, ENFIELD S.A.

Commencing:... Tuesday 8th June, 7-00p.m. to 9-30p.m.
10 sessions on following Tuesday nights.

Cost: ... \$37-50 (\$1-50 per hour tuition time)

The cost includes basic instruction in plastics manipulation and the use of all equipment needed. Materials will be at your own extra expense; some may be bulk purchased through the school; some could perhaps be bulk purchased by the participants of the course.

The intention of this course is for the participant to be able to complete construction of a functional reel and/or underwater torch by the last session.

The number of places available on the course is ten (10) and all need to be filled if the course is to go ahead. The organisers of the course would appreciate support from CDAA membership to make this course a success. If you intend to take part, please contact either of the below as soon as possible.

Colin O'Donnell 336 6996 (home) or Robin Garrad 296 9148 (home)

Following contact with one of the above to establish your position in the course, registration fees may be sent to:

D.F.E. Commercial College, Blacks Road, GILLES PLAINS S.A. 5086.

Colin O'Donnell

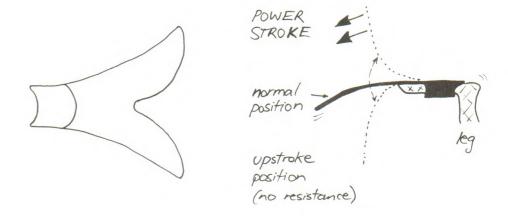
TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts	Momborahin Duce	444
receipts	Membership Dues Bank Interest	\$1895.0
		18.00
	Balance B/F October 1980	1132.00
	Total Receipts	\$3045.00
Payments	Subcontracting of Records	121.00
	Stickers for sale	130.00
	Filing Cabinet	96.00
	C.D.A.A. sign for display	120.00
	Printing	100.00
	Postage	176.00
	Post Box Hire	45.00
	Pool Hire	50.00
	Meeting Hall Hire	77.00
	Sundries	130.2
	Total Expenses	\$1035.2
Balance at Octo	ber 1981	\$2009.7
Balance at Octo		\$2009.7
SOUTH AUSTRALIA		\$1538.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Membership Dues	\$1538.00 582.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.)	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.43
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Receipts	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980 Total Receipts	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.42 \$ 427.55
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Receipts	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980 Total Receipts Printing	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.42 \$ 427.55 220.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Receipts	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980 Total Receipts Printing Subcontracting of Records	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.40 \$427.50 220.00 291.40
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Receipts	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980 Total Receipts Printing Subcontracting of Records Guideline & tether clips	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.4; \$ 427.5; 220.00 291.49
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Receipts	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980 Total Receipts Printing Subcontracting of Records Guideline & tether clips Typing (Guidelines, Occ. Paper #2)	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.42 \$ 427.55 220.00 291.46 170.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Receipts	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980 Total Receipts Printing Subcontracting of Records Guideline & tether clips Typing (Guidelines, Occ. Paper #2) C.D.A.A. Display Dive 81	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.42 \$ 427.55 220.00 291.49 170.00 30.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Receipts	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980 Total Receipts Printing Subcontracting of Records Guideline & tether clips Typing (Guidelines, Occ. Paper #2) C.D.A.A. Display Dive 81 Post Box Hire	\$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.42 \$ 427.55 220.00 291.49 170.00 30.00 16.00 128.00
SOUTH AUSTRALIA Receipts	Membership Dues Sales (Guidelines, T-shirts, etc.) Balance B/F October 1980 Total Receipts Printing Subcontracting of Records Guideline & tether clips Typing (Guidelines, Occ. Paper #2) C.D.A.A. Display Dive 81 Post Box Hire Meeting Hall Hire	\$2009.77 \$1538.00 582.00 1339.00 \$3459.42 \$ 427.55 220.00 291.45 170.00 30.00 16.00 730.00

FORCE FINS

A new innovation appeared for the first time in Australian waters on the Category 3 weekend at Mt. Gambier. The critics gaped, Conservatives sneered, photographers clicked frantically, Radicals cheered, and plenty were amused and interested. The reason? The very latest diving invention to come out of California - Bob Evans' revolutionary FORCE FINS - designed straight from the seals of the Humboldt current on America's Pacific West Coast(I could go on, but I won't ...).

I was lucky enough to meet Bob Evans over Xmas and having read the Force Fin review in January's 'Skindiver' magazine it seemed a good idea to try these fins out for their cave diving applicability. Naturally I got the iridescent yellow ones (not the dull boring black ones), which reportedly can be seen from one end of Ten-Eighty to the other.



The Force Fins are made of tough moulded plastic and are exceptionally flexible - indeed this is one of their main design innovations. The 180° bend-back design allows two things - on the upstroke the fin tucks away and you don't have that sensation of dragging a diving board on your feet (like a standard fin) because there's no resistance. On the down stroke the two 'mickey-mouse' ears splay out fully (they are moulded in a slight arch) and give full thrusting power in the same flexible way as a fish or seal's fins do, not like waving a painter's plank in the water.

The result of this is that your legs do a lot less work so you cut out cramps and leg aches, and although you actually fin more times the total effort is considerably less.

Divers following behind me said they felt very little turbulence and noticed that the fins simply didn't stir up silt even at very close range. This has an interesting cave diving application. Also they observed that

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the flexible arched design enabled sideways or back-and-forth manoevres to be achieved without excessive movement or thrashing around. And the fins are as fast as the jetfin design - no worries. They are also soft but tough enough to walk around in above water, if you're into that sort of thing (great for parties).

Well, plenty of cave divers tried them and liked them a lot (after laughing at the shape first!), while one was rather unimpressed. Since that weekend, I understand that Force Fins have arrived in large numbers in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth so obviously the word's getting around. These could well be the fins of the future, and since I'm not a dive shop owner this is an unsolicited assessment. They may look amazing, funny even, but give them a try.

Ian Lewis

THE PERFECT SHOTLINE

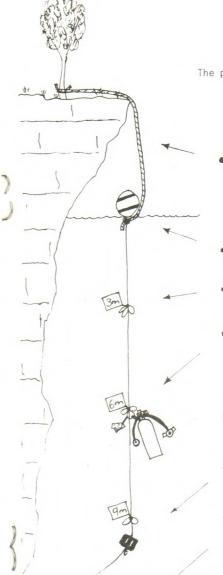
Shotlines are an innovation particular to sinkhole diving, although various models shotlines are used on some types of deeper ocean diving. There is an optimum shotline design for use in sinkholes which covers a range of requirements. That is to say, the perfect shotline is not merely an indeterminate hunk of old craypot rope with a stone tied on the end and heaved over the edge of a sinkhole into watery oblivion! Certainly, such a makeshift line will work (until the stone falls off the end of the rope) but there are a number of subtleties associated with the 'professional' Cave diver's Shotline.

Consider why we use these things:

- . to hang a spare tank from, when diving deep
- . to indicate decompression stop levels
- . to hold onto during deco. stops for stability
- . to give a primary reference against disorientation problems
- . to attach end of guideline for the dive

That's quite a lot of responsibility for a little old piece of rope. You would all have to agree that the 3 metre mark on a deco line is like the deli down at the corner of the street - a meeting place for a gaggle of divers at the last stage of their dive. Bodies hanging about all over the place! Divers in various states of buoyancy drifting past your head and a constant stream of algae and silt pouring down past your facemask at very close focus.....etc. etc..

Well, the perfect shotline copes with all this.



The perfect shotline has the following features :-

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- a tie-off. Yes, tie off the floats to something solid above water (eg. a tree). Then everyone below can hang onto the shotline at the deco stop without all of you sinking to the bottom taking the line with you. Also you have a solid tie-off point for the guideline.
- a float at the surface with enough buoyancy so the shotline won't sink with a spare tank and several divers on it.
- the depth of each deco stop clearly marked by knots or a plastic tag or something similar (drawn enlarged on this diagram).
- several loops or metal rings at each deco depth (3m, 6m, 9m) to clip your spare tank and deco tables to. These act as stability points so everyone can grab onto the line and ensure their accurate depth (rather tha relying on a gauge) and to avoid drifting into each other.
- only 10 metres of shotline. It's pointless having a 30 metre shotline for One Tree or Little Blue if you only need half that length for Ten-Eighty and Black Hole.
- one weight on the bottom so it hangs vertically instead of snaking off all over the place.
 Tie your weight just beyond the 10 metre
- tie your guideline end to the 10 metre loop or ring and use the guideline for further orientation at depth. The shotline is tied off above the surface securely, do you have a tie-off point which won't follow you into the depths of the sinkhole.

/ Guideline

The whole line can be wound up into a small roll, stored conveniently and will easily unwind when you drop it into the water. Since it performs all the previously-mentioned functions, it is a quick and convenient addition to your equipment and makes life a little less hassled.

'b. Coe'

DIVER'S ROLE ...

"Buddies should be as lovers, inseparable and secure together, and nothing should alter this system."

From 'Safe Cave Diving' by Tom Mount,
Page 46.



"Never mind about getting the 'bends'get in!"

PICCANINNIE PONDS 'ROAD'

At the September (1981) AGM, the issue of the 'track' into Pics was raised. It was felt that the 'track' is in poor condition and we would like to see it improved by the Port MacDonnell Council for Cave Divers and tourists alike.

A letter from the Secretary was duly despatched resulting in:

- 1) Reply from Port MacDonnell Council agreeing with the 'appalling' state of the road but informing us that it was beyond their financial capability to rectify the situation. However, they indicated that they were endeavouring to seek finance for the project from the State Government.
- 2) An article in 'Border Watch' (13/4/82). The Port MacDonnell Council allowed the local paper to see our letter and an article relating to the matter was published (which is reproduced herein).

Given the circumstances, the fixing of the road is likely to occur through tourist pressure on the State Government for a grant to do the initial work. The Association is pursuing the matter along such lines: the first step is to improve the tourist information available to visitors to the Mt. Gambier area.

Jenny Hiscock

'Border Watch'

13th April.

Divers want Ponds road upgraded

The Australian Cave Divers Association has sought an assurance from Port MacDonnell District Council that the Piccaninnie Ponds access road will be upgraded.

In a letter to council, the Association claimed the road was an "ugly eyesore" which became a "mud quagmire impassable to most vehicles" during winter.

National Secretary, Mr. R. Garrad said: "This 'road' is the only access route into a world famous dive location and a South Australian tourist and wetland asset.

"Through television programs and magazine articles describing the unique underwater scenery, the Ponds are well known to both the diving and non-diving public of Australia.

"An increasingly international awareness of the Ponds is also evident," he said.

A team from the National Geographic spent two weeks in the area last year, as did an underwater cinematographer from a New Zealand television

Mr. Garrad said the existing track was an ugly eyesore.

It had expanded without control to almost totally fill the area between its boundary fences.

He said it was littered with rocks and potholes.

"Significant soil erosion is also beginning to occur on the steep downhill section of the track at the entry to the Conservation Park", Mr. Garrad said.

The Association estimated that three to four thousand of its members visited the Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park each year.

"Together with visits from the non-diving public the total number of visitors is likely to be double or treble this figure," Mr. Garrad said. "In view of the importance of Piccaninnie Ponds in attracting visitors to the Lower South East, the Association would seek an assurance from the District Council that the access road will be upgraded to one more suited to the number of vehicles travelling over it"

Cr. K.G. Feast said council had no hope of constructing a reason-ab able sort of road using money collected from council rates.

He said "It is a disgraceful condition but

District Clerk, Mr.D.M. Tregoweth said council was taking steps to investigate ways of financing the work.

"It is outside the finance of this council" he said.

COMBINED CAT. 1 & 2 TEST PROGRAM

This program is designed to test divers who are <u>already competent</u> sea divers. This means that you possess basic <u>SCUBA</u> certification (NQS, PADI, etc.) and at least twelve (12) months ocean diving experience which includes a minimum of twenty dives, two at night and five to at least eighteen (18) metres.

This program is intended to certify to Category 2 level and should be viewed as a single entity, not as two separate certifications.

To pass to Category 2 standard you need to satisfactorily complete two major areas:

- Competence in basic diving skills pertinent to sinkhole diving.
- Build up 5 hours of sinkhole diving in recognised Category 1 holes where the above techniques can be safely practised and developed.

This first section is assessed in two tests - a practical test and a theory test:

The practical Test assesses skills in the following areas:

- i) buoyancy control
- ii) line following
- iii) reel handling
- iv) buddy breathing

The Theory test assesses the areas of:

- i) decompression calculations
- ii) diving medicine
- iii) dive planning

(For more detailed information consult the CDAA 'Information Bulletin' May 1980)

Results of Assessment

Under the CDAA Category 1/2 Test program, there are three possible outcomes:

1) Fail: You failed a critical section of either the theory or practical skills.

(eg. Theory - failure to correctly use decotables.

Practical - failure of a basic dive skill, such as buoyancy control.)

2) Category 1 Pass: Passed theory to Category 1 standard but practical skills assessed as only safe for Category 1 holes.

Result: a) You are issued with a Category 1 Temporary
Permit and may begin building up the 5 hours
experience diving in Category 1 holes. Pay
special attention on these dives to the areas
you were weak in.

- b) On completing the 5 hours experience diving, apply for inclusion in another Category 1/2 test program in which your practical skills will be reassessed.
- c) On successful assessment, a Category 2 card will be issued.
- d) Note that the Category 1 Temporary Permit is only valid for twelve months. If the permit expires before the 5 hours of Cat.1 diving is complete, you will be required to undergo a complete test.

3) Provisional Category 2 Pass (PC-2)

Theory and practical dive skills were assessed as suitable for Category 2 sinkholes <u>after</u> 5 hours of experience diving in Category 1 holes has been completed.

- Result: a) You are issued with a Category 1 Temporary Permit stamped 'PC2'.
 - b) On completion of the 5 hours experience diving in Category 1 holes, forward a detailed list of the dives to the Records Officer, care of the CDAA Box number in your state. If everything is then in order, a Category 2 card and Piccaninnie Ponds mailing card will be issued.
 - c) Note that the Temporary Permit is only valid for twelve months as in (d) above and that the National Parks and Wildlife Service Office at Mt. Gambier will not issue a diving permit without presentation of a mailing card.

Robin Garrad

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CAVE DIVING COURSES

CDAA POLICY

With the advent of Cave Diving Courses, some confusion has arisen as to the role of the CDAA. This article describes the position of the Association in relation to courses.

- 1) CDAA Category tests are self-contained and independent, thus participation in a Cave Diving Course is not a prerequisite for testing (see the Information Bulletin as to what does constitute prerequisites). However the standard to which candidates are examined for all Category tests is rigorous and thus instruction can be beneficial for most divers - especially those without the benefit of club instruction.
- 2) The CDAA does have an affiliated group of examiners who are available to conduct courses to an approved CDAA standard. However the CDAA is not affiliated with any commercial interest, club etc. and thus any person(s), club or shop is free to run their own Cave Diving Course. Naturally, in such cases the students must check the qualifications and experience of the instructors themselves : CDAA has no control over the content or value of such courses.
- 3) All candidates will be subject to independent testing by CDAA, irrespective of prior course participation. Thus although testing may be arranged in conjunction with a course, examination for Categorisation (theory and practical) will be carried out by examiners nominated by the CDAA State Testing Officer.
- 4) Prospective students for a cave diving course should:
 - a) be made aware of the independent nature of the testing and informed that a charge will be levied.
 - b) have their prerequisites checked before beginning any course to ensure that on completion they will be eligible for testing.
 - c) know that on successful completion of testing they will be awarded Category 1. To obtain Cateory 2, the candidate will have to log five (5) hours of Category 1 diving (including 5 dives to 18 metres). Some candidates may have to repeat the practical and/or theory tests before being awarded Category 2 if their performance was lacking at the original test.
- 5) All course organisers should notify the CDAA State Testing Officer at least two weeks in advance so that there is sufficient time to arrange testing.

For further information please contact your State Testing Officer at the CDAA box number in your state.

EMERGENCY ACTION FOR DIVING ACCIDENTS

IN all accidents the efficiency with which aid is administered to the casualty the better, speed alone may not be advantageous. The following procedures for cases of diving accidents requiring medical attention have been drafted in consultation with emergency health care organisations and takes into account changes in the availability of new facilities in S.A. in 1980-81.

This is not a comprehensive first aid procedure, but is the suggested action which will minimise delays in gaining expert medical attention for the casualty. A good knowledge of first aid is essential in conjunction with this information. ALL divers should be able to recognise the symptons of serious diving medical conditions and be able to administer Expired Air Resusitation and External Cardiac Compression.

IN ALL cases of Diving Mishaps : -

- i) Remove the casualty from the water to a safe area.
- ii) Lie him/her down. If unconscious but breathing, turn on side (coma position) Keep warm with a blanket. Continue to monitor their condition.
- iii) If not breathing turn on back - clear the airway of debris and apply expired air resusitation. If available, ventilate with 100% oxygen.
- iv) If no pulse Trained rescuers may apply external cardiac compression.
- v) Determine the extent of injuries, treat injuries in order of severity and keep patient warm with blankets to minimise the effects of shock.
- iv) Send for Help PHONE 000 (metropolitan area) or the local emergency number, ask for ambulance.
 - Notify the Operator that a Diving accident has occurred, state what type of injury.

Ensure that you give the correct - Location

- Telephone number for further communication
- Casualty symptoms and condition.

Ensure that the operator has taken the details correctly.

The most serious mishaps are those causing :-

- breathing difficulty
- loss of consciousness
- paralysis
- shock or
- heart stoppage

This may occur with : -

- SEVERE BENDS
- AIR EMBOLISM
- OXYGEN LACK
- HYPOTHERMIA or sudden DISEASE state (eg. epilepsy).

cont.....

In SEVERE diving accidents also alert Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Intensive Care Unit (08-2232855). RAH has the only medical staff regularly available to supervise hyperbaric treatment, and also able to mobilise the resources of the armed forces.

<u>Information to be passed on:</u> as above, plus dive history of the mishap.

Recompression facilities : exist at the RAH and North Haven (Outer Harbour). Seriously injured patients may require hospital facilities in addition to recompression.

Specific first aid in 'Bends': allow the patient to breathe 100% oxygen if available (through demandflow mask, such as 'Laerdal' type).

Peter Stace, December 1981.

REVIVING RESUSCITATION

By Keith Evans

Many diving ills/accidents require treatment that involves resuscitation (Espired Air Resuscitation and External Cardiac Compression). Also, how many times have you read in text books - 'give oxygen by mask' as a recommended treatment for various diving related problems?

Most divers have had some training in resuscitation at some time. Like all skills resuscitation needs to be practised and revised on a regular basis. However most people tend to let their resuscitation skills deteriorate over the years.

Diving is deemed to be a high risk sport, (at least by insurance companies if not by divers) so it would seem to be prudent for divers to keep up with the latest resuscitation developments and to keep existing skills to a usable level.

There are refresher courses on resuscitation available in Adelaide. One group who run such courses is the Red Cross. Red Cross will issue you with, what they call, a Practising Certificate - which involves three (3) hours tuition at a cost of \$5.00. After this you may wish to learn how to administer oxygen, in this case you can do an Advanced Resuscitation Certificate Course which involves 6 - 8 hours of tuition and costs \$10.00. So for the small fee of \$15.00 you could brush up your resuscitation skills and learn how to administer oxygen.

If you wish to take advantage of these courses, please contact me by writing to : Keith Evans,

10 Wilpena St., EDEN HILLS, 5050 or phone 278 7974 (after hours).

EMERGENCY TREATMENT FOR DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS

The South Australian Health Commission wishes to publicise its policy on emergency treatment of decompression sickness (diver's bends) and other rare conditions in which high pressure treatment (hyperbaric therapy) is required.

- 1) If possible, make immediate contact with Royal Adelaide Hospital Intensive Care Unit (telephone (08) 223 2855). Ask for Senior Doctor, Intensive Care. Such contact may be made indirectly by radio through the police radio network, Adelaide Radio (VIA) or Sea Rescue Squadron.
- Once the decision is made to arrange transport to Adelaide, contact nearest St. John Ambulance.
- 3) Choice of transport vehicle will be determined by St John Communications Centre, Adelaide. Depending on circumstances operating this will be by -

road ambulance fixed wing air ambulance Wales State Rescue Helicopter.

N.B. If medical retrieval team from Adelaide is justified, this will be arranged through RAH.

- 4) Air transport by either fixed wing aircraft or Wales State Rescue Helicopter will be at a height not exceeding 150 metres consistent with aircraft safety.
- 5) Upon arrival in Adelaide medical assessment will be arranged by RAH. A person requiring intensive care support will be treated at RAH.
- 6) A private hyperbaric facility has been developed by Conshelf Marine Pty. Ltd., North Haven. General policy issues concerning involvement of medical specialists in the assessment and management of patients requiring hyperbaric therapy have been developed in cooperation with Conshelf Marine which is aware of the policies operating.