

C.D.A.A. Newsletter

GUIDELINES

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CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
(Incorporated in South Australia)

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Cave Divers Association of Australia
P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, 5006

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Photo courtesy Lothar Ploss.

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DIRECTORY

The following is a list of people that can be contacted for C.D.A.A. matters. Please contact the most relevant person or, if unsure, write to our P.O. Box in Adelaide and your enquiry will be passed on.

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EDITORIAL

G'day guys & gals. Well, it's GUIDELINES time again and it seems that over the last 12 months the interval between issues is getting shorter and shorter. I think that it's a very good indication of how busy the Association has been over the last year, and lately it's been no exception.

The A.G.M. went off very successfully – the three Directorate positions being filled, and the three blokes who got the jobs are already hard at work making sure the new restructure program continues to develop according to plan.

A small apology for the delay in receiving this issue – we had to wait until after the A.G.M. to make sure you, the general membership, were up-to-date with the changes arising from the meeting.

As you will see, we now not only have equipment advertisers, but some local Mt. Gambier services, such as accommodation and air fills, advertising – so why not support them! It's only through their generous support via advertising that the quality of what you're now reading is sustainable – so give them a try, and support those who support us.

The next issue is due January 1991, so to all you grovellers – have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year – and remember the competitions!

Safe cave diving,

Tony Davis, Editor.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

As many of you are aware, Lance Mitchell has retired after five (5) years heading our Association. His extraordinary dedication to our Association resulted in him receiving honorary Life Membership at the AGM.

Voting for the position of Standards Director saw Alan Jolliffe returned. I would like to especially thank David Pumphrey for acting as Returning Officer.

Due to financial constraints, we have found it increasingly difficult to continue to provide the level of service which you, the Membership, expect due to increased costs brought about by the CPI and the huge expenses associated with the establishment of the Indemnity Agreements, Leases and attendance at the Sinkhole Review Committee Meetings. As a result, a motion was put to the Membership present at the AGM, that Annual Membership Fees be increased to \$40.00. Discussions ensued, with the motion being passed by a majority of Members present. A further motion to increase the Annual Membership fees every year in line with the CPI was discussed and passed, however, as this motion may contravene our constitution, we have referred it to our Solicitor, David Bird, for his opinion.

A question raised by a Member was the need for us to be externally audited to comply with the Associations Incorporation. This has also been referred to David for his opinion. We hope to have answers to these two questions published in the next edition of Guidelines.

A motion was received from the floor at the AGM that all Penetration Divers should use "twin independent air supplies of equal capacity". Following lengthy discussions, the motion was put to a vote and passed by a majority. This new ruling will take effect immediately for all Penetration/Category 4 members.

We have now been working under the restructure policy for the last twelve months and it is pleasing to advise that the organizational structure is now established and the new training standards are in place with several landowners allowing us to begin training on site.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those people who have helped me over the last twelve months and look forward to their continued support in my new position as National Director.

John Vanderleest

BARNOOLUT CLOSURE

As many of you will know, Barnoolut closes each year for shearing time. The property will be closed from October 8th to November 1st, so please make sure any bookings are not made during this time.

CROSS OVER PROGRAMS

There is only one more cross-over program planned for Adelaide and Melbourne. If you have not already completed a program and fail to do this next one to be held early in the new year, then private arrangements will have to be made with examiners – at your cost. Country members excepted.

DISCOVERING DIVING

November 25th, 11am – 4pm, North Adelaide Aquatics Centre. "Discover Diving" is sponsored by Life-be-in-it and is concerned with educating the general public about the sport of scuba diving. The CDAA will be represented with a display of cave diving equipment as well as videos and short talks. All interested people are invited to attend. See you there!

NEW CARDS

The new cards are now being issued, but only if you send a request for new card along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, a passport photo (30mm x 30mm) and a \$5 card replacement fee. If you fail to include any of the above, it will result in lengthy delays in receiving your new card – and we don't want that, do we?

CDAA COMPETITIONS

Due to the string of bad weather over the last few months, which has obviously stopped people diving, it's been decided to extend the closing dates for both the "Get Wet" and the photographic competition to December 1st – so go to it and maybe you will win a great prize. Details in last issue (No. 36).

EVERYONE BRINGS US HAPPINESS – Some as they arrive, some as they leave

Thanks to those who have involved themselves in the Association's affairs, questioned executives' motives and sought answers.

It is these members who keep you on your toes, make you decisive, yet considerate of others' opinions.

Many have called. Their expressions of thanks have given me a sense of achievement and a feeling of camaraderie. Cave divers can be a bit aloof. In fact, five years ago, I could count the number of cave divers I really knew well, and not pass twenty.

Since then, as President for three terms and a year as the first National Director, has brought me in contact with cavers, wet and dry, from all around Australia and from many areas of the world.

It hasn't expanded my diving (yet!) but it sure improved my attitude and respect for the potential of the C.D.A.A.

I will not thank individuals by name – there will be those I'll miss and there have been too many to be sure.

I express my gratitude to all those who have served as officials during my time, especially those continuing to give their time and talents under the new Directorate – they no longer have a voting say in management, yet continue to perform. That's why I have always sought their opinions.

Like all of us before them, they will soon need to move along. The membership must now look within itself for future officials. I urge those who know they have the skills to manage the Association's affairs, to get close to the every day functions in preparation for 1991 elections.

So, what has been achieved in the last four years?

- Re-unification of the C.D.A.A.
- Success at Sinkhole Review/Liaison Committee.

LOST

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When asked what has given me the greatest sense of achievement, I must say none of the above – it's more what has brought these about.

Working, communicating and appreciating people's opinions, people who, several years ago, would have crucified me if they could. Between May 1986 to today, I feel good about having turned opponents into allies, coming to an agreement on where the organisation is going to.

Without alliance, an organisation cannot succeed. After all, what is alliance?

- having similar origins
- agreement to co-operate
- common purpose and goals
- dependent on each other for success.

That's what it's been about. Above all else, identifying the common goals. That has led to the success of the C.D.A.A. for the continuance of cave diving in Australia.

Any other personal issues and needs are secondary, and I agree they are necessary to create a sense of style about the organisation, but they are counter productive if not kept in perspective.

The C.D.A.A. is a membership driven organisation. I have often been described as a credible dictator – in essence, I am. That credibility has come from having a feel for when members have to be involved in decisions and accepting their decisions, full stop.

I have kept tabs on my political ambitions for the Association in balance with those that are practical. The general membership are practical divers who usually tolerate the

politics and therefore, the politicians. As a politician, a sincere thanks to all members who, when required to rally, assembled and made decisions.

If we were to stop and consider that it might be better to return to the "old" days, the C.D.A.A. would cease to be capable of controlling cave diving as a compulsory monopoly in Australia.

With the legalities associated with any potentially dangerous activity, controls are going to increase and we will be no exception.

If we do not continue with a united front, if we believe we are the only experts and resist change, then eventually we will end up more trouble than we are worth.

The C.D.A.A. can be very proud of what it has achieved since 1975, from its only real resource – the people in it.

Again, thanks to all those who have assisted me in that part of the Association's success attributed to the last four years.

Lance R. Mitchell

National Director 1989/90



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RESEARCH GROUP

One of the aims and objectives of the CDAA is "to encourage any research, including mapping, of all underwater caves and sinkholes".

However, it wasn't until March 1983, some ten years after the formation of the CDAA, that the CDAA Research Group was formed as a Sub-Committee to pursue the research and mapping of underwater caves and sinkholes in the Mt. Gambier region.

Prior to the formation of the CDAA Research Group, work of this nature was undertaken by individuals with much of the information gained either lost or forgotten.

It is hoped that the Research Group will prevent this happening by providing a central register of research reports and by instigating and carrying out well organized research programs that relate to cave diving.

Most of the members of the Research Group have had no formal training in research and mapping of underwater caves and sinkholes, as there were no training courses or text books available to learn from. It came back to the ingenuity of the individual members to design and test different methods of mapping caves.

Since our humble beginning, the Research Group has come a long way with some nine projects – either underway or completed.

Until recently, most of the research work completed has been in the Mt. Gambier region, but with increased awareness of the Research Group, it is hoped that research and mapping of caves and sinkholes will be completed in other areas of Australia.

I feel that many members would like to help on mapping and research projects, but feel that due to their lack of experience in mapping and research, they would not be considered as a member of the Group.

Membership of the Group is open to ALL members of the CDAA. Previous cave mapping/research skills would be an advantage, however, they are not essential as

The heroes of today's youth are the green Mutant Ninja Turtles. As a child, my hero was Mike Nelson and his daring underwater exploits. From primary school through my teens, I progressed quickly from learning to swim, playing water polo, spear fishing competitions, abalone diving to support a poor apprentice's meagre wages, then to scuba diving. In those days learning to scuba dive was "this goes on your back and you breath out of this bit" – simple. Luckily in those days most scuba divers progressed through from spear fishing so they had a good grounding in the ocean and its moods.

I enjoy adventure, so diving trips are usually more than just diving. A trip to Papua New Guinea once included walking across the Kokoda Trail and then walking from the top of Mt. Wilhelm (14,000 ft) to the sea 110 km away in Madang (a great way to save on airfares). Other destinations that I have dived and enjoyed over the past years have included Rabaul, Truk Lagoon, Palau, Vanuatu, New Zealand's Poor Knights and parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef. In fact, in November, my wife, Lyn, and I are members of a trip from Port Douglas to Raine Island in North Queensland. Work is always more tolerable with a trip away to look forward to.

Having dived for many years, I decided that if I tried hard, I could be really poor, so I took up underwater photography. Indirectly, this is what led me to Mt. Gambier and the C.D.A.A. A friend, who is a professional

training is provided whilst actually completing a survey.

In the near future, the Research Group will be running cave mapping/research seminars for those members interested. Details of these seminars will be advertised in Guidelines in the future.

If you feel that you have the time and wish to help out on future projects, simply write to me indicating your interest, or alternatively, give me a call on either of the phone numbers on the inside front cover of Guidelines.

Andrew B. Cox
Manager – Mapping & Research

NEIL VINCENT – A BRIEF HISTORY

photographer, needed guaranteed crystal clear water for a particular shot that he had in mind, and suggested a trip to Ewen's Ponds. Me, not wishing to drive all that way without being able to sample some of the other great dives of Mt. Gambier, sought out the C.D.A.A. for certification. Andrew Wight directed and examined Lyn and I to Cat. 2, then Peter Girdler kindly rode his new Suzuki all the way from Adelaide, to present us with our Cat. 2 cards when we had dived the required Cat. 1 holes. I dived in Pics. the next day. The swim across the first pond was the greatest let down of my life, but once I saw the chasm, my mind was changed.

Our last trip to Mt. Gambier was for 3 weeks and as part of the diving program, I decided to participate in the great (but quickly becoming extinct because of pressure from animal liberationists) spectator sport held at the Goulden's Hole Colosseum – "The Cat. 3 Exam".

In my log book I have only ever rate two dives 10/10. The Cat 3. exam was one. I don't

think the rating was for reasons of personal pleasure – it was more from relief that it was over, from the knowledge that the examiners had enjoyed themselves and that I had passed.

On returning to Sydney, Lyn decided that she wanted to obtain her Cave Diver status. I spoke with members of the committee about training in N.S.W. Being 10 hours drive away, without sinkholes, or any organizing structure seemed to make the exercise too difficult. Being persistent, I kept trying. It was then that I received a summons from Andrew Wight. I had overstepped the mark; I had made ripples in the glass smooth water of the C.D.A.A. sinkhole. I was told that "what the C.D.A.A. needed in N.S.W. was a representative to co-ordinate, organize training, exams and seminars" – to cut a long evening short, after a couple of beers and phone calls, Andrew shook my hand and congratulated me.

I wonder where the kids who hero-worship the Ninja Turtles will end up?

G

a.b. OCEAN DIVERS

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A TRULY MAGNIFICENT CAVE DIVE ... NO BULL

by Peter Horne

If you have never looked up from a depth of 20 metres and waved to your non-diving friends as they peered over the edge of the magnificent "Bullock Hole", on the property known as "Barnoolut Estate" in the lower south east of South Australia, you are missing out on one of the region's most impressive experiences!

Although the Bullock Hole is somewhat smaller and shallower than the mighty Black Hole and Ten-Eighty sinkholes which lie nearby, it is held in very high esteem by those of us who have been lucky enough to savour its unique underwater beauty. Because most of the sinkhole's cool, still water is not directly exposed to a lot of sunlight, very little aquatic flora or fauna are to be found, so this "hole full of rain" generally contains fantastically-clear water.

The sinkhole looks fairly unimpressive from ground level; it is marked by a fence and warning sign in the middle of an otherwise

fairly flat paddock and is a roughly tadpole-shaped opening about 10-15 metres across. A ladder-climb of around 6 metres can be made to a fairly large sandy ledge which is about 3 metres above water level, but for expediency, divers set the ladder up near an overhang which leads directly down to the water. The ledge runs around a deep lake on the northern and western sides.

The main cavern is relatively safe to explore because it is very open and only about 20 metres deep, but because a large vertical fissure and a smaller, siltier cavern are to be found in the shallower regions on the north-western side, competent cave diving skills are obviously required for safe exploration. At a depth of about 30 metres, an oval-shaped passage begins, and this reaches depths in excess of 40 metres between the many large, ragged limestone slabs which cover the bottom.

Although only tiny life-forms live in the hole today, it has played host to other, larger "visitors" over the years; in fact, it was back in the early 1920s that one such creature served as the stimulus for the naming of this feature!

Around that time, "Barnoolut" was owned by a gentleman named Mr. Botrill (who was also possibly a State politician). A station-hand working on the property, Mr. Frank Grey, later recounted the story of the day when a large bullock fell into the (then unfenced) sinkhole and ended up on a rock ledge close to the water, which at the time was perhaps several metres higher than today. The bullock had plenty to drink but Mr. Grey had to lower hay by rope for a couple of days while they built a wooden tripod and block-and-tackle arrangement nearby and, after several attempts, the animal was safely raised with the aid of two horses.

Caves are notorious for "collecting" animals, and some 50 years later, around 1971 or '72, an almost identical scenario occurred while Mr. Reg Watson was managing the property.

In this case, the unfortunate creature was a

Continued on page overleaf



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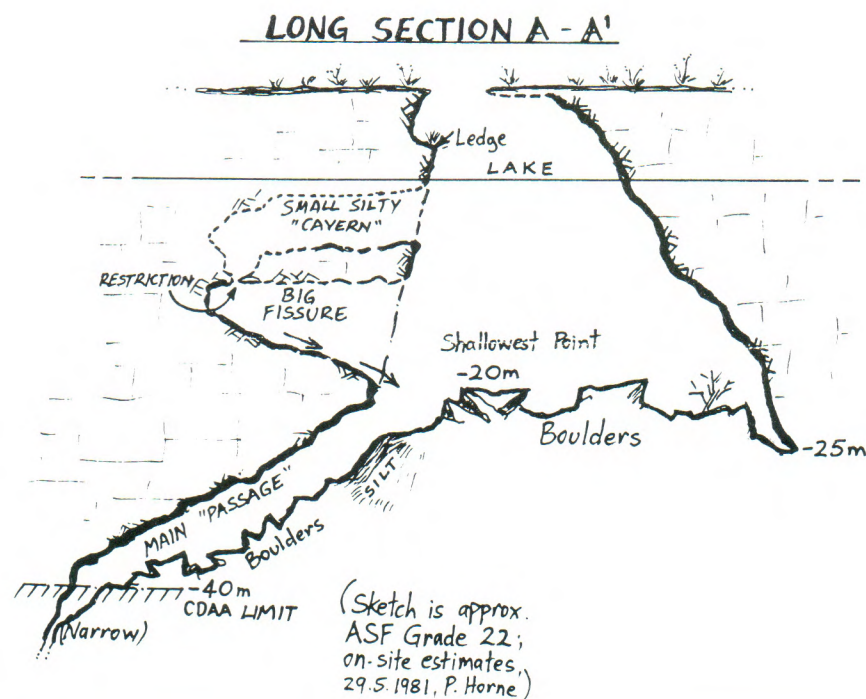
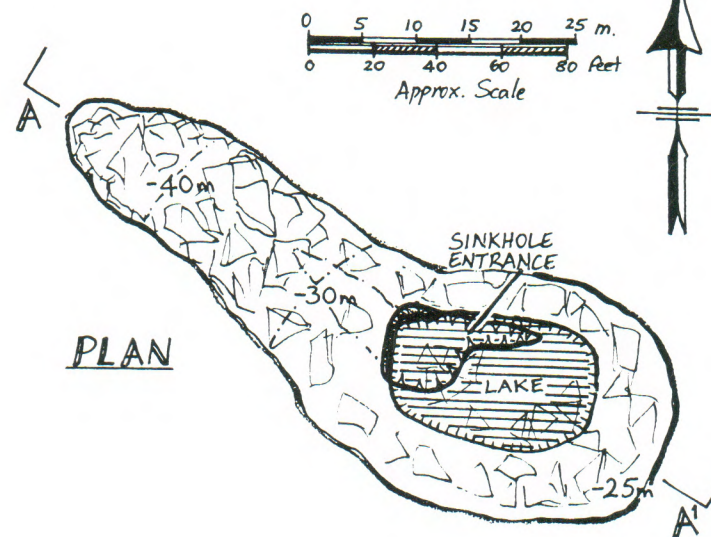
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"The Bullock Hole"

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Continued from previous page

young Friesian calf which had been hand-reared by another station-hand's wife, Rosemary, and as Reg explains, a seemingly time-consuming rescue can sometimes have a humorous aspect ...

"Some 3-4 months after weaning, Rosemary asked me how her calf was doing out with the other cattle. Rosemary's husband, Kevin, and I decided we had better check - but alas, the calf was nowhere to be found! As a last resort we checked the "Bullock Hole" (which by that time had been fenced to some degree) ... you guessed it - he was found standing on a ledge just above water level, about 9 metres down!

"After making an urgent telephone call to one of the prominent cave divers of the day, Mr. Eddie Gertners, a rope ladder was procured and the rescue was under way. Kevin was detailed to descend the ladder ... after all, it was his wife's calf!

"Kevin carefully crawled around the ledges to finally reach the calf, but the ungrateful beast suddenly jumped into the water and swam across to the other side of the lake, settling on an isolated rock where it refused all attempts to be shifted. This caused us to consider two possible courses of action, the first of which required Kevin to get wet. While he loved his wife and she loved her calf, Kevin didn't think his love extended to the point of jumping in and swimming across the lake, so contingency plan number two was brought into action.

"Two faithful sheep-dogs were "volunteered" for the job, and a few anxious moments and a couple of large splashes later, a "get away back!" command was yelled and the two animals obediently swam to where the calf was standing. This produced the desired effect of forcing it to leave the rock and swim back to the waiting Kevin, who eventually tied it to a rope.

"After much effort, I managed to pull it right up to the edge of the overhang, but I had to hold on until Kevin scaled the rope ladder before we could pull it up onto the surface proper.

"Now the dogs ... they were sitting on the rock where the calf had been standing just a few minutes before, but they refused to budge!

By this time it was almost dark, and since we knew that our wives would be getting very anxious we decided to leave the obstinate canines in the hole until the next morning. When we returned at first light, we learnt that their overnight stay had resulted in a significant change of attitude ... we found them still sitting anxiously on the rock, and they immediately jumped into the water and excitedly swam across to where we were able to haul them to the surface!

"Happy ending ... the calf and the dogs survived!"

(FOOTNOTE: Reg took over from a Mr. Simpson as the Manager of Barnoolut on 19th August 1966 and lived on the property for some 23 years, retiring on 30th October 1989. He was an avid supporter of the CDAA and his many years of constructive involvement in our field of interest is very much appreciated by many long-term members.)

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STANDARDS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the 3 months since I have taken over as Standards Director there has been much activity, mainly on the introduction of the new courses. Many of the achievements of the Standards Directorate could not have occurred without much of the hard work of the previous Standards Director, Ian Lewis. Ian was mainly responsible for the development of the new CDAA courses. On behalf of all members and examiners, I would like to thank him for all his hard work. Well done Lewy! Cave diving in Australia would not be the same without you.

I would also like to thank Tony Richardson, the Training Manager, for all his assistance over the last 3 months. His advice has been invaluable to me.

The following activities have occurred in the Standards Directorate:

1. Draft 1 of new CDAA course outlines and instructor guidelines have been prepared.
2. A meeting of the Sinkhole Liaison Committee occurred on 11th August 1990 where the new course structure was outlined. The SA Police Underwater Recovery Section has accepted draft 1 of the courses.
3. Negotiations with landowners and the various government bodies have begun on the use of various dive sites for training.
4. Theory examinations and detailed course outlines are being prepared for cavern, sinkhole, cave and penetration diver. Other training material and administration forms are being prepared.
5. John McCormick has been appointed Instructor Training Manager. John will co-ordinate the training of members applying for instructor status. Glen Harrison has been appointed SA Regional Training co-ordinator. Glen will perform a similar role to John for SA and WA. John Dalla-Zuanna has been appointed Course Developer. He will advise on all CDAA training programs course outlines and develop an instructor training program.
6. Eleven applications have been received for instructor status in response to the

call for expressions of interest in Guidelines. These are being considered.

7. Glen Harrison has conducted a category 3 test in Queensland for three candidates. Two of the candidates were evaluated for instructor status. Their applications are being considered.
8. A number of cross-over seminars have occurred in NSW (Coffs Harbour), ACT, SA and Victoria. Additional ones are planned. There will be a small cost involved for future cross-over programs. The Penetration Diver Education Program, previously known as the phase 2 of the category 4 cross-over, will continue to train divers in the latest developments of penetration diving. More programs are planned for the future.
9. The previous Standards director conducted a trip to the Nullabor for Category 1 and 3 tests and cross-over programs. See the July 1990 guidelines for details.

Continued overleaf

After diving Mt. Gambier

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Continued from previous page

10. I am pleased to announce that all new CDAA training programs are now operational and available to all divers.

Divers interested in cavern and sinkhole diver courses should contact their local CDAA examiner for details. Divers interested in cave and penetration courses should contact Tony Richardson in Victoria, NSW, Tasmania, NT and Queensland. Divers in SA and WA should contact Glen Harrison.

Examiners interested in conducting any of these courses should contact myself, John McCormick, Tony Richardson or Glen Harrison for further details.

Instructors interested in applying for CDAA instructor status should contact John McCormick (Victoria, NSW, NT, Tasmania and Queensland) or Glen Harrison (WA and SA) for details.

As of 1st January 1991 no further category 1 and 2 courses will be conducted. If you have already advertised a category 1/2 course you must register the course in writing with John McCormick or Glen Harrison.

Members should note, there is different equipment requirements between the old

category system and new system. The additional equipment required is:

Cavern diver (old Cat. 1)

– a primary and back-up light

Sinkhole diver (old Cat. 2)

– recommended, twin independent air systems

Cave diver (old Cat. 3)

– 1 primary and 2 back-up torches

– twin independent air systems mandatory

– compass

– slate and pencil

Penetration diver (old Cat. 4)

– twin independent air supply, each tank of equal capacity

– helmet with at least one light attached

– one reel per diver

Candidates for the new courses must meet the new equipment requirements. Full details of all equipment requirements will appear in the next issue of Guidelines.

There is still a great deal of work to do on the new courses but at least we have started the new systems.

Thanks to all examiners and members for their continuing support.

Alan Jolliffe, Standards Director

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY IN CAVES

by Peter Rogers

Many words come to mind when someone asks me to write about underwater cave photography. Specialised, demanding, frustrating, expensive, tedious, malfunctioning equipment, and occasionally satisfying. In this article I will try to outline some of the basic principles behind achieving usable results from taking a camera on a cave dive.

Before even thinking of acquiring a camera or stepping in the water, it is fundamental to the whole concept of photography that you establish why you want to take photographs. There can be many answers to this question, including for your own personal interest, for scientific record or for mapping purposes. Usually however, the most common reason is to show other people. The rest of this article will concentrate on producing photographs that will convey an image or story to others, allowing them to share your cave diving experiences.

Having established that you want to use photography as a medium for communicating with people, you now need to understand how to make that communication work. First and foremost, you are bound to fail unless you have a message to communicate. Without putting too fine a point on it, we have all been guilty at some time of blundering through a dive preoccupied with our gear or other distractions, totally unaware of our surroundings. A good photographer is perceptive, has good powers of observation, and is aware not just of things as they happen, but learns to predict likely events before they occur. These abilities can be improved with practice by anybody, regardless of that persons pre-existing natural abilities. (Don't be fooled by stories of "naturals" – every good photographer I have ever met worked bloody hard to be a "natural".)

The next stage in the communication process involves the technical aspects of capturing the desired images on film. Unfortunately there is some bad news at this point. While we have all heard stories about prize winning photos taken with an instamatic, it is the general rule that the better the photograph, the more expensive the equipment used to take it. Don't be put off by

this – very acceptable results can be obtained with fairly basic equipment, and it is usually easier and cheaper to start with a simple set-up and evolve towards a set of camera equipment that suits your own needs.

There are a number of prerequisites before consistently good results can be obtained with cave diving photography. The first of these is that the cave diving itself must be virtually automatic. Underwater photography produces a high level of task loading, making it important that other activities such as buoyancy control, lights, gear management, dive planning and negotiating the cave are all safely and effectively handled with a minimum of attention. Next, the diver must know his photographic equipment well enough to be able to work it in the dark, literally! I like to be able to adjust all controls on my cameras, lenses and strobes without having to look at them, and be confident they are on the setting I want. Selecting equipment with positive "clicks" or stops between each setting makes this practice much easier. This allows me to work with a minimum of my own lights on, which reduces flare and backscatter in the photographs. It also means that I can change settings rapidly if a good photo opportunity suddenly presents itself.

Really stunning underwater cave photographs usually require a lot of planning and setting up. None-the-less, they are inevitably worth the effort, if for none other reason than personal satisfaction.

Continued next issue ...

Coming next issue ...

- **Cave Diving & Scooters**
- **DCIEM Sport Diving Decompression Tables**
- **Part 2 – Underwater Photography in Caves**



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LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Directorate can bestow honour on any member for their services to the Association. By far the highest form of honour that a person can receive from the Association is that of Life Membership. Only two people have previously received this award in the Association's history. The award is not given lightly. A person putting in a 100% effort for the Association over a number of years would not be doing enough to receive the award.

Lance Mitchell has been leading the organisation for the past 5 years. During this time, he has taken the Association from a club, trying to keep its dive sites in the South East open, to an organisation which is becoming a truly national association. We are now able to legally protect land owners and consequently able, not just to keep sites open, but to gain access to sites which we believed would never be opened for general access in our life time.

The results do not come about easily. The management and negotiation skills need to be good but more importantly, the foresight required needs to be clear and positive.

One could write pages to justify the honour bestowed, but those members who have followed the success of the Association over the past 5 years, would not disagree that this success is a direct result of Lance's leadership.

AND ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

Since the last Guidelines, our South East Representative position has changed hands (see page 13).

Maurice Parry is in the throes of relocating his home and work life outside the region.

"Committed" is a good one-word definition of Maurice. His diver-contact was not as prolific as his predecessors, but his push for landowner liaison and access to sites was of enormous assistance to the Directorate, especially in securing access to a number of previously closed sites. A straight shooter, who in any event could be trusted with the credibility, security and prosperity of the C.D.A.A.

There are many success stories the membership will attribute to the Directorate, which, in fact, Maurice was a major player. Most of you will never come to realise where and when – that's the way he preferred it.

When you come across him, extend your thanks and a hand shake – that's all he has ever asked for.

All the best Maurice. On behalf of the members, Lance R. Mitchell, National Director 1989/90.

G

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NEW SOUTH-EAST REPRESENTATIVE

An open letter to all C.D.A.A. members, landowners, leasees and other interested persons.

Andy Kirk,
15 Hirth St.,
Mt. Gambier,
5290.
(087) 23 0349



My name is Andy Kirk. In July 1990, I was appointed to the position of South East Representative of the Cave Divers Association of Australia, replacing Maurice Parry. This letter is to serve as an introduction, and give a brief history of myself.

I am a police officer stationed at Mt. Gambier, and my wife Deb and I have a 15 month old boy, Daniel. (Deb is also a police officer.)

I completed a Cat. 1 & 2 course in 1985 while stationed at Whyalla, and have dived mostly in South Australian coastal waters, South East caves, and the Nullabor.

I completed a F.A.U.I. master diver qualification in 1986, and attended a F.A.U.I. One Star instructors course in 1986.

Earlier this year I successfully completed my Cat. 3, experiencing some of the new "cave diver" training and examination techniques.

My principal role as the S.E. Representative will be landowner liaison, but will be representing the association in any matter of interest to the association or its members in the south east.

I take this opportunity to thank Maurice Parry for his efforts in the past, and wish him well in his impending transfer to Port Augusta.

I look forward to representing the C.D.A.A. in the coming years, and trust I will be of assistance when required.

Yours faithfully,
ANDY KIRK

BOOK REVIEW

by Greg Bulling

CAVE DIVING (The Cave Diving Group Manual)

The Cave Diving Group (C.D.G.) of England is arguably the pioneering body of cave diving in the world. From rather humble beginnings in 1934, using a home made bicycle respirator in Swildons Hole, it has progressed to be the authority on cave diving in the United Kingdom.

Their latest manual, "Cave Diving" is 268 pages packed full of useful and interesting information. After a brief section outlining the history of British cave diving, the book covers a variety of topics in good detail. There are chapters on Equipment, Techniques, Safety, Rescue, Deep Diving, Mixed Gas Diving, Research and Training. There is also a chapter devoted to more advanced techniques, which include D.P.V. use, photography, surveying, expedition diving

and even explosives! Throughout the book there are clear diagrams along with numerous good quality photographs, both in colour and black and white.

Although the text is biased towards British conditions and techniques (eg. side mounted cylinders), it does offer up-to-date information on world wide diving trends and equipment. From the Australian point of view, there is some interesting information on cave rescue, especially beyond sump rescue, which has relevance to some of our caves (eg. Western Englebrechts, Nullabor).

In all, it is probably the most comprehensive work produced so far on cave diving. I'm sure all keen cave divers would enjoy reading it, however, it's not cheap at £18 (approximately A\$42) plus overseas postage.

Ed Note: "Cave Diving" should be available soon through the CDAA. Watch next issue for more details.

CDAА CAVE ACCESS

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

CAVE	CAT	OWNER	PERMISSION
Ewens Ponds	Nil	Dept. of Lands PMB 124, Mt. Gambier (087) 35 1111	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. of Lands. Smaller groups, no need. Ponds are closed 1 September – 30 November each year.
Horse & Cart Tea Tree	1 1	Mr. Don Telford PO Box 2629, Mt Gambier (087) 38 4003	By phone or mail, 1 week prior.
Little Blue (Baby Blue)	1	Port MacDonnell	Little Blue – permission not required – must carry card.
Allendale	3	Port MacDonnell	Obtain key from Mt. Gambier Tourist Information Centre.
Gouldens 2 Sisters Fossil	1 1 3	Dept. of Lands PMB 124 Mt Gambier (087) 35 1111	Contact Dept. of Lands by phone/mail prior to diving. Stay out of Gouldens when pump is operating.
Ela Elap One Tree	2 2	Mr. Peter Norman Private Bag 67, Mt Gambier (087) 38 5287	By phone or drop in before diving. Accommodation also available.
Swim Through	2	Valerie Earl C/- PO Allendale 5291	From lessee, Mr David Easton, 8 Tarandi Road, Mt Gambier (087) 25 0938. Phone/Mail one week prior.

CAVE	CAT	OWNER	PERMISSION
Piccaninnie Ponds	2	NPWS 11 Helen Street, Mt Gambier (087) 35 1171	Permit holders by phone. Be aware of delicate vegetation.
Hells Hole Pines Mud Hole	2 3 3	Woods & Forests PO Box 162 Mt Gambier (087) 24 2711 Forests Clerk Barry Phelan	Contact Woods & Forests by mail or phone and arrange permit. No diving on total fire ban days.
Black Hole Ten Eighty Bullock Hole	2 2 3	Mr. Colin Traeger, Manager, Barnoolut Station PO Box 12, Mt Gambier 5290 (087) 26 6215	Contact CDAА Records Officer for diving deed THEN mail Booking Form to Colin Traeger 2 weeks prior, stating names/qual. of all divers, and time slot – 9am or 1pm (weekends), or 8am (weekdays). Closed 8th October to 1st November for shearing.
Max's Hole	3	Mr. Trevor Edwards PO Box 1319 Mt Gambier (087) 26 8277	Phone or mail 1 week prior to dive.
Shaft	3	Mr & Mrs Ashby	ONLY by contacting designated "guides" who will arrange access. Refer "Guidelines" Issues 36 – July 1990.
Engelbrechts – East – West	Mt Gambier 3 4	Council	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre.
Three Sisters	4	Millicent Council	Currently closed until new access arrangements completed.

TRADING POST

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Tony Richardson (03) 754 6163 CDAA 641

CDAA BOOKSHELF

Two titles currently available:

"South Australian Diving Fatalities 1950 - 1985"

by Peter Horne

Despite the ominous title, this book is a great addition as a manual of what NOT to do in both sea and cave diving.

\$15

(inc. return postage)

"S.R.T. - Single Rope Techniques"

The definitive work on all aspects of vertical travel in caves. Published by Sydney Speleological Society, this book should give all the answers regarding rope work for cavers, climbers, and of course, cave divers.

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