



C.D.A.A. Newsletter **GUIDELINES**

No: 73 - SEPTEMBER 2000



CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
(Incorporated in South Australia)

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Editorial

It's that time again! Three months seems to go so fast nowadays.

This issue is full of election material voting slips and a few
interesting letters.

Read carefully and don't forget to vote!

Happy reading and diving.

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 & photos via post to:
The Editor, Glenn O'Connell,
P.O. Box 290, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006.
- Email to glenn@vds.net.au
- Any files for inclusion should be saved in "TEXT" or "ASCII" format. Hardcopy
should also be provided wherever possible.

ADVERTISING RATES

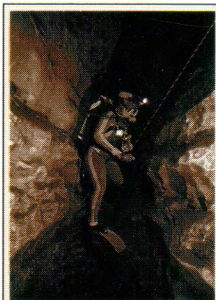
FOR SPACE - APPLY TO THE EDITOR

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

Back Page	2 colour	\$350.00
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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

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Front cover:

Margy Wyschnja at Engelbrechts

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

GUIDELINES is a newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia. All articles for the following issue are to be sent to the Editor, Glenn O'Connell, 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.

CDAA DIRECTORY

The following is a list of people that can be contacted for CDAA matters. Please contact the most relevant person or, if unsure write to:

C.D.A.A. P.O. Box 290 NORTH ADELAIDE S.A. 5006

If you know who you want to write to, please address your letter to the relevant director.

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11 Oakfield Avenue Clarence Park South Australia 5034

CDAA INSURANCE

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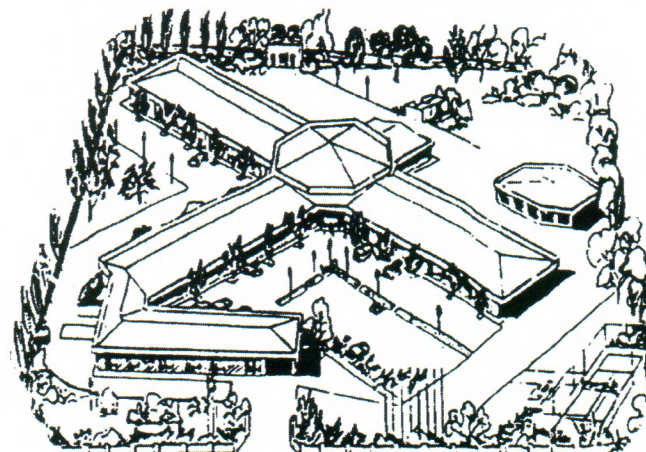
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National Directors Report

It started with a request for a "show of interest" at the AGM last year and saw my appointment as National Director on the 1st of February 2000.

Beginning a new job is never easy and when I look back at the hundreds of E-mails, dozens of letters and countless telephone calls just getting the background and history in order, it's a wonder I'm not completely grey.

As National Director my first challenge was to start sorting out some of the paperwork. Confusion about access difficulties, hose lengths, nitrox use, manifold use and Alternative Breathing Mixtures became my first challenge, I prepared new documents, had them edited, put them in Guidelines for comment, and they have now been approved by the Directors. New policies have been written removing the old Manifold and Nitrox Regulation and completely new Isolation Manifold and Alternative Breathing Mixture Regulations are waiting to be installed as part of our manual. These proposed regulations will be passed through our Instructors before implementation and the outcome will be a bible to refer to for years to come.

Tank Cave perhaps Australia's premium dive site comes at a premium price. We wouldn't want to be without it but the cost has to be, and is born by the membership. To try and find a more equitable system, the current one is not working because it is cost prohibitive to our Penetration members, the Directorate, accepted a proposal that I submitted. The proposed fees were looked at and adjusted by Andrew Seifried and then published as a proposal in Guidelines. The result was a number of arguments in all forms, for and against. This discussion achieved exactly what we wanted, an opinion from the members. The conclusion, more were in favour than against, although the loudest and most vitriolic were against. Membership fees will have to be decided and

a complete analysis of our costs and overheads will be balanced against our income to reach a conclusion. (See letter and reply this issue)

My involvements in access problems, with Landowners and members seem to be never ending. The few who do the wrong thing make it very hard on everyone else. On going problems with Tank Cave, The Shaft, Englebrechts East, Gouldens, Nettlebed, Bakers Cave and Death Cave take up valuable time that could be spent on more important matters. Improvements to sites will be a priority in the new financial year, and an extensive program to upgrade the access and facilities will be undertaken.

The Directorate has handled disciplinary action against some members. Because of non-compliance by some a policy on naming the individuals has been established, when necessary.

New mapping proposals for One Tree and Blacks have been approved and the Shaft is currently, being negotiated.

The good work done by Andrew Higgins and his helpers in Englebrechts East has averted a major problem with access to this site because of the silting problems at the entrance. There are probably other members who have worked behind the scenes at different sites and I apologise if I have left you out, your work is appreciated.

The Melbourne Boat Show, which included Oz Tech and the Dive Industry of Victoria (DIVA) show was a huge success with one of the largest Instructor attendances in memory to our update. The stand was attended by volunteers and if you've ever stood up for 6 days and nights you know what fun that is. More CDAA product was sold from the stand than a year of Guidelines orders.

Have you seen our new web site www.cavedivers.com.au This is another step towards better member representation and we have a lot more coming.

To protect the viability and financial future of the Association I have a proposal in hand to return to the Cavern Course as a stand-alone program. We are failing to attract new members and I put this down to the initial cost and time commitment of the combined Cavern/Sinkhole program. By reducing CDAA costs to the new candidate, time commitment and the overheads of the Instructor a shorter, cheaper program can be offered. The Sinkhole Course proposal is to make twin tanks mandatory, something that won't go down too well with our older members but will solve the problem of Kilsby's and the Shaft access requirements. Further slight changes are proposed for Cave and Penetration Courses and these are being trialed at the moment. Paul Axton has been working on these programs and has recently become an Instructor. With Directorate approval these new programs will be presented soon.

The future looks bright for the Association and the work of our Directors cannot be overlooked. I would like to thank our retiring Treasurer/Business Director - Andrew Seifried, plus Standards Director - Paul Axton, who is up for re-election, Access Director - Steve Arnel and the Publications and records Director - Chris Edwards.

Included with this issue of Guidelines are a number of items to be voted on. It would be remiss of me, as National Director not to pass comment on matters that effect the Association, so I would like you to give a lot of thought to the outcome of these papers. Remember that not voting is a vote for those that do. Until our website is available for chat this is the only means I have of communication.

Carlo and Glen (the previous Business and Standards Directors) have submitted a Motion to amend the CDAA membership fee structure. A lengthy and thought out argument has been presented by them comparing three courses of action. I will let you decide the logic of their arguments and whether they

present reasonable and valid argument to justify their claims. The fact that the Directorate has not presented the tiered fee structure to the members demonstrates that we are not willing to "jump in" without proper consultation. Arguing the pros and cons of a very basic proposal that sought member input against this flat fee system is not constructive and could be construed as a move against giving the members any input. A vote for the flat fee system may result in a levy being placed to maintain access to Tank Cave. Or, as suggested in the Motion, we charge the Penetration divers that use it. Do the maths, how many will drop out? We could see a fee of over \$500.00 per diver. I'm sure I don't need to explain what would happen, we will lose Tank Cave. I can't tell you what the lease fee will be next year, I can't predict how many will take the "Inactive Diver" option, I can't imagine anyone accepting any motion without proper consultation. A vote for No Change will allow consultation and planning by your Directorate, a vote any other way will result in who knows what. I can't decide for you but I will abide by the members decision.

The position of Business Director has been filled because we received one nomination, but the Standard Directors job has not been finalised, Paul Axton and Max Marriott have both nominated for the job. Paul has been working on a number of changes to the Course structure and honing an already impressive set of Course Standards. The Standards required a number of changes and corrections so that they are more user friendly and consistent with the Associations direction given that we now have our Alternative Breathing Mixtures regulation and future re-breather standard in place. It is a great advantage to members that Paul is readily available and members have benefited because of his and Lorraines work looking after Instructor and membership records. I am sure Max will be able to take over from Paul should the vote go that way, and we should all benefit from his experience.

Warrick McDonald.

In an article in The Advertiser of February 29th, 2000 by Belinda Huppertz a theory is presented by hydro-geologist, Andrew Telfer, as to why the Blue Lake turns blue.

WHY IS THE LAKE BLUE?

The natural colour of water is blue most lakes contain tannins, which are yellow.

When yellow tannins are added to blue water the water turns green or, some cases, brown.

The Blue Lake has few tannins and most come from the algae that lives and dies in the lake.

WHY DOES IT CHANGE COLOUR

In early summer, white calcite taken into the lake by water travelling through limestone forms near the surface of the lake. This makes the water appear light blue.

Throughout the summer the calcite continues to form, stripping tannins from the water through a chemical reaction. The calcite and tannins settle on the lake's floor.

As tannin in the lake's top 15m continues to fall the lake turns a deeper blue.

In winter, the lake is thoroughly stirred by water entering the system again. Dead algae that produces tannin again returns to the surface turning it green-grey.



MAPPING PROJECTS

There are currently some mapping projects in various stages. Below is some information on each.

BLACKS

Approval has been received to complete the mapping of Blacks which will require the use of mixed gas diving techniques.

A number of dives various trips will be co-ordinated with diving and surveying to be conducted at various depths, shallower & deeper than 40m.

Experienced survey divers will be requested to assist in the planning & training of the survey dives.

Team Divers will need to be Sinkhole certified and those wishing to dive beyond 40m will need to be certified mix gas divers and Cave certified.

Support crews and Safety Personnel (non divers) will be required.

Trips will be scheduled according to divers availabilities as much as possible, though site availability will limit access. All Team Divers will be given access to

support in the deeper survey work. Dive Buddy Teams are preferred though individuals are welcome and divers will be teamed accordingly.

It is anticipated that divers will incur their own costs, though sponsorship & funding is actively being sourced. It is hoped that diving can start within 4 weeks of member interest being shown and all mapping needs to be completed within 6 months of the Start Date.

All interested members are invited to contact Richard Taylor, Project Coordinator on 0500 834 269 or email tdi_aust@compuserve.com

ONE TREE

The aim of this project is to complete an accurate Grade 4 or better underwater map of this site. Steve Trewavas is the project coordinator and Stan Bugg the Project Manager. They have already assembled a team to complete the task and will be starting soon. Their presence at the site should not inconvenience other divers who are asked please not to disturb any survey pegs or lines found in the sinkhole.

THE SHAFT

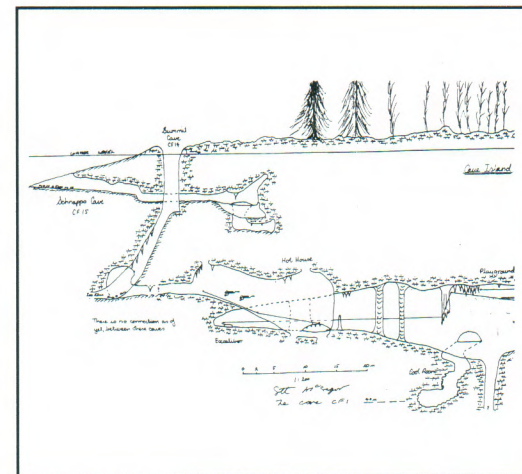
The ASF have negotiated with the landowner to map the Shaft. Whilst we wish the ASF our best wishes in this endeavour, we have concerns over some aspects of its management and as such we do not endorse it. We understand that mapping will not take place on weekends currently available to our membership and that lines placed in the site will not be hazardous to other divers.

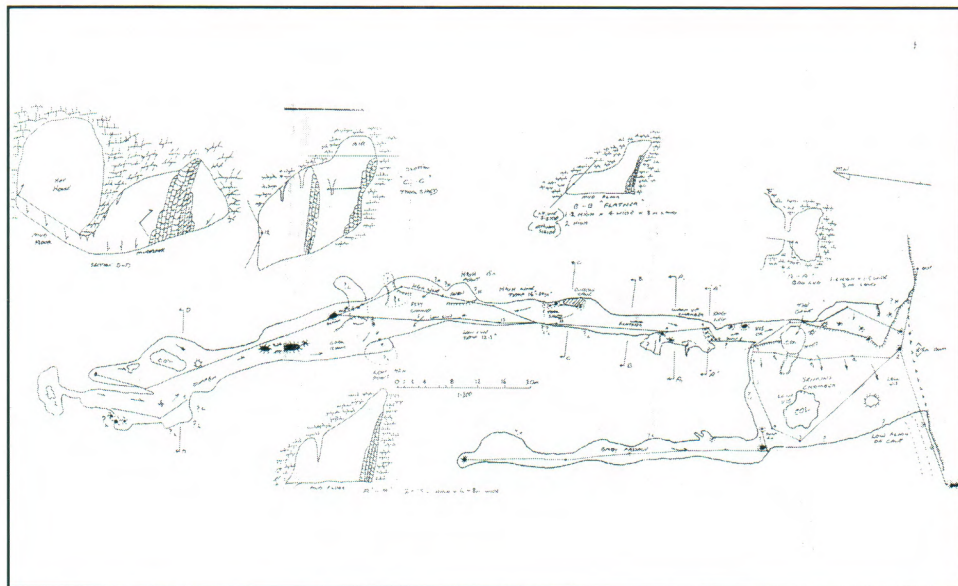
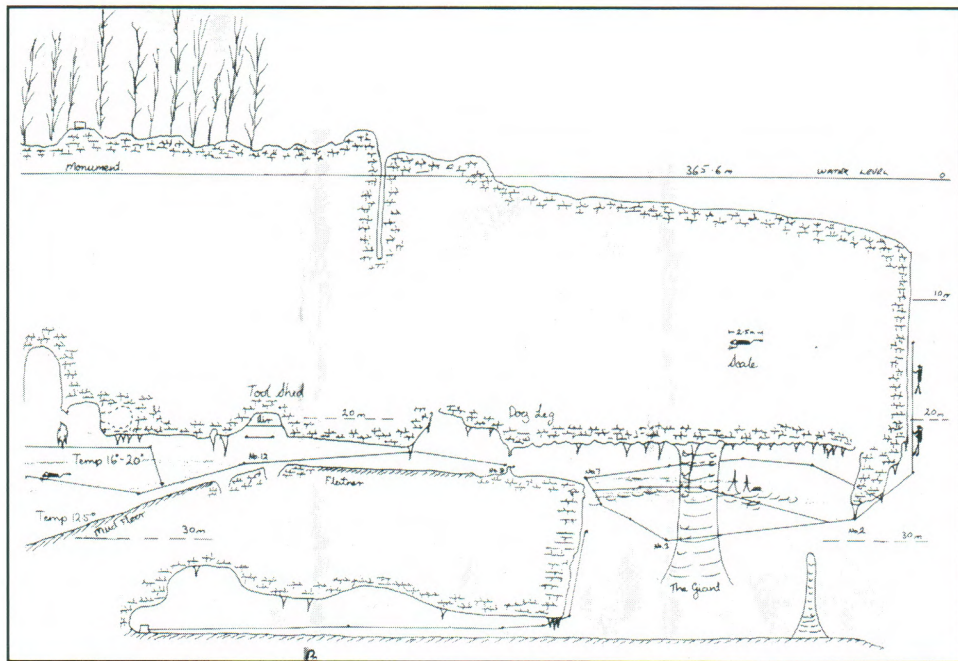
BURRINJUCK DAM

Burrinjuck Dam is located near Yass, NSW. A grade#2 map of "Cave Island" has been created by Andrew Robertson and others and the site has now been tri-rated as Sinkhole, Cave and Penetration. (depending on exact part of site). There are no specific access arrangements. There is a Caravan Park situated at the site which is run by NSW Parks and Wildlife, the water however is not.

Water visibility is described as being 5-10m and when silted clears SLOWLY. The temperature varies significantly between winter and summer and also between depths. Variations from 12 to 20 degrees at different times and levels are reported. The bottom composition is described as mud and silt, as would be expected in a dam.

For further information regarding the site please contact Andrew directly, buggs@tig.com.au or 0417 664 255.





INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

RESCUE

The Directorate are currently investigating the possibility of establishing a Rescue/Recovery unit. A number of our members have attended the workshop in the United States including Jane Bowman, Peter Grills, Steve Sturgeon, Tony Davis, Dave Blundell & Warrick McDonald.

If you would like to be part of this unit or if you know of anyone else who has the training/attended the workshop etc. please contact Warrick McDonald. Details in Directory, inside front cover. Be posted on our website for all your Directory details.

BURRINJUCK

Thanks to an enormous amount of hard work by Andrew Robertson and others Burrinjuck Dam has finally been rated. This means that it can now be used as a training site and count as pre-requisite dives for qualification purposes. It is a tri-rated site so please be responsible when diving there. Further details elsewhere in this issue.

WEBSITE

By the time this reaches you we are hopeful that cavedivers.com.au will be open. Check it out. Please address all feedback to cedwards@teksupport.net.au

REGULATION CHANGES

Thanks to all those people who responded and commented on the proposed changes to Manifold use and Alternative Breathing

Mixes. The final draft is now being prepared and scrutinized by all our Instructors and our Insurers and when finalized will be posted on our website. This will allow you to update your Members Manual yourself.

OXYGEN

Some time ago several members signed a petition requesting the provision of an oxygen unit for first aid purposes. The request suggested that the unit be located at Phil Argy's lodge at Mount Gambier. For a variety of reasons including personal liability and suitable access the Directorate have decided that the request was not practicable. We are however investigating another more appropriate location for such a unit and will publish details when confirmed. All members should consider however that whilst during any course run by a qualified diving instructor in Australia, there is an obligation, via the Australian Standard, on the Instructor to have available a suitable oxygen delivery system, particularly when in a remote location, outside of that the onus for appropriate first aid equipment ought to be on themselves. Please see emOx article elsewhere in this issue.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Well didn't this proposal create some interest! At this time we are considering the options. Please see the National Directors Report for more information.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE!

See insert in centre for details

INSTRUCTOR UPDATE 2000

This years instructor update was held on Saturday 8th July 2000 in the workshop room at Oztek. The update was attended by 17 of the associations instructors and the proceedings were kicked off by Warrick McDonald with a presentation of associate membership to several of the overseas speakers. Lamar Hires' was awarded for his contribution to the association in the form of workshops that he has conducted in Australia and the cave rescue workshops that he has made available to association members visiting the States. Barrie Heard accepted the award on behalf of Tom Mount for his pioneering work in laying down ground rules that have assisted us to develop our safety and training polices. Olivier Isler and Nuno Gomes were both awarded for their spirit of adventure and exploration that is an inspiration to us all.

The update proved to be a very useful exchange of information with a wide variety of opinions being aired in a convivial manner. Being able to hold the update on a weekend during a conference seemed to provide a good window of opportunity for greater access for instructor members.

On behalf of those that attended and the association, I would like to thank Richard Taylor for his assistance in organizing a suitable venue and especially for then providing it without the association incurring any costs.

Paul Axton
CDAA Standards Director.



CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

BUSINESS DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2000

This years Annual General Meeting on October 21 2000 marks the end of my formal involvement with CDAA administration. I have acted as Treasurer since late 1997, and as Business Director for approximately 15 months. I will say that I am looking forward to returning to rank and file diver status!

I would like to thank my fellow "money handlers" over the past three years, Lorraine Hardman, Deb Williams, Chris Edwards, Linda Claridge, Peter Grills and Wayne Wilson. It is at times an onerous task, and these people have worked tirelessly and with integrity.

At the time of writing the financial statements are not finalised, but the indications are that the results will be similar to last year. The audited financial statements will be presented at the AGM, and published in the subsequent issue of Guidelines.

This issue of Guidelines comes with ballot papers and instructions for voting. It is important that the ballot results should reflect as accurately as possible the wishes of the members. For this to occur, it is vital that you consider the issues carefully, and that you send your vote in on time.

It is an unfortunate, but true fact that we are becoming a more litigious society. Despite the obvious statistics to the contrary cave diving is still seen as a high-risk activity, (to the point of suicidal by some). This places an extra burden on us as an Association and as individuals to act responsibly and according to established standards and protocols. By doing so makes it possible to obtain the necessary insurance that allows us access to dive sites. It can be frustrating that our actions are to be governed by insurance policies and by people with comparatively little knowledge of cave diving and at times it seems easy to justify taking a short cut or to opt out of the CDAA altogether.

The Cave Divers Association of Australia has been here for 25 years already, with a safety and training record that is of world class. It should be the aim of every member that the next 25 be as successful.

Andrew Seifried



CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NOTICE OF 2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND VOTING FOR MEMBER MOTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

This notice is issued pursuant to Clause 32 of the Constitution and serves to advise members that the Annual General Meeting of the Cave Divers Association of Australia will be held on 21st October 2000 at the International Motel. The Annual General Meeting will commence at 10.00am and will conclude no later than 12.30pm.

This notice also serves to call for:

- Nominations for Business Director and Standards Director
- Member motions
- Amendments to the Constitution

Nominations for the Directorate positions must be received by the Returning Officer no later than the close of business **Wednesday 30th August 2000**.

Member motions and proposals for amendments to the Constitution must be received by the Business Director no later than close of business **Wednesday 6th September 2000**.

Items received after this date will not be accepted nor will any extensions to this date be granted.

Members intending to nominate for an Office Bearer position must be an eligible member of the Association as defined in the Constitution. Nominations must be accompanied by a precis not exceeding one hundred words detailing skills, experience and achievements relevant to the duties and responsibilities of the nominated position. The responsibilities of Office Bearers are contained in the Constitution of the

Association. Nominations must be in writing and be signed by the nominee, the proposer and the seconder all of whom must be eligible members of the Association. The polling date for the election is 18th October 2000.

The constitutional amendments carried at the 1998 Annual General Meeting and reported in issue #67, (December 1998) of Guidelines, provide for two year terms for National Director, Site Access Director and the Publications and Records Director starting from the 1999 Annual General Meeting. Nominations for Business Director and Standards Director will be for one year terms, (Section 26(2)). Nominations in the year 2000 will be for Business Director and Standards Director only, and will then be effective for two years, (Section 26(3), 26(4)). Those members wishing to nominate for a position should make themselves familiar with these transitional provisions.

The election of Office Bearers and voting on amendments to the Constitution will be conducted entirely by postal ballot.

Polling date is 18th October 2000. If you wish to vote you must be an eligible member of Association, you must use the ballot papers to be provided in the next issue of Guidelines or by special mailout.

You must ensure the ballot papers reach the Returning Officer no later than close of business, Wednesday October 18th 2000. Detailed voting information will be provided with the ballot papers. Questions may be directed to the Returning Officer, PO Box 290, North Adelaide. S.A. 5006.

Publications & Records Director Annual Report

The last twelve months have seen quite a few changes in the Association, not the least being within the Directorate and Office Bearers. As most of you would know Lorraine Hardman took over from the long standing and never complaining Linda Claridge at Xmas. I cannot thank either of them enough for the work they have done. This coming year will see the introduction of a new data base to replace the old DOS based one which has long since reached its use by date. The new system will provide much greater flexibility and will also allow limited access by landowners to confirm financial and category status from a remote location.

Guidelines has, I hope, been good reading as well as thanking our Editor, Glenn O'Connell, may I thank all those contributors who have donated articles and photos for us. We have also organised Advertising contracts for the next two years, which will help pay for your magazine. We have a policy of only running adverts for products which we believe are of a good quality and standard. Please consider supporting these advertisers when you spend.

The products division has done reasonably well too. The CDAA stand at the Melbourne Boat and Dive Show aka OzTek 2000, turned over quite a large amount, particularly in the new Polar Fleece clothing, which seems to have

been well received. I regret that prices of some books have shot up significantly. As a lot of the stock comes from the USA, we are dependent on a good rate for the Aussie dollar to keep the prices down. Unfortunately that has not happened.

Deb Williams has been the strong silent type once again, keeping our Instructors supplied, at the drop of a hat, with all the necessary materials for their courses. Thanks Deb.

We now have a new Website, cavedivers.com.au Although there is still work to be done, it is a great start and thanks to Tony Richardson for his hard work in getting it up and running.

When I took over this job there was virtually nothing stored electronically. No maps, no members manuals, no Instructor manuals, no product data base etc. This is one reason that things like the Web site have taken some time to develop. I hope by the time I end my term to have all the CDAA's records in an electronic format.

Lastly I want to thank all the other Directors, in particular our outgoing Business Director, Andrew Seifried. Andrew has held both Treasurer and Business Director since Carlo Virgilli resigned and has done an excellent job through some pretty trying times.

CHANGES TO CAVE DIVING INDEMNITY/PERMITS FOR DEHAA DIVE SITES

Due to the formalising of the agreement between the Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs (DEHAA) and the CDAA the indemnity and permit system has changed. These changes have been made as a result of legal advice that indicated an open-ended indemnity and a separate permit were not acceptable. Every effort has been made to reduce the impact these changes will have on the diver.

The system is basically the same as previously, except for the following changes. A permit is required for Gouldens Waterhole, Sisters Sinkhole, Piccaninnie Ponds and Fossil Cave and the indemnity and permit are one document. There will not be a separate permit issued for Piccaninnie Ponds as this forms part of the new indemnity/permit. All divers who have not recently signed the new indemnity/permit are required to complete one before they will be granted access.

The indemnity/permit will be issued for the period of the divers current financial membership with CDAA. After lodging the signed indemnity/permit with DEHAA Mount Gambier, a diver who wishes to access a dive site is still required to contact DEHAA with the details of where they wish to dive and when.

Following is a step by step breakdown of the system.

BOOKING SYSTEM

INDEMNITY/PERMIT

Diver contacts DEHAA.

DEHAA obtains divers address, CDAA number, CDAA category and fills in form.

DEHAA sends form (post or fax) to diver to sign and get witness to sign.

Diver and witness sign, diver keeps a copy and returns (post or fax) signed form to DEHAA.

BOOKING A DIVE AFTER INDEMNITY/PERMIT IS SIGNED

Diver contacts DEHAA (mail, phone, fax, and e-mail) with details of where they wish to dive and when. If booking a dive in Piccaninnie Ponds the appropriate fee is paid.

If an indemnity/permit has been issued to the diver and is correctly completed and lodged at the Mt Gambier office, DEHAA confirms booking.

PLEASE NOTE

- DEHAA will fill in the property section indicating which sites the indemnity/permit is for.
- The indemnity/permit will be issued for a specified time period. This will be for the period of the divers current financial membership or temporary membership with CDAA. Divers will need to sign an indemnity/permit each time they renew their CDAA membership.
- Divers are required to book a dive site and time with DEHAA prior to each dive.
- Fees will apply to Piccaninnie Ponds CP; Annual Piccaninnie Ponds permits can be purchased.
- There is no fee for Gouldens Waterhole, Sisters Sinkhole or Fossil Cave.
- A separate permit will not be issued for Piccaninnie Ponds.
- A new indemnity will need to be signed if the diver is undertaking a Cave course.

ENGLEBRECHT'S ACCESS GUIDELINES

As most divers would be aware Lifeline operates Englebrecht's cave as a tourist attraction. Over the years they have had a number of concerns with divers access to the site. CDAA members must demonstrate they are responsible in order to maintain unrestricted access to this site.

MINIMISE SILTING

As the water level has dropped in Mt. Gambier entering and exiting the East side without major silting problems has become increasingly difficult. This has created some problems for the Life Line guides who wish to point out the clarity of the water as part of the tour. A number of remedies have been considered without resolution of the situation. Lifeline has currently agreed to a trial with Mt. Gambier stone steps. Thanks to Andrew Higgins who put in a lot of hard work installing these recently. Assistance from the membership in areas like this is always welcome.

PREVENT UNAUTHORISED ACCESS

Life Line has been concerned about unauthorised access. Please lock the access gates and do not give the keys to people who have not signed in at Lady Nelson.

LIMIT NON DIVERS

Some of Life Lines customers have queried them about the requirement to pay when others don't. If your group is entering the cave without diving gear please try to avoid tour times and notify the guides if this is unavoidable. Please keep non diving members assisting divers to a minimum and if possible notify the Life Line guides before they enter.

CHANGE IN PRIVATE

Life line has requested that Divers be made aware that the toilet facilities are available for changing rather than doing this in public.

USE LIGHTS CONSIDERATELY

Over the years divers have had access to lighting. Recently Lifeline has upgraded the lighting system and this has not been available while these changes have taken place. Lifeline has indicated that limited lighting will be available in future to make access easier. Please remember to switch the lights off and leave a gold coin donation toward the operating cost of this system.

QUIET

The City of Mt. Gambier have received complaints in the past relating to noise created by divers diving late at night. Please be discrete in your diving activities to ensure continued unrestricted access.

Open Letter to all members of the CDAA

The following letter is published in response to the fee proposal suggestion published in the last issue of Guidelines. The National Directors reply follows.

It was with much interest that I read the proposed membership fee increases as outlined by the Directorate in Guidelines 72 (June 2000). The move towards different levels of membership fees for different ratings is a retrograde step. I have no problem with the principal of the user pays system, but I do object to paying for others to dive sites that currently have a user pay system that is paid by the divers that dive that site.

Why should some members subsidize others to dive a particular site that they themselves have no wish, or qualifications/currency, to presently dive that site? Has this situation arisen because the Association's move towards paying an access fee for tank cave, came up financially short?

I firmly believe that any Association (or Club) should set appropriate fees that are the same for all members and that cover the day to day costs and running expenses that are shared by all members. Any activities that the Association has negotiated on a user pays system should be exactly that - paid for by those members who use them.

I am sure that any user pay system introduced by Primary Industries (SA) will be nowhere near as expensive as that which was introduced to pay for tank cave. I for one do not find the access fees for sites such as Piccaninnie Ponds excessive or inequitable - if you dive, you pay. If you do not wish to dive, you do not pay! In future the CDAA should only negotiate user pays systems that have those members using the system, paying for it, not the general membership propping up excessive payments that amount to nothing more than a license fee.

I have no objection to the membership fees rising in line with costs associated with the GST or for that matter CPI increases. However, as an Association we need to be very careful about increasing membership fees excessively as this will lead to the following:

- 1) A decreasing membership base from those "occasional" divers not to pay higher fees for that "Once in a while trip to the Mount" (I would be very surprised if these type of divers don't make up a large proportion of our membership base). (I am certainly in that category and know many others like myself), and
- 2) As these "occasional" divers drop out, the membership fees for those that remain will continue to rise until the Association is unable to operate effectively and user pay sites become too costly to pay for.

Although I am a penetration diver, I have never dived tank cave and hold no "affiliation" to or "have an axe to grind" with either the current directorate or the previous site access controllers of tank cave. My concern here is the long-term viability of the CDAA. We can not continue to pay large sums of money for access to sites that cater for a small proportion of our membership.

I urge all members to vote against this retrograde step to ensure the long-term viability and equitability of the Association.

Yours in diving,

John MacKenzie #2076

Comments are most welcome: PO BOX 419, DAW PARK. S.A. 5041.

0407 233 483, Email: macjw001@students.unisa.edu.au

IN REPLY TO JOHN MACKENZIE'S LETTER DATED 14-7-00.

We have spoken with John about his letter and received his permission to publish his letter and our reply.

Let's get straight to the point.

Fact: Each and every member is paying for others to dive in sites they may not dive in themselves. This comes about when we build ladders, pathways, concrete areas, pay for access agreements, legal costs for leases, improvements to sites etc. etc.

Fact: Each and every member is paying for access to Tank Cave.

Fact: Each and every member is paying to cover the lease and therefore entry fee into Tank Cave.

Fact: Each and every member is subsidizing the few who dive Tank Cave.

Fact: We have a lease for Tank Cave that was taken for two years.

Fact: Arguing about the rights and wrongs of how the lease came about is a waste of time, it is history and we now have a lease in place.

Fact: Of the 191 Penetration members, only 40 have paid for access. Now in a perfect world that should equate to \$8,800.00 for a two year period, the fact is that some did not take the full two year term and paid a lesser amount.

Fact: The lease is \$15,750.00 that leaves a shortfall of about \$6,950.00 and there are also legal fees to add.

Fact: The lease will need to be renewed soon and the money has to come from somewhere.

John argues that we will have a "....decreasing membership base from those 'occasional' divers not wishing to pay higher fees...." and "....membership fees....continue to rise..."

Fact: Membership is dropping, the fees have not changed!

Fact: Access fees - User pays is here to stay, this is happening in every sport and activity, not just Cave diving.

Let's look at the real picture here.

1. The Directorate needs to come up with a formula that is fair and represents income to balance expenditure.
2. The Directorate published an idea / a formula to get the user to pay.
3. We received a lot of input, many in favor and some against the proposal, but best of all we promoted response.
4. Some opinions and arguments are tainted because of vested interests and political point scoring.

5. It would be in the interest of some to see the CDAA collapse because of a lack of membership, funds or access.
6. All members should question the motives of some of the "dual" membership holders.
7. Membership in the CDAA is very good value.
8. Access fees for other sites are coming - the CDAA would like to be able to negotiate a "lump sum" payment on behalf of the members without raising the fees.

The result is that we now have most of the information that we sought. Once the new Directorate is installed we can proceed as per the Constitution with a motion that may be a compromise but one that will hopefully be acceptable to the membership.

The CDAA Directors are available for discussion and information, so please do not rely on stories or hearsay. Contact us and discuss your concerns.

Warrick McDonald
National Director.

From the Returning Officer – Election Office Bearers

As per the constitution, nominations for the positions of Standards Director and Business Director were called for in the last Guidelines.

Only one nomination was received for the position of Business Director and that was from Richard Price #2880. As such he will be duly elected and will take over from the existing Director, Andrew Seifried at the AGM.

Richard holds a B.Com from Melbourne Uni and a Masters in Business Administration from Monash. He is currently employed as Manager Commercial for the Bass Strait Asset within BHP Petroleum.

There were two nominations received for Standards Director and therefore a postal vote will take place. The two nominees are Paul Axton (our existing Standards Director) and Max Marriott. Ballot papers are included with this issue of Guidelines and I urge you to take the time to complete them.

Comments from both nominees follow.

From Paul Axton

Since my appointment as Standards Director late last year I have been working with the other members of the Directorate in a cooperative atmosphere. I wish to nominate for the position of Standards Director again this year with a view to continuing the work that the Directorate has commenced in the past year.

I feel that I can build on the experience that I have already gained and the continuity within the Directorate would be of benefit to the association. My aim is to help to guide the association forward while at all times upholding our standards and values.

Paul Axton CDAA Instructor # 2826.

From Max Marriott

My Name is Max Marriott. I have been a member of the CDAA since 1983. I have some

definite points of view in maintaining the high standards of the CDAA.

Previous Standards Directors have held the CDAA in high regard and achieved much in the time of their office. Tradition and excellence. These are character traits associated with the CDAA. I simulate with these traits

My goal is to see the CDAA grow.

Keep abreast of the new and latest information associated with diver education.

To set the satellite as the base station to take instructor, student materials and members needs for standards into the IT future of the year 2000 and beyond.

Have regular conferences with instructors to keep abreast of training and members needs.

To target the CDAA to the world as a training agency of high standards.

Max B. Marriott CDAA Instructor #1268

The Rapture of the Deep Story by Thornton McCamish

It's beautiful, it's exhilarating...and it's dangerous as hell. Where Egypt's Sinai Desert meets the coast, diving fanatics risk their lives plunging ever deeper into the mysterious and mesmerising Blue Hole.

We gather around the memorial plaque in our rolled-down wetsuits. The sun is hot on our backs. The small monument, a shiny black marble plate set into a stump of rock, seems incongruously grim in this romantic spot, with its glorious view of the Sinai's desert coast - like something forgotten and accidentally left behind. Behind us, a cliff face looms above the lagoon, and its scrappy rock surface is studded with similar memorials - all dedicated to the divers who have drowned in the water below. We're up here for a pre-dive briefing: from this low bluff you can look down on the Canyon and Blue Hole dive sites and get your surface bearings for the popular drift dive from one to the other that most people do here. But Trad and Jeremy, our instructors, are distracted by this formal addition to Blue Hole's improvised memorial wag. Their banter fades away into an awkward silence.

The Blue Hole is the most notorious dive site in the Red Sea, but it's hard to imagine anything tragic happening here. It's too beautiful to be morbid. On either side, red desert mountains crumble into the shining sea, forming dramatic underwater slopes alive with brilliant coral and reef fish. The Blue Hole itself is just a dark stain on the surface of the lagoon. From the surrounding table coral, which lies in a metre or so of limpid water, the hole is said to drop to a depth of more

than 2,000 metres. 60 metres from the surface, deeper than most recreational scuba divers are prepared to go, is an archway that leads the adventurous into the big blue. If they make it, that is.

This new plaque has a special meaning for Trad. He first came to Dahab several years ago from Israel, where he'd been working on an underwater archeological site in Caesarea.

The way he tells it, he arrived in Dahab full of confidence and bravado - full of himself - and eager to show that a diver of his calibre could dive the famous Blue Hole archway with his eyes shut. But as they did the rounds of Dahab's clubs and dive shops, Trad's pals found that people were loath to give a group of cocky punks the tanks they needed to make the dive.

At one place, a young guy spelt it out for them 'He'd never met me before in his life,' Trad remembers, 'but he said to me, 'You're exactly the kind of person who dies in the Blue Hole. You're a good diver who's had a bit of experience, a bit cocky, all gung-ho, but you just don't know what you're doing. "Trad nods down at the plaque expressionless. "That's him. That's the guy who said I was going to die in the Blue Hole. He and this other guy went to dive the archway about a year and a half ago and never came back up"

We stare at the plaque, with its crisply carved letters glinting in the sun. One of the divers was 22, the other, 23. It's a tragedy, but a tragedy that is difficult to put into perspective here where divers, attracted by the

Blue Hole's growing notoriety, die regularly in the deep water only metres offshore. Each new death is met with a sharp intake of breath from travellers staying in Dahab, but only a knowing shrug from the local dive fraternity. The people who dive here understand the risks, after all.

Most people who come to Dahab would never dream of diving the Blue Hole. In fact, most people who come here just lie around, immobilised by the constant sunshine and the lackadaisical atmosphere that mellow newcomers like a drug. While a tidal wave of commercial tourist development surges up the east coast of Egypt's Sinai Desert, Dahab clings stubbornly to the laid-back ambience cultivated by generations of independent travellers. The seaside cafe strip of Assalab, the very heart of travellers' Dahab, is an earthy bazaar of odd accents, wild stories, lost travellers and dope. People sit for days and weeks on the grotty, comfortable carpets of the ground-level cafe lounges that line the shorefront, reading second-hand paperbacks stiff with spot tea and grains of sand, listening to music or simply gazing across the Gulf of Aqaba at the faint mountain ranges on the coast of Saudi Arabia. It's the sort of travellers' paradise that quickly develops its own mythology. One story doing the rounds involves a couple of stoned Australians who decided it would be a fabulous idea to hire a pedalo and pedal across the 30-kilometre-wide Gulf of Aqaba to Saudi Arabia. According to legend, this adventure led to an unplanned ride on the Saudi naval boat that intercepted them, a hefty fine and nasty sunburn.

Though the feats of great pioneer divers are well-known - if mostly through films - diving is a sport that is stronger on legend than history. In Dahab, the oral culture among globetrotting scuba divers has a Homeric grandeur. As stories make the rounds of the cafe lounges and divers' bars, facts are stretched by exaggeration and dramatic licence so that deep dives get deeper, days spent in decompression chambers become weeks, and crazy midnight dives are made by people stoned on five joints, rather than merely one.

At the centre of local dive lore is Blue Hole, a site that is, some say, unique in world diving. 'There are lots of places where you can go deep,' explains Pete Harrison, a British dive instructor who worked in the Red Sea for four years and has dived all around the world. 'You get lots of deep wrecks and deep formations - but there's nothing comparable for sheer beauty. You get the same beauty shallow in loads of places, but nothing quite as beautiful as Blue Hole that deep.'

For some, the Hole has become an obsession. Nicholas Croucher, an instructor who dived it almost every day for years in the early '90s, regularly dived below 100 metres. One online dive guide notes reverently that in his reckless heyday, macho deep divers would surface from seriously deep dives around Blue Hole "shaken by the sight of a lunatic at least 20 metres below them". The risks inherent in deep diving on air are now well understood. Decompression sickness, delirium brought on by nitrogen narcosis and oxygen toxicity are some of the reasons most recreational divers don't dive below 40 metres on ordinary compressed air. Croucher claimed to have dived to 127 metres.

Like many divers who have been through the archway, Croucher raved about its otherworldly beauty. For Harrison, who described diving Blue Hole in the UK's Diver magazine, it was a near-religious experience: "Hanging beneath the area, one might be swimming through a cathedral: the walls are plastered in velvety sponges, clouds of fish dart and shimmer like shards of failing stained glass, bubbles surge up towards the high vaulted ceiling like clouds of incense."

But it's not wondrous beauty that has put the Blue Hole on the divers' map of the world. Hard-core divers are attracted to the Blue Hole today by its sinister reputation and its stories of disaster. Like the one about the two friends - local instructors who knew the Hole backward but failed to resurface after a planned dive through the archway. Israeli naval divers flown in to recover the bodies found the pair lost deep below the archway, their arms locked around one another in a last, lonely embrace.

"It's the name and the history of the place," says Tarek Omar, a local technical diver who uses the Hole to train for his deep dive record attempts. 'Just like "Jaws"'. Before that movie, hardly anyone was honestly worried about sharks. And the Blue Hole now has this myth about it. People go there and die. Why? Five or six years ago there were lots of rumours about it. They used to say there was this big moray eel that comes and sucks you up - or there's a giant octopus living there.' He grins and shrugs his shoulders. "It makes the place very interesting to divers who have a bit of ego. Lots of them survive it, and lots of them die."

Nowadays no one thinks that it's a murderous octopus that makes the Blue Hole so dangerous.

The usual explanation - if one is ever asked for - is that the divers who don't make it descend too rapidly, for fear of failing to find the archway in time, and either succumb to narcosis or simply drift too deep without

realising what's happening. It's not unusual for "narked" divers to lose control over or, indeed, any interest in their depth.

No one knows exactly how many divers have died in the Blue Hole: the local authorities play down the figure; local gossipmongers doubtless talk it up. "If you go and sit under the Blue Hole archway and count all the people who've died," Omar says simply, "there are lots of people."

The morning I arrived in Dahab to learn how to dive, two dive instructors from Alexandria went out to dive the Blue Hole archway. Early in the morning, they took a taxi truck north up the coast from Assalah, driving through the Bedouin village where goats and chickens pick at stray weeds among crumbling cement huts, and then for several kilometres along a dirt four-wheel-drive track that barely clings to slopes of the desert mountains above.

At that time of day, they were the only divers at the Blue Hole. They rolled out a straw mat to keep sand out of their gear and then kitted up, checking one another's straps, oxygen flow, spare air source and air pressure gauges. From the shore, they only had to splash across a few metres of dead table coral in knee-deep water to the rim of the Blue Hole. They pulled on their fins, cleaned their masks with spit and rinsed them with seawater. Then, at about 7 am, in the cool sunlight of the winter morning, they dropped into the darkness of the Hole, heading for the coral archway.

They were both dead in less than an hour.

Hard-core divers, you quickly realise, are a breed apart. With their sun-damaged skin, hair bleached stiff by dust and sea salt, their cigarettes and lean bodies; they're not hard to spot, even in a place like Dahab. Instructors earn barely enough to keep themselves in T-shirts, coffee and smokes. They're not in it for the money. They're simply addicted to the diving, and comfortable in the global community of divers who move from place to place diving, teaching and generally avoiding the real world.

Jeremy is a "full-time traveller and citizen of the world" whose fortunes ride on the fluctuations of the NASDAQ index. He's in Dahab, he says, because while the American stock market remains bullish, he can afford to be. He'll stay until he has logged enough dives to qualify as a PADI Divemaster.

All the instructors seem to know each other, even most of the ones who are up from Sharm el Sheikh in the

south. While their students struggle into unfamiliar wetsuits and drop heavy tanks on their toes, they mingle, trade friendly insults, gossip and sniff around for instructing work.

New arrivals are subtly but thoroughly assessed for their experience. I watch an English instructor with mirrored sunglasses and chiselled cheekbones call Trad over to meet a bunch of experienced divers who've just arrived. Trad's friend introduces them as fellow cave divers, and the new guys, a couple of thickset Canadians - one with a bristling moustache that makes him look more like a bear hunter than an extreme diver - shyly answer Trad's questions about where they've dived and with whom. This conversation is loaded with an unspoken sense of hierarchy: the Canadians have heard of Trad and their voices barely conceal their eagerness to impress him.

No, they haven't done any of the Florida caves Trad mentions, but they've done plenty of other places he might have heard of. Trad listens politely, and agrees to meet up with them later.

I realise only later that Trad knew the Canadians were here to dive Blue Hole. The purpose of his conversation with them was partly to assess whether they were likely to kill themselves doing it.

As diving becomes more and more popular, those at the extreme edge of this fraternity are constantly pushing the boundaries of what they do. The heroes of extreme covers are people who refuse to acknowledge limits that usually protect novices from harm. Words like "extreme" and "hard-core" are used as terms of respect. There's just a whiff of "Point Break" in the air here in Dahab, a feeling of indestructible youth chasing illicit pleasures out of view of the rest of the everyday world.

There's also a clear - if rarely articulated - ethos of "live and let live". Perhaps this is why people I question about the Blue Hole are cagey. For them, one of the attractions of an out-of-the-way place like Dahab is that there's no-one here to stop you taking risks, and no-one to ask why you want to in the first place. Trad and his pals might have been refused tanks for the Blue Hole when they first arrived, but, generally, people who want to dive Blue Hole are experienced divers and they're left to make their own decisions.

Simon is diving with the Canadians. A self-described East End geezer, he's young, thin and jerky, with a quivering Adam's apple, darting eyes and lots to say about diving. I ask him what he thinks about the Blue

Hole. He's glad I asked, since he knows everything about it, including the mistakes made by the dead - 'anyone that stupid deserves to die' - but hasn't yet done it himself. He intends to, though. "I like diving deep because I love that feeling of knowing that if you don't do what you know how to do, if you stuff up and make a mistake, you're going to die. Simple as that. You're relying on your skills and your control to stay alive. It's a huge buzz. I can't describe it."

Many divers would give that thrill a specific name: nitrogen narcosis. Nitrogen narcosis is an intoxication caused by breathing nitrogen at high pressures. For some it is a fantastic high - Jacques Cousteau called it 'the rapture of the deeps' - but it's disorienting and can lead to lapses in judgment.

'Deep diving on air is a form of drug abuse' Pete Harrison says simply. The problem is that the high can become a potentially lethal distraction. 'Suddenly you wonder why your bubbles are talking to you. Or your bubbles are making musical chimes, and you're starting to compose tunes out of them, you're trying to order them, to bring them under control, and you don't even know you're diving any more, all your existence is these chimes, and they're out of control and you're trying to rein them back in, and all the time you're dropping and dropping, and your bubbles are laughing at you, and you start trying to work out who's laughing at you down here - where are they hiding?' As "narked" divers drift deeper, they become increasingly likely to succumb to oxygen toxicity, which can strike without warning and cause uncontrollable convulsions and even unconsciousness. Or they may simply run out of air.

Rod Rotondi understands obsession with sea. Now owner of one of Dahab's most respected and successful dive clubs, Club Red, he first to Dahab 15 years ago. Unusually, he is both a scuba diver and a free diver - someone who dives as deep as they can on a single breath, sometimes for as long as three minutes.

He squats on his heels, his muscular and supple legs comfortably folded under him. I ask him if holding your breath for three minute hurts. He smiles at me with the patience of a swami, slowly shaking his head. 'I'm not into pain,' he assures me.

Rotondi is very friendly, but I detect a scepticism, even a disdain for this business of asking questions. He takes a sip of sweet mint tea and sighs. "You can hold your breath for what, 30 seconds? Most people can hold their breath for 30 to 60 seconds before they have

to breathe again. Over time, free divers can train their bodies to demand less oxygen. You have to learn to control your breathing, and you have to learn to become very still in the water. It takes time. But I can assure you that it doesn't hurt."

This clearly isn't everyone's experience. Tanya Streeter, the Caymans-based British diver who holds the women's free diving record of 67 metres, has described the crushing pressure on ribs, sinuses and ears at depth as excruciatingly painful.

To hard-core diving people, free diving is the purest form of the obsession with the deep. To most non-divers, free diving is, simply, the sport of loonies. Luc Besson's cult film *The Big Blue*, a bio-pic of legendary free diver Jacques Mayol, used lingering and atmospheric shots of deep water to create a magically beautiful vision of deep diving, and in the process gave free diving an image-boost it still enjoys. Yet the world championships held in Italy two years ago were dogged by a string of injuries and accidents. One diver was taken by a shark in warm-ups. Two others were killed. Several more blacked out underwater and had to be fished out.

This kind of fearlessness is quietly admired among many divers. Which might be part of the problem. Tarek Omar is a highly respected technical diver - such divers use sophisticated mixes of gas to avoid complications in very deep dives and are considered to be the cautious schoolmasters of the deep diving scene. He is adamant that fear should be a part of all extreme diving. "Fear keeps you alive," he says. "When you're a bit afraid, you are a bit more conservative, you plan the dive more. You have to have a little bit of fear."

Now 28, Trad is older and more experienced than most of the people whose deaths are recorded on the plaques above Blue Hole. He survived his own reckless phase, when regular deep dives were a buzz and sky-diving 'a la Point Break' was his other form of adrenaline rush. Pete Harrison's lifestyle has changed with time, too: he says he doesn't even drive his car fast since his baby son was born, let alone climb glacier cliffs, which was once the only thing in his life that compared to the thrill of solo deep diving.

Says Trad, "When you're a kid, you don't give a shit about anything. You don't care about dying, you just want to do it all. But when you get into your late twenties you start to get attached to your life. It's like: 'Hey, I actually quite like being alive.' Dying doing something stupid doesn't seem quite so cool any more."

But Rotondi's fascination with the Blue Hole hasn't waned with the years - he plans to be the first person to free dive its famed archway. That would involve swimming, on one breath, to a depth of 60 metres - 10 metres more than he's ever managed - swimming laterally through the archway for at least 30 seconds, then resurfacing, about 3 and a half minutes later. The feat would make the underwater scene in *The Poseidon Adventure* look like child's play.

So what is driving him to contemplate such a risk? "It's a fantastic feeling," Rotondi says after a minute, still smiling. His words hang in the air, simple, yet baffling, like a riddle with no answer.

Like many divers, Trad shies away from my direct questions about his own diving in the Blue Hole, almost as if he's afraid I might tell his mother. I ask him instead about the guy who used to dive at night high and deep all at once.

"He died in Europe two years ago of a heroin overdose," Trad says. "He was the kind of guy who liked to live on the edge. And I guess the edge caught up with him in the end."

When the two guys from Alexandria disappeared, Omar volunteered to make the recovery dive.

Sometimes an Israeli naval team is sent from Eilat to recover lost divers, sometimes teams are flown in from as far away as Germany. Either way, it's an expensive start to the mourning period for the families. A search and recovery operation can cost up to \$US10,000.

It wasn't Omar's job to do the recovery, but he had done it several times before and volunteered to make the dive without charge, as long as the bereaved families agreed to pay for the expensive mixed gases he would need. Omar, who was born in a Berber tribe in Egypt's western desert, didn't see the ocean until he was 18, but is now more familiar with the Blue-Hole's legendary architecture than anyone living. He also had a personal investment in bringing the bodies back up.

"I don't want to sound selfish," he said at the time, "but I'm really doing it because I'm trying to do my practice sessions at the Blue Hole. And to go down to around 150 metres and to hover above people who..." He grimaced. 'I don't think it's a good thing for other people to come down here and see an old accident either. It's better for me to recover them and give them back to the family.'

With the help of his support diver, Omar prepared a rope line of spare tanks attached at planned intervals. At this depth, gases are extremely compressed and are

breathed very quickly; even using the several spare tanks hitched to this line, Omar would have only minutes to find the bodies. On the first dive, a support diver accompanied Omar to about 70 metres, and then hovered at that depth, watching him disappear into the darkness below. Omar found one body at 107 metres, and spotted the equipment of the other diver a bit deeper, beyond the planned depth of the dive. The following day, he located this equipment at 150 metres, but there was no sign of a body. For a second, Omar's composure slipped.

"It was a big, scary surprise," he admits. 'I didn't know what was going on. I don't believe that there are animal attacks - why would they eat a dead person?'

But you never know if they died together or not. Maybe they got separated and they panicked."

He made a third dive the following day, but again failed to find the missing body. "I was willing to keep searching for the other one, but there was no point because the body isn't going to look nice. I said to the family, 'I'm not worried, I'll go again for free, but I'm not going to be able to bring him back up as you'd like.' The thing is," Omar explains, "he was Muslim, and Muslim people want to wash their dead. But after three days he's not going to be that washable, actually. So they just had to accept that he's gone, because I'd seen his BCD [buoyancy control device, worn as a vest] down there, which means that he's really gone."

The divers' friends and families will never know how they spent their last minutes, or even if they were aware of what was happening. Perhaps, before things began to go wrong, they experienced moments of bliss. 'You look back up at Blue Hole and you feel so tiny and insignificant,' says Pete Harrison. "All you can do is think, 'This is awesome, this is just awesome.' And that's what you're looking for - awe."

Omar doesn't resent the people who gamble with death here, even if it means he has to face the unpleasant task of pulling the unlucky ones out. He understands what they are looking for.

"You can call it falling in love with the sea. It's just something you love. Deep water is different: different sensations, different things to see. There is no noise apart from your own bubbles. Sometimes you can hear your own heartbeat, and that's all. It's very silent down there. It's a great feeling."

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

POSTAL VOTING INSTRUCTIONS OCTOBER 2000

*Please follow these instructions carefully to register your votes in the
October 2000 ballot*

STEP ONE: COMPLETE THE BALLOT PAPERS

Clearly indicate your preference on the ballot paper following the instructions for each question.

Fold your ballot papers and place them in a small envelope and write on the front of that envelope:

BALLOT PAPER ENVELOPE

By placing your ballot papers in a separate envelope, your vote remains anonymous.

STEP TWO: PLACE THE BALLOT PAPER ENVELOPE IN ANOTHER ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE RETURNING OFFICER.

The address for the Returning Officer is:

**The Returning Officer
Cave Divers Association of Australia
321 Goodwood Road
Kings Park SA 5034**

STEP THREE: SIGN THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE RETURNING OFFICER

On the back of this envelope you must write your name, CDAA number and signature. This serves to declare that you are the person whose name appears on the back of the envelope, and that this is your only vote in the October 2000 ballot.

STEP FOUR: SEND YOUR ENVELOPE TO THE RETURNING OFFICER STRAIGHT AWAY

Your votes must reach the Returning Officer by the close of business
Wednesday October 18th 2000.

Any questions may be directed to the Returning Officer -
Andrew Seifried on (08) 8354 3992

ATTACH 2
PHOTOS
HERE

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

Applicant's Personal Details

Surname: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

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

(w) (____) _____

In consideration of me being accepted as a members 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 have read and understand the aims and objectives of the CDAA and am in support thereof.
I hereby apply for membership.

Signed: _____

I enclose \$50 being CDAA membership for 2000/2001 and an additional \$50 for each additional membership year.

☐ I enclose my cheque / money order

☐ Please charge to my credit card

BANKCARD

VISA

MASTERCARD

☐☐☐

Credit Card No.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

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.
- (5) Enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

**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.

emOx[®]

The emergency oxygen system for scuba divers.



emOx provides a supply of oxygen in emergency situations with none of the problems associated with normal pressurised oxygen cylinders

A dependable, portable, powder emergency oxygen system which is non-pressurised, has no moving parts and requires no service or maintenance.

The powder ingredients are environmentally accepted, have an indefinite shelf life, are non-flammable and are supplied in tamper proof sealed containers.

Each emOx kit consists of a nylon carry bag, a specially designed plastic cylinder with a built-in humidifier, powder ingredients sufficient for 45 minutes supply of oxygen, a face mask with a 1.5 meter tubing and a water measuring bottle.

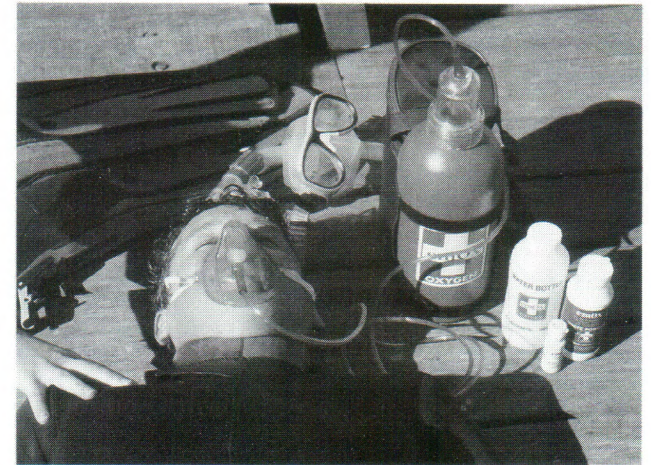
The total kit weighs a mere 1.75kg

To activate the emOx oxygen generating system takes less than a minute and you can even use sea water.

Refill chemical powder packs are readily available which eliminates the cost and inconvenience of sending cylinders to be refilled.

emOx is a product that is designed to be reliable, dependable and safe at all times for any emergency situation until professional medical assistance is available.

Also available in a back pack complete with the PADI recommended Rescue Diver's first aid kit.



The emOx system is an emergency oxygen supply that for the first time permits a supply of pure oxygen to be available when it is needed in an emergency. Every scuba diver knows the value of oxygen in a diving incident – yet the reality is that very few dive trips have a supply of oxygen due to the impracticability and cost of carrying O₂ cylinders on the dive.

The emOx system now provides the ideal solution due to the fact that it is based on powdered oxygen – simply add water (even sea water) to the plastic non-pressurised cylinder and then add the two powders. A chemical process is set into motion that releases more than 90 litres of pure oxygen (99.7%) at a flow rate averaging 6.3 litres/min over 15 mins. The standard pack includes sufficient powders for 45 minutes of oxygen.

With the addition of more water and powder the system can deliver oxygen almost indefinitely. All this in a pack that weighs just 1.75 kg – the same as a bottle of cold drink.

The emOx emergency oxygen system is the result of six years research in conjunction with the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. This product is set to revolutionise the way in which we approach emergency aid for scuba divers – there is no excuse for not having O₂ at the dive site now.

The emOx system received the coveted gold medal for innovation at the 1997 INPEX expo in the USA and has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for sale in the USA.

Oxygen generation is the result of the reaction between sodium percarbonate (a harmless salt) and water in the presence of the catalyst. More than 90 litres of 99.7% pure oxygen are produced during the 15 minute reaction. The cylinder pressure at maximum flow rate never exceeds 1.4 bar. The flow rate of the oxygen follows the following profile

Time (min)	Flow rate (l/min)	Time (min)	Flow rate (l/min)
0	0	8	5.5
1	4	9	6
2	4	10	7.5
3	4	11	10
4	4	12	11.5
5	4.5	13	12.5
6	4.5	14	10
7	5	15	1

Mean flow rate 6.3 litres/min
Total volume 94 litres

emOx system comprises

- Green polypropylene cylinder
- Cylinder cap and humidifier assembly
- 1.5 m mask tubing and face mask
- 500 ml plastic bottle for measuring water
- 3 x bottles white powder, sodium percarbonate
- 3 x bottles black catalyst
- Nylon carry bag with shoulder strap

Options

- Back-pack for emOx system complete with first aid kit (PADI rescue diver recommended kit)
- Nebuliser assembly for use instead of mask



Operation

1. Fill 500 ml water bottle with water
2. Unscrew clear cap and remove humidifier assembly from green cylinder
3. From water bottle add water to humidifier to indicated level
4. Pour remaining water into green cylinder
5. Empty one bottle of the white powder and one bottle of the black catalyst into green cylinder
6. Replace humidifier and clear cap to cylinder
7. Attach mask tube onto clear cap, place mask on patient

FORESTRYSA / CDA SITE ACCESS INFORMATION

Hells Hole

Contact ForestrySA by phone, fax or e-mail to arrange permit.
(e-mail preferred option)

Pines

Collect Permit from Carter Holt Harvey Mill Gatehouse, Jubilee Highway Mount Gambier, adjacent to Forestry Office.

Mud Hole

No diving on days of Total Fire Ban. Forest Work bans may be imposed by ForestrySA on extreme fire danger days, which exclude the public from entering the forest.

If in doubt, check with Ranger Trevor Wynniat, although signs are generally erected at diving sites on such days to indicate bans.

Permits will only be issued between 8:00am and 4:30pm
Monday - Friday.

Phone: (08) 8724 2876 Fax: (08) 8724 2885

or e-mail: wynniat.trevor@saugov.sa.gov.au

Hells Hole gate key available from Lady Nelson Visitor Centre.

Iddlebidy (5L250) Iddlebidy open 1st and 3rd weekends of every month.

Nettle Bed open every weekend.

Maximum of 4 divers per dive per day, one dive per day for each site.

Nettlebed (5L290) Only Penetration Divers.

No diving on days of Total Fire Ban. Forest Work Bans may be imposed by ForestrySA on extreme fire danger days, which exclude the public from entering the forest.

If in doubt, check with the Ranger Trevor Wynniat, although signs are generally erected at diving sites on such days to indicate such bans.

Permits will only be issued between 8:00am and 4:30pm
Monday - Friday.

Phone: (08) 8724 2876 or Fax: (08) 8724 2885

or e-mail: wynniat.trevor@saugov.sa.gov.au

Site keys from Lady Nelson Visitor Centre.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

To the Members Cave Divers Association of Australia

The Directorate feels that an increase in membership fees is necessary for several reasons:

The Association will face higher costs due to the introduction of the GST.

Access to several dive sites is likely to move towards a user pays system, in particular those controlled by Primary Industries (SA); Engelbrechts East and West are also distinct possibilities. Piccaninnie Ponds already requires a fee for access, as does Tank Cave.

The ongoing costs of administration of the Association are always rising and at some point will translate into the cost of appointing someone on a paid basis to carry out the day to day functions.

Section 13(2) of the CDAA Constitution states that the level of fees can only be determined by a postal vote.

The proposal that the Directorate is putting forward to be voted on is this:

That the membership fee be set with regard to the degree of access to dive sites in accordance with the diver's CDAA rating.

The proposed membership fees to be effective on ALL membership fees from July 1st 2000 is

Cavern.....	\$60
Sinkhole.....	\$70
Cave	\$80
Penetration	\$95

The appropriate fee would be determined by the member's highest rating held. There would be no option to pay fees at a lower level.

This level of fees would allow for access fees to be absorbed by the members fees.

Under this system the application fee for Tank cave would be scrapped, with those members who have paid application fees to June 30 2001, receiving a credit against membership fees. All other access requirements for Tank cave would remain.

The Directorate asks that you give this matter serious consideration.

Ballot papers and a formal proposal for voting upon will be provided in the next issue of Guidelines or by special mailout.

EWENS PONDS NIGHT DIVE

Written by - Peter Dignum

Hi! my name is Peter Dignum and I hope soon to be a member of the CDAA due to commencing my cavern / sinkhole course in a couple of months.

In Jan 2000 my buddies and I travelled up to Mt. Gambier from Melbourne to dive Ewens and snorkle pics we had some excellent dives, these were our first experiences in fresh water. On our second day we had an arvo cool off swim at little blue. there were also 20 or more locals in there as well. The plan then was to get some drinks and junk food from the convenience store located at Alendale East and head off to pics for a snorkle and then after that head to Ewens for a night dive.

So we hopped into my car. I turned the ignition and nothing happened so the RAA turned up and took my car away for a new fuel pump which wouldn't be fitted until the next day.

So there we were stuck in alendale east, no car, no diving until some local generosity came to the rescue, the bloke that runs the convenience store offered us his old bomb (get around car complete with a full set of cob webs) for the day remaining and the night and until my car was fixed.

What a fantastic thing to do for people you don't even know!!!!

So we took the car had our snorkle at pics and then went on to Ewens for the night dive (see later) and when my car was fixed I gave him 50 bucks for the deed. Mind you, it took a bit of arguing before he would take the money.

THE NIGHT DIVE

We entered the water just on dark, the shallow delicate weed and plant growth just under ti-ie

small jetty and ladder made for an interesting dive on its own as the torch light threw different colors at odd directions. We then descended to the main pool of the first pond. The vis was excellent as we were the only ones there (1 thursday) and I couldn't believe the size of the eels and the way they zoomed around was exciting to say the least.

We moved into the stream to the next pond. This slightly smaller pond and shallower only 5m was loaded up with eels and these ones were huge some must have been at least six foot long. I was amazed at how close I could get to them without them fleeing!

We then had quite a slow swim to the next pond as there were plenty of plants and formations to stop and browse with our torches blazing. There were a couple of small branch offs along the way and for novices in this part of diving it was fun to travel into them with that slight eery feeling of the unknown, an adrenaline rush for me!!

We made it to the 3rd. Pond and went straight to the over hang at the 9m mark, where one diver at a time could slot himself into the spot, with fins up to keep the silting to a minimum, and if you were patient you could see at least 4 or 5 crays in the smaller slots.

There is a large crack in the formation of the floor over to the right from the entrance to this pond i.e., at the end of the stream, where you will find the biggest eel you've ever seen it must be seven foot long and in a deep purple/blue in color. This is my favourite night dive out of all my dives I have logged.

TANK CAVE DIVING SCHEDULE 2000

JANUARY 2000	DATE	FEBRUARY 2000	DATE
Saturday	15th	Saturday	12th
Sunday	16th	Sunday	13th
Saturday	29th	Saturday	26th
Sunday	30th	Sunday	27th
MARCH 2000	DATE	APRIL 2000	DATE
Saturday	11th	Saturday	8th
Sunday	12th	Sunday	9th
Monday (Labour Day VIC)	13th		
		Friday (Good Friday)	21st
		Saturday	22nd
		Sunday	23rd
Saturday	25th	Monday (Easter Monday)	24th
Sunday	26th	Tuesday (ANZAC Day)	25th
MAY 2000	DATE	JUNE 2000	DATE
Saturday	13th	Saturday	10th
Sunday	14th	Sunday	11th
Monday (Adelaide Cup)	15th	Monday (Queen's Birthday)	12th
Saturday	27th	Saturday	24th
Sunday	28th	Sunday	25th
JULY 2000	DATE	AUGUST 2000	DATE
Saturday	8th	Saturday	5th
Sunday	9th	Sunday	6th
Saturday	22nd	Saturday	19th
Sunday	23rd	Sunday	20th
SEPTEMBER 2000	DATE	OCTOBER 2000	DATE
		Sunday	1st
Saturday	2nd	Monday (Labour Day SA)	2nd
Sunday	3rd	(Queen's Birthday WA)	
Saturday	16th	Saturday	14th
Sunday	17th	Sunday	15th
Saturday	30th	Saturday	28th
		Sunday	29th
NOVEMBER 2000	DATE	DECEMBER 2000	DATE
Saturday	11th	Saturday	9th
Sunday	12th	Sunday	10th
Saturday	25th	Saturday	23rd
Sunday	26th	Sunday	24th

UP-COMING COURSES

PENETRATION

Weekends of 23rd – 25th September and 30th Sept – 1st October.

Cost: \$650 per candidate

PLEASE NOTE: PRE-REQUISITES ARE:

- Hold a current CDAA Cave Diver Certification
- Have logged a minimum of 15 unsupervised Cave Divers (Post Course) using twin independent systems, totalling a minimum of 10 hours.

NB: No more than 2 dives per day with a maximum of 3 dives for any given site and a minimum of 20 minutes underwater time will be accepted.

For further information please contact Barrie Heard on 0419 401 276

No more Penetration Courses are planned until Easter 2001.

CAVERN/SINKHOLE

October Mid Week

Tues 10th, Wed 11th, Thur 12th and Fri 13th October.

For more information, call Linda Claridge (03) 5565 8793 or
email: garinda@tpgi.com.au

CAVE

September 25th – 1st October

For further information please call Warrick McDonald on 0408 374 112
or email Warrick via info@abocean.com.au

SHAFT DATES

November 4th & 5th • December 9th & 10th • December 30th & 31st • October 2nd & 3rd

Access arrangements remain unchanged.

Please contact Linda Claridge on (03) 5565 8793
PO Box 15, Koroit, Victoria 3282 Email: garinda@tpgi.com.au



CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE INTERNATIONAL MOTOR INN
SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2000
10am – 12noon**

AGENDA

1. Opening and Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
4. Business arising from the minutes of the 1999 AGM
5. Presentation and adoption of the 2000 Financial Statements and Directorate Report
6. Appointments of an Author for the year 2001 Financial Statements
7. Results of (1) Constitutional Amendments
(2) Office Bearer Elections
8. General Business
9. Close

Annual General Meeting 1999 Cave Divers Association of Australia

Open and welcome 10:04 am by Kevin Burrowes, Public Officer for the CDAA.

Apologies from Steve Sturgeon 2430, Glen Harrison 931, Steve Arnell 680,

C Edwards 2247, Jane Bowman 1880, John Dalla Zuanna.

[Kevin Burrowes] Called for acceptance of minutes of the 1998 AGM.

Moved, Tony Davis, Seconded, Maree Toogood. Carried.

There was no business arising. Annual Reports from National Committee presented.

Acceptance moved, Tony Davis, Seconded, Warrick McDonald. Carried.

K.B. thanked the Directorate for what they have done in the last 12 months.

Andrew Seifried presented financial reports for the 1998 -1999 financial year.

Question from floor[unknown] Andrew in that report you've got, how many of the students went through this year?

[Andrew] 110

[unknown] That was the total counting all levels

[Andrew] No 110 new members

[unknown] and how does that compare with previous years

[Andrew Seifried] the total upgrade are about \$300 less than last year but \$1000 more than the year before that....

[Andrew Seifried] Are there any other questions related to the financial statements [unknown] I think they are very good financial statements.....particularly I note....

[Kevin Burrowes] Just a comment. I do the audit. Andrew's done a brilliant job over the last year and a bit and I think it should be recorded in the minutes that Andrew has done a fantastic job.

[Kevin Burrowes] I think it is appropriate to record thanks for both Carlo and Andrew.

[unknown] Just a query to Andrew in relation to CDAA products. I think you mention in your report an increase in profits for CDAA products in 1999. I'm trying to work out here.....is that mostly due to the postage cost.

[Andrew Seifried] The profit is due to better margins.

[Kevin Burrowes] Any further questions on the financial reports?. I move that the financial reports be accepted.

Moved, Peter Rogers, Seconded, Warrick McDonald. Carried.

The next item on the agenda is the appointment of the Auditor for the year 2000.

[Andrew Seifried] I move that K.Burrowes be appointed as auditor for the year 2000. Can I have a seconder. Seconded Tony Davis. Thankyou. All those in favour. [pause] Carried.

[Kevin Burrowes] Thanks for that.

[Kevin Burrowes] Next item of business is the nomination of Directors positions. Nominations for Directors positions closed on close of business Wednesday 1st September and are as follows.

Business Director, Andrew Seifried, 2941. Andrew was the only nomination and is therefore appointed. Thanks Andrew for your commitment. Next is Site Director, and once again there's one nomination, Steve Arnell, 680. Therefore Steve is appointed. There is only one nomination for Publication and Records Director, Chris Edwards and once again I am pleased to announce that Chris Edwards has been appointed as the Publication and Records Director. Regrettably they were the only positions for which nominations were received and there are vacancies for National Director and Standards Director. [Andrew Seifried] The Constitution provides for the vacant positions to be filled by the Directorate.

[Carlo Virgili] It is worth noting that the National Directors position is for a term of two years and Standards Director for a term of one year. That is the commitment expected for the positions.

[Kevin Burrowes] The final item on the agenda is that of general business and as you are aware that the item of general business is to get information from the Directorate. No new business can be added in as a result of the Constitution.

This section was characterised by repetitive discussion about Tank Cave. Only the main questions raised by members with the National Committee's response have been reproduced.

The general feeling was that members present agreed That the National Committee had the Constitutional right to take the actions they took in relation to Tank Cave and that these actions were acceptable.

However members present had a number of questions. These were as follows.

[question] It was not clear why the National Committee changed the arrangements at Tank Cave, nor has the National Committee answered the question from last year as to who closed Tank Cave, Phil Prust or Steve Sturgeon.

[response] This has all been included in the Director's reports however let me give you some of the history. The primary reason for changing the arrangements at Tank Cave were two fold. First , issues relating to public indemnity insurance and directors insurance. Second, the National Committee and members generally had no input into the appointment of guides, mapping, exploration and what dives they could do.

The public indemnity insurance that we had at the time was questionable across all sites but particularly where the National Committee was involved with guided services such as Tank Cave and the Shaft. We became aware of that on.... I think early May ...the 2nd or 3rd of May and in relation to Tank Cave we had a meeting in Adelaide attended by Phil, Chris, myself and Glen Harrison and Steve Sturgeon, Now at that meeting we outlined the issues before us and as a Committee we decided that we would personally accept the risk of keeping the site open in the short term on the understanding that certain changes be implemented. These changes would help

reduce the risk until a new policy could be implemented. Phil agreed to implement these changes. These changes were well documented and would be in place for the remaining 2 or 3 weekends before the new policy would commence. Importantly these changes were to be incorporated into the new insurance policy. As the Tank Cave access manager, Phil allowed the next weekend to go ahead without implementing the most important change, that in relation to guides. When this was brought to Phil's attention, I think, Phil decided that he could not allow the next weekend, namely July to go ahead. Whilst Phil was keen to reopen the site, before it could the changes agreed to by Phil which were part of the insurance requirements had to be met. This is what was problematic. Phil who was still acting on behalf of the National Committee and negotiating with Mr Dycer was not able to make progress, particularly in the area of guides.

[question] That the new arrangements at Tank Cave had established precedence.

[response] The notion of setting a precedence has already been established. We do pay at Picanninie Ponds and contribute at Engelbrechts Cave...before any discussions in relation to Tank Cave commenced we received advice from Forestry SA that they were considering charging an access/administration fee, I understand that access to Ewens Ponds under its Environment Management Plan may cost divers as much as \$8 per dive. So there was no precedence as such.

[question] Members present felt that they would have preferred more consultation

given the value of the licence for Tank Cave.

[response] I want to point out that at last years AGM Steve Sturgeon stood out the front here and said that we were going down this track and that there would be a fee, probably in the order of \$10000 that would be paid. That was last October, we didn't sign the licence until July this year. What we signed for was no different to what we talked about last October.

The National Committee represents the membership and acts on its behalf in such matters, it works best this way. And the forum is where the National Committee and directors are accountable. That's not to say that it's a closed door policy and this Tank Cave thing has had considerable publicity, it has been the subject of Directors reports in Guidelines and discussions in other public forums. But despite this I received no comments from Peter or Lisa or any other member for that matter.....other than Phil or Chris.....that we shouldn't be doing this. But I did receive a number of comments offering encouragement

[question] That the method for payment at Tank Cave is unfair. That pay per dive would be more appropriate for irregular divers.

[response] Thanks for those comments Peter. And in relation to user pay, the point that you raise of paying per dive was an area which the Committee spent a lot of time discussing. We considered a number of systems including voucher based systems, pay per dive etc but we came away from that because of two main reasons. The first was the first years

instalment of \$7500 was paid in advance and the Committee was keen to recover that as soon as possible, this was best achieved with a lump sum payment at the front end. The second was because of the administrative hassle related to being responsible for and collecting fees on site, people paying in advance and not fronting and later claiming refunds, credits or transfers. All these issues were too difficult to manage on a volunteer basis so we elected to move towards a one-off payment system which was never intended to be full cost recovery buy which gave people who were inclined to sign up a choice. It was meant to cover about 75% of the cost of diving in Tank Cave.

These issues were all considered, it wasn't an ideology that we wanted to go down, we had two principles one a quick recovery of the licence fee and to simplify the access and collection process. To pick up on your comment about collecting diving fees at the Shaft, generally that money went to the guide. It doesn't then get passed onto the Committee and it was the issue of receipts, refunds, banking all that sort of stuff that was the problem. These things traditionally have been done poorly by the Association Further discussion took place regarding:

- The level of fees and in particular a tiered fee structure
- Paid official

Peter Rogers moved that a reconciliation take place between the National Committee and Phil Prust. This was seconded [unknown].

Meeting closed 12:10 pm.

The following proposal is a private member proposal. It is not endorsed by the National Directorate who were unaware of it prior to its receipt.

Motion to amend the CDAA membership fee structure

Options for and features of CDAA fee increase proposals

FLAT FEE STRUCTURE	TIERED FEE STRUCTURE	NO CHANGE								
<p>Proposed by Carlo Virgili and Glen Harrison</p> <p>Flat membership fee of \$70 per full diver membership</p> <p>New membership category of inactive diver with an annual membership fee of \$45</p> <p>Site access fees kept separate from membership fee</p>	<p>Proposed by National Committee</p> <p>Tiered structure based on diver rating</p> <table><tr><td>Penetration</td><td>\$90</td></tr><tr><td>Cave</td><td>\$85</td></tr><tr><td>Sinkhole</td><td>\$70</td></tr><tr><td>Cavern</td><td>\$60</td></tr></table>	Penetration	\$90	Cave	\$85	Sinkhole	\$70	Cavern	\$60	<p>Leave fee rates at the current levels</p> <p>Risk the implementation of a levy or levies resulting in a tiered fee structure. The levels would be outside of membership control.</p>
Penetration	\$90									
Cave	\$85									
Sinkhole	\$70									
Cavern	\$60									

Motion to amend the CDAA membership fee structure

Options for and features of CDAA fee increase proposals

BACKGROUND

The issue of CDAA membership fee increases has historically been met with varied views and healthy discussion. The most recent proposal submitted by the National Committee for discussion was no exception. The National Committee's proposal seeks to establish a tiered fee structure dependent on your certification level, it intends to incorporate site access fees and claims to be based on a user pays system.

This proposal is flawed in a number of ways:

- It assumes that as divers achieve higher certifications and get access to more sites that they go diving more and should therefore pay more. Yet divers generally do not actually conduct any more dives, they just dive at different sites. It will result in divers contributing to access fees for sites that they will rarely dive in.
- It links the membership fee to site access and related site access fees however any change to site access arrangements or site access costs cannot be easily reflected in the fees. It is possible for access arrangements to cease or more particularly (given that government fees are usually linked to CPI movements),

the cost of access to increase. Can you imagine the cost of conducting a postal vote to change the membership fee every time this might occur?

- Whilst the proposal is to increase fees on a user pays basis it does not address the concerns of members who do not dive regularly and in particular who may not undertake any dives during a membership year, or do not dive in sites that carry access fees.

The National Committee's proposal was published in the last issue of Guidelines and if you followed the discussion on the CDAA email list and other forums it seemed that there was general support for a fee increase. Whilst most members believed that at \$50 CDAA membership was good value for money, they were reluctant to support a fee increase without adequate explanation. There was a lot of debate concerning the incorporation of access fees into the membership fee.

DISCUSSION

The first question, which should be asked when considering the National Committee's proposal, ought to be 'Do we need a fee increase?' This is a reasonable question to ask given that the Association is showing an excess of income over expenditure.

To answer this you need to look at the Association's financial statements. If you do you will note that over the past few years the trend shows a reduction in net income. This is mainly due to:

- Increased insurance costs, and this trend will continue, particularly with the introduction of the GST. The insurance premium for the 2000 - 2001 year is approximately 25% higher than last year and approximately 300% or \$8,000 higher than 1996-1997. Those of you who have been around for a few years will know that the \$50

membership fee incorporates \$5 insurance component. Since this was incorporated into the fee our membership base has fallen by about 200 and this together with the increase in the actual cost equates to an overall increase of about \$10 for each member.

- The printing and production costs for guidelines will continue to increase. It is likely it will reach close to \$4000 per issue in the 2000-2001 year compared with approximately \$3,250 in 1995. That is about \$1.00 for each member and when this is combined with significant falls in advertising revenue the increased burden is about \$2.00 per member.

- Another new item of expenditure is credit card merchant fees and bank fees. Many members are now using credit cards to pay fees or buy products and materials and this has brought with it new costs that are currently being met by the Association. This year they come to about \$1000.00, this equates to about \$1.25 per member.

- Accounting and audit fees have been lower in recent years due to the work done by the outgoing Treasurer, however it is reasonable to expect an increase in fees if this work cannot be maintained within the Association.

- The other item is the shortfall in funding for Tank Cave access. It is clear that the access fees paid by those members diving the site will need to be increased to ensure that this shortfall is kept to a minimum.

- An integral part of this proposal is the introduction of the inactive diver membership at \$45.00 per year. This reduction in income also needs to be incorporated into the full diver fee to avoid inactive divers subsidising active divers

If you add all these together and remember these are just the big-ticket items it comes to between \$15.00 to \$20.00 for each member.

So if all these costs are escalating why does the Association have a healthy bank balance. It is because there have been no mapping and research programs, little or no site maintenance, very little in the way of Instructor workshops or State based meetings. This helps to explain why the expenses have been kept down. These areas have been neglected and needs urgent attention if the CDAA is going continue to be a national organisation.

The Association should not go back to the situation in 1995 of running at a loss before a membership fee increase is approved, nor should it allow the reserves that have been built up over the past five years be eroded by increased administrative costs. These funds should be applied to projects that have long lasting benefits to the Association and its members.

If you take all this into account it shows that a fee increase is justified. Given this what would be the most equitable way of achieving it?

A FLAT FEE STRUCTURE

This is an alternative proposal for membership fees to the model proposed by the National Committee. This alternative model proposes a flat fee of \$70.00 for full membership for all diver ratings. And in addition it includes for the first time, an inactive diver membership category, at an annual fee of \$45.00

An inactive membership will allow a member to retain their membership at a reduced fee, receive guidelines, and vote at elections. An inactive membership does not allow any diving or access rights but it can be upgraded to active membership when and if a member wishes to go diving again. The proposal for inactive membership is designed for those members who are not currently diving but wish to retain their membership at a reduced fee. This is relevant for those that may have

less time available for diving due to work or family commitments, or perhaps be out of the country for a period of time.

Because this system does require extra administrative costs and to discourage members jumping from one form of membership to another in one year, is proposed that an administration fee of \$20 be charged together with a monthly fee of \$5.00 for every month remaining in the membership year, to upgrade from inactive to full diver in the same membership year.

These charges would not apply if the upgrade took place as part of the normal annual renewal, and were to apply for the following membership year.

This proposal has several major differences to the National Committee's proposal:

- It is closer to a true "user pays" system in that active divers will pay a higher annual fee compared to inactive divers.
- It does not incorporate any site access fees into the membership fee. Sites such as Tank Cave or Piccanninnie Ponds will continue to operate as in the past, with a separate prescribed fee, to be met by the individual member. One problem with incorporating any current or future site access fees, (such as the Tank Cave fee), into the membership fee is that if the access is lost, or the access costs increase, then the membership fee will not reflect the sites available to that rating. The other major concern is that divers who hold a penetration rating, but have no wish to dive Tank Cave, should not be subsidising those who do currently dive there. With this proposal any shortfall can be addressed regardless of membership fee levels.

NO CHANGE AND LEVIES

It is worth remembering that the National Committee has the power to apply a levy to the members, without a ballot being taken. Given that it is inevitable that a fee increase

will occur at some point it is worth considering a moderate and equitable option, rather than vote for no change and possibly be charged a levy with nothing new in return. A \$70.00 fee for full membership is not excessive, particularly considering that fees have not changed in over five years. Combined with the inactive membership option for less than the current membership fee, this proposal provides a fair and workable alternative to the National Committee's proposal.

MOTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FULL DIVER AND INACTIVE DIVER MEMBERSHIPS

Amend Section 8 from:

8. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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

TO

8. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- (1) There are four (4) categories of membership: - full, inactive diver, life and associate

AND

Insert New Section 9A

9A INACTIVE DIVER MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Inactive diver membership is available to full members, with current financial membership only.
- (2) Inactive diver members have no diving or access rights, but in all other respects, subject to Section 9A(3) retain the rights and responsibilities of full membership
- (3) Inactive diver members may vote at elections or on member motions, nominate any person for a Directorate position or propose or second any motion, but an inactive diver may not stand for a Directorate position.

- (4) An inactive diver will not be issued a CDAA membership card, and must surrender their current membership card before inactive diver status is validated.

- (5) An inactive member may regain full membership status by applying to the National Committee and paying the prescribed fees.

MOTION TO PRESCRIBE FEES FOR FULL AND INACTIVE DIVER MEMBERSHIPS

That the prescribed fee for full membership be set at \$70.00

That the prescribed fee for inactive diver membership be set at \$45.00

That these fee levels will apply to all memberships for the membership year commencing July 1st 2001

That where a member has paid for membership for the membership year commencing July 1st 2001, and any subsequent year, that member will be liable to make up the difference, (\$20.00 per membership year) by June 30th 2001

Where a member has paid for membership for the 2001-2002 and/or subsequent years in advance, that member may elect to change their membership status to inactive diver, however there will be no refund of the difference between the current (\$50.00) fee and the proposed inactive diver fee (\$45.00)

When a member upgrades their membership from inactive diver to full diver for any membership year, that membership shall not be valid until July 1st of the membership year in question, unless the \$20 card processing fee and the \$5.00 per month administration fee have been paid.

Annual Report from the Site Director

Thanks to all those members who have done the right thing with respect to access this year and assisted our standing with the landowners. During my time as access director I have constantly found that the few who do the wrong thing create access problems which take up valuable time that could be spent on access improvements for everyone else. The directorate has handled a number of access infringements during the year and is committed to disciplining offenders and maintaining access for responsible members.

This year saw the reopening of Tank Cave; Australia's premier advanced cave diving site as a supervised site. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Ferry for all the work he has put in as Tank Cave Manager to provide access for members often under trying circumstances. Jim has retired from this position and Harvey Grantham has kindly stepped in. Thanks also to Gary Barclay, Glen Harrison, Linda Claridge, John Dalla Zuana, and Rob Brennan who have done most of the supervising at Tank Cave this year. The potential rush of applicants to dive the site didn't eventuate which therefore means the outstanding licence costs have been paid by the entire membership. The National Director has developed a proposal to alter membership fees to address this

issue which the Directorate considered and has since been published in Guidelines. This has resulted in considerable debate. To be consistent with the aims of the Association I believe we must retain access to Tank Cave, which will mean renewing the licence next year. However this must be done equitably and as the user pays principal now applies to so many other activities in our lives so it should to Cave Diving as it already does in the case of Piccaninnie Ponds. Based on the income and costs involved I would recommend the proposal to members as an opportunity to restructure fees fairly; providing good value and place the association in a financial position to face the challenges which it may face in the future.

The CDAA's some what strained relationship with LifeLine at Englebrecht's has improved recently thanks to the efforts of Andrew Higgins and his fellow divers. In conjunction with LifeLine they are developing an improved means of access to Englebrecht's East which should reduce silting problems at the entrance due to the low water level. Members co operation with the access guidelines for this site will assist with improving our access to this site.

Thanks to the submissions by Andrew Robinson and the NSW divers who have explored and mapped Burrinjuck Cave over a number of years this site has recently been classified.

The access agreement for Bakers Cave is currently being renegotiated and hopefully should see access to this site on a regular basis in the near future.

The Publications Director is currently in the process of developing a new web site cavedivers.com.au This should provide improved access to members with respect to site information, and indemnities, etc.

Site access improvements will be the focus this coming year but remember access is a privilege not a right.

Steve Arnel

Member motion for moratorium on lapsed membership renewal provisions

DISCUSSION

Over the years a number of members have allowed their CDAA memberships to lapse for a number of reasons. These are not relevant in this discussion. The current CDAA Regulations do allow members to renew their membership after such lapses but renewal is conditional on:

- Payment of back and late fees.
- Evidence of relevant diving experience.

Whilst providing evidence of diving experience continues to be relevant and should be at the discretion of the National Committee the current system creates a renewal cost which is in itself a strong disincentive and in many cases prohibitive. Each lapsed year the burden increases and therefore the probability of a person renewing diminishes until it is no longer an option. For example a person who allowed their membership to

lapse in 1995 would today be expected to find \$350 just to renew.

This motion will allow people whose CDAA membership has lapsed an opportunity to renew their membership without payment of back and late fees.

MOTION

Until 30 June 2001 previous members of the CDAA who wish to renew their CDAA membership shall be at the discretion of the National Committee be allowed to rejoin at the full diver membership category at the current prescribed membership fee.

This moratorium excludes past and present members who have served or are serving a membership suspension.

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 Tea Tree	CN CN	Peter Cunningham PO Box 2168, Mt Gambier 5290	By phone or mail, 1 week prior. Ph: (08) 8738 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 2 Sisters Fossil	CN CN C	DENR P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8735 1177	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: 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, membership number.
Ela Elap One Tree	S S	Mr. Peter Norman Private Bag 67, Mt Gambier 5290	By phone or drop in before diving. 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 Pines Mud Hole	S P/C C	ForestrySA PO Box 162 Mt Gambier 5290	Contact ForestrySA 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 2876 Please use this number for all bookings and enquiries etc. Fax: (08) 8724 2885 Email: wynniat.trevor@saugov.sa.gov.au. Written confirmation required.
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: 40 School Road, St. Andrews 3761, Email: mpain@hipex.com.au, 4 to 6 weeks prior to wanting to dive. Please enclose stamped self-addressed envelope (Do not contact landowner). Access date now the first weekend of every month. No animals permitted. No mid-week diving.
Shaft	S	No Visitors Generally open one weekend a month L. Claridge P.O. Box 290 North Adelaide 5006	For access dates contact Linda Claridge. Also, see Special Access Bulletin in Guidelines issue 69. Nitrox as a diving mix is not allowed in the shaft. Deco mixes ATTACHED to a shot line are permissible. Divers applying to dive in the Shaft must have documented experience of a least 5 twin-tank dives. Sept 2/3, Oct 2/3, Nov 4/5, Dec 9/10, Dec 30/31.
Ten Eighty Bullock Hole Black Hole	S S S	Mr. Colin Traeger PO Box 12, Mt Gambier 5290 (08) 8726 6215	Sundays only 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.

CDAA SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)			
Max's Hole	C		Phone or mail 1 week prior to dive. Ph: (08) 8726 8277 Currently closed pending access arrangements with new owner.
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. 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) Nettle-Bed (5L290)	P P	ForestrySA PO Box 162 Mt Gambier 5290	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 ForestrySA 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. 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@saugov.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	Access Manager: Harvey Grantham Email: lemaire@senet.com.au Ph: (08) 8370 9816
Baker's Cave	C		Please write to the Site Access Director to dive in Baker's Cave. Include stamped self-addressed envelope. Climbing equipment required.
NULLARBOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
Cocklebiddy	C		Apply in writing for permission to dive at least 4 weeks in advance of trip to: District Manager, C.A.L.M., PO Box 234, Esperance, W.A. 6450.
Murra El Elevyn	P/C		Phone: (08) 9071 3733 Fax: (08) 9071 3657
Tommy Grahams	C		
Weebubbie	C		Apply to Gerry Falleiro, A/Assistant Project Officer, South East Region Land Administration Services Branch Phone (08) 9273 7215 Fax (08) 9273 7414 Email: gerry_falleiro@dola.wa.gov.au PO Box 2222 Midland WA 6936
N.S.W. - WELLINGTON CAVES			
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) 9743 4157 h, gregr@cs.usyd.edu.au
Rum Jungle Lake Berry Springs	S		No specific access arrangements.
Burrinjuck	S/C/P		This is a tri rated site. Please see details elsewhere in this issue. There are no specific access arrangements.

NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE

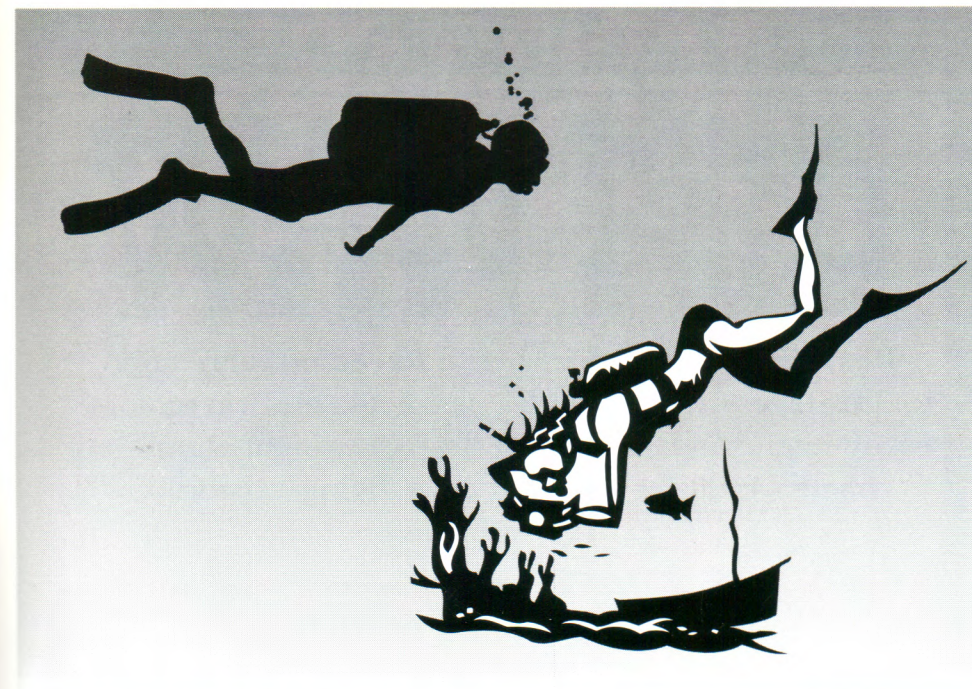
MEMBERSHIP FEE DEADLINE

Section 13(3) 13(4) of the Constitution (as amended) September 1997, requires that membership fees are due 1st July of any membership year. Any member who has not paid by 1st September is deemed to be unfinancial. A \$50 late fee as specified in Schedule 2 of the regulations is payable in addition to membership fee in order to regain membership.

Remember that in order to nominate a Director, second a nomination or vote in the postal ballot, you must be a financial member of the Association (Section 9(2), 9(6), S13 (1) Constitution).

ANY MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS THAT ARE RECEIVED BY THE TREASURER AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS **WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2000** WILL ATTRACT A LATE FEE. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

If you have not already renewed. DO IT NOW!



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
20th November	December
15th February	March

NOTICE FOR INSTRUCTORS

Procedure for ordering student packs:

1. Check you are insured & financial.
2. Send order & cheque or by phone/credit card.
3. Allow 14 days from when the order is received - so allow plenty of time.
4. Student kits cannot be returned.
5. Instructors must be active.
6. Please do not pass my number on to dive shops - you should deal with them not me.

• INSTRUCTOR RENEWALS •

Several instructors have not yet renewed their CDA A ratings. Instructors must lodge their current insurance details and renewal fee or packages will not be issued and certifications rejected.

Instructor Renewals
PO Box 8283, CARRUM DOWNS, VIC. 3201

Deb Williams
Instructor Materials Officer

ACTIVE CDA A INSTRUCTORS

Any Instructor wishing material contact - (03) 9562 9264 or email: debwilliams@one.net.au

STANDARDS DIRECTOR:
Paul Axton
Telephone: 0419 346 442
(email) 61419346442@mobilenet.telstra.net

INSTRUCTOR	CN	S	C	STATE	PHONE	INSTRUCTOR	CN	S	C	STATE	PHONE
NSW & ACT						WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Nick Jones	•	•		ACT	0408 423 017 m	Gary Bush	•	•	•	WA	0402 339 652 m (08) 9367 4701 h
Peter Grills	•	•	•	NSW	(02) 4950 6262 (8am - 12 midday)	Marilyn Boydell	•	•		WA	(08) 9349 5646 h
Gary Norgard	•	•		NSW	(02) 4968 4588 h	Steve Sturgeon	•	•	•	WA	(08) 9527 7667 h/w 0418 940 143 m
Andrew Robertson	•	•		NSW	(02) 9525 0995 h 0414 412 563 m	VICTORIA					
Des Walters	•	•	•	NSW	(02) 6041 1405 h (02) 6025 3506 w	Stephen Arnel	•	•	•	VIC	(055) 26 5230 h
Liz Butler	•	•		NSW	0409 463 176	Paul Axton	•	•		VIC	0419 346 442 m (03) 9782 1671 h
SOUTH AUSTRALIA						Gary Barclay	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 5565 8793 h
Greg Bulling	•	•	•	SA	0409 095 927 m (08) 8265 4978 h	Jane Bowman	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 9579 2600 w
Glen Harrison	•	•	•	SA	0407 608 609 m	Stan Bugg	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 9379 8791 h
John Hanson	•	•		SA	(08) 8269 1083	Linda Claridge	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 5565 8793 h
Max Marriot	•	•	•	SA	(08) 8447 3360 h	Brian Cornell	•	•	•	VIC	(059) 85 2514 h
Richard Megaw	•	•	•	SA	(08) 8344 1733 h	John Dalla - Zuanna	•	•	•	VIC	0407 887 060 m (03) 9484 1216
Richard McDonald	•	•	•	SA	(08) 8295 4140 h/w	Chris Edwards	•	•		VIC	0417 116 372 m
						Barrie Heard	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 5627 6474 h 0419 401 276 m
						Warrick McDonald	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 9579 2600 w
						Bob Wealthy	•	•	•	VIC	(03) 5985 8338 h
						Frank Zeigler	•	•	•	VIC	(055) 236 392

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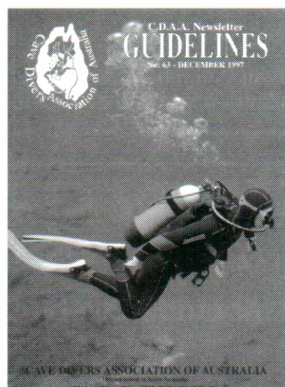
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	QTY / COL/SIZE	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
BOOKS		Cave Diving Communications. A manual from NSS - CDS dealing exclusively with all underwater communications used in cave diving. Including touch, torch and line signals, and use of line arrows and jump reels. A must for all cave divers bookshelves.	\$17.50	
		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.	\$30.00	
		CDAA Occasional Paper No. 2, From National Conference 1981. Includes topics such as Fossil Cave, Belay Techniques and Cocklebidy 1979.	\$2.00	
		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	
		DAN Emergency Handbook, Revised 1995 edition by Lippmann and Bugg. Printed on waterproof paper this essential first aid manual should be part of every cave divers' kit.	\$17.00	
		NSS Cave Diving Manual. The standard reference manual in cave diving covering just about every conceivable topic. New Edition.	\$55.00	
		The Darkness Beckons. By Martyn Farr. The history and development of cave diving.	\$55.00	
		An Introduction to Technical Diving. By Rob Palmer.	\$45.00	
		Deep Into Blue Holes. By Rob Palmer. This is the project manual written about his trips to the Bahamas, diving some of the most advanced and spectacular caves in the world.	\$55.00	
VIDEOS		NSS Cavern Divers' Manual. The standard reference manual in cavern diving covering almost every conceivable topic. Also most principles behind safe sinkhole and cave diving.	\$30.00	
		Caverns Measureless to Man. <i>Sheek Exley.</i>	\$46.00	
		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	
		New Edition of Peter Horne's Lower South East Cave Reference. An illustrated catalogue of the Lower South East Region of South Australia.	\$130.00	
		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	
		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	
		Cuba "Beneath the Surface". The underworld of Cuba. This documentary explores the role water has played throughout time in the history of Cuba. It reveals some of the many beautiful aspects of this magical Caribbean island, explores the bizarre subterranean caverns and provides unexpected contrasts with Cuba's turbulent history. This is an expose of a Cuba we believe we know. Producers: Andrew & Liz Wight. Director: Liz Wight.	\$29.95	
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		Anniversary Edition Polo Shirts. Colours: White, Blue, Black.	\$17.50	
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MISC.		Beanies. Navy only.	\$17.95	
		Caps. Black only.	\$19.95	
		CDAA Key Rings. Blue with gold motif. CDAA P.O. Box on back.	\$5.00	
		CDAA Stickers. Yellow. (Include stamped, self-addressed envelope for delivery.)	\$0.80	
		Tank Cave Poster. Full Colour 14 1/2" x 25" poster of Tank Cave by Peter Rogers. Price includes p&h.	\$8.00	
	CDAA 25th Year Anniversary Stickers. Special deal - 3 for \$5	\$5.00		

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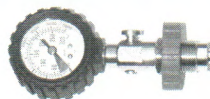


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