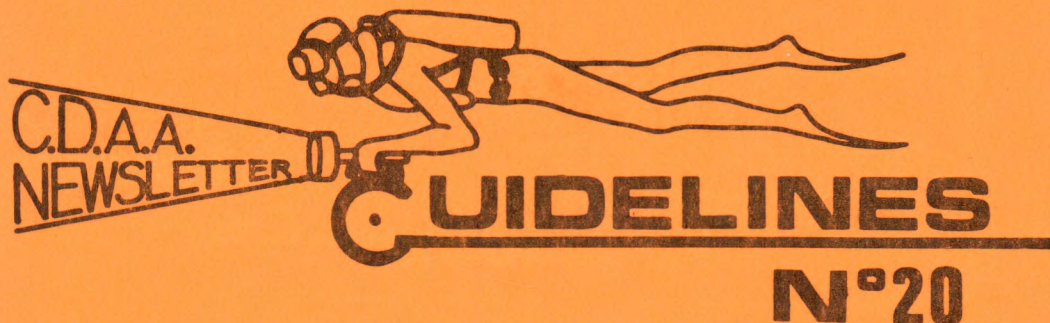


**DECEMBER 1984 / JANUARY 1985**



**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**



# DIVERS DIARY



## 1985 MARCH CATEGORY 3 TEST DATES

Applications close February 16th

Theory Tests: (S.A. and Vic.) Wednesday Evening 6th March  
Time and Venue to be advised.

Practical Test: Saturday 16th March  
0900 (S.A. time) Piccaninnie Ponds.

All applications to be addressed to:

Peter Rogers  
C.D.A.A. National Testing Officer  
22 Lucan Street,  
Caulfield North,  
Victoria 3161

Applications should include:- Dive log (20 Cat.2 dives, 12  
with reel) Name, Address,  
Phone Number, Buddy's name.

A maximum of 16 people can be tested in Piccaninnie Ponds at  
any one time. All applicants will be allowed to sit the theory  
test, but should more than 16 people be eligible and available  
to take the practical, then those applications received first  
by the N.T.O. will be chosen.

Any questions or queries concerning the Cat.3 Test should be  
directed to Peter Rogers 03-5277969 or Ron Allum 08-2638157.  
On receipt of applications all candidates will receive further  
information concerning the format of the theory and practical  
exams. Much of this is contained in the 1981 information  
bulletin, although some of this is now out of date.

Peter Rogers

# GUIDELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

No. 20 DECEMBER '84/JANUARY '85

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Editing: Dennis Thamm S.A. - Debbie Critchley - Vic.  
Typing: Debbie Critchley, Joy Frizell



## EDITORIAL

No doubt most members have heard of the future proposal by National Parks & Wildlife to introduce a fee for permits to dive Piccaninnie Ponds. No doubt the comment of "It's just another way of making money out of us" has been the typical result from such discussions BUT, to the contrary, National Parks & Wildlife will receive none of the monies from this fee.

The revenue generated by this fee will go to the State Government which in turn will see fit to give a larger portion of its budget to National Parks & Wildlife Services state wide. This means more money with which to help upgrade and maintain these National Parks, like Piccanninie Ponds so that divers like us, and visitors alike can continue to enjoy what we now like to do - diving!!

So we hope you now have a better idea of why a fee is to be introduced, so that we can continue this diving freedom that now exists.

Dennis Thamm



## DIVER'S ROLE

"The motivation to Cave Dive has many roots. Too often, however, the motivation is ego. Unfortunately, and all too often, the 'hero, thrill seeker or instant expert' overextend themselves, not realizing their folly until it is too late.

For this reason when reading and learning Cave Diving remember that knowledge and experience required for safe diving comes a little at a time."

excerpt from N.S.S. Cave Diving Manual.

### 1. C.D.A.A. COMMITTEE 1984-1985

The new Committee members for each state for the 1984/85 year are as follows:-

President	- Bill Bernhardt (Vic.)
Vice President	- Chris Brown (S.A.)
National Secretary	- Steve Clark (S.A.)

S.A. Records Officer	- Syd Johnstone
Editor 'Guidelines'	- Dennis Thamm (S.A.)

Vic. Secretary	- John Dalla-Zuanna
Vic. Records Officer	- Debbie Critchley
Vic. Treasurer/Ass.Sec.	- Sue Trewartha

Congratulations to these new members from each state, and let's see each and everyone promote the association in the fine form that it has maintained over the past 10 years.

### 2. C.D.A.A. EXAMINER PERSONNEL 1984-1985

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

### 3. EDITOR'S NOTE AND REPORT 83/84

Over the years, Guidelines has provided many interesting and informative articles on a variety of subjects and topics, and as with any magazine, new material is always a must. BUT, we are steadily running out of things to put to print. WE NEED MORE MEMBERSHIP INPUT. Any cave diving related material on dives, maps, new equipment, personal experiences, trip reports, cartoons, editorial comments, overseas or local, long or short, send it in. WE NEED IT!!

Dennis Thamm

P.S. Be warned, YOU may receive a letter in the mail soon asking for printing material, so get your brain in gear and put pen to paper.

### 4. MARCH CAT.3 TEST

Check your Divers Diary for the next Cat.3 testing program for March '85.

#### STOP PRESS

Due to the lateness of this issue of "Guidelines" the closing date for applications has been extended to February 23rd. However, restrictions on the number of people who can be tested for the practical still apply so don't delay.



5. NEW JETTY AND PONTOON AT PIC'S

As most members are now probably aware, there has been a new walkway, jetty and floating pontoon installed at Piccaninnie Ponds. This has come about through the continual upgrading and maintenance by National Parks and Wildlife Service and I'm sure any future additions will be just as well received as this has.

Through the Ewens Ponds Management Plan a similar construction will also be installed at Ewens, replacing the rickety jetty in current use.

6. PICCANINNIE PONDS PERMIT FEE

As mentioned at both C.D.A.A. State Meetings prior to the A.G.M., National Parks and Wildlife Service is now considering a fee for Pic's Permits.

C.D.A.A. Committee members have met and discussed with the Regional Director of National Parks & Wildlife Mt. Gambier, Mr. Lindsay Jolly, as to how much and when this will come about. Approval by N.P.W.S. State Office is now underway, so as soon as a decision has been reached, the membership will be informed.

The fee has been introduced to help gain revenue to provide continued upgrading of Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park as seen with the new jetty system.

7. C.D.A.A. RESEARCH GROUP - PIC'S PROJECT

As this edition of Guidelines goes to print, the Research Group will be undertaking its mapping project in Piccaninnie Ponds. If you encounter divers hanging from ends of line or tape, don't be alarmed, there is a reasonable explanation.

Also respect any pegs or lines laid and try not to upset them as they are important.

8. LIGHTS AND FENCING FOR ENGLEBRECHTS

Due to the continual problems with vandals, a large barbed wire security fence has been installed around Englebrechts Cave. In addition, a further set of gates have been installed on the categorized side to help protect the now impressive lighting system that has been installed.

Members should be aware of, and report, anyone seen attempting to gain access to the cave via incorrect or damaging means.

9. TO BEND OR NOT TO BEND

Most people who attended the Diving Medical Seminar conducted by the South Australian Postgraduate Medical Education Assoc. entitled "To Bend or Not to Bend", will agree that it was quite exceptional and very informative.

A short report will be published in Guidelines soon, so make sure you're up-to-date on deep diving medicine and don't forget to read it.

10. GUIDELINES CHANGE

In an effort to get both Victorian and South Australian membership involved in Guidelines, printing, typing and posting of Guidelines is now being handled by the Victorian Guidelines Editor Debbie Critchley. Information is gathered by both states and combined. This is hoped to give more inter-state involvement. So, if there are any delays or problems, please bear with us.

Dennis Thamm S.A. Editor  
Debbie Critchley Vic. Editor

11. BACK EDITIONS OF GUIDELINES

It is proposed that back editions of Guidelines will be made available, along with Occasional Papers 1 and 2, provided there is enough interest.

The cost of each edition will be approximately \$1 at present, depending again on numbers required. So, if you would like any back editions, please write to C.D.A.A., P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006 and place your order.

(Allow approximately 6-8 weeks for delivery)

12. C.D.A.A. FASHION UPDATE

C.D.A.A. Windcheaters and T-shirts are now available. These high quality garments feature a pocket-sized logo and are available in the stunning fashion colours pale blue, red or gold. Sizes 12 through to 22 are in stock, so just about everybody is catered for.

If you can't wait until your next State meeting, you can mail order by sending \$15.50 for a windcheater or \$7.00 for a T-shirt. ORDER EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

13. EWENS PONDS MANAGEMENT PLAN REPORT

At the last South Australian S.S.M. held on Monday 10th September, 1984, we were fortunate to have Mr. Glyn Ashman from the Mt. Gambier Dept. of Lands come along and explain the reasons behind, and contents of the newly released Ewens Ponds Management Plan.

cont....



13. Ewens Ponds Management Plan Report (Continued)

With the press statements of "Divers Cause Ponds Closure" still echoing through our minds, I think everyone present would agree that the presentation was well timed and informative. This was also evident by the discussion generated during the evening's progress.

Glyn explained that the plan has been a long time coming and that past proposals have been insufficient or inadequate, and as a result, scrapped. However, this time the Dept. of Lands contracted Louise Granfield from N.P.W.S., who, in conjunction with other Departments and Authorities (including the C.D.A.A.) produced the current draft document. It was also pointed out that Ewens Ponds have been put on our National Heritage Register and will soon become part of the Ewens Ponds Conservation Park.

For further information please contact the Department of Lands in Mt. Gambier or borrow a copy of the Draft plan from the C.D.A.A. To buy copies write to:-

Regional Manager  
Dept. of Lands Mt. Gambier  
Private Mail Bag 124  
Mt. Gambier 5290  
South Australia

Include cheque to the value of \$6.00 for the draft and postage.

A management plan is also being constructed for Piccaninnie Ponds. Information collected during the C.D.A.A. Research Group's Project currently underway, will again go into the final draft.

Dennis Thamm - Editor

14. EWENS PONDS BEING USED FOR TESTING GROUND

National Parks and Wildlife Service have informed us that Category Testing in Ewens Ponds will no longer be allowed due to the damage that is being caused.

15. BARNOOLUT ACCESS

Subject to further talks with Mr. Reg Watson, he has requested that all groups wishing to dive on Barnoolut have at least one person per group who is familiar with the location of those holes on the property. If a group has no experienced dive leader, they will not be permitted to dive. Any groups who get lost or decide to go sightseeing will be reported to the committee for disciplinary action.

Please respect land owners' requests, as without their co-operation, our sport would not survive, and don't forget it's Fire Ban Season soon so BE CAREFUL!!!

16. LOCAL MT. GAMBIER REPRESENTATIVE

The acceptance of Ian Ploenges as the local Mt. Gambier Representative for the C.D.A.A. during 1984/85 was passed at the last September Annual General Meeting. A motion was later put forward by Ron Allum proposing that a local Mt. Gambier representative be elected onto the National Committee with full voting powers by local divers. This was passed, but is subject to constitutional changes which the committee is now investigating.

As soon as the appropriate changes have been made, a local Mt. Gambier representative will be elected to the National Committee. This would then give a better local representation and further improve Committee/Membership relations.

17. LETTER FROM AUF RE DIVER EMERGENCY SERVICE



ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR

NEWS RELEASE

NEW DIVER EMERGENCY SERVICE APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, THROUGH HIS MINISTER ASSISTING, HAS AGREED TO AN APPROACH MADE BY THE AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER FEDERATION, THAT THE RAN SCHOOL OF UNDERWATER MEDICINE ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION POINT FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF DIVING EMERGENCIES.

NOW, TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN A DIVING EMERGENCY, THERE IS, AUSTRALIA WIDE, A SINGLE TELEPHONE NUMBER TO CALL. MANNED 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, WILL PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE DOCTORS OF THE RAN SCHOOL OF UNDERWATER MEDICINE FOR IMMEDIATE ADVICE ON TREATMENT AND TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON FUTURE TRANSPORT OR FURTHER TREATMENT THAT MAY BE NEEDED.

MR FRANK POOLE, THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF COACHING FOR THE AUF, WAS QUICK TO ADD THAT THIS IN NO WAY LESSENS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SEVERAL PROFESSIONALLY SERVICED RECOMPRESSION CHAMBERS AVAILABLE AROUND OUR COAST, BUT WITH

cont.....



17. Letter from AUF (Continued)

DIVERS TENDING TO BE VERY MIGRATORY, THERE WAS NOW A SINGLE TELEPHONE CONTACT AND A SIMPLE REPORTING PROCEDURE, INSTEAD OF THE MULTIPLICITY OF REPORTING NUMBERS AND DIFFERING PROCEDURES CURRENTLY EVOLVING. THE NAVY WOULD NORMALLY UTILISE THE CLOSEST APPROPRIATE FACILITY TO THE ACCIDENT AND PROVIDE ADVICE IN FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT TREATMENT AND IN ARRANGING TRANSPORT TO MOVE THE PATIENT TO THE FACILITY.

THE AUF STATED THAT THIS ACTION BY THE MINISTER AND BY THE NAVY INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHERE SERVICE EXPERTISE PREVAILED. IT WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF DIVING IN AUSTRALIA.

IF YOU HAVE A DIVING EMERGENCY, CALL "DES" (DIVERS EMERGENCY SERVICE):

RING: 02 - 9600 321

STATE: "THIS IS A DIVING EMERGENCY".

ASK: THAT THEY CONTACT THE DUTY DOCTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF UNDERWATER MEDICINE.

GIVE: DETAILS OF INCIDENT:-

1. EXACT LOCATION OF PATIENT.
2. TELEPHONE NUMBER WHERE SOMEBODY CAN BE CONTACTED, INCLUDING STD CODE (MAKE SURE THAT SOMEONE STAYS AT THE PHONE AND THAT PHONE IS NOT USED).
3. DETAILS OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENT AND PATIENT'S CONDITION.
4. CURRENT FIRST AID BEING APPLIED.
5. CONTACT'S NAME.
6. HAVE ANY EMERGENCY/MEDICAL/POLICE SERVICES BEEN NOTIFIED, IF SO, WHEN.

CHECK: THAT THE RECEIVER HAS CORRECT:-

1. LOCATION.
2. TELEPHONE NUMBER.
3. GIVE DETAILS.
4. SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS.
5. CONTACT NAME.

THE AUF WILL SHORTLY BE DISTRIBUTING A BROCHURE WITH FULL PROCEDURES SUITABLE FOR NOTICE BOARDS AND HANDOUTS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN ABBREVIATED PROCEDURE ON A PLASTIC WALLET CARD AND A STICKER.

CDAА FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening Balance :

Victoria	\$ 588.40
South Australia	<u>977.14</u>
	<u>\$1,565.54</u>

I N C O M E

Victoria	\$ 7,414.76
South Australia	<u>7,029.75</u>
	<u>\$14,444.51</u>

E X P E N D I T U R E

Victoria	\$ 4,097.83
South Australia	<u>6,181.51</u>
	<u>\$10,279.34</u>

Breakdown of Expenditure

	<u>Victoria</u>	<u>South Australia</u>	<u>Total</u>
POSTAGE	413.92	1,661.54	2,075.46
PRINTING/STATIONERY	409.20	2,351.02	2,760.22
RECORDS COSTS	817.91	-	817.91
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS	180.00	180.00	360.00
GATING & SIGNS		412.00	412.00
MISCELLANEOUS -	1,765.80	639.26	2,405.06
Electric Typewriter	511.00	-	511.00
Hall Hire		66.25	
Post Box Hire		20.00	
Cancelled 'Guidelines'		115.44	
Elbow Joints		736.00	937.69
	<u>\$4,097.83</u>	<u>\$6,181.51</u>	<u>\$10,279.34</u>

Closing Balance :

Victoria 30/6/84	\$3,905.33
South Australia 15/8/84	<u>1,825.38</u>
	<u>\$5,730.71</u>



COMBINED PRESIDENT/NATIONAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1983/84.

This year has been another period of growth and success for the Association, proving to many of us that there really is strength in unity and co-operation.

Public awareness of cave diving in general and the role of the CDAА has risen dramatically, both through Committee efforts and the well-publicised Cocklebidy Cave dive record, and it appears that the Association definitely has the potential to grow for many years to come.

The value of our united stand representing such a publicly-misunderstood activity as ours proved its worth when media hysteria finally put the system to the test with the tragic double-fatality in April this year. We feel that the Association weathered the situation well, and we didn't lose a single diving site - a result of extremely good communication between the Committee and the cooperative and understanding attitude of all present landowners and Managers. April was a time when a terrific amount of work went into the compilation of reports, more personal contact with National Parks and Wildlife Service and Police Underwater Recovery Squad staff, and correspondence. The Piccaninnie Ponds accident, the first cave diving accident in Australia in almost 10 years, serves to force us all to review our current attitudes as regards diving with uncertified or uncategorised friends and deep diving, and to demonstrate that our old enemy, nitrogen narcosis, is still as deadly as ever. Let's hope we can have at least another 10 years of accident-free diving in the Mount.

A review on our recommendations regarding recompression facilities began in January 1984, after the National Safety Council of Victoria's Morwell facility made the news. Victorian members are more fortunate than South Australians here as they are closer to Sydney's HMAS PENGUIN system as well. When we contacted the S.A. Government regarding our review (our cards currently recommend contacting Mt. Gambier Hospital and Royal Adelaide Hospital), we were informed of the existence of a S.A. Health Commission review taking place shortly, and the CDAА succeeded in gaining representation on that Consultative Group. The recommendations of the Group to the S.A. Government will include possible contact with Morwell in the event of fly-out chambers, and for Adelaide to have a large centralised recompression chamber with the requisite qualified staff to be available at all times. If the Government should disregard these recommendations, it will be up to a future Committee to decide whether our current recommendations are retained in favour of the Morwell system.

An important aside to this Consultative Group decision was the discussion which came out on the latest information available on decompression diving. It was pointed out that all present sport diving tables are now known to have been designed around completely incorrect assumptions and theories regarding gas changes in our bodies. Decompression sickness is known as the "Great Masquerader", and like a potent, invisible virus, it should be avoided at all costs. We hope that members undertaking deep and/or repetitive diving actively update their knowledge by reading extensively the latest available information from HMAS Penguin, specifically the research from Surgeon Lt. Cdr. Des Gorman. This is available from the Committee.

The Draft Ewens Ponds Management Plan has just been released, and it generally is favourable with regards conservation of the site and for recreational sport divers. The recommendation includes one requiring a permit system, which would eliminate the recent free-for-all in the very limited environment of the Ponds. The CDAА and National Parks and Wildlife Service and Lands Department personnel have maintained close contact over this proposal, including recent complaints from members regarding the digging of a trench into the second pond by a nearby landholder who is using the water.

Piccaninnie Ponds permits, issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service at Mount Gambier, will shortly lose their free status when members will have to pay a fee for them. Currently, it costs National Parks thousands of dollars to administer the permit system and it is their hope that money charged for permits will help with policing the area as well. Just how much they will cost and how we can continue to assist members as with the present system remains to be sorted out, but it is encouraging to know that at least Lindsay Jolley, the Regional Manager, is prepared to discuss the system with the Committee rather than simply hard-handedly bringing in a new ruling which could upset a lot of us. Members will shortly know how much they will need to pay for future permits. The new Pics Permit system introduced last year seems to be working well, and hopefully can be used with the charging system.

The Committee felt that, in our 10th year of existence (including 10 years of regular landowner negotiations as well), a token to express our gratitude to them should be given, and a Certificate of Appreciation was designed and printed up for landowners. They were received very well by all concerned. Although the Committee has done this, it doesn't mean that thoughtful gestures such as the odd carton of beer for landowners need be forgotten by members!

Cave diving examining policies and procedures were reviewed significantly this year, introducing what many see as some good and some bad aspects. However, as we are all committed to improving cave diving awareness in safety and advanced training, changes must be allowed to occur from time to time as long as current systems have faults. The STANDARDS of testing are, we hope, as tough as ever - the main alteration being the loss of the requirement for independent examining. All future Examiners now need to have formally-recognised INSTRUCTOR qualifications as well as at least 12 months of Category 3 diving experience, plus the other requirements of Sub-Aqua Bronze Medallion and Senior Resuscitation. As was mentioned last year, examiners are not the next step up from Cat. 3 - they are only appointed AS REQUIRED by the other examiners.

Local Cat. 2 cave diver and dive shop proprietor, Ian Ploenges, was appointed as Mount Gambier Representative for the CDAА due to his regular involvement in cave diving query-handling for the CDAА over the last 2 years, and communication between the S.A. and Victorian Committees has been very good this year, enabling possibly contentious issues to run reasonably smoothly.

Good liaison between the CDAА and various Government Departments continues to prosper, and we hope it continues into the future. Members might be interested to learn that, as a result of the communication breakdown between the Police divers and ourselves during the Piccaninnie Ponds accident recovery operation, we have now established a far better relationship. Police divers have told us that they would be among the first to support us to keep the sinkholes open should public opinion say otherwise.

Negotiations have commenced in the hope of gaining access to a new diving site, and the control of Englebrechts Cave may soon be taken over by another organisation which will hopefully have fruitful discussions with the forthcoming Committee.

We hope that the next year will be one of safety and success for all cave divers.

Peter Horne/Lester Jerman.



# NATIONAL TESTING OFFICER'S REPORT 1984

The past year has seen a number of significant events affecting the CDAA examiner body. The most tragic of these was the untimely deaths of two cave divers in Piccaninnie Ponds earlier in the year. These deaths underline the potential dangers of our sport, and emphasise the need for the highest examination standards and the importance of keeping the examiners, and the general membership of the CDAA up to date with current theory and equipment advances.

During the year, two steps have been taken to improve the standard of cave diving examination. In conjunction with the National committee, the examiner body now requires that all new examiners be qualified as a scuba instructor with a recognised body. This decision ensures that CDAA examiners are of an independently recognised high standard in the theoretical and practical aspects of scuba, as well as being able to instruct cave diving as well as examine it.

The second step being taken to improve the examination system is the production of an examiners' manual. A draft form of this document now exists, covering such areas as administration, practical and theory examining, and standards for new examiners. The drafting and production of an examiners manual will also more clearly define the separate role and responsibilities of the examiner body within the CDAA, as long term it is hoped to include the examiner body as a discrete entity within the constitution, responsible in their own right for examination standards. This can only be achieved however, when the role and responsibilities of the examiner body are more clearly defined. This task is of paramount importance in the coming year and will require considerable mutual effort on behalf of both the National committee and the examiner body.

This year has seen the retirement of three examiners; Dave Warner, Phil Prust and Dave McIvor. The CDAA owes a great deal to these three, and their experience and cave-diving knowledge will be sorely missed. It is a tribute to their collective ability that many of the exam questions and practical tests devised by them in the early days of the CDAA are still in use today. Three new examiners have been welcomed to the ranks, Glen Harrison and Chris Brown in South Australia, and Bill Bernhardt in Melbourne. It is perhaps pertinent to point out at this stage that new examiners are appointed on a needs basis only; examiner status is seen as a service to the CDAA, and not as the next qualification after category 3.

The March category 3 programme saw a new approach to cave-diving, with a greater degree of instruction being given to the candidates prior to the test, leading to far more practice and training being undertaken. In consequence, the standard at the test programme was the highest for many years, with every person achieving category 3 status. In line with this review of the examination system, a new theory paper has also been produced for Category 3 candidates which includes a broader spectrum of theory knowledge than the old paper.

The increasing popularity of the Nullabor caves, and the continued emergence of such cave diving areas as Tasmania, indicate that in the near future the CDAA, and particularly the examiners, will need to address the problems of training and equipping people to dive these diverse and demanding cave systems. In conjunction with the production of an examiners manual, these problems remain the major tasks for the forthcoming year.

I wish you all safe and pleasant grovelling for the year ahead.

Peter Rogers

N.T.O.

## CATEGORY 3 TEST SEPTEMBER 1984 REPORT

Twenty-Four candidates formally applied to the National Testing Officer for the September, '84 test held at Mt. Gambier. Of these, 5 failed the theory test, 5 failed the practical and 2 withdrew for personal reasons. The result, 12 clear passes to Cat. 3 standard.

Although the pass rate was down on the last test (of 100%) this does not indicate a varying of standards by the examiner panel, but reflects the effort and seriousness that the candidates contribute themselves prior to the test.

Of interest and an indication of the preparation some candidates will go to, the following was observed at the practical test:-

1. A webbing attachment was placed over the pillar valve, regulator and top of stabilizer jacket to avoid line catching as most of us have previously experienced. This was attached under the bac pac clamp. Having personally observed their line following through Cathedral Cave, the attachment worked effectively.
2. Although not a new idea, a helmet mounted light helped Stephen Shaw overcome his physical disability of having only one arm. Congratulations to Stephen on passing his Cat 3 tests.
3. Another idea observed was a light that was mechanically attached to a reel. However, the units could easily but not accidentally be separated if required.

But be warned, the examiner panel is very critical of all equipment the candidates wish to use. Two candidates did have problems due to a faulty reel which contributed to their failing. Really without doubt, prior preparation prevents poor performance, especially for a cat. 3 test.

Ron Allum  
S.A.S.T.O.

## THE SWAMP





CORONER'S FINDINGS ON PICCANINNIE PONDS DOUBLE-FATALITY - Peter Horne

On 20th November, 1984, the South Australian State Coroner, Mr. K.B. AHERN, handed down his findings on the Inquest held into the deaths of John FISHER (a CDAA Cat. 2 member) and his friend, Barry O'NEILL at Piccaninnie Ponds on 7th April this year. John and Barry ran out of air before they could free themselves from an extreme entanglement, at a depth of around 60m in the 'Dog Leg.'

In a 7-Page Statement, Mr. Ahern concluded that "It is of course a matter of speculation as to the actual sequence of events which brought about this tragedy. It cannot be disputed that (the dive) was an extremely hazardous undertaking, having regard to the depth intended to be reached, which was in fact achieved by both the deceased. The depth was approximately 21m in excess of that recommended by the Cave Divers Association and also of course in breach of the permit issued by the Department of Environment and Planning. The other potential dangers which should have been appreciated were, onset of Nitrogen Narcosis, poor visibility, the potential of silting at the bottom, and the confined area near the bottom of the shaft and below the Bridge. This confined area certainly would have severely hampered the movements of both the deceased."

Mr. Ahern thoroughly considered information submitted by C.D.A.A. and Police Underwater Recovery Squad representatives, and the following extract from his Statement reveals how he sees the role of our Association:

"Cave diving itself is no doubt a popular and indeed healthy sport throughout Australia. Despite the deaths as enumerated above, it should not be considered a potentially dangerous sport providing of course conditions and safeguards are observed. To this end the Cave Divers Association of Australia is no doubt a responsible organisation which has laid down certain guidelines and rules for its members. In this case, the deceased Mr. Fisher, was in fact a member of the Association and held the requisite permit from the National Parks organisation. On the other hand, Mr. O'Neill was not a member of the Association and did not hold such a permit. He was therefore not legally entitled to enter the area.

continued...

Coroner's Findings on Piccaninnie Ponds Double Fatality - cont'

It would also appear that his diving experience, particularly in fresh water, was limited.

It is incumbent upon people who indulge in this sport to follow the rules and guidelines laid down by the Association. It is of course only after necessary experience that a person can aspire to be a member of this organisation. Nevertheless, once having gained this status it is absolutely essential that each individual member follow the advice given, including recommendations as to what depth should be reached in particular localities."

Finally, the consequences of divers' ignoring Mr. Ahern's recommendations as outlined above are extremely serious, as his final comments showed - they are reproduced below for the information of ALL Cave Divers, ESPECIALLY the more radical members who STILL choose to dive with unqualified friends illegally:

"In the event of further deaths occurring in this State as a result of non-observance of the precautions and limitations as recommended, it may be that the Government may consider it appropriate to introduce legislation. This would be undesirable and I would only urge this action as a last resort. I can only suggest that the decision whether such legislation becomes necessary, rests mainly with those people who engage in this sport. It is reasonable to assume that if the recommended safeguards etc., are followed, then this sport is virtually free of danger to those who participate."

- Peter Horne.

QUERY CORNER : A biting question from one member to Ian Lewis on procedures with dry suits.

"What do you do about 'Bull Ants' in your dry suit at 100ft in Pic's???"



MEDIA WATCH

- Australia Adventurers Magazine  
Several Items  
"Just a Little Practice Dive"  
"Cocklebidy - Longest Cave Dive in the World"  
by Francis Luquen
- Melbourne Age, 15 Sept. '84  
"Taking a Dive into History"  
by Jeoff Maslen  
About Pic's & Ewens
- Weekend Australia 28/29 July  
"Struggle to Save an Underwater Magic Kingdom"  
by Trudi McIntosh  
About Ewens Ponds
- Border Watch  
"Divers Flouted Safety Rules"
- Advertiser 30th Oct. '84
- News 30th Oct. '84  
Several small articles on Coroner's Inquest into the recent Mt. Gambier cave diving deaths.

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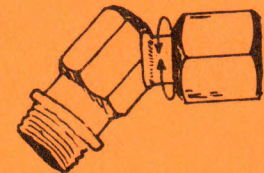
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## FOR SALE

(This section is available free of charge to CDAA members who have personal cave diving equipment they wish to sell (reels, torches, tank manifolds and the like). Please state prices and contact numbers).

1. 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 \$19.00ea to : CDAA,  
P.O. Box 290  
NTH. ADELAIDE  
5006

The Item will be sent by mail.

2. Conshelf Regulator, 2 long hoses, octopus, right angle swivels and contents guage. \$250.00

- contact Phil Prust  
Ph: (08) 270 1203



# 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% O<sub>2</sub> mask. High flow
- Fluids — salted and sweetened 1 litre/hour
- Two tablets of aspirin

### UNCONSCIOUS PATIENT

- Intubate O<sub>2</sub> 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