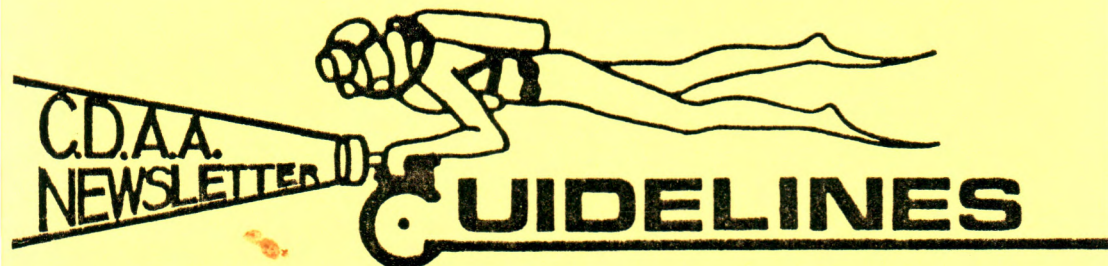


# CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)



**N°26**  
**NOVEMBER 1986**

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

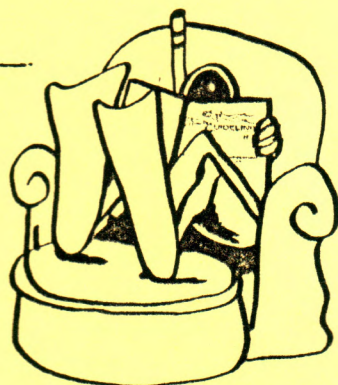
C.D.A.A.  
P.O. Box 290  
North Adelaide 5006

## Divers Diary

SGM - February 14th (Provisional Date).

AGM - September 5th, 1987.

Cave Divers' Day - September 5th, 1987



## 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 26 - November 1986

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## EDITORIAL

This edition of Guidelines contains items of interest to all members; the reports of the Office Bearers and synopsis of the AGM let you know what your committee has been trying to do for you over the last year. It continues to be a difficult period for the CDAA particularly with respect to landowner representative negotiations and we ask for continued membership support, not least by attending the February SGM to vote on the much requested new Constitution. The article by Francis Le Guen giving a Frenchman's view of the diving habits of the Americans is well worth reading.

The Access Protocol chart has been updated and corrected;- no there isn't a new side tunnel off Gouldens it was only a slip of the pen that upgraded it to Cat. 3 in the last edition.....unfortunately.

Please respond to the Presidents request for immediate feedback on the Independent examining issue. He will be representing you at a Review committee meeting on November 21st, and at the moment he has the opinions of members who attended the AGM to go on and would like to hear personally from the rest of you.



CHERYL BASS

### 1 Piccaninnie Ponds Closure

Piccaninnie Ponds will be closed from 1 Aug 86 until 31 Jul 88.

"Mr D.J. Hopwood, Minister for Environment and Planning has made this declaration on the grounds that it has been observed that the levels of native plant life within the ponds and waters have not recovered sufficiently during the previous declaration period of 1 May 86 to 31 Jul 86. It is expedient that natural regeneration be allowed to occur without disturbance through recreational use of the ponds and waters"

Extract from letter sent to the CDAA by L.C. Jolley, Regional Manager, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### 2 The CDAA Committee 1986-1987

President	Lance Mitchell
Vice-President	Judi Minervini
Secretary	Cheryl Bass
Treasurer	Nick Jones
Records Officer (Vic)	John Vanderleest
Records Officer (SA)	Colleen Workman
Treasurer (SA)	Rhett Swanson
South-East Region Rep	Doug MacLeod

The observant Committee-watchers among you will note that there has been very little change from the 1985/86 Committee. We feel this will enable us to achieve even more this year as we don't have to waste time 'settling' into our positions and establishing rapport with the various liaison groups, government bodies and land-owner representatives.

We all look forward to a fruitful year with lots of support from the general membership, who after all, elected us unanimously!

### 3 Extract from a letter from Shane C. De Gelder, the Vice President of the AUF Vic Branch, AUF Federal Sporting Chairman, regarding a letter dated 1 July 1986 to all AUF Vic Branch members:

I must apologise if I implied in my letter that the AUF controlled the CDAA, it was unintentional. The AUF has always commended the CDAA in its work as a specialist diving body and I believe has regarded your organization as kin, with as you stated, an intention to not only cater for divers outside of the CDAA's control, but to direct our own members interested in cave diving to yourselves.

I will say though, that our body does keep watchdog duties over all u/water activities, including cave diving, as diving safety anywhere in Australia is our concern, thus we include cave diving as an activity within the bounds of our diving folio.'



3. Citizen's Band Radio for use in Diving Emergencies.

Maurice Parry from Mt Gambier recently wrote to the CDAA with the suggestion that the use of a CB radio in an emergency situation could save up to half an hour in getting help. He has conducted a test to see how effective CB radio really is in an emergency situation. The test was conducted in May of this year and various monitor stations in Mt Gambier took part. Despite the poor weather conditions which prevailed on the chosen day reliable signals were received from all test locations, Ewens, Gouldens, One Tree, Little Blue Lake, Sisters (which would mean all holes on Barnoolut were also O.K.) and Piccaninnie Ponds. Piccaninnie was the only problem location but reliable communication was achieved by driving up the hill on the approach road. Members who already have CB radios would probably use them to get emergency help and those of us who don't, in an emergency situation will just have to stop the first semi-trailer as they all have access to this service. Maurice suggested even though the emergency channel is 9 the road channel 8 would probably get there quicker as more people monitor channel 8. Maurice's suggestion could be extremely useful for people who dive in buddy pairs only and do not have the facility to send a third person for help in an emergency situation.

4. Guidelines for use of CDAA Letterheads.

CDAA note paper is to be used for official CDAA business only by the members of the committee. The CDAA logo may be used or displayed by any CDAA member.

It has been brought to the attention of the committee that the letterhead has been used by various people for general cave diving matters. The association feels this inappropriate and the letterhead should be used for CDAA sanctioned correspondence only.

5. Oceans 86 Oceans 86 Oceans 86 Oceans 86 Oceans 86 Oceans 86

The CDAA displayed a very attractive stand at Oceans 86. The motivator behind this was Russell Kitt who persuaded the organizers to waive the usual stand fee. Russell went on to organize the contents of the stand, including a magnificent set of Mt Gambier photos by Andrew Cox and a slide carousel of cave diving around the world by Peter Rogers. The committee would like to extend our thanks to Russell Kitt for organizing this stand.

6 THE NEW CONSTITUTION

David Bird assures us that he has almost finished the new constitution and will be available for discussion with the committee at about the same time as this Guidelines is being circulated.

Notice of Motion

That the constitution as circulated to the members in December 86 or January 87 or February 87 be accepted as the constitution of the CDAA Inc. and shall revoke all previous constitutions.

You can gather from this notice of motion that you will get the constitution as soon as we have it and it has been printed up.

CAVE DIVERS' DAY

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CAVE DIVING?

COME TO THE CAVE DIVERS' DAY WHICH WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SEPTEMBER AGM.

THERE WILL BE TALKS AND DISPLAYS ON ALL ASPECTS OF CAVE DIVING.

TOPICS COVERED WILL INCLUDE UPDATES ON THE WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF THE LATEST SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT FOR CAVE DIVING. THERE WILL BE TALKS ON THE HOLES OF THE MT GAMBIER REGION INCLUDING INFORMATION ON SPECIAL TECHNIQUES REQUIRED FOR SOME OF THESE CAVES. THERE WILL ALSO BE TALKS ABOUT CAVE DIVING IN OTHER PARTS OF AUSTRALIA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

I AM HOPEFUL OF ENTICING AN OVERSEAS SPEAKER, EITHER FROM EUROPE OR AMERICA TO TALK TO US ABOUT THEIR PARTICULAR CAVES. IT MAY ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR THAT PERSON TO LEAD A RETURN TRIP OF ENTHUSIASTIC MT GAMBIER CAVE DIVERS TO VISIT THESE CAVES AT A SUBSEQUENT DATE.

THIS SHOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR SOCIALIZING AND JUST TO MAKE SURE "AN EVENT" WILL BE ORGANIZED FOR THE EVENING, EITHER A SPITTOAST OR BUSH DANCE OR SOME SUCH THING. IN BETWEEN ALL OF THIS WE WILL SET ASIDE A COUPLE OF HOURS FOR THE AGM.

THIS IS ALL STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGE. IF ANYONE HAS ANY IDEAS, CONTACTS OR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT ME (CHERYL BASS) EITHER BY PHONE OR THROUGH THE MELBOURNE P.O. BOX.

CAVE DIVERS' DAYWoods and Forests Permit

As you would have read in Newspapers recently, the Department of Woods and Forests is intending to draft a new set of rules and regulations to cover its vast properties. This also means the users of Woods and Forests land will for the first time have to pay annual fees to enter such land.

In recent years, public use of forest land has escalated to an extent that the Department of Woods and Forests have decided to draft regulations to control activities and use of its land. These regulations are being brought into being to protect forest reserves, but not to restrict the public from using it for various activities.

The Departmental policy on its use is to ensure that the resource is protected and kept in a natural state with minimal development. This means, for example that amenities will not be provided, but that maintenance of tracks will continue. The Department will also minimise its public liability by fencing and restricting access to certain areas. They have recommended that incorporated bodies have a public liability policy to cover against accidents during club events.

Permits will be issued for specific activities e.g. cave-diving, caving, horseriding etc. No permits are required for general use of land including walking, driving etc. It is likely that the CDAA will be issued with a permit to cover all its members (subject to agreement). This will mean a covering fee being paid by the Association. While the permit will cover a large number of people, in the event of one or two persons infringing the rules, individual



## REPORTS..REPORTS..REPORTS..REPORTS..

names will be withdrawn from the permit. The CDAA and Woods' and Forests will be required to deal with the people involved. At this stage only cave divers will be required to hold a permit - spectators and support teams will be exempt. The Department has also stated that holes will be closed during logging, however care will be taken to maintain the nature of the hole and avoid damage to them.

The rules and regulations will be presented to public meetings in a second draft in the new year, before final submissions are made. The Department must be commended for involving the general public in drafting their proposals. When more information is available, I will pass it on through Guidelines.

Judi Minervini.

### PRESIDENTS REPORT

Since becoming President in March this year, the one thing the committee has been aiming for is to represent the membership.

Yet on the 13th. of September at the A G M, there were very few members present to represent, especially when you consider that many were directly involved in the CAT. 3 Test anyway.

The A G M of course can tend to be tedious and for most of us it's a long hike. However if you cannot get yourself to the one meeting compulsory to our constitution, especially in times when controversial matters need to be decided on, then in short don't complain if things do not run as smooth as YOU WANT.

On November the 22nd. the Review Committee will meet, our committee through myself wish to finalise the one major issue still outstanding Independent Examining.

The National Testing Officer as many before him, believe that the system of an Examiner who trains a candidate and then tests that candidate has for many years produced safe and properly tested cave divers, a system which most examiners support.

However, the Landowners have to date been expressing their preference for Independent Examining, they believe this will guarantee the standard of tests and in the eyes of the general public be seen to be doing so.

The depth of concern over this issue from one Landowner Representative, Mr. Reg Watson has been demonstrated by Mr. Watson's letter which has been written verbatim on page 12 of this Guidelines.

The C D A A Committee like many of you have mixed personal feelings on the matter, in fact it has been an issue which has caused a great deal of friction within the association for the past couple of years, so to help us in our decisions we are asking you to return a comment either for or against Independent Examining.

Should you wish to elaborate on the issue please send it to me personally and I will read them all.

It may have been inconvenient to go to the A G M, but if it's too much effort to mail a response to this request, then the committee can only assume that you will support WITHOUT CRITISISM it's internal decision.

Lance R Mitchell  
President

### NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT BY CHERYL BASS

I inherited the job of National Secretary halfway through the year following the sudden resignation of Peter Horne. I have enjoyed my time as National Secretary which has enabled me to be aware of the important happenings within the CDAA. Through my joint position as Guidelines Editor I feel I've been able to pass on any relevant details to the membership.

The beginning of the year was unfortunately marred by the factionism but this has now been overcome. And much has been achieved.

## REPORTS..REPORTS..REPORTS..REPORTS..

Notably a set of Regulations have been drawn up and accepted by the Annual General Meeting although some fine tuning is still in progress. An agreement has been reached with the Millicent Council to allow access of appropriately qualified members to the Three Sisters Cave. A new bankcard size category card is being designed and it should hopefully be issued to members at the time of our next update in June 1987. The new Constitution is well in hand. Arrangements have been made for Special Visitor's Permits to be available to visitors to the Mount which has been a source of much contention over recent years, hopefully this is now sorted out.

Although the CDAA cannot take credit for it it is good to see the new readily accessible hypobaric facilities at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I would also like to congratulate the Research Group on a good year's work.

Other changes within the Association is the adoption of new equipment rules namely, octopus regulator is now mandatory for Cat. 2 level dives and a 'Y' value or alternative air supply is recommended for Advanced Category 3 diving.

On the negative side the Committee has yet again had to deal with a number of members who have been found guilty of diving in holes for which they were not appropriately categorised. It is hoped that in the coming year the Committee will not have to waste its time on disciplinary hearings.

Also on the negative side Piccannie Ponds remains closed as does the Thorndon Park Reservoir in Adelaide. Indemnity forms are still required by the landowners but no-one, as yet, has come up with a suitable format.

Finally as published in Guidelines a new table of sinkhole access arrangements has been printed so there is now no excuse for not knowing how to go about access.

### NATIONAL TESTING OFFICERS REPORT, CATEGORY 3 TEST - SEPTEMBER 13TH 1986.

This year has been a tough one for testing, for Examiners and for Candidates. The Pics closure early this year forced an abandonment of the regular March Category 3 Test, and my thanks go to those patient candidates who have waited for 6 months or more until a test could be arranged for them.

The 1986 Cat. 3 Test Programme has varied greatly from all previous years. The September test was conducted entirely in Goulden's hole as a trial run for future tests, with the continued closure of Pics Ponds. Conditions aren't as good for examining, as the viz gets fairly poor. However the compactness of the site, some careful planning layouts and rostering of the tests actually allowed us to finish the September test by mid-afternoon and retire to the Bellum Pub for ales, examiner discussion and de-briefing the candidates.

Twelve candidates presented for the tests, of those 7 passed and 5 were unsuccessful. With some exceptions, the majority of buddy pairs who did not pass each of the 3 practical tests showed LACK OF PRACTICE in the techniques, and indeed admitted to this later. Occasionally candidates pass a test, but in a manner that suggests more luck than skill. Examiners aren't impressed with this and it is easy to tell the difference.

MORAL: Practice together at least half-dozen times before the test weekend.

Candidates weren't the only people under scrutiny at this test, I took the opportunity to put 4 examiners under the microscope too. Up until now, examiners could hold "Cat. 2 Examiner" rating and not involve themselves at the Cat. 3 level. Now, this is an obligatory part of their duties and trainees must assist to the satisfaction of the Examiner Sub-Committee and the NTO. The experience they gained was invaluable; many thanks to the examiners who took them under their guidance and supervision for the day.



# • REPORTS • REPORTS • REPORTS • REPORTS

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My apologise to anyone inconvenienced by waiting for their tests, or in any other way. It was a difficult and unusual set of circumstances in which to run a Cat. 3 test and I felt it was a sound success. Next year, things will change. There will be more Cat. 3 tests per year, (if there is a demand), all will be run at Goulden's Hole, but the number of candidates and examiners will be reduced, to cut down the agony of a long, cold waiting day for examiners and candidates alike. Dates will be flexible and announced in Guidelines.

Congratulations to the following successful Cat. 3 Candidates:-

Phil Mann  
Wendy Wills  
Mark Kean  
Max Marriott  
Simon McCartney  
Doug McLeod  
John Badman

Final thank-you to all Examiners who helped and to the Department of Lands for the use of Goulden's Hole.

IAN LEWIS  
N.T.O.

## CDAА TREASURER'S REPORT 1986

As the CDAА Annual Financial Statement shows, this Financial Year we had an income of \$14,658 with expenditure of \$17,413.

This Financial Year, one of the big increases was in travelling expenses due to the need for the President and National Testing Officer to travel to Mount Gambier once per month for the Review Committee Meetings. These meetings will continue for some time, and the expenses will also continue.

The production costs of 'Guidelines' is ever increasing, although with some changes in the way we produce them, we may be able to reduce this expense.

One of the problems as Treasurer, is that several Committee members need access to money. In particular, the South Australian Committee members have been operating a separate account. Funds can be transferred between the Victorian account and the South Australian one, and this in fact happened during the year. The result is that the Treasurer has little control over the money spent.

Another problem is that although my control of money paid out is a bit loose, my control of money paid into the CDAА accounts is non-existent, because the Records Officer banks all the money received. However, with new procedures, the control of the Treasurer should tighten up.

At the recent Annual General Meeting, the proposed fee increase was passed. As a result, the fees have doubled and new charges will be made for some services. This should see the CDAА funds becoming more stable.

## CDAА ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1985/86

<u>VICTORIA</u>		<u>SOUTH AUSTR</u>	
<u>INCOME</u>		<u>INCOME</u>	
MEMBERS FEES	9217.00	MEMBERS FEES	3600.00
T-SHIRT/WINDCHEATERS	1112.00	T-SHIRT/WINDCHEATERS	162.00
BOOK SALES ETC	234.55	ELBOWS	105.00
INTEREST	129.93	GUIDELINE	102.00
		MISCELLANEOUS	340.00
		TRANSFER FROM VIC	500.00
		YET TO BE BANKED	50.00
TOTAL	10754.48	TOTAL	3504.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
POSTAGE	1529.66	PRINTING	1480.40
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	435.00	TRAVEL	202.50
STATIONERY/RECORDS	748.52	TELECOM	122.00
T-SHIRT PRODUCTION COSTS	1898.50	BANNERS AND SIGNS	140.00
GUIDELINES PRINTING	3674.73	HALL HIRE	100.00
WAGES	495.00	EATING (SISTERS)	202.67
OVERPAYMENT REFUNDS	132.00	COMPUTER FEES	222.67
TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION	2198.65	MISCELLANEOUS	752.11
OTHER MINOR COSTS	682.23		
BANK CHARGES	28.82		
TRANSFER TO SA	500.00		
TOTAL	12514.17	TOTAL	4290.68
BALANCE AT 9/9/85	5356.68	BALANCE AT 9/9/85	2375.71
INCOME	10754.48	INCOME	3504.00
EXPENSES	12514.17	EXPENSES	4290.68
BALANCE AT 18/8/86	3595.99	BALANCE AT 18/8/86	1350.03

## COMBINED

OPENING BALANCE	7732.30
INCOME	14658.48
EXPENDITURE	17413.85
CLOSING BALANCE AT 18 AUG 86	4977.93



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SINKHOLE	CAT	LANDOWNER	WHO TO APPLY TO FOR PERMISSION TO ENTER	HOW TO OBTAIN PERMISSION	WHEN TO APPLY	ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
HORSE & CART TEA TREE	I 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
ELA ELAP ONE TREE HOLE	II II	Mr Peter Norman	Mr Peter Norman Private Bag 67 Mount Gambier Tel: 087 385287	By Phone or Call In	Before diving	
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 TEN EIGHTY THE BULLOCK HOLE	II II III	CLOSED	Mr Reg Watson P.O. Box 12 Mount Gambier SA 5290 Tel: 087 266215	By Mail, stating names of all divers enclosing stamped, addressed envelope for reply. Not open until further notice.	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.
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 or 2 years.	CLOSED TO DIVERS AND SNORKELLERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

HELLS HOLE PINES ELAINES	II III III	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.
ENGLEBRECHTS - EAST WEST	III ADV III	Mount Gambier Council	Any Member of the Committee	By Phone or By Mail	Allow time to collect key before going down Mt. Gambier	
THREE SISTERS	ADV III	Millicent Council				
LITTLE BLUE/ BABY BLUE ALLEDALE	I III	Port MacDonnell Council	Permission not required yet but must have appropriate Cat. card.			
FOSSILS GOULDENS	III I	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.
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.

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Barnoolut  
23/9/86

The President CDAA

Dear Sir

I am very concerned about recent events within the CDAA. It would appear independent examination of divers for which I understood your committee had given commitment may now be in doubt.

I now require confirmation of independent examination in: 1) Examiner's manual, 2) Constitution. This I require within 14 days from 23/9/86. Failing this my commitment to cave diving will cease on 7th October 1986.

Yours sincerely

R. Watson

The Committee recieved this letter from Mr. WATSON, Manager of Barnoolut Station during September .  
We could not produce the documents or confirm for Mr. Watson that his requirements could be met by the 7th. of October .  
Until this issue is resolved and Mr. Watson decides if he will or will not re commit himself to the association, you are asked not to apply to dive on Barnoolut Station.  
Regretfully I ask you all to co operate in this matter.

L R Mitchell  
President.

#### LETTER FROM DENNIS TIAM

Considering the importance of this year's AGM as a past committee member and concerned CDAA person, I found the attendance of general members at this year's meeting very poor. If not for the CDAA examiners, Cat. 3 candidates and the local SE members there would not have been a meeting. Many thanks to the ongoing committee and those willing to attend, I hope February's meeting draws better crowds, the future lies in our hands alone.

#### 7. QUORUM AND POSTAL VOTES - THE PROBLEMS

We have had back and forth answers to the quorum problem at meetings when postal votes are used to achieve the required numbers, when deciding issues covered by those postal votes.

After further discussion with South Australian Corporate Affairs, they have simply said, if our constitution says postal votes as it does, they would have no reason to stop any amendments going through their office.

Our Public Officer Volka Zabo, lodged the latest amendments passed at the A G M and they were accepted.

Should any member dispute the legality of this action, I suggest they get some legal documented evidence and forward it to us.

THE MOTTO IS CLEAR LETS CLEARLY DEFINE IT IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

L R Mitchell  
President

#### 8 VII International Camp of Cave Diving - GORIZIA, Italy

The VII International Camp of Cave Diving, 23-29 August 1987 is intended to be a meeting at which cave divers from various parts of the world can exchange experiences and ideas. There will be technical reports, films and slides.

In addition there will be expeditions to the underwater caves in Friuli Venezia Giulia including the karst spring GORGAZZO which reaches a depth of 90 metres, and the waters of the Timavo (an underground river).

Application Forms are available from:

- a. The Secretary  
CDAA  
PO BOX 2161T  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
- b. The Secretary  
Gruppo Speleo 'LV Beitarelli'  
CAI GORIZIA  
Via Rossini 13  
Casella Postale u89  
34170 GORIZIA  
ITALY

Why not go along and see what European cave diving is all about? If you would like to give a talk about Mount Gambier, I'm sure they'd welcome it. And what a chance to do some exciting new diving, after all, PICS is closed so you've got to go somewhere.

If you do go, don't forget to write an article for 'Guidelines' about it.



## SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER AGM 1986

### 1. Access Arrangements

Woods and Forests are altering their access arrangements - see report elsewhere in this issue.

### 2. Voting on Motions.

Motion 1 This was amended to read:

'The Committee of the Association shall consist of not more than four members from each State or Territory of Australia with an additional member from the South-Eastern Region. The positions of the Office Bearers, being President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed from and by the Committee.'

Motion Carried

### Motion 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.'

Motion Carried

### Motion 3

'That the CDAA fees be:

a.	Joining fee	\$20
b.	Annual Membership	\$20
c.	Card replacement	\$ 5
d.	Card processing	\$ 5'

Motion Carried

### 3. Election of the South-Eastern Region Representative

Doug MacLeod was elected to the position of the CDAA South-East Region Representative.

### 4. Feedback on Regulations

The Committee would welcome any feedback on the new Regulations. Please advise any Committee member directly, or through the Post Office Box.

### 5. Examiners

The members voted to give Examiners support in their efforts to produce an 'Examiners Manual' and in particular to back the Examiners in their opposition to 'independent examining'.

### 6. The 37 metre Rule

The '37 metre Rule' (Rule number 61) has been declared to be a recommendation, not a Rule. A formal amendment to the Regulations will eventually be issued.

## FLORIDA: DREAMS AND REALITY

By Francis Le Guen

To dive in the Florida karsts; the ultimate dream... but to dream doesn't mean to fantasise, and much nonsense has been said and written about that on this side of the Atlantic. Th supermen cased in hi-tech gear, living in liquid paradises and breaking all records fires the fertile imagination of our compatriots. The truth is already wonderful enough.

In order to make a film I visited Florida twice, in May and December 1984, for a total of seven weeks. I dived every day visiting about 15 different caves. Let me thank Sheck Exley, Mary-Ellen Ekhof, John Zumrick, Dale Sweet, Paul Deloach, Paul Heinerth and Wess Skyle, who are among the best divers in the States and who cheerfully welcomed me. Their company enabled me to make some comparisons with the European dives and write this short account.

### THE EQUIPMENT

As for suits, the most common models are the Jetsuit by Poseidon, the Viking and more recently, an invasions of Offshore (same principle as the Viking but more aesthetic, solid and lighter).

The buoyancy is ensured by buoys linked to the tanks with scuba feeds. They are either back buoys attached to the twins, or handmade ones fixed on the belly to balance the centre of gravity or a combination of both.

The torches consist of one or two main lights of 55 to 200 watts and four emergency lights. No helmet; the main source of light is held by hand linked by a wire to the impressively sized hip battery made of perspex. The battery life doesn't exceed 2 hours at 55 watts, and the cumbersomeness is explained by the use of nickel cadmium batteries from military surplus supplies. They must be regularly filled with distilled water. The unique advantage is that they are cheap and can be fast charged in 15 minutes directly from the car battery.

Diver propulsion vehicles are very common and include Farallon Mark VI modified with Ni-Cad batteries and compensation floats. Unfortunately, the battery life is only 3 hours at a 30 metres/minute speed (the 714 TS Aquazepp we used during the Cocklebirdy dive went for twice as long).

The biggest tanks available are 18 litre steel ones which are discouragingly heavy. They are worn as twins with an ideal manifold on which two regulators are fitted with only one pressure gauge. In fact, the Americans don't use the double security system as we practice it in Europe. They only use one third of the air on the way in when breathing from one regulator but the air used is being emptied out of both tanks. The most severe failure is a "O" ring breakdown or a free flow: you must then turn off, when it is possible, the involved tap and breathe on the other regulator. This technique is based on mutual assistance between two divers. The second regulator has a long hose to allow buddy breathing in constrictions. The system of the "improved mono" gave me some uneasy feelings so I shall stick to the good old "separate twin".



As the systems are very complex, the divers must be blessed with a strong sense of direction and even a waterproof map! The main axes are always equipped with a fixed line, but to go from one to the other you must make "jumps" with the help of small "jump reels" containing a maximum of 40 metres of guideline, which you recover on the way back. The direction to the next exit is always indicated by a plastic arrow.

Pure oxygen is used at 6 and 3 metres to facilitate decompression, but breathed for the same length of time as if it was air.

Finally, note that the mild temperatures of the water facilitate the deep dives (which are the main cause of many accidents). During several dives to 70 metres I could observe similar effects to those I had experienced during a 50 metre dive in our icy waters.

Thus, contrary to what you may think the gear of European speleonauts seems to be more functional than that of our American colleagues.

#### THE DIVERS

In this country where the deep south accent reigns, there is probably a group of the most experienced divers in the world. Paul Deloach and Sheck Exley, for example, with over 1600 cave dives to their credit and Mary-Ellen Ekhof, an instructor, approaches her 1000th dive. Her exploration in sumps has exceeded 100 metres in depth on compressed air.

In addition, there are many "Sunday divers". Some weekends there are sometimes 200 queuing to pay \$40 for the right to dive in the Devil's Eye Cave. Peacock Spring receives 20,000 divers a year. This popularity leads inevitably to accidents; more than 250 divers met their doom in the Florida Springs. That said, the casualties seem to have been stopped in recent years through formation of and information supplied by the NSS (National Speleological Society). Three quarters of the accidents are due, in fact, to divers with no sump experience and who dive without the indispensable safety equipment.

The tuition of cave diving is tightly structured and not free (one week's training costs about US\$500). Training is based on the expertise necessary to dive in each type of cave. They are divided into "open water diver" (diving in open water, river, pools), "cavern diver" (diving in entrance to caves but keeping the light in view), and "cave diver" (diving in sumps). The access to the sumps is either not free or strictly regulated, sometimes forbidden. Most of the time a local diver is responsible for a cave and can only lead a limited number of visitors a year.

#### THE CAVES

There are more than 1000 flooded caves in Florida. It is rare to dive in less than 24°C water. The unique sumps are exceptional and most of the time they consist of very complex flooded systems with several entrances so that they are always accessible from above. Mapping is peculiarly indispensable in this country. However, it is the pastime of only a few divers, mainly Sheck Exley. Mapping is done with a depth gauge, a Sunto compass and a guideline marked every 5 metres.

The water is generally clear but in many systems the floors are covered with sediments. To preserve a good visibility for the way back the NSS divers have a perfect buoyancy technique with a belly buoy and a special finkick to negotiate the low passageways. There is no direct influence of

rainfall on the spring flow and the visibility is rarely bad. Exceptionally, during heavy rains the murky rivers overflow, invade the springs and pollute them. On the other side, in Summer, a curtain of microscopic algae darken the open water pools. The rest of the time, the diving conditions are ideal. The best seasons are November and December. The current is always very strong and often prevents penetration of sumps as in Weeki Wachee for instance. The galleries are as varied as in Europe.

Most surprising is the public use which is made of the sumps; some are National Parks, some are pools reserved for swimmers and there are even underwater shows with a ballet of mermaids! It does not make negotiation with the landowner representatives any easier and many springs remain closed. The pirate dive is practiced at twilight although it may result in gun shot injuries (the sale of arms is free in Florida). In some cases, the only solution to dive access is to purchase the field.

#### FAUNA AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The fauna in pools and sumps is very abundant:

- blind and depigmented crayfish (crayfish *procambarus*)
- cat fish of 30cm
- eels
- alligators (by the hundred in Wakulla Springs)
- turtles (*Trions Ferox*, *Floridana*, etc.)
- soft water coods, gar fish
- water snakes
- manatees
- common speleonauts: two of them have incidentally finished their decompression stop in the stomach of alligators which generally are satisfied with dogs and babies. During our dives in Wakulla Springs, we were charged by two of these animals, each 3 metres long.

The archaeological interests of the flooded karst in Florida is considerable: one can find among other things teeth of *Carcharodon* sharks, Indian spearheads made of silver (Creek and Seminole tribes), mastodon fossils with their ivory tusks - dated 12,000 years ago, a dugong skeleton of 40 million years and in warm mineral springs a human skull 10,200 years old still containing the intact brain! But, as the finder, the archaeologist Sonny Cockrell says, everything is still to be done...

#### SOME NUMBERS

The longest flooded cave in the States is still Peacock Springs, a system which runs over 7km with many entrances, recently dethroned by Lucayan Cavern in the Bahamas. But many possibilities for continuation abound for this challenge.

The deepest explored: Die Polder II, followed by Dale Sweet down to 110 metres on helium air mixed gas. One month later Sheck Exley reached the same depth on air. It is an awesome adventure when one knows that one must fin more than 300 metres at depths between 60 and 100 metres! In the same kind of exploration we must note Eagle's Nest dived down to 90 metres and Wakulla Springs followed over 400 metres down to 92 metres by John Zumrick.

Let us also note Sheck Exley's dive in Hornsby Spring: 2,000 metres at 50 metres. The dive lasted 7 hours. A link-up with Alachua Sink may be possible eventually.



The longest dive ever done in this State was performed by Sheck Exley at Friedman Sink which is a sump located upstream of Manatee Spring. The gallery starts at 20 metres with a violent current and has been dived for 2,400 metres stopping at a rockpile.

#### THE FUTURE

After rapid progress in the last few years there is presently a stagnation in the exploration in Florida. It would seem that the level of difficulties reached (length, depth, current) constitute an obstacle with the present techniques.

The dives with mixed gases are a bit frightening since the death of Lewis Holtzendorf, a very experienced diver. He was testing a mix of  $O_2/He_2$  at 70 metres. He died of hyperoxia at 15 metres when breathing pure oxygen following the US Navy decompression schedules. Let us remember these schedules are for decompression in a chamber and not in the water. The death occurred in a cave on a private field. During the night his friends had to take the corpse out, transport it more than 100km and resubmerge it in an authorised spring before declaring the accident. All to avoid the consequences of an unauthorized dive.

The techniques of successive relay tanks set during preparatory dives needs six days in Devil's Eye. In spite of the fantastic work of the NSS divers, many systems still remain to be continued and require motivated teams. The notion of reserved private hunting used in our old continent amused the Americans.

As a conclusion we are pleased to announce the wedding of Sheck Exley and Mary-Ellen Ekhoof. The ceremony took place.... in a sump!

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#### OUR "CLAYTONS" PENETRATION MINE DIVE

-- by N.A. Jones --

This is the story of a well planned and executed adventure dive which didn't turn out quite as expected. The dive was planned as a penetration dive into a water-filled mine shaft in the Dargo (Victoria) area. The planning was almost entirely done by one member of the group, Michael, who had extensively researched the history of the mine and who did most of the hard work, organising and booking.

About one hundred years ago, the township of Grant (about 80 km north of Sale) had a thriving population of 10,000 people. Today, there is virtually no trace of any habitation. What few wooden buildings there were have long since vanished and the bush has taken over everywhere. This gold mining town boasted a mine shaft running almost horizontally, deep into a hillside for a distance of about 6 km, and inside of which a small cart was pulled to remove the diggings. At some stage, the tunnelling reached a spring and the entire shaft was flooded, and this, we hoped, would provide us with an ideal opportunity to do a short penetration dive.

We knew that the mine shaft would be very dark, narrow and with great potential for a complete silt-out, so we expected to use all of our cave diving skills during this dive.

Our party consisted of five people - two couples and myself, with only Michael, Zac and myself planning to actually do the penetration dive. Lorraine and LeeAnne, although keen divers, had decided not to do this particular dive. We had taken two full cylinders each, since there was no chance of getting an air fill, and every possibility that we might want to repeat the dive on Sunday.

So we all set off on Friday night, arriving at the Dargo Caravan Park well after midnight. After leaving Stratford near Sale, much of the road to Dargo was gravel, so it had been quite a bumpy ride. After a good night's sleep, we started off on Saturday morning and travelled the 15 km or so to Grant, all of this along a fairly rough track, with lots of logging track offshoots.

On arrival, after a few false starts, we finally located the mine shaft entrance and it looked most promising: about two metres high with shallow water at the entrance, obviously getting deeper as the shaft progressed. The entrance was covered with a green mossy layer and looked cool and inviting, while the water appeared quite clear, but the clay bottom would obviously have stirred up easily, clouding the water.

So rather than stir up the clay silt by all of us entering, Zac went in alone with only his snorkelling gear and his camera, to take some initial shots of the undisturbed shaft. He entered about ten metres or so, with us peering in after him. Following a few encouraging shouts, and a some photos, he returned and reported that the water became deeper, and that it appeared as though the mine shaft continued as expected, but that the water was very cold!

We had decided earlier to use an open reel to lay a guideline into the shaft, rather than the usual enclosed cave diving reel and line, because we wanted to leave the line permanently in place. Accordingly, we had marked 100 metres of orange, polypropylene line at the 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 metre stages, and wound it onto an open, plastic reel. The start of this line was secured just inside the mine shaft entrance, and also, separately, to a large tree outside.



We left Lorraine and LeeAnne outside sunbaking at the entrance, with instructions not to worry for about an hour, even though we said that we would probably only be about half an hour since we were using the cave diving "one third rule" - one third of the air on the way in, one third to come out, and one third in reserve for emergencies.

So, fully kitted up with all our scuba gear and with torches hanging from us, we entered the shaft. Zac went first, with his camera to get some early shots of us; Michael followed, laying out the guideline; and I brought up the rear, tethered to the line. I had decided to stay on snorkel until the water became deeper or until the ample ceiling space became smaller.

As we proceeded along, the water became more and more silted up, in spite of our best efforts at anti-silting technique! It was very dark, but thankfully the roof appeared to be quite sound - solid rock in fact, so no likelihood of a cave-in. It was quite eerie travelling along with only the splashing sounds and the dim glow of the torches. In the light of the torches, the pick marks on the roof of the tunnel stood out. It was as if we had taken a journey back into history.

As it turned out, all of our planning and caution had been in vain. After penetrating a miserable 30 metres, we were met by a massive cave-in which completely blocked our progress. We stood up and had a brief discussion, looked at the rockpile and then turned around and followed the line back to the entrance. LeeAnne and Lorraine were most surprised to see us emerging after only five minutes, and asked us what had gone wrong.

Disappointed with the whole exercise, we removed our scuba gear and went back into the mine shaft on snorkel, back to the rockpile to see whether there was any chance of climbing over it to get to the other side (there wasn't), and to retrieve the open reel of line which we had left wedged into the rocks.

Thus ended our 'penetration' dive into the mine shaft. We were surprised at the cave-in, because the roof looked very solid, and we speculated that the roof may have been deliberately knocked down with explosives, to prevent people going too far into the mine shaft. It certainly worked! One unusual hazard worth mentioning was the vast number of stinging nettles in the bush around the mine. Brushing against these left its mark for a day or so.

The weekend was not completely lost, however, as we dived in the Dargo River which backed onto the caravan park, and with scuba we managed to reach a depth of three metres and we found a rather enormous, fresh water, 'short finned' eel. On our return journey, on Sunday, we diverted to the Mitchell River and again managed to log a three metre dive, and again found a couple of fresh water eels, although not as big as the one in the Dargo River.

So all in all, we had an enjoyable weekend. Perhaps someday we may get to a mine shaft which hasn't been sealed, and do a real penetration dive. I certainly hope so.

#### REELS FOR SALE

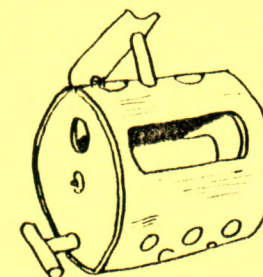
Cave reels designed and constructed by experienced cave divers for cave divers.

They are of PVC construction with either a brass or nylon split spindle. The handle is adapted for carrying a torch. They are capable of holding a minimum of 200 metres of CDAA approved 3mm line.

Special Rate for  
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#### FEATURES:

- Top viewing ports
- Purchase hole
- T-piece handle
- large drainage holes
- opening for line on both sides  
(For Left hand or Right hand operation)
- Webbing strap for side holding



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#### AND T-SHIRTS

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.

Windcheaters \$19 including postage and packing.

T-shirts \$7.70 including postage and packing.

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.



# 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



STOP PRESS-Guidelines 26 insert

- ITEM 1      The 1987 AGM has been changed to the 12th September so as not to coincide with the Victorian Oceans Conference.
- ITEM 2      The special general meeting proposed to be held in February will now be held in March. The revue committee members will require all January to deliberate over the documents and after final comment they can be forwarded to members early February allowing a 30 day notice.
- ITEM 3      The committee decided on the 22nd November prior to the revue committee meeting that in order to maintain access to various sinkholes it will need to adopt independent testing of categories 2 & 3 level and that this be adopted from December 1st, 1986.
- ITEM 4      Would members please continue to respect the requirements of Mr. Reg Watson by NOT approaching for permission to dive on Barnoolut.