



**C.D.A.A. Newsletter**  
**No. 105 - SEPTEMBER 2008**

## **EARLY 70's NULLARBOR CAVE DIVING ADVENTURE**



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

**Print Post No. PP 381691/00020**

**S  
E  
N  
T  
E  
R  
I  
O  
S**



# Experience Counts....

*If its used in Technical Diving, Dive Rite probably invented it. No cheap imitations, always at the forefront of innovation. Trust your life to the brand that started it all..*



**Guideline Reels**

**Nomad Sidemount System**

**HID & LED Lights**

**Optima CCR**

**Manifolds**

**New Lower Pricing  
Check Website for Details**

**www.diverite.com.au**



Available from Authorised Dealers Australia wide. Call 03 9775 0400 for details

## CONTENTS

Editorial, Terri Allen	5
cavedivers.com.au - Report by Tony Richardson	16
National Director's Report	18-19
Standards Report - Steve Trewavas	20
Ammenmendts to Hall of Fame	21-22
Ballot Paper Precis	23-25
Site Directors Reports	26-27
CDAA Product News	28
Financials	29-32
Business Director's Report	32
Courses Update / Tank Cave Dates	33
Site Access	34-35
CDAA Products	36-37
CDAA Instructors	38

### Articles and Pictures this Issue...

Nullarbor Adventure - Ron Doughton	6-8
Piccaninee Ponds Project - Richard Harris	10-12
Ups and Downs - Ken Smith	13
June 2008 Clean Up - Linda Claridge	14-15
Kavieng, Papua New Guinea - Steve Trewavas	40-43
Palsaert Blue Holes, WA - Peter Buzzacott	44-45
Ginnie Springs, Florida - Agnes Milowka	46-47



### Front cover:

Photo title:  
erecting steel tripod at  
Weebubbie during an  
expedition to the  
Nullarbor in 1971-72.

Photographed by  
Ron Doughton.

## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ABN 65 062 259 956

P.O. BOX 290, NORTH ADELAIDE 5006

GUIDELINES is a newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia. All articles for the following issue are to be sent to the Editor, David Bryant, PO Box 2198 Rosebud Vic. 3939.

All articles and submissions shall automatically constitute an expressed warranty by the contributor that the material is original. We assume no responsibility for unsolicited material. Articles and information may be reproduced without prior permission provided reprints are accredited to the authors and GUIDELINES. Private advertising for caving and diving equipment may be advertised free at the discretion of the Editor. Opinions expressed in GUIDELINES are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the C.D.A.A.

## CONTACT LIST

Please contact the most relevant person or, if unsure write to:  
C.D.A.A. P.O. Box 290 North Adelaide 5006 [www.cavedivers.com.au](http://www.cavedivers.com.au)

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR** - Warrick McDonald  
Email: [national@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:national@cavedivers.com.au) Mobile: 0408 374 112.

**Manager Research & Mapping** - Stuart McGregor.  
Email: [research@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:research@cavedivers.com.au) Mobile: 0438 329 942.

**STANDARDS DIRECTOR** - Steve Trewavas  
Email: [standards@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:standards@cavedivers.com.au) Mobile: 0423 021 488.

**Quality Control Officer** - Stan Bugg  
Email: [quality@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:quality@cavedivers.com.au) AH: 03 9379 8791

**Instructor Records** - Andrew Higgins. Mobile: 0413 569 164.  
3 Harris Cresc, Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150. E: [instrecords@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:instrecords@cavedivers.com.au)

**Instructor Materials** - Scott Edwards  
Email: [materials@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:materials@cavedivers.com.au) Mobile: 0438 214 131.

**Instructor Advocate** - Max Marriot Email: [advocate@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:advocate@cavedivers.com.au)

**BUSINESS DIRECTOR** - Heike Apps. Phone: 02 6291 0566.  
Mobile: 0407 230 108 Email: [business@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:business@cavedivers.com.au)

**Treasurer** - Tammy Beattie. Email: [treasurer@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:treasurer@cavedivers.com.au)

**SITE DIRECTOR** - Gary Barclay  
Email: [site@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:site@cavedivers.com.au) Mob: 0407 527 921.

**Kilsby's Access** - Craig Larkin.  
Email: [kilsby@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:kilsby@cavedivers.com.au) Mobile: 0418 821 191.

**Tank Cave Access** - Noel Dillon  
Email: [tankcave@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:tankcave@cavedivers.com.au) - Mobile: 0407 530 103.

**Shaft Access** - Linda Claridge  
Email: [shaft@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:shaft@cavedivers.com.au) Mobile: 0408 052 070.

**PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS DIRECTOR** - Terri Allen  
Email: [publications@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:publications@cavedivers.com.au) Mobile: 0419 176 633.

**Records Officer (Membership matters)** - Jason Caldwell.  
Email: [records@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:records@cavedivers.com.au) PO Box 840, Beaconsfield VIC 3807

**Guidelines - Graphics & Advertising** - Dave Bryant: 0417 125 710  
P.O. Box 2198 Rosebud VIC 3939. Email: [seapics@alphalink.com.au](mailto:seapics@alphalink.com.au)

**CDAA Products** - Helen Higgins - Mobile: 0411 720 440  
3 Harris Crescent, Glen Waverley, VIC 3150. Email: [products@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:products@cavedivers.com.au)

**Webmaster**: Tony Richardson. Email: [web@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:web@cavedivers.com.au)

### AREA REPRESENTATIVES

**ACT**: Heike Apps. Phone: 02 6291 0566. E: [actrep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:actrep@cavedivers.com.au)

**NSW**: Mark Jobbins Ph: 0411 191 590. Email: [nswrep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:nswrep@cavedivers.com.au)

**N.T.**: Jeff Swann Email: [ntrep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:ntrep@cavedivers.com.au)

**QLD**: Tim Featonby Ph: 0402 129 253. Email: [qldrep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:qldrep@cavedivers.com.au)

**SA**: Ken Smith Email: [sarep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:sarep@cavedivers.com.au)

**South-East SA** - Grant Pearce Mob: 043 8833103. E: [sesarep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:sesarep@cavedivers.com.au)

**WA**: Peter Buzzacott Email: [warep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:warep@cavedivers.com.au)

**VIC**: Ian Taylor Email: [vicrep@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:vicrep@cavedivers.com.au)

**Public Officer** - Kevin Burrowes Ph: 08 8272 6833 E: [kburrowes-cpa@senet.com.au](mailto:kburrowes-cpa@senet.com.au)

### CDAA INSURANCE

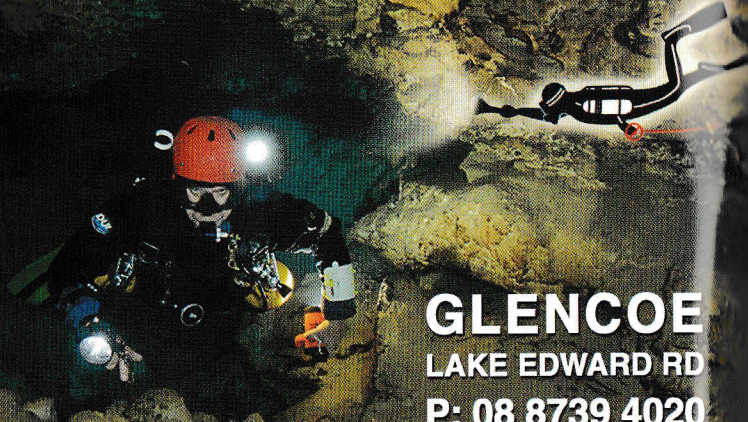
Public Liability policy limit A\$10,000,000.00 Policy# DM114781.  
Expiry: 17 July 2009 Insurer: Dive Master Insurance Consultants Ltd



# PINE TANK DIVE LODGE

## Divers Air, Nitrox & Trimix

Authorised Importer - Armadillo Sidemount Harness,  
Submerge and XScooter, Salvo HID, Golem Gear & OxyCheq



**GLENCOE**

LAKE EDWARD RD

P: 08 8739 4020

M: 0438 833 103

stay@ptdive lodge.on.net

Pine Tank Dive Lodge has been designed by cave divers to meet the needs of divers. With affordable accommodation and only 5 minutes driving time to the best cave diving sites in the South East of South Australia (Pines, Tank, Iddlebidy, Nettlebed, Fossil, Sisters, Mud Hole, Stinging Nettle Cave), divers can maximise their time in the water. Follow the blue signs.

Three bedrooms accommodate up to 12 divers. Relax between dives in the open plan, self-catering kitchen and spacious living area are ideal for divers or cave diving courses. 300 bar air fills and BBQ facilities are available.

Pine Tank Dive Lodge is close to the Glencoe General Store for all your fuel, bottle shop, post office, EFTPOS and store item needs.



### Pine Tank Dive Lodge

Lake Edward Road  
Glencoe, South Australia  
Phone 08 8739 4020  
Mobile 0438 833 103  
Email stay@ptdive lodge.on.net

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Hi All

Edition 105 is packed with lots of trip reports from around the world again.

Kavieng, PNG by Steve Trewavas our Standards Director, some gorgeous piccaninny shots (kids that is not ponds). Yet another article from Peter Buzacott our WA rep, this time on Palsaert Blue Holes. And Agnes with her Ginnie Springs report with her great shots. The caves have been flooded of late but Ag still managed a dive! Harry fills us in on the latest discoveries in the deep sections of Pics and what the team have been up to. I think everyone's fav will have to be the Ron Doughton article and pictures from cave diving adventures in the Nullarbor. Tony has published a full set of shots on the web so check 'em out. Gotta love those long snorkels, the very young Dave Number 1 Warnes and the skimpy showering, not to mention the Nullarbor nymph. More colour pages thanks for the suggestion Harry.

September also brings the annual reports from each director. Speaking of which, we are bidding a sad farewell to Heike Apps, our business director. Heike has been a solid rock in our directorate over the last 4 years. Her careful attention to detail and her balanced view on all matters was always keenly sought in the directorate. She has been very careful and diligent with our money and book keeping along with Tammie and this has resulted in a very healthy bank balance for the association. She will stay on as our ACT rep. Heike recently took a nasty tumble at the rockpile in Cocklebidy and bravely had to scooter back left handed. This left her with a stitched up finger, and plastered arm. She soldiered on trying to type slowly left handed. She is on the mend now and will soon have the meetings minutes up on the web for everyone to see the full director process that goes through every decision we make. Thanks for your hard work Heike and welcome to Helen Higgins as the new business director (if there are more yes than nos) who I am sure will make a great contribution to the directorate as she has done for the products area.

Finally a big thanks to our ongoing advertisers for another year helping towards costs of Guidelines production. Ballot papers to vote on directors, Hall of Fame nomination and a motion to change the constitution for life membership and the Hall of Fame conditions are in the middle. Please read the directions carefully before voting noting the 2 envelopes and don't forget your name, signature and number on the back otherwise it doesn't count!

See you at the state meetings and then the huge AGM weekend with our overseas guest speaker Michael on European cave diving.



Terri Allen, Publications and Records Director,  
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.



Our Buoyancy Compensators were the latest thing from NZ, self inflating neck bags inflated by puffing into a tube with a mouthpiece glued to it. Deflating it meant tipping upside down. Sensible BCs were for the future. Dave had a triple set of aluminium German 'Gerzat' tanks, I used a double set of steel 72s, and everybody else used single 72s. We had one safety bottle strung on the 'mainline' with 40 cf as a backup...

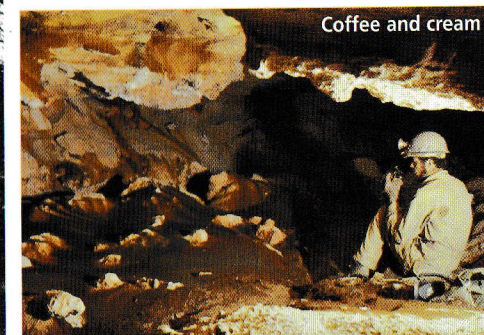


Cave Diving was new and exciting back in the early 70's...  
This amazing photographic evidence shows us just  
how tough it was to call yourself a Cave Diving Explorer!

# NULLARBOR CAVE EXPEDITION '71-'72

Photos and text by Ron Doughton.

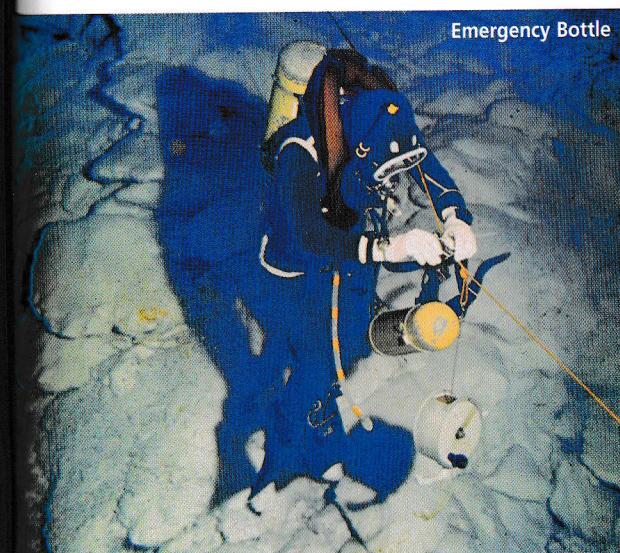
The divers on this trip were Bob Lea, Ron and Denyse Doughton (Sydney divers), Phil Prust, Bob Turnbull, Ian Lewis and Dave Warnes (who invited us, as we knew them from Mt Gambler trips previously). My job, among others, was to hire a 7cfm compressor and get it to the Nullarbor (on time...).



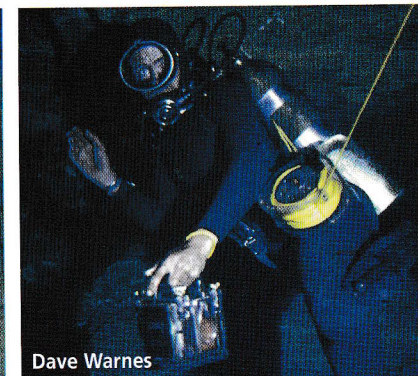
Coffee and cream

Our gear was primitive. Our Buoyancy Compensators were the latest thing from NZ, self inflating neck bags inflated by puffing into a tube with a mouthpiece glued to it. Deflating it meant tipping upside down. Sensible BCs were for the future. Dave had a triple set of aluminium German 'Gerzat' tanks, I used a double

set of steel 72s, and everybody else used single 72s. We had one safety bottle strung on the 'mainline' with 40 cf as a backup. Dave and Phil had homemade reels and torches. The torches flooded regularly but all of us carried at least 2 or 3 so that worked reasonably well. Dave had a car battery with a spotlight in a Perspex box. This was pure magic as it lit up the cave beautifully. We were worried about arcing from the switch though as the battery gave off plenty of hydrogen. I can't remember if it went bang, I think it did but maybe not on that trip.



Emergency Bottle



Dave Warnes



Denyse in the dust



It rained over a few days and we used this opportunity to wash. Some of the scouts had paper underwear, which eventually dissolved in the rain... but they didn't seem to mind too much.





Dave Warnes with Reel

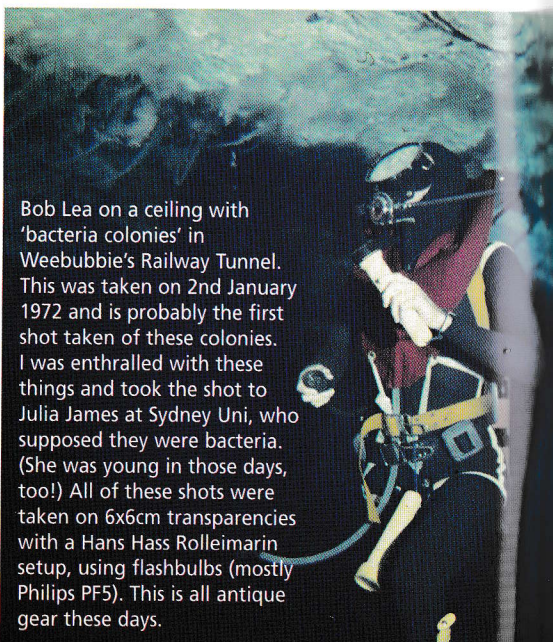
Denyse (my new wife at the time) was baled up by 2 landrovers full of reporters at our Weebubbie camp, who wanted to interview the Nullarbor Nymph. She (apparently) was blonde, (true), young (true too) half naked (!!??) and ran around with kangaroos (blimey!!). A bloke at the Roadhouse in Eucla dreamed up the publicity and took a few bogus pictures of a girlfriend to start the media frenzy. We eventually beat them off and got back to the real fun of diving.



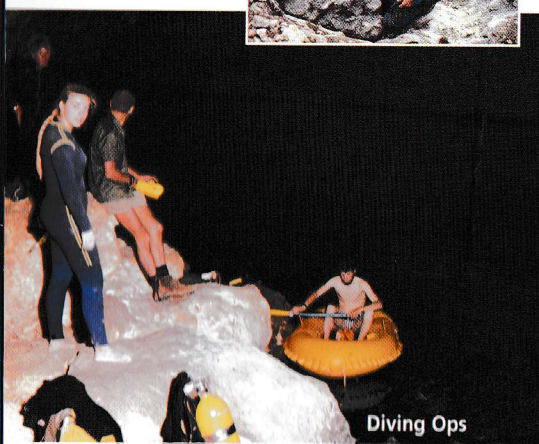
The rest of the group were dry cavers from CEGSA, WASGA (? West Aussie Cavers) and various individuals from Rover Scouts, NSW Nat. Hist Museum (Mike Grey) and others – about 60 in all but not necessarily at the same time.



We dived in Weebubbie, Cocklebidy and visited Pannikin Plain, (I think some of the dry cavers went to Murra-El-Elvyn) and Mullamalang over about 2 weeks. We discovered an air blow near a cave and tried to gelignite our way in, getting 'jelly' from a property about 90 miles away. We rang them up to organize this with a HF radio one of the scouts had. This would be 'unauthorized vandalism' by today's standards I guess.



Bob Lea on a ceiling with 'bacteria colonies' in Weebubbie's Railway Tunnel. This was taken on 2nd January 1972 and is probably the first shot taken of these colonies. I was enthralled with these things and took the shot to Julia James at Sydney Uni, who supposed they were bacteria. (She was young in those days, too!) All of these shots were taken on 6x6cm transparencies with a Hans Hass Rolleimarin setup, using flashbulbs (mostly Philips PF5). This is all antique gear these days.



Diving Ops

# The Heart of Cave Diving in Australia

*All your favourite dive sites captured on DVD for the first time ever*



**\$49.95**  
Plus Postage

Shot & produced by Cave Diver & U/W Cinematographer Rubens Monaco

## To order your copy

Ph: **0413-429-533** or **www.cavedivers.com.au**



# Piccaninnie Ponds Research Project 2008

## - Important Discoveries! -

by Richard Harris #1360 docdive@bigpond.net.au

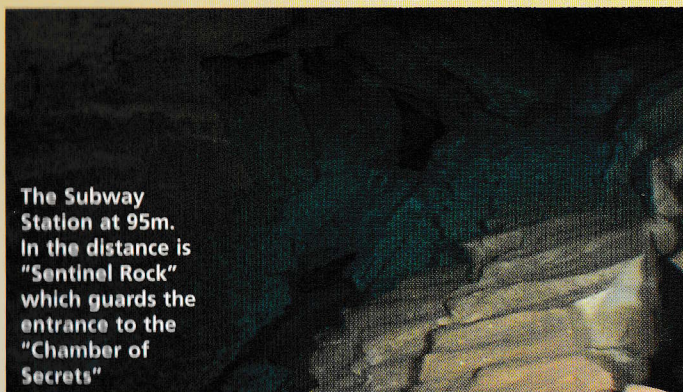
*I am very pleased to report back to the CDAA on the early stages of the CDAA Special Project in Piccaninnie Ponds. The project has been 3 years in its conception and I am very grateful to the various managers of the DEH/DWLBC, Warrick McDonald and the other CDAA Directors, and Grant Pearce (DWLBC liaison) who together made this research happen.*

The goals of the project are to attain a better understanding of the geomorphology, hydrology and biology of the unique Piccaninnie Ponds cave and wetland system. The initial phase involves mapping, imaging, sampling and measuring a number of characteristics of the site including water quality, temperature and flow.

On the first weekend a total of 8 dives were made by Grant Pearce, Richard Harris and John Dalla-Zuanna; pri-

face of the Chasm, one descends to the Dog Leg at 36m and then under the lip into the dark zone. Gradually the Chasm narrows in all dimensions until the Saddle is reached at just under 50m. Taking the left hand (eastern) opening at the Saddle, you drop through a small chamber into a more vertical slot before entering a silty-floored passage which heads down at 30 degrees to about 70m. This passage opens up into a crumbly, jagged-sided room running north south. At 74m, a narrow fissure drops down to your right (west) and you descend head first to 80m where the fissure opens up.

At this point a white permanent line was found (unfortunately a mass of loose line was blocking the fissure which caused us some difficulties!). Following the white line into a section of the cave that looks like a narrow version of the Chasm. The silt here is very thick and everything you touch collapses in a cloud of murk. At 90m the line stops at a tie-off and no other old

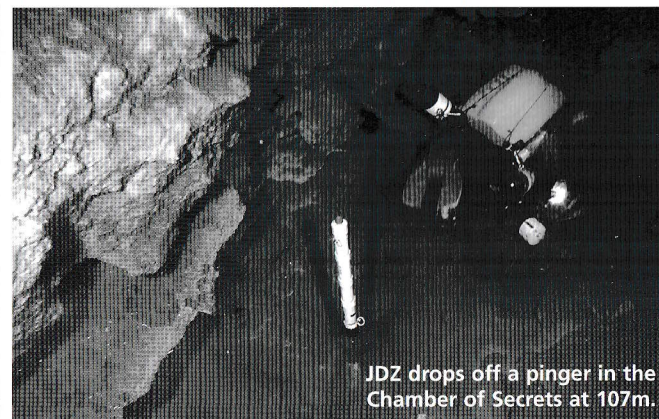
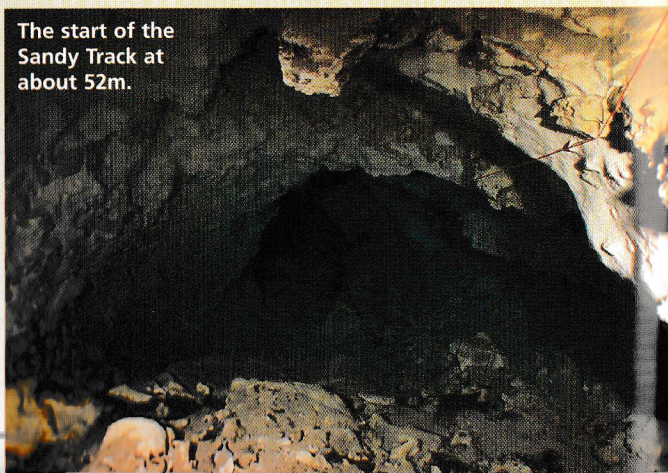


The Subway Station at 95m. In the distance is "Sentinel Rock" which guards the entrance to the "Chamber of Secrets"

marily concentrating their efforts on exploration of the cave beneath the Dog Leg. Although we know divers have illegally explored to the "Subway Station" in the past, it was very exciting to perform the first sanctioned dives here (and beyond!) and record our findings. With the aid of trimix for a clear head, and closed circuit rebreathers to minimise bubble percolation in the extremely silty chambers, large sections of new cave were revealed and a maximum depth of 110m was attained.

To talk you through a dive to the bottom of the cave... "Leaving the sur-

The start of the Sandy Track at about 52m.



JDZ drops off a pinger in the Chamber of Secrets at 107m.

lines are found. The passageway continues to slowly open up and head west. Down at 100m now, and soon you see some holes in the floor that go to 110m but are very silty indeed. To the west, a large rock appears to form a barrier to further exploration but swimming over the top you see blue water ahead. Swim beyond the rock, and the floor drops away revealing a breathtakingly beautiful large chamber, the rocky floor layered in thick undisturbed silt. The end of the chamber narrows and ends in a sheer fissured wall, with the floor at 107m."

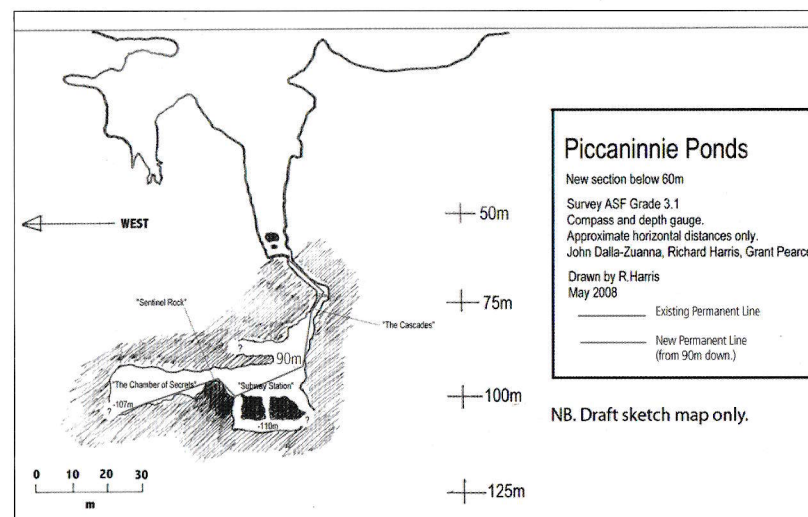
On the second weekend's diving, the team was expanded to include Gary Barclay and Linda Claridge, Peter Horne, Ian Lewis and Ken Smith. Hydrogeologists and technical officers from the DEH were also in attendance to assist with water sampling activities (a pump and sampling tube were operated from a small boat). The weekend saw 15 dives made into all different parts of the system with further exploration of the deep chambers and the base of the Cathedral. Ken Smith's pingers were

used to locate 3 points in the deep chamber and a known point in the Cathedral. This information will be invaluable for tying together the new and old survey data. Flow studies using food colouring dyes, temperature measurements, water, rock and sediment samples were all collected adding greatly to our knowledge of the cave. Finally some more HD video was

taken in the deep section, which revealed an amazing picture of bizarre sedimentary, fossil, rock and erosive features.

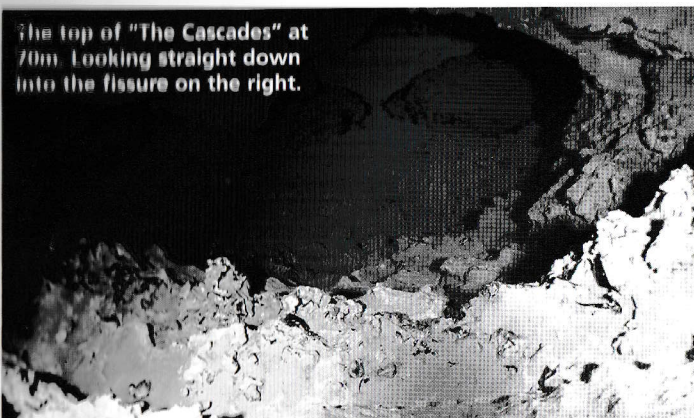
### Summary of initial findings:

1. A significant amount of deep passage and chambers exist beneath the chasm, trending in the direction of the Cathedral. Video and preliminary survey data has been recorded.
2. There is possible flow into the cave at depth, and this water seems to be welling up through the fissure into the chasm and hence supplying the pond system. A point source has not yet been located. Flow out of the Cathedral into the Chasm was also demonstrated. An inflow of warmer water was also seen in the Cathedral and the Chasm at approximately 37m (this has been previously reported).
3. Below 74m, the cave is extremely tight and silty in parts, with the walls and rocks all covered in a thick coating of very friable "cheesy" silt. Much of the dive between 74-95m is spent in very low visibility.
4. Fossils were seen in the cave below 85m, including bivalves and urchin spines.
5. Tracks (? yabbie or freshwater crayfish) were seen in silt at approx 105m.
6. Water temperature is a consistent 15.5 degrees C from just below the surface, to the maximum depth of 110m. The warmer area of water (16.5 degrees) was demonstrated.
7. No halocline was encountered.
8. Sketch map of new section with components named is attached.





The top of "The Cascades" at 70m. Looking straight down into the fissure on the right.



#### Future Work – the next stage:

1. Further survey work using RDF pingers, tape measure and compass. Mapping of other unsurveyed areas of the wetlands.
2. Further exploration of several promising leads.
3. Await analysis of rock, sediment and water samples.
4. Biodiversity review.
5. Production of a 3D map and a DVD about the Project for the membership.

The first component of the Piccininnie Ponds Research

Project concluded on a very high note with some exciting discoveries and the safe completion of the diving activities. The DEH and the project participants are grateful to the CDAA for supporting this research as a Special Project. It is not one of the goals of the project that this exploration will lead to widespread deep diving access for members of the CDAA. However it is the author's belief that as mixed gas and rebreather diving becomes more commonplace and is performed safely, landowners will hopefully become more receptive to the idea. Further updates will be provided as the project continues.

The next phase of the project will also involve some sampling and inspection of other parts of the wetland system.

We would respectfully remind members that the access conditions for diving in Piccininnie Ponds have not changed and that the depth limit of 36.5m still stands. Further, the deep sections of the cave are extremely tight, silty and hazardous in areas.

## blue lake diving

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

Trimix and high pressure O2 available

Guaranteed o'night Air/Nitrox fills... drop off before 9pm... filled by 7am next morning!

All enquiries

**Darren Walters - 0408 845 511**

Email: [dwalters@seol.net.au](mailto:dwalters@seol.net.au)

Lot 7, Capirco Rd, Compton (via Mt. Gambier)

PO Box 9286, Mount Gambier West, S.A. 5291

**Tripod  
available  
for use!**

# Ups and Downs

Ken Smith

**Cave Diving has it's ups and downs, both physically and metaphorically.  
This year I seem to have pushed the envelope in several directions,  
both good and bad...**

Earlier in the year I experienced some unusually low PPO2 levels. Not diving, but trekking in the Himalaya. At 5100 metres altitude we had only 58% of sea level air pressure and PPO2 of 0.12 bar. That is quite low, and a frightening figure for most rebreather divers. However, If you climb Mt Everest without oxygen your PPO2 is down to 0.07bar as you approach the summit, quite amazing!

I decided that I preferred high pressure to low pressure and I was lucky enough to sign up for a Trimix course in Florida in May. Tom Johnson of Dayo Scuba was my instructor and he was very tolerant of my various mistakes. We did a day of normoxic trimix diving in the sea out from Jupiter. It was good diving with interesting sea life including several large turtles. However, sidemounted cylinders and a cylinder of oxygen made getting in and out of the lurching boat quite an experience. We did the advanced Trimix dives in Eagles Nest which is a cave near the west coast of Florida. We had calm water here, but with 5 cylinders to juggle it was still a challenge. We made a reasonable penetration reaching a depth of 85 metres. The penetration meant it was not possible to ascend directly to the first deco stop at 66m. I had to calculate the turnaround time to allow enough time to swim back to the deco stop. This had to be done correctly as arriving late at a deco stop is definitely not an option for dives to this depth. Thankyou to Tom Johnson and Thankyou as well to Wayne Kinard of Amigos Dive Centre for help with the Trimix. His open air filling station never seems to be closed and provides on line mixing of trimix while you wait. It was great to get fills in the late evening ready for an early start next day.

The next push of the personal envelope was Cocklebidy in August. Harry Harris and Craig Challen had planned a trip to the end of the cave using rebreathers. They were successful in reaching the end and Craig managed to lay 120 metres of line. They also placed three radiolocation "pingers" in the third sump which I was able to locate from the surface. Their total time from away from the entrance lake was 16 hours. Their dive plan required bail out cylinders to be placed in the cave and after the dive they

needed to be removed. These cylinders allowed an open circuit dive to be planned to recover the pingers. Assisted by Simon Doughty I made a 1.2km penetration into the third sump and retrieved two of the three pingers. The third pinger was just 100m too far for me to get to. Our total time away from the lake was 14 hours.

The down side of this very interesting year was Harry's car catching fire near Nundroo on the way home. We saved the contents of the trailer but everything in the car was destroyed. One 100 cuft steel cylinder exploded and blew the back off the car and scattered debris across the road. It made a sound I hope I will never hear again. I lost essentially all the diving gear I own including the two pingers. However, Harry's loss was greater than mine, as his beloved Mark 15.5 rebreather was destroyed. At least I still have one pinger, if someone will fetch it for me.

So what next? Well I am hoping for a snorkel in Ewens, if I can borrow a wetsuit. Say Hi! if you see me! I am the guy with mis-matched fins from the 1970s and a perished black rubber mask. ....Such is life!

#### TRACK MARKING IN COCKLEBIDDY

During our recent trip we installed reflective track markers from the entrance to the lake and in Toad Hall. This was done with the Landowners approval. The markers are reflective discs with a diameter of 30mm. Yellow markers are visible as you walk into the cave and white as you walk out. When these markers are placed in pairs you should walk between the markers. The markers will guide you on what I believe is the safest and easiest track through the cave. By staying on this track you will keep damage to the cave to a minimum.

#### CORRECTION

I have been reliably informed that my statement in an earlier Guidelines about Tiger Woods being a cave diver is not quite correct. Tiger Woods and his wife were cave certified by Herb Sugden, not Bill Rennaker. Herb is now retired from teaching cave diving. Herb is from Apopka, a town near Orlando where Mr.& Mrs.Tiger Woods maintain a house.



# June 2008 Clean Up

Linda Claridge

On Saturday May 31, 20 keen divers and a couple of just as keen non-divers met at the Lady Nelson Tourist Information centre to assist in a 'clean-up' of a few of our dive sites.

## Day 1

There were a number of jobs that we were hoping to attend to but time, numbers and enthusiasm would dictate what could and would be done. We were also mindful of the fact that we didn't want to take the divers away from their diving for the whole weekend so all jobs would have to fit around the divers dive commitments also.

After a brief by Gary on potential chores to be completed the divers divided into groups and headed on their separate ways all with different chores to do.

The first group headed off to Allendale to clean the debris from the steps leading down to the water, repair the bottom step that had become a little unstable over the last 12 months, and also to do a dive – just to check if any rubbish needed to be removed from the water!

The second group headed out to Gouldens for a general clean up to the area. For some time a small set of wooden steps have been found floating in the water, been retrieved and have ended up in the water again. This time they were retrieved and removed entirely from the site. Amazingly they were retrieved by a very keen and eager (read crazy) diver dressed only in a pair of shorts! Once the steps were safely off the property the workers set to cleaning off the stairs leading down to the landing. Over the past few years the weeds and grasses have slowly encroached over the stairs so with a fair amount of shoveling and weeding by about 8 or 9 workers the job was soon complete.



Group 3 meanwhile had arrived out at Iddlebidy to complete 2 projects out there. Darren Walters and his dad transported another of the kitting up tables that the CDAA still has out to the forest and with the help of Ranger Trev (who should never be let loose in a forest with sharp objects – "if it stands it should be felled"! ) chose a suitable location and installed the aforesaid object. This proved to be most useful for others to eat their lunch on whilst watching (supervising!) the next project being installed.

Over the previous few weeks Kelyvn Ball had designed and engineered a 3 piece platform that was to be installed down inside the chamber at Iddlebidy. This platform would become an extension of the kitting up area and, via a metal ladder, would allow for a much

safer entry and exit to/from the water. The installation of this platform proved to be quite a major effort, made doubly so by the awkward and at times airless/high CO2 environment. This area can be uncomfortable at the best of times - when 2 or 3 divers are preparing for a dive – but try adding welders and grinders to the equation! A scuba cylinder was opened at one stage just to try and improve the air quality for the workers for a while. With work starting at about 0900hrs on the Saturday morning it was dark by the time that Kelyvn and co were finally able to exit the cave. One more trip is still needed at this site to extend the ladder a bit further, it presently stops at water level but will soon reach down to a more comfortable depth.

While Kelyvn Konstructions continued with their work a few workers who had been busy at Gouldens ventured across to Pines with ranger Trev to discuss the possibility of erecting a shelter hut there. Some good ideas were touted and are now on the list of 'things to do'. Some rustic flat areas were dug into the slope leading down to the water making this traverse a little safer. Also on the list of things to do will be the construction of some stairs from the track at Pines to the water – not unlike what has been installed at Mud Hole. More about this later. Whilst there the area beneath the kitting up table was weeded making it much easier to find those dropped O-rings and wing-nuts and some weeding was done across the road at Nettle Cave.

A short drive over to Mud Hole to weed beneath that kitting up table and check out the new crushed limestone track leading all the way to Mud Hole and we headed back to encourage the workers back at Iddlebidy.

## Hells Hole Clean Up

### Day 2

Gary and I arrived out at Hell Hole at about 0800 on the Sunday to start setting up for the planned clean-up and dive here. A few divers were already there to help as was a researcher checking some possum traps around Hells. She has had about 10 traps set up in the area to catch possums that she can then tag and collect DNA in order to study the migration of these creatures throughout the forest. Or to find out if in fact they are doing any migration at all.

It wasn't long before the other divers started arriving... and arriving...and arriving! Each divers name was collected allowing Ranger Trev to ensure that all were on the booking permit and also allow Forestry SA to record and collate volunteer hours within their areas.

The new Hells Hole divers were instructed on how to rig themselves and their units and instructed to set everything up against on side of the landing and track. Gary was busy setting up the ropes, pulleys and brake systems and stated later that he turned around at one stage to see a large line of kits and divers snaking back and out of sight! Soon Gary and David were busy lowering the first of the many divers into the site. Eventually he had to stop allowing the divers into the water in order to start hauling out the first of the returning divers. Hells Hole is a very cold dive and by the time the first divers



were ready to leave the water they were pretty well chilled. It was decided that the larger objects of rubbish would be left till last thus ensuring visibility stayed as good as possible for as long as possible.

Eventually the rubbish started to leave the water. Multiple bags of bottles and cans were removed as well as lots of timber, numerous shopping trolleys and one blow up doll. I am not sure what happened to this object but I don't remember seeing her in the rubbish trailer...

I am told that recently the Mount Gambier police were called out to Hells Hole recently after a concerned local reported that he had seen a human body floating on the water!

The local constabulary were also notified about the finding of a sawn off double barrel shotgun found on the dive also. Fortunately the diver had the foresight to check the barrel before doing too much with the gun and found it was still loaded. He removed the cartridges prior to bringing the gun out of the hole. An old washing machine and the hood of a car added to the tally of objects removed by the divers on the day.

A BBQ tendered by some of the local members (thanks Troy and



Doug Trotter

Burf) and catered for by Forestry SA (thanks Trevor) and the CDAA helped to warm those chilled bodies when the divers eventually left the water.

In total 16 new helpers/divers (those not available on the Saturday) turned out to help on the Sunday. From Saturdays 20 helpers, 14 of them chose to assist/dive again on the Sunday at Hells making a total of 30 divers in and out of the hole over the day – add to that the top-side helpers and it was a great turn out. Many thanks to Gary and his able helpers for their time at the working end of the ropes.

About the same time as the dive was being concluded at Hells another group of divers who had spent the morning at Engelbrechts West arrived to report that their job was complete. They had installed some reflectors over the rock pile inside Engelbrechts West to guide the divers over the rock pile rather than around it. With the continual drop in the water table the swim around the rock pile has become increasingly more difficult and much more of a crawl, much to the detriment of dry suits. During the last Pen course a trial exit over the rock pile was conducted and was reportedly much easier than going around. Now the divers can be guided over the rock pile by white reflectors on the right and red on the left as you exit. Please be aware that this rock pile, like any other rock pile in any other cave, must still be negotiated with care – the reflectors are a guide only.

Many, many thanks to all the divers and non-divers who made themselves available over the course of the weekend to give something back to the CDAA. With close to 40 people volunteering their time over the weekend it has been roughly calculated that well over 200 hours of man power was donated over the weekend. A good job all round.

## BBQ Hells Hole





## cavedivers.com.au - Website Report from Tony Richardson

It is 8 years now since the launching of **cavedivers.com.au**. The site was originally conceived to primarily serve as a communication tool between members/directors, and to inform the general public on some aspects of cave diving. It has further evolved to be a functional tool to enable members/site managers to organise diving, allow online purchases of products, and poll members opinions. Plans for the future for the site are for it to be more of the "office" of the CDAA.

### Some statistics:

- **cavedivers.com.au** receives a large amount of traffic each month:

### Monthly Statistics for July 2008

- Total Hits: 133954
- Total Files: 88735
- Total Pages: 26641
- Total Visits: 5405
- Total Kb Files: 1233856

**cavedivers.com.au** has a very high Google ranking. It comes up number one in a search for cave divers and also for cave diving. **cavedivers.com.au** has grown from about 70 pages in the year 2000 to almost 500 pages in 2008.

- 1000+ emails have been sent through the **cavedivers.com.au** email list in the past 12 months.
- In 12 months in the **cavedivers.com.au** online store there have been:
  - 94 orders - 88 customers
  - over 70,000 clicks in the store - \$4,857.00 in sales
- All Tank Cave, Kilsbys, Shaft and Forestry dive bookings occur through the site.
- Over 150 cave diver courses have been advertised on the site since this facility was offered, and over 100 student QA forms have been completed online.
- Over 450 member classifieds have been posted.
- Over 150 news items have been posted.
- The Photo Gallery section has approx 40 member contributors and 100's of photos.
- The site is intentionally designed as being simple and non cluttered without non-essential graphics and flash animations, and is user friendly to the lowest end user with a 56Kbps dial-up connection.

## enjoy your stay at Just a Bed Lodge

- 6 individual bedrooms, 4 with two single beds and 2 with a double bunk and a single bed.
  - Each bed is supplied with mattress cover sheet, pillow, doona & blanket. Please provide your own linen or linen is available for a small additional cost.
- Each bedroom is individually lockable allowing for a secure area for personal effects.
- Keys will access the front sliding door and your individual bedroom only.

*Rates from \$30 pp per night!*

- Spacious room with kitchenette (sink, refrigerator, two microwaves, crockery and cutlery, toaster & kettle), kitchen table, lounge area, TV & DVD/video.
- 2 individual toilets and a spacious bathroom with instant hot water shower & vanity.
- Barbeque, seating area and provisions for drying of diving equipment if required.

Clean air fills, Nitrox and Trimix is available from Blue Lake Diving nightly.

**Contact Suzanne anytime on 0427 884 729.**

## CDAA Members Symposium - WEEKEND -

**12 Noon Saturday October 18, 2008**

• Comfort Inn, Silverbirch, Mt Gambier •

### Saturday:

- Andrew Cronan – China cave project video.
- Richard Harris – Pearse Resurgence 180m dive.
- Peter Buzzacott – DAN cave fatality paper.
- Craig Larkin – Cave diving photo presentation over afternoon tea.
- Grant Pearse/JDZ – Blue lake/Pics.

**All welcome!**  
Afternoon tea provided.  
(Please RSVP for catering purposes).

### Sunday:

- Oxygen Provider course  
or Update (cost TBA)

### SPECIAL GUEST

**Michael Waldbrenner**

Push diver for the EKPP. Logged more than 1000 dives. NACD, NSS-CDS, IANTD Cave certified. GUE Tech II, IANTD Trimix, TDI extended range. Longest cave distance without surfacing - 6km in 18h.

### Also Member's Swap Meet:

Bring along your old preloved gear to swap or sell during the symposium and afterwards. Must be personal members' gear, not commercial.

**Steve Trewavas, Standards Director**  
**Heike Apps, Business Director**





# NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

## END OF YEAR 2007-2008

Strength and Unity are what makes the CDAA such a strong Association. There will always be the "knockers" you know the ones who tell the rumours and distort the facts but that's what makes us so diverse. The Association attracts individuals and most of them know how to do it better or how things should be run. That's OK because that's what we want, input and ideas. Not everyone agrees with me and that's OK, but maybe it's time some of the "knockers" stood in my shoes for a while and took on the responsibility and put up with the abuse. Would it happen? No way because it's easy to criticise from a distance and email makes you strong and somehow increases your intelligence it seems, because judging by the swipes some take at postings they must be the most intelligent people alive. Thank goodness there is a sober sane group who are the majority and these are the ones who keep quiet, which can be very frustrating, but when it's important, vote for what they want. We are all here for the diving, aren't we? It seems that because of our open and friendly membership rules we leave ourselves open to gaining members who wish to see the CDAA abolished or at least shoved in some dark corner to fade away while their group take control. These people would tie up our Directorate with so many rules that they couldn't function, stop spending so that every cent was accounted for and voted on by the membership. Do we have a record of wasting money or making money? All this, in the name of accountability and transparency. Don't be fooled this is nothing new, before my time in the mid 90's this same group savaged the Directorate to try and get their way and I doubt that after my term is up they will stop.

## BUSINESS

Heike Apps is leaving us as Business Director after many years of service to the Association. Heike will remain as the CDAA's representative in the ACT and of course will continue to teach as a CDAA Instructor and as a Penetration Course Examiner. The Associations finances are amazingly good and I'm sure you will be impressed with the outcome again this year. With most of our payments now going on line it makes control of finances easier, that is as long as members put their name on the banking form and don't leave us wondering who paid what. Heike has contributed to the Deep cavern Course and is currently doing the final edit for me on the new Penetration Program theory and Power point. Heike pays a bookkeeper to do data entry, balance the books and present them to the Auditors.

Tammy Beattie has been doing this for about 5 years now.

## STANDARDS

Steve Trewavas has served two years as Standards Director and has achieved more than any other Standards Director that I can remember. Steves dedication and work has meant many changes and updates to our courses and manuals. Being a Director takes more than just doing the job! It takes an overall interest in all aspects and dealings of the Association and having Steve there to bounce ideas off, to calm the waters and to draw on his calm logic has been a great benefit to me and the other Directors. Last years AGM was one of the best attended and the amount of speakers and quality of presentations were overwhelming. This year will be another excellent AGM with guest speakers organised by Steve again including an overseas guest that should really get us talking. Make sure you are there! Working on editing of the new Penetration Course Power Point Presentation and the student manual has been a major job that has taken me months to complete and Steves input has been fantastic. Recently we saw him organise the sidemount workshop and his arranging of the members State meetings and Instructor meetings has been superb. Working with Steve is Stan Bugg who acts as Quality Control officer and Andrew Higgins who looks after Instructor records. Having to suspend after Investigating members is not a nice job but it comes with the territory and he does it with the interests of the CDAA in mind. I believe that we have seen an evolution in the Association which in my time started with Max Marriott and his course formats, followed by George Yarra who took on the tough calls and started making Instructors accountable by changing the courses and Standards. This baton has been lifted by Steve Trewavas who has pushed for higher standards and quality from our members and Instructors. The introduction of the Deep Cavern Course and soon the new Penetration Program will be the result of Steves leadership.

## PUBLICATIONS and RECORDS

Terri Allen seems to have been in this job since time began. How can we forget the days when it took weeks to get a card. When it took forever to get materials and if you wanted to buy something...good luck! The internet sure has made things better and with her and Tony Richardsons input, our web site was established and still continues to be the main source of information for members and the public. Looking after Products for Terri, is Helen Higgins who has made a huge effort with this Office, new products are sought and approved and Helens ability has not gone

un-noticed as she is now standing for Business Director. Michael Kelly served Terri well setting up the fastest turn around with membership cards the Association has ever witnessed then along came Jason Caldwell. Is this some sort of competition guys? Jason has revamped with Terrie's approval the cards and a number of CDAA materials; his office is like a whirlwind working all hours. I pity the next Membership records Officer who has to try and match this output. I think Terri has the biggest job and maybe in the future this directorate may need to be divided. Don't forget that Terri also looks after Guidelines and this is or can be a nightmare. David Bryant looks after the printing and the collating but Terri puts it all together and gets it into the envelopes, prints the address labels, sticks them on, sorts out the post codes and then takes them to the post office, spends her money for us and then claims it back later. For all of us that have done this with a thousand Guidelines we know just how hard this is. Arranging meetings, organising printing, commenting on issues and giving input into the running of the CDAA is all in a days work.

## SITE

Gary organised a clean up day again at Hells Hole and with a large group (which is a change and everyone appreciates their effort) managed to make access easier at some of the sites. Iddelbiddy is now easier with the new platform inside that Kelynn built and installed and I believe the ladder makes it a lot easier to get into the water. Craig Larkin looks after Kilsbys access and this site is now possibly taking over from Tank cave as the most dived cave. Noel Dillon continues year after year to look after the bookings at Tank Cave and his dedication is appreciated. The Shaft access officer is Linda Claridge for normal diving and Steve Trewavas for Tri-mix dives.

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR

My time is taken up daily with the running of the Association. What I thought would be a few hours a week 10 years ago has turned into 3 or 4 hours a day – everyday. If it's not a Landowner problem or a member doing the wrong thing it's an Instructor acting in their best interest not ours. As Nat Dir I get involved with all aspects of the running of the Association and the Directors consult me about the majority of decisions. I take the job seriously and I follow the Constitution to the letter. This may not always be to others interpretation it seems but that's because our Constitution needs to be read correctly because there are many areas that contradict or confuse the reader. It would be more professional if members who thought that some great wrong had been committed actually asked for an interpretation so that they understood why the Directors acted in a certain way, instead of sounding off on the members email list. Just because we are Directors it doesn't mean we don't have compassion and feelings towards members or situations

that occur. The recent investigation of an office bearer was very distressing, but it is part of the job and you have to accept the good and the bad. Why is it that members who feel wronged can't follow the system like we have to? Threatening legal action just damages the standing of the CDAA in the eyes of our insurers and the recent call to attend the offices of their Lawyers testifies to that. Insurance fees went up this year thanks to the two threats made during the year, nothing has come of them but that still means there is a risk and the Insurers make us pay for it. That's your money – wasted! As many would know I rewrote with help, the Cavern Sinkhole Course and it is now the Deep Cavern Course with new Standards and requirements. Even though we originally held an Instructors meeting for input where we received three sets of minutes and none agreed with the other, even though we set up an independent committee led by John Van Derleest to look into the findings and to comment on the information through interviews with Instructors who attended and some who didn't. Even though legal and insurance counsel was sought there are some who still don't accept the fact that this is the what the majority of members want and it's approved by our Insurers Lawyers plus it meets training as laid down by Standards Australia in applicable areas. We now have a course that matches or exceeds any similar course in the world, but there are still a few instructors that refuse to change. My regrets to our new members who have been subjected to outdated ideas and a non CDAA Course because you probably don't even know! Currently I am waiting on the final editing of the Penetration PPP and student notes and once this is completed it will go into print and copies of the PPP burnt for all examiners. This has taken the best part of 12 months to do and it has only been finished after input from many Instructors and office bearers. Next will be the completion of the Cave Course, work has already begun on this project. Max Marriott you will see has been appointed the Instructor Advocate and is available should any Instructor wish to bring any ideas or complaints forward but don't feel like speaking to the Directors.

***Remember, it's election time for two Directorates and a number of changes to the Constitution, your vote is important so please take the time and make the effort to have your say.***

Clear water, new caves and good fun what more could we ask for in 2008-2009.

Warrick McDonald  
CDAA National Director.





# 'Standards Direction'



I hope many of you are planning to attend this years Annual General Meeting. We have a fantastic line up of local presenters this year indicative that we have had an exceptionally good year in cave exploration. I am very pleased to announce that Michael Waldbrenner of the European Karst Plain Project (EKPP) will be our keynote speaker for the conference. Michael and his team hold world records in cave exploration and hold the end of the line in many caves in Europe. Perhaps most notably in the Doux De Coly almost 6000m in length, water temp 15C, at a depth of 70m, surpassing Olivier Islers record by more than 1500m. Much of the equipment required to extend dive limits has been fashioned and built by Michael himself and his team. Michael is very accomplished in cold water deep cave diving and is enthusiastic about sharing his

knowledge and encouraging cave divers all over the world. Please see the advertisement within this issue for further details.

For the first time in many years I have organised state meetings in September in an effort to hear from more members about what direction and expectations they have of the association. Additionally instructor meetings were held in each state covering a number of training and standards issues. The new penetration program is to be released in October incorporating video demonstration of core skills. I see this advancement as significant to our new direction in course material. We are also working on a video page on our website. This allows members to log in and upload their own caving video's to our site utilising the YouTube facility. I envisage short training videos will be added by the instructor core for members to refresh their awareness and promote increasingly advanced skills.

Following on from this was the appointment of a number of motivated state representatives who have been tasked at a local level with regard to promoting awareness of our sport. If any of you wish to have someone talk about cave diving at any of your local dive clubs or other appropriate venues please contact your local area representative. State representatives have also been tasked to try and obtain information on additional local cave dives. If any of you know of suitable sites we would appreciate the information in an attempt to take on a more national focus for the association.

The introduction of the Quality Control form and the monitoring of that by Stan Bugg has given us far more insight into our course content and instructor skill level. I am pleased to note that both are well regarded in the norm. Students have identified content in areas that we are addressing at present.

We have been working for many months on amalgamating our membership databases in an effort to bring Online Banking to the membership. Once established, CDAA fee payment will become simpler. I had hoped to have CDAA course fees and electronic training material electronic by now but this has proved more complicated than initially anticipated on a software front.

I have enjoyed my time as Standards Director for the past term. I wish Linda Claridge well in her nomination and thank all of the members who have assisted me during my time in office.

Steve Trewavas

## Bauer Junior Compressors

1 x Bauer Junior / 3.5 cfm,  
Built 2003 \$ 3,500.00

1 x Bauer Utilus / 3.5 cfm,  
\$4,000.00

1 x Bauer Capitano / 5 cfm  
Built 1983 \$4,500.00

*I have modified a number of Bauer Junior compressors, the Petrol motor and Electric motors can be changed over for home use in 2 minutes!*

- Clean Air Servicing
- Scuba High Pressure Compressor Repairs & Maintenance
- Bauer -Trained service Mechanic

Certificate No. 121206/58

Contact; **Peter Cronin** (Seaford, VIC)

**CLEAN AIR SERVICING**

0409 009 149 or 03 9776 9249

## MOTION TO CHANGE HALL OF FAME

To the Business Director and other Directors and members of the Cave Divers Association. Please consider these changes to the Hall of Fame as in the past the Hall of Fame and Life Membership has been dysfunctional due to having to have 20% of the total membership vote and as we all know we are lucky to get a few members vote on changes. So therefore Life Members and Hall Of Fame members are not acknowledged in any way and members do not know who is a Life Member? Please find this letter as notification in accordance the constitution notification.

36. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION to the Constitution for the Hall of Fame and Life membership per the amendments to the Constitution

36. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. The Constitution of the Association can be amended by postal ballot with the results announced at the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Constitution can also be amended at a Special General Meeting or by a motion raised by the National Committee provided that such business is conducted in accordance with the provision set out in the Constitution.
3. Except for where expressly provided the Constitution can be amended by duly proposed and seconded proposal in writing to the Business Director at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Business Director must notify each member in writing of the proposed amendment(s) at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. No voting on Constitutional amendments will be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. The result of any ballot must be announced at the Annual General Meeting. The Business Director must give notice to all members in writing of the duly passed amendments within ninety (90) days and amendments will come into effect seven (7) days after such notice is posted.

*Please amend the section of the Life Membership section (10)*

10. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

4. Motions for life membership will be carried provided 20% of eligible members vote in favor of the motion.

*change to:*

4) Motions for life membership will be carried provided 70% of the votes received from members plus 2 Directors vote in favour of the motion.

*Please amend the section Hall of Fame section (9B)*

9B. HALL OF FAME section (5)

5) Motions for Hall of Fame membership will be carried provided 20% of eligible members vote in favour of the motion.

*change to:*

5) Motions for Hall of Fame membership will be carried provided 51% of votes received by the Returning Officer vote in favour of the motion.

*Please amend the section of the DEFINITIONS*

To read

(11) LM to indicate a life member who has been granted full membership

(12) HFM Hall of Fame to mean someone voted into the Hall of Fame

*Please include the section (13); (14); (15) of part of the Hall of Fame conditions section (13); (14); (15).*

To read

(13) All life members are automatically indoctrinated to Hall of Fame membership but will have (LM) status added to their name on the Rostrum

(14) Special visitor membership can qualify an individual for "Hall of Fame" membership subject to meeting CDAA Constitution "Hall of Fame" 9b

(15) Life Members in the Hall of Fame are to be differentiated with a life membership abbreviation LM

*Please amend the section of the DUTIES OF THE PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS DIRECTOR section (12)*

12. Will maintain the website

*change to:*

12). Will maintain the website and display the Hall of Fame Rostrum in all Guidelines and in a National Diving Magazine or Journal once a year.

*Proposed by: Max B Marriott CDAA #1268 Seconded by: Heike Apps CDAA #2776*



## NOMINATION TO HALL OF FAME

---

*Dear Directors*

**RE: Hall of Fame Nomination for Max Marriott**

I first met Max Marriott at Glenelg Scuba South Australia 20 years ago when I first did my Professional Association of Scuba Divers Open Water course. Max Marriott always was the encouraging factor in my continuing education of scuba diving and I continued on to be a PADI Divemaster and Master Scuba diver.

Not long after meeting Max he asked if I was interested in fresh water diving in Mt Gambier, it was obvious from then he was a very keen cave diver. Over the years, Max and I always ended up talking about cave diving and me doing a Cave Divers Association Australia course but I wasn't that keen as I was always busy with my Diving Charter boat. Max would always wear his Cave Divers Association paraphernalia whenever he was diving off my charter boat and was always encouraging others at every opportunity to do a Cave Divers Association Australia dive course.

Finally in 2001 Max Marriott convinced me to participate in a CDAA Cavern / Sinkhole programme. I struggled on the "in water skills" part of the Cavern and Sinkhole course but Max Marriott encouraged me to continue and I finished the course and passed. I went on to complete a Cave programme in 2005 and then a Penetration programme in 2006, each time growing in confidence and enthusiasm. Max Marriott was one of the Penetration programme instructors and I feel if it wasn't for Max Marriott I would have never become a Cave Divers Association member and keen cave diver.

I nominate Max Marriott for the Cave Divers Association Hall of Fame for several reasons being the amount of people he turned on to and taught to Cave dive, his passion for the association, and love for the sport, his professionalism when talking about the Cave Divers Association and his professionalism when Cave Instructing and as an office bearer when he was Standards Director in 2003 – 2004.

Max Marriott always had time to talk with all Cave Diver Association Members or divers wanting to learn about cave diving, offering his encouragement and support. Max Marriott is Mr CDAA to me and many other divers in this South Australia. I believe Max Marriott has been instrumental in helping build the Cave Divers Association to be the strong recognised training agency that it is today.

The Cave Divers Association will never be able to fill the shoes that Max Marriott will leave when he decides to retire from Cave Instructing and eventually Cave Diving.

*Proposer: Grant Sommer CDAA #3523*

*Seconder: Warrick McDonald CDAA #1882*

## BALLOT PAPER 2008 - PRECIS NOMINATED POSITIONS FOR 2008/2009

### NOMINATION FOR STANDARDS DIRECTOR

**Linda Claridge - CDAA 2214**

I have been a member of the CDAA since completing my first cavern course in 1990 and am quite passionate about cave diving. Between 1990 and 1994 I worked my way up from Cavern to Penetration level diver and also expanded my knowledge of the caves by assisting on mapping and research projects along the way. I have participated in mapping at Black Hole, Bullocks, Pines and in Vanuatu and more recently, the big Blue Lake and the Picaninnie Pond projects.

I have along the way had the pleasure of cave diving and undertaking further training courses in areas such as Florida, Wales, England and Vanuatu – each offering different and unique experiences, but all have the same connecting force – cave diving.

I held the position of Records Officer between 1994 - 2000, and currently am access co-ordinator for the Shaft.

I became an instructor with the CDAA in 1997 and have had the pleasure of working with and learning from many of our past great instructors. Through these diving and mapping projects and during my time as an Instructor I have developed a thorough understanding of both our teaching and general member standards. It is with this experience in mind that I now feel that I have the knowledge, the experience and the enthusiasm to nominate for the position of Standards Director.

I plan to actively work towards more face to face meetings for both instructors and directors alike and honest communication with the members.

*Proposer: Michelle Boyle CDAA #4273*

*Seconder: Michael O'Brien CDAA #4274*



# BALLOT PAPER 2008 - PRECIS

## NOMINATED POSITIONS

### FOR 2008/2009

#### NOMINATION FOR STANDARDS DIRECTOR

**Steve Trewavas - CDAA 3095**

I was initially invited onto the directorate due to the unforeseen resignation of George Yarra. In effect I have served out a little more than half of George's original term. What I hoped to bring to the Directorate at that time was a solid level of commonsense and a modern approach to diving, training and managing the association. I trust that I have displayed this in my dealings with those members I have come in contact with during my term in office. I stand for an impartial alternative to the usual instructor based directorate.

Although we come from many backgrounds and have mixed abilities, concerns and passions it is apparent to me that we need to be independently equally well represented by the CDAA. I strive to ensure the decisions I make are made in the best interest of the association, despite any personal preferences or prejudices I may have.

I have been fortunate enough to have dived and travelled extensively through many caving regions all over the planet. I continually strive to improve my personal diving abilities, professionalism and knowledge. It is this experience and rounded appreciation of our sport that I wish to integrate into our association.

If elected back into office, I wish to introduce a more modern approach to communicating material and training ideas to members. I am also passionate about building our AGM conferences up to be indicative of the enthusiasm I see in the divers of our association.

*Proposer: Mischa Temple CDAA #4041*

*Seconder: Jason Caldwell CDAA #4274*

# BALLOT PAPER 2008 - PRECIS

## NOMINATED POSITIONS

### FOR 2008/2009

#### NOMINATION FOR BUSINESS DIRECTOR

**Helen Higgins - CDAA 3067**

I've been a member since 1997 and have held the role of Products' Officer for over two years. In that time I have expanded and improved the product range and introduced an online shop for members' convenience. I am very passionate and committed to the CDAA; I conduct myself in a professional manner and would be an exemplary representative.

I have rallied openly and behind the scenes giving constructive criticism to the Directorate voicing members' concerns and offering positive suggestions for improving accountability and leading to more transparent processes.

My commitment continues to be improving these processes and ensuring consistency in decision making. I believe this would lead to a more cohesive Directorate and bring about better trust and respect from the members. As an independent member, not associated with the industry professionally and bringing with me a fresh approach, I believe I can best serve the members and help increase membership value. As the CDAA income from membership fees and levies have exceeded our expenditure for many years resulting in a very large accumulation of funds.

I propose removal of the Kilsby's levy, and, if funds still continue to accumulate, a review of membership fees.

My strengths are my organisational skills, my ability to tackle a problem and to see it through to resolution and my independence and strength in putting my own opinions forward without buckling under pressure or personal attack. I believe these skills would serve me and the membership well in my role as Business Director.

*Nominated by: Tony Richardson CDAA #641*

*Seconded by: Nick Cumberland CDAA #3295*



# SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2008.

Well here we are again, another year gone by with lots of diving being done in the CDAA sites. As well there has been diving in many other sites over seas as well. We have also had divers going to Tassy and WA to sample their sites.

We now have state Reps in most states and would like to welcome them on board. They are Qld - Tim Featonby, Vic - Ian Taylor, ACT - Heike Apps. We hope these people can lift our profile in these areas and can be a source of contact into dive sites that may exist in their areas. So if you are going interstate give them a call and they might be able to help.

It is also good to see the rain is starting to fall with the sites receiving good rainfalls and the water table raising in the right direction and of course less rungs to climb at the shaft is a good thing - I thought for a while I would have to buy a longer ladder.

Also on the diving front it was good to see Jason Caldwell and Steve on their China expedition. Also the work in Pics is going well with Harry, JDZ, Grant Pearce, Peter Horne, Ian Lewis, Ken Smith, Linda Claridge and myself finding out more info about Pics little secrets. More from the project as it unfolds. There has been lots of action on the Nullarbor this year with many new divers making Toad Hall, a great achievement by all. But the best must be the extension of Cocklebidy by Craig Challen, JDZ, Harry and all others who were on the trip (should be a great AGM with all the stories and photos from these trips). Bad luck story must go to Harry and Ken who lost all of their gear and their 4



WD on the way back when the 4WD caught fire at Nundroo on the way home from Cocklebidy. Lets hope you can recover some of the things you both lost in the fire guys.

There are also others doing work around the Mount, both under water and above with University's taking water samples from different sites and some possum trapping being done out at Hells Hole and other places.

Just some reminders, please make sure you adhere to access requirements and if not sure check with guidelines or with me. Please remember for those heading to the Nullarbor that access conditions now dictate that no bolting is to be done there.

There have been major works at Engelbrechts in the way of landscaping and the lowering of fences around the hole. We need to make sure gates at properly locked and the flag displayed when diving. At Kilsbys there is only to be the booked CDAA divers on the site - no others are permitted to be on the property at all. This is an insurance issue as you can well understand.

Over the year we have done some improvements to many sites to help make entry and exit from these sites a little easier. This will of course be ongoing as land owners permit this to happen.

I must also thank the site access people in Noel Dillon for his work sorting out tank cave divers and guides, Linda Claridge for her work with the Shaft and Craig Larkin who handles all the Kilsbys bookings - it is most likely the most used site in the Mount at the moment.

The next year will be busy I am sure, with new directors coming on line and lots of new ideas for the CDAA. Make sure you vote who you would like to take you forward in the next term.

Lock in the AGM date and if it is anything like last year it is going to be great with lots of things in line for this meeting.

On closing if there are any issues on any thing at all please give me a call.

See you in the Silt,  
Gary Barclay



## Publications and Records Director Annual Report

Terri Allen

### Membership

We finished off this financial year with over 820 members up a little on last few years (last year 799).

This was balanced with about 100 new members coming in while we lose a bit less than that each year. A good distribution of members across all states. Hopefully the appointment of some new state reps will help boost membership in the lower membership states. I will provide a more detailed report of the membership breakdown and demographics at the AGM.

### Guidelines

We have been blessed with many great articles from overseas and local as well as photos. Thanks to Peter, Harry, Ag and Ken for your regular contributions. David has taken over looking after advertising, designing ads, and invoicing. We have changed to an annual system and this has made it easier to invoice and chase up bills. We have covered around half the costs of Guidelines with advertising (\$7,500). Thanks also to the team at Ocean Divers Jane, Sara and Benson for assisting with mail outs and now storage of files.

### Products

Helen has done a stirring job on products with increased sales, on line shop and product news as well as offering many new products. Look out for the new stickers, jackets, t shirts and DVDs.

### Website

Please see Tony's report in this Guidelines on the webpage. It has received many new hits. Many improvements with the on line shop, on-line bookings, historical section and on line polling. Steve, Jason, Tony and I have also worked on the new on-line membership which will tie in with renewals in future.

### Publications

We have almost completed the Deep Cavern theory and the Penetration notes and slides. Cave will be next as well as the general standards.

### General Directorate

A number of investigations were completed and unfortunately are still ongoing.

### List of changes to CDAA Regulations September 2008:

1. Changed date on front page to September 2008 and in footer
2. 1.1.1.3 added ...each member must read and comply
3. 1.4.1 changed to ...and must have a CDAA full member as a sponsor
4. 1.4.13 Added in new point. A diver holding a Special Visitors permit must get access and dive with a full CDAA members of the same or higher rating
5. 1.4.14 A diver holding a Special Visitors permit must dive with a full CDAA member for the first dive in every site



# SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JUNE 2008. (full version on website)

Hi again. My, the year is slipping away - along with the water level around Mount Gambier it seems. This is not new though as there has been a 7m drop in the water table since 1920 with 3 of these from 1998 till now. Unfortunately there is little we can do about this except be conscious of your use and continue the chase. Interestingly this drop in the water table is also reflective of rainfall levels in this time as well.

We have been busy with the installation of more kitting up tables and general cleanups in the area. I must say a very BIG thanks-you to all those who took the time out to help with this so that others can have it a little bit easier. Trevor Wynniat from Forestry SA must be thanked for his support over the weekend also.

There has been some very interesting research work been done in the big Blue Lake organised by Grant Pearce and an ongoing mapping project in Pics. This has necessitated some deep dives but at this stage this will not be the norm. Please remember that in Picaninnie Ponds still has a 36.5M MAXIMUM DEPTH LIMIT in place. Rangers will continue to monitor that this is being adhered to. Recently some very obvious 'sneak' dives have been noted and reported. It was obvious as when the legal team were swimming home through the pond the illegal team swam passed them and waved! Clearly these were not CDAA divers but

discussions after the dive verified that they knew that they weren't supposed to be in there but that they couldn't see the harm in it. On the State Rep front we would like to welcome Jeff Swann from Darwin. He will be listed as the contact person for this area. As there are a few sites up that way and Jeff has been around for a while he will be a great source of local info if you are heading up that way. We also have Mark Jobbins in NSW and Peter Buzzacott in WA who are both very useful first contacts regarding the CDAA and /or cave diving in their areas. Thanks guys for the work that you do.

On the CDAA politics side of things we have voting coming up again so you need to start thinking about who you want as your voice in the CDAA. Maybe you want to think about throwing your hat into the ring... It can be a little frustrating at times but very rewarding to be putting something back for the CDAA. If you ever have a question, query or request please give me a call on 0407 527 921 or email me on Garinda@bigpond.com and I will try and sort it out. This is our CDAA! Think wisely and make your vote count at the CDAA.

Just on a final note I would like to set the record straight about the story in the last Guidelines about Wookey Cave (not Wookey Hollow) - it was written by Linda Claridge and not me as stated.

See you at the sites, Gary Barclay

## CDAA PRODUCTS

### NEW DVD!... Wookey Exposed - DVD \$35

Beneath the Mendip hills of Southern England lies a cave system that has challenged explorers since the earliest times, and continues to do so today. Cave men were the first to explore the darkness of Wookey Hole reaching as far as the fourth chamber. Subsequent generations of explorers have now pushed the known cave to beyond the twenty fifth chamber. As one of the UK's most popular show caves the public can venture as far as the tenth chamber, but from this point onwards much of the cave lies underwater and is the sole domain of the cave divers.

### NEW HOODIES!... Hoodies - \$70

Warm, hard wearing fleece fabric in black with embroidered logo on the front and Cave Divers Association of Australia embroidered across the back. Available in S, M, L, XL and XXL.

### NEW JACKETS!... Trekka Jacket - \$125

Outer: 100% Polyester shell with heat sealed seams. Inner: 100% Anti pill micro-fleece lining. Winter weight water proof jacket in black. High wind collar, hiding a zippered seam-sealed hood with adjustable drawstrings. Snap down storm flap with 6 matching buttons for added wind protection, over zippered front. 2 Way front pockets. Adjustable drawstring around waist and bottom. Elasticised/snap down sleeve cuff with an adjustable tab, perfect to fit men and women of various sizes. Zippered inside left breast pocket. Featuring embroidered CDAA logo and Cave Divers Association of Australia embroidered across the back.

### NEW LOG BOOK FOLDER!... Embroidered log book folder - \$35

Stylish durable covers allowing you to keep your practical records safe. Featuring the CDAA logo embroidered on the front cover.

### NEW STICKERS!... Round sticker and bumper sticker - \$1 each

New design round sticker featuring CDAA logo over a line arrow. Also, bumper sticker featuring cave diving photos by Dean Chamberlain.

To view or order these or any other products, please visit the online store or use the order form in Guidelines.

REGARDS, HELEN HIGGINS, CDAA PRODUCTS.

## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED END OF FINANCIAL YEAR STATEMENTS

ABN 65 062 259 956

### TRADING ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30 2008 (provisional)

	2008	note	2007	2006	2005
<b>SALES:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$9,959.60	1	\$10,712.30	\$5,436.60	\$3,020.65
Instruction Materials	\$7,532.00		\$6,655.00	\$9,740.00	\$7,778.00
<b>LESS COST OF SALES:</b>					
<b>OPENING 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>ADD PURCHASES:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$7,868.61		\$7,994.28	\$3,046.67	\$1,692.94
Instruction Materials	\$1,566.46		\$3,087.62	\$8,818.44	\$1,341.35
Members Manuals	\$445.50		\$301.95	\$313.82	\$1,279.00
<b>LESS CLOSING STOCK:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$7,774.60		\$6,345.39	\$4,458.85	\$5,449.32
Instruction Materials	-	2	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,414.24
Members Manuals	-	2	\$4,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,614.48
<b>TOTAL COST OF SALES:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$6,439.40		\$6,107.74	\$4,037.14	\$2,403.37
Instruction Materials	\$3,566.46		\$3,087.62	\$9,232.68	\$2,138.11
Members Manuals	\$4,945.50		\$801.95	\$928.30	\$374.52
<b>GROSS TRADING PROFIT (LOSS):</b>					
CDAA Products	\$3,520.20		\$4,604.56	\$1,399.46	\$617.28
Instruction Materials	\$3,965.54		\$3,567.38	\$507.32	\$5,639.89
Members Manuals	(\$4,945.50)		(\$801.95)	(\$928.30)	(\$374.52)
<b>LESS POSTAGE:</b>					
CDAA Products	\$572.85		\$556.33	-	\$85.25
Instruction Materials	\$215.05		\$509.34	\$174.35	\$273.09
<b>NET PROFIT (LOSS):</b>					
CDAA Products	\$2,947.35		\$4,048.23	\$1,399.46	\$532.03
Instruction Materials	\$3,750.49		\$3,058.04	\$332.97	\$5,366.80
Members Manuals	(\$4,945.50)		(\$801.95)	(\$928.30)	(\$374.52)



**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED - ABN 65 062 259 956**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30 2008**

<b>UNAUDITED</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>note</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>					
CDAА Products net income	\$2,947.35	3	\$4,048.23	\$1,399.46	\$532.03
CDAА Instruction Materials net income	\$3,750.49		\$3,058.04	\$332.97	\$5,366.80
Membership fees	\$51,034.50		\$48,981.50	\$46,855.00	\$42,743.00
Non Active Memberships	\$1,715.00		\$1,085.00	\$1,435.00	\$1,135.00
Instructor's membership fees	\$1,480.00		\$1,230.00	\$1,040.00	\$1,720.00
Late membership fees	\$3,195.00		\$3,780.00	\$2,790.00	\$2,215.00
Joining and rating upgrade fees	\$4,440.00	4	\$4,020.00	\$5,560.00	\$4,440.00
Nitrox endorsement fees	\$710.00		\$660.00	\$500.00	\$560.00
Trimix and Rebreather endorsements	\$490.00		\$1,020.00	-	-
Guidelines advertising income	\$7,675.00	5	\$5,550.00	\$5,142.00	\$4,050.00
Tank Cave Fees	\$13,777.00		\$13,880.00	\$8,440.00	\$8,140.00
30th Anniversary Dinner receipts	-		-	-	\$165.00
Grants and donations received	-		\$16.00	-	-
Fines	-		-	\$115.00	-
Visitor Permits	\$930.00		\$500.00	-	\$293.00
Penetration course receipts	\$10,850.00		\$10,750.00	\$16,650.00	\$9,900.00
Interest income	\$16,023.54		\$11,714.48	\$8,784.74	\$7,522.29
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$119,017.88</b>		<b>\$110,293.25</b>	<b>\$99,044.17</b>	<b>\$88,782.12</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
Accounting and audit fees	\$2,294.50		\$2,263.73	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00
Bank fees	\$459.80		\$444.20	\$415.43	\$449.40
Computer expenses	-		-	-	\$134.72
Credit facility fees	\$995.58		\$1,195.34	\$905.22	\$642.51
Govt. financial taxes	-		-	\$8.10	\$74.60
Gifts & Donations	\$200.00		\$139.00	\$592.26	-
Depreciation expense	\$2,313.32		\$2,379.37	\$969.45	\$636.04
Fundraising	-		-	-	\$240.00
CDAА Liability Insurance	\$13,882.00	6	\$20,141.00	\$22,119.02	\$22,304.29
Members Manuals	\$4,945.50	2	\$801.95	\$928.30	\$374.52
Postage	\$357.45		\$136.35	\$620.75	\$379.98
Post Office Box Fees	\$164.50		\$424.00	\$759.40	\$817.58
Printing and Stationery	\$653.65		\$434.76	\$694.87	\$441.59
Penetration course disbursements	\$9,100.00		\$9,950.00	\$15,033.58	\$10,700.00
Research and Mapping	-		-	-	\$212.10
Site expenses	\$4,961.00	7	\$4,961.00	\$11.00	\$497.78
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,256.94		\$1,501.03	-	-
Sundry	-		-	-	\$87.62
Tank Cave licence fee	\$15,396.70		\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00
Telephones	-		-	\$22.18	\$273.29
Web Site expenses	\$2,663.80	8	\$2,371.35	\$2,346.00	\$2,537.96
Workshops	-		-	\$463.01	-
OzTek expenses	-		\$1,737.37	-	-
Guidelines Production	\$15,400.00	9	\$15,433.00	\$11,660.00	\$15,191.00
Guidelines postage	\$2,096.61		\$2,174.78	\$1,501.27	\$2,032.22
Annual general meeting expenses	\$2,571.50		\$650.80	\$790.34	\$444.23
Other meeting expenses	-		\$562.70	\$1,478.83	\$599.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$79,712.85</b>		<b>\$75,951.73</b>	<b>\$71,444.01</b>	<b>\$69,195.43</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$39,305.03</b>		<b>\$34,341.52</b>	<b>\$27,600.16</b>	<b>\$19,586.69</b>

**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED - ABN 65 062 259 956**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT JUNE 30 2008 (provisional)**

<b>DRAFT ONLY</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>note</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
National Australia Bank cheque account	\$10,612.43		\$23,060.43	\$19,807.79	\$7,720.70
National Australia Bank Common Fund	\$275,819.04	10	\$240,819.04	\$208,819.04	\$190,011.76
Debtors - advertising	\$7,500.00	5	-	-	-
Prepayments	\$18,790.96	11	\$4,070.00	-	\$8,250.00
CDAА Products stock	\$7,774.60		\$6,345.39	\$4,458.85	\$5,449.32
Instruction Materials stock	-		\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,414.24
Members Manuals stock	-		\$4,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,614.48
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$320,497.03</b>		<b>\$280,794.86</b>	<b>\$240,085.68</b>	<b>\$219,460.50</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	\$11,167.32		\$10,352.79	\$6,544.43	-
less accumulated depreciation	(\$1,943.84)		(\$885.67)	-	-
Office equipment	\$17,922.59		\$17,922.59	\$17,922.59	\$14,427.59
less accumulated depreciation	(\$17,922.59)		(\$16,667.44)	(\$15,173.74)	(\$14,204.29)
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>\$9,223.48</b>		<b>\$10,722.27</b>	<b>\$9,293.28</b>	<b>\$223.30</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$329,720.51</b>		<b>\$291,517.13</b>	<b>\$249,378.96</b>	<b>\$219,683.80</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Memberships received one year in advance	\$30,000.00		\$28,520.00	\$27,140.00	\$28,470.00
Inactive Memberships received one year in advance	\$490.00		\$245.00	\$105.00	-
Overpayments	\$470.00		\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00
Creditors	\$1,200.00		\$3,081.65	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Penetration course deposits	-		\$1,500.00	-	\$900.00
Tank Cave Fees Received in advance	\$600.00		\$1,500.00	\$3,750.00	\$880.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$32,760.00</b>		<b>\$35,286.65</b>	<b>\$32,635.00</b>	<b>\$31,890.00</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>					
Inactive Memberships received	\$140.00		\$35.00	-	-
Memberships received two years in advance	\$13,390.00		\$10,240.00	\$8,270.00	\$9,290.00
Memberships received three years in advance	\$4,410.00		\$5,870.00	\$3,290.00	\$1,760.00
Memberships received four years in advance	\$1,560.00		\$1,930.00	\$1,540.00	\$840.00
Memberships received five years in advance	\$460.00		\$520.00	\$560.00	\$280.00
Memberships received six years in advance	\$140.00		\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00
Memberships received seven years in advance	\$140.00		\$140.00	\$70.00	\$140.00
Memberships received eight years in advance	\$70.00		\$140.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
Memberships received nine years in advance	\$70.00		\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
Memberships received ten years in advance	-		\$70.00	-	\$70.00
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$20,380.00</b>		<b>\$19,155.00</b>	<b>\$14,010.00</b>	<b>\$12,660.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$53,140.00</b>		<b>\$54,441.65</b>	<b>\$46,645.00</b>	<b>\$44,550.00</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>					
Members Equity opening balance	\$237,075.48		\$202,733.96	\$175,133.80	\$155,547.11
add: current year Net Income	\$39,305.03		\$34,341.52	\$41,224.98	\$19,586.69
<b>CDAА Member's Total Equity</b>	<b>\$276,380.51</b>		<b>\$237,075.48</b>	<b>\$216,358.78</b>	<b>\$175,133.80</b>
<b>represented by:</b>					
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$276,580.51</b>		<b>\$237,075.48</b>	<b>\$202,733.96</b>	<b>\$175,133.80</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements Year Ending 30th June 2008

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. Materials and Manuals are now being copied as required. There is some old stock on hand, but the value is minimal and has been written off.
3. The jump in product sales in 2007 was due to Oztek.
4. The breakdown for joining and rating upgrades are: joining: - \$1740; sinkhole: - \$1740; cave: - \$960
5. Advertising is now billed annually in arrears, the \$7300 was invoiced in June 2007 and the major part of it has been received in July 2008.
6. Insurance decreased in 2008 because we changed insurers from OAMPS to Divemaster Insurance.
7. Increase in 2007 is due to access fee to Kilsby's of \$4950
8. Web site expenses are those incurred in maintaining the official CDAA web site.
9. Guidelines production costs are for three issues in 2006 rather than four issues as is usually the case.
10. Surplus cash is transferred to an At Call common fund where a higher interest rate applies.
11. Guidelines issued in July 2008 was paid in June. Tank Cave fees for 2005-2006 were paid in June. Insurance for the 2008-2009 year was paid in June 2008.

## 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. 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.

I have decided not to renominate for the Business Director position. Work has been very hectic this last twelve months, and it is not likely to ease up much for a fair while. I feel I am no longer in a position to devote the necessary time into the CDAA. I would like to say I have enjoyed my time [mostly] as a director and hope that my contributions have helped the organisation move forward. I would also like to thank my fellow directors who put many hours into what is often a thankless job.

Remember to come along to the AGM in Mt Gambier which will be held on Saturday October 18 at the Comfort Inn Silver Birch conference room. It would be great to see even more people attend this event. Again we have some interesting talks from various members and an overseas visitor. Please come along and support your association. If you intend to come to the dinner after the AGM, please let men know for catering purposes.

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

There is a member motion for amendments to the Constitution. Please read and vote on the amendment. All amendments require 20% of members to vote. This means that about 160 people must vote.

In the last issue of Guidelines I mentioned I would like to hear members opinions on whether they would like to see a capital purchase. I received 96 online votes and 3 email votes. Out of current members, a total of 99 voted, representing about 12% of the CDAA membership. There were 54 yes votes and 45 no votes, though many of them were yes but not a pub or no but if there was a proper business plan etc.. While this was closer than I expected – there were also a lot less votes than I envisaged. Does this mean about 88% of the membership really do not care what happens to their association?

A pdf with comments will be available on the web.

Regards, Heike



## UP COMING COURSES

### DEEP CAVERN Courses

October 8-19, 2008 in Melbourne & Mt Gambier inc pool session  
Instructor: Andrew Higgins 0413569164 ahhiggins@optusnet.com.au

Monday October 13 - Thursday October 16 inclusive  
Saturday November 1 - Tuesday November 4 inclusive  
Instructor: Linda CLARIDGE Gary BARCLAY 03 - 5565 8793. E: garinda@tpgi.com.au

October 25/26 - November 1/2 2008 (two weekends) in Perth & Collie, W.A.  
instructor - Geoff Paynter 08 9795 9520 gpaynter@geo.net.au

October 29 - November 4, 2008 in Melbourne & Mt. Gambier inc pool session  
Instructor: Andrew HIGGINS 0413569164 ahhiggins@optusnet.com.au

November 17-30 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier  
Instructor: Jane Bowman info@abocean.com.au 03 9579 2600

December 6/7 - 13/14 2008 (two weekends) in Perth & Collie, Western Australia  
instructor - Geoff Paynter 08 9795 9520 gpaynter@geo.net.au

### Cave Courses

September 22-28, 2008 in Mt Gambier  
Instructor: Andrew Higgins 0413569164 ahhiggins@optusnet.com.au

Tuesday October 7th - Thursday October 9th inclusive.  
Instructor: Linda Claridge 03 5565 8793 garinda@tpgi.com.au

October 6 - 12, 2008 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier  
Instructor: Terri ALLEN 0419 176633 terri.allen@baker.edu.au

November 10-16 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier  
Instructor: Jane Bowman info@abocean.com.au 03 9579 2600

### CDAA Penetration Courses

Easter 2009 - Good Friday April 10th through to and including Tuesday 14th.  
Contact Penetration program co-ordinator Jane Bowman info@abocean.com.au 03 9579 2600  
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 18 - 19 2008; Tim Payne  
November 1 - 2 2008; John DZ  
November 15 - 16 2008  
Jane Bowman & Warrick McDonald  
November 29 - 30 2008; Gary Barclay

December 13 - 14 2008  
January 10 - 11 2009; Tim Payne  
January 24 - 26 2009 (Australia Day)  
February 7 - 8 2009; Steve Trewavas  
February 21 - 22 2009; John DZ

March 7 - 9 2009 (Vic. Labour Day)  
Richard Irndorfer  
March 21 - 22 2009; Gary Barclay  
April 10 - 13 2009 (Easter)  
Warrick McDonald & Jane Bowman



## CDAA SITE ACCESS - [www.cavedivers.com.au](http://www.cavedivers.com.au)

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

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

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
<b>MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>			
<b>DEH SITES</b>			
Ewens Ponds	Nil	DEH P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 (08) 8735 1177	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. for Environment & Heritage (DEH) Smaller groups, no need.  Fax: (08) 8735 1135
Gouldens	CN	DEH	<b>General Diving:</b> Divers to contact DEH and notify of date and site to be dived. Please make requests by phone or fax only.
2 Sisters	CN	P.O. Box 1046	Divers must have the correct CDAA diving endorsement for the site and carry current
Fossil	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8735 1177 Fax: (08) 8735 1135	financial CDAA membership card. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DEH before access is permitted. <b>Training:</b> The Instructor is to notify DEH of the date the sites are needed and to forward signed indemnities from each student and their temporary card number/ membership number.
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	as above	Permit holders by phone or fax. Be aware of delicate vegetation. \$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@forestrysa.sa.gov.au](mailto:forestrysa@forestrysa.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 animals, visitors or mid-week diving allowed.
		No Visitors	

## CDAA SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
<b>MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)</b>			
<b>BARNOOLUT SITES</b>			
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.
<b>NULLARBOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>			
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 3657.
Murra El Elevyn Tommy Grahams	P/C 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
<b>N.S.W. - WELLINGTON CAVES</b>			
Limekiln (McCavity)	P/C		Both Penetration and Cave Level are being accepted for this cave depending on it's water level at the time. The cave has a restriction at the entrance which is underwater making it a Penetration Dive. During drought, the water level drops to form a small lake below the restriction allowing experienced Cave Divers access to this delicate cave.
Water (Anticline)	C		Affected by high CO <sub>2</sub> levels during Summer/Autumn. Access is co-ordinated with the Wellington Caves management by Greg Ryan - <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.

SEPTMBER 2008 - PAGE 36

Cardholders Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Order Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Plus P&H **\$8.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. 

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

☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_



## CDAA INSTRUCTORS

NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Penetr	NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Penetr
<b>A.C.T.</b>				<b>VICTORIA. cont.</b>			
APPS, Heike (CDAA 2776) BH 02 6249 9170 AH 02 6291 0566 E: heike.apps@ga.gov.au	Yes	Yes	Yes	HARDMAN, Lorraine (CDAA 2824) Mob: 0418 304 120 E: PALdiving@people.net.au	Yes		
<b>N.S.W.</b>				HIGGINS, Andrew (CDAA 3329) Mobile: 0413 569164 E: ahiggins@optusnet.com.au	Yes	Yes	
GRILLS, Peter (CDAA 1780) AH 02 4955 4497 Mobile 0419 820 920 E: peter_grills@hotmail.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	LESLIE, Paul (CDAA 3184) Phone: (03) 9879 2868 Email: info@melbournediving.com.au	Yes		
WALTERS, DESMOND BH 02 6041 1405 AH 02 6025 3506 deswalters@westnet.com.au	Yes	Yes		MCDONALD, Warrick (CDAA 1882) BH: (03) 5979 2600 E: info@abocean.com.au Mobile 0408 374 112 www.abocean.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>				MONACO, Rubens (CDAA 1731) BH 03 5984-1799 E: info@idscuba.com.au Mobile: 0413-429-533	Yes	Yes	
MARRIOTT, Max (CDAA 1268) Mob: 0428 897 897 E: dive69@chariot.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes	TAYLOR, Ian (CDAA 3568) Phone: 0411 118 134 E: ian.taylor4@defence.gov.au	Yes	Yes	
SELBACH, Steve (CDAA 3495) Phone: 0413 134 827 Email: steve.selbach@mac.com	Yes			WALTERS, Des (CDAA 687) Location: Albury Phone: (02) 6041 1405 Email: deswalters@westnet.com.au www.descend.com.au	Yes	Yes	
<b>VICTORIA</b>				WEALTHY, Bob (CDAA 464) Mob: 0417 524 005 Email: somerset@iimetro.com.au	Yes	Yes	
ALLEN, Terri (CDAA 3483) Mob: 0419 176 633 E: terri.allen@baker.edu.au	Yes	Yes		<b>QUEENSLAND</b>			
AXTON, Paul (CDAA 2826) Phone: 0419 346 442 E: PALdiving@people.net.au	Yes	Yes	Yes	FEATONBY, Tim (CDAA 3372) Mob: 0402 129 253 E: tim.featonby@defence.gov.au	Yes	Yes	
BARCLAY, Gary (CDAA 1735) AH (03) 5565 8793 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes	<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>			
BOWMAN, Jane (CDAA 1880) BH: (03) 5979 2600 E: info@abocean.com.au www.abocean.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes	PAYNTER, Geoff (CDAA 3784) Mob: 0407 445 112 E: gpaynter@geo.net.au	Yes	Yes	
CLARIDGE, Linda (CDAA 2214) Mobile 0408 052 070 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au AH (03) 5565 8793	Yes	Yes	Yes	<b>INSTRUCTOR ADVOCATE: MAX MARRIOT.</b>			
DALLA-ZUANNA, John (CDAA 236) Penetration instructor Phone: 0407 887 060 Email: jdz@paintandcustom.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes				

# OZTEK '09

21-22 MARCH 2009 SYDNEY

## The Ultimate Underwater Adventure



### Dive Exhibition & Conference

For more information see:

[www.diveoztek.com.au](http://www.diveoztek.com.au)

E-mail: [admin@diveoztek.com.au](mailto:admin@diveoztek.com.au)





# Destination: Papua New Guinea Kavieng

story **Steve Trewavas** • Photos by Dorian Borchers

*IF SOMEONE WERE TO ASK ME WHERE TO GO for a unique, wild and cultural diving experience I wouldn't hesitate – Papua New Guinea.*

*Papua New Guinea, or more colloquially PNG, is exotic, extreme and exclusive. Divers are travelling further and further in search of new experiences, perhaps here we have found the "furtherest" on the planet.*

## Why travel here?

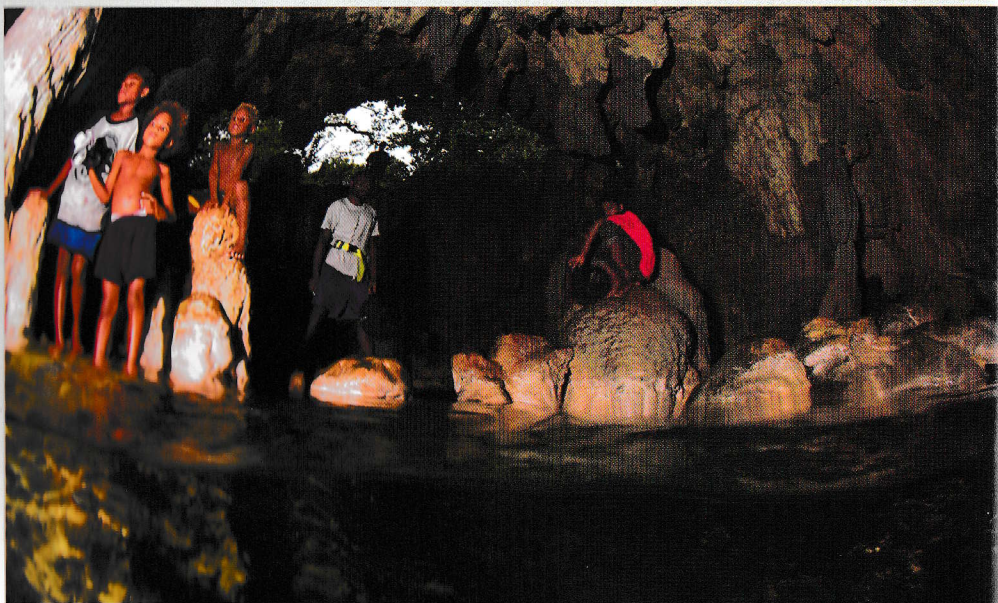
Lying just south of the equator, 160km north of Australia, Papua New Guinea is part of a great arc of mountains stretching from Asia, through Indonesia and into the South Pacific. This fascinating land boasts more than 600 islands, more than 800 indigenous languages and is home to the largest area of intact rainforest outside of the Amazon. Papua New Guinea consists of 4 regions made up of 19 provinces and the National Capital District, each with their own special character and cultures. Visitors will discover a wealth of tropical scenery, from the jungle-clad mountains of the highlands to the sandy white beaches and atolls of the coastal and island



provinces. For divers PNG diving is famous for its World War 2 shipwrecks, bountiful pelagics and shark dives. More recently reports of numerous water filled caves have initiated speculation amongst the cave diving community.

## Resorts or liveaboards?

International flights arrive at the country's only international airport in Port Moresby. From here tourists take connecting domestic flights or link up with their liveaboard charter operators. For those wanting more than a pure diving holiday resorts are the way to go. For those more fanatical there is but one choice - the liveaboard.



There are 14 popular dive resorts and 6 liveaboards who regularly advertise their services.

## Resorts

These offer a large range of facilities and are not just limited to diving. Sea kayaking and game fishing seem to be the popular offerings. Resorts in PNG by world standards are far from 5 star. The country is still only starting to embrace the tourist trade. The cream of the crop is Walindi Dive Resort which was recently voted amongst the best dive resorts in the world. The visitor list reads like the whos who of scuba diving with well known photographers most noticeable.

## Liveaboards

For remote adventure and constant diving the liveaboard is the only way to travel. The area is so diverse new dive sites and wrecks are constantly being discovered.

## Our visit...

Recently Dean Johnston and I were invited by Scuba Ventures in Kavieng Province to sample some of their local diving. For us this was an opportunity to explore the vague reports of uncharted water filled cave systems on the far eastern island of New Ireland. The caves were in fact there and we dived two short, shallow caves that were very pretty, filled with many beautiful underwater decorations. These were all a short drive from Scuba Ventures well organised dive operation. Water temperature was 25 degrees and water clarity was excellent.

**ALLENDALE EAST  
GENERAL STORE.**

**Open 7 Days  
7am till Late!**

**Clean Divers Air**

FREE Tea and Coffee while you wait!

**CDAA Members Discount!**

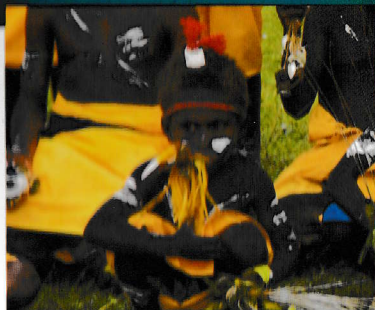
**Great Take-away Food  
and General Supplies!**

50-52 Bay Road, Allendale East

**Phone: (08) 8738 7274**

John, Sharon and Erica.





#### **Liga Onui Cave**

This cave was simply beautiful with many decorations. Short and with limited dive potential but great photographic opportunity. The entrance had stone carvings in the rock from some ancient time.

#### **Panapai Cave**

Short vertical entry to the water

before entering a mostly vertical cave. Maximum depth around 20 metres. No real opportunity for expansive cave. Nice decorations from the roof but the floor is very silty.

As we ventured further south down the coast we explored several river resurgences which had clean clear water flowing inexplicitly to the ocean. It seemed all these caves emerged from deep 3 metre diameter shafts which plummeted immediately below 40m. The potential of the karst seemed boundless every few kilometres further south a river literally emerged from the ground. All beckoned further exploration but on this trip without helium our boundaries were restricted. This area was very exciting and exploration diving would be limited only by access with the locals and the depth issues.

#### **Taskiki Cave**

This river cave flows deep very quickly. A beautiful clear river pool is a regular swimming spot for the locals. There is a restriction at the 40 m mark that may require side-mount configuration to progress but the amount of flow indicates substantial possibilities.

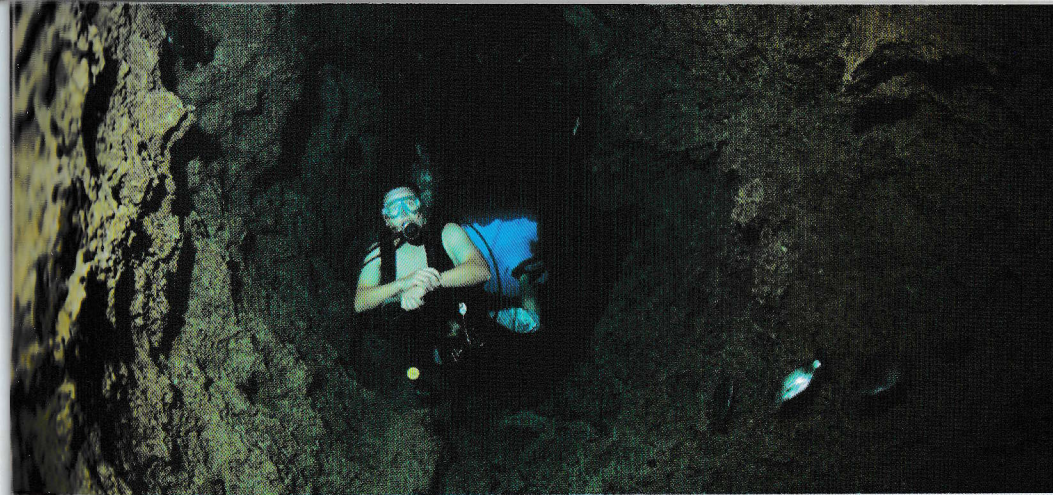
#### **Pakwala Cave**

Another beautiful surface pool from a large river resurgence. The cave descends sharply down a steep slope 2m high but quite wide. The

flow in this cave was heavy and I noticed my breathing rate increase. Easiest to pull hand over hand near the restriction at 40m. This cave had very dark and crumbly walls. Potential here is excellent. Many fish call the cave home.

#### **Panangale Cave**

Further down the coast this cave is



used for drinking water by the locals despite being very close to the coast. The entrance is a little more challenging with a 4 metre vertical drop into the water which needs negotiating. I enjoyed this cave which had several rooms and beautiful formations. The locals were extremely friendly and enjoyed viewing our underwater video of our dive.

Kavieng harbour has its share of world war 2 wrecks. On the last day prior to our departure I made an effort to sample some of the ocean diving on offer with scuba ventures. We first dived a World War 2 Japanese biplane known by the allies as a "Pete." This was not far from the shore in warm 29C degree water and was a remarkable dive. Our second dive introduced us to the local reef diving at the "bommies" We swam with 6 or so reef sharks, checked out numerous lobster and enjoyed the local colourful reef fish. Visibility was excellent in the 30+ metre range.

The island of New Ireland has huge potential from a cave diving perspective. There appears to be many river caves with reasonable access within the region. Technical diving is a little challenging as helium and oxygen in the remote region is very expensive. Additional trips will be required to further scope out the possibilities.

#### **Fact file:**

PNG and its surrounding islands has a population of 6.2 million people. The capital city is Port Moresby. There are a total of 600 odd islands. In 1975 PNG obtained it's independence from Australia.

Getting there: Flights from Brisbane and Darwin arrive daily via Air Niugini.

Costs: Package deals to Kavieng with Dive Adventures start at \$1800au return including all dives and accommodation. Scuba Ventures are happy to cater for cave divers, offering cave diving packages to suitably qualified people.

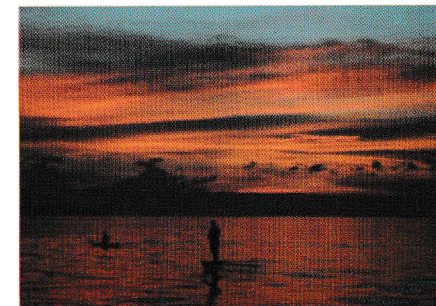
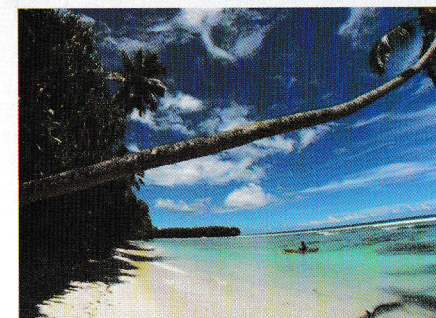
Thanks to both Dorian and Kara from Scuba Ventures for their hospitality and enthusiasm. Additional thanks again, to Halcyon for equipment support.

Further information

[www.diveadventures.com.au](http://www.diveadventures.com.au)

[www.png-tourism.com](http://www.png-tourism.com)

[www.scubakavieng.com](http://www.scubakavieng.com)

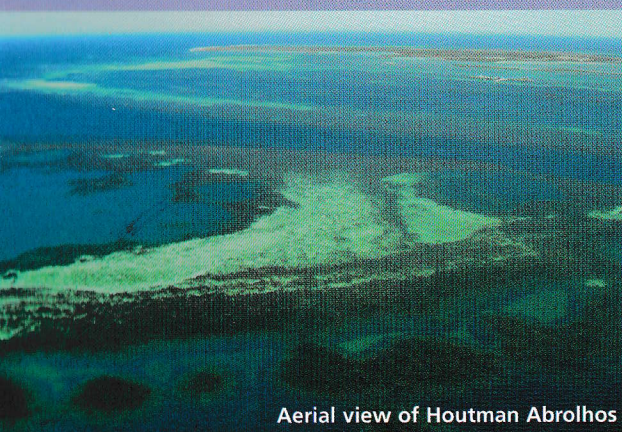




Peter Buzzacott:

# PELSAERT BLUE HOLE REVISITED

*In March 2007 I dropped into a marvelous blue hole in the southern group of islands in the Houtman Abrolhos, 60kms west of the Western Australian coast. Known as the Pelsaert Group, the hole is now being referred to as the Pelsaert Blue Hole, though it is probably not the only hole in that group.*



Aerial view of Houtman Abrolhos

Not knowing what to expect, that first dive overwhelmed my senses and I came away filled with questions. A year later I revisited the site better prepared to learn more about this fascinating oddity. In 2007 I'd reached 50m, on air, wearing a variety of cobbled-together recreational gear, and the visibility at depth had initially been 6m before silt rained down on the five of us. Circling the chamber, I'd barely found the promise of a cave heading north before reaching my turnaround and rejoining the others at the ascent line.

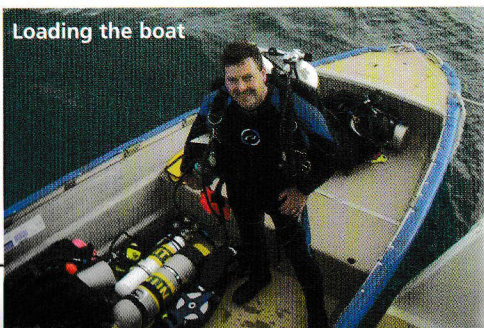
This time I arrived with HID, manifolded twins of 15/55 trimix and two stages for deco, of EANx50 and EANx80. The team generously agreed to let me enjoy the initially undisturbed vis and to give me 20-minutes head start. I pre-breathed 50% for a minute, my face in the water, relaxing, then stepping-off the ledge I dropped into the black, switching to back-gas on the fly at 18m. Following rope from a buoy suspended mid-water, the silt-cone below the shaft came into view, lost cray-pots crumbling gradually atop of it. I clipped-on to the nearest and set-off in search of cave.

Dreams of discovering a stalactite-filled grotto lingered as I took-in the structure of the chamber, this time with a clearer head. The promise of discovery, the allure of genuine exploration, it consumed me like gold-fever. Something just didn't add-up though. I have virtually no knowledge of geology but the texture and contours of the walls and main

chamber didn't seem like any karst caves I've dived. It looked like someone had dug a 50m-deep hole straight down through sand. As my exhalations ran up the walls coarse silt fell down around me. I kept moving, searching, leaving a trail of line behind me. I was alone, focused, gliding, and having the best dive of my life.

At last, having almost circled the whole chamber, I recognized my cave ahead and to the left. "This is it" I thought, excited, hoping it would go like Benjamin's Blue Hole in Andros. Turning into it, this time with at least 10m vis, I soon saw the back of it and realized I'd stopped just shy of the same discovery a year before. In an instant I knew the cave didn't go. I finished lapping the chamber, tied a knot in the line to measure the circumference, reeled-in and met the deep-support guys just arriving at the cray-pot. They looked around but were planning deco on air so they didn't go far. I made some notes, checked my kit and signaled the ascent. By now our combined exhalations were scouring the walls on their way up and the vis was dropping rapidly. Falling flakes reminded me of snow. Very odd. I mulled over this during deco. The deep crew left me at 18m with two shallow-support divers. At 9m I switched to EANx80, passed-off the EANx50 and tried blending into the contours of the wall, giving the others room to move.

Looking closely at the walls an idea took form. These holes aren't like the karst holes Rob Palmer wrote about, formed by a freshwater-saltwater interface over eons, as sea-levels fell and rose. Such holes have side passages and speleotherm-filled grottos at depths where sea-levels were



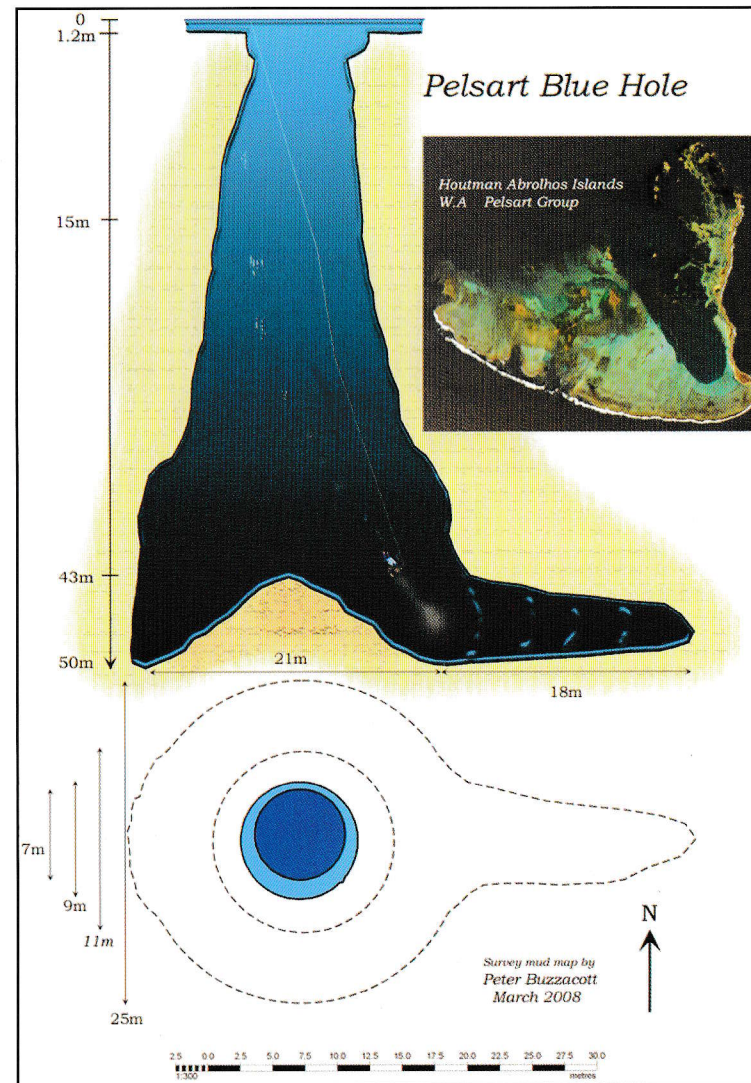
Loading the boat

relatively stable over an extended period of time. The major discovery I made on this trip, and later of course it turned-out I wasn't the first, was that the blue holes of the Abrolhos were likely formed as sea-levels rose and the reef followed. Whatever caused a hole in the reef thousands of years ago now lies beneath the silt-cone and rubble, but the reef grew around it, and upwards, following the rising sea-level. It closed-in, eventually encasing a chamber shaped like an onion, but the top collapsed. The sea kept rising, each time the reef closed-in the overhangs broke-off and fell-in whilst the living reef around the hole prevented a complete collapse. Now, during deco you can see layers of ancient reefs in the walls, a timeline stretching back thousands of years, but probably only 10,000 or so, and not long enough for the upper layers to solidify into rock. This isn't a solution cave, and with sea-levels on the rise, it is still growing!

Raising more questions than the trip answered, an examination of DOLA ariel photography identified other potential blue holes nearby, and further north. Apparently, there is even an interconnected "maze" of 20-30m deep blue holes in the Easter Group. Though I lack any training in geology [I really need a hand with this] it seems likely to me the conditions that formed this hole were experienced by the whole region, and so logically other nearby holes might reach similar depths. Perhaps even deeper – who knows how deep the original chamber was before this now-huge cone of silt and rubble filled the base of it. At this stage though, this is the deepest hole yet found in the Abrolhos.

Rotting animals littered the floor and the water tasted foul and smelt sulfuric during the 2007 dive. Is it possible bubbles released by decomposition scour the walls and continually expand the shaft? Could the deepest water inside stagnate periodically each

year and decomposing animals cause the chamber to dissolve one millimeter annually? To investigate these and other possibilities the CDAA are running a trip to the Abrolhos Islands next March or April, either before or after OZTeK, onboard the Lissa, a 51m icebreaker with room onboard for at least fifty (divers and family). We expect to be on site for one week, with two days at each of the three island groups, possibly shooting film for a documentary, exploring potentially never-before dived virgin caves and generally having an adventure, all for just a share of the costs! If you're interested in this trip please e-mail the subject "Blue Holes" to me at reefdiving@efel.net.au and I'll e-mail an info pack to you by reply.





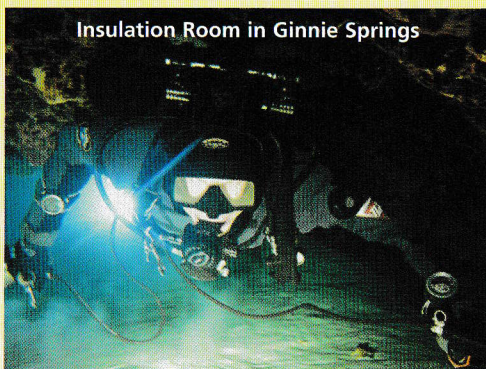
# Why Ginnie and I are like peas and carrots

by Agnes Milowka

*Ginnie (Devils Cave System) was low on my list of favorite Floridian caves when I arrived back in the US from Australia. Sure, the size of the tunnels was impressive as was the visibility but somehow it failed to really capture my heart. The flow was a nuisance and it all seemed a bit too much like hard work for relatively little reward... although admittedly spending my dives fighting flow up the gold line probably didn't help in this regard.*

So no one was more surprised than I when I started to spend considerable chunks of my time diving Ginnie. Admittedly at first I had little choice given so many of the other caves where flooded. (I almost got back on the plane after being greeted at the airport with 'welcome to cave country - all the caves are flooded!') The fact that Ginnie is conveniently placed on my way home from work (well, almost) is also a big factor in my frequent visits. But what started out as a forced relationship of convenience has now blossomed into a rowdy love affair and Ginnie and I are like peas and carrots.

Ginnie is probably the most popular and frequently visited cave in Florida, with weekends making the place look more like a circus than a serious dive site. Still with over 25 000 ft of mapped cave passage it's nothing to sneeze at as there is plenty to see. There is something for everyone, from huge rooms where even the most powerful lights struggle to make headway and actually light up the room, like the Bone Room or the Bear Room for example... to tight silty passages that bring joy to every sidemounters heart, like Harry's Crack or the Worm Hole. There are so many beautiful and awe inspiring features in Ginnie... huge



Insulation Room in Ginnie Springs



Baby turtle in the run of Ginnie Springs

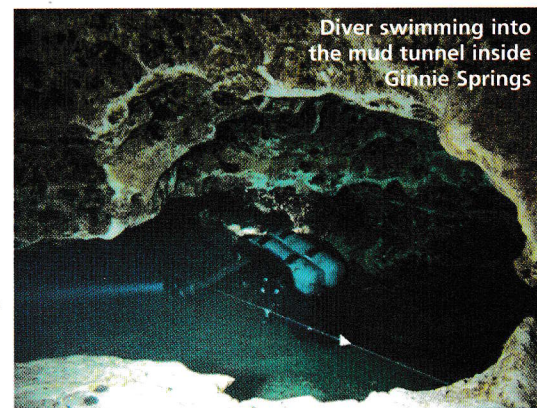
sand dunes reminiscent of the drifting dunes of the Sahara desert, floors that look like the scorched earth in Death Valley, cathedral like domes of all shapes and sizes, stunning narrow fissures and wild rock formations... the list is endless. Then there are a few special places, as fragile as dust, some tucked away in the back of the cave, others off the line and off the beaten path

entirely. The Insulation Rooms is a great example of one such magnificent place, where a blanket of orange bacteria covers the floor and is so fragile and soft that as much as a glance in their direction sends them swirling. A careless fin kick is like an atomic bomb sending a mushroom cloud of orange puff up through the water column.

There has been a lot of talk about cave preservation lately (isn't there always) and I'll join this chorus because trashed doesn't quite cover the extent of the damage in the front part of the cave. I think it is difficult for new cave divers to fully comprehend and appreciate what the cave use to look like. Until the black walls of Ginnie have swallowed your light, until you see cave passage reminiscent of its original self, the idea that Ginnie used to be a black cave will probably remain difficult to grasp. The hard years of use

and abuse have taken their toll on the first part of the cave, but it is the small and insidious damage on the back end that is the most startling. This is where the scars are the most evident, with every chip and speck of white wall glaring back at you viciously. These scars will never heal. Yes it is Ginnie - the easily accessible tourist cave and all that - but that doesn't make it any less spectacular and it is an appalling reason not to take care. Ginnie is a fragile lass and she needs all the TLC she can get, especially in the back end where it is still reminiscent of its former glory.

Then there is Ginnie topside, if you spend enough time diving it people start learning your name and in no time it starts feeling like a local watering hole... without the beer. Then again it is not entirely unusual to see beer at Ginnie, whether this be in the hands of the tubers or divers quenching a



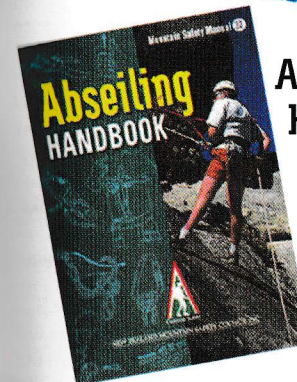
Diver swimming into the mud tunnel inside Ginnie Springs

post dive thirst... so perhaps it is not entirely that far removed. Add a host of fascinating characters who form a part of the regular crowd and keep things interesting and it is not difficult to understand why Ginnie and I are like peas and carrots.

I have many favorite areas in Ginnie, sometimes they are as small as a clay bank or pretty rock feature like say the cracked floor in the Hill 400 line, other times it's a whole tunnel that captures my imagination. The Sweet Surprise tunnel is top of my list, as indeed there are surprises as sweet as honey around every corner, but there is still a couple of thousand feet of passage I haven't seen so this might change. Yet, when I have finally seen the whole cave, I won't stop heading to Ginnie. I want to see it all again, multiple times... cause like any girl will tell you, once is never enough. - Ag



Insulation Room in Ginnie Springs (Devil's Cave System), Florida



**Abseiling Handbook**  
\$20.00

Compiled by Bruce Postill. (2002, A5, 37 pages)  
This book has been endorsed by members of the VSA and is a safety manual for the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council.

For those involved in basic recreational abseil instruction, this book details safe abseil practises for beginners. Contents include, risk management, equipment, anchor systems, abseil site set-up and instruction and emergency procedures. It is accompanied by clear, easy to follow instructions and illustrations.

The manual would be a valuable asset for CDAA instructors and would make an excellent reference guide as revision to the climbing workshop especially for those planning Nullarbor trips or similar caving expeditions.

At just \$20 this fantastic little book is a must have for any keen caver or cave diver.

To order this book, please use the order form in guidelines or order from the online store via the web page.



**HALCYON**  
DIR Dive Systems

...you're only  
as good

as the gear  
on your back!



*Dealer Enquiries Welcome*

Email: [admin@halcyondive.com.au](mailto:admin@halcyondive.com.au)

[www.halcyondive.com.au](http://www.halcyondive.com.au)