



C.D.A.A. Newsletter GUIDELINES

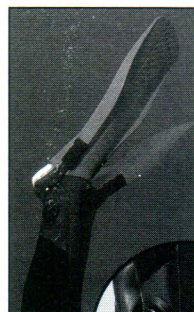
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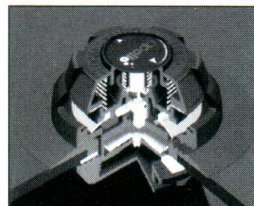
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of Guidelines for 1998 (our 25th anniversary year) and my first issue as editor. Firstly I would like to thank Victor Kostiuik for the marvellous job he did as editor, the time Victor gave to the CDAA (and still does in other capacities) is very much appreciated by all I'm sure. Thanks Victor!

We also have a new National Director in Steve Sturgeon due to the resignation of Greg Bulling. I wish Steve the best of luck in a very demanding position.

I would appreciate any help in the way of articles with photo's/slides to compliment them and also any constructive suggestions to make guidelines more interesting reading for members. Guidelines is your magazine and I need to know what you want to see in it!

My email address is glenn@vds.net.au and my phone number is 0411 704 758. Please feel free to email or call me anytime. Safe cave diving to all and good reading!!

Glenn O'Connell
Editor

ARTICLES FOR GUIDELINES

Members wishing to submit articles for inclusion in guidelines can do so in the following manner:

- Send articles via post to:
The Editor, Glenn O'Connell, P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006.
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- Any files for inclusion should be saved in "TEXT" or "ASCII" format. Hardcopy should also be provided wherever possible.

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COCKLEBIDDY - ALPINE STYLE

by Stefan Eberhard

Imagine a large tunnel filled with water. Beams of green light strip away the darkness and reveal the grand architecture stretching away into the distance. The water is crystal clear and the sculpted white rock is displayed in intricate detail. Blocks of rock lie haphazardly on the floor, undisturbed since they fell from the roof thousands of years ago. The fragile skeletons of ancient sea creatures, as old as the rock itself, protrude from the walls. Imagine - as if in a dream - that you are suspended weightless in the inner space of this tunnel. You are relaxed, breathing easily, and 'flying' through the tunnel which twists and turns before you, constantly changing in size and shape as you obediently follow its contortions.

The silence is broken only by the crash of air bubbles escaping from your regulator, and the reassuring metallic whine of the scooter motor. The powerful light held by your companion following behind casts a gigantic moving shadow onto the wall ahead. The phantom image becomes blurred, mirage like, as you cross the boundaries between water layers of differing density. The tunnel seems to go on forever. You lose touch with time and distance. The raw elements of light and dark, water and rock, noise and motion react vigorously to overwhelm your senses. Euphoria envelopes you.

Scotering through Cocklebidy is not always so much fun. I recall an occasion on my most recent trip there when I was controlling the scooter and towing Tim Payne behind me, but the length of the tow strap was a bit short so that Tim's bulk tended to rest upon my legs. This meant that I couldn't lift my fins above the wash of the scooter propeller, nor could I use my fins to stabilise myself. I found this situation extremely irritating and the urge to kick Tim in the face was becoming almost overwhelming. As we sped along through the underwater tunnel I became so preoccupied with this thought that I failed to notice - until too late - the wall of the cave looming rapidly toward us.

When we hit there was an alarming explosion of escaping gas and I was convinced that the end was near because I could hear and feel my precious air supply draining into oblivion. Amidst the noise and confusion Tim had the presence of mind to quickly turn-off the tank valve which had been knocked open in the collision. The incident had not been life threatening as it turned out, because I was carrying plenty of additional air supplies. Nevertheless, the 100 Bar pressure of valuable air that got wasted in those few seconds was a sobering reminder of the unforgiving environment in which we had chosen to play this game.

Our game was an 'alpine style' approach to reach the end of Cocklebidy Cave. Alpine style is a term derived from mountaineering. The concept essentially involves a small team carrying the bare minimum of equipment and climbing fast to reach the summit of the peak. Moving fast and efficiently in the mountains means that you are exposed to the natural hazards for a shorter period of time and therefore have a greater chance of survival, so long as everything goes according to plan. Climbing alpine style contrasts with the traditional 'expedition style' approach which involves sieging a mountain with plenty of back-up resources in the form of large numbers of climbers stocking intermediate camps and installing kilometres of fixed ropes for retreat in case of bad weather or accident.

In the unpredictable mountains, bad luck can strike anyone at any time no matter how good, or careful, a climber you are. The difference doing it alpine style versus expedition style is that if you get into trouble you are much more reliant upon your own resources. This may seem like stacking the odds against yourself, but for many climbers this is an acceptable risk. Doing it alpine style helps preserve the challenge by keeping climbers and mountain on a more level playing field. The great sense of satisfaction and personal achievement which goes with pulling-off a successful alpine style



Tim Payne in control (just) Cocklebidy 1997. Photo: Stefan Eberhard

ascent is reward enough in itself. A more tangible benefit to the lightweight approach is that it is logistically easier to organise, and cheaper.

Cocklebidy Cave consists of a single, straight tunnel more than 6 kilometres long, of which more than 90% of it is underwater. From the entrance lake the first sump is about one kilometre length to the air-filled Rockfall Chamber. Dive gear must be transported over the Rockfall Chamber to the second sump which is 2.5 kilometres in length. The second sump leads to another air chamber named Toad Hall. Dive gear must be carried across Toad Hall to reach the third and final sump which is 1.8 kilometres in length. The shallow depth of water in Cocklebidy (usually less than 15 metres) means that decompression is not a serious problem.

The first tentative dives into Cocklebidy began in 1972, but the end of the cave was not reached until more than a decade later. As the divers pushed further into the cave they needed more air tanks, but to help them carry these extra air tanks they needed other divers, who in turn needed their own air supplies, and so on. The immense quantities of air required for long duration dives of this type necessitated the development of special techniques and equipment such as underwater sledges which could be loaded with extra air cylinders and equipment and then pushed along by the divers. The prototype sledges were unwieldy devices which had a disturbing tendency to become overly buoyant as the divers drained the air from the tanks lashed to the sledge. On one occasion, a long distance into the second sump, a disaster was narrowly averted by piling rocks onto the sledge to restore neutral buoyancy. As the length of the cave grew, so

too did the logistics expand exponentially. In much the same fashion as a Himalayan expedition, the pyramid of support gradually extended further inwards to allow one, or just a few, fortunate divers to reach the end.

Ever since being a sherpa diver on the 1983 expedition I had secretly harboured the desire to do an alpine style trip to the end of Cocklebiddy. Despite the legacy of large-scale expeditions at this site, I knew a lightweight trip was possible because that was how the French did it when they scooped the prize of exploring the third sump, right from under the noses of the Australians. Francis Le Guen and his team of four other divers arrived at Cocklebiddy in September 1983, just one month before a major Australian assault was due to take place. The French had an advantage with their underwater scooters, and over a six week stay they did two epic pushes, claiming afterwards to have reached the end of the cave 1.6 kilometres into the third sump. At the time this feat represented the longest cave diving penetration in the world.

The Australian expedition following on the heels of the French involved 14 divers, four sledges and 80 air tanks. It took two weeks to do a single major push which involved establishing an advance base camp in Toad Hall. In gung-ho style, Hugh Morrison snatched the world record back by pushing a single tank in front of himself as he squeezed a further 200 metres beyond the end of the French guideline. The end of the cave was not visited again until 12 years later, when Chris Brown extended the passage another 20 metres. Techniques had evolved somewhat in the intervening period so that the 1995 expedition exploited the use of scooters, but still required six support divers, two sledges, and 60 air cylinders.

I believe there will always be a place for both expedition style and alpine style approaches in cave diving and mountaineering. There are of course, all manner of gradations in between these two themes, but the evolution has certainly tended to be away from the big expeditions and toward smaller groups. Both of the big cave diving expeditions I've been

involved with - the 1983 and the 1995 Cocklebiddy expeditions - were thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experiences for me. On these trips I learnt a great deal about diving techniques, and I also learnt a great deal about people, because expeditions tend to bring out the best, and the worst, in people. I wouldn't swap these valuable life experiences for anything.

Tim and I would not have contemplated our alpine style trip without the experience and invaluable knowledge of the cave we gained from previous expeditions. No amount of planning, technical expertise, or sheer bloody-mindedness would have got us through otherwise.

Thus it was in 1997 that Tim told me, "You need six tanks, two scooters and an attitude".

"But what if my scooters fail?", I asked him.

"Then I'll give you one of mine", he replied.

"And if that scooter fails too?" I countered.

"Then I'll tow you out on my other scooter", he retorted, "and in the unlikely event that all the scooters fail we'll still have enough gas to fin out! Now, ... I have a spare scooter you can buy."

"Can I test drive it first?", I queried.

"Sure", Tim replied.

"OK, if it gets me to the arse end of Cocklebiddy and back I'll buy it - if it doesn't you can go and retrieve it yourself", I said.

"It's a deal".

I found Tim's confidence somewhat disarming, but encouraging nonetheless. The crux of doing a long penetration into Cocklebiddy Cave is lugging the heavy dive gear across the air chambers. In my opinion the greatest hazards lie, not in the flooded sections, but in the Rockfall Chamber and Toad Hall where there are loose and treacherous rockpiles. Nevertheless, I confess to feeling a bit vulnerable out there in the middle of the second sump, with the nearest air space more than a kilometre either way, with just Tim and his bloody scooters my only companion and lifeline.

Underwater caves are a much more predictable environment than the big mountains and I don't consider our trip to have been at all bold. It certainly wasn't epic - we were both surprised at how easily everything came together. We did one set-up dive to the Rockfall Chamber, had a rest day then went for it. I helped carry Tim's gear over Toad Hall to the third sump - with twin back-mounted tanks and one stage bottle he scooted almost to the end of the known cave and explored a couple of side passages on his way back. We exited the cave after 18 hours underground. We had another 'rest' day then retrieved gear from the Rockfall Chamber. We were back on the road having been on site for one week. I would argue that our dive involved less risk than attempting to climb a glaciated mountain, and I certainly felt much safer in the cave than I do driving in my car.

Cocklebiddy is no longer the Everest of underwater caves, although the comparison may have been appropriate in those heady early days when it was the longest cave dive in the world and the end was nowhere in sight. To reach the end of Cocklebiddy these days is no big deal, but it's no picnic either - it takes years of training and experience, lots of gear, and lots of money. It helps too, if you've got a rat in your belly making you do it!

Our trip was not alpine style in the pure sense because our strategy relied upon an initial dive to the Rockfall Chamber to set up gear for the big push, and afterwards, a clean-up dive. The next challenge in Cocklebiddy is self-evident. No set-up dives this time - just walk in, swim to the end of the cave and then walk back out with the gear you've got on your back - that would be one hell of a trip.

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Some Reminiscences about Past Explorations by Peter Horne Member #719

As I watch the CDAA reaching its first quarter-century of existence, it seems as though it was only a few years back that I and fellow Committee members were designing and handing out our "10th Anniversary thank-you" certificates to landowners and managers who had been so patient and helpful since the Association's formation in September 1973. 15 years ago? Unbelievable!!

1983 was for me a very special time both in my own life and for the CDAA - smack bang in the middle of a very important era of new cave discoveries, scientific discoveries, the first underwater cave surveys and the creation of the (sadly now-defunct) CDAA Research Group, the formation of which by Peter Stace, myself and others in March of that year ultimately served to open long-closed access doors to such places as The Shaft and Kilsby's Hole, which members routinely enjoy today. It was also one of the MANY periods of great internal in-fighting - the old "them and us, SA Vs Vic" debates about standards and so on - but despite these distractions an enormous amount of exploratory activity was also taking place behind the scenes.

Going through my old trip reports and CDAA files for 1983, I recalled with some nostalgic sadness how different things were then ... how easily we could hop into sites here and there, often without even knowing who the landowners were or considering that landowners might actually object to such unannounced visitation, and armed only with the most basic equipment available at that time (e.g. Scubapro/Fenzy vests, modified Kambrook electric-cord reels as guideline reels, hand-held and usually home-made 50/100-watt focusable lights and single cylinders of various sizes - even in what would today be classed as Penetration sites) - and I must admit to regretting the loss of the freedom to be able to hop into Pics at any time, even the middle of the night, without "booking

times", and ditto in The Pines etc, for example. But at least sites are now being protected better than before, and the regulations are (currently) not too Draconian!...

In March 1983, after obtaining Committee endorsement to establish the CDAA Research Group as a recognised sub-committee of the Association, I worked with the others to plan the Kilsby Hole Research and Mapping Project - a very demanding and time-consuming task. Later in April, during a 3-day trip, I dragged Peter Stace's 40 cu.ft cylinder some 250 feet from the entrance of Morgan's Cave through the restriction at the SE end and dived the small 2-foot wide "lake" there to a depth of 15 feet (my gauges were still in feet then, as was my thinking!). Later that day, I undertook a solo mapping dive in Mud Hole ("Elaine's", 5L97) as it had only just been categorised, and I thought it would be nice to put a sketch of the feature in Guidelines.

June 1983 saw me working with Andrew Cox and other CDAA members to stabilise a huge boulder in the third pond at Ewens, and in July, after a call-out from Ian Ploenges, we entered the astounding, steaming cavity of 5L220 in Glencoe and commenced our explorations, less than 24 hours after this amazing feature had collapsed after a night's heavy rain! I was also still in the early stages of exploring and mapping 5L144 - Sheather's Cave - at that time, which Peter Stace and I had only recently broken into a few months earlier, so things were really cookin' then!

The most exciting discovery at that time, however, took place in August, during a week-long trip with my old dive buddy Mark Nielsen, right in the middle of this very busy period of research work and discoveries. On August 6th, we dived a small cave near the coast; on the 7th and 8th, we did a lot of exploratory and mapping work in some large dry caves; and around 7 pm in the evening of the 9th, after another tiring day of caving in

Tindale's Cave E and a chimney-entrance cave (5L124), and surrounded by the silence of a cold, star-filled sky, Mark and I found ourselves in total awe and underwater shock as we stared at the fantastic, sculpted beauty of the wonder which I was to later name "Tank Cave". I hope the following extract from my logs recreates the mood sufficiently!

"Mark and I got rigged up, hopped a high, tight barbed-wire fence and wandered across a paddock to an overturned tank near Fossil Cave - a small grotty cave lies underneath and it seemed to be diveable, when Andrew Cox, Tony Hambling and I looked at it several months ago. Much effort was required to get our gear through the small entrance under the tank, and fortunately we were already in wetsuits and the manure-soaked mud at the tank did not unduly concern us - after all, we're CAVE divers!! It was only as we lowered ourselves into the cave and our noses scraped the mud, that we started to become concerned!

"I was first in, and was surprised and a little perturbed to discover that the water table had suddenly begun to rise again in comparison with recent months, and the low crawl down the black dirt was now a wet splash down a mud-pile - the water was only about 2m from the entrance area. This meant that to avoid silting out the water until the last possible minute, Mark and I had to put our tanks on whilst squatting in the entrance hole, and then rolling onto our sides to enter the water on bellies so we could clear the 0.4m high

"A Living Legend"

Dave Warnes, aged 62 at Tank Cave 1997.

Photo by Gary Barclay (1735). Dave is an honorary life member and CDAA No.1.

roof and squelch down for about 5 metres until we got to near the far wall and into the small deep hole which led underground.

"Mark, I decided, should take the reel this time as I always insisted on doing this on previous occasions, but when he squirmed and finally disappeared, blocking out all light and visibility, I suspected that it might not be a very nice dive. I clipped onto the guideline and carefully descended head-first, bumping between boulders and occasionally getting wedged. At a depth of perhaps 8-10 feet, I became firmly wedged, and groping about, found my spare regulator was caught fast in a hole near my belly ... I cursed the cheap rubber neckstrap which I had been forced to remove just before entry, when the press-stud had filled with fine mud. After backing out in



reverse/upwards attitudes, I waited for about 3 minutes with my torch shining in the muddy water, and finally saw Mark squirming up just under the surface.

"When he got to the top, he asked me what had happened and I told him that there was nothing wrong but felt it pointless to continue in zero-viz squeezeways, probably to bump into him on his way out. He told me, though, that it did not end there - he had waited at the bottom of the crawlway when it had begun to open up, and "really went"! With this encouraging news I took the guideline (reel) and went down the squeeze, and at a depth of 15-20 feet, found myself in a small chamber which at least took me up from the bottom and side walls. Without stopping to turn around to check on Mark, I carefully continued for perhaps 30 feet until clearer water was reached. I knew that Mark was close behind as I could see his blue-green bright torchbeam slowly sweeping the walls and floor near me, so we continued. I was somewhat concerned about the entrance area as I had only caught a glimpse of it (when) Andy Cox and Tony Hambling cleared a big boulder from the surface region - the extreme silting on this occasion meant that I really had no idea where our line was being placed, or whether in fact we had chosen the best crawlway ... I really wasn't looking forward to our exit ...!

"After reaching the bottom immediately below the entrance, at a depth of maybe 9m, I turned to the right (ie the NW) as it seemed to be bigger than the left. It gradually became more spacious as we went ... about 30m total distance from the surface, we encountered crystal-clear water and could see we were in a sort of rockpile chamber which contained one very prominent slab. This seemed to be the end of the passage until I noticed deep-blue water under a low roof section further away from us, and I ducked under this low section and entered a very large parallel tunnel, which had a very flat roof and roared off into the distant blackness!!

"We couldn't believe our eyes!"

All in all, this dive resulted in the discovery of the first 100 metres or so of Tank Cave's many kilometres of picturesque passageways, but for

some reason I felt that it "probably got smaller" and most likely ended somewhere close to the entrance - one of the biggest mistakes of my life! I am sure that the lack of appropriate penetration equipment, small air supplies and lights and at that time, lack of deep penetration experience also played a part in this erroneous conclusion ... a conclusion which was further reinforced some time later, when Mark returned to the cave with John Hansen and reported that they had gone for some distance and that it was "extensive but low". I later told Chris Brown, Phil Prust and Paul Arbon about our discovery and after a false start in zero-vis conditions which originally put them off, I further encouraged them to try again - resulting in the terrific maps we see today! My workload also didn't let up at all during the next few months, when work on the CDAA's 10th Anniversary via the media (filming in The Pines etc), the finalisation of the Kilsby Project and the planning of the immediately-following Shaft study kept me very occupied, so I couldn't get involved in such a complex task and watched enviously from the sidelines as the boys reported all of their new discoveries!

Yes, those were exciting times which were relatively free of all the political ramifications we need to responsibly consider today! No knowledge of heritage or Aboriginal issues such as artefacts or petroglyphs; no human remains to worry about; and great public confidence due to the lack of deaths since the Association's formation some 9 years earlier (until April 1984, unfortunately). Armed with today's knowledge, it is actually quite frightening to recall how many risks we took with single stage cylinders and small lights to squeeze into such places as the Western Side of Engelbrechts, or Tank Cave and so on. Thank goodness that times have changed!!

Every new cave is a new story, with its excitement, intrigue, heroes and villains. And there are still many "out there", just waiting for that first flash of blue-green torchlight ...

Rob Parker 1962-1997

The facts surrounding his death

from the CDG Newsletter

It's my sad duty to report the death of another C.D.G. member, Rob Parker. This came as a real shock, so soon after the death of Rob Palmer. Perhaps in the light of these accidents ... we should all take a moment to check that we are properly planning our dives, checking equipment thoroughly and maintaining our dive fitness. After all the exploration is not complete until the diver returns safely.

Rob and U.S. cave diver Duffer Mallone were diving in an unnamed Blue Hole previously explored by Mallone and Rob Palmer, off South Andros Island in the Bahamas. The dive was meticulously planned for a maximum depth of 106m and all gas mixtures checked and analysed. Neither diver had dived for two days, both were fit, happy and under no pressure.

It appears both divers entered the cave on sidemounts with a bottom mix of trimix, air as a travel gas and a decompression stage cylinder of nitrox. The stage tanks were left just before a narrow area of rifts near to the entrance.

Returning on thirds after extending the cave by about 100m, Mallone switched to air at a depth of 76m. Parker switched at a 'safer' depth of 67m. As the pair reached a depth of 42m in the 1m wide rift on which the cave is formed, Parker who was leading and making survey notes, stopped finning and began to sink into the rift below. Mallone realised something was amiss when Rob had sunk about 15m and gave chase. Catching Rob at 70m he appeared unconscious but still breathing. Mallone (although hyperventilating and suffering from narcosis) was able to inflate Parker's buoyancy jacket and bring him back up to 36m. Mallone lost a fin and developed a regulator problem during this action.

Parker appeared to respond and started finning towards the entrance as if on 'autopilot'. Mallone then had to leave Rob, who was finning above the line as he was by now short on gas and needed to reach the stage cylinders above the entrance rift.

Mallone lost his other fin reaching the stage cylinders but waited at the staging point for Rob, sadly he never appeared. With no fins, limited gas and a major decompression penalty caused by the second descent Mallone was unable to attempt a second recovery.

Mallone surfaced after a 3hr 20min deco schedule. Two support divers were neither suitably equipped or experienced to enter the cave to locate Parker.

Two days later Mallone and Brian Kakuk, entered the cave and located Parker's body head down in a 0.6m wide crack at a -45m. A sketch of the scene was made, then the equipment was removed and left attached to a BC.

Rob's body was moved through the entrance squeezes and a second team (including Steffi Schwabe, Rob Palmer's widow) completed the recovery. Unfortunately the equipment then sunk to a depth of 106m, where it lodged in a crack. It has not been recovered but Mallone's cylinders filled from the same source as Parker's have been taken to Nassau for analysis by the Bahamian authorities.

It would appear Rob's death was caused by some form of narcosis induced blackout following the switch from trimix onto air at 67m.

Rob was an accomplished diver, caver and climber, he will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Thanks are due to Gavin Newman for providing information for this report.

ENGELBRECHT CAVE

Mr Carl Engelbrecht

Mr. Engelbrecht was born in Germany in October 1833 and at the age of 24 in 1857 arrived in Australia. In 1866 he reached Port MacDonnell where he opened a storekeeping business, but after two years he moved to Mount Gambier. Here he opened another store which he continued for 17 years until 1885 when he purchased Dr Wehl's old flour mill and converted it into a whiskey distillery after enlargements had been completed. He and his son had been to Germany and purchased new machinery for the distillery. Mr Engelbrecht continued the industry for 17 years until in 1902 he transferred the business to his sons. It closed in 1903.

He died at his residence "Mia Mia" in Wehl Street on Sunday, 22 February, 1914 at the age of 80 years.

From the obituary which appeared in the Border Watch. Per Mr Les Les Hill, Local Historian.

Slimper, a byproduct, from the operation of the distillery of Mr Engelbrecht was dumped in the cave for many years. it was transported to the cave in a zinc lined cart due to the caustic nature of the material.

Engelbrecht Cave Historical Summary

- 1862 Described by Rev Julian Tenison Woods in his book "Geological Observations of South Australia". Known as Vansittarts Cave.
- 1866 Dr Wehl organised an exploration of the cave by a canoe made from hardwood and sealed with pitch. Party consisted of John Stratford, Charlie Brad, Albert Grosser and Charles Grosser (aged 10). Reportedly followed a stream for 200 yards.

- 22 Feb 1914 Death of J C Engelbrecht.
- 1915 Land containing Engelbrecht's cottage (in south east corner of current reserve) bequested to Council.
- Jun 1927 Land containing Engelbrecht's cottage actually transferred to Council.
- Jun 1929 Land containing cave transferred to Council.
- Nov 1940 Cr RJR Watson descended the "well" into the cave on a rope ladder. The drop was 38 feet to a 15 foot high dirt mound. the water was 20 feet deep where measured and it was so clear a threepenny bit could be seen at the bottom. The well was sealed up to prevent accidents. It was decided that the cave would be a good place to divert stormwater to.
- Dec 1954 Cave first explored by the Cave Exploration Group (SA). Nail for recording water levels installed.
- Apr 1964 Cave first explored by divers Dave Burchell, Mick Potter, Ross Curnow and John Lees. Explored for about 100m but was considered to be of no tourist potential. The initials "JA Cook 1864" were found engraved on the wall.
- Apr 1966 The first map of the cave was produced by FW Aslin (CEGSA).
- 1967 Engelbrecht's cottage (SE corner of the reserve) was demolished by the council.
- Oct 1974 Lion's leased the area from the council for an historical display.
- 1979 Lion's commence the beautification of the cave.
- 1980 Rubbish removed from the entrance. Estimated volume was 400 cubic yards (400 ton). Depth of rubbish removed at western entrance approx 2.5m.

Stormwater diverted from the cave entrance to two new drainage bores drilled for that purpose.

- 1986 The mapping of the underwater sections of the cave was started by the Cave Divers Association of Australia.
- 15 Nov 1986 The eastern side of the cave was opened for tours by Lifeline.
- 10 Dec 1991 The western side of the cave was

opened for tours by Lifeline. Development was undertaken by Pine City Apex Club.

- 1994 Elevated walkways constructed to provide view of entrance doline. New toilets constructed.
- 8 Nov 1997 Redevelopment - lighting, external steps, extensions to office and diver display opened by Don MacDonnell, Mayor of City of Mt Gambier.



Andrew Robertson in Engelbrechts West. Photo by Robert Westerdyk.

CDAA 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 (08) 8735 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	CN	Peter Cunningham	By phone or mail, 1 week prior. Ph: (087) 38 4003.
Tea Tree	CN	PO Box 643, Mt Gambier 5290	
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 CDAA diving endorsement for the site. The onus of proof of CDAA status is on the diver and is provided by presentation of CDAA membership card or DENR checking the membership list supplied by CDAA. 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: (08) 8735 1177	
Ela Elap	S	Mr. Peter Norman	By phone or drop in before diving.
One Tree	S	Private Bag 67, Mt Gambier 5290	Ph: (08) 8738 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: (08) 8735 1177 Faxed copies of cards no longer accepted when booking.
Hells 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: (08) 8724 2887 (08) 8724 7179. Please use this number for all bookings and enquiries etc. Fax: (08) 8724 2885 Email: wynniat.trevor@pi.sa.gov.au. Written confirmation required.
Pines	P/C	S.A. (Forestry)	
Mud Hole	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. 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 April 11/12, May 16/17, June 6/7, July 4/5, Aug 1/2 Nitrox as a diving mix is not allowed in the shaft. Deco mixes ATTACHED to a shot line are permissible.
Ten Eighty	S	Mr. Colin Traeger	Sundays only Contact CDAA Records Officer for diving deed THEN mail Booking Form to Colin Traeger 2-6 weeks prior, stating names/qual. of all divers, and time slot Please include stamped self addressed envelope. Closed October to November for shearing.
Bullock Hole	S	PO Box 12,	
Black Hole	S	Mt Gambier 5290 (087) 26 6215	

Please enclose
TWO
Passport
Quality
photographs
30mm x 30mm
maximum.

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(INCORPORATED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

P.O. BOX 290, NORTH ADELAIDE, S.A. 5006

C.D.A.A.
NUMBER

Membership Application Form

The basic aims and objectives of the Cave Divers Association of Australia are to foster the development, advancement, promotion and research of underwater activities involving caves, caverns and sinkholes including safety, mapping, education, exploration and conservation aspects.

Applicant's Personal Details

Surname: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Phone: (h) (_____) _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

(w) (_____) _____

Occupation: _____

Date of last Diving Medical: _____ Doctor: _____

Doctor's Address: _____

_____ Phone: (_____) _____

NEXT OF KIN

Name: _____

Contact Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Phone: (h) (_____) _____ (w) (_____) _____

In consideration of me being accepted as a member of the Cave Divers Association of Australia Inc., I agree to indemnify the Association and any other officer, employee, instructor, or guide of the Association, or any other person organizing, controlling, or assisting with a function, event, dive, expedition, training, testing, or administrative task or obligation, associated with the Association, from and against all claims, costs, demands and lawsuits that I have or may, have for personal injury or property loss, whenever occurring, against the Association or any of those people, arising out of or in relation to any function, event, dive, expedition, training, testing, or administrative task or obligation, associated with the Association or with the sport of Cave Diving.

I am familiar with the aims and objectives of the CDAA and in support thereof.
I hereby apply for membership.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Have you:

- 1) Read and understood the aims and objectives of the Association?
- 2) Carefully filled in your personal details?
- 3) Signed and dated the application form?
- 4) Enclosed two recent passport-quality photographs (30mm x 30mm maximum) with your name written on the back of them?
- 5) Included a stamped self addressed envelope?

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- (1) Please fill out the Membership Application Form on the other side
- (2) Include 2 x Photographs passport quality.
- (3) CDAA number.
- (4) Enclose your cheque for \$50 per year PAID.

AFTER AUGUST 31ST ANY UNPAID
RENEWALS WILL INCUR A \$50 LATE FEE

NITROX ENDORSEMENT

Anyone wishing to add a Nitrox Endorsement will need to include a photocopy of their certification and pay a once only processing fee of \$10.

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: (08) 8726 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 - East - West	C P	Mt Gambier 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.
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: (08) 8724 2887. Please use this number for all bookings and enquiries etc. Fax: (08) 8724 2885 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: (05) 9841 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.

CDA A NOTICES

Gofer Broke '98

May 23rd and 24th 1998 has been set aside for a special weekend at Mt. Gambier. It will be a project weekend for CDA A members to work on one of about 10 small projects requiring your assistance.

In conjunction with some of the landowners and the Site Access Manager, a number of sites have been identified where we members can contribute.

Some examples include:

- Cutting steps in Englebrechts West
- Fixing the fence and gate at One Tree
- Litter pickup at Little blue, Mud Hole, Pines, Fossil Cave and others
- Remove more rubbish at Hell's Hole
- Cutting steps/ rail at Allendale
- New fence at Hann's Cave
- Sign posting at some of the caves
- A shelter at Gouldens similar to Pic's.

The idea would be for people to meet at 8.00am Saturday 23rd May '98 at the Lady Nelson Carpark and receive instructions re which hole and what to do and go for it.

Saturday night will host a BYO BBQ at a venue to be decided. Here we will exchange progress etc.

Sunday will complete any unfinished work. Get the idea??

Ideas for other projects, and people interested in committing themselves please contact me so that I can work the logistics and allocate projects and project leaders. Please get involved.

This is an opportunity in creating the possibility of openness, space and beauty and leave a legacy of access to our special environment - perhaps this could lead into an annual event.

The rest is now up to you - call me John Dalla-Zuanna Ph. 015 887 060 (with messagebank) or email: mecfood@smart.net.au

CDA A NOTICES

GUIDELINES DEADLINES

If you would like to contribute to Guidelines, you should note the following deadlines for submission of materials:

Deadline for publication

7th of November	December
21st February	March
21st May	June
15th August	September

NOTICE FOR INSTRUCTORS

Procedure for ordering student packs:

- Check you are insured & financial.
- Send order & cheque.
- Allow 14 days from when the order is received - so allow plenty of time.
- No student kits will be returned
- If you need to phone for more information use (02) 4950 6262 between 8am and 12 midday (NSW times).

* Messages left on my mobile from instructors will not be returned.

- Please do not pass my number on to dive shops - you should deal with them not me.

Peter Grills 1780

Instructor Materials Officer

CDA A 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	INSTRUCTOR	CN	S	C	STATE	PHONE
NSW & ACT						VICTORIA					
Nick Jones	.	.	.	ACT	015 851 313 m	Stephen Arnel	.	.	.	VIC	(055) 26 5230 h
Ron Allum	.	.	.	NSW	(02) 9552 6348 h	Bill Bernhardt	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9725 9716 h
Terry Cummins	.	.	.	NSW	(02) 9417 2800 w	Jane Bowman	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9579 2600 w
Peter Grills	.	.	.	NSW	(049) 48 7848 h	Stan Bugg	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9379 8791 h
Gary Norgard	.	.	.	NSW	(049) 68 4588 h	Linda Claridge	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 5565 8793 H
Andrew Robertson	.	.	.	NSW	018 412 563 m	Brian Cornell	.	.	.	VIC	(059) 85 2514 h
Des Walters	.	.	.	NSW	(060) 411 405 w	John Dalla - Zuanna	.	.	.	VIC	015 887 060 m
Andrew Wight	.	.	.	NSW	(02) 9428 2176	Chris Edwards	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9579 4352 h
Liz Wight	.	.	.	NSW	(02) 9428 2176	Barry Heard	.	.	.	VIC	(056) 27 6474 h 019 401 469 m
SOUTH AUSTRALIA						Ian Lewis	.	.	.	VIC	015 284 051 m
Greg Bulling	.	.	.	SA	014 477 430 m (08) 8265 4978 h	Warrick McDonald	.	.	.	VIC	(03) 9579 2600 w
Glen Harrison	.	.	.	SA	(08) 8386 3237 h	Bob Wealthy	.	.	.	VIC	(056) 858 338 h
Karen Kennedy	.	.	.	SA	(087) 250 335 h	Frank Ziegler	.	.	.	VIC	(055)23 6392 w
Max Marriot	.	.	.	SA	(08) 8447 3360 h	WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Richard Megaw	.	.	.	SA	(08) 8344 1733 h	Marilyn Boydell	.	.	.	WA	(09) 349 5646 h
Richard McDonald	.	.	.	SA	(08) 8295 4140 h/w	Gary Bush	.	.	.	WA	0417 957 620 m
						Andrew Poole	.	.	.	WA	018 928 028 m
						Steve Sturgeon	.	.	.	WA	(09) 527 9211 w

CDAA NOTICES

Appointment of National Director

At the conclusion of Steve Sturgeon's temporary appointment on 14th December 1997, the position of National Director became vacant and the National Committee filled the vacancy pursuant to Clause 20 4 b of the recently adopted Constitution. This was a majority decision of the National Committee.

Late Payment Fee

Please note that the fee for CDAA members renewing their membership AFTER 31 August of each year has been increased to \$50.

In addition, a late payment fee of \$40 has been introduced for instructor renewals received one month after the instructor's insurance is due.

Voting Procedures

Details relating to member's motions, constitutional amendments, the voting arrangements for 1998/99 and office bearer positions will be provided in the June issue of Guidelines.

NOTICE

The Directorate has investigated a number of issues arising as a result of a dive in the Nettlebed Cave penetration site by two CDAA members in May of last year. The specific charges found against them are as follows:-

1. That they dived in a Certified Dive Site while not holding the Certification Level specified for the site.
2. That they did not meet the access requirements for individual dive sites as listed in Schedule B of the Regulations (as listed in Guidelines)
3. That they acted in a manner contrary to the stated interests of the CDAA

The National Directorate has suspended their membership privileges for 12 months on each of the 3 charges as listed above, and imposed a fine of \$100.00 per charge. The terms for charge 2 and 3 to be served concurrently. They will therefore be required to serve a total of 2 years suspension and pay a \$300 fine;

Before their membership can be reinstated they will be required to attend a landowner liaison course.

EASTER PENETRATION COURSE

Members of the CDAA who are interested in participating in the Easter Penetration Course should contact the Course Coordinator, Barrie Heard, as soon as possible to obtain full details.

Please call Barrie on either (03) 5627 6474 or 0419 401 276

CDAA SITES

One Tree and Ela Elap closed

Jenny and Peter are off overseas, so there will be no diving from 1st March to 1st June. Please respect this time they are away and keep away from the holes. THANK YOU.

Bakers

Bakers is still closed at this time but Mr. Baker agrees to open again around October of this year, so be patient with this one.

Pines

There has been a clean up at pines in the way of all the tree limbs removed, and some steps for easy entry and egress from the hole, thanks must go to the addict dive club from SA for their time and energy on this. Also Trevor Wynnai, who found some limestone blocks that made the new steps.

One Tree

The addict dive club has been at it again with some steps made (cut into) the limestone. Once again thanks must go out to these divers who give up their dive times to make life better for the rest of us. There will be some more working bees in the future, if anyone would like to help please call, so we can start a list of who and when for the future.

Engelbrechts East closed

In January a lot of water entered Engelbrechts by the way of the garden. It was the result of about 28 mil of rain in 20 minutes that the drains could not take, so there was a lot of garden matter (bark and dirt) entered via the path, all the way to the eastern lake.

At the time of writing this three weeks later it is still not clear. We have been to the peg but there is no vis all the way, hopefully this will clear in the near future and access will start again. There was a clean up on the Saturday after by Phill Argy, Steve Van Der Starr, Chris Ross and myself. I must thank these divers for their effort in cleaning the main lake so as to let this cave recover as quickly as possible.

Gates are still being left open

Please leave gates as you found them this is still of concern and does not make land owners happy, check and make sure they are locked properly!

Gary Barclay.
Site Director

Tethers, who needs them anyway?

Sabine Schnittger

Having recently found myself stuck in a restriction and serious silt-out at the same time (not my fault, of course) has led me to think some more about the usefulness or otherwise of tethers which seem to be standard issue to every CDAA diver at the beginning of their career. I should say from the outset that the following reflects my personal views only, and not those of the Directorate.

The truth is that I cannot remember why we use them. One thing is for sure; they are an additional piece of equipment that we carry around with us, whether it is safely stashed away, or whether it takes the form of one of those loops waiting to hook onto something. I guess they are supposed to come in useful in poor viz, when a cautious diver (like me) would tether him/herself onto a line, fixed or otherwise. The problem is that I am no longer sure about this:

- From personal experience I know that if I find myself in low or zero viz and am

concerned about loosing the line, I make sure I hang on to it. I don't particularly care whether the line is in my hand, under an arm or somewhere else, but I want to know exactly where it is, and where it is going. In low viz, tethering seems to me just an additional risk if you cannot see whether or not you are properly clipped onto the line, and loose direct touch with its general direction. Of course, you can (and must) check, but who needs the additional task loading and time wasting.

- Sooner or later I will get to a tie-off. Whether I am heading in the right direction or not, without a tether I would have hang on to the line with one hand and feel for its continuation with the other, tether off and on again. This gets more complicated if you cross a line and need to switch hands. I would rather not have to mess around in those circumstances; one hand on each end of the line is good enough for me.

CDAA WEB PAGE

<http://artemis.eng.monash.edu.au/CDAA/>



Tethers, you wouldn't want to be without one!

Greg Bulling

In the article "Tethers, who needs them anyway?" a number of valid points regarding the use or "misuse", of tethers were made. There is no doubt that becoming reliant on tethers is something that divers should avoid but they do have some valid applications.

Several years ago two divers in the USA dived into a large cavern during a summer evening. The visibility of the water was very low due to its high temperature and resultant algal bloom. The divers were in search of a permanent line, deep in the cavern, which led to a more extensive deep cave system. After searching for the line for awhile, they decided it was useless and began heading out of the cavern area. On surfacing, the person on the reel was horrified to find that the diver who had been in front was nowhere to be seen. Despite a frantic search the diver drowned when unable to locate the surface.

This was a particularly tragic accident as the search for the divers took several days due to the poor water conditions and the media had a field day.

What's it got to do with tethers? Well, I believe in a situation like this, a tether may well have prevented the accident. I have

seen on several penetration courses, students loose contact with the line during blackout line following. It has never been through ignorance or lack of thought but rather during a time of task loading.

One case that comes to mind involved a diver who had a second stage accidentally unclipped from their harness during a blackout line following exercise. During this time they were instructed to swap second stage regulators. When the other regulator could not be easily found task loading began to build and two hands were used to try and locate it (at this stage there was a simulated loss of all air!). Finally, the regulator was located but in the confusion (of only several seconds) the line was no longer in the diver's hand. As Murphy would have it, they were also on a slope and soon ended up several metres from the line. With some clear thinking the diver managed to locate the line and exit the cave.

If the situation described above had been one where the diver was in a large system, then the result may have been different.

So, perhaps a tether should be carried as an emergency type device for use when certain situations arise.

DeepTech

ADVANCED DIVING TECHNIQUES

The latest issues of the Advanced Diving Journal DeepTech have now been released and are available in Australia and New Zealand. Issue number Nine is shipping now & is being sent to all retailing facilities and subscribers. Issue Number 10, released at DEMA in January will be on sale shortly. Both issues maintain the high quality in presentation, content and editorial that has made DeepTech the world's foremost Technical Diving Publication.

Issue Nine welcomes us into the turbulent world of the outspoken Director for the Woodville Kaarst Plains Project (WKPP), George Irvine III. The WKPP divers are world leaders in deep cave exploration, often laying new line at a depth well over 100m with bottom times of 40 minutes or more! Using multi-stage drops, their own developed scooters and gear configuration (their own 'Hogarthian Rig' has been adopted for all WKPP divers) these guys, and gals, push the limits of Wakulla Springs, Sally Ward and Cave Diving in general. Now spearheading exploration with the Halcyon Rebreather, this is literally the leading edge of the sport.

Any one connected to the Internet e-mail lists 'techdiver' or 'cavers' will know George Irvine as one of the most active members of these lists, never quiet in voicing his opinion. Often characterising those with different opinions as "Strokes" George has led the way opposing Deep Air Diving, Helmet Lights and the over reliance on too much equipment. Well, get DeepTech issue 9 and find out what others (including some of the WKPP) have to say about George!

Issue Ten opens up the doors of decompression sickness, taking a look at the cause, the symptoms, the treatment and what we can do to lessen the risks. Bret Gilliam reports on recompression treatment & how to deal with DCS denial, a real problem affecting many divers who refuse to accept that they have decompression sickness. Lamar Hires

gives an overview on side mounts and we have a great comparison on various inert gases. Finally we explore the Blue Abyss in Belize, an ocean sinkhole in the Caribbean 1000 feet wide and 400 feet deep!!

DeepTech has in the past covered Cave Diving in Florida, Mexico, Europe, New Zealand and South Africa. Sheck Exley, Jim Bowden, Olivier Islar, Rob Palmer, Nuno Gomez and others have been interviewed and/or contributed articles. The leading rebreather and cave diving technology is reviewed and gear configuration and decompression systems are discussed. Diving physiology is outlined, often in great detail, with material on decompression sickness, bubble models and the real issues facing today's diver.

Press Release: DeepTech Publishers appoint new Australian & New Zealand Representative

Tech Publishing, the publishers of the technical diver journal DeepTech, have appointed a new local distributor in TDI Australia & New Zealand.

Stating a long distribution association and in line with other international distributions, Bret Gilliam, one of the co-publishers of DeepTech welcomed the move, "Richard Taylor was instrumental in bringing DeepTech to the Australian & New Zealand divers. As the new sole director for TDI Australia & New Zealand he brings an existing Technical Diver base to the magazine distribution. Our new magazine format has already proved successful and we are confident that the next years issues will please a readership hungry for the latest diving news & technological trends".

For information on how to subscribe or have DeepTech in your facility see the advert in this issue of Guidelines. Limited back issues are available.

National Directors Report

I would like to start this report by thanking my predecessor Greg Bulling for all the hard work he put into the job. Greg and the other directors have gone about the business of running the Association in a very organised and business like manner. All the work that has gone on behind the scenes has given us a very solid base to take the Association into the next millennium. I pledge to all members and my fellow Directors that I will strive to keep up the good work and continue down the path that has been set. I would like to make it clear that I am available to talk to any members who may have a grievance, constructive comments, or would like clarification on any matters concerning the Association, it's constitution and associated regulations. (my contact details are in the front of guidelines)

At this point I should tell you a little about myself: Whilst I may not be known to many of you I am not new to the CDAA or Cave Diving. I have been diving for 25 years, cave diving for 15 years and working full time in the diving industry for 20 years as an instructor, retailer and importer. Having just sold my dive store (Malibu Diving) after 19 years I now have the time to devote to the position of National Director. I have dived in many regions including Mount Gambier, The Nullarbor, Indonesia, Florida and Espiritu Santo. I have also been involved in expeditions for both wet and dry caves.

Pines cleanup / Steps in One Tree

A cleanup of Pines was undertaken recently by members of ADDICT dive club with the assistance of Trevor Wynia from Primary Industries SA (Forests) Thanks very much to you all. I inspected the site while in the Mount recently and was most impressed to see all of the branches, logs etc removed and the steps improved. Also thanks should go to the ADDICT members for cutting new steps into the side of One Tree to make entry and exit much safer and easier now that the water level is down

Murra El Elevyn dual rating

In the last issue of guidelines we advised you all of the change to the rating of Pines. The same system is also now in place at Murra El Eleven. Previously Penetration level, the site is now dual rated Cave rated divers are reminded they should only access sections of the cave that fall within the definition of their rating and experience levels. (where 2 divers can swim side by side) Cave rated divers found in areas where it is not possible to swim side by side will be in breach of access arrangements for the site and as such will be dealt with accordingly. So please do the right thing. Murra is an excellent site to get used to multiple lines and passages as a build up to diving sites such as Tank cave and many overseas sites.

Guidelines

On behalf of my fellow directors and all the members I would like to thank Victor Kostiuik for the excellent job he did while in the position of Editor. Victor produced an excellent journal. Victor spent many long hours working on Guidelines, I hope his new position as Investigations Officer is much less demanding. If we all do the right thing he could end up out of work. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the people who regularly rally round to help prepare guidelines for mailing in particular Rob Smith who is always there to lend a helping hand. Thank you all!

CDAA Products

Thanks go to Wayne Wilson for many years of hard work in this job.

AGM and 25th anniversary

Our Association's 25th anniversary commemorative dinner and AGM will be held in Mount Gambier on Saturday 17th October, so pencil the date into your diaries and be there for this important occasion. (see elsewhere in this issue for details)

Steve Sturgeon
National Director

A BLOKE NAMED BLACKIE

by Christopher Brown

It was in the early 1980's on a weekend in Mt. Gambier that the group I was diving category 2 caves with (now Sinkhole), decided that the last dive on Saturday was to be in Piccaninnie Ponds. As there was no booking system in place, all you had to do was turn up, get in your gear and jump in. During these times Pic's was a great place to meet other cave divers and it would not be uncommon for six to eight car loads of divers to be there at the same time. On the day in question, on surfacing after the dive, I saw three people standing on the end of the jetty. Two of them I recognised but the third was unknown to me. On exiting the water, I was introduced to the unknown person. He was a local diver by the name of Peter Blackmore who answered to the name "Blackie".

At the time there were rumours floating around the cave diving circles that some local divers had found a new cave. After talking to Peter for a while, I found that the rumour was actually fact and Peter was one of the locals that had found the new cave that was to be named Iddlebidy. The name was, I think derived from another well known cave, Cocklebidy. Blackie told me Iddlebidy was discovered when some of the local divers would spend their spare time driving around pine forests looking for depressions whilst standing in the back of a ute or on top of a four wheel drive. On discovering the cave, the group of which Blackie was a member, started to explore the cave. I believe, at the time, none of the group were members of the CDAA nor had any formal cave diving training. To stop other divers from accessing and damaging the cave, Blackie made an iron gate and encased it in a concrete slab over the entrance.

His stories of how the group was slowly edging their way further and further into the large under water tunnel and learning and refining their cave diving techniques as they went was fascinating to say the least. They had pushed some eighty to one hundred metres into the cave over countless dives and were

considering using twin tanks to help them push further. They finally reached the end some 200 metres from the entrance.

Over the next few years I became quite good friends with Blackie and one Saturday afternoon whilst I was diving in Mt. Gambier with Phil Prust, Blackie caught up with us and asked if we wanted to dive in Iddlebidy that night. At one o'clock in the morning on the eleventh of June 1988 I found myself climbing into the entrance of Iddlebidy with Phil and Blackie. We had a magnificent dive and at the end of the dive Blackie was poking about a pile of bones near the entrance of the cave. After a while, he flashed his torch at me and beckoned me to come over to him. When I got to him he gestured for me to hold out my hand, which I did and he then placed an object in it which was still partly covered in silt. I fanned the silt away and discovered I was holding part of a human skull.

Three weeks later, access had been arranged to dive in Alleynes cave, also known as Death Cave, with the intent to photograph the cave. Blackie often dived with Ian Ploenges a local of Mt. Gambier, who was well respected for his under water photography. I have a photo of Ian and Blackie standing on the mud bank prior to entering the water dressed in the accepted penetration diving rig of the day. They were both wearing single 88cf ally tanks with a pony bottle fixed to the side. Blackie was also wearing his home made helmet which had fibreglassed on the top a 100mm sealed beam light which, when he wore it, gave him the appearance of Cyclops.

Blackie worked as a pilot in the crop dusting and fire bombing area and had many amusing stories relating to this flying adventures. Those who knew him, found a sincere and honest man who willingly helped others. He was born and bred in the country which came out in his character and had some great one line replies. Two of these I remember well were as follows;

When asked why he did not drink alcohol, he replied "I don't need to as I am silly enough as it is" and when asked why he chose flying cropdusters to other types of flying, he replied "I'm scared of heights and get a nose bleed over six feet above ground level".

Peter Charles Blackmore (Blackie) was tragically killed in a flying accident on Sunday,

March 1, 1998 whilst demonstrating fire bombing techniques at the Mt. Gambier air show. My wife Sonia and I extend our deepest sympathy to his charming wife, Julie and the rest of the Blackmore clan. To those who knew him, he will be sadly missed.

Christopher Brown



"Blackie"

Peter Blackmore - a Mount Gambier tribute

The Mt Gambier Scuba Club has lost another of its highly-qualified cave diving members within 18 months. The loss of a close friend and member of a group in a local community is felt acutely, especially as "Blackie" was a full-of-life / get-on-with-the-job personality. He was also a resourceful and innovative individualist. Besides being a first-class crop-dusting pilot, he also put his mental energies into cave diving and two stories illustrate just how he did this so well.

Blackie was the very first cave diver to turn up to a Category 3 test (forerunner of today's Cave Diver course assessments) with a helmet, helmet-mounted light and a mask worn underneath his hood to prevent loosing it. This triggered a major debate at the side of the Gouldens Hole by all the examiners present, as the old "mask removal" test could not be performed. Some examiners wanted Blackie to take the helmet off to do the test! Blackie of

course refused, as he had pioneered a much safer and more efficient system and the CDAA had to accept it. Now everyone uses his system!

Blackie also discovered Iddlebidy Cave and immediately recognised the importance of having the site surveyed and environmentally assessed before groups of divers affected it. He kept the location a secret from everyone except 1 or 2 trusted Mt Gambier cave divers, and even Lance Mitchell and myself as National Directors were not actually shown the site for 3 years until careful research work was done. Blackie's protection of the new site set a standard for all future Mt Gambier cave discoveries. That was his style, and his special contribution. His passing is a tremendous loss to the sport, but especially to the local diving community and all his mates.

Ian Lewis

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		Cave Diving - A Blueprint for Survival. A book by the world-renowned cave diver, the late <i>Sheek Exley</i> , this is a case study of a number of accidents that have occurred in the USA and how to avoid them.	\$15.00	
		Basic Underwater Cave Surveying. The standard publication for anyone remotely interested in research and survey techniques used in water filled caves.	\$15.00	
		CDAA Occasional Paper No. 2. From National Conference 1981. Includes topics such as Fossil Cave, Belay Techniques and Cocklebidy 1979.	\$8.00	
		S.R.T. Single Rope Techniques. Published by the Sydney Speleological Society. This is the definite work on all aspects of vertical travel in caves. Should answer most questions on rope work for cavers and cave divers alike.	\$27.00	
		DES Emergency Handbook. Revised 1996 edition by Lippmann and Bugg. Printed on waterproof paper this essential first aid manual should be part of every cave divers' kit.	\$15.00	
		NSS Cave Diving Manual. The standard reference manual in cave diving covering just about every conceivable topic. New Edition.	\$40.00	
		Wukulla Springs Project. The U.S. Deep Caving Team, edited by William C. Stone.	\$59.00	
		The Darkness Beckons. By Martyn Farr. The history and development of cave diving.	\$50.00	
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		Cave Practice & Equipment. Edited by David Judson British Cave Research Association. Updated 295 Page book fully illustrated with over 200 line drawings & 33 pages of dramatic photographs. Full chapter on cave diving by Martyn Farr.	\$40.00	
		Australian Caving Diving - A Contrast. By Tony Carlisle. Four short documentary type videos on Warbla Cave, Three Sisters Cave, The Road to Toad Hall and Tank Cave. Reviewed in Guidelines 54.	\$25.00	
VIDEOS		Australia "Nullarbor Dreaming". A world record exploration into a desert cave. During November 1988, a team of Australian cave divers set out on an amazing adventure to explore the mysterious subterranean waters of the Pannikin Plains cave. This epic underwater exploration nearly ended in tragedy when a freak cyclone storm hit the area and the cave collapsed trapping the expedition below. The program is a graphic account of the expedition and their escape from the cave. Executive Producer - Andrew Wight.	\$29.95	
		Florida "Window to a Hidden World". The ultimate cave diving adventure. Andrew and Liz with fellow cave diver-explorer Wes Skiles, take us on a journey to discover the beauty and danger of the Florida aquifer. Beneath the surface of Florida lies one of the planet's largest freshwater reserves. The intricate system of water filled caves is now under increasing environmental threat from the population above. Producers: Andrew & Liz Wight.	\$29.95	
		Mexico "Water of the Gods". An exploration of ancient Maya ruins and underwater caves. Under the dense jungle of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula lies a vast freshwater source relied upon by the ancient Mayas - a mysterious and complex people who built and occupied complex limestone cities in this region for over two thousand years. The Wights explore their hidden caves, uncovering their beauty and mystery, and providing a link to the past. Producers: Andrew & Liz Wight. Director: Liz Wight.	\$29.95	
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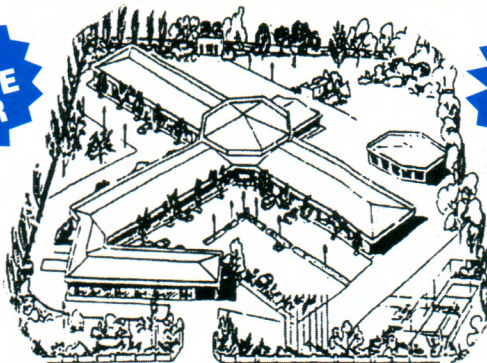
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