



## C.D.A.A. Newsletter

No. 106 - DECEMBER 2008

*Happy Holidays  
'ave a fantastic 2009!*

**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

(Incorporated in South Australia)

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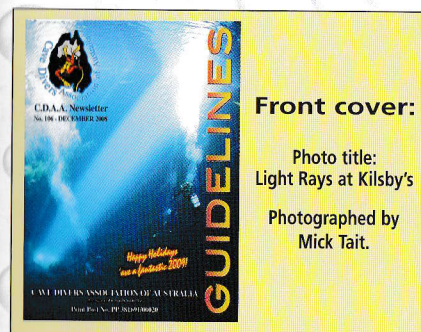
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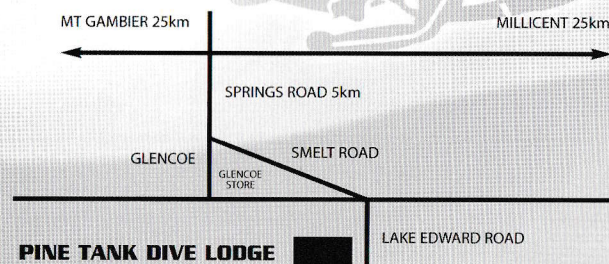
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## EDITOR'S CORNER

Hi All

Another year has gone by and what a busy one it has been. I would like to start by congratulating Steve Trewavas on his election to Standards Director. Steve has been a fantastic director to work with and I was so pleased to see that the membership rewarded someone who is in there doing the hard stuff first and for most for the members. Unfortunately ongoing investigations and suspensions have taken up so much of our time while trying to finish up course standards and other matters. Well done to Helen getting through to Business director while we wave a very sad farewell to Heike.

Welcome to Amy as our new Products Officer. This will be my last year so if you want to know what the pubdir job is all about please do not hesitate to contact me. I have published the stats I produced for the AGM in the middle pages for interest.

This issue has a great variety of US, salty and local caves. Please note the terrific new ladder system that has been put in by Grant Sommer and his dive buddies at Blacks. I haven't had a chance to try it out yet but Geoff was there with a group a couple of weeks ago they had a ball.

Last weekend Geoff and I drove on to the Spirit of Tasmania for a dive trip down to Eaglehawk Neck. The car was loaded up with our twin 100s as well as our 2 hot mixes of 50 and 100. We had some amazing wall, wreck and cave dives there. The caves are quite extensive and a true overhead environment full of crays and abs and other critters. The wreck of the Nord (40m) is outstanding with 30m viz and a kaleidoscope of different jellies swarming past on deco. They grow their seadragons and sea spiders real big down there. We had the divers lodge all to ourselves for the 4 days and had some great Tassie seafood for dinner. Can highly recommend this trip. Hope you all have a safe and Merry Christmas with your family and friends and hope to see you at diving or at Oztek next March.



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## ~ ARTICLES FOR GUIDELINES ~

- Send articles & photos via post, or preferably by email to:  
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Warrick McDonald

# CHINA PROJECT 2008

(or \$20.00 a Kilo...you must be joking!)

**Five Scubapro Regulators, Halcyon plate and harness, Halcyon light head, canister plus thermals, drysuit and a pair of Scubapro jet fins that must be made of lead because you hit 25kg on the scale!... Now add in enough clothing for two weeks, keeping in mind that you will be attending functions nearly every night, plus the temperature ranges from bloody cold to bloody hot, plus mountain hiking gear and you throw in another 20 kg! Are you getting the picture?**

Don't forget the Gavin scooter and the set of golf clubs (it's a long story) and a book to read unless you speak Chinese. Way overweight, and not an understanding ground staff person, that cares. Keep in mind that if you go cave diving in China you will spend a small fortune in excess baggage, it's no use getting upset about it. If you want to go just be ready to pay \$20.00 per kilo excess baggage charge!

China Southern Airlines excelled itself though with courtesy and service although a bit of cabin service would have gone well. Being in the compact category I had no problem with the small legroom and an exit door seat on the way home

allowed me to stretch out while I read. (Mental note: take more than 1 book next time as English language books cost a small fortune in China.) Forget the movies, they are in Chinese and don't even have sub titles. I travelled to China by myself and ran out of reading materials

after 20 hours. On the return I was lucky to be with Steve Trewavas who promptly went to sleep and didn't stir until we were an hour out of Melbourne, as I said you need a few books.

The transfer from one aircraft to another was impressive, there was a girl wearing a pink outfit with my name on a board. This escort whipped me through customs and arranged for all my baggage to be organised. Having travelled many times I always watch out for my bags so if I start with six I end up with six. After two weeks I was getting a

bit tired of having to put up with Steve's clothes, the same ones every day that is! Not all of us watch our luggage closely it seems; as Steve saw his red bag with all of his clothes (and battery canister) get picked up and taken to the bus...hmmm wrong bus! At least it was amusing seeing Steve wearing stuff he wouldn't be caught dead in here. After a 5 1/2-hour bus trip, which left at 9am, we arrived at 7pm that evening (you get used to Chinese time after a while!)

Fengshan is a beautiful place and Mr Wei the Tourism Minister has put a lot of effort into turning this region into a tourist Mecca. After breakfast we were taken to the Museum, which is

situated in a cave on the edge of town, about a 10-minute walk. Limestone cliffs surround the town and on top are telephone antennae and Temples. At night there are floodlights sweeping the cliffs and town, the temples and rock features are floodlit, it's like a carnival every night. Whoever picked

this spot for a town (population 200,000) did well. The river comes bursting from a cave and runs through the Museum cave in an arc with the road going over the top, a bridge connects you to the other side and all of this is floodlit as well. Later a reception would be held here with a festival and 30,000 people paid for tickets to attend. It was awe-inspiring with TV cameras everywhere broadcasting all over China. Need a stage? Well just build it over the river, block the highway, put in thirty thousand seats, mil-

lions of lights and a huge stage setting, but do it in a few days! No worries and it was gone in two! I have never seen such workers and organization and not a union official in sight! The Museum is inside the cave and they have gone around

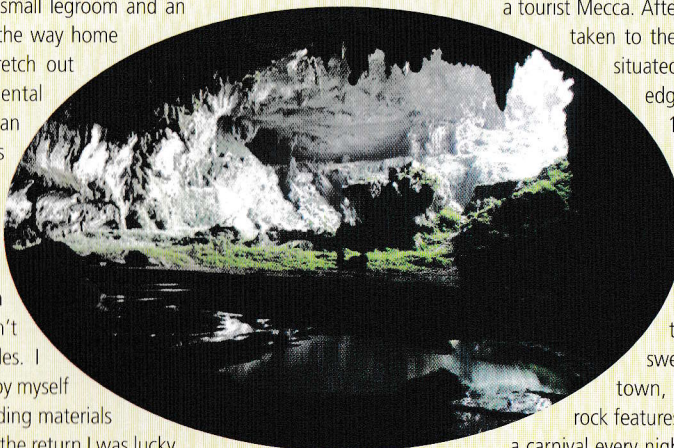
and cut down the most interesting examples of Karst formations and placed them here in glass showcases, with descriptions in Chinese and English. This was also our headquarters for the array of dive equipment and we had our own storage room complete with three small portable compressors, helium, argon and oxygen tanks so we could do our own mixing. Twin 80cf Luxfer manifolded cylinders and 80cf Luxfer stage tanks were assembled by us, as well as two RB80 rebreathers and three Gavin scooters. Jarrod Jablonski and Casey McKinlay shipped over 800kg of gear at great expense and left it behind for the next effort.

As luck would have it there had been non-stop rain for the previous 10 days and as this was the dry season the filthy brown water and strong currents prevented Jarrod, Casey and Gareth diving on this trip as they had to leave and return home. We spent the time mapping and using the GPS to pinpoint the locations of future dives. The potential here is mind-boggling and we found many promising sites that are so large they make the Nullarbor caves seem like child's play.

Steve, Andrew, Stefan and I were fortunate to dive in the Nanning area. Our first stop was a small lake in a village. First thing I noticed was the beautiful old temple on the lakes bank. It seems there was a pool of water in the temple that was used for ceremonial reasons but it had disappeared a long time ago (remember what I said about time in China, so it could have been 100 years ago or a thousand!). After unloading the truck and posing for photos with the kids and people we set out to dive. I entered the water with Cobra a local diver and nice bloke, untrained in cave diving it seems but with enough guts or if you like, lack of knowledge to go anywhere. Swimming out on the surface about 10 metres from the shore line,

being careful not to get any water in my mouth as I had already observed the faeces on the shore in the bushes (trying to put on a "P" valve away from cameras!) plus the washing of clothes and the cleaning of chickens for a meal in the same spot. Visibility was half a metre and chocolate brown as I slowly let myself drop down towards the bot-

tom. At 40m I hit a rock wall and started sliding down the face until it squeezed out at 45 metres, moving to the left with nowhere to place the line as the rock was smooth I started thinking this was not the best place to be right now. At 46.5 metres the rock stopped and it had a hollow underneath and as the cascading silt was yet to engulf me, I estimated the silt floor was about a metre and a bit below me, enough was enough and it was time



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John, Sharon and Erica.



to get out as viz was now zero. Turning around I started heading up but the rock had squeezed off so it took a bit of squeezing to get out of what must have been a crack in the rocks, all good fun. I surfaced to find Cobra waiting for me and we headed for the temple to try and find the tunnel that was reported to be there. Guidelines are very useful in dirty water but it pays to be close so when Cobra disappeared below me I figured the only way was to follow. We squeezed, wriggled and used brail to get through the rock maze, which seemed to consist of arches and cracks. Finally after losing cobra again I spat it and motioned for him to get on the line above me and head out, just as we reached 8 metres he peeled off to the side and pointed to a tunnel that we had missed in our exploration. As it was tight Cobra pointed for me to head in so I handed him the reel and attached my jump line to our line and started worming my way in. Being a hard rock that was very sharp in places my wing was getting caught along with my new drysuit, I started to doubt the sanity of it all when suddenly I had reached the end of two spools and there was a besser brick and tiled ceiling above me. It would seem that at some stage the hole into the temple had been filled and this was the result. After 75 minutes including the deep bounce we called it a day and headed up and out. The other divers explored the opposite side of the lake finding nothing interesting. What we found were many pots and bowls plus about six buckets otherwise the promise of long tunnels and clear water were just a dream.

Our next stop was a lake with Ewens Ponds clarity and a slight flow; the only trouble was it was only 4 metres deep. Underneath a small pump station there was a barred wall and looking into this we could see blue clear water coming from a cave but no way to get inside. Stefan managed to find a grate that had come off another pump house and squeezed through with a push tank but it squeezed out at 12 metres. Later he explored a small tunnel that looked as though it joined a lake about 30 metres away. After much pushing and squeezing he tried the

other direction and judging from the clouds of silt it must be tight as well. Steve snorkelled (without a snorkel) the lake but found nothing to excite him. Andrew filmed everything so it will be interesting to see what the results are like.

The final destination was from a base in Guangzoe the third biggest city in China with a population of 21 million in 2000. Victor our local diver and guide is a commercial diver and the local dive shop (?) owner plus Instructor. We dived a mine that was explored on the last trip and what a fabulous dive it is. About 33 metres deep it extends in all directions and at different levels. The few artefacts like copper lanterns, teacups and bowls make it a really interesting dive. Huge poles, slabs of rock that have been hewn out of the cave are lying around as if everything had been left in a hurry. Maybe the cave suddenly flooded who knows? Andrew and I were exiting the cave and as we climbed out of the tunnel over a rock wall we were told that if we swam over to a small lake we would see what Victor had found on his last dive here. So Andrew and I headed off, we saw broken fluorescent tubes, bud lights in bundles, tea pots jars and wrappers carelessly discarded over the years and yet there must have been something better, but where? We reached the end and slowly turned around being careful not to dislodge any silt and then I saw it. Lying on a slope of small rocks at about 6 metres was the skeleton of what looked like a large man, with a huge cranium. His spine had collapsed and his head was at his knees on top of his ribs sitting upright with all teeth and his jaw intact. I spotted what looked like an arrow beside the body but may have been something else. Because we didn't want to disturb the bones at all, we left it for the experts who were very anxious to get it out for examination, we were told. Andrew filmed everything for history so keep an eye out for his presentation at Oz Tek.

China, a beautiful country full of beautiful people, friendly and a place you just want to go back to.

Regards, Warrick McDonald.



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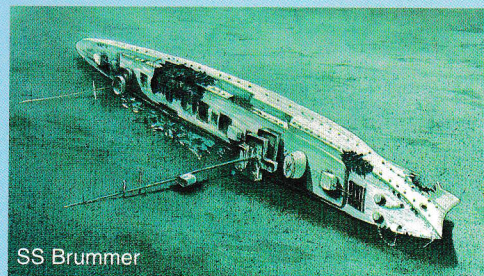


# Scapa Flow – the premier wreck diving site of Europe, worth a trip?

Mark Jobbins

At 11:20am on the 21st June 1919 the signal "Paragraph Eleven, Confirm" was sent to the 74 ships of the German High Seas Fleet interned in Scapa Flow off the north coast of Scotland. The order was rapidly carried out: the German ensign was hoisted, valves, condenser tubes and submerged torpedo tubes were opened, and the crews began to abandon ship.

The commencement of the scuttling of the German High Seas Fleet had started and was pretty quick with many of the ships sunk by late-afternoon. 15 of the 16 Capital Ships, 5 of the 8 Light Cruisers, and 32 of the 50 Destroyers were sunk, the remaining 23 ships were either ran aground by the British guard ships or remained afloat.



SS Brummer

Debate remains whether the order from Rear-Admiral Ludwig von Reuter was really a blessing in disguise. Both the French and Italian navies wanted a quarter of the German fleet as part of the Treaty of Versailles which was being worked out at the Paris Peace conference. The British wanted them destroyed

as any redistribution to the other Allies would bring an imbalance of naval power and loosen Britain's dominance in this area. So the Germans probably circumvented a number of very heated debates and finally brought a smug grin to their faces and restored some battered pride. Ironically for the British, the act allowed the Germans to subsequently leap frog the Royal Navy when the German fleet was rebuilt, based on newer technology and architecture principles in the 1930's without being "bogged down" with the older era ships.

Given the fact that the act must have pissed off the French, which is always a good thing, and created a scuba diving paradise, I'm happy to raise a glass to Rear-Admiral Ludwig von Reuter!

Between 1923 and 1939 most of the sunken ships were salvaged leaving 3 Battleships (SMS Konig, Kronprinz Wilhelm & Markgraf) and 4 Light Cruisers (SMS Brummer, Koln, Karlsruhe & Dresden) on the bottom of Scapa Flow in around 30-47m of water. These ships plus others from the second world war makes Scapa Flow a worthy addition to your diving "must-do" list. In September 2008, Michele & I were lucky enough to be in the UK and planned a side trip to Scapa Flow to check out the dives. We had heard good things about it, but nothing could have prepared us for what awaited us. We had excellent weather (best in the UK at the time), calm waters, good visibility (10-15m), warmer than expected water (14oc), a great dive boat and a brilliant guide (Kieran) who had spent a lot of time diving the Cenotes of Mexico. Throw in an awesome bed & breakfast close to the local pubs and you get a near perfect holiday. Things don't get much better than that in my opinion!

The Orkney Islands are an archipelago in northern Scotland, situated about 16 km north of the coast of Caithness, very top right corner of Scotland. Orkney comprises over 70 islands of which around 20 are inhabited. The southern islands form a natural harbour called Scapa Flow that is

around 190 square km's (about 4 times Sydney Harbour), with a sandy bottom. It's relatively shallow - no deeper than about 55m, and most of it about 25m deep makes it one of the great natural harbours/anchorages of the world, with sufficient space to hold a number of navies. Viking ships anchored in Scapa Flow more than 1000 years ago, but it is best known as the site of Britain's chief naval base during World War I and World War II. This base closed in 1956 although it was still used as a re-fueling depot until the mid-1970's. The harbour has a number of natural passages between the various islands that make up the anchorage.

To reduce the risk of breaches of the harbour, many of the passages between the various islands forming Scapa Flow were blocked by sinking ships, thus reducing the ability of an enemy safely navigating them. This left 2 main passages to navigate making it much easier for Britain to defend and

control. Work on the blockade ships commenced in WW1 and was on the big "To do list" as WWII loomed to improve. Obviously things got a little busy around September 1939 so the strengthening of these blockades sank lower on the "To do list" and unfortunately so did HMS Royal Oak with the loss of 833 men.

A German U-Boat (U-47) commanded by Günther Prien snuck through one of the passages and torpedoed HMS Royal Oak at anchor in Scapa Flow. U-47 escaped untouched from Scapa Flow and made it safely to a hero's return in Germany and Gunther was presented with Knights Cross of the Iron Cross by Hitler. Several members of the Scapa Flow Defense Council spent much of the succeeding months cleaning shit houses and reviewing where their military careers went wrong.

Churchill immediately decided to up the priority on blockading these passages and ordered about 2,000 Italian POW's to Orkney for an extended working holiday building causeways between the eastern islands. Once complete, they sealed off these vulnerable passages for good and provided permanent road connectivity between the islands. Pleased with the efforts of the Italian POW's and following in the long British tradition of giving credit where credit was due, these causeways were named the "Churchill Barriers" and remain in use today.

M.V. Invincible



By the end of WWII there were dozens and dozens of wrecks in Scapa varying from the WWI German High Seas Fleet, through to block ships, planes and WWII ships. There remain about 60+ diveable wrecks in the area.

Orkney has always had a long history of fishing given its geographical location but times change and a lot of the fishing fleet has been transformed to a dive charter fleet. There are about 10 converted fishing trawlers of various sizes that serve the ever expanding demand from the SCUBA divers that arrive from around the world. There is careful planning, co-ordination, co-operation and sometimes skulduggery by the skippers of the boats to get their divers on the wrecks first. But it seems to work and allows potentially around 100 divers at its peak to share the wonders of the deep. However, they only have 1 hyperbaric chamber with space for only 1 person on the islands so access is at a premium. It's a little sobering when the message is passed around the departing fleet that "the Pot is occupied today, dive safely" which occurred when were there. Apparently the visiting Russians must have bought a season ticket for the chamber with one of their members in for a second treatment that week.

Given that most of the diving is in the 30-45m range, and that the local dive shops are very well set up with mixed gas, dry suits, twin tanks, rebreathers if you want, plenty of liveboard or day charters, Scapa is really open to some brilliant diving to suit all levels. We organised our dives through Scapa Scuba based in Stromness where most of the charter boats leave from, and who could only be described as fantastic. Their friendly, relaxed & warm approach made things very easy and allowed us to enjoy the diving. We were only up in Orkney for 3 days of diving so we organised a dive guide to allow us to maximise our time on the wrecks. At the time of booking we weren't too sure of this approach, generally being pretty self sufficient on these kind of things. However, things couldn't have worked out better. Our guide, Kieran, was an extremely well qualified guide/instructor with a real passion for the history of Scapa and organised a perfect schedule for our time there. As an added bonus, Kieran had spent time travelling and teaching in Australia, and was also full cave certified from his time in Mexico. So we spent the first part of the 45 minute journey from Stromness to the dive sites planning the days dives and then all the surface intervals pouring over maps, articles and dive logs of the Yucatan cenotes planning our next diving trip.

Kieran planned our diving so we dived all four of the Light Cruisers, one of the Battleships (Kronprinz Wilhelm) and the block ships. It's almost impossible to choose which was the best, each slightly different. We dived the Cruisers over the 3 days so each day we got more used to ships, the ambient light, thus allowing a better understanding and more of their make-up. It became clearer the difference in build quality and material quality with the decay over the years. Some were built later in the war, leading to the use of poorer quality metals, leading to more decay today with whole sections of the plating peeling away at times on the Dresden and Karlsruhe (launched in 1917 & 1916) whilst the older cruisers (Brummer and Coln) are still in-tact. The sheer size of the 12 inch guns on the Kronprinz Wilhelm appearing from the gloom of 38m deep water provides a feeling of awe at the power they would

have commanded.

A highlight was a dive on one of the block ships, the Doyle, in Burra Sound. In shallow waters, 13-17m, and in a high tidal flow area, the Doyle can only be dived at high tide. The tidal flow keeps the visibility to almost crystal clear status and the sealife prolific with lobster's, crabs, eels and fish life in abundance. With the changing tides, the end of the dive turned into a rollercoaster during a blue water ascent that finished about 1 km from where we started. The ride was a real rush and left us all with grins from ear to ear upon retrieval by our boat, the Radiant Queen ably skippered by Emily.

All too quickly our time in Orkney was over and we had to fly back to reunite with my family and eventually commence our trip back to Australia.

So, if you like wrecks, loads of sealife, a bit of navel history, a bloody good time, then head over to Scapa Flow, I don't think you'll be disappointed, just broke for some time, especially given the state of the Aussie dollar, but you'll have big smile and great memories.



Capstans

## Quick Facts:

**Diving?** There are loads of options, but check out Scapa Scuba ([www.scapascuba.co.uk](http://www.scapascuba.co.uk)), they are great. There are many others; Bob Halton also seems to have a great reputation as well.

**Boat Dives?** Once again, loads of choice, Google them, but the "Radiant Queen" was perfect ([www.scapascuba.co.uk](http://www.scapascuba.co.uk)). Emily's home-made, hot lunch made up for the lack of divers lift on the boat. Yes, the trend is to add a lift to save you from climbing 5 steps up a ladder after the dive. Hot food was better value in my opinion...

**Getting there?** We flew into Kirkwall on Orkney and then took a taxi to Stromness allowing us to maximise our time there. Alternatively, you can get the ferry (very long ferry ride from Australia) from the north of Scotland to Stromness.

**Where to stay?** There are lots of accommodation options, we stayed at the Millers House B&B and were spoilt rotten. Great rooms, ensuite bathrooms, the biggest breakfast you could imagine and only 50m from the boat or pub depending on the time of day.

**Gear?** You can easily hire all your gear over there, good quality dry-suits are available for hire.

**When?** The main season is July-October; peak being September.

## Tips:

1. Gear up for mixed gas diving, it will significantly extend your dives and the dive shops / boats are all set up to support you.
2. Take your own printing press or loads of money; it's not cheap, but well worth it.
3. Try the seafood, it's great along with the huge selection of Malt Whiskeys, just skip the local lager (Tennants Extra - its deadly) and watch out for the local services league and their bagpipe parade if you have tried the Tennants Extra and a couple of cleansing scotchs!



# Cave Divers Association of Australia Inc.

## Minutes of AGM 18/10/2008

### Silver Birch Motel

#### a. Opening and Welcome

The AGM was opened at 6:08pm by Kevin Burrows (Public Officer)

#### b. Present and Apologies

Present:

Kevin Burrows, Warrick McDonald, Steve Trewavas, Terri Allen, Gary Barclay, Michael Waldbrenner, Helen Higgins, Andrew Higgins, Linda Claridge, Claire Cooper, Ian Taylor, Suzie Taylor, Darren Crockett, Peter Wolf, Rob Lee, Harvey Grantham, Ken Smith, Dave Warnes, John Dalla-Zuanna, Tara Parkinson, Jon Henshall, Amanda Hulley, Aaron Gentleman, Mel Gager, Rhys Toone, Scott Edwards, Peter Browne, Nikki Palun, Martina Fuchsberger, Andrew Childs, Geoff Parker, Bruce Bulled, Nick Cumberland, Richard Irndorfer, David Raymond, Shaan Evans, John Vanderleest, Craig Larkin, Rob Jerrom, Anthony Fuller, Richard Harris, Mark Stiebel, Tania Yarra, Liz Rogers, Lucas Wheat, Sara Ibison, Jim Arundell, Liz McLeod, Carolyn Rush, Justin Chrimes, Jane Bowman, Carlo Virgili, Glen Harrison, Craig Challen, Grant Pearce, Ollie, Brigitta, Andre, Dean Johnson, Bob Bridges, Darren Walters, Suzanne Walters, Travis Smith, Neville Skinner, Peter Horne, John McMillan, Mark Pain, Trevor Wynniat.

#### Apologies:

Heike Apps, Noel Dillon, Michael Kelly, David Fielder, Andrea Gordon, Max Marriott, Deb Williams, Geoff Stebbing, Simon Doughty, Richard Taylor, Greg Bulling, Angus Bargo??, Jarrod White, Rob Brennan, Josh D'Ambrosio, Lisa Dalla-Zuanna.

#### c. Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM 13/10/2007

Trevor Wynniat asked that it be noted that he did not say that Pines would be fenced or that a user pays system would be introduced. Amendment was accepted- MOVED by Steve Trewavas and SECONDED by John McMillan. Minutes were accepted – MOVED by Terri Allen and SECONDED by Rob Lee.

#### d. Business Arising from the previous AGM

No business arising from previous AGM.

#### e. Adoption of Annual Reports

All annual reports were in the September issue of Guidelines and were accepted. The Public Officer asked the Directors for a statement on their reports.

#### National Director

Warrick McDonald announced that he will be standing down next year at the end of his term and that he will implement a succession system where candidates would be trained to take

over Directorate positions. He indicated that two candidates have expressed interest in the position of National Director. He was asked who the candidates are and he indicated a need to respect their confidentiality until the election was called. National Director's report was accepted – MOVED by Warrick McDonald and SECONDED by David Warnes.

#### Business Director

Warrick McDonald spoke for Heike Apps who regretted that she was unable to attend because of work commitments and was hoping to present the finalised financials at the AGM. Unfortunately these were not finished in time by the Auditors but will be published in the December issue of Guidelines. The CDAA has approximately \$300 000 in the bank. Thanks were given to Helen Higgins for the increased exposure and sales of CDAA products. Heike has begun the process of investigating a Business Plan and this will be continued by Helen Higgins. Business Director's report was accepted – MOVED by Warrick McDonald and SECONDED by Ken Smith.

#### Site Director

Gary Barclay spoke of the ongoing work cleaning up sites and installing tables and stairs. He cautioned that modifications and upgrades to sites were dependent on landowner approval and to be mindful of access arrangements particularly with Englebrechts currently being a construction site. He mentioned that the State Reps are investigating new sites in their respective states, organising functions and they are available to help members when travelling interstate. Gary discussed Ela Elap access. He said work is being done to try and regain access. Site Director's report was accepted – MOVED by Gary Barclay and SECONDED by John McMillan.

#### Standards Director

Steve Trewavas mentioned positive feedback regarding the recently run updated format of the Penetration program. He warned that Forestry is aware of breaches of people diving in Forestry sites above their qualifications and that the rangers will be vigilantly checking cards and permits. Standard Director's report was accepted – MOVED by Steve Trewavas and SECONDED by Claire Cooper.

#### Publications and Records Director

Terri Allen thanked Helen for her work with products and the fantastic range of products available. She also thanked Tony Richardson for his work as Webmaster and Michael Kelly and Jason Caldwell for their dedication as Records' Officers. She also mentioned gratitude for the ongoing contributions made by

members such as Ken Smith and Richard Harris who regularly submit articles for Guidelines. Up to October there were 679 members comprising of 280 Deep Cavern, 215 Cave and 184 Penetration. More divers seem to be progressing through the different levels of qualification. Women made up 15% of the membership (99 members). The states were represented by Vic 340 members, SA 290, NSW 50, WA 25, Tas 20, Q'land 7, NT 2 and ACT 20-25. Between July and October there were 64 new Deep Cavern divers in Vic, 18 in SA, 10 in WA, 5 in Q'land, 5 in NSW, 5 in Tas, 1 in NT and 7 in ACT. Each year membership is between 700-800. 750 (2004), 770 (2005), 825 (2006), 818 (2007) and 828 (2008). Terri was asked about dropout trends. About 100 new members are gained each year and about 100 drop off. The question was asked why members drop off? Are we doing something wrong? Do we need more sites? Do we want more members? The Directorate was asked to investigate drop off trends. A suggestion was made to send out questionnaires to members that fail to renew. Also a suggestion was made to promote inactive membership to these members. Terri was asked if the CDAA is actively promoted or advertised throughout the diving community. It was suggested that the CDAA considers advertising in publications such as Dive Log and Sport Diving magazine. Publications and Records Director's report was accepted – MOVED by Terri Allen and SECONDED by Liz McLeod.

Public Officer

Kevin Burrows thanked the Directors for their enormously good job and asked the members to record their acclamation and thank the Directors.

#### f. Adoption of Financial Reports

A question was raised as to why the audited reports were not available at the AGM particularly as plenty of notice is given. According to Heike, the bookkeeper had finished the reports and sent them to the Auditor before the dead line but the delay had been with the banks being too busy in responding to questions from the Auditor. When the audited reports become available they will be published on the web site and in the December issue of Guidelines. As long as there is little difference in the preliminary reports and the final audited reports they will remain accepted. If there is a significant change they will be presented to the members again for adoption. Kevin Burrows guaranteed to follow this up. The financial reports were accepted – MOVED by Warrick McDonald and SECONDED by Rob Lee.

#### g. Appointment of an Auditor

Cleland McFarlane Selth Pty Ltd were appointed auditors for 2006, 2007 and 2008. The company has been reappointed for the year 2009 – MOVED by Warrick McDonald and SECONDED by Grant Pearce.

#### h. Results of Postal Vote

For the Motion to Change the Hall of Fame and Life

Membership 167 votes were recorded which meets the 20% of eligible members requirement to change the Constitution. 131 in favour, 34 against and 2 informal votes were counted. The motion was adopted.

For the nomination of Max Marriott to the Hall of Fame 167 votes were recorded. 124 in favour, 37 against and 6 informal votes were counted. Max Marriott was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Congratulations were recorded for Max.

For the position of Business Director there was one nominee with 167 votes recorded. 142 in favour, 21 against and 4 informal. Helen Higgins was appointed Business Director and she was congratulated.

For the position of Standards Director 167 votes were recorded. Linda Claridge received 60 votes and Steve Trewavas 107. Steve Trewavas was appointed Standards Director and congratulated. A debt of thanks was given to Linda Claridge for past work and for standing for the position and she was congratulated.

#### i. General Business

1. Two motions were submitted by Deb Williams and seconded by Geoff Stebbing for tabling and discussion at the AGM. (see Appendix) This motion was discussed and will be presented for postal vote. A balanced argument for and against will be presented and published on the web site.

2. Discussion continued regarding the direction of the CDAA. What to do with the money. Where the Association is going. This will lead to a Direction for the CDAA and then a business strategy and Business Plan will follow. The question was asked what happens if the Directorate fails to do this. Kevin Burrows said that if the members are unhappy a SGM can be called and the Directorate removed from office. An alternate motion encompassing the Business strategy can be proposed which could override the motions put forward by Deb Williams.

3. A number of other motions were received by the Directorate to table at the AGM. The Public Officer reported these were received by email only and didn't bear signatures of the proposer and seconder. All of the motions proposed except the first were proposed or seconded by non financial or inactive members. The Directorate will contact the members who submitted motions to give them the opportunity to resubmit them according to the Constitution so they can be presented as per Debbie's motions.

4. The National Director was asked to elaborate on the events associated with the purchase of property. Warrick stated that Heike asked him to investigate buying a property so he contacted the agents and looked at the church in Allandale. A bid was made to get a price. The Directorate discussed the bid and



one of the Directors broke confidentiality by bringing the discussion to the attention of the members and furore was created. Warrick stated that there was no vote by the Directorate, there was no agenda item, and it was purely an investigation. The explanation was debated and Warrick stated that the offer was not legal because it had not been signed and that the situation was blown out of proportion.

5. Warrick McDonald said thanks and remembered Barrie Heard who passed away on the 3/1/08. His contribution to the CDAA was acknowledged with gratitude. A minute's silence followed in memory of Barrie Heard.

6. A letter was received by the Directorate from Scott's agency stating that all access to Barnoolut Estate was to be through Grant Sommer. The Directorate informed the members that Barnoolut Estate will be opened for diving for CDAA members by contacting Grant Sommer via the online booking on the web site. Members would be covered by CDAA insurance. Access officers have been appointed and will collect fees directly from members diving the site as per the Shaft.

7. A member asked if the changes to the Constitution regarding the Hall of Fame would be retrospective. Kevin Burrows stated that they would be effective as from today. He also stated that if anyone wanted to, they could re submit their nomination.

8. A member asked if there was a commitment to install a ladder system at Ela Elap or One Tree. Gary responded that the landowner did not want any infrastructure because he felt that this would lead to an obligation to allow access all the time.

9. Kevin Burrows thanked the members for their attendance and said it was healthy for the Association to have members interested and to attend.

#### j. Close

Meeting closed at 7:25pm.

#### Amendments

- Also present Mark Nielsen.

- Andrew Seifried asked that it be noted that the box of documents for the audit were not received by the auditors until after the 20/10/08.

- Heike Apps asked that it be noted that the idea about purchasing a property had been discussed for a while and a joint decision was made for Warrick to look for an appropriate property.

## LETTERS...

Hello Helen

Further to our conversation yesterday, I am pleased that the business plan is on the agenda.

I'm keen to have my motions circularised in guidelines and acknowledge that once the business plan is in place then this may be covered.

In the meantime, can you please publish?

Thanks, Deb

I would like to propose the following items for the Agenda for the 2008 Annual General Meeting:

1. Moved, Deb Williams 3092, seconded Geoff Stebbing 1544, that the CDAA establish a Finance Committee to investigate various investment options, including property purchases. This committee be responsible for the preparation and presentation of the "Business Case" for each proposed investment for consideration by the members.

2. Moved Deb Williams, 3092 seconded Geoff Stebbing 1544, that all CDAA funds invested in Non-Bank investments, have a minimum cash flow not less than the prevailing Reserve Bank of Australia "Cash Rate Target".

Explanation.... I personally am neither for nor against investing in capital assets, as long as it is commercially viable, e.g. a commercial property that can be partially used to generate revenue, and a portion retained for CDAA usage - perhaps adjoining factories or offices. I would not support investments that do not generate income or cash flow of at least the Reserve Bank of Australia "Cash Rate Target".

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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.

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

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# WATER QUALITY SAMPLING TESTS FOR THE MOUNT

During the past several months (mid-August through mid-October) passive sampling devices were placed in several deep cavern and cave rated sites in the Mt. Gambier region. Devices were placed in Pines, Fossils, Gouldens, Allendale and Engelbrechts Cave – East. The passive samplers enabled the measurement of water quality for organic compounds over a period of 4 weeks.

The major advantage to using passive samplers is that they allow for a "time weighted" average of the contaminant over the time period of deployment (e.g. parts per million per day). This work was part of a small pilot study through the University of South Australia with help and permissions by the CDAA, Forestry SA, DEH, and the Kemps (who manage the Engelbrechts Cave). The passive sampling devices are very low impact and are already in use by DPI Victoria to monitor several freshwater catchments and are well documented in the scientific literature as accepted sampling devices.

The purpose of the study was for background assessment only. Previous work done in the US has mainly focused on nutrient levels in areas with intensive agriculture/farming, but there are many other possible sources of organic contaminants into such waterways (intensive farming and agriculture run-off – pesticides, fertilizers, nutrients, animal wastes; residential and industrial activities – heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAH's, surfactants). It is imperative that the groundwater resources be protected from environmental degradation. A loss of water quality can impact those living in the region as well as recreational (cave diving) visitors.

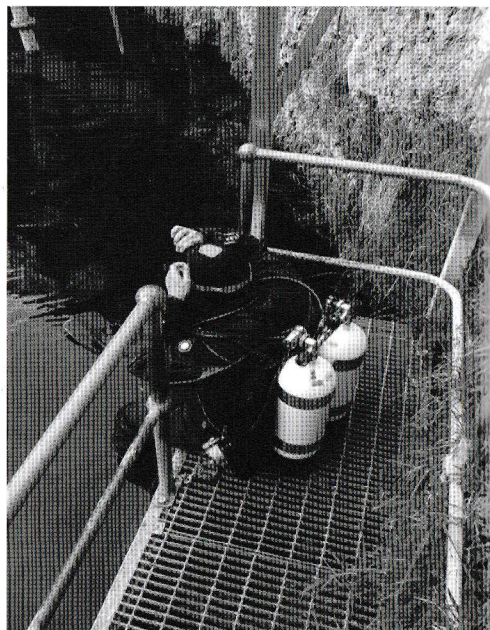
In addition to the passive samplers, water samples were also taken for levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC's), heavy metals, and anionic surfactants. Results to date show that any VOC's, PAH's and anionic surfactants are below detection limits by our analytical instruments (Gas chromatography-mass spec-



trometry and Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry LC-MS). Pesticides and total petroleum hydrocarbon samples are still in the process of being analysed.

We also examined the cave water for the presence of potentially disease causing microbes which could pose a health risk to people accessing the sites (i.e. ear infections and gastroenteritis). The number of microbes which may potentially cause such illness are many and varied, but are often associated with fecal matter. Rather than running separate tests for each of these microbes, it is much simpler just to compare the amounts of a specific group of microbes which are almost always associated with fresh mammalian feces, the *Bacteroides*. A high-

er number of these microbes indicates fecal material in the water, and therefore pose a potentially greater risk to human health. Although these microbes are often very difficult to grow in the laboratory, they fortunately have a distinct and unique



Photos: Kim Atwell



DNA sequence. Using modern molecular biology techniques we can search for the presence of the *Bacteroides*-specific DNA sequences in water samples. Once we have these DNA sequence, we can then separate them out on a gel which shows up as a distinct band. The intensity of this band is also proportional to the

amount of the microbe in the original sample. The image on the left shows the DNA from all bacteria, while the one on the right is the DNA from *Bacteroides*. The results indicate that the water sample collected from Fossils had the smallest amount of bacteria, including *Bacteroides*, while Gouldens had the greatest. These results can be effected by exposure of the water to direct sunlight (promoting algal growth and total DNA measured) as well as wind transported particles from adjacent paddocks (fecal associated bacteria DNA).

A final report will be delivered to the CDAA, Forestry SA, and the DEH in the upcoming months. As a final note, this work would not have been possible without the help of fellow cave/cavern divers Audrey Pang, CD (a.k.a. Dave Pearce), James Atwell, and Mark McDade. Thank you for all the help and patience with schedules and the help deploying/collecting samples.

Phil Mercurio, Megharaj Mallavarapu, and Michael Beer  
Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation  
University of South Australia.

## CDAA PRODUCTS

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT . . .

It is with pleasure that I would like to introduce the new Products Officer, Tara Parkinson who will officially be starting in the role on the 1/01/09. As I've now taken on the role of Business Director, I would like to put in the same sort of time and commitment to my new role and have therefore decided to pass the role of Products Officer to someone new. I'm sure Tara will continue in the role with the same commitment and enthusiasm that you're all used to. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported me in this role and look forward to continuing to work for you as Business Director.

#### NEW DVD!... China-Beneath the Wall - DVD \$35

Sichuan Province in central China is home to some of the world's biggest cave systems and this film follows a team of British explorers as they attempt to link together two of the most spectacular. The Great Doline is nearly a kilometre across and seven hundred metres deep and is considered by many to be the biggest natural hole in the world. The Great Crack is a natural limestone gorge over two hundred metres deep and in places only two metres wide. These geological wonders are only ten kilometres apart as the dragon flies and both enter huge river caves with passages over one hundred and fifty metres high. The expedition hopes to link the caves and complete the tantalizing through trip but as with so many expeditions into the unknown things don't quite go as planned...

A great film about dry caving exploration in China!

#### NEW DVD!... Cave Diving Mt Gambier - \$40

It has been described as one of the most dangerous sports on Earth....Cave diving is certainly not a pastime for the faint hearted. However in a small country town near the South East coast of South Australia, many thrill seeking scuba divers have discovered a whole new world of adventure under the limestone surface of Mt Gambier. Whether they are on government land or private property, this region is littered with underground, fresh water filled caves, sinkholes and passages that are fascinating in design and awesome in size and clarity. From novice cavern sites, to the much more intriguing penetration dives, 'Cave Diving Mt Gambier' will take you to places that are only accessible by trained cave divers and rarely seen by others. Featuring 15 of the most popular dive sites in Mt Gambier.

#### COMING SOON!... T-shirts with photo & map images - See page 42!

A new range of T-shirts will be available soon via the online store. These will feature CDAA logo on the front and a variety of images on the back. Photos by Richard ('Harry') Harris and Design by Stuart McGregor.

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.



# CDAА Membership Demographics

Terri Allen  
Publications and Records

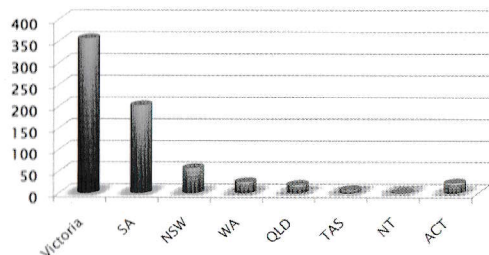
## Membership October 2008

› Deep Cavern	280	
› Cave	215	
› Penetration	184	
› Total	679	580M/ 99F (15%)

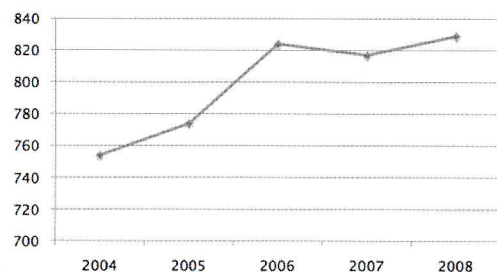
## New students July 07-Oct 08

State	No. of new DC students
Victoria	64
South Australia	18
Western Australia	10
QLD	5
NSW	5
Tasmania	5
NT	1
ACT	7

## Distribution around states (08)



## Membership trends over years



**The Black Hole,  
new ladder  
just completed.**



Photos by  
Grant Sommer





# 'Standards Direction'



We have had an interesting time of it over the past few months, with many items being positively addressed by the directorate. We are finally moving towards an online payment system with the service currently being offered for our shop goods. Instructional materials and memberships will be up and organised online within the next few months.

There is a new Tank Cave schedule which comes into force immediately. I wish to acknowledge Andy Higgins work for his work on this. The new schedule includes new dive sequences and an abolishment of the 12 month waiting period after the penetration course. We have increased the prerequisite dives to 25 minimum post penetration course. What we wish to see is recent relevant experience and I felt there were better ways to ensure this, than a mandatory waiting period. Please refer to the website for further details and updated application forms.

Thought has been put into the adoption of training

courses or workshops in Rope Access, DPV and side mounting. If anyone has any ideas or opinions on how to progress these or wishes to assist with their creation please contact me.

We have approved a new cross-over policy to the CDAA penetration level. This initiative will allow divers trained with other agencies to be assessed at penetration level by our penetration examiners and have the opportunity to gain equivalency within our training system. This is to encourage other divers within the country to become members of the CDAA. I wish to thank Ian Taylor for his work on this overdue aspect. Please see the amended Standards and Procedures manual.

We have also obtained permission from the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) to adopt their minimal impact caving code. As the ASF are recognised as the premier dry caving body in Australia it is natural for us to come in line and adopt their dry caving conservation recommendations. I wish to acknowledge Tim Payne for his help with this. I would encourage all members to read understand and comply with this standard as a base level for dry caving activities within our sport.

It has been the intention of the CDAA to allow other agency instructors access to teaching technical courses in our sites. Since the Trimix/Nitrox and Rebreather policy has been adopted a number of these courses have been run with our approval. Upon review the wording of the policy requires a person to seek approval of the directorate and provide proof of their training before under taking dives utilising Nitrox, Trimix or the use of a Rebreather. These policies are currently being rewritten to validate the spirit of the policy. To that end the standards and procedures manual has been updated and version 2 is about to go online. Could you please make yourself familiar with these as a few points have been added and procedures amended. If anything is unclear please feel free to contact me for clarification.

A number of informative workshops are planned for 2009. Please refer to the website for further information.

Kind Regards,  
Steve Trewavas

## Bauer Junior Compressors

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

1 x Bauer Utilus / 3.5 cfm,  
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*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!*

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# Business Director's REPORT

## DOWN TO BUSINESS...

Well, it's been a very eventful introduction to my role as Business Director during the lead up to the silly season. Many a night answering emails, writing minutes and sorting reports until ungodly hours as well as finding time for my non CDAA roles and my family. Having said that, I am enjoying the new challenge and I am looking forward to making some positive changes.

I'd like to thank Heike for her hard work over the past four years. I now appreciate how time consuming the role can be. Also thank you to Tammie for all her work as Treasurer. At times life can get very hectic and we can get snowed under. It can sometimes become impossible to fulfil our obligations as volunteers and some understanding needs to be afforded. We need to remember that all our volunteers also have paid jobs, families and other commitments. The documents for the audit did not get sent to the auditors until after the AGM. The audit has now been completed and the audited financial reports are now available to view on the web page. There is no significant variation to the reports that were presented at the AGM and in the September issue of Guidelines.

Also published in the September issue were motions to change the Hall of Fame and Life Membership sections of the Constitution. These were voted on and adopted at the AGM. These changes are now reflected in the Constitution. As a consequence of this change, Max Marriott was inducted into the Hall of Fame after being successfully voted in at the last election. Congratulations to Max!! Please note that now that the Constitution has been changed, any past unsuccessful nominations for either Life Membership or Hall of Fame can be re-nominated.

On pg 24 this issue of Guidelines there is an invitation for all cavers to attend the biennial conference of the ASF in Sale in January. This is a great opportunity for all to meet other caving enthusiasts and to hear some great talks, including a talk by Al Warild, author of 'Vertical'. The CDAA is one of the conference sponsors and Steve Trewavas and Andy Higgins will both be presenting. There will also be a CDAA stand with the opportunity to buy some of our great products.

Finally, I'd like to talk a little about the Business Plan which I have now inherited. I have spent some

time going back over about 10 years worth of Guidelines and found that the topic comes up again and again but no real progress has been made in this area. I see this as a very important part of our future. I believe that the Association needs to have a direction which is agreed upon by the members and that this needs to be in the form of a Business Plan. There also needs to be a process to review the success of this Business Plan in the future to make sure that we are meeting our goals.

A number of motions were submitted to the previous Directorate prior to the AGM. Some were for the formation of subcommittees to look into the Association's Regulations, policies and Constitution. Others related to the formation of a Finance subcommittee to look into investments. Others were in response to disillusionment of a number of members about the running of the Association by the previous Directorate and the lack of transparency or member consultation. I believe that a lot of these issues can be resolved and addressed by the formation of a Business Plan through consultation with the members. However, this is not a fast process and preliminary steps need to be taken to ensure representation of the membership and thorough investigation.

As a first step in the process I would like to invite and urge all members to give the future of the CDAA serious thought. A poll will be set up shortly on the web page for members to make submissions as to where they see the Association going. This is every member's opportunity to be heard! How do you want your money managed? Should money be invested in property? Should money be spent supporting member activities? What areas of the Association concern you? How can these be improved? At this stage I don't want to put a limitation on what is submitted. I want to firstly get a feel about members' concerns and ideas. The poll will close on the 31st of January and I will then report on the findings in the March issue of Guidelines with a call for various subcommittees based on the results.

I look forward to hearing everyone's thoughts! I urge every single member to log on and respond to the poll.

Regards, Helen Higgins





# NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

DECEMBER 2008

Another record year has gone by. More money invested than ever in our history to safeguard the income and financial viability of the Association. High membership levels, record attendance at the AGM, record number of speakers, Guidelines close to full colour, record number of voters for the elections and what's great is we have more to come! The Directors have been flat out since the AGM on projects that were raised at or before the meeting so look for our posts on the web site and email list.

It's another year and it's been full of surprises. I can't remember a period that has required so many investigations. Members including Instructors and Directors have been under scrutiny and when we receive a written complaint the Directorate must act, either it is handled internally by just talking to the member concerned or a full investigation may be necessary to get to the truth of the matter. This doesn't mean that something won't be done if it is a verbal statement but a written complaint has priority and must be acted on initially by the Standards Director or myself and then the Investigation Officer/s. Our Landowners expect us to enforce our Constitution and Regulations and I'm sure our members feel the same. Under our Insurance cover we naturally are obligated to act to enforce our rules as well. When it comes to teaching, short bottom times and "quickie" courses will not be tolerated and the new Standards and Procedures reflect a tightening up of these rules. For the first time in my term we have needed to seek legal advice on how to manage a Constitution problem, the advice was costly but in future will enable the Directors to act should a situation, involving Directors in an investigation, occur again.

At the AGM (probably the best attended ever) I stated, after being questioned from

the floor, that the audited figures had been held up and put to the attendees that although we did have the provisional figures (this is normal procedure and the final audited results are usually published in the December Guidelines) I understood it was the bank holding us up, therefore the Auditors had not been able to do the audit. On our return the new Business Director, Helen Higgins contacted our Auditors and our Book Keeper and sought answers. It seems the Book Keeper had not finalised the figures so the Auditors had not received anything at the time of the AGM. At no time did I mean to infer that our Auditors had not done their job or were dragging their heels. As Heike our previous Business Director could not attend the AGM and Andrew Siefried who works for the Auditors was also absent, the meeting could not get the correct information so I hope this clears up any misunderstandings. It was great to see the support for the Directorate at the AGM and a lot of the attendees spoke to Directors and told them they had attended to support them should any faction try and cause dissention.

If you missed the AGM you missed out on the biggest event seen for as long as I can remember. Nearly 100 people attended the presentations and our guest speakers excelled themselves. Steve Trewavas outdid last year's effort and is promising an even bigger event in 2009. Put away 24th October next year in your diary now so you don't miss out. Priority access will be given to Qld, NSW, Tas. and WA members to Kilsbys, Tank, The Shaft and Barnoolut. More details on when the sites will be open will be published in the next issue of Guidelines or on the web, so keep your eyes open.

Steve Trewavas was returned as Standards Director by a healthy margin and has started already changing and updating areas

that have been long overdue for a change in our Standards. As I previously stated a complete new Standards and Procedures section has been written, by volunteers. This now matches the Deep Cavern Course requirements and although there are still a few glitches with our Cave Course and Penetration Course program as we introduce these new courses they should all marry up. Steve has stated that he will be doing Instructor updates on all the new information in 2009. Instructors would have already noted a number of emails requesting feedback on proposed changes. We need your input on these questions so please take the time to reply.

The Penetration Program has gone through a number of changes and myself, Jane Bowman (Penetration Course Co-ordinator and Penetration Examiner) and Andrew Higgins (now a Penetration program Examiner) have run the new program. We found a few things needed tightening and we adjusted as we went and notes were taken. The new Standards, Course Outline,

PPP and notes/exam will be ready by the Easter program. An update for all Examiners will be required so that our teaching Standards and outcome is the same.

I have recently returned from China (see article this issue) where myself and fellow CDAA members Andrew Cronan, Steve Trewavas, Gareth Ingram and Stefan Eberhard represented the Association at numerous functions. Cave diving has great potential in this beautiful land and hopefully we will see more expeditions next year.

Finally I will close this final report for the year by thanking Heike Apps for many years of service to the Association. Heike's input has been appreciated and I hope that we will see her teaching and giving her valuable opinion to the CDAA.

Happy Holiday,  
Warrick McDonald.

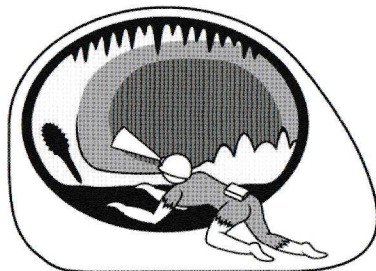


## CDAA Hall of Fame

CDAA	Name	Category
1	David Warnes	Life Member
3	Phillip Prust	Life Member
186	Peter Stace	Life Member
258	Ian Lewis	Life Member
719	Peter Horne	Life Member
1188	Lance Mitchell	Life Member
1268	Max Marriott	Hall of Fame



## CAVING CONFERENCE IN JANUARY



An invitation has been extended to all cave divers to attend the biennial conference of the Australian Speleological Association, which is being held in January, at Sale in Gippsland, Victoria. Sale is the closest town to the karst and cave areas of East Gippsland capable of holding a conference of this size during the summer holiday period.

Many delegates to **KarstAway** will arrive on the afternoon of Sunday 4th January, to be welcomed with a free conference BBQ that evening. The formal conference program starts on the morning of Monday 5th, and goes to Friday 9th January. The venue is Gippsland Grammar School.

There is a terrific program planned. The opening guest speaker is Al Warild, the recipient of the 2008 Australian Geographic Lifetime Adventurer Award, and the author of *Vertical*, the definitive guide to vertical cave exploration techniques. Al has been involved in many of the world's record breaking cave descents. The rest of the program will look at major caving expeditions and projects, and everything you can think of that relates to caves and karst - geology, biospeleology, history of cave areas, and yes, cave diving. (CDAA is one of the conference sponsors.)

Excellent post conference field trips are planned to the Buchan area (including the Potholes and the New Guinea Ridge area of the Snowy River), Limestone Creek and Indi further afield.

A wide range of accommodation is available. There is a very cheap camping option adjacent to the school, and the school's very modern boarding house with spacious and airy twin rooms. Otherwise Sale is well serviced with hotels, motels and caravan parks.

For further details, see the Karstaway website: <http://www.caves.org.au/conf2009/>, where you will also find the registration form. Single day registration is also available.

## Donation certificate for the RFDS made in memory of Mr Scott.

18 November 2008

Ms Helen Higgins  
Business Director  
Caves Divers Association of Aust Inc  
3 Harris Crescent  
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150



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1928 - 2008

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Thank you for your donation in memory of the late Mr Allan Scott AO.

We will advise the family of your thoughtful gesture.

We are a non-profit organisation and rely on donations from the public to fund the replacement and purchase of our aircraft and the medical equipment needed to continue to provide our life-saving service.

As you have given in memory of someone who held the RFDS close to their heart, we would be delighted to send you our quarterly Airdoctor magazine to keep you informed of our crews and their work. If you would prefer not to receive our newsletter, please let us know by calling (08) 8238 3333.

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Thank you for helping to continue the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Yours sincerely

Ross Curtis  
Community Marketing Coordinator



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<b>Ms Helen Higgins</b> Caves Divers Association of Aust Inc 3 Harris Crescent GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150	<table> <tr> <td>Receipt Number</td><td>268288</td></tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td><td>\$200.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Date</td><td>18/11/2008</td></tr> <tr> <td>Supporter No: 80817</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Receipt Number	268288	Donation	\$200.00	Date	18/11/2008	Supporter No: 80817	
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# SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2008.

Hi again, this year seems to have gone very quickly. Another AGM was held back in October and was a highlight for all who came, and came they did. It was a great turnout for the guest speakers who spoke throughout the afternoon with some great video's and photos displays from Harry on his record breaking and bloody cold dive to 180mt into the Pearce Resurgence. JDZ amazed all with his great revolving 3D map of Pic's, Craig Challen spoke on diving to the end of Cocklebidy – all I can say is that big balls are needed for this type of diving! It was a great effort for all involved. I think there are plans in the wind for another look at the end at a later stage, (Better take some photos for all of us that will never see this for ourselves).

We were also given some insight into the China Project by Andrew Cronan, Grant Pearce spoke about the Blue Lake and Pics projects and research. Michael Waldbrenner gave us some insight into the EKPP and their team approach and how they go about 'pushing' their caves. With dive times in excess of 18hrs and swims over 6kms it



Pics Project - Harry

some serious stuff. I could go on and on... We need to thank Steve Trewavas for being the main player in putting this all together and I am sure next year will be bigger again. All members need to help to support these great events so that they continue to grow to greater things.

I would like to welcome Helen Higgins on board and also Steve back into the position of Standards. I am sure they will do a good job in their positions Ken Smith has been busy in Adelaide with some entertaining slide nights and BBQ's with good turnouts I hear.

Please be aware we are coming into summer with high fire warnings on the way. Remember if there is a fire ban declared you cannot enter Forestry sites, all permits will be revoked and some private landowners also place restrictions on access or the running of compressors. Make sure that you are in a clear area when filling tanks at all times and you must have a 7 lt extinguisher on hand also. So with the hot weather on the way some good planning ahead is paramount.

During the summer months Bakers will be open to Cave level divers so please check out the prerequisites online and give me a call to arrange a dive. Another Hells Hole dive will be held over 2 days in April (25/26) to give the site a good cleanout and to allow divers without the necessary skills or equipment to join in and experience this impressive sink-hole. Once again – give me a call/email about this one.

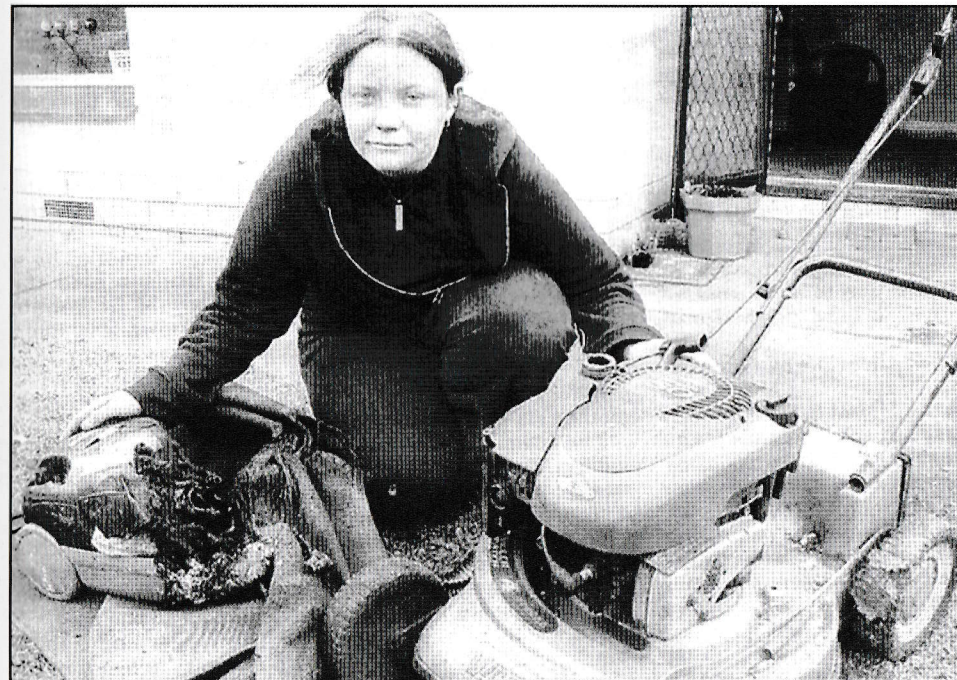
OzTek will be held again over the weekend of March 21/22 – an event not to be missed with lots of info and entertainment to be had. There will be some very interesting speakers speaking on many different subjects. I look forward to seeing you there.

On closing I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday time.

Cheers, Gary Barclay  
Site Access Director.



## another reason to QUIT!



Lauren Goldsworthy's vacuum cleaner was among some of the items that were damaged in a fire in her spare bedroom when she cleaned her lawnmower with a lit cigarette in her mouth.

Picture: ANELIA BLACKIE.

## Fire sparks safety warning

BY ANELIA BLACKIE

Email: anelia@bt.com.au

A MOUNT Gambier woman has warned the community against cleaning lawnmowers in bedrooms while smoking.

Lauren Goldsworthy was treated for smoke inhalation on Wednesday afternoon after a lawnmower exploded in a spare bedroom of her home in Stafford Street.

Ms Goldsworthy said she tipped the lawnmower over to clean it when fuel spilled out onto the floor.

"I dropped my cigarette from

my mouth and the next moment there was this huge explosion," she said.

"The flames went into my face and scorched my hair and then it spread all over the room and burned my vacuum cleaner, the walls, the ceiling and some photos.

"I tried my best to put the fire out, I grabbed loose carpets and threw it onto the fire, but the flames just kept spreading."

Ms Goldsworthy said although she had been convicted of arson before, this time it was an accident.

"I swear, this time I did not do it," she said.

"I was convicted of arson when I was 18 because I set fire to a curtain in the house to get help when I was being physically abused."

Ms Goldsworthy said she wanted to warn others to be careful when cleaning lawnmowers.

Metropolitan Fire Service South East regional manager George Rodis echoed her warning.

"Please, no smoking when working with lawnmowers and certainly not inside the house," he said.

Mr Rodis said although most of the fire had been extinguished by the time he had arrived on the scene, the blaze caused an estimated damage of \$5000.







## 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 Visitors	No animals, visitors or mid-week diving allowed.

## 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	C	Mt Gambier Council	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. 2 divers must sign out keys, all divers must sign in
- West	P	Lessee Ph: (08) 8723 2299	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. DY CER	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	P/C		
Tommy Grahams	C		
Weebubbie	S/C	DPI	The Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Midland, State Land Services South East. PO Box 1575, Midland 6936. Contact Kim Allison, Email: <a href="mailto:kim.allison@dpi.wa.gov.au">kim.allison@dpi.wa.gov.au</a> Phone (08) 9347 5047 Fax (08) 9347 5004
<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: Tara Parkinson  
CDAA, Unit 2/7 Condah Crt,  
Ashwood, VIC 3147.

QTY / COL/SIZE		ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
DVD's		<b>Cave Diving Beneath the Ozark Mountains – DVD</b> - with footage of Ginnie Springs and the Gasconade River in the Ozark Mountains, Missouri. Over four days the team reach 2000 feet in, 200 feet deep, using scooters which they drag through restrictions using ropes. In this DVD they extend the survey of the cave.	\$30.00	
	NEW!	<b>Cave Diving Mount Gasmber – DVD</b> - from Novice cavern sites, to the much more intriguing penetration dives, 'Cave Diving Mt Gambier' will take you to places that are only accessible by trained cave divers and rarely seen by others. Featuring 15 of the most popular dive sites in Mt. Gambier.	\$40.00	
	NEW!	<b>China - Beneath the Wall – DVD</b> - Sichuan Province in central China is home to some of the world's biggest cave systems. This film follows a team of British explorers as they attempt to link together two of, most spectacular caves and complete the tantalizing through trip. But as with so many expeditions into the unknown, things don't quite go as planned... A great film about dry caving exploration.	\$35.00	
		<b>"Down Deep Down Under".</b> A spectacular film by Alex Wyschnja. Discover the hidden secrets of Mt Gambier's famous fresh water caves. Tucked away in S.A.'s 5th East are some of the country's best known freshwater caves. The physical challenge of cave diving makes Mount Gambier a diver's mecca.	\$25.00	
		<b>"Facing Darkness".</b> Following some of the greatest cave divers in north Florida, Facing Darkness invites you to discover the underwater caves and how divers safely explore them. About the geology, the danger and the passion.	\$35.00	
CLOTHING		<b>Woockey Exposed.</b> Filmed and produced by Gavin Newman, this award winning film looks at the spectacular discoveries made by successive generations of explorers and joins the latest team to take up the challenge. Using specially designed camera systems we follow the divers to the very limits of the exploration as they attempt to push on into the darkness beyond the end of Woockey Hole.	\$35.00	
		• Embroidered Crew Neck T-shirts. Black, Navy and Steel Grey - S, M, L, XL, XXL	SIZE - Please Advise	\$25.00
		• Embroidered Polo Shirts. Grey with black trim or black with red trim. Look very smart!		\$35.00
		• Embroidered Hoodies. Black only - Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL		\$70.00
		• Embroidered Trekka Jackets. Black only - Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL		\$135.00
		• Polar Fleece Jumpers. Colours: Blue, Black. Original logo. Keeps you toasty warm & smart!		\$60.00
		• Polar Fleece Vests. Blue, Black. Original logo. Great to wear as extra layer under the drysuit!		\$50.00
		• Ladies Contrast Tee. Ladies cut stylish T in White w Marle Grey sleeve. Sizes 8, 10, 12, 14.		\$25.00
		• Beanies. Black only.		\$20.00
		• Caps. Black only.		\$20.00
MISC.		• CDAA Key Rings. Blue with gold motif. CDAA P.O. Box on back.		\$5.00
		• Round Sticker. CDAA logo over line arrow.		\$1.00
		• Bumper Sticker. Featuring photos by Dean Chamberlain.		\$1.00
		• Log Book Folder. With embroidered CDAA logo on the front cover.		\$35.00
		• Tank Cave Poster. Full Colour 14.5" x 25" poster of Tank Cave by Peter Rogers. Price includes p&h.		\$8.00
		• Tank Cave Map. Premium matt or gloss 120g paper \$96.00 (laminated \$22.00 extra, silver back \$132.00)		
		• CD of Guidelines 1-91 All Guidelines as searchable pdfs on CD.		\$10.00
		• Stubby Holders - high quality 5mm neoprene with CDAA logo		\$8.00
		• Travel Mugs - great for having a cuppa on the run		\$12.00
		• Mask Slap Straps - fully embroidered with CDAA logo		\$16.00

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



## CDAA INSTRUCTORS

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INSTRUCTOR ADVOCATE: MAX MARRIOTT.

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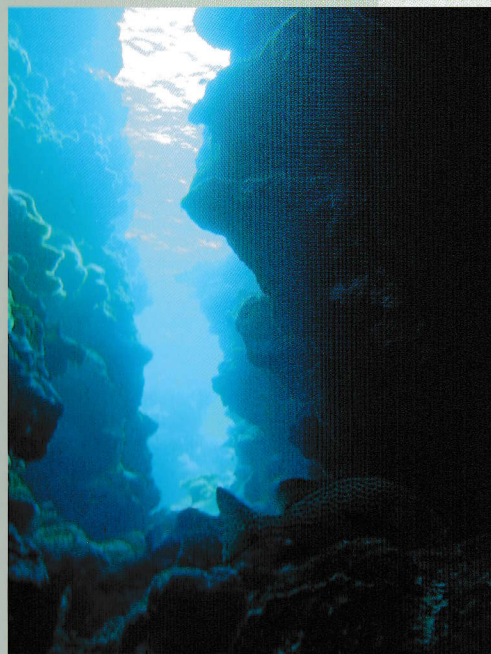
Peter Buzzacott

# Cavern Diving in Paradise

**The Rowley Shoals are a remote atoll wilderness 300Kms NW of Broome. You see big sharks on every dive, the tidal currents are ripping, but, best of all, there are caverns galore and many of them are probably unexplored.**

I arrived in Broome to 27-degree overnight minimum temperatures, boab trees and our liveboard, moored in Australia's highest tidal range, up to 10m! We steamed Nor-west for 18-hours, overnight, sometimes experiencing weightlessness as we crested waves and soon after lunch the next day we arrived. A shake-out dive to work-out our weighting, sort-out any gear issues and, following a blissfully calm night, we began diving caverns after breakfast the very next day.

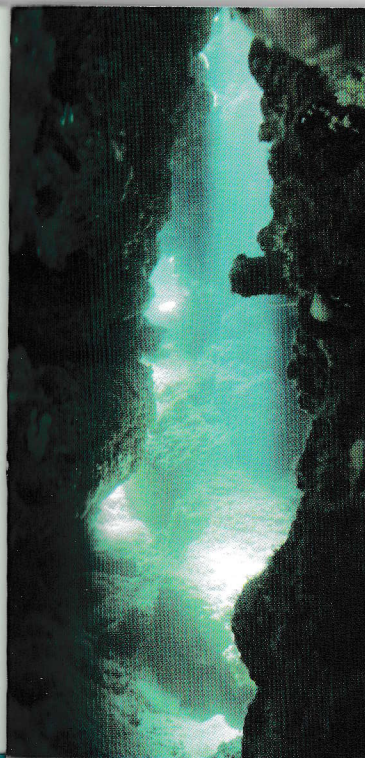
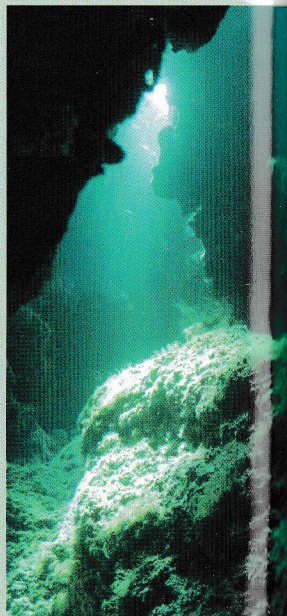
Our first caverns were at the Clerke wall. The Rowley Shoals are a series of three atolls, the middle one being Clerke Reef, named after the Captain of a whaler who first reported it sometime between 1800 and 1809. Depth around the atolls exceed 400m and the lagoons within each fill-up twice per day as the tide rises, then discharge twice per day as the tide drops. Each atoll covers around 80 to 90 square kilo-



meters. Dead corals, shells and sand scour and grind the walls of any crack through which water flows, so there are twisting and winding passages galore, but always with a sunlit exit in sight, hence it's cavern rather than cave diving.

Swift drift dives often took place along the outside of the eastern wall, so I'd frequently duck into a cavern to escape the rapid flow. Having previously arranged to photograph my buddies at the entrance, lit by sunlight, I'd barely manage a shot of each buddy flying passed, followed occasionally by a shot of one of them swimming madly back into view, against the flow. The depth of the cavern entrances along the wall ranged from 20m to 10m, but in 34 dives down as far as 40m all we found deeper than 20m were steep-sided gullies. Great stuff to see down there, but no caverns or caves.

The two sites that impressed me most were "The Labyrinth" and the "Bat Cave". Bat cave was so named by my buddies Mal and Terri on a previous trip, after a large school of batfish circling within it. To start we dropped over the edge of the reef and descended to look for pygmy seahorses on gorgonian fans at around 25m depth. Once finished with that we ascended to 9m, turned north and followed the wall until reaching a steep-sided gully into which we turned. This large gully narrowed over the next 40m until barely wide enough for two divers and a small cave opened up to the north, while the gully wound south-west and ter-

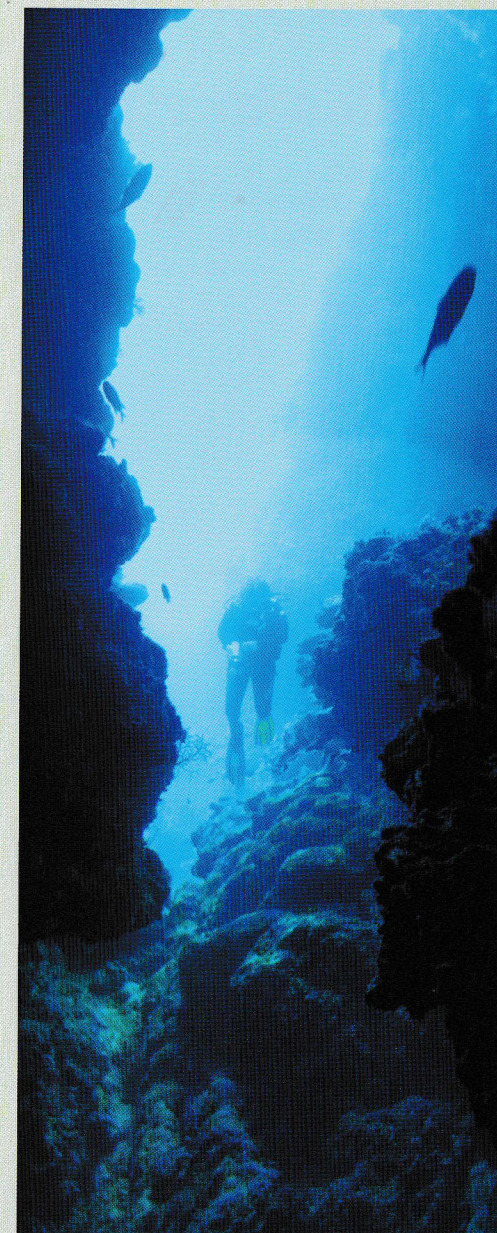


minated in a large room now known as the "bat-cave", though there were no batfish there today. The walls were vertical and closed-in 6-8m overhead, save for a large skylight allowing in a big shaft of light down the centre of the room.

The Labyrinth is a connected series of 20-40m long tunnels through a large reef-complex rising to the surface (at low tide). Big fish passed me in the winding corri-

dors, looking at me warily as they swam by, but the passages flow at high rates four times per day and so bear minimal life. Occasionally, beneath an overhead skylight, algae and coral congregate but only in small number and size. The tunnels are largely bare, and clean. Wonderful fun, winding your way through these limestone passages. Depths are most commonly 6-10m and there is rarely room for two divers to swim side-by-side, though there would usually be room for one on top of the other in the narrow confines, if needed. Turning around at dead-ends can be prickly, with tiny needle-sharp spines lining every ledge. Once under the skin an infection is certain unless dug-out and treated immediately. Initially I'd probed this site using backmount but then switched to sidemount for a week and found that much better for avoiding the walls on the windier turns and the narrowest entrances. Nonetheless those spines were unforgiving and I'll be taking gloves with fingertips next trip too.

The Rowley Shoals offer some amazing diving, some of it of interest to cavern divers, but I suspect the best caves are yet to be found. The speed and volume of water flow at every tidal change coupled with the width of the surrounding reef almost guarantee the potential for a 100m-long tunnel just awaiting discovery. The lagoons are reportedly as uniformly shallow as the caverns we explored so I'm guessing if



anyone is going to find a nice long cave up there it'll be at between 6-10m average depth. On this trip we explored less than 1% of the reef in that depth range so the potential is certainly still there. Check out my "Rowley Caverns" video on the CDAA web-site and let me know if you're interested in trip details for next October/November (reefdiving@eftel.net.au).



# Virgin Territory: Devil's Eye past the restriction

by Agnes Milowka

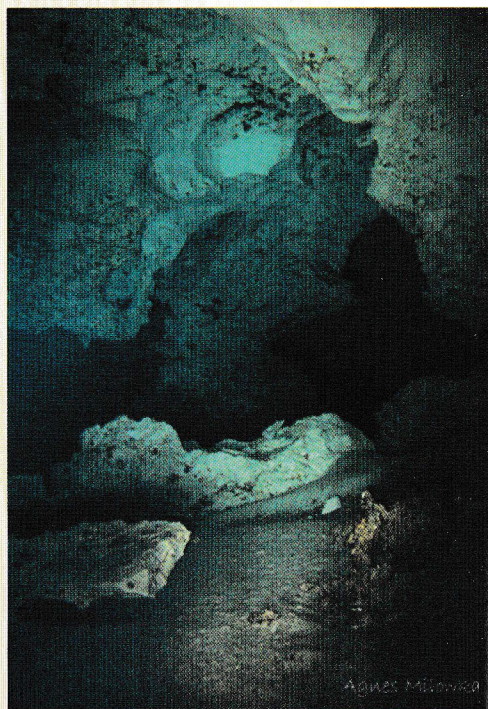
*I love Devil's Eye. Yet after diving it virtually every weekday for months on end and inspecting what seems like every inch of its gorgeous self, one day it struck me - this must be what being married is like. It's still good every time you do it... but you always know what you are going to get.*

Then the floods came and I was in for a wild ride; the marriage equivalent of coming home and finding your partner in a kinky outfit and ready to go, I suppose. The floods quickly turned the vis to crap and hardly anyone was diving. While most saw doom and gloom, I saw an opportunity. I could turn my attention to the one tunnel I hadn't seen yet, the tunnel that led to the new section. Now for the benefit of the Oz readers lets do a little 'Neighbours' style catch up. Back in 2007 Marius Frei did the impossible and found new passage in what is probably the most dived cave in the world. It was a damn wicked effort in anybody's language... the equivalent of finding new passage in Pines but on a much larger scale. Marius laid well in excess of a 1000 foot of line and the cave was still going! Unfortunately early in 2008 a diver followed in his footsteps that led to a fatality, leaving a sour taste in the mouth of the cave diving community in FL. There was a very negative vibe towards the new section from the cave diving community and everyone assumed that simply going back there would not only totally blow the vis in the cave and ruin diving for everyone but it was also a somewhat suicidal mission. It's true to say that there has been a lot of misinformation, myth and mysticism surrounding the new section. I'm not here to set the record straight, instead I want to share my experiences back there and a few pics.

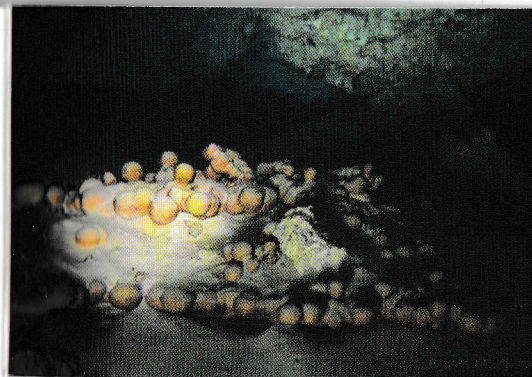
For my very first dive I scootered to 3000 ft, swam up to the end of the gold line, and made my way into the mysterious tunnel. The flow was virtually nonexistent because of the floods, which made diving in this area incredibly pleasant, kind of like diving Peacock. I got to the restriction and thought "really?" This is the infamous restriction? I unclipped one of my tanks and gingerly popped through to the other side. To my great surprise it was not at all hazardous, or particularly tight for that matter. The remainder of the passage was a most reasonable size and even had some decent sized dome rooms. I was super excited as one gorgeous dome room after another appeared in front of me. I spent ages stopping, staring, looking, absorbing... admiring cave that less than a handful of people have ever laid eyes on. Unspoiled, untouched and beautiful cave revealed itself in front of me. I hit thirds around the 4400 ft mark and headed back with a renewed passion for all things Ginnie. It was like falling in love all over again.

I spent a few weeks diving there regularly, looking

around, enjoying the cave and doing progressively longer dives... meanwhile the vis and the flow began to slowly return back to normal. One day as I was completing one of my regular ventures there, I couldn't help but notice a conga line of tanks leading all the way through to the new passage... and finally to a new cookie. I wondered who else was going back there... and what they were up to. Luckily I didn't have to chew on this for too long, as Andrew Ainslie gave himself away on the boards the very next day. We got in touch and figured out who the mysterious "Saber" who laid line all over the place back there was (James Tolland). Thus began a flow of communication that solved many of the questions I had in regards to who did what and when. Andrew added more line, surveyed, and to his great surprise, found himself at 46m depth. 46m in Devil's Eye - it seemed surreal... the rest of the cave doesn't drop much past 30m.



Agnes Milowka



Armed with this knowledge planning my next dive was that much easier, so I mixed it up and continued my own little exploration. Along the way I had the pleasure of seeing what is, without being too melodramatic, some of the prettiest cave I have ever seen. Then suddenly and unexpectedly I found myself at the end of the line... with a bunch of gas... and thought, now what do I do? The 125-foot spool was the longest bit of line I had. As one of my friends put it 'only you Ag, only you would do that dive without a reel.'

Yet, there I was and the Pits of Mordor were beckoning. The Pit to the right was the obvious way forward. I peeked in and it definitely went. I decided not to tease myself, with no line to actually go exploring, so I dropped into the other Pit. The Pit dropped to 50m, the flow disappeared, and the whole thing was low, flat and filled with silt up to the ears. I have affectionately dubbed it the "Mud Bath." While I won't bet my life that it doesn't go, I don't reckon it does. Although to find out for sure, I would need a much longer leash. At the end of my splash, I took out the spool; no point leaving scraps of line around and headed for home.

Finally while relaxing on deco I had an after-thought - I just got to see my first virgin cave ever! I'd be lying if I said I didn't get a kick out of this, not to mention the warm fluffy after-glow that goes along with the deflowering of virgins. Yet the after-glow was typically fleeting, and the cave had only revealed as much as a typical two dollar peep show. I am under no illusions; in the scheme of things my little sojourn 100 feet into new passage means absolutely nothing. It is not a cure for cancer. It's not even a footnote to the exploration that has been done and is being done around cave country FL, not to mention the world.

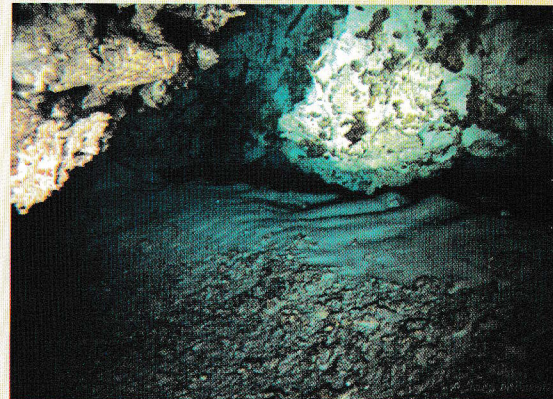
Yet the exploration of this cave does matter and it does mean something in the larger scheme of things. Cave exploration is not just about divers seeing pretty new cave or spooling out line into uncharted territory. At the very heart of exploration is the thirst for knowledge, knowledge that in the hands of the right people can be ammunition in the battle for environmental conservation. There are so many examples in Florida alone of physical connections made between springs by divers, which lead to conservation efforts and real changes in

peoples and organizations attitudes to and actions towards the aquifer. Clearly the Devil's Eye Cave System does not stop at the end of the gold line. Tracing the source of the water could have a significant impact on how the land in this area is treated by everybody. Exploration should not be a dirty word; it should be applauded, facilitated and recognized appropriately. Clearly the mysteries of this cave are yet to be fully revealed.

Going past the restriction is not a dive for everyone, the same way a 10 000 ft push into Manatee or hitting the end of the gold line in Jackson Blue is not for everyone. But the cave is there, it has been pushed and it has been lined, and where's there's cave there will be eager and curious divers.

So if you are one of the curious divers and can't sleep knowing that beautiful, unspoiled cave is just a hop, skip and a jump away from the beaten path and you happen to be in Florida, do us all a favor and take it easy in there. Keep your own limitations in mind and don't over reach. Don't plan a quadruple stage dive to begin with; enjoy what this new section has to offer and better yet take the time to enjoy the 'old' cave first. Make sure your sidemounting is squared away, you are comfortable negotiating restrictions, dealing with potentially bad vis, tons of deco and that you plan your gas accordingly. If you are going back there, remember, it is largely pristine and unspoiled cave, so keep your wits about ya.

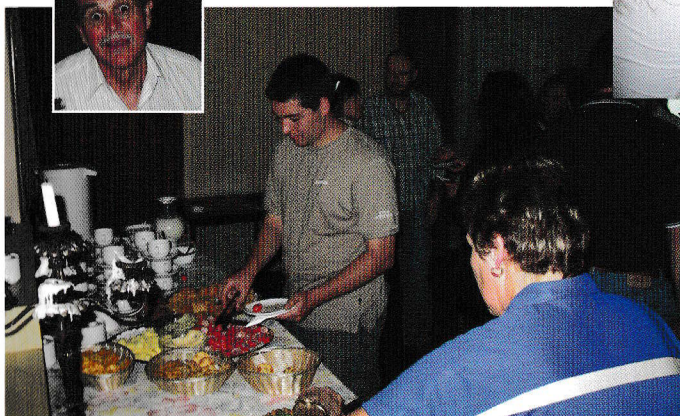
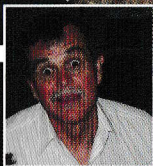
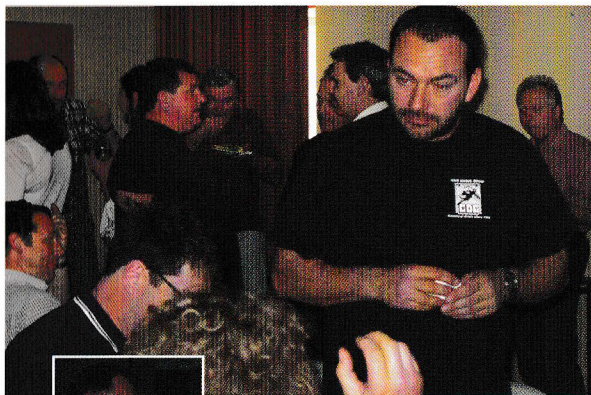
While my pics are from the white section past Narnia's Gate, I don't mean to be biased towards it, as the black section is equally incredible and mind blowing. My little camera and 24W light however, are no match for the black veneer walls of Devil's. One of my favorite memories is being sucked down the siphon tunnel into black nothingness. Imagine being in this huge black tunnel, I mean jet black, and being slowly sucked into what feels like a black void - it was the most surreal and memorable experience. I'd hate for others to miss out on this in the future, so if you are back there stay off the perfectly black walls, pretty please with a cherry on top. Otherwise - have fun and enjoy!





# CDAA Members Symposium

October 18th, 2008



Photos by Claire Cooper:

top left: Jim Arundale.

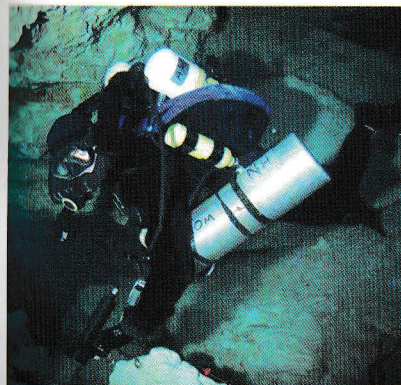
bottom right: Jane Bowman

Insert: Ken Smith

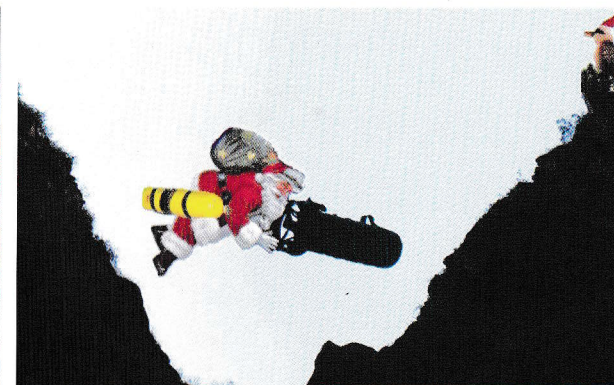
Bottom Left: orange shirt overseas guest speaker Michael Waldbrenner.



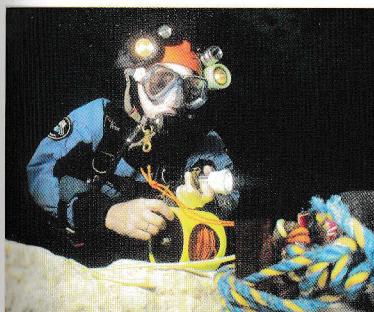
## ~ GUIDELINES GALLERY ~



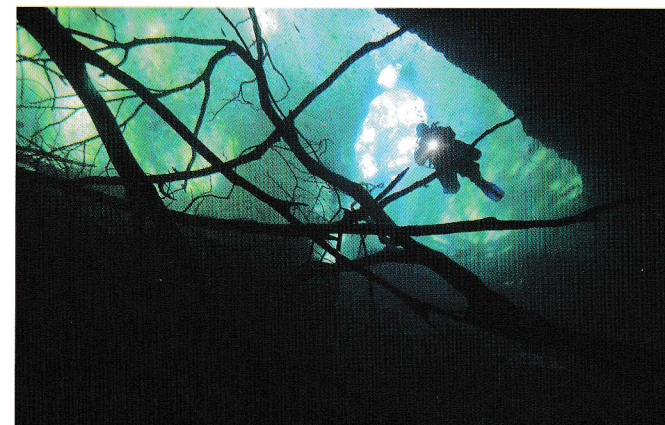
Nathan Harley in Pines on his KISS Rebreather.  
Photographer: Dave Hurst



So Santa really does fly... with 50kg scooter in hand!  
Digital production: Heike Apps



Linda Claridge in Tank Cave.  
Photographer: Gary Barclay



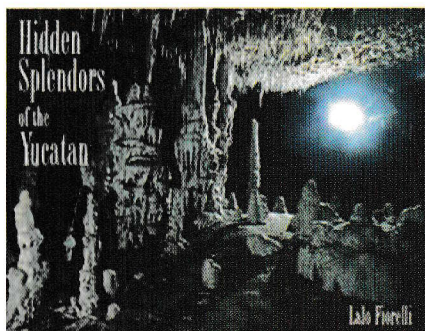
Above and Left:

Agnes Milowka on the Hill 400 line in Ginnie Springs, Florida.

Photographer: Dean Chaimberlain



## Product of the Month



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This is the first book of its kind ever published with images from the subaquatic caves of the Yucatan Peninsula, especially those in the vicinity of Tulum. Artistic compositions of the fantastic shapes and forms that abound are featured, as well as photographs of divers in this alien environment. No humans entered these Yucatan caves for at least 10,000 years until the mid-1980s when a small group of United States scuba divers, including the author, began explorations.

Included are images of the first eight caves discovered and the ancient human remains and Mayan archeological artifacts found within them. The text includes lively and anecdotal descriptions of the author's personal experiences during a seven-year period of diving these awe-inspiring cave systems.

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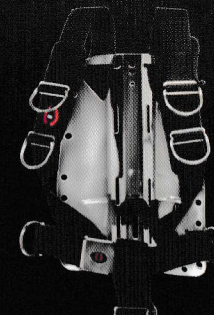


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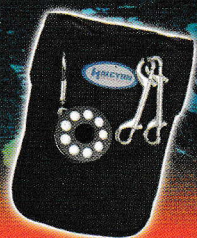
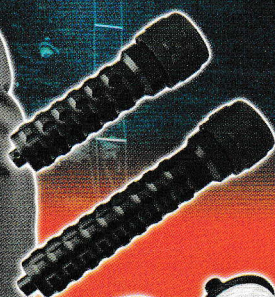
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