



**C.D.A.A. Newsletter**  
**No. 94 - DECEMBER 2005**



*Here's wishing all  
CDAA members  
and their families  
a happy Christmas and  
prosperous 2006...*

*and we hope your  
wish list comes  
true too!*

**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

(Incorporated in South Australia)

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Photo Neil Vincent

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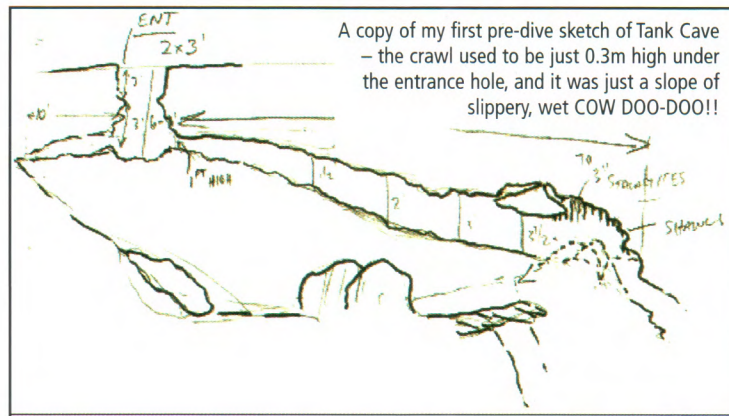
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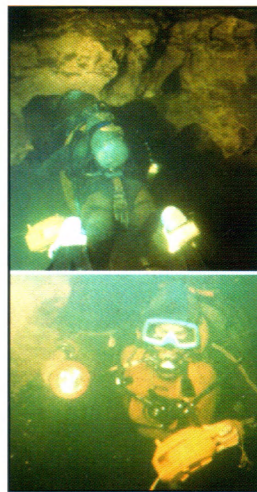
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# Peter Horne's Diving History... a Reflection! - See page 5.



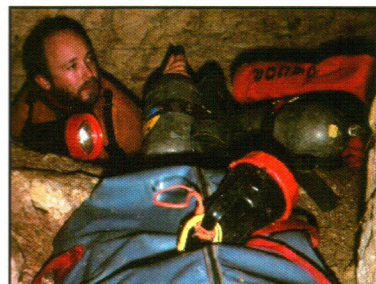
A copy of my first pre-dive sketch of Tank Cave – the crawl used to be just 0.3m high under the entrance hole, and it was just a slope of slippery, wet COW DOO-DOO!!



Right: photos taken by Peter Stace during our first exploratory dive; most of the known cave was flooded at that time. Home-modified plastic Kambrook cord reels were all the rage then!



Left: Surfacing next to my wire ladder and sand-shoes after checking out an unnamed rubbish-filled hole.

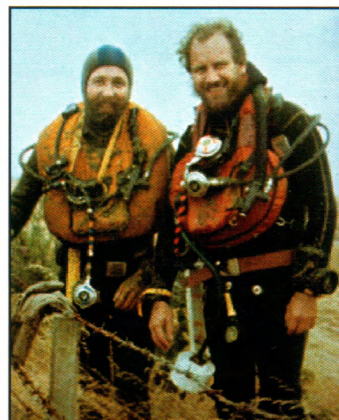


Left middle:  
The first dives in Sheathers Cave 5L144 in 1982.  
Shows me (with brown beard and HAIR then!) dragging gear in, including Pete Stace's small cylinders and my "hi-tech" Dacor UL700 torches and Scubapro horse-collar BCD (Mark Nielsen).



Bottom Left:  
One of the first survey dives in Engelbrechts Cave in 1982 (Mark Nielsen photos).

Right Top and bottom:  
Some explorations with Peter Stace in 1982:  
Top photo shows us covered in duckweed after checking 5L145 (note Pete's big home-made light dangling at near knee level and horse-collar vest taped up to minimize lift around the neck (photo by Barbara Stace); Bottom photo was taken when we assessed a pool in 5L78 (by Lee Dixon).



## A letter from Peter Horne...

Dear Terri and CDAA Directors

Thank you very much for your emails and calls regarding my Life Membership with the Association. It was a real surprise to be nominated for this honour in the first place, but I was really overwhelmed that so many members supported the nomination! It's very pleasing to know that so many members do appreciate some of the things that I've been able to do for the CDAA (and caving and cave diving generally) since 1979.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to express how appreciative I am of the successes achieved by the Association since 1973, because it was mainly through the CDAA's efforts that I and so many other fortunate members have been able to explore Mount Gambier's waterfilled caves and sinkholes at all. Most of our newer members would probably have very little idea about the severity of the emotional public and governmental outcry that followed the multiple-fatalities of the early 1970s, and even though I was a fellow ("Port Noarlunga") scuba-diver at that time I too shared the public's perception that diving in sinkholes was a suicidal and reckless "adrenaline-junkie" pastime (of course I later found that this wasn't true because I for one HATE adrenaline rushes ... like most of our members, I dive in caves because I actually love to dive in caves!).

It's been more than 20 years now since our last accident in 1984, and I have never forgotten the lessons learned as a result of the tragedies of 1969 to 1974 when 11 divers were killed in the early days of our sport. Actually it's rather ironic that it was through my researching those accidents along with other South Oz diving fatalities for a book in the late 1970s that I was introduced to Australian cave diving and the CDAA through meeting Peter Stace and Ian Lewis (who were doing similar research for their groundbreaking book, *Cave Diving in Australia*, at that time). It was mainly through talking with these two enthusiastic, very helpful fellows, with their "buoyant" personalities, their will-

ingness to take calculated risks while doing things as safely as possible and especially their stories of some of their amazing adventures (particular the Cocklebirdy expeditions with innovative underwater sleds) that I was set on the path to becoming a cave diver rather than remaining just a report-writer. My first freshwater dive was in Ewens in 1976 but my first "sinkhole" dive was in Gouldens (which apparently everyone wrongly called "Goolder's") with Mark Nielsen and Terry ("Batman") Reardon in 1979, and I still chuckle to myself when I recall the day I hopped down to have a quick look at Allendale Sinkhole's lake and thought "they are all bloody MAD!". But I was so impressed as I explored and better understood our flooded sinkholes that I borrowed a variety of housings and took my Super-8mm movie cameras with me so I could make a couple of general-interest amateur movies, including a 45-minute epic (with music pinched from the just-released "Star Wars" and "Star Trek-The Motion Picture") which Peter Stace very kindly narrated for me to promote cave diving and the CDAA in 1980-81, and a light-hearted comedy film which a lot of cave divers have seen, "Life In Earth", which deals with the activities of "feral" cave divers (narrated by "David Batinburrow" who discusses the weird Mount Gambier beastie I invented, "Homocavernous siltoutus"). I also enjoyed sharing various explorations with Peter Stace in the early 1980s, and one of our little discoveries, the then largely-flooded Sheathers Cave out near the airport, was a fairly significant discovery for that period (I've enclosed a few photos to better illustrate what we were doing in that period in the hope that you can find space for them somewhere in Guidelines). In the early 1980s I very much enjoyed working with Mark, who became my regular dive buddy and shared many early adventures (including our "memorable" Tank Cave breakthrough dive on 9 August 1983), and later Andrew "Grovel" Cox (the CDAA's Victorian Records Officer) joined me on many great trips of discovery as well. We investigated several new sites and worked in different ways to protect

caves as well as providing access for the Association, often against some formidable opposition (some landowners in fact only ever knew us as "Grovel" and "Puddles" which is of course what we both used to do together – grovel in puddles!) and Andrew and I also travelled to Florida at Christmas 1985 during which, through the generosity of our American cave diving comrades, we were able to see such fabulous places as DiePolders II and III, Hole-In-The-Wall and so on as well as even swimming with real "mermaids" at Weeki Wachee and waving at visitors from inside the "Living Seas" exhibit at EPCOT Centre! During the past few years I've been amazed at the quantum leaps in technology within technical-diving circles – the advent of DRY dry-suits, safe and efficient side-mount systems, mixed gases, relatively-reliable rebreathers and HID lights etc has opened up the world of cave diving in ways that I'm sure none of the "older" divers ever imagined would be possible – and I really hope that the CDAA will be able to successfully work through the many challenges that will present themselves in years to come.

In closing, I'd like to say that although I've had more than a fair share of unhappy experiences whilst serving in various capacities for the Association (you can never stay friends with everyone when people betray your trust or that of the landowners by breaking rules and so on), I have also had many great experiences and interactions with the membership over the past 25 years and I will always appreciate the efforts of those who have been willing to put their political differences aside to contribute to research projects.

Thanks again to everyone who supported my nomination; I am very proud to be an integral part of our unique Association which continues to play such an essential role in fostering "the development, advancement, promotion, mapping, education, conservation, safety and research of underwater caves and related features".

Safe and happy diving, Pete "Puddles" Horne.

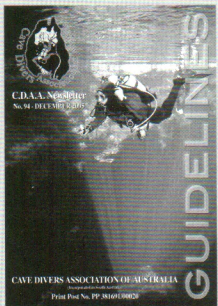


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# EDITOR'S CORNER

## Publications and Records Director Report.

*Hello welcome an issue of Guidelines with celebrations galore. Santa in the Shaft, Peter Horne as our latest life time member (woo hoo!), my first weekend in Tank, a proliferation of dive trailers, an exciting report from Vanuatu, successful sidemount workshops going on around the country and working groups happening. Thanks to those that elected me for another 2 years in office, I was really humbled by the result, and hope to continue to put in the energy in to the CDA A. I have got to know a number of people, usually by email, but also face to face and it is a really nice aspect of this position.*

*Congratulations to Warrick on his successful return to office after the incredible amount of work he has done for the association. At least he can shut up some yahoos who said he had never contested an election, well done and well deserved! Thanks to my partner Geoff for putting up with it all and for volunteering to be the returning officer and putting up with accusations of bias and the possibility of vote fiddling, don't you just love some people! The last year has also been incredibly hard from a director point of view and sometime we wonder why we do it, but I am hoping we can now move onwards and upwards. I am still hoping we can still work further on updating the new cav/sink course and the materials. Welcome back to Gary on the directorate who has been given a long list of site stuff, I look forward to working with you.*

*I wish to apologise to all members for the continuing problems we have had with the Topica run CDDA email list. One problem is, it is free and I guess you get what you paid for! I am investigating more reliable alternatives and the possibility of moving to message boards instead something I have been keen on for awhile and has been suggested by many other members.*

*We have had 2 new advertisers join our ranks, both accommodation places in Mt Gambier. One is Amble Inn with a cottage and a house and the other is Roses on Ehret owned by Thirza and Brian of Englebrecht's cave tours. Please support them both.*

*Look out for new products in the new year such as Tank cave t shirts and maps.*

*New plastic membership cards are now rolling out of Michael's new card printer. You the members have requested these so we spent the money on this new printing machine. Thanks to Neil Vincent for letting us use one of his wonderful photos for the cards. Have a great break over the holidays and hope to see some of you at Kilsby's Ela, Pines, Tank, Ewens, etc. Merry Christmas*



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## APOLOGY...

**We apologise for the mistake made in the last issue of Guidelines #93. The front cover shot was attributed to Chris Edwards (and put in as a thank you for his hard work scanning in all the Guidelines to pdf). The front cover was actually taken by Martin Farr the famous British Cave diver and instructor on his last visit out here. Our apologies were sent to Martin as soon as the mistake was picked up. Terri and David.**



# THE SARA KATA RESURGENCE

By Richard Harris # 1360

The resurgence of the Sarakata River, on the island of Espiritu Santo Vanuatu, has only been visited by 2 small groups; one in 1997 and one in 1999, and still contains huge potential for exploration and new discovery. Access remains tough.

At Easter 2005 another Adelaide cave diver John "Norbert" Currie flew over to help me with an initial push into the cave. Norbert and I drove our hired 4wd utility over an hour of dirt track to the start of a freshly cut walking trail where we met our local guide Roma, who with his 5 friends helped carry our dive gear the hour long trek through rough jungle terrain to the site. The walk in proved shorter but much tougher than I had expected. My hand held GPS showed just 830m as the crow flies, but it was much further than that on foot! The boys had cleared a great track through the otherwise impenetrable jungle. We divvied up the 6 tanks, 2 large rucksacks and small bags between the team and initially the going was pretty easy; modest inclines and not too slippery underfoot. After 20 minutes we reached the top of the gorge above the resurgence. The next 45 minutes was a nightmare of slipping and sliding down a very steep hillside, trying to prevent the aluminium cylinders becoming lethal projectiles as we made our poorly controlled decent. The temperature in the mid 30's and humidity close to 90 percent made for a healthy thirst by the time we reached the base of the gorge. I tried not to think about the return climb too much!

At the base of the gorge lay a flat basin. To the left a still pool of water perhaps 40m long by 15m wide extending up to a horseshoe shaped cliff, the site of the resurgence. The other end of the pool broke into a powerfully flowing stream way and disappeared down the gorge. To the right, a dry river bed which apparently fills with overflow from the pool when the rains are on. On the other side of the gorge, another cave entrance beckoned where plenty of small bats and swallows bustled around the front. That one will have to wait...we are here to dive! Hot, dirty and tired, we kitted up to begin our single dive to assess the site. We had decided to use 3, twelve litre aluminium tanks (all that could be carried to the waters edge) for the dive, staging one of the tanks on the way in.

We did not know if the previous groups had left line or if so, whether it would be in a state fit for use. All we knew was that the cave had been pushed over 1700m to a terminal breakdown room, with multiple side passages seen but not explored. If this expedition were successful, it would form the basis for a bigger push later in the year. John rigged his back mount doubles with the third tank as a sling; I chose to side mount the 12l cylinders. The water temperature at 22C felt icy in our 3mm steamers after the hot descent down the hillside. Maximum viz of 4m, and my video lights seemingly making it worse with the light reflected off the silt in the water. I should have abandoned the camera there and then but I remained hopeful that the water might be a little clearer further into the system. Not the gin clear Florida-like spring we were hoping for! We swam out to the base of the cliff where the water was gently welling up and after making a primary tie off on the cliff face, descended into the murky green darkness.

Down, down and still further down we touched a base of logs and gravel at 18m. The visibility in some ways was better without the ambient light diffusing through the water, but the video lights were still flaring badly. I made about 20 seconds of film watching John tie off to a large log, and then wisely abandoned the video at that point. Another 20 metres into the cave I would thank myself for that decision! I took the reel and headed forward along the left wall, with the flow into our faces gradually increasing. Initially I could not see the right wall but it gradually came into view as the flow increased with every fin stroke into the restriction. Soon I found myself looking for handholds and my exhalation bubbles were flying



Speleothems in the second chamber. The dry chambers contain draperies and shawls, calcite straws and massive flowstones.

straight back into John's face. We inched forward over the coarse river gravel, finding good hand holds in the finely scalloped wall. My breathing and work rate was dramatically increasing and I started to get the first nagging feeling that we were going to have to call the dive without having made any real progress. I had almost reached that decision when we found a small ridge of limestone sticking out at right angles from the left wall. I mentally named it "The Garage" and we parked ourselves in there for a moment until our breathing settled and we gathered ourselves for the next assault on the current. The noise of the water rumbling through the restriction added to the sense of drama! Reassuring each other that we were happy to continue, I motioned John to wait there whilst I checked if I could make any forward progress. Out of the lee of our little shelter, the flow seemed stronger than ever, threatening to tear my mask off and I became paranoid that my other regulators might be free flowing un-noticed. Hand over hand I managed to get another 10m along the wall but at any stage I risked losing my grip on the shallow handholds and crashing back down the passage. A quick check of my SPG at this stage confirmed I had breathed my stage tank down to the prearranged pressure but there was no way I could let go of the wall to unclip it, and even if I could have, there was nowhere to safely stage it. So I returned to the garage to regroup. I indicated to John that I had to stage my tank so we both tucked them out of the



The main pool of the resurgence. Lovely green colour today, viz around 4m max!

flow and secured them to the limestone. We agreed by hand signals that we would have one more go at the current and then call the dive if we couldn't make any progress. So for the last time I launched myself out into the current and this time without the added drag of the third tank, progress was significantly easier. Another 20m and the passage opened up again and the flow dropped considerably to the point where we could easily move forward with hand pulls and finning. The further we went, the easier it got.



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**John checks out the small pool at the other end of the flood run-off area.**

So now, despite the reduced visibility we really started to enjoy the dive. The passage was a constant 5-7m wide and around 5m high. The floor alternated between areas of clean limestone, silt drifts and coarse river gravel. No decorations adorned the ceiling but the walls had lovely scalloping in places. One section held a low flattener of about one metre high on the right side, dropping off a ledge on the left side to form a separate level. We chose the more spacious lower level and as we reached the end of the section, an orange line from a previous group appeared from the right! Kevin Green et al had obviously chosen the flattener! We tied off to the orange line that appeared in good condition, and progressed with better speed. Over the next 50-100m the orange line came and went and we made repairs where necessary.

Finally at a point about 100 metres into the cave, we were faced with a large T-junction, with orange line running in front of us along the T. The flow went from left to right across the T. We started briefly up the left tunnel at which point I reached the gas turn around point and called the dive. We had only scratched the surface of this awesome cave system!

On the way home the last 40m or so was somewhat akin to a toboggan ride and we could only sit back and enjoy the Sarakata express!

We shot out of the cave like 2 weary champagne corks to start the long decompression that we earned from nearly an hour at 30 metres depth. That 22 degree Celsius water now felt a whole lot colder and we shivered our way through the next hour and a half. With all pleasure there comes pain!

May 2005. Norbert was long gone, back in "civilization" in Australia, his holiday well and truly over. So I called on the services of my good mate Barry Holland in Santo to support me with the next dive

Roma and his trusty NiVanuatu friends came out in force to carry in the increasing volumes of dive gear for the second push, and to again cut the track through the jungle

which had grown back in the six short weeks since our last visit. On this occasion in order to increase the distance of my penetration into the cave, I had chosen to dive my KISS closed circuit rebreather, using air diluent and with two 12 litre air tanks as open circuit bailout. Barry would dive with four 12 litre cylinders of nitrox 36% giving him a maximum PO<sub>2</sub> of 1.41 in the deepest section of the cave. A cylinder of nitrox 60% would be staged at the cave entrance for decompression. The plan was for Barry and I to reach the large lake chamber (at approximately 580m), and then for me to push on as far as possible thereafter. This would leave considerable gas reserves in the lake chamber for us both on the return trip should a problem with the CCR occur. A survey of the cave would be performed on the way out.

The day of the dive dawned bright and sunny and the rain had fortunately held off for nearly a week, so expectations were high! On this day I was armed with a thicker wetsuit, gloves and hood as the memory of the chilly 80 minute decompression after the last dive was fresh in my mind. On arrival at the resurgence we were greeted by almost crystal clear water welling up from the cliff base, but the water level looked significantly higher than last time. After kitting up and catching our breath in the pool....disaster! I looked down in horror to see my rebreather mouthpiece open in the water. How had I done that?! The rebreather was flooded and useless, the sorb transformed to soup. After all the effort of flying up to Santo, the cost of the porters and the thought of that bloody hill, I could have cried. But all was not lost. Barry valiantly offered me his open circuit gear so I could continue my exploration of the cave, so half an hour later I was kitted up, cheered up, and ready to go.

I sank down through the entrance pool into the opening of the cave. My line from the previous dive lay twisted like a spider web around the logs at the entrance...no easy starts today. I battled my way up the left side wall to the "Garage" laying new line, getting a much better appreciation for the shape of the entrance this time. Then came my first attempt to move out into the main stream way, and things started to come unstuck. My right stage tank kept undoing itself at my hip D ring due to a faulty clip. The force of the water made it impossible to move forward...far harder than the last dive even allowing for the increased number of tanks on this occasion. Just then my main light failed and my other back gas reg started to vigorously free flow! My head was beginning to pound from rising CO<sub>2</sub> with the exertion. Enough! I could feel my stress levels rising and decided that today was just not my day. I beat a hasty retreat and spent a little time relaxing in the base of the pool to settle myself down. Cave one, Harry zero!!


I had plenty of time to reconsider my next assault, as I would not return to the cave for another 7 weeks. The use of CCR was clearly not going to be easy in the first stage of the cave given the work involved to pass the early

restriction. So we needed to come up with plan "B". I had my doubts that scooters would be able to battle through the current either. After many round table discussions we decided that we must visit the cave a couple of days before the expedition with a pony bottle and check the flow. I did just that in early July, and decided that the flow was fine, the viz was good and all was go. On the day of the expedition the porters failed to appear and the dive was cancelled! Will I ever get to the back of this system? August 2005. This is it. Five days set aside to tackle the cave towards the latter part of the dry season. Barry Holland, Sean Pittaway and I planned another assault on the cave and only cyclone or flooding would stop us! After the usual slog down to the site we were greeted with low water levels and good viz - perfect conditions. Barry donned a single tank and swam down into the restriction at 26m, armed with 2 lengths of heavy nylon rope to tie off inside. Meanwhile Sean and I donned our gear and readied ourselves for his return. Barry reappeared and gave us the thumbs up, all go! So we started the dive, me on my CCR and Sean with 5 open circuit tanks of nitrox, plus a deco mix staged at the entrance. We flew in the light current and good viz along my old line to the T-junction where Norbert and I had turned earlier in the year. Turning left along Kevin Green's orange line, we pushed into the cave along new territory for both of us. For the most part the passage was large, maybe 8m across and 2-5m in height with a maximum depth of 30m. In sections



**John Curries takes "a moment" after the walk in, before gearing up for the dive.**

the roof flattened down to 1.5m, in other areas the ceiling vanished into massive fissures, which disappeared out of sight, possibly terminating in cave lakes. Around 250m from the entrance, we entered an area of magnificent honeycombed limestone with numerous alternate routes open to us. An exquisite square window on the right wall begged to be investigated to see what lay beyond, but we had no time to stop and smell the roses! We pushed on along the line into the light but tiring flow. On several more occasions the tunnel forked offering an opportunity



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**Barry Holland in the first chamber at 585m. "Unity Shell", named after the Shell station near Aquamarine. We seemed to be constantly repairing dive gear in here!**

for original exploration but we stuck to the plan and pushed along the old line. In many sections the line was broken, hanging in the breeze waiting to trap the unwary. This slowed our progress significantly as we stopped to tidy the line and make the necessary repairs. At 63 minutes into the dive, and 450m into the tunnel, I spotted a small shimmering lake above us. We cautiously rose into a small

air bell about 5m in diameter. High fives and a chance to catch our breath in what we assumed was the "small" chamber described by the previous group. We sank back down into the water and pushed on into the current, laying new line at this point as the old one was missing. 50m later we rose again into a pretty chamber, roughly L shaped and around 80m long. One end seemed to be a blind passage; the other was shallow with high flow that made walking in all our gear difficult. We found a spot in the lee of a boulder to sit down in waist deep water and took a moment to take stock, eat some much-needed chocolate and consider our situation. At this point we believed we were in the "big" chamber. Beyond here lay at least 500m of submerged cave passage. Sean had just started the last of his "thirds", so probably had about 20 minutes of gas depending on depth before we needed to turn. We decided to stage one of my bailout cylinders at this point and turn for home, rightly figuring that the trip home would be very fast going with the current and without the need to lay line. Even with some surveying and photography on the homeward push the going was nice and easy. On arrival back at the T-junction I decided to briefly explore the other leg of the "T". So Sean turned for home and followed the line out. I moved down current and continued on. The old line stopped soon after and so I lay new line as I went. Several forks appeared in the steadily narrowing passage, which gradually curved to the right. I ended up at a low flattener better suited to side

mount diving and decided to call it quits and turn the dive. Just as I had made the decision I suddenly saw Sean's light on the other side of the restriction!! My immediate concern was that Sean had become lost, had turned and followed me in and had taken another fork to end up on the other side of this narrow flattener. He seemed equally surprised to see me! Whilst sitting there thinking how best to manage this potentially dangerous situation, I caught a brief glimpse of a blue rope next to Sean's shoulder...the nylon rope Barry had laid in the entrance! I had come full circle and was re-entering the entrance tunnel! I decided to test the restriction rather than retrace my steps, worrying that if I turned tail, Sean might worry about me and try and follow. Sean saw me start to winkle through and came forward to push the back of my CCR down to get me through. Once through, I moved away from him into the main passage to give him a bit of space to turn around. He stayed in there, seemingly reluctant to move. He told me afterwards he had something caught up on the limestone and couldn't move! Once out of the water we exchanged our very different versions of the same story. Sean had followed the line home as planned but had ended up on a broken piece of line that led straight into a line trap. He retraced his steps, found the correct line and was happily on his way out when he saw the unexpected sight of my light on his left, me apparently "trapped" on the wrong side of a restriction. Oh for reliable underwater communications!

Day 2. Sean had a "rest" day pottering around on the Coolidge whilst Barry and I pushed the cave. Same basic plan as the day before except Barry armed with 6 bottles of gas including the one staged in the cave. Also, no new line to lay in the first long section so we should make good progress. Instead of 63 minutes to the dry chamber, we made it in 46, well ahead of schedule and plenty of gas to spare. More chocolate and a brief rest, and we prepared for what we thought would be the next big push. I tied off my line and we submerged into the pool at the end of the cave. 10m later on, we emerged straight into another chamber - the true "big" chamber! Laughing aloud after being mentally prepared for a long dive, the 15 second dive we had just done seemed fairly amusing. The big chamber was simply stunning. Calcite straws glittered like jewels on the ceiling. Larger shawls and draperies decorated the ceiling in various places. The chamber ran in a serpentine fashion for 200m 5-10m wide and the same in height for most of its length. Just 30m along, a vast domed chamber arose on the left hand side, the glistening decorations on the ceiling reminding me of the Planetarium. Swimming along the surface of the lake was exhausting in the strong flow. Towards the end of the chamber, large fallen boulders obstructed the passage, with rapids flowing around them. By the time we had battled our way to the end we were exhausted and had to rest for 15 minutes to catch our breath. We prepared again for the long push and started to swim.



**Just a little bit of equipment that we hand-carried in to the jungle.**

The character of the cave changed constantly with many different styles of limestone. Smaller tunnels were the rule, plenty of forks and junctions but still the main tunnel continued in a northwesterly direction. Finally at around 300m past the chamber, Barry signaled he had reached his gas turn around and we headed out of the cave. An uneventful and swift trip out brought us back to the surface at 4 hours total time. The scrubber on the KISS had performed perfectly for over 3 hours and we were only moderately chilled in the 21-degree water.

Day 3. A rest day to allow my aching bones to recover, fill tanks and plan our 3rd and final day's diving in the cave. The big question was whether to try and push to the known end of the cave at 1700m and beyond...a big challenge without scooters, or to explore some virgin passage to the sides. I had also not surveyed the passage beyond the big chamber (too tired!). Kevin Green was to be my dive buddy, one of only 3 people to have previously been beyond the large dry chamber. We decided to go for the end of the tunnel, pushing out the gas rules in the knowledge that the way home was taking around half the time of the way in. Armed with my CCR and 9, twelve litre cylinders between us, we started our long swim into the current. Smooth sailing until the first dry chamber. As I surfaced and pulled the DSV out of my mouth, the open circuit regulator came away in my hand! A very small amount of water entered the loop as I swam over to a rock clutching a handful of screws and parts! 20 minutes later we were back underway thanks to a couple of cable ties and the tip of a knife as a screwdriver! Thanks Gordon Smith for making the KISS such a simple and functional device. The swim through the 2 dry chambers was hard work with all the extra cylinders but we celebrated it with a sit down and a chocolate bar, taking a moment to admire the stunning high ceilings covered in spectacular speleothems.

The passage that Barry and I had swum 2 days earlier passed quickly and then I was in new territory once again. Still Kev's old line stretched tantalisingly into the distance.

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**Harry on the KISS CCR with bailout.**  
Photo Sean Pittaway.

The cave continued to branch and narrow taking us through narrow oblique fissures (requiring me to perform a weird sideways Spiderman impersonation) and then finally a series of high silt mounds and three flat restrictions which took a lot of skin off the back of the rebreather and necessitated the removal of sling tanks to pass. Finally I reached a restriction that I simply could not pass with this gear configuration, and the old line sat just in front of my nose wrapped around a rock in a final tie off. The end of the known cave! We had made it with gas

to spare and without the use of scooters. 3 years of dreaming had come to an end and I felt a huge sense of relief.

But no time to relax yet, with 1.7km of cave behind me yet to negotiate including 3 tight restrictions in viz that was going to be at best questionable. Ummm....zero would be a better term as it turned out and suffice to say the next 30mins required significant mental effort on my part to stay cool whilst I felt my way out of the cave. Kevin Green never looked so lovely when I finally saw his (worried) face again! After the restrictions we zoomed out with the flow, immensely enjoying the view on the way. We noted the location of a major side passage to the left, 60-80 metres from the end of the cave. Methinks the Sarakata has more to offer yet! I might manage a couple of days in October....

That night I managed about 3 beers at the dive shop before collapsing into bed, tired but happy. Success for me in a quest like this only happened because of a big team effort; Our generous sponsors Aquamarine Dive and Dive Rite, my buddies John Currie, Barry Holland Sean Pittaway and Kev Green, the cave divers (Craig Challen, Steve Sturgeon and Kevin Green) who previously have reached the end of the cave and laid all that line, Brian Farrell and Andy Larsen for their midnight vigils in the compressor shed, and finally the kastom owners of the beautiful Sarakata River. Thank you one and all.

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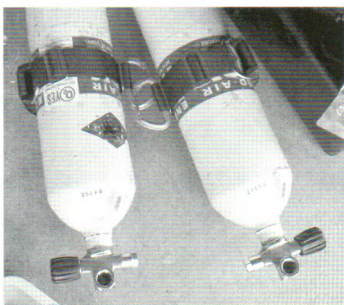
# The Side Mount Workshop & Beyond

By Adrian Richards • Photos by Tania Yarra and Harvey Grantham

**Sunday September 18th saw another in the CDAA's series of side mount workshops held successfully, this time in Adelaide. It was an enjoyable and productive day where many members got to work through some configuration issues, try out some different gear, exchange ideas, enjoy a BBQ lunch and generally catch up and have a chat.**



The wide-ranging discussions amongst the people attending got me thinking about the whole concept of side mounting, where it began from my perspective, the pros and cons and why I have stuck with it as my principal gear configuration for almost 13 years now. I clearly remember, that long ago, watching one of the then popular "emergency response" type of shows imported from the US entitled "Rescue 911". This particular episode featured an open water instructor taking some divers into a freshwater spring that featured some cave passage and of course they were tempted to take a "quick look" into the alluring passages. The inevitable occurred and when the instructor returned to the surface minus all of her students she could see a multiple fatality scenario unfolding. By chance an experienced Floridian cave diver, Woody Jasper, happened to be picnicking at the same park and he mounted an impromptu rescue operation. As he was gearing up he slipped into some sort of harness arrangement, subsequently attached his twin tanks to each side of his waist and into the water he went. I recall replaying this scene many times over trying to work out exactly what this configuration consisted of



and pondering as to why he may be using it. This was subsequently the topic of much discussion amongst my cave diving friends, unknowingly the seed had been well and truly planted in my mind. Fast-forward to September 18th 2005 and many people were inquisitive once again in very much the same manner. Side mount diving has increased in popularity over the years particularly driven by sites such as Tank Cave, but it is still far from mainstream. Those of us that do it regularly are still quite often seen as a bit of a curiosity by others at sites like Pines and Little Blue. I believe that side-mount diving has been adopted by some of us as a philosophy rather than a simple gear configuration that may see occasional application in special circumstances. I personally am a strong believer in maintaining consistent gear configuration as in a moment of high stress this is the way to know exactly where each and every hose, clip and piece of webbing lie. (A little DIR mind-set sneaking in here!!) Swapping configurations from one dive to another needs good justification in my mind, something that I have not been able to do. There is no doubt that diving in low horizontal flatteners is the true domain of the side

mount configuration, there are many places where back mount configurations simply cannot go. However diving in areas where side mounting is not actually necessary does not suffer by sticking with the configuration. It is streamlined, comfortable, well balanced and provides easy visual access to all valves and hoses. The one criticism that can be leveled is that there is a little more fussing around whilst gearing up, it is not simply a matter of slipping into the wings/harness/tank configuration that has all hoses and regulators nicely clipped into place. However this, along with how to manage multiple stage tanks (more on this later) are small prices to pay for the above mentioned advantages.

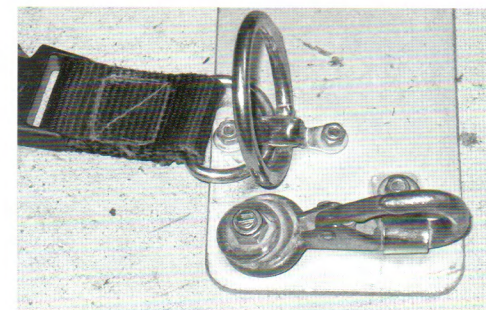
During the workshop we shared many ideas on configuration. What style of harness, what brand of wings or vest, how to best attach cylinders, home made or off-the-shelf etc etc. . . . . they were all there. There were some very common issues throughout however, regardless of the form of the final result, they inevitably comprised some fairly simple variations on the same theme. Essentially the things that need to be specifically addressed in any configuration are:

- A harness or support on which the tanks can hang at waist level.
- A Buoyancy device of some description
- A means of restraining the tank neck/valves.
- Regulator and hose configurations

## Looking at these in turn...

### The Harness.

These tend to be specifically dedicated to the task. The top end comprises the elegant and impressive Dive-Rite Transpac configuration (Figure 1). This is dedicated, highly refined and very effective. However there are variations on this theme that are also work well right through to the utilisation of the harness built into older style buoyancy jackets. Just as the harnesses vary so does the means of attaching the tanks. Some style of support or mounting plate needs to be included, that includes either clips (Figure 2) to attach to D rings on the tank (Figure 3) or vice versa with carabiners on the tanks (Figure 4) and d rings on the harness plates (Figure 5 - Note that this also shows the thick bungy cord used for valve restraint and the thin cord used for wing



restraint). Both systems have their merit and have withstood the test of time. This mounting arrangement is suggestive of a line trap just waiting to happen, but history suggests that it does not raise its head as an issue, nowhere near as much as the use of split fins in my experience!

### Buoyancy Device

Again plenty of variations exist on this theme that must suit the situation in hand. High lift capacity wings through to almost no lift capacity vests and everything in between. The workshop saw a totally home

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made set of wings, (right down to the internal bladder) that was very impressive and perfectly suited to the task. (Figure 6) Methods of restraining wings that no longer have the tanks to form around when inflated is an issue, but again many ways are available to tackle this. Bungy cord to keep them under control or securing their extremities under harnesses seem to work well. Normal open water style vests can also be successful. The lift capacity required again depends upon the circumstances, suit configuration etc with some people reporting the need for substantial amounts of lift when doing double stage dives with steel tanks. Others tend to not use the vest for lift at all, primarily using their dry suit for buoyancy adjustment. A configuration that allows simple changeover from side mount to back mount for ocean diving is also a possible consideration, not everyone chooses to invest on multiple sets of gear, one for every occasion!

#### Valve restraint.

The task in hand here is to provide some restraint for the tank neck/valve assembly so that the overall tank remains under control and stable. We saw a range of answers from bicycle inner tubes secured on backplates and passing under each arm, to short lengths of bungy cord attached to straps that passed around the back or through other tortuous paths. Common points here were the need to have the "loose" end of this restraint secured in some manner so that the diver can actually find it whilst donning gear. It all too easily gets trapped under a harness strap at the most inconvenient and difficult time. The way that this is looped over the valves can be an issue, with the need to ensure that undue stress is not placed upon hoses. The ultimate was witnessed, the utilisation of a set of manifold valves, "demanifolded" of course, so that one is presented with left and right sided tank valves ideally configured for placing the restraint loops over... very nice indeed (Figure 7).

#### Regulator configuration.

One of the main issues here is the length of contents gauge hoses. Ending up with the gauge in a readily accessible location is the aim. Standard length hoses need to be bundled and protected appropriately. Short hoses (e.g. 100mm) need to attach to an appropriate first stage port so that they end up somewhere sensible. Long (e.g. 1.5m plus) low pressure second stage hoses were also the topic of some discussion and in-water experimenting on the day demonstrated their worth. This long hose is either bundled on the tank, under rubber inner tube bands, or managed using a wrap around the neck type of configuration.

The use of stage tanks is somewhat of a vexing issue and there is general agreement that it is not a side-mount strongpoint. The primary tanks are already occupying the spot that is the home of stage tanks for back mount divers. The secrets revealed on the day that ensures stage tank success are:

Good choice of mounting points. One high up on the shoulder and the other at waist level, as far back around the hip as is possible seems to be a good start. This allows the stage tank to hang below the side mounted tank. Minimising the slack between the tank and the waist level mounting is essential to prevent the bottom of the tank hanging too low. Configured poorly a negatively buoyant stage tank can hang down in front of the body on an angle as great as 45 degrees, not a good look at all. There are variations on this theme that have the stage tank mount point behind or above the side mounted tank is an attempt to prevent it hanging low.

Selecting the correct tank. Tanks that are very negative when full are

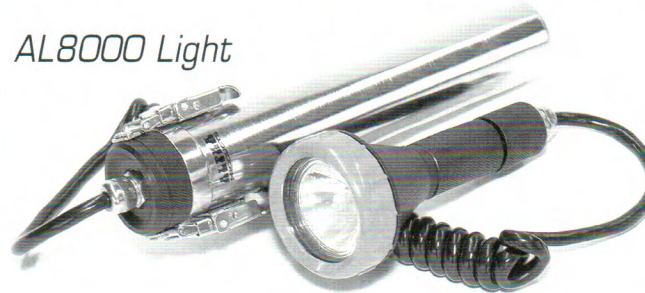


prone to hang down as described above no matter how good the lower attachment. Short tanks therefore tend to perform better in this regard. 80 cf aluminum tanks seem to provide a good compromise between capacity, length and buoyancy characteristics. However once again people use almost every size tank that has ever been made, sticking with the above outlined attachment principals being the clue. Amongst all of this one thing was pretty clear, Dive Rite and its founder Lamar Hires, have had a significant influence on side mount diving configurations adopted here in this country. It is safe to say that most configurations are a variation on a system promoted or sold by Lamar or his company at some point in time. There are other ways of doing it, sump or some exploration divers for example use a system that looks pretty "sloppy" by our standards but is well set up for frequent removal/replacement and is tailored to that style of diving. However here in Australia, (well South Australia at least!) the people that have adopted the side mount diving philosophy are generally doing it using no too many variations on some well proven principals. This workshop served us well in sharing ideas and undertaking that bit of fine tuning that often makes the difference between a dive being a pleasure or a pain.

**TURN TO PAGE 27 FOR INFO  
ON A NSW SIDEMOUNTS  
WORKSHOP FOR JAN 8th 2006**

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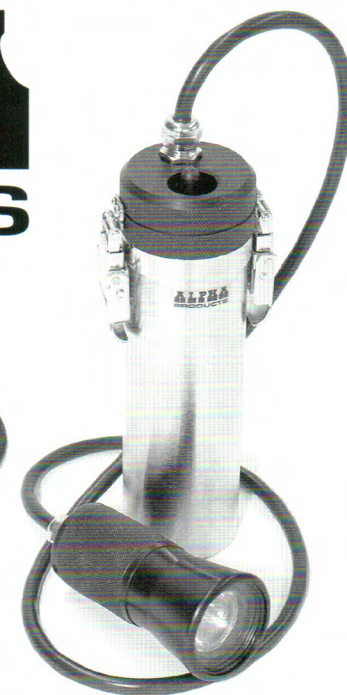
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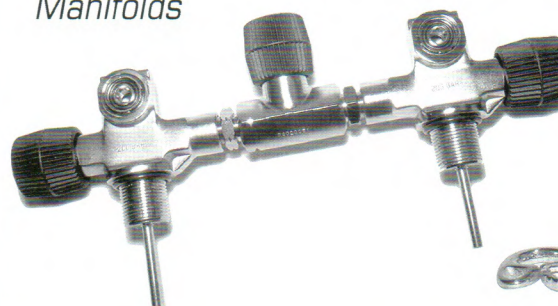
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# NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

December 2005

Elections are over and we now have a new Site Director, Gary Barclay. I would like to thank Rob Brennan for the many years he has put into the Association. Rob's dedication to the job is well known by those who worked with him and his loyalty to the Association is without question. Terri Allen was returned as Publications and Records Director for another term and it is easy to see why she achieved such overwhelming support. Once again I am back in the saddle and with the support of the other Directors we hope to achieve even more for the Association this coming term.

Other changes have occurred in our State representatives. After many years of service to the Association Andrew Robertson has retired and Mark Jobbins has now been appointed to replace him. Darren Walters served as South-East Representative when he took over from Phil Argy but has now been replaced by Grant Pearce. Thanks go to these loyal volunteers who work for the members, because without them we would be the poorer.

The Mapping and Research area which has remained quiet apart from the One Tree mapping project and the continuing Tank Cave project has a new leader now. Stuart McGregor has been appointed to co-ordinate these projects and other new endeavours so that we keep up with changes and the call for information.

Recent events have drawn attention to our Constitution. The Constitution should be sacrosanct, basically set in concrete and the Regulations the "rules" are how to use the Constitution. Past examples of changes have seen a change one year and then a complete contradiction the next. The recent example of Constitution changes, found our Constitution lacking in explanation and the Regulations which are used to explain how we should interpret things in the Constitution also lacked an explanation. It was pointed out that our Constitution did not clearly state how many members were required to vote for a change, should eg. Say 20 members decide what the rules will be, maybe less? Once asked the Directors are bound to seek a ruling so we read the SA Governments site for a clearer understanding of what we should do. Even after wading through the web site we weren't convinced so a request was sent to the Office for a ruling. Discussion now centred on how many would be needed to vote to make a change and what percentages of the voters were needed to vote for the change. An Officer contacted us and stated that when an Associations rules weren't clear the Associations Act came into play (this could also happen if the Associations Constitution was illegal) his understanding was that if we had for example 800 members then 401 would need to vote

for the amendments to be counted and then a majority of those would need to vote for the change for it to go through. As much as members who hold positions try to follow the Constitution and Regulations, occasionally mistakes are made and it is not only up to the Directors to make sure that rules are followed but it is also the responsibility of the members. How much easier it would be to simply follow our previous practice of allowing a minority of members to decide what the majority wanted. But just because it is easier and it's "...what we have always done" does that make it right. I believe we were elected to represent the members and to do it fairly, honestly and with the best intentions. While I am in office I will always follow the rules to the best of my ability, I make no apologies. Right or wrong, it is done and now we have established a committee to oversee the Constitution and Regulations, hopefully saving us all from this situation in future. This committee will report to the Directors on changes or additions that they feel are warranted in consultation with the SA Associations Act. Eventually we hope that the committee will be able to accept proposals from members, help word them so that they are current with our standing documentation, advise on better ways/words/English etc, advise if there are contradictions or clashes with current items and finally to present after consultation with the proposer the change to the Directors for voting procedures. The process has started it will become challenge to see it through.

The email list has turned into "... nothing more than a place where stirrers can fling mud!" Stated a member, to me recently. It is a shame when I hear this said because the site was to be used for communication so that members could get quick answers to their queries. Instead we see it being used by those with agendas that could be construed as against what the membership want or desire. The amount of members that tell me they have "switched off" is a worry but soon we will be changing the format and asking some new, less political faces to help. Although sucked in to play their games many times before, I will no longer reply to questions I consider against the best interests of the CDAA. My replies to legitimate questions will be given in Guidelines or on the web site, once it is re-established, unless of a general nature.

The next two years will be full of challenges and we hope that we can meet our goals so that better access, more sites and more opportunities are opened for members.

Regards, Warrick McDonald.



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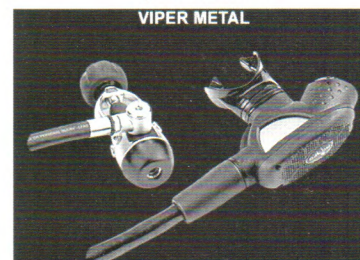


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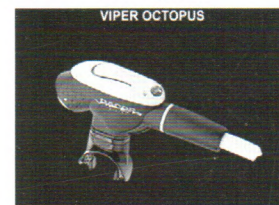
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# 'Standards Direction'



## Standards Director Annual Report

I would like to thank you all for your valued contribution and support.

In the year gone by I have gained an appreciated understanding in my role and the roles of the past, current and future directorate. I would like to applaud and personally thank all for their hard work, in our continuous enjoyment of the sport we all love.

In summary a scope on standards...

### Courses

An instructor meeting was held in Melbourne during September with the greater majority of instructors and directors attending. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss and resolve issues from the proposed and current CavSink courses. The course was broken down and worked through, each point of difference was discussed with people having the opportunity to present viewpoints, it was agreed that the majority conformity would stand. The proposed changes were recorded and distributed to all instructors, currently awaiting conformation in step forward.

In overseeing the continuation and development of course updates, I raised a suggestion for an appointment of a training manager to work with the standards director and instructor body to advance standards and training related issues. The position will give ongoing continuity to the large amount of in place improvement of our training programs.

Our web guys are looking into implementing an instructor forum on the web page to facilitate discussions and a means for all instructors to stay current on developments or proposed changes.

### Workshops

The months of August and September saw side mount workshops conducted in Melbourne and Adelaide by all reports both were a success and a social meet. The workshop in Adelaide was well attended with both new and long time members, some of the objectives were to compare set ups and differing techniques. After a fantastic BBQ lunch, mini presentations were given by members showing their set ups and explanation on how and why, then it was time to hit the water.

In water objectives were; carrying a stage above & below, gas sharing, stowing and deploying long hose and donating a cylinder. The skills were assisted by the use of an underwater video camera with footage taken.

The footage was then also used to compliment the recent penetration program in the use of side mounts.

Thanks again to all who committed their personal time in the success of these workshops, and a thank you to all who attended simply "to have fun".

Safe diving

**George Yarra, Standards Director**

## GUIDELINES DEADLINES

*If you would like to contribute to Guidelines in 2005, you should note the following deadlines for submission of materials:*

### Deadlines for publication:

**20th February for March 2006 • 20th May for June 2006**

# DIVETEK

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## EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

### National Director:

**Warrick McDonald**

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03 9579 2600 [w], 0408 374 112 [h],  
CDAA Penetration Diver  
CDAA Penetration Instructor,  
Oxygen provider, PADI Course Director

### Business Director: Heike Apps

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02 6291 0566 [h] 02 6249 9170 [w],  
0407 230 108 [mob]  
Penetration Diver, CDAA Cave Instructor,  
Oxygen provider, SSI DCSI

### Standards Director: George Yarra

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CDAA Penetration Diver  
CDAA Cave instructor, Oxygen provider

### Site Director: Gary Barclay

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CDAA Penetration Diver  
CDAA Penetration instructor, Oxygen provide

### Regional Representative SA:

**Darren Walters**

P.O.Box 9286, Mount Gambier West, 5291  
08 8725 8777 [w], 0480 845 511 [mob]  
CDAA Penetration Diver

### Regional Representative NSW:

**Andrew Robertson**

9 Nambour Pl, Engadine, NSW, 2233  
02 9548 59 87 [h] 02 9643 8000 [w]  
0417 747 632 [mob]  
CDAA Penetration Diver

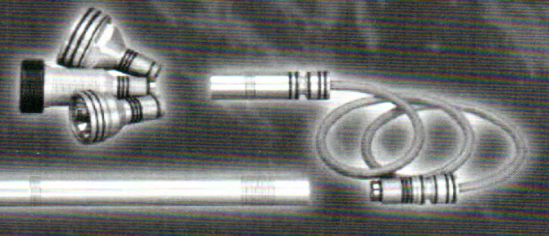
### Manager - Mapping & Research:

**Stuart McGregor**

20 Rata Place Sutherland NSW  
(02) 9544 8041 [h] 0438 329 942 [mob]  
CDAA Penetration Diver

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# DIVETEK

TECHNICAL DIVING GAS ANALYSIS EQUIPMENT





# SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This is my first Directors report since taking over from Rob Brennan. Rob has done a great job in his time as Site Director and I thank him for the time and effort that he has put into the job. I am still in the process of collating information to ascertain just where my job takes off from this point, but already I have a few projects that need completion.

If anyone has any suggestion, requests or idea that they would like me or others to take up with regards to Site Access please feel free to contact me.

In the new year there shall be a working bee to install some more of the 'kitting-up' tables at various dive sites. I will be looking for assistance with this and if you would like to be involved then please email me or call me to let me know. I will advertise the dates shortly.

I am hoping to include some more comprehensive access information in the Cavern/Sinkhole student packs. On that subject PLEASE, PLEASE take care when accessing sites that all care is taken to ensure the area is left entirely as you found it. This has come about by a gate inadvertently left open on the east side of Engelbrechts and as a result there has been an increase in graffiti in the site. It is easy to miss some small things like a catch not in the right place. Please check and double check that all locks are secured in the locked position.

There is now a time slot for Engelbrechts - from 8am to 8pm daily. This is to try and reduce the noise in the street for the local residents. Please stay within these times. Lady Nelson will also be reminding divers of these times when they book into the site.

There is now a new Permit pick up point for all Forestry SA permits. You will NOT be able to pick them up at the gatehouse as in the past, but rather will be able to access your permit 24/7 from a drawer at the front door of the Forestry SA office (the white building on your right just before the gatehouse). Thanks Trevor for sorting this out - your continued support makes life easier.

Kilsby's is going well but we are still getting a few last minute drop outs which keep others from getting into this great dive. If you have to cancel at the last minute please contact the site access person ASAP to let him know. He can then remove you from the list and contact the wait listed people to let them know there is now a vacancy.

I would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year - it should be a busy one.

Happy Diving,  
Gary Barclay

## BELLUM HOTEL

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*And if you don't know where the Bellum Hotel is,  
it's that pub on the road to Port McDonnell  
just next to the turn off to Little Blue!*

# TRAGEDY IN NETTLE BED CAVE

By Graeme Bartle-Smith, CDAA 237

Working your way up through the competency levels of the CDAA is an exciting progression. Each level gives you the opportunity to explore new and more challenging domains of cave diving.

Reaching the level of Penetration Diver just recently opened some extraordinary sites for me as I edge ever closer to the pinnacle of The Tank.

One aspect of penetration diving I find exhilarating is that the sites tend to be closer to "pristine" than simpler sites. Take, for example, Iddlebidy. The geological formations are so fragile that the lightest touch would leave a print indelibly etched into the silt floor or soft walls and roof. Penetration Divers have developed the skills to be able to explore these sites without so much as the slightest touch and Iddlebidy remains exactly as it has been for countless centuries, even millennia, even divers.

I recently dived in Nettle Bed Cave with its two large linked caverns. My joy was in drifting through the first cavern where the only indication of human visit is a carefully placed fixed line and a few bump marks on the walls. The fixed line allows subsequent divers avoid damaging the site with their own lines. Hanging

motionless in the void, eyes soft focused, I tried to imagine just how long this place might have been exactly as it is right now - like contemplating the vastness of space, really.

Drifting down through the passage to the lower cavern, I continued my dreamtime bliss, until there, stark, huge, unbelievable, was tragic evidence of the previous presence of human imbeciles.

In perhaps thousands of years, one, and only one group of divers had entered this space and desecrated the fine black silt that overlies a paler limestone mud, making their huge initials stand out prominently. This group has destroyed the bliss for all future visitors. Not only did they scrawl their initials and a naughts and crosses hash, but they left their fin prints in the silt and numerous scuffmarks on the wall around some boulders. And this was not done ages ago. I've spoken to divers who dived Nettle Bed 18 months ago and others who were there earlier this year. These initials were not there then.

I'm shattered, I'm staggered that people with such high qualifications and experience would flaunt cave etiquette and wreck the sites for every one - for ever.

## Sidemount Workshop for NSW

Due to popular demand, we are organizing a NSW & ACT Side-mount Workshop, BBQ and State Meeting on Sunday January 8th 2006, 10am - 2pm.

It will be held at Frog Dive Willoughby, 539 Willoughby Road, Willoughby  
[www.frogdive.com.au/](http://www.frogdive.com.au/) for location details) which is central(ish) for most people, apologies for people that are planning to travel from the ACT and Coffs.

It should be a great session as we have some really special guests that include:

- Greg Ryan - CDAA Cave Diver, NSW Cave Specialist, Wellington Caves expert
- Neil Vincent - CDAA Penetration diver, International Photographer, Wellington Caves expert
- Peter Grills - CDAA Penetration Instructor
- Stuart McGregor - CDAA Mapping & Research Manager
- Tony Davis - CDAA Penetration Diver, Australian Dive Rite Representative

Contact Mark Jobbins for more details and to book a place on [nswrep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:nswrep@cavedivers.com.au)  
<mailto:nswrep@cavedivers.com.au> or 0411 191 590



## BUSINESS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Business is still running along smoothly. The AGM had a larger attendance than in the last few years - with 27 members present. You will find the minutes from the AGM on the CDAA web site. If you do not have access to the site, and would like a copy, please contact me and I can post or email the minutes to you.*

*The financial statement remains the same as the preliminary one in the last issue of Guidelines - as the auditor deemed it correct. His report was handed out at the AGM. The auditor also made a comment that he was impressed with the accounting work done by Tammy - plus the recording of associated information, such as records, Tank cave payments, products etc, so well done to all those involved.*

*My next job will be to work on a Business Plan. This plan will outline the objectives and goals of the CDAA, as well as the specific strategies required to achieve them.*

*I have done some preliminary research, but after doing the basics, will be drawing on relevant experienced people to help complete it. The Business Plan will then be presented to the membership for comment.*

Regards, Heike Apps. Business Director



## Changes with ForestrySA Permit Distribution

Hi All,

You may be aware that Carter Holt Harvey will be downscaling their Mt Gambier operations in the near future. This will mean that the Gatehouse will not be manned 24/7, as it has been over many years. As of December 9th, the new collection point for permits will be from the front of the Forestry Office (white building on RHS of the driveway), on the right hand side of the entrance door from the metal drawer labelled "Permit Collection". All permits for December 9 onwards issued from now will be placed in this drawer. I trust this will work well, and not cause too much inconvenience. These arrangements should suffice for the term this office is in existence.

Regards, Trevor Wynniat, Senior Ranger,  
Green Triangle Region.

Ph: (08) 87 242 876



## UP COMING COURSES

### Cavern / Sinkhole Courses

4 February, 2006 - in Portsea and Mt Gambier

Instructor: Rubens Monaco - 03 5984 1799 info@idcscuba.com.au

6-19 February, 2006 - in Melbourne and Mt Gambier, all twin tanks.

Instructor: Terri Allen - 0419 176633, 03 8532 1453 - terri.allen@baker.edu.au

27 February - 12 March, 2006 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier

Instructor: Jane Bowman - 03 9579 2600 - info@aboocean.com.au

11-27 March, 2006 in Ringwood, Queenscliff & Mt Gambier

Instructor: Paul Leslie - 03 9879 2868 - info@diverinstructionservices.com.au

### Cave Courses

4 February, 2006 - in Portsea and Mt Gambier

Instructor: Rubens Monaco - 03 5984 1799 info@idcscuba.com.au

3-9 April 2006 - in Melbourne and Mt Gambier

Instructor: Warrick McDonald - 03 9579 2600, 0408 374112 info@aboocean.com.au

7th-9th Jan 2006 3 day full time course in Mt Gambier or theory in the Canberra area  
and diving in Mt Gambier

Instructor: Heike Apps - 0407 230 108 - Heike.Apps@ga.gov.au

### CDAA Penetration Courses

Course 1 : Feb 11/12/13 & 18/19

Course 2 : May 27/28/29 & Jun 3/4

Course 3 : Sept 29/30/ Oct 1 & Oct 7/8

Contact Barrie Heard - CDAA Penetration Course Co-Ordinator

Mobile : 0419 401 276 Email : iantd@dcsi.net.au

### KILBY'S DATES FOR 2006 (Sat. & Sundays)

- January 31-Dec and 1-Jan
- February 4-Feb and 5-Feb
- March 4th and 5th
- April 1st and 2nd
- May 6th and 7th
- June 3rd and 4th
- July 1st and 2nd
- August 5th and 6th
- September 7th and 8th
- Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st
- November 4th and 5th
- December 2nd and 3rd



# TANK CAVE

~ DATES FOR 2006 ~

January 14/15
February 4/5
February 18/19
February 25/26
March 4/5
March 11/12/13 (Vic. Labour Day) (Adelaide Cup)
March 25/26
April 1/2

## INSTRUCTOR MATERIAL ORDERS:

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.

### CONTACT:

**HEIKE APPS - INSTRUCTOR MATERIALS OFFICER,**  
**PH: 02 6291 0566**  
**PO Box 292, Calwell ACT 2905**  
*Email: heike.apps@ga.gov.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, 2006

*The upcoming dates are...*

**Jan. 21/22 • Feb. 4/5th • March 4/5th**

For information on the Shaft contact Linda Claridge on 03 5565 8793 or email [shaft@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:shaft@cavedivers.com.au)

## CDA INSTRUCTORS

NAME A.C.T.	CONTACT No.s	Cavern	Sinkhole	Cave	Penetr	Email
APPS, HEIKE	BH 02 6249 9170 AH 02 6291 0566	Yes	Yes	Yes		heike.apps@ga.gov.au
<b>N.S.W.</b>						
FEATONBY, TIM	Mob: 0402 129 253	Yes	Yes	No		tim.featonby@defence.gov.au
GRILLS, PETER	Home 02 4950 6262 Mobile 0419 820 920	Yes	Yes	Yes		peter_grills@hotmail.com
ROBERTSON, ANDREW (currently inactive)	Home 02 9548 5987 Work 02 8868 8025 Mobile 0417 664 255	Yes	Yes	No		lscb005@bigpond.net.au
WALTERS, DESMOND	BH 02 6041 1405 AH 02 6025 3506	Yes	Yes	Yes		dive@descend.com.au

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

YARRA, GEORGE	M: 0418 847 889	Yes	Yes	Yes		gumbyg@adam.com.au
MARRIOT, MAX	M: 0428 897 897	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	dive69@chariot.com.au

### WEST AUSTRALIA

BUSH, GARY	M: 0402 339 652	Yes	Yes	Yes		garybush@bigpond.net.au
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### VICTORIA

ALLEN, TERRI	Mob: 0419 176 633	Yes	Yes	No		terri.allen@baker.edu.au
AXTON, PAUL	BH 9782 1671 Mobile 0419 346 442	Yes	Yes	Yes		lozhard@bigpond.com
BARCLAY, GARY	AH 03 5565 8793 Mobile 0407 052 074	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	garinda@tpgi.com.au
BOURKE, STEPHEN	Mob: 0405 314 204	Yes	Yes	No		scubasteven@bigpond.com.au
BOWMAN, JANE	BH 03 9579 2600 Mobile 0407 566 455	Yes	Yes	No		info@abocan.com.au



NAME	CONTACT No.s	Cavern	Sinkhole	Cave	Penetr.	Email
<b>VICTORIA cont.</b>						
BUGG , STAN	AH 03 9379 8791	Yes	Yes	Yes		sbugg@micronica.com.au
CLARIDGE, LINDA	Mobile 0408 052 070 AH 03 5565 8793	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	garinda@tpgi.com.au
CORNELL , BRIAN	Home 03 5985 2514	Yes	Yes	Yes		cornell@alphalink.com.au
DALLA-ZUANNA, JOHN	Home 03 9434 1216 Work 03 9480 1316 Mobile 0407 887 060	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	jdz@paintandcustom.com.au
EDWARDS , CHRIS	0417 116 372	Yes	Yes	No		cedwards@teksupport.net.au
HEARD, BARRIE	AH (03) 5627 6474 Mobile 0419 401 276	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	iantd@dcsi.net.au
MCDONALD, WARRICK	Work 03 9579 2600 Mobile 0408 374 112	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	info@aboccean.com.au
MONACO, RUBENS	BH 03 5984-1799 Mobile: 0413-429-533	Yes	Yes	No		info@idcscuba.com.au
WEALTHY, BOB	Mobile 0417 524 005 Home 03 9786 5905	Yes	Yes	Yes		somerset@iimetro.com.au

## ~ Articles for Guidelines ~

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

- Send articles & photos via post, or preferably by email to:  
Terri Allen, PO Box 7592, Melbourne 8004.
- Email to [pubdir@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:pubdir@cavedivers.com.au) **and** [seapics@alphalink.com.au](mailto:seapics@alphalink.com.au)
- Text files should be saved as Word files and pictures as separate jpeg files.  
If mailing please send pics and text on CD.
- 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.

# CDA A PRODUCTS ORDER FORM

Please send to:  
CDAA, 279 Maroondah Hwy,  
Ringwood VIC 3134

	QTY / COL/SIZE	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
BOOKS		<b>Basic Underwater Cave Surveying.</b> The standard publication for anyone remotely interested in research and survey techniques used in water filled caves.	\$30.00	
		<b>Cave Diving Communications.</b> A manual from NSS - CDS dealing exclusively with all underwater communications used in cave diving, including touch, torch and line signals, and use of line arrows and jump reels. A must for all cave divers book shelves.	\$25.00	
		<b>Cave Diving - A Blueprint for Survival.</b> A book by the world-renowned cave diver, the late Sheek Exley, this is a case study of a number of accidents that have occurred in the USA and how to avoid them.	\$15.00	
		<b>Caverns Measureless to Man.</b> The story of the passion for cave diving of the late Sheek Exley who spent his life exploring underwater caves. Publications Directors pick. Amazing book you can't put down once you start, a must read!	\$50.00	
		<b>Cave Practice &amp; Equipment.</b> Edited by David Judson British Cave Research Association. Updated 295 Page book fully illustrated with over 200 line drawings & 33 pages of dramatic photographs. Full chapter on cave diving by Martyn Farr.	\$40.00	
		<b>CDAA Occasional Paper No. 2.</b> From National Conference 1981. Includes topics such as Fossil Cave, Belay Techniques and Cocklebidy 1979.	\$2.00	
		<b>DAN Emergency Handbook.</b> 1995 Edition by Lippmann and Bugg. Printed on waterproof paper, this essential first aid manual should be part of every cave Divers kit.	\$17.00	
		<b>Deep Into Blue Holes.</b> By Rob Palmer. This is the project manual written about his trips to the Bahamas, diving some of the most advanced and spectacular caves in the world.	\$55.00	
		<b>Diving in Darkness</b> By Martin Farr. Personally signed by the author. Provides a clear, concise and modern overview of the essential equipment, skills and techniques required to dive in caves, mines, wrecks and beneath ice. Published in softback Diving in Darkness is packed with 170 photographs and diagrams throughout its 128 pages.	\$75.00	
		<b>Hidden Splendours of the Yucatan</b> Hidden Splendours of the Yucatan is photographer/author Lalo Fiorelli's story of exploration, teaching, and photography in the caves of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. His stunning photography is complemented by the lively, down to earth writing style that brings the experience of exploration to the reader. A must read for those planning a Mexico trip or at least dreaming of one!	\$49.00	
		<b>Lower South East Cave Reference</b> Peter Horne's illustrated catalogue of the Lower South East Region of South Australia.	\$130.00	
		<b>NSS Cave Diving Manual.</b> The standard reference manual in cave diving covering just about every conceivable topic. New Edition. CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE	\$55.00	
		<b>NSS Cavern Divers' Manual.</b> The standard reference manual in cavern diving covering almost every conceivable topic. Also most principles behind safe sinkhole and cave diving.	\$30.00	
		<b>New Edition of Peter Horne's Lower South East Cave Reference.</b> An illustrated catalogue of the Lower South East Region of South Australia. CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE	\$130.00	
	VIDEOS/DVD's		<b>The Darkness Beckons.</b> By Martyn Farr. The history and development of cave diving.	\$75.00
		<b>The Cave Divers.</b> By Robert Burgess. Paperback 352 pages. Full history of cave diving in the States and further afield. An interesting mix of adventure and archaeology. Robert Burgess has been diving for over 50 years. He lives in Chattahoochee, Florida.	\$30.00	
		<b>Australian Cave Diving - A Contrast.</b> By Tony Carlisle. Four short documentary type videos on Warbla Cave, Three Sisters Cave, The Road to Toad Hall and Tank Cave.	\$25.00	
		<b>Australia "Nullarbor Dreaming".</b> 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 cyclonic storm hit the area and the cave collapsed trapping the expedition below.	\$29.95	
		<b>DIR 2004.</b> Jarrod Jablonski & George Irvine. 3 DVDs. 8 hrs viewing. Great sections on stage tanks, beautiful diving shots in Wakulla	\$99.00	
		<b>Florida "Window to a Hidden World".</b> The ultimate cave diving adventure. Andrew and Liz with fellow cave diver-explorer Wes Skiles, take us on a journey to discover the beauty and danger of the Florida aquifer. Beneath the surface of Florida lies one of the planet's largest freshwater reserves. Producers: Andrew & Liz Wight.	\$29.95	
		<b>Mexico "Water of the Gods".</b> An exploration of ancient Maya ruins and underwater caves. Producers: Andrew & Liz Wight. Director: Liz Wight.	\$29.95	
		<b>Water of the Gods -</b> Under the dense jungle of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula lies a vast freshwater source relied upon by the ancient Mayas - a mysterious and complex people who built and occupied complex limestone cities in this region for over two thousand years. Andrew and Liz Wight explore their hidden caves, uncovering their beauty and mystery, and providing a link to the past.	\$29.95	
		<b>Cuba "Beneath the Surface".</b> This documentary explores the role water has played throughout time in the history of Cuba. It reveals some of the many beautiful aspects of this magical Caribbean island, explores the bizarre subterranean caverns and provides unexpected contrasts with Cuba's turbulent history. This is an expose of a Cuba we believe we know.	\$29.95	
CLOTHING				
		<b>30th Anniversary Embroidered Crew Neck T-shirts.</b> Burg, White, Royal blue or Blk - M, L, XL, XXL	SIZE - Please Advise	\$25.00
		<b>30th Anniversary Polo Shirts.</b> Grey with black trim or black with red trim. Looks very smart!		\$35.00
		<b>Polar Fleece Jumpers.</b> Colours: Blue, Black. Original logo. Keeps you toasty warm and smart!		\$60.00
		<b>Polar Fleece Vests.</b> Colours: Blue, Black. Original logo. Great to wear as extra layer under the drysuit!		\$40.00
		<b>Blue Crew Neck T-Shirts -</b> Royal Blue, Regular logo Sizes S, M, L		\$25.00
		<b>Ladies' Crew Neck -</b> Smaller white t-shirts with shorter sleeves and "female" cut. Royal Blue, CDAA regular logo on the front. Sizes 8,10,12		\$23.00
		<b>Beanies.</b> Navy only.		\$19.00
		<b>Caps.</b> Black only.		\$20.00
	MISC.		<b>CDAA Key Rings.</b> Blue with gold motif. CDAA P.O. Box on back.	
		<b>CDAA 25th Anniversary Stickers.</b> Yellow. Include stamped self addressed envelope for delivery.		\$1.00
		<b>Tank Cave Poster.</b> Full Colour 14.5" x 25" poster of Tank Cave by Peter Rogers. Price includes p&h.		\$8.00
		<b>CD of Guidelens 1-91</b> All Guidelines as searchable pdfs on CD.		\$10.00

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## CDAA SITE ACCESS - www.cavedivers.com.au

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
<b>MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>			
<b>DEH SITES</b>			
Ewens Ponds	Nil	DEH P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 (08) 8735 1177	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. for Environment & Heritage (DEH) Smaller groups, no need.  Fax: (08) 8735 1135
Gouldens	CN	DEH	<b>General Diving:</b> Divers to contact DEH and notify of date and site to be dived. Please make requests by phone or fax only.
2 Sisters	CN	P.O. Box 1046	Divers must have the correct CDAA diving endorsement for the site and carry current
Fossil	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8735 1177 Fax: (08) 8735 1135	financial CDAA membership card. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DEH before access is permitted. <b>Training:</b> The Instructor is to notify DEH of the date the sites are needed and to forward signed indemnities from each student and their temporary card number/ membership number.
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	as above	Permit holders by phone or fax. Be aware of delicate vegetation. \$20/dive or annual Permit \$50. NOTE: Indemnity form to be completed with membership renewal.
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	District Council of Grant	Little Blue - permission not required - must carry card.
Allendale	C	District Council of Grant	Obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Information Centre.
Ela Elap	S	Mr. Peter Norman	Visit the house before diving.
One Tree	S		If no one home - no dive!
<b>FORESTRY SA SITES</b>			
Dave's Cave	C		Weekends Only. Between May & November inclusive. Maximum of 4 divers per day undertaking One Dive per day..
Hells Hole	S		Minimum of 4 divers to be on site at all times..
Pines	C/P		Unrestricted numbers / days
Mud Hole	C		Unrestricted numbers / days.
Nettle Bed	P		Open every weekend. Maximum of 4 divers, 1 dive per day.
Stinging Nettle Cave	P		Weekends only. Maximum of 3 divers per day undertaking 1 dive per day. Sidemounts recommended.
Iddlebidy	P		Open every Saturday Only. Maximum of 4 divers, 1 dive per day. Book on-line.
Owner: Contact Forestry SA by email, fax or phone or book on-line via the CDAA website to arrange permit Collect permits from the Forestry Office, RHS of driveway to Carter Holt, Jubilee Hwy, Mt Gambier.			
<b>IMPORTANT:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No diving on Total Fire Ban Days.</li> <li>Permit also required to run compressors during fire danger season.</li> <li>Keys for Hells Hole, Nettle Bed, Iddlebidy and Stinging Nettle Cave can be obtained from Lady Nelson Visitor Centre on presentation of Forestry SA permits.</li> </ul>			
Kilsby's	S	Landowner leased to S.A. Police	Access - Open first weekend of the month. New Access conditions apply. refer to CDAA website. Twin Tanks - Maximum depth of 40 metres. Meet at gate of property at 8.55am or 12.55pm. Book on-line at www.cavedivers.com or contact Craig at kilsbys@cavedivers.com.au No animals, visitors or mid-week diving allowed.
		No Visitors	

## CDAA SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
<b>MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)</b>			
Shaft	S	Generally open one weekend a month. Trevor Ashby	For access dates refer to Guidelines or the CDAA webpage. Nitrox as a diving mix is not allowed in the Shaft unless a trimix endorsement is held but deco mixes attached to the shot line are permissible. Refer to Shaft access bulletin within CDAA Regulations. Divers applying to dive in the Shaft for the first time must document dive experience with twin tanks Download form off website. Email: shaft@cavedivers.com.au (Linda Claridge, 0408 052 070)
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. Diving should be avoided after heavy rain due to possible water contamination. Diving hours are now restricted to 8am to 8pm CST.
Three Sisters	P	Millicent Council	Download Indemnity from Web Page. 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.
McKay's Shaft	S		Contact Phil Argy at Mt. Gambier access and indemnities.
Tank Cave	P	Mr. DY CER	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.
<b>NULLARBOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>			
Cocklebidy	C/P		Apply in writing for permission to dive at least 4 weeks in advance of trip to:
Murra El Elevyn	P/C		District Manager, C.A.L.M., PO Box 234, Esperance, W.A. 6450.
Tommy Grahams	C		Phone: (08) 9071 3733 Fax: (08) 9083 2100
Weebubbie	S/C	DPI	The Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Midland, Land Asset South East PO Box 1575, Midland 6936. Contact Bob Hamilton, Email: bob.hamilton@dpi.wa.gov.au Phone (08) 9347 5047 Fax (08) 9347 5004
<b>N.S.W. - WELLINGTON CAVES</b>			
Limekiln (McCavity)	P/C		Both Penetration and Cave Level are being accepted for this cave depending on it's water level at the time. The cave has a restriction at the entrance which is underwater making it a Penetration Dive. During drought, the water level drops to form a small lake below the restriction allowing experienced Cave Divers access to this delicate cave.
Water (Anticline)	C		Affected by high CO <sub>2</sub> levels during Summer/Autumn. Access is co-ordinated with the Wellington Caves management by Greg Ryan - gregr@cs.usyd.edu.au. Phone (02)97434157
Rum Jungle Lake	S		Unrestricted access currently exists - Please refer advice Guidelines #68 or check CDAA website.
Burrinjuck	S/C/P		This is a tri rated site. Please see details in issue No. 73. There are no specific access arrangements.



# Trimix & Rebreather Working Groups

The Standards and Site Directors wish to finalise trimix and rebreather diver site access agreements with several landowners. Unfortunately, attempts to do so have been hampered by the good intentions of many individual members offering landowners their personal views on the matter. This only confuses landowners as there is not a consistent view presented by the CDAA membership and makes it very difficult to complete access arrangements.

For the CDAA to progress in this area, we need to ensure a uniform and consistent voice regarding diving standards for trimix and rebreathers. The Directorate have attempted to simply use the Australian Standards, but this has been met with considerable objection by the membership as being too restrictive or not applicable in cave diving.

So to move forward, the Standards and Site Directors would like to consider what, if any, adaptation or refinement of the Australian Standards needs to be put in place before finalizing any landowner agreements.

The main areas of consideration lay in:

1. qualifications (do you need anything addition to the currently available training)
  2. equipment requirements (should we recommend any additional equipment requirements over and above our current cave diving recommendations)
  3. risk management (what additional risk management requirements do we need when diving caves)
  4. landowner relations (do we need endorsements on CDAA quals, diving supervisors, etc)
- Other than to identify whether the type of training needed, the working parties will not be discussing any standards regarding training.

To consider these questions and ensure a uniform voice to the landowners, it has been decided to form two working parties. One for trimix and one for rebreathers.

To establish these working parties, we first need to identify those members who are interested in being a member of the working party. The intent is to give all members the opportunity to join the working parties but to restrict it to those members who have 'practical' experience. The experience

required is listed below.

Experience for either working party is considered to be:

1. Trimix working party
  - 2 years experience both as a cave diver
  - 2 year experience as a trimix diver
2. Rebreather working party
  - 2 years experience as a cave diver
  - 2 years experience as a rebreather diver

Experience means 2 years since being qualified. Qualifications can be for any trimix diving qualification (deep, decompression, nitrox, extended range, advanced deep diver etc do not count). RB qualifications can be for any unit. Cave diving qualifications can be at any level. How many dives people have or have not done in this period will NOT be taken into account.

People can apply for both groups if they wish. Working party members should expect that they will bear their own costs for postage, phone calls etc.

Once the working parties are established, it is intended to complete the work and make recommendations to the Directorate in record time. If you are on the working group, then you will be expected to WORK and work now. As the intention is to get results and get them fast, people who choose to simply talk and not work will be unceremoniously ejected from the group.

Please forward your interest for being on the working parties, along with scanned copies of your quals, to John Vanderleest, no later than December 30, 2005.

If you believe that you have the necessary experience and would like to be part of the working party, please forward your interest to John Vanderleest.

(johnvanderleest@optusnet.com.au).

## FOR HIRE

**300M of 300bar synflex hose.**  
**2 filling whips and can adapt to fit 2 compressors at once - ideal for the Nullarbor. Contact Kelvyn Ball on 03 5384 2259.**

# TRAILER HEAVEN...



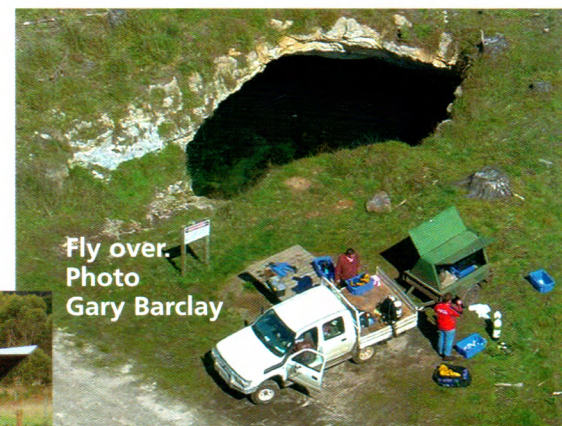
George Yarra's Beast



John Badman and Bob Bridge



Limestone Cowboys - Stu McGregor



Fly over.  
Photo  
Gary Barclay



Seen at Pines!



Local Trailer



Where's do I find the coffee?



# GUIDELINES GALLERY



Grant emerging from Tank.

Grant Pearce showing Terri Allen the ropes in Tank.

Photos by Warrick.

## SANTA GOT SHAFTED!

Santa turned up at the Shaft on a recent Sunday morning in December.

Regards, Grant Sommer CDAA #3523



**Get down Santa!**

# NEW OWNER ~ RELOCATION

Phil and Julie Argy of Blink Bonney Lodge have sold 'Blue Lake Diving' to Darren Walters. Blue Lake Diving has been relocated to Darren's Property on Cafpirco Road.



- Air Fills • Scuba Sales
- Scuba Service
- Nitrox Fills • Minor Repairs
- Scuba Cylinder Testing

*Catering to the CDAA and their Cave diving members...  
Guaranteed overnight  
Air/Nitrox fills...  
drop off before 9pm...  
filled by 7am next morning*



**All enquiries – Call Darren 0408 845 511**

Lot 7, Cafpirco Rd, Compton (via Mt. Gambier)  
PO Box 9286, Mount Gambier West, S.A. 5291



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