



C.D.A.A. Newsletter

No. 95 - MARCH 2006

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**WORLD'S 1st WOMAN
TO TOAD HALL!**



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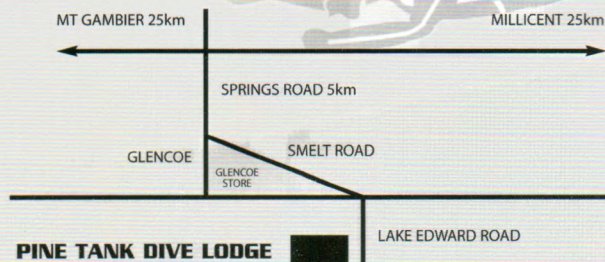
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TOAD HALL, COCKLEBIDDY



Chris disconnects a scooter for safe in-car transport back to Melbourne. Photo, Ben Hoskin.



The 'cordon bleu' Yarras effortlessly serve up Parmigiana and all the trimmings after a hard days slog hauling gear. Photo, Chris Ross.



One of the long body Gavins being uplifted from the cave to the surface. Photo, Dean Laffan



Tania & George, Chris and Ben, happy to see all the gear back up top and ready to be packed for the long drive home. Photo, Dean Laffan



George prepares the lowering frame and gear to be dropped 50m to the cave mouth for muling down to the surface lake. Photo, Dean Laffan



Dean prepping scooters at the surface lake. Photo; Ben Hoskin.

BREAKING NEWS...

RE-OPENING OF BARNOOLUT ESTATE.

Hi everyone

I'm very pleased to announce that Mr Alan Scott has agreed to re-open Barnoolut Estate to the CDAA

We have been working hard now for 4 years along with the directorate to achieve this outcome Mr Scott has placed some conditions on diving the sites and we will be working through those conditions in the next few months

There is a lot of work to be done on the sites in Barnoolut Estate to ensure safe entry, exit and the repair of guide lines etc. I estimate that the CDAA will have monthly dive weekends around the middle of the year 2006. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who have assisted in this process

Hugh Moore (negotiation and correspondence) Rob Brennan (previous proposals and advice) Warrick McDonald (Negotiations with the Directorate, support and advice) George Yarra (Standards advice, support and encouragement) Peter Horne (Site information, support and advice) all other directors (support and discretion)

Can everyone PLEASE be patient as this is early days and we have worked hard to achieve the re-opening, a few more months to get the sites right is a small time to wait I will keep everyone fully informed on the progress of the Estate, so please refrain from asking me questions at this stage because access arrangements are yet to be finalised.

Regards

Grant Sommer #3523

RE: Cocklebiddy May 2006

To: Steve Trewavas

Steve,

Yes I will allow CDAA accredited divers to still to enter and dive in Cocklebiddy Cave.

Apart from the immediate area near where the public descend into the cave I am not aware of any other new hazards in this cave. In view of the current known hazard and providing you are

aware of this hazard (and preferably use another way to access the cave for group members and their equipment) I would still contemplate approving your proposed visit. Note the ladder and platform were removed last week.

Klaus Tiedemann

District Manager, Esperance District

Department of Conservation and Land Management

PO Box 234 Esperance WA 6450.

SHAFT SITE CLOSURE MARCH to MAY '06

Over the next couple of months the landowner of the Shaft is planning to do some work on and in the 'Shaft paddock'. As a result of this the Shaft will be closed during the months of March, April and possibly May. I will let everyone know when the landowner allows further access.

Regards, Gary Barclay, Site Director

ENGELBRECHTS INCIDENT...

A recent incident at Engelbrechts attracted the attention of locals who reported to police that trespassers had entered Engelbrechts at 12.30am or thereabouts. As access is strictly limited to CDAA members between 8am and 8pm the conclusion reached by the informants could

only be read as correct. When police arrived to intercept the intruders it was found that one was a CDAA member with keys and the other a non member. It appears that the CDAA member wanted to show his friend just how wonderful Engelbrechts was and had failed to read or take notice of the access requirements. Three charges were made against the member and he admitted guilt and regretted his actions. It was decided by a majority of Directors (those that voted) that a 3 month suspension would begin immediately. The sentence was reduced from a possible 9 months because of the recent changes to access, the admittance of guilt with an apology and the acceptance in full of any decision by the Directors. This suspension should act as a warning to all members to carefully head the access requirements which can be found in detail on the CDAA web site.

Regards,

Warrick McDonald, CDAA National Director.

Wanted volunteer to fill the position of CDAA Instructor Materials Officer

The role includes but not limited to:

1. Being organised
2. Keeping accurate records in a spreadsheet
3. Keeping the member manuals up to date – eg constitution, regulations, maps
4. Ordering in new stock when levels run low
5. Send requested course materials within a week
6. Room to store several [6-8] fairly large boxes
7. Time to do the banking and send accurate records to the Business Director on a monthly basis
8. A bit of flexibility in handling requests [as they do occasionally happen at the last minute]

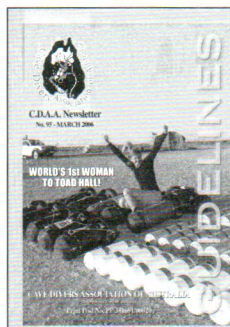
If you feel you have some time to offer the CDAA and this is you, please contact the Standards director, George Yarra. standir@cavedivers.com.au or phone 0418847889

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Front cover:

Photo title:
"Tanya Yarra, first woman
to Toad Hall"

Photographed by
Dean Laffen.

Photographed at
Cocklebidy Cave,
Nullabor Plains

Composite art design:
David Bryant

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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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EDITOR'S CORNER

Publications and Records Director Report.

This issue we announced a World first and possibly a World record. Tania Yarra is, we believe, the first female cave diver to make it to Toad Hall. Read all about this feat in Dean Laffen's article in this issue. We also hear from another group who also made it to Toad, Francis and Dean Johnson. I passed my pen course with these guys so feel really pleased for them in completing this huge dive with just the 2 of them. See Francis' report on this.

In order to celebrate women in cave diving a special women's only day is planned for Tank Cave in October. Keep a look out for more details including a BBQ or dinner to catch up with other women in our sport (no p valve wearers allowed!)

We also have an article and photos from Richard "Harry" Harris about the joys of the pen course. Congrats to the 6 who made it through this time.

The third side mount workshop went off with a bang even attracting some non cave divers to the pool. An excellent report and photos come from Mark Jobbins our NSW area rep.

News of the reopening of Barnoolut is also included from Grant Sommer. Great work Grant!

Speaking of Dean Laffen the association owes Dean an enormous thank you. Not only did he get together the front page and article to celebrate Tania's dive but he was also a great help in getting together the PDF of scanned Guidelines for members to purchase (after Chris' huge scanning effort) as a printed CD. Dean also assisted in transferring and compressing the Sportsworld Mt Gambier video on to DVD which is available for download from the CDAA website. Dean has also helped me with the compression and final DVD printing of the Sidmeount Video from the Victorian workshop appearing soon on the web site. And if that's not enough he also helped convert over Peter Horne's Pines report to a smaller easier to download pdf file and offered some DVD advice to the natdir to help him edit his many hours of cave diving footage. Dean, it is volunteers like yourself that really help the association tick along. Thanks heaps buddy!

We have yet another new advertiser Peter & Val Fear who are the new Northern Diver /OMS Australia-wide distributors. Please support our advertisers who help cover the cost of Guidelines' production.



Terri Allen, Publications and Records Director,

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SPECIAL NOTE, RE PETER HORNE'S IMAGES FROM LAST ISSUE...

Unfortunately in the last issue when some of Peter Horne's photos and captions got scrambled, the end result suggesting that he and Peter Stace had first dived Tank Cave together when in fact the two Peters first dived Sheathers Cave, not Tank. Peter Horne first dived Tank with Mark Nielsen, not Peter Stace. From this experience members are asked not to put their photos and captions in the body of their text in a report, but attach them separately.

1ST WOMEN TO REACH TOAD HALL

In December 2005 a team of DIR divers travelled to Cocklebidy Cave with the goal of making repeated trips to Toad Hall. Guidelines Editor Terri Allen speaks with the team; Tania Yarra, George Yarra, Chris Ross, Ben Hoskin and Dean Laffan.

Guidelines: If I can start with you Tania, (as one girl to another!) on this trip you were successful in your goal to be the first woman in the world to reach Toad Hall, that must have been very satisfying.

Tania Yarra: Yes, very much so. It's not every day of your life that you get to put yourself in a position where you can explore new horizons and truly test yourself. I think every cave diver relishes just such a chance ... and perhaps also like many cave divers it's why we first became interested in cave diving. The Star Trek Syndrome I suppose ... that chance to 'boldly go' where no man (or woman!) has been before..

The efforts of the team made this all possible, and although we got to Toad Hall achieving our goals, and the experience was surreal, the experience of being in such a team and having such a fun time out there was just as important as any individual accomplishment.

Guidelines: So tell us about Toad Hall.



George and Tania resting and enjoying Toad Hall.

Tania: Well it's a spectacular cave. The second sump is very different to the first. It's a dive you must try to experience at least once. It's quite shallow averaging only about 10m and gradually shallows up towards the end of that second sump. It warms up quite a lot too, from a relatively cool 18 degrees at the rock-pile to a cozy 22 degrees at the end. The closer we got to Toad the cave intensified in beauty; it's really very alluring and quite simply some of the most spectacular diving I have done.

Guidelines: And what of Toad Hall?

Tania: Nothing like I imagined it.

Guidelines: and...!

Tania: I can't spoil the fun for everyone else! (laughs) You'll just have to go and find out too.

Guidelines: Yes we will! ok, how about the third sump?

Tania: Oh well that will have to wait for a future report!



The camp site did not look too pretty after the storm went through! The mess tent was proactively collapsed and lashed down for it's own survival until the storm cleared. Photo, Chris Ross.

Guidelines: Alright, that out of the way, the big questions is... how was it spending over a week cooped up with all those smelly blokes! ?

Tania: mmmm, that's a hard one, lucky we all had one thing in common... CAVE DIVING!

After the storm that beat us up quite a bit (my hair clogged with dust) we retreated into the cave and made a late start for one of our push dives. That evening (well, the next morning) I exited the cave at 12.30am... by this stage I was on par with the blokes. By now my hair had turned into dreadlocks by the constant brackish water and impregnated dust. The blokes smelt way worse, but unfairly... their hair looked great!

Guidelines: Yeah it's not fair, the blokes always get off light! Let's not even get started on p-valves (laughs).

Tania: Exactly! For me being both a bit of a girly-girl, yet also adventurous, it's a bit confusing. I did still somehow manage to find time for the cleansing facial routine! And I did try persuading the smelly blokes to partake in the facial, but for some reason there were no takers (laughs)

Looking back on it, I'm actually still wondering how we found time



Going to Toad Hall... fantastic. Getting back from Toad in time to make the roadhouse for cold beers? ... priceless! Photo, Chris Ross.

to shower up, have the picnic lunches in the cave and gourmet dinners every other night!

Guidelines: As a woman, how did you handle those big 'bastard' Gavin scooters?

Tania: Well out of the water, sure they weigh a ton, but in the water they're a dream. We trained with them quite a deal which is really important, because if there is an emergency underwater and you throw divers with multiple scooters into the mix, it can get real messy, so you need to have relearned all your S drills to include making the scooters safe and dealing with them whilst still reacting swiftly to the initial problem.

Guidelines: Did you actually have any such problems out there?

Tania: No, fortunately all went well. I think on that trip we averaged about 18 hrs of trigger time across the 5 divers, so nearly 100 hours total without incident. It was great to get such extended time on the scooters in the cave because unfortunately we just don't have anything like that sort of cave in Gambier where we can rack up that sort of practice. As hard as we tried ... Little Blue is just not Cocklebidy! (laughs)

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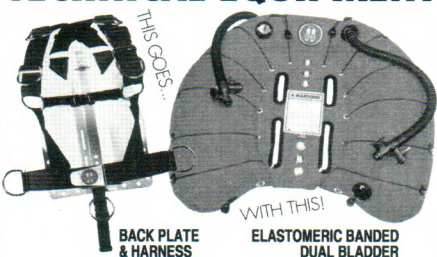
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Guidelines: I've noticed that too!

Now finally tell the truth... as one girl to another... do the guys wear the George Irvine speedos when putting together the Gavin scooters?!

Tania: (laughs) Absolutely not! Thankfully, that seems to be unique to George... Irvine that is, not Yarra!
Guidelines: Phew!

Guidelines: George, you and Tania have been to the Nullabor many times before, how was this trip different?

George: Tania and I have dived most sites in the Nullabor previously, including Cocklebidy, but not like this. We wanted to apply the DIR style of team diving to the cave and see how it worked. So by using the team focus on equipment, training and procedures we were able to get some good results in a pretty short amount of time.

Guidelines: Going to Toad Hall is presumably hard enough... but you guys went repeatedly over consecutive days. How was that?

George: Essentially, it was a matter of getting the cave setup the way we wanted and then we could just go diving and have fun... which after all is why you put in all the hard work in the first place. None of which is to say it's 'easy' at any stage! Cocklebidy make you earn all your dives, especially beyond the rockpile. There is no right or wrong way to do that setup, but the team approach continues to work very well for us. Ten different expeditions could do it ten different ways... and none would be 'wrong' knowing your methodology is the key and having everybody on the same page is crucial, especially if you want to move fast. It's a nice feeling after you have done the hard work and can really enjoy the dive itself.



After a while it feels like you have carried a million of these... there's not a million, it just feels like it. Ben hauling an 80 stage bottle over the rockpile to the 2nd sump. Photo, Dean Laffan

Guidelines: From the photos, you seem to have an obscene amount of scooters and gear!

George: Well this is one of the benefits of our approach, all the gear is interchangeable. So we can utilize gear from all over the country and know it will fit right in. We know that our buddies from Perth can bring stage bottles and they will be rigged exactly the same as ours from Adelaide and the same as the ones from the guys in Melbourne. (finally a united national CDAA??! Ed.) Likewise, the scooters are all set up identically so driving one is

like driving any other. It literally doesn't matter whose twinset you dive, whose stage regs or bottles you are using or whose scooter you are riding or whose primary light you are holding. It all feels and works the same.

I know we DIR types get stirred about how our gear is all the same, but it's a big advantage in expedition diving. Although we did often have a laugh to ourselves in the gloom of the lake edge as we mistakenly picked up someone else's identical Jetfins or bottom timer or other gear... (laughs)

Guidelines: On the subject of gear it looks like simply getting the gear in is half the battle.

George: Like a lot of Nullabor diving, Cocklebidy requires some knowledge of rope access and dry caving just to get to the water and dive. It's a 50m drop, over the lip off the surface, so you need a properly set up tripod/lowering frame. You don't want a stage bottle dropping 50m to explode right next to the poor guy unhooking gear. If you don't have that training and gear you need to pay a higher price in time and pain by walking everything from the surface... we figured we were already in for enough of that!

All gear then needs to be ported a couple hundred metres to the lake edge over the steep boulder fall of the cave floor which has about a 100m vertical drop as well. So it's a solid workout with twin manifolded 151 cylinders, multiple 80cuft stages and long body scooters. You will probably make about a dozen trips up and down the cave on the first day, and there is not a lot to occupy your mind, so at some stage you unavoidably start calculating total vertical feet and tonnage of gear... but its best not to think about it! (laughs)



George Yarra and Ben Hoskin check out a misbehaving stage bottle at the rockpile. Photo, Dean Laffan

Guidelines: Chris, you were at Cocklebidy at the same time last December in 2004, what made you want to return?

Chris: On our first trip to Cocklebidy in 2004, Dean, Steve Trewavas, Craig James and I went to check out the cave. We just had our fleet of Gavin scooters land in Melbourne and Perth, so Cocklebidy was the obvious location to really wind them up and have some fun.

That 2004 trip was very valuable and laid the foundation for our successful return in 05. We proved some equipment that we



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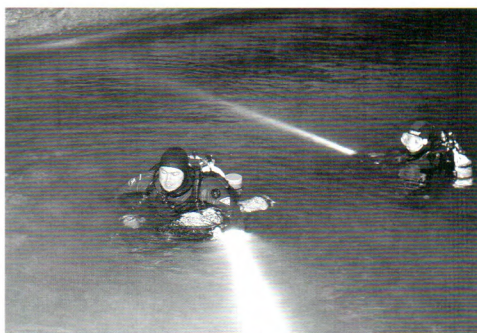


designed, learned how not to do some things! (laughs) and basically it meant we could show up in 2005 and know that barring anything unforeseen, we should be able to stick to the plan ... and happily that turned out to be the case.

Guidelines: Chris you've been a busy boy lately... I hear you literally flew into Tullamarine from Florida and drove straight out to Nullabor.

Chris: (laughs) True! Dean was supposed to quite literally pick me up from the international terminal and immediately drive out the Western Highway, but we needed to repack the car with my gear so we took a couple of hours at his house first then left. Along with Steve Trewavas and Craig James and I had been in Florida to pick up our new RB80 Rebreathers. But on the way to Florida I stopped off in Seattle, Washington to do a GUE Tech 2 course with Gideon Liew before meeting the rest of the guys in High Springs. So yes I managed to rack up some frequent flyer miles!

We were fortunate to spend a lot of time in the water with Jarrod Jablonski (GUE Founder) and Dave Rhea (GUE Training Director) which was awesome. We then dived quite a bit in Florida at Ginnie of course, Peacock, Telford and others. Then flew back to Tullamarine and straight off to Cocklebidy.



George and Tania Yarra return to the surface lake after the first gear haul and dump at the rockpile. Photo, Ben Hoskin.

Guidelines: Wow, did you feel jet lagged at all? This sounds almost as hard as one of my scientific conference junkets.

Chris: Well, it was a 36 hr transit from Florida and let's just say Dean did the bulk of the driving on the way over! (laughs) He said he wouldn't trust me to drive... which is pretty funny considering his nickname after his Nullabor driving the year before is 'Dr Death'

Guidelines: C'mon spill ya guts!

Chris: Ahhh Terri you know the rules... "What happens in Nullabor, stays in Nullabor" (smiles)

Guidelines: Long dives like that must mean a lot of gear back out of the cave for filling and charging how did that work?

Chris: Well fortunately the team had invested in enough high pressure line (similar to the limestone Cowboys set up Ed.) to charge all tanks at the waters edge and even more importantly for us, power from the generators up on the ground level, down to the water's edge, to charge the scooters too. If we had to haul those long body battery packs up and down after every dive, we would never have left Melbourne! (laughs) It's bad enough getting it all backwards and forwards over the rockpile.

Guidelines: Speaking of the rockpile ... were those helmets I saw on you blokes at one stage? Are you sure you guys are DIR??

Chris: (laughs) Well yeah but helmets only out of the water Terri. Seriously though, our approach is when dry caving, wear dry caving gear ... when cave diving, wear dive gear. From a safety point of view, you don't want an otherwise minor fall in the rockpile or god forbid Toad Hall which might otherwise be a nuisance or a headache, to turn into an unconscious diver with a head injury... that is not going to end well over 1km into a cave. But in any case, best we don't tell JJ (laughs)

Guidelines: Thanks Chris. Well now let's hear from 'Dr Death' himself. Dean, two December trips to Cocklebidy in two years... what is it with you guys? ... are you going to celebrate Christmas out there this year or what?

Dean Laffan: Ummm... well not if my wife has any say in it. Looking after our three young kids cut pretty hard into her pre-Christmas shopping two years in a row, so I think I better be around this year... or else. (smiles)

Guidelines: Care to comment on the 'Dr Death' allegations?

Dean: No comment.

Guidelines: Tell us a bit about the diving?

Dean: Let me answer that by going back one step to the previous trip. My most vivid memory then... and the one that inspired me to come back in 2005 was a dive with Chris in the second sump. We left the rockpile and almost instantly the cave is different, bigger and crystal clear. The passage meanders left to right and slightly up and down so it's always changing and particularly on a scooter it changes relatively quickly... if you've ever done any flying, it will be bought to mind on these dives.

At one point we curved around a bend and Chris was in front of me... both our HIDs were lighting up the cave and it all looked sensational! It was like a scene from the best cave diving movie you ever saw. I had to remind myself that it wasn't just a movie... and I was experiencing it first hand. So I wanted to come back for more of that... and I got it in spades.

It's about a 60 minute ride to Toad on the Gavins and you never want it to end. Towards the end close to Toad, the cave gets really pretty and totally different, with different colours and breaks down into (relatively) smaller passage, but still 'big'... an awesome dive.

Guidelines: The word is you're a little 'slow' on the scooter, care to comment?

Dean: (laughs) Actually that's a funny story. I was leading on the first dive to Toad, well actually it was a combination dive. We were primarily laying safeties, but figured to go to Toad as well on the same dive if we could. We had agreed on our turn times for gas and scooters ..

Guidelines: What do you mean exactly about 'turn' on the scooters?

Dean: Well as cave divers of course we all agree a predetermined point on gas to turn the dive, when also using scooters, you need to have a point where you say "even though we still have gas, we have reached 'turn' on the scooter batteries" ... time to go home.

Like other scooters, the Gavins have a variable pitch propeller so you can set them to go faster and burn batteries at maximum draw ... or dial back on the pitch a little, go somewhat slower but get a longer duration.

Problem is, there is no accurate 'fuel gauge' on the battery when you are using it underwater so you are never exactly sure how much battery you have burned, so the golden rule (as with gas) is to be conservative. Of course we burn-test the batteries beforehand to ensure we get at least the times we expect, but it's never 'real world' until you get to



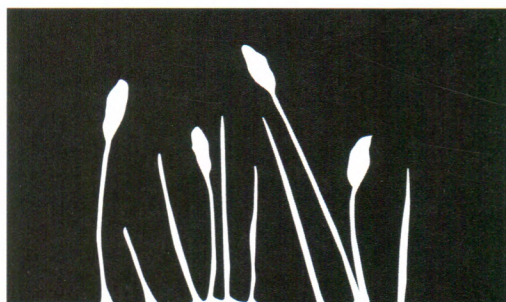
The drive over doesn't always go smoothly! George and Dean attend to a small oil leak. Pic, Chris Ross.

the cave itself.

Close to Toad, we had passed a well known and very prominent slate tied to the line and scootered quite a way past it, knowing we were really close... All of us were checking our timers obsessively hoping we would reach Toad before we hit turn .. but we didn't. I think it was George who thumbed the dive and we all immediately exited. The next dive was hilarious because it showed we called it about 150m or about 3 minutes from Toad (laughs)

Guidelines: Ouch!

Dean: Actually, it's an aspect of the dive, the team and our training of which I'm very proud. No one hesitated for a second when



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the dive was called. When you get in that position it would be easy to just think of all the backbreaking work it took to get the gear into the cave and over the rockpile. The seductive thought might be... "Aww just a little bit further... just a bit more... a little bit more..." But that's like the idea of violating thirds on gas. You'll get away with it... until the day you don't, so just like gas, your scooter turn needs to be iron clad. Subsequent trips proved I had dialed down a little too far on the first dive and we could have just about gone twice on the one lot of scooters at that speed! The guys have never let me forget it. So to make up, we went all the way twice on the following days (laughs)

Guidelines: Did you all go at once?

Dean: No, we rotated. Three Toad divers at one time .. the other two in support. Ben Hoskin was only CDAA Cave rated so in spite of him being totally squared away and extremely capable with multiple scooters, and multiple stages, he had to stop at the rockpile. So Tania, George, Chris and myself rotated the Toad dives.

Guidelines: Thanks Dean. Ben Hoskin that's as good a segue as any... how did a guy from Perth get hooked up in this expedition from Melbourne and Adelaide?

Ben: No, My regular dive buddy in Perth is Craig James who had been surface support with Dean, Chris and Steve the previous year at Cocklebidy. After his trip he came back talking about the experience and swore we must both go the next time there is a trip. But due to his work arrangements he had to use his leave to go to Florida to do his rebreather course (RB80), so I journeyed out from Perth minus Craig, but at least his scooter came for the trip!



Gear at the top of the cave ready for uplift to the surface. Photo, Chris Ross.

Guidelines: So this was your first trip diving in the Nullabor, how did you find it?

Ben: Awesome, this is what I thought cave diving was about. Big, long cave, with enough room to barrel roll through it with the scooter! While Mt Gambier is good, I am glad Cocklebidy is on our side of the country.

Guidelines: We understand there was some initial consternation with the camp menu...?

Ben: Well as you probably know you cannot take fruit and vegies across the SA border into WA, so I bought those from Perth. What Dean, Chris and myself didn't realise was the Yarra's are bush cooks like you have never seen! So we had a menu that was more like when I go out for dinner. Asian stir fries, chicken parmas, deep fried dim sim, rump steak with all the trimmings ... When I got the shopping list I had to go to three different shops in Perth just to find the ingredients! One of them said; "What the hell is Bok Choi!" (laughs) I have never even needed a shopping trolley at a supermarket before, yet there I was with one filled with just fruit and vegetables for this trip. Jamie Oliver would have to take a back seat to the food the Yarra's dished up out there...

Guidelines: We also understand you struck a bit of weather while you were out there too.

Ben: You might say that. My dad Barry and I came out with our caravan, but all the other guys had tents. They had two decent sized canvas tents and some dome tents. On the first Toad day a massive storm hit the region. It flattened the camp, busting one of the canvas tents and we had to drop and lash the other before it blew away.

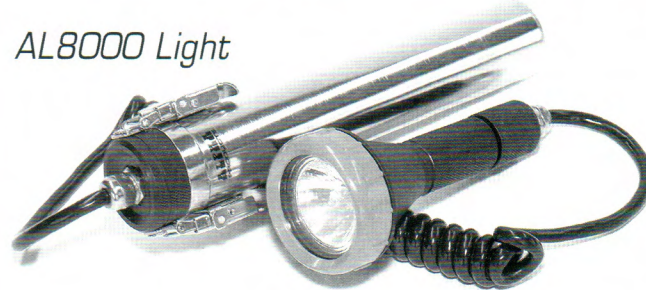
Guidelines: Well maybe that's what you get for going in December! (laughs)

Ben: Yeah it was pretty intense for a while... it tore a metal bus shelter clear out of the ground at Madura and blew all the air conditioning units off the roof of the Nullabor roadhouse, so I guess it could have been worse, but the trusty van stayed put. We just got into the cave and went.

Guidelines: Well thanks! It's been great to hear some of those behind-the-scenes stories. Please see other reports of Toad Hall expeditions from another group as well as the contrast from the hard old days of 1982 from Guidelines #13 by Peter Rogers.

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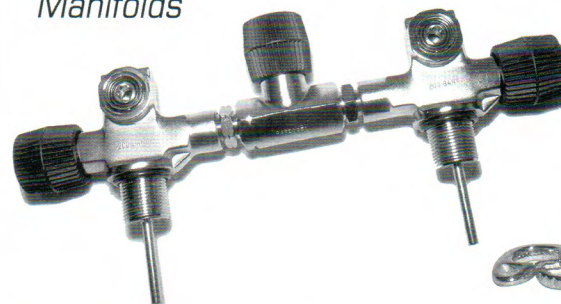
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NULLARBOR 2006

By Francis Haden and Dean Johnson.

Of all the caves located on the Nullarbor Plain, Cocklebidy cave is particularly well known. The site of epic pushes towards the late seventies and early eighties, Cocklebidy still retains much of its notoriety today as a challenging site logistically to dive.

Since the last significant extension to the end of the line in 1983, exploration in Cocklebidy is today one of a more personal experience as new divers to the site explore the cave for their first time.

The purpose of this article is to recount the experience of two CDAA members on their first trip to the cave and to share information that will hopefully be of benefit to other divers planning to dive Cocklebidy.

Adelaide marked the starting point of our trip. From Adelaide to Cocklebidy it took us two days to cover the distance West. By only driving during the day, it reduced the likelihood of hitting a kangaroo and timed our arrival at Cocklebidy during daylight hours. The focus of our trip was to dive Cocklebidy cave, accordingly we established a camp at the cave itself.

The objective of the first day (Monday) was to erect the lowering frame and transfer equipment from the base of the North wall into the cave and down to the surface lake. Tuesday was to be our first diving day (sump one), Wednesday a transfer of gear over The Rockpile into sump two, Thursday a push to Toad Hall and Friday a clean up dive.

Additional time (two days) was available if required before we needed to start our return trip East.

Previously installed bolts on the surface greatly assisted the anchoring of the lowering frame. A securely anchored frame enabled swift and efficient lowering of gear and enabled the use of our car to haul gear out after diving. Despite the quantity of gear for two divers, the gear lowering was achieved quickly, (2 way radios are mandatory items) however walking gear down into the cave proved to be one of the more challenging aspects of our trip.

By Monday afternoon however, all our gear was at the sur-

face lake and assembled. Stout footwear and haul bags (either dry caving rope bags and/or aid climbing) proved essential for this task.

Tuesday saw us up bright and early with the growing anticipation of actually doing what we had come here for; cave diving! We had received reports from previous divers that conditions in sump one were far from ideal. Diving in the first 300m of sump one was akin to diving in a mixture of water, milk and mud! Visibility was a disappointing 3 metres. The daily downpour topside was obviously running into the first sump.

Beyond 300 metres, it was a different story, visibility dramatically improved permitting us to increase scooter pitch and enjoy in total, a 45 minute cruise through some impressive cave scenery. Upon reaching The Rockpile, we dropped Gavin Scooters, stages and safety bottles for future diving in sump two. Following a rest and inspection of the best route over The Rockpile, we set about transferring gear across. It became clear that to succeed was to win a war of physical attrition! By focusing on smaller goals with frequent breaks, the arduous task of portering gear would be achievable. Nonetheless we would require another day to complete the transfer of gear before any diving in sump two could take place. With only a stage for the ride out, our exit dive was comparatively fast (35 minutes).

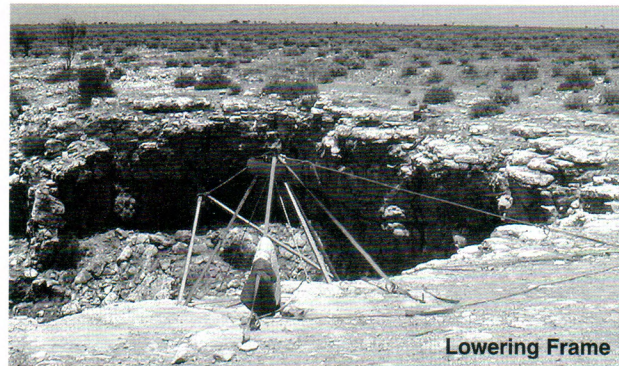
Wednesday was another day of effort. The objective was to ferry

in the remaining safety bottles and carry these across The Rockpile. As with the previous day, glucose tablets, Gatorade,, water and food provided the energy for humping heavy equipment. Return dive (scooter) times for the first sump by now had reduced as the journey became more familiar, a reduction in 10 minutes overall.

Thursday was our opportunity to dive in sump two. Without towing additional scooters and stages for the second sump, the ride in was notably fast, despite the poor conditions encountered in the first 300 meters of line. With gear in sump two, Gavin scooters and stages were left on the exit



Looking down into cave



Lowering Frame

side of The Rockpile, leaving just our twins to be walked over. As with our dives in the first sump, our gas management plan regarded the use of back gas only in the event of an emergency. For our dive into the second sump, we took with us sufficient gas reserves to enable a return swim from Toad Hall in the unlikely event of all scooters failing. The design of the Gavin scooter enables them to be used even with a number of failures (broken trigger cable for example) however we took a small selection of tools, positioned in our right thigh pockets, to carry out repairs underwater or on the surface as required.

In a similar concept to using independents, scooters were rotated on the dive to ensure that in the event of a scooter failure, other remaining scooters would be useable. Safety bottles (additional gas to the stages used to dive in and out) were placed at planned locations along the line during the journey out to Toad Hall. This prepared the sump for an exit swim and reduced the carry load on the scooter in use. A reserve scooter was also staged after a predetermined burn time. Sump two is an immensely enjoyable dive and a different experience to that of sump one. The tunnel is less of a 'straight run', featuring more bends and much wider passage. Together with great visibility (20m+), interesting mud banks and boulder piles, you really feel in another world. Nonetheless, the hazard of poor visibility in sump one was very much the opposite in sump two. In places our 18 Watt HID lights struggled to illuminate the entire passage, an aspect of the dive, which required constant visual referencing of the cave and line. Gliding through the cave, at times without seeing both walls, felt like a Kubrick style space odyssey. It is worth noting that line arrows are significantly far apart, accordingly we found it prudent in having a line arrow ready to fix to the line to maintain directional reference should the need arise.

Eventually our journey ended with an arrival at Toad Hall.

Whilst our dives were conducted using nitrox, a few minutes were spent slowly ascending to the surface, after which we took our time stowing stages and scooters before exiting the water. To preserve the enjoyment for everyone, Toad Hall need not be described in this article, needless to say one recognises the history and achievement of previous divers when viewing the visitors slate.

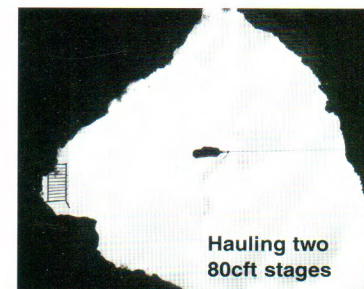
After a walk over to view the start of sump three and a rest, it was time to return to The Rockpile. Our exit dive was faster, stopping only to collect unused bottles and the staged scooter. In an hour

the shimmering surface lake at The Rockpile appeared signalling the end of sump two and the start of some hard work!

After a surface interval and the opportunity to hydrate, we began the lengthy task of reversing the cycle of moving gear over The Rockpile. Within 4 hours we had transferred all the stages, safeties and scooters to the exit side of The

Rockpile. By now the signs of fatigue were apparent, consequently it was time to eat the remaining food and have a catnap before exiting the cave. Given that all the gear was now on the 'right' side, we decided to clean up and remove all gear in one remaining dive. The buoyancy characteristics of aluminium stages more than proved their worth as bottles were 'leashed' together for the ride home. With pre dive checks completed and a final glance at The Rockpile, we submerged for what resulted in our fastest exit from the cave. 30 minutes later two divers, clustered with gear, gratefully arrived at the surface lake. Despite the camping experience, it was great to know that a bed at The Cocklebidy Roadhouse was only 24km away!

By now the continual rain each day had made the various paths into the cave treacherous underfoot. This necessitated a careful exit whilst carrying scooter and primary light



Hauling two 80cft stages



Eucla Roadhouse under water

batteries, however we were rewarded with a spectacular Nullarbor sunrise upon surfacing. It's at times such as these when the thoughts of your everyday responsibilities are replaced by those of the surrounding environment and the experience of having just dived in a premier site. Once on the surface and out of drysuits, the need to sleep all of a sudden became far more relevant! After passing some bemused tourists and dodging early morning kangaroos our roadhouse beds were gratefully received.

A sound sleep and some roadhouse tucker prepared us for the undesirable task of hauling gear out from the surface lake to the base of the North wall. Like the start of the week, this took us a day and no smooth talking of passing tourists could convince them to carry a stage either. Probably the most satisfying part of the trip however was watching load after load disappear skyward as Dean put the pedal to the metal. With all the gear topside, the trailer was rapidly packed and the car pointed in the direction of Weebubbie Cave.

We would like to recognise the assistance of the following people in making our trip happen.

Mick Quillinan, Michael Kelly, Tarkis Scordas, Chris Brown, George and Tanya Yarra.

In summary our trip was a great learning experience. The following points should hopefully assist others when conducting their trips.

Learnings:

- Whilst pre trip planning is essential, we found it necessary to adjust our expectations on a daily basis. Conditions underground and on the surface change daily.
- Wet weather can make the entrance to Cocklebidly hazardous underfoot – take care!
- A few bucks spent on a fly net fitted to your head is a great investment!
- Take heavy duty tent pegs (we used steel rebar) if you want your tent adequately secured.
- A box trailer was a real asset for us. The trailer provided shelter from the wind and rain plus made it easier when cooking.
- Consider taking a puncture repair kit with you on the dive for drysuit repairs on the fly.

Tips for effective trips:

- Focus on achieving small goals rather than attempting too much. The workload is considerable.
- Recognise that everything takes longer than expected.
- Pace yourself at The Rockpile. A long sump and uphill climb exists before the surface.
- Stock reserves of food and water at The Rockpile.
- Make sure you take everything with you-spares are hard to come by.
- Dry tubes are very useful (if not essential!).



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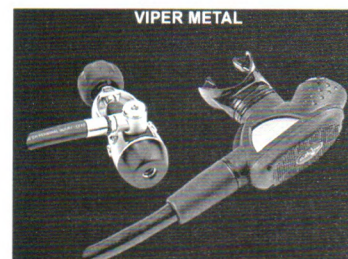


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VALE - TED ELDRED, 1920 - 2005

Inventor of the 'Porpoise' Single-Hose Scuba System

by Des Williams

(as previously published in DIVE Log Australia and re-printed with their consent)

On the 26th August 2005, Australia lost one of its great engineers, when Ted Eldred passed away at his country home in Victoria. He was the inventor of the Australian made "PORPOISE" scuba equipment. Ted had been smitten by the underwater world, prior to WW2 and here is what he wrote recently about those early years of his diving career...

"Early life as a 13 year old, living on a Peninsula with only one mile dividing the wild ocean from Victoria's huge Port Phillip Bay, the lure of the sea was ever present. The Bay was a lovely playground, but it was the wild, unpredictable ocean which offered the greatest attraction.

"On the rare days when the sea calmed and the currents subsided, to explore the deep gutters, underwater caves and kelp-beds, gave me immense pleasure, but it wasn't until fins, masks and snorkels became available, that I could take advantage of these rare events. The shoreline was all rock, rock shelves covered at full tide, whilst at low tide pools and gutters were exposed which were the only means of getting in and out of the water, a beautiful, wild, turbulent area, completely devoid of surface craft.

"I became an ardent spear fisherman, the experience from which later provided the foundation for equipment design, it taught how to enter and exit the water, to use the heavy swells, to use the kelp when caught in a current and above all to conserve energy, avoid injury and fight like hell to survive. The wish to be able to employ a free swimming diving unit, to explore the deepest depths and stay longer, had to remain only a wish until my engineering skills permitted me to commence designing and building such apparatus.

"Progress came to a halt during the war years, but permitted me to undertake a comprehensive study of respiratory physiology pertaining to diving. "My first oxygen rebreather was built in 1946, followed over the next few years by improved models. During this period I was able to fully explore the limitations of both diver and equipment, coming to the conclusion that in a near death situation, when respiration became uncontrollable, it was helpful to be breathing oxygen!" Ted Eldred 22/08/05 Ted was building and improving his home-made Oxygen circuit re-breathers, with innovative depth limiters, during

the period immediately after WW2. He shared them with his friends, including Dr. Bill Taylor, diving together on weekends around our coast. These oxygen units bore the name "PORPOISE", so Ted had decided on a suitable name for his underwater breathing equipment, even before his air scuba came along.

The use of oxygen rebreathers can be fatal below 30ft, as increased pressure makes oxygen poisonous, so Ted soon turned his attention to compressed air scuba apparatus, so he could go deeper for longer, without being limited by depth. It is 65 years since Jacques Cousteau, with input from L'Air Liquide's engineer Emile Gagnan, invented the "AQUA-LUNG", but sport scuba divers today do not use his invention. Instead, today's modern scuba systems all employ a feature which originated in Melbourne. It was invented and perfected by Ted Eldred, in the late 1940's, when he turned his engineering skills to a safe and powerful air delivery source for the diver. Cousteau's system was very clever and revolutionized the underwater world, but his twin-hose scuba demand regulator had its limitations and peculiarities, among them an unequal delivery of air to the diver. It was primitive, but a great start to autonomous recreational diving. In the late 1940's Australia was still isolated from the rest of the world by the tyranny of distance. Ted Eldred read about Cousteau's air scuba system and as the "AQUALUNG" was protected by patents, he resolved to start with a clean sheet of paper and build a better system. He set himself a set of specifications and made calculations based on his own experience as a diver, which had shown him that whilst struggling against a very strong tidal current, it was very difficult to draw enough air to breath in such a stressful situation. Ted concluded that to survive under the sea, the human body, under extreme stress and load, actually needed a demand regulator which could deliver 300 litres of air per minute to the diver. His estimate was laughed at by the "experts" of the day, as the "AQUALUNG" was delivering about 140 litres of air per minute, thought to be more than adequate. Well, history has shown that Ted was ahead of his time and very quickly, 300 litres per minute was adopted as an acceptable value by both the British and Australian Navies. This value was also confirmed in the early 1950's, when the very secret Silverman Graphs were released after WW2. Dr Silverman in the USA had made

continued page 22

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very extensive tests on superb athletes to establish the maximum air flow they required under great stress. Yes, it was close to 300 litres per minute!!

Over several years of trial and development, Ted Eldred came up with a totally different scuba regulator system by using only one hose from the regulator mounted on the cylinder to feed the diver. Exhausted air escaped at a valve located on the diver's mouthpiece, thus eliminating the second hose present in the "AQUALUNG", which returned exhaust air to exit at the regulator on the cylinder, behind the diver's head. He named this single hose regulator the "PORPOISE" and made frequent improvements during production years, including vacuum assist, to "deliver" air more effortlessly to the diver. Ted, together with WW2 Clearance Diver Commander Maurice Batterham, set up the Breathing Appliance Company in Melbourne, to mass produce the "PORPOISE" single-hose scuba gear, eventually winning over the Royal Australian Navy, who adopted the new "PORPOISE" scuba gear. The Australian pearling industry also shrugged off cumbersome helmet diving gear, in favour of the light-weight freedom of beautifully built "PORPOISE" hookah units.

Australian recreational scuba diving was in its infancy at that time, so Ted along with Maurice Batterham, Dr Bill Taylor and Bob Wallace-Mitchell, set up Australia's first scuba diving school at the Melb City Baths, in 1953.

In 1956, whilst in Melbourne filming the movie "On The Beach" with Gregory Peck, Hollywood actress Ava Gardner said "Melbourne was the perfect place to be making a movie about the end of the world". So, it will be no surprise to you that whilst Ted was producing his "PORPOISE" apparatus, the rest of the world was oblivious to his innovative diving equipment. Ted told me that he too, was unaware of what was going on overseas and did not know it at the time, but he was ahead of the rest of the world! Venture Capital was impossible to obtain from Australian banks during this period and the Breathing Appliance Company struggled on without capital assistance. The constant battle to raise cash flow to



Ted Eldred and His Grandson Adam. This was Adam's first dive and Ted's last. Fittingly both used "Porpoise" regulators. Photo; Steve Taylor

import beautifully made German cylinders in bulk, was always difficult.

In the late 1950's, author Arthur C. Clarke used "PORPOISE" scuba gear whilst diving on the Great Barrier Reef and extolled the virtues of it repeatedly, in his book "COAST OF CORAL". This is how the "PORPOISE" eventually came to the attention of the huge French company L'Air Liquide, who owned the patents on Cousteau's "AQUALUNG".

It should be pointed out at this stage, there were many inventors around the world, who claimed to have invented the single-hose regulator, but none delivered 300 litres of air per minute and they were therefore difficult to breathe under stress.

This fact was confirmed in 1960, when L'Air Liquide in France, sent out a delegation from their sister company La Spirotechnique to Australia, to inspect the "PORPOISE" system for themselves. They were amazed at what they saw Ted WAS indeed ahead of them in diving technology!!!

With the very real threat of superior competition to the "AQUALUNG" they wasted no time flexing their muscles and told Ted they wanted to buy his "PORPOISE" design, or they would flood the market with cheap "AQUALUNGS" and put him out of business. The rest is history and today Ted Eldred's singlehose scuba system is still in use, 55 years after its invention. Cousteau's original twin-hose "AQUALUNG" was gradually phased out during the 1960's.

During the following years, Ted turned to consultancy work where his talents were employed by Normalair Garret, who manufactured breathing apparatus for firemen and industrial applications in poisonous atmospheres. Then, Ted Eldred traveled to London, where he worked with the French/British team on the air-conditioning feature of the Concord aircraft. He was a very skillful and talented engineer. His work was accurate, beautifully finished and he loved a challenge. Australian divers should be very proud of such an innovative and influential engineer. Ted is survived by his son Tony and daughter Susan and four grandchildren.



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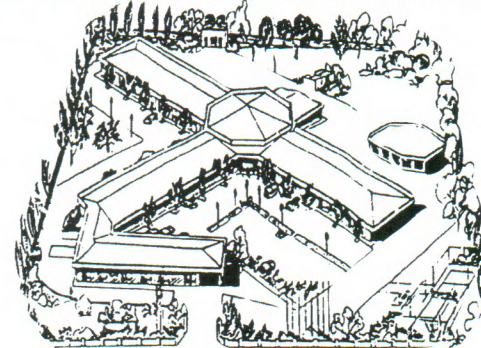
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COCKLEBIDDY EXPEDITION 1982

A NEW CAVE DIVING PENETRATION RECORD IN COCKLEBIDDY.

by Peter Rogers

During the first week of September 1982 a team of West Australians lead by Hugh Morrison, and including New Zealand and South Australian divers, assembled at Cocklebidy cave on the Nullarbor to attempt to extend further the world cave diving penetration record.

Access to the underground lake in Cocklebidy is through a large cavern, the floor of which drops 90 metres vertically over a distance of little more than 200 metres horizontally. The task of moving equipment down to the lake began on Sunday 5th September, and during the next two days more than 40 88 cu/ft aluminium scuba tanks, a dozen sets of personal diving gear, torches, regulators, food, photographic equipment and even an emergency oxygen cylinder were hauled over the difficult terrain to the lakes edge. 240 volt electricity was run from a surface generator to the lakeside for lighting, and a 100 metres of high pressure copper tubing was connected from a surface compressor down through the initial steepest part of the cave so that scuba tanks could be filled without having to be hauled all the way out to the surface. Communication from the surface to the air filling station in the cave was via a two way intercom system.

On Monday 6th a fixed guideline was run from the entrance lake through to the rockpile chamber (see map), a 900 metre dive in which the roof of the passageway reaches a maximum depth of 10 metres below the water table. With the large numbers of divers due to pass along this first section of the cave, a good reliable guideline was essential, both because of the silt that can be stirred up in the first part of the tunnel (visibility reduced from perfect to less than 10 metres during the week of operations!), and to enable divers to take the shortest route through the large underwater caverns whilst remaining at a relatively constant depth. (In places the passageway is up to 30 metres wide and 10 metres deep).

The rockpile is treated as first base for push dive attempts in Cocklebidy; all equipment to be used on a push dive must be hauled along the initial 900 metre dive, disassembled, carted over the rockpile, and reassembled in the lake on the far side. Tuesday 7th of September saw the major movement of equipment for the push dive from the entrance lake to the rockpile. A team of 3 divers wearing triple 88 cu/ft tanks on their backs, and supported by numerous other divers, pushed an underwater sled comprising of 15 88 cu/ft tanks out to the rockpile. Here it was taken apart, each tank was carried over the rockpile, and the sled was rebuilt in the lake the far side of the rockpile. Sets of triple tanks for the push divers to wear on their backs were also transported over the rockpile, as was the oxygen cylinder and various containers of food and spare parts.

Push dive day was Wednesday September 8th.

From a group of 5 potential push divers (Hugh Morrison, Simon Jones, Keith Dekkers, Ron Allum and Peter Rogers), the three who felt fittest and most ready to go on the day were chosen, these being Morrison, Allum and Rogers.

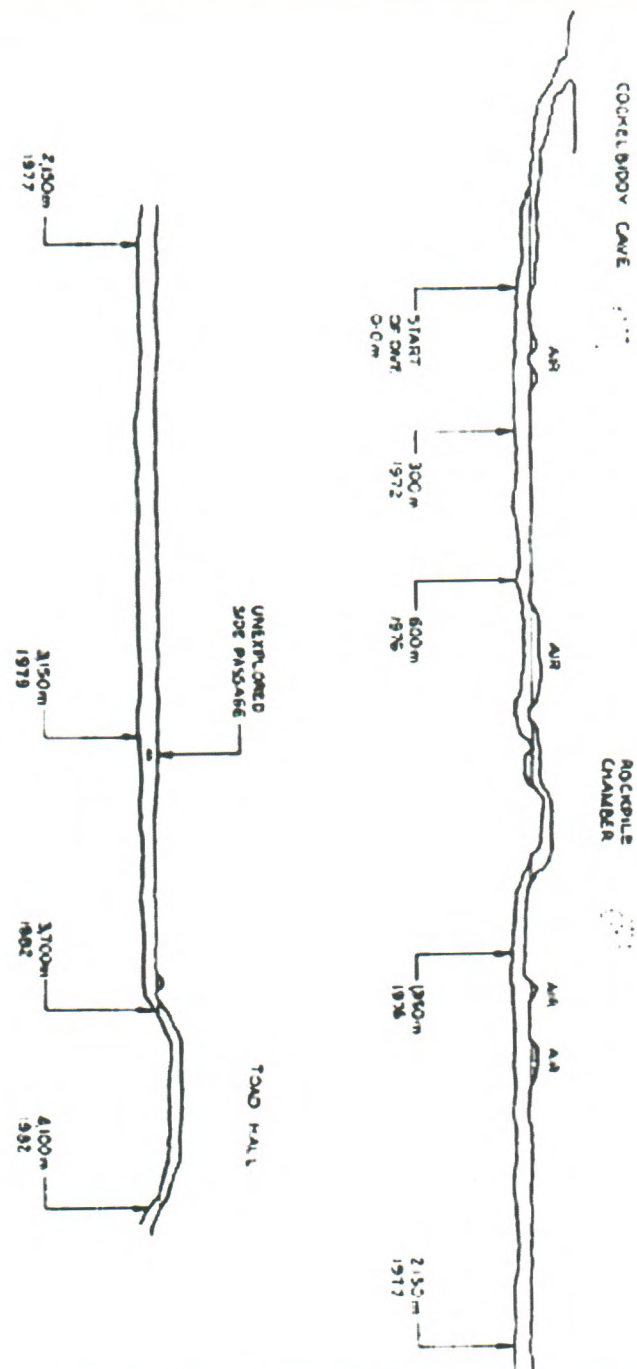
The party, comprising the 3 push divers, 4 backup divers who would assist at the rockpile and await the push divers return, and nearly everyone else involved in the expedition, left the surface at 3.15 p.m., to make their way down to the entrance lake. After a leisurely and relaxed dive to the rockpile, the push divers assembled their equipment on the far side of the rockpile and were ready to leave about 8 p.m.

NULLARBOR PLAINS - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COCKLEBIDDY CAVE

DRAWN BY RONN ALLUM 1982

0 300 1000m



The dive plan was for the three push divers to swim the sled along the guideline left in by previous expeditions until one of the divers had used a third of his air supply contained in his 5 tanks on the sled. At this point the divers would park the sled and continue using the triple tanks on their backs, again until one of the 3 had used a third of his air, at which point the divers would turn around and start for home. In the 1979 expedition Morrison, Jones and Dekkers had pushed 2 kilometres from the rockpile, at which point the tunnel appeared to be deepening, but showed no signs of stopping.

The increase in depth meant that decompression problems could arise if the tunnel continued to deepen, as the discovery of a new air chamber further along the tunnel would mean the divers would most probably be forced to decompress before they could surface, which might not be possible on the limited air supplies available at the extreme range of such a dive. It was hoped to add at least 500 metres to the existing record since although the triple sets and sled had been used in 1979, the 72 cu/ft steel tanks used previously had been replaced by aluminium tanks, each slightly overfilled to hold about 112 cu/ft of air.

So, with the prospect of a 6 hour dive ahead of them, and the 4 people waiting in the gloom at the rockpile knowing that the push divers had an absolute total of 9 hours supply of air if they didn't find an air chamber (which even if they did, they might well not be able to surface into due to decompression problems) the push dive began.

The first 500 metres were by far the most eventful of the whole dive. Buoyancy control of the sled proved more difficult than anticipated, with the sled and divers careering from roof to floor on more than one occasion. The buoyancy control of the sled was by three buoyancy vests attached to the front middle and back, each being scuba fed from tanks on the sled. These vests were necessary to compensate for the estimated 30kg of air that would be consumed during the dive. However, because air filled buoyancy vests were present on the otherwise constant volume sled, depth changes during the dive, from 0 to 14 metres, also resulted in buoyancy changes, and required constant attention. Other excitement during the first 500 metres of the dive included a blown high pressure hose on one of Morrison's regulators and an extruded o-ring from the first stage attachment of a scuba feed line on one of Rogers regulators (these problems were subsequently put down to the over pressurized tanks). In the dive itself a regulator from a tank off the sled was used to replace Morrison's regulator, while the extruded o-ring on one of Rogers regulators was successfully replaced. Both these operations took place underwater. Keith Dekkers and Graham Morrison from the back-up diver team followed the push divers for the first few hundred metres of the dive using twin tanks, when these two turned back the silence of Cocklebidy slowly enveloped the three push divers.

With buoyancy now well under control the three divers slowly pushed the sled through the crystal clear waters of Cocklebidy, following the line laid down by previous expeditions. The history of previous push dives came to light as at a point 1 kilometre from the rockpile the 3 divers discovered a slate left by Morrison and Jones in 1977 to mark the limits of that dive. At this point the 3 divers took a 5 minute rest, floating gently on the underside of the roof. Around 1650 metres from the rockpile a coil of 500 metres of guideline was found, left in 1979 by a South Australian push dive that had failed to break new ground. At the 1800 metre mark Hugh Morrison indicated that he had used a third of his air from the sled, and so as arranged the sled was "parked" against the roof and the three divers moved on into the clear waters ahead. 200 metres after leaving the sled, the guideline which had been a constant companion since leaving the rockpile, 2 kilometres previously, ended. A new record was being established, and the thrill of breaking new ground was experienced by all 3 divers.

Morrison tied on new guideline to the end of the old, and the 3 divers continued. About 100 metres into new ground a side tunnel off to the left was discovered, the first branch in the entire length of Cocklebidy. A smaller second such branch was discovered at the 2250 metre mark, and it was with great expectation that the divers realised the form of the main tunnel was changing. From the 2 kilometre mark, at 14 metres depth, Cocklebidy gets steadily shallower, with a more uneven floor and the two previously mentioned side tunnels. At the 2400 metre mark an air pocket was discovered, but after some brief underwater signalling it was decided to push on. By this stage the cave was only 3 to 5 metres deep, and showing every sign of surfacing. 2550 metres from the rockpile, with a large air chamber above them the divers were unable to continue underwater due to a collapsed rockfall. After a 5 minute wait, in deference to decompression sickness, the 3 surfaced into a large chamber with a rockpile leading up out of it. Diving equipment was left at the waters edge and exploration of the new cave started.

After an initial steep 15 to 25 metre climb the rockpile levelled off and the cave continued above water in much the same fashion as it had underneath. After about 500 metres, Toad Hall (as it was named) ended in yet another lake, and Cocklebidy headed off once more into the unknown.

The 3 divers rested for about an hour in Toad Hall before commencing the return journey, anxious not to stay too long for fear of unduly worrying those waiting at the first rockpile. The outward dive from the rockpile had taken 3 1/2 hours, and so it was well after midnight by the time the return journey commenced. On arriving back at the sled the divers paused to drink a fruit box apiece, to counter the effects of the dry compressed air they had been breathing, before getting under way on the slow return journey. Having mastered the buoyancy problems of the outward journey, the divers returned from Toad Hall to the rockpile in 2 3/4 hours, a total push dive time of 7 hours. By this time fatigue, both mental and physical, was becoming an appreciable problem, and so the push divers and backup divers left most of the equipment at the rockpile for retrieval the next day, and headed for home.

The party finally emerged tired but triumphant at 6.30 a.m. the next morning, to huddle around the campfire in the cold splendour of a Nullabor dawn. The whole journey had taken over 15 hours, and each diver had swum 7 kilometres. Despite these incredible statistics, the memory that lingered was one of the magnificent size and splendid stillness of an underwater world that began to fade from reality with the approaching dawn.



NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

March 2006

As usual the CDAA Directorate is working for the members along with a number of volunteers to achieve access, to improve sites and to extend our knowledge through mapping and education. It has been a wonderfully exciting period for everyone.

Dramatic changes have occurred to the web site and maps are now available for download along with site information. The latest Pines information put together by Peter Horne and associates along with the maps by Stuart McGregor and friends have added to our already brilliant collection.

Tank Cave still has the mapping team led by John Winkler working diligently to produce a map of not only great accuracy but one that will last in time. Tank has seen some recent changes in that the road entrance way has been solidified with crushed rock and this should solve most of our winter access problems. The shed extension hopefully will be completed by the time you read this. This will allow everyone to fit inside in the bad weather enabling gearing up to become somewhat easier.

In this issue you will read about Dean, Francis and Tania and there amazing achievements at Cocklebidy. The other team members obviously deserve recognition and congratulations as well, so read the articles.

John Vanderleest has now polled members re the new Cavern/Sinkhole Courses and his findings will be presented to me and the Standards Director shortly.

Heike (Business Director) and Terri (Publications and Records Director) have been working on a number of our application forms and information sheets, updating and improving them. Terri continues to produce a magazine that outshines anything elsewhere on the subject. Heike has stayed on top of our finances and advises me that we now have over \$200,000.00 this is an amazing amount of money for such a small Association and it's time to use it wisely.

Steve, George and Rob are still working to gain experience with the Tri-mix access to the Shaft and already some have enjoyed the depths. Interested and qualified members should apply to Steve, the Tri-Mix Officer for access.

Vale to Ted Eldred the inventor of the single hose two stage regulator. I was fortunate enough to be able to get the dive industry to recognise Ted with an Achievement Award whilst serving as the President of Dive Australia. Interesting that at the same time Jim Ager was recognised for his efforts which included the balanced first stage and a single hose regulator. Jim is still working today at Airdive in Melbourne.

Rumours of Ewens Ponds being closed continue, with divers being blamed for the loss of vegetation. Gary Barclay

is handling the situation at the moment and hopefully will be able to report a compromise.

Great news was announced by Grant Sommer..... the pending opening of Barnoolut again. First we will have 1080 and hopefully with negotiation and by setting a good example we will gain access in the future to other sites on the property. A new fence has been constructed and after some further work we will be opening for access. Grant has been working with others to get this site opened for the CDAA for many years and there effort and perseverance should not go unrecognised.

We have now run three Side-mount workshops, the last being organised by our NSW rep Mark Jobbins. Future access arrangements in NSW are also being looked at by Mark and we should have news on that soon. Workshops have proven to be very popular and it's been suggested that manifolds and stage tank workshops should be looked at next. We are open to suggestion.

The future.... Insurance is once again due to rear it's ugly head and increases are inevitable. Tank Cave lease is due and we should prepare for some cost increase here as well. Site improvements in One Tree and Ela Elap have not happened yet and hopefully that's being worked on. The shed at Pines has been finalised, re-evaluated and generally nothing has happened... BUT it looks like Forests are going to build one for us. The new pontoon in Pics has made the platform more stable and the new ramp and pontoon at Little Blue needs to be walked on with care - it's steep and slippery!

Final Note:

I thought the bad mouthing, name calling and general poor respect for others only concerned me and only happened when I was accused of something. It seems that now that I am out of range it's happening to others. It has been a shock to read on other sites the same gutter swipes, when will this end? Why must it become personal? Retaliation is a natural human reaction so why start it? Let's keep things business like if we have to or better let's be friends that can understand different opinions. This Association is run by volunteers and the statements "Without Prejudice" or "I'm a member and I have a right" hold true for the very volunteers you are attacking! Not one person that serves on the Directorate or acts as an Office Bearer does so, to my knowledge, without the best of intentions. Let's give them the benefit of doubt and not jump to conclusions.

Regards,
Warrick McDonald
CDAA National Director.



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Terri Allen

0419 17 6633

Terri.allen@baker.edu.au

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,

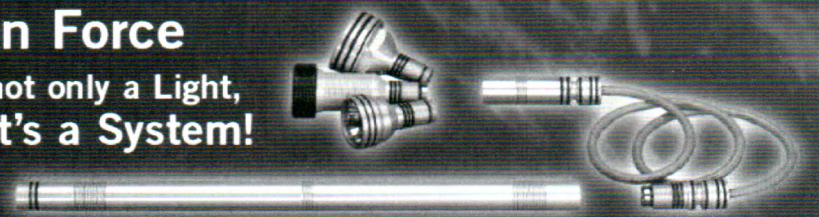
PH: 02 6291 0566

PO Box 292, Calwell ACT 2905

Email: heike.apps@ga.gov.au

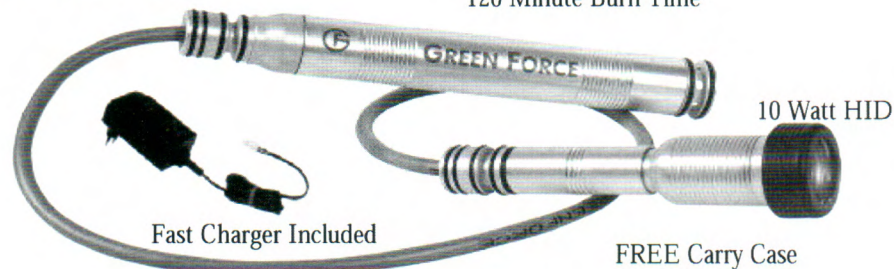
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~ Articles for Guidelines ~

- Send articles & photos via post, or preferably by email to:
Terri Allen, PO Box 7592, Melbourne 8004.
- Email to pubdir@cavedivers.com.au **and** 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.

Penetration Course February 2006

By Richard 'Harry' Harris.

Another weekend in Mt Gambier, another pen course, another flock of lambs to the slaughter! Nine divers from South Australia and Victoria spent a total of 5 days being lectured, running line around the back paddock at Pine Tank Lodge and diving local sites whilst 6 instructors interrogated, tormented, scrutinised and otherwise harassed them above and below the water!

But it wasn't ALL bad! Zen master diver Max Marriot had us all holding hands from the start, humming Omm and getting inside our spiritual centres. Heike Apps told us our datums from our D-Rings. Barkers Barclay terrified us with stories of the deadly Mexican peg and Peter "Grillsy" Grills showed us side mounting with style. Goulden's swamp turned on its full charm and many delightful hours were spent bathing in its beauty. And all that in the first weekend!

The second weekend held the promise of real cave dives, crystal clear water and great diving under the watchful eyes

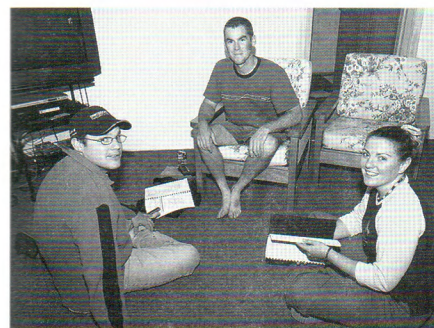


of Herr National Director and JDZ, with Heike and Grillsy still in cahoots. Oh how wrong we were! The moment we got into a decent site out came the blind-

folds again and we found ourselves back in the dark, groveling our way out through restrictions, doing the Mexican peg dance and generally making a tangle of things! But do know what? Most of us passed, the weather was beaut, the instruction first class, the comradeship tip-top, and best of all we did get a peek at the kind of diving that lies ahead. Roll on the Crazy Czech's Room and Tank Cave!

These photos show some of the fun that goes on at a CDAA Penetration Course. Enroll in one today!!

See page 41 for some great colour pics from the Penetration Course.



TANK CAVE

~ DATES FOR 2006/07 ~

REMINDER TO ALL TANK CAVE DIVERS...

A Tank Cave returning diver application form and the annual \$110 fee will be required before any bookings can be accepted. Your one off day is currently October 7th, marked as Females only.

Dates	Supervisor	2007 DATES
August 5 - 6	Steve Trewavas	January 13 - 14
August 19 - 20	(Mapping Weekend) Gary Barclay	January 26 - 28
September 2 - 3	Stan Bugg	February 3 - 4
September 16 - 17	Robert Brennan	February 10 - 11
Sept 30 - Oct 2	(S.A. Labour Day) George Yarra	February 24 - 25
October 5 - 6	(Extended Weekend for non Vic/S.A. divers) Jane Bowman	March 10 - 12
October 7	(Females Only) Jane Bowman	March 24 - 25
October 8	(Extended weekend for non Vic/S.A. Divers (Jane Bowman)	April 6 - 9
October 28 - 29	John Vanderleest	April 21 - 22
November 4 - 5	Barrie Heard	May 5 - 6
November 18 - 19	Stan Bugg	May 19 - 21
December 2 - 3	John Dalla-Zuanna	June 2 - 3
December 16 - 17	Linda Claridge	June 9 - 11
Dec 30 - Jan 1	(New Years Day) Gary Barclay	June 14 - 17
		July 21 - 22

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 May for June 2006

20th August for September 2006

RE: SHAFT DID YOU KNOW...

CURRENTLY CLOSED POSSIBLY TILL MAY 06.

For information on the Shaft contact Linda Claridge on 03 5565 8793 or email shaft@cavedivers.com.au

UP COMING COURSES

Cavern / Sinkhole Courses

22-26 April, 2006- Mt Gambier

27-30 April, 2006- Mt Gambier

25-28 May, 2006- Mt Gambier

Instructors: Linda Claridge and Gary Barclay - 03 5565 8793 - garinda@tpgi.com.au

12-25 June 2006 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier

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

17-30 July, 2006 - in Melbourne and Mt Gambier, all twin tank diving.

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

7-20 August 2006 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier

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

Cave Courses

3-9 April 2006 - in Melbourne and Mt Gambier

17-23 July 2006 - in Melbourne and Mt Gambier

16-22 October 2006 - in Melbourne and Mt Gambier

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

CDA Penetration Courses

1. May 27/28/29 & Jun 3/4

2. Sept 29/30/ Oct 1 & Oct 7/8

Contact: George Yarra, Stds Director

Email : standir@cavedivers.com.au

Please download the latest application form off the webpage www.cavedivers.com.au

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

- 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

CDAA INSTRUCTORS

NAME	CONTACT No.s	Cavern	Sinkhole	Cave	Penetr	Email
A.C.T.						
APPS, HEIKE	BH 02 6249 9170 AH 02 6291 0566	Yes	Yes	Yes		heike.apps@ga.gov.au

N.S.W.						
FEATONBY, TIM	Mob: 0402 129 253	Yes	Yes			tim.featonby@defence.gov.au
GRILLS, PETER	Home 02 4950 6262 Mobile 0419 820 920	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	peter_grills@hotmail.com
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	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			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			scubasteven@bigpond.com.au
BOWMAN, JANE	BH 03 9579 2600 Mobile 0407 566 455	Yes	Yes			info@aboccean.com.au

CDAA INSTRUCTORS - VICTORIA CONT.

NAME	CONTACT No.s	Cavern	Sinkhole	Cave	Penetr	Email
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			cedwards@teksupport.net.au
HARDMAN, LORRAINE	0418 304 120	Yes	Yes			lozhard@bigpond.com
HEARD, BARRIE	AH (03) 5627 6474 Mobile 0419 401 276	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	iantd@dcsi.net.au
KLEIN, PEDR	03 9750 6682	Yes	Yes			pklein@makita.com.au
LESLIE, PAUL	03 9879 2868	Yes	Yes			info@diverinstructionservices.com.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	Yes		info@idcscuba.com.au
WEALTHY, BOB	Mobile 0417 524 005 Home 03 9786 5905	Yes	Yes	Yes		somerset@iimetro.com.au
VANDERLEEST, JOHN	03 9505 3636 0419775771	Yes	Yes	Yes		johnvanderleest@optusnet.com.au

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

	QTY / COL/SIZE	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
BOOKS		Basic Underwater Cave Surveying. The standard publication for anyone remotely interested in research and survey techniques used in water filled caves.	\$30.00	
		Cave Diving Communications. A manual from NSS - CDS dealing exclusively with all underwater communications used in cave diving. Including touch, torch and line signals, and use of line arrows and jump reels.	\$25.00	
		Cave Diving - A Blueprint for Survival. 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	
		Caverns Measureless to Man. 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	
		Cave Practice & Equipment. Edited by David Judson British Cave Research Association. Updated 295 page book, fully illustrated with over 200 line drawings & 33 pages of dramatic photographs. Full chapter on cave diving by Martyn Farr.	\$40.00	
		CDAA Occasional Paper No. 2. From National Conference 1981. Includes topics such as Fossil Cave, Belay Techniques and Cocklebirdy 1979.	\$2.00	
		DAN Emergency Handbook. 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	
		Deep Into Blue Holes. By Rob Palmer. This is the project manual written about his trips to the Bahamas, diving some of the most advanced and spectacular caves in the world.	\$55.00	
		Diving in Darkness 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	
		Hidden Splendors of the Yucatan Hidden Splendors 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	
		Lower South East Cave Reference Peter Horne's illustrated catalogue of the Lower South East Region of South Australia.	\$130.00	
		NSS Cave Diving Manual. The standard reference manual in cave diving covering just about every conceivable topic. New Edition. CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE	\$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	
VIDEOS/DVD'S		New Edition of Peter Horne's Lower South East Cave Reference. An illustrated catalogue of the Lower South East Region of South Australia. CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE	\$130.00	
		The Darkness Beckons. By Martyn Farr. The history and development of cave diving.	\$75.00	
		The Cave Divers. 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	
		Australian Cave Diving - A Contrast. By Tony Carlisle. Four short documentary type videos on Warbla Cave, Three Sisters Cave, The Road to Toad Hall and Tank Cave.	\$25.00	
		Australia "Nullarbor Dreaming" During November 1988, a team of Australian cave divers set out on an amazing adventure to explore the mysterious waters of the Pamunk Plains Cave. This epic underwater exploration nearly ended in tragedy when a freak cyconic storm hit the area and the cave collapsed trapping the expedition below.	\$29.95	
		DIR 2004. Jarrod Jablonski & George Irvine - 3 DVDs. 8 hrs viewing. Great sections on stage tanks, beautiful diving shots in Wakulla	\$99.00	
		Florida "Window to a Hidden World" The ultimate cave diving adventure. Andrew and Liz with fellow cave diver-explorer Wes Skiles, take us on a journey to discover the beauty and danger of the Florida aquifer. Beneath the surface of Florida lies one of the planet's largest freshwater reserves. Producers: Andrew & Liz Wight.	\$29.95	
		Mexico "Water of the Gods" An exploration of ancient Maya ruins and underwater caves. Producers: Andrew & Liz Wight. Director: Liz Wight.	\$29.95	
		Water of the Gods - 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	
		Cuba "Beneath the Surface" 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	
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		30th Anniversary Polo Shirts. Grey with black trim or black with red trim. Looks very smart!		\$35.00
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		Caps. Black only.		\$20.00
		CDAA Key Rings. Blue with gold motif. CDAA P.O. Box on back.		\$5.00
		CDAA 25th Anniversary Stickers. Yellow. Include stamped self addressed envelope for delivery.		\$1.00
		Tank Cave Poster. Full Colour 14.5" x 25" poster of Tank Cave by Peter Rogers. Price includes p&h.		\$8.00
		CD of Guideliens 1-91 All Guideliens as searchable pdfs on CD.		\$10.00
MISC.			DVD of Sidemount Workshops	

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CDA A 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
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MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DEH SITES

EWENS PONDS	NIL	DEH	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. for Environment & Heritage (DEH)
		P.O. Box 1046	Smaller groups, no need.
		Mt Gambier 5290	
		(08) 8735 1177	Fax: (08) 8735 1135
GOULDENS	CN	DEH	General Diving: 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	financial CDAA membership card. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DEH
		Ph: (08) 8735 1177	before access is permitted.
		Fax: (08) 8735 1135	Training: 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	

FORESTRY SA SITES

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.
Idlebiddy	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.

IMPORTANT:

- No diving on Total Fire Ban Days.
- Permit also required to run compressors during fire danger season.
- Keys for Hells Hole, Nettle Bed, Iddlebiddy and Stinging Nettle Cave can be obtained from Lady Nelson Visitor Centre on presentation of Forestry SA permits.

Kilsby's	5	Landowner leased to S.A. Police	<p>Access - Open first weekend of the month.</p> <p>Refer to CDAA website. Twin Tanks - Maximum depth of 40 metres.</p> <p>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</p> <p>No animals, visitors or mid-week diving allowed.</p>
		No Visitors	

CDAA SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)			
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	C	Mt Gambier Council	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.
- West	P	Lessee Ph: (08) 8723 2299	
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. DYCER	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			
Cocklebidy	C/P		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. Phone: (08) 9071 3733 Fax: (08) 9083 2100
Murra El Elevyn	P/C		
Tommy Grahams	C		
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
N.S.W. - WELLINGTON CAVES			
Limekiln (McCavity)	P/C	Both Penetration and Cave Level are being accepted for this cave depending on it's water level at the time. The cave has a restriction at the entrance which is underwater making it a Penetration Dive. During drought, the water level drops to form a small lake below the restriction allowing experienced Cave Divers access to this delicate cave.	
Water (Anticline)	C	Affected by high CO ₂ levels during Summer/Autumn. Access is co-ordinated with the Wellington Caves management by Greg Ryan - greg@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.	

NSW Side-Mount Workshop - Jan. 8th, '06

By Mark Jobbins — photos Neil Vincent & Robb Westerdyke

Following on from the success of the recent workshops in Victoria and Adelaide it was NSW's opportunity earlier this January. The interest was great with a significant number of people planning to attend, however it's always a little nerve racking when organizing this kind of event just in case no one does actually show.



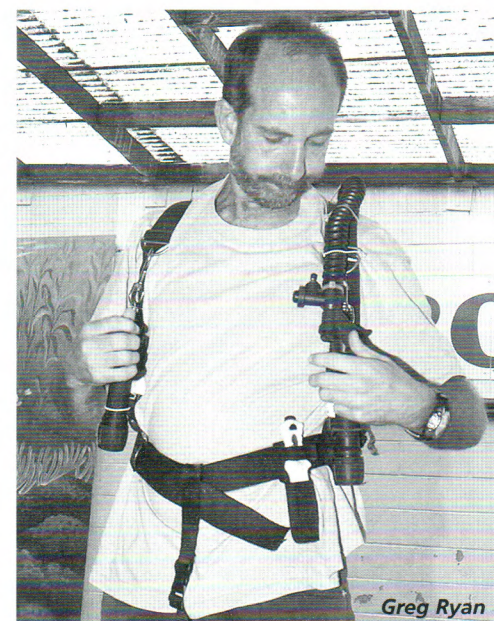
I shouldn't have missed a minute of sleep, the actual turn out was fantastic with over 20 people in attendance. We also had a number of "ring-ins" from Frog Dive who were interested in who all these people were taking over their pool area. We had members traveling from the four corners of NSW with people from Canberra, Newcastle and Coffs Harbour coming to the event which was very pleasing.

Many of the people attending were new to side-mount diving so we really hit the target audience well, although I should mention that there were a number of highly experienced people there. We were lucky enough to have a visitor from the UK who regularly dived with Martyn Farr so I wasn't too sure how we could top that!

However, top it we did, with excellent presentations from the following people: Tony Davis who ran through the principles of side-mount diving and why you might want to do it at all. Tony then demonstrated a number of rigs from Dive Rite that can be used for side-mount configurations. This sprinkled with a few war stories from the States made for an excellent talk.

Neil Vincent and Greg Ryan demonstrated their very slim-line rigs that have been developed specifically around the typical cave diving in NSW, "sump" diving. Stuart McGregor discussed extend-

ing the model with mapping hints and experiences from the long range mapping that he is doing in Tank Cave which made for interesting listening. Neil, with some prompting, dropped some model-



Greg Ryan

ing tips if you want to make to the front page of Australian Geographical, not sure I'm in the game for that without changing my gear significantly! Peter Grills also provided some top tips around using sidemounts within the training and certification process in the CDAA so people would be ready if they fancied doing a course with sidemounts. Obviously the hints were still very pertinent after the courses.

We had a number of different setups from the Dive Rite configurations, through to the custom built BC's from Dive Developments, an Armadillo and converted Scubapro units. These were all demonstrated in the pool and Fil Grey spent much of the pool time trying all the different configurations.

Given the quality of the reports from Victorian and Adelaide events, I'm not sure I can add much more to the theories and configurations in this article, but given the feedback from the attendees, I think it would be fair to say the event was educational and well worthwhile.

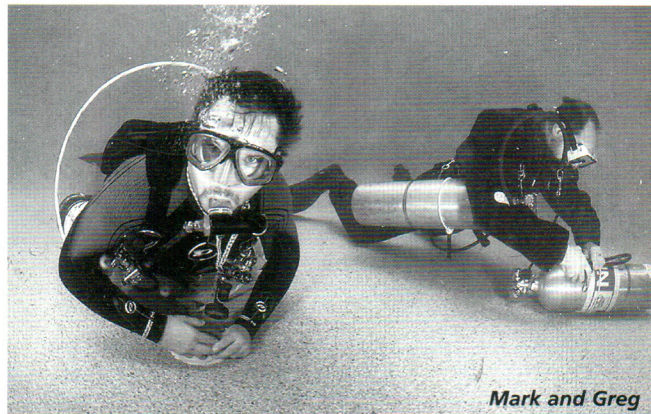
One of the most pleasing aspects

was the positive feedback from all members for further opportunities to catch up and communicate between the NSW members. Other events were discussed such as a weekend trip to the caves at Wellington or an orientation weekend at Burrinjuck Dam. Standby for more details, we might have awoken the beast which is great. Thanks again to all that attended and made the day such a success. Happy and safe diving to all.

**SEE COLOUR PHOTOS
ON FACING PAGE**



Gerry Chia serving up as usual!



Mark and Greg



Mark and Armadillo

NSW SIDEMOUNTS WORKSHOP



The Team. Photo; Neil Vincent



Tony Davis



*Rob, Greg and Mark.
Photo Neil Vincent*

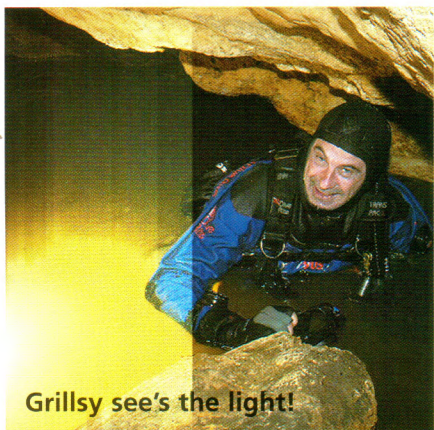
PENETRATION COURSE, from page 35



It's a bit cramped down here!



Descending



Grillsy see's the light!



a tight squeeze



The crew



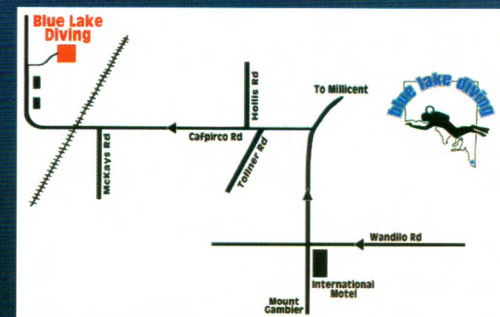
NEW OWNER ~ RELOCATION

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.



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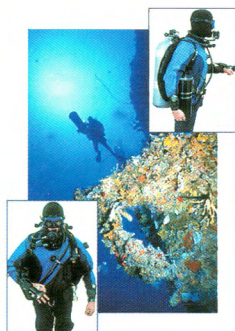
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