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**C.D.A.A. Newsletter**  
No. 101 - SEPTEMBER 2007



**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
(Incorporated in South Australia)

Print Post No. PP 381691/00020

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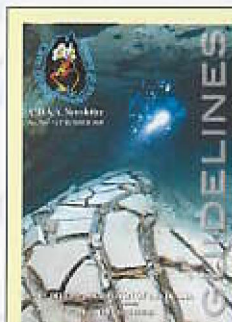


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## Front cover:

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## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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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.

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# EDITOR'S CORNER

Hi All

David and I would like to thank the many members and landowners for their kind comments on Guidelines issue 100.

Issue 101 sees another good variety of articles:

• Florida on the Cheap Part 2, Warrick McDonald • Blue holes of Abrolhos thanks to Peter Buzzacott. A terrific article from Peter Rogers on the 25th Anniversary of the discovery of Toad Hall. Great photos Peter, thanks very much. Check out those triples!  
Annual reports from Directors, Preliminary Financial statements, Ballot papers for upcoming elections (voting closes Monday October 8). The usual great selection of photos in our gallery.  
Notice of our Members Symposium day before the AGM as well as a swap meet to sell off your old dive gear. Great list of talented speakers coming so please make an effort to come along... learn all about rebreathers, DPVs, climbing, new dive areas.  
Congrats to Dean for the liquorice allsorts cover!



Thanks to the continued support from our advertisers.  
Please support them in turn.

Welcome to the next century of Guidelines.  
Happy diving.

Terri Allen, Publications and Records Director,  
Email: [pubdir@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:pubdir@cavedivers.com.au)

## NOTICE OF 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SWAP MEET AND MEMBERS SYMPOSIUM...

Annual General Meeting of the Cave Divers Association of Australia will be held on Saturday October 13, 2007 at the Comfort Inn Silver Birch conference room, Mt Gambier, SA.  
The Annual General Meeting will commence at 6:00pm and will conclude no later than 7:00pm.  
Heike Apps, Business Director.

**Members are invited to the 2007 CDA A Symposium from 12noon, October 13th with a fantastic range of presenters... see page 22 for a full listing.**

**A swap meet will also be on display so bring along your dive gear, etc you may wish to trade! Contact Terri Allen for Rules on the Swap Meet. Email: [pubdir@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:pubdir@cavedivers.com.au)**

## ~ ARTICLES FOR GUIDELINES ~

- Send articles & photos via post, or preferably by email to:  
Terri Allen, PO Box 6492, Melbourne 8008.
- Email to [publications@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:publications@cavedivers.com.au) and [seapics@alphalink.com.au](mailto:seapics@alphalink.com.au)
- Text files should be saved as Word files and pictures as separate jpeg files.  
If mailing please send pics and text on CD.
- Pictures saved from digital camera or scanned from photos must be at least 200-300 ppi at 15cm wide, RGB files, and saved as Maximum Quality JPEG's, or Tiffs if mailing.



# 25th Anniversary of the Discovery of Toad Hall in Cocklebidy Cave

By Peter Rogers

The 8th of September 2007 is the 25th anniversary of the discovery of Toad Hall. This significant passing of time prompted me to dig back into my 35mm slide library, and with the help of digital technology resurrect some of the images from that trip. I published a few of these photos with a report on the dive in the September-October 1983 edition of "The Scuba Diver" magazine.

However, my inexperience with the camera setup I was using on the dive (a Nikonos II with a new, never before used, combination of a Sea & Sea 20mm lens and a single Ikelite 150 strobe), meant that many of the slides I took were under-exposed, and so were never published. I have used information from my original log book from the dive, as well as the subsequent article I wrote, to put the following pictorial recollection together.

After 5 push dives in Cocklebidy by West Australian or South Australian teams between 1972-1979, the explored limit of the cave was 2000m beyond the first air chamber and at a depth of 15m; statistics which inhibited further attempts until 1982. In September 1982 Hugh Morrison led an expedition from Perth



Simon Jones by the main lake in Cocklebidy preparing for the dive to the first rockpile. The West Australian team constructed a large number of triple bands for this trip to maximize the air each diver could carry. The bands worked well, although getting each set of tanks into the water took some effort.

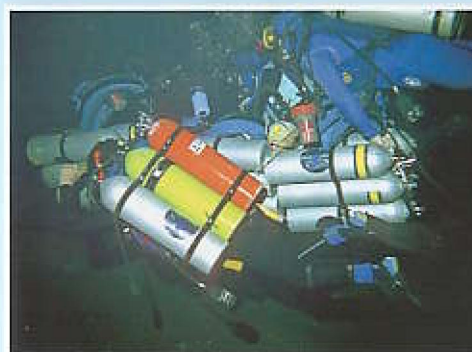


The team. Left to right, back row: Robert Galliot, Ron Allum, Peter Rogers, Simon Jones, Hugh Morrison, John Clarke, Ross Williams, Keith Cook, Martin Jones, Graham Morrison, Justin Burman, Lee Burman. Front row: Simon Groves, Lyndall Jones, Tim Williams, Keith Dekkers.

which I invited myself along on as a photographer, and Ron Allum joined me as my "assistant". This was the first time that the West Australian and South Australian teams combined forces. The pace of the trip was frantic, with Ron and myself arriving at 8am on Monday 6th September after an overnight drive from Adelaide. We got all our gear down to the entrance lake and dived the kilometer to the first air chamber on the Monday, with a repeat dive on Tuesday to take in scuba tanks for the push dive. The push dive commenced on Wednesday with an exit from the cave around dawn on Thursday, and all the gear was pulled out of the cave by Thursday afternoon.



Tanks were over-filled, leading to issues with burst disks and regulator hoses. One high pressure hose and one scuba feed hose blew on the push dive. In anticipation of such problems, spanners and plugs were taken and these problems fixed on the run during the dive.



Taking the sled through to the first rock pile. The sled was composed of 15 tanks put together as 3 sets of 5 using triple bands. Each set of 5 tanks was lashed to a sealed piece of sewer pipe, and 3 horse collar buoyancy vests attached to provide lift.



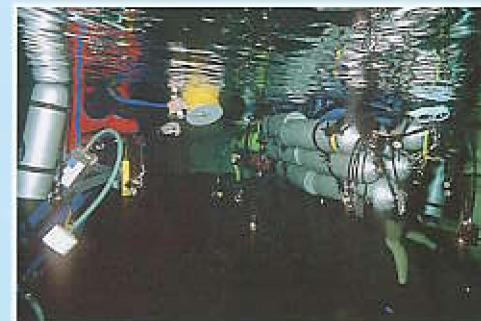
A broom handle was put through the front of the sled and 3 divers worked together to push the whole arrangement along. Controlling buoyancy was a major problem, and progress was often slow.



Ron Allum experimenting with ways to push spare twin sets through to the first rock pile. Based on experience gained on this trip, Ron designed and constructed 4 aluminium, fixed buoyancy underwater sleds that have been used extensively in subsequent exploration diving.



The sled and each push diver's triple set were re-assembled in the lake on the far side of the first rock pile.



The start of the push dive. Ron Allum (on left) and Hugh Morrison (behind sled) make last minute checks. Regulators have been put on all the tanks on the sled, so the each diver had access to 5 sled tanks and 3 on their backs, a total of 8 independent air supplies per diver. The yellow reel contains line to put in to any new cave we discovered.

continued page 8.

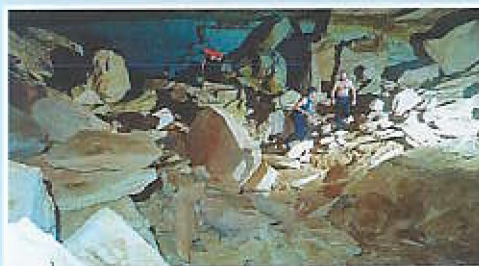




Ron Allum examines the slate left after the 1977 push dive, approximately 1000m into the second sump. I wasn't able to take many photos on this part of the dive due to sled pushing duties.



When one third of the air had been consumed from the sled, it was parked against the roof about 1800m into the dive. From this point we pushed on using the air on our backs.



Hugh putting new line into Cocklebidy. As we pushed on from the 2000m mark, the cave started to get shallower, and by 2400m we passed under a small air chamber. At 2500m we could see a large chamber above us, and at 2550m further progress underwater was blocked by a large rockpile.



The first photo taken in Toad Hall. Even though my 20mm underwater lens could not focus in air, I wanted evidence that we had found an air chamber. This is the back of Hugh's head shortly after we surfaced.

All the gear was dis-assembled and transported over the first rockpile.

Another out-of-focus shot showing Hugh un-kitting. We explored and named Toad Hall, which we estimated at that time to be 500m long. I did a snorkel dive in the lake at the far end of Toad Hall and we realized that the cave kept going. We had started to discuss a return trip with an overnight camp in Toad Hall even before we left. We only spent 1 hour exploring so as not to unduly worry the support divers waiting at the first rockpile. We had started the dive with enough air for about 9 hours underwater, and had not really expected to find an air chamber, so using the thirds rule, we were expected back after 6 hours. The outward dive took 3 hours, and so we commenced the return journey 4 hours after starting the dive. The return trip was a bit faster, and we got back to the support team at the first rock pile 7 hours after leaving.

## NEWS...

### CDAA member Terry Cummins Recognised Twice for Significant Achievements In 2007

Terry Cummins, International Vice President Marketing Metrics & Performance, PADI Worldwide, has received two major awards for his contribution to the growth and development of diving. Celebrating 25 years as a PADI employee in May of this year, he has also been honoured with an Industry Recognition Award presented to him by his peers in diving at the recent OZTeK07 Diving Technologies Conference & Exhibition, held in Sydney, Australia, in March 2007.

To mark the significant milestone in Terry's diving career, Henrik Nimb, Vice President Marketing, Education & Business Development; PADI Asia Pacific, presented him with a plaque and certificate for 25 Years of Service at the recent PADI Asia Pacific Staff Meeting, held at Frenchs Forest.

An active and valued member of those leading industry organizations and government committees that have helped shape recreational diving throughout the Asia-Pacific region, a passionate advocate of marine conservation and worked with Andrew and Liz Wight's on several of their award winning television documentaries.

An accomplished wreck and cave diver whose support for the introduction of technical diving played a vital role in attracting the highly adventurous person into diving, Terry Cummins has been further honoured with an Industry Recognition Award, presented to him at the OZTeK07 Gala Awards Dinner, held at Dockside, Darling Harbour, in Sydney on Sunday 18th March. Attended by nearly 200 members of the diving industry, Terry's Award was presented to him in recognition of his achievements and endeavours in helping push back the boundaries of diving knowledge and exploration, and whose significant contribution to the development and advancement of diving within the Asia Pacific region has often had a far-reaching impact throughout the world.

Intended to acknowledge the accomplishments and successes of Australia's leading Divers and Dive Industry personnel, the OZTeK Award presented to Terry Cummins is a further fitting tribute to his 35-years of achievements with the dive industry.

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6<sup>th</sup> August, 2007

I am writing with regard to the "in effect" membership fee increase, this year.

Firstly, though, is the Cave Divers Association of Australia (C.D.A.A.) a non-profit or profit Association?

Is it not a little strange that C.D.A.A. has put an additional fee on our membership when C.D.A.A. bank balances are around \$200,000, (September '06, 'Guidelines'?)

I also note that the C.D.A.A. bank balances have steadily increased substantially in recent years. Now, regardless of the intended use for these funds (barring winding up) will members ever see any returns from this apparent profit?

Why haven't annual subscriptions stabilised, or even reduced, when a huge bank balance is evident?

I look forward to your early reply and also ask that you please submit this letter into the next 'Guidelines'.

Yours sincerely,

Glen Templar (3696),  
33 Princes Highway, BAIRNSDALE. Vic. 3875.

**National Director's Reply** ▶



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**Glen thank you for your letter dated 6th August 2007. Your letter raises a number of points I would like to discuss.**

In 1998 the new Constitution set members fees in concrete and the only way to change those fees was by a vote from the members following the procedures as set down in the Constitution. This means simply that it takes 20% of the membership to vote to make it "legal" and then the majority need to be in favour of any change. The CDAA history shows that members don't vote very often and in the past many suggested changes have not occurred because we have not reached the proper quorum. There has only been one membership fee change in this period. What the Constitution does allow though is for the Directors to post a "levy" for certain activities and this has been done with Nitrox endorsements etc. Personally I am not in favour of members deciding what the fee should be and would love to see the Constitution changed. It seems ludicrous to me that we ask members if they want to pay more money. The answer will most probably be "no". A fairer system, I believe would be to abolish this clause in the Constitution and move it to Regulations where the elected representatives of the Association could decide on a business basis whether a fee is needed or not. Members would soon make their feelings felt in a ballot box should Directors not use this power wisely. One of the more laughable clauses is the staggered fee situation; does anyone really believe that they are charged a different fee at different times of the year by their Instructors? This needs to be abolished as well!

The CDAA is an Association that stands on its own feet, is financially secure now, unlike the first 20+ years of its life and is able to achieve what it has through careful investment of its funds. If that makes the CDAA a profit making organisation so be it.

When I first became a Director of this Association I found that our "books" showed that we had about \$20,000.00. But, when I went to pay bills that were outstanding it was discovered that the \$20,000.00 was in assets such as fences and office equipment. The first thing I did was change the accounting system and proceeded to slash our overheads, refusing to pay telephone calls on mobiles that lasted more than 4 minutes for example. Completely disbanded the Mapping and Research Committee and made a number of enemies by doing so. Tough measures had to be taken to get the CDAA out of the mess it had sunk into. I used my own money to finance the Association for the first year and in that time paid back all of our debt (some were not shown in our books at the time) and still managed to get a firm footing back. Then I started investing the money because anyone knows that "money makes money" and if you spend it it's gone! A new Directorate came on board and the careful control of our spending was continued by Carlo Virgili so when I came back as National Director eight years ago the foundations for our financial security were solid. Andrew Seifried continued the process and then Richard Price then took over and aggressively invested portions of our savings and now we have Heika Apps holding the baton. If you look at our financial report in the September issue of Guidelines you will see that our Interest Income has steadily risen each year. This is what we survive on, not members' fees, not Instructor fees or profit from other areas as most are cancelled out with expenses. Although the little each area makes helps our bottom line. If it wasn't for the very close control we have on each area the Association could easily go into the "red". The area that stands out the most to me is Guidelines costs which have gone down, although we are producing a much better magazine, on time, with colour and it's reaching more members and associates. This is due to the hard work of Terri Allen and David Bryant and soon I hope to see an even bigger increase in advertising revenue because of changes Terri has put in place.

Now let's cut to the chase...if we didn't have the money we couldn't pay Tank Cave fees, these nearly doubled this year. We get our fees when members reach the level of Penetration Diver and have shown experience in caves to reach a point where they can apply to be a Tank Cave Diver. The fee (user pays) is applied once they apply. If we didn't have funds in the bank that we can draw on how would we pay the Landowner? After we had used it for 12 months? As people pay in dribs and drabs? Don't think so!

Another factor is our Insurance expenses, normally around the \$22,000.00 mark. If everyone joined at the same time we could probably pay this fee but that's not the nature of the beast, history shows that cave divers spread their fees out, what I mean is that by the end of August, although fees are due in July we have about 50% of our members paid up. Some through forward payments, by paying years in advance but the other 50% are either new members, we lose about 12% a year or just renew when they think they may want to dive in caves again. Insurance companies don't quite understand us not paying them at the start of the financial year because we haven't got the money yet. Hence our bank balance comes into play again. The recent lease I did with the Kilsbys family to get this site for us is another point. In your letter Glen you are objecting to the \$10.00 levy and asking why the Association doesn't pay out of its funds. Well Glen that's exactly what the Association did, we paid it out of our funds! The money was to be paid at the start of the financial year; we had the money in our account and used it. But if we use this money continually and don't replace it soon we will be going backwards and end up in real trouble again. "User Pays" is the system we operate by and we were trying to come up with a fair and equitable way that would get us the money and keep things in balance. Doesn't everyone have access to Kilsbys? Therefore Gary Barclay suggested that the fairest way was to levy all members, and the Directors agreed. But, let's look at how the Association paid for Kilsbys, for the members. As I said about 50% of members are financial at the end of the year therefore is it fair or good business sense (postage, holding back membership, paperwork nightmares) to ask these members who have done the right thing by the Association to suddenly come up with another \$10.00? No I don't think so; therefore the Association has paid their \$10.00 for them. As members get around to paying their fees we will finally see some of our first year costs recuperated, but it will take a long while as about 25% of members have paid even further ahead so won't be paying next year either. Is this fair? I believe it is!

The Association is working for the benefit of its members by using the funds at its disposal to invest wisely for the good of the majority. Without an investment, interest bearing account and without a bank balance to fall back on we would not be able to continue, site improvements, access agreements, Guidelines production, Trade show representation, production of materials for training, workshops, web site, insurance, lease fees, the new courses, new manuals, exams, printing and the many other day to day expenses that consume our funds.

Glen you asked if the CDAA was a profit Association as if "profit" was a dirty word. The money that the Association has enables us to survive and live on our investments. Eventually with clever management I have a dream that we could see the day, when because of the returns we get on our investments, we could be a "fee free" Association. Spending our hard earned money will not be beneficial in the future but building our balance will. Is \$10.00 really too much to pay for double the access and the ability to use the site as we wish for example tri mix, rebreathers, training courses, workshops etc?!

Regards,  
Warrick McDonald CDAA National Director.



# Publications & Records Director's Annual Report 2007

## Memberships

The Association had another successful year with a steady membership of 799 members to June 30 2007 (804, 2006; 751, 2005; 754, 2004). We had a total of 85 new members down from 126 the year before.

New penetration divers: 16

The breakdown of member's categories are as follows:

Deep Cavern 349, Cave 239, Penetration 205, Tank Cave members 104 (most ever).

The inactive membership was once again a popular choice as were the multiple renewals. Michael Kelly has once again done a superb effort as Records Officer. He has provided a very fast turn around of renewals, well beyond the call of duty as a volunteer. The new colour card printing system continues to work well and has been popular with members and landowners.

Michael, Tony and I are currently working on a new on-line membership system, which we hope will make renewing and updating of member details easier for all.

A new indemnity form is now required for our new insurance. Please log on and sign off on this for your membership.

## Products

On the products front we have a number of new products including DVDs and more to come for this year with excellent sales recorded. Thanks to Helen Higgins who has done a superb and thorough job in this area.

**Oztek 07** was successful for the CDAA with good product sales, letting people know about courses, crossovers and membership. We were also well represented at many talks. Thanks to Helen and Andy for their tireless work bringing all the products north and running the stand with some help from others. Big thanks to Stuart McGregor for the production of the Tank Cave posters as well as the excellent Shaft and Piccaninni Ponds posters, these were a real hit.

## Publications

Guidelines is bigger and better than ever and we reached the century mark of 100 last issue. We have continued trying to fit more colour in each issue to accommodate ads as well as lots of great members photos. David Bryant is paid by the Association to do the entire layout, design the ads as well as organise all the printing. For this coming year David has also taken over as Advertising Officer. He will run all design of ads, invoicing, planning and new business for the Association. Thanks to the volunteer team at AB Ocean Divers who help with the enveloping and sticky labelling of the 800 guidelines every quarter.

**Website.** Tony Richardson continues to work as our efficient webmaster. New bookings services are now available, new ways of displaying images, new maps thanks to Stuart McGregor and perhaps soon new on-line voting.

## Course Material

This has been one of the busiest areas for me and the other Directors this year. With the advent of the new Deep Cavern course as well as Cave and Pen desperately needing a overhaul much work has gone in to the Standards and Procedures section, Instructor Manual all the forms. Thanks to Ian Ian Who and Andy Andy Who for their contributions to forms and exams.

## New On-line Quality Assurance Form

Along with Steve, Stan Bugg and the other Directors, much thought and effort went in to developing a new on line QA form. This allows us to see how the new courses are working, what feedback we can get from students and importantly that instructors are teaching to standards and there is consistency across the instructors. Lovely to have Stan on board as the new QA officer under Steve's Standards Directorate. His talent is not lost to the Association after his retirement from instructing.

## General Directorate

Lots of paperwork was updated. Course updates, Kilsby's access (Warrick), Barnoolut access (Grant), new guides coming on line, new insurance, new indemnities.

Thank you to the terrific team that work as part of my Directorate. It is great to work along side people as keen as myself to get things done for the Association in many different areas. Thanks also to the membership for your kind words, suggestions and contributions to Guidelines with a special mention to Dr Harry, Ken Smith, and Peter Horne.

Terri Allen  
CDAA Publication and Records Director

## A.G.M SPECIAL EVENT

# "CDAA Members Symposium"

The 2007 CDAA Annual General Meeting is to include a number of Multi-media presentations.

**All Welcome!**

**Saturday October 13th at 12.00 noon!**

### Presenters include:

- Bill Rouse – (Victorian Metropolitan Fire Brigade) – Vertical access
- Dean Johnston – Cave Diving In P.N.G
- JDZ – Cave diving with Rebreathers
- Craig Howell – The Pearse Resurgence
- Ken Smith – The Discovery of Kija Blue Sinkhole
- Tania Yarra – Cocklebidy
- Stuart Macgregor – Cave mapping
- Steve Trewavas – DPV logistics and Dive Planning

*Afternoon tea provided. Please RSVP for catering purposes.*

**Steve Trewavas, Standards Director**

**Terri Allen, Publications and Records Director**



**SWAP  
MEET**

**BUY, SWAP AND SELL...**

**Bring along your gear, someone will want it!**

Contact Terri Allen for more info - [pubdir@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:pubdir@cavedivers.com.au)

**SWAP  
MEET**



# QUALITY INN INTERNATIONAL

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**Facilities Include:-**

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- \* Quiet location, central to diving sites.

**NEW OWNERS...  
Lisa & Andy  
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### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION RATES AVAILABLE TO CDAA MEMBERS

Single Room: \$60 Twin/Double Room \$70 Extra Person \$10

Accom./Meal Deals - 2 Course meal and one drink deal - \$20  
(Soup/Main or Main/Dessert)

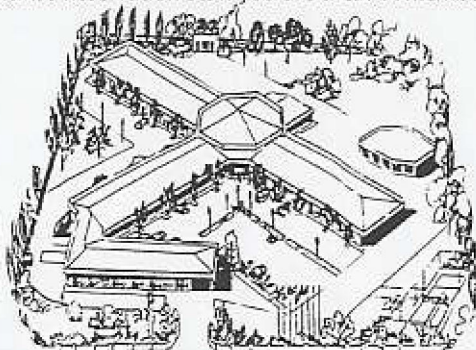
Breakfast \$14 Continental \$18 Full. (\$2 less in June to August)

For these prices, rooms will not be cleaned over the weekend, but towels will be replaced.

Rates will not apply over Easter.

**RING TOLL FREE ON 1800 088877 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION**

(Advise Reservation Staff you are a CDAA member)



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# CDAA PRODUCTS - NEWS

**DVD... Nullarbor Dreaming - \$29.95**

This film is now available in DVD for \$29.95. (No longer be available in VHS)

**NEW DVD!... Down Deep Down Under - DVD \$25.00**

A spectacular film by CDAA member, Alex Wyschnja. Discover the hidden secrets of Mount Gambier's famous freshwater caves. Tucked away in South Australia's South East are some of the country's best known freshwater caves. Their legendary clarity and depth combined with the physical challenge of cave diving, makes Mount Gambier a diver's mecca.

**NEW DVD!... Cave Diving Beneath the Ozark Mountains - DVD \$30.00**

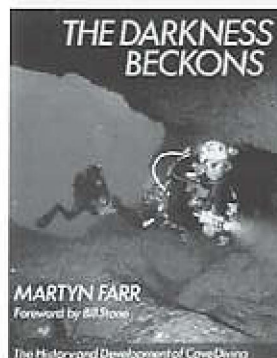
The DVD starts with an introduction to cave diving, with footage of Ginnie Springs, and then quickly shifts to the Gasconade River in the Ozark Mountains, Missouri. The team kayak to a high flow spring called Boiling Spring, one of the highest flow caves in the USA. At the entrance there is a 3 knot current through a restriction so the team of five divers wear sidemount. The photography is clear and over four days the team reach 2000 feet in, 200 feet deep, using scooters which they drag through restrictions using ropes. In this DVD they extend the survey of the cave.

**NEW!... Stubbie Holders - \$8.00.** Made of high quality 5mm neoprene.

**NEW!... Travel Mugs - \$12** - Travel mugs are great for having a cuppa on the run.

**NEW!... Mask Slap Straps - \$16** - Slap Straps are fully embroidered and made from high quality wetsuit material to replace your current dive mask straps.

Please note that "An Introduction to Technical Diving" and "The Cave Divers" are currently out of print and not available. There will be a reprint in the coming months. Stay tuned!



## GREAT BOOKS...

**The Darkness Beckons - \$75**

By Martyn Farr.

Widely regarded as the definitive study of cave diving world-wide. It has been highly acclaimed by reviewers world-wide and the inspiration of many. This book is more than an armchair insight to cave diving. It is a tale of epic pioneering proportions; this is an adventure book, the highs and lows of which will not fail to impress anyone with an open mind. Recommended reading for anyone considering embarking upon the challenging activity of diving in overhead environments.

This is the updated new edition of the Darkness Beckons published in 2003. It should be noted that this is a rebind of the Second Edition, first published in 1991, but

extended to cover the outstanding events of the past decade by the addition of a 24-page supplement. The exciting history of cave diving has been brought up to date with lavishly illustrated accounts of the epic achievements that have been undertaken at places such as the Doux de Coly, Wakulla, Bushmansgat and Zacaton. Complete with a new dust jacket picture of a submarine cave off the north of Mallorca this hardback is excellent value for money.

To order this item or any others listed, please use the order form in Guidelines or order from the new online store via the web page.

REGARDS, HELEN HIGGINS, CDAA PRODUCTS.





# NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

September 2007

It is with great pleasure that I can report that all is well in the CDAA.

Your vote is required for the election of Directors. A simple majority can vote in directors and over the many years that I have been involved in the Association I have seen good and bad elections. The bad are when people don't vote for a candidate and then complain bitterly for the next two years when someone they didn't want is elected to office. It's up to you, your vote is important! The good is when there is a clean fought election between members not promises of "...being honest" and the rest of the tripe that's dished out. This rubbish and innuendo that is used is an insult to all of us who serve the Association or wish to.

It is not my place to tell you who to vote for but it is my duty to advise you to vote wisely. Change is good if it means improvement but change for the sake of change is not constructive. I believe that Directors should be judged on the work they do and if you don't know what that is (impossible to tell what's true or false in a 100 word précis) ask them and then check out the answers. In a time where communication is more available than any time in history we (Directors) still have our hands tied as far as public comment goes. I can't tell you that Joe Blow does stuff all. I can't tell you that Mary is lazy I can't tell you that Jack Flash is the best person the CDAA has ever had. Accusations of bias and taking advantage of my position I don't need. But, if you don't know who does what, ask!

In this issue there should be reports from all Directors advising you of their current position. Read them and if you think a Director needs to be looking after something better or something else let them know. Feedback is one of the only ways we can work on projects that help you, the member.

## STANDARDS

George Yarra resigned as a Director and we appointed Steve Trewavas in his place. Steve has been very active helping with many decisions in the day to day workings of the CDAA. His advice and input was sought on the final draft and introduction of the new Deep Cavern Course. A new QA form, for Deep Cavern and Cave courses, on line was introduced. The form

must be completed before certification cards are issued, although a temporary card is given at the successful completion of the course. A new Instructor Guide is being written to be followed by a new student manual. Work has begun on a new Standards and Procedures Manual to be used by Instructors in conjunction with all of our courses. The Penetration Program has gone through some "tidy up" and a new exam and course outline is being prepared. Cave divers doing courses will see some of the Penetration program being introduced to make the certification more acceptable worldwide.

## ACCESS

Kilsbys is now a CDAA leased site with more access and less restrictions as to equipment allowed to be used. Tank Cave has been leased again with more access. The Tank Cave shed was extended and the cave, thanks to Dave Warnes enlarged to make access easier. Dave also fixed the leak in the roof and moved about 4 tonnes of rock from the entrance. Gary Barclay with some volunteers had a clean up day and improved access to Allendale and fossils plus cleaned up the rubbish at Gouldens and Hells Hole. Gary managed to get bakers Cave opened and that is now diveable. 1080 was opened again by Grant Summer and he's now working on improving access to Blacks which should be open soon.

## RECORDS and PUBLICATIONS

Terri Allen is a workaholic and spends a ridiculous amount of time working for the Association with her team - Michael Kelly, Helen Higgins, Tony Richardson and David Bryant have overextended themselves getting things out to you. Guidelines is a publication we can all be proud of and although we can always use new advertisers it's production is on time and of high quality. A new system Terri has just put in place should see the marketing of Guidelines benefit the Association and return a profit. Certification cards, provided that members send the correct payment, stamped self addressed envelope, indemnity form etc. are returned almost immediately, a far cry from the "old" days. The smooth transition of the Deep Cavern rating by Michael has helped keep this part of the Directorate operating efficiently. CDAA products are now available on line and payment has been set up so that direct transfers can be made. Helen has aggres-

sively marketed our products at every opportunity including OZ Tek where she worked on the stand longer and harder than all of us who volunteered to help. The web site has become one of our most important tools with bookings available for a lot of sites and forms being downloadable. Although voting on line has been looked at, the Directors are still to be convinced of its security. QA forms are now available on line and full Instructor materials are downloadable. Maps and site information are also available and judging by the "hits" the site receives it is working well for our members and visitors.

## BUSINESS

Heike Apps has continued in the job now for two terms and has continued the good work set up by her predecessors. Heike is a strong contributor to the Directorate and when asked to make a decision on any matter is quick to vote or make suggestions. As I have not seen the balance of accounts at the time of writing this I can only presume that although costs have risen in some areas we will still show a healthy bank balance.

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR

As I oversee nearly everything I get involved in most decisions and projects so I won't mention them all here as they are in the above reports. I look after

Investigations and although things have been quiet with only a few suspensions this year I am working on a matter now of great concern and that's the behaviour of a member and whether it directly effects the Association or if it is really a private matter. Insurance has finally become competitive and although this side of it is one of the worst jobs I do at least this year I was able to save the Association many thousands by shopping our policies around amongst some new players. My involvement in getting a lease for the CDAA for Kilsbys was very rewarding and the dealings I had with the Kilsbys owners worked to our advantage because the outcome saw us with complete control and double the access. The tank cave lease which I advised would double surprised even me, after a lengthy negotiation with the Landowner, the Association managed to get out a bit cheaper but did manage more access and allowed the site to be further improved. See Access report. The new Deep Cavern Course has been written mainly by Terri Allen and myself with input from other Instructors.

Regards, Warrick McDonald  
CDAA National Director.

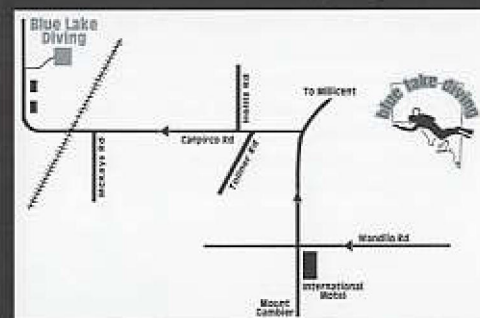


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# SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hi again, its that time of the year again - the time to vote on new directors and to think on what direction you would like the CDAA to go. We have some money in the coffers and need to have some plan for the future of the CDAA, this may be in the way of trying to buy a site or sites, or maybe our own dive lodge in the Mount somewhere. So give some thought to what you would like to see happen and let the directors know.

Access is going well with lots of dives happening in all sites. Kilsby's, Tank, Bamoolut and the Shaft are all going well thanks to the good relationships built up with the landowners. Thanks must go also to the ever patient ladies and gents at DEH and Lady Nelson Tourist Info Centre.

We had a great cleanup at the end of June and a huge thank-you must go to those that took time out from diving to spend some time on a shovel or jack hammer over the weekend. We were assisted by a strong contingent of local cave divers, a couple of Hamilton guys and also by Jeremy and Jonathon from sunny Queensland. The first job on the list was to install a kitting up table at Gouldens and to wiper snip around the steps. A general tidy up, some pruning, and the removal of the rubbish that had been accumulating for some time was also done. Thanks to Darren Walters who carted the table to the location, then loaded up his trailer with the refuse and took it away. Then it was on to Allendale where we had about 12 divers helping to cart and lay some limestone blocks down the slope. This area was getting very hard to negotiate and was becoming more and more unstable. Now there are steps all the way to the water and a simple walk in and out of here. We cleared some more rubbish from here before heading in convoy over to Fossil cave.

At Fossil we did some major wiper snipping, another kitting up table and some new limestone blocks replacing the steps down into the doline. The new

steps are a little wider and longer than the previous ones and somewhat more stable. A few spare blocks were placed into the water also to try and protect the entry to the water.



Allendale Stairs

Next day most of the divers, plus a couple of extras turned up at Hell Hole for a cleanup here. Forestry SA kindly arrived with a large trailer to assist with the removal of any rubbish from here. It was a pretty rough day with lots of rain coming over just to make things a bit more interesting. We were able to get 10 divers in and out of the water for a very chilly dive - and they removed loads of rubbish as well. It is amazing how much rubbish is transported all the way out to Hells, past 2 locked gates and into the water! We finished up with a BBQ and a few drinks for everyone. Thank-you for all of those that could make it so that others can enjoy what we achieved over the weekend. There will be another clean-up later in the year so if you are interested please let me know. Also if you have any projects that you would like to see completed then contact me and we will see

what we can do.

On another note divers, please be aware of any cave environment that you may be in, remember that these are solutions caves and are constantly moving, dissolving or evolving. Sometimes things move, or can be moved unexpectedly making the conditions vastly different than what you anticipated. So stay safe, take care and dive carefully.

I will be away in England for all of September checking out some cave sites over there so I might have some good stories for you when I get back! I can be contacted during that time on 0408 052 070.

**Happy Diving,  
Gary Barclay #1735**



## BALLOT PAPER 2007 - PRECIS NOMINATED POSITIONS FOR 2007/2008

### NOMINATION FOR SITE DIRECTOR 2008

**Rob Brennan - CDAA #1321**

During my previous term as Site Director, I found communication, site access, improvement and upkeep to be the most important factors. We need to preserve open lines of communication with landowners, members and government departments to ensure awareness of such issues. Pro-activity is essential to maintaining site access on current sites and establishing new sites for the future. This in turn increases the need for environmental awareness regarding constantly maintaining and improving dive sites. I will always be available to, and supportive of those who wish to discuss further issues of concern.

*Rob Brennan CDAA #1321 (Nominee)*

*Proposer Tim Payne. Seconder Craig Larkin*

### NOMINATION FOR SITE DIRECTOR 2008

**Gary Barclay - CDAA #1735**

As the current Site Access Director I renominate for this important job with knowledge and experience of what the job entails and what is important for the association.

The past 2 years have seen...

- Renewed access to Bakers Cave
- Increased access to sites
- New guides implemented
- Clean-ups at Gouldens, Allendale, Fossil and Hells Hole
- Site improvements that make member access safer and easier
- Renewed mapping projects

In the next term there should be another couple of sites online and the ongoing mapping projects will bring greater info and involvement for all CDAA members.

*Rob Brennan CDAA #1321 (Nominee)*

*Proposer Andrew Lockwood. Seconder Lorraine Hardman*



## BALLOT PAPER 2007 - PRECIS

### NOMINATED POSITIONS FOR 2007/2008

#### NOMINATION FOR PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS DIRECTOR

Terri Allen - CDAA #3483

Serving the Association in the sport I love has allowed the following:

Website now one of our most valuable tools. Membership records, certifications etc are handled quickly and timely, what once took weeks, now takes days. Products have expanded and will continue. Goals still to be met: On-line voting, Guidelines returning a profit, better member services, and on-line access to applications, bookings, materials, information and review of Cave/ Penetration Courses. The review will entail writing manuals for Instructors/ students, new application and training records, quality assurance and include new teaching methods and equipment. Membership will be increased in all states through seminars and presentations.

*Terri Allen (Nominee)*

*Proposer Sarah Ibison. Seconder Liz McLeod*

#### NOMINATION FOR PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS DIRECTOR

Helen Higgins - CDAA #3067

I've been a member since 1997, Products Officer for over 12 months and a penetration diver. I have a strong passion and commitment to the CDAA with a high level of efficiency.

My achievements in that time include:

- designing and organising a product brochure for student packs
- introducing new products
- redesigning the order form in Guidelines
- introducing a product of the month page in Guidelines
- regular product updates on the web, email and Guidelines
- implementing the new online shop
- setting up and running the CDAA stand at Oztek

My commitment is to help bring back value for your membership and accountability to the members for the directorate's actions. Importantly I hold no hidden agendas or allegiances, and I am passionate about working FOR YOU THE MEMBERS as a fresh new independent voice.

*Helen Higgins (Nominee)*

*Proposer Linda Claridge. Seconder Ian Taylor.*

## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

# Ballot Paper.

This is your ballot paper for the  
2007 CDAA Elections.

There are a couple of things  
you need to know...

- 1. Before voting, please read pages 19 to 21 for the 100 word precis for each candidate.**
- 2. Instructions for voting and mailing your ballot listed on Page 4 of this Liftout.**
- 3. Your vote is important, please take the time to fill in your ballot paper correctly and return to the appropriate address. Thank you, Geoff Chambers, Returning Officer, CDAA.**
- 4. Only this Ballot Paper may be used... copies will not be accepted.**



CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
DIRECTORATE ELECTIONS OCTOBER 2007

## BALLOT PAPER

### NATIONAL DIRECTOR:

Only one nomination for the position of National Director was received:  
A statement appears in this issue of Guidelines

**Warrick McDonald** - CDAA #1882

*Proposer Jane Bowman #1880. Seconder Sara Ibison #3909*

ACCEPT YES ☐ NO ☐

### SITE DIRECTOR:

The following members have nominated for the position of Site Director:  
Please place a cross in the box opposite your preferred candidate only.  
Statements from each candidate appear in this issue of Guidelines:

**Rob Brennan** - CDAA #1321

*Proposer Tim Payne CDAA#2640. Seconder Craig Larkin CDAA#3567*

VOTE YES ☐ NO ☐

**Gary Barclay** - CDAA #1735

*Proposer Andrew Lockwood #4037. Seconder Lorraine Hardman # 2824*

VOTE YES ☐ NO ☐

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
DIRECTORATE ELECTIONS OCTOBER 2007

## BALLOT PAPER

### PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS DIRECTOR:

The following members have nominated for the position of Publications  
and Records Director: Please place a cross in the box opposite your  
preferred candidate only.

Statements from each candidate appear in this issue of Guidelines:

**Terri Allen** - CDAA #3483

*Proposer Sarah Ibison # 3909, Seconder Liz McLeod #1459*

VOTE YES ☐ NO ☐

**Helen Higgins** - CDAA #3067

*Proposer Linda Claridge #2214, Seconder Ian Taylor #3568*

VOTE YES ☐ NO ☐



## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

### POSTAL VOTING INSTRUCTIONS - OCTOBER 2007

Please follow these instructions carefully to register your votes in the 2007 Ballot

#### **Step1** COMPLETE THE BALLOT PAPERS

Clearly indicate your preference on all ballot papers following the instructions for each question. Fold your ballot papers and place them in a small envelope and write on the front of that envelope:

##### BALLOT PAPER ENVELOPE

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

#### **Step2** PLACE THE BALLOT PAPER ENVELOPE IN **ANOTHER ENVELOPE** ADDRESSED TO THE RETURNING OFFICER.

The address for the Returning Officer is:

**The Returning Officer**  
**PO Box 7592**  
**St Kilda Rd Vic 8004**

#### **Step3** SIGN THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE RETURNING OFFICER

On the back of this envelope you must write your name, CDAA number and signature. This serves to declare that you are the person whose name appears on the back of the envelope, and that this is your only vote in the 2007 ballot.

#### **Step4** SEND YOUR ENVELOPE TO THE RETURNING OFFICER STRAIGHT AWAY

**Your votes must reach the Returning Officer by the close of business Monday, October 8th 2007.**

Any questions may be directed to Heike Apps - busdir@cavedivers.com.au.

## BALLOT PAPER 2007 - PRECIS NOMINATED POSITIONS FOR 2007/2008

### NOMINATION FOR NATIONAL DIRECTOR 2007-9.

**Warrick McDonald** - CDAA #1882

As National Director, last 2 years;

- secure financial situation;
- new "Deep Cavern" Course, replaces 1998 version;
- "Kilsbys" CDAA, leased site;
- re-lease "Tank Cave" more access days;
- access to "1080" and soon "Blacks"
- access to Bakers Cave;
- site improvements;
- stable fee structure;
- new Insurance cover, reduced price, better coverage for Instructors and Office Bearers;
- Politically stable
- Alignment of courses to match overseas standards for equal acceptance;
- Web site interactive, information and applications;
- 100th issue Guidelines, more articles, colour and on time;

There is more to do, the end is in sight, I seek your vote to allow me to finish. (100/100)

*Warrick McDonald (Nominee)*

*Proposer Jane Bowman Seconder Sara Ibison.*



# CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

## END OF FINANCIAL YEAR STATEMENTS

ABN 65 062 259 956

### TRADING ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30 2007 (provisional)

	2007	note	2006	2005	2004
<b>SALES:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$10,712.30	1	\$5,436.60	\$3,020.65	\$9,505.95
Instruction Materials	\$6,655.00		\$9,740.00	\$7,778.00	\$7,904.64
<b>LESS COST OF SALES:</b>					
<b>OPENING STOCK:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$4,458.85		\$5,449.32	\$6,159.75	\$4,206.62
Instruction Materials	\$2,000.00		\$2,414.24	\$3,211.00	\$1,015.03
Members Manuals	\$5,000.00		\$5,614.48	\$4,710.00	\$3,132.27
<b>ADD PURCHASES:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$7,994.28		\$3,046.67	\$1,692.94	\$10,055.86
Instruction Materials	\$3,087.62		\$8,818.44	\$1,341.35	\$4,667.01
Members Manuals	\$301.95		\$313.82	\$1,279.00	\$2,048.76
<b>LESS CLOSING STOCK:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$6,345.39		\$4,458.85	\$5,449.32	\$6,159.75
Instruction Materials	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	\$2,414.24	\$3,211.00
Members Manuals	\$4,500.00		\$5,000.00	\$5,614.48	\$4,710.00
<b>TOTAL COST OF SALES:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$6,107.74		\$4,037.14	\$2,403.37	\$8,102.73
Instruction Materials	\$3,087.62		\$9,232.68	\$2,138.11	\$2,471.04
Members Manuals	\$801.95		\$928.30	\$374.52	\$471.03
<b>GROSS TRADING PROFIT (LOSS):</b>					
CDAA Products	\$4,604.56		\$1,399.46	\$617.28	\$1,403.22
Instruction Materials	\$3,567.38		\$507.32	\$5,639.89	\$5,433.60
Members Manuals	(\$801.95)		(\$928.30)	(\$374.52)	(\$471.03)
<b>LESS POSTAGE:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$556.33		-	\$85.25	\$110.25
Instruction Materials	\$509.34		\$174.35	\$273.09	-
<b>NET PROFIT (LOSS):</b>					
CDAA Products	\$4,048.23		\$1,399.46	\$532.03	\$1,292.97
Instruction Materials	\$3,058.04		\$332.97	\$5,366.80	\$5,433.60
Members Manuals	(\$801.95)		(\$928.30)	(\$374.52)	(\$471.03)

# CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED - ABN 65 062 259 956

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30 2007

	UNAUDITED	2007	note	2006	2005	2004
<b>INCOME:</b>						
CDAA Products net income		\$4,048.23		\$1,399.46	\$532.03	\$532.03
CDAA Instruction Materials net income		\$3,058.04		\$332.97	\$5,366.80	\$5,366.80
Membership fees		\$57,251.50		\$46,855.00	\$42,743.00	\$44,177.00
Non Active Memberships		\$1,085.00		\$1,435.00	\$1,135.00	\$2,100.00
Instructor's membership fees		\$1,230.00		\$1,040.00	\$1,720.00	\$760.00
Late membership fees		\$3,780.00		\$2,790.00	\$2,215.00	\$3,280.00
Joining and rating upgrade fees		\$4,020.00	2	\$5,560.00	\$4,440.00	\$3,840.00
Nitrox endorsement fees		\$660.00		\$500.00	\$560.00	\$340.00
Trimix & Rebreather endorsements		\$1,020.00		-	-	-
Guidelines advertising income		\$5,550.00		\$5,142.00	\$4,050.00	\$2,175.00
Tank Cave Fees		\$13,880.00		\$8,440.00	\$8,140.00	\$8,710.00
30th Anniversary Dinner receipts		-		-	\$165.00	\$2,975.00
Grants and donations received		\$16.00		-	-	\$5.00
Fines		-		\$115.00	-	\$50.00
Visitor Permits		\$500.00		-	\$293.00	-
Penetration course receipts		\$10,750.00		\$16,650.00	\$9,900.00	\$11,950.00
Interest income		\$11,714.48		\$8,784.74	\$7,522.29	\$6,099.93
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$118,563.25</b>		<b>\$99,044.17</b>	<b>\$88,782.12</b>	<b>\$92,360.76</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
Accounting and audit fees		\$2,263.73		\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	\$650.00
Bank fees		\$444.20		\$415.43	\$449.40	\$517.25
Computer expenses		-		-	\$134.72	\$134.72
Credit facility fees		\$1,195.34		\$905.22	\$642.51	\$1,837.62
Govt. financial taxes		-		\$8.10	\$74.60	\$119.50
Gifts & Donations		\$139.00		\$592.26	-	-
Depreciation expense		\$2,379.37		\$969.45	\$636.04	\$871.50
Fundraising		-		-	\$240.00	-
CDAA Liability Insurance		\$20,141.00		\$22,119.02	\$22,304.29	\$22,058.96
Members Manuals		\$801.95		\$928.30	\$374.52	\$374.52
Postage		\$136.35		\$620.75	\$379.98	\$1,134.66
Post Office Box Fees		\$424.00		\$759.40	\$817.58	\$540.85
Printing and Stationery		\$434.76		\$694.87	\$441.59	\$128.59
Penetration course disbursements		\$9,950.00		\$15,033.58	\$10,700.00	\$9,330.29
Research and Mapping		-		-	\$212.10	-
Site expenses		\$4,961.00	3	\$11.00	\$497.78	\$2,560.00
Repairs & Maintenance		\$1,501.03		-	-	-
Sundry-		-		\$87.62	-	-
Tank Cave licence fee		\$8,250.00		\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00
Telephones		-		\$22.18	\$273.29	\$427.19
Web Site expenses		\$2,371.35	4	\$2,346.00	\$2,537.96	\$2,734.50
Workshops		-		\$463.01	-	-
OzTek expenses		\$1,737.37		-	-	\$546.49
Guidelines Production		\$15,433.00	5	\$11,660.00	\$15,191.00	\$12,855.00
Guidelines postage		\$2,174.78		\$1,501.27	\$2,032.22	\$1,754.06
Annual general meeting expenses		\$650.80		\$790.34	\$444.23	\$4,089.55
Other meeting expenses		\$562.70		\$1,478.83	\$599.00	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$75,951.73</b>		<b>\$71,444.01</b>	<b>\$69,195.43</b>	<b>\$70,915.25</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>\$42,611.52</b>		<b>\$27,600.16</b>	<b>\$19,586.69</b>	<b>\$21,445.51</b>



	<b>DRAFT ONLY</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>note</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>						
<b>Current Assets</b>						
National Australia Bank cheque account		\$23,060.43		\$19,807.79	\$7,720.70	\$20,124.26
National Australia Bank Common Fund		\$240,819.04	6	\$208,819.04	\$190,011.76	\$156,711.76
Debtors - advertising		-		-	-	-
Debtors - other		-		-	-	-
Prepayments		\$4,070.00	7	-	\$8,250.00	-
CDAA Products stock		\$6,345.39		\$4,458.85	\$5,449.32	\$6,159.75
Instruction Materials stock		\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	\$2,414.24	\$3,211.00
Members Manuals stock		\$4,500.00		\$5,000.00	\$5,614.48	\$4,710.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>\$280,794.86</b>		<b>\$240,085.68</b>	<b>\$219,460.50</b>	<b>\$190,916.77</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>						
Property, Plant & Equipment		\$7,169.63		\$7,169.63	\$7,169.63	\$7,169.63
less accumulated depreciation		(\$7,169.63)		(\$7,169.63)	(\$7,169.63)	(\$7,169.63)
Site Development		\$10,352.79		\$6,544.43	-	-
less accumulated depreciation		(\$885.67)		-	-	-
Office equipment		\$17,922.59		\$17,922.59	\$14,427.59	\$14,108.59
less accumulated depreciation		(\$16,667.44)		(\$15,173.74)	(\$14,204.29)	(\$13,568.25)
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>\$10,722.27</b>		<b>\$9,293.28</b>	<b>\$223.30</b>	<b>\$540.34</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$291,517.13</b>		<b>\$249,378.96</b>	<b>\$219,683.80</b>	<b>\$191,457.11</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Memberships received one year in advance		\$20,250.00		\$27,140.00	\$28,470.00	\$21,670.00
Inactive Memberships received one year in advance		\$245.00		\$105.00	-	-
Overpayments		\$440.00		\$440.00	\$440.00	\$430.00
Creditors		\$3,081.65		\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	-
Penetration course deposits		\$1,500.00		-	\$900.00	\$800.00
Tank Cave Fees Received in advance		\$1,500.00		\$3,750.00	\$880.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>\$27,016.65</b>		<b>\$32,635.00</b>	<b>\$31,890.00</b>	<b>\$23,900.00</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>						
Inactive Memberships received		\$35.00		-	-	-
Memberships received two years in advance		\$10,240.00		\$8,270.00	\$9,290.00	\$9,080.00
Memberships received three years in advance		\$5,870.00		\$3,290.00	\$1,760.00	\$2,150.00
Memberships received four years in advance		\$1,930.00		\$1,540.00	\$840.00	\$430.00
Memberships received five years in advance		\$520.00		\$560.00	\$280.00	\$140.00
Memberships received six years in advance		\$140.00		\$140.00	\$140.00	\$70.00
Memberships received seven years in advance		\$140.00		\$70.00	\$140.00	\$70.00
Memberships received eight years in advance		\$140.00		\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
Memberships received nine years in advance		\$70.00		\$70.00	\$70.00	-
Memberships received ten years in advance		\$70.00		-	\$70.00	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>\$19,155.00</b>		<b>\$14,010.00</b>	<b>\$12,660.00</b>	<b>\$12,010.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>\$46,171.65</b>		<b>\$46,645.00</b>	<b>\$44,550.00</b>	<b>\$35,910.00</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>						
Members Equity Opening Balance		\$202,733.96		\$175,133.80	\$155,547.11	\$133,370.37
add: current year Net Income		\$42,611.52		\$27,600.16	\$19,586.69	\$13,907.66
<b>CDAA Member's Total Equity</b>		<b>\$245,345.48</b>		<b>\$202,733.96</b>	<b>\$175,133.80</b>	<b>\$147,278.03</b>
represented by:						
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$245,345.48</b>		<b>\$202,733.96</b>	<b>\$175,133.80</b>	<b>\$155,547.11</b>

# 'Standards Direction'



## Standards Director Report - Sept. 2007

I have had a whirlwind introduction to the internal workings within directorate of the CDAA and I have a new appreciation of how much work the directors put in behind the scenes unbeknown to the general membership. In particular I would like to acknowledge Terri Allen's phenomenal workload on our behalf as it makes the rest of us look mediocre. I would also like to bring attention to the effort put in by volunteers who assist the standards director - Andy Higgins, Ian Taylor, Stan Bugg and Michael Kelly. Their input is appreciated.

In the past 12 months we have had a total of 2 suspensions for a period of 6 and 3 months respectively. Both were for violation of permit conditions. In general my contact with members of the association has been on a positive note but recently an incident arose which has had some negative effect on how the association is perceived. Please remember that whilst on cave diving trips you are representatives of the CDAA in some way or another, whether you think so or not. Locals associate us all as "divers" so the way I personally act and represent myself at and away from the dive site is associated with everyone within the association, for better or worse.

### QA FORMS

Our new Quality Assurance forms are starting to roll in for both deep cavern and cave courses, keeping Stan Bugg on his toes. It is important to note that these forms are totally independent of the instructor base and can not be viewed by any CDAA instructors. I am the only other person who has access, in the event an issue arises that I may need to address. When filling out these assessments I encourage you all to take a little time and think about what you liked and disliked within each course and add any additional material you may wish to see covered. It is pleasing to hear so far that students are having a positive experience and our new deep cavern course is meeting their expectations.

### ONLINE STUDENT PACKAGES

In an effort to come in line with other sporting organisations in the 21st century we are attempting to further upgrade our electronic service. In the near future we intend to have stu-

dents registering for courses online, paying their association course fees and receiving electronic versions of course materials all via the CDAA website.

### AGM PRESENTATIONS

I want to encourage as many of you as possible to attend the AGM in person on Saturday 13 October. We are offering a number of quality presentations from members who have been off exploring caves within the last 12 months or so. Several of the presenters spoke at this years Oztec and I hope to capture the infectious attitude of exploration expressed there and inject it into the CDAA.

### REBREATHERS

It is great to see more and more units being regularly safely utilised in the caves. I want to bring to the attention of all members that Rebreathers must meet each individual manufacturer's specifications to be accepted within our dive sites. I do not want the majority of our members to suffer access and insurance issues compounded by any one selfish individual. Please ensure you comply with your manufacturers standards as per CDAA policy.

### DRYCAVING ACCESS

It is interesting to note that there are over 200 recorded water filled caves within Australia. The CDAA has just 37 recorded on our access page. The majority of these sites are remote and require considerable dry caving experience including vertical and horizontal caving access in order to reach the phreatic passage. There is a small working party looking at ways and means to gain access to these additional sites and what if any training our members require to achieve competence in the required drycaving skillsets. This may take the form of workshops, assessments or training courses. For those members who crave the more remote caving experience we hope to ultimately gain access to a large number of sites which we do not have access to at present.

I trust the next 12 months will bring safe and rewarding diving to all.

**Steve Trewavas, Standards Director**

## Notes to the Financial Statements Year Ending 30th June 2007

1. These financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared for use by the Committee members of the Cave Divers Association of Australia Inc. The Committee has determined that the Cave Divers Association of Australia Inc. is not a reporting entity, with the exception of the reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1985, and hence the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) do not have mandatory applicability to the Cave Divers Association of Australia Inc.
2. The breakdown for joining and rating upgrades are: joining: - \$1680; sinkhole: - \$1680; cave: - \$660
3. Increase is due to access fee to Kilsby's of \$4950
4. Web site expenses are those incurred in maintaining the official CDAA web site.
5. Guidelines production costs are for three issues in 2006 rather than four issues as is usually the case.
6. Surplus cash is transferred to an At Call common fund where a higher interest rate applies.
7. Guidelines issued in July 2007 was paid in June. Tank Cave fees for 2005-2006 were paid in June.



## Report from the Business Director

Business is going along smoothly at present with this issue of Guidelines presenting a preliminary financial report. As you can see, insurance is still the biggest expense, with Guidelines production and site licence fees coming in second and third. More money was spent this year on upgrading sites plus some repairs and maintenance. The bulk of the monies are kept in a Common Fund, which attracts a higher interest rate. This financial year the interest is around \$11700. The audited accounts will be in the next issue of Guidelines.

I would like to thank our treasurer Tammy Beattie for all her hard work in putting the financial report together.

Remember to come along to the AGM in Mt

Gambier which will be held on Saturday October 13, 2007 at the Comfort Inn Silver Birch conference room. It would be great to see a few more people attend this event. This year we have some interesting talks from various members. Please come along and support your association.

There are several nominations for director positions. Please make the effort to vote – as this is your association, and your votes are important.

There were no member motions or proposals for amendments to the Constitution submitted.

Regards, Heike



## 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: IAN TAYLOR - 0411 118 134,**  
**48 ONE AND ALL DRIVE, NORTH HAVEN, SA 5018.**

## **NEW!** Online Products Store...

The new online products store has now been enabled. Products can now be purchased online with payments made by bank transfer or cheque. Credit card processing will be available instore soon. In the meantime credit card purchases can still be made by sending me an order through the post. So visit the web page and have a browse through the new online store.

## UP COMING COURSES

### DEEP CAVERN Courses

Sept 10th-23rd in Melbourne and Mt Gambier. Instructors: Jane Bowman and Warrick McDonald - 03 9579 2600 - [info@abocean.com.au](mailto:info@abocean.com.au)

29 October - 6 November 2007 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier  
 Instructor: Andrew Higgins - [ahhiggins@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ahhiggins@optusnet.com.au)

October 6 - 9, 2007 in Mount Gambier SA  
 Linda CLARIDGE 03 - 5565 8793 [garinda@tpgi.com.au](mailto:garinda@tpgi.com.au)

October 30 - December 2, 2007 in Melbourne & Mt. Gambier  
 Paul LESLIE (03) 9879 2868 [info@diverinstructionservices.com.au](mailto:info@diverinstructionservices.com.au)

Nov 26-Dec 9, 2007 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier  
 Instructor: Terri ALLEN 0419 176633 [terri.allen@baker.edu.au](mailto:terri.allen@baker.edu.au)

### Cave Courses

October 26 - 28, 2007 in Mount Gambier SA  
 Linda CLARIDGE 03 - 5565 8793 [garinda@tpgi.com.au](mailto:garinda@tpgi.com.au)

Nov 26-Dec 2, 2007 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier. Instructor: Jane Bowman and Warrick McDonald 03 9579 2600 - Email: [info@abocean.com.au](mailto:info@abocean.com.au)

### CDA Penetration Courses

2 weekends Sept 29, 30, Oct 1, 6, 7, 2007 in Mount Gambier  
 Course Co-ordinator: Jane BOWMAN (03) 95792600 [info@abocean.com.au](mailto:info@abocean.com.au)

Please download the latest application form off the webpage [www.cavedivers.com.au](http://www.cavedivers.com.au)

## TANK CAVE DATES... & A REMINDER...

A Tank Cave returning diver application form and the annual \$150 fee will be required before any bookings can be accepted.

October	04/05/06/07 (Extended W'end for non Vic/S.A. divers)	February	9/10 16/17 23/24
November	10/11/12/13 (Project Weekend) 17/18 24/25	March	8/9/10 (Vic Labour Day) 21/22/23/24 (Easter) 29/30
December	8/9 22/23	April	19/20/21/22 (Extended w'end for non Vic/S.A. divers)
January	5/6 19/20 26/27/28 (Australia Day)	May	25/26/27 (Anzac Day) 3/4 10/11 24/25



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

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

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

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
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### MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

#### DEH SITES

Ewens Ponds	Nil	DEH P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 (08) 8735 1177	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. for Environment & Heritage (DEH) Smaller groups, no need.  Fax: (08) 8735 1135
Gouldens	CN	DEH	<b>General Diving:</b> Divers to contact DEH and notify of date and site to be dived. Please make requests by phone or fax only.
2 Sisters	CN	P.O. Box 1046	Divers must have the correct CDAA diving endorsement for the site and carry current
Fossil	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8735 1177 Fax: (08) 8735 1135	financial CDAA membership card. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DEH before access is permitted.  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. \$25/dive or annual Permit \$55. NOTE: Indemnity form to be completed with m'ship renewal & lasts same length as. M'ship.
<b>NOTE: Divers should renew their Piccaninnie Ponds indemnities at least 2 weeks prior to their intended dive date.</b>			
Horse & Cart	CN	Peter Cunningham	By phone or mail, 1 week prior. Ph: (08) 8738 4003.
Tea Tree	CN	PO Box 2168, Mt Gambier 5290	
Little Blue	S	District Council of Grant	Little Blue - permission not required - must carry card.
Allendale	C	District Council of Grant	Obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Information Centre.
Ela Elap	S	Mr. Peter Norman	Visit the house before diving.
One Tree	S		If no one home - no dive!

#### FORESTRY SA SITES

Dave's Cave	C	Maximum 3 divers all weekends between May & November inclusive (check and update on CDAA website).
Hells Hole	S	At least 4 divers in group - 1 with previous site experience.
Pines	C/P	Unrestricted days or numbers - Cave rated divers must not enter Penetration sections
Mud Hole	C	Unrestricted days or numbers.
Nettle Bed	P	Open every weekend. Maximum of 4 divers per weekend undertaking 1 dive only (check an update on CDAA website)
Stinging Nettle Cave	P	Open every weekend max 3 divers per day undertaking 1 dive per day (check an update on CDAA website).
Iddlebidy	P	Open every Saturday max 4 divers, 1 dive only (check an update on CDAA website)

Owner: Contact Forestry SA by email: forestrysa@forestry.sa.gov.au. Fax: (08) 8724 2885 or Phone: (08) 8724 2876 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, Iddlebidy and Stinging Nettle Cave can be obtained from Lady Nelson Visitor Centre on presentation of Forestry SA permits.

Kilsby's	S	Landowner leased to CDAA	Access - Open Fortnightly. Refer to CDAA website. Twin Tanks - Maximum depth of 40 metres on Air. Meet at gate of property at 8.55am or 12.55pm. Book on-line at <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com">www.cavedivers.com</a> or contact Craig at <a href="mailto:kilsby@cavedivers.com.au">kilsby@cavedivers.com.au</a>
		No Visitors	No animals, visitors or mid-week diving allowed.

## CDAA SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
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### MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)

#### BARNOOLUT SITES

Ten Eighty	S	Scotts Agencies P/L	Access: Grant Sommer ph. 0412 266 826. Mail - 147 Kenihans Road, Happy Valley, SA 5159 Download indemnity and book online at <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . <b>DATES OPEN:</b> Saturday 7th April, Saturday 19th May, Saturday 9th June 2007
Blacks Hole	S	Scotts Agencies P/L	Site undergoing development...Watch this space for information!
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: <a href="mailto:shaft@cavedivers.com.au">shaft@cavedivers.com.au</a> (Linda Claridge, 0408 052 070)
Hann's cave	P	P & A Lasslett Manager: Mike Haze	Groups of four divers only apply in writing to Site Director. Limited groups will be allowed access over the summer months. The site is very delicate and therefore only limited access is available. Divers applying will be notified as to further access details. Please include a stamped self addressed envelope.
Engelbrechts - East - West	C P	Mt Gambier Council Lessee Ph: (08) 8723 2299	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. 2 divers must sign out keys, all divers must sign in advising which groups they are diving with. Diving should be avoided after heavy rain due to possible water contamination. Diving hours are now restricted to 8am to 8pm CST.
Three Sisters	P	Millicent Council	Download Indemnity from Web Page. Access available for experienced Penetration divers only. Low profile or side mounted independent air systems required. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. Please allow 4 weeks for indemnities to be processed.
McKay's Shaft	S		Contact Email: <a href="mailto:site@cavedivers.com.au">site@cavedivers.com.au</a> .
Tank Cave	P	Mr. DYCE	Access Manager: Noel Dillon. Email: <a href="mailto:noel.dillon@macquarie.com">noel.dillon@macquarie.com</a>
Baker's Cave	C	Manager: Brad Dibble E: <a href="mailto:site@cavedivers.com.au">site@cavedivers.com.au</a>	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, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), PO Box 234, Esperance, W.A. 6450. Phone: (08) 9083 2100 Fax: (08) 9071 3857.
Murra El Elevyn	P/C		
Tommy Grahams	C		
Weebubbie	S/C	DPI	The Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Midland, State Land Services South East. PO Box 1575, Midland 6936. Contact Kim Allison, Email: <a href="mailto:kim.allison@dpi.wa.gov.au">kim.allison@dpi.wa.gov.au</a> 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 (Antidine)	C		Affected by high CO <sub>2</sub> levels during Summer/Autumn. Access is co-ordinated with the Wellington Caves management by Greg Ryan - <a href="mailto:greg@cs.usyd.edu.au">greg@cs.usyd.edu.au</a> . 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.



Please send to: Helen Higgins  
CDAA, 3 Harris Crescent,  
Glen Waverley, VIC 3150.

QTY / COUNSIZE	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
	<b>An Introduction to Technical Diving.</b> By Rob Palmer. Explains clearly and simply the advanced techniques & technology used to undertake Technical Diving, and what is done to overcome problems arising with nitrox & mixed gases. <b>CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE</b>	\$45.00	
	<b>Basic Underwater Cave Surveying.</b> The standard publication for anyone remotely interested in research and survey techniques used in water filled caves.	\$30.00	
	<b>Cave Diving Communications.</b> A manual from NSS - CDS dealing exclusively with all underwater communications used in cave diving. Including touch, torch and line signals, and use of line arrows and jump reels.	\$25.00	
	<b>Cave Diving - A Blueprint for Survival.</b> A book by the world-renowned cave diver, the late Sheck Exley, this is a case study of a number of accidents that have occurred in the USA and how to avoid them.	\$20.00	
	<b>Caverns Measureless to Man.</b> The story of the passion for cave diving of the late Sheck Exley who spent his life exploring underwater caves. Publications Directors pick. <i>Amazing book you can't put down once you start, a must read!</i>	\$50.00	
	<b>CDA Occasional Paper No. 2.</b> From National Conference 1981. Includes topics such as Fossil Cave, Belay Techniques and Cocklebiddy 1979.	\$2.00	
	<b>Deep Into Blue Holes.</b> By Rob Palmer. This is the project manual written about his trips to the Bahamas, diving some of the most advanced and spectacular caves in the world.	\$55.00	
	<b>Diving in Darkness</b> By Martin Farr. Personally signed by the author. Provides a clear, concise and modern overview of the essential equipment, skills and techniques required to dive in caves, mines, wrecks and beneath ice. Published in softback Diving in Darkness is packed with 170 photographs and diagrams throughout its 128 pages.	\$65.00	
	<b>Hidden Splendours of the Yucatan.</b> Hidden Splendours of the Yucatan is photographer/author Lalo Fiorelli's story of exploration, teaching, and photography in the caves of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. His stunning photography is complemented by the lively, down to earth writing style that brings the experience of exploration to the reader. A must read for those planning a Mexico trip or at least dreaming of one!	\$49.00	
	<b>NSS Cave Diving Manual.</b> The standard reference manual in cave diving covering just about every conceivable topic. New Edition.	\$55.00	
	<b>NSS Cavern Divers' Manual.</b> The standard reference manual in cavern diving covering almost every conceivable topic. Also most principles behind safe sinkhole and cave diving.	\$30.00	
	<b>New Edition of Peter Horne's Lower South East Cave Reference.</b> An illustrated catalogue of the Lower South East Region of South Australia. <b>CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE</b>	\$130.00	
	<b>The Darkness Beckons.</b> By Martyn Farr. The history and development of cave diving.	\$75.00	
	<b>The Cave Divers.</b> By Robert Burgess. Paperback 352 pages. <b>CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE</b> Full history of cave diving in the States and further afield. An interesting mix of adventure & archaeology. Robert Burgess has been diving for over 50 years. He lives in Chattahoochee, Florida.	\$40.00	
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## CDAА INSTRUCTORS

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<b>VICTORIA</b>			
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BARCLAY, Gary (CDAА 1735) AH (03) 5565 8793 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes
BOWMAN, Jane (CDAА 1880) BH: (03) 5979 2600 E: info@abocean.com.au www.abocean.com.au	Yes	Yes	

NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Penetr
<b>VICTORIA. cont.</b>			
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WALTERS, Des (CDAА 687) Location: Albury Phone: (02) 6041 1405 Email: dive@descend.com.au www.descend.com.au	Yes	Yes	
WEALTHY, Bob (CDAА 464) Mob: 0417 524 005 Email: somerset@iimetro.com.au	Yes	Yes	



## GUIDELINES GALLERY



Engelbrechts



Photos by Richard Harris



# THE BLUE HOLE OF THE ABROLHOS ISLANDS

Peter Buzzacott

*The rotors overhead beat the air in a deafening cacophony and, through the open door, the Abrolhos Islands appeared amidst a sea of topaz blue. We were aboard a Russian chopper, below us our welcome party awaited, ready to whisk us out to the mother-ship, and on to the fabled "Blue Hole of the Abrolhos".*

The Odyssey Explorer is a luxury liveaboard dive boat servicing the Western Australian coast, from Cape Naturaliste in the south to the Kimberly in the far north. In March each year, as our mid-west's strong winds abate, the Odyssey heads to the Abrolhos Islands, in the Indian Ocean 60 kms west of Geraldton.



On Deco

This year, in addition to the spectacular diving these islands are renowned for worldwide, we were hoping to explore the blue hole rumoured to exist at the southern extreme of the island chain. I knew of five people who'd dived it at different times, but details were sketchy. Two divers claimed it was a freshwater dive, fed by a spring

linked to the mainland, another warned us to wear old dive gear because it was sulfuric from rotting vegetation, reminding me of Cousteau's dives at Clipperton Island.

We dived the islands for three days, getting used to each other, sorting out our weighting and trim with the hire tanks, and generally having a great time. During the fourth night the winds changed direction and we awoke to perfect conditions for the open ocean crossing to the Pelsart Group of islands. This was it. We busied ourselves on the dive deck as the boat steamed south, checking our air-fills, slinging tanks, loading freshly charged batteries into our torches and cameras, and so on.

An hour later the skipper, a divemaster and four of us divers boarded the tender, a 24 foot purpose-built aluminium dive boat, and set off out to sea, leaving the other 15 recreational divers to visit another unspoilt and rarely-dived reef. A further half-an-hour later our destination came into view and, sure enough, there was an unmistakable kidney-shaped blue-black hole in the centre of the reef, measuring 9m wide by 7.5m across.

We geared-up standing in the chest-deep shallows beside the hole. As far as holes go, this one

is a beauty. Crystal clear, inviting. It was time. I lead, tying off to a limestone ring on the lip of the abyss, and we descended through the twilight, the sun throwing rays around us for the first 8m, till the darkness enveloped us completely.

Tying a loop in the guideline at 21m, our first planned deep-stop depth, we clipped off our cameras before continuing down. Floats tethered by rope hovered immobile from 24m onwards, so I clipped-off the reel to a rope against the northern side and we used that to carry-on to till we bottomed out, beside at an abandoned cray-pot at 46m. We had landed on the northern-side of the central sand-cone. I looked west and saw wall not four meters away so I tied off my tape-measure to the base of the rope and headed north, measuring just six meters before striking wall. Turning south-east I finned across the cone till the tape stretched taught and from there I headed directly east, following the cone down. The wall to my left remained in view, a wall to my right appeared after twenty metres, below me the cone kept going, depth 48m, 49m, 50m, no end in sight, just a milky halocline. The passage at this point, 30m east of the cray-pot according to my tape, was about 4m wide and the same high.

Looking at my watch I decided not to change the dive plan by going on for longer than the others expected me to, so I took out my reg and tasted the water – definitely sulphuric. Next I collected a two litre sample in a zip-lock bag, made notes on my slate and peered one last time into the blackness ahead. Even my 25w Dive-Rite torch faded into the dark before me – there is definitely more to explore here.

I reeled in my tape, my buddy ever so relieved to see my lights returning, then we ascended, joined the support divers at 30m, collected our cameras at 21m and started our deco, taking photos, and measuring the diameter of the sinkhole (11m wide at 15m depth). Soon we returned to the light and the sky and the birds above, euphoric to have succeeded in our mission.

Next March, weather-permitting, we are planning two days at the hole, and we'll have nitrox-blending on board. Cost this year was just \$1750



Big Red has landed

including flights to the islands from Geraldton, five nights accommodation on board, food, air and all the diving you could want. Other highlights included snorkeling with Australian Sea-Lions and diving the historic wreck of the Batavia, famous for mutiny, treasure and the murder of 127 people. Interested divers can book through Coastal Water Dive in Bunbury – simply e-mail Torry at [torry2coastalwaterdive.com.au](mailto:torry2coastalwaterdive.com.au) to book or contact me directly at [reefdiving@efel.com.au](mailto:reefdiving@efel.com.au) if you have questions.

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a taste of the country



# FLORIDA on the cheap... PART 2.

Warrick McDonald

(or how to spend \$10,000.00 and smile)

If you recall my previous article in Guidelines 99 I wrote about our diving in Jackson Blue with scooters in October and November last year. This story is about our (Warrick McDonald, Jane Bowman, Terri Allen and Geoff Chambers) diving down south towards Lake City.

The next port of call was Crystal River, on the coast of Florida. The place is a "Nearly Dead or Newly Wed" hangout but has one of the best dive shops I've seen. We turned up at the shop to book our Manatee adventure and the owner took us for a tour. Parked behind McDonalds across the street were 12 "dive boats", in store was a swimming pool and fabulous shop setup with classrooms. Biggest sale item??? Fluffy Manatee toys, 4000 a year straight from China. We paid our fee to snorkel with the Manatees (no guarantee!) and the next morning turned up very early for our briefing. It was a clear sunny Florida morning and we were told to "...park anywhere, we own the shopping centre!" After a 5 minute "follow me and the boat!" drive, we launched the boat at a local ramp and headed off. Each boat holds a full compliment (about 12 passengers). Now let's think \$28.00 US a head for a snorkel that lasts three hours all up times 12 and there are 12 boats twice a day....hmmm I'm in the wrong business! The safety briefing was different, I particularly liked the bit about "...if the boat should sink I want you to reach up grab your life jacket from the overhead locker and then walk to shore with me!" Yep, not deep and after a 20 minute putter around we found some Manatees. Competition is strong and if you are part of the "in crowd" another captain might tell you where the Manatees are resting, if not, good luck with your projects. These guys are good and if you are in luck you get a Captain who can spot a manatee from 1000 metres. Our fearless Captain dropped anchor in a metre and a half of fairly clear water and we proceeded to look for a Manatee. Within minutes we had a young one, about 1.5 metres long, lying on the bottom having a snooze. A little scratch under the fin or is that the "finpit?" and it was content. A minute or so of scratching then back to sleep,

5 minutes later, wakey wakey, up for air, another scratch and back down again. We saw about 6 Manatees ranging from this young one, to a huge mother, about 3.5 metres long and it went past like a bus! Highly recommended as a break between dives.

Our next stop was Manatee Springs. A resurgence with a reputation for strong flow and this day was no exception. We started gearing up in the park, and where we saw wandering deer, squirrels and any amount of birds. A party of divers in a bus were nearby about to go for a scuba dive in the spring. The Rangers gave us a bit of a scare by stating that the Park had reached its quota of divers, some smooth Aussie talking was needed to get us in, but all turned out for the best...or did it? All assembled and ready to go for a dive in Catfish Hotel until we checked our gauges, yep we got our tanks filled at Merritts Mill Pond when we dived Jackson Blue and of course the good service continued, one set full the other three still half full from a previous dive! Do we cancel; drive two hours to the nearest fill station or dive? Hmmm not a difficult decision, naturally we dived! Jane and I headed upstream from Catfish Hotel, while Geoff and Terri, whose knee was giving trouble, stayed close to the entrance. Pushing against the current we still managed to get further than on any previous trip sticking to thirds, we must be getting fitter or maybe the current wasn't as strong. Turtle skeletons and huge mounds of dark brown silt without any white walls makes this a dark place. As Geoff had plenty of gas we decided to go downstream waving goodbye to Terri at the entrance. The last time Jane and I tried this with Les Rothbart and Rob Stewart we were given a roller coaster ride and were spat out of Manatee like corks from a bottle of Dom. This time we reckoned that as we had been able to swim so far upstream the current was down and it would be easier...wrong! The exit was a Whirlpool washing machine in overdrive. Rocks not stones were being rolled across the bottom and it was impossible to hang on to anywhere but the side. I remembered from the last two dives here that the best place was on the left side coming out, as there is a small alcove, so I signalled for everyone to get close to the wall and make like a limpet. Jane went first, see...I am a gentleman...and quickly disappeared. Trying to do deco in this is a real challenge and makes for a good story later. Jane slammed into the large tree that lies across most of

the opening and made like a Koala! Next Geoff moved into the alcove and started to manoeuvre around a rock. Nothing happened so I took a peak around the corner, immediately filling my mask with water and nearly losing my grip. Geoff was caught with his fin and leg doubled over behind him, the fin on the back of his head. Interesting photo, but now was not the time! I grabbed his fin pulling it down to the bottom, this meant I slammed into him having lost my grip on the wall and he took off like a rocket towards the tree. Slam, wham, he was safe! It was now or never and knowing the place sure helped, if I could miss the tree and stay flat, the last thing I needed was to be pushed above my ceiling. As fate would have it I missed the tree and landed in still water surrounded by kids all pretending to be scuba divers, yo yo ing up and down in the crystal clear spring water. A 15 minute deco and down the river we went swimming with sturgeon, bass and eels, no snakes this time. Last time here, Jane found a snake (yes dead!) and started nursing it as she does with all animals that just seem to accept her as friend and of no danger to them. A great adventure, once again no disappointment.

Next stop High Springs, home of Halcyon, GUE, Extreme Exposure and Salvo. Rule number one. If you don't strip your gear down don't go to Extreme Exposure for fills because Doug the manager will give you a bollocking. Yeah, yeah I said we have been filling in the back of the van and stripping everything on a boat so this time we weren't prepared, but I promise I will NEVER do that again. The shop was closed at the time but Doug had a GUE Tech Instructor course running, so after hearing us sniffing around the building outside he let us in and filled our tanks. Another good bloke found and a friend made. Extreme Exposure is one of those drool shops, or so Jane reckons. I'm sure she meant the gear and toys not Jarrod Jablonski who was there teaching and extended that warm hospitality that you only experience in this part of the world. Two days later my cable was stripped from it's head. Something to do with leaving everything attached and things getting dragged about...alright, alright I have learned, I will be a good boy, I promise. How embarrassing to go cap in hand to Doug and have to say "Mate, you'll never believe what happened..." Luckily for me we stopped into Salvo for a squiz and there was the fixit man soldering cables on to plugs ... "Mate...can you help a poor Aussie tourist I said!" "Shucks no problem, just bring it in". "Oh...it is another brand". I said "Don't worry about that we see all kinds" he said. Salvo fixed it no charge, and

did not give me a bad time about it...good guys!

Ginnie Springs had low flow so it made diving easy, the carpeted steps, the clear water, change tables, hot showers and beautiful countryside made our stay and dives unforgettable. Hill 400 the Roller Coaster and the Grand Traverse waited. This place has so much to offer and you can see why divers are willing to part with lots of dollars each day to dive here. When I hear divers complaining in Australia about the cost of cave dives I just laugh. This was the only place where our qualifications were questioned and it was because they didn't understand what "Penetration Diver" meant. Terri and I discussed that Penetration Diver with advanced Cave in brackets, might be the way to go in future on our cards.

Bill Rennacker was waiting for us at Luraville where there was a Dive Rite sale on. Only in the USA could you do this...a huge tent, free B-B-Q, soft drinks, beer and "specials" to tempt you to part with your hard earned dollars. Lamar Hires said hello and we chin wagged for a few hours. There must have been 500 people out in the middle of nowhere, a great example of the camaraderie between divers.

We dived Cow, Telford, Little River, Orange Grove and the Peacocks, but that might have to wait for another time.

Blow bubbles not blood vessels, Cheers, Warrick McDonald.



## AB OCEAN DIVERS

Jane Bowman  
PADI Course Director #100965  
CDAA Cave Instructor #1880

Warrick McDonald  
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# ~ GUIDELINES GALLERY ~

Photos from Florida on the Cheap - Images by Terri Allen



Jane and Warrick at Extreme Exposure in High Springs Florida



Descending into Little River



Jane Bowman at Manatee



Geoff Chambers



Geoff at Cave Excursions, Luraville Florida

The logo for Technical Diving International, featuring a diver in silhouette against a background of a globe and a grid of numbers.

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A book cover titled "Advanced Trimix Diving" by Technical Diving International. It features a diver in a river and a diver in a cave.