

C.D.A.A. Newsletter

GUIDELINES

No: 62 - AUGUST 1997



CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

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Announcing the CDAA SPRING WORKSHOP

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EDITORIAL

It's that time of year again. The AGM is fast approaching with important issues about to be voted on. The issues are important because they will affect the day to day running of the association and will impact on the future of the CDAA.

This issue of Guidelines contains a number of items that should be of interest to all CDAA members. Foremost among these is the revised constitution which has moved on significantly from what we had a year ago, thanks to a big effort by many interested members. The key change relates, of course, to the five-person directorate that was voted in last year. The responsibilities of the individual directors have changed from rather more informal arrangements that were in place in the recent past - we now have a proposal for the usual National, Standards and Business Directors, but also for a Site Director and for a Records and Publications Director. All Directors' responsibilities have been more clearly and, in my mind, more appropriately defined. Other changes relate to clarified procedures for violations of CDAA standards, an area that has been long overdue for review.

Other CDAA matters outlined in this edition of Guidelines include a formalised code of conduct. This represents a significant number of new initiatives, and is moving the CDAA towards a greater level of accountability to the general membership.

Those of you who traditionally avoid the AGM should reconsider. The spring workshop is something that should not be missed. There will be guest speakers discussing international and local sites and a host of other issues. There will be gear displays and the opportunity to buy and sell equipment. If you want to sell any of your equipment, bring it along. A fund raising barbecue will also be held which will be a good opportunity to meet those long lost diving buddies and swap stories whilst raising a few dollars for the CDAA. Don't forget to return your form to save yourself a spot.

Safe diving, and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Victor Kostiuik

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CONTENTS

Editorial	3
Diving the Pearse Resurgence	6
Postcard from Quintana Roo, Mexico	9
Hells Hole Clean-up	13
Rockfall in Weebubbie Cave	14
Product Report Commander Nitrox	18
CDAА Instructors	19
CDAА Site Access	20
Product Report Prowatt Power Inverters	22
Broaden Your Horizons	24
National Directors Annual Report	26
Standards Director's Report	27
CDAА-SA Landowners Liaison Forum	28
Code of ethical conduct of CDAА representatives	30
Constitution	32
CDAА Products	39

Front cover:
*Clayton Nielson and Simon Whiteley
 in the entrance to Vaca Ha (Cow Well)
 taken by Sam Meachem*

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GUIDELINES is a newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia. All articles for the following issue are to be sent to the Editor, Victor Kostiuk, P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006. All articles and submissions shall automatically constitute an expressed warranty by the contributor that the material is original. We assume no responsibility for unsolicited material. Articles and information may be reproduced without prior permission provided reprints are accredited to the authors and GUIDELINES. Private advertising for caving and diving equipment may be advertised free at the discretion of the Editor. 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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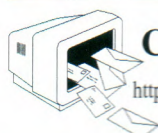
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Diving the Pearse Resurgence

Submitted by Richard Taylor

e-mail 100237.2220@CompuServe.COM

David Apperley and I flew over from Sydney to Wellington where we met up with Tim Cashman from Auckland and proceeded to organise the last of equipment and supplies necessary for the trip. We intended to use Trimix as this would allow us to explore the Pearse system beyond the 75m (250ft) reached by Keiran McKay in April 1995 (although Keiran dived to 85m (280ft) in an attempt to assist Dave Weaver, the laid line only extended to 75m (250ft)).

We hired a trailer (Tim graciously supplying the car and compressor) and caught the midnight ferry from Wellington to Picton, at the top of the South Island. The three hour ferry ride was uneventful and arriving at Picton in the wee hours we proceeded to make our way to Nelson. A quick stop for supplies (food, tanks & the helium & oxygen) and we made our way to Motueka and Mountain View Helicopters, our ride into the Pearse Resurgence base camp. There is a walking track along the river which takes about two hours from the car park, but the only access for getting dive equipment in (and we had a fair bit) is by a short five minute chopper ride.

The first day we managed a quick dive into the system to familiarise ourselves with the cave. Using twin redundant cylinders of air we all entered at the "Welcome Inn Pool" and descended to 13m (40ft). Here we came across line left from a previous trip. Following down we entered a tight corkscrew chasm that, twisted to 30m (100ft) depth before leveling off and finally opening out into a large chamber and a massive dark chasm beneath us. The tunnel we had come down was the "Pan Galactic Gargleblaster", named during the fateful April 1995 expedition. In the large chasm the line joined a yellow line which headed down. We followed this down to 50m (165ft), enough to see the line kept going. The water was cold, 7° C, but crystal clear. We followed our way back up the Gargleblaster, our enthusiasm high as the cave definitely had potential.

On the second day we did two dives, again on air. On the first dive we entered the system at 13m (30ft) but instead of following the Gargleblaster down we went West, along a large passage that only slightly increased in depth. This passage we now know as "Nightmare Crescent" following a tangle of wires and silt encountered by the TVNZ 'Deep Blue' team in their filming of the system in February 1995, two months before Dave Weaver's fateful trip. After 20m (65ft) this passage opened out into a large chamber with an obvious air chamber high up in the ceiling and a large tie off at 18m (60ft) from which two other lines disappeared into the system. The first was the same yellow line we had encountered yesterday, and this led down! The second was orange cave line heading over the chasm and into one of a number of side tunnels that made this system look like Swiss cheese. This chamber is called the "Chamber of Horrors". We followed the yellow line down, heading slightly South, our lights making out both the sloping floor & ceiling of the chasm. The line connected with the Gargleblaster line at 35m (115ft) and we continued down, the chamber obviously a gigantic fissure that had been carved into the rock. David Apperley dived down to 60m (200ft) and could see the line was tied off and then headed horizontally West. But it was time to call the dive and we ascended, looking forward to exploring more the next day.

The second dive that day was spent becoming more familiar with the passages we had already encountered, as well as fixing any previous line that we found that had become loose and ensuring that any permanent line laid was well tied off. Tim Cashman visited the air chamber above the Chamber of Horrors and reported it was large and appeared to extend well beyond the area we had dived to date.

The next day (day 3) we again proceeded down the Chamber of Horrors, where we dropped off a spare air cylinder at 18m (60ft) before descending down the main line to the 60m

(200ft) tie off. We then followed the line West for 10m (33ft) where it was again tied off before heading back down. This tie off was at a bridge connecting both sides of the chasm. The line then headed down even further into the darkness. David Apperley dropped a few meters below and shone his torch down. The line continued, though there seemed to be a reel attached to the line further down. However we had reached the limit of our diving on air, we were at two thirds and it was time to ascend and begin to mix gas for our first Trimix dives.

We decided that on the first day of Trimix diving two of us (David Apperley & I) would dive to a maximum depth of 85m (280ft) on gas whilst Tim would remain a support diver on air, remaining above 60m (200ft). We selected a Trimix of 15% oxygen, 26% helium and 59% nitrogen which would give us a partial pressure of oxygen (PPO2) of 1.4 and an equivalent narcotic depth of 60m (200ft). Air was to be used as a travel (or descent) gas to 50m (165ft) before swapping to gas whilst air would again be used for the ascent from 50m (165ft) and surface supplied oxygen would be used at the 6m and 3m (20ft and 10ft) decompression stops. We had a run time of 70 minutes from the start of the dive to the end for a 18 minute bottom time (52 minutes decompression!!) with decompression stops beginning at 30m (100ft). Even with dry suits, the 7 deg Celsius water temperature would make this a long cold dive!

Day 4 and the first mix dives! We descended to 50m (165ft) on air, checking the spare air cylinder as we went. On gas Dave & I proceeded down, over to the bridge and down further, our torch lights reaching far off into the depths. At 70m (230ft) we came across a reel, with another line attached and a tie off at 75m (250ft). There below us I could make out a ledge, and laying there upside down, head and shoulders covered in fine silt, was the body of Dave Weaver. My buddy David connected new line and dropped down to the body. He attached a lift bag and filled it with air. This

ballooning effect should have lifted the body out of the silt. Nothing happened; Dave Weaver's body and scuba equipment weighed too much. With our own gas supply now running low it was time for us to head to the surface. David tied off to the ledge and we began our slow ascent. Nearly an hour later, and very cold, we reached the surface and had to decide what to do.

After some planning we believed this could be easily done in one or two more dives ... how wrong we were! The exploration we had originally intended to undertake was shelved, for the next 3 days were spent using the helium mixes to work at depths progressively shallower from 85m until finally, on day 7 the body of Dave Weaver was brought to the surface. The police were notified via a helpful hiker taking a letter out on our behalf requesting assistance in removing the body from the area. The following day, around 10am two helicopters came into view and landed in amongst our camp. Police, associates, TVNZ news and the Nelson Mail reporters. By 1pm they were gone, but the puzzle remained. Once the dive equipment had been recovered we looked closely and could see that though Dave Weaver had dived in a dry suit his BCD was not connected to his low pressure inflator hose, which was actually tucked in between his tanks.

What had happened? Why was this not connected? It would be hard to determine the exact cause of Dave Weaver's accident, that is the job of the coroner. It is possible that, with no build up dives and just getting over a cold, Dave went to 75m (250ft), was marked and only using his dry suit for inflation. He would have gone to ascend and looking up or raising his arms possibly lost air from his suit. He would have begun to fin upwards, increasing his breathing rate substantially. As he was still sinking he would have finned faster. The increased depth, exertion and narcosis would have all contributed to increased breathing rate which would have increased his CO2 levels.

Don't forget to bring all your old gear to sell at the Gear Swap Meet.
Part of the fun at the Spring Workshop.
September 13 & 14 - See insert for details

This and the cold (4 deg C) and depth would have meant he was at high risk of an oxygen hit (PO2 of 1.9) which would have meant he lost consciousness and drowned.

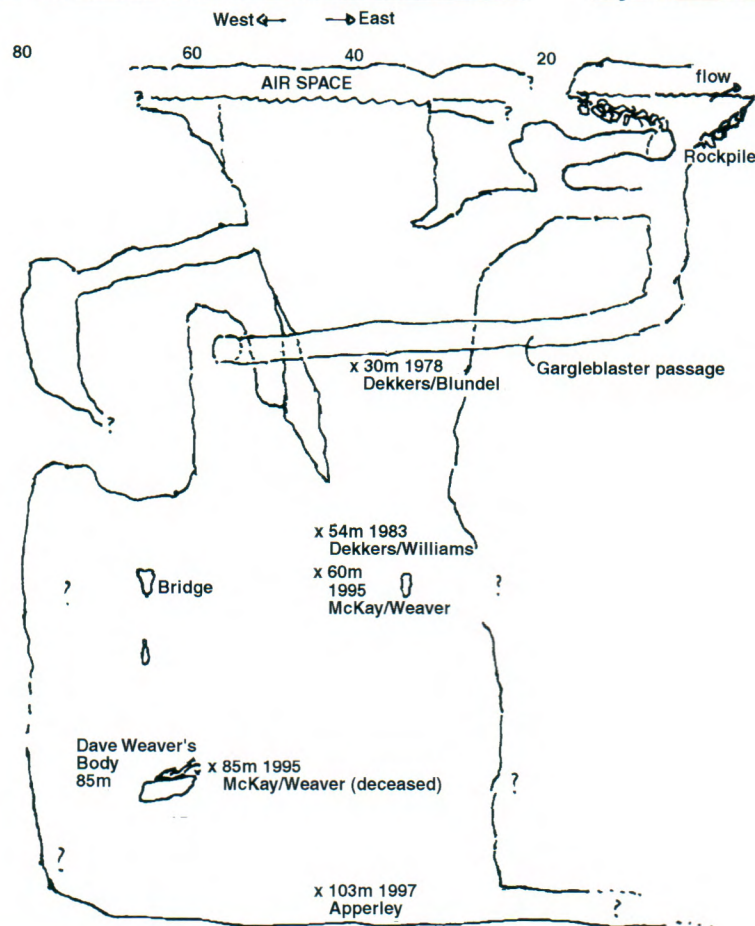
The recovery of Dave Weaver, though not the objective of the expedition, has hopefully opened up the Pearse Resurgence to further exploration. After the police and all had left we still had another dive to make. Gas had been previously mixed and David Apperley undertook to explore the system beyond the 85m reached so far. Using a 12% oxygen, 43% helium & 45% nitrogen mixture David laid new line and reached a depth of 103m (340ft), a New Zealand and Australian Cave Diving record! The cave tunnel flattens out here and

heads South East, towards the Nettlebed cave system about 1.5 km away. This dive was a major achievement and was even a greater challenge, given the experiences of the previous few days.

Further exploration is possible; however the depth will limit this to the edge of technical diving. An expedition using both open circuit SCUBA and closed circuit rebreathers will need to be mounted if we are to push the limits of the Pearse even further. Finally, the trip would not have been possible without the many helpful contacts provided by cavers & cave divers in both Australia & New Zealand. Their assistance in making this trip happen cannot be understated.

PEARSE RESURGENCE - JANUARY 1997

By Richard Taylor



Postcard from Quintana Roo, Mexico

by Simon Whiteley CDAA 2286

Email: Whiteo@CompuServe.com



Clayton Neilson (left) and Simon Whiteley with "Ernie" the mule at "No Hoch Na Chich" ("The Giant Birdhouse"). (Taken by our local guide, Mario)

After attending the NACD conference in Gainesville, Florida the previous year we had been lured by the prospect of diving in 'warm water' (on the Mount Gambier relativity index please feel free to read that as 'hot'!) and spectacular formations left over from a bygone era. Mention of the sunny Yucatan and the firm belief that it was truly the "best cave diving" location in the world, as all things associated with Americans usually are, just couldn't be all hype. (and if that offends some readers....so be it!) The real sell for us was with the pictures that were on the brochure....it looked unreal.

After a little over 26 hours travelling we were finally emerging from the highly efficient customs area in Cancun, Mexico. Tony DeRosa from Aquatech had arrived to meet us at the airport and take us for the next leg of our journey down the road to our new temporary home. It was pleasing to see a friendly face in what could be best described as a 'sea' of highly competitive taxi drivers who are only to eager to pounce on the more gullible and weary arrivals from the States.

After climbing into the back of his clapped out VW van we were soon on our way heading south down Highway 1 to Aventuras Akumal. The cold beers in the esky made up for the leaking roof, the aqua planning van and the numerous "check points" along the way where uzi toting Mexican army guys were only to quick to show you their arsenal! It turned out that a lazy 750 kg of 'white power' had washed up on the beach during the last storm and they were searching vans and trucks for any other shipments that may have slipped through.

After a well deserved sleep we were up early to met our guide Sam Meachem. Since we only had a limited time to see the caves we had decided that this would ensure that we covered the best dives over there. As a starting point we

decided that we needed to complete the "Top Ten" as some brave soul had determined the best dives. Then with the remaining time we would look at what was considered to be second tier and repeat dives of our favourites. The limiting factor was the definitive 11 diving days and the beloved computer to determine how far our conquest would go.

Geographically speaking the area is riddled with caves that had been dry for a considerable period of time prior to being finally entombed in water since the last ice age. In this time they have been left relatively untouched beyond the darkness zone until scuba divers started diving there in modern times. As we would see for ourselves during our tour, the long established presence of the Mayan people above ground is more than replicated below in the subterranean world too. The Mayans had considered that the many cenotes in the area were in fact windows to the after world and the Mayans had the uttermost respect for the cenotes that covered the land scape. On just about every dive we would see neat little piles of charcoal on the floor of the cave where there must have been torches to light the way, burial pots which would have contained the remains their owners and in one particular cave there was an almost complete human skeleton approximately 600m from the nearest opening to the land above. Many of these artefacts and bones have been dated as being over 7,000 years old. So it was sometimes eery to be diving along in what you could consider to be 'time capsule' of an earlier era when men walked throughout the passages that we were now 'flying' through. After covering the preliminaries, our first dive



Simon Whiteley (top) and Clayton Neilson in "El Grande Cenote" (The White Cave). (Taken by Steve Gerrard.)

was to be into "CarWash". It is one of the well known systems and has been quite heavily dived due to its relatively easy access and proximity to a main road. The planned dive was to go up stream a little way then jump off the main line and head to the "Room of Tears". The room takes its name from the tiny stalactites that hang from the ceiling and is quite beautiful. Whilst we suspected this would be little more than a "check out" dive it was awesome. Once you plunge through a murky layer on top there was a sudden change to crystal clear water where the spring water flowed into the cenote. The most impressive memory was the water clarity and, having been 'fresh' from a recent Mount weekend just how warm the water was. Of course, unbeknown to us at the time this would be a fairly plain dive for the area, and subsequent dives would blow this by away in succession!

After a quick lunch we were back into the water only to keen to keep to our tight schedule. The biggest problem we were to find

was that there was just so much ground to cover in each dive. We were swimming for a maximum of nearly 2000 metres every dive in around 80-90 minutes. The hardest thing in every dive was the turning point when you were being forced to call the dive on thirds yet the fixed line continued to leading off well into the distance! As we were soon to learn there were many 'systems' that far exceeded 30000 metres of passage. The two biggest 'known' systems have been surveyed independently to well over 60000 metres each and were still yielding new passages. Simply put, we would be diving in a labyrinth of passages and the potential for circuits and traverses was seemingly unlimited.

What would have to the most beautiful is the Nohoch Na Chich system which is decorated like a forest on a large river delta. Seldom do you get below 3-4 metres but the formations were by the far the most pretty that we saw in the trip. Due to local politics we were guided members of a rival dive shop who have an exclusive deal with the land owners under which the system lies. It was also an event just to get to the dive site as there were no roads into the property and we had to walk in the 2km on foot along a track with donkeys trailing behind carrying our dive gear (including two sets of doubles for each diver!) Whilst this day was an expensive exercise it was well worth the effort.

One of the more unusual dives was in an infrequently dived cenote south of Tulum known as Angelita. It is rather a non event due to its distinct lack of physical features and its depth. In Australian terms it is not unlike a "One Tree" except it's warmer. After clearing the algae layer at the top it quickly clears up and the bottom appears to loom below. However, as you approach the 'bottom' you notice that in actual fact it looks like cotton wool and all stirred up. In fact the swirling cloud is actually the border of a hydrogen sulfide layer (rotten egg) and it is possible to drop below the layer and proceed down further again. As one passes through the cloud, the ambient light changes to a reddish-brown and when you look up toward the surface the

swirling exhaust bubbles reveal the green tinge of the clear water above as it filters the tropical sunlight. As a closet Trekkie it looks like a swirling nebula from a far off galaxy that Captain Kirk would best avoid.

Vaca Ha was a curiosity for us in that for a couple of days all we were told about how cool the entrance was, but little else. On the edge of a marsh a little well had been constructed many years ago and this was to provide the entrance to the cave below. At first we thought they were kidding when they said we would enter through the well itself. However after feeling through the tannin stained entrance on the permanent line, it soon revealed its beauty. Moderately deeper than some of the other dives it followed along the sharp halocline deep back into the cave. The halocline were to become one of the best features of some caves in which due to the dramatic difference in water density you could swim above the layer and hold your torch below in the salt water and observe the light refract way off into the distance not unlike when you hold a torch in a pool and you observe from above. To compliment the view below the layer in the salt water the limestone walls were considerably 'whiter' and the water above that was only a miserable 25° C! The best example we saw was in PondaRosa on an area known as the "Bedding Plain" where the halocline cut cleanly half way between the floor and the ceiling and we were informed that some divers had approached from below the layer and began to remove their reg from their mouth thinking that they had found a underground lake!

One of our last dives was a double stage swim up stream in Dos Ojos to an area known as the LSD section. After travelling in the back of a Chevy Blazer 4x4 truck through the jungle we finally arrived at the cenote from which we would commence. In hindsight it really was quite an exciting dive for us, having been our first serious push of any note. We turned at around 1800 m distance into the cave and once again the fixed line was just continuing on into the darkness. What we were diving over



Clayton Neilson (left) and Simon Whiteley flying through Calimba. (Taken by Steve Gerrard)



Clayton Neilson (foreground) and Simon Whiteley in "The Gallery", Sac Actun. (Taken By Steve Gerrard)

appeared as a canyon in some parts and in others it was like a double deck express way over which we cruised along. Whilst this was only a six jump dive it was awesome to think that we passed no less than 5 or 6 other potential routes along the way!

All in all we completed total of 21 dives in the 10 day period. Most dives were of at least 80 minutes duration and involved a swim of a close to 1800m. Suffice to say we slept well each night but didn't miss out on going out a few times to sample the local cuisine, tequila, beer et al. (and I don't necessarily mean in that order!). The guide thing worked for us in that we still led and dived 'up front' with our guide only along to point out features of interest if we were over awed by the dive itself and missed them. As you might have guessed, this happened all too frequently. We met a few Americans who were down diving by themselves and it was pleasing to note that on several occasions we mentioned things that we had seen in some of the systems that they



Simon Whiteley in Sac Actun (Note: The black specs on the cave floor are charcoal from ancient Mayan fires). (Taken by Steve Gerrard)

hadn't. (and I might add they had been diving down there annually for the past 6 years!)

Having seen a little of what Florida offers it surprised me that so many American cave divers still choose to head to Florida and queue up to enter the water when the diversity and options down in Mexico are close to endless. However I will add that whilst I can't understand it I am not at all upset by it! My greatest concern as I sit in sunny Melbourne is to postulate how soon I can get back over to Mexico and continue on. Despite the fear of reprisal for saying so ...it has been difficult to get back over to the Mount since and dive the usual circuit of Engle's, Pines and the like



Simon Whiteley (left) and Clayton Neilson heading out of "The Gallery", Sac Actun. (Taken by Steve Gerrard)

without knowing what we're missing over in Mexico. Some of the more colourful identities over there have called it the last frontier and each time I read the news letters and various e-mails it seems that they are far from diving the place out.....so many caves, so little time.....

1998 Penetration Courses

Two penetration courses are to be conducted in 1998.

Members suitably qualified are to contact Glen Harrison on mobile 0418 846 602 or e-mail on Harrison.Glen@saugov.sa.gov.au

January Course

Conducted long weekend 22nd January to 26th January, 1998 inclusive.

Easter Course

The Easter dates are Friday 10th April to Tuesday 14th April inclusive.

Hells Hole Clean-up

Gary Barclay, #1735

A very successful day was spent in early June cleaning out the sinkhole known as Hells Hole. With the help of ADDICTS Dive Club and a few other CDAA members and one very handy 4WD winch, the site now looks 100% better. Prior to the clean-up Hells Hole looked like becoming a local dumping ground, so after a quick phone call to Rob Brennan from the ADDICTS Club and another call to Trevor Wynniat from Woods & Forests to organise permission to actually clean up the site, the weekend was underway. Throughout the Saturday about 20 divers either dived or hauled gear from the site, all with the aid of Rob's trusty 4WD winch. The more junk that was removed from the site that day, the more we were all amazed at some people's ability to get the junk into the site. This was some of what was removed on the day:

- two washing machines, one twin tub and one automatic
- a full 50 kg gas cylinder
- a stainless beer keg (empty)
- a fridge
- numerous road signs
- a length of garden hose
- lots of cans and stubbies.



Gary Barclay, Steve Donn and Alistair Gifford More.

In an attempt to stop this vandalism from happening again, Woods & Forests will stop vehicular access to the site. This also means that divers will have to walk from the fence to the sinkhole in the future. Many thanks to the divers who helped out on the day, donating time, energy and equipment, and also to Phil Argy for taking the time to cart all the rubbish to the local tip.



ADDICT Dive Club and others

**SUPPORT YOUR
ASSOCIATION,
AND HAVE A
GREAT TIME
DOING IT!!**

**ATTEND THE
SPRING
WORKSHOP**

**SEE INSERT FOR
FULL DETAILS**

Rockfall in Weebubbie Cave

6N-2 October 1996

Norman Poulter - SRGWA

Introduction

During the latter part of 1996, a cliff collapse took place on Western Australia's south-west coast near Gracetown which killed 9 people, including 4 children.

Approximately one month later [October 9], a rockfall occurred in Weebubbie Cave 6N-2. A company of Girl Guides had visited the cave the previous evening and a small team of SA divers were in the cave at the time of the collapse although well clear of the fall site.

Most likely the Gracetown tragedy had some influence in the decision of the land manager, Dept. of Land Administration [DOLA] to shortly thereafter permanently close access to Weebubbie Cave. There was no distinction between uninformed members of the public and experienced speleologists or cave divers.

As the first speleological society venturing out to the Nullarbor less than 3 months after the rockfall, SRGWA sought permission to view the cave and make comments on the extent of the rockfall and likelihood of further falls. This application was supported by the South Coast Region of CALM as managers of caves in the adjacent Nuytsland Nature Reserve and the potential future manager of Weebubbie Cave.

Below is a summary of SRG's investigation of the rockfall, condensed from a report submitted to DOLA during March 1997. Anyone wishing to read the full text should contact the ASF Librarian.

Background

Weebubbie is a registered aboriginal archaeological site [aborigines are reputed to have extracted flint from the cave], not sighted by European Australians until two employees of the South Australia Telegraph Department [*Clayer and Junken*] chanced upon it in early 1900 [*Poulter 1987*]. The pair lodged an application for a 80,000 acre [32,375 hectare] grazing lease which included the cave, no doubt planning to exploit the water resource it contained. While granting Clayer and Junken a 40,000-acre lease on August 2 of the same year, the Surveyor-General placed a temporary 5,000-acre reserve around the cave.

Clayer and Junken sought compensation for "finding" the water resource and then losing access to it. The government favored such a reward [*provided a government appointed inspector*

submitted a favourable report as to the quality of the water] and suggested the pair nominate a suitable sum. When Clayer and Junken applied for £500, the government's friendly attitude changed and despite much telegraphic prodding from the pair, the government failed to dispatch an inspector to sample the water. During March 1901 John Muir, Inspector of Engineering Surveys PWD, was examining the country between Kalgoorlie and Eucla in relation to either constructing a future transcontinental railroad direct to Eucla and thence to Tarcoola SA or send a spur line down from a more northerly east-west route. The main reason behind such a plan would have been to carry supplies for the railroad construction utilising the already existing Eucla jetty. Clayer and Junken prevailed upon Muir to inspect the cave's water and forward his opinion to his superiors. Muir's October 1901 report, accompanied by three interior photographs of the cave, concluded the lake to be a "small underground reservoir" due to the "impervious character" of the surrounding strata and that the estimated 3 million gallons of highly mineralised water not suitable for stock. On the strength of this report, the government refused a reward to Clayer and Junken, despite their protests that Muir's observations were no more than casual and that he was not qualified to pass judgement on the water quality. Shortly afterwards, Clayer and Junken left the area.

Attitudes change with time and in December 1927, a proposal was made to give the reserve permanent status and lease it for stock watering in order to raise money from the resource. On January 4, 1928 - Water Reserve #19713 was leased to JD and OD Jones for grazing purposes at 10 shillings a year, subject to the public having free access to the water. The lease was cancelled in 1930 due to non-payment of fees. Later attempts to re-lease the cave's resource appear to have been short-lived. A minor panic occurred during 1964 when it was discovered that the cave was not in the reserve that had supposedly been thrown around it. The cave was quite some distance outside the boundary, an error that was rectified later in the year.

Fauna

Many collapsed dolines of the Nullarbor have flourishing flora, sheltering from the frequent intense and drying winds while drawing additional moisture from that which percolates through the base rock.

The entrance doline of Weebubbie Cave has several examples of native flora growing up to 30m below the level of the surrounding Plain [grasses, acacias] while others are introduced, such as the edible Glossy Nightshade.

Caves of the Nullarbor contain distinct fauna. This fauna can be;

trogloxene - [spends part of its life cycle in caves and returns periodically to the surface for food]

troglophile - [frequently completes its life cycle in caves but is not confined to this habitat]

troglophite - [unable to live outside the cave environment]

There is a diverse fauna regime living in Weebubbie Cave ranging from the daylight zone to the furthest extremes of the dark zone. The "Distribution of Recorded Fauna" listed in the "Caves of the Nullarbor" [1967] record Weebubbie as being habitat for;

Araneae indet.

Psyllipocus ramburi Selys-Longchamp.

Spinturnix sp. (bat parasite)

Speotarus sp.

Acarina indet. (bat parasite)

Brises acuticornis Pascoe

Polyzosteria pubescens Tepper (accidental)

Lathridiidae sp.

Rhaphidophoridae sp.

Chalinolobus morio (Gray)

Since the initial publication of the "Caves of the Nullarbor" and the above list [1967], several new creatures have been discovered and are listed below;

Spider **Janusia muiri** [possibly 1971] troglobite

Isopod [1981 Robert Poulter] troglobite, species unknown

Cockroach [1982 Norman Poulter] trogiobite -

possibly **Troglobattelia nullarborensis**

Beetle **Speozophium poulteri** [1985]

troglobite [Moore 1995].

The Collapse

The collapse of part of the roof of Weebubbie took place sometime during October 9, 1996. A party of WA Girl Guides, led by Justin Sharman of the Western Australian Speleological Group [WASG] visited the cave the previous evening [7:30 - 9:30pm] and stayed overnight, leaving the morning of the collapse [Sharman 1997].

At the time of the collapse, a party of cave divers from South Australia was in the cave. At time of writing it is not known who they were but they had just retired from the water at the time of the rockfall [Jefferies 1997]. Some of their equipment passing through the rockfall area [240v electrical lead, 6mm copper air line] was buried.

The cave was visited by the Eucla Police and later Ian Misich [Geotechnical Engineer, Mining Operations Division] of the Department of Mines. He submitted a short report accompanied by several photographs to the Department of Land Administration [DOLA].

On the strength of the Misich report, DOLA closed the cave, had the uppermost ladders removed and commissioned several signs to be erected in strategic locations advising the general population that the cave was closed. There was no distinction between untrained members of the public and experienced speleologists and cave divers.

Prior to the collapse, SRGWA was preparing for an expedition to the Nullarbor and in early December began negotiations with DOLA to gain access to the cave in order to ascertain for themselves the severity of the collapse and its potential for further rockfalls. This was prompted in part by conflicting media reports immediately after the October collapse. These reports inferred that several thousand tonnes of rock were involved. The application by SRGWA was supported by Dr. John Watson, Regional Manager of the South Coast Region, Department of Conservation and Land Management [CALM].

The South Coast Region of CALM manages the Nuytsland Nature Reserve that contains numerous caves, several of which are highly significant and embody lakes. However, CALM does have an interest in Weebubbie Cave as Reserve 19713 is proposed to become vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority as "National Park and Water" in the [statutory] CALM South Coast Regional Management Plan 1992-2002. Because CALM administers other WA Nullarbor sites of interest to cave divers together with a commitment to do so in parallel with agencies elsewhere in Australia, notably South Australia, visits to Weebubbie Cave by cave divers are also administered by CALM using strict protocols of the CDA [Watson 1997].

As mentioned above, when DOLA closed access to the cave it commissioned the design and construction of large warning signs, which were apparently installed during early December.

SRGWA Inspection

After submitting documentation to the Eucla Police, members of SRGWA visited the cave during December 28-29, 1996. Initial inspection revealed that;

1. Contrary to some media inferences, the collapse occurred inside the cave, beyond the weather-line,
2. the amount of rock involved proved to be significantly less than media reports implied,

3. for a rockfall that was less than 3 months old, the newly fallen rock was remarkably stable.

Over the next two days, members conducted a survey of the rockfall area. The conclusion being that the collapse involved the natural weathering of a roof-step through salt wedging or the drying out of clay interbeds. This weathering process is common throughout the Nullarbor and fine examples can be seen in Weebubbie, Abrakurrie and Mullamullang Caves. Caves of the Nullarbor are still actively forming through the salt wedging process. Roof-step collapses are often associated with a high degree of passage infill [notably Mullamullang which has about 40 major rockpiles along its 5km length]. An exception to this is Abrakurrie Cave where most of the resulting rockpiles have been removed by subsequent solution processes. The roof steps of Weebubbie are quite pronounced.

In the chapter dealing with Karst processes, Jennings[1978] states in sections sub-titled Collapse and Cave Weathering:

"The semi-consolidated dune limestones of Australia are particularly prone to piecemeal collapse, creating domes... The chalky bryozoal limestones common at depth in the Nullarbor Plain, Australia, are also weak enough to produce barrel arches, apses and high domes in profusion..." page 30.

"... There is also the force of crystallization of mineral salts (salt wedging) to be considered. Conversely, it has been suggested that the drying out of clay interbeds or breccia fills in fissures may reduce cohesion and shear strength." page 31.

"Some caves or parts of them are dry enough to allow crystallization of salts by evaporation and so salt wedging can become important. Gypsum is the more widespread mineral to form and act in this way, but its effects are small in comparison with those of halite in the Nullarbor Plain caves (Lowry and Jennings 1974); roof dome formation here may owe much to this process.....".page 32-33.

The SRG survey found that approximately 97m³ of rock was involved in the collapse. The fall created another "roof step", a common feature of Nullarbor caves. Weebubbie Cave has several roof steps of varying depths along its ceiling and these were visible in the photographs of both Weebubbie and Abrakurrie Cave that accompanied the report. Abrakurrie is another popularly visited cave on VCL. As indicated in the diagrams of Weebubbie, the rockfall took place approximately 4-5m from the inner lip of the entrance cliff-line and extended along the ceiling for 13.5m varying in thickness

from 0.4 - 0.6m with occasional spurs up to 1 metre. The width of the collapse was determined to be 18m, approximately 80% of the passage width.

The entrance rockpile at the region of the collapse sloped at 27m and rubble from the fall occupied approximately 20m of the downslope area indicating very little rock rolled downslope [approximately 7m] after impact. The vertical distance that the rock fell varied from approximately 4m near the entrance to about 11m at its furthest point. As mentioned above, the newly fallen rock is remarkably stable for such a "young" rockfall. During the course of the investigation, only 2 or 3 rocks were found that moved when trodden on or leant against. The determination being that the entire 97m³ "step" more or less fell as one piece and not piecemeal, breaking up on impact.

SRGWA feels confident that the entire rock strata fell during the October collapse and that further rockfalls are unlikely in the immediate future. As stresses build up or are relieved in other bedding planes as a result of this fall, minor falls could result from those stratas.

Most of the fallen rock broke into small blocks on impact, the exception being a 3m vertical slab on the northern side of the passageway beside the "new" pathway. A larger rock nearby predates the fall. A small sample of fallen rock was removed from the cave for tests back in Perth.

During the course of the visit, SRGWA took the opportunity to place a reflective marker route through the rockfall area [closely following the previous route] and defined the preferred route to near the lake's edge. This is in accordance to methods developed over several years, endorsed and supported by CALM and various other government and semi-government instrumentalities in Western Australia. [Poulter 1993 & 1994]. Sections of the route through the newly fallen area were "hardened" by placing rocks in a flatter position to make stepping on them easier and therefore safer.

Experience has shown that where a marked route exists, people tend to follow it with little deviation.

Laboratory tests in Perth revealed that the density of the fallen limestone to be much less than that of pure limestone. Pure limestone weighs 3139.53kg/m³ while the Weebubbie sample indicates a weight of 2066.66kg/m³. This placed the estimated weight of the Weebubbie rockfall at 200 tonnes, considerably less than the 2000 tonnes bandied about in the media.

(...Continued page 38)

PANNIKIN CLOSURE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Please address all enquiries to:

South Coast Region
120 Albany Highway
ALBANY WA 6330
Tel: (08) 98424500
Fax: (08) 98413329



Your Ref:
Our Ref: 14.4.2
Enquiries:

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Re: PANNIKIN PLAINS CAVE (6N-49) - NUYTSLAND NATURE RESERVE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Although it is now over 8 years since the spectacular flooding and collapse of the entrance doline and rockpile of Pannikin Plains Cave, the site is still in a highly unstable condition and is to remain closed to all entry for at least a further 5 years.

JOHN WATSON
REGIONAL MANAGER
SOUTH COAST REGION

17th June 1997

See great guest speakers, the latest in equipment, pick up a bargain
at the Gear Swap Meet, and get a feed at the members BBQ.

Just some of the fun at the Spring Workshop.

All for only \$10

September 13 & 14 - Presidential Motel

See insert for booking form

Product Report COMMANDER NITROX

Gary Barclay, #1735

Well, here it is, a new computer. "So what," you say. Well, this is no ordinary computer. The new Commander Nitrox is from Cochran Undersea Technology and boasts a range of features no other computer on the present market can come near.

I have been using an Aladin Pro for quite a few years and am very pleased with it, but with the advent of nitrox diving I started to look at nitrox computers, but which one to choose? Like a lot of divers I wanted a \$5,000 computer for \$50 bucks. After looking at all the options I came up with the Commander Nitrox. Why? To my limited knowledge it is the only dive computer able to compute two mixes within the one dive. For instance, you could do an air dive to 40m, then deco on the way back on a high PPO₂ or maybe you'd like to dive on a nitrox bottom mix and use a different nitrox mix for deco-ing. This can be achieved by the user setting two factors into the computer prior to the dive, these factors being i) depth and ii) time. So for the second mix to work these two parameters must be met. After you have dived to a given depth and 'x' time has elapsed, the computer will assume a change in mix and switch screens to the new, second mix.

Mix 1 has a scope of up to 50% O₂ and Mix 2 can be set to 100% O₂. The Commander will also track the CNS toxicity level and will sound an alarm when 75% of your maximum O₂ level is reached. This is also displayed on the screen. Speaking of screens, this is the only computer on the market to feature a 'fibre optic back light' in blood red! Being a cave diver I found this to be a real bonus. The taclite low light display means that I no longer have to shine a light at the screen to see it.



Another plus is the user changeable battery. The Commander uses two N cell alkaline batteries which cost around \$4, certainly a lot cheaper and much quicker than sending a computer back to the factory to have the batteries replaced.

The Commander holds 100 dives in the log and includes temperatures in these logs. You can also add a conservative factor of up to 50%. It is also temperature dependent which means it will compensate the decompression algorithm proportional to the water temperature if the water if the water goes below 24.9°C. This feature can be turned on or off by the user. The user is also able to preset a depth alarm and select the ascent rate. This unit is fully uploadable to your PC by purchasing the optional software.

I have made 80 dives on my Commander and have nothing but praise for it. If you are in the market for a new computer, check this one out before you decide. The Commander retails for around \$1,300 with all the software.

Cochran has a complete range of nitrox computers with both air integrated and wrist units. The computer can be found in 'techy' shops or by calling Steve Sturgeon of Cochran Australasia, PO Box 5233, Rockingham Beach WA, 09 527 7667 (ph), 09 527 5892 (fax), Compuserve 100245,2276, or give me a call if you need more info.

CDAА NOTICES

GUIDELINES DEADLINES

To ensure Guidelines is produced reliably and regularly, the following deadlines have been set for each issue. Please note that material will not be considered if it arrives after the stated dates.

Issue 63 November 1st deadline

Issue 64 February 1st deadline

Editor

NO CARD - NO KEY - NO DIVE

All members please note that due to problems which have arisen at Lady Nelson Park, no keys will be issued unless a current CDAА card (or temporary card equivalent) is personally viewed by a member of the Lady Nelson staff.

Please avoid any embarrassment by not approaching staff for a key unless you have a current CDAА card with you.

NO CARD - NO KEY - NO DIVE

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS ORDERING INSTRUCTORS' MATERIALS

Any instructor who has done a cross-over for cavern, sinkhole or cave wishing student cavern/sinkhole and cave manuals for themselves as reference material, please contact Peter Grills on 049 487 848.

The cost of the two cavern/sinkhole and cave manuals is \$40. Closing date for orders is the 30th September. Only one order per instructor. Please allow 14 days for delivery of material.

CDAА INSTRUCTORS

Any Instructor wishing material contact - Peter Grills 0419 820 920

STANDARDS DIRECTOR:

Glen Harrison

Telephone: 0418 846 602

(email) harrison.glen@saugov.sa.gov.au

INSTRUCTOR	CN	S	C	STATE	PHONE
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NSW & ACT

Nick Jones	•	•		ACT	015 851 313 m
Ron Allum	•	•	•	NSW	(02) 9552 6348 h
Terry Cummins	•	•		NSW	(02) 9417 2800 w
Peter Grills	•	•		NSW	(049) 48 7848 h
Ian Lewis	•	•	•	ACT	See top of page
Gary Norgard	•	•		NSW	(049) 68 4588 h
David Ogilvie	•	•		NSW	(02) 9977 4355 w
Andrew Robertson	•	•		NSW	018 412 563 m
Des Walters	•	•	•	NSW	(060) 411 405 w
Andrew Wight	•	•	•	NSW	(02) 9428 2176
Liz Wight	•	•	•	NSW	(02) 9428 2176
Frank West	•	•		NSW	049 636 497

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Greg Bulling	•	•	•	SA	014 477 430 m (08) 8265 4978 h
Glen Harrison	•	•	•	SA	(08) 8386 3237 h
Karen Kennedy	•	•		SA	(087) 250 335 h
Max Marriot	•	•	•	SA	(08) 8447 3360 h
Richard Megaw	•	•	•	SA	(08) 8344 1733 h
Richard McDonald	•	•	•	SA	(08) 8295 4140 h/w

Alan Jolliffe	S E Asia Rep 61 773 3544 h				
Gary Bush	NZ Rep (018) 318 837 m				

INSTRUCTOR	CN	S	C	STATE	PHONE
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VICTORIA

Stephen Arnel	•	•	•	VIC	(055) 26 5230 h
Bill Bernhardt	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 9725 9716 h
Jane Bowman	•	•		VIC	(03) 9579 2600 w
Stan Bugg	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 9379 8791 h
Brian Cornell	•	•	•	VIC	(059) 85 2514 h
John Dalla - Zuanna	•	•	•	VIC	015 887 060 m
Chris Edwards	•	•		VIC	(03) 9579 4352 h
Barry Heard	•	•	•	VIC	(056) 27 6474 h 019 401 469 m
John Mc Cormick Specialist Non-Teaching				VIC	(03) 9555 5777 w
Warrick McDonald	•	•		VIC	(03) 9579 2600 w
Tony Richardson	•	•	•	VIC	0418 300 531
Bob Wealthy	•	•	•	VIC	(056) 858 338 h
Frank Ziegler	•	•	•	VIC	(055)23 6392 w

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Marilyn Boydell	•	•		WA	(09) 349 5646 h
Simon Jones	•	•	•	WA	(09) 344 4343 h (09) 344 1562 w
Hugh Morrison	•	•	•	WA	(09) 409 99807 h
Andrew Poole	•	•	•	WA	018 928 028 m
Steve Sturgeon	•	•	•	WA	(09) 527 9211 w
John Vanderleest	•	•	•	WA	(09) 426 8623 w (0411) 184 211 m

CDAА SITE ACCESS

Remember: Access is a privilege, not a right. Please be considerate of landowners 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. 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	S	Port MacDonnell	Little Blue - permission not required - must carry card.
Allendale	C	Port MacDonnell	Obtain key from Mt. Gambier Tourist Information Centre.
Gouldens	CN	DENR	General Diving: Divers to contact DENR and notify of date and site to be dived. Divers must have the correct CDAА diving endorsement for the site. The onus of proof of CDAА status is on the diver and is provided by presentation of CDAА membership card or DENR checking the membership list supplied by CDAА. If there are problems with the diver not being a current financial member DENR will not be chasing the records officer to sort out the problem. This will be the responsibility of the diver. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DENR before access is permitted. Training: Cavern and Sinkhole. The Instructor is to notify DENR of the date the sites are needed and to forward signed indemnities from each student and their temporary card number. Cave and Penetration: The Instructor is to notify DENR of the date the sites are needed and is required to forward signed indemnities from each student and their membership number.
2 Sisters	CN	P.O. Box 1046	
Fossil	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (087) 35 1177	
Ela Elap One Tree	S	Mr. Peter Norman	By phone or drop in before diving.
	S	Private Bag 67, Mt Gambier 5290	Ph: (087) 38 5287
Swim Through	C	Valerie Earl 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 Faxed copies of cards no longer accepted when booking.
Hells Hole Pines Mud Hole	S	Primary Industries	Contact Primary Industries S.A. (Forestry) by mail, phone or fax to arrange permit. Collect permit from Regional Office, Jubilee Hwy., Mount Gambier. No diving on total fire ban days. Forest Work Bans may be applied by PISA Forestry if forest fire danger is expected to reach extreme. Such bans also exclude the public from entering the forest. If in doubt, please check with Trevor Wynniat, although signs are generally erected at diving sites on such days to indicate such bans. Permits will ONLY be issued Mon-Fri between 8.30am-4.30pm. Ph: (087) 242 887. Please use this number for all bookings and enquiries etc. Fax: (087) 242 885 Email: wynniat.trevor@pi.sa.gov.au. Written confirmation required.
	C	S.A. (Forestry)	
	C	PO Box 162 Mt Gambier 5290	
Kilsby's	S	Landowner leased to S.A. Police	Restricted access conditions apply - refer Guidelines Issue 54. Twin tanks, maximum of 40 metres depth. Write to: P.O. Box 77, Mount Gambier, 5290, six weeks prior. August 2 & 3 1997, September 13 & 14 1997 (AGM weekend), November 22 & 23 1997, January 24 & 25 1998, April 11 & 12 1998, June 6 & 7 1998. No animals permitted.
Shaft	S	Generally open one weekend a month L. Claridge P.O. Box 290 North Adelaide 5006	TIMETABLE FOR "THE SHAFT" GUIDES September 13/14 1997 (AGM weekend) October 4/5 1997 November 1/2 1997 December 6/7 1997
Ten Eighty Bullock Hole Black Hole	S	Mr. Colin Traeger	Sundays only Contact CDAА 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 Please include stamped self addressed envelope. Closed October to November for shearing.
	S	PO Box 12,	
	S	Mt Gambier 5290 (087) 26 6215	

C.D.A.A. SPRING WORKSHOP

**PRESIDENTIAL MOTEL
JUBILEE HWY WEST, MT GAMBIER
SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 1997**

An exciting weekend of lectures by guest speakers, equipment displays,
a members BBQ lunch, and an equipment swap meet.

Bring all your used equipment for sale to other members, and
bring your cheque book to pick up a bargain!!

Including the fun of the AGM on Saturday night.

**SPECIAL RATE OF \$45 PER ROOM FOR MEMBERS WISHING TO STAY
AT THE PRESIDENTIAL - BOOK EARLY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT !!**

PROGRAM

Saturday 13th September

- 9:30 AM Cave Diving in Mexico - Ken Smith
- 10:15 AM Nitrox & it's benefits for Cave Diving - Barrie Heard
- 11:00 AM Tank Cave - The latest info & exploration - Tim Payne
- 12:00 PM MEMBERS BBQ LUNCH
- 2:00 PM Cockelbiddy - A world record - Chris Brown
- 2:45 PM Cave Diving in Alaska - Andrew Wight
- 3:15 PM Cave Diving in Vanuatu - Gary Barclay
- 8:00 PM Annual General Meeting

Sunday 14th September

- 9:30 AM Members Equipment Swap Meet - Pick up a bargain
- 12:00 PM Time to go diving !!!

ALL FOR ONLY \$10 EACH !!!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please supply _____ tickets to the CDAA Spring Workshop

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Return with payment to:

CDAA Spring Workshop

197 Smith Lane, Cranbourne South, Vic, 3977

NOTE: Please return ASAP to help with organising catering

CDAA SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)			
Max's Hole	C	Mr T. Edwards P.O. Box 1319 Mt Gambier 5290	Phone or mail 1 week prior to dive. Ph: (087) 26 8277
Hann's cave	P	P & A Lasslett	Groups of four divers only apply in writing to Site Director. Limited groups will be allowed access over the summer months. The site is very delicate and therefore only limited access is available. Divers applying will be notified as to further access details. Please include a stamped self addressed envelope.
Engelbrechts		Mt Gambier	
- East	C	Council	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. Key must be returned by 5pm Sunday, 2 divers must sign out keys, all divers must sign in advising which groups they are diving with.
- West	P		
Three Sisters	P	Millicent Council	Contact Linda Claridge (Records' Officer). Access available for experienced Penetration divers only. Low profile or side mounted independent air systems required. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. Please allow 4 weeks for indemnities to be processed.
Iddlebiddy (5L250)	P	Primary Industries S.A. (Forestry)	5L250 open 1st & 3rd weekend of every month. 5L290 open every weekend. Max. 4 divers per dive per day, 1 dive per day for each site. Only Penetration divers completed practical in-water cross-over. Bookings from Forestry Office - key from Lady Nelson. Contact Primary Industries SA (Forestry) by mail, phone or fax to arrange permit. Collect permit from Regional Office, Jubilee Hwy., Mt. Gambier. No diving on total fire ban days. Forest Work Bans may be applied by PISA Forestry if forest fire danger is expected to reach extreme. Such bans also exclude the public from entering the forest. If in doubt, please check with Trevor Wynniat or Forestry Office, although signs are generally erected at diving sites on such days to indicate such bans.
Nettle-Bed (5L290)	P	PO Box 162 Mt Gambier 5290	Permits will ONLY be issued Mon-Fri between 8.30am-4.30pm. Ph: (087) 242 887. Please use this number for all bookings and enquiries etc. Fax: (087) 242 885 Email: wynniat.trevor@pi.sa.gov.au. Written confirmation required.
McKay's Shaft	S		Contact Phil Argy at Mt. Gambier as access can be arranged.
Tank Cave	P	Mr. DY CER	Apply in writing at least 3 weeks in advance to; CDAA Tank Cave Access, 19 Broadmeadow Drive, Flagstaff Hill 5159. (This access may be cancelled at anytime, at the discretion of the landowner) NB: New divers must first apply for an application form to; Paul ARBON, PO Box 290 North Adelaide. (See Tank Cave Access Information - Issue No. 57).
Baker's Cave	C	Temporarily closed.	
NULLARBOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
Cocklebiddy	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	C.A.L.M.	
Tommy Grahams	C	44 Serpentine Rd,	Apply in writing with at least four weeks notice to: Mr Graham Higgins, Department of Land Administration, PO Box 2222, MIDLAND, WA 6056. Include in the application:
Weebubbie	C	Albany 6330	• The dates of the intended visit(s) • Photocopies of CDAA certification cards for all of the party • A signed Indemnity Form for Weebubbie Cave (photocopy from original in Issue 61 of Guidelines). Please note that this arrangement is for Weebubbie only and access to other caves on the Nullarbor must follow existing access protocol. Also note that divers must supply their own ladders as the old ladder has been removed.
WELLINGTON CAVES - N.S.W.			
Limekiln (McCavity)	P/C		Both Penetration and Cave Level are being accepted for this cave depending on it's water level at the time. The cave has a restriction at the entrance which is underwater making it a Penetration Dive. During drought, the water level drops to form a small lake below the restriction allowing experienced Cave Divers access to this delicate cave.
Water (Anticline)	C		Affected by high CO ₂ levels during Summer/Autumn. Access arrangements are co-ordinated with an already commissioned research group. Contact Greg Ryan (02) 9351 4809 w, (02) 9743 4157 h, gregr@cs.su.oz.au.

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE
SPRING WORKSHOP AND YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN ONE OF THE THREE GREAT DOOR PRIZES**

Product Review

Prowatt Power Inverters

Submitted by Tony Davis
CDA 1187

Power Inverters are a relatively new invention, and now a range of reliable, lightweight and relatively cheap inverters are available here in Australia.

Inverters are a very useful addition to the travelling Cave Divers plethora of equipment we all seem to carry with us. Put very simply, power inverters convert 12 volt DC current (from your car battery or cigarette lighter socket) to 240 volt AC household current, allowing the use of a wide range of appliances and electrical products, including chargers for our dive lights, laptop computers, power tools, and standard light bulbs.

The ProWatt range of Inverters are made in Canada, and there are four models, each with different output ranges. The smallest in the range is the 150 watt unit, followed by the 250 watt unit, the 800 watt and finally the 1500 watt big daddy unit, for those who can't do a trip to the Nullarbor without the hair dryer or microwave.

Seriously though, I have been using the middle of the range 250 watt unit for some time now, and have found that it will power almost anything that we cave divers need on a weekend trip to Mount Gambier, or a full blown Nullarbor Expedition.

The obvious advantage in having an Inverter with you is the availability of 240 volt power in the middle of nowhere, allowing you to charge your dive light, run a few standard or fluoro light bulbs around camp, or fix problems with a soldering iron or power tools, all without the annoying constant noise of a generator, not to mention the trouble transporting one.



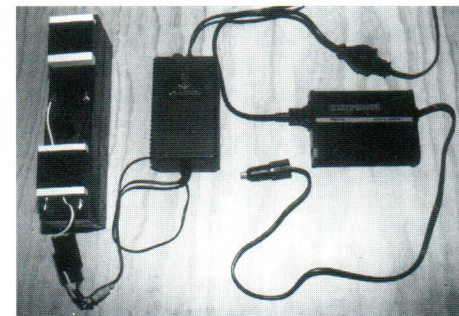
"The Prowatt 250 watt Inverter"

Speaking with the importers, I am told all ProWatt Inverters have a number of features which make them very user friendly. The 150 & 250 watt models are very small and lightweight, and all models have a low battery alarm signal when your car battery reaches 10.7 volts. As a further feature, when your car battery reaches 10 volts, the units have an auto cutoff to prevent total battery drain, and when the battery reaches 11 volts the Inverter will automatically resume operation. All units also feature auto reset protection against overload, short circuit & over temperature, and input protection against reverse polarity.

To calculate which Inverter you require, all you need to know is the total amount of power, in watts, you will need at any one time. The table below lists approximate power consumption for various 240 volt appliances.

	Typical Watts	Battery Time Available (Hours)			
		Std Car	75 A/H	H/D 4WD 100 A/H	Dual 200 A/H
Fluoro Light	40	16.9		22.5	45
Standard Lightbulb	60	11.3		15	30
Mobile Phone Charger	8	84.5		112.5	225
Engel Refrigerator	50	13.5		18	36
14" Television	70	9		13.5	27
Video Recorder	35	19.3		25.7	51.4
Video Camera Charger	40	16.9		22.5	45
Computer	150	4.5		6	12
Jigsaw	220	3.1		4.1	8.2
Power Drill	400	—		2.3	4.6
Deep Freezer	400	—		2.3	4.6
Grinder 100 mm	500	—		—	3.6
Circular Saw 9"	1350	—		—	1.4

The Inverters come with a cigarette lighter plug attached, but if you are thinking of running any high wattage appliances you may well need to either upgrade the wiring to your cigarette lighter socket, or wire the inverter direct to the battery.



"The Prowatt 250 connected to a Dive Rite charger and battery pack"

If you look at the table above, and notice the wattage the various appliances use, you can then decide which model will suit your needs. For using multiple appliances at once, simply

add the wattage's together for a total drain on your inverter and battery. I have found my 250 watt unit ideal for everything I have needed so far. It will charge a couple of Dive Rite lights at once, charge or run my laptop computer, run my soldering iron for field repairs, and power a couple of camp lights. All silently and with much less hassle and noise than a petrol powered generator, not to mention the easier transportation - The 250 watt unit is roughly the same size as a paperback novel.

For the ultimate in self sufficiency, and to make sure you never run out of power or run your car battery dead, you may want to consider connecting your inverter and car battery to one of the new breed of flexible solar panels now becoming available - But more about these neat little gizmo's in the next issue.

For further information, including special CDA Members Pricing, contact the agents, Aqua Tech Australia, on either (03) 5978-6201, or 0418 370-941.

TRADING POST

FOR SALE:

1. Oceanic Omega Bal Dia Reg with SPG, hose & boot - In VGC
RRP \$750 Sell for \$350
2. DUI CF200X Dry Suit - Top of the line Crushed Neoprene type with self donning front zip & neoprene seals - Size medium, suit 5'7" - 6'. Suit has brand new zipper. Also includes genuine DUI Thinsulate underwear. In VGC RRP \$3300 Sell for \$1700
3. Twin Sterling 7 lt/55 cft cylinders with Sterling isolation manifold & s/steel tank bands. In test.
RRP \$1100 Sell for \$700

Tony Davis 03 5978 6201

MEMBERSHIPS RENEWALS

Memberships are rolling in (avalanche more likely), so do not forget to renew **BEFORE**

September 30 or we will charge you a late fee!

You must also be current to attend the AGM in Mount Gambier on September 13th.

Please, Please, Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your renewal.

Linda Claridge

Broaden Your Horizons

Submitted by Greg Bulling

Back in 1985 I attended a presentation called "Dive '85" in Adelaide. It was a dive industry initiative which combined various industry displays with a group of key note speakers. The CDAA was represented at a booth, but of greater interest to me as a "wet behind the ears" category two diver was a slide presentation by Ian Lewis about cave diving in the US. As I watched the images of bubbling clear springs in the heartland of North Florida, I was reminded of my first experiences in Pic's and Ewens. As a poor University student who lived off bar work and teaching the occasional dive course, the lure of such an exotic location seemed out of reach at the time. I vowed though, that one day I'd get over there and dive in the waters made famous by Sheck Exley.

For almost seven years the lure of Florida was on my mind. I distracted myself of course, by throwing all my energies into cave diving in Australia. I set my sights on new experiences that were on local offer. First there were all the category three sites, including the Shaft, Kilsby's, and Engelbrechts West, which I was lucky enough to be able to help map. Hells Hole was a challenge, especially with only myself and one other!

Soon the caves on the Nullarbor became a great fascination to me. In the mid 1980's it was really the domain of the experienced CDAA campaigners and it was difficult for a relative novice like me to get involved. Undeterred, I set out to find all I could about the logistics of a diving trip to the area. Eventually things came together and I began the first of what was to be a constant procession of trips to the Nullarbor. I still vividly remember the excitement I felt as I slowly swam for the first time down the "Railway Tunnel" in Weebubbie. I was hooked, and over the next six years it became a passion of mine. Eight different trips, with different people, different sites and different objectives, made for experiences I will cherish forever.

By 1990 marriage, a child and a mortgage (sound familiar?), somehow had snuck up on me and I was beginning to wonder if I'd ever get to Florida. Then in 1992 two friends decided that they were going and I knew this was the opportunity I was looking for. After some fancy

footwork on the home front (I'm still to complete the list of jobs around the house I bartered with!) "permission was granted", and planning began for what I hoped was a trip of a lifetime.

Although a headache at times, the organisation was exciting in itself. With little international travelling experience between us we learnt as we went, and soon came up with some logistical priorities. First on the list was a reliable vehicle that wasn't going to send us broke to hire. We needed something big enough for 3+ divers with all the dive gear plus all our luggage. After lots of ISD phone calls we were able to organise a contact in Lake City (Florida), which was quite near the dive sites. The vehicle turned out to be an older Chevy van, which we negotiated down to \$20 US a day, quite a saving on a Hertz equivalent!

The second priority was securing three sets of large capacity cylinders. Fortunately we had struck up a friendship with Sheck Exley during his promotional tour in Australia. He promised to help with some "104's", the standard cylinders used in Florida.

The final things that we wanted to be sure on was: that we knew how to get to the sites, had adequate certification to dive them and could find our way to the start of the permanent lines. Once again we made lots of phone calls, read lots of books and magazines and bought maps of the area. Finally with dive tubs and suitcases bulging, we were ready to go.

Like many well laid plans, ours started poorly, when our international flight broke down on the runway, as we were about to take off from New Zealand. The 21 hour delay caused mild panic as it threw into turmoil our connecting flight schedule, as well as our planned pick up in Florida. I still have a chuckle at the memory of the three of us running through the LA international terminal, frantically pushing our little luggage trolleys (brought with us!) which were buckling under the 65kg weight of our individual gear, not to mention our hand luggage, which was stuffed with regulators and camera gear!

As is usually the case, things slowly fell into place and we arrived in Lake City with all our gear, and checked into a ramshackle motel,

sometime after midnight. With the coming and going of vehicles all night, by morning we realised that this was no ordinary motel. In fact it was the type that normally charged by the hour rather than the night!

Soon it was off to the used car lot to pick up our "touring van". It looked quite good, but we were disappointed to find it only had two seats. No problems, our trusty contact threw in an old sofa from his office and a rather rickety coffee table to make things complete.

After finally settling into more "stable" accommodation we unpacked and checked our dive gear. We had brought all our dive gear, except cylinders, including both wet and drysuits. It had all surprisingly fitted into a normal dive tub (bar the drysuit) with a little persuasion.

Over the next two weeks we dived in many of the popular systems and were fortunate enough to even dive with the late Sheck Exley. A number of dives were done in sites by ourselves but many

were in the company of a few guys we met when we were there. They were great company and although not well known names, they were invaluable in helping us locate sites and permanent lines.

After two weeks away it was soon time to return home. As I sat in my first class seat from LA to Australia (a free upgrade, but that's another story!), I reflected on the fantastic time I'd had and the wonderful people I had met. I'd finally fulfilled my ambition.

Of course there is a little moral to this tale, and that's to "Broaden your Horizons". Set yourself a goal about what you really would like to achieve in cave diving. Maybe it's as simple as getting your next level of CDAA certification, or the Nullarbor perhaps? Why not plan for that once in a life time trip to Florida, Mexico or Vanuata? Our sport offers you the opportunity of unsurpassed experiences, it's really up you!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at The Presidential Motel on Saturday 13 September, commencing at 8:00 PM and concluding at 10:30 PM. Minute of the last AGM were distributed with Issue 59 (October, 1996) of Guidelines.

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Opening and welcome | 6. Appointment of an Auditor |
| 2. Present and apologies | 7. Results of postal voting |
| 3. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous AGM | 8. General Business |
| 4. Business Arising from the previous AGM | 9. Any Other Business |
| 5. Adoption of the Annual Reports | 10. Close |

ADVERTISING RATES

FOR SPACE - APPLY TO THE EDITOR

"Guidelines" magazine is circulated to over 1200 members and retail outlets.

Back page	2 colour	\$350.00
Inside Front Page	Black & White	\$300.00
Inside Back Page	Black & White	\$300.00
Full Page	Black & White	\$250.00
Half Page	Black & White	\$150.00
Quarter Page	Black & White	\$100.00

National Director's Annual Report

Since my election in December 1996, much has changed with the administration of the CDAA. As mentioned in my last report, the make up of the Directorate altered during the year with the retirement of the Standards Director, Ian Lewis, (May 1997) and the resignation of Chris Brown as Business Director, (March 1997). I would like to formally thank Glen Harrison and Carlo Virgili for stepping into these roles and acknowledge the enormous contribution they have made.

Director Accountability

The first item on the agenda of the first Directors meeting held back in January was the accountability of Directors. I felt it was critical that Directors should not only do what was expected of every member but should take a pro-active stand in ensuring rules and regulations of the Association were maintained by all.

I asked for, and received, a commitment from all the Directors that this would occur. It was agreed by all, that if a Director was not able to fulfil their obligations to this agreement, they would resign. Although a resignation is unsettling for any Directorate, the idea has now been formalised and appears elsewhere in Guidelines as a document entitled "CODE FOR ETHICAL CONDUCT OF CDAA REPRESENTATIVES". The code is binding for all Office Bearer's, Instructors, limited Directorates and all other representatives of the CDAA.

Insurance

I am pleased to be able to report that after exhaustive negotiations I have been able to secure a new insurance coverage for the Association, at a saving of close to \$6000. The new policy, underwritten by FAI, will provide coverage for this year, with a review and refinement process occurring during this time, to try and gain improvements where possible.

Standards and Procedures

The new Standards and Procedures were recently completed and several instructor workshops have already been conducted. Details of the Standards and Procedures appear

in the Standards Director's report. It has been a process which has taken considerable time, however, we now have a very clear outline of what will take place on every course. The new Standards and Procedures ensure clear accountability and are available to any member on request.

Access

The Association's standing with the landowners is in good shape, due in no small part to the work done by the Site Access Director, Gary Barclay. On the positive side I was able to, with Gary's help, renegotiate access to Weebubbie cave after its collapse. It is important that visiting CDAA divers adhere closely to the requirements that were published in the Guidelines issue 61.

Unfortunately the situation with Pannikin Plains Cave is not so positive. I recently received some correspondence from John Watson at CALM which indicates that the cave will continue to be closed for at least another five years. Despite this, the number of sites available to members is still currently high, but we must not be complacent and continue to be supportive of access requirements that are in place. I do intend to work with the Site Access Director in the near future to re-evaluate the access arrangements at several sites with the view to streamlining procedures.

The clean up dive in Hell's Hole was outstanding success, and our thanks must go to Gary Barclay and the band of volunteers who made the day a successful one.

Constitution

The new version of the constitution has finally been completed and is contained in this issue of Guidelines. A large amount of work has gone into this project by quite a number of people. The various drafts have been widely circulated and members comments have been incorporated into the final version. Please take the time to vote for its acceptance, as it is an important step forward for the Association.

Accounts

The accounts of the Association are currently being prepared for auditing. Duly audited

statements will be presented at the Annual General Meeting and will be reported to all members in the next issue of Guidelines.

Guidelines

It is pleasing to report that Guidelines has been produced on time this year, and under the editorial control of Vic Kostiuk, it is a publication we can be proud of. The Directorate realises that the editor's role is a time consuming one and has appointed an assistant editor to help carry the work load. In addition, the Directorate supports the importance of delivering a high quality publication by recommending in the proposed constitutional amendments that Guidelines assumes director responsibility. The volunteer members who help pack and label Guidelines also deserve a mention for their excellent contribution.

On a disappointing note I must advise that Guidelines advertising revenue, (which significantly subsidises the cost of producing the newsletter) has declined by several thousand dollars during this Directorate's term of office. This forced the Directorate to engage a consultant during May 1997 to manage the recovery of outstanding amounts and the procurement of new advertisers.

The Internet

As many members will no doubt realise the CDAA has a presence on the World Wide Web,

with a very professional and informative web page. My thanks to Dean Niclasen and Rob Smith for their initiative and efforts in not only authoring the page, but maintaining it at no cost to the Association.

Also present on the internet is a discussion list for those interested in cave diving. The Directorate feel this is an excellent opportunity for positive interaction among CDAA members, but does not believe that it is the correct forum for Directors to be officially involved in.

Fundraising

Previous Directorates have been unable to dedicate time and effort into fundraising activities because of other competing commitments and priorities. The current Directorate supports actively promoted and organised activities as a means of raising revenue to offset increasing administrative costs of the Association. As such in May this year the Directorate engaged a consultant, AquaTech Pty Ltd to undertake fundraising and promotional activity.

In closing, I would like to thank all of those people who have given me such great support during the past year and hope the CDAA can build on the excellent foundation I believe we now have.

Greg Bulling

Standards Director's Report

I was appointed Standards Director at a National Directorate meeting in May, following the retirement of Ian Lewis. I had been working closely with both Ian and Greg Bulling on the new standards and felt comfortable continuing the process through to completion. Since May all the Directors have been working well together and have been able to produce a lot of valuable work for the Association. Since I have only been in the job for 2 months, as at writing this, I don't have too much to report.

New Standards and Procedures

As mentioned in the National Directors report we have secured an insurance policy at a significant saving to the Association. The

driving force behind the new standards was an insurance requirement for performance based criteria (PBC) to be identified at all levels of training and for every water session. PBC's in the old standards were non existent and thus these standards were not acceptable to the proposed insurer. A commitment was made by the Directorate in late January to change the standards so as to meet the insurance requirements.

A new set of standards was accepted by the Directorate in May and a series of instructor workshops proposed to disseminate the information. Several workshops have already been conducted in Victoria, South Australia with N.S.W., W.A. and other areas being

scheduled shortly. I would like to thank both Barrie Heard and John Dalla-Zuanna for their support and on-going commitment in this area. It is my intention to update the majority of instructors by the end of August.

Apart from specific PBC's for each course the most significant change to the standards has been the combination of cavern and sinkhole courses. This format was successfully piloted in 1996 and the new standard is being trialed for twelve months. The requirement to quickly formulate the new standards to meet an insurance renewal deadline in July meant that consultation with all CDAA instructors was not practical. Consequently feed back forms are being sent to instructors after they run a course and these comments will form the basis of a workshop which will be run in 6 to 8 months. It is hoped that enough courses will be run by enough instructors for constructive input and refinement of the standards at that forum. It will still be possible for instructors to run separate cavern and sinkhole courses under the old standard if circumstances require it. If any member who holds a cavern rating only wishes to become a sinkhole diver please contact me and I will outline the procedure with you.

I have also reintroduced course evaluation forms for students to fill in and return to the CDAA if they wish. It is hoped that information gleaned from these will achieve

consistency throughout CDAA training and also make instructors more accountable for the service they offer the membership.

POLICY

Several issues have arisen in the last year which require a CDAA policy or position. Tim Payne has offered his services to coordinate these tasks and I thank Tim for the time and effort he has put in over the past couple of months. The areas Tim is currently looking at include DPV use, Web presence, re-breathers, manifolds, the role of State Representatives and various standards related forms.

NITROX

The CDAA is currently undertaking a review of the current nitrox arrangements with a view to expanding the 32/36 limitations. All major training agencies that teach nitrox have been asked to make comment and the feed back is currently being collated. When this is done a much clearer picture of nitrox standards will enable us to progress to the next stage.

In closing I would like to thank all members of the Directorate for their tireless and often thankless efforts during the past year. I am sure that if their enthusiasm and commitment continues the Association can only prosper.

Glen Harrison

CDAA-SA Landowners Liaison Forum

The following is printed to outline the aims and purpose of the Landowner Liaison Committee for the general information of CDAA members.

A. PURPOSES OF FORUM

The liaison forum will provide an opportunity for the discussion of issues relating to the sport of cave diving and for the ongoing communication between the Cave Divers Association of Australia and the Landowners in the South East of South Australia (upon which whose land dive sites are located).

B. AIMS OF FORUM

The liaison forum will attempt to meet the following aims:

- (1) to protect Landowners and the managers thereof from liability as a consequence of permitting members of the CDAA to access

their property for the sport of cave diving.

- (2) to protect the karst environment of sinkholes and caves from damage, over use and/or misuse.
- (3) to aid the CDAA;
 - in its processes of promoting and enforcing safe practices and procedures of its members.
 - in its development of safety standards and the implementation of those standards.
- (4) to co-ordinate the management of dive sites (sinkholes and caves) for the mutual benefit of the CDAA (and its Members) and the

Landowners.

- (5) to provide a forum for the ongoing and developing communication necessary between the CDAA, Landowners and other interested parties.
- (6) to provide a forum for Landowners to raise matters of issue with the CDAA.
- (7) to provide a forum for CDAA to raise matters of issue with the Landowners.

C. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF FORUM

The liaison forum has the following terms of reference to generally guide its works as the "communication channel" for official business between the CDAA and Landowners:

- (1) to be satisfied that the CDAA has and is utilising the best and most appropriate practices to develop procedures and processes for the sport of cave diving when determining diving standards for its Members.
- (2) to be satisfied that the CDAA has and is utilising the best and most appropriate practices and processes when determining the proper standards of access and levels for each sinkhole.
- (3) to assist in the development, with Landowners, of a co-ordinated approach to dive site management including access thereto and therein.
- (4) to assist South Australian Police and other emergency services in the provision of information (that is known to the liaison forum) for search, rescue and recovery operations at any applicable dive site.
- (5) the role of the representative from STAR Division Water Response Section will be to provide expert opinion and to assist and advise the forum (particularly the landowners) in matters relating to diving practices.
- (6) to assist Landowners in the development and understanding of any legal requirements that need to be recognised by any Landowner and the CDAA and review the adequacy of any relevant legal issues as same may effect either party.

D. COMPOSITION OF FORUM

For the proper and adequate management of the forum, the persons or groups who should be formally represented thereon would include:

LANDOWNERS

(1) representation from each of the following:

- Primary Industries (SA) Forestry - Site manager
- Local Government - Site manager
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Site manager, environmental protection

E. FUNCTIONS OF FORUM

The forum will generally:

- (a) (1) meet at least twice a year.
 - (2) discuss on a regular basis any intended modifications to site access/management of any dive site.
 - (3) attempt to be the only forum for the expression of views and opinions between, regarding or in respect of Landowners and the Association (including its individual members).
 - (4) the Presiding Member of the forum shall be determined/appointed from the Landowner representatives Membership only and the person appointed will be responsible for the preparation of minutes of forum meetings.
 - (5) the Association shall be responsible for the distribution of minutes of forum meetings to landowners not represented on the forum.
- (b) (1) develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the Association and any individual landowner regarding access to any dive site.
 - (2) the Memorandum of Understanding may take the form of the Deed between the City of Mount Gambier and the Cave Divers' Association of Australia Incorporated, (dated 11th August 1987) as annexed hereto.
- (c) (1) develop a Diving Deed access document between the Association's individual Members and an individual landowner regarding access to any dive site.
 - (2) the Diving Deed may take the form of the Diving Deed between the City of Mount Gambier and Members of the Association as annexed hereto.

Code of ethical conduct of CDAA representatives

INTRODUCTION

CDAA Representatives include Office Bearer's of the Association, Limited Directorates, Instructors, Editors and all other persons acting in an official capacity as defined in the Regulations of the Association.

Ethics is all about making decisions in the face of competing loyalties, priorities, responsibilities, and accountabilities. It is about how to deal constructively with moral ambiguities and uncertainties.

Some decisions are prompted by legal constraints. Others are motivated by self-interest. The extent to which it is acceptable for a CDAA representative's background and intrinsic personality to influence decisions is rather elusive. CDAA representatives are in a special position of trust and consequently the membership has very high expectations with regard to use of resources, information and power. The attitude which is expected of CDAA representatives is succinctly summarised as follows:

"In discharging the duties of their office they are required to display such intelligence and skill as they are capable of, to be diligent and conscientious, to exercise their discretion not arbitrarily but reasonably, and above all to display good faith, honesty and integrity. They must be impervious to corrupting influences and they must transact their business frankly and opening in the light of public scrutiny so that the public may know and be able to judge them and their work fairly".

Driscoll -v- Burlington-Bristol Bridge Co. 86A.2d201, at 222-222 per Vanderbilt C.J.(U.S.)

General Principles

The National Directorate is to be administered in a manner which emphasises the importance of service to all members.

CDAA representatives:

- in their dealings with the public and members, are to exercise courtesy, consideration and sensitivity;
- are to be impartial, accurate and competent advisers and efficient, prompt and effective implementors of policies;
- are to perform their duties with professionalism and integrity and efficiently serve the membership of the day;
- are to observe fairness and equity in official dealings with the public and members and real or apparent conflicts of interest are to be avoided.
- must comply with the provisions of the Association and Incorporation's Act of 1985 and the Constitution and Regulations of the Association;
- are not to conduct themselves in their private capacities in a manner that would reflect seriously and adversely on the Association.

Determination of Policy

In order to put the National Directorate in a position where it can make responsible decisions concerning policy, CDAA representatives are expected:

- to be candid concerning the pros and cons of proposed policies;
- to put all the relevant information before the National

Directorate and to be thorough.

Impartiality

Decisions must be made in a fair and non discriminatory manner.

Each CDAA representative must take responsibility for ensuring that good decision making procedures are adopted and put in practice. Such procedures include ensuring that:

- current policies are clearly stated and distributed to all members;
- current policies are published and are freely available;
- where appropriate, there is adherence to the principles of natural justice.

Conflict of Interest

The National Directorate must implement policies honestly and fairly. To this end, it is important no conflict of interest arises between a CDAA representative's personal interests and his/her duties as a CDAA representative.

Conflict situations arise where a CDAA representative has private economic interests which may be affected by the adoption of a policy into which he/she has input. A conflict may arise even though the CDAA representative acts to his/her own detriment. Examples include:

- dealing as a CDAA representative with an organisation, when that organisation has, or is expected to, offer benefits to the CDAA representative;
 - participation in decision making about an issue when the CDAA representative has a direct pecuniary interest in the outcome;
 - acceptance of gifts, accommodation, equipment, or free or sponsored travel by a company which has a close working relationship with the Association;
- Where a CDAA representative has a pecuniary or other personal interest in a matter; and that interest conflicts or may conflict with his/her duties in relation to that matter, the CDAA representative shall disclose the nature of the interest.

Gifts

It is expected that CDAA representatives will not be influenced in the performance of their duties by bribery. Accordingly, CDAA representatives should, under no circumstances, accept money from any source in connection with the performance of their official duties. Offers of free travel and free accommodation cannot be accepted unless that travel or accommodation is to be undertaken in conjunction with official business, and the Association will obtain a tangible benefit from the exercise.

Non-pecuniary gifts may be accepted provided that they are obviously mementos or gifts of a symbolic nature.

Natural Justice

CDAA representatives must deal with the public and all members in a consistent and even-handed manner. Decisions should be made with fairness and equity. Fairness requires that decisions be frank, honest and impartial. Equity requires that each individual be given

his/her due. These two principles require CDAA representatives to ensure that they have before them all material which is relevant to the decision which is to be made and that they have satisfied themselves as far as possible that such material is factually correct.

Procedural fairness means that:

- where an adverse decision may be made about someone, that person should be informed as fully as possible of the reasons for the decision or allegations which have been made against him/her;
- a person should be given an opportunity to put his/her side of the case;
- if there are competing interests, all interested parties should be given an opportunity to put their case;
- the decision maker should have no personal involvement in the matter being decided upon; and
- the decision maker must act fairly and without bias.

Avoidance of Waste

The Association is largely funded by membership fees. The National Directorate is responsible for ensuring that monies are directed to the purposes for which they were raised, and that resources are treated with respect and are properly conserved and maintained.

The following activities clearly fall within the avoidance of waste principles:

- expense accounts and travel allowances should only be used for official business, and receipts must be provided;
- office equipment and facilities must be accorded the same level of care which reasonable people accord to their own possessions;
- public papers, records and documents must be carefully and neatly handled and stored.

General Confidentiality

CDAA representatives are obliged to be scrupulous in the use of official information.

Public Comment and Improper Disclosure of Information

CDAA representatives should take care before making any comments in public. Particular attention should be given to the question of prejudice to the Association in pursuing its policies. The following issues are relevant matters to take into account:

- the likelihood of the audience implying that the view expressed is the official view of the Association;
- the extent to which the CDAA representative may be compromised in his/her ability to provide efficient and professional advice concerning the direction and implementation of policy;
- whether the comments are such as to cause disruption and dissension among CDAA representatives.

Whistleblowing

CDAA representatives are required to alert the National Directorate of unlawful behaviour and of other matters of Association interest. This includes:

- CDAA representatives or members carrying on activity in contravention of the provisions of the Associations and Incorporation's Act of 1985 and the Association's Constitution and Regulations;
- a CDAA representative or member who has engaged in

conduct which constitutes impropriety negligence or incompetence.

Abuse of Office

Under this provision it is a breach if a CDAA representative improperly:

- exercises power or influence that the CDAA representative has by virtue of his or her office;
- refuses or fails to discharge or perform an official duty or function;
- uses information that the CDAA representative has gained by virtue of his or her position, with the intention of:
- securing a benefit for himself or herself or for another person;
- causing injury or detriment to another person.

Resignation of office is the penalty for an offence under this Section.

CDAA Representative's Behaviour as Diving Members of the Association

CDAA representatives have a responsibility:

- to act in accordance with and to actively discourage members from contravening the Constitution and Regulations and all other policies and procedures of the Association including the rules of site access;
- to work constructively together;
- not to publicly denigrate other CDAA representatives and the CDAA Constitution, Regulations and all policies and procedures of the Association including the rules of site access.

Additional Provisions required of the Guidelines Editor and Assistant Editors

Guidelines is the official publication of the Association and is an important mechanism for distributing information such as new policies, site access arrangements and Director's reports to members.

Responsibility for ensuring the timely issue of Guidelines rests with the Business Director. The editor will manage the production of Guidelines and is responsible to the Business Director.

The Editor will be assisted by a sub editor(s). The Editor is responsible for determining the suitability of all material to be included in Guidelines. This will be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Code and will include the following additional provisions.

From time to time material presented for publication may be considered defamatory in nature, indecent, obscene or likely to bring the Association in to disrepute. In determining eligibility for publication the Editor must ensure to the best of his/her knowledge that:

- the material is factual;
- it does not represent or imply a personal attack on any member or any body with which the Association has dealings in any manner what so ever;
- it does not injure the reputation of the Association;
- it relates to the sport of cave diving.

The publication of this type of material must afford a right of reply in the same issue of Guidelines.

IMPORTANT NEWS ON THE CONSTITUTION

In recent years the Association's constitution has created problems resulting in the blockage or hindrance of the administration and conduct of the Association's business. It has also been the source of much debate concerning interpretation and clarity of many clauses. It was for these very reasons that a unanimous vote of members at the 1995 AGM supported the establishment of a limited directorate to review the constitution.

Since then considerable work has been undertaken to develop a proposal which can be confidently put to members for voting. In particular, significant member comment was received between the April deadline for articles to be included in Guidelines and the recommended proposal contained herein.

The proposed constitutional amendments seek to clearly specify the fundamental laws and practices which govern the operation of the Association. Whilst each and every clause has been reviewed the key changes are:

- 1) The establishment of an independent Member Appeals Committee to which members can appeal disciplinary actions determined by the National Committee.
- 2) Clear procedures regarding:
 - * the nomination of life members.
 - * the rights and obligations of the various classes of membership.
 - * the management and operation of sub committees, meetings of the Association, member records, constitutional amendments, motions and postal voting.
- 3) Whilst supporting and acknowledging the success of a five director structure, the responsibilities and duties of director positions have been redesigned to achieve potential benefits of such a structure and to increase individual director accountability.
- 4) All voting to be by postal ballot in recognition that attendances at Annual General Meetings is poor, and that the outcomes of any business raised from the floor may not be representative of the membership and does not allow every member the opportunity to exercise their individual right to cast a vote.
- 5) In order to be more responsive to change, the National Committee may propose motions to be voted on by postal ballot at any time.

There have been many changes, most of which are minor - too many to be considered and voted on as separate items. Instead the National Directorate has elected to put forward a package to be voted for on an all nothing basis. With this in mind, **every effort has been made to ensure that members have had every opportunity to consider the proposal and contribute comments.** Enclosed in this issue of Guidelines is the **proposed constitution formulated through general consensus of the entire membership.** This proposal is endorsed by the National Directorate. **All members are urged to vote in favour of adopting the proposed constitution.**

Cave Divers Association of Australia Constitution

1. NAME

The name of the Association is "Cave Divers Association of Australia Incorporated".

2. DEFINITIONS

- 1) In this Constitution:
 - a) Association means the Cave Divers Association of Australia, (CDA).
 - b) the National Committee means the National Committee of the Association as defined in the Constitution.
 - c) the Act means the Associations Incorporation Act, 1985.
 - d) Constitution means the Constitution of the Association
 - e) Regulations means the Regulations of the Association.
 - f) eligible members are full members and life members who at polling date have discharged all fees, levies and charges which arise or may arise through the application of the Constitution and Regulations.
 - g) CDA Instructors means members listed in the Regulations as qualified to deliver CDA courses.
 - h) financial members means members who have discharged all fees, levies and charges.
 - i) body means any person, club or association.
 - j) the use of he/she or his/hers is interchangeable.

3. ADDRESS

- 1) The Address of the Association is PO Box 290 North Adelaide South Australia 5006.
- 2) The address of the Association will be determined by the National

Committee.

- 3) Notice of changes to the address must be notified to all members in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) The main aims and objectives of the Association are to foster the development, advancement, promotion, mapping, education, exploration, conservation, safety and research of underwater caves and related features. In addition the Association will:
 - a) seek Government support and assistance for the attainment of the Association's aims and objectives.
 - b) accept subscriptions, donations, devices and bequests to enable the furtherance of the Association's aims and objectives.
 - c) acquire, dispose of or otherwise deal with any real or personal property that may be considered necessary or convenient by the National Committee.
 - d) liaise with landowners, land managers and other interested parties to promote understanding and cooperation with the Association's aims and objectives.
 - e) promote and engage in other such activities and provide such other facilities as are consistent with and which will enhance the Association's aims and objectives.
 - f) ensure adequate training and safety of all members and visitors.

5. AMENDING THE REGULATIONS

The Regulations can only be amended at a duly constituted meeting of the National Committee.

6. AFFILIATION

The Association may affiliate with any body the aims and objectives or interests of which the National Committee considers to be in common with those of the Association.

7. INCOME

- 1) The income and property of the Association must be applied solely to further its aims and objectives and no portion of it can be ceded to any member.
- 2) The Association will not be prevented from paying members for goods or services provided such goods and services are duly approved by the National Committee and payment satisfies the accounting and record keeping provisions of the Act.

8. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

There are three (3) categories of membership: - full, life and associate.

9. FULL MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Full membership is available for all persons who apply and are accepted for a CDA entry level course and or any other requirement(s) full membership stipulated in the Regulations.
- 2) Such membership is effective after the application is processed by the National Committee or its delegate, (as set out in the Regulations), and all fees are paid and a receipt issued.
- 3) Such membership will continue to be valid at the successful completion of the course. Membership will lapse at the conclusion of the course for unsuccessful candidates.
- 4) A full member may attend State Meetings, Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings.
- 5) Except for Office Bearers and where specifically requested by the National Committee a full member cannot attend meetings of the National Committee.
- 6) A full member may stand for election, vote and propose or second motions.
- 7) A current member who is renewing their membership or a full member whose membership has lapsed must apply to the National Committee for reinstatement; such application will be specified in the Regulations.
- 8) Applicants may be required to provide evidence of relevant diving experience during the lapsed period. Failure to provide evidence of relevant diving experience may result in the rejection of the application or downgrading of the applicant's most recent CDA diving certification level.

10. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Life membership is available to any person who has contributed extraordinary service consistent with the Association's aims and objectives over a number of years.
- 2) Motions proposing life membership for any member must comply with the provisions of the Constitution.
- 3) In addition any such nomination must also be supported by a statement detailing the nominee's achievements consistent with the Association's aims and objectives over a number of years.
- 4) Motions for life membership will be carried provided 20% of eligible members vote in favour of the motion.
- 5) A life member may attend State Meetings, Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings.
- 6) Except for Office Bearers and where specifically requested by the National Committee a life member cannot attend meetings of the National Committee.
- 7) A life member is not required to pay the annual membership fee or any levies which may be imposed by the Association, but is required to pay any charge resulting from a breach of the Constitution or Regulations.
- 8) A life member may stand for election, vote, propose or second motions.

11. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Associate membership is available to any body interested in the aims and objectives of the Association.
- 2) Membership is effective after the application is processed by the National Committee or its delegate, (as set out in the Regulations), and all fees are paid and a receipt issued.

- 3) An associate member may attend State Meetings, Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings but cannot attend meetings of the National Committee.
- 4) An associate member has no rights, including diving or access rights, nor any obligations and cannot stand for election, vote, propose or second motions.

12. CERTIFICATION

- 1) The National Committee will classify all CDA sites in accordance with the definitions contained in the Regulations. The classification of all CDA sites will be set out in the Regulations.
- 2) Full members and life members must be certified at levels of competency commensurate with their training and experience. Eligible members are entitled to dive in or have access to CDA sites commensurate with their level of certification. Where a site is multi classified divers may only enter that part of the site for which they are certified.
- 3) Associate members are not eligible to dive in CDA sites.

13. FEES AND CHARGES

- 1) All fees, levies and charges applicable under the provisions of the Constitution or Regulations must be paid and a receipt issued before membership is valid. Fees and fee levels will be stipulated in the Regulations.
- 2) The level of fees can only be determined by postal vote.
- 3) Annual fees are due on 1 July.
- 4) Any person who joins after 1 May will be deemed to be a financial member for the next membership year. Any member whose membership fee is unpaid by 1 September will be required to pay a late fee, as specified in the Regulations. Any member whose membership fee is unpaid by 1 September will cease to be a member.
- 5) The National Committee may in extraordinary circumstances determine and impose a levy for specific purposes.

14. RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) No member will make, authorise or issue any public statement whether written or verbal or in any way purport to represent the Association or its views on any matter, or make any statement which may in any way be associated with the Association or to affix their name to any document relating to the affairs of the Association without the prior written permission of the National Committee.
- 2) No member will carry out any resolution of any meeting unless requested by majority vote at that meeting or by the National Committee.

15. MEMBER RESIGNATIONS

- 1) Any member may resign by giving thirty (30) days notice in writing to the Business Director of the intention to resign and on completion of the period of notice the member will cease to be a member of the Association.
- 2) Any member resigning from the Association or ceasing for any reason whatsoever (including expulsion) to be a member does not have any right, title or interest in or to any property of the Association.
- 3) Any member resigning part way through a membership year is not entitled to a refund of the balance of the fees for that membership year.

16. VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTION OR REGULATIONS

- 1) All members undertake to comply with the Constitution and Regulations and any refusal or neglect to do so will render the member liable to suspension, expulsion or any other penalty as set out in the Regulations or determined by the National Committee
- 2) All members will assist to the best of their ability any investigation conducted by the National Committee or the Member Appeals Committee into alleged breaches of the Constitution or Regulations.

17. SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

- 1) The National Committee has the power to suspend or expel a member for any breach of the Constitution or Regulations.
- 2) Such member must be given at least twenty (20) days notice in writing prior to the National Committee meeting to be held to deal with the allegation(s).
- 3) The notice must provide full details of the nature of the allegation(s)

and the time and place of the National Committee hearing at which time the member is entitled to appear before the National Committee (with or without representation) for the hearing of the allegation(s).

- 4) Failure of a member to attend such a hearing, to answer allegations as detailed by duly served notice will not preclude the National Committee from proceeding and passing judgement.
- 5) Such a member must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of any suspension, expulsion or penalty resulting from any National Committee meeting held to answer allegations detailed by duly served notice.

18. APPEAL

- 1) Any member who has been suspended or expelled or penalised by the Association has the right to appeal such a penalty.
- 2) Such an appeal must be lodged together with an appeal bond (the level of which is stipulated in the Regulations) with the Business Director within fourteen (14) days of written notice of the suspension, expulsion or penalty being received by the appellant.
- 3) If any such appeal is lodged a Member Appeals Committee will be formed comprising the Public Officer, an advocate for the appellant and an advocate for the National Committee.
- 4) The Member Appeals Committee will review the allegations and all evidence presented.
- 5) A majority ruling of the Member Appeals Committee will be final and binding.
- 6) In the event that the National Committee's decision is upheld the appellant will forfeit the appeal bond.

19. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Association will be from 1 July to 30 June.

20. NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- 1) The National Committee of the Association will consist of the National Director, Business Director, Publications and Records Director, Site Access Director and the Standards Director.
- 2) Office Bearers must be eligible members of the Association and residents of Australia.
- 3) Office Bearers found in breach of the Constitution or Regulations and required to serve a suspension must resign office.
- 4) Subject to the Constitution and Regulations, the National Committee will manage the affairs of the Association and will:
 - a) make regulations consistent with the Constitution.
 - b) fill any casual vacancy of the National Committee, within three (3) months of such a vacancy occurring, for the remaining term of that vacancy.
 - c) deal with applications for membership and resignations of members.
 - d) interpret the Constitution and Regulations of the Association.
 - e) carry out all resolutions passed at any meeting of the Association.
 - f) deal with any matters which may arise in the day to day running of the Association.
 - g) determine action to be taken against any member who breaches the Constitution and Regulations.

21. DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

- 1) The National Director will:
 - a) preside as chairperson at all meetings of the Association.
 - b) authorise all statements for publication or general release to the public.
 - c) prepare a regular report of activities as required by the National Committee.
 - d) prepare an Annual Report of the activities of the Association for distribution to members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
 - e) be responsible for legal and insurance matters relating to members, sites, landowners and other interested groups.
 - f) conduct all correspondence relevant to the position of National Director.
 - g) be responsible for sub committees operating under the control of the National Director.
 - h) have the casting vote at meetings of the Association.
 - i) conduct investigations of alleged infringements of the Constitution and or the Regulations by any member.

- j) be responsible for all duties or responsibilities not otherwise undertaken.
- k) have the power to delegate and assign tasks as the need arises.

22. DUTIES OF THE BUSINESS DIRECTOR

1. The Business Director will:
 - a) assist the National Director and in his absence or inability, to act for and exercise all powers and perform all of the duties of the National Director.
 - b) develop, implement and manage the Association's Strategic Business Plan.
 - c) in accordance with the Act be responsible for the receipt and banking of all monies, authorising and paying all accounts, keeping all necessary accounting records and preparing and submitting the books of account to the Auditor each year.
 - d) prepare a regular report of activities as required by the National Committee.
 - e) be responsible for sub committees operating under the control of the Business Director.
 - f) be responsible for maintaining and amending the Constitution and Regulations.
 - g) conduct all correspondence relevant to the position of Business Director.
 - h) call meetings and advise members accordingly, prepare agendas and take minutes all in accordance with the Act and the Constitution.
 - i) have the power to delegate and assign tasks as the need arises.

23. DUTIES OF THE PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS DIRECTOR

1. The Publications Director is:
 - a) responsible for the timely production and distribution of the Association's publication, 'Guidelines' and the management of Guidelines advertising.
 - b) responsible for keeping all records of the Association.
 - c) responsible for the distribution of CDAA Products.
 - d) prepare an Annual Report of the activities of the Association's Publications and Records activities for distribution to members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
 - e) maintain a record of members including their financial status and advise members of any fees, levies and charges due.
 - f) maintain a record of members holding current CDAA Instructor status.
 - g) maintain a record of all Special Visitor Permits issued.
 - h) be responsible for issuing all certification cards.
 - i) be responsible for sub committees operating under the control of the Publications Director.
 - j) conduct all correspondence relevant to the position of Publications and Records Director;
 - k) have the power to delegate and assign tasks as the need arises.

24. DUTIES OF THE SITE ACCESS DIRECTOR

1. The Site Access Director will:
 - a) liaise with the members of the Association, landowners, land managers and other interested groups for the purpose of obtaining and maintaining dive site access.
 - b) prepare a regular report of activities as required by the National Committee.
 - c) prepare an Annual Report of the activities of the Association's Site Access activities for distribution to members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
 - d) be responsible for sub committees operating under the control of the Site Access Director.
 - e) conduct all correspondence relevant to the position of Site Access Director.
 - f) have the power to delegate and assign tasks as the need arises.

25. DUTIES OF THE STANDARDS DIRECTOR

- 1) The Standards Director will:
 - a) develop, implement and maintain the Standards and Procedures Manual, as defined in the Regulations.
 - b) be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Standards and Procedures Manual.
 - c) prepare a regular report of activities as required by the National

Committee.

- d) prepare an Annual Report of the activities of the Association's Standard's activities for distribution to members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- e) provide a written report to the National Committee of any infringement of the Constitution and or Regulations.
- f) consider any applications for Instructor appointments in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the Regulations;
- g) be responsible for sub committees operating under the control of the Standards Director.
- h) conduct all correspondence relevant to the position of Standards Director.
- i) have the power to delegate and assign tasks as the need arises.

26. OFFICE BEARERS AND ELECTIONS

- 1) Except where expressly provided the election of Officer Bearers will take place by postal ballot and the result will be announced at the Annual General Meeting, where the Chairperson will first declare all positions vacant.
- 2) Nominations for Office Bearers must be in writing and be signed by the nominee, the proposer and the seconder. The nominee, proposer and the seconder must be eligible members of the Association.
- 3) Nothing will prevent retiring Office Bearers from re-nominating.
- 4) Nominations must be received by the Returning Officer not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the polling date.
- 5) Each nominee may appoint a scrutineer for the counting of votes.
- 6) Office Bearers may be removed from office by resolution passed at a duly constituted meeting of the Association.

27. SUB COMMITTEES

- 1) Sub committees can be established by the National Committee at any time provided the sub committee has a specific purpose and reports its activities regularly to a director responsible for its operation or as required by the National Committee.
- 2) The scope of activity to be undertaken by sub committees will be governed by their Terms of Reference which must be endorsed by the National Committee prior to the sub committee being established. The National Committee may review the Terms of Reference at any time.

28. PUBLIC OFFICER

- 1) A Public Officer must be appointed from eligible members of the Association and cannot be an Office Bearer.
- 2) The National Committee will be responsible for appointing the Public Officer.
- 3) The Public Officer must serve on the Member Appeals Committee.

29. MEETINGS

- 1) The types of meetings which the Association can conduct are State Meetings, Special General Meetings, Annual General Meetings and National Committee Meetings.

30. STATE MEETING

State meetings may be called by the National Committee from time to time as the need arises. Such meetings can serve only for the exchange of information.

31. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 1) A Special General Meeting will be convened whenever the National Committee or the Public Officer deems necessary or upon a written request from at least 10% of eligible members.
- 2) The written request must be signed by all eligible members requesting the meeting and must be sent to the Public Officer of the Association stating the object(s) of the meeting. No business other than that notified can be transacted at the meeting.
- 3) The meeting must be held within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written request.
- 4) The time and location for the meeting will be determined by the National Committee and will be held in such a location that best serves the majority of members.
- 5) Thirty (30) days written notice must be given to all eligible members by the Business Director. Such notice must state the place, date, time and agenda.
- 6) Business can only be transacted if a quorum has been established. A quorum for the transaction of business at any Special General

Meeting will consist of 20% of eligible members. If a quorum is not achieved after one half hour of the time appointed then the chairman will arrange a further meeting in accordance with this Constitution.

- 7) The National Committee will appoint two (2) scrutineers who will report the result of any ballot to the National Director.

32. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 1) The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at a date fixed by the National Committee between 1 September and 31 October each year.
- 2) The time and location will be determined by the National Committee. It must be held in a location that best serves the majority of members.
- 3) The Returning Officer will be determined by the National Committee and must not be a contestant.
- 4) At least sixty (60) days written notice of the polling date for the election, stating the Returning Officer and the place, time, and date of the meeting and a request for the written nominations of candidates for the Office Bearer positions must be given by the Business Director to all members.
- 5) The minutes of the previous meeting, the agenda for the meeting, annual reports and any other business including a list of validly nominated eligible members will be distributed for each contested Office Bearer position together with ballot papers, for the purpose of casting a postal vote will be distributed to members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 6) The business to be transacted will be in the following order:
 - a) Opening and welcome
 - b) Present and apologies
 - c) Acceptance of the minutes of the previous AGM
 - d) Business Arising from the previous AGM
 - e) Adoption of the Annual Reports
 - f) Appointment of an Auditor
 - g) Results of postal voting
 - h) General Business
 - i) Any Other Business
 - j) Close

33. NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 1) The National Committee of the Association must meet at least three times during its term of office.
- 2) Except for where otherwise provided the term of office of the National Committee will be the period of time commencing from the Annual General Meeting where Office Bearers are announced as being successful candidates to the next Annual General Meeting where the Office Bearers are again announced.
- 3) Business can only be transacted if a quorum has been established. The quorum for a Committee Meeting is four (4) Office Bearers.
- 4) The records of meetings of the National Committee will be made available to members on request.

34. MOTIONS

- 1) All motions must be proposed and seconded by eligible members.
- 2) Eligible members wishing to bring business before the Annual General Meeting must give forty-five (45) days notice of that business in writing to the Business Director
- 3) The National Committee can present business for voting at any time provided that voting be conducted by postal ballot. Except where otherwise provided the Business Director must give notice of the polling date and provide details of the business to be transacted together with the postal ballot papers for that purpose at least thirty (30) days prior to the polling date.
- 4) Business can also be transacted at a Special General Meeting in accordance with the provisions for such meetings.
- 5) The Business Director must advise all members in writing of the duly passed amendments within sixty (60) days and amendments will come into effect seven (7) days after the advice is posted.

35. VOTING

- 1) Only eligible members are entitled to vote.
- 2) Each member will have one (1) vote.
- 3) Except for where expressly provided voting will be conducted by postal ballot.

- 4) A postal vote can only be made on a form approved and provided by the National Committee.
- 5) The postal ballot system must protect the anonymity of the voter and be confidential.
- 36. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**
 - 1) The Constitution of the Association can be amended by postal ballot with the results announced at the Annual General Meeting.
 - 2) The Constitution can also be amended at a Special General Meeting or by a motion raised by the National Committee provided that such business is conducted in accordance with the provisions set out in the Constitution.
 - 3) Except for where expressly provided the Constitution can be amended by duly proposed and seconded proposal in writing to the Business Director at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Business Director must notify each member in writing of the proposed amendment(s) at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. No voting on Constitutional amendments will be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. The result of any ballot must be announced at the Annual General Meeting. The Business Director must give notice to all members in writing of the duly passed amendments within ninety (90) days and amendments will come into effect seven (7) days after such notice is posted.
- 37. WINDING UP**
 - 1) If at any meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Association is motioned, then the resolution must be passed by more than eighty percent (80%) of all financial members.
 - 2) If on dissolution of the Association, there remains after all liabilities

- have been discharged, any assets, those assets must be distributed to any other organisation whose aims and objects are similar.
- 3) Such distribution will be determined by the members at a Special General Meeting to be held at or before the time of dissolution.
- 38. COMMON SEAL**
 - 1) The Association must have a common seal upon which its corporate name must appear in legible characters.
 - 2) The seal must not be used without the authorisation of the National Committee.
 - 3) The fixing of the seal must occur in the presence of at least three (3) Office Bearers.
 - 4) The seal shall be kept in the custody of the Business Director or such other member of the Association as determined by the National Committee.
- 39. NOTICES**
 - 1) Any notice served in accordance with the Constitution may be served on behalf of the Association by posting to the last address on record file by the Association.
 - 2) Where such notice is properly addressed, prepaid and posted to a member it will be deemed to have been received at the expiration of three (3) business days from the day of posting.
- 40. MEMBERSHIP RECORDS AND MAILING LIST**
 - 1) The membership records and mailing list remain the property of the Association.
 - 2) The membership records and mailing list cannot be used for personal gain or self interest.
 - 3) Membership records and mailing lists can only be used for business related to the Constitution or Regulations.

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Rockfall in Weebubbie Cave ... (from page 16) Discussion

The Department of Land Administration has already determined the public should be forever denied access to Weebubbie Cave as a result of the October 1996 rockfall. In many respects, this is an regrettable outcome - given the unsurpassed beauty of the cave and its sediment-free lakes.

The only other cave on the Nullarbor that the public has unfettered access to is Cocklebidy Cave [6N-481 on CALM's Nuytsland Nature Reserve. Although this sediment-rich lake cave is spectacular in its own right, it does not surpass that of Weebubbie.

An alternative would be to re-examine the cave periodically with a view to restoring public access. If re-opened to the public, the current signs would need to be replaced, possibly advising that ALL caves suffer rockfalls [without warning] of varying severity from time to time [emphasising the extent of the 1996 fall] and that entry to the cave [or any other on DOLA territory] is at their own risk.

Recommendation

From our investigation of the Weebubbie collapse we submitted the following recommendation to DOLA bearing in mind that they had already determined that the public should be denied access as a result of the October rockfall.

If the current policy of non-access to the public is to remain then SRGWA would recommend that any sign that DOLA has erected that is visible from the Eyre Highway or roadhouse environs be removed to lessen their "magnetic" appeal. All other signs [there are 4] should remain in place.

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1997 Watson J. Pers. comm.

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Editor's Note:

Access to Weebubbie Cave has resumed for CDAA members. Access arrangements are specified in issue 61 of Guidelines.

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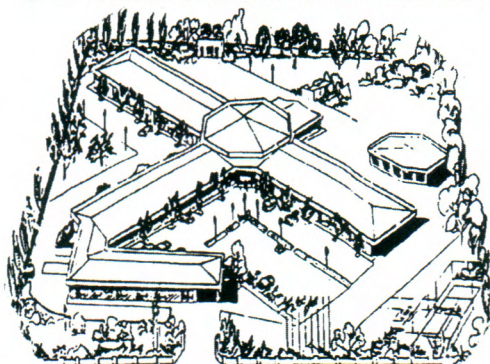
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