



C.D.A.A. Newsletter

No. 107 - MARCH 2009



SPECIALS

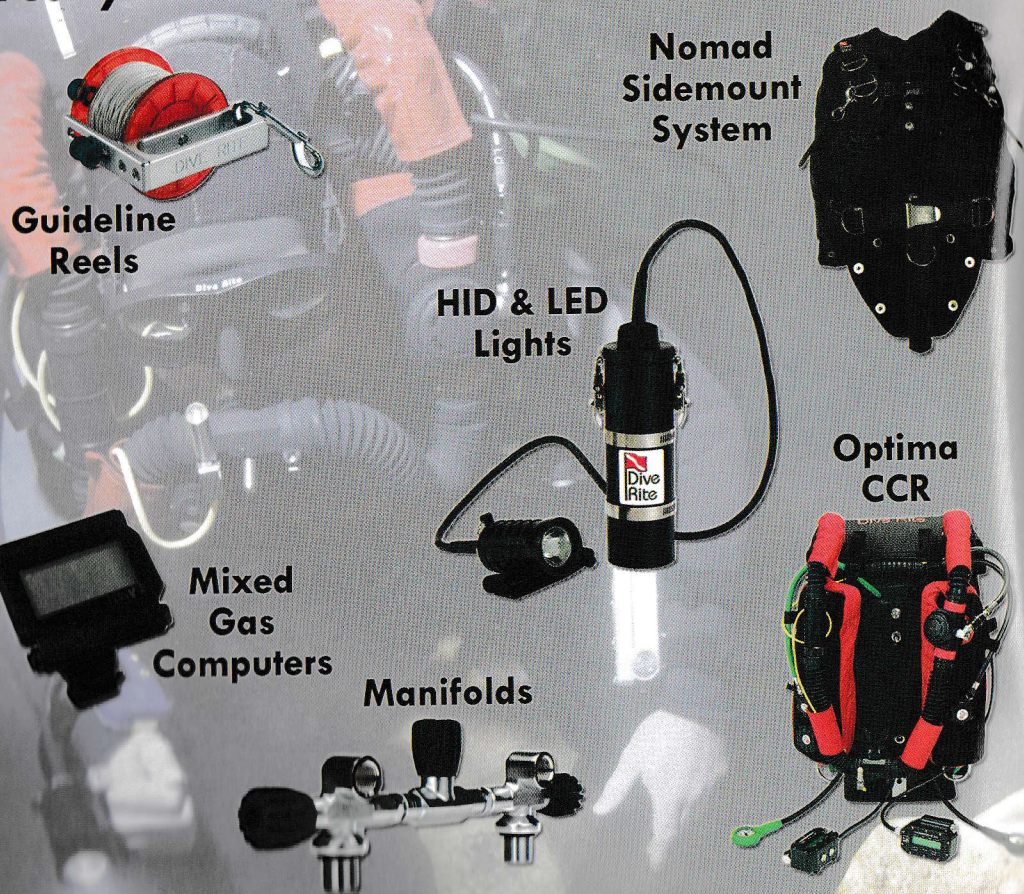
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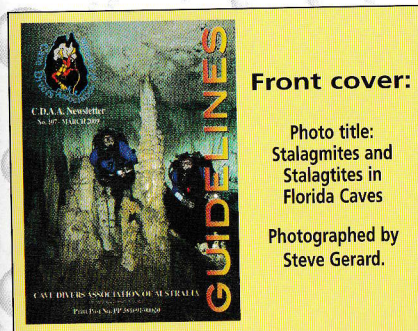
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Front cover:

Photo title:
Stalagmites and
Stalagmites in
Florida Caves

Photographed by
Steve Gerard.

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

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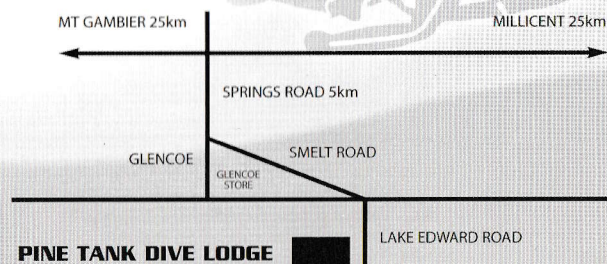
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Pine Tank Dive Lodge has been designed by cave divers to meet the needs of divers. With affordable accommodation and only 5 minutes driving time to the best cave diving sites in the South East of South Australia (Pines, Tank, Iddlebidy, Nettlebed,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

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Hi All

Guidelines 107 is packed with gorgeous photos, many from member's travels to far away places. Peter Buzacott has an article on Cocklebidy and will soon overtake Harry as our number one contributor of articles and photos. Peter has also started indexing every issue of Guidelines so it can now be used as a reference for searching people and places. Please see the ad in this issue asking for more volunteers.

In the last issue I listed the membership with a breakdown of numbers in each state etc. I forgot to report that we also of course, have many overseas members. Of our current 775 members and landowners we have the following list from outside Australia: 2 from Czech Republic, 2 from France, 4 Germans, 1 from New Zealand, 1 in Singapore, 1 in Spain (ole!), 2 from the UK and 2 residing in the USA. Thanks to Tara for keeping us up to date on product matters. Big news on the membership front is we now have on-line membership available. This should make life easier for both the records officer and members.

Thanks to Steve, Jason and Tony for their great work with this. Please don't forget your membership is due July 1 each year. If you wish to book in for places such as Kilsby's, Barnoolut sites, Tank, etc you must be up to date with your membership. Please don't leave it until the last minute or when you are about the hitch up the trailer for you trip. On the director front we have been very busy with rewriting standards and procedures and Regulations as well as having to deal with long drawn out investigations.

The latter unfortunately takes up a lot of time, energy and creates stress, we would rather use this doing great positive things for the membership. Believe me it is not a part of the job we relish. Speaking of positive things please come and visit our stand at Oztek if you are going to Sydney. Plenty of terrific new products including posters and DVDs for sale.

Lastly I wish to pass on my sympathy and thoughts to those members directly affected by the terrible bushfires in Victoria in early February. It seems few of us in Victoria did not know someone who was affected. Some of our members and officers were involved with the terrible job of body identification and arson investigation, while others worked in the Alfred Burns unit looking after many victims there. The toll on the wildlife has also been horrific. If you can afford to make a donation please see our handy button on the corner of the website to link through to the Red cross appeal or donate blood. Look out also for State arranged meetings which may incorporate fund raising events. See you at Oztek.



Terri Allen, Publications and Records Director,
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~ ARTICLES FOR GUIDELINES ~

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



Peter Buzzacott

Goodbye Cocklebidy

Cocklebidy Cave in Western

Australia is my favourite cave.

It has an exciting history, it's big,

easily accessible

and it's located in a wilderness that

is as spectacular

as only majestic

landscapes can be,

so when my good

buddies Dene and

Pippa suggested

we dive either

Cocklebidy or the

HMAS Swan on

New Years Eve I

naturally leaned

towards the cave.

We left Bunbury after breakfast on the 29th December, stopping for coffee in Narrogin, then a picnic lunch at Wave Rock and then we took turns at having a nap before arriving on site in the late afternoon, well after the heat of the day. We set-up camp, then went to the cave to load-in our tanks before sunset, as far as the fence across the entrance. That done we called it a day for a sumptuous evening meal, with hot chocolate drinks, watching the stars come out and, as I often do when camping, we turned-in for an early night. Just as well really, because the sparrows awoke us in time to boil the kettle and enjoy a spectacular sunrise with steaming mugs of hot coffee. After downing a hearty breakfast, I cooked a bunch of pork sausages and put them on ice, for snacks by the water in between dives. We freshened-up, went to the cave and were loading-in our gear by 7.30am.

By 11am we were leaving the top of the collapse with our final loads, before the sun had come around that far, and so we left the very pleasant shade for the cool and dark of the cave, and the promise of adventure. By midday we'd set-up our gear by the water and were enjoying a lunch of hot-and-hearty soup with fresh rolls, then we slipped into our drysuits and twins, and set-off across the lake.

During my last visit I'd noted the damage

done to the cave floor as far as the first rock-pile, photographing a couple of deliberate acts of vandalism and I'd reported it to Gary, the site director. That was in May. Now, just seven months later we were appalled to see the damage done to this once pristine environment. Large 2m-long, (possibly scooter-shaped), scallops carved into what was previously undisturbed silt, knee-indentations, fin gouging, even writing in the silt, like "200m" and "Greg". In the first 400m we

lost count of the number of fresh acts of vandalism. In places it is so bad those historic marks from the '80's left by the sled in the race to the end are now indistinguishable from the slash-marks, hand-prints and scribbles that seem to me to have appeared in just barely the last six months. Was it really this

bad last May, and I'd missed it, or else what could have caused such wholesale destruction in such a short time? If it's recent then the viz must have been shocking while whoever it was was busy carving-up the cave. I wonder if the second sump is as bad as this. I haven't even been in there yet – I really hope it's not trashed already. I also wonder, is it possible we could at least trowel away the graffiti? I'd gladly dedicate a whole trip to that, and I'm probably not alone.

We discussed this over a cold pork sausage and, looking down, I found cigarette butts arranged neatly, as though someone



had whiled-away time here smoking and then just walked away, leaving them behind. If we're going to leave our butts behind then we should ban smoking in caves altogether. We got back in the water and I looked around with an even keener eye, thinking this may well be the last dive I ever make in here, because you don't need to be psychic to see we're going to lose access if we don't address this.

Our next morning dawned in a riot of colour, and a magnificent breakfast. We filled a thermos for hot drinks after the dive, plucked a few bottles of half-iced water from the cooler, for the stroll down the collapse, and once again we entered the cave before the day warmed-up. This time we agreed to have one longer dive rather than a couple of shorter swims so we could load-out early enough to enjoy the evening with everything done. We had 240-bar each in our twin 12's (Pippa, being part fish, needed only 10's) so there was no hurry and I took the chance to have a peek into some of the side passages marked with a knot in the newest line (why are there two lines in this cave?). The passage heading east at about 85m-in looks really promising and,

unless the cave is closed soon, next dive I'll have a look in there for sure, though it's gentle rolling appearance suggests it probably has a fragile floor so I'll be shadowing the roof at a snail's pace I expect, if I go in at all.

The turn was signalled and repeated, we turned and so follower became leader, leading us out. I took the opportunity to shoot some video, which is now on the CDAA website if anyone is interested, but mainly I soaked it up and basked in the beauty that is Cocklebidy Cave. It's big, dra-

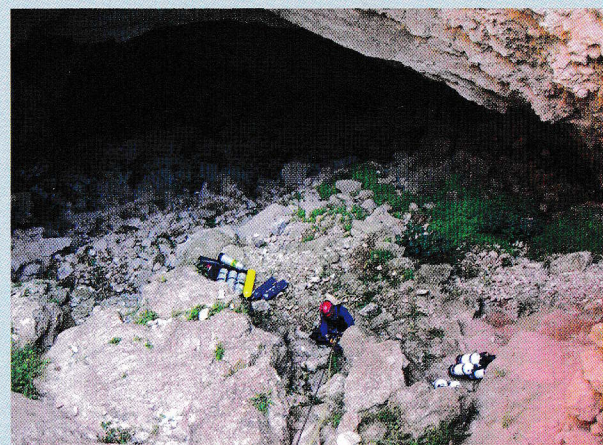
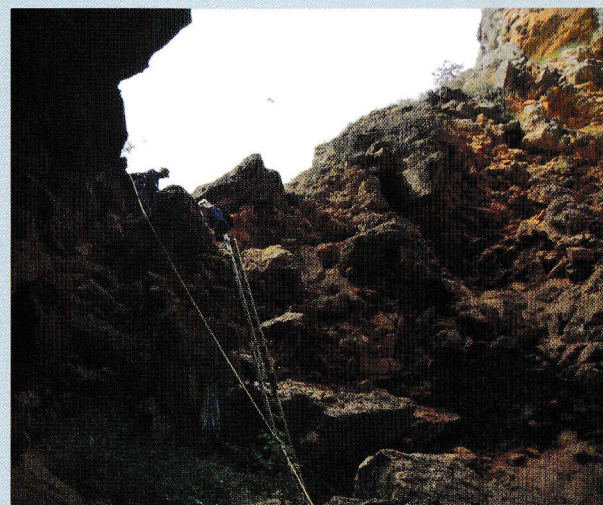
matic and wonderful, a real Australian treasure, and in the heart of Australia too. Shame about the recent damage. Shame. In Florida even experienced cave divers wreaked havoc when they picked-up scooting for the first time, so now many caves won't allow motorised diving unless the driver has cave-scooter training. Perhaps we should offer scooter training for CDAA divers too and, once widely available, insist on it. Maybe we should ban scooters altogether

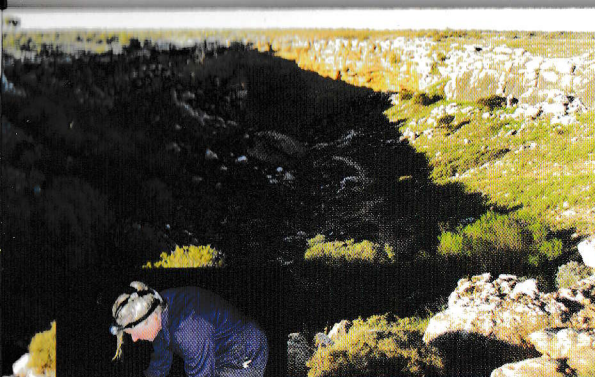
er in caves where people have made the distance using leg-power alone. Plenty of us swim to the rockpile. No need for a scooter unless you're going further, which leads to the idea maybe only penetration divers should be permitted to use scooters. Perhaps scooter use should even be taught in the penetration course (soon to be known as Advanced Cave)?

We carried our gear up out of the dark, to the edge of the sunlit zone below the cliff at the top of the collapse, had some afternoon tea and relaxed in the shade, watching sparrows hurtle in circles above us. By 3pm our ladder was in the shade again so we carried our loads up to the fence, taking it in turns to carry-up a tank using an old BCD or to belay whoever was on the ladder.

Carry a tank, belay, carry a tank, belay. This was an unhurried way to end the day and by 6.30pm we were freshly showered and celebrating New Years with a cold beer at the roadhouse.

That night we cracked open a bottle of Diver's Luck, a delicious Shiraz from the Hunter Valley, we turned off our lights and laid back in our chairs, mesmerised by the stars and the planets overhead. This was definitely my best-ever New Year's Eve. It must have been good because I missed

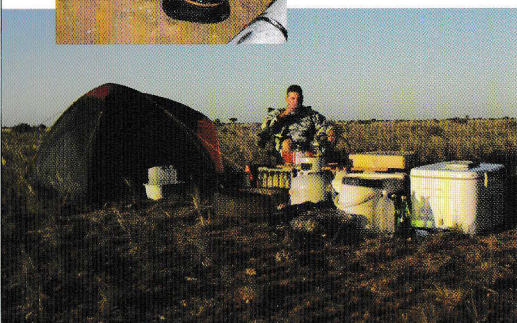
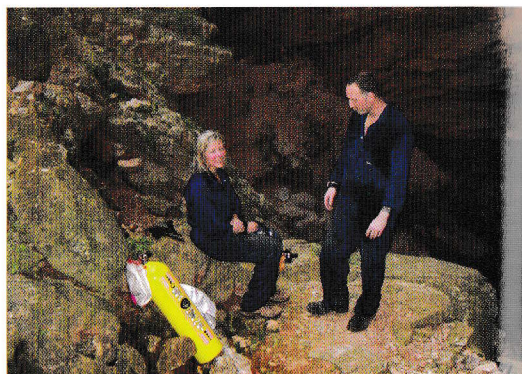




sunrise the following day but we ate well nonetheless and still managed to break camp by 8.30am. We listened to a talking book on the road, stopped for a nice lunch in Norseman, spent the afternoon napping or having outrageous conversations and then suddenly we were home in Bunbury in time for an evening meal and a movie on the telly. What a great couple of days away.

Cocklebidy Cave is just ten air-conditioned hours drive from Bunbury. With stoppages we took 12 hours each way because, after all, there's no rush, and in total it cost us \$426 for fuel and \$48 for air, which worked out at \$158 each. The permits were free, the camping was

free and we all had a lovely short break. Next long-weekend we're planning a trip to Tommy Grahams. Four tanks each, three in a car, four dives in two days... we are indeed blessed here in the west. Please lets look after it.



Tuesday 14th April 2009

(To Be Confirmed)

"Cave Diving" by Chris Brown

Here's a chance to hear some stories and see some pictures from Chris Brown's more than 27 years as a Cave Diver. Some of our newer members may not have had a chance to meet Chris. So here's your chance to meet a legend in Australian Cave Diving.

I am planning to hold this at the Brighton Metro Hotel with the option of having dinner beforehand at 6:30. This venue worked quite well for our Photo Video night last year.

**The M Lounge, Brighton Metro Hotel.
466 Brighton Rd, Brighton SA 5048**

This is on the corner of Brighton road and Sturt and there is good parking behind the pub. Later on I will ask you to tell whether you plan to come and whether you need a dinner booking. Please email me Ken Smith at the sarep@cavedivers.com.au if you need to know more.

Cenotes & Tacos

Story & Pictures:
Luke Baade

Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula is a cave diver's dream. What we call sinkholes, Mexicans call cenotes (say-no-tays) and the coastal strip between Playa Del Carmen and Tulum has around 50 cenotes. These cenotes are the openings to a honey comb of underground caves with over 160km of passages having so far being surveyed.

When I found out my fiancé was attending a conference in the Yucatan Peninsula in January 2009, I quickly volunteered to carry her bags and of course, packed my dive gear.

I'm becoming very competent at disguising my heavy camera backpack as carry-on luggage. This however, ensures everything else goes in my check-in baggage. Three flights later I arrive exhausted at Cancun airport with my check-in baggage nowhere to be seen.

Bugger. No worries, I have my camera, so after a quick stop at a shop to buy a toothbrush, a pair of boardies and some pluggas, I was set for the week.

Fortunately my bag did arrive three days later. It turns out while passing through Los Angeles, TSA took a liking to my bag. I'm not surprised as my HID canister light packed delicately in my baggage doesn't look that innocent! Yes, it even still worked!

Anyway, back to diving..... I was fortunate enough to have three days of double cavern dives ahead of me. Unfortunately I'm not cave trained (will be if I go again), which limited me to cavern diving.

Mexican regulations dictate a guide can take up to four open water qualified divers in the cavern zones of the cenotes. ►



A Mexican cavern zone is a little different from the CDAA's, allowing to be up to 60metres from natural light. Due to most sites having several cenote entrances, this allows the guides to travel a considerable distance and do two completely different dives at the same site.

All I can say is WOW! During the Ice Age, water levels were so low that many of these passages were exposed to air for thousands of years. Imagine Naracoorte or Princess Margaret Rose caves underwater! They are abound with stalactite and stalagmite formations, fossils embedded in the limestone and even the odd fish. Best of all the water temperature was 25C and the visibility endless. The guide quoted over 100metres at one site!

There are no rivers in the Yucatan area and the cenotes supply the area with fresh water. Many sites go below sea level and this is where you experience the bizarre sensation of swimming from the

crystal clear fresh water to the hazy seawater. Known as a halocline, the two different water densities don't mix and form a clearly defined layer. It can play tricks on a diver's mind, and I was told of instances where divers have removed their regulators after having ascended from the salt water into the invisible fresh water!

The first site I dived was called Taj Mahal. The landowner believed he had a natural wonder that could challenge the man made Taj Mahal's beauty. He was right, this site was a great introduction of what was to come. It featured stalagmites, fossils and a halocline.

Next it was off to the world famous Dos Ojos cenote. These dives were truly amazing featuring large cavern rooms with spectacular formations and some amazing light shows of sun rays filtering through the various entrances. Unfortunately being world famous also means the entrances were busier than Rundle Mall at Christmas time. There are a lot of divers, but the site is big enough not to get in each other's way underwater. Snorkellers made up most numbers, but obviously their range was very limited.

During our first dive we surfaced in an underground air pocket known as Bat cave. As the name suggests, there were bats living amongst this amazing

room of formations. The second dive took us to an underwater room which happened to have a small plastic crocodile bound to a rock with a naked barbie doll in it's jaws! What the?! Not what I expected, but apparently many years ago a freshwater croc lived here and after being continually asked about it, the local guides placed this fellow in there as a joke. Strangely someone stole the original plastic croc, so this is take two of the plastic crocs.

I then decided to break-up my week with a day dive trip to the island of Cozumel. Cozumel is a 40 minute ferry ride from Playa Del Carmen and is famous for it's wall dives. I had a great day in some of the easiest conditions I've ever dived in, but couldn't wait to get back to the cenotes!

I was very fortunate on my last day of diving at the cenote Chac Mool as I was the only person booked on and much to my appreciation, my guide Alex agreed to take me. This was my best diving experience of the week. With no group, we casually did our double dive allowing me to stop and photograph at my leisure. Chac Mool was amazing. It had great combinations of sunlit zones, underwater formations and a spectacularly (and I don't use this word lightly) decorated air pocket to stop and have a chat in. A great way to finish a very memorable week. The depths of the cenote dives ranged between 7 and 13 metres.

Unfortunately there was one cenote dive I had read about and planned to dive on my visit, but couldn't due to a security problem. This site is well away from the others deep in the jungle and two weeks prior to my arrival a dive group surfaced to find their driver tied to a tree. The group promptly had their gear and vehicle stolen at gunpoint! Left in wet-suits, the story goes they had to walk 15km to get help. No thanks!

All the cenotes are on private land and this land owner is currently looking to resolve this security risk. Rest assured though, all the other sites are very popular, close to towns and pose very little risk. I hope I haven't scared anyone off.

I dived with the Cancun based Manta Divers Scuba Centre. Their service was outstanding and I fully recommend Mimi and her friendly staff.

Apart from diving, the area also has some amazing Mayan ruins. I recommend the Chichen Itza site as a must do if visiting the area. Arrive early before the massive crowds.

I'm also a fan of Mexican food and quickly became addicted to the street stall tacos, and I'm not sure if this was related to the apparent shrinking of my wetsuit I've noticed since I've been back.

Overall I had a great time and thoroughly recommend the experience. I hope you enjoyed my brief attempt at journalism.

Cheers, Luke Baade. CDAA 3967

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John, Sharon and Erica.

Christopher Brown

Adelaide-based cave diver Christopher Brown has been one of Australia's leading cave divers since becoming CDAA member number 708 in March 1979. Possessing a boyish jubilation and a special "spark for adventure" in his eye, Chris's early cave diving explorations were, like most of us, initially centred around the well-known caves and sinkholes of the Mount Gambier region, but he also was among the first Aussie cave divers to strike out into other regions with his independent, pioneering spirit and sense of adventure!

During the 1980s and '90s Chris played a key role in both CDAA standards (instructing/testing) and committee roles; he served in the capacity of South Australian Records Officer and Vice President from around 1983 to 1985 (becoming both a FAUI Instructor and a CDAA Examiner for Category 1,2 and 3, i.e. Cavern, Sinkhole and Cave divers in 1984), served on the Examiners Board and Training Committee where he put in a lot of



effort producing some of our Association's first comprehensive Standards documents, and acted in the capacity of (or assisted) the CDAA Business Director in the period 1997 to around 1999. However, it is perhaps in relation to Nullarbor cave diving that Chris is best known.

During his first trip to the Nullarbor in 1982, Chris found his first bit of virgin passage in **Murra-El-Elevyn** by discovering the lead to the second air chamber (and making his first attempt at cave mapping via a Grade 1 memory sketch of the new section), swam to the First Rockpile in **Cocklebidy** (where he helped remove some bits and pieces left after Hugh Morrison's world record explorations and Toad Hall discovery a week earlier), used triple back-mounted scuba cylinders to push **Pannikin Plain Cave** from 600 metres to 720m (and finding the start of Eyre Chamber and the entrance to the Back Passage with Phil Prust), and looked at several other major caves. Chris was so enthralled with the Nullarbor that he undertook another 18 or so trips out there during the next 25 years and he was involved in many discoveries and adventures, including acting as a support diver during the successful world record attempt to extend beyond where French divers Francis and Eric Le Guen had pushed past Toad Hall, doing his first stage dive in Murra-El-Elevyn using a single 88 on his back and twin underslung 40's and pushing the Back Passage in Pannikin Plains to 1065m (again with Phil Prust).



In the Mount Gambier area, Chris (sometimes in the company of his wife-to-be, Sonia) assisted the author with a number of early cave research and mapping projects, including **Piccaninnie Ponds**, **Fossil Cave** (for SAUSS Inc), **Alleyn's** ("Death Cave"), **Engelbrechts Cave** and **The Shaft**. In May 1984 he installed the grating over Three Sisters Cave with assistance from Benton Woodcock (the grate was made by Ron Allum) and during a dive in The Pines on 12 July 1984 with Paul Arbon, Chris discovered the original "back section"; the area was virgin with no scratch marks anywhere. Two months later, after the author mentioned the amazing passage which he and Mark Nielsen had found in **Tank Cave** in August 1983, but unfortunately when Chris, Paul Arbon and Phil Prust had a go on 8 July 1984 they only managed to explore the entry zone for about 10 metres due to appallingly-bad visibility (maximum of 200mm). They used the standard rig of the day which was a single 88 tank with octopus reg. The disappointing outcome from this dive discouraged them from trying again for another 5 years until 16 May 1989, when Chris and Phil Prust gave Tank Cave another go and laid 220 metres of line in virgin passage. Shortly after this Chris made the Tank Cave gate and ladder and installed it with the assistance Phil, Ron Allum and Peter Blackmore.

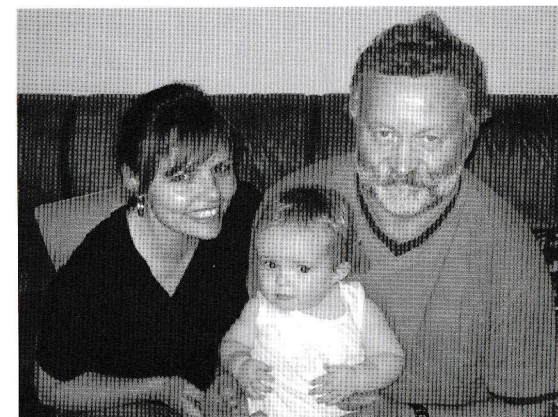
The wonderful caves of Florida and the Bahamas lured Chris overseas in late 1985, where he and Phil enjoyed sharing nearly 30 dives with many cave diving identities including Sheck Exley, Lamar Hires, Wes and Terri Skiles, Peter Butt, Brent Potts, Robert Swicegood, Joe Prosser and Dennis Williams. Then he was back in the Nullarbor in 1986, using and wearing triple tanks to swim all the way to Toad Hall in Cocklebidy (as Chris says, "If you haven't swum it, you haven't done it!") He also found out why it is called Toad Hall "... From the Toad of Toad Hall, many will wonder, few will know!").

In November 1986 Chris headed northwards and

dived in the Bon Accord Mine in Burra with Paul Arbon and Dennis Thamm; after lowering their gear 30 metres down the mine shaft to the water level, they started their dive only to find that the mine shaft was blocked at 10 metres depth with timber beams! They also dived one of the side tunnels for about 50 metres but called the dive when it was noted that parts of the roof appeared unstable and that there were a few collapsed sections on the bottom.

Chris discovered Concorde Landing in Pannikin Plain Cave with Ron Allum in 1987 and extended it by around 600 metres in one dive, and the following year he decided to head eastwards for a change and visited the famous **Jenolan Caves**, where he performed six dives in Imperial Cave and Lower River as well as doing some dry caving. His party also attempted some RDF (radio directional frequency) surveying but this was not successful because of high-voltage cables in the area).

The following year, Chris acted as one of the six main lead divers for the famous **Pannikin Plains Cave Diving Expedition** from which Andrew and Liz Wight's



TV documentary "Nullarbor Dreaming" was made. Older CDAA members will recall that this project nearly ended in disaster when a cyclonic storm unexpectedly struck the site, causing an incredible entrance collapse which (fortunately only temporarily) entombed the entire underground party,

including Sonia! (as Chris puts it, "... did 8 days of diving, the rest is history!"). Chris was topside when the storm struck and he played a vital role in their rescue through his radio communications with the trapped divers. He also manufactured and gathered a lot of the equipment for this expedition (much of which was buried or destroyed in the cave collapse), and the team was awarded the 1989 *Australian Geographic Silver Medal for Exploration and Adventure* (equal second with solo round the world sailor Kay Cottie) as a result of their achievements.

In 1991 Chris became the primary author and collaborator of the original CDAA Penetration Manual, and the following year he became a CDAA Category 4 (Penetration) Examiner. From 1992 to 1994 he also served in the capacity of CDAA's Standards Director. In the company of Paul Arbon, David Doolette, Barrie Heard, Phil Prust and David Warnes, Chris performed the first-ever trimix dives in The Shaft in 1993, and during that year he also ran a Cave level course in the Nullarbor for Western Australian CDAA members (assisted by John Dalla-Zuanna and Richard McDonald).

Throughout 1994 Chris continued diving and mapping work with his buddies in Tank Cave and The Shaft (more trimix dives), and in January 1995 he and Sonia explored the sea caves at **Eagle Hawk Neck** in Tasmania. Tank Cave dives consumed much of his time again in 1995 (20 dives that year) but Chris still managed to organise his 11th trip to the Nullarbor – a much more productive one this time: *“... Lots of fun in Cocklebidy. Led an assault on the end of the cave. Reasonably successful. Went 20 metres past the end of the line where Hugh Morrison stopped in 1983. The main passage stopped with the roof meeting the floor. There was a small restriction to the left. I attached a jump reel and went down a steep slope for about 5 metres with the tunnel appearing to be getting smaller and doing a right hand turn. Decided that this was far enough and reeled in the jump reel and left it on the tied off line. There are 2 messages written to this jump reel: one is the date of the dive, and the other I have kept to myself. The group included Dr Tim Payne, Dr David Doolette, Richard McDonald, Stefan Eberhard, Wolf Seidel, Dennis Thamm, Brenton Woolcock and Peter Girdler. Richard manufactured two “Aqua Macks” which were based on a copy of my “Aquazep” and were the key to the success of the trip apart from the good team spirit and a lot of hard work. Channel 9 made a TV documentary titled “Cocklebidy Challenge” on this trip.”*

During the mid 1990s Chris helped organise the gear for the “Engelbrechts Cave Diving Dummy” (e.g. new wetsuit, brand new Poseidon 1st stages and Oceanic 2nd stages - all inoperable like everything else of course – reels, tank bands and specially-made replica scuba cylinders etc), and he installed the “40 Metre Line” in The Shaft (he personally made most of the pegs and supplied the line and was assisted in the installation by many members, especially Gary Barclay, Rob Brennan

and Tim Payne). Also to assist CDAA members at The Shaft Chris made the “A” frame which is still used at The Shaft with material supplied by Phil Prust, and Chris also designed, had manufactured, transported and installed (with the assistance of local CDAA members) the lowering frame gantry system at The Black Hole.

In 1998 Chris visited Tasmania to dive **Kubla Khan** and **June** caves with David Doolette, Tim Payne and Stefan Eberhard; one of his dives was with trimix where he pushed an extra 15 metres beyond the known end of the cave. And in 1999, Chris and his buddies David Doolette and Graham Elliot undertook half a dozen truly amazing dives (four with trimix) in the **70C** waters of the **Pearse Resurgence** in New Zealand (and you thought Ela Elap's 11 degrees was bloody cold!), where they camped on-site for 9 days and reached a depth of 125 metres during their explorations.

When Chris ran his 13th Nullarbor trip in 2000, he surveyed Warbla Cave with Dave Doolette, Paul Arbon, Phil Prust and Tim Payne and from 2001 Chris was a lead planner and diver in the ASF-CDG's Shaft Mapping Project (Chris is ASF-CDG Member #003). The aim of this project is to map the deeper sections of The Shaft utilising alternative breathing mixtures. Mixtures used to date range from Heliair up to 60%, helium with 50% & 100% oxygen mixes for decompression stop, and air and Heliair mixes as travel gases (the team confirmed that there was an unexplored tunnel which has so far been explored to a depth of 123 metres; the survey of the two large tunnels and the main chamber is still proceeding). And in 2005 Chris received the “*Outstanding Recognition Award*” at OZTek 4 for “Outstanding contribution & commitment in cave diving exploration in The Shaft and the Nullarbor Plains.”

Chris remains active to this day (although like many of us, signs of wear and tear are beginning to show!), and as well as his many other achievements and contributions to Australian cave diving, he has very much enjoyed serving as a “Guide” for both The Shaft and Tank Cave over a period of many, many years. And his motto over the years – which was usually the last statement on all of his correspondence when working on CDAA committees or as a Director – was “remember Rule #1 ... we are only here to have fun!”

Peter Horne
CDAA Historical Advisor

PENETRATION COURSE NOTES...

Thinking of presenting as a candidate on a Penetration Program?

Well maybe you should read this carefully. Penetration Examiners are put under a lot of pressure themselves, this could be called stress. Think about the responsibility they have towards you, themselves and the Association. Dealing with people is not everyone's cup of tea, but we hope at this level all Examiners have an experience level that enables them to handle the mysteries of human frailties. We often have to examine friends, maybe even people they don't like, past students, customers and complete strangers. All must be treated the same way, fairly and impartially. Imagine yourself coping with tantrums, tears and downright anger, and then consider that the Examiner really doesn't need this loaded on their shoulders. The Examiner is paid to do a job by the Association and carries the responsibility of your safety and your buddies whether now or in the future. I recall a great statement on the NAUI application form that said something like “*I hereby certify this person is qualified to blah blah and would allow them to dive with my loved one!*” This makes you ponder, when in doubt, Examiners sometimes give a long hard think about the decision they are about to make, as it concerns the diving future of a candidate and the safety of them and anyone they dive with. Decisions are not made lightly and never alone, as consultation with other Examiners or Assistants will take place.

Candidates being human are inclined to always blame someone or something; it is rarely their fault that a mistake is made. There are exceptions to this rule and it's enlightening to have a candidate speak up and say they “stuffed up” or they simply can't do the exercise required. Most though immediately go on the defensive and start the blame game, often it is simply the Examiners fault as “they” are so good and have such and such qualifications. Interestingly enough candidates often quote their experience level, which has usually been gained through the same Instructor and mention “all” the years of diving they have done. Maybe it's a case where a diver has been “doing it” for 10 years and been taught by the same Instructor or only dived with the same team, that they really have 1 year's experience, 10 times! Maybe it's time to look in the mirror and face the facts, that they actually don't have what is needed.

So, do you want to be successful on your Penetration Program? First don't turn up expecting to be trained or shown how to deploy your long hose and share gas. This is basic stuff you should have learnt from day 1. Trying new gear, like sidemounts, or changing to a manifold, when you use independent systems, is not a wise move? What about the biggest clanger we see, that's a candidate over weighting themselves so they can remove their equipment through a restriction. Then their buoyancy is out of whack yet they give this excuse. Are you really being serious in expecting an Examiner to make any allowance for you as you are over weighted just to pass a test but it makes you fail another, like buoyancy control? The students who present themselves with faulty regulators, light issues and poor fitting gear amaze me. A number of candidates present with no idea how

to use a jump reel, or spool, how can this be? Some put down on their applications wide experience in overseas sites yet demonstrate an unacceptable level of management. Did they just follow and not participate in the dive, didn't they use line arrows or personal markers, well it would seem no is the answer. If you can't hold a horizontal body position and have to kneel on the bottom to attach your reel etc then don't bother presenting. If you can't buddy breathe without the other person looking after you, then don't bother presenting. If you can't work with anyone we put you with and work out what is safe and what is not, don't bother presenting. If you think that thrashing your legs around and stirring up the silt is a way of impressing the Examiners you are sadly mistaken.

The Penetration Program is not designed to teach you to cave dive we expect that you can already do that or you wouldn't be on the program. Now we understand that there are skills and knowledge you don't have and we use the first two training dives to get you sorted out. After the two dives though you are in the firing line and a number of things can happen. You can fail! That's right you can fail the theory exam, the hand signals section, the Assessment dive and the Stress Test or be put on Probation for a number of reasons one of them being attitude. Then we come to the Site Dives there are three of these and each is designed to test your ability and cover planning, skills, buddy system, gas management, time management and overall control. During these dives a student can still be put on Probation and will be under very close scrutiny.

As the saying goes “On the day...” and this will sometimes see people slip through that maybe on another day would not pass and then again others who would be expected to pass, fail. Life is not always fair but Examiners are given a responsibility and the way our system works currently, every time a candidate fails during the program, some money from the fees is quarantined for the next Examiner. Therefore it is not in the financial interests of Examiners to fail you, yet they do! Professionalism of examiners hopefully puts them above the financial considerations and from the amount of unsuccessful candidates I would say the system is working.

The CDAA's plan for a new Program was to be finished by the Easter Program as it has now been tried on three programs. The final steps are in progress and feedback from Examiners who have used the new outline, and students who have participated has been collated and if necessary, changes made. The new Cave Course will include gas management; jump reel and spool use, line arrow and personal marker use and other sections from the Penetration Program. Eventually this will mean the Penetration Programs theory will be less giving more time to go into other areas.

Regards, Warrick McDonald
CDAA National Director
CDAA Penetration (Advanced Cave) Examiner

The Isolation Manifold

Introduction

This article is an explanation of the isolation manifold diving system. I aim to introduce the uninitiated to the concepts involved and provide information so that current users may become more familiar with their chosen system. If you dive with a manifold or if you dive with a person that utilises one, you should have a thorough understanding of the mechanical workings. If a diver does not fully understand the complexities incidents are far more likely to occur.

History

In the early 1970's Canadian, George Benjamin saw the need to make a simpler system to assist him with his deep diving endeavours amongst the blue holes in the Bahamas. Utilising a machining shop he and Ike Ikehara produced a manifold block, which enabled both tanks to be connected together and gas to be breathed from two posts. This became known as the 'Benjamin crossover manifold' and marketed commercially in the United States as an isolation manifold. There are now two common types, the barrel O-ring and the captured O-ring. Captured O-rings are fundamentally less secure. Any twisting of the tanks potentially can break the face seal causing a loss of gas. Barrel o-ring manifolds utilise a male fitting containing 2 barrel o-rings which fit into a female fitting tank valve, which is far more secure.

Mechanics

Whilst utilising a manifold any leak or failure of a regulator can be addressed simply by shutting down that offending valve. Gas from that tank can still be breathed via the second regulator on the other post. Therefore any one failure is less serious as a diver still has access to the entire gas carried. In the unlikely even that a tank neck o-ring or burst disk ruptures the isolator valve can be closed saving one half of the divers gas. Ideally a diver should continue breathing gas from the leaking tank until it is drained. If directly facing an individual valve on a manifold, they each turn off clockwise. That is, turn to the right to close. This quickly identifies the obvious issue as the left post, which can roll shut during the motion of swimming forward (by rolling to it's right). This is less than ideal and users of a manifold system should be very familiar with this hindrance. To achieve a closed valve it requires approximately 4 full turns of the knob. This problem can be created on a left post by

rubbing or rolling the valve against the roof and travelling forwards. Similarly divers should be aware that the right post can roll shut if you were to travel backwards and rub the valve against the roof.

The initial action drill/response to this dilemma is for a diver each time they feel their valves touch anything, they conduct a valve check to ensure each valve is open. This is now taught within the CDA training system. It requires the diver to check each valve of the manifold starting from the right valve to the isolator and finally to the left valve ensuring each is "on." This simple drill conducted regularly, will almost certainly ensure that a closed manifold never becomes a problem. If a diver during a dive discovers a closed left post inevitably he/she has not bothered to check their valves regularly during the dive.

Manifold Management (preventative)

- Valve check - right post/isolator/left post (right to left) at commencement of the dive,
- Valve check right to left if you touch any part of the cave,
- Valve check right to left at gas turn point in the dive,
- Valve check any time you are uncertain of their current status.

Configuration

Having identified the weakness of an isolation manifold as the left post rolling shut, a diver should consider what hose is the most important in his system. Without a doubt, it is the hose you are primarily breathing, enabling you to survive the underwater environment. To this end it makes sense that this hose be placed on your right post where it cannot roll off. The second most important hose in the system is your primary buoyancy inflation hose. This also is placed on your right post as you do not want to have either breathing or buoyancy issues at a critical moment. Now, logically to keep systems redundant, your back up regulator should run from your alternate first stage on the left post and your redundant inflation system (your drysuit)



Photo by David Rhea.
Casey McKinlay RB80 dive, China 2009

should be connected to the left post as well. This enables a diver during a failure of either post to have an air supply and a buoyancy system to exit the cave safely. In my opinion there can be no argument to this sound logic.

The remaining hose attached to a manifold system is a high pressure SPG. Being manifolded together we require only one SPG. Unlike independent systems, which must keep track of both tanks, a manifold enables one gauge to read both cylinders pressure at one time. If the SPG fails the dive is turned. If you are diving within your gas rules there is no necessity to know your exact pressure during an emergency exit. You must have been within 1/3rds and are now on your way out. Your buddy's pressure gauge can also act as a reference. Divers should also be aware of their buddies breathing capacity as a reference to their own.

We place our SPG on the left post for two reasons. Firstly, if the left post rolls closed the SPG is an indicator to a diver of this fact. The pressure gauge will read either very full or very empty. Very full because you are recording only the line pressure in the left post 1st stage, which has not changed since the commencement of the dive or very empty as you utilise the air in the hose to inflate your drysuit or the back-up regulator purges. This pressure in the line may therefore drop to empty very rapidly but will not be consistent with your depth and time for your dive. Secondly it keeps the right post clear and enables a similar routing of the 2m long hose without the complexities of having a clipped off SPG to manage during hose donation.

Strengths

Manifolded cylinders are undoubtedly the easiest to streamline as far as hose configuration is concerned. They require one less hose which is effectively one less possible failure point in a system. They are simpler to monitor and control your gas usage due to the non-requirement to swap regulators. Gas management and calculations are simpler and enable a diver to utilise the 1/2 plus 15 bar rule in utilising multiple stage bottles. The lack of all these complications

make the manifold ideal for deep diving where mental calculations are more prohibitive.

If a failure is to occur statistically manifold systems are more likely to enable a diver to exit whilst still accessing all available gas. Any single failure in an independent system renders the offending cylinder totally unusable. Independent divers can then only exit on the gas in their working cylinder.

Weaknesses

Just to rattle some of the manifold advocates, you must be aware that there is actually a possibility of a total gas loss. In the circumstance where your isolator valve knob were to shatter and a leak to commence from the isolation valve itself or from barrel O-rings of the manifold T-piece you risk total gas loss as you could not close the valve due to the shattered knob. This is a single point failure and most dangerous. In an effort to reduce this likelihood rubber knobs are recommended as they are less likely to shatter rendering the valve useless and unable to be manipulated. Isolation T-pieces are also not locked off, enabling them to rotate slightly and have some give in the knob if smashed hard against the cave.

Another negative issue is the potential to breathe a dangerous gas due to an incorrect filling process. If a dive shop were to undertake to give you a Nitrox 32 fill and after putting the oxygen into your cylinders, decide to close your isolator just in case the gas leaked over night. The gas mixer returns the next day and with the isolator closed air tops from the left post you would leave the shop with 35 bar of oxygen in your right tank and 230 bar of Nitrox 32 in your left cylinder. Your SPG would show 230 bar analyse correct from the left post and appear OK. If however you were to breathe from your long hose (right post) you would be breathing pure oxygen risking oxygen toxicity poisoning or death.

Due to this potential issue, always check your valves are open prior to filling, diving and analysis and habitually analyse and fill your cylinders from your right post.

Problem Solving

Lack of understanding of the mechanics of a manifold leads to ineffective problem solving of what certain information indicates.

For example: You are ten minutes into a dive at a depth of a constant 10 metres. Your starting pressure was 240 bar :- Your SPG now reads 40 bar - this indicates immediately your left post is closed and you have diminished the line pressure.

Your SPG reads 240 bar – this indicates immediately your isolator is closed as you are breathing gas only from the right tank.

Both these problems quickly identified are easily remedied. Stop think and act. Then communicate to your buddy. Have them confirm that the issue is corrected, continue or call the dive. To this end I find it imperative that the divers I dive with have the same understanding of my system as I do. They can act in a pre-determined sequence to efficiently and quickly fix an issue before it compounds. This standardisation, I suggest should be adopted by all divers whatever their personnel diving configuration.

Managing a real failure

If during a dive, a regulator, valve or hose fails, a diver should immediately try to identify which post is the cause of the issue and close the connecting valve. The diver must be instinctively aware as to what closing the valve will effect within his diving system. For instance, if you identify it as the right post failure you must understand closing it will shut of the regulator in your mouth and you will not have gas, nor will you have BC buoyancy. You must shut the valve and swap regulators in this scenario.

Once the offending valve is closed attempt to fix the problem, communicate with your buddy and either continue or call the dive. If you can not immediately identify the problem yourself and having shut down the valve you thought was defective, you should then isolate the isolator immediately maintaining at least half of your gas supply. Then

communicate with your buddy. Your buddy is in a far better position to assess the situation and identify the problem. He can visually rather than tactily address the problem.

This now highlights why a dive buddy should be familiar with your configuration, ideally the same as his. A buddy needs to first see what hose you are breathing and check what valves are on and what are closed. This moment may be critical as if he/she does not understand your hose setup, things are going to get 'mind focusing' fast, when he/she then shuts off your remaining post! The buddy can address your problem determine whether it is fixable then and there, or not, take required remedial action and then either call the dive or indicate he has fixed the issue. The diver should then verify what has been done to his system by checking his valves right to left noting if any are not operational. Being able to instinctively identify what the closure of each valve means to your system is crucial at this point.

Conclusion

It is essential all divers are instinctively aware of how a manifold system works mechanically and what is affected by closing any valve. Both divers should be wholly aware of exactly what state the damaged divers valves and therefore what equipment functionality is all times.

Practise valves drills. Become comfortable shutting down all valves in a controlled sequence and learn what the closure of each valve will affect.

Lastly, I have commonly seen independent cylinders configured with a manifold system left post on their left cylinder. Users need to understand; although this is both more aesthetic and easily manipulated you are in effect getting the absolute worst of both worlds. You now have system that has the weakness of the manifold system – left valve roll off, but do not have a manifold's benefit of being able to access that gas.

Steve Trewavas

Cave Divers Association of Australia

Report On Opinion Poll

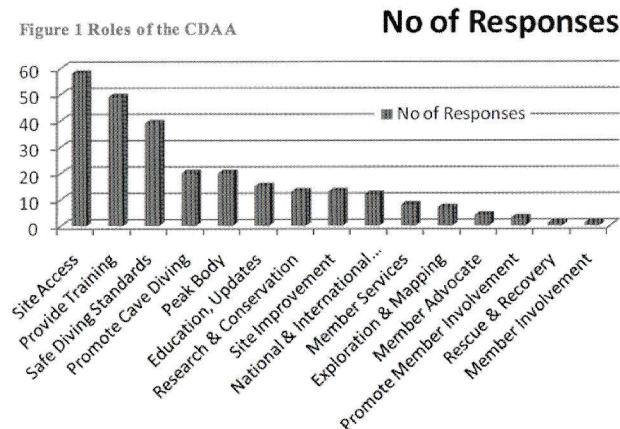
In order to put forward a Business Plan and to achieve a united goal and future direction for the CDAA all members were invited to take part in an online opinion poll. The invitation was extended to all members via the web page, Guidelines and the member email list. Reminders were sent out up until the closing date of the poll (31/01/09) via the email list.

85 members accepted the invitation and responded to the poll. This represented 12% of the current membership of 735. A response of greater than 10% is regarded as statistically significant and is likely to represent a cross section of views of members. Thus, although by no means was this the majority of members, it was still deemed a significant and pleasing response.

Q1. What do you believe the role of the CDAA is or should be?

82 responses were recorded to this question. Respondents generally listed a number of areas in their response which they believed to be the role of the Association. These responses are represented in the graph below. It is quite clear from the responses that members feel that the roles of the Association are primarily site access/improvements, training and safe diving standards. Also significant were promotion of cave diving, being a peak body, education and updates, research and conservation, national and international liaison, member services and exploration and mapping. Other minor suggested roles were member advocate, rescue organisation and promoting member involvement.

Figure 1 Roles of the CDAA



Q2. Do you see the CDAA as a national organisation? Would you change that and how?

81 responses were recorded to this question. 52 respondents believed that the CDAA is a national organisation and of these, 15 felt there was no need to change. 26 respondents felt that the CDAA struggled to be a national organisation but only one of these suggested that it had no chance to be. The rest all offered reasons why the CDAA struggled with its national identity and offered a number of suggestions of how this could be achieved.

Several themes seemed to emerge; the strongest being that of geographical alienation of members located outside of Vic/SA. Other themes identified were the need to align with other agencies and likeminded organisations and the need for transparency and accountability of the National Committee. The most popular suggested solution was to put time and money into other states by

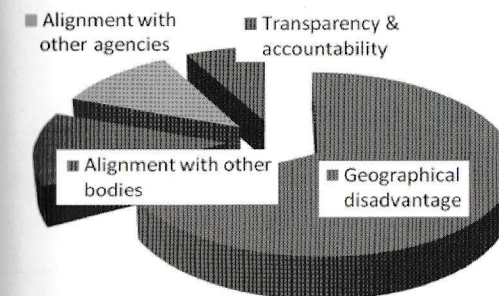


Figure 3 Themes why CDAA is not a national body

increasing interstate and overseas sites, encouraging exploration, fostering relations with other agencies/likeminded bodies and supporting interstate functions/workshops/trips. A variety of one-off suggestions were also made. These included podcasting educational presentations, combining full time penetration programs in the same week as the AGM and allowing Penetration program resits the next day for remote members, advertising, better communication via a forum, decreasing fees for remote members and greater reporting between members and the National Committee with fixed term Director positions to allow turnover.

INDEXING GUIDELINES...

PETER BUZZACOTT tells us he and five other CDAA members are indexing guidelines now - it's taking about an hour per issue, and Peter also spends 30 additional minutes checking it and e-mailing thanks and stuff. He says it will take about 200 hours all-up.

When they're done Peter will give it to us to print in Guidelines as a possible lift out. Tony can also make it available for all members to use from the website.

Peter asks YOU, if you have Windows, you too can pitch-in, just e-mail him at reefdiving@eftel.com.au and he'll send you a blank Excel template and an issue number. Your help is much appreciated. Cheers, Peter Buzzacott.

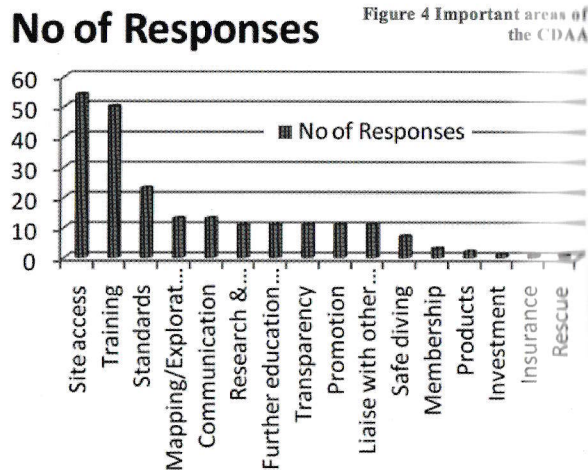
Q3. What areas of the CDAA do you see as important? How would you prioritise them and promote them?

79 responses were recorded to this question. The answers to this question closely reflected those to the first question. Again respondents generally listed a number of areas in their response which they believed were the important areas of the Association. The responses are represented on the following graph. Site access, training and standards were the most important areas of the CDAA according to the majority of responses. Also significant were research and conservation, mapping, exploration and new techniques, continuing education and functions, and promotion through publications and magazines. Some extra areas mentioned by few respondents included products, investments, insurance and rescue. Some responses related to promoting the areas of the CDAA seen as important. The most significant response in this area was through the website, emails, forums etc. Other suggestions included representation overseas and to government bodies, liaising with likeminded bodies and other agencies, through membership and instructors.

A theme that also emerged in the answers to this question was the need for transparency and accountability. Suggestions were to fix the Constitution, improve the credibility of the executive, inform the members and be the member advocate.

Q4. What areas of cave diving do you see as important? How would you like to see them promoted?

77 responses were recorded to this question. Respondents seemed to be confused by this question and most responses were similar to those relating to the previous question. There was more emphasis on education and information sharing, conservation & exploration and mapping & research in response to this question. Safety, training and access again featured prominently. New equipment and new technologies was mentioned in several responses. Interestingly five respondents felt that cave diving should not be promoted. Six felt that the best promotion was through having fun. Other singular suggestions were transparency and reporting, more respectful membership, overseas and local promotion through local government, website, membership crossover, through ties to caving, succession planning, awards, dive events and the importance of entry level was mentioned.



Q5. The CDAA has over \$300,000 in the bank? How would you like to see the excess funds invested and why?

83 responses were recorded to this question. 11 respondents thought the excess funds should be invested. 10 respondents felt that this was too much money to have accumulated and that the funds needed to be spent. Of the respondents who felt the money should be spent several themes were identified. 58 felt the funds should be spent on site purchase or improvements. 17 felt the funds should be returned to the members directly through lower fees, subsidised merchandise or free air. 30 felt that they should be returned to the members through services such as seminars, a club house, a dive lodge, a support officer or through the purchase of equipment for use/hire of the members. Other significant suggestions were improving training material, grants for research/mapping/exploring, community sponsorship, record storage, promotion or remunerating office bearers or guides.

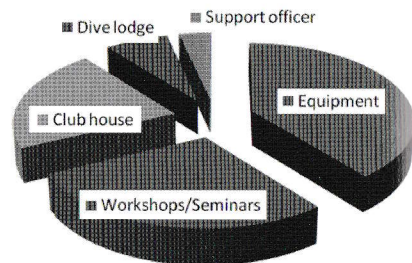


Figure 7 Member services that funds should be invested in

Q6. Do you support the idea of investigating a capital purchase and how do you see this benefiting the CDAA?

85 responses were recorded to this question. 28% did not support a capital purchase and 72% did. The vast majority supported the

purchase of a dive site. Few supported an investment property, a club house or equipment. Some cautioned that the plan would need to be clearly defined. Of those that did not support a capital purchase, concerns were voiced regarding liability, insurance, security and that it would be a drain on funds and volunteer time.

Q7. Is there another area not already covered that you would like to see included in the Business Plan?

55 responses were recorded to this question. Of these 17 had nothing further to add. A significant number of members felt the development of the Business Plan was imperative. Other suggestions made included the theme of transparency via such things as electronic voting, electronic archiving of records, publishing the results of the poll, code of conduct and fixing the Constitution. Some suggested engaging more members through subcommittees and helping the Association open new sites. Others echoed themes which emerged in previous questions such as member services (insurance for members, conferences, continued education and forming relationships with business for securing member discounts), extending relationships with other training agencies and likeminded bodies, too much money in the bank and bringing the CDAA to the fore front of technical diving. One member suggested that training needed to be separated from standards, assessment and access.

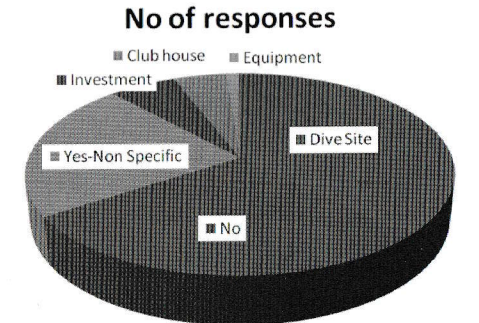
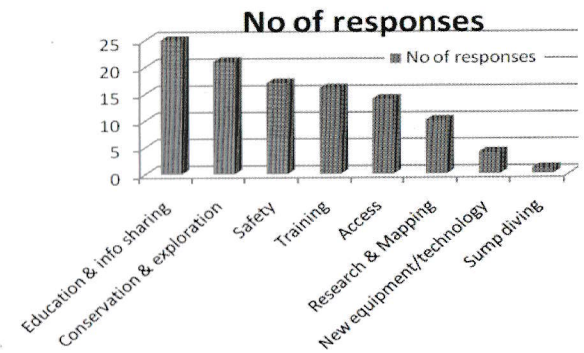


Figure 8 Should a capital purchase be investigated

Conclusion

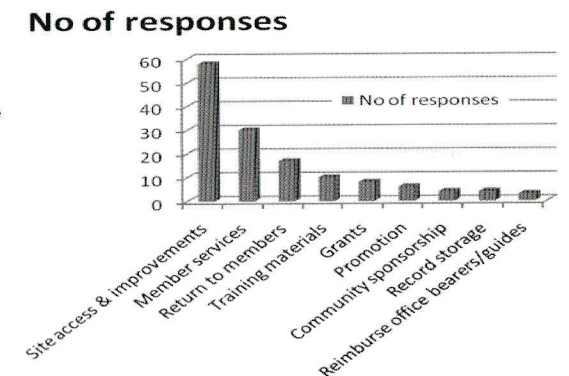
The results of the online survey clearly support the aims and objectives of the CDAA.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aims and objectives of the Association are to foster the development, advancement, promotion, mapping, education, exploration, conservation, safety and research of underwater caves and related features. In addition the

Association will:

- seek Government support and assistance for the attainment of the Association's aims and
- accept subscriptions, donations, devices and bequests to enable the furtherance of the Association's aims and objectives.
- acquire, dispose of or otherwise deal with any real or personal property that may be considered necessary or convenient by the National Committee.
- liaise with landowners, land managers and other interested parties to promote understanding and cooperation with the Association's aims and objectives.
- promote and engage in other such activities and provide such other facilities as are consistent with and which will enhance the Association's aims and objectives.
- ensure adequate training and safety of all members and visitors.
- recognition of current and past members via the establishment of a "Hall of Fame".



The areas of most importance to the members that emerged in most of the questions were site access, training, standards and safety. The CDAA's finance raised a lot of concern and thoughts. Members felt that the excess funds needed to be spent for the members in the areas of site purchase or improvements and/or member services. The theme of geographic disadvantage emerged as an area of concern as did the theme of alignment and the fostering of relationships with other likeminded bodies and other agencies.

Recommendations

As the next step towards achieving a Business Plan and Strategic Plan for the Association information needs to be gathered and proposals made to address the areas of interest and concern of the members. To achieve this end, subcommittees need to be formed. I recommend the formation of five subcommittees.

1. Constitution Subcommittee
2. Finance Subcommittee
3. Geographic Concerns Subcommittee
4. Alignment Subcommittee
5. Site Subcommittee

It is recommended that the National Committee draw up the terms of reference for these subcommittees and establish deadlines for proposals. Each subcommittee will have National Committee representation and will report back to the National Committee. The National Committee will then present the proposals to the membership for acceptance and the basis for the Business Plan and Strategic Plan will be formed.

Helen Higgins, Business Director.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MARCH 2009.

Hi All

I would like to begin by thanking all of you who have welcomed me back to this position, and I would like to thank Gary for his support also. I would also like to welcome Bruce Bulled as Shaft Access coordinator, and thank Linda for her tireless work as Shaft Access Coordinator.

As I am settling into this position again, I would like to make you all aware that I will be setting up a subcommittee for site improvements and suggestions. Should any of you be interested, please contact me either by phone, or preferably, email.

From the beginning of April Kilsby's will have weekly access. Any further info, please see the website or contact the coordinator – Craig Larkin.

Hopefully there'll be more good news to report in the next issue!

Remember access is a privilege, not a right.

Safe Diving
Rob Brennan

'Standards Direction'



I hope everyone has enjoyed their Christmas break and Santa gifted them with an exotic diving adventure. Now though, I'd like to welcome you all back into the swing of the working year. I am currently planning for this year's AGM and any ideas or opinions are welcome. Please feel free to call or email any suggestions you may have. This year we plan to initiate several awards for photographs and video submitted to the online site. I would encourage all budding photographers and videographers to submit their photographs and upload their video during the year. These will be voted on via online poll and the winners announced on the day of the AGM. Additionally we are proud to announce the inaugural CDAA Diver of the Year award. This will be announced online further in the near future. This award will seek to acknowledge an individual's contribution to the sport of cave diving each year. It will be open to all financial CDAA members and will not just be about exploration or article writing but more about selfless contribution to the sport.

A new instructor process has been instigated. All potential CDAA instructors must now complete an Instructor Development Course. This will be run upon application but predominantly will be held on the Sunday of the AGM. This will enable us to assess candidates and ensure the consistency of our standard of courses. Those interested please contact me via email.

There have been a number of changes to our courses and standards at the end of 2008. Please make yourself aware of them by reading the latest regulations and course standards which are available online via the website. The most immediate change to courses is that all courses are now to be taught with one hose being a minimum of 2 metres in length. Also, three checks prior to a cave dive now include; a valve check/bubble check and ensuring your long hose is not trapped by freeing the length and displaying it for your buddy to see. Those progressing through the advanced courses should have a good understanding of these newly introduced requirements.

The penetration course has now also been revamped with new materials, videos and techniques. The first complete course under this new system will be run during this coming Easter. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Warrick McDonald, Terri Allen, Jane Bowman, Ian Taylor and Andy Higgins with the instigation of this. The new stress test no longer includes the reeling out of the primary reel. Although definitely increasing stress, this is not a realistic skill that we wish to train a diver to engage in. If an incident occurs a reel should be locked and left in position. Repeatedly under training conditions, we find students who revert to this trained subconscious act and remove the reel whilst suffering a catastrophic failure.

On another note please make sure you spend the time diving and gaining experience prior to enrolling in the penetration program. This course is difficult and advanced. Originally it was intended as a course that only cave explorers heading to the Nullarbor would participate in. This outline has somewhat changed over the years but the complexity and skill level required remains high. If you are not properly prepared students will struggle. The most recent course of 6 participants only resulted in 2 completing. Can I suggest candidates dive with penetration rated divers and ask their honest opinion on their own abilities. Make sure your buoyancy and trim is excellent prior to inquiring further

into the course this will enable skills to be learnt more readily. The number of dives stipulated is a bare minimum requirement prior to enrolment, which I feel is mis-understood. For example; can I humbly submit that I had done over 200 sinkholes/caves and been to the Nullarbor before I progressed to penetration level. I'm not suggesting this is a requirement just a consideration.

Ian Taylor, Andy and Helen Higgins and I attended the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) conference in Victoria in January, of which the CDAA was a major sponsor. Andy and I both presented on behalf of the CDAA. I was pleased to note the spirit of co-operation between our dry-caving cousins and the CDAA. Helen Higgins was largely responsible for our initial attendance and her sales efforts on our behalf were notable. She should be commended on a well organised event.

We have removed the controversial Nitrox, Trimix and Rebreather endorsement fees. We now have a one off card replacement fee of \$10. If for any reason you lose your card or you require an endorsement placed on the card you will be charged \$10 for handling and replacement. You will be required to carry your technical agency certification with you whilst diving and must lodge a copy with the records officer. Lodgement is a requirement to dive these gases and devices in our sites and there is no fee to do this unless you do it mid-year and require a card replacement. Additionally please make sure that you hold a rating for the Rebreather or gas you are currently diving. There has been some noise made of the fact that divers are now diving newer units that they have not received their training on or divers are diving gases they were not trained to use.

I am in the process of assessing the possibility of creating a rope access course for the CDAA. I envisage this will be taught under our insurance policy and a number of instructors will be ultimately appointed. There will be no requirement that you are a diving instructor, in fact the opposite may be preferred. If you think you have the necessary ability and time to become a CDAA rope access instructor please contact me. If you wish to be involved in the development of the course I would also like to hear from you.

We have had one investigated complaint during the last 3 months. This process went all the way to appeal and review by the CDAA Public Officer. Two instructors ultimately received a 50 day suspension due to breaches of training course standards. This resulted in their resignation as office bearers of the CDAA. Both instructors are now currently active again and instructor workshops to address perceived misunderstandings have been initiated by myself.

Lastly can I encourage you all to be supportive of this year's Oztec. The CDAA is well represented with materials and a stand. We also have a number of members speaking including Agnes Milowka, Warrick McDonald, Andrew Cronan, Richard Harris, Andrew Fock, Craig Challen, Richard Taylor, Mark Ryan and myself. Hope to see many of you there for what appears to be the best line up of speakers I have seen in this country.

Dive safe and Kind Regards, Steve Trewavas

NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

MARCH 2009

I have been so busy with CDAA matters that the three months since my last report seem to have slipped by without me noticing them. This report will cover some of the people who are often behind the scenes and rarely get the recognition they deserve. Some don't come under my Directorate but I still work with them.

Steve Trewavas has been on the job asking questions, suggesting changes and putting forward suggestions faster than I can respond. The members will have noticed the many changes on the web site with more to come. The Standards Directorate is in good hands and a list of items are waiting to be actioned. I believe that Steve has brought some great ideas into this office and his contribution to the running of the Association has been exemplary. Having been involved in many investigations, some which have become known to members and others that have only required advice or guidance to the parties concerned, has shown that Steve has what it takes to be a leader and he doesn't shirk his responsibility to the members.

Thanks must go to Jason Caldwell who is really putting in 100% for the CDAA. Jason has those skills that make him invaluable. Asking for an idea, a poster, design or input into any number of things gets results, and fast. Many changes have been made in his position as Records Officer. This job is not easy and often because members have not done the right thing, Jason is on the receiving end of their frustration. On line member fees etc should make it easier for everyone.

Noel Dillon is the kind of bloke that gives you an answer. Sometimes you may not like the reply but he will tell you anyway. As Tank cave Access Officer, Noel deals daily with members, with the changes to fees his job should start getting really busy. Sorting out currency of members in regards to booking can cause a lot of headaches but Noel seems to work his way through it and refers the hard ones to me. When Noel goes to bat for a member I need to make sure of my facts because he's like a bulldog and won't let go until he gets a reply.

Recently I have been working with Ian Taylor on Course materials and getting his input on a number of things usually to do with training. The Power Point Presentation slides Ian has done have been excellent and getting a different slant on things is always healthy.

Peter Horne as the new CDAA History Officer has already started on some projects and these include a Honour Roll of Office Bearers. I am presenting some of this work at Oz Tek this year. It has taken me many hours to put the information in behind the names and times and once I'm finished I'll be handing it over to Peter for more input. This document can then go on our web site as we sure don't have anywhere else to put it. Peter has been working on some member profiles for Terri Allen so they can go into Guidelines and we should start to see

the results of this in each issue.

Andrew Higgins has been very helpful with teaching issues. The contribution that Andrew has made with the Deep Cavern Course and the Penetration Program cannot be praised enough. Andrews open mind has allowed us to look beyond the old ways and compare the values of other training available, and compare the results with ours. This has resulted in a different approach to teaching methods.

The Penetration Program Course notes, Power Point Presentation, Instructor Notes and Standards and Procedures have been finished. The planned completion date was to be Easter so that Easter Program students could receive the new material. Penetration Examiners will be updated at a workshop to be announced.

I have now started on the Cave Course Program and will be receiving feedback from Jane Bowman who is testing the theory component changes for me. Once this feedback is incorporated I'll be sending out the new draft for discussion. Much of the theory in the Penetration Program has been moved back to the Cave Course as it was felt that teaching Pen candidates about tanks and tank valves, BCD's etc was a waste of time as by that stage in their diving life they should already know about equipment. Gas Management, shutdown drills etc have also been put back to the Cave Course although will remain in the Pen Program until a timeline has been reached where candidates will have done the exercise in their Cave Course. Some overlap in the Deep Cavern Course, Cave and Penetration Program will exist for many years until we can be sure that everyone has been given the knowledge and skills.

As National Director it is my duty to bring to the members attention the procedures when the Directorate receives a written allegation against a member. First that allegation is looked at by the Directorate to see if it warrants further action, sometimes it can be a simple misunderstanding or an opinion/point of view and may not warrant further consideration other than advising the parties concerned. The allegation is then looked at in regards to the Constitution and in the case of an Instructor or Director different action may follow other than that for a member as described in the Constitution. The allegation is then referred to an Investigations Officer/s who will be appointed by the Directorate. In the last few cases the Directorate, because of fairness and wanting to be transparent have taken a stance that they would accept the findings of the investigation and follow the recommendations given (this would be overridden should those findings or recommendations contravene the Constitution of course) and in all of the cases we have followed this approach. Accusations of bias and other claims are fairy tales as the Directors have followed the findings and have not inflicted any action themselves on the guilty parties. When a member disputes the findings, therefore the recommended punishment, if found guilty, they have a right of appeal, which is covered in the Constitution. This

Constitution was written back in 1998 and although none of the current Directors wrote it, we are bound by it, the same as every member. Approaching the Investigations Officer/s after the fact or the Public Officer is not following the Constitution and could be considered harassment. Volunteers do not deserve to be put under this scrutiny when there are set procedures to voice grievances.

The good news about the abolishment of the \$10.00 Kilsby fee was put on the email list and will take effect with this year's renewals.

Tank cave divers can breathe a sigh of relief because the \$150.00 access fee has been abolished as well. Access in the future will cost \$50.00 per weekend (any weekend) this should keep costs down. As we all know with fuel prices these days it's not just a quick trip for a dive, it's an investment!

Hope to see you at OzTek.

Regards, Warrick McDonald., CDAA National Director

PS, Congratulations to Rob Brennan, the new Site Director and Bruce Bulled, the new Shaft Access Officer.

Thanks to Linda Claridge and Gary Barclay for serving in these positions previously.



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Down To BUSINESS

What a busy and exciting quarter this has been for Business. First of all I'd like to thank all the members who took the time to express their feelings and thoughts in the Online Opinion Poll. As I had previously said, the Opinion Poll was the tool that I could use to make sure that in preparing a Business Plan and a Strategic Plan for the CDAA that the members are heard and their opinions taken into consideration. Every member was given the opportunity to respond. 85 members took up the invitation. I have included my report on the Opinion Poll in this issue of Guidelines and you will also find it published on the web site. Please take the time to read the report as I will not repeat the information here.

The next step in forming the Business and Strategic Plan of the Association is to gather information which will help to address the concerns and areas of importance as drawn from the members' responses. This will be done via five Subcommittees; the Finance Subcommittee, the Constitution Subcommittee, the Geographical Concerns Subcommittee, the Alignment Subcommittee and the Site Subcommittee. The Terms of Reference for these Subcommittees have also been published in this issue of Guidelines so again I won't repeat them here.

It is important to understand that the purpose of these Subcommittees with the exception of the Constitution Subcommittee is to gather information, strategise and make suggestions with the intention of contributing to the future direction of the CDAA. These will be presented for discussion and approval and then the outcomes will be used to write the Business and Strategic Plan. The intent of this project is to be clear, transparent and to engage the members at different levels so that the final decisions are a rep-

resentation of the majority of members' views.

The role of the Constitution Subcommittee is a very important one as these are the rules that legally bind the Association. In the past years many difficulties have been seen in implementing the Constitution from ambiguities, to inconsistencies to matters of interpretation. Attempts have been made to make changes to the Constitution and these have not always been successful. It is my belief that the process for changing the Constitution needs to be made very clear (see section on **Amending the Constitution**). The document as a whole then needs to be reviewed with a Subcommittee dedicated to working through the areas of concern and proposing changes. Once approved by all on the Subcommittee and by the Directorate they can be presented to the members as a widely supported document which can then be voted on.

In the past two months I have put in enormous hours to get these plans to this stage and to report this information to you. I now need your help! This job cannot be completed by one person or by five and nor should it be. It's now up to YOU the members to volunteer your services and have input on the five Subcommittees. The call for volunteers closes on the 1/04/09 for each of the Subcommittees. I ask you to read the Terms of Reference carefully and to contact me with any questions and to express your interest to volunteer ASAP. We have a lot to do and I look forward to a huge response.

Regards, Helen Higgins



Amending the Constitution

The CDAA Constitution has a procedure described in clause 36 of how to change the Constitution. There are two ways that this can be achieved.

1. By holding a Special General Meeting. This can be called whenever necessary as deemed by the Directorate or by the Public Officer. Also when there has been a written request by 10% of eligible members who must all sign the written request. This request needs to be sent to the Public Officer stating the purpose of the meeting. This is the only business to be transacted at the meeting. This meeting is then held within 60 days of the Public Officer receiving this notice. The Directorate then chose a time and location that best serves the majority of members and 30 days written notice is provided by the Business Director to all eligible members of the date, time, location and agenda of the meeting. A quorum of 20% of all eligible members must be achieved in order to transact any business and this must be achieved within half an hour.

2. By postal ballot with the results announced at the AGM. The change must be proposed and seconded in writing to the Business Director 45 days prior to the AGM. The Business Director must notify all members in writing of the proposals with at least 30 days notice before the AGM. No voting or Constitutional changes will be accepted from the floor. The Business Director then gives written notice to all members of any changes within 30 days and the changes come into effect after 7 days from this notice.

Unfortunately there is no clear indication as to numbers required to vote in option 2 above, in order to change the Constitution. This is not a safe and healthy position as Constitutions should not be too easy to change and need protection from poorly thought out or minority pushes. On the other hand the procedure should be clear and achievable.

I have done a lot of investigation. The Associations Incorporation Act of SA does not cover this and I can find no evidence of legal advice having been received by the CDAA. The figure of 20% is fairly widely used and I am happy that this is a fair and reasonable figure. I propose that we have a Special Resolution Meeting preceding the next AGM at which time a vote can be taken from the floor to have this figure written into our Constitution. A vote of 75% in favour of those present will be required to pass the motion. This procedure is described in the Associations Act and I have also received advice on this from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs. A Special Resolution Meeting can be used by Associations when a procedure is not covered in their Constitution as this is the case with our Constitution when it comes to numbers required. This will then pave the way for a non ambiguous means of changing the Constitution in the future.

I welcome any discussion on this matter and will include more information in following editions of Guidelines as the AGM approaches.

Regards, Helen Higgins.

APOLOGY...

"I would like to clarify that the opinions expressed in the recent article on diving in Scapa Flow are purely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the CDAA. The article was written in a light-hearted manner and no offence was intended to the reader." Mark Jobbins.

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Terms of Reference for Subcommittees

Finance Subcommittee

Background:

The CDAA has a healthy reserve of members funds. As at 1 March 2009, this amount consists of:

- \$300 819.04 in the Common Fund A1 and

- \$14 450.08 in the Business Cheque account

In recent times there have been a number of suggestions as to how this money might best be used to further members interests. However, these suggestions have yet to be developed to fully costed proposals that can be put to the membership.

There is a need to develop a series of proposals that outline how the members funds can best be used in line with members interests and with the CDAA Constitution. This must be done via a fully transparent process with any proposals developed using an objective and clear business case.

Scope:

- To investigate the options of capital purchase(s) including
 - An identification of how this would benefit the members
 - Exploration of the advantages and disadvantages of a capital purchase and strategies of how to address and work these issues
 - If deemed appropriate - to propose a plan for capital purchase(s) with supporting business case and objective evaluation criteria
- To investigate and propose a plan for provision of appropriate member services. These could include but are not limited to
 - Seminars
 - Appropriate equipment that can be purchased for member use/hire

Limitations:

- The Business Director will chair the Finance subcommittee.
- The subcommittee will consist of between 5-10 members at least one of which has legal skills and at least one with financial skills
- If members with the above mentioned skills do not volunteer, the Business Director will invite appropriately skilled members onto the subcommittee

Each of the areas described above is to be explored with a final proposal put to the National Committee. Once approved, this proposal will be put to the members for a vote. This will then form the basis of the Business Plan.

Deadlines:

- A call for volunteers to form the subcommittee will be made in the March issue of Guidelines, on the web and the CDAA email list
- The subcommittee will be formed by the 1/04/09
- The proposal to the National Committee will be made by 15/05/09. If an extension is required this can be applied for
- If ready and approved this will be presented to the members for a vote with the June issue of Guidelines

Constitution Subcommittee

Background:

As with all legally constituted bodies, the CDAA is governed by a set of rules contained within the Constitution. These rules form the legal basis of the Association.

The Constitution has been developed over a number of years and is now regarded by many as containing various ambiguities, whilst being obscure on other issues.

In recent times, there have been a number of concerns expressed with various interpretations of the CDAA Constitution. On occasions this has led to considerable member disquiet and dissatisfaction over rulings that have been made. There is now a call from amongst the membership for the Constitution to be reviewed and to be clarified and simplified wherever possible. Any such review must be conducted in a transparent and visible way. Any proposals for change must not only satisfy legal requirements but also must be seen to be executed fairly and correctly and deliver improvements to the membership as a whole.

Scope:

- To explore any shortfalls, ambiguities and areas requiring clarification in the CDAA Constitution
- To offer solutions to these identified problems
- To propose amendments to the Constitution which will resolve these issues

Limitations:

- The National Director will chair this subcommittee.
- The Business Director will also sit on the Constitution subcommittee.
- The subcommittee will consist of between 5-10 members at least one of which has legal skills
- If members with the above mentioned skills do not volunteer, the Business Director will invite appropriately skilled members onto the subcommittee.

The proposed amendments will need to be presented to the National Committee for approval. Once approved, the amendments will be presented to the members for voting.

Deadlines:

- A call for volunteers to form the subcommittee will be made in the March issue of Guidelines, on the web and the CDAA email list
- The subcommittee will be formed by the 1/04/09
- A progress report will be presented to the National Committee before the 4/05/09
- The final amendments to the Constitution will be presented to the members for voting in the December issue of Guidelines

Geographic Concerns Subcommittee

Background:

The CDAA is a National organisation and yet a large number of members feel that the organisation struggles with its national identity. Currently the majority of dive sites which are CDAA accessed are located in Mt Gambier and the Nullarbor. The majority of CDAA members are located in South Australia and Victoria. These two facts have greatly contributed to members from other states feeling disadvantaged and under-represented.

A need has emerged to address the concerns of members from states outside of Victoria and South Australia. These need to be balanced with the needs of Victoria and South Australia and solutions proposed that will represent all members and help achieve a more National identity for the CDAA and its members.

Scope:

- To explore the geographic concerns of members outside of Vic/SA
- To identify & quantify the extent of the problems
- To offer solutions that address these problems

Limitations:

- The Publications & Records Director will chair this subcommittee.
- The State Representatives will also sit on this subcommittee.
- The subcommittee will consist of between 9-15 members
- If insufficient numbers of members from each state do not volunteer, the Business Director will invite appropriately located members onto the subcommittee
- As this subcommittee will be geographically widespread, business conducted via email is acceptable

A final proposal of recommendation is to be put to the National Committee. Once approved, this proposal will be put to the members for a vote. This will then contribute to the Strategic Plan.

Deadlines:

- A call for volunteers to form the subcommittee will be made in the March issue of Guidelines, on the web and the CDAA email list
- The subcommittee will be formed by the 1/04/09
- The proposal to the National Committee will be made by 15/05/09. If an extension is required this can be applied for
- If ready and approved this will be presented to the members for a vote with the June issue of Guidelines

Alignment Subcommittee

Background:

The Constitution identifies the main aims and objectives of the CDAA to be to foster the development, advancement, promotion, mapping, education, exploration, conservation, safety and research of underwater caves and related features. In liaising with Government bodies, landowners and other interested parties, there is a need for the Association to be perceived as the peak body when it comes to cave diving in Australia. As such it is important that our training, policies and services are world class and current.

There is a need to identify other like-minded agencies and bodies and to explore how the CDAA can learn or benefit from them. There is a call from the members that the CDAA align or at least foster better relationships with other bodies and agencies. Any proposal will need to support the vast majority of members views that access, training, standards and safe diving are of the utmost importance to the members.

Scope:

- To identify other like-minded agencies and bodies
- To explore their training, policies and services
- To explore the benefits that can be gained for members and the Association by aligning or fostering better relationships with these bodies
- To propose strategies of how this can be achieved

Limitations:

- The Standards Director will chair this subcommittee
- The Instructor Advocate will sit on this subcommittee
- The subcommittee will consist of between 5-10 members with at least three members being current CDAA Instructors (have taught at least two courses in the past 12 months)
- If insufficient numbers of Instructors volunteer for this subcommittee the Business Director will invite enough Instructors onto the subcommittee to fulfil the criteria

A final proposal of recommendation is to be put to the National Committee. Once approved, this proposal will be put to the members for a vote. This will then contribute to the Strategic Plan.

Deadlines:

- A call for volunteers to form the subcommittee will be made in the March issue of Guidelines, on the web and the CDAA email list
- The subcommittee will be formed by the 1/04/09
- The proposal to the National Committee will be made by 15/05/09. If an extension is required this can be applied for
- If ready and approved this will be presented to the members for a vote with the June issue of Guidelines

Site Subcommittee

Background:

The CDAA currently has access to a number of dive sites located mostly in Mt Gambier. There are also a small number of sites accessible in the Nullarbor and NSW. Suggestions have been made that some of the members excess funds can be invested in site improvements as well as negotiating and securing access to new sites.

There is a need to develop a series of proposals for recommending appropriate site improvements which not only assist member access but also respect landowner requirements and the CDAA conservation policy. There is also a need to develop a proposal for strategising the opening of more CDAA sites Australia wide.

Scope:

- To identify current sites requiring improvements and recommend changes required
- To propose strategies for finding and opening new sites
- To explore the availability of new dive sites in Mt Gambier
- To explore the availability of new dive sites in other areas Australia wide

Limitations:

- The Site Director will chair this subcommittee.
- The Site Access Officers will sit on this subcommittee
- The Manager of Research and Mapping will sit on this subcommittee
- The subcommittee will consist of between 10-20 members with at least two members with construction skills
- Each state will be represented on the subcommittee
- If insufficient numbers of members from each state and with appropriate skills do not volunteer, the Business Director will invite appropriately located and skilled members onto the subcommittee
- As this subcommittee will be geographically widespread, business conducted via email is acceptable

A final proposal of recommendation is to be put to the National Committee. Once approved, this proposal will be put to the members for a vote. This will then contribute to the Strategic and Business Plan.

Deadlines:

- A call for volunteers to form the subcommittee will be made in the March issue of Guidelines, on the web and the CDAA email list
- The subcommittee will be formed by the 1/04/09
- A progress report will be presented to the National Committee before the 4/05/09.

UP COMING COURSES

DEEP CAVERN Courses

April 1 - 30, 2009, May 1 - 31, 2009, June 1 - 30, 2009 in Melbourne & Mt Gambier
Midweek or weekend courses. Flexible schedule. 3 days in Mount Gambier.
Instructor: Rubens MONACO 0413-429-533

April 4 - 13, 2009 in Melbourne and Mount Gambier SA
April 4th/5th in Melbourne followed by 11th, 12th and 13th April in Mount Gambier.
Instructor: Linda CLARIDGE 03 5565 8793 0408 05

April 18 - 26, 2009 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier
In Melbourne for theory, land drills and pool session using Option A course. 3 days in Mt Gambier.
Instructor: Terri ALLEN 0419 176633

May 25 - June 8, June 29 - July 12
Jane Bowmann. Melbourne & Mt Gambier. Twins, Plates/Wings supplied.
Instructor: Jane Bowmann 03 9579 2600 or 0407 566 455

Cave Courses

April 1 - 30, 2009, May 1 - 31, 2009, June 1 - 30, 2009 in Mt Gambier
Midweek or weekend courses. Flexible schedule. 3 days in Mount Gambier.
Contact Rubens MONACO 0413-429-533

April 8 - 10, 2009 in Mount Gambier SA
3 day, full time course offered entirely in Mount Gambier. 3 site dives.
Instructor: Linda CLARIDGE 03 5565 8793 or 0408

April 25 - 27, 2009 in Mt. Gambier
Full time course in Mt. Gambier. Includes 6 dives. Instructor: Andrew HIGGINS 0413569164

June 1 - 7, 2009 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier
Theory and exam in Melbourne. 3 Days of diving in Mount Gambier
Instructor: Terri ALLEN 0419 17 66 33

June 1-8 or July 27- August 3rd
Jane Bowmann. Melbourne & Mt Gambier. Twins, Plates/Wings supplied.
Instructor: Jane Bowmann 03 9579 2600 or 0407 566 455

CDAA Penetration Courses

April 10 - 14, 2009 in Mt Gambier
5 day (inclusive) full time program run over the Easter break at Mt Gambier. Cost \$900.00.
Download the application form and forward it with a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit to Jane Bowman, Penetration Program Co-Ordinator, 237 East Boundary Rd, East Bentleigh, 3165.
Please pay careful attention to the equipment requirements found in the training section of the web site. Instructor: Jane Bowmann 03 9579 2600.

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

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

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

April 10 - 13 2009 (Easter)
Warrick McDonald & Jane Bowman
April 25 - 26 2009; Linda Claridge
May 9 - 10 2009

May 23 - 24 2009; Rob Brennan
June 6 - 8 2009 (Queens Birthday)
Andrew Higgins
June 20 - 21 2009

Warrick McDonald & Jane Bowman
July 11 - 12 2009; Steve Trewavas
July 25 - 26 2009; Linda Claridge

CDAA SITE ACCESS - www.cavedivers.com.au

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

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

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
DEH SITES			
Ewens Ponds	Nil	DEH P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 (08) 8735 1177	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. for Environment & Heritage (DEH) Smaller groups, no need. Fax: (08) 8735 1135
Gouldens	CN	DEH	General Diving: Divers to contact DEH and notify of date and site to be dived. Please make requests by phone or fax only.
2 Sisters	CN	P.O. Box 1046	Divers must have the correct CDAA diving endorsement for the site and carry current
Fossil	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8735 1177 Fax: (08) 8735 1135	financial CDAA membership card. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DEH before access is permitted. Training: The Instructor is to notify DEH of the date the sites are needed and to forward signed indemnities from each student and their temporary card number/ membership number.
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	as above	Permit holders by phone or fax. Be aware of delicate vegetation. \$25/dive or annual Permit \$55. NOTE: Indemnity form to be completed with m'ship renewal & lasts same length as. M'ship.
NOTE: Divers should renew their Piccaninnie Ponds indemnities at least 2 weeks prior to their intended dive date.			
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. 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 Weekly. 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 www.cavedivers.com.au or contact Craig at kilsby@cavedivers.com.au
		No Visitors	No animals, visitors or mid-week diving allowed.

CDAA SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)			
BARNOOLUT SITES			
Ten Eighty	S	Scotts Agencies P/L	Access: Grant Sommer ph. 0412 266 826. Mail - 147 Kenihans Road, Happy Valley, SA 5159 Download indemnity and book online at www.cavedivers.com.au. DATES OPEN: 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: shaft@cavedivers.com.au (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		Mt Gambier	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
East	C	Council	advising which groups they are diving with. Diving should be avoided after heavy rain due to possible water contamination. Diving hours are now restricted to 8am to 8pm CST.
West	P	Lessee Ph: (08) 8723 2299	
Three Sisters	P	Millicent Council	Download Indemnity from Web Page. Access available for experienced Penetration divers only. Low profile or side mounted independent air systems required. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. Please allow 4 weeks for indemnities to be processed.
McKay's Shaft	S		Contact Email: site@cavedivers.com.au.
Tank Cave	P	Mr. DY CER	Access Manager: Noel Dillon. Email: noel.dillon@macquarie.com
Baker's Cave	C	Manager: Brad Dibble E: site@cavedivers.com.au	Please write to the Site Access Director to dive in Baker's Cave. Include stamped self-addressed envelope. Climbing equipment required. Only open October to April.
NULLARBOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
Cocklebidy	C/P		Apply in writing for permission to dive at least 4 weeks in advance of trip to: District Manager, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), PO Box 234, Esperance, W.A. 6450. Phone: (08) 9083 2100 Fax: (08) 9071 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: kim.allison@dpi.wa.gov.au Phone (08) 9347 5047 Fax (08) 9347 5004
N.S.W. - WELLINGTON CAVES			
Limekiln (McCavity)	P/C		Both Penetration and Cave Level are being accepted for this cave depending on it's water level at the time. The cave has a restriction at the entrance which is underwater making it a Penetration Dive. During drought, the water level drops to form a small lake below the restriction allowing experienced Cave Divers access to this delicate cave.
Water (Anticline)	C		Affected by high CO ₂ levels during Summer/Autumn. Access is co-ordinated with the Wellington Caves management by Greg Ryan - gregr@c.usyd.edu.au. Phone (02)97434157
Rum Jungle Lake	S		Unrestricted access currently exists - Please refer advice Guidelines #68 or check CDAA website.
Burrinjuck	S/C/P		This is a tri rated site. Please see details in issue No. 73. There are no specific access arrangements.

CDAA INSTRUCTORS

NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Penetr
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A.C.T.

APPS, Heike (CDAA 2776)
BH 02 6249 9170
AH 02 6291 0566
E: heike.apps@ga.gov.au

Yes	Yes	Yes
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N.S.W.

GRILLS, Peter (CDAA 1780)
AH 02 4955 4497
Mobile 0419 820 920
E: peter_grills@hotmail.com

Yes	Yes	Yes
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

COTELLO, Peter (CDAA 3378)
Mob: 0417 494 771
soudiv@southerndiving.com

Yes		
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MARRIOTT, Max (CDAA 1268)
Mob: 0428 897 897
E: dive69@chariot.com.au

Yes	Yes	Yes
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SELBACH, Steve (CDAA 3495)
Phone: 0413 134 827
Email: steve.selbach@mac.com

Yes		
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VICTORIA

ALLEN, Terri (CDAA 3483)
Mob: 0419 176 633
E: terri.allen@baker.edu.au

Yes	Yes	
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AXTON, Paul (CDAA 2826)
Phone: 0419 346 442
E: PALdiving@people.net.au

Yes	Yes	Yes
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BARCLAY, Gary (CDAA 1735)
AH (03) 5565 8793
E: garinda@tpgi.com.au

Yes	Yes	Yes
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BOWMAN, Jane (CDAA 1880)
BH (03) 9579 2600
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www.abocean.com.au

Yes	Yes	Yes
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CLARIDGE, Linda (CDAA 2214)
Mobile 0408 052 070
E: garinda@tpgi.com.au
AH (03) 5565 8793

Yes	Yes	Yes
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INSTRUCTOR ADVOCATE: MAX MARRIOTT.

NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Penetr
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VICTORIA. cont.

DALLA-ZUANNA, John (CDAA 236)
Penetration instructor
Phone: 0407 887 060
Email: jdzc@paintandcustom.com.au

Yes	Yes	Yes
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HARDMAN, Lorraine (CDAA 2824)
Mob: 0418 304 120
E: PALdiving@people.net.au

Yes		
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HIGGINS, Andrew (CDAA 3329)
Mobile: 0413 569164
E: ahiggins@optusnet.com.au

Yes	Yes	Yes
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LESLIE, Paul (CDAA 3184)
Phone: (03) 9879 2868
Email: info@melbournediving.com.au

Yes		
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McDONALD, Warrick (CDAA 1882)
BH: (03) 9579 2600
E: info@abocean.com.au
Mobile 0408 374 112

Yes	Yes	Yes
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MONACO, Rubens (CDAA 1731)
BH 03 5984-1799
E: info@idscuba.com.au
Mobile: 0413-429-533

Yes	Yes	
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TAYLOR, Ian (CDAA 3568)
Phone: 0411 118 134
E: ian.taylor4@defence.gov.au

Yes	Yes	
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QUEENSLAND

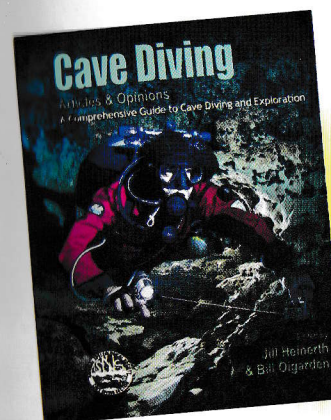
FEATONBY, Tim (CDAA 3372)
Mob: 0402 129 253
E: tim.featonby@defence.gov.au

Yes	Yes	
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PAYNTER, Geoff (CDAA 3784)
Mob: 0407 445 112
E: gpaynter@geo.net.au

Yes		
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Book Review by Peter Buzzacott

Cave Diving: Articles and Opinions

edited by Jill Heinerth and Bill Oigarden, 320 pages, softcover, lots of black-and-white photos, on sale for \$70 at www.davedivers.com.au

Fittingly the book opens with a review of the milestones of cave diving, taking the reader along a path now well-trodden, first by pioneers and followed by the rest of us. Exciting times, tales of adventure, and tragedy, it's an enthralling journey till the reader is delivered to the present day. These opening articles put everything we do as cave divers into perspective. The dives some of us now routinely make, like for example a 900m swim, were record-breaking dives just a few decades ago, when many of us were in school.

Next we have articles summarizing what is known about cave geology, conservation and biology and, whilst there is an occasional overlap when two authors refer to the same subject, the editors have pulled-off a remarkable job in coordinating this many top-shelf contributors. There are so many big names in this book I have tried hard not to name-drop, otherwise I'd have to name them all and there are about forty of them. Indeed, it is interesting to take this book to a group of cave-divers and see how everyone opens the book and immediately points-out which big names they've dived with. You can't help it – even I do it. We move then into equipment matters in which a thorough overview is given of basic cave-diving gear. Rebreathers, computers and other complex gear issues are covered later in the book. This early section covers the basics in such detail I'm sure we will all refer back to it, for example before we buy our next light.

Next, a collection of opinion articles loosely grouped together as relating to attitude, including two very similar views on accident analysis, both of which follow the Exley five-rules model. The section on diving physiology cuts to the chase and, like the rest of the book, is written for the average

diver in the water. The first paper is particularly well-written, de-mystifying physiology in plain English, and the rest of this chapter is equally hard to put down. Jill's frank look at women technical divers is another full of useful advice, for both women and men.

Dive computers, decompression theory, DPV use and photography are each described in the next section by authors well known for their expertise. Then we move into a chapter of articles covering cave location, landowners, mapping, remote expeditions and tips for travelling. As you look to upgrade your gear, or visit your first overseas cave, or buy your next dive computer, you will re-open this book again and again. The editors stress this is a collection of opinions but they are the opinions of some top-guns of cave diving and well worth considering, and discussing. The last section is where hard core diving is addressed; rebreathers, side-mounting, low visibility, cold water caves and, I think appropriately, the book ends with a description of sump diving. By now the reader is running-out of well-trodden path and heading into caves never before seen. Jason Richards describes it thus: "So you put the guano reg in your mouth and work the valve with one hand whilst you swim or crawl blindly with your reel out front in the other hand, warding off the breakdown you're invariably going to smack your head into. That is sump diving." And this is a great book.

Well done Jill and Bill -

I thoroughly recommend buying a copy, there's something in it for everyone.

Cave (Diving) Rescue In Australia

You may be aware of recent discussions regarding cave rescue in Australia. With increasing traffic to places like Toad Hall in Cocklebidy Cave, one must consider the possibility of someone sustaining an injury in a remote chamber (i.e. on the wrong side of a sump). The injured diver might require assistance to exit the cave safely. Although this remains a very unlikely scenario, such an incident would be handled much better if advanced planning and even practice has occurred.

Currently, no formal management plan exists to handle such an eventuality. I am currently working with some experienced cave divers and dry cavers from both the CDAA and ASF to develop such a plan. One of the first steps is to populate a list of suitably

qualified volunteers who would be prepared to make themselves available to assist in a sump rescue, potentially at very short notice. With such a list, we will be able to further develop rescue plans in conjunction with authorities like the Police and other emergency services (who run rescues).

We are looking for expressions of interest from experienced cave divers who feel they could be of help. Please email me and I will give you more information.

Thanks to those who have already expressed an interest, I will be sending you more information shortly.

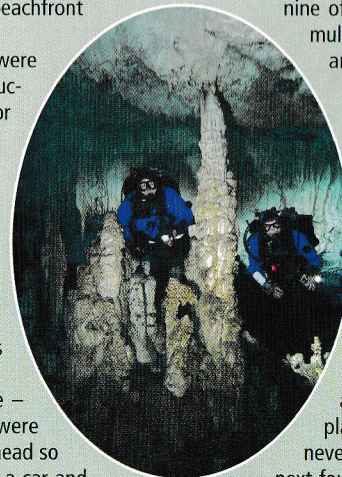
Richard Harris.

If Mexico and/or Florida
are on your wish list,
Just Do It...

Next day we went to Maya Blue – looked beautiful but the steps were treacherous – I slipped and cut my head so no diving for a few days – we hired a car and drove north to Coba and Chichen Itza to visit the

Back at Villa DeRosa, I started the training again, this time with Fernando (Lena was booked on another course) – I have to say this was the best training and diving I've ever done – every dive (and there were nine of them) were in full on pen sites, with multiple jumps and T's – long swims and amazing scenery – the caves are just beautiful.

The course was completed with the setup and circuit dives in Temple of Doom – thanks to Fernando I now am confident in reading the maps and planning and executing dives I would never have thought possible. We spent the next four days with me guiding Geoff through the dives I'd done and exploring some other sites



Both photos: Peacock Springs





Little River entrance

with the help of Tito our trusty chauffeur & guide.

Our Mexican adventure finished with a real buzz – we did a photo shoot dive with Steve Gerard (author of Cenotes of the Riviera Maya) and it was just awesome – the site was the Grand Cenote and we dived the Cuzan Nah loop – stunningly beautiful and so much fun – if you are going there try to organize to dive with Steve – he's a great guide and the photos are stunning.

We were very sad to say goodbye to our new family at Villa DeRosa's – everyone was so hospitable and the food is amazing – especially the Guacamole.

Access to the dive sites we visited was good – steps down into the water, the only place that required a ladder climb out was Temple of Doom – for 100 pesos (about \$10) Philippe, one of the local lads carried my gear from the car to the cave, down the ladder and into the water, when I'd finished, he came back, put on my gear, climbed the ladder and brought it back to the car...

Most of the dive sites have change rooms, toilets and plenty of gearing up tables.

Off to Florida – we flew from Cancun to Miami and to Jacksonville, stayed close to the airport that night and then in our hire car drove to Cave Excursions (Bill Rennaker's) right beside Peacock Springs.

I'd organized to do a Trimix course while in Florida – my lovely instructor Dan Patterson came to our Trailer (mobile home) where we did a bit of theory before heading off to Peacock for my first dive.... And what a dive....

Using stage cylinders, we swam about 1300 feet into Peacock III before jumping downwards into Hendley's Castle to about 55 metres – what an introduction....

Next day we were very privileged to be taken to Eagles Nest – we drove to Crystal River (Manatee country) and left our car while Dan drove us about 45 minutes into the forest – the surface lake at Eagles Nest is a bit like at Piccannie Ponds – you swim out into the middle and then descend to the cave entrance – a bit like the entrance to the shaft, but the shaft is under

water – the shaft is about 10 metres in length – room for 3-4 divers in there whilst deco'ing.. and then it opens up much like the shaft, (bottom of shaft about 20m deep) with a mound in the middle and it drops away to 60+ metres quite quickly.

We did two dives here – in opposite directions from the mound and they were quite different.

Access to the site is via carpeted steps down into the water – lines in place to attach your stages and plenty of lines in the 6m range to clip off your deco cylinders.

Diving at Eagles Nest was definitely worth the big drive and I believe we were quite privileged to be taken there – Dan seemed to make it his mission to ensure we were treated like VIP's in Florida.

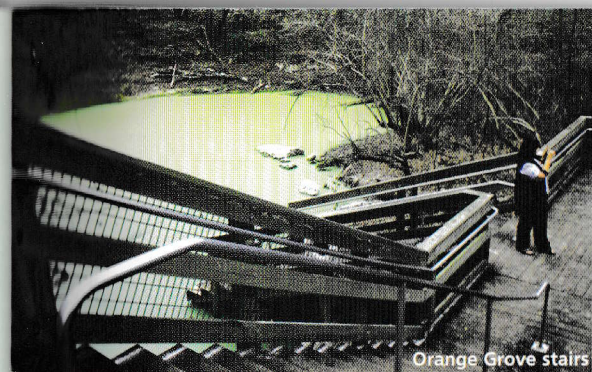
Off to Ginnie Springs – to experience the joy of pulling yourself along the rocks against the flow at Devils Eye – apart from the bleeding finger tips, it was a lovely dive. Ginnie is an amazing place – there were more cave divers there on one Saturday afternoon, than I've ever seen in Mt. Gambier...

Undertaking the Trimix course with Dan, who is also an NACD Cave instructor was great – he helped to fine tune some of what I'd learnt in Mexico – which was a bonus.

Getting around Florida was easy, I'd been given copies of quite a few maps before we left OZ, and the locals and other divers helped us out with directions, loans of maps and gear to make it easy.

Geoff and I explored Little River, Peacock I and Orange Grove over the next few days and definitely will be back, we'll wait a while so we can take our O2ptima's

Mexico caves are so picturesque!



Orange Grove stairs



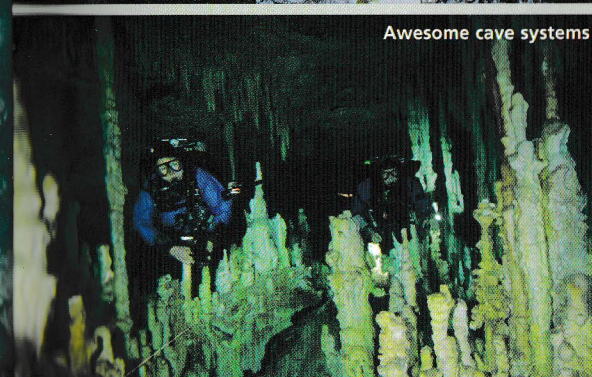
Orange Grove



Gearing up



Madison Blue entry



Awesome cave systems

and plan the traverse between Peacock I and Orange Grove.

Little River is amazing, looks like a small lagoon on the side of the Suwannee River – the entrance to the cave is just in front of the steps, and wow... not much flow, so pretty easy swim, but we both surfaced and said "Next time we want our Breathers".

Orange Grove is gorgeous – it has a deep section called Lower Orange Grove, a wonderful cave that connects through to Peacock I and a stunning cavern area. All situated in the Peacock Springs state park, it's really beautiful with all the trees, picnic area.....

The Gear up benches, Carpeted steps into the water, changes rooms, toilets... all make it very easy to go diving.

Want fills, you don't even need to take your cylinders out of the car, back up to the air fill station at Cave Excursions and they have 20' long fill whips that reach out to your car. Trimix and Nitrox is on tap.

I did 35 dives while we were away and feel I have hardly had a glimpse – there are just so many cave systems to be explored.

What do you need for a trip like this, turn the page for a full list!

FOR SALE

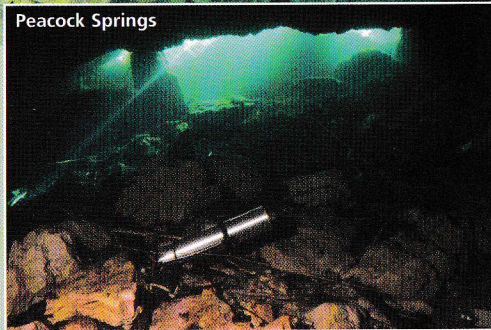
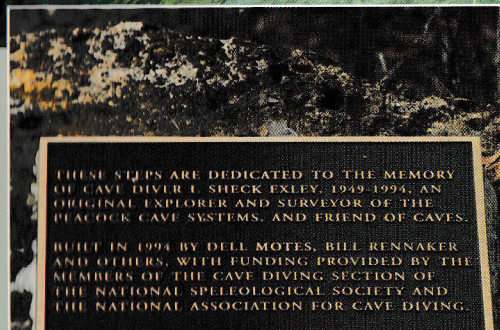
V-5000 HID

**4AH NiMH batteries,
10watt fixed focus beam
International charger**



**Contact: John Vanderleest
jfv@tpg.com.au 0419 775 771**

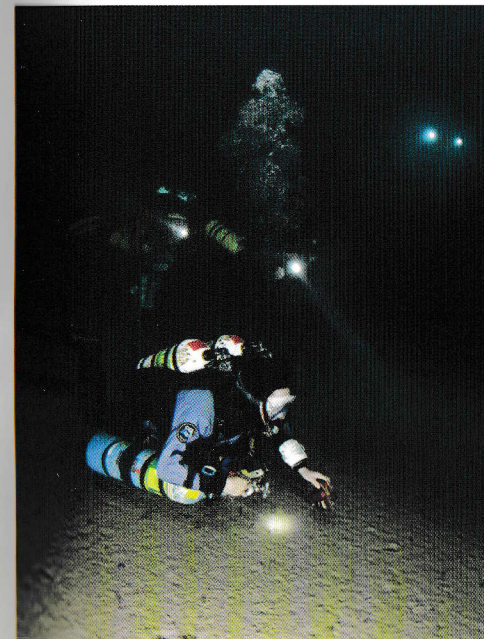
~ GUIDELINES GALLERY ~



Peacock Springs



Blue Lake Sediment and Research Dives, February/March '08. Photos Richard 'Harry' Harris



Eagle Nest Sink: Conduit to the Aquifer

Don't be deceived by Eagle Nest Sink. What may look like a marshy pond is a direct link to West Central Florida's underground drinking water source, the Floridan Aquifer. Protecting this sinkhole and others like it is vital to maintaining public health.

A deep-water exploration of Eagle Nest Sink has been likened to climbing Mount Everest. Extensive caverns plunge as deep as 310 feet. Divers must use multiple tanks and a special breathing mixture of gas and compressed air, and decompression can take hours.

Individuals have lost their lives exploring this sink. Only experienced, certified cave diving teams with appropriate equipment should dive here.

What do you need:

Mexico:

- Jump reels with at least 35-40 metres of line Main reels with about 100 m of line
- A guide to help you find the start of the cave – eg. In Dos Ojos – we swam for about 20 minutes before we got to the start of the cave line.

Florida:

- A hire car to get around
- A rebreather would be good for those long swims.
- More time!

20 2 2009

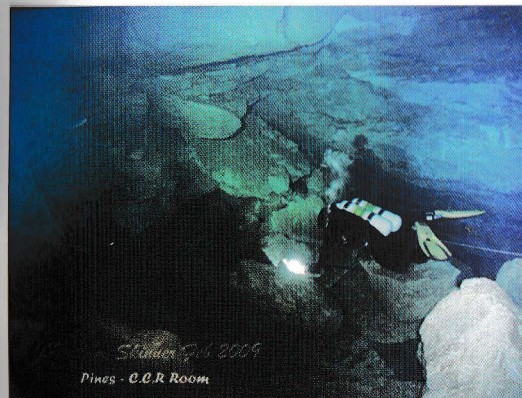
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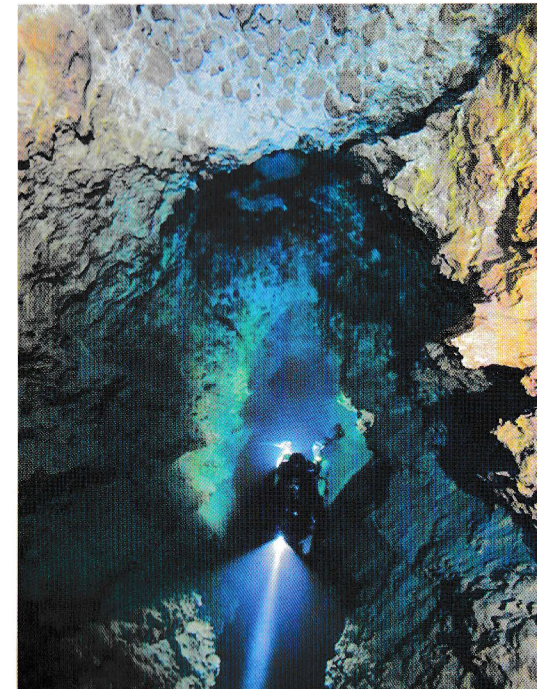
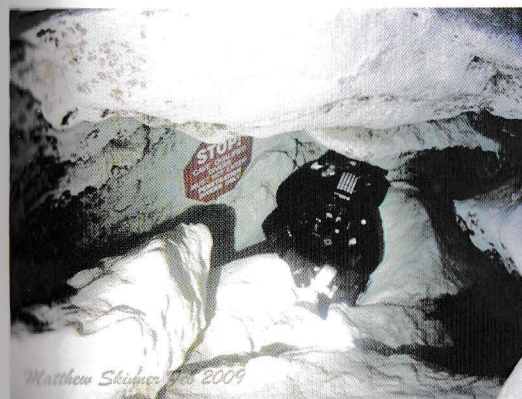
Photographs from Kilsbys, The Shaft and Piccs. Photographer: Mick Tait



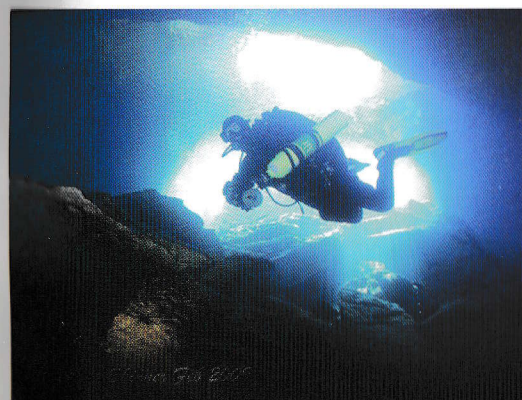
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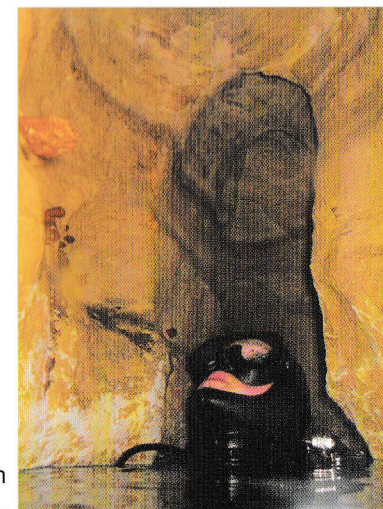
Photos: Matthew Skinner (Pines on CCR).

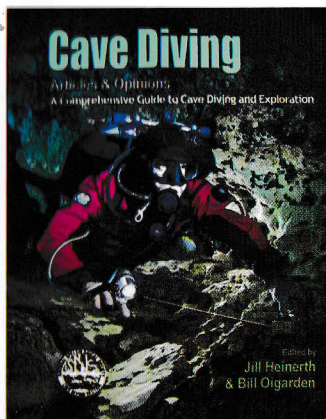


Thanks very much Ag, Bear and Daehag for putting up with modeling for me on my recent trip to Florida. Dean Chamberlain.



Photographed by Martina Fuchsberger in Engelbrechts over the Christmas Holidays.





Cave Diving Articles and Opinions

A Comprehensive Guide to Cave
Diving & Exploration.

Written and edited by some of the top cave divers in the world, Cave Diving – Articles and Opinions is an invaluable resource for twenty-first century technical divers. Sharing the thirty-year wisdom of dozens of the sport's pioneers and practitioners, this book covers everything from basic equipment to advanced cave exploration.

Pioneering cave explorer Jill Heinerth combines a mastery of underwater technology with a formal Fine Arts education to produce artistic documentation of the natural environment above, below and inside our fragile planet. Co-editor Bill Oigarden brings a lifetime of experience, from the early roots of cave diving education to more recent work in his doctoral program, researching novelty-seeking, sensation-seeking, risk-taking behaviours and personality development. Together they have assembled an unparalleled team of expert contributors who share their wisdom about the sport of cave diving today and into the future.

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

CDAA PRODUCTS NEW BOOKS!

NEWS

Vertical \$45

A Technical Manual for Cavers. By Alan Warild

Vertical is about the 'last great challenge' – the deep cave, or more precisely, how to get down it and out again. It is a definitive guide to vertical cave exploration techniques. It is for anyone who uses ropes to explore caves. It describes deep cave exploration methods, emphasising the importance of efficient caving and throughout has strong underlying themes of safety, conservation and documentation.

Cave Diving Article & Opinions \$70. Edited by Jill Heinerth & Bill Oigarden
A Comprehensive Guide to Cave Diving and Exploration
See Peter Buzzacott's book review and the Product of the Month description for more details.

NEW LADIES CONTRAST TEE!

Stylishly cut 7 sleeve contrast tee in grey with navy sleeves. Sizes 8, 10, 12 & 14. \$25

COMING SOON! T-shirts with photo and map images. A new range of T-shirts will be available soon via the online store. These will feature the 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 any of these CDAA products, please visit the online store or complete the mail order form in Guidelines. Happy Diving, Tara Parkinson, CDAA Products Officer.

Product of the Month

N O L I M I T

HOLLIS

Whether your personal mission is an expedition into the furthest cave systems, to view the mystery of a shipwreck, or to experience the wonder of a coral reef, our equipment will take you there with confidence. That's a promise.



M1 Onyx Mask

Visibility is the most important aspect of any dive. The M1 Onyx Mask raises the bar for optical quality and distortion free vision.

- Frameless Silicon Mask
- St. Gobain Glass Ultra Clear Lens
- Stainless Steel Buckles – Black Oxide
- Wide Vision and Low Volume



F1 Fin

Power without compromise, the Hollis F1 blends graceful movement, power and bulletproof construction.

- High grade, heavy duty rubber construction
- Spring heel straps with easy-grip heel tab and adjustable settings for fine tuned fit
- Generous foot pocket with three sizes: RG, XL, XXL

FOR PRODUCT CATALOGUE & STOCKISTS CALL 1300 30 55 30

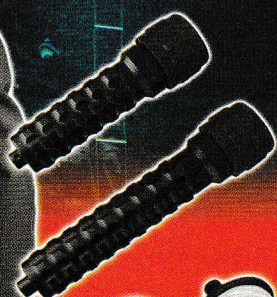
Location Photography: Doug Arnberg

HALCYON
DIR Dive Systems

...you're only
as good



as the gear
on your back!



Dealer Enquiries Welcome

Email: admin@halcyondive.com.au

www.halcyondive.com.au