
CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

C.D.A.A. NEWSLETTER

GUIDELINES

N^o 33 : JUNE 1989

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GUIDELINES

"Guidelines" is the newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia.

Designed and Produced by Diver Publications

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E D I T O R I A L

With great relief - a new issue of 'Guidelines' has made it out. This is a large issue containing a lot of information on both local and international cave diving in a new layout.

Opinions vary on what 'Guidelines' should be - i.e. keep to the old format or change to a new. Many changes have occurred and are continuing in the C.D.A.A. and maybe it is now time to reflect some of this change in our magazine. Some of these changes are detailed in this issue.

I am sure you will enjoy this issue, but more information is needed to keep and continue to develop 'Guidelines'. Contributions can be sent to C.D.A.A. at the Melbourne address.

Mike Vize

C O M M I T E E C O N T A C T S

The following members of C.D.A.A. committee can be contacted on any C.D.A.A. matter.

President	Lance Mitchell (03) 720 1205
	Peter Ginnane (08) 382 2729
	Maurice Parry (087) 25 8323

P R E S I D E N T ' S R E P O R T

The NTO has outlined very broadly the concept of the new proposed Restructure Policy.

The policy was formulated over the past three years and reflects a great deal of change which many members have contributed to and strived for over probably 10 years.

Now that most of the Association's rough and rocky roads have been successfully graded, it's time to use the strength of our present association to create one of the world's superior qualification bodies by unity across Australia.

The Committee and Examiners joined by contributions from well established cave diving personnel in other states members from Tasmania, N.S.W., Queensland and W.A. met in Swan Hill for the 1st National Meeting. We moulded into shape a policy that Ian Lewis and myself have been drafting for some time.

Recently it was further studied by the Landowner Liaison Group with acceptance in principle after some minor changes. The next step is to present it to the remainder of the landowners we currently have access arrangements with in both S.A. and W.A. Once the document has stabilised with all the initial players having agreed, it will go to print and be mailed to all CDAA members for FINAL judgement.

No changes can be or will be made without membership approval - after all it is yourselves it must ultimately benefit.

P R O P O S E D N E W P O L I C Y

PROPOSED NEW NATIONAL RESTRUCTURE POLICY

The New National System has been slow in coming; this has been due to a decision to try and incorporate all the past problems, deficiencies and inconsistencies into a broad plan which covers all areas. Our alternative would have been to "band-aid" the old CDAA Administrative and Category system to cover areas outside Mt Gambier and Nullarbor, chugging along for 15 years without significant improvement.

There are three main philosophies behind the new system -

1. that our training standard actually match their different cave types
2. that the CDAA run more like a corporate body than a club
3. that the abilities and talents of our members be far better recognised and utilised for public CDAA activity

In the new proposal, this translates in the following ways -

1. Old categories are replaced by specific groupings with separate characteristics..CAVERNS, CAVES, SINKHOLES, PENETRATION (ADVANCED) CAVES.
2. A 3 person central Directorate elected every 2 years oversee the running of the Association's various activities, advised by a range of delegates.
3. The Directorate co-ordinate projects and programmes with a public approach - research programmes, video promotions, environmental monitoring, sponsorship grants for cave diving projects, national and international conferences etc. This should boost the sport's image of Cave Divers as highly skilled and responsible people. There are a considerable number of our members with the enthusiasm for such projects if the Directorate provides the organisation and impetus to get going!

We believe that the New System gives advantages to everybody involved - a better management, greater and more positive member involvement, better training and international compatibility, better public appreciation and a more streamlined and supportive contact and communication system with all the landowners.

In other words, we believe that nobody loses. (That is why the proposal has taken 3 years to develop!)

This allows us to apply the same standard of training and classification to divers and caves Australia wide without compromising our Mt.Gambier and Nullarbor regions.

C R O S S I N G O V E R

TO THE NEW SYSTEM

With the proposed changeover to a new way of doing things, especially to new cave classifications, members will be already wondering what they will be expected to do! (or to throw out the new system if it expects too much!) The NTOs put these question to great discussion at a general executive meeting in Swan Hill and we came up with the following, summarised in a table :-

PROPOSED NEW CLASSIFICATION	MAIN TRAINING NEEDED
Freshwater cavern _____	Basic current Cat 1 and Cat 2 skills, landowner protocol
Cave _____	Thorough line work, buddy support, twin tank techniques
Sinkhole _____	Depth training, improved decompression principles, environmental issues
Penetration caves _____	Independent air techniques, advanced dive planning, high tech equipment

The meeting decided overwhelmingly that the way to bring category divers up to date for their new rating was by CDAA-run seminars (evenings or one or two days) run by panels of examiners. A new Directorate will be able to easily organise this. Seminars would be run on a regular, roster basis over 1 or 2 years in a number of different locations to allow ALL members to participate easily. The following table summarises our proposals for Changeover/Upgrade arrangements :-

CONVERSION	REQUIREMENT
Category 1's to Freshwater/ Cavern	Do the old Category 2 Practical Test (guideline test)
Category 2's to Sinkhole Diver	Update seminar
Category 2's to Cave Diver	Do a full CAVE DIVER course (Not because content is harder, but now a quite different approach)
Category 3's to Sinkhole Diver	Automatic
Category 3's to Cave Diver	Equipment Seminar
Category 4's to Sinkhole Diver	Automatic
Category 4's to Cave Diver	Equipment Seminar
Category 4's to Penetration Diver	Equipment Seminar

T H R E E I M P O R T A N T N O T E S ! !

1. Don't try to equate old categories to the New System. The difference is considerable.
2. "Caves" and "Sinkholes" are to be two separate ratings, with different skills taught/required. Skills can be considered the same LEVEL, (roughly old Category 3 standard), but not related to each other.
3. Penetration Diver is an advanced Cave Diver, not related to Sinkhole Diver.

EXAMINER CHANGES

When I took over 3 years ago as National Testing Officer, the membership of the Examiner Body had been static for a considerable time. As the CDAA overhauled its constitutional and operating procedures, I took the opportunity to discuss with the examiners their current level of interest and availability to commit their time to a growing and changing system. As a result of this and some other personal decisions, a considerable change in Examiner faces has occurred, summarised as follows :-

RETIRED IN 1987

Alan Grundy (NSW), Steve Sinclair (VIC), Brian Wagstaff (SA), Peter Stace (SA), Peter Mosse (VIC)

APPOINTED IN 1987/8

Bob Wealthy (VIC), Richard Megan (SA) Frank Ziegler (SOUTH EAST)

RETIRED INACTIVE

Russell Kitt (VIC), Neville Grovermann (SA)

APPOINTED IN 1989

Des Walters (NSW)

In addition, there are a number of trainee Examiners who are involved with Examiner testing, meetings and discussions as part of their training. Prior to my taking over the NTO's position there was no programme in place for new examiners, so the old grouping was becoming stale with no new input. The examiners at the time, like the CDAA work Committee, were divided into two State groups - Victoria and S.A. - with the resultant lack of effective communication and opinion differences. I abolished the positions of State Testing Officers in both states to bring both groups together under one NTO and the resulting level of enthusiasm working together has been excellent!

I want to use this report to thank personally every current examiner for their various contributions to the major projects we are completing - re-working theory papers, re-organising test contents and arrangements, consultation for ideas, meetings and opinions leading towards a new National Cave Diving system, equipment developments and improvements from overseas experiences and contacts. The support given and sense of working together for better things has really encouraged me to keep on at this job particularly at the tough times.

Ian Lewis
N.T.O.

CURRENT EXAMINERS

The following examiners are available for any Category tests, Training courses, advice on Training Techniques and Equipment and for any comments you may have on the CDAA operations. The co-ordinator of Category 3 tests is Tony Richardson.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	SUBURB/AREA	HOME PHONE
Ron Allum	Windsor Gardens	(08) 266 0949
Chris Brown	Glen Osmond	(08) 79 1445
Glen Harrison	Hackham	(08) 382 9482
Richard Megan	St Agnes	(08) 265 5183
NEW SOUTH WALES		
Andrew Wight	Sydney	(02) 428 2176
Des Walters	Albury	(060) 23 3506
WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
Hugh Morrison	Perth	(09) 344 1562 work
SOUTH EAST		
Frank Ziegler	Portland, Vic	(055) 26 5288
VICTORIA COUNTRY AREAS		
Ian Lewis	Otways & Geelong	(03) 720 1205
Barrie Heard	Gippsland	(056) 27 5511
Scott Carpenter (Trainee)	Gippsland	(056) 25 2508
MELBOURNE		
Bill Bernhardt	Croydon	(03) 725 9716
Stan Bugg	Strathmore	(03) 379 8791
John Dalla-Zuanna	Ascot Vale	(03) 370 1093
Alan Jolliffe	Mitcham	(03) 874 7669
Ian Lewis (see country)		
John McCormick	Bentleigh East	(03) 579 0570
Tony Richardson	Tecoma	(03) 754 6163
Bob Wealthy	Frankston	(03) 789 6389
Phil Mann (Trainee)	Footscray/Geelong	(03) 689 7791

SHAFT ACCESS

Since the recent mailout to Category 3 and 4 members regarding re-opening of The Shaft, there have been a number of puzzled enquiries from both sides of the border over access arrangements. A few notes here should explain things more clearly.

The owners of The Shaft (Mr and Mrs Ashby) had to contend with a lot of pressure and publicity over earlier years due to the reputation and notoriety of this large sinkhole. Rare visits by film crews, the National Geographic Society etc. required the guidance of experienced Cave Divers who were known and trusted by the Ashbys from earlier years. The new access arrangement covers the owners three ways - divers need to sign an indemnity form, known guides supervise the dives and the CDAA organises pre-scheduled dates for visiting.

At present, the guides list contains only two cave divers resident in Victoria - Peter Rogers and Ian Lewis. This arrangement is not deliberate but reflects the amount of S.A. diving there in the earlier years when the Ashbys grew to know us well. At a special meeting of Shaft guides recently in Adelaide, it was expressly stated that Cat 3 and 4 divers from anywhere were welcome to contact any guide for access to the dive, and that no preference would be given to divers from one area or another.

In addition, those of us on the guide list have decided that we wish to invite and encourage visits to The Shaft by groups of divers who otherwise would never have the chance to dive there. That is, you do not "have to be mates with" a particular guide or group to apply. Please be encouraged to approach them.

Also, while a roster for guides is in place, this does not mean that only that guide will be available at the set date. Guides can combine for a weekend and share the supervision duties for a team of applicant cave divers. The whole idea of The Shaft arrangement is to make the dive experience widely available to qualified cave divers while minimising disruption and protecting the landowner. The CDAA management is indeed grateful to the Ashbys for allowing us to once again share in the experience of this remarkable place.

B A R N O O L U T A C C E S S

Both the landowner, Mr Reg Watson and cave divers report that arrangements for diving on Barnoolut are proceeding amiably and smoothly, and that cave divers are taking seriously their obligations to meet the access requirements. The CDAA is grateful to acknowledge Reg's considerable efforts to re-open the property's sinkholes for us. Some divers have discovered that the fine print of the agreement technically does not allow anyone but a QUALIFIED member within the fenced enclosure of a sinkhole on Barnoolut station. This has caused some understandable concern, as it moves away from some primary cave diver safety requirements - that is, after a dive to normal sinkhole depths of 30 metres or so, surface support people are much preferred to raise equipment by ropes and haulage to minimise the post-dive effort by the diving team and thus minimise any likelihood of the onset of decompression sickness. This was not overlooked by the CDAA or Reg Watson.

The Barnoolut Insurance advice was that the insuring company would not cover any person through the fence other than a qualified CDAA cave diver without an increase in premium costs to the landowner. Until another clause can be found which protects everyone in a better way, divers should modify their dive profiles to allow for the climb and haul out.

H E L P R E Q U I R E D

D.E.S. NEEDS YOUR HELP - (008) 088 200

Does the number look familiar? It should. It's the Divers Emergency Service (DES) number - that toll free number which puts you in touch with the Decompression Sickness experts via the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

There are about four calls a day (over 1000 calls each year) on this vital number, and one day it may be your turn to contact them. The availability of this service has been of great benefit to all divers.

Unfortunately, the existence of this number is being threatened because of financial problems, and partly because of the collapse of the National Safety Council (Victorian Division).

I strongly urge you to send a donation (over \$2 and it's tax deductible) to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, asking them to direct the donation to the costs of the DES telephone.

Ensure that this excellent service is able to continue.
Send your donation to:

Dr. B. Kearney
Chief Executive Officer
Royal Adelaide Hospital
North Terrace
ADELAIDE S.A. 5000

SPELEOSUBAQUACOMIX PRESENTS...

CAVE DIVE CAPERS

STARRING

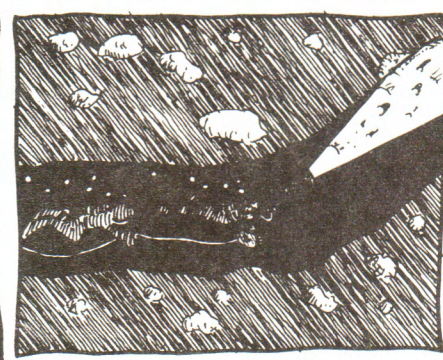
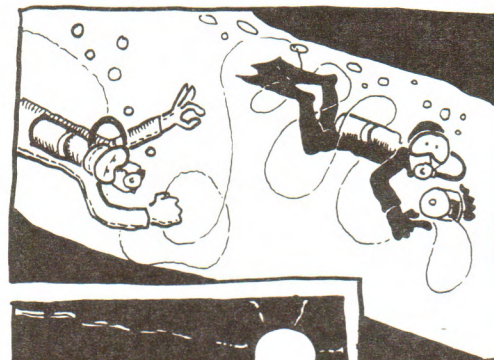
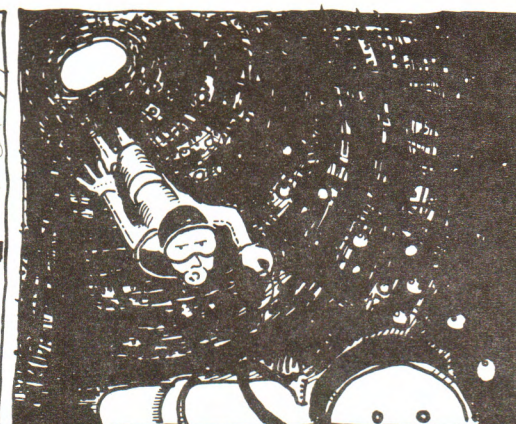
AL & DALE



OUR STORY BEGINS AT THE ALLENDALE EAST GENERAL STORE WHERE OUR TWO DASHING CAVE-DIVERS ARE SEEKING AN AIR-FILL BEFORE THEIR DIVE.....



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P I C C A N I N N I E P O N D S

The following is a reproduction of a memo from the **National Parks and Wildlife Services**

Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park holds the world famous sinkhole "Piccaninnie Ponds". Diving and snorkelling are one of the main activities carried out in the Park with permits needed for both.

SNORKELLING CONDITIONS

A snorkelling permit must be obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service office at 11 Helen Street, Mt. Gambier which will cost \$2.50 per dive. Specific dive times must be pre-booked and adhered to. Snorkelling is allowed for 1 hour in 3 hours between 5 a.m. and midnight, so that the ponds are rested for 70% of the time. A minimum of two persons and a maximum of 4 persons are permitted to snorkel at once. Full length wetsuit, flippers and goggles must be worn. Areas available to snorkelling are also restricted.

SCUBA CONDITIONS

Scuba divers must be Category II C.D.A.A. members and appear on the Piccaninnie listing as supplied to National Parks and Wildlife Service. Dive times are booked in advance through the National Parks and Wildlife Service office at Mt. Gambier. Scuba dive times run at the same time as snorkelling times with 1 hours diving and 2 hours pond resting.

REASON FOR CONDITIONS

During 1985 the aquatic vegetation in the ponds died back for some unknown cause. It has taken 3 years for the vegetation to recover. A management strategy of restricting diver numbers and regular monitoring of the ponds was undertaken when the ponds re-opened. The ponds are closed to all water activities during June, July and August for both ecological and administrative purposes.

REMEMBER

The ponds are delicate. Careless diving may lead to their closure, so dive with care.

President's Comment

Recent discussion with National Parks and Wildlife has resulted in the following outcome over permitting arrangements for 1989/90 for Piccaninnie Ponds.

1. N.P.W.S. again require a figure of around \$6,000 to manage their diver related activities.

2. Based on an average of 860 financial members in 1988/89 the C.D.A.A. decided to negotiate with N.P.W.S. against a \$25 annual or \$5 per dive fee.
3. It was agreed that provided the C.D.A.A. paid the \$6,000 up front and then levied its members the N.P.W.S. were happy and at an estimated 600 of the 890 members that would be looking for a permit \$109.00 per head would suffice.
4. In fact only approx. 350 members applied for permits bringing in \$3,500, a \$2,500 shortfall. As 350 members represent 41% of the membership the decision to resubsidise the permit fee for a minority group, could not be justified.
5. THE RESULT BEING
This year we will leave it to N.P.W.S. and individual members to arrange permits. Based on last years attendance from the 350 permits used about 1200 divers were logged. Therefore the original concept of \$5 per dive/\$25 per year will satisfy N.P.W.S.

For those who supported the C.D.A.A. last year and paid the \$10.00 levy, the same number of dives will probably cost you more. I thank you for your previous support but I cannot expect those who do not wish to dive in Piccaninnie Ponds to have their annual fees subsidising those who do.
6. I suggest that should you still strongly object to the proposed fees as was the case a year ago or object to any levy on Piccaninnie paid at all, you write to N.P.W.S. direct in the South East and forward the C.D.A.A. a copy.

Conclusion:

Please bear in mind that under the present government climate that all government assets should be made to finance themselves where possible.

N.P.W.S. will be encouraged to levy a fee on as many of its assets as is practical in the coming years. The C.D.A.A. will monitor your response and continue to negotiate. How you react to the introduction to the new fees will play a large part in the future N.P.W.S. decisions.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Members who would like to participate in this year's Cave Diving photographic competition should now get their slides together. Details will be published in future editions of "Guidelines".

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(INCORPORATED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

P.O. BOX 2161T,
MELBOURNE, 3001

P.O. BOX 290,
NORTH ADELAIDE, 5006

If your membership expired on June 30th 1989, 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 1989 can result in your membership being cancelled. In practical terms, you may end up paying a late fee or may require a retest to be reinstated.

To renew your membership, fill out the renewal form below and send with your card and \$20.00 (or \$40.00 for two years), to:

CDAA Records Officer
P.O. BOX 290,
NORTH ADELAIDE, 5006

Office Use Only
\$ _____ Receipt No.
Computer

CDAA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

SURNAME _____ OTHER NAMES _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____ CDAA 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 old cards very well, so it would be wise to send a new photo.

S H E C K E X L E Y

The March 1989 edition of Florida Scuba News reported that Sheck Exley, the 40 year old veteran underwater explorer with over 3000 cave dives to his credit, set a depth record of 780 feet down a narrow fissure in northern Mexico in April 1988.

Some months later he again set a new world record, but this time for the water cave penetration record of 10,168 feet set in France in 1985. In January 1989 he penetrated 10,444 feet into a cave, taking over 14 hours - over six hours of swimming and a huge eight hours of decompressing.

Reprinted from: National Association for Cave Diving (NACD)
News Vol 21, Number 2, March-April 1989

O W N W O R L D R E C O R D

Sheck Exley of Live Oak, Florida reset his own world record for depth in a cave on Tuesday March 28th at the El Mante Cacienmento (Macho Pit) located near Mante, Mexico.

Adding another approximate 87 feet from the previous calculated 780 feet down to 867 feet. Using special mix gases and decompression tables formed by Dr. Bill Hamilton, the dive was aborted at this point due to extreme difficulty breathing due to the density of the gases. With fourteen hours of decompression, Exley surfaced with a smile and contemplating whether another try is in the future.

Support divers helping with this dive were Ned DeLoach, Paul Heinerth, Tom Bussell, Tom Morris and his wife along with Sergio Zambrano and Angel Soto from Mexico City.
A big congratulations to a successful dive.

Extracted from : National Association for Cave Diving (NACD)
News Vol 21, Number 2 March-April 1989

World Records by Milladge Murphey, Ph. D.

Emerald Cave System currently explored to 12,497m (41,000 feet) and still going. Record established by Main, Gavin, Turner and English.

World's Deepest Cave Dive:

Exley at Mante - 28 Mar 1989, 264m (867 feet)

World's Longest Penetration from Air:

Exley at Chip Hole 28 Jan 1989 - 3183m (10,444 feet)

World's Longest Traverse:

World's Deepest Traverse:

Sullivan to Cheryl 8,400 feet at 240 feet depth

World's Deepest Underwater Cave:

Fontaine de Vaucluse, France - 315m (1,033 feet)

PROJECT STICKYBEAK

"Project Stickybeak" - Recent Cave Diving Incidents by Peter Horne

Because cave diving is an inherently dangerous activity, all conscientious divers need to ensure that they are properly trained and equipped if they want to tackle water-filled caves and sinkholes in relative safety.

Even when the rules are followed, however, unexpected events still occur from time to time which could easily lead to catastrophic consequences if they are not handled promptly and correctly.

Several potentially serious incidents of possible interest to the cave diving community have come to light since the last batch of reports was written up in 'Guidelines' No. 19 (August 1984). There are undoubtedly many others which have not been reported or heard generally through the diving community which would also be interesting, and members are encouraged to submit details about such cases if they can - even if no names and dates etc. are listed.

The following case-histories highlight how easily divers can get into trouble if they are ill-equipped, unlucky, or as in the first case, simply diving with an easily upset diver.

1. Two divers were exploring a waterfilled passage in a cave which had a major restriction with severe silting problems near the entrance. Because of the constriction and the lack of availability of slingshot ("Y") valves, independent air supplies were not carried - both divers wore only single tanks fitted with standard "K" valves and octopus regulators.

After exploring the cave for about 20 minutes, the lead diver

with the reel noticed that he had used a third of his air, and being aware of the potentially hazardous and air consuming exit which awaited them back at the entrance, he showed his buddy his contents gauge so that they could start their return swim.

However, instead of turning around, the buddy continued further along the wide passage away from the guideline, so the surprised lead diver decided to carry on for a bit longer. They were only in about 12 metres of water and not far from the entrance, but the lead diver was still uncomfortable about having continued beyond the standard Third Rule limit. Shortly afterwards, he found that he had now used half of his air supply, so he signalled that it was now definitely time to turn the dive and head for the surface.

To his amazement, however, his buddy disagreed and motioned for him to go on again! When the lead diver refused and again signalled to turn around, the buddy gestured for him to hand over the reel.

The lead diver refused, as he was becoming increasingly aware of the need to begin their return journey, but his buddy - a young man with whom he had often gone sea diving - then struggled with him for perhaps three minutes in an attempt to pry his fingers from the reel!

When the lead diver continued to hang onto the reel, his "buddy" became very aggressive and PUNCHED HIM IN THE FACE with his open hand, partially flooding his facemask and almost dislodging his regulator! He then grabbed the line and swam off, pulling the line out of the reel as he entered a low silty passage to continue his exploration.

While other cave divers by this time would probably have left such an irresponsible "buddy" to his own devices, the lead diver felt that the loose line floating around the cave would

become a major entanglement hazard when the other diver swam out of the passage, so he elected to stay put until his companion returned. About 8 minutes later, with his appetite for exploration apparently satisfied, the buddy finally decided to head back to the entrance, where they fortunately were able to exit without any additional problems.

2. A less-dramatic incident involving a group of very experienced cave divers occurred in "Warbla Cave" under the Nullarbor Plain, after they had reached the cave's most distant point. They had been looking around casually for about an hour when the lead diver became aware of the sound of rushing air behind his head. At first he thought that this vest had somehow vented suddenly, but he then realised that the huge volume of escaping air was coming from one of his two cylinders. One of his buddies quickly turned off the faulty air supply, and after a brief pause the lead diver elected to head for a nearby air-chamber a little further into the cave.

After reaching this chamber a few minutes later, he discovered that his HIGH-PRESSURE contents gauge hose had ruptured somewhere inside - not explosively, just quickly with a loud roar of escaping air - and there was no external sign of damage to the hose.

As he had only used a third of one cylinder when the incident occurred, he changed the regulators over to enable him to have access to the near-full tank. The group then exited the cave in an orderly manner. The lead diver later commented that he would make sure that he carried a spanner and spare blanking plugs on all future long-penetration dives!

3. During a different "Warbla Cave" expedition, a diver regretted not taking his spare face-mask along on the dive! After exploring an air-chamber a few hundred metres inside the cave, he went to put on his diving gear for the return swim

when he discovered that this mask was missing. A thorough search around the boulders on the floor failed to locate it, so he elected to swim back without a mask since it would otherwise have meant a wait in the order of 24 hours or so for his friends to return with the spare.

Fortunately, the diver was an experienced "zero-visibility" cave explorer and did not mind swimming back without a mask. The saline water did not hurt his eyes, and the only moment of concern occurred when he had to negotiate a rather restrictive "squeeze" at the start of the dive.

The lesson learnt by THIS diver was similar to that in case Number 2 - always carry spares on such long dives if you want to avoid these types of potentially dangerous situations.

4. In the final case, two experienced cave divers wearing twin independent cylinders encountered an air problem which was cause for concern during a deep dive. They had planned to take some time-exposure photos with a tripod-mounted camera, and carefully checked all of their equipment on the surface before they entered the water.

Because the lead diver wanted to save as much air as possible in one tank so that he could use it for a single-tank dive in another sinkhole later, he decided to use 2/3rds of the air in his first tank before turning around, rather than use a third of one cylinder and then a third of the second tank, as was his normal practice.

The photographic work involved a lot of swimming and was far more air-consuming than they had expected, and when the lead diver reached his turn-around point of 2/3rds of his first tank earlier than anticipated, he realised that he would need to use the second tank if they didn't head back to the decompression point immediately, so he signalled to his companion that they should start their return swim.

A few minutes later, with his contents gauge needle now "in the red", the lead diver elected to change over to his other regulator while he still had a couple of minutes of air left in the first tank, but when he put it into his mouth, he was surprised to find that there was still a lot of water in it when he carefully inhaled. Vigorous attempts to purge and shake the flooding regulator were to now avail, and he found that he had to depress the purge button fully every time he wanted to get a lungful of very wet air. He tried to remove the exhaust manifold to see if the exhaust valve had inverted and jammed, but the old plastic manifold was a broad T-piece which had hardened over the years and it stuck fast. In mid-water at a depth of around 36 metres in a pitch-black cavern, with a flooding regulator and the reel, it was not an ideal situation to slice open the manifold with a diving knife, and as the diver was still able to get air from his unit, he signalled that he wanted to head straight back to the deco. station without further delay. His companion came across and offered his octopus regulator, but believing that sharing air at depth would complicate things and delay their ascent, the lead diver declined and decided to stick with his uncomfortable unit for as long as possible.

At this point, things got a bit more complicated. The air in the lead diver's dry suit was quickly expanding, causing buoyancy problems requiring him to vent his suit by opening a wrist-seal, and to make matters worse the guideline reel handle decided to use that moment to suddenly unscrew, falling off in his hand!

The useless reel was tied to the line and ditched, and even after the divers reached their decompression station, they were both unable to remove the T-piece from the faulty regulator. Back on the surface, the regulator manifold was split wide open with a knife, revealing that a quarter of the exhaust valve had indeed inverted, becoming stuck inside its support

structure and resisting all attempts to shake or purge it clear.

The lead diver felt that the inversion might have occurred during the dive, when his velcro neck-strap (which had been poked through the manifold to retain the regulator) might have snagged the wet exhaust valve, causing it to buckle and invert. However, exactly how this happened remains a mystery. The incident was a valuable reminder about the importance of observing the sacred 'THIRD RULE' at all times!

All of the divers involved in these cases were fortunately able to cope with their difficult circumstances, but one wonders how inexperienced or untrained divers would have fared if they were to find themselves in similar situations. The benefits of the CDAA's certification system may not always be obvious, but there is no doubt in my mind that the confidence and skills which our system instils in our members served to protect the divers mentioned above.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the divers who were involved in these incidents for being prepared to discuss their involvement for the education of others. The Australian diving accident research body "Project Stickybeak", is always interested in hearing about such diving incidents, and divers are invited to submit stories about their experiences to the Project if they feel that others could be saved from similar unpleasantities by being informed about such cases. Confidentiality of personal details is assured and it is not the intention of the Project to apportion blame to anyone.

Please contact the Director of "Project Stickybeak", Dr. Douglas Walker, c/- P.O. Box 120, Narrabeen, N.S.W. 2101, or this writer through the CDAA, if you are interested in learning more about the Project or would like to report incidents of possible interest.

S . A . U . S . S . R E P O R T S

The South Australian Underwater Speleological Society (SAUSS) is an independent body with close ties to the CDAA. SAUSS carries out research into the sinkholes in the Mount Gambier area, often on behalf of the CDAA, and publishes reports of their findings.

Some recent Project Reports are available and may be obtained by interested members. These reports are:

"Fossil Cave" 5L81 - Underwater Palaeontological and Surveying Project 1987-1988

"Gouldens Hole" 5L8 - Mapping Project 1987-1988

"Blue Lake" Research Project 4-5 Feb 1989

Copies of these reports at about \$10 each (price will depend on quantities ordered) may be obtained by contacting SAUSS. Any member who is interested in assisting in research work is also invited to contact SAUSS at the address below:

Mr Peter Horne
3/9 Muriel Avenue
Somerton Park SA 5044

The current research project being undertaken by SAUSS is a mapping of the popular dive site 1080. So if you see lines in the sinkhole, please don't disturb them.

M I N U T E S

Minutes of the A.G.M. as recorded by Robyn Allum

Another AGM ready to begin
In the Cathedral at Mount Gambier
The divers filter in

There's Peter Norm an' Al an' Dale
Elaines, three sisters - Caroline, Victoria and Adelaide
The sisters, J and K Valve, and Max R seated
Well, even Carpenter rocks in.
Now National Parks his Horse and Cart
In the Crescent or ally - it's a Narra corte.

Proceedings begin with "Hey Reg- wots on?"

"Milli cent her apologies"

Then there's the Treasurers report

He had a vested interest

Was very Scuba Pro and needed to compensate

Discussion on the do line was accepted Ten-Eighty-ve
But masked over and sounded like Bullocks to
Engel's bright, a reel ocker reg 'u' lator.
Can take a high pressure seat
And lay down strong guidelines

He was elected over Killer Pascal
Who's been considered bent and quite a hood

The Secretary Ela-Elapsed
She'd worked herself to a tether
Ewens Pond-ers and Pines her loss
A break in proceedings for a scuba feed
Accompanied by Nelson on the Penola
Where's Kara-been away a while
Must have been belayed.

We'll resume with a local re Port MacDonald
 Again, Ian Ploenges into Pale hole backwards
 Considered quite unreel and acting out of his depth
 How much does diving permit?

Check the constitution under Category 3 Section AA
 Str ike-a-lite, Neo preen-ed his old Red-fins
 Which now look pretty flash
 He's such a Deco-Brain - always dives The Edge

Bara-traumas most with an in depth
 Re Port-land owners were unlikely to
 sink-hole lots of money on legalities to
 Boyle laws down which left most in a deep depression

The meeting closed at One Three and afterwards
 Some got tanked at a BAR
 With stops at 10 for 20 minutes
 And were soon all under the Navy Tables.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT

There are 70 Diver/Mt. Gambier related items.

If you score 70 = President material
 50 = Committee material
 30 = Cat 4 material
 10 = Life member material (apologies to
 present life members!)

C D A A C A V E A C C E S S

Remember: Access is a privilege, not a right. Please be
 considerate of landowner wishes.

CAVE	CAT	CAVE OWNER	PERMISSION
Ewens Ponds	Nil	Dept of Lands PMB 124 Mt Gambier (087)241598	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept of Lands Smaller groups do not need. Ponds are closed between 1 Sept and 30 Nov
Horse & Cart and Tee Tree	1 1	Mr Don Telford P O Box 2629 Mt Gambier (087)384003	By phone or mail 1 week prior
Baby Blue (Little Blue) and Allendale	1 3	Port MacDonnell Council as above	Baby Blue - Permission not required-Must carry card Allendale- key from Mt. Gambier Tourist Information Centre
Gouldens and Sisters (Two sisters) and Fossil	1 1 3	Dept of Lands PMB 124 Mt Gambier (087) 241 598	Contact Dept of Lands by phone/mail prior to diving. Stay out of Gouldens when pump operating
Ela Elap and One Tree	2 2	Mr Peter Norman Private Bag 67 Mt Gambier (087) 250 938	By phone or drop in before diving. Accommodation also available

Piccaninnie Ponds	2	Dept of Environment & Planning. NPWS 11 Helen St Mt Gambier (087) 241 579	Permit Holders by phone Non permit holders write to CDAA (Vic) sending \$10 for permit Be aware of delicate vegetation
Swim Through	2	Valerie Earl c/- P O Allendale SA 5291	From lessee, Mr David Easton, 8 Tarandi Rd, Mt Gambier (087)250938 By phone or mail one week prior Closed for 6 weeks around May due to ewes lambing
Hells Hole and	2	Woods & Forests Myora Forest Hq	Contact Woods & Forests by mail or phone and arrange permit
Pines and Elaines	3	P O Box 162 Mt Gambier (087) 255 622	No diving on total fire ban days
Black Hole and Ten Eighty and Bullock Hole	2	Mr Reg Watson P O Box 12 Mt Gambier (087) 266 215	Contact CDAA Committee for diving deed. THEN by mail to Reg Watson 2 weeks prior stating names/quals of all divers. Must take somebody familiar with Barnoolut property and procedures
Max's Hole	3	Mr Trevor Edwards P O Box 1319 Mt Gambier (087) 268 277	Phone or mail 1 week prior to dive
Shaft	3	Mr & Mrs Ashby	ONLY by contacting designated 'guides' who will arrange access
Engelbrechts East and West	3	Mt Gambier Council	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre
Three Sisters	4	Millicent Council	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre

F O R S A L E

1. Twin tank back-pack and bands \$100
Contact J Vanderleest Ph: 416 9370

2. Cave reels for sale
3 sizes of quality reels with graphite impregnated
self lubricating bearings
Capacity 350m of 3mm line (closed reel) \$160
200m of 3mm line (closed reel) \$160
160m of 3mm line (open reel) \$140
Phone Joe Jakubczyk on (03) 870 1694

Private ads for caving and diving equipment may be
advertised free.

C A T E G O R Y 3 T E S T

DATE: Weekend of 9th and 10th of
September

LOCATION: Mt Gambier

APPLY: P.O. Box 2161T
G.P.O. Melbourne 3001

CLOSING DATE: 14th August

