



C.D.A.A. Newsletter

GUIDELINES

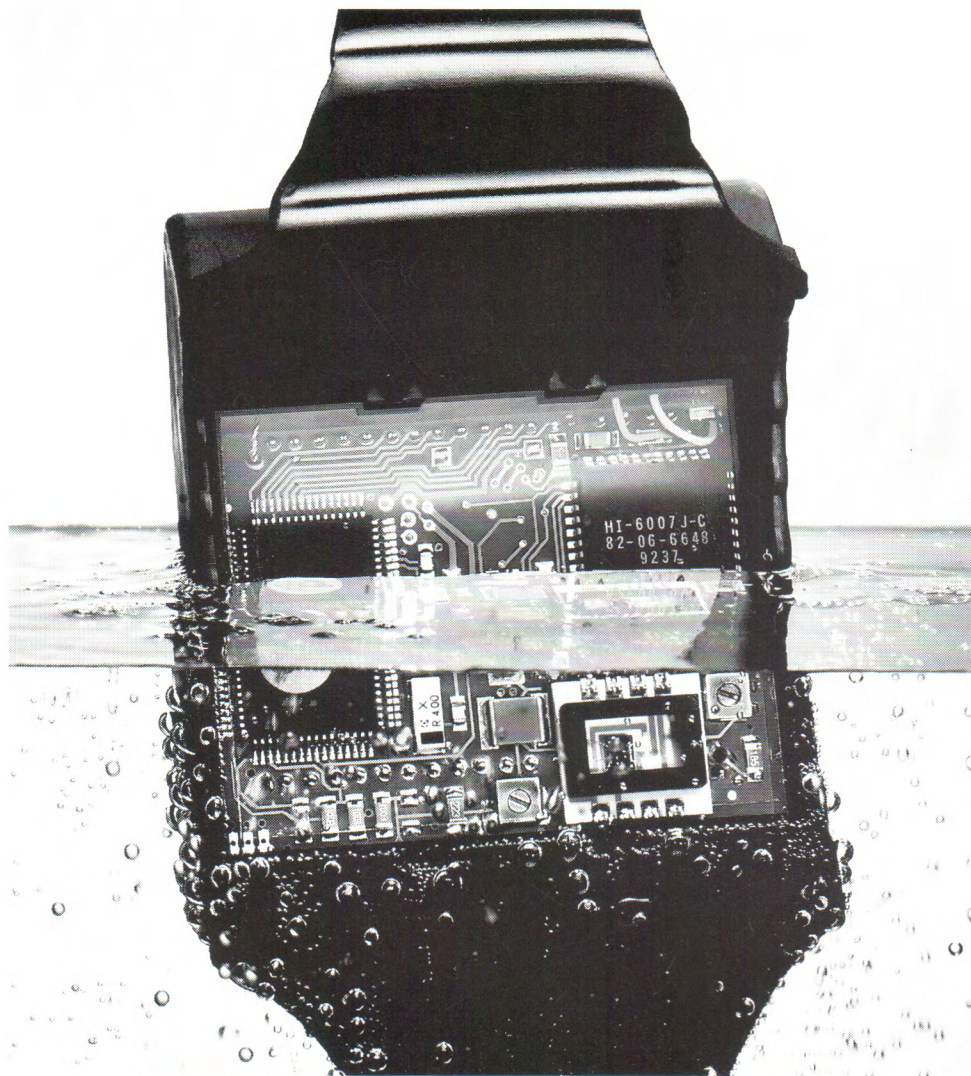
No: 52 - JULY 1994



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Guidelines is the newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia, published four times a year - March, June, September and December. All articles for the following issue are to be sent to the Editor, Peter Girdler, P.O. Box 290, Golden Grove, SA 5125, prior to **10th August, 1994**. Articles and information may be reproduced without prior permission provided reprints are credited to the authors and Guidelines. Private ads for caving and diving equipment may be advertised free. Opinions expressed in Guidelines are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the C.D.A.A.

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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 P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, 5006 and your enquiry will be passed on.

National Director (temporary)

Lisa Bernasconi (055) 61 2805 (h)

National Standards Director

Chris Brown (08) 269 5793 (w&h)

Business Director

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Peter Horne (08) 295 6031 (w&h)

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Peter Girdler (08) 380 5205 (h)

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EDITORIAL

It is with sadness that I dedicate this issue of Guidelines to the remembrance of two well known and respected cave divers.

Paul Cavanagh and Sheck Exley were renown for their dedication to the sport and gave of their time to develop knowledge and contribute to the safety and expertise of those who participated. My sympathy to the families for their tragic loss, Paul and Sheck will be remembered and respected for their contribution to the sport and as friends to many.

A sad loss to all.

I wish to thank those who provided testimonials for Paul and Sheck.

Safe diving,

Pete.

TRY THE PAGER ...
To contact Peter Girdler
via his pager - **(03) 625 5000**
OR (08) 273 5000
and quote pager no: 56857

LETTER FROM ABROAD

24/4/94

To Cave Diving Association of Australia and members,

Many thanks to you for the beautiful floral arrangement which you sent to Sheck's memorial service. Your thoughtfulness and concern touched us deeply.

Your hosting Sheck on his visit to your wonderful country 2 years ago was one of the major highlights of his life.

I have never had the pleasure of visiting Australia but during World War II in Italy I was around the "Aussies" frequently and admired them very much. They were courteous, friendly & brave. A credit to you all.

Thanks again.

Irby S. Exley, Snr.
Sheck's father

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Lance Mitchell

As Directorate elections are just around the corner, I am taking this opportunity to let the membership know that my work situation has not changed and the inevitable conclusion about my ability to return as National Director is all too obvious.

I will not be able to stand for re-election next financial year nor for a few years to come.

I would like to thank Karen Kennedy for stepping into the Business Directorate and pass on that in the short time she has been acting as the Business Director I have received some great feedback from a number of members.

In particular my deepest thanks go out to Lisa and Chris who have not only managed the organisation but done so in a way that has kept me shielded from the main stream of calls, meetings, etc. allowing me to concentrate on my work and manage the stress associated with my current commitments.

It has been good to see the organisation operate under the influence of a female National Director, something that a majority-male association would have found difficult to accept.

Should Lisa nominate for National Director we could very well see the first position of this type, in the Association's history, being filled by a woman - something many organisations are now discovering can be a positive move.

It also goes without saying that managing the National Directorate is a team effort, backed by the tireless efforts of all the sub-directorates and the core of active members. In closing I would like to thank all of them for their understanding of my position over the last six months and remind everyone that without theirs and ongoing membership support a volunteer association like ours could easily stall.

Here's to another 20 years and our 40th Anniversary celebration.

STANDARDS' DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Christopher Brown

The past few months have been a sad time for many members of the Association with the death of Paul Cavanagh, CDAA member number 2566. For those who did not have the fortune of meeting Paul, he was the main driving force behind cave diving in New South Wales and was the most active cave diving instructor in that region. Paul held Penetration Level and was a Cavern, Sinkhole and Cave Instructor and was not far short of holding the pre-requisites for becoming an Assistant Penetration Level Instructor.

As an Instructor, Paul was a perfectionist and a very hard task-master. I worked on many courses with him and learnt a lot from watching his teaching techniques and his people skills. His enthusiasm for diving was infectious and he had the ability to motivate people, even when they had been in the cold waters of Goulden's Hole for hours and were verging on hypothermia. Any student that had qualified on a course run by Paul knew that they had earned their qualification.

Paul will be missed by the many friends he made in the diving community and my deepest sympathy goes to his family.

On other matters, in the past few weeks there has been an instance of members breaching Landowner requirements when diving in The Shaft. Divers are not to exceed 40 metres depth on supervised dives for CDAA members.

This incident is being investigated. Members must remember that it is a privilege NOT a right to dive in these locations. If landowner requirements are not adhered to, then we may lose access to these sites.

On a final note I have decided to re-nominate for the Standards' Director's position and if re-elected I will continue for another year.

BUSINESS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Lisa Bernasconi

With this being the last Guidelines before the A.G.M. it may be the last time the Directorate, of the last two years, will be corresponding with the membership.

In my position as Business Director and six months as acting National Director, I have always endeavoured to keep the membership up-to-date with what has been happening. For a short period, I was kept busy with the duties of both positions and I must admit things became very hectic. I'd like to thank everyone who offered to help and also the people who put their hands up for the Business Director's position. The job was finally taken up by Karen Kennedy, a member from Mount Gambier. It's a credit to Karen that she came in, was handed somewhat of a mess, and tackled and sorted things out quickly and efficiently. I think she'll be terrific in the job. Whatever does happen with the positions in the Directorate the new Directors will be seeing the conclusion to the 3 year plan, so new improvement projects will need to be taken on.

I believe that the plan started by Lance, Chris and I, has progressed well and Guidelines Issue No. 50 has outlines from Lance and I exactly what was achieved in the Business and National Directorate areas. I'm sure if she re-nominates, Karen will continue to pursue the matters that still need to be finalised, as well as institute a lot of the good ideas she has. On a personal note, I've decided that two years on the Directorate has just been enough to get me really interested and involved with both the people and job and what's left unfinished. I'm not ready to leave yet, so I will be re-nominating, as National Director, and through the members' support will hopefully get to stay. I've managed to get a report into every issue of Guidelines since I started on the Directorate, and feel that I have kept the membership informed about all the areas that are directly under my concern. In saying this I believe that the continuous effort I have put into keeping members informed stands to support the fact that I am here to

work for the members and also to try to uphold their best interests by telling them what I am doing. So this report is not a last effort before the A.G.M. to try and pull everything together and tell the membership that, yes, I am still around.

Some information has come to hand, from the membership, that a member dived Kilsby's using a single cylinder. For those members who have heard the rumour, the matter is being investigated.

Thanks to a great amount of time and effort on the part of Peter Horne and Grant Pearce, Nettle-Bed is now open to Penetration Divers. It is a delicate site so we ask that divers take care at the entrance to the site and also with the delicate wall markings. It is restricted access (please refer to Site Access at the back of this issue), so any damage to the site by divers may result in the access becoming more restricted.

Once again I'd like to thank Peter and Grant as their time negotiating with government bodies and various archaeologists is all that has allowed the site to be opened.


A final point. Apologies to anyone trying to contact me. For reasons only they know, Telecom changed my phone number. The new number is listed at the front in the Directory.

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VALE PAUL

by Pat Bowring

On Sunday, 20th March, 1994, on the hulk of a bucket dredge off Narrabeen on Sydney's northern beaches, one of Australia's most experienced divers lost his life. Paul Cavanagh, 47, died whilst undertaking a dive on the wreck of the Coolool.

Wearing twin scuba cylinders containing air and Nitrox (the latter being for enhanced decompression, a common practice among Sydney wreck divers), Paul and his two dive buddies were just about to begin their ascent some 18 minutes into the dive when Paul suddenly suffered convulsions and subsequently drowned. The accident occurred close to the anchor line and Paul's body was taken to the surface as soon as possible, where the boat operator, an experienced professional fireman, immediately began CPR. A team from the Westpac helicopter service arrived and rendered additional assistance, but despite their efforts, Paul failed to respond and was declared dead.

The Coolool was not his favourite site, but it was one which Paul seemed to find himself visiting on countless occasions. It is believed that the fatal dive was Paul's third on the wreck in as many weeks; the previous week he had visited the Coolool with Ed Betts, during a break in a tight ANDI training schedule (up to instructor training), and despite suggestions from some quarters, Paul was not on a training dive, either as a teacher of a student, on that fatal occasion.

Paul was an instructor with PADI, SSI and the Cave Divers Association of Australia, and in order to improve the skills of the large number of deep-wreck divers in

that city, he introduced many Sydney-based divers to cave training during the past few years. His students would initially enrol in the basic Cavern course to improve their use of, and respect for, guidelines and the other essential techniques which are needed for the limited (but nevertheless potentially dangerous) penetration dives which are offered on some of the wrecks off Narrabeen. But Paul's enthusiasm for the wonders that lay beneath the surface of the land around Mount Gambier, South Australia, was infectious, and a large number of his students went on to gain their Sinkhole and Cave certifications from the Association.

Along the way, Paul's efforts enabled these divers to become more proficient at a whole range of abilities including gas management calculations, lost-line techniques, working with a total absence of visibility and sharing air supplies.

He was qualified to the CDAA's Penetration level and had dived many of the more challenging caves in Australia, including Tank Cave, Iddlebidy Cave, The Three Sisters and Wellington in New

South Wales. Paul had also dived in caves on the Nullarbor and in Florida, and had explored wrecks in Truk, New Guinea and the Solomons.

Vale, Paul - your magnetic personality and dynamic efforts will be greatly missed.



Paul Cavanagh

"Paul's enthusiasm for the wonders that lay beneath the surface of the land around Mt. Gambier, South Australia, was infectious, and a large number of his students went on to gain their Sinkhole and Cave certifications from the Association."

GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

by Dennis Spring, CDAA 2467

I felt guilty I had not attended Paul's funeral on Thursday. I didn't find out until Friday it was Paul Cavanagh who died whilst diving off the Sydney coast. I could not come to terms with the news. Constantly an overwhelming feeling came over me - a vision of Paul would appear in my mind.

The delight on his face when he saw, for the first time, Piccaninnie Ponds into the Chasm. His constant vigil over us new would-be cave divers, always ready with advice and encouragement when he knew we were stressed and had almost had enough. When there was a trip on or night out being

planned he would call and say "hi buddy" - you felt special just to know him.

Professionalism was Paul's trade mark. I felt safe as a diver in his company. My own vulnerability keeps coming to mind when a life such as Paul's is taken. It's hard to put reality before fantasy - I keep saying "if only". It took many years to grieve my father's death - I thought I would only have such emotions for a close relation, but no - Paul's death seems to move the same feelings, the same anger at his passing and I was not able to say goodbye. Perhaps the memory will fade but his spirit will always be with us.

G

CDAA NEWS

NETTLE-BED NOW OPEN

Nettle-Bed is now open for penetration divers. Please refer to the Site Access details at the back of Guidelines for details.

KILBY'S ACCESS DETAILS

As of now, the present system will change. Preference will still be given to those members who have not dived the site before.

Members wishing to dive please phone Pete Girdler to book. Bookings will be accepted up to eight (8) weeks in advance followed by confirmation in writing, the standard booking form can be used, no later than six (6) weeks in advance. All paperwork must be returned no later than four (4) weeks in advance so that access conditions are met.

At this stage July may have a few vacancies, but this system will start with the September access. See the middle pages of this issue of Guidelines for access dates. Preference will change as soon as it is obvious that the "first time" numbers are reducing. Any further details or questions, contact Pete Girdler, using any of the phone numbers published in Guidelines, or his mobile 018 817 001.

NOTE FROM RECORDS OFFICER

Please **do not** send your old card with your Renewal Forms - it is creating all sorts of problems. Your photo is all that is needed.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO IDDLBIDY (5 L250)

Now a maximum of 8 divers per weekend, instead of 4. Check details on page 23.

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Please note that due to Telecom changes, the new contact telephone number for Lisa Bernasconi is (055) 61 2805,

LEAFLETS IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue of Guidelines, you will find the Piccaninnie Ponds Permit Renewal Form.

TRADING POST

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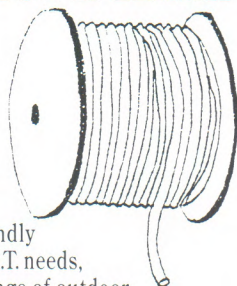
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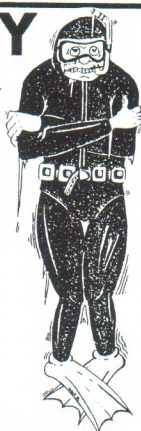
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SIDEMOUNTS MAKE SENSE – PART 2

The low pressure inflator hose presents a separate problem. The attachment nipple on most low pressure inflators is designed to have the hose normally coming down over the shoulder. With it coming up from the side-mounted cylinders it is difficult to have it attached without placing a tight bend in the hose. The most suitable type of inflator for side-mounts has a nipple which rotates enabling the hose to connect directly. An easy way to prevent this hose dangling is another split ring (they are very handy!).

The placement of the contents gauges is quite simple. The hose is run lengthways down to cylinder in a loop, placing the gauge level with the valve. The hose is run under a loop of car inner tube which is slid down along the cylinder. Attached to the gauge is a short bungy cord with a clip (tether style). This clip then attaches to the top of the cylinder, where a brass ring can be placed under the valve (a small loop of cord could also be used). When the gauge needs to be read it is pulled out from its position by the valve, with the elasticity of the bungy returning it, once it is released.

The most common way of attaching a primary light housing when using side-mounts is to place it behind the diver, at the top of the thighs (just below the backside). The two brass rings on the hip brackets are used as clip-on points. The housing (which will normally be either rectangular or cylindrical) is quite comfortable to wear and provides a low profile in this position. To enable it to be clipped on will require the attachment of clips either directly to the housing or via a special strap (eg. Dive-Rite Neutralite).

Other smaller torches can be helmet-mounted or clipped behind the diver on the same brass rings. Jump reels and other pieces of equipment can also be placed in this position. This will keep the front of the diver free of dangling accessories. Another suitable position for small torches is to have them clipped to the neck of the cylinder and

tucked under the same innertube as the contents gauge hose.

So we are now ready to go side-mount diving. Firstly the cylinders are rigged up with regulators, weights, etc. before the exposure suit is donned, followed by the vest. Depending on the dive site the cylinders can then be clipped on, before walking in the water. At many sites however, it is much easier to take the cylinders to the water's edge individually, before donning them in the water. This can be a great advantage where cylinders must be lowered or carried long distances.

There are many other subtle advantages to using side-mounts. When walking out of the water, for example, they keep the diver's centre of gravity much lower, making them more stable, especially when bending down. The availability of the cylinder valves while diving is another advantage. By having direct access to the valves they can be shut down quickly in an emergency. It also removes the real danger of line entanglement on back-mounted cylinder valves which are out of sight and not easily accessed. The ease at which side-mounts can be donned (with practice) is also a great advantage. For those who now struggle to get back-mounted twins on (especially with drysuits) side-mounts offer a viable alternative.

With every new system there are always drawbacks and side-mounts are not exception. Firstly it is important to realise that whatever system of cylinder configuration is used it must be reliable. Simply attaching cylinders in any old fashion and hoping for the best, is not the way to go. The task loading involved in handling poorly set-up side-mounts, especially in confined and silty areas, far outweighs any advantage the system may offer.

First and foremost must therefore be the **commitment to spending time refining the system and practicing with it in a controlled environment.** Don't be happy with the system

Continued on Page 18

OBITUARY

SHECK EXLEY

by Peter Horne

Cavers and cave divers around the world will be saddened to learn of the tragic death of veteran American underwater cave explorer, Irby Sheck Exley, during an exceptionally deep "mixed-gas" cave dive in Mexico on Wednesday, 6th April 1994. Details were still sketchy as this advice went to press; all that was known with reasonable certainty was that Sheck's body was found at considerable depth (perhaps around the 100-150 metre mark) several days after he failed to surface during an attempted very deep dive to around the 300 metre mark. Rumour has it that he exceeded a depth of 900 feet (270 metres) but apparently experienced problems with his gas supply during his long ascent.

Those of you who never had the privilege of knowing Sheck missed out on meeting one of the most experienced, safety-conscious and responsible cave diving pioneers the world has ever known. Sheck became interested in cave diving during the mid-1960s and after serving as the founding Chairman of the CDAA's "sister" body, the NSS-CDS in 1973, he achieved many spectacular "firsts" for which he became very well known. However, he was far more than just another talented record-breaker ... he was also an extremely modest, kind and likable Floridian who never failed to make friends wherever he went.

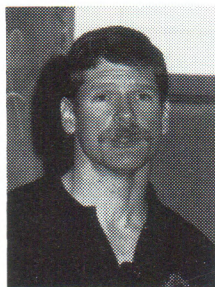
In 1992, thanks mainly to the efforts of Melbourne-based cave diver, Tony Davis, we in Australia were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to play host to Sheck while he experienced his life-long ambition to dive

in Mount Gambier's famous waterfilled caves during his well-received (and often very humorous) lecture tour around the country. Despite his obsession with hi-tech cave diving and his "living legend" status as perceived by his peers in the cave diving community, Sheck always had a polite word or funny story to tell anyone who said "g'day" to him, and he provided a great deal of technical and safety advice.

As a true cave diving pioneer, Sheck lived for the satisfaction of introducing newer and safer cave diving practices and equipment, and his adventurous spirit led him to push underwater speleology's knowledge, equipment and human physiology to the limit. Cave divers who knew Sheck personally had a good understanding of how close to "the edge" he was prepared to push himself, and we were always fearful that perhaps one day, Sheck might pay the ultimate price for courting the poorly-understood dangers which this brave man faced so many times in his life.

To Sheck's family and close friends, the Australian cave diving and caving community extends our sincere condolences and best wishes during this extremely difficult time; we hope that Sheck's astounding achievements and foundation teachings will be remembered forever.

On behalf of the Directorate and Members.



"However, he was far more than just another talented record-breaker ... he was also an extremely modest, kind and likable Floridian who never failed to make friends wherever he went."

SHECK EXLEY – 1949-1994

by Tony Davis

I was greatly saddened recently when I learned of the tragic and seemingly unbelievable death of Sheck Exley.

Sheck was attempting to better his own world open-circuit depth record and attain the staggering depth of - 1000 feet, when due to unknown circumstances he failed to surface.

I first met Sheck when organising his 1992 Australian lecture tour, and what first struck me about this "living legend" of our sport of Cave Diving, was the quiet unassuming nature of the man, and how easy going he was. During his brief stay here, and over the last two years, I was able to get to know Sheck much better, and was constantly amused by his very dry, and very witty humour.

In the relatively short time I knew Sheck, I never heard him say a bad thing about another person, and never heard him talk down to anyone. He was always ready to talk with whoever was interested in listening, but whenever he talked about the sport to which he was devoted, and eventually lost his life to, it was immediately apparent he was talking about something he was deeply passionate about.

I last spoke to Sheck the night before he left for Mexico to attempt the dive that would take his life. During the conversation we spoke about his time here in Australia, a trip that he said would remain very high on his list of best ever, and we also spoke about the up-coming dive.

It was to be Sheck's last very deep dive, one that was meant to be far easier and safer than the previous deep dives at Mante. Once he had reached the magic 1,000 foot depth,

that was it.

After another attempt on the distance record in his own beloved Cathedral Canyon Cave later this year, Sheck was going to drop back a gear, and simply enjoy his teaching and diving for as long as he could. We will most probably never know what went wrong to take the life of such a man as Sheck, but we can take a small amount of comfort in the fact that Sheck died doing the one thing he loved most, and his untimely and unfortunate death was most definitely not in vain.

The man may be gone, but his memory will live with us forever.

*"Through caverns
measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea"*

*(Excerpt from
Coleridges "Kubla
Khan", one of
Sheck Exley's
favourite poems.)*



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KILSYBY'S HOLE ACCESS CONDITIONS

PLEASE NOTE that any failure by CDAA members to adhere to the following conditions will result in SEVERE disciplinary action being taken.

1. Access permission to Kilsby's Hole has been granted to the CDAA for SIX WEEKENDS PER YEAR (excluding February, which is when the S.A. Police Department's Underwater Recovery Unit generally uses the hole for training). The 1994/95 proposed dates are:

1994 JULY 30/31
SEPTEMBER 24/25
NOVEMBER 26/27
1995 JANUARY 28/29
MARCH 25/26
MAY 27/28
JULY 29/30
SEPTEMBER 23/24
NOVEMBER 25/26

(subject to any other requirements by the Police divers or the CDAA). Individual CDAA members are NOT to make their own access approach to either the lessee, the South Australian Police Department or the landowner, Mr. Ross Kilsby; ALL negotiations are to be undertaken by CDAA-appointed representative (this is a requirement of the Police and the landowner, not the Association). At this time, the representative is Pete Girdler, and finalisation of each weekend trip must be made by the representative at least 6 weeks prior to the date concerned so that the individual Indemnity Forms and the Special Site Information Bulletin can be sent out to the divers. The divers must then complete, sign and return the Indemnities immediately so that they (plus an up-to-date CDAA Membership List) can be forwarded to the Police by the representative AT LEAST ONE MONTH prior to the weekend concerned.

2. A maximum depth limit of 40 metres is to be adhered to and the use of twin independent scuba system, in accordance with CDAA Standards, is mandatory.
3. The method of selection of divers will be the responsibility of CDAA Management, and only competent Sinkhole (or higher) Level divers who are proficient

with the use of twin independent scuba systems (e.g., as for "The Shaft") will be eligible to dive.

4. Divers will be requested to pay \$15 per person to help allay some of the costs which the CDAA representative and guides will incur in running the operation.
5. A maximum of TWENTY FOUR (24) Sinkhole Divers will be permitted to enter the property on any scheduled weekend, four diving teams of up to six (6), (plus the two CDAA-approved "Guides" who are to supervised operations).
6. The diving team must act as a single group - EVERYONE must stay together, so this therefore means that lunch and toilet arrangements etc, must suit everyone at the same time (and even then, only with the bare minimum of car movement). Except for emergencies, divers will NOT be permitted to enter and/or exit the property either individually or in small numbers.
7. Divers will need to assemble on Sisters Road just off the main Mount Gambier-Port MacDonnell Highway by 8.45 a.m. (morning team) and by 12.45 p.m. (afternoon team), as appropriate, for a briefing and then all vehicles must travel together via the gate to the south of the sinkhole (i.e., NOT the house track). The CDAA representative/guides must ensure that disturbance to stock is minimal, and that all gates are re-secured. Any change-over of personnel must occur quietly and in accordance with point 6 above.
8. Divers are only permitted to be on the property between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
9. All fish, stock, sheds, gates and all other items located on the property are NOT to be interfered with in any way, and divers are not to move outside of the area of land controlled by the Police Department. Also, divers must take special care not to damage the fragile irrigation pipe which is located on the narrow cut ramp.
10. Access to the water will ONLY be permitted via the ramp; apart from the designated police pontoon, divers are NOT to

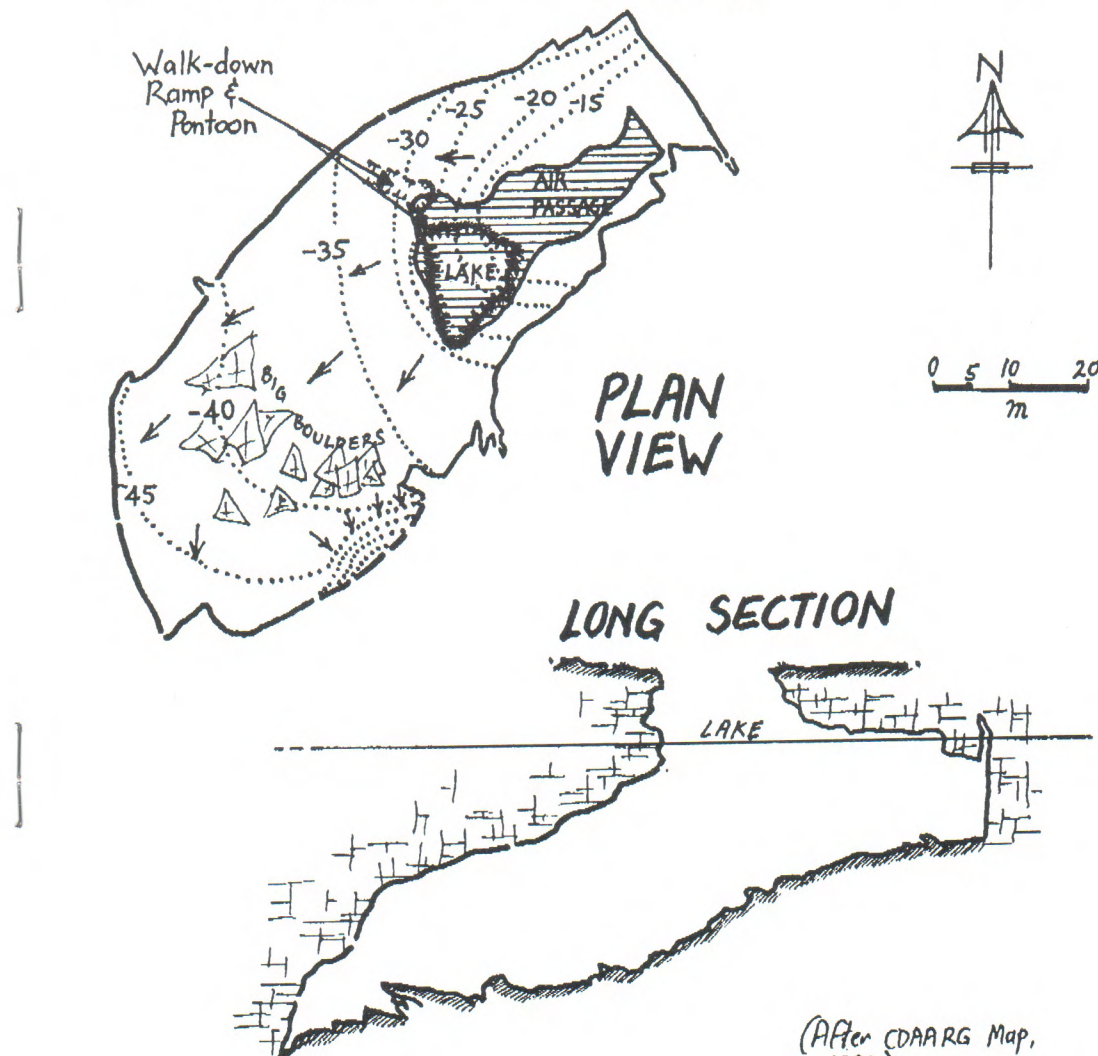
utilise any of the installation which is there at present (including ladders).

11. At least one CDAA representative/guide must remain top-side at all times; also, the dive teams will be broken into two groups, and an in-water CDAA guide will ensure that the 40 metre depth limit for this site is STRICTLY enforced.

Please remember that continued access to this sinkhole will ONLY be possible if

everyone follows the rules; there can be no room for inconsiderate divers who do not care about other members' access to this unique feature.

NOTE: A member's ignorance of these Rules and Conditions will not be accepted as an excuse for non compliance. Access WILL be denied to any member in breach of these Rules and Conditions.



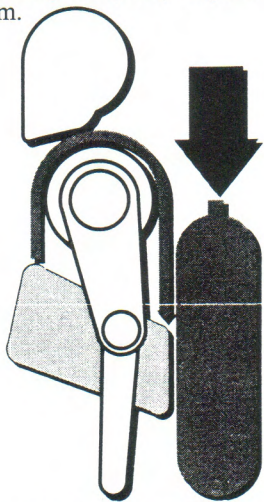
(After CDAAARG Map, 1983).

P. Horne, March 199.

THE "WINGS B.C. SYSTEM" THE ULTIMATE TWIN TANK B.C. SYSTEM??

We all agree that every diver must use a B.C. on every dive, however many of us assume that the now standard Jacket, or ADV style B.C. is the best choice. This may well be the case for single tank dives, however more and more divers are opting for a twin cylinder set up, in order to make the more advanced areas such as deep, wreck and cave diving that much safer.

When using a twin tank rig, it is extremely important to utilise a secure system of mounting the cylinders, and equally important to ensure the whole setup is secure on your back. Standard ADV style B.C.s simply were not meant to carry twin tanks, and are far from the ideal solution. Twin tanks are heavy, and the only way to safely carry a twin rig is with a purpose built twin tank system. You may well be able to modify your current single tank B.C. to accommodate a set of twin cylinders, however the B.C. was not designed to carry the extra weight of twins, and apart from putting an enormous amount of strain on the B.C., you may find the unit is deformed and sags badly out of the water, and in the water, you will find the added weight constantly shifting, making buoyancy adjustments a real problem.

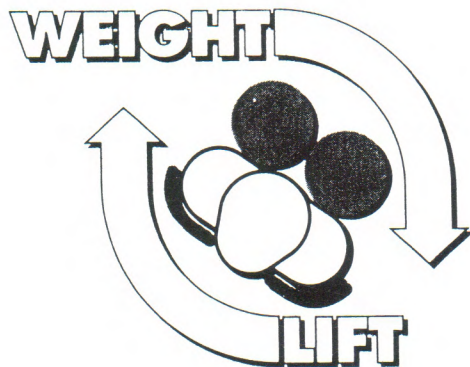


A further problem is that many newer, streamlined jacket B.C.s do not provide

sufficient lift to support twins. A set of twin steel cylinders can be as much as 20-30 lbs negative in the water, and few jacket style B.C.s can supply this much lift and still provide adequate reserve buoyancy.

The solution is simple. Separate the B.C. from the harness, and place the buoyancy where it is needed, around the cylinders. The Wings-style B.C. system is the only true purpose built twin tank system currently available, not simply a modification of single tank principles, and provides a safe secure system of attaching and carrying twin tanks, and providing the lift where it is needed, around the cylinders.

Single tank B.C.s provide much of their lift below the diver, whilst the twins place considerable weight on top. Under these circumstances, when the diver rolls slightly, these opposing forces will try to turn the diver belly up. By placing the B.C. between the cylinders and the diver's back, it allows the B.C. to wrap around the cylinders, providing the lift and support where it is needed most, and the problem is eliminated.

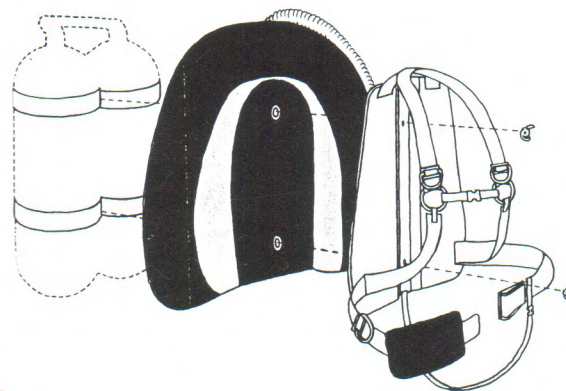


The design of the Wings system incorporates three major components. First, a set of stainless steel tank bands for a safe, secure way of attaching the cylinders, and again, this is not simply a modification of

single tank mounting principles, as are the soft webbing type bands available.

Second, the Wings themselves, which can incorporate features such as a mesh expansion panel, enabling the Wings to inflate to their full capacity, yet be streamlined when not fully inflated, a bladder sock for added puncture protection, a combination over-pressure/auxiliary dump valve, and most importantly, unlike the ADV style B.C.s, the Wings keep up to 60 lbs of lift in line with the weight of the cylinders, for unparalleled stability under water.

Third is the backplate and harness system, which allows the twin unit to fit as close as possible to the diver's back for even weight distribution, with no tendency to shift, move or ride up. The harness also incorporates accessory mounting rings at chest and waist, for clipping those extra torches, reels or stage tanks.



In the water you may find the Wings system feels very different to conventional single tank B.C.s. The first thing you will notice is the freedom of movement and lack of gear covering your chest area. The feeling of stability is immediately apparent, and with the buoyancy in line with the twin cylinders maintaining a horizontal position without rolling is a breeze.

The new system will take a couple of dives to get used to, however, once you have experienced the true benefits of a Wings B.C. system with twin cylinders, you will wonder why you didn't try it sooner.

G

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DARTMOUTH CAVE

by Stan Bugg, Brian Cornell and Des Walters

Access to an underwater cave often presents degrees of difficulty. Consider the squeezey entrance to Wellington and Englebrecht's West, or the monumentous ladder climb at Three Sisters, or the day long hike to prepare to dive at Pannikin Plain.

On our latest cave dive, we encountered an entirely new problem in the form of a 15km high speed ride in an inflatable along obscure and barely navigable branches of the Dartmouth Dam.

Reports were of a large cave, which, before the dam was flooded, extended for a considerable distance back into the hills. Photos of the entry when it was dry looked promising, with three distinct tunnels, the largest appearing to be 8-10 metres wide, and 5 metres high. Gearing up into full penetration equipment in a 5 metre inflatable is quite an adventure, but soon the three of us were in the water and ready to explore.

We dropped into the 20°C water, grateful that it was summer. In winter, the temperature is as low as 6 degrees.

With Des leading we sank down the wall, hoping the 1 metre viz would improve with depth. No such luck! If anything it got worse. To complicate matters Stan was having gear problems, with a leaky regulator and a leaky B.C. Several minutes was wasted at 24 metres in sorting these problems, then Stan and Brian followed Des into the cave.

The walls were covered with flowstone, while the ceiling was dotted with stalactites varying in size from straws to 20cm diameter. But we had no idea of the dimensions of the tunnel other than its length, which was gauged by tying knots in the guideline for later measurement.

Back to the surface, we talked about what

we had seen (felt?) and we measured the line. This showed us that, despite the poor viz, Des had penetrated for more than 50 metres. At the extreme end of penetration he reached a large enough opening for a diver to enter. The cave opened out and continued beyond the constriction.

Gear was re-adjusted, and with Brian leading, we dived again. The main cave entrance, which began at the 14 metre level, was again entered. The search for the other entrances led us to a vertical fissure about 1 metre wide, and about 6 metres high.

The walls are very clean slate, with limestone evident where cracking has occurred. Brian followed the roof line into the split for about 20 metres before it narrowed. At the cave's extremity a large school of fish resided.

The third entrance could not be found in the poor viz.

Dartmouth Dam is listed as being 486 metres above sea level, so added care with deco was required. Our dive computers (SUUNTO Solution) were set on ALTITUDE 1 (adjusted to 800 metres) to compensate. The water was warm enough to make our safety stops rather pleasant.

In all, it was an interesting exercise. First there was thrill of finding and diving a new cave. Added to this is the pleasure of applying our penetration diving skills in a new way. Given the viz, we were truly solo independant for much of the dive, and the rules of air cutoff and line contact were closely observed.

The poor viz was disappointing. At other dives in Dartmouth, much closer to the dam wall, we have had 6 metre viz, but perhaps the wet spring and summer has brought additional sediment into the catchment.

Perhaps on our next dive in the cave, we will be able to see it!

G

"Photos of the entry when it was dry looked promising, with three distinct tunnels, the largest appearing to be 8-10 metres wide, and 5 metres high."

A DIVE IN CARWASH

by Tony Carlisle

The five of us were quite keen to get underway for our first dive in "Carwash". What was holding us up was that our dive guide's vehicle was broken. We weren't going to let this slow us down, so we piled him along with another bloke and all their dive gear into our van.

After travelling twenty kilometres along the road, we took a short rocky track through some scrub, right up to the edge of a large fresh water pond. It was a lovely warm sunny day and looking down into the water I could see lots of small fish flurrying amongst the underwater plants. Also, the water temperature felt a pleasant 25°C. We excitedly dragged out our double tanks, assembled all our gear and pulled on our wetsuits. We were fortunate on this dive to be accompanied by Tom Young, an experienced diver who was responsible for the discovery and exploration of many of the cave systems in the area.

He gathered us around for a pre dive briefing. Tom and his buddy were to enter the cave first to lay a guide line for the first

seventy metres. This entrance line would then tie off onto the start of a fixed line. Approximately half way along this fixed line, Tom would then attach a large jump reel and lay a further sixty metres of line through a tight passage into a large room called the Room of Tears. This would be as far as we would penetrate the cave.

Everyone seemed happy with this dive plan, so on with the dive gear and into the water and while we were completing our buddy checks, Tom and his buddy started their dive. I was impressed by the clarity of the water as we swam over to the far side of the pond to the start of Tom's line.

We soon descended and followed his line into the mouth of the cave. The size of this passage was quite large, approximately 25 metres wide by 8 metres high. This gave us plenty of room to spread out. I glanced at my depth gauge and it read only 12 metres. Continuing further into the cavern, the ceiling rose up and the sides widened. As my

Continued on page 20

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just working - make sure it is both functional and comfortable to use.

One of the problems divers with "wings" face is finding a suitable side-mount system which will work for this type of vest. The system I have described uses a completely different vest (an ADV) and is not suitable for wings. One of the drawbacks of using an ADV style vest is the general lack of lift capacity compared to "wings". Maintaining a relaxed head-down/feet-up attitude in the water while using an ADV is also more difficult to obtain than it is with "wings" and may require some experimentation with weight distribution.

Clearly then, I am of the opinion that side-mounted cylinders are a viable alternative to back-mounts for much of the cave diving done in Australia. They should, however, only be considered by experienced divers who are prepared to make the commitment to assemble and use them correctly. **G**

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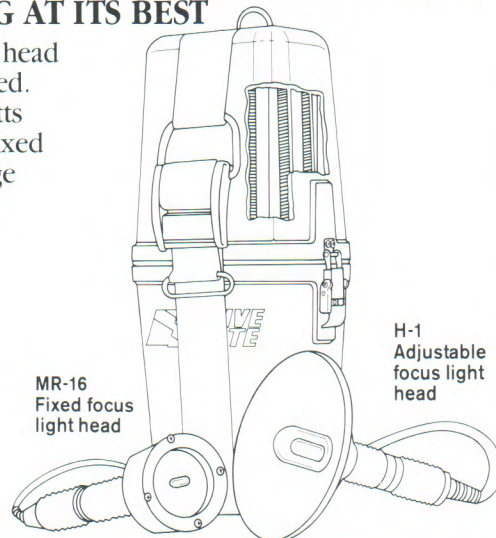
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**C.D.A.A.
1994**

Annual General Meeting

DATE: Saturday, 30th July 1994

VENUE: International Motor Inn,
Millicent Road,
(CNR. WANDILLO ROAD)
Mount Gambier

TIME: 8 p.m. sharp

NO SMOKING IS PERMITTED IN THE MEETING HALL

- All financial members will have already received the yellow Notification of Meeting and Nomination Form.
- All financial members **MUST** produce their CDAA Membership Card upon entry to the meeting.
- An updated membership list will be available for members awaiting the return of their cards via the mail.
- Membership is payable on the night of A.G.M.

A DIVE IN CARWASH

Continued from Page 17

eyes became accustomed to the darkness, I could see lots of large formations, the size of divers, suspended from the ceiling. They appeared bronze in colour with areas of black shading.

Progressing further, the cave dimensions began to shrink. I spotted Tom's guideline reel beyond some large columns and boulders. This marked the start of the fixed line. We decided to swim in single file from here, due to the abundance of dark silt on the sloping floor with only a couple of metres from floor to ceiling.

We were moving progressively shallower and I could see some small fish and two rays of sunlight piercing the cave tunnel ahead. The sunlit area was named a few years earlier because some dude called Luke decided to scuba dive in the cave with his mates without having any prior cave diving training.

Needless to say, Luke became lost, due to his inexperience and just as he was running out of air, he saw some light in the distance and managed to ascend through a small opening and to safety. Luke's buddies were also lucky to find their way back to the entrance and several hours later, they were quite surprised and relieved to see Luke alive and well. That opening became known as Luke's Hope.

The fixed line continued down past Luke's Hope and we soon found the Tee of Tom's jump line. At this point, we were 270 metres into the cave and at a depth of 18 metres.

We manoeuvred through a few restrictions for another 50 metres following Tom's jump line before entering the Room of Tears. On looking around, my eyes almost filled with tears of their own as this room contained a myriad of breathtaking pure white cave decoration. Looking up, down, 360 degrees around, our light beams shone on fabulous formations of all shapes and sizes, suspended in pure clean water. Impressive, even by dry cave standards.

On the far side of this room, another fixed line commenced and headed off to an area known as Dreamland, another 380 metres further on. Reluctantly, we turned around and headed back out. I paused a moment

near Luke's Hope where the sun was still shining into the water and creating rainbow coloured fringes around the two shafts of light. I could see a small white eel meandering through a large curtain of tree roots that were penetrating down through the limestone ceiling. A couple of light flashes from my buddy signalled that it was time to continue our exit. Upon returning to the entrance cavern area known as the Room of Horrors, I was still in awe as I viewed the numerous large formations scattered randomly throughout. Swimming a bit closer to the entrance pond, I stopped and gasped at the crystal clear view ahead. The pond took on a brilliant blue hue, with the vegetation providing a brilliant green backdrop. Stark tree branches lay in the shallows and large stalactites added spectacular silhouettes to a scene permanently etched into my memory.

After the dive, Tom said, "Cenoté Carwash is just a place where cave divers do their first check-out dive before going onto the real pretty caves".

Recently Greg Bulling, Tony Carlisle, Glen Harrison, Adrian Richards and Ken Smith travelled together to the Yucatan region in Mexico to dive in a number of Cenotés.

Editor's Note: The map of Carwash was not able to be reproduced due to the fine details.

CDAA 1994 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 30th JULY

**All financial members
are welcome.**

CDAA INSTRUCTORS

INSTRUCTOR	Cavern	S'hole	Cave	State	Telephone (h)
Stephen Arnel	•	•		VIC	(055) 26 5230
Bill Bernhardt	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 725 9716
Chris Brown	•	•	•	SA	(08) 269 5793
Marilyn Boydell	•	•		WA	(09) 349 5646
Stan Bugg	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 379 8791
Greg Bulling	•	•	•	SA	(08) 265 4978
Gary Bush	•	•	•	WA	018 318 837
Brian Cornell	•			VIC	(059) 85 2514
Terry Cummins	•	•		NSW	(02) 417 2800 (w)
John Dalla-Zuanna	•	•	•	VIC	(055) 61 2805
Ian Gothard	•	•		VIC	(03) 486 1810
Glen Harrison	•	•	•	SA	(08) 386 3237
Barry Heard	•	•	•	VIC	(056) 27 5511
Alan Jolliffe	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 874 7669
Nick Jones	•	•		VIC	(03) 282 4502 (w)
Simon Jones	•	•	•	WA	(09) 344 4343
Max Marriott	•	•		SA	(08) 47 3360
John McCormick	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 579 0570 (w)
Richard McDonald	•			SA	(08) 278 1829
Warrick McDonald	•	•		VIC	(03) 579 2600 (w)
Richard Megaw	•	•	•	SA	(08) 344 1733
Hugh Morrison	•	•	•	WA	(09) 409 9807
David Ogilvie	•			NSW	(02) 417 2800 (w)
Andrew Poole	•		•	WA	(018) 928 028
Tony Richardson	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 754 6163
John Vanderleest	•	•		VIC	(03) 416 9370
Des Walters	•	•	•	NSW	(060) 25 3506
Bob Wealthy	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 789 6389
Liz Wight	•			NSW	(02) 428 2176
Frank Ziegler	•	•		VIC	(055) 26 5288

CDAA SHAFT GUIDES

GUIDE	Telephone (h)
Paul Arbon	(08) 265 2098
Greg Bulling	(08) 265 4978
Chris Brown	(08) 269 5793
Tony Carlisle	(08) 298 5516
Peter Horne	(08) 295 6031
Phil Prust	(08) 370 6000
Tony Richardson	(03) 754 6163
Peter Rogers	(03) 527 7969

Refer to Guidelines 42 (Jan 1992) for specific conditions and requirements to dive The Shaft.

NOTE: Only Shaft guides are to contact the land owner.

CDAА SITE ACCESS

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

CN = CAVERN S = SINKHOLE C = CAVE P = PENETRATION

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
Ewens Ponds	Nil	DENR P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 (087) 35 1177	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR). Smaller groups, no need. Ponds usually closed 1 Sept. - 30 Nov. yearly (phone to check). Indemnity form to be completed.
Horse & Cart Tea Tree	CN	Peter Cunningham PO Box 643, Mt Gambier 5290	By phone or mail, 1 week prior. Ph: (087) 38 4003
Little Blue (Baby Blue)	S	Port MacDonnell	Little Blue - permission not required - must carry card.
Allendale	C	Port MacDonnell	Obtain key from Mt. Gambier Tourist Information Centre.
Gouldens 2 Sisters Fossil	CN CN C	DENR P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290	Contact DENR by phone/mail prior to diving. Stay out of Gouldens when pump is operating. Indemnity form to be completed. Ph: (087) 35 1177
Ela Elap One Tree	S S	Mr. Peter Norman Private Bag 67, Mt Gambier 5290	By phone or drop in before diving. Accommodation also available. Ph: (087) 38 5287
Swim Through	C	Valerie Earl c/- PO Allendale 5291	Currently CLOSED pending new access arrangements.
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	DENR P.O. Box 1046, Mt Gambier 5290	Permit holders by phone. Be aware of delicate vegetation. Indemnity form to be completed. Ph: (087) 35 1177
Hells Hole Pines Mud Hole	S C C	Primary Industries S.A. (Forestry) PO Box 162 Mt Gambier 5290 (087) 24 2759	Contact Primary Industries S.A. (Forestry) by mail or phone to arrange permit. Collect permit from Regional Office, Jubilee Hwy. Mt. Gambier. No diving on total fire ban days. Permits will ONLY be issued Mon-Fri between 8.30am-4.30pm.
Kilsby's	S	Landowner leased to S.A. Police	Contact Peter Girdler. Restricted access conditions apply. Refer Guidelines Issue 47 (April 1993). Twin tanks are required.
Shaft	S	Mr & Mrs Ashby	ONLY by contacting designated "guides" who will arrange access. Refer Guidelines Issue 48 (July 1993). Twin tanks are required.

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA continued			
Ten Eighty Bullock Hole	S S	Mr. Colin Traeger Manager, Barnoolut Estate PO Box 12, Mt Gambier 5290 (087) 26 6215	Contact CDAA Records Officer for diving deed THEN mail Booking Form to Colin Traeger 2-6 weeks prior, stating names/qual. of all divers, and time slot - 1pm Saturday, 9am or 1pm Sunday. WEEKENDS ONLY. Closed October-November for shearing. Black Hole temporarily closed. Anyone not using correct belay and safety techniques will suffer severe penalties.
Black Hole (temporarily closed)			
Max's Hole	C	Mr T. Edwards PO Box 1319 Mt Gambier 5290	Phone or mail 1 week prior to dive. Ph: (087) 26 8277
Engelbrechts - East - West	C P	Mt Gambier Council	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving.
Three Sisters	P	Millicent Council	Contact Peter Horne. Access available for experienced Penetration divers only. Low profile or side mounted independent air systems required. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving.
Iddlebidy (5L250)	P	Primary Industries S.A. (Forestry)	5L250 open 1st & 3rd weekend of month. 5L290 open any weekend. Max. 4 divers per dive per day, 1 dive per day for each site. Only Penetration divers who've completed practical in-water cross-over. Bookings via Forests Clerk - key from Lady Nelson. Must show permit & card.
Nettle-Bed (5L290)	P	PO Box 162 Mt Gambier 5290 (087) 24 2759	
McKay's Shaft	S	Mr. McKay	Contact Phil Argy (087) 23 0879. Small groups of about 4, good ladder climbing & SRT skills required. Access agreement to be signed prior to diving.
Tank Cave	P	Mr. & Mrs. Dycer	Apply in writing to: CDAA Tank Cave Diving, c/- 4 Rosella Street, Modbury Heights, SA 5092. Access conditions apply. (Refer Guidelines 48.)
NULLARBOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
Cocklebidy	C	Regional Manager	Must apply for permission to dive at least 4 weeks in advance of trip. Ph: (098) 41 7133.
Murra El Elevyn	P	C.A.L.M.	
Tommy Grahams	C	44 Serpentine Rd,	
Weebubbie	C	Albany 6330	Small dive site next to main chamber: Sinkhole
NULLARBOR - SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
Warbla	P	N.P.W.S. Ceduna	Currently CLOSED to all diving subject to draft management policy.
WELLINGTON CAVES - N.S.W.			
Lime - Kiln (McCavity)	P	Wellington Council P.O. Box 62	Apply for permit at least 4 weeks in advance of trip.
Water	CN	Wellington 2820	(Water Cave is affected by
Mitchell	CN	David Hearn, Caves Manager	CO ² [high] during Summer/
Cathedral	CN	Ph: (068) 45 1418, Fax: (068) 45 3354	Autumn.

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BOOKS/VIDEOS

Lower South East Cave Reference Book *Peter Horne*. A 600-odd page compendium of maps, photographs and general information regarding the 300 known caves, sinkholes and other significant (numbered) karst features around Mount Gambier. \$68 (plus \$10 for p&p) Contact Peter for details.

Cave Diving Communications. A manual from NSS-CDS dealing exclusively with all u/w communications used in cave diving.

Cave Diving. A Blueprint for Survival. By world-renowned cave diver Sheck Exley, this is a case study of a number of accidents in the USA and how to avoid them.

Basic U/W Cave Surveying. The standard publication for anyone remotely interested in research and survey techniques used in water filled caves.

Cave Diving - The Cave Diving Group Manual. Completely new edition from the pioneers of the sport, the British. Covers every possible aspect including sump rescue solo diving, advanced oxygen and mixed gas theory. Expensive but well worth it.

CDAА Occasional Paper No. 2 - from Natitonal Conference 1981. Includes topics such as Fossil Cave, Belay Techniques & Cocklebidly 1979

S.R.T. Single Rope Techniques - published by the Sydney Speleological Society. This is the definitive work on all aspects of vertical travel in caves. Should answer most questions on rope work for cavers and cave divers alike.

DES Emergency Handbook - Revised 1990 edition by Lippmann & Bugg. Printed on waterproof paper this essential first aid manual should be part of every divers' kit.

NSS Cave Diving Manual - The standard reference manual in Cave Diving covering just about every conceivable topic. *New edition*

Research Handbook for Cave Divers - *Peter Horne*. Written by our most experienced research diver, the book is a compendium of years of experience from various sources. A valuable addition for those interested in the other side of cave diving.

Wukulla Springs Project. The U.S. Deep Caving Team edited by William C. Stone

The Darkness Beckons - *Martyn Farr*. The history & development of cave diving.

Deep Diving - *Bret Gilliam, Robert Von Maier*. An advanced guide to physiology procedures and systems.

Nullarbor Challenge (Video). *Produced by Hanger 137*. The true story of the exploration of the largest single limestone cave region in the world.

CLOTHING - NEW STYLE

"Anniversary" T-Shirts - long sleeve, Airforce Blue, medium & large only

CDAА T-Shirts - Grey Marle, medium, large, extra large

CDAА Windcheaters - Airforce Blue, medium, large, extra large

CLOTHING - OLD STYLE

Windcheaters - red/black logo, white/purple logo, blue/white logo. 18, 20, 22, 24

Polo shirts - blue/white logo, red/black logo. 18, 20, 22, 24

T-Shirts - blue/white logo, red/black logo. 16, 18, 20, 22, 24

CDAА KEYRINGS blue with gold motif, CDAА P.O. Box on back

STUBBIE HOLDERS Red with black logo. Foam/plastic shell.

CDAА STICKERS - yellow. You must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope

POSTER - TANK CAVE Full colour 14 1/2" x 25" poster of Tank Cave by Peter Rogers. Price includes postage and handling.

Please add \$5 postage/handling to your total when ordering above articles.

PRICE

\$68.00

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\$2.00

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Zeagle
SYSTEMS, INC.

TECH DIVER

7700 Series

TWIN BLADDER SYSTEM

The Tech 7700 Series Buoyancy System is derived from specialized BC's Zeagle has developed for technical, military and commercial divers. The 7700 Series gives the serious technically oriented diver a system with the features, flexibility and strength necessary to perform under the most demanding conditions. Approximate bladder lift capacity: Single bladder 45lbs, with redundant bladder assembly 88lbs.

Fully redundant twin bladders, with seperate inflators and dump system.

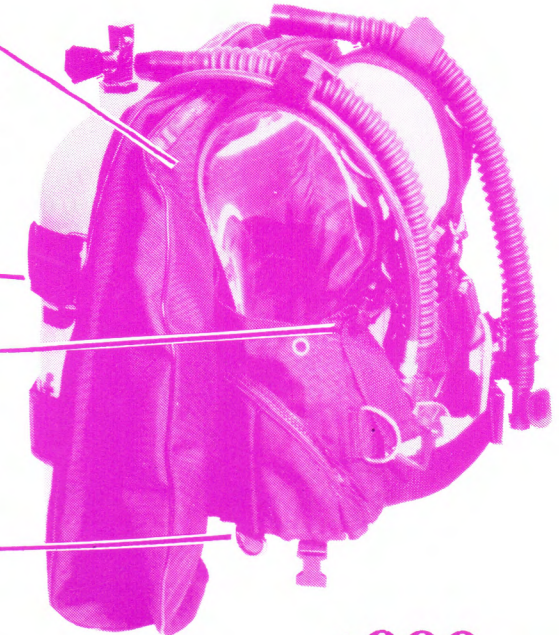
The 7700 Series is manufactured from high-tensile ballistic cloth, which both covers the vest and protects the bladder assembly.

The 7700 Series will accomodate either twin or single cylinders by simply changing the cylinder bands.

The vest incorporates dual waist strap with heavy duty buckles and a sternum strap for added security and stability, regardless of the divers position.

Eight stainless steel D-rings are attached to heavily reinforced tabs at strategic locations, providing for easy attachment of equipment.

A touch fastener weight system is standard.



\$999 R.R.P.

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by Land & Sea Sports **Hotline: 008 226 328**

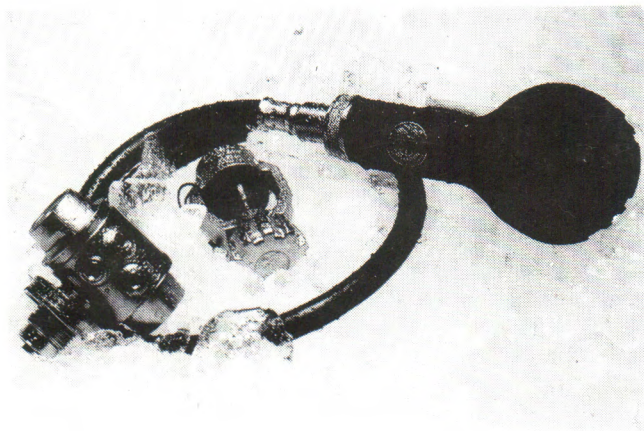


POSEIDON JETSTREAM

HIGH PERFORMANCE
FULLY-BALANCED REGULATOR

The ultimate choice for all serious cave divers

- Outstanding airflow capacity
- Extremely low inhalation and exhalation resistance
- Side exhaust means right or left sided operation
- Available in either standard yoke connection or 300 bar DIN fitting for positive "no leak" connection



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