



C.D.A.A. Newsletter
No. 82 - DECEMBER 2002

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

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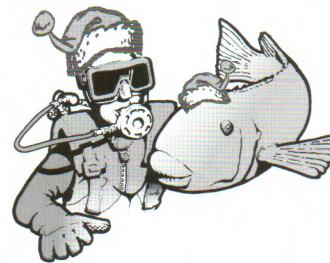
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Editors Note...



Welcome to the Christmas issue 2002. Another jam packed issue with heaps of reading material from Australia and around the world. An interesting article by Warrick McDonald tells of he and Jane Bowman's recent trek to dive Florida's fresh water cave systems. Titled Gator Country, a few surprises await a reader I'm sure. And it just happened that Warrick and Jane, along with myself and several other Aussies were seen at the recent DEMA Trade Show in Las Vegas. And, while they were diving Florida I was exploring the kelp forests off southern California. Very similar to our temperate water environment but breathtaking all the same. Next time I am planning to head further north nearer to Canada for another worldly diving experience. Till then it's summer at home down at Portsea.

Other interesting reports from all over Australia are coming through and some are published in this issue. It's great to see so many individuals out there putting pen to paper for submissions to Guidelines - thanks, and keep 'em coming!

Until next issue, happy and safe diving to everyone over the Christmas break. I know I'll be spending quite a bit of time under the waves this summer. All the best, Dave Bryant.

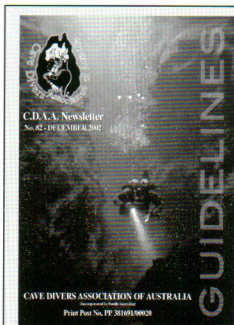
ARTICLES FOR GUIDELINES...

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

- Send articles & photos via post to:
The Editor, David Bryant,
P.O. Box 2198, Rosebud, VIC. 3939.
- Email to seapics@alphalink.com.au
- Any files for inclusion should be saved as MS WORD text files or Quark if using a Mac. If mailing please save pics and text to CD, not floppy disc and include a hard copy, thank you. Colour photos can be supplied for scanning.
- Pictures saved from digital camera or scanned from photos must be at least 200 ppi at 15cm wide or equivalent, and saved as Greyscale as JPEG's. Photos can be sent to the editor for scanning and will be returned asap.

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Front cover:

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David Bryant

Area:
*The Chasm at
Piccaninnie Ponds*

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GUIDELINES is a newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia. All articles for the following issue are to be sent to the Editor, David Bryant, PO Box 2198 Rosebud Vic. 3939. All articles and submissions shall automatically constitute an expressed warranty by the contributor that the material is original. We assume no responsibility for unsolicited material. Articles and information may be reproduced without prior permission provided reprints are accredited to the authors and GUIDELINES. Private advertising for caving and diving equipment may be advertised free at the discretion of the Editor. Opinions expressed in GUIDELINES are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the C.D.A.A.

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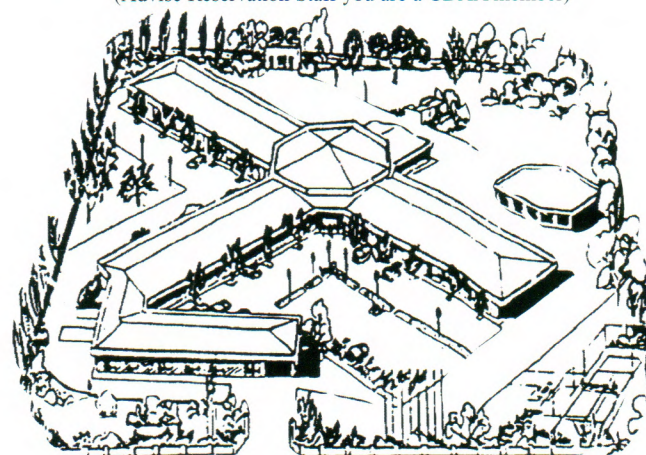


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LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!!

Engelbrechts - It has been brought to our attention that an incident occurred in Engelbrechts involving a CDAA diver and a member of the public. While we realise that it was through no fault of ours we need to be aware that Lifeline is actually sharing the cave with us. We as divers need to show a little more care and cooperation. We are now working towards a better system of diving this site and ask for your assistance while the new system is put into place. In the meantime we need to take extra care on pathways, steps and anywhere else within the cave and surrounds. We also need to be aware when other

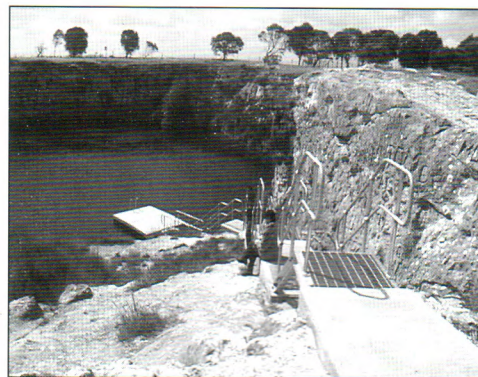
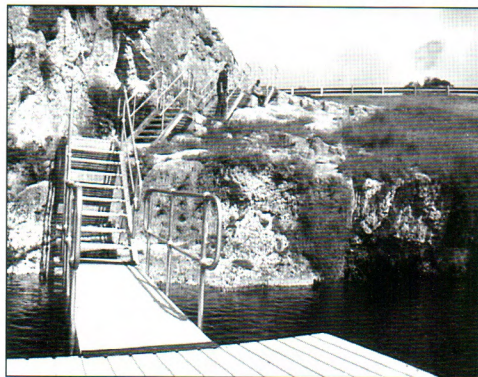
people (not divers) are inside the cave and are trying to maneuver around us. While we realise that the incident was totally an accident we do not want any further incidents at this time. Still on the subject of Engelbrechts, it had been raised as a possibility that we may have had to limit the access times in Easts to between 5pm and 8am. This is no longer the case - for now. As long as divers are careful with regard to minimizing silt in the entry lake and observe correct access protocol, arrangements can continue as they are.

Engelbrechts - Western - access as normal. However please note that the line through the initial restriction in Engelbrechts West has been changed. It had come loose and has now been repositioned to run in a more appropriate manner given the current water height etc. Many thanks to Steve Trewavas and Chris Ross.

Kilsbys - Access arrangements here are still not being met correctly. If divers continue to abuse the current arrangements by arriving late, leaving rubbish behind, not following the tracks on the property, leaving gates open etc then alternate arrangements may have to be considered. Please show your fellow divers and the Landowners the consideration they deserve.

Martyn Farr emailed to say that he will soon be finished his newest book. To be called "An Introduction to Overhead Environment"... it's a global overview of Cavern, Cave, Mine, Ice & Wreck, but targetting primarily cave diving. It's

Little Blue - Have you seen this recently?



basically complete apart from the final editing and layout. He plans to release it by next October.

Congratulations to Max Marriot your new Standards Director. For those who did not know, Max was elected at the recent AGM. His contact details are as follows:-
Max Marriot - Mob 0428897897
Email dive69@senet.com.au

VALE a fellow Cave Diver...

We received correspondence recently from the Executor for the estate for Robert Davenport (CDAA #1121) to inform us that he had died. Our sincere condolences to his family.

WORKING BEE We will be running a working bee down the Mount at various sites on the weekend of the 19th and 20th January 2003. Any assistance would be appreciated. Please contact me, Rob Brennan at my email address so that I can organise the projects to be undertaken.

A Letter to the Editor...

Recently Guidelines received a letter from Peter Dignum with what seems to be a fairly straightforward enquiry. He stated that according to Peter Stones Book *iDiving Australia* there are 140 known sinkholes in the Mount Gambier area and therefore asked why he as a Cavern/Sinkhole diver only had access to ten of them? Many of you may wonder the same thing so as best we can, here goes.

Firstly Peter Stone would appear to be referring to Sinkholes in the region in a generic sense. All water filled caves are listed as sinkholes. That is wet and predominantly dry and many sites from Cavern through to Penetration. Take a look at Peter Hornes excellent Lower SE Cave Reference Book if possible and you will see what we mean.

So a cavern/ sinkhole diver won't have access to all of them. There are a lot of caves around that have been open to cave divers but are not dived.

Woolshed is a good example. It is on Barnoolut and has a depth of 20mtrs but no one dived it because of the other holes on the property. There are 12 listed on this property alone.

Secondly several of the known waterfilled sites are on private property. The owners of these properties obviously have the right to permit or deny access as they see fit. The sites listed in Guidelines are there because the owners chose to permit CDAA members access.

Thirdly Peter has suggested that access to some of the other sites may pose a logistical hassle and asked for a list of known sites and their locations to be published in Guidelines. The Directorate believes that it would be irresponsible of us to do that. It would place upon the CDAA a legal responsibility, which may leave us open to litigation and it would breach Landowner trust. Yes we are aware that some Landowners are allowing some divers to dive in the holes on their properties. Lets all hope that no accidents occur.

Exploration of dive sites does go on - see Paul Hosies article elsewhere in this issue. Attempts to gain access for our members to sites in the South-East is also an ongoing exercise. We hope that this helps in some way to answer the question. The National Committee.

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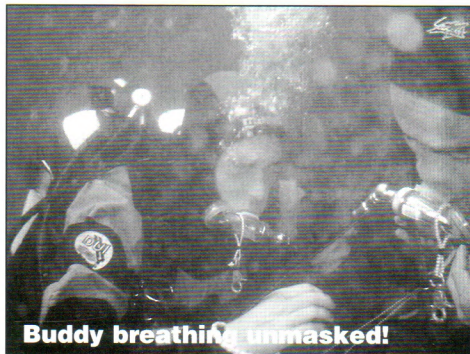
By Ian Taylor

On Thursday, the 27th of June, Myself, Craig Larkin, Peter Chong and Stuart Harper arrived in Mount Gambier to undertake the Cavern/Sinkhole Diver Program. This evening was a good chance to acclimatise to the cool (read: Frozen eyeballs cold) conditions that lay ahead.

After a good night sleep, there was a short bondage session in the morning and plenty of touching and pressing of bodies against one another. A little alarming for a room full of five males and one female I must say. However this was the line / reel practise part of the course followed by Cavern/Sinkhole diving theory. With the morning's theory out the way, we began our first drive to Gouldens sinkhole, a sight we would learn to know more by feel rather than sight!

As Yoda was to Luke, so Linda Claridge was to us, guiding us in the ways of the force, and the guideline. After our first dive in Gouldens, we were wondering if the visibility of the Degobar System (it's from Star Wars) was possibly better than where we were currently diving.

Following the dive debrief was the mandatory dash up the stairs and removing a drysuit in less than 3 seconds for obvious reasons. Some hot



pancakes post dive allowed us to ponder about whether the crystal clear water of Mount Gambier actually existed (it does in Kilsby's guys!). However during the training dives, a huge number of skills were being learnt, and over the short time of a few days, our dive skills had gone from being no mask, champagne-cork, mushroom cloud silt monster divers to cool, calm, collected underwater explorers.

Next came site dives, beginning firstly with One Tree. George Yarra who was assisting in our course found solace with the non-human occupants of the Norman's property, rallying their cause by helping their fight for bovine freedom. Dropping down into the darkness of the sinkhole, the narcosis monster came for a visit, and then George and Linda began asking us all these ridiculous questions.

Little Blue began a little dark, got a little deep, then a little out of air, and then a little no-mask. All good fun though as we embraced in an underwater ballet of regulator hoses and line.

However the final day of the course was to be the final day of an excellent few days. Peter was hanging out for the dive in Piccaninie Ponds all weekend. I'll always remember Linda's last words to us before descending. Above all guys, THINK like cave divers. Truly we were now transcending merely going for a dive and it was becoming ingrained in our thoughts, chang-



ing our inner being and guiding our diving spirits. (or something like that anyway). Unfortunately Craig couldn't dive with us, but would do it

the next weekend. Pic's was fantastic, and lived up to its reputation. A site that we will all hopefully visit a few more times in the future.

Thanks to Linda and George for their efforts on our course and congratulations to my course buddies for completing the course. I'll see you down the mount!



The 24th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation runs from Jan 2 — Jan 7, 2003.

Where — Bunbury, West Australia.

What — a range of presentations including research work, field trips, practical workshops, photography, etc. If you've never been to WA's southwest, perhaps this is the golden opportunity. Wineries, huge forests, sensational beaches, great diving the list goes on. For more info try emailing — underway@dingoblue.net.au

WANTED



ARTICLES FOR GUIDELINES

**IF SIGHTED PLEASE SEND IMMEDIATELY,
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**The Editor, David Bryant
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REWARD

An even better Guidelines for everyone.

GUIDELINES DEADLINES

If you would like to contribute to Guidelines in 2002/3, you should note the following deadlines for submission of materials:

Deadlines for publication:

20th February for March 2003 20th May for June 2003



THE AUSSIE TOP END

just to prove that exploration still goes on...

The Top End has some simply awesome caving and cave diving to be done. This is a Summary of some of the many sites with great potential:

Carnarvon, WA

Another salt water spring source found with excellent diving potential. Fresh water spring with low flat passage requires further work. Area requires more time and some challenging penetration diving against flow.

Exmouth, WA

Following the heavy rains in the area in May this year, C215 has a new deep tunnel that has been exposed in the (previously) mud floor. Terminal room may also be cleared now. Shallow wet cave system found in solution tubes on coastal plain south of Yardie Creek. Entire area requires exploring and diving. Fresh water effluxes in limestone reefs south of Yardie Creek need diving (remote, difficult access).

West Kimberleys, WA

Pearer Cave has 700m+ of swimmable canals and diveable maze passages at furthest extent, Canals and diveable passages require mapping in order to safely explore further.

East Kimberleys, WA

Many new caves discovered this year, five with water, three of them diveable. KNI 19 pushed to 750m. Single, large phreatic conduit continues at average depth of 25m. KNI 64 dived for 85m ends in a chamber with a perched water table and passages 5m above. KNI 52 dived for 30m through extremely low flat passage, continues in same fashion. Area holds enormous potential for extensive diveable passages. KNI 19 has potential for several kilometres.

Flora River, NT

This spring fed river system comes from extensive limestone plains surrounding it. A number of sinkholes and dry caves found in the area. some with potential to sump. High CO2. Snakes.

Katherine Springs, NT

Katherine Hot Springs pushed 30m past previous end left by Sydney cave diver. Total passage length 70m. Very high outflow and soft, shale rock strata makes this a difficult cave to push. Other Springs in area checked but mud choked. Many caves in surrounding areas offer good potential for sumping due to proximity of watertable. CO2 and snakes a hazard.

Mataranka, NT

Bitter Springs is a multi source efflux with no penetrable conduits. Rainbow Spring is a single solution tube efflux with very high outflow, choked with rubbish and foliage. Requires excavation.

Camooweal, QLD

Spinifex cave dived to 40m depth with no horizontal passage development found. Many other caves in area have enormous potential for extensive underwater passages. High CO2. Very good vertical dry caving skills required.

Lawn Hill, QLD

This area is virtually unexplored by speleologists and has excellent potential. We discovered four vertical dry caves in a very small area, one was very humid. Wet caves are known of, but political situation re landowners makes access virtually impossible.

Return trips to the Top End are already being planned to push the major leads. All info including maps, dive profiles, photos, cave datasheets and survey info will be put onto <http://www.trimixdivers.com> & www.trimixdivers.com in the coming weeks. KNI 64 is already on-line, KNI 19 being uploaded now.

Enjoy! Cheers, Paul Hosie



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WaterSports Expo 2003 An added bonus for Dive Expo exhibitors is the concurrent WaterSports Expo to be held alongside Dive Expo in the Hardern Pavilion. This expo is expected to attract over 4,000 water sports enthusiasts - all potential converts to diving! - and will showcase a variety of exciting water-sports including body-boarding, kite & windsurfing, sea kayaking, canoeing, white-water rafting, small boat sailing, dragon boat-ing, wake boarding, water skiing, rowing, surfing and jet skis. A central fenced off courtyard will link both exhibitions and this courtyard will feature the try dive pool, dive boats and other large scale watersport activities.

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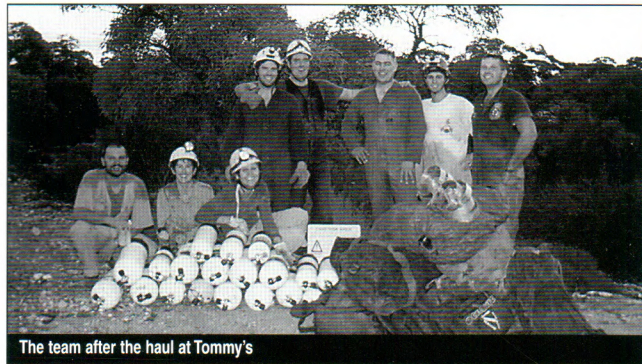
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DIVING **DIVELOG** **INTERNATIONAL**
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Adrian Briggs;

Nullarbor Galore

After months of gradual preparation the time had come for us to set off on an adventure of a lifetime, diving the Gin clear waters of the caves in the Nullarbor - Western Australia. With a team of 10 divers from various parts of the country, it took many hours of gear preparation and coordinating to ensure the smooth running of our desert adventure. The intrepid team of adventurers included Adam White, Adrian Briggs, George Yarra, Tania Yarra, Jarrod White, Paul Axton, Lorraine Hardman, Chris Edwards, John Seddon and Kिरrally Timmers.



The team after the haul at Tommy's

After an 8 hour haul Adam and I arrived in Adelaide where we were meeting George, Tania and Jarrod to start a convoy and tackle the remainder of the drive. Many hours and coffee breaks later we were piercing through the morning sun, crossing the WA border, and stopping for breakfast only three hours from our final destination Cocklebidy. Cocklebidy is home to hundreds of nature's most spectacular underground creations. From large tunnels of underwater passages, to small impenetrable dry sinkholes, the Nullarbor is riddled with sites that get any cave divers heart pumping. The four more commonly dived caves in the area renowned for their sheer size and beauty, Cocklebidy, Tommy Grahams, Murra el Eleven and Weebubbe were the goals of this journey.

We travelled in 4 separate 4WD vehicles, each equipped with diving, camping and climbing gear essential for a trip to such an unforgiving part of Australia. You soon learn that in an isolated place such as the Nullarbor that gear redundancy is of the utmost importance. Not only is it important to be able to repair or replace any aspect of your diving gear, it even pays to carry a redundant air mattress, which I soon found out after several nights sleeping only on the bed that nature provided.

By mid morning we had arrived at

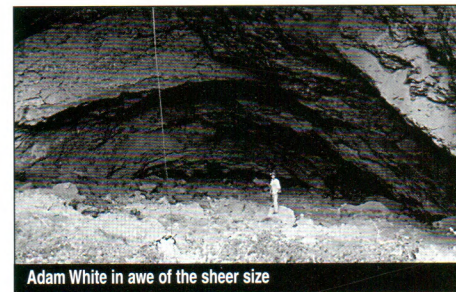
Cocklebidy Roadhouse to stock up on essential beer and food (in that order) supplies, and make the short 10 minute journey to our campsite at the mouth of the Murra el Eleven cave. At a glance Murra seemed rather small, however, it was not until closer inspection that I realised the cavern below the entrance dwarfed any cave diving site I had ever seen. We set up camp and prepared our gear for tomorrow's diving at Tommy Grahams, a cave I had heard fantastic reports about from Nullarbor divers before me.

After a much welcomed nights sleep, we were awake and eagerly on our way to Tommy Grahams for the first dive of the trip. "Tommy's" is located roughly 7 of an hour south from the back of Cocklebidy Roadhouse, through a thickly vegetated off road track. Cave diving at the Nullarbor is

renowned for being hard so we were prepared with overalls, helmets and as much muscle as we could muster for the journey underground. With eyes adjusting to the torch lit darkness, my mind wondered in anticipation of what lay ahead of us 90 metres below the surface of the earth. Twin tanks separated and gear packed in as many manageable bags as possible, we formed a chain and began our subterranean descent. Nothing can prepare you for the sheer beauty and isolation of the journey down to water in a Nullarbor cave. Still, dark and silent (apart from some very ordinary singing from the chain gang) I had never felt so removed from the world above. War could have erupted, never to disturb our underground peace. Time passed quickly and before I knew it we had broken through to the huge underground chamber and crystal clear lake that begged for our entry. Geared up and briefed by George who had recently dived Tommy's, we had entered the water, or as it appeared to be, air! The water was so clear that a Neutrally buoyant diver soon became, or as it seemed, man in flight! The main tunnel in Tommy Grahams winds its way through an underground labyrinth of limestone formations like nothing I have seen before. Large, pure white tooth like formations eerily illuminated by the piercing



The climb to Murra

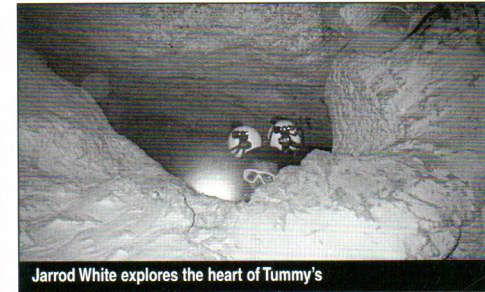


Adam White in awe of the sheer size

rays of our diving lights. After slowly making our way through the large and narrow sections of the main tunnel we popped our heads up in the air chamber for an emotionally driven discussion about how amazing the cave was, and where we were headed next. On the return journey we decided to run reels off the fixed line and explore the numerous off chutes that Tommy's provides. The beauty of cave diving the Nullarbor is that there is little to no silt, a cave divers worst enemy! The off chutes of Tommy's are no exception, the pure white bottom looks like silt, however on closer inspection by hand or an accidental incorrect fin stroke proves it to be rock hard. One of the main off chute features of Tommy's is a restriction known as the letterbox. Slicing through the rock as a sheer vertical slot, the letter box appears almost man made as a horizontally trimmed diver fits perfectly through the restriction. Upon reaching the end of letterbox (roughly a 50 metre swim), the tunnel then drops into a large room which we appropriately renamed the Jimi Hendrix room. In the Hendrix room the visual effects of a Halocline (salt water mixing with fresh) creates a blurring of the water in front of your eyes. The effect can only be described as the look of cordial mixing with water, seeing it for yourself is the only way to truly appreciate it. From here the Hendrix room reconnects with the main tunnel where you can re-enter the Hendrix room and return the way you came, or follow the main tunnel to the site of your next adventure. Over a period of 2 days we explored the ins and outs of Tommy's doing dives of up to an hour

entire cave. The air chamber at the rear of the tunnel actually contains a rock pile that can be climbed, from here another main tunnel continues into the blue unknown.

A well earned meal and sleep after our gear haul out of Tommy's saw us fit for our next adventure into Murra el Eleven. "Murra" like Tommy's and most of the other sites in the



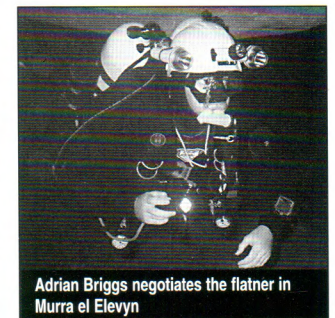
Jarrod White explores the heart of Tommy's

Nullarbor requires some experience and planning to dive. Paul Axton our on site "Gadgets man" had previously set up the lowering frame and entry ladder which made our entry time to the water much more efficient. Not nearly as tight as Tommy's we were able to leave our tanks twinned up on our Bc's and slowly but surely carry them to water level. After no time at all we were again in the dark beautiful solitude of the underground world, gearing up ready for our next adventure. The crystal clear entry lake was scattered with pure white limestone blocks which made it ideal for gearing up and entering this mysterious underground maze. Having not heard a great deal about Murra, we were unsure of what to expect. Going only on the primitive map we had and some quotes from Paul Axton like "this place is a real playground" we

were truly exploring this site not knowing what was around the next corner. I must say that Murra certainly didn't disappoint! Entering through its initial tight passages, we reeled out through mystifying shapes, seen only by around 150 people on this earth. The main passage widened and then turned into a long low flattener where a silty bottom was quite easily disturbed if not handled in the correct manner. Time and distance passed, reels began and ended, only the echo of our exhalation bubbles broke the ever silent ambience. In our dive plan we had decided that we would surface in what is known as the crystal room located at the end of the main tunnel. The crystal room was one of the most amazing features of the entire dive. Essentially it is an air chamber, however the rock formations are covered with solidified salt crystals that exuded a myriad of light reflections when

illuminated by our powerful lights. Never before had nature shown me such obscurity, there must have been hundreds of undiscovered chambers in the area, and only us at that moment in time were fortunate enough to witness one of these untouched wonders. On our return journey we branched off onto various other fixed lines and glided gracefully through the pure

white formations around us. From a time not fathomable to modern man, fossilised shells appeared randomly in the limestone formations. Could this once possibly have been the ocean floor? We again spent the next 2 days exploring the mystic tunnels and chambers of Murra and truly learned to love the splendour of this



Adrian Briggs negotiates the flatner in Murra el Eleven

amazing Australian cave diving site. With a days rest, some gear maintenance and modification, we were ready to attack the most famous of the Nullarbor caves, Cocklebidy. The previous day (our so called rest day) we had set up the lowering frame and hauled all our gear in preparation for the big swim. The record penetration in Cocklebidy is around 6.25 km from the surface lake, undertaken by a large team of divers with scooters, sleds and numerous support crew. Our dive plan was to swim to the first rock pile which is around 1km from the surface lake. Nothing in comparison to the longest penetration but a challenge for us none the less. Due to surface run off, the lake is a little cold and murky, however, upon entering the cave, the water soon becomes crystal clear and a comfortable temperature. Unlike the labyrinth of small tunnels in Tommy's and Murra, Cocklebidy is a huge single tunnel almost man made appearance and large enough for a bus to pass through. By far the longest cave penetration I had undertaken, it took close on 45 minutes to reach the rock pile the turn around point of our dive. Diving as a group enabled us to combine the power of our lights and see further into the distance of the seemingly endless tunnel. With a small lunch packed in our BC pockets we stopped, snacked and reflected on how far we had come and conversely how much further other divers had been on their record expedition. After climbing over the rock pile and seeing the fixed line disappear into the crystal passage beyond, we all swore to return with scooters and take the next step on a future dive. In rhythmic

motion we all moved smoothly back through the tunnel collecting strategically placed stage bottles on our return journey. A challenge definitely worth achieving. I once again had witnessed something very few human beings ever would.

The following day with our Nullarbor experience close to over, we packed up camp and moved to our final location, the famous cave diving site known as WeeBubbie! Situated at Eucla about 3 hrs from Cocklebidy, WeeBubbie is a cave of mammoth proportions both above and below water level. Adam and I were leaving the following day so the rest of the team helped us haul gear enabling us to see the magnificence of this cave for ourselves. Feeling like true pioneers, we entered the cave after a 10 minute swim on a surface lake that was near invisible. By far the clearest water I had ever seen, the illuminated lake looked like a man made swimming pool at a tropical resort. Filled with millions of years worth of fallen limestone blocks, the lake alone would have to be one of the worlds premier dive sites. With twin hundreds each, and a stage bottle to share, we were prepared to explore the extensive tunnels of WeeBubbie. Our plan was to find and follow the fixed line through the main tunnel and then branch off into the railway tunnel which at depth is eerily decorated with a strange bacteria commonly known as "snot" due to its gooey like appearance. Never had I seen limestone of such pure white, our strong torch beams cast shadows amongst the Jurassic formations. At varying depths the tunnel narrowed and then widened, with the mild effects of

nitrogen narcosis it seemed to be watching our every move. At a depth of around 34 metres and compulsory decompression racking up on our computers we turned and began our return journey to the surface. The journey back was around 500 metres long and hypnotically relaxing, strange pure white stalactite like formations covered certain areas of the ceiling. Huge slabs of limestone lined the floor, where years ago, collapses have occurred. Even with the huge amounts of air we carried, we were only able to explore a fraction of the cave system. One dive was clearly not enough, however we have a fantastic excuse to return to this awe inspiring cave as soon as possible. WeeBubbie is certainly a must do dive for anyone fortunate enough to visit the Gin clear waters of the Nullarbor Western Australia.

The following morning we were up at sparrows to remove the last of our gear and begin the long journey back to Victoria. Reflecting on what we had seen over the past 10 days, we agreed that the planning for our next trip should start immediately. Words struggle to describe the beauty of the Nullarbor, in this situation seeing is truly believing! Not only is the diving some of the best you could ever do in a lifetime, the whole Nullarbor experience is a lifetime memory. A challenge is definitely set before you whenever you plan a trip to the Nullarbor, however with team work and plenty of jokes the difficulty of the task is easily overcome, and an unforgettable time can be had by all. We had conquered the caves of the Nullarbor, all be it temporarily!

Whilst in Australia, Bill Phillips dived Tank Cave with this intrepid group... Pictured from left to right: Warrick McDonald, Carlo Virgili, Jane Bowman, Adrian Richards, Glen Harrison, Jenny Harrison, Bill Phillips and Sabine Schnitter. Heard to say... what a site! - what a dive!



EX - THE CAVE DIVERS LIST

When I logged this dive in my book, I wrote, "this might be my last cave dive". It was my 77th cave dive, but someplace up near my 1000th "tek" dive, and I was still scared cave diving. Up to this point, I was always overwhelmed with joy at making it out of a cave alive, and empathized with Rob Palmer's mention of the "grass always looking greener and the sky more blue" after each dive in his "Blue Holes of the Bahamas" book, a story of exploration and adventure which describes accurately why we keep coming back.

I had only been a minor WKPP support diver up to this point. My instructor, who was also Director of the WKPP, extended my time to getting a cave card out for a full year, and I had received that card from him on the plane down to Mexico on the way to do some diving in a system that I had been exploring with some other WKPP divers. Lamar English had taken me under his wing immediately after I started the initial cave class, and I had found Jarrod Jablonski right away, so I had hit the ground running and was averaging about two cave dives per week.

This day was to be my first support dive of any distinction in the WKPP. Parker and Bill Gavin were to do a dive to the end of Indian Springs to try extending that cave out past where Exley had left off in his exploration in a lead Gavin had spotted on an earlier dive. The system had been down for months, and was now finally diveable. Parker had basically invited all his friends to come dive, and made up dives for us that were really unnecessary, but he wanted to get the team moving again. Lamar English and I were to put in the deep deco bottles and ride out a ways to mark unexplored leads. Bill Main and his dive partner were to put in the intermediate bottles and do the same behind us. Everyone else was supporting on land and in the basin, or just doing a dive.

Right from the start things went strangely. Parker appeared distracted, and was not feeling well. Most of the more experienced WKPP divers were all sick and in street clothes, so could not dive and were running the surface, so I offered to do the dive in Parker's place. Parker said, "Don't you think that would be a bit much to bite off right now?". His stages were

not all the way full, and he had a 3x Tekna scooter (Gavin had a Gavin). I offered my full bottles and more powerful scooter. He said, "No, it's too late". He then asked me for the keys to my car. I had a built in phone, and a month later when I got the phone bill, I saw he had phoned his house. That was November 17, 1991 - I don't need to look at my log to remember that. His wife later told me that he called her to tell her he loved her.

I had mixed the backgas for both Lamar and myself, but had done so based on the wrong depth - we did not know the cave went deeper than 150. We dropped down to 110 feet and clipped off deco bottles for Parker and Bill, then took off upstream. Bill Main and his partner entered a few minutes later. Behind us, Main had called his dive about 1200 feet in and turned.

Lamar and I rounded a corner about 3500 feet in and the depth crossed 150. I looked at my gauge when I had to clear my ears, and let off the trigger. I saw Lamar's blades stop spinning at the same moment. We were floating there, looking at the white tunnel in front of us. I reached for my wetnotes, try to figure out how I was going to tell Lamar that the analysis had come out two points over spec and that we had to turn - it was always me who weened on the long dives he liked to do, but he turned to me with the scariest look in his eyes I have ever seen, and took my notes from me. He wrote, "Bubba, we are a little deep for this mix", and I was off the hook, but the look sent chills through me. Now I was scared, but I did not know why.

We turned and scooted back towards the entrance, and came across Bill Gavin and Parker nearing the stage drop. Gavin was really something to see in the water, so we stopped about 75 feet away and turned to watch them make the switch. Gavin floated methodically and executed the perfect drop and switch. Parker turned back and scooted a few feet towards me, let go of his scooter, switched his light to his right hand, held his left hand out to the side in an "OK" signal and shined the light on his hand. I returned the signal. He then went back to where Gavin was waiting and dropped his stage.

Lamar and I continued out, but never saw Bill Main - he must have turned right before we reached him. At the

upstream/downstream T, Lamar stopped and checked his gas, pointed downstream and gave me the "little bit" signal. I checked my gas and gave him the "OK" signal. Again he suddenly stopped and that look came back, only this time he showed me the thumb.

Now I was scared again. We scooted back to the restriction and moved through. I was felling a lot better now, we were out of the cave. I checked Parker and Bill's bottles - everything ok - and we started moving up to where Bill Main and his partner were decompressing above us.

At fifty feet, my computer wanted some unrealistic deco, so I took it off, strapped it to my scooter, and dropped the scooter to the floor below. It had been about 4 minutes since we cleared the restriction. Suddenly, everything cut loose. The water went rushing past us from above and the cavern blitzed in an underwater sandstorm. Bill Main and I both went instinctively to the ceiling to try to recapture what we thought was my runaway scooter - we both figured it had to be the scooter trashing the place and blowing the water on us from above. We could not see it sitting below us peacefully on the floor. What was really happening was that the water was rushing in from holes in the ceiling above, pulling sand and silt in with it, and in from the entrance to the cavern. What we did not know is that someplace in the system an aquaclude had cut loose turning the cave into a violent syphon which lowered the water level in the basin by a full foot and pulled whitewater rapids backwards up the spring run. The rushing water pulled sand and debris over the restriction at the entrance of the cave and the movement suddenly stopped. All of the silt and sand water had been sucked into the cave, so amazingly we were sitting in clear water again.

I dropped down to my scooter, still not believing it was not responsible, only to find it untouched. I noticed that the deco stop was gone from the screen - it had been four minutes that the cave flowed backwards. None of us got it. Nobody on the surface got it. Nobody came in to check on us. This would be a day that ended the easy going "volunteer" WKPP of old, if it did not end it for ever. In fact, that day all but four of us quit the Project and most quit cave diving for good.

Gradually, the cavern started silting out again. Lamar and I were getting uncomfortable about it, but we still did not know why. Bill Main and his partner had already long gotten out. We were at 20 feet. I decided to check on Parker and Bill, so I dove back down to 110 feet. Everything appeared the same, but I did not go far enough to see the restriction, which was no longer there. The bottles were untouched in the same place I had put them, clipped to the line. I began wondering about the length of the dive relative to the gas supply, but these guys were the pros. I came back up to Lamar, and did not see the support divers come past me in the silted out cavern, but figured they must be there and must be silting it out. What was really happening was that the cave had blown the restriction back open again, and the silt cloud inside was flowing out. Lamar and I surfaced.

Lamar was right up against me on the surface, and he had that look again. We were out of earshot of everyone. He asked me if I saw Parker and Bill went I had gone back down. I said "no, their bottles are still there". He floated there thinking. Then the support divers popped up by the dock. Steve Irving asked them if everything was OK. One said, yes. Steve said, "Did you see them both, where are they?". One said, "I saw Bill". the other said, "I saw Parker, he waved at me". The other said, "That was not Parker, that was me".

Lamar got real close to me and whispered, "Bubba, something is not right. I am going to go check". He dropped down, and reappeared about two minutes later, again whispering, "Parker is screwed I found his tanks on the line with his light on and he and Bill are not there". I deflated my wings and dropped down, scootering down the now blacked out cavern to 110 feet. I passed one intermediate bottle clipped to the line and then I saw one deep bottle still clipped to the line.

I clipped in with my spool and hit the inflator, going to the ceiling. I kept trying to remember what that cavern had looked like, but I had never really taken a good look. I was amazed at how far up it went. I then started sweeping in the zero vis, banging along the ceiling of the cavern. I ran smack into Gavin. I could not tell who it was at first, and was feeling all over him to see if he was alive. He did not move, but I could hear him breathing. I found his pressure gauge and held it up to my mask - it read zero. I grabbed his

stage gauge and saw he had gas. He was on his shallow bottle. He had used the deep bottle and jettisoned it apparently, and was still sitting on the ceiling, off the line, silted out on the second bottle.

He passed me a little tiny slate. I could not read it. I pressed it up to my mask and shined my light at the side of the clear silicone skirt - "Parker is dead". I felt like my heart stopped. I kept holding the slate to my mask. I woke back up - I had to get Gavin to some gas. I asked him if he knew where his oxygen was. He said yes. I did not believe him. I don't think he cared where it was. I realized he was not in a good space. I could not get him to move. I tied my reel to him, then ran it to the trough, then out and to the surface, over to the dock and tied it off to a piling. Everyone stopped what they were doing and looked down at me from the dock. I tried to get myself together to speak.

"Parker is dead", I could hardly get the words out. Bill Main started pacing back and forth. He said, "That is not supposed to happen". I said, "Bill, you have to go down and get Gavin - he won't move". I tied off to him. Just follow the line and get him up to the trough. Lamar went down my line and Bill had his tanks on in seconds. They followed the line to Gavin, moved him to the trough and sat there with him for nearly four hours. I never asked what went on, but I didn't have to and didn't want to know. Bill Gavin was beyond upset.

When I saw that Bill Main and Lamar were on it, I went back down the main line, tied in and began sweeping again. I did this nine times with stages and back-gas until I ran out of gas. I could not find Parker. I forgot to decompress, and just got out when the gas was gone. I was sick. The cops were there and it seemed like 100 other people were streaming in. I remember Tara Tanaka showing up and a bunch of other cave divers, like they appeared by some magic call. Everyone kept asking me if he could be in an air pocket on the ceiling, and I kept telling them that the ceiling was well under water. I got sick of telling them that and went to my car and called Alton. Alton loved Parker and so did I.

Bill Main and Sherwood Schile got in the car and drove over to tell Penny Parker, not the kind of thing you ever want to have to do, and they were the only ones among us who could do it that day. We told the cops we needed to go reload our gas and come back to look for Parker. We all went back to Steve Irving's house where the compressor was. Bill Gavin

parked his van outside and sat there all night, while Carlyanne Johnson stayed with him.

We went back down the next morning, and Gavin laid out the plan for clearing the restriction and bringing out Parker. Then the cops showed up and told us they had done it at 6:00 am. Parker had trained them to cave dive and do body recoveries. They did not want to leave him in there. Gavin and the rest then got ready to go in and retrieve all the gear that was behind the restriction. I did not want to get back in the water for gear, even with the light duty Gavin assigned to me. I got in my car and left for Ft. Lauderdale. I cried all the way to Perry. I don't know whether it was because of Parker, or because four more minutes later would have meant all of us.

Gavin later told me that he and Parker had reached where the restriction was supposed to be and the line just disappeared under the sand, and that the main tunnel was totally blacked out. Parker's scooter had failed and Bill was towing him. He got Parker to wait while he scootered back to the upstream/downstream T to see if maybe he had gone the wrong way. Imagine what was going through the mind of an 18 year veteran cave diver diving in a place he knew like his own house. He came back to the restriction. For 45 minutes they tried to find a way out, tying in their spools to where the line was buried and searching forward.

Gavin told me they were down to almost no gas, and he knew they were going to die. He said he did not want to see Parker die so he moved over to die by himself. At that moment, they felt the water flowing, and followed it. Parker had taken his tanks off and was dragging them behind him. Gavin left his on. Both had hit the entrance as it blew open with less than 100 psi in their tanks. Without his back-tanks for weight, Parker must have been struggling to stay down, used the last of his gas and blacked out. The ceiling on the other side of the restriction is at least 30 feet above the floor, and he could not hold on.

Gavin made it the few feet to his bottle and got the deco gas just as he ran out. Gavin told me that knowing you are going to die is the most desperate feeling there is. He said you don't ever want that to experience that. All of our worst fears in cave diving demonstrated.

I called Jarrod. He said, "you have to get back in the water". I did not even want to take a shower, let alone go cave diving. A

few weeks went by, and Jarrod told me to come up to High Springs and he would go diving with me. I called Lamar, and got him to meet us at Ginnie. We were both freaked, but JJ stayed real calm with us. JJ told me, "We'll just do an easy dive, you have to get back in". We geared up, and then Lamar stopped, "I just can't dive right now", so JJ repeated to me, "you have to get back in the water", so I went. He started out real slow and easy,

attentive as always, no stress. The cave was clear and beautiful. It was night and nobody was there. We dropped our stage at the Hinkle and dove all over the back of the cave, in ever squirrelly, crazy place JJ knew, and came back out about 90 minutes later with one of the best cave dives I had ever done. JJ got me back.

A couple of months later I called Bill Gavin and got him to go to Mexico with me. Parker had told him he needed to see

the stuff that we had seen, so we took a couple of weeks and did the tour. By the end of the trip, Gavin was back and talking about moving to Mexico, but that experience never let him alone. In the film NHK made about the WKPP, in an interview with Gavin, he said, "A day has not passed that I have not thought about Parker".

George Irvine.

High Standards

Hi Guys and Gals...

Well for those of you who voted for me to represent you as your Standards Director for this two year stint, I thank you!! To the past Standards Director Paul Axton. You have left me with a very high standard to follow. I thank you Paul for the gentleman you are and the very exacting and professional manner in which you have represented the CDAA in this position in the past. In deed a challenge to rise to. Thank you Paul.

To my opponent Richard Taylor I would like to say thank you for making a very honourable challenge to the position. No doubt I hope in the future we will work together on the challenge of having a bi-partisan relationship between TDI and all other Cave diving agencies. Subject to all agencies meeting CDAA requirements. Also our standards having a similar standard to those in the bipartisan relationship. So many things to agree upon.

To my fellow members of the CDAA I hope that we will all grow with knowledge and membership with the many standards that will change... To those states that are lacking in Instructors to meet your Instructor needs. I hope that we can increase your ability to have a CDAA professional able to meet your needs.

In the future to my fellow Instructor colleagues there will be many changes to the written standards to accommodate some of the ever changing course and general running requirements in all states. I look forward to any input that you may have to benefit this area of change. One area I feel needs to be addressed is the format of acknowledgement for past services. Not necessary life membership but at least a bare minimum of a 'Roll of Honour' be what ever name it is given. I also hope to make the Standards notes a fairly regular part of the guide lines. Last but not least I wish you and all your families a 'Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.

Regards, Max B Marriott
CDAA Standards Director

INDEMNITY REMINDER...

A reminder to all members that your indemnities for the sites controlled by the Department for Environment and Heritage expire with your CDAA certification. In other words you must renew that indemnity as often as you do your membership if you wish to dive Pics, Gouldens, Sisters, Fossil or Ewens. On that subject don't forget that Kilsbys indemnities need to be renewed every FIVE (5) years. If it's been a while then download a new one from the web site and forward it to Gerret Springer whose details appear on the access page.

Traser Watches

Traser watches are manufactured to the exacting specifications of the U.S Navy S.E.A.L. teams.

- The watches are waterproof to **200 metres/ 660ft** and the **battery lasts for 5 years** (model S3000) and **8 years for titanium and PVD coated models** (S3400, S3500 & S3600).
- Traser watches are Mil Spec so you know they are strong and will give years of dependable service.

Probably the **most important feature** of the watch is the illumination system, which has to be seen to be believed. It is 100 times brighter than conventional luminous paint due to the use of tritium inserts.

- No battery is required to make the illumination system work.
- The traser illumination system has a useful life of between 20-25 years.
- No buttons need to be pushed to make the illumination system work. The watch does not have to be held up to a light source to 'charge' it as with conventional dial technology.
- The watch can be read under any light conditions simply by looking at the dial... no pushing of buttons required.

Traser watches are available in a wide range of styles:

Polymer, stainless steel, PVD coated stainless and titanium models are all available. There are small and large faces in the range, and dials come in an assortment of colours to suit your taste.

All traser watches carry a two year warranty and the illumination system is guaranteed for 10 years. Prices range from \$260 to \$1160.

Traser watches have been featured in the following movies: Oceans 11, G I Jane, Fast & the Furious, Exit Wounds.

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GATOR COUNTRY

October was the month chosen for the DEMA (Diving Equipment & Manufacturers Association) trade show in Las Vegas, USA. Jane and I decided to attend the show and then travel to Florida and go cave diving. As this was our third trip together and one that we encouraged others to join, we decided to do a few different things this time. We met Les Rothbart (second cave trip to the US) at Jacksonville Airport with sore feet and tired bodies, not a good start but after a long sleep we quickly established our routine. As before we used Lake City as our base and with help from Lamar Hires of Dive Rite picked up our twins and headed off to dive Ginnie Springs, Lafayette Blue, Peacock, Peacock 3, Olsen, Orange Grove, Cow Upstream, Cow Downstream one and two, Telford and Manatee from Catfish Hotel. We explored different passages, jumped onto different lines, explored unknown passages (to us) and again met old friends and made new ones, which is easy to do in the USA.

If you've been to Florida you probably know the systems I'm talking about so I won't bore you with descriptions, so perhaps some highlights might interest you. I called this article 'Gator Country' for a reason, there are Alligators everywhere. We had been in the water with 'Gators before, but because of the drought the region is experiencing (aren't we all?) the water table is way down, making the pond areas very small. In some cases they have dried up completely causing overcrowding and territory feuds and when you mix this with humans, someone loses. Just before our arrival a bloke had his arm chomped off just up the road from where we were diving! We were warned "Do not dive at Bonnet, because there is a 10ft (3 metre) alligator that's been bothering divers. Awesome Bill from Luraville (best dive shop in Florida) told us about a close encounter he had with one..." It swam up within a metre and just looked at me, I didn't know what to do, so I just tried to stay calm and stare it down, I had one saving grace, I was diving with a cute little lady that I knew must have tasted sweeter than old me! So naturally we avoided the area and not being related to any Aussie croc' wrestlers we decided retreat was the smartest thing to do. Bill's shop, (now a retail establishment, if you know him and are used to just getting fills from his driveway) has become so successful that he has purchased the land opposite his home and is building an even bigger place. What a set up, 21,000 plus cubic feet of gas in storage and liquid oxygen tanks, each equal to 16 "G" cylinders of oxygen and he uses 2 a week! Bill can fill 8 tanks in your car (if you don't want to carry your steel twins) at the same time, the question you are asked (it sounded like an American diner!!!) "What mix Nitrox? Want Premix 40? What pressure? (yes, you decide!) Want Oxygen? Want Trimix - Heliox? Want Normoxic - Trimix?" Just a backyarder in Luraville that makes Aussie shops look like amateurs! But back to the 'Gators, we actually only had one encounter and when I say we, I mean Jane Bowman did. We were diving the Cooper River in South Carolina (I did mention we did different things this trip) looking for fossilised sharks teeth. We quickly became separated in the strong current and 30cm vis, so after an hour at 15m I decided to surface and try and find the boat. At about the same time Les also popped up and by luck the boat quickly spotted us and we climbed on board. Finding Jane wasn't that hard, you look for the bubbles and the silt slick as she rummaged around the bottom. Finally she decided to call it a dive (she did five, all over one hour each that day!) on reaching the surface she spotted the boat and started moving away from the shore out into the middle of the river, to make it easier on the boat skipper. Suddenly a 3-4 metre "Gator came out of the reeds and headed straight for her, I grabbed my knife placed it between my teeth and ... nah that's another story! Luckily it stopped its rush an arm length away, probably because of the distain Jane showed it by not paying any attention at all to its primeval urge. But I digress, back to the Cave diving stories!

Lafayette Blue was a real buzz, depending on who told the story, the lines had been placed 20 to 40 years ago and consisted of builders string and duct tape. We were asked not to disturb the line as it was brittle and not to clean the bacteria and growth from it. No line arrows here (we did find a few) just duct tape with unreadable notations. Don't you love line that's placed in the roof as well? Makes it real easy to follow when it blends into the growth hanging down, anyway we already had problems as the spring turned into a siphon. After a penetration of over 790 metres, (you guessed it, I measured it on the way out!), negotiating numerous "T's" and loose line, including one broken one, following the line back through the percolation was a challenge. It was especially testing when an arrow appeared to be pointing the wrong way (as the bacteria and growth, when we moved through the cave loosened, plus the added change of water flow, suddenly hidden arrows appeared) as Les said, "...it was a wonderful feeling when I finally spotted another one of your blue pegs on the line!" The arrows pointed to the nearest air space, hidden by growth, as there has not been any regular diving here for a long while. SCUBA



diving in Lafayette County is illegal and to surface is to invite at least a night in the local jail! Makes for an interesting dive, but if you know the Landowner you can get directions, so that you can enter through his property as we did. A word of caution here, if you take the wrong track it's easy to get bogged (even in a drought!) luckily for me I had a couple of willing(?) diggers and pushers who sacrificed their dignity by standing in knee deep mud and allowing me to shower them, after spinning the wheels in an attempt to get out! How to make friends and influence people – NOT!

Ginnie Springs only seemed to be visited by a few campers and 20 divers on this occasion, as it was the start of winter. Last year we shared the entrances with at least 60 others and another time (Memorial Weekend) perhaps 2 or 3 HUNDRED!!! After my dive in Lafayette Blue, trying to follow the line in and with already a number of deep and long dives under my belt on the trip my poor old ears finally clogged it. Jane and Les wanted to go and see July Spring, so entering Devils Ear they disappeared for a couple of hours while I talked to other divers, some doing courses (interesting techniques) and others like ourselves, visiting the area from other States or overseas. So, there I was on the spot to witness a guy planning a long penetration, (single tank, shoe fins, no

reel etc.). He stated "I know what I'm doing!" when I politely pointed out that as an untrained cave diver he could only enter the Cavern area and to carry a torch was forbidden! (Ginnie Park rules which he must have read and signed on a form that he understood!) I have often wondered if you should physically restrain idiots from harming themselves but as it's been pointed out to me before, by no less than a law enforcement officer "It gets rid of the dumb ones!" I just observed him. Rose, not only a worker at the Park, but also the Chief Instructor and one of the team of explorers and mappers happened to be in the water. Now Rose has done more dives here than the resident cat fish and she was accompanied by a large DIR (all in black etc.) assistant and as she was teaching, a full cave course with four equally equipped and large divers. So the first sign that something was wrong was when Rose, who I have got to know over the years well enough to call each other by first names, asked if the guy in the long johns (water temp. 22 degrees C) was with my group. I replied no and that perhaps he needed some direction in life. Rose waited for him to appear from the showers (they dive rough at Ginnie) and explained what she had seen. It appears our "friend" had entered the cave area and was observed beyond the "lips" well within the cave zone (our

Penetration rated area) breaking cyalumes open so that they left a luminescent trail on the bottom for him to follow out! Of course the roaring current in the area was dispersing the globules from there to eternity and if it wasn't for Rose's assistant, who played shepherd dog the dip stick would still be there! A few words were exchanged on his return from the ablution blocks and he was requested to report to the office, where he was ejected from the Park. Fun and games in the Deep South.

Cow Springs are owned by the NACD and the conditions of entry mean that only divers with proven experience at Full Cave (Penetration) and over 100 cave dives, plus they must have knowledge of the site and be vouched for and be guided at least the first time, may enter. Getting the combination and the permission was easy having dived there many times before, getting the b-----y lock open proved to be harder but we finally managed. Cow Upstream has a challenging entrance that becomes even harder on exit. I always like watching the contortions that divers achieve getting around and through the squeezes. This has to be my favourite dive as it's tight and drops through vertical tunnels and sets up a challenge to leave it in pristine condition (remember – leave nothing but bubbles!). We managed 1000 metres on the third push this time against the current, with a swim time of 70 minutes penetration at a maxi-



Les Rothbart and Jane Bowman, Ginnie Springs, Florida

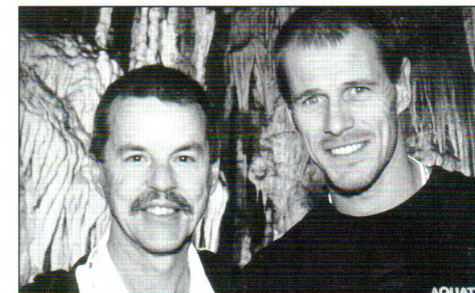
mum depth of 31 metres. Only a "thirds" air call stopped us each time, which can be frustrating but it's good to see it because we all know what happens when divers don't make the call because of bravado or some b-----t pride thing. We did a number of "jumps" as well and if you like it squeezey this is the place, very similar to Tank Cave but with current and no where near as good line markers. I have to say how wrapped I was in my Suunto Vytex (3 mix) computer. What a time saver, love that accelerated deco time!

Manatee proved to be the heart pumper of the trip. Because the Suwannee River was so low the water was belting out of Manatee. Not that we knew before entering at Catfish Hotel though, you would think the Ranger (you have to pay to enter the Park) would let divers know, but I expect they try not to get involved in the behaviour of crazy cave divers. Entering Catfish Hotel, apart from the walk carrying very heavy steel tanks through the Park grounds and down the stairs, was easy and in future the only way I'll do it. We found the line and I attached my reel to it after running the line under a big rock and



Warrick in Cow Springs

through a squeeze, rather than straight through the hole in the top. Obviously this was to prevent the SCUBA divers hanging around the sink, being tempted to enter the cave (honestly I meant it!). The current was a shocker, we had been in for no more than 40 minutes and I was stuffed, I turned around hoping that the others felt the same and found that they agreed. Back at Catfish Hotel (yep, Catfish all over the place) I noticed Jane poking around on the other side of the Sink. Les was starting to do a deep stop, so I signalled him, suggesting that we join Jane and see if she wants to continue on to the opening of Manatee. We all agreed to continue and as we had dived here before we knew that although it got deeper, but for only a distance of 155 metres, we were going with the current and it was probably only going to take another 5 minutes and it would save us the walk through the Park in the heat. Well the plan was good and because of our past knowledge and the fact that we hadn't reached thirds yet for our first plan we had heaps of air although a deco obligation. I was on Nitrox 33 but Jane and Les were on air, or close enough. All went well until we hit the exit/entrance to the cave. Hells bells, the water



Warrick with Christophe Maillot, guide for Aquatech, Mexico.

was a roaring torrent! I started to swim out carefully, the bottom was loose rocks and few sticks, s---t! I was in trouble, no deco but I was about to be spat out of the cave, probably get an embolism, knowing my luck, not that I would know it because I would bash my brains out on the roof first! I struggled using all of my strength pulling myself back down into the protected zone. My fins had just about blown off thanks to wearing old fins on a new drysuit (sizes didn't match - idiot!) and I signalled to the others not to proceed until I checked it out again. At this time you think "Maybe we had better swim back to Catfish"? Plenty of air BUT???? Nah, I thought, I've done this before, and if I stick to the left side there is a little alcove that is out of the current. Now if I can just get around the corner without losing any equipment, bashing my brains out, or being shot to the surface, - so away I went. I recall I said a few words to the effect that what the f--- was I doing! Big deal once in the alcove there was no current, I signalled Les to hold on and go for the log by grabbing it in a bearhug because he had deco time to wait out. Whoosh, out he came and gave this big black tree the mother of all hugs, safe and calculated. Jane meanwhile with camera and thinking about her \$3,000.00 HID light was having thoughts about returning to Catfish. I didn't realise that she was jammed against a corner at the time and was slowly extracting herself. Don't you love cave diving? I signalled for her to join me in the alcove which I would vacate once she was safe but she was having trouble managing the camera and getting a grip, committed she jammed herself into the wall and roof to slow her ascent and exit. With the hole now resembling a hot tub, bubbles flying everywhere she secured herself onto the log and waited out her time. The channel that flows towards the river had only a slight current and although we couldn't find any snakes to play with this time (trust Jane to find "stuff", on a previous trip she played and petted with one for 20 minutes). There were plenty of big fish milling around the edges of the channel, this topped off a very interesting dive, and especially as it is crystal clear water and only a couple of metres deep.

I did say "crystal" but I don't have enough room or time to tell you about the trip we did to Crystal River where we snorkelled with the Manatees, so maybe next time. Warrick McDonald.



The recently launched International Dive Expo Australia 2003 is off to a great start reports Project Manager Michael Sedin of Exhibitor Services Pty Ltd. "We already have over 40 confirmed exhibitors signed up and by the time Guidelines is off the presses there will be many more on board" said Michael.

Aquanaut have joined as Gold Sponsor of the Expo and have taken the largest display site in the Expo totalling 144 square metres of space and they are planning a whole range of activities in the Try Dive Pool, Dealer workshops and public seminars.

The Dive Village Concept is attracting a lot of attention with solid bookings from dive centres, resorts, cruise operators and liveaboards taking booths in either the Queensland, Pacific or PADI Dive Villages.

According to Sedin, Overseas interest is running hot, justifying the positioning of the Expo as a truly International event, the first international trade exhibitor to sign up is Quattrotri Dentech from Italy with their customised mouthpieces and large stands have been taken by the Fiji Convention Bureau, Tourism Authority of Thailand and GIE Tahiti Tourisme promoting dive destinations and operators in their regions.

Expo Principal Mick Turner also had a very rewarding trip to DEMA in Las Vegas where he spoke to almost all of the exhibitors and reported a very strong interest in many of them wanting to come to Australia to promote their various dive products, equipment, accessories and dive destinations.

Mick is particularly pleased to have secured John Bennett as a seminar speaker and exhibitor, John is going to dive the Yamshiro in Feb/March next year and he will be profiling his dive gear configuration on his stand at the Expo and will be speaking about this exciting dive to around 210 metres.

As part of our recognition of the role played by voluntary organisations we have provided no charge display stands to The Cave Divers Association of Australia, Freediving Australia and The Historical Diving Society to give them an opportunity to profile their services to the dive fraternity and to the wider public audience who will be visiting the Expo.

Plans are well under way for the daily fashion parades which will feature a professionally choreographed fashion show using experienced dancers/models and showing a variety of divewear, boat wear, beach wear, swimmers and of course wet and dry suits and accessory configurations.

Radio Station Mix 106.5 and sister stations 2WS and 96.1 have been signed up to present over 100 radio commercials and they will be bringing their outside broadcast vans to Fox Studios to do 3 hours of live broadcasts each day from the Dive Expo with live crosses from within the Try-Dive Pool.

For further information on the International Dive Expo Australia 2003.
Contact Michael Sedin at Exhibitor Services on Tel. 02 9894 9811 or Fax. 02 9894 8533.
Email: Exhibition@exhibitorservices.com.au or check out
the Dive Expo Web site at www.dive-expo.com

NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT - December 2002

Merry Christmas or Happy Holiday to all. In these days of mixed communities and beliefs it's always wise to cover all bases. I have just returned from the USA. This time I attended DEMA, probably the world's largest Dive Trade Show with over 3000 stands I believe. I just know it took 20 minutes to walk from one end to the other if you walked fast. Huge, I saw so many dry-suits, torches and cave goodies my brain was reeling. Without trying to bore you with my other lives (Retailer) interests some of the highlights were:

It was good to chat and exchange information with the NACD members on their stand and realise that they face the same Landowner problems that we do, if not worse. Some highlights I felt for cave divers were the new saddles for Apollo scooters, these allow you to ride with them between your legs thus gaining at least a knot in speed and increasing the distance travelled by at least 1000 metres. Apollo showed me their removable neck and wrist seals which seem to have solved the leak problem when twisting the head around and when grabbing something which makes the veins and sinews stand up on the wrists causing leakage. Separate items they can be placed in position and then the normal seals lay over the top. The Cave equipment suppliers all had spring heels. If you're not wearing them you don't realise what you're missing. Dive Rite, Halcyon and others had them on offer to fit either their own fins or generic models. I did not observe anyone using anything else in two weeks of diving, that's marketing! Everywhere I looked divers were also using finger spools. These have really caught on and after using one I see why. So easy, nothing to tangle, no jams and all can be done with one hand. I witnessed the best laid jumps in Mexico last year and now I understand why. Tension is no longer a problem, lockoffs are easy and it doesn't take a lot of skill to put your finger in a hole and turn. HID's are taking over in Australia but the use of NiHid batteries is just start-

ing. I have noticed a few Australian made Ballistic units in the Mount but as yet have not seen imported versions. Halycon, Dive Rite, OMS and Sartek all had them on display and I saw divers everywhere using them. So small, so compact and such long burn times. I already own an 18 watt HID with MLS cannister from Dive Rite so I guess I won't be changing for a while. The moment my batteries (yeah I own two, plus Janes two because there is no chance I could just get one for myself) fail I'll (we'll) be joining the trend. There was so much camera gear with a huge percentage of digitals in housings using HID lights I just ended up confused. We did purchase (notice the cunning use of we) spools, another HID, a wing, spring heels, drysuit, camera and some nick nacks for the shop which I'll be paying off for the next few years. The eyes boggled on the GMC, stand with the test station and mixed gas filling equipment. Goodies and fittings you would die for, guys understand these things you know, it was like Bunnings but it was all dive-related fittings. Dive Rite were displaying their new watch style Nitec Plus two mix computer, very nice. My vote for the busiest stand went to DUI drusuits. Wheeze thermals appeared to be the most popular with the Americans and it was the first time I had seen them as well. It was great to catch up with Del Motes Halcyon), Lamar Hires (Dive Rite), John Bennett (Worlds Deepest Diver) and Christophe Maillot (Aquatech Villas DeRosa Mexico) plus many Australian visitors.

Naturally I flew to Florida and went cave diving (see article this issue) but I also went with Jane Bowman and Dr Les Rothbart up to South Carolina to dive in the Cooper River for fossilised sharks teeth and successfully as well. This was great Cave diving practice as the vis was about 30cm max! We also drove down to Crystal River to dive with the Manatees for something different. Having dived with Dugongs a couple of times I knew what to expect or so I thought.

These animals are so tame they roll over so you scratch their bellies and let you stroke them whenever you want. After an hour or so they just stop feeding, give you the once over and swim off into the gloom. Covered in outboard motor scars it's sad to see their environment slowly being taken away with the intrusion of humans. Channels being built on up to the edge of the water, lush vegetated banks of grass being turned into concrete retaining walls and boats everywhere. A bit of lateral thinking like banning propeller driven craft and only allowing jet boats might save some of the 400 annually killed by outboard engines. Once again the animals lose, man wins. Intervention by Rangers takes place all the time and sight-seeing is strictly controlled but the Manatee is doomed, grass beds are disappearing, man is taking over the waterways and pollution in the way of plastic rubbish and chemicals is taking its toll.

Mt Gambier Negotiations are underway as I write this with Lifeline at Englebrechts about access (see access notice on our web site and in this issue). The frustration of access at this site has reached a point where I feel like screaming but I guess no-one would listen anyway. Rob Brennan our site Access Director should have something to report soon.

Chris Edwards and myself have been re-exploring Sheathers Cave. Permission for access to this Cave site needs to be sought from Forests and a key is needed. The site was first dived by Peter Horne and Peter Stace back in 1982. Very shallow with long tunnels only a metre or so deep and with an

air space most of the way. Have a look at it but don't expect it to be another Englebrechts East. Chris, Paul Axton and Lorraine Hardman also dived it and went to the end of the North West Passage but like those before found no new passage. Beautiful photography possibilities exist, as there is a perfect mud brick beach, untouched, and nearby a wall of tree roots that cascade down forming a delicate curtain.

We are still finalising our 30th Anniversary Party that will be held at the end of October in Melbourne, along with our AGM. We hope to have a huge swap meet and although not all of our guest speakers have confirmed yet we do have the OK from Andrew Wight and Lamar Hires. A Nullarbor trip is being planned to start straight after the party and Lamar has confirmed that he will be there.

Talks are taking place about cross-certification and Max Marriot our Standards Director has been looking into a number of aspects regarding this matter. Pressure from members and other interested parties may be put on the Directors but I assure you that while I am in this position it will not be rushed into. A majority of the Directors must agree to the changes, before seeking any other input. It has been good to read the emails and discuss with members the details of the possible changes. I am always available on the National Director email address if anyone wants to discuss the details that have been proposed so far.

Regards,

Warrick McDonald.

Have you been thinking about Cave Diving Vanuatu?

ProMedical Vanuatu Ltd has recently announced the recommissioning of Vanuatu's only hyperbaric unit at their facility in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The unit was formerly situated at Northern Districts Hospital (Luganville, Santo) and operated there by Hyperbaric Health Vanuatu Ltd. Hyperbaric services are provided by ProMedical as a joint venture with Hyperbaric Health Australia. The unit is a Comex twin lock, multiplace chamber rated for treatments to 50 msw. Hyperbaric Attendants include Vanuatu registered Paramedics and Nurses, with Chamber Operators drawn from local dive professionals. The Medical Officer provides services on a voluntary basis in addition to duties as Consultant Anaesthetist at Vila Central Hospital. Technical support and staff training are provided by Hyperbaric Health Australia.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held Saturday 5/10/02 at International Motel, Mt Gambier.

Meeting opened and all present welcomed by chair, Kevin Burrowes.

Meeting invited to read minutes of last AGM and copy of Audited Financial Report.

National Director, Warrick McDonald introduced current Directorate to meeting and spoke briefly on their roles.

Apologies accepted from Richard Taylor, Dave Warnes, Geoff Chambers, Maria Brennan, Gary Bush, Cameron Wood, Max Marriot, Jane Bowman, Phil Argy, John Seddon, Ellen Garratt, Damien Coad, Adrian Kellett, Kate Williamson, Andrew Seifried.

Minutes of last AGM moved as true and accurate. Moved C. Edwards, seconded G. Barclay. Carried.

There was no business arising from last AGM. Annual Reports were presented from the Directorate: -

Nat Director - Warrick McDonald informed meeting that access arrangements at Hells Hole were to be altered as follows. A minimum of four divers, one with prior experience and ideally a responsible observer. The landowner had initiated this change. New details would be published in Guidelines and on the website.

He went on to thank all the Directors for their help over the year, particularly Standards Director, Paul Axton and outgoing Records Officer, Lorraine Hardman.

He then spoke briefly about the future Australian Standard with regard to Recreational Diving and mentioned that he sat on the consultative committee. He informed meeting that new standard would shortly be presented to all landowners and that if accepted all sites would then have a single common standard with regard to Alternative Breathing Mixes.

He then spoke on the possible future direction of the CDAA and the possibility of cross certification at entry level. He pointed out that this would not be possible at higher levels as in his opinion the CDAA standard exceeded others at those levels. He continued that he was hopeful that the incoming Standards Director would review all current courses and initiate changes if appropriate. He said this was in response to requests from several of the current Instructors.

In response to a question from the floor, he invited the Business Director, Richard Price to update the meeting on the insurance position. Richard told the meeting that we had successfully renewed Public Liability and Officers Liability but at this stage were unable to get coverage for Professional Liability. However as all the CDAA's nominated Guides and Instructors currently carry their own this doesn't present a problem.

Report accepted by meeting.

Publications and Records Director, Chris Edwards spoke on his area, which includes Guidelines and lamented the lack of material being submitted.

He then read a summary of Standards Director, Paul Axton's Report which highlighted the visits from well-known overseas divers including Lamar Hires, Martyn Farr and Bill Phillips.

Deb Williams suggested that as next year was the 30th Anniversary that perhaps we could run a Best Of series in Guidelines.

Both Reports were accepted by the meeting.

Richard Price and Kevin Burrowes spoke on the Audited Financial Report, which was accepted by the meeting.

He also thanked Tammie Beattie (Treasurer) for looking after the accounts and preparing them. Kevin Burrowes reiterated the thanks for a job well done.

Site Director - Rob Brennan added to his published Report by reminding all present of the importance of following correct access protocol. He informed meeting that the first batch of gear up tables were about to be installed and would be organizing working parties to assist. He also mentioned that SA Forests were considering initiating an access fee to their sites and that Ewens Ponds may be closed to all other than permit holders as a result of severe abuse by NON CDAA members, one of whom took a jet ski in there!

Terri Allen asked for updated and clearer access conditions to be published for sites like Kilsbys. Chris Edwards to initiate.

Access to Barnoolut was discussed and Rob replied that at present it was still off the CDAA's list and that attempts at negotiating access were continuing. He explained that there was a history of denied access to all of Alan Scott's properties to the general membership, despite limited access having been granted to some.

Report accepted by meeting.

Records Officer Terri Allen then showed the meeting an excellent presentation showing a breakdown of the membership, category by category, by sex, by attrition rate etc. Exact figures are tabled elsewhere in this magazine.

She then spoke on the 30th Anniversary Celebrations being planned and the intention to hold that next year in Melbourne in conjunction with the AGM. She was hopeful of attendances and presentations by Paul Hosie, Lamar Hires, Martyn Farr and Andrew Wight so far.

Gary Barclay noted the loss of Instructors over the last few years particularly those with many years experience and knowledge. He hoped that somehow the CDAA could provide some form of formal recognition for those individuals. Names that were mentioned included, but were not limited to, Chris Brown, Greg Bulling, and Glen Harrison.

Richard Price moved the appointment of Kevin Burrowes as the auditor for next year. Seconded Chris Edwards and carried.

There were two office bearers up for election this year. Richard Price was elected unopposed as Business Director. Max Marriot and Richard Taylor both nominated for the position of

Standards Director and as a result a postal vote was held. The vote opening and counting was scrutineered by Linda Claridge and Kevin Burrows. Max Marriot won the election and was therefore duly appointed.

General Business: -

Linda Claridge asked how the process would occur with regard to the update of Standards as a result of the new Australian Standard and other reasons. Warrick answered that the process would most certainly be consultative with both current and past instructors but that the timeliness of that would be in Max's hands. Linda then asked about Penetration Courses and why they could only be run at Easter. Chris Edwards pointed out that it was partly to do with access in Iddlebidy, which was one of the supervised dives. Warrick suggested that Max needed to be involved in that decision process and did not wish to pre-empt that.

Gary Barclay thanked all Directors and Office Bearers for their work which was supported by the meeting.

Kevin Burrowes thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 1200.

DIVE RITE 905 DRYSUIT - PRODUCT REVIEW

Drysuits - It seems there is nowadays so many to choose from, so what sets them all apart, and what features makes one particular suit better than most ? Well, Dive Rite seems to have hit all the right marks with their entry to the ultra competitive Dry Suit market. There is only one model in the Dive Rite suit range, but with the huge array of features found on the 905 Drysuit, there is simply no reason to confuse the issue with more models.

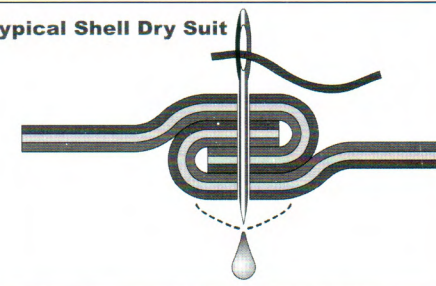


The 905 may look similar to other shell suits on the market, but from the ground up it has differences that set it apart, both in features & function. Commencing with material, Dive Rite use what is known as an 8 layer Nylon Jersey tri-laminate. From the inside out, the material is made up of one layer nylon jersey, 5 wafer thin layers of totally waterproof butyl rubber & finally 2 layers of nylon jersey on the outside. This provides the best combination of both puncture resistance & ultra flexibility. There are suits that are tougher, but who wants to wear a suit with the flexibility & weight of chain-mail ?

Next lets look at seam construction, and this is where Dive Rite have the edge over all other manufacturers. A typical shell style dry suit is constructed from panels of material, sewn together to make the suit. Why would you want to make a waterproof drysuit, then join it together with thousands of stitching holes - Each & every one a potential leak point ? To repair the damage caused by sewing the seams, most manufacturers use a combination of seam sealing glue & tape to cover all the stitching holes, but it still doesn't remove the holes, simply patch them. It also only remains

waterproof as long as the tape or sealant adheres to the base material.

Typical Shell Dry Suit

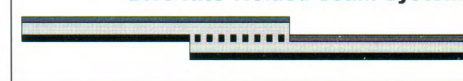


The 905 suit is different, very different - The suit is still made from panels of material, but instead of stitching the suit, Dive Rite use a patented Ultrasonically Welded Seam Construction technique. This process ultrasonically welds each panel together, with no stitching, and in fact once welded I am told the welds are in fact stronger than the material itself.

The other huge advantage with the welded seam is flexibility - The seams are far less bulky than rolled & stitched seams, and thus the suit maintains its fantastic flexibility all over, unlike conventional stitched suits where the seams are bulky & stiff due to their rolled construction.

Next lets look at other features that come as standard equipment on the 905.

Dive Rite Welded Seam System



Talking to Tony Davis, the distributor of Dive Rite here in Australia, the suit has been designed as an Expedition Level suit, including many features not found on other suits as standard. This way, divers who are at the cutting edge can utilize the suit, knowing it has all the features they would need to complete dives from the caves of Mount Gambier to the icy waters of Antarctica, all without any costly add-ons.

The list of standard issue features includes:

- Heavy Duty Commercial Latex Wrist Seals - Thicker latex seals simply last much longer, but they still have great flexibility & size range.
- Extra Reinforcing - Each 905 suit comes with extra heavy duty reinforcing on the shoulders, elbows, bum, knees & lower leg.
- Zip Protection Flap - Protects the expensive waterproof zipper from abrasion & damage.

Southern Diving Centre

1 Roy Terrace Christies Beach S.A. 5165

Ph: (08)83821322 Fax: (08)83821509

Email: soudiv@ozemail.com

~ Full service facility with oxygen cleaning ~

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Oldest dive shop in Adelaide

10% discount for C.D.A.A. members!



Heavy Duty Latex Seals



Reinforced Wear Areas



Zipper Protection Flap

• Wide Elastic Braces - Again, comfortably keep the suit up in the crotch area, and also whilst on the surface between dives you can wear the suit with the top half removed.

of a hood in to reduce water flow to the head.

• Insulated Slim Line Boots - By using slim line boots, you maintain your current fin sizing, yet still get the warmth & protec-



Wide Internal Braces



Left Leg Fixed Pocket



Right Leg Removable Pocket

• Two Thigh Pockets - Far easier to get to than pockets on the waist, there are 2 bellows thigh pockets as standard. One is fixed, the other is removable. They are also large enough to fit a whole host of goodies.

tion of hard sole boots.

The suit comes in a quality compact zippered storage bag, and is also supplied with a comprehensive repair kit, allowing field repairs in emergency situations. You have to agree, that's a



Inflator Rotates 360°



Arctic Hood Collar



Insulated Slim Line Boots

• 360-degree rotating inflation valve - Allows you to route your inflator hose from any angle comfortably.

• Integrated Arctic Hood Collar - Allows you to tuck the long bib

whole lot of features that are supplied as standard. As far as sizing is concerned, the 905 comes in sizes XS through to XXXL, and each size is also available in standard or

husky. Husky suits are one size larger in width than in height ie: A medium husky suit is the height of a medium, but the torso width of a large. Add to this the option of two boot size options per suit size, and there is a huge off the shelf range of sizing. Custom suits are available, but according to Tony Davis, they have yet to have to resort to custom suits - Every sale has been for a stock size.

Colours you ask? The 905 is available in all black or black / blue as standard, and also black / red as special order only. I have been using a 905 suit for nearly 12 months now, and it has never missed a beat - From instruction on open water & technical courses, to social dives in Port Phillip Bay, to cave diving in 9 degree water with twins & a stage tank, the suit has never let me down.

The flexibility & comfort of the suit is amazing, the extra features make the suit extremely functional, and the size range meant I was able to get a suit off the shelf, which fits as though it was made for me.

For a first effort in dry suits, the 905 is a winner. The total package offers most of us all we will ever need in a dry suit: Quality, features, accessories, and great value for money.

Speaking of price, the RRP of the Dive Rite 905 Drysuit is \$2995 inc gst. That's a lot of cash in anyone's book, but once you compare features, and also the all important value for money, I believe the 905 is simply unbeatable.

I am told as a special offer, each 905 drysuit also comes with a FREE fleece undergarment valued at \$160.

For more information on the 905 Drysuit, and the entire range of Dive Rite equipment, e-mail the distributors, Aqua Tech Australia at info@diverite.com.au, or call them on 03 9775 0400

A guide to diving philosophies...

By someone better known as '3310'

It's an attitude thing -

Generally you need gurus to promote philosophies and followers to worship them, as well as lots of surplus cash to by the toys... so here goes

DIR?

Stands for Doing It Right. They're mostly male US cave divers (led by George Irvine) who insist that you have to have the same equipment, same haircut, same accent, and undergo the same training as they do, in order to dive with them. And they all wear matching coloured dry suits.

TDI & IANTD?

Stands for Technical Diving International and International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers. These people are Deep divers using either Nitrox or Trimix and are really into meditation and visualisation. Basically you lie down in a darkened room, put on some whale music and visualise a successful dive.

CDA?

Stands for Cave Divers Association of Australia. They're mostly male, but watch out boys for the twin sets and pearls. These cavers are generally afraid of the dark and dive with bright expensive torches. But to be the best is no longer about possessing the biggest, but the smallest. And so the fight goes on to be number one.

ISLAGIATT?

Stands for It Seemed Like a Good Idea At The Time. Generally good phrases to start telling your story, but remember to always blame it on your buddy.

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 •

INSTRUCTOR RENEWALS ARE DUE ON 31st DECEMBER 2002.
AVOID DELAYS IN PROCESSING YOUR REQUESTS FOR MATERIALS BY SENDING YOUR RENEWAL ASAP.

Instructor Renewals - PO Box 290 North Adelaide 2006

Deb Williams, Instructor Materials Officer - 0419 882 800

Email: debwilliams@bigpond.com

CDAA INSTRUCTOR SUMMARY AS at 19/9/02

NAME	CONTACT No.s	STATE	Cavern	Sinkhole	Cave	Email
A.C.T.						
APPS, HEIKE	BH 02 6249 9170 AH 02 6291 0566	ACT	Yes	Yes	No	heike.apps@ga.gov.au
N.S.W.						
GRILLS, PETER	Home 02 4950 6262 Mobile 0419 820 920	NSW.	Yes	Yes	Yes	peter_grills@hotmail.com
ROBERTSON, ANDREW	Home 02 9548 5987 Work 02 8868 8025 Mobile 0417 664 255	NSW.	Yes	Yes	No	buggs@tig.com.au
WALTERS, DESMOND	BH 02 6041 1405 AH 02 6025 3506	NSW.	Yes	Yes	Yes	descend@albury.net.au
SOUTH AUSTRALIA						
MARRIOTT, MAX	AH 08 84473360 Mobile 0428 897 897	S.A.	Yes	Yes	Yes	dive69@senet.com.au
YARRA, GEORGE	BH 08 8447 5771 Mobile: 0418 847 889	S.A.	Yes	Yes	No	gumbyg@adam.com.au
WEST AUSTRALIA						
BUSH, GARY	BH 08 9281 9460 AH 08 9367 4701	W.A.	Yes	Yes	Yes	gary.bush@bigpond.com
		STURGEON, Stephen		Home 08 9385 6893		
WA.	Yes BH 08 9385 6893 Mobile: 0418 940 143	Yes	Yes	steve@nitrox.com.au		
HANSON, JOHN	BH 08 8348 4289 AH 08 8269 1083	W.A.	Yes	Yes	No	
VICTORIA						
AXTON, PAUL	BH 9579 2600 Mobile 0419 346 442	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	lozhard@bigpond.com
BARCLAY, GARY	AH 03 5565 8793 Mobile 0407 052 074	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	garinda@tpgi.com.au
BOWMAN, JANE	BH 03 9579 2600 Mobile 0407 566 455	VIC.	Yes	Yes	No	info@aboccean.com.au
BUGG, STANLEY	BH 03 9379 5767 AH 03 9379 8791	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	sbugg@micromica.com.au

CDAA INSTRUCTOR SUMMARY AS at 19/9/02

NAME	CONTACT No.s	STATE	Cavern	Sinkhole	Cave	Email
VICTORIA cont.						
CLARIDGE, LINDA	Mobile 0409 234 851	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	garinda@tpgi.com.au
CORNELL, BRIAN	Home 03 5985 2514	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	cornell@alphalink.com.au
DALLA-ZUANNA, JOHN	Home 03 9434 1216 Work 03 9480 1316 Mobile 0407 887 060	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	jdz@smart.net.au
EDWARDS, CHRIS	BH 03 9528 444 AH 03 95983538	VIC.	Yes	Yes	No	cedwards@teksupport.net.au
HEARD, Barry	BH 03 5626 1338 AH (03) 5627 6474 Mobile 0419 401 276	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	bheard@dcsi.net.au
MCDONALD, WARRICK	Work 03 9640 0064 Mobile 0408 374 112	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	info@aboccean.com.au
MONACO, Ruebens	BH 03 5985 9365 AH 03 5985 4193	VIC.	Yes	Yes	No	info@divemelbourne.com.au
WEALTHY, ROBERT	Mobile 0417 524 005 Home 03 5985 8338	VIC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	wealthy@pac.com.au

RE: SHAFT - DID YOU KNOW...

Some divers are fronting up to dive this site without a harness, carabineer or even a sling. Whilst prior arrangements with the guide may allow for this to occur, please be aware that you may be charged for the hire of those items.

The guides will happily supply the A-Frame, ropes and pulleys but it is highly recommended that you own your own personal climbing equipment.

SHAFT DATES, 2002/03

The upcoming dates are...

Dec. 7/8 • Jan. 4/5 • Feb. 1/2

March 15/16 • April 5/6

For information on any Shaft or course dates contact
Linda Claridge on 03 5565 8793 or email garinda@tpgi.com.au

TANK CAVE

~ DATES FOR 2003 ~

	DATE		DATE
1	January 25-27 (Australia Day)	13	August 2-3
2	February 22-23	14	August 16-17
3	March 8-10 (Vic. Labour Day)	15	August 30-31
4	March 15-16	16	September 13-14
5	March 29-30	17	September 27-28
6	April 18-21 (Easter)	18	October 4-6 (SA/NSW Labour Day)
7	April 25-27 (Anzac day - Map W'end)	19	October 18-19
8	May 17-19 (Adelaide Cup)	20	November 1-2
9	June 7-9 (Queens B'day)	21	November 15-16
10	June 21-22	22	November 29-30
11	July 5-6	23	December 13-14
12	July 19-20 (Mapping Weekend)	24	December 26-28 (Christmas)

LOOKING FOR DIVERS FOR NZ DIVE TRIP

I'm looking for interested parties for a dive trip to New Zealand from February 21-28, 2003

Itinerary:

3 Days Live-aboard diving Mikhail Lermantov.
3 Days in Nelson at Riwaka Cave and PuPu Springs
Very Cheap Trip.

Have 3 starters, need another 3!

Please respond to gmorgan@didata.com.au or call 0419 812 431 if interested in the Liveaboard or Nelson Section.

Cheers, Gareth Morgan.

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RUNNING PART-TIME EVERY APRIL AND OCTOBER

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Phone 0402 339 652 or email gary.bush@bigpond.com

CAVERN/SINKHOLE COURSE, MOUNT GAMBIER.

MARCH 24 - APRIL 6, 2003

Contact Jane Bowman 03 9579 2600

CAVE COURSE, MOUNT GAMBIER.

MARCH 31 - APRIL 6, 2003

Contact Warrick McDonald 03 9579 2600, 0408 374 112

or email abocean@dingley.net

CAVERN/SINKHOLE COURSE, MOUNT GAMBIER.

DEC. 14 - DEC 17 inclusive • JAN. 17-20 inclusive

Contact Gary or Linda 03 5565 8793 or email garinda@tpgi.com.au

CAVE COURSE, MOUNT GAMBIER.

JAN. 25-27 inclusive • FEB. 22-24 inclusive

Contact Gary or Linda 03 5565 8793 or email garinda@tpgi.com.au

CDAА SITE ACCESS

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

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

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
Ewens Ponds	Nil	DEAH P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 (08) 8735 1177	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. for Environment & Heritage (DEAH) Smaller groups, no need.
Horse & Cart	CN	Peter Cunningham	By phone or mail, 1 week prior. Ph: (08) 8738 4003.
Tea Tree	CN	PO Box 2168, Mt Gambier 5290	
Little Blue	S	Port MacDonnell	Little Blue - permission not required - must carry card.
Allendale	C	Port MacDonnell	Obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Information Centre.
Gouldens	CN	DEAH	General Diving: Divers to contact DEAH and notify of date and site to be dived.
2 Sisters	CN	P.O. Box 1046	Divers must have the correct CDAА diving endorsement for the site and carry current financial CDAА membership card. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DENR before access is permitted. Contact by email at: moffatt.margaret@saugov.sa.gov.au
Fossil	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8735 1177	Training: The Instructor is to notify DEAH of the date the sites are needed and to forward signed indemnities from each student and their temporary card number/ membership number.
Ela Elap	S	Mr. Peter Norman	Visit the house before diving.
One Tree	S	Private Bag 67, Mt Gambier 5290	If no one home - no dive!
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	DEAH 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. Book also by email to: moffatt.margaret@saugov.sa.gov.au Faxed copies of cards no longer accepted when booking.
Hells Hole	S	ForestrySA	Contact ForestrySA by mail, phone, fax or email to arrange permit. Collect permit from Regional Office or Carter-Holt Harvey Mill gatehouse, Jubilee Hwy., Mount Gambier.
Pines	P/C	PO Box 162	No diving on total fire ban days. Hells Hole key from Lady Nelson.
Mud Hole	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8724 2876 8.00am - 4.30pm weekdays Fax: (03) 8724 2885	Forest Work Bans may be applied by ForestrySA 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 Karren Laudenschach, although signs are generally erected at diving sites on such days to indicate such bans. Permits required for compressors during fire danger season.
Email: forestrysa@saugov.sa.gov.au			
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: Gerret Springer, 30 Lorikeet Street, Mt Gambier SA 5290. Email: rolukage@ozemail.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	Generally open one weekend a month L. Claridge P.O. Box 290 North Adelaide 5006 Ph: (03) 5565 8793 A.H.	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. Email: garinda@tpgi.com.au

CDAА SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)			
Max s Hole	C		Currently 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 Lessee Ph: (08) 8723 2299	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. 2 divers must sign out keys, all divers must sign in advising which groups they are diving with. NOTE: Special conditions apply during March and April... See notice this issue. Please book public holiday dives with lessee.
Three Sisters	P	Millicent Council	Contact Records Officer. Access available for experienced Penetration divers only. Low profile or side mounted independent air systems required. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. Please allow 4 weeks for indemnities to be processed.
Idlebiddy (5L250)	P	ForestrySA PO Box 162	5L250 open every Saturday. 5L290 open every weekend. Max. 4 divers per dive per day, 1 dive per day for each site. Only Penetration divers.
Nettle-Bed (5L290)	P	Mt Gambier 5290	Bookings from Forestry Office - key from Lady Nelson. Contact ForestrySA by mail, email or fax to arrange permit. Collect permit from Regional Office or Carter-Holt Harvey Mill gatehouse, Jubilee Hwy., Mt. Gambier. No diving on total fire ban days. Forest Work Bans may be applied by ForestrySA 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 Forestry Ranger Karren Laudenschach or Forestry Office, although signs are generally erected at diving sites on such days to indicate such bans. Permits required for compressors during fire danger season. Email: forestry.recreation@saugov.sa.gov.au
McKay s Shaft	S		Contact South East representative Phil Argy at Mt. Gambier access and indemnities.
Tank Cave	P	Mr. DYCEP	Access Manager: Noel Dillon Email: noel.dillon@macquarie.com
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. Only open October to April.
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	S/C		Apply to Assistant Project Officer, South East Region Team, Land Administration Services, The Department of Land Administration. Phone (08) 9273 7215 Fax (08) 9273 7414 Email: kym_squires@dola.wa.gov.au
N.S.W. - WELLINGTON CAVES			
Limekiln (McCavity)	P/C		Both Penetration and Cave Level are being accepted for this cave depending on its 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, greg@cs.usyd.edu.au
Rum Jungle Lake	S		Unrestricted access currently exists — Please refer advice in Guidelines No. 68 or check CDAА website.
Burrinjuck	S/C/P		This is a tri rated site. Please see details in issue No. 73. There are no specific access arrangements.

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George Yarra — 0418 847 889 Email: gumbyg@adam.com.au

CDA A PRODUCTS ORDER FORM

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		Cave Diving - A Blueprint for Survival. A book by the world-renowned cave diver, the late <i>Sheek Exley</i> , this is a case study of a number of accidents that have occurred in the USA and how to avoid them.	\$15.00	
		Basic Underwater Cave Surveying. The standard publication for anyone remotely interested in research and survey techniques used in water filled caves.	\$30.00	
		CDAA Occasional Paper No. 2. From National Conference 1981. Includes topics such as Fossil Cave, Belay Techniques and Cocklebidydy 1979.	\$2.00	
		DAN Emergency Handbook. Revised 1995 edition by <i>Lippmann and Bugg</i> . 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 <i>Martyn Farr</i> . The history and development of cave diving.	\$75.00	
		An Introduction to Technical Diving. By <i>Rob Palmer</i> .	\$45.00	
		Deep Into Blue Holes. By <i>Rob Palmer</i> . 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	
		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	
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		Cave Practice & Equipment. Edited by David Judson British Cave Research Association. Updated 295 Page book fully illustrated with over 200 line drawings & 33 pages of dramatic photographs. Full chapter on cave diving by <i>Martyn Farr</i> .	\$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 <i>Tony Carlisle</i> . 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 . <i>A world record exploration into a desert cave.</i> 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 . <i>The ultimate cave diving adventure.</i> 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	
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MISC.		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.)	\$1.00	
		Tank Cave Poster. Full Colour 14 1/2" x 25" poster of Tank Cave by <i>Peter Rogers</i> . Price includes p&h.	\$8.00	

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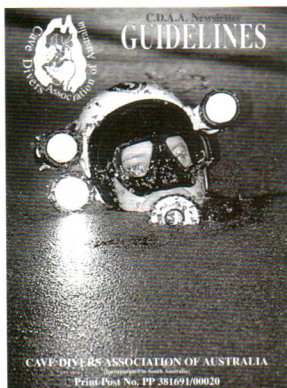
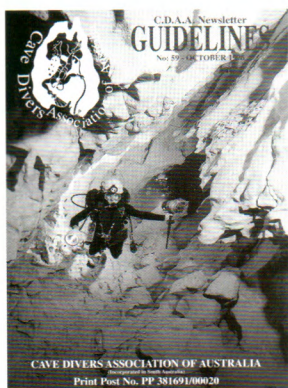
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"Guidelines" magazine is circulated to over 1200 members and retail outlets.

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