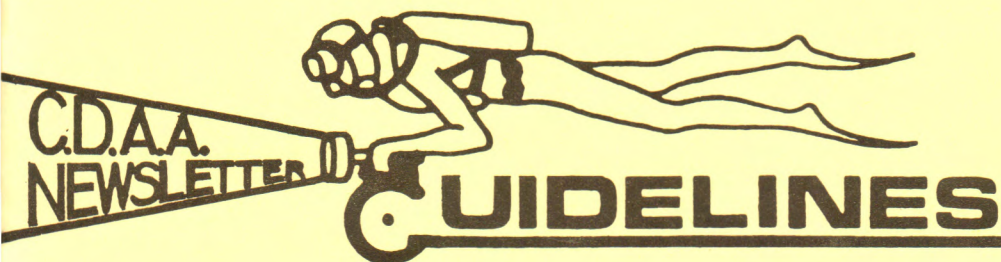


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# CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)



No 28

June 1987

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

### SPECIAL STATE MEETINGS

Melbourne - 12 Aug 87  
North Melbourne Football Club  
7.30 for 8.00 pm

Adelaide - 10 Aug 87  
Talbot Hotel  
Gouger St, Adelaide  
drinks 7.30 - meeting 8.00 pm

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Innkeepers,  
Jubilee Highway,  
Mount Gambier

SATURDAY 12 SEP 87

### CATEGORY 3 TEST

At Mt Gambier  
Saturday 12 Sep 87

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Melbourne: Lance Mitchell (03) 720 1205  
Cheryl Bass (03) 527 7969

Adelaide: Judi Minervini (08) 278 1335

Mt Gambier: 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.

### EXAMINER CONTACT

Ian Lewis (National Testing Officer) (03) 882 7652

best time 10.00 pm to midnight

When you reach for the stars, you may not quite get one,  
but you won't come up with a handful of mud either.



## GUIDELINES

Newsletter of The Cave Divers' Association of Australia

### Issue No 28 June 1987

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## ..EDITORIAL..

We can all breathe a sigh of relief and momentarily feel a lifting of the burden from our shoulders. The Association now has a new constitution, a set of regulations and an examiner's manual. That these documents have been compiled and accepted by the general membership, as well as by the landowners and by the Sinkhole Review Committee convened by the South Australian Government, is an enormous tribute to the present committee, the N.T.O., and also to a number of behind-the-scenes contributors. The C.D.A.A. now has a formalised and documented base from which to move forward, and cavediving should benefit from this. To reach agreement between the many interests within the C.D.A.A. required a great deal of pragmatism, with a result that some sacrifices have been made.

You will be glad to know that the committee is not sitting back with a complacent smile on their face masks. We are getting down to the serious subject of sinkhole access, see the President's report for the latest, and we are hoping there will be more to come.

Don't forget to renew your membership and don't forget to send in nominations for next year's committee positions.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT ..

I think that it can be safely said that the Special General Meeting held on 2 May 87 was as significant and well attended as the CDAA's inaugural meeting.

All people present can be congratulated on a well ordered meeting at which many issues were finally laid to rest. I wish to personally thank all attendees and postal voters. It was those votes from the membership which capped off many months of work and has resulted in a great deal of support and confidence in the Association by the landowner groups.

To a large extent, it was on learning of the good attendance and favourable voting which led Mr Reg Watson to re-negotiate access to Barnoolut Station. Discussions with Reg since that meeting have allowed us to compile a number of documents to clarify matters which were still of concern to him. In the near future, the South Eastern Representative and myself will be meeting with Mr Watson to sort out the final access and indemnity arrangements.

It is important for us all to appreciate that Reg will require some time to deliberate on many things and he intends to assure himself and Mrs Watson that they will be able to have a lot more free weekends to themselves, and to generally reduce the number of divers going through the property. The Watsons will be on holiday during July, and I do not expect to finalize access arrangements until after this date.

If you are planning a trip to Mt Gambier after August, please don't continually contact the Watsons to see if arrangements have been finalized. Call Judi Minervini in SA, Lance Mitchell in Vic or Doug MacLeod in the SE, and we will inform you if you can proceed with a written request for permission to dive, as per the previous access arrangements.

On 3 Jun 87, the President, Vice-President and SE Representative were in Mt Gambier to attend two separate functions.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first function was to meet with the local government land owner representatives from Mt Gambier, Millicent council and Port MacDonnell council, to tidy up the access requirements to the sinkholes under their jurisdiction. A great deal of credit should go to Doug MacLeod the SE Representative for the presentation of the final arrangements. These arrangements are:

Englebrechts East (Cat 3) and Englebrechts West (Adv Cat 3)

Re-opens 1 Jul 87. Access as per CDAA News, page 4.

Pines (Cat 3), Hells Hole (Cat 2) and Ayllens (Adv Cat 3)

Arrange access through the Mt Gambier Forest Headquarters by phone (087) 39 9254 or 39 9292. Written permission can be obtained if you send in a photocopy of your card on which you have written "I certify that this is a photocopy of my Category card", and sign and date it, and post to PO Box 162 Mt Gambier. Don't forget your stamped self-addressed envelope.

Three Sisters (Adv Cat 3) - Opens 1 Jul 87.

The CDAA will be required to lease this sinkhole, once that part of the lease arrangement is agreed to. Until then, the current agreement will suffice, and access will be as per current arrangements (ie. get the key from the Committee).

Allendale East (Cat 3) - Still open.

Within the next month or two, the Port MacDonnell council will have constructed a two-metre high 'Cyclone' fence around Allendale East sinkhole. The gate will NOT be locked and access will be as per current arrangements (ie. just turn up and dive). A lease is currently being drafted, and once finalized, the CDAA will lock the gate and make the key available to members.

Baby Blue (Cat 1) - Still open.

Access arrangements unchanged (ie. turn up and dive). In the near future you will be posted a Deed which you will be required to sign and return. This Deed is expected to be valid for two years, and unlike the Englebrechts Deed which must be signed on each visit, the Baby Blue Deed will only need to be signed once. In the event of any problem (and about ten percent of members seem to miss out on getting Guidelines each time), Deeds will be available at the Port MacDonnell Shire Offices. There is no need to take any action at this time. You will be further advised.

The second function on 3 Jun 87 was to attend the Department of Sport and Recreation launch of the new CDAA BROCHURE.

The launch was promoted by the Minister for Recreation and Sport, the Honorable Kym Mayes, and it was attended by most of the Review Group landowner representatives, the Mayor of Mt Gambier, many private landowners, Department of Sport and Recreation personnel and local identities.

The fact that the brochure strongly advocated the CDAA as being in control of cave diving testing and categorization in the SE region is a final indication, I believe, of the level of support we now have and intend to build on.

I again thank you for your support.

LR Mitchell  
President.



## CDAA NEWS .. CDAA NEWS .. CDAA NEWS..

### 1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW CDAA CATEGORY CARDS

Good News! The new category card has been designed and printed. It is 'credit card' size and includes a photograph of the holder. The new cards will be introduced in July 1987, corresponding with membership renewal by all members.

The new cards will be 'laminated' (sealed) in plastic, and will contain all the essential information. If you send a new photograph, it will be placed on the new card. If you don't, then the photograph will be cut from your old card and re-used.

The category stamped on the new card will be the same as that stamped on your old card, so if you haven't updated your category, now is the time to get the paperwork sorted out. Similarly, if your old card has incorrect details on it, then that too should be sorted out. If you make corrections at the time of renewal, then you will not have to pay the \$5 update fee.

The annual subscription fee is \$20, and we will allow renewal for one or two years, as in the past. So to renew your subscription for one or two years, send the following items:—

- Your old CDAA card.
- Your money - \$20 or \$40 (Cheque or PO please - not cash).
- A stamped, self-addressed envelope for prompt return of your card.
- A new photograph (if desired).
- A completed survey form.
- RENEWAL FORM !! (centre of this newsletter)

### 2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Committee for 1987/88 will be elected at the Special State Meetings as usual. However, as postal voting is also allowed under the new Constitution, the system will be more complicated this year. See page 4 for more details.

### 3. RESIGNATIONS

Colleen Workman who has done an excellent job as both the SA Records Officer and a Committee member for a little over a year has had to resign because of work commitments.

Volker Zarbo has stood down as our Public Officer.

### 4. RE-APPOINTMENTS

Nick Cundell has kindly agreed to become the new Public Officer.

The SA Committee and in particular Judi Minervini have agreed to take on the workload of Colleen until the next Committee elections in August.

### 5. ENGLEBRECHTS \*\*\* NOW OPEN \*\*\*

Englebrechts will be re-opened soon, pending drawing up of the Deed by the Mount Gambier Council lawyers. The key to the West side is obtainable from any Committee member (to Advanced Cat 3 divers). Lifeline is not to be used for access to either side of Englebrechts; rather, the key must be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre.

For future access to Englebrechts, a Deed will have to be signed by each diver on each visit, and a fee of \$1.00 paid. The Deed (Indemnity form) will remain valid for a short period (about one week).

## DAA NEWS .. CDAA NEWS .. CDAA NEWS

### 6. THREE SISTERS \*\*\* NOW OPEN \*\*\* (see President's report)

It will probably not concern too many divers that the Three Sisters will remain closed pending further negotiations with the Millicent Council.

### 7. SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

According to some people, diving in sinkholes of a higher category than that of the diver is 'common practice'.

Three divers were recently caught diving in a Category 3 sinkhole, and one of the three was only a Category 2 diver. As a result, all three had their Category cards SUSPENDED for six months.

The Regulations are quite clear - You may not dive in a sinkhole rated higher than your Category (Regulation 40), and you must not encourage or assist divers to dive in sinkholes rated higher than their Category (Regulation 41).

The penalty for breach of these Regulations is suspension of your Category card for a period determined by the Committee. Government landowners have a further avenue open to them. If you are caught in their sinkholes, they can confiscate your diving equipment and hit you with a heavy fine.

At the moment, as you will agree, the situation regarding sinkholes is very delicate, and the Committee (and the membership generally) is being watched carefully by landowners to make sure that we adopt a responsible approach.

So if you are one of those who occasionally dive in a sinkhole for which you are not qualified, or sneak in for a quick midnight dive in a closed sinkhole, then think seriously what damage you could do to cave diving generally and to your future cave diving prospects should you be caught.

Please adopt a sensible approach and don't go diving in closed or higher category sinkholes.

## NTO REPORT ... NTO REPORT

The acceptance and installation of the new Examiner's Manual as the working operational document for the CDAA's future Testing programmes has been welcomed by all of the Examiners. Although it may not have been widely realised during the last fifteen months of upheaval and uncertainty, the CDAA Category 1 and 2 Testing programme had been decimated and Examiners genuinely feared that the diving world was about to lose one of its more rigorous and well-respected qualifications -- because there seemed no reason to obtain it due to sinkhole closures and the CDAA's battle for survival as a representative body. The loss of the training techniques seemed to us of even greater importance.

The presence of the Manual now eliminates that problem. Already as NTO, I have been able to involve the Examiners in a review of our Theory and Practical procedures as a preliminary stage in the assembly of a comprehensive Training document which should cover all requirements, organising of candidates and sound procedures for continuing to raise the competency level of candidates. The required amendments to the Manual (conditional on its acceptance) have been submitted, as I undertook at the Mount Gambier meeting. The Examiner body sincerely thanks all those who voted to accept this most important document.

Ian Lewis, NTO



## ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTION

### VOTING FOR COMMITTEE AT SPECIAL STATE MEETINGS

A Special State Meeting will be held in South Australia and Victoria to elect Committee members from each State, in Accordance with the new Constitution, Clause 19.b,

The dates for the Special State Meetings are:

South Australia - 10 Aug 87

Victoria - 12 Aug 87

This notice is issued pursuant to Clause 19.e of the Constitution.

Nominations for Committee members for both States should be posted to the Returning Officer, Nick Jones, PO Box 2161T, GPO Melbourne 3000, and must be received by Monday 20 Jul 87.

Only financial CDAA members may be nominated. Each nomination must be proposed and seconded by financial CDAA members, and the nomination must be signed by the nominee to indicate acceptance. The nomination should state clearly whether the nomination is for SA or Vic.

Once nominations have been received, all members will be notified of the agenda for the meeting and of the people nominated. A postal vote form will be included for those not able to attend the meeting.

### AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SPECIAL STATE MEETINGS

If you want any matter relevant to the Annual General Meeting to be held on 12 Sep 87, to be discussed at the Special State Meeting, then you must notify the Secretary, in writing, by 24 Jul 87, and your item will be listed on the agenda for the SSM, in accordance with Clause 24.d of the Constitution.

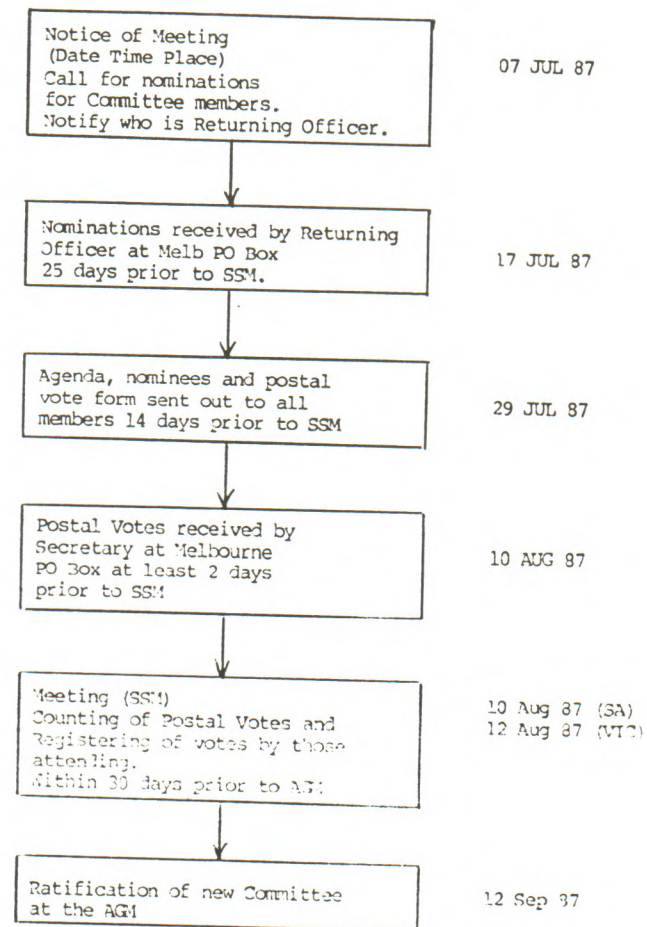
### VOTING AT AGM ON NOTIFIED MOTIONS

This year the AGM will be held on 12 Sep 87. Members wishing to put motions to this meeting or have items put on the agenda should send these in writing to the National Secretary not less than 50 days prior to the meeting (ie. by 24 Jul 87)

All members will then be notified of the motions and agenda items to be considered at the AGM not less than 30 days prior to the AGM. Postal votes will be accepted on Constitutional changes only.

## ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTION

### THE NEW SYSTEM FOR VOTING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS







## Department of Environment and Planning

55 Grenfell Street,  
Adelaide, South Australia  
Telephone (08) 216 7777  
Telex: ENPLAN AA87182  
Facsimile: (08) 231 1392

Postal address  
G.P.O. Box 1782  
Adelaide,  
South Australia 5001

Reference 13.5.3.  
Piccaninnie  
Contact Officer T. Owers

### National Parks and Wildlife Service

Tel: (087) 24 1511

P.O. Box 1046,  
MOUNT GAMBIER, S.A. 5290

27th May, 1987.

#### ARTICLE FOR THE C.D.A.A. MAGAZINE

#### PICCANINNIE PONDS

As is well known, the Ponds are suffering a condition of vegetation 'lift off' and are at present closed.

A twelve month study by an honours student, Mr. Oliver Scholz from Monash University is at present being carried out.

This combined with visits of inspection and photo point records by park staff accompanied by a volunteer diver should give some reasons for the condition of the vegetation and its recovery, if any.

As reported by Ian Ploenges who accompanied the staff member on the last inspection, the condition is still present and at this stage the ponds are going to remain closed until 31st July, 1988.

It is realised that this is a great disappointment to members of the diving fraternity and your patience in waiting for results of the study and the re-opening of the ponds is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

*T. Owers*

T. Owers,  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT RANGER  
SOUTH EAST

TRO:DFH

#### ARE YOU FINANCIAL? - NO YOU'RE NOT!

For most of us, our Category card will expire on 30 Jun 86. To renew for one or two years all you have to do is send in the Membership Renewal Form (including the completed Survey Form), add a cheque for \$20 (or \$40 for two years renewal) made payable to the CDAA, a stamped, self-addressed envelope, a new photograph and your old card. Your old CANCELLED card will be returned with your new card.

#### AMNESTY

This is absolutely, positively the last chance for anyone with a 1986 sticker on their Category card to renew their membership. Include all of the above plus an extra \$10 for the 1986/87 fee and a grovelling note explaining why you didn't renew last year! These applications must be received by 31 Aug 87 to be considered. Failure to renew by this time will result in your name being struck from the register. So there!

#### SURVEY FORM 1987

#### PICCANINNIE PONDS SURVEY

Number of dives undertaken in Piccaninnie Ponds since June 1986:

1986: JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	1987: JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

#### OTHER SINKHOLE DIVING EXPERIENCE

Please list total number of dives since June 1986 to present:

EWENS PONDS: _____	GOULDENS: _____	TWO SISTERS: _____
BABY BLUE: _____	HORSE AND CART: _____	TEA TREE: _____
TEN-EIGHTY: _____	BLACK HOLE: _____	ONE TREE: _____
ELA ELAP: _____	SWIM THROUGH: _____	HELLS HOLE: _____
THE PINES: _____	FOSSIL CAVE: _____	ALLEYDALE: _____
BULLOCKS: _____	ENGLEBRECHTS E: _____	MUD HOLE (197): _____
MAX'S HOLE: _____	ENGLEBRECHTS W: _____	THREE SISTERS: _____

#### What's this survey all about?

There is still concern about the impact of divers on the sinkholes of the South East.

In some sinkholes the environment is thought to be rather delicate, so this survey is being continued in order to try to accurately establish in what way divers may be affecting these holes.

I strongly advise you to fill the survey in as accurately as possible. This information could well help to avert the possible closure of any sinkhole.

When Piccaninnie Ponds reopens, in August 1988, NPWS will not issue permits unless the information is supplied.



# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 1987

To renew your membership, fill out the SURVEY FORM and the RENEWAL FORM and send them with your CARD a PHOTO and \$20 (or \$40 for two years), to:

(All States except VIC)

(VIC Members)

CDA Records Officer  
PO BOX 290  
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

CDA Records Officer  
GPO BOX 2161 T  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:.....

SURNAME:..... OTHER NAMES:.....

POSTAL ADDRESS:..... CDA CATEGORY (circle)  
..... CAT 1 CAT 2 CAT 3 ADV CAT 3  
.....

POSTCODE:..... PHONE: (....)(home)  
(....)(work)

From here on it's optional. Please don't fill in details which haven't changed.

OCCUPATION:.....

DOCTOR : .....  
(Name and Address) .....

NEXT OF KIN : .....  
(Name and Address) .....

HEIGHT(metres): ..... WEIGHT (kg): ..... BUILD:.....

HAIR COLOUR: ..... EYE COLOUR: .....

VISIBLE FEATURES: .....

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE: .....

A stamped, self-addressed envelope will speed up return of your new card.  
Your old photo will be put on your new card if a new one is not enclosed.

## CDA CONSTITUTION CDA

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

AMENDMENT LIST NO 2 DATED 14 MAY 87

TO THE CONSTITUTION ISSUED FEBRUARY 1987

This is Amendment List No 2 to the Constitution of the CDA dated February 1987 which was originally issued with Guidelines No 27.

The changes are required as a result of the 2 May 87 Special General Meeting at which it was decided that a two-thirds majority would be required for changes to the Constitution.

1. Clause 26.a(6) - addition.
- (6) Voting for alterations to this Constitution will be in accordance with Clause 27 of this Constitution.
2. Clause 27 - renumber and add b.
27. Alterations to the Constitution
  - a. The Constitution of the Association may be altered at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Association subject to the following conditions:
    - (1) The amendment shall be notified by the proposer, in writing, to the Secretary, at least 50 days prior to the date of the next meeting.
    - (2) The Secretary shall notify each member, in writing, of the proposed alteration in accordance with Clause 25.a of this Constitution.
    - (3) Members unable to attend the meeting may table their postal vote on the motion, in accordance with Clause 26.c of this Constitution.
    - (4) No proxy votes shall be accepted on amendments to the Constitution.
    - (5) The Secretary shall advise all members in writing of the duly passed amendment within 30 days of it being passed, and such alteration shall come into effect seven days after the posting of such notice.
  - b. For a motion to amend this Constitution to be passed, a two-thirds majority of tabled votes shall be required.

End of Amendment List No 2



# CDAA REGULATIONS CDAA

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

## REGULATIONS

### AMENDMENT LIST NO 3

DATED 14 MAY 1987

This is Amendment List No 2 to the Regulations of the CDAA dated August 1986 which were originally issued with Guidelines No 25.

These amendments are required as a result of the 2 May 87 Special General Meeting at which it was determined that a two-thirds majority would be required for amendments to the Regulations.

#### 1. Regulations 5 and 6

5. These regulations may be amended by a two-thirds majority decision of Committee.

6. The regulations may also be amended by a motion passed by a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting.

#### 2. Regulation 41

41. A member shall not encourage or assist any person to dive with him in a categorized sinkhole, unless that person holds an appropriate Category card, except as allowed for in these Regulations.

End of Amendment List No 3

# MEETINGS..MEETINGS..MEETINGS..MEETINGS

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE CDAA SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 'THE INNKEEPERS' MOUNT GAMBIER ON SATURDAY 2 MAY 87 AT 7.30 PM

Present. 104 financial members were present at the meeting. Approximately 50% came from each State, with 12 of the SA members coming from the Mt Gambier region.

The results of the votes were:

#### a. New Constitution

That the existing CDAA Constitution be dispensed with and the draft Constitution issued February 1987 together with Amendment List 1 dated 31 Mar 87 be accepted as the new CDAA Constitution.

FOR 186 AGAINST 0 CARRIED

NOTE: 88 Postal Votes received

#### b. Constitution (I)

A two thirds majority is required to add to, or change any part of the Constitution, Examiners Manual or Regulations.

FOR 60 AGAINST 43 CARRIED

#### c. Regulations (I)

Acceptance of an application for membership in the Association will be at the discretion of the Examiner Sub Committee and National Committee and subject to the candidate having completed a minimum of 20 dives within a minimum of 12 months prior to the application.

FOR 45 AGAINST 49 LOST

#### d. Regulations (II)

Add to the requirements of Regulation No 34: Provide evidence of a nature satisfactory to an Examiner of having completed the pre-required 20 dives over a minimum period of 12 months.

FOR 67 AGAINST 24 CARRIED

#### e. Examiners Manual (I)

A pre-requisite to any application for Category 3 certification shall be that the candidate must have completed at least 20 Category 2 dives within a minimum of 12 months prior to the application.

FOR 92 AGAINST 15 CARRIED

#### f. Examiners Manual (II)

All Category 3 testing is to be carried out in the Mount Gambier region.

FOR 81 AGAINST 23 CARRIED

#### g. Examiners Manual (III)

Category 2 and 3 practical tests shall be conducted by at least one Examiner from South Australia and one from Victoria. The Examiners must be independent from the candidates' training.

FOR 16 AGAINST 87 LOST



# ETINGS..MEETINGS..MEETINGS..MEETINGS

The President thanked David Bird for all the work he did in creating the new Constitution.

## Motion:

That the Examiners Manual be adopted by the CDAA subject to the inclusion of the final adjustments requested by the Government Landowners, and their approval.

Proposed: I Lewis      Seconded: Peter Horne      CARRIED

A letter from Mr R Watson was tabled (each member attending was given a copy of the letter). The President gave an explanation of some of the points raised in the letter. There was some discussion on what form a suitable reply to Mr Watson should take.

It was generally agreed that we should ask Mr Watson what we (the CDAA) can do to convince him to re-open the sinkholes under his control, but that we should wait until he has had time to note the results of this Special General Meeting.

## Motion:

That the CDAA formally than Mr Reg Watson for his support of the CDAA in the past.

Proposed: Maurice Parry      Seconded: Volker Zarbo      CARRIED

Volker Zarbo, the Public Officer, tendered his resignation. A vote of thanks for his past work was carried.

Colleen Workman, the South Australian Records Officer, tendered her resignation due to work commitments which required her to spend a lot of time out of her home State. A vote of thanks for her past work was carried.

The President gave a final summary and thanked dive clubs (eg. Marine Diving Group) for the interest they had shown in CDAA matters. Peter Horne, Peter Ginnane, Mark Neilson and G Bulling were all thanked by the President for their feedback. The Mount Gambier people were thanked for their support.

The meeting was closed at about 11.00 pm.

# ARTICLES .. CDAA ARTICLES .. CDAA ARTIC

## HELLS HOLE DIVE - SUNDAY 3 MAY 87

NA Jones

As advertized in Guidelines No 27, there was an 'organized' trip to Hells Hole on the Sunday following the Special General Meeting in Mt Gambier. I say 'organized' because really there wasn't much organizing - all of the hard work and provision of equipment was done by Andrew Cox, and without his efforts, none of us would have been able to get anywhere near the water.

Seven divers actually experienced 'Hells Hole - The Water' while a large number of spectators watched, assisted and cheered us on. Even Ron Allum turned up later on to see what was happening.

First in was Dennis Thamm who auseiled down. This upset Frank, his diving buddy, who thought he had to do the same! Fortunately the rest of us were happy to use the ladder to get in as well as to get out of the hole.

Once the first pair had finished the dive, Sonja and Ian descended and had their dive. Dennis spent the rest of his time hanging on the end of a safety line, leaning out over the edge and controlling the myriad of lines with cylinders, gear and divers hanging on them.

Finally, the last triple descended the ladder and did the dive. The dive was actually a lot better than I thought it would be. If the water was more readily accessible, it would be a popular dive site.

So with a 9.00 am start and a 4.00 pm finish, it took about an hour per diver! Quite a long day, but a good dive and a most worthwhile experience.

Thanks go to the Woods and Forest representatives Hugo Hopton and Hayden Dowell for their assistance in getting a permit early on Sunday morning, and to Andrew Cox for his time, assistance and use of all the climbing gear. Thanks also to Dennis Thamm, Lester Jerman and the others who provided climbing gear or assisted on the day.

## The Divers were:

Sonja Tucun	1293	Chris Toomer	1324
Michael Marques	1323	Dennis Thamm	-773
Frank Homewood	1023	Ian Keller	775
Nick Jones	1436		



## DIVING KUBLA KHAN, TASMANIA

- by -

Roland Eberhard

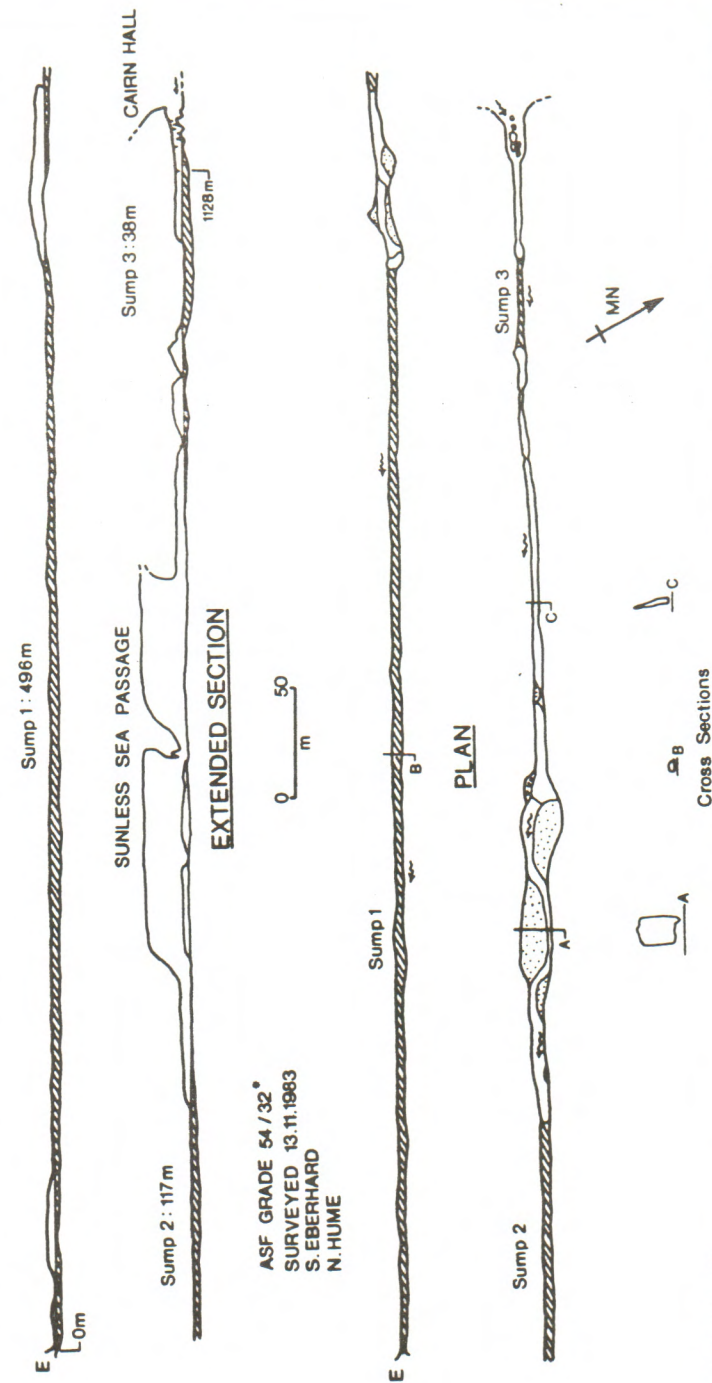
In Tasmania's rural mid-north is Mole Creek, an area renowned for magnificent cave systems. Kubla Khan is the best known, boasting calcite formations on a scale and in such profusion that it has been described as Australia's most beautiful cave. A lesser known title Kubla Khan can claim is that of the longest cave dive yet achieved in Tasmania. A stream named the River Alph flows through the first part of the cave, to finally disappear in a still sump pool. From an efflux a stream of equivalent size emerges into daylight over a kilometre away. This had long been presumed the same River Alph, and cavers were fascinated by what might lie between sump and efflux. It remained for divers to explore the link. In 1965 and 1974 local divers made long penetrations into the efflux, however it was not until 1978 that a team of South Australians successfully completed a traverse from the efflux to Kubla Khan. A fancifully imagined Kubla Khan II was not revealed; only long and shallow sumps emerged, with a middle section of large muddy passages.

In more recent years Nick Hume and I had done return dives from the efflux side, and the possibility of organizing an exchange/through dive occurred to us. Apart from its novelty, the proposition seemed good for a challenging and varied day underground. Our intention was that one team of divers would lay line from the efflux through the sumps (496, 117 and 38 metres long respectively), to eventually surface inside Kubla Khan proper. At the same time a second team would proceed into the cave from the main dry entrance and rendezvous, simultaneously we hoped, as the divers emerged from the sump. Gear would be exchanged and both teams could continue their journeys: the divers to go out the dry entrance, the other team via the aquatic route. Our scheme was finalised when Stuart Nicholas and Duncan Holland agreed to join the expedition, making up the requirement of four divers.

Predictably, the day before our attempt was one of heavy rain; consequently water levels at the efflux were considerably higher than usual. After some hesitation we agreed to proceed as planned, and a coin was tossed to determine which route each group was to follow. Nick and Stuart chose to dive first, and we assisted them kit up with cumbersome air tanks and bulky reels of line. At the last moment I noticed Stuart stashing a can of Coca-Cola in the pocket of his buoyancy vest - he's always been a well prepared diver!

The main entrance of Kubla Khan is a gaping vertical hole in the side of a hill, and twenty metres of ladder is needed to climb down it. The first part of the streamway lying below consists mainly of deep pools, and a tricky high-level traverse is normally used to avoid the water, but with the benefit of wet suits we enjoyed the invigorating dip. The passage then opens up into the spacious Cairn Hall, ending finally at the sump. Stuart and Nick had yet to surface, so there was plenty of time to contemplate the task ahead: three sumps involving a total of 650 metres of diving between us and the pleasant world outside. Because we would be swimming downstream, clouds of disturbed silt would be our constant companions, and visibility would generally be atrocious. We were relying on the line Nick and Stuart laid on their way in, and trusted that everything was proceeding smoothly for them.

## KUBLA KHAN EFFLUX MOLE CREEK, TAS.





Finally, the tell-tale splutter of bubbles and a glow of underwater torches announced the arrival of the diving team. They were in good spirits and the high water levels had not presented any particular difficulties. Jelly beans and pleasantries were exchanged as Duncan and I checked the air tanks and donned our diving gear. With the usual "whose crazy idea was this anyway?", we set off into the first sump. This was only a short dive, and after surfacing we kept going through some deep water with a low ceiling, leading into the Sunless Sea Passage. This is a most impressive section between the sumps, with a lofty ceiling and five metre high mud-banks on either side of a broad passage. Unfortunately deep mud on the floor made progress strenuous in full diving kit, and it was with relief that we reached the next sump and submerged ourselves into refreshing cold water.

Finning along underwater, besides the thin white guideline, I concluded that we had made a mistake in our choice of guideline. In order to reduce the bulk of almost 700 metres of line needed, we had opted for a cord much thinner than our usual type. We rationalized that it was not to be left in place for long and would be sufficient for the job. In fact it proved quite troublesome, being very flexible and prone to forming loops and twists that had a propensity for snagging on one's equipment. Also, about half-way through the sump my spare regulator started free-flowing; it was annoying but not a real problem. Through the silty water the dim, reassuring glow of Duncan's helmet light followed behind me; vaguely reminiscent of car headlights on a very foggy night.

In due course we surfaced and took a short rest on a convenient mud-bank out of the water. My regulator could not be persuaded to behave normally, but the situation was not critical; we each had two independent air supplies with plenty in reserve. This was the last and also longest underwater stretch, and we were starting to feel the cold and wanted to get the dive over and done with. It was a monotonous swim, past occasional patches of sand, rocks, and now and then a glimpse of crumbly rock walls. Once again the guideline was a problem, and Duncan had to sort out several loops that thoroughly entangled his flippers. Finally we surfaced at the efflux, where Stuart and Nick were waiting to greet us. It was a welcome relief to shed weighty tanks and other diving paraphernalia, and breathe the warm fresh outside air. An hour later we were sitting comfortably in the Mole Creek pub sipping a well-earned beer, and planning the next cave dive.

#### Technical Notes

Due to water levels the length of the sumps can vary considerably. During the exchange dive, and also a previous survey trip, water levels were high making it necessary to start diving immediately inside the efflux. In drier periods it has been possible to initially swim along 100 metres of airspace prior to submerging. This was not the case during the exploration by the South Australians, who did not report any intermediate sumps between the first dive at the efflux and the last one into Kubla Khan. More recently I found an additional 30 metre long sump just after the first long sump, making a total of three sumps. This was followed by an extended swim with a couple of short ducks prior to Sunless Sea Passage. As shown on the

survey, at times it may be necessary to dive a full 117 metres in the second sump if water levels are right up. For this reason it is sensible that dives be planned allowing at least 496, 117 and 33 metres of line for the respective sumps, although less line may actually be used. Of course, additional line may be needed anyway, as tie-off points are not always available near the start and finish of sumps. Small ceiling airspaces are often present along the first two sumps, making it possible to surface at some points if the need arises.

Divers should be well prepared for Tasmanian cave diving conditions. Local divers favour carrying two independent air supplies, and each diver is theoretically self-reliant. The water is cold and often stained with peat. Generally visibility is poor and silt can reduce it to zero in a short space of time. Cave diving in this State is primarily undertaken as an exploration technique by cavers, rather than recreational diving for its own sake.

Fortunately the straightforward nature of the underwater passages at Kubla Khan mean navigation is not a complex problem. Carrying gear along the walking sections is arduous, and during the exchange dive we attempted to minimize the amount of gear needed, while ensuring ample air for both dive teams. As described, the use of thin line was not a wise economy. Both divers wore twin tanks at first, and we planned that they could dump at least one tank after reaching Sunless Sea Passage, thereby reducing the amount of equipment to be carried between dives. Stuart also carried an additional 15 cu.ft. tank that was sufficient for the last short sump. The return divers collected the spare tanks at the middle sump, and used them on their way out.

Anyone planning a trip to Kubla Khan should be aware that it is managed by the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service. It has the status of a Limited Access Cave, and permission to enter it must be obtained well beforehand. The efflux is located on private land and permission must be sought from the landowner to cross any paddocks. A final note: Kubla Khan is a unique cave but is already showing signs of deterioration. All visitors should do their utmost to preserve it by keeping to marked routes, removing muddy boots before walking on flowstones, and conscientiously exercising the utmost care to minimise their impact.

Roland Eberhard

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan,  
A stately pleasure-dome decree,  
Where Alph, the sacred river ran,  
Through caverns measureless to man,  
Down to a sunless sea.

Samuel Coleridge Taylor



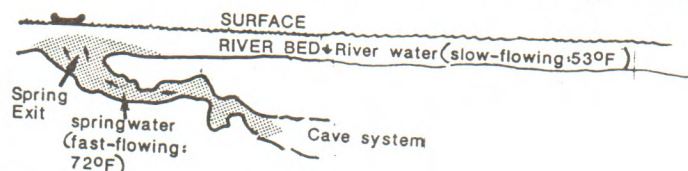
## CAVE DIVING FLORIDA • John Dalla-Zuanna

On Friday 8th April 1983 I departed Jacksonville, Florida, to my lifetime dream place, Branford, Florida, the cave diving centre of the world. I had just bought my 1976 Dodge station wagon, loaded it up with gear - on loan from Sheck Exley, world renowned cave diver, and into Branford I drove. I had no difficulty finding the dive shop, it was where one expected it to be - underwater! Yep, the Suwannee River was in flood and the top of the dive shop was the only visible part. After quite a few ales I finally sorted out my dive itinerary for the next couple of weeks.

The northern end of Florida offers over 400 cave dives, many of them requiring three, four or more tanks each dive to make an effective dent into the cave. Let me detail one particular dive in this article, and bring out some of the unique features of this type of cave diving.

Diving Devil's Eye Springs - located in the Santa Fe River, Florida

After checking all equipment (minimum of three main torches and a set of twin tanks on our back and a set of twin tanks (stage tanks) on our chest), we loaded up our canoe and paddled down the Santa Fe River to an area of 'boiling water' a half kilometre from the starting point. Like most rivers in this region we get two layers of water, river water and spring water.



1. When river is in flood, the river water is brown but the spring water is always crystal clear.
2. When the water level of the river rises, most springs reverse their flow, ie they can suck you in!

Upon entering the cave by reel we located the permanent fixed line and proceeded along on our chest-mounted tanks (stage tanks) until we had used up our limit of one third of our air supply. Here we dropped our stage tanks, switched to our back tanks and proceeded on once again till we had reached one third of our air supply. All this time our average depth remained at 95 ft, visibility excellent, pushing along against a slight out-going current (no silting problems) in beautiful warm water.

After penetrating a distance of just over one kilometre we had reached our limit on the 'one third rule' and proceeded back. On the way we collected our stage tanks, attaching them to our harness and once again swapped regulators and came out the last section with our stage tanks. Upon reaching 30 ft (near the entrance) we stopped our bottom timers at 64 minutes. 64 minutes at 95 ft - Deco Tables! Decompression 17 minutes at 20 ft, and 39 minutes at 10 ft. Approximately one hour of deco!!

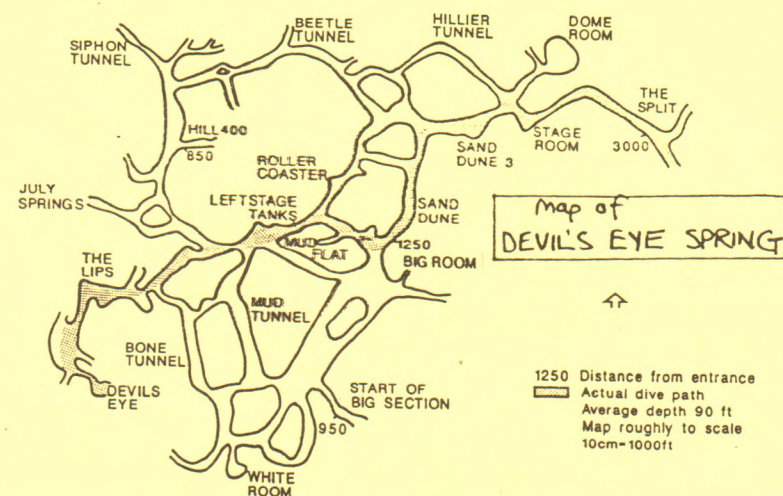
The 20 ft stop for 17 minutes was OK. Warm, clear water, few things to see, but the 10 ft stop for 39 minutes (actually 45 minutes with extra time) in cold, dirty water was horrible, especially since you have been in the water for a total of nearly two hours already! Anyway, I braved it, swapping the oxygen cylinder between by buddy and I (they use oxygen for deco stops, it gets rid of the nitrogen faster), and finally surfaced!

The first thing my buddy said to me after we surfaced was, "Oh, shucks, we didn't see any 'gaters today."

He said, "'Gaters, you know, alligators." At that point I was convinced I was in another diving world. He then pointed two out on the far bank. I instantly climbed into the canoe and observed from a more secure place.

All aboard, we paddled back to the starting jetty and walked about 200 metres to the changing sheds, into a warm shower, into dry clothes and then over to the kiosk (about 50 metres away) and sat down to a hot chocolate and toast! There I sat, believe it or not, and thought about Mount Gambier, Australia; no comparison. This was my final dive for this trip; I will guarantee not my last!

Cave diving in Florida is maze diving, intricate mazes of passages not only on one level but multi-level; like swimming through a flooded apartment building! The passages are generally large compared to Mount Gambier, 20 ft high 30 to 40 ft wide, ie plenty of room to move; though there are many similarities to cave diving in the Nullabor, only instead of abseiling 300 ft into the cave, you paddle for ages to get to the dive site.



More adventures in following editions of Guidelines. Until then, safe diving,

John Dalla-Zuanna



# 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