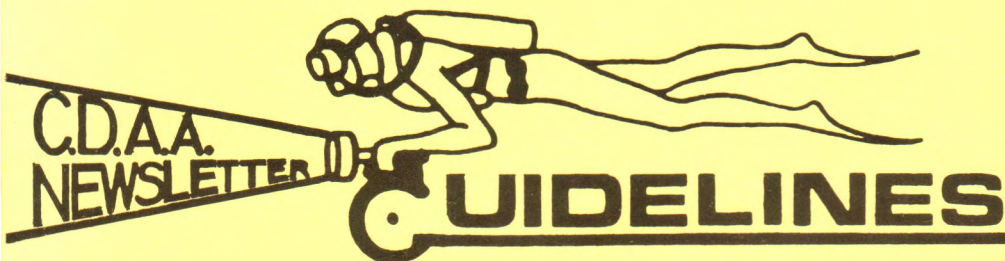


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CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)



N° 25

JULY/AUGUST 1986

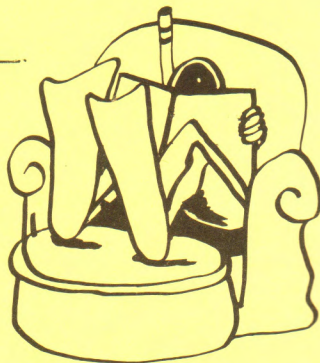
C.D.A.A.
P.O. Box 2161 T
G.P.O. Melbourne 3001

C.D.A.A.
P.O. Box 290
North Adelaide 5006

Divers Diary

A G M Annual General Meeting A G M

Saturday 13 Sep 86 7.30 pm
'Innkeepers' Motor Inn,
Jubilee Highway East (Princess Highway),
Mount Gambier.
Meals are available, from 6.00 pm,
but you must book (087) 25 7444)



Special State Meetings for the election of 1986/87 Committee

South Australia Monday 18 Aug 86 7.30 pm
State Administration Centre
Victoria Square

Victoria Wednesday 20 Aug 86 7.30 pm
North Melbourne Football Club

Piccaninnie Ponds

Closure extended. You will be advised.

Cat 3 Test

The weekend of 13/14 Sep 86
The 24 people who have applied will be individually
informed of details.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<u>Melbourne:</u>	Lance Mitchell	(03) 720 1205
	Cheryl Bass	(03) 527 7969
<u>Adelaide:</u>	Judi Minervini	(08) 278 1335
	Colleen Workman	(08) 49 7223
	Doug MacLeod	(087) 38 9305

The above numbers are provided in case you need to contact the Committee urgently and cannot wait for a postal reply. Please use these numbers thoughtfully and at civilized hours.

GUIDELINES

Newsletter of The Cave Divers' Association of Australia

Issue No 25 August 1986

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Opinions expressed in articles are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the CDAA.

EDITORIAL

Another bumper issue of Guidelines; full of news, views and useful information. The Regulations, demanded for so long, are at last in print and there is more to follow. The revised Constitution and Examiners Manual are drafted and should be available soon. As usual production of these documents has been due to the work of a handful of dedicated individuals. Talking of which, Committee elections are coming around again, so if you want to do your bit for the C.D.A.A. - get in there.

The centre page spread on access arrangements to all sinkholes is essential reading for every member. Pull it out - keep it with your Cat card so you know at all times how each landowner or land controller wants you to go about obtaining permission to dive on their property.

Just when you thought it was safe to get back in the water Pics is closed again and this time no one is telling us for how long. I don't think any of us really appreciates how delicate the sinkhole environment is. It is crucial not to disturb the flora and fauna in any sinkhole otherwise further diving restrictions may follow, which is not such an unlikely possibility as you may think.

See you at the Special State Meeting and the A.G.M.



CHERYL BASS & JUDI MINERVINI

CDAA NEWS

Thorndon Park Reservoir.

Thorndon Park will remain closed due to unacceptable levels of contaminants, and it is unlikely that it will be re-opened in the foreseeable future.

Potential Cave Divers in South Australia.

If you are having difficulty in finding someone to train you in cave diving techniques, then contact Judi Minervini on (08) 278 1335 (after hours).

REMEMBER PICCANINNIE PONDS?

The bomb shell has fallen. Piccaninnie Ponds is devastated and denuded, its environment in tatters, and nobody knows why. And all this is in spite of a seven month lay-off by divers, and in fact it now seems most unlikely that divers are in any way to blame.

So where do we go from here?

The National Parks and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the Minister for the Environment, have decided that there will be NO SNORKELLING OR DIVING IN PICCANINNIE PONDS. And when Piccaninnie Ponds does re-open, it seems likely that diving will have to be restricted in some way.

Please give the Ponds and the CDAA a chance by co-operating with this injunction. Landowner confidence in the CDAA was at an all time low at the beginning of the year. We are gradually building up respect again, but we have to be seen to be able to control our members. A selfish individual, flouting the ban, can dash our credibility again - so don't.

Remember, if we don't co-operate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service have the right to close the Ponds permanently. The CDAA will obviously have to withdraw the Category card of any member caught or suspected of diving in Piccaninnie Ponds while the ban is in force. Don't let it come to this. Please respect the need for the Ponds' unique environment to regenerate, and give them time to do this.

NEW REGULATIONS

Originally called 'Rules and Regulations', the draft of our proposed 'Regulations' are included with this issue of 'Guidelines'.

When reading these Regulations, please realize that there may be areas you feel are important which are not covered. Be patient. The new Constitution and the new Examiners' Manual will cover a lot of 'rules' which do not belong in these Regulations.

NEW CONSTITUTION

The new Constitution is being professionally prepared and will be distributed to all members of the CDA later in the year. The new Constitution will incorporate the basic tenets of the old Constitution, but none of its ambiguities and duplications.

A meeting will be held in Mount Gambier at the beginning of next year to vote on the new Constitution. A quorum is vital. Postal votes will be accepted.

Since the new Constitution has been prepared after hours of deliberation by a qualified lawyer and cave diver, it is anticipated that the membership will accept it. However, if when you read the new Constitution you disagree with part or all of it, remember that each paragraph has been drafted as part of the whole document, and any amendment must be formulated with this in mind.

BACKPEDALLING...BACKPEDALLING...BACKPEDALLIN

Strong membership feedback has made the Committee rethink a couple of the rules published in 'Guidelines' No 24. Although membership input is vital, if it is continued at this level, the CDA could self-destruct!

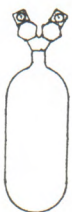
The 'First Time in a Hole' Rule has been rescinded, except on 'Barnoolut', as members felt the spirit of adventure and exploration would be dampened if they weren't allowed to 'go it alone' or, should we say, 'do it with their buddy', without supervision.

Postal Votes. In fact, it was the Committee that backpedalled on this one and decided to maintain the present system for the 86/87 elections.

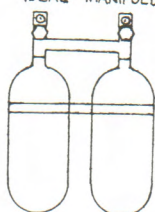
Dual first stages for Penetration Diving.

In your last issue of 'Guidelines' it was advised that a dual first stage or pony bottle would become mandatory for all Advanced Cat 3 dives. This topic has since been discussed at the special interest meetings, and it has been decided that although this equipment is highly recommended, it should not be made mandatory yet, because of the difficulty in getting hold of Y-valves, and although twin tanks are available, let's face it, getting one through the dry section into the wet section of the Western side of Englebrechts is the sort of thing only Ron Allum would want to do!

Y VALVE



IDEAL MANIFOLD



THE COMMITTEE 1985 - 1986

President	Lance Mitchell
Vice President	Judi Minervini
Secretary	Cheryl Bass
Treasurer	Nick Jones
Records Officer SA	Rhett Swanson
Records Officer VIC	Debbie Critchely
South East Representative	Doug MacLeod
Member	Colleen Workman

The observant committee watchers among you will notice that there are very few 'originals' on this list. Resignations occurred through the year for political and personal reasons. The present committee has been fairly stable over the last few months and we feel we are now working well together to advance the CDA.

One of the good things to come out of the committee reshuffle is the appointment of Doug MacLeod who is filling the joint position of a Committee Member and South East Representative. It is hoped that in future committees, a South East Representative will be elected in his/her own right, as a ninth member. There can be no doubt of the value of a committee person in close contact with the local people and Doug has already done a lot of work (see updated access information) and provided useful input into our committee discussions. It seems most suitable to include a South East Representative as a ninth person, and the argument that it will unbalance the states representation is rather outdated as the committee now considers itself to be a National body. The alternative arrangement of making the South East Representative one of the South Australian members would put more work on the shoulders of the three Adelaide based committee people which they would find particularly hard to bear when the president and secretary were elected from South Australia.

Finally, elections are coming around again. Do you want to be on the committee? It's hard, time consuming work but it does have its own rewards. So if you think you have got something to offer come along to the Special State meetings and VOTE.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Is there a need to change the present system? Possibly not. At present, the Adelaide and Melbourne committee members are nominated and elected at the respective Special State Meetings held for that purpose. This system works well and allows those people who are interested enough to turn up and vote, to do so. But what about those people who, for circumstances beyond their control, can't turn up? Shouldn't they be given an opportunity to vote too?

REPORTS..REPORTS..REPORTS..REPORTS MEETINGS..MEETINGS..MEETINGS..MEETINGS

Postal voting would give everyone the opportunity to vote. Although initially this seemed to be a good idea, the more we thought about it, the more problems there seemed to be:

- When would candidates be nominated? If this was by post rather than at a meeting, then there would be the chance that there wouldn't be enough nominations, that only the 'old faithfuls' would be nominated, and that valuable new people who are often talked into it on the night wouldn't be nominated.
- when all nominations had been received, a ballot paper would have to be sent to all financial members. This would be a time consuming and costly exercise, \$330 in postage alone.
- Then there is the big question: Would people send the ballot papers back? There would have to be at least a 20% return to improve on the present degree of representation, and probably a 50% return to make it worth the effort and cost.
- Minor details would have to be worked out such as: when the closure date is, could votes be handed in at the AGM, how to ensure only one vote per member, whether all members should vote for both SA and Vic candidates, etc.

Finally, should postal or proxy voting for committee members be allowed in addition to the voting on the night? And should postal or proxy voting be allowed for agenda items at the AGM?

This topic has already been discussed at Special Interest Meetings and your views will be sought at the AGM.

AGM Notice of Motions AGM

At the Annual General Meeting of the CDAA in Mt Gambier on Sat 13 Sep 86, the following motions will be put to the members. In accordance with our existing Constitution, notice of these matters is hereby given.

- The position of a South Eastern Representative will be created, and nominations will be taken and voted on for the Representative.
- The Regulations published in this issue of Guidelines will be voted on.
- The much needed increase in Fees will be voted on.

Cast Your Postal Vote

These changes need to be decided on at the AGM at Mt Gambier on Saturday 13 Sep 86. We can no longer afford the anti-climax of a 'no-quorum' meeting. If the success of the Association is to gain in momentum, then you must cast your vote.

If you can't attend the AGM in person, then SEND IN A POSTAL VOTE.

Postal votes will be accepted at the AGM.

Proxy votes can not be accepted for these issues.

Use the 'Notice of Motion and Postal Vote Form' if you like.

NOTICE OF MOTION AND POSTAL VOTE FORM

Motion No 1:

That the Constitution section 14.a. which reads:

"The Committee of the Association shall consist of not more than four members from each state or territory. The positions of the Office Bearers being President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer shall be appointed from and by the Committee."

be amended to read:

"The Committee of the Association shall comprise not more than four members from Victoria and not more than five members from South Australia, one of whom must be a resident of the South Eastern sinkhole region. The positions of the Office Bearers being President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer shall be appointed from and by the Committee."

Moved: L Mitchell (President) Seconded: C Bass (Secretary)

Motion No 2:

That the Regulations as published in this issue of Guidelines (No 25) be accepted as the Regulations of the CDAA Inc, and shall revoke all previous Regulations made.

Moved: L Mitchell (President) Seconded: C Bass (Secretary)

Motion No 3:

That the CDAA fees be:

- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| a. Joining Fee | \$20 |
| b. Annual membership | \$20 |
| c. Card replacement | \$ 5 |
| d. Card processing | \$ 5 |

Moved: NA Jones (Treasurer) Seconded: C Bass (Secretary)

I, (name)

CDAA Membership No: Date Financial To:

being unable to attend the CDAA AGM at Mt Gambier on 13 Sep 86, wish to register my vote as follows:

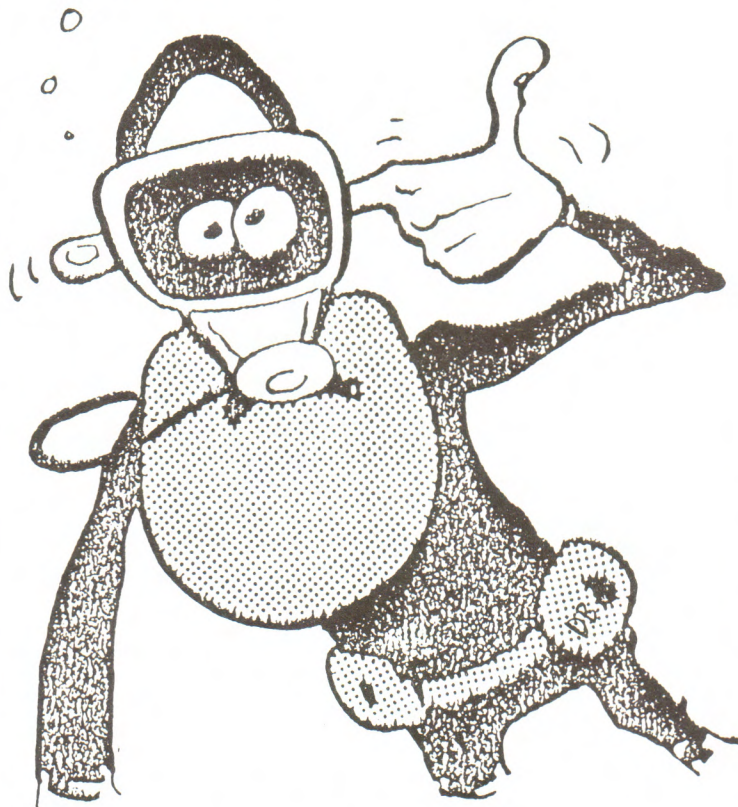
MOTION NO 1 FOR AGAINST (circle)

MOTION NO 2 FOR AGAINST

MOTION NO 3 FOR AGAINST Signature:

ALTERNATIVE SIGNALS

by Rico



My ear has just cleared!

DES (008) 088 200

SINKHOLES ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Permission to dive any sinkhole must be obtained.

Updated information on how to obtain permission to dive on private land has been gathered by Mr Doug MacLeod and is summarized in the chart.

Current procedures for gaining access to government land is also tabulated. But, be warned, these procedures are under review. Any changes will be published in Guidelines.

There should be no need to remind you how important it is that we all go about our diving in the right way. A few divers have stepped outside these guidelines and have been duly penalised. But the trouble is that landowners remember these few divers and forget the hundreds of divers who are following the rules.

PROTOCOL FOR DIVING IN THE SINKHOLES OF MOUNT GAMBIER REGION

General Rules to be observed on all Properties

1. Permission to enter remains the prerogative of the landowner or landowner representative.
2. Stock must not be disturbed unnecessarily.
3. Drive with care and stay on existing tracks.
4. All gates opened must be closed.
5. Any rubbish carried in must be taken out.
6. Smoking is prohibited when the grass is dry and during summer; the exception to this rule is on Horse and Cart and Tea Tree where smoking is PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES.
7. No dogs allowed.
8. Additional rules apply on certain properties and are listed alongside the contact information.



SINKHOLE	CAT	LANDOWNER	WHO TO APPLY TO FOR PERMISSION TO ENTER	HOW TO OBTAIN PERMISSION	WHEN TO APPLY	ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
HORSE & CART	I	Mr Don Telford	Mr Don Telford 30 Lindsay Street Mount Gambier Tel: 087 251274	By Phone	1 Week prior to dive	Land leased by Father: Mr R.C. Telford C/o Mount Schank
TEA TREE	I					
ELA ELAP	II	Mr Peter Norman	Mr Peter Norman Private Bag 67 Mount Gambier Tel: 087 385287	By Phone or Call In	Before diving	
ONE TREE HOLE	II					
SWIM THROUGH	II	Valerie Earl C/o Post Office Allendale 5291	Leasee = Mr David Easton 8 Tarandi Road Mount Gambier Tel: 087 250938	By Phone	1 Week prior to dive	Ewes lambing for approximately 6 weeks around 1st May
THE BLACK HOLE	II		Mr Reg Watson P.O. Box 1319 12 Mount Gambier SA 5290 Tel: 087 266215	By Mail, stating names of all divers enclosing stamped, addressed envelope for reply.	2 Weeks prior to dive	1) Should arrive within 5 minutes of appointed time. 2) Divers must not proceed beyond house until credentials have been checked. 3) Go only to the hole you have permission to dive - no sightseeing. 4) New divers must be accompanied by a diver who has previously dived on Barnoolut.
TEN EIGHTY	II					
THE BULLOCK HOLE	III					
MAX'S HOLE	III	Mr Trevor Edwards	Mr Trevor Edwards P.O. Box 1319 Mount Gambier Tel: 087 268277	By Phone	2 clear days prior to dive	
PICCANINNIE PONDS	II	National Parks and Wildlife Service	Permit will be sent automatically to all Cat. II divers when Pics. re-opens.		Permit valid for 1 year	CLOSED TO DIVERS AND SNORKELLERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

HELLS HOLE	II	Woods & Forests	District Forester Myora Forest Tel: 087 255622	Contact by Phone during working hours to arrange mutually convenient time to pick up permit.	Few days before.	Abide by permit conditions. NO diving on FIRE BAN DAYS.
PINES	III					
ELAINES	III					
ENGLEBRECHTS - EAST	III	Mount Gambier Council	Any Member of the Committee	By Phone or By Mail	Allow time to collect key before going down Mt. Gambier	Keys issued by committee
WEST	ADV III					
THREE SISTERS	ADV III	Millicent Council	Ring Reg Watson as a courtesy.			
LITTLE BLUE/ BABY BLUE	I	Port MacDonnell Council	Permission not required yet but must have appropriate Cat. card.			
ALLENDALE	III					
FOSSILS	III	Department of Lands	Department of Lands Tel: 087 241598	By Phone during office hours or by Mail	During office hours	Note: New Access Procedure. Dept. Lands wish to ascertain diver usage of these holes. Stay out of Gouldens when pump is operating.
GOULDENS	III					
SISTERS	I	Department of Lands	Mr Reg Watson or if not available. Dept. Lands	By Phone during civilized hours.	On day or few days before.	
EWENS PONDS	NONE	Department of Lands	Permission not required. Closed 1 Sep-30 Nov each year.			Read and observe Guidelines of usage of Ewens Ponds. Available from Dept. Lands or at Ponds themselves. NO TRAINING ALLOWED.

DIVER EMERGENCY SERVICE

From 2 Jul 86 there will be a new telephone number for the Diver Emergency Service (DES). The toll-free number is 008-088200 at all times.

The duty supervisor of the Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital will answer the telephone, and when told that it is a diving emergency will contact the on-call diving doctor. The call will be diverted to the diving doctor who will offer the caller expert advice. Civilian and naval doctors experienced in the treatment of diving accidents form all over Australia will be taking part in DES.

For ALL Diving Accidents!!

CONTACT:

D.E.S

DIVING EMERGENCY
SERVICE

THE NEW NUMBER IS: **(008)-088200**

Manned 24hours per day!!
Please note: an INCORRECT NUMBER is
printed on the back cover of the
last issue: GUIDELINES NO. 24

The diving casualty should contact DES on 008-088200. In most cases he/she will be advised to attend the local hospital unless he has access to one with a hyperbaric unit. That hospital will be contacted by DES with advice. The hospital will notify the nearest hyperbaric unit and arrange a hospital to hospital transfer. It will also notify the local ambulance service. If necessary the hyperbaric unit will alert the retrieval agency, such as the National Safety Council of Australia (Victorian Division) who have portable recompression chambers and aircraft to carry them. If specialist transfer is necessary the local ambulance service will arrange it with the retrieval agency.

The new arrangements allow for easier access to advice for diving casualties.

The new number for DES is 008-088200

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF FEES

As a result of the recent National Committee Meeting held in Melbourne on 19 and 20 April 1986, the Committee determined that fees should be increased.

The fees can not actually be increased until determined by a vote of members at an Annual General Meeting.

As at April 86, the existing fees were:

- a. joining fee \$10
- b. annual membership \$10

The proposed fees are double the existing ones, ie. \$20 for joining fee and \$20 for annual membership.

It will be the responsibility of each member to send in his CDAA card and the appropriate fees when they are due.

It is also proposed to charge a fee for replacement of lost or damaged cards, a service which is currently free.

Processing of a card will also now attract a servicing fee.

Processing of a card includes:

- a. Upgrading the card from Cat 2 to Cat 3, or
- b. Upgrading the card from Cat 3 to Advanced Cat 3

Processing of a card does not include:

- a. Initial issue of a card,
- b. Upgrading the card from Cat 1 to Cat 2, or
- c. Change of address or other information on the card.

APOLOGIES...APOLOGIES...APOLOGIES

Ian Ploenges, who up until April this year had been our South Eastern Representative since the position was created, has retired. Ian not only stuck to the job through both the smooth and the rough times, but always saw fit to provide the entire diving community in the Mount Gambier Region with SCUBA service, equipment and air at some of the most ungodly hours that divers seem to keep!

I must apologise to Ian, because his service to the Association deserved a more prompt 'Thank You' on your behalf, and should have appeared in previous 'Guidelines'. However, I know Ian will continue to support our sport, and I thank him sincerely for his efforts.

Constitution, Regulations, Examiners' Manual and Procedures Manual. Our original estimated date to have these documents completed was by the AGM. The Constitution, being such a solid legal document, has had its contents completed, but David Bird has yet to properly structure it, particularly as it must be knitted to both the Regulations and the Examiners' Manual, and these documents could not be finalized until the recent Review Committee Meeting held on 26 Jul 86.

The Regulations have been included in this issue of 'Guidelines'. As the Association is in serious need of these Regulations, I ask you to study them carefully. The current Constitution allows the Committee to implement any such rules at will. However, as a result of the level of feedback we have received over previous issues, and as each and every member will be required to adhere to the Regulations, it is proposed that you give them your attention and we will vote on them as a package at the AGM. The Review Committee members will be issued with copies of each document as it is finalised, and their opinions will be passed on to you. The Constitution and Examiners' Manual will be ready by the AGM, and will be made available to members on or after that date.

So, what's to apologise for?

- Each member must be given 30 days notice of any constitutional change. Time just does not allow for this to be done by the AGM. Therefore, we will have to set a date in December or January for a Special General Meeting to vote on the new Constitution and relevant manuals. There are advantages to this in that you will have more than the minimum 30 days to look them over.

- I've mentioned a Procedures Manual, and it's the first time you've heard of it. Much of the Regulations at this stage contain a lot of procedural information. David Bird has pointed out that there are constitutional rules, day-by-day regulations and examining rules, and each of these areas will be covered in their respective documents. However, many procedures are not in fact deemed as regulations. Hence it will be proposed that one regulation be framed to cover adherence to procedures, and once the format of the various manuals is finalized, many of the items in the Regulations will be transferred to the Procedures Manual.

To any member who has written to me with ideas, criticism or credits - Thank You. I am unable to answer each of you personally at this stage, as the workload attached to the preparation of the 'Management Documents' must take precedence. Some of you will see, from the contents of 'Guidelines', that action has been taken on your comments. In time I will get back to you, but in the mean time, keep the feedback coming in.

- On behalf of Denis Thamm who wrote to tell us that he felt the one-year renewal was unconstitutional and generally unfair. This indicated to me that we perhaps did not explain in enough detail to you, the reasoning behind the Committee decision to introduce this and propose a fee increase.

Firstly, our Constitution only relates to our minimum one year fee; the bi-annual fee was introduced by a Committee decision, and with all due respect, was reversed for this period only, in the same way. I can assure you that this decision in fact places additional pressure on the Committee, as it will have to function on a restricted budget until next June. However, we felt that the inconvenience of having to renew next year was not serious enough to warrant upsetting the potential financial security of the Association. Once all areas of management have been sorted out, we hope the committees elected from then on can keep the Association moving forward, and then will need a good bank balance to achieve this.

Secondly, below is the explanation of the circumstances which have led the Committee to recommend a fee increase.

1. Past Committee people have constantly made one thing clear: There is a great need to maintain a high level of communication both within the Committee and between the Committee and members. Achieving this will cost money.
2. The success of the two recent Special Interest Meetings indicates that they should continue, and to allow us to represent you, as many of the National Committee as possible should attend these meetings to be available for discussions. Travelling costs money.
3. The Review Committee meets at least every two months, and the President and the National Testing Officer are required to attend. The entire weekend gets taken up by meetings with landowners, other interested parties, members in the Mount Gambier region at the time, and last but not least, a 'panic Committee meeting' with the South Eastern Representative. I cannot express the level of importance attached to these weekends, and it has been recommended that the Review Committee meetings continue for quite some time.
4. 'Guidelines' production costs and most general administrative costs, like everything but the Australian dollar, have continued to increase steadily. Members have made it clear that they like the present 'Guidelines' format, and to reduce production costs would require its contents to be reduced severely.
5. More and more responsibility is being placed on to the Association to provide gating, fencing and entrance security to many sinkholes. Add to this the general maintenance costs of signs, etc, which we will be obliged to cover, and more of your money disappears.
6. We are also being requested to provide research into many sinkholes, not only to provide information to the members, but also to the landowners. This will inevitably mean that the Research Group will require ongoing equipment and administrative assistance.
7. Our Public Relations commitments are also increasing.
8. Finally, after June 1987, when all our documents have been tried and tested, we propose that each member will receive a set of each document; a CDAA package we hope you will be happy to carry with you.

Remember, whether the fee increase goes ahead or not is up to you. It cannot be introduced without your vote. I believe that this increase will go a long way to protecting the success of our Association, and I hope that this account explains our motives.

On behalf of the National Committee

Lance R Mitchell, President

REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

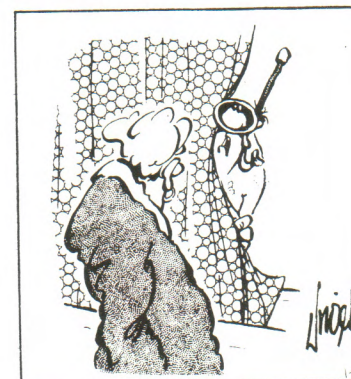
In the last issue of 'Guidelines' we documented the terms of reference of the Review Committee, and the member representation on it. To keep this report brief, I'll list, in point form, the areas of discussion which have dominated the three meetings to date.

1. The CDAA be given until February 1987 to have its 'Management Documents' in force and functioning.
2. Until that date, the landowners have committed their acceptance of one group and one group only, the CDAA.
3. General cave diver discipline.
4. Landowner access requirements.
5. South Eastern Representative - a voting Committee member.
6. CDAA Category card system:
 - a. Special permit card ie. overseas visitor.
 - b. Procedures for issuing cards.
 - c. Examiners signatures on cards.
 - d. Format of cards ie. Bankcard size.
7. Independence of Examiner from training
 - a. At what rating - Cat 2 and 3 has been strongly expressed.
 - b. Mt Gambier training/testing compared to 'city' (ie. swimming pools).
 - c. Acceptable sinkholes for training and testing
 - i. Category 1 and 2
 - ii. Category 3
 - d. Issuing of cards in the Mt Gambier region - considered acceptable if carried out by the South Eastern Representative, if a Committee member, or any other Committee member who is not involved with the training or testing.
8. Indemnity forms - originally being seen to by Sgt Ron Jeffries. He has reported back, and as a result:
 - a. Government landowners to draft their own.
 - b. Private landowners and the Association responsible for their own. David Bird is looking into the format.

9. Usage and security of sinkholes
 - a. Piccaninnie and Ewens Ponds - from an environmental viewpoint.
 - b. Private sinkholes - from a pressure or privacy viewpoint.
 - c. A general usage against damage and risk viewpoint
10. Election of Committee members. The feeling is that at least the South Eastern Representative should be elected at the AGM.
11. The proposal to draft a newsletter for distribution to the public. The format has been discussed; the implementation is being left to the convenor.
12. Divers qualified after 15 Mar 86. Mr Reg Watson, Manager Barnoolut Station, has placed a ban on such divers until:
 - a. the state of independent testing be reported to him,
 - b. the format of overseas special permits be finalised,
 - c. the Committee is seen to be addressing its disciplinary responsibilities, and
 - d. the CDAA Regulations are tabled.

The first three items listed have been addressed. Mr Watson has been forwarded a copy of the Regulations, as have all private and government landowners. Mr Watson has indicated that the ban will remain in force until he has considered the content of the Regulations.

Lance R Mitchell (President)



"If you must know, I don't like soap in my eyes."

ARTICLES..ARTICLES..ARTICLES..ARTICLES

"No", he said, "but you should talk to my daughter. She has been an official guide in these caves for years."

She told me that the geology of the area would not allow Mt Gambier-style sinkholes, and all the caves in the area were dry. Gone were my hopes of discovering my own Piccaninnie Ponds in a farmer's paddock. I thought she was half joking when she mentioned the Nulli caves.

Nulli is a town not far from Brisbane which boasted of several extensive cave systems. The caves were very beautiful and it was possible to spend whole days at a time exploring them. About twenty years ago, the valley containing the caves was flooded as part of an irrigation scheme, in spite of protests from speleologists, the cave systems were flooded.

Fortunately my work brings me to Nulli also. Nulli is a small town, so I decided just to ask around and see if I could add anything to my sketchy information. I was referred to John Smith. John is a keen natural historian and has written several books, one of them dealing with the Nulli caves. He had explored them extensively prior to their inundation and was very pleased to help me. He provided me with several photographs of the area, showing the cavern entrances.

The area where the caves were is now, of course, a lake. A rather pretty lake actually, used for recreation, skiing, fishing, etc. There are several rangers in charge of the area, and I asked them what they knew of the caves. Unfortunately, none of them had been in the area prior to the irrigation scheme, but they had all seen the cave entrances. The water level fluctuates considerably and in times of drought the entrance to some of the caves has been exposed. At one time, in a very severe drought, John Smith had visited the area to see if he could re-enter the caverns. He sailed across to the island (which was once a hill) where the caves are located and found the entrance. He shone his torch into the mouth and saw the stalagmites and stalactites clearly. When he tried to lower himself into the chamber he plunged waist deep in water! It was so clear he could not even see it.

Unfortunately the same is not true of the lake. It's horribly murky. I have dived to try and find one of the entrances but without accurate information it would be an impossible task to try and locate the hole. Before the valley was flooded a full set of maps was compiled showing all the entrances and their precise locations. I have now been able to obtain a set of these maps. Given a team of reasonably competent divers, using standard search techniques, I have no doubt it would be fairly easy to locate one of the entrances. My main problem is I do not have a boat (not something you expect to need for cave-diving).

There is no doubt that the caves are there and easily accessible. The water is clear, the caves huge and richly decorated. If anyone reading this is interested in learning more, I would be happy to hear from them.

In true cave-diving style, Anthony has altered a few trifling things like the names and places, just to make sure no one else gets there first!

Anthony Keane may be contacted at: 9 Welland St, The Gap Queensland 4061, (07) 300 3331.

FOR SALE .. FOR SALE .. FOR SALE ..

FOR SALE

Members' cave diving equipment will be advertized free of cost.

Businesses wishing to advertize goods or services will be charged at a standard rate

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In order to rationalize stock and reduce the amount of money tied up by having all the different sizes and colours, Windcheaters and T-shirts are being ordered in grey and dark blue only.

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Specify size (12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24) and colour (grey or dark blue). There are a few other colours left, so specify them as a first choice.

Send your orders and money to your local PO Box.

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SCUBA DIVING ACCIDENTS

can include:

- decompression sickness
- pulmonary barotrauma

FIRST AID FOR BOTH OF THESE:

1. ELEVATE FEET AND HEAD DOWN
2. 100% OXYGEN
3. OBTAIN EXPERT ADVICE
4. RECORD DIVE PROFILE
5. FLUIDS

DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS:

AS MUCH FLUID AS PATIENT CAN
TOLERATE PROVIDING HE CAN
URINATE.

PULMONARY BAROTRAUMA

AS REQUESTED BY THE PATIENT.

PHONE: DIVER EMERGENCY SERVICE
(008)088 200 (IF NECESSARY
USE — 000 — THROUGH YOUR
EXCHANGE.

TAKE: PATIENT TO MT GAMBIER
HOSPITAL AND INFORM
THEM YOU HAVE CONTACTED
DES.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

1. PHONE **(008)088 200**
(IF NECESSARY DIAL 000)
2. STATE 'THIS IS A DIVING
EMERGENCY'
3. PROVIDE DETAILS OF IN-
CIDENT. DEPTH, TIME, LOC-
ATION, SYMPTOMS, ETC.
4. WAIT FOR ADVICE AND
DIRECTIONS
5. ACT ON ADVICE AND DIREC-
TIONS
6. FOLLOW UP PROJECT STICKY-
BEAK 062-47 5554