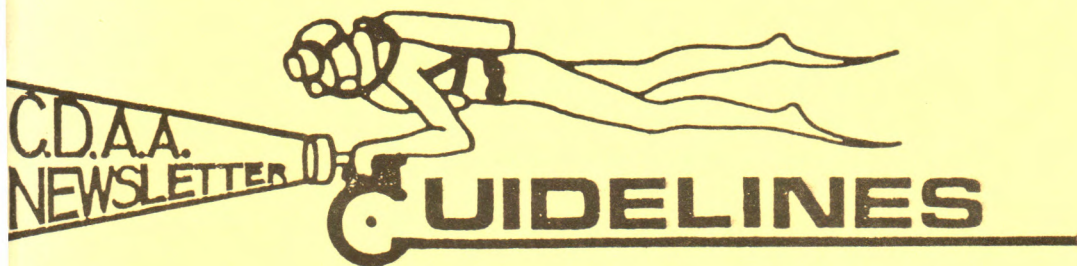


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# **CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

(Incorporated in South Australia)



**N° 31**

**JULY 1988**

**CDAA  
PO Box 2161T**

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PO Box 290**

**CDAA  
PO Box 1166**

**PO Melbourne Vic 3001 North Adelaide SA 5006 Mount Gambier SA 5290**

## GUIDELINES

Newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia

Newsletter Number 31, July 1988

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

## CDAA MEETING DATES FOR 1988

CDAA AGM, Mount Gambier - 10th September  
Special State Meeting, Adelaide - 27th August  
Special State Meeting, Melbourne - 31st August

These dates are indications only, confirmed dates and venues will be advised in writing shortly to comply with CDAA Constitution.

## EDITORIAL

At the National Committee meeting in April, some discussion took place on Guidelines. There is a feeling that the magazine has been dominated by politics/regulations and that some members are losing interest and not reading their Guidelines.

So for my first issue as Editor, I have been asked to take out the politics and keep administrative business to a minimum. Important information (including officer's reports), regulation and other matters will be forwarded separate to Guidelines in future.

This means that Guidelines will contain more cave diving 'stuff' and should be more enjoyable reading. Members comments on this new approach would be greatly appreciated by myself and the committee.

However, to increase the diving content of the magazine - more articles will be needed. Any information and articles, on equipment or places (Mt. Gambier or elsewhere), will be greatly appreciated - and necessary for the new format to survive. So all you explorers/adventurous types, try putting pen to paper. We can help you by rewriting, editing etc. if necessary. Contact me if you think you can help on 03 783 2023.

Michael Vize.

## ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPELEOLOGIE COMMISSION FOR CAVE DIVING

The CDAA has received information about the above assembly which will meet on the 10th and 11th September at Sloup Village in the Moravian Karst area in Czechoslovakia. Cave Diving can be arranged in the area for a limited number of divers. We can't offer you a free trip but if interested we can give you more information. Contact Michael Vize on 03 783 2023.

A report on last years assembly, by Phill Lyng who managed to attend, appears in this issue. More information is available from Phill if any members are genuinely interested.

## CDAA ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The CDAA is holding a photo competition again this year. Prizes are being negotiated and details will be provided later if possible.

Entries will be limited to three categories:

- i. Open,
- ii. Category 1/2 holes only,
- iii. Above water only.

Send all entries to P.O. Box 105, Frankston, Vic. 3199. by 12 August 1988. Slides only. All usual photographic competition rules apply. i.e. Label all slides, All care but no responsibility for loss and/or damage, etc.



This article is a report about the UIS conference held over 1 week in August 1987 at Gorizia, Italy. As the only Australian at the conference I shall relate my limited impressions of cave-diving as practised in other countries.

The conference was organised by the caving section of the Italian Alpine Club and was attended by about 60 people.

A rough breakdown of countries & participants is:

Australia (1), USA (1), Britain (2), Belgium (4), Austria (1), Romania (2), Hungary (5), Czechoslovakia (several truckloads), Italy (all the rest).

The agenda was as follows:

Sunday - Cave dive in an underwater mountain stream atop a waterfall  
Monday - Talks, presentations, drinks, lunch, slides & talks & videos  
Tuesday - Ditto. Beach BBQ dinner and ocean night dive at Trieste.  
Wednesday - Cave dive in Gorizia (Timavo), lunch, beach, dinner, videos  
Thursday - Excursion to other caves (too flooded to dive) and a dry cave.  
Friday - Cave dive (same as Sundays)

The most interesting aspect of European cave diving to me was the difference in the types of caves and also the reasons for cave diving.

Most of the European cave-diving clubs are associated with Caving clubs.

All the European cave divers I met were cavers who had learnt cave-diving as an extra tool to further explore those caves that end in sumps.

This contrasts to my belief that most Australian cave-divers (and probably those Americans who dive in Florida) take up cave-diving more as an extra dimension to scuba-diving rather than caving.

One of the British participants, Julian Griffiths is a good example to illustrate this. This chap is a very prominent cave-diver in Britain and has made several documentaries for British TV about expeditions to Greece and Spain where his team discovered whole new underground systems. Yet he has only ever done 2 ocean dives; once in Greece in order to get access to a cave whose entrance was on the coast and also the ocean night-dive we did at the conference (depth: 2m visibility: 1m).

The cave systems I visited in Italy and Britain are more geologically alive than our main diveable wet caves (ie Mt Gambier & Nullarbor) in that they still have rivers flowing through them. The visibility was excellent and the temperature about 2-6 degrees C.

There are many differences in technique and philosophy between Australian and European cave-diving. Most countries recognize the necessity of training and regulation due the intrinsic hazards of cave-diving. However, one main difference is the buddy system. The British insist on diving alone and believe that it is every man for himself. It is believed that the only person to be relied upon is oneself and that other people present only complications, especially in very constricted and silty sumps. This seems reasonable because they also have more refined techniques and equipment. All divers use at least 2 tanks, and their usage of guide-lines is far more advanced. Other differences in equipment are:

torches - No hand held torches; all mounted on helmets or forearms.  
Torches need not be water tight since the water is fresh-flowing and contains no conducting salts.

dry-suits - very popular due to very cold water

tanks - the British mount these on a belt around the waist

octopus regs - usually not needed since 2 tanks are always used

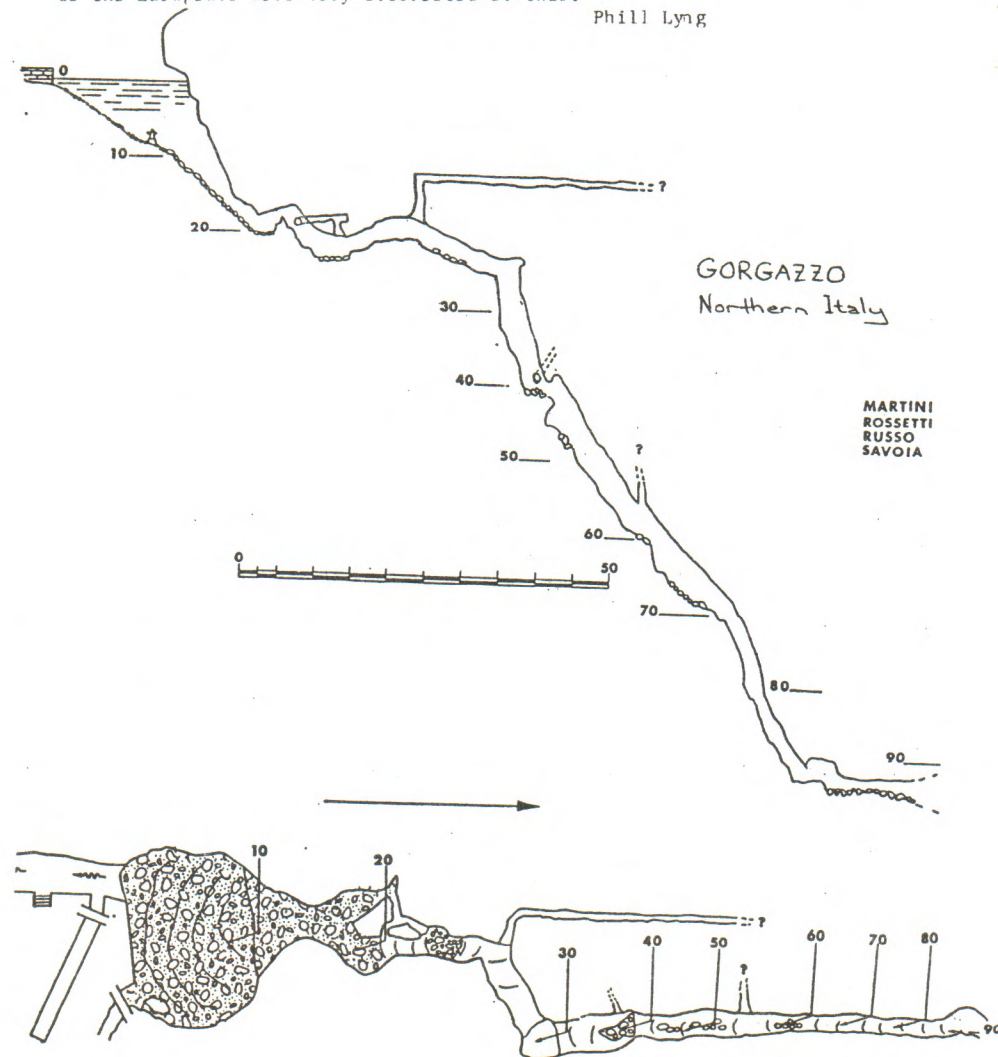
mixed-gas - The Italians are experimenting with heliox-air mixtures and have gone down to 108 metres.

A few weeks before the conference, a fatality occurred in a cave called Gorgazzo, when a diver pushed the previous depth record from 90 to 108 metres using mixed-gas. To dive in this cave was on the agenda but unfortunately it was too flooded that week.

One of the 4 Belgians present, J. P. Thiry, is the author of a hand-book on cave-diving similar to "Cave Diving In Australia" by Lewis and Stace. This book includes a chapter on handling gelignite, since when diving in dis-used quarries and narrow cave systems, it is occasionally necessary to blast the entrance.

Although only a participant at the conference, I was forced by the organisers to give a presentation on cave-diving in Australia. I had 10 minutes to prepare an impromptu talk, and actually managed to waffle on for 20 minutes. I'd dived the Nullarbor caves in July last year and a lot of the Europeans were very interested in this.

Phill Lyng

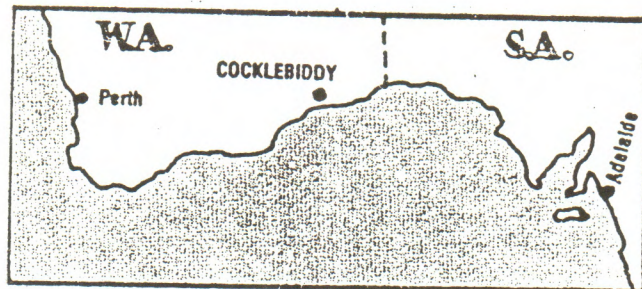




# COCKLEBIDDY - THE CHALLENGE, AUGUST 1986

by Dennis Thamm

In the footsteps of the 1983 world record breaking expedition the challenge of Cocklebiddy has seen the return of 5 South Australian cave divers to assault the underwater passages that stretch for over 6 kilometres beneath the vast Nullarbor Plain.



The location of Cocklebiddy in WA on the Nullarbor Plain

Cocklebiddy Cave, situated approx. 160 km on the WA side of the border has long been known to contain a submerged passage. Since its exploration during the early seventies cave divers have again and again returned from 'pushes' with news that it just kept on going. The discovery of the first air chamber or 'The Rockpile' soon added to Cocklebiddy's mystery because its passageway kept on going. Running due north the single underwater passage again repelled divers with its enormous length - already a world record!

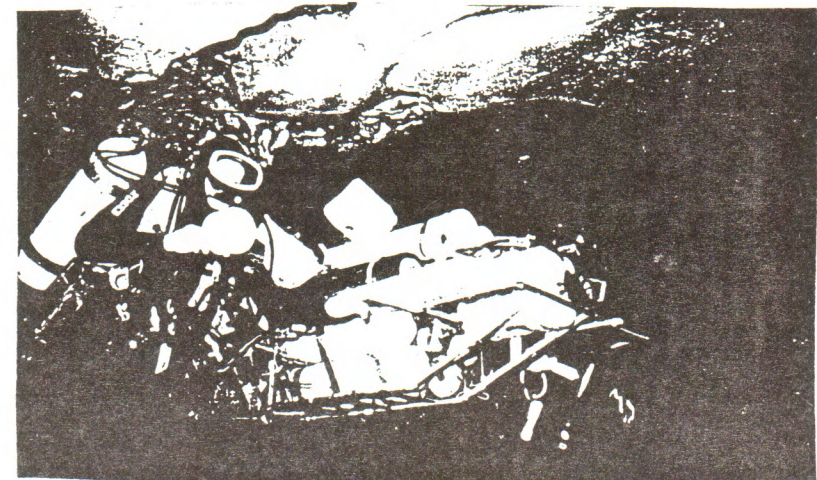
The late seventies saw numerous expeditions combining the leading cave divers from around Australia, each one extending further than the last. Techniques were now developing that allowed divers to push even further, a tank sled held together with broom handles, led to the next major discovery. In 1982 Cocklebiddy's second and furthest air chamber 'Toad Hall' was found, being twice as long and twice as large as The Rockpile, and it too carried on. During the winter of 1983 separate French and Australian teams again pushed Cocklebidys passages, the Australian team setting a new world record of 6240 metres of continuous underwater passage, over 12 km return. Our purpose was not to extend this, but to check on reports of the only known side tunnel and confirm details taken during 1983.

The team consisted of three members from the 1983 trip, plus two newcomers (none of us having been to Toad Hall). For Chris Brown, Paul Arbon, Brenton Woolcock, Uli Hoffner and myself the adventure was about to begin.

June 1986 saw the commencement of a vast accumulation of diving equipment, physical training and psychological preparation, finally in late August we were ready. Some frantic last minute packing, not forgetting Wendy's cakes and Chris's beer saw us depart Friday 22nd amid rain, wind and electrical storms.

After spending the night with friends in Port Augusta, Saturday saw eighteen hours of clear skies, white lines and treeless plains as Cocklebiddy loomed into our headlights at 11.30 pm SA time. A few beers and 2 hours later saw 'tent city' Cocklebiddy up and operational. Some idle chat, serious eating and many yawns saw us in bed around 3.00 pm.

Our first full day saw a well oiled machine, all tanks topped up and we lowered most equipment at the waters edge, sled ready to be lowered and muscles starting to tire. Monday had everything into the cave and ready to assemble after lunch, commencing our preliminary dive to the rockpile chamber after an early evening meal. For Brenton and Uli this was their first Nullarbor dive, and by the way they babbled after transversing the first 1000 metres, they were considerably impressed!! The next five hours saw us carry nearly all of our equipment, seventeen tanks, a sled, regulators, torches and all but what was necessary to return, over the rockpile and reassembled on the other side. Much swearing, gallons of sweat, a little blood and early Tuesday morning saw five weary divers welcome their beds and nod off with the thoughts of the coming day ahead.



Divers pushing the sled to the "Rockpile Chamber".



A well deserved sleep in had us rise to a hearty breakfast at around 11.00 am followed by a leisurely afternoon, early tea/lunch and for three of us Chris, Paul and myself, the next stage in what lay ahead - the dive.

Around 4.30 pm Wednesday 26th August we left the shores of Cocklebidy's main lake, Brenton and Uli's torches fading into the distance as we reached the far side and descended into the main passage toward the rockpile chamber and what lay beyond - Toad Hall.

Final assembly of the sled, last minute nerves and Hail Marys, at last our journey began to move. With a top speed of 1 km/hour we had plenty of time to ponder and ogle at the grandeur around us. Once settled into the rhythm of continuous finning our thoughts focused on what lay ahead, a huge passage of white limestone, crystal blue water, enormous boulders, sculptured walls and roofs, so wonderful, but so inaccessible. Each hour saw us stop for a five minute rest and a drink. Fruit box type fluids are easily consumed while underwater - with a little practise. After quick air consumption checks we proceeded, our next stop would be the side tunnel at 3000 metres.

Cocklebidy's profile continuously changes as you progress, from shallower sections with underwater rockpile collapses with small surface air pockets to deeper sections with beautifully rounded formations, precisely squared walls and roofs look as if done by machine, unfortunately images in the minds of the beholders, scenes no camera or film could capture.

Now two hours from the rockpile we entered an area containing numerous haloclines - differences in salinity with warmer water on the bottom!! We were also at the side tunnel. Parking the sled on the bottom we took a reel and commenced exploration of the side passage using the triple tanks on our backs. Unfortunately we could not push any further than 150 metres and returned back to the sled to commence the remaining part of the dive to Toad Hall.

Having consumed two full tanks each from the sled we now switched to our first triple for this part, being only 500 metres this should leave enough for decompression (1/2 hour) upon our arrival. Rounding one of the few corners our orange guideline seemed to disappear into solid rock. We were there, Toad Hall. After a few photos then decompression we surfaced to see what our efforts had brought us to, a huge narrow chamber with a huge rockpile that started from the small lake we were currently floating in.

Parking the sled at it's mooring we finally emerged like primeval monsters, skin all wrinkled after three hours in the water, peeling our wetsuits off we began unpacking all the necessary equipment for our nights stay.

Our dry clothes and food supplies were first to be unpacked, fortunately the PVC tubes had stayed sealed and all was OK. With an air temperature of around 24°C and high humidity minimal clothing was required while moving around, but when sleeping a windcheater and trousers are necessary. Our main meal consisted of a large beef 'hot pack' - self heating meals. Definitely not recommended, their consistency is fine while cold but after heating is like that of thin gravy with a few chunks of meat and vegetable - yuk!!! This meal was then made up with fruit and muesli bars, what a nutritious combination. Dinner over it was time to prepare for bed, Being 2.30 am Thursday 27th August sleep came easily. Meandering up the 20 metre rockpile to the top of the sleeping area seemed nothing after our arduous swim, finding a suitable place to bed down proved a little more difficult. The sleeping area is the top of a huge boulder that has fallen out of the roof, it has a 15 degree slope toward the water via the entry rockpile and a direct drop into the water along its southern end, a height of 25 metres or so - no sleep walkers please.

Sleeping underground is an acquired art. Firstly there's the total blackness, then there's the total quietness. One doesn't realise how noisy one's head is until you experience these conditions - someone snoring also doesn't help the situation!! Relying on our biological clocks to wake us a suitable time we all slept in till 11.00 am. Requiring a 12 hours decompression break before our next allowable dive meant this gave us a comfortable time schedule that allowed for our breakfast, exploration and repacking, ready for the return trip sometime after 1.00 pm.

Breakfast over we began exploring the vastness of Toad Hall. From the entrance lake the chamber rises to 60 metres in height and initially only 20 wide. Ascending 5 metres to a small plateau or 'reception and kitchen' a steep rockpile rises sharply to within a few metres of the roof. As you ascend you pass the boulder that forms the side of the bedroom and sleeping rock. Curving slightly to the right the chamber continues another 400 metres to a small lake on its far side. After the initial closeness of roof and floor debris the main chamber spaces vary depending on the rock size that fell out!!! Evidence of fossils entombed in the limestone are everywhere along with coral like formations, remnants of Cocklebidy's long past. Densely packed red clay tumbles from ancient roof holes that once connected the main tunnel to the surface, now totally blocked. Another reminder of bygone times. Exploration completed we returned to the kitchen for our remaining meal, followed by the repacking of the sled ready for our return swim. Signing the visitors slate, a few photos and after a turd in Toad Hall we began the lengthy journey back at 1.30 pm. Thursday 27th August. The return journey seemed much more relaxed than that going outward, the efforts required were none the less as great. A point of interest overlooked on the way out was the slate left by Morrison's team during their 1979 expedition.





## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(INCORPORATED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

P.O. BOX 2161 T,  
MELBOURNE, 3001

P.O. BOX 290,  
NORTH ADELAIDE, 5006

ATTENTION: Item 1 - 1988/89 Renewal  
Item 2 - Category 3 Advanced

- (1) If your membership expired on 30 June 1988, then you are required to renew your membership for either one or two years. Please forward your renewal form and subscription to the North Adelaide address.

Failure to renew by September 1st 1988 can result in your membership being cancelled. In practical terms, you may end up paying a 'late fee' or you may require a retest to be reinstated.

- (2) All Category 3 ADV Cards should be forwarded to the Records Officer irrespective of financial status to be updated to Category 4. 1989 financial members need not send any money. Again, please forward cards to the North Adelaide address.

As we progressed, the vastness of our efforts were beginning to show. Chris was having trouble controlling the sled and as a result, the last few hundred metres into the rockpile chamber saw the sled weave a rather erratic path, finally coming to rest at 4.00 pm. We had made it. Although still over 1000 metres to the surface this seemed insignificant compared with the past 24 hours efforts. The arrival of Brenton and Uli was indicated by flashing lights, seen at 3 metres like fireflies while we were decompressing, we also began removing equipment from the sled and pushing it to the surface to help speed up the next stage - unpacking and carrying of all the equipment back over the rockpile ready for our final swim out.

On surfacing we were greeted with a barrage of questions and excitement from a very inquisitive support crew. We had expected some help from a group of Victorian cave divers but having had some equipment problems they were unable to join in our celebrations and the next 6 hours work.

Again, amid profuse swearing, sweat and mutterings of 'never again' we were ready for the last and final return swim, back to the world outside. A sled, 32 tanks, 2 divers up front and 3 across the back, we rocketed uncontrollably down the main tunnel, Chris having ceased to function shortly after departing.

Surviving this journey we beached the sled shortly before midnight, again peeled off wet suits and torches and trudged wearily upward toward the surface and our campsite. A beer later and we all literally "crashed" into bed shortly before 2.00 am. Friday 28th August.

The campsite remained rather quiet till after 10.00 am. when the harmony was disturbed by a band of escaped Victorians demanding beer and food. Despite their own equipment problems they managed a dive, then assisted us across the next few days seeing all but sundries removed by late Saturday 29th August, leaving Cocklebidy to its own tranquility.

The remaining week was spent relaxing, diving the other sinkholes in the area, pondering our exploits and the memories of Cocklebidy's grandure and keeping Reno from eating everyone's food.

To the Toad of Toad Hall - 'Many have wondered, few will know'.

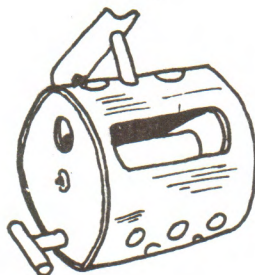
### REELS FOR SALE

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 CDA approved 3mm line.

Special Rate for  
CDA members \$14.00

Apply:  
John Dalla Zuanna  
106 Princess Street  
KEW 3101  
Tel. No.: (03) 481 6400 (Bus)





# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 1988

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

CDAА Records Officer  
GPO BOX 290  
North Adelaide 5006

Office Use Only  
\$ Receipt No  
Computer

CDAА MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:.....

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

POSTAL ADDRESS:..... CDAА CATEGORY (circle)

..... CAT 1 CAT 2 CAT 3 CAT 4

.....

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.  
Note that photos don't come off the new cards very well, so it would be wise to send a new photo.



C.D.A.A.  
Post Office Box 290  
NORTH ADELAIDE 5006

STATE MEETINGS

1. South Australia

- a. When? 27 August 88 at 7.30 pm
- b. Where? TALBOT HOTEL, 104 Gouger St, Adelaide
- c. Meals? Available from 6.00 pm.

2. Victoria

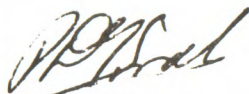
- a. 3 September 88 at 7.30 pm
- b. Where? WEST BRUNSWICK HOTEL, Cnr Gratton and Brunswick Streets, Brunswick.
- c. Meals? Available from 6.00 pm. Phone (03)3808116 for bookings.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

- 3. Nominations are called for members to serve on the National Committee. Four representatives each from S.A. and Vic and one from S.E.
- 4. Returns to the above address no later than 29 Jul 88. Each nomination to be accompanied by a contact phone number for each candidate, and name of seconder.
- 5. A list of proposed candidates prepared to stand will be circulated to all members by 10 Aug 88 along with voting guidelines and explanations.
- 6. If only nine members or less are nominated then those members will automatically take a position on the committee. Any shortfall can be made up at the appropriate state meeting.
- 7. Any objections to nominations are to be notified in writing to the above address no later than 24 Aug 88. Those objections are to be supported by attendance at the appropriate state meeting for discussion and consideration.

A.G.M.

- 8. The A.G.M. is to be held on the 10 Sep 88 at the Innkeeper Hotel at 7.30 pm. Meals will be available from 6.00 pm.



P.D. GIRDLER  
Records Officer for Nat. Comm.

12 Jul 88



# S U R V E Y   F O R M   1 9 8 8

## PICCANINNIE PONDS SURVEY   (Not Applicable)

Number of dives undertaken in Piccaninnie Ponds since June 1987:

1987: JUL	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUG	<input type="checkbox"/>	SEP	<input type="checkbox"/>	OCT	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOV	<input type="checkbox"/>	DEC	<input type="checkbox"/>	1988: JAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	FEB	<input type="checkbox"/>	MAR	<input type="checkbox"/>	APR	<input type="checkbox"/>	MAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	JUN	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## OTHER SINKHOLE DIVING EXPERIENCE

Please list total number of dives since June 1987 to present:

EWEENS PONDS: _____	GOULDENS: _____	TWO SISTERS: _____
BABY BLUE: _____	HORSE AND CART: _____	TEA TREE: _____
TEN-EGITY: _____	BLACK HOLE: _____	ONE TREE: _____
ELA FLAP: _____	SWIM THROUGH: _____	HELLS HOLE: _____
THE PINES: _____	FOSSIL CAVE: _____	ALLENDALE: _____
BULLOCKS: _____	ENGLEBRECHTS E: _____	MUD HOLE (L97): _____
MAX'S HOLE: _____	ENGLEBRECHTS W: _____	THREE SISTERS: _____

## A WORD FROM A BRAND NEW CAT 3 DIVER

In the beginning was the word.

And the word was out.

Several Marine Diving Group (MDG) members were going to do the category 3 test in April '88.

I'd been attracted to this for some time because of the limited availability of cat 2 holes. So not wishing to be left behind, or high and dry, I put the word out that I was looking for a buddy. Suprisingly buddies are very hard to find, but eventually I buddied up with a good diver and four potential cat 3 divers met at Oakleigh pool for practise.

Michael Vize, a fellow club member was invaluable in putting us through our paces as the four of us were working from guesswork. Michael, who did his cat 3 in Pics a few years ago, was able to guide us through the general format of the practical.

With weather shining on our efforts my buddy and I practised hard alongside two other MDG members. We had our failures and 'drowned' a few times. I remember sitting on the bottom of Oakleigh pool with no air, watching my buddy swimming away laying the guideline, oblivious to my situation.

As I did not have any air the other buddy pair kept me 'alive' until my buddy decided to rescue me.

We learnt from our mistakes and from Mikes advice and encouragement. But inspite of our hard work my buddy and I were not destined to the cat 3 exam together.

So the word was out I was looking for a buddy again. After numerous phone calls I found one only to lose him a few hours later. So the word was out yet again.

This time I was successful in finding a buddy, and Mick Jones and myself soon co-ordinated ourselves into an efficient buddy pair. Having finally found myself a buddy it was off to Mt. Gambier for more practise, and what a rude awakening it turned out to be.

On our real first practise run we were happily swimming around Gouldens when distaster struck. Mike testing us out whipped off both masks and one regulator - bam, bam, bam.



His timing was rather good as we were in between the overhang and the silt. Unfortunately this meant that silt went everywhere and we quickly developed a perfect silt out. With Mick Jones jammed up against the overhang and guideline starting to float everywhere it was developing into an interesting situation.

But we survived, with Mike hauling us out of the jam up, and we started to learn from our mistakes. This was the first of many events in three trips to the Mount, all except one in glorious sunshine.

Back in Melbourne the theory exam still had to be done. The exam was sat at my house with buckets of fresh brewed coffee and enough dive charts to addle the brain. After a couple of hours it was all over, and we hoped for the best. Then, all too soon, the weekend of the cat 3 practical was upon us.

There were seven candidates, with an almost equal number of examiners and some members of the committee observing from the shore. The test was broken up into four sections;

- i. Equipment check,
- ii. Bouyancy control, on a shot line and swimming over the silt,
- iii. Line and reel tests were 'accidents' occur, and
- iv. Following a fixed line while blindfolded.

The examiners throughout the water tests are looking for competency, efficiency and very good bouyancy control at all times. They seem to be looking at how well you can complete the tests, rather than seeing if you can complete the tasks set. This seems to be assumed.

The assessment of each test is by two examiners who pass their comments to a secretary onshore, and for each phase of the test different examiners are used thereby giving all examiners a chance to observe you.

All of this took about two hours, then the test was over. Time to gear down and rest, waiting in the sunshine while the examiners huddle discuss our futures. The wait seems endless, but the moment of truth arrives and the candidates are summoned pair by pair to hear the examiners verdict and discuss the tests. Of the seven candidates who were summoned that day only one was unsuccessful.

So in the end, there were four new cat 3 members of MDG ready, willing, and eager to dive the cat 3 holes. Mt. Gambier - here we come!

Les Kriesfeld.

p.s. After our first return trip to Mt. Gambier as cat 3 I can only say - "It was worth all the effort!"

## CAVE DIVING NOT AT MT GAMBIER.

John Vanderleest

It may come as a bit of a surprise to a few of our members, but there is Cave Diving outside of the Mount Gambier region.

To many of us, the diving at Mt. Gambier is the nearest we will ever get to discovering the vast underwater/underground systems in Australia.

By now many of you have heard of the infamous Nullarbor Plain Caves. This area is increasing in popularity every year. During my last trip there, our party shared our location with three other groups; bringing the total number of divers to around 18 people.

The diving in the Nullarbor is without exception the most spectacular diving in this country. It is also some of the most technically and physically difficult to be encountered.

Apart from the diving itself, there are other difficulties that arise from diving within the region. All supplies (including water) must be brought with you. Underestimating the quantities needed for the trip can either leave you very broke or driving large distances to obtain fresh supplies.

Entry into the caves involves a nice casual stroll down 100 metres and a short 200-500 metre walk on pebble strewn paths. Sometimes the down bit may involve a rope or two and the pebbles might be bigger than yourself and they have a tendency to follow you down but then again, I like blood sports.

If there is such a thing as BUDGET Rent-A-Slave, then I suggest that if you are contemplating a trip - RENT one. The walk down and back up from the water is one thing but then put a tank on your back. Worse still, make it a twin set of tanks. The trip gets proportionately more complicated. At best, you will only get to do one dive a day. The remainder of the day is spent hauling the equipment. Hell's Hole looks easy after a week or two of doing this sort of diving.

The diving itself is mind blowing. Water clarity would compare to that of Ewens Ponds. As most of the caves are extremely large, silting does not pose a great problem. Not that you cannot silt out the caves; it's just that there isn't really any reason to get close enough to the bottom in order to find the silt. A reel has its importance over here not for silt but because you are more likely to become lost in the expanse.

Moving to another region in Australia we are faced not with expanse but with severe constrictions, currents and silting. Recently, there has been a resurgence in the exploration of the cave systems at Jenolan. Now before you all race out and arrange trips to the region to try some cave diving - FORGET IT. THE AREA IS NOT OPEN TO SPORT DIVERS.

Primarily the cave diving in this area is undertaken because the dry leads get a bit wet. Exploration in the region has occurred on three separate occasions.



The first occasion was back in the 50's. Here they explored the main underground stream in Imperial Cave. For a guideline they used telephone wire. This wire is still present there today. Exploration was severely limited by their home made equipment.

The second occasion was in the early seventies. The people involved with the exploration during this period pushed many of the possible leads. By pushing, I mean digging through gravel underwater. Huge progress was made during this time and some very detailed maps compiled.

The third occasion for exploration is still currently being undertaken. The main exploration taking place is an attempt to link two cave systems together. It is already known as a result of dye traces that water travels from one cave to the other, but to date they haven't been physically linked. There is a slight problem of a rock pile. Fortunately, this section is dry so air supply is not a problem. Many of the leads have been well explored with foot and hand prints being found. These are presumed to belong to the 1970's exploration party.

Entry into the caves at Jenolan can be as easy as Mt. Gambier or it can make the Nullarbor caves look easy. It just depends on which cave you would like to dive. The easiest entry is a short walk along the paths laid out for the tourists and then a simple jump over the rails and into the water. The more challenging entries may involve crawling for a couple of hours whilst dragging your equipment behind you. Equipment doesn't get old when you use it in Jenolan; it tends to fall apart before too long. I completely destroyed a wetsuit in my first trip to the area. There were no knees or elbows left and the rips would require more than one or two tubes of Aquaseal.

Anyway just to remind you again - JENOLAN IS NOT OPEN TO SPORT DIVING so in the meantime we'll have to content ourselves with the large clean waters of Mount Gambier.

#### ANNUAL CLOSURE OF EWENS PONDS

The Minister of Lands has approved the closure of Ewens Ponds to all water based activities from the 1st September 1988 to the 1st December 1988.

The purpose of the closure is to ensure that the condition of aquatic vegetation is maintained and to encourage further regeneration.

Conditions within the ponds are regularly monitored by Departmental staff.

Our results show that the quality of the aquatic environment has been improving and stabilising over recent years. We believe that the annual closures significantly contribute to this process and assist in the long term conservation of the pond system.

The co-operation of The Cave Divers Association of Australia and its members during this period of closure will be appreciated.

*M Watson*

M Watson  
LAND RESOURCE OFFICER  
South East Region

The South Australian Department of Lands is responsible for the management of three categorised sinkholes in the South East: Fossil Cave, Gouldens Waterhole and the Sisters. Our involvement in management of these areas has until recently been low key. Divers will of course be aware that we now require a dive booking to be made with all members of the group identified prior to diving. There are however, a number of other issues of concern - in particular diver safety and convenience. We are addressing these problems at the moment. Rough diagrams are attached which outline our plans for Fossil Cave and the Sisters.

#### Fossil Cave

We have recently fenced the correct boundary of the reserve and installed a gated carpark. Access to the water is now obtained through a small gate off the carpark therefore avoiding the need to park on the verge of the busy Millicent - Mount Gambier road. In the near future the reserve will be planted with trees and shrubs native to the area. This will improve the appearance of the site as well as add to its environmental value.

#### Gouldens Waterhole

The appearance of Gouldens altered dramatically recently when most of the pines were removed by the Electricity Trust of South Australia to protect against contact with the overhead powerlines. Small shrubs have been planted in their place, but it will take some time for these to provide shade, shelter or add to the appearance.

A landing is presently being installed to cater for Goulden's increased use. We have been working closely with the CDAA on this project and the work is expected to be completed by the end of June.

#### The Sisters

The District Council have recently re-aligned the Sisters Road to its correct position further away from the sinkhole. The reserve will be fenced in the near future and access will be available via a hand gate to be installed on the western side of the reserve. This will make use of the existing ramp cut into the sinkhole. Off road parking will be available and tree planting will commence soon.

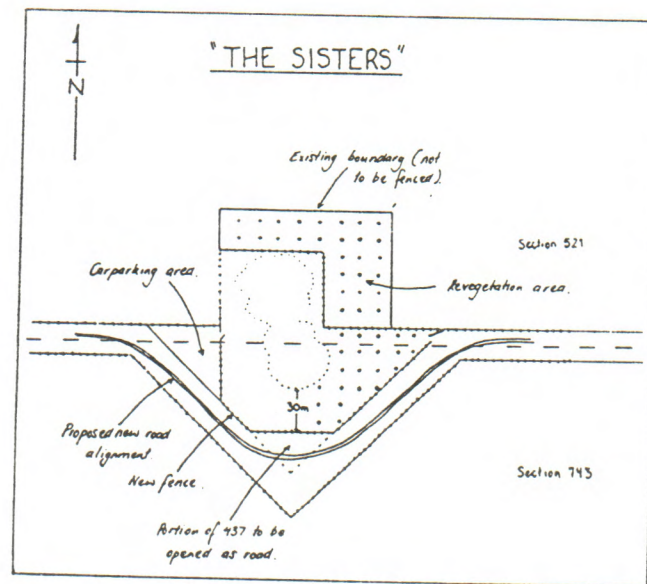
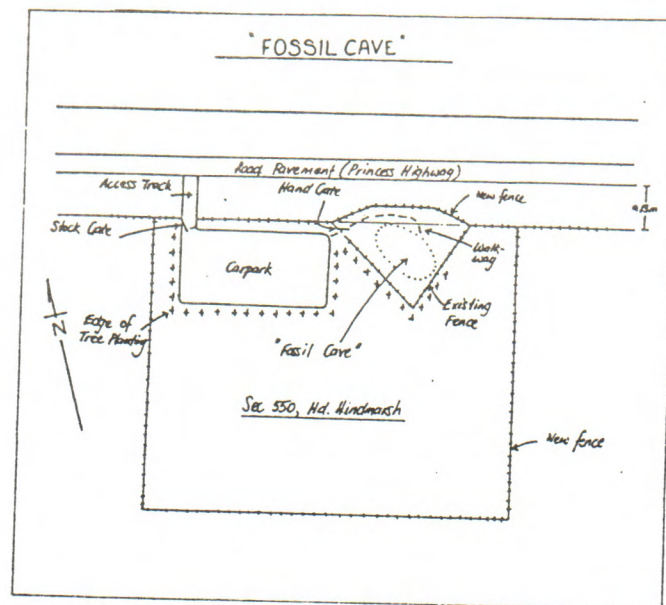
We hope that these improvements are of benefit to you, the diver. Management of these areas will be an ongoing process in which we would like divers to be involved. If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions I can be contacted by telephoning (087) 241 597 or writing to:

Department of Lands,  
Private Mail Bag 124,  
MOUNT GAMBIER, S.A., 5290.

*M Watson*

M Watson  
LAND RESOURCE OFFICER  
South East Region





CDA CLASSIFIEDS

#### FOR SALE

Nikonos V + 35 mm lens + case  
 Nikonos Close Up kit + case  
 Nikonos SB103 Strobe + case  
 Nikonos 28 mm lens + Optical Viewfinder  
 1:2 Extension tube 35 & 28 mm + framers  
 \$2500 o.n.o. - All in Excellent Condition.

63 cf Aluminium Tank - \$160 o.n.o.  
 New Pony Bottle - no valve \$120 o.n.o.  
 'Y' valve - \$150  
 Ocean Pro Torch (Rechargeable; Halogen bulb) - \$125  
 Large Guideline Reel

All the above phone Tony Gaeta (08) 263 7918

#### FOR SALE

Cave diving light, dual purpose 6/12 volt  
 includes 8/55 watt separate heads and batteries - \$380 o.n.o.

Battery charger to suit above or any sealed acid  
 gel battery, max. 2 amps, 12 volt dc or 240 volt ac - \$120 o.n.o.

Phone Dennis Thamm (08) 250 6446

#### FOR SALE

Viking Dry Suits, new Heavy Duty all sizes. Require new zips, wrist and  
 neck seals. - \$400 with valve, \$300 without valve

Dry Suits- Poseidon Unisuit, Medium, As new - \$1000  
 - Poseidon Jetsuit, Small - \$600

Phone Tas Silcock (056) 741 848

#### ACCOMMODATION

On site vans are available at Lake Windy Lew, i.e. the Norman's property.  
 If planning a dive at One Tree or Ela Elap, or elsewhere, then why not stay  
 here!

Contact Peter Norman on (087) 385 287.



# .. CDAA ACCESS PROTOCOL ..

SINKHOLE	CAT	LANDOWNER	WHO TO APPLY TO FOR PERMISSION TO ENTER	HOW TO OBTAIN PERMISSION	WHEN TO APPLY	ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
HORSE & CART	I	Mr Don Telford	Mr Don Telford P.O. BOX 2629 Mount Gambier Tel: 087 384 003	By Phone or by mail	1 Week prior to dive	
TEA TREE	I					
ELA ELAP	II	Mr Peter Norman	Mr Peter Norman Private Bag 67 Mount Gambier Tel: 087 385287	By Phone or Call In	Before diving	
ONE TREE HOLE	II					
SWIM THROUGH	II	Valerie Earl C/o Post Office Allendale 5291	Leasee = Mr David Easton 8 Tarandi Road Mount Gambier Tel: 087 250938	By Phone	1 Week prior to dive	Ewes lambing for approximately 6 weeks around 1st May You must get PERMISSION before entering
THE BLACK HOLE	II		Mr Reg Watson P.O. Box 12 Mount Gambier Tel: 087 268277	By Mail, stating names of all divers enclosing stamp, address envelope for reply.	2 Weeks prior to dive	1) Should arrive within 5 minutes of appointed time. 2) Divers must not proceed beyond house until credentials have been checked. 3) Go only to the hole you have permission to dive - no sight seeing. 4) New divers must be accompanied by a diver who has previously dived on Barnoolut.
TEN EIGHTY	II					
THE BULLOCK HOLE	III					
MAX'S HOLE	III	Mr Trevor Edwards	Mr Trevor Edwards P.O. Box 1319 Mount Gambier Tel: 087 268277	By Phone	7 clear days prior to dive	
PICCANINNIE PONDS	II	National Parks and Wildlife Service				CLOSED TO DIVERS AND SNORKELLERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

HELLS HOLE	II	Woods & Forests	Mount Gambier Forest H.Q PMB 7 Mount Gambier	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. Permit may be obtained by mail if you enclose signed photocopy of card
PINES	III					
ELAINES	III		Tel 087 399 254 087 399 292			
ENGLEBRECHTS - EAST	III	Mount Gambier Council	Tourist Bureau Mount Gambier	Sign deed Once only Costs \$5	On day of dive	
WEST	4					
THREE SISTERS	4	Millicent Council	Any member of the committee	By phone or mail	Pick up key before going up Mt Gambier	
LITTLE BLUE/ BABY BLUE	I	Port MacDonnell Council	Permission not required yet but must have appropriate Cat. card.			
ALLENDALE	III					
FOSSILS	III	Department of Lands	Department of of Lands P.M.B 124 Mount Gambier Tel: 087 241 598	By Phone during office hours or by Mail	During office hours	Stay out of Gouldens when pump is operating.
GOULDENS	I					
SISTERS	I					
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.



# 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



- Index:
1. Nominations for National Committee
  2. Special State Meetings
  3. Piccaninnie Ponds Opening
  4. Allendale East Key
  5. Padlock Keys General
  6. Annual General Meeting and Cat 3 Test
  7. (008) 882 023 Answering Machine

## 1. Nominations for the National Committee

The following nominations were received by 29 Jul 88 for the National Committee, as called for in Guidelines No 31:

Lance Mitchell	(Vic)	Nom: NA Jones	Sec: M Vize
John Vanderleest	(Vic)	Nom: NA Jones	Sec: M Vize
Michael Vize	(Vic)	Nom: NA Jones	Sec: L Mitchell
Nick Jones	(Vic)	Nom: L Mitchell	Sec: M Vize
Ian Ploenges	(SA)	Nom: L Mitchell	Sec: NA Jones
Peter Girdler	(SA)	Nom: L Mitchell	Sec: NA Jones
Maurice Parry	(SE Region)	Nom: L Mitchell	Sec: P Girdler

In Accordance with the Constitution, because the number of nominations is less than the number of positions, the SA and Vic members listed above are declared elected. The two remaining positions from SA will be filled by nominations and election at the Special State Meeting. The SE Region representative will be formally elected at the AGM.

## 2. Special State Meetings

As stated in Guidelines No 31, the Special State Meetings will be held as follows:

Vic - 3 Sep 88 7.30 pm West Brunswick Hotel (Cnr Gratton and Brunswick Sts, Brunswick)

SA - 27 Aug 88 7.30 pm Talbot Hotel (104 Gouger St, Adelaide)

Although the meetings start at 7.30 pm, meals will be available from 6.00 pm and Committee members will be available for discussions.

## 3. Piccaninnie Ponds Opening

**Background.** National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) originally proposed that Piccaninnie Ponds would open for only three months this year, for six months next year and for nine months each year thereafter. A fee of \$25 for a permit (or \$5 per dive) was proposed.

Rather than publish this in Guidelines, as requested by NPWS, the Committee, through the President and National Testing Officer, presented an alternative proposal to NPWS at a meeting in Mount Gambier on 19 Jun 88, and details were finalized at a second meeting on 30 Jul 88.

**The Accepted Proposal.** Piccaninnie Ponds will open on 1 Sep 88 (or shortly thereafter), subject to the issue of a Ministerial Proclamation. To reduce the permit costs, the CDAA has negotiated to pay an annual bulk fee to NPWS which will cover the cost to NPWS of administering the diving at Piccaninnie Ponds. This fee will be payable on 1 September each year.



For the 88/89 year, CDAA members who wish to dive in Piccaninnie Ponds will have to pay a permit fee of \$10 to the CDAA to cover the cost of the bulk fee paid to NPWS.

**How to Pay.** You must be a financial member of the CDAA and at least Category 2. You should send a cheque for \$10 (payable to the CDAA) with a stamped self-addressed envelope and include your name and CDAA number. Send these to CDAA, PO Box 290, North Adelaide 5006. Your receipt and further details and instructions will be sent to you.

A list of 'paid up' members will be forwarded to NPWS on 14 Sep 88, and updates will only be sent on 14 Jan 89 and 14 Apr 89, so get your \$10 in fast!

**Rules for Diving in Piccaninnie Ponds.** The following Rules apply:

- a. There will be four diving periods per day (8 - 9 am, 11 - 12 am, 2 - 3 pm, and 5 - 6 pm)
- b. There will be a maximum of four divers in any one party.
- c. At least one diver in the party must be familiar with the cave.
- d. Access to the chasm will be on the surface, across the first pond via a marked lane (marked by slightly submerged buoys).
- e. Diving will be restricted to the chasm and the cathedral.
- f. All other areas of the Ponds (ie apart from the buoyed lane, the chasm and the cathedral) are closed.
- g. Disturbance of the vegetation on the walls of the chasm should be avoided, especially during decompression stops.

**How to Book.** Details will be advised in your self-addressed envelope. So don't forget to send one!

#### 4. Allendale East Key.

The CDAA now leases Allendale East sinkhole from the Port MacDonnell Council. This is the first lease that the CDAA has held, and the good news is that although we have to pay some legal fees, there will not be any permit fee. The Cat 3 sinkhole is fenced, gated and padlocked, and keys will be available from the Tourist Information Centre. Category 3 and 4 divers may simply pick up the key and sign for it.

#### 5. Padlock Keys General.

The keys to Allendale East, Englebrechts Eat and West and the Three Sisters are available to Category 3 and 4 divers from the Lady Nelson Centre (Tourist Information Centre).

#### 6. Annual General Meeting.

Don't forget the AGM at Mount Gambier on Saturday 10 Sep 88 at 7.30 pm at the Innkeepers Hotel, Jubilee Highway. Cat 3 - Call Peter G.

#### 7. (008) 882 023 Answering Machine. (Peter Girdler)

The answering machine is primarily for records updates, and there is a four minute time limit, so be prepared BEFORE you ring, with your name, CDAA number, contact phone number, including STD prefix, and old and new address for address changes, including Postcode.