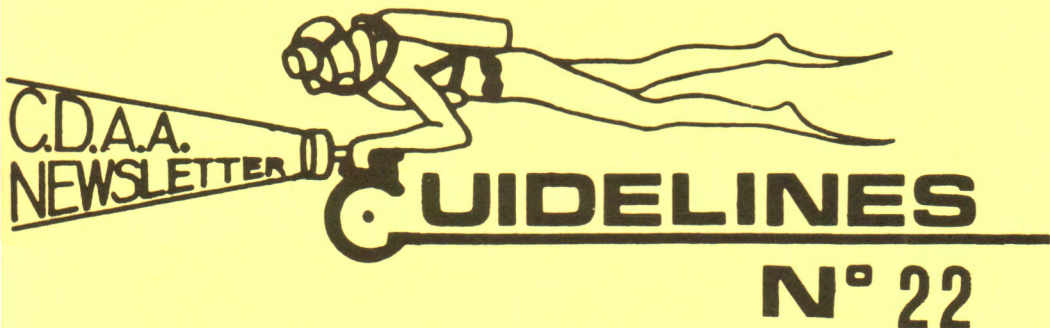


NOVEMBER 1985



**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA**

(Incorporated in South Australia)

C.D.A.A.

P.O. Box 2161 T

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North Adelaide 5006

GUIDELINES

Newsletter of the Cave Divers' Association of Australia

Issue No. 22 November, 1985

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EDITORIAL

Over the years Guidelines has earned a reputation as an informative and interesting magazine. It has always depended on the voluntary efforts of a few stalwarts, and the regularity with which new editions appeared has been a tribute to their devotion. A variety of minor problems has resulted in recent issues of Guidelines being delayed. As newly appointed Co-editors, Judy Minervini (SA) and I (Vic) hope to bring Guidelines back to a regular 4 issues per year. We also feel that it is critical that Guidelines keeps the CDAA membership informed as to the action of its Committee and Examiners. In this respect we hope to make available excerpts from the Minutes of relevant meetings where possible. The present issue is a combination of work from the old and new Committees and contains reports and correspondence relevant to each.

Following the September AGM a number of major issues have arisen within the CDAA (see letter from Peter Ginnane, CDAA President in this issue). Guidelines will endeavour to keep the membership fully informed on all developments in this area.

Apart from CDAA politics and policy, Guidelines depends on original articles on all aspects of Cave Diving. These can only come from YOU, the membership. People who cannot be bothered to contribute to their own organisation's magazine have little justification in complaining about it! So..., your news and views please.

CHERYL BASS
Co-editor, VIC
November, 1985



Dear fellow members of the CDAA,

In this issue is a letter from me, as a then non-Committee member last August. My comments still stand and the points are still very relevant. I can only offer sincere apologies for the delay in distribution.

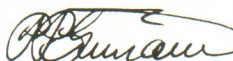
There have been major events in the CDAA which commenced during the term of the previous Committee and culminated in constitutional changes at the AGM and a serious breakdown in relations between Committee and Examiners for the CDAA. The present Committee have inherited this, and the CDAA is seen to be at a watershed in its existence, hopefully not a sinkhole. With dedicated effort by all Committee members and rationality by us and the examiners, the CDAA can approach future maturity as a truly National body. Otherwise a totally new structure and approach will be required.

It is appropriate to emphasize that CDAA categorisation applies to those sinkholes of the lower South East of South Australia ONLY at present, as the system evolved from a need to provide a safe assessment of divers' capabilities in the area after some deaths. Failure of the system could result in closure of the sinkholes in this region to divers.

We are again involved in the same issue due to detected illegal diving in Pic's and Pines, and illegal testing in Ewens, all of which have resulted in suspensions. Other incidents have also been reported. The Government landowners in particular have expressed uneasiness regarding present standards and safety procedures as a result of these.

The S.A. Department of Environment and Planning through the National Parks and Wildlife Service have called a meeting of landowners, CDAA, AUF, etc. to examine the future use of and safety procedures in the sinkholes of the area. Apart from the annual reports of the previous Committee, the next issue of GUIDELINES deadline for early December will report on the following issues:-

- .the examiners' proposed procedures manual and conflicts.
- .AGM report and constitution.
- .National Committee meetings of 15 Sept. 1985, 16 Nov. 1985.
- .the meeting called by NPWS for 16 Nov. 1985.
- .the examiners views on the manual, constitution and AGM.
- .President's report on the same.
- .closure of Pic's and Ewens, and Thorndon Park in Adelaide.
- .current state of Rules and Regulations compilation.


Peter Ginnane
President CDAA
31 October 1985

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the last twelve months there have been various activities involving the C.D.A.A., committee including such things as the 'Oceans' stand and 'Up-date 84' in which we had a presentable display with Audio Visuals, Tee Shirts, Windcheaters and hand-outs. South Australia have also had their Medical Seminar which was a great success.

Considering the amount of time available to committee members with meetings and work commitments, investigations into illegal diving in sinkholes has added unnecessarily to the amount of work to be done. As C.D.A.A. members you should all be aware of your responsibilities in this area.

The last twelve months have seen five suspensions from the C.D.A.A. Some for twelve months and others pending investigation of the complaints by the Committee.

It is imperative that Land Owners' rights are observed. The situation is so delicate that one foolish act could cause the closure of these unique caves and sinkholes to all divers.

It has been suggested that fines of \$500 be imposed on offenders and of course seizure of equipment by the National Parks or Woods and Forests. This could certainly cost you a lot more with average diving equipment costing \$1,200 now days, plus the embarrassment of a court appearance.

Negotiations are progressing with the Millicent Council regarding access to Three Sisters which is still off limits to divers.

Some constitutional changes are required to give the C.D.A.A. a Mt. Gambier representative and also to endorse Peter Rogers' (National Testing Officer) training and testing manual.

The research group has almost completed their report on Pics which was requested by the National Parks.

I sincerely hope that our members will continue to uphold the rules of the C.D.A.A., it is for our own benefit.

My thanks to the Committee for their assistance and support over the past twelve months.

BILL BERNHARDT
President, 1984-1985



woods & forests department

11th April, 1985

National Secretary,
Cave Divers Association of Australia,
P.O. Box 290,
NORTH ADELAIDE. 5006.

Dear Sir,

Unauthorised Entry to Caves

It has been brought to my attention that there has been at least three instances of unauthorised entry to Alleyn's Cave, on Tantanoola Forest Reserve. In all cases, the unauthorised activity was discovered and reported to this Department by members of the Cave Divers Association, which is appreciated.

I would like to point out however, that as the authority responsible for the areas containing Alleyn's and other caves, we are very concerned at these unauthorised entries, which at any time could result in serious accidents.

The cooperation of your Association and its members would be appreciated in identifying persons who do not observe the procedures for authorised entry associated with diving in the caves under our control.

Being forced to close all caves to diving, as happened previously, is an action I would not wish to take.

Yours faithfully,

P.M. South
DIRECTOR

The Committee,
CDAA S.A., CDAA Vic.

I would sincerely like to be in a position to congratulate the CDAA on such things as:-

- * the efficiency of the CDAA.
- * harmony between committee and examiners.
- * positive and continuing relationships with government bodies and landowners.
- * informed and involved membership.
- * handling of proper controls and safety procedures.

BUT I CAN'T. We members rely on the GUIDELINES for our info. from the elected committee, and so far we have had this year one issue 3 months late, and no more. Only rumours which indicate that the converse of the above items is more correct, and lack of GUIDELINES only amplifies my concern.

There are some very important considerations concerning the GUIDELINES. Consider these:-

- * the lack of notification for budding CAT. 3 contenders.
- * what value for money are we members getting for our subs.
- * what right have the committee to rescind a members qualifications if fees are overdue and the reminder notice (which should be in GUIDELINES) is also overdue.
- * Australia Post rules say that a minimum of 4 issues a year should be posted to satisfy the category B rating which applies to the distribution of GUIDELINES.
- * GUIDELINES is the public image of the CDAA committees' efficiency and dedication. If we can't get a simple thing like that straight, how the hell can we convince those government officials and landowners that the CDAA has an interested and efficient committee who can be relied on to uphold agreements and discipline radical members. How do you convince the members you are doing a good job.

There has been a lot of dedicated and time consuming work gone into structure and benefits of the CDAA, and those on the committee should forget any vested interest and remember that they are there to communicate with ALL parties regularly and effectively for the retention of privileges granted in diving on crown and private land.

PETER GINNANE
July 1985

1. REPORT FOR SCUBA AND SNORKEL DIVING IN EWENS PONDS

An interesting and informative article recently appeared in the South Australian AUF Technical Committee Newsletter on Guidelines for Scuba and Snorkel Diving in Ewens Ponds.

Information was gathered and sections reprinted from the Department of Lands (South Australia, South East Region) "Guidelines for Use of Ewens Ponds" and from CDAA Guidelines 19 "Hints for Snorkel and Scuba Diving Piccaninnie and Ewens Ponds" by Russell Jeavons (1984). The article also included interesting photographs of not often seen marine life, including "red mullet, spiny crayfish and fresh water mussels", taken by Reg Lipson.

Copies are available from the South Australian AUF Technical Committee for those interested and copies of "Guidelines for Use of Ewens Ponds" are available from the CDAA or at the information board at Ewens Ponds, Mt. Gambier. It is good to see other diving bodies besides the CDAA taking an interest in preserving our aquatic heritage. By informing a larger percentage of the diving community of the procedures for their use they should remain as they are today "UNIQUE".

2. EWENS PONDS DIVING REGISTER

In conjunction with the "Guidelines for Use of Ewens Ponds" there are forms at the information board for all divers and snorkelers to complete when using these Ponds. It is essential that these are completed so that continual monitoring of the usage by various groups is maintained.

So if you visit the area please assist by filling out the relevant details and help us to help you in maintaining these unique fresh water features.

3. BARNOOLUT ACCESS

Again it has come to the attention of the committee that members, especially new ones, are causing concern to the Manager of Barnoolut, Mr. Reg Watson. Items have appeared in Guidelines 16/17/18/19/20 pushing the point that divers MUST adhere to the directions and wishes of landowners, especially when entering Barnoolut. For those newer members the conditions below have been set by Mr. Watson before entry to Barnoolut will be granted.

"The Property Manager of Barnoolut, Mr. Reg Watson, has asked that all members be reminded of our obligations to minimise inconvenience to himself by making sure divers know where they are going on Barnoolut property. Reg does not have time to act as guide tour-leader, and would prefer all divers going on the property to have with them at least one experienced person who has been there before and knows the way around. So please, help Reg as much as possible by minimising inconvenience to himself and Mrs. Watson.

As the shearing season is also due to arrive shortly, closely followed by Summer, please also remember that Barnoolut may be closed when shearing commences, and also during the main part of Summer when the risk of fire is great for the entire Lower South East.

Reg is pleased that most divers who have approached him in recent times have been thoughtful and careful not to do the wrong thing. Please keep up the good work!"

An information bulletin has been drafted to be issued to all new Cat.2 members to help alleviate the current situation. In future any groups reported to the committee for whatever reasons will be reprimanded.

4. FOSSIL CAVE ENQUIRIES

Numerous queries have come to the attention of the committee regarding the network of pegs and lines in Fossil Cave. Concern over the danger of entanglement by divers and non aesthetic nature has prompted comments regarding their removal but recent information received also indicates that work on fossil removal will begin again, some time soon.

Therefore the lines and pegs shall remain until after the completion of the archaeological activities.

5. TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON TORCHES, BATTERIES AND CHARGERS

Recently, numerous letters have been received regarding information and also the lack of such, on torches, batteries and chargers and how to construct these.

Previous editions of Guidelines have occasionally featured articles on these topics. Therefore as a service to all those interested members, future articles will be included on these subjects. Some may be reprints of old material for newer members as well as some new articles.

6. GUIDELINE FOR REELS

The S.A. Committee has again purchased some guideline for sale to members at a rate lower than that available at most outlets.

Since the last purchase, 4 years ago, prices have increased but are still cheaper than retail stores. We have 2000m available at the following rates:

lengths of 125m (or multiples)	16¢/m
individual meterage	20¢/m

i.e. if 150m is purchased it will cost 16¢/m for 125m plus 20¢/m for the other 25m.

For details on who to see for your purchase please write to S.A. State Box., P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, 5006.

7. TO BEND OR NOT TO BEND

Finally Proceedings from the Diving Medicine Seminar held in South Australia last November have been printed.

Any interested members can obtain these notes from the South Australian Committee at a cost of \$2.00 for postage and copying.

8. UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF CAVES

The letter printed in this edition of Guidelines from Woods and Forests Department (see page 5) has been included on request from Woods and Forests in the hope that it will dissuade divers from such activities.

Alleyns or Death Cave, Pines and Elaines are all under Woods and Forests jurisdiction therefore in the event of any closure the Association will lose 2 Cat.3 caves.

If you can help or pressure someone you know not to continue with such activities DO SO. This includes diving illegally in any other location as well. Remember, if you are caught you face trespass prosecution plus possible suspension or expulsion from the Association.

9. AUF UPDATE

The CDAA has recently started good liaison with the AUF (Australian Underwater Federation) S.A. Technical Committee through one of our members, David Cowan. We are now kept up to date with all the latest technical releases and articles (page11).

In this edition we have reproduced an article on a revised decompression schedule, released through AUF and SPUMS (South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society).

Also included is a small section of the CMAS International Diving Code on dry suits. This now becomes applicable with the increase in the number of CDAA member using these in Mt. Gambier.



CMAS INTERNATIONAL DIVING CODE

Use of Dry Suits

Divers using dry suits should ensure that other members of the diving party are familiar with the inflation and venting equipment and procedures.

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10. THE PRICE OF DIVING

The South Australian Government has frozen all Government charges until further notice. As such, the proposal for a charge on Diving Permits has also been shelved for the time being.

11. PICCINNIE POND CLOSURE

The South Australian Minister for Environment and Planning, Don Hopgood, has announced the closure of Piccininnie Ponds to all water based activities from the 1st November 1985 to the 30th April 1986. The closure is to allow for the natural regeneration of the Ponds following unexplained ecological change in the Ponds (see article this issue). Although the cause of this event is not attributed to divers, the closure will allow for the regeneration to occur without interference.

12. WATER LEVEL RECORDER

If you've been wondering about the steel box that is hovering over the swamp at Piccininnie, this answer is on the level. The box is a water level recorder and has been placed there by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to monitor water level fluctuations. It will, it is hoped, give some indication of the long term trends in water level at Pics.

SPUMS

DR. BASSETT'S NO-COMPRESSION LIMITS

The incidence of decompression sickness (DCS) following the correct use of standard decompression tables is alarming and prompts one to use extreme care when planning dives even within established no-decompression limits.

The risk of DCS increase with Dives requiring decompression and repetitive dives (i.e. 2nd or 3rd dives). It is wise to avoid decompression dives and to calculate repetitive dives conservatively.

To help remedy this situation, the AUF is currently investigating the possibility of producing a safer decompression table for recreational diving utilizing the resources of the RAN's School of Underwater Medicine. While we wait for such a table we will take the opportunity to publish here a table that the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS) has been encouraging divers to use.

This table was developed by Bruce Bassett Ph.D. late last decade as a spin-off from military research. Bassett's table which is based on the United States Navy (USN) table is considered to be safer than other tables by some authorities because -

1. The No-decompression Limits are generally shorter than USN, AS2299 (RN), BSAC/RNPL and Swiss equivalents.
2. All dives below 9m include a precautionary stop of 3 to 5 minutes at 3 to 5m, and
3. For Repetitive Dives, the Total Dive Time instead of the Bottom Time is used in the repetitive dive calculation.

As these tables are based on USN tables, they must be used in conjunction with standard USN Tables (refer USN Diving Manual, Part 1) and practices i.e. depths in imperial units, maximum ascent rates and allowances for cold, hard work, age and so on.

More information: SPUMS Journal October/December 1982.

DR BRUCE BASSETT'S REVISED
NO DECOMPRESSION DIVING TABLE

Depth (m)	9	10	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42
(feet)	30	35	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140
Times	220	180	120	70	50	40	30	25	20	15	12	10	5
	for comparison <i>but not for use</i>												
USN Times Unlimited	310	200	100	60	50	40	30	25	20	15	10	10	

These times are measured from leaving the surface to starting the ascent.

For all dives below 30 feet (9 m) do a 3 to 5 minute stop at 10 to 15 ft (3-5 m).

Take the TOTAL TIME UNDERWATER to enter the U.S.N. repetitive dive table. (Remember to use the next longer time if your TOTAL UNDERWATER TIME is between two times on the table.)

Then use the table below to find the time available for your next "no decompression" dive.

REPETITIVE DIVE TABLE
(No Decompression Dives)

For each repetitive group the upper line is USN Residual Nitrogen Time, the lower line is the time available for a "no decompression" dive using Dr Bruce Bassett's revised "no decompression limits".

Depths (m)	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42
(feet)	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140
A	213	113	64	45	38	26	22	17	12	9	7	3
B	203	103	57	39	31	22	18	13	9	6	4	-
C	195	2.5	21	17	15	13	11	10	10	9	8	7
		95	49	33	25	17	14	10	5	3	2	-
D	183	37	29	24	20	18	16	14	13	12	11	10
		83	41	26	20	12	9	6	2	-	-	-
E	171	49	38	30	26	23	20	18	16	15	13	12
		71	32	20	14	7	5	2	-	-	-	-
F	159	61	47	36	31	28	24	22	20	18	16	15
		59	23	14	9	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
G	147	73	56	44	37	32	29	26	24	21	19	18
		47	14	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
H	133	87	66	52	43	38	33	30	27	25	22	20
		33	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I	119	101	76	61	50	43	38	34	31	28	25	23
		19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
J	104	116	87	70	57	48	43	38	34	32	28	26
		4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K	82	138	99	79	64	54	47	43	38	35	31	29
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Disclaimer: The AUF (SA) Technical Committee has reproduced the above data as received in good faith as a service to divers in this State and thus cannot accept any responsibility for any mistakes typographical or otherwise.

THE REASONS BEHIND THE PICCINNINIE PONDS CLOSURE

Since April 1985 an unexplained ecological event has occurred at Piccinninie Ponds. The event was first noticed just after Easter, when it was noticed that significant areas of Algae had disappeared and vascular plants were lifting from the silt. Large numbers of Coots were observed feeding on the uplifted plants. This lifting effect continued until the entire area of the First Pond, Chasm and Turtle Pond were almost devoid of vegetation.

During the months of June/July almost no algae was seen in the Ponds. Many of the surviving plants were suffering from increased siltation - due to lack of any stabilising vegetation. Divers then began reporting that dead fish and eels could be seen. By August and early September the Ponds were in a critical state.

Since October 1983 the National Parks and Wildlife Service have been taking general site photos within the Ponds to monitor changes. These photos have proved valuable during the recent events, however, they presented no answers as to the cause. Our initial energies were directed towards water quality, had someone dumped herbicide into the Ponds? The South Australian Engineering and Water Supply Department generously carried out extensive water quality tests. These tests however, did not highlight any problems in the water. The attached table shows a comparison with a surface taken in 1972 and one taken in 1985.

Advice was also sought from Limnologists and Biologists from various States, however, without extensive quantitative data, it was difficult for anybody to provide an answer.

Aquatic plants generally develop rapid growth in Spring (with the onset of longer daylight hours) then flower in December and fruit in January/February.

If the ponds were to recover it would start in Spring - SURE ENOUGH - during the second week of September significant amounts of algal growth could be seen in the Ponds.

Although it was recognized that divers had little to do with the events, it was also recognized that if the Ponds were to recover fully, they should be allowed to recover with as little interference as possible. It was therefore, recommended that Piccinninie Ponds should be closed to all water based activities for six months (from 1st November 1985 to 30th April 1986).

The recovery is being monitored with nine detail photo points and to date the results are startling. Ruppia sp. (an annual vascular plant) has spread 370mm in four weeks. Algal growth now covers the entire floor of the Turtle Pond. It is hoped that vascular plants will re-establish themselves throughout their normal range. The photo monitoring will be done on a monthly basis and will be carried out with the assistance of CDAA members.

To date the Service has appreciated the attitude of divers, using the Ponds. Most divers have shown a responsible attitude and many have contributed with their observations. In September much of the Cat.3 test was relocated to other ponds and that part carried out in Pics. was done in a responsible manner.

Although we may never know the cause of this ecological event it is hoped that a combination of responsible diving, within manageable limits will ensure the future of the Ponds.

GREG TEDDER
Ranger
Mount Gambier

STATE WATER LABORATORY - PICCINNIE PONDS, 5/8/85

GENERAL DATA	UNITS	1972	1985
pH	pH units	7.8	7.4
Conductivity	Us/cm	3000	3870
Total dissolved salts	mg/L	1500	2200
Ammonia as Nitrogen	ug/L	—	5
TKN as Nitrogen	mg/L	—	0.14
Nitrate as Nitrite	mg/L	—	2.32
Phosphate-soluble as P	ug/L	—	10
Phosphate-Total as P	ug/L	—	27
Ca		94	99
Mg		65	84
HCO ₃		320	329
Cl		700	1120

Adelaide Advertiser
Lost Waterhole

Earlier this year my son's family toured the South-East and visited Mount Schank. I remarked that when I was a young girl nearly 60 years ago, we used to fish in a waterhole at the base of Mount Schank. They wouldn't believe this. Did a waterhole ever exist there? - J.M. (Nailsworth).

Yes. Section of deep water about 100 meters in diameter was marked in maps of that period, as well as current maps. The waterhole is at the base of Mount Schank, on the western side.

Adelaide Advertiser
Lake's Depth

How deep is the Blue Lake at Mount Gambier? - B.H. (Colonel Light Gardens).

The Blue Lake has an average depth of 77 metres. At its deepest part - known as the "Bung Hole" - the lake reaches a depth of 197 metres.

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(Barry and Ann Butler)

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93 Gray Street, MT GAMBIER 5290. TEL. (087) 257200
High Class Accommodation at "Budget Prices".
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Solar Heated S/Pool (Indoor), Large Family Units
Available.

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Windcheaters in Sizes 12 to 24, available in dark blue, pale blue, bright yellow, red and grey.

Cost: \$15.50 including postage and packaging.

T-Shirts in Sizes 12 to 24, available in bright yellow, red and pale blue.

Cost: \$7.50 including postage and packaging.

Send your orders to:

P.O. Box 2161T, OR P.O. BOX 290,
MELBOURNE, VIC 3001. NTH ADELAIDE, SA 5006.

SEIKO DIVER'S WATCH

Diver's 150m Analogue Digital Watch.
Alarm Chronograph Model H558.
Hardly used, 6 months guarantee - \$175
D. Hein, (08) 293 7492.

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 \$18.00 to: CDAA,
P.O. Box 290,
NTH. ADELAIDE, SA 5006.

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