

NOVEMBER 1983



**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA**

(Incorporated in South Australia)

C.D.A.A.

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DIVERS DIARY



CATEGORY 1 AND 2 TESTS

While tests may be arranged at any time which is convenient to both the candidates and examiners (usually requiring at least 4 candidates), a system of rostering the dates is being undertaken in South Australia. The new standard test dates to 30th June next year are:

<u>Application Closing Date</u>	<u>Theory Exams</u>	<u>Practical</u>
1st December 1983	4th-10th December 1983	Sunday, 18th December 1983
1st February 1984	5th-10th February 1984	Sunday, 26th February 1984
1st April 1984	8th-14th April 1984	Sunday, 29th April 1984
1st June 1984	3rd-9th June 1984	Sunday, 24th June 1984.

CATEGORY 3 TEST

24th February 1984	12th March 1984	Saturday, 24th March 1984.
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All applicants for Category 3 must apply in writing to the National Testing Officer through your State Records Officer before the closing date above.

GUIDELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 16 NOVEMBER 1983

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Opinions expressed in Articles are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Divers Association of Australia (Inc).

Editing: Dennis Thamm, assisted by Peter Horne. Typing: Lyn Wagstaff.

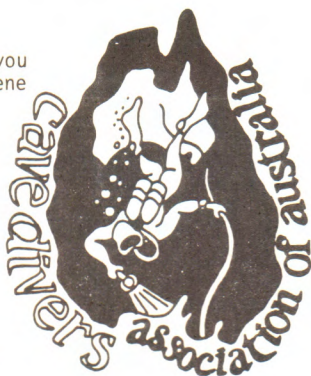
EDITORIAL

Well folks, since our last issue (in case you hadn't heard) things in the cave diving scene have really been running hot.

There have been numerous media releases concerning the French Cave Diving team's Cocklebidy trip, along with our own Australian team's efforts, involving divers from four states. We had our 10th birthday, for which a film was made and shown on South Australian television, so as to create more public awareness of our association. Englebrechts Cave has received a facelift with steps and lights all the way to the bottom (more details in this issue). Many thanks to the local Mount Gambier Lions Club and to those divers who helped on the Annual General Meeting weekend.

In this issue we also include the recent changes to our examining and testing procedures, and so the list grows...SO, until next time!.....

Dennis Thamm



DIVER'S ROLE

In light of our recent 10th Birthday, and as a prompt for all our members I feel a passage from Cave Diving in Australia by our own Messrs. Lewis and Stace is appropriate to the cause;

"The vast majority of cave diving situations around the world consist of streams which are often silt laden, grovelly, dirty and run through muddy caverns. Most diving is well out of day light and considerably colder. Thus we are especially fortunate to have a world class diving area at Mount Gambier".

So let's keep it that way!

1. CDAA COMMITTEE 1983 - 1984

The following members of the CDAA were elected to the Committee for the year 1983-84 at the Annual General Meeting held in Mount Gambier on September 17th this year and their positions were decided at the National Committee Meeting on the following day.

President	-	Peter Horne (S.A.)
Vice-President	-	John McCormick (Vic.)
National Secretary	-	Lester Jerman (S.A.)
S.A. Records Officer/ Treasurer	-	Christopher Brown
Editor 'Guidelines'	-	Dennis Thamm (S.A.)
Vic. Secretary	-	Barrie Heard
Vic. Records Officer/ Treasurer	-	Andrew Cox
Vic. 'Guidelines' Articles Editor	-	Bill Bernhardt

2. CDAA EXAMINER PERSONNEL 1983-84

National Testing Officer	-	Peter Rogers (Vic.)
S.A. State Testing Officer	-	Ron Allum
Vic. State Testing Officer	-	Barrie Heard

3. MEETING REPORTS

3.1 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL STATE MEETING, 22/8/83

As has been the case in previous years, the meeting was held in the State Administration Centre Theatre in Adelaide, with 48 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

During the reading of reports (see later this issue) a copy of the old film "The Cave Divers" by Ron and Valerie Taylor, on loan from W.D. & H.O. Wills, Sydney, was shown to an enthused audience! The other reports were then presented and other business discussed. This included:

- Constitutional Change Proposal re: 2 year Term of Office (felt to be a good idea but impractical at present) and
- Fee increases. It was unanimously felt that the time had come to raise our membership fees to \$10 p.a., and increase the joining fee to \$10 instead of the current \$5.

The meeting concluded after Ron Allum presented an excellent talk on the forthcoming world record attempt in Cocklebidy Cave in the Nullarbor.

3.2 VICTORIAN SPECIAL STATE MEETING, 8/9/83

The meeting was held in the Y.W.C.A. Building commencing at 8.17 p.m. with 53 members in attendance.

After the previous minutes were read and accepted, business arising was discussed, including the availability of T-shirts and stickers.

With the reading of the Treasurers Report, the motion to increase the joining and membership fees was discussed. A motion was put and accepted to recommend the increase at the Annual General Meeting. Members were again warned of 'illegally' diving in holes above their category ratings. A slide show was also presented to show members the present Category 3 holes.

After other business, the proposal to alter the Constitution regarding 2-year terms of office was discussed, and the motion accepted by the members present, to be put to the Annual General Meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the film 'The Cave Divers' was screened.

3.3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 17/9/83

The Annual General Meeting opened unusually late (9.10p.m.) and the previous minutes were read and accepted. The discussion to review the reimbursement of Committee Members' trips to Mount Gambier for National Committee Meetings (2 per year) was favourable and one member proposed a vote of thanks for the good interstate committee relations and communication this year. The motion proposed to maintain the system was passed with 38 in favour.

The proposal for a 2-year term was discussed and John McCormick (President) explained the two State opinions. Problems with the system were outlined and the motion failed, with only 1 in favour. However, the fee increases were unanimously accepted, as is described elsewhere in this issue.

General Business included -

- . Request from Reg Watson (Barnoolut Property) to ask divers to stay away from 11th October and 11th November during shearing.
- . National Parks Piccaninnie Ponds Permits - Ranger Greg Tedder and Andrew Lee explained the present situation.
- . A question re safety equipment (O² etc.) at examinations.
- . Complaint from a member re his air being turned off during a test (discussion deferred to Examiners Meeting which followed Annual General Meeting and outlawed the practice).
- . Members being asked to assist in the clean-out of Englebrechts Cave the next day.

The 1982/83 Committee then stood down and the 1983/84 Committee was introduced to the membership.

The meeting closed at 10.25 p.m.

4. MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASES

All members and prospective members are advised that, in accordance with the unanimous decision by members at the Annual General Meeting, our joining and membership fees will increase from the current \$5.00 joining and \$5.00 per year to \$10.00 joining and \$10.00 p.a. The bi-annual option is still available for \$20.00.

5. ENGLEBRECHTS CAVE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

All Category 3 members wishing to dive in Englebrechts are advised that the Mount Gambier Lions Club has recently completed the installation of gating on both the eastern (popular Category 3) side and western (uncategorised) side of the cave. Whilst the key for the Category 3 side is currently available upon request from the proprietor of the "Thru Way Service Station" on the other side of the Highway (until final arrangements are organised by the Corporation of Mount Gambier), the key for the western lock can ONLY be obtained from the State Committees of the Association.

Because the National Committee considers the western side to be an "experienced Category 3" cave dive, only divers who fulfill the following requirements will be considered as having sufficient experience for access :-

- (i) ALL divers in the team must have -
 - (a) held a Category 3 Certificate for AT LEAST 12 MONTHS,
 - (b) logged at least 20 Category 3 dives, and
 - (c) dived AT LEAST TWICE in the popular Category 3 side.

Evidence of this diving will be required IN WRITING and will be kept on file for future reference.

- (ii) The team must elect a DIVE LEADER, who will be responsible for the locking of the gate and prompt return of the key (within 1 week of issue unless otherwise arranged), and will ensure that only Committee-approved divers enter the cave. A \$20 DEPOSIT will be required for the key, and the Dive Leader may be held responsible for the replacement costs of a new lock and chain if the key is "lost".

- (iii) The Dive Leader must apply IN WRITING at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the dive, detailing all names and required experience.

The Committee would be pleased to provide you with any further information you may require - please direct your queries to your respective State Committee.

6. NEW TRAINING/EXAMINING POLICY

At the National Committee Meeting held in Mount Gambier on September 18th this year, a new policy relating to CDAA Examining and Training issues, was discussed and accepted by the Committee.

The new policy in effect introduces an entirely new facet to the CDAA's official stance regarding cave diver training, and the issue of the pros and cons of independent testing versus supervised diving training and experience.

The policy is designed to cater for two levels of CDAA Examiner - divers who may test members only, and divers who can train and test their own students PROVIDED that they physically accompany them in-water for at least four of their five hours of Category 1 diving experience. These training/testers must be qualified Instructors who are acceptable to the Committee.

The reasons for the change are many, but perhaps one of the most important is the perceived need for diver education in the form of adequate training today, rather than a simple, one-off test as was more suited to years gone by. There are today very few active cave divers who are not members of the Association, and most of our members are in fact relatively new to the diving scene in general. With this fact in mind, it is felt that the time has come to treat our sport as an advanced form of diving - like a combination of deep diving, night diving and wreck diving skills. Provided that our current rigid standards of examining are maintained, to ultimately assess each diver's capabilities, we hope that the introduction of this system will prove to benefit cave diving and specifically the CDAA in many ways.

The system in use for the Category 3 tests, involving delegates from the National Examiner ranks in both States, is felt to be the best available at present and there are no moves to change that format.

7. CAVE DIVING RESEARCH - MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Members are invited to apply to the CDAA Research Group Co-Ordinator, in writing, indicating their interest in assisting with possible future cave mapping and research studies. (Refer to Research Group Report this issue). Any member who feels that he/she has something to offer, or would be prepared to put in the effort to learn how to map caves underwater are welcome to contact the Group. Whilst Category 3 divers will be qualified to enter all categories of cave during such projects, Category 2 divers are also welcome to assist with possible projects at that level, e.g. maps of Pics. and Black Hole, etc. So, grab your pen and tape-measures and write - this is your chance to become more actively involved with this important, neglected aspect of our pastime!

8. WARNING! ARE YOU A "REBEL" ?

It is common for large clubs and associations to have 'rebels' - people who are quick to criticise policies and guidelines, and choose to 'do their own thing' regardless of the consequences for the majority of members.

With the continuing growth of our membership, and to remind divers of previous notices regarding "illegal" diving (see 'Guidelines' issue November 1982, page 6 - 'Are You Involved?'), it would once again seem timely to bring this problem to the attention of everyone.

An apparent recent increase in such unauthorised diving (e.g. Category 2 divers in Category 3 holes), is causing considerable concern to Government Departments and the C.D.A.A.

Whilst the Association has only once expelled a group of members as a result of a serious (and criminal) offence being committed (resulting in them being put on the "never to be reinstated" list), other forms of disciplinary action can and will be taken against members who continue to disregard the constitutional requirement... "Every member undertakes to comply with the rules and regulations of the Association..." (Section 11 (a)). This action could include the suspension of members' category ratings for specific periods of time and the cancellation of Piccaninnie Ponds permits. Although the C.D.A.A. has not seen the need to impose severe penalties in the past, the amount of illegal diving still going on calls for more direct discipline today.

Divers who persist in ignoring all warnings should consider this :- Is it worth the risk of being caught in a hole above your category rating, and possibly losing access to some of the best holes around? The category system was designed to keep the sinkholes open for qualified divers - remember that it was the lack of cave diving knowledge or deliberate disregard for established safety procedures which led to the deaths of the early 1970s. We hope that all conscientious members will keep an eye open for such inconsiderate divers..after all, we all put in the time and effort to go through the system properly.

The C.D.A.A. is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that cave diving is regulated for safety's sake - please report all such unauthorised diving to the C.D.A.A. (and the landowners at the time, if possible), so that we can clamp down on this element which is threatening the rights of all other cave divers.

9. C.D.A.A. EXAMINERS

As all our members will know, the basis of the Association's certification of divers hinges on the continual assessment and training of prospective cave divers by our Examiners - expert cave divers who have been assessed by their peers and the diving community in general, as being competent to examine the cave diving skills of others. Examiners are appointed on a 'needs basis' and as such, the 'status' of "Cave Diving Examiner" is not the 'next step up the ladder from Category 3'.

Whilst the demand for new examiners is minimal, some vacancies may occur at any time and members who might be interested in training to become Examiners are invited to apply in writing. The successful applicants will then be drawn upon as the need arises.

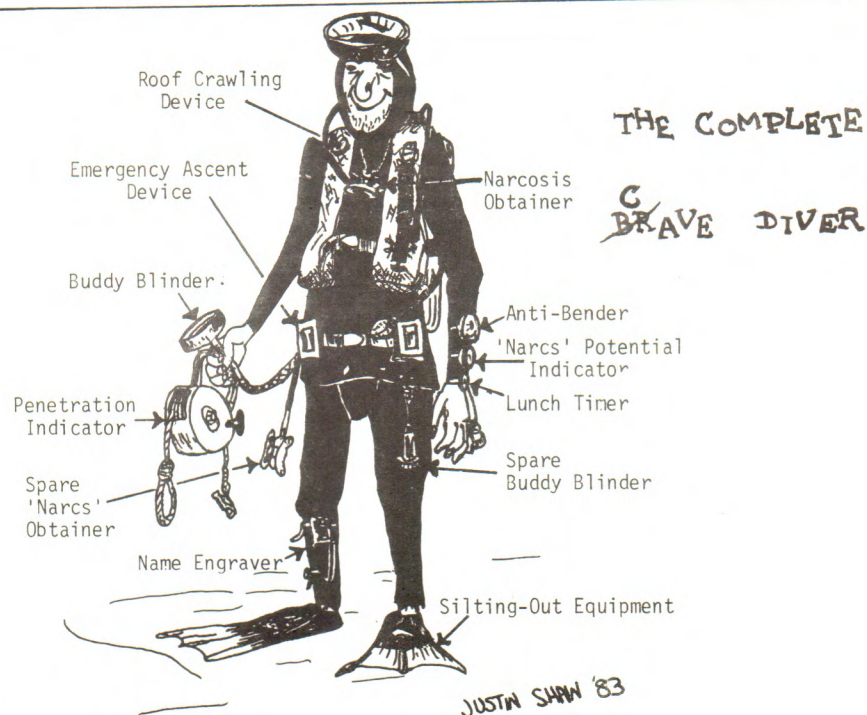
All applicants should have the following pre-requisites AT THE MINIMUM before applying :-

- . To have held Category 3 rating for at LEAST 12 months,
- . hold a current Sub-Aqua Bronze Medallion and
- . hold a Senior/Advanced Oxygen Resuscitation Certificate.

Instructor qualifications are also considered to be preferable, although not essential at this time.

It should be noted that the holding of these pre-requisites IN NO WAY obliges the C.D.A.A. to appoint applicants - all applications must be assessed by the State Examiner body and these applicants, if accepted, must then attend various tests and learn the procedures required before they can be acceptable to the Committee.

Please contact the Committee in your State, detailing your qualifications in writing.



ANNUAL REPORT 1982 - 83

OUTGOING

COMMITTEE

President	- John McCormick (Vic.)
** Vice-President	- Ian Lewis (S.A.)
** National Secretary	- Steve Collett/Peter Horne
Vic. Secretary	- Andrew Cox
S.A. Records Officer/ Treasurer	- Peter Horne
Vic. Records Officer	- Andrew Cox
Vic. Treasurer	- Richard Wirski
Vic. Committee Member	- Barrie Heard
Editor 'Guidelines'	- Jenny Hiscock (S.A.)
Mt. Gambier Representative	- Jenny Ploenges (S.A.)
** S.A. Committee Replacement Members	- Michael Byrne
	- Mark Nielsen

** Ian Lewis and Steve Collett left the Committee to pursue other interests early in their terms. Peter Horne took over the function of National Secretary and was assisted in maintaining the records position by Mark Nielsen. The position of Vice-President which Ian left was not filled; however, Mike Byrne was selected to fill the required numbers temporarily.

MEMBERSHIP

	SOUTH AUSTRALIA (includes W.A. & N.T.)	VICTORIA (includes N.S.W., Tas., N.Z. & Qld.)	TOTALS (Financial Members)
TOTAL MEMBERS	282	377	659
CATEGORY 1 & 2	222	320	542
CATEGORY 3	60	57	117

We had 573 MALE MEMBERS and 86 FEMALE MEMBERS, including

468	"	"	74	"	"	who were Category 1 or 2 and
105	"	"	12	"	"	who were Category 3.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past 12 months has been very successful seeing many changes and new events taking place within the Association.

The Cave Divers Association of Australia has now officially sanctioned a new Sub-Committee called C.D.A.A. Research Group whose main aim is to look into the "History of Cave Diving in Australia", also the mapping of all underwater caves and sinkholes and record all relevant information for the good of the C.D.A.A.

Continued negotiation with the Mount Gambier Council and the Association has brought about the drawing up of a legal agreement whereby Category 3 divers of the C.D.A.A. have legal access to Englebrecht's Cave for the purpose of diving. (In the past it has been without the agreement of the Corporation).

Again after much discussion with the Woods and Forest Department of South Australia, they have agreed to allow diving in Alleyn's Cave L84/85 under special circumstances. This cave has been closed to divers since 1972 following the death of 3 divers in this sinkhole.

You should have noticed this year if you were financial that you didn't have to worry about chasing up your Pics. Permit as a new system has been organised with the Officers of National Parks and Wildlife Service whereby your permit should arrive on or around the 1st of July. (This is only a trial but seems to be working successfully).

Earlier this year a new change to the Category 3 pre-requisites came about whereby you must hold a Category 2 qualification for 12 months prior to applying for Category 3.

John McCormick

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has been an interesting, educational and constructive year for the Association this year, with generally good interstate relations and much work has been done. Many on-going problems and negotiations have been tackled and in some cases, finally resolved.

(1) Access Negotiations

Several important changes to previously existing systems and access to 'new' locations have taken place in recent times.

- Englebrechts Cave - A legal document between the C.D.A.A. and the Corporation of the City of Mount Gambier has finally been signed, sealed and delivered, giving Category 3 divers legally-recognised access to one of the most demanding cave dives in the Mount Gambier region, once the Lions Club has completed its beautification program. This negotiated access with a complex management authority is virtually unprecedented.
- Piccaninnie Ponds - the C.D.A.A. has tried out yet another modification to the permit system, to save members the time and money in re-posting Permit Cards. Now, when members reach Category 2 level or update their financial status, the State Records Officer sends the card direct to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mount Gambier, with a stamped addressed envelope. A cost increase on the system but another means of assisting you, our members. The trial period to date looks very good, and has been of considerable value to National Parks also.
- Alleyns Cave - The Woods & Forests Department has agreed to allow diver access to Alleyns Cave (pronounced 'AY-LEENS') in the Tantanoola Forest, in special circumstances. Prospective divers must negotiate through the C.D.A.A. Committee, and the party must consist of at least 6 Category 3 divers. Generally, however, the hole will not be made available for purely recreational diving; the Committee must be satisfied that all divers have considerable Category 3 experience and that the group has a worthwhile study project. Alleyns Cave has been closed to divers since the deaths of three divers in a silt-out in 1972.

• The Pines, L97 ('Elaines, Mud Hole') - As a result of on-going pressure by the Association and several other recreational groups, the Woods & Forests Department have reached a stage of needing to review their permit system. Meanwhile, members should still approach the District Forester for a permit prior to diving in their forests.

A rumour which continues to surface is that Category 2 divers in the company of a Category 3 diver may dive in The Pines - this is in fact not the case. ALL divers must be Category 3, the only exceptions being special instances involving overseas visitors etc., who are under the direct supervision of the Committee and Examiner bodies.

(2) Ewens Ponds Management Plan

Many hours of thought and work went into the Association's submission regarding the future management of Ewens Ponds, as was requested of us by the Lands Department. C.D.A.A. members were all given the chance to contribute thoughts and ideas, but only about half a dozen submissions were received! The Association's submission contained colour photos and maps, and many recommendations, including -

- The installation of a pump-out toilet in the natural scrub,
- another car park near the third pond,
- boardwalks from that car park to the third pond,
- a larger pier at the third pond to encourage diver use there rather than in the first and second ponds,
- training and testing to be undertaken only in the third pond so that the first two ponds may recover and disturbed silt will wash straight down the man-made creek to the sea, not through all other ponds as is happening at the moment, and
- no restrictions to be placed on recreational diving anywhere in the ponds.

The Lands Department considered our submission (representing almost 700 divers) of great importance and liaison between officers of the Department and the C.D.A.A. has been good. The small cave in the third pond was capped with boulders after a complaint was received involving a N.S.W. diver who got into trouble there.

(3) Association Files

The filing systems in both States were reviewed and improved as were the records. Lists of all minutes of meetings were compiled and individual member's files have been made up to speed up new applications. Typing duties have been sub-contracted out and with the introduction during the year of many small changes (such as standard form letters and forms for diving permission), it is felt that clerically, the system is as stable as ever. However, the possible use of word-processing equipment and better Cave Diver Certificates are still being considered.

The South Australian Recreation and Sport Department has been of great assistance by supplying a lot of old, 'missing' correspondence dealing with the formation days of the C.D.A.A. and their interest is gratefully acknowledged.

(4) Committee Changes

Two members of the S.A. Committee resigned during the year. Ian Lewis (Vice-President) left to have more time to pursue his career and Steve Collett (National Secretary) went on a long-planned trip, temporarily giving Peter Horne (Records Officer/Treasurer) three committee positions to maintain. Under Section 12C of the Constitution, two Category 3 divers were selected to temporarily fill the positions and Mark Nielsen and Mike Byrne assisted. Whilst the actual position of Vice-President was not filled, Mark assisted Peter with the State Records Officer/Treasurer and Peter took on the National Secretary's function.

(5) Association Expenses

Expenditure this year has been high in comparison to recent years, due to:

- . an increase in functional costs, such as sub-contracting of records and typing, payment for Pics. permit postage and envelopes,
- . more contact between the two State Committees, such as phone calls, duplication of Minutes and discussion papers,
- . legal fees,
- . the purchase of a good-quality electric typewriter at a very reasonable cost, and
- . fencing and gating costs.

With the envisaged expenses of the near future, such as financing the possible leasing of property and perhaps a new records system the time has now arrived to discuss the need for an increase in membership subscription fees. Currently members pay \$5.00 joining fee and \$5.00 p.a. - very minimal in comparison to diving clubs in general. Most of the C.D.A.A. money goes into administration which is not readily seen by members - postage, updating of cards and files, hire of P.O. boxes and halls and the other costs mentioned above. However, our members receive an issue of 'Guidelines' every three months and are kept informed of important events through what we believe is a high-quality magazine. It is therefore felt to be an appropriate time to increase the fee, and \$10.00 p.a. (and \$10.00 joining fee) is felt to be not an unreasonable charge. This change was approved at the Annual General Meeting.

(6) Procedures Manual, Information Bulletin and Constitution

Several members have been working on a standardised 'Procedures Manual' which was to have been near completion before the Annual General Meeting, but due to other commitments could not be completed in time. However, along with a review of the somewhat outdated Information Bulletin and an update of the amended Constitution, it is hoped to be completed shortly. The Procedures Manual will in effect list the duties and functions of all Committee and Examiner positions, standardising possible areas of contention and listing rules and by-laws of the Association.

(7) Common Seal

The Association has purchased its own Common Seal, as was required for the sealing of the Englebrechts Cave Agreement, and will be of value in possible future legal documentation and access negotiations.

(8) Research Group

The research side of cave diving obtained official recognition with the proposal in October 1982 and the formation in March 1983, of the C.D.A.A. Research Group, a Sub-Committee consisting of a Co-ordinator and diving members who have been undertaking their own research or scientific studies involving mapping, life-forms and fossils etc., over the past few years. Although still very much in its infancy, the C.D.A.A.R.G. has been collecting old photos and stories from 'old-time' divers, conducted an extensive underwater mapping and study project and has initiated several other programs of great potential value to the speleological field in general. (Refer to the C.D.A.A.R.G. Co-ordinator's Report).

(9) Local Divers & Mount Gambier Representative

It was with considerable regret that we saw the departure during the year of Mount Gambier Representative, Jenny Ploenges, when she moved to Adelaide. Jenny's work as a rep. was very much appreciated by the Committee and land-owners, as she was always helpful and able to solve local problems before they grew out of proportion.

With her change of residence went the position of rep. also, which was not formally filled due to several reasons, but Ian Ploenges took over some of the duties for which we are grateful.

(10) Overseas Visitors

Temporary permits and many hours of personal assistance were given to well known American cave diver, Tom Mount, and five experienced French cave divers who were making a movie for French television, this year.

The French team, known as "Expedition Nullarbor", caused considerable mixed feelings when they arrived just prior to a major expedition to the world-famous Cocklebiddy Cave by an experienced team of Western Australian, South Australian and Victorian divers, some of whom had been in the earlier parties which set the world records for an underwater cave dive at the same locality. (Refer to the article on Cocklebiddy later in this issue). In view of the language barrier, communication between groups was awkward but friendly.

(11) 10th Anniversary

With the arrival of the Association's 10th year of operation, and with a perfect safety record as well, it was felt that a relatively low-key publicity campaign was appropriate to remind the public of the fact that the C.D.A.A. has been a success, despite the doubts expressed during its establishment. Whilst being careful not to promote the 'sport' of cave diving (as it is, after all, a very limited field in South Australia with only about 20 categorised holes), we are concerned about the complacent attitude which seems to be returning now and then. Many 'newer' cave divers have entered the field through a well-established, proven testing system, and the real dangers of the activity are often under-estimated or disregarded as a lot of 'old-time paranoia'. The publicity campaign is aimed at our members as well as the general public, so that we can all be made aware of the vigilance necessary to maintain safety.

The C.D.A.A. has come a long way since September 1973. I sincerely hope that the Association will continue to evolve for the better, promoting both safer cave diving and greater membership participation in the next ten years.

Peter Horne

C.D.A.A. RESEARCH GROUP - ANNUAL REPORT 1982-83

Official formation of the C.D.A.A. Research Group was made by the Committee on 20th March 1983 following considerable Committee and general membership discussion dating back to August 1982 when an article appeared in 'Guidelines' No. 11, requesting information on the C.D.A.A. history.

Since that time a number of people who had previously worked individually or in small separate groups have come together to form the nucleus of a Research Group.

Work that has been undertaken during this past year includes :-

- (1) Continuation of Water Temperature Study by P. Horne (Guidelines No.11)
- (2) Survey of L97 (Elaines) - P. Horne (Guidelines No. 14)
- (3) Research has commenced into C.D.A.A. history and early cave diving by a number of people including P. Horne, J. Hiscock (Guidelines No.15) and P. Stace. Material which has been collected include old photos, slides and even a movie film along with recorded interviews with a number of 'old time' divers.

This project is not as yet complete and indeed all members could assist by forwarding any relevant material to the Research Co-ordinator.

- (4) The first real attempt at a major overall study of a water-filled sink-hole in Australia was undertaken at Kilsby's Hole. This study is particularly significant because of the high degree of work undertaken during the short period of time allowed in the access agreement. Furthermore, it is an indication of the healthy reputation of the C.D.A.A. since this is the first private group to gain entry to this site since it came under the control of the Defence Research Centre in 1969. The subsequent report is now very near completion and will serve as a yardstick from which other projects will be measured.

Aspects of the study included -

1. Detailed survey, map production to ASF GD4.
2. Hydrography - water temperature, water quality, water levels.
3. Geology.
4. Biology.
5. Paleontology.
6. Sedimentology.

A number of new projects have been mooted by various people for the near future included -

- (1) Ongoing history research.
- (2) Survey and study of 1080.
- (3) Survey and study of Englebrechts.
- (4) Survey and study of Piccaninnie Ponds.
- (5) Survey and study of L68, a completely sealed cave.

It is hoped that these projects and any others that may be proposed will involve as many members as possible in a wide variety of research work. These projects in fact represent an opportunity for cave divers to assist the Association in a real and tangible way and also to add a completely new dimension to their view of cave diving.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in research work whether it be diving related or not should forward a letter detailing any personal expertise or interests to the Research Co-ordinator, C.D.A.A., P.O. Box 290,
NORTH ADELAIDE. S.A. 5006

CDA A FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening Balance :

Victoria	\$2,440.00
South Australia	721.12
	<u>\$3,161.12</u>
	=====

I N C O M E

South Australia	\$4,990.38
Victoria	<u>2,295.11</u>
	<u>\$7,285.49</u>
	=====

E X P E N D I T U R E

South Australia	\$4,783.76
Victoria	<u>3,711.43</u>
	<u>\$8,495.19</u>
	=====

Breakdown of Expenditure

	<u>Victoria</u>	<u>South Australia</u>	<u>Total</u>
POSTAGE	\$807.54	\$1,279.46	\$2,087.00
PRINTING/STATIONERY	899.05	844.53	1,743.58
RECORDS COSTS	601.65	179.87	781.52
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS	418.00	240.00	658.00
FENCING	262.90	525.80	788.70
MISCELLANEOUS -	722.29		722.29
Electric Typewriter		650.00	
Hall Hire		88.00	
Post Office Box Hire		18.00	
'Guidelines' registration		20.00	
Poly Plastic Paper		98.40	
Legal Fees		338.70	
Elbow Joints		392.00	
General Miscellaneous		109.00	
			<u>1,714.10</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>\$3,711.43</u>	<u>\$4,783.76</u>	<u>\$8,495.19</u>
	=====	=====	=====

Closing Balance :

Victoria on 5/9/83	\$1,023.68
South Australia on 19/8/83	<u>927.74</u>
	<u>\$1,951.42</u>
	=====

TEN YEARS OF THE CDAA

by Jenny Hiscock

THE SECOND FIVE YEARS 1978 - 1983

The structure and function of the C.D.A.A. which was established during its first five years was consolidated and built upon in the second five. Considerable efforts were made to ensure a streamlined and strengthened organisation, improved communication with members, the public and other divers and improved training and testing procedures.

In 1978/79 the Association's own newsletter 'Guidelines' appeared and flourished from an initial 400 copies to over 1,000 in 1983. Combined membership in South Australia and Victoria rose from 450 in 1979-80 to 700 in 1982-83, with almost 1,200 total members registered. 'Guidelines' has grown from 4 pages on an irregular basis to its current 20-page format, 4 times a year. In 1978, fees were raised from \$3.00/year to \$5.00 and it was not until September 1983 with the increased growth of the Association that these were increased to \$10.00 per year.

Information about the C.D.A.A. and cave diving generally was made available in 1980 by the production of a 20 page Information Bulletin (by Robin Garrad) and the publication of Ian Lewis' and Peter Stace's book "Cave Diving in Australia". In 1981 a report of the second C.D.A.A. Conference in 1979, was produced by Jenny Hiscock in the form of 'Occasional Paper No. 2'. Examination organisation over this period changed somewhat, although the practical exams changed little from the original type. In 1978-79, Victoria began combining the Category 1 and 2 tests to a single event. South Australia followed suit; the number of exams was thus reduced, although administration was increased due to the now-different levels to which candidates passed. The Category 3 test changed also; but again, mostly in administration. The application procedure was tightened up in 1981 to ensure better overall organisation of these tests. In 1983, the Category 1 and 2 test location was standardised to a local Adelaide reservoir (Thorndon Park) and proved to be an unequivocal success.

Relations between Mount Gambier divers and the C.D.A.A. improved in 1980-81. Since the inception of the C.D.A.A. attempts had been made to include the local Mount Gambier divers in the Association - however this had broken down early on. The year 1981 saw the formation of the South East Scuba Divers Club and a local member, Jenny Ploenges, was co-opted to the Committee. Occasional Category 1/2 tests have been held at the Mount since, and more recently 'cave diver training courses'. Although Jenny moved to Adelaide in 1982/83 good communication with the South East divers continued and many local divers are now C.D.A.A. members.

Since 1981, organisation and Examiner appointment guidelines have been continually up-dated and improved. In South Australia examiners formed a board which undertook to take an active part in the selection of new examiners exerting a joint veto with the South Australian Committee on that matter. Four new examiners were appointed in that year via this system. The State Testing Officer was drawn now from the Examiners rather than on the Committee. Meanwhile in Victoria, examiners were appointed by the Committee exclusively in accordance with the F.A.U.I./P.A.D.I./C.D.A.A. agreement which allows suitably qualified (i.e. Category 3 and approved) diving instructors to become C.D.A.A. examiners. By 1982, the C.D.A.A. had 24 examiners in four States - 1 in W.A., 1 in N.S.W., 12 in Victoria and 10 in South Australia.

Arrangements for diver access to various sinkholes continued to be an important part of C.D.A.A. business. In 1979-80, four new sinkholes were added to the Category system - Englebrechts Cave (Category 3), Swim-through (Category 2), Horse & Cart (Category 1) and Tea Tree (Category 1). In 1981-82, restricted diving access to Tantanoola Lake Cave for special purposes was retained and L97 ("Mud Hole" or "Elaines") on Woods and Forests land near The Pines was added as a Category 3 sinkhole. In 1980-81, the need of possibly restricting access to "Barnoolut" because of the large numbers of divers visiting the property was first aired. As a result of ongoing negotiations between the C.D.A.A. and the Property Manager, Mr. Reg. Watson, access to the property is only restricted at certain times of the year - the shearing season, exceptionally hot days due to fire hazard and very wet periods in winter. A major landmark of C.D.A.A. access negotiations was the procurement of a 5 year agreement with the Mount Gambier Council for Category 3 divers to visit Englebrechts Cave. Negotiations began in 1981 and in 1983 the agreement was signed. The fact that the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Woods and Forests will only issue diving permits upon the issue of a C.D.A.A. Category is also indicative of official acceptance of the Association's qualification system.

In brief, achievements from 1978-1983 included :

- newsletter 'Guidelines' began on regular basis (Issue 1, October 1978)
- Management Plan for Piccaninnie Ponds (1981)
- Occasional Paper No. 2 (1981)
- Gates placed at sinkholes to prevent damage to fences and improve access (1982)
- Signs at sinkholes warning public (1982)
- Management Plan for Ewens Ponds (1982)
- Excellent official recognition by S.A. Government Departments.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE SECOND FIVE YEARS

- | | | | |
|---------|------|---|---|
| 1978-79 | S.A. | - | Peter Stace (President), Ian Lewis (Secretary)
Ron Allum (N.T.O.), Robyn Allum (Records/Treasurer). |
| | Vic. | - | Russell Kitt (Vice-President), David Pratt (resigned),
Alan Jolliffe, John Dalla-Zuanna (Records/Treasurer). |
| 1979-80 | S.A. | - | Ian Lewis (Vice-President), Robin Garrad (S.A. Secretary),
Robyn Allum (Records/Treasurer), Neville Groverman. |
| | Vic. | - | Russell Kitt (President), Barrie Heard (Vic. Secretary),
John Dalla-Zuanna (Records/Treasurer), Alan Jolliffe (N.T.O.) |
| 1980-81 | S.A. | - | Ian Lewis (Vice-President), Robin Garrad (National Secretary),
Ron Allum (Records/Treasurer), Neville Groverman. |
| | Vic. | - | Russell Kitt (President), John McCormick (Secretary/
Treasurer), Alan Jolliffe (N.T.O.), Christine Sutherland. |
| 1981-82 | S.A. | - | Ian Lewis (President), Robin Garrad (National Secretary),
Steve Collett (Records/Treasurer), John Hansen. |
| | Vic. | - | John McCormick (Vice-President/Records/Treasurer),
Andrew Wight, Barrie Heard (Secretary), Alan Jolliffe (N.T.O.). |
| 1982-83 | S.A. | - | Ian Lewis (Vice-President - resigned), Steve Collett
(National Secretary - resigned), Jenny Hiscock, Peter Horne
(Records/Treasurer/National Secretary). (Temporary members-
Michael Byrne, Mark Nielsen). |
| | Vic. | - | John McCormick (President), Andrew Cox (Records/Secretary),
Barrie Heard, Richard Wirski (Treasurer). |

HELLS HOLE - THE EASY WAY!

Brian Dohnt,
South East Scuba Divers Inc.

I think all C.D.A.A. divers would like to dive Hells Hole sooner or later - maybe later after a strenuous get fit campaign. So did I, but I was not impressed with the ladder climb and said the only way I would go in was by crane.

The main aim of this exercise was P/R for ourselves (South East Scuba Divers Inc.) and Mewett Cranes, courtesy of Basil Mewett who had kindly made his crane available after a quiet word in his ear. Our next step were permits from the Woods & Forest Department Myora Headquarters, and after speaking to Neil Collins, Officer in Charge, he asked us if it was feasible to lift the car out of the hole as it was an eyesore (maybe to visitors but not to divers anyway).

My next step was media coverage through SES.8 and the Border Watch which wasn't a problem - neither was getting four other divers to help with getting the car up. (Incidentally, when I first talked about a crane everyone laughed at me, and when I told them I had one they couldn't volunteer quick enough!)

Well, we were geared up ready to go Sunday morning February 13th approximately 9.30 a.m. and hot as hell, and we weren't in there yet, as it was 35° already. We went down in two lifts in the work-bucket, from extreme heat into cool water - what a relief! The five of us, myself, Terry Wilson, Barry Opperman, Doug McLeod and Peter Murphy had decided to circumnavigate the hole starting at 26m on the southern side. We found the water was crystal clear around the top of the mound in the middle of the hole, but diminishing to a greeny haze as we descended down the sides. Two things we found apart from lots of rubbish and rotten tree branches were - an 18-gallon keg with a bullet hole in it, and a mummified body of a drowned tiger snake. We had decided to limit our dive to 20 minutes to give us enough air left to cable the car up.

Upon surfacing, Basil had already taken the work-bucket off and lowered the cables down, so we proceeded to cable up the axles as the car, an E.J. Holden station wagon, was on its roof. The car came away quite easily, and water, oil and petrol was leaking from it as it was being lifted up the side of the hole. It was then lowered onto a Woods & Forest Dept. truck and dumped later by Woods & Forest personnel, who had acted as guides for the crane operator, who couldn't see into the hole from the track on the eastern side.

Well, everything had gone as planned, without any mishaps. Despite the extreme heat, everyone had enjoyed a truly great dive.

I guess I'll never dive in there again, mainly because a 20 metre ladder climb from the ledge is a good deterrent, so to the divers that do, eat your hearts out!

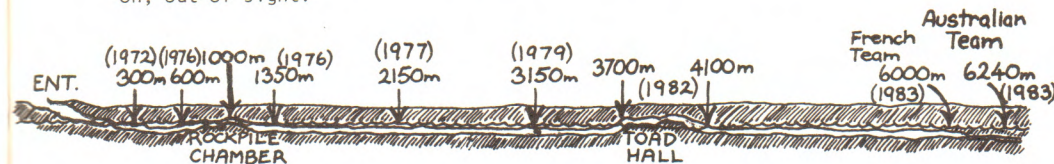
NEWS • OTHER NEWS • OTHER NEWS • OTHER NEWS

COCKLEBIDDY - World's Greatest Cave Dive

Since the arrival in mid-1983 of a team of French cave divers, the news media has provided a fairly good coverage of the attempts by themselves and an Australian team to 'push' Cocklebidy Cave in the Nullarbor Plain to the extreme. Sometimes presented as a competition between countries, the event proved to be one which attracted the attentions of many an average citizen, and indeed the existence of the Association became more widely known as a result.

Armed with excellent sponsorship involving underwater scooters, high-pressure scuba cylinders, dry suits and helmet-mounted lights, the French team (consisting of 5 very experienced and capable divers) succeeded in breaking the previous records established by the earlier Australian teams, pushing the total distance another 1.5 kilometres beyond "Toad Hall", the last chamber found by divers, to the astonishing total distance of 6 kilometres. By this time, the wide, high tunnel which has made Cocklebidy famous had narrowed at 18 metres deep to a series of small tunnels going off in various directions, restricting access for Francis and Eric Le Guen, the two divers who (solo) reached this region. Upon their return to Adelaide, their news was at first very disheartening for the Australian team as it was felt the cave was virtually at an end - maybe only a few more metres could be crawled into the end. Neither Francis nor Eric had removed their triple-tank backpacks to crawl through restrictions, and this fact showed that there was still a remote chance of the Australian team finding something - especially when the key members of the crew - Ron Allum, Peter Rogers and Hugh Morrison, plus many support divers - consisted of some of the best 'grovel' divers in the country!

The Australian team, which had been preparing for almost a year, then departed for Cocklebidy. Many of Australia's (and the C.D.A.A.'s) most experienced cave divers played some part in the mammoth operation, which finally involved a 55-hour underground exploration and around 10 kilometres of swimming! The three lead divers broke past the French line, setting yet another world record, and finally Hugh Morrison with a single tank, pushed into a low, thin tunnel and penetrated for another 240 metres - a spectacular achievement in the "end of the longest submerged cave in the world"! With two-thirds of his air remaining, Hugh returned to the others, to report that the tunnel continued on, out of sight.



Our congratulations are extended to both the Australian and French teams for their extremely professional approaches to the undertaking, and for breaking the World Record twice in less than 2 months!!

.....and the "Everest of Cave Diving" just keeps going on.....

S • OTHER NEWS • OTHER NEWS • OTHER NEWS

MEDIA WATCH

The news media has presented very good coverage on cave diving in South Australia recently, including up to date information on the Cocklebidy Cave attempts.

Nullarbor (Cocklebidy) Cave Diving - French & Australian Teams

- Letter to the Editor re "No Diving Bitterness" between Australian and French teams - Adelaide Advertiser, 27/7/83 p.6.
- "Divers Train for World Record" (Aust.team), Advertiser 9/8/83 p.17.
- "Team Set for Record Attack" (French team), The News 19/8/83 p.4.
- "Cocklebidy keeps record-breaking divers in the dark" (French team) Advertiser, 3/9/83 p.8.
- "French Team reaches end of long S.A. Cave", Advertiser (1st Ed.) 17/9/83.
- "Frogmen of the Nullarbor- Australian & French Rivals Race to Reign Under the Plain", PEOPLE Magazine, 19/9/83.
- "The World's Greatest Cave" (Both teams), Advertiser 21/9/83 p.7 (3/4 page).
- "Doubts on Cave Dive" (re French team) Advertiser, 30/9/83 p.9.
- "Cocklebidy Dive Today" (Aust. team) 12/10/83 p.8.
- "World's Longest Dive - Cave Team" (Aust. team) Advertiser 14/10/83 p.9.
- "55-hour Expedition in W.A.'s Cocklebidy Caves - AUSSIES SET WORLD CAVE DIVE RECORD", Sunday Mail 16/10/83 (1/3 page).
- "The Conquering Cave - International assaults couldn't plumb Cocklebidy's Unfathomable depths", PEOPLE Magazine 5/12/83 pp7-10.

Several television sequences were also shown involving the preparation for the Australian team and film shot on location.

Television Sequence - ADS Channel 7 "State Affair", 8/11/83
- re C.D.A.A.'s First 10 years of safe cave diving and testing.

'South Australian Magazine (SAM), October 1983 issue - p.108 -
Article on Mount Gambier sinkhole diving.

"10 years of Safety for Cave Divers", BORDER WATCH, 1/8/83 p.4 (½ page).

"Divers Clean-Up Cave", BORDER WATCH, 22/9/83 - re C.D.A.A. assistance to Lions Club during cave clean-out.

ARTICLES FOR "GUIDELINES"

Members are invited to submit any article relating to cave diving which they feel could be of interest for inclusion in "Guidelines". Scientific studies, unusual pleasure dives and personal stories are particularly of interest. Please send submissions to the Editor through your state Committee.

CLASSIFIEDS

1. One U.S. Divers Twin Tank Manifold
Any reasonable offer will be considered.
Contact K. Lengs, telephone: 336.1616 (Home)
225.5980 (Work).

Editor: It is envisaged that this column is available free of charge for any C.D.A.A. member who has cave diving equipment available for sale. So, if you want to sell your old diving light, or reel or whatever, write to the Editor.

FOR SALE

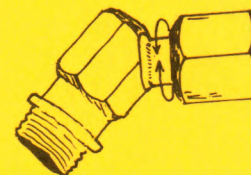
Why pay between \$25 and \$30 needlessly?

Elbow swivel joints can be purchased from the Association.

They are good quality chromed, brass type and can be attached to any brand of second stage regulator.

Send \$18 to : CDAA,
P.O. Box 290,
NTH. ADELAIDE,
5006.

The item will be sent by mail.



SCUBA DIVING ACCIDENTS

can include:

- decompression sickness*
- pulmonary barotrauma*

FIRST AID FOR BOTH OF THESE:

1. OXYGEN
2. FLUIDS
3. ASPIRIN
4. OBTAIN EXPERT ADVICE

CONSCIOUS PATIENT

- 100% O₂ mask. High flow
- Fluids — salted and sweetened 1 litre/hour
- Two tablets of aspirin

UNCONSCIOUS PATIENT

- Intubate O₂ 100% High flow
- I.V. fluids (saline or Hartmann's Solution) 1 litre/hour

LOCAL CONTACTS

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL: (087) 24 2211
A.H. (087) 24 2213

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL: (08) 223 2855

Ask for Intensive Care
Unit.

Duty Diving Medical Officer
R.A.N. School of Underwater Medicine
02-960 0444 (0800-1600 hrs)
02-960 0321 (after hours)

Please state:

- The diving medical emergency
- Ask for the Duty Diving M.O. to be contacted
- Give your telephone number