



...you're only
as good



as the gear
on your back!



Dealer Enquiries Welcome

Email: admin@halcyondive.com.au

www.halcyondive.com.au



C.D.A.A. Newsletter

No. 110 - DECEMBER 2009



Here's wishing all
CDAA members
and their families
a happy Christmas and
prosperous 2010...

and we hope your
wish list comes
true too!

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

Print Post No. PP 381691/00020

SENTELLING

THE LED-LUX CANISTER LIGHT

Unequalled performance. Unequalled reliability.
From the company that started it all.

Virtually Indestructible
10,000 hours of bulb life
Up to 6 hours burn time
1000 lumen output
Custom built LED module
Single piece machined canister
Low maintenance NiMH battery




**DIVE
RITE**
www.DiveRite.com.au

CONTENTS

Editorial - Jason Caldwell	5
National Director's Report	11
Letters	13
Business Director's Report	17
Standards Director's Report	19
Site Director's Report	22
Publications & Records Director's Report	23
CDAA Instructors	24
Courses Update / Tank Cave Dates	25
Site Access	26-27
CDAA Products	28-29
Guidelines Gallery	37-38

Articles and Pictures this Issue...

Murra El Elevyn - Peter Buzzacott	6-8
Cave SAR management - Richard Harris	9-10, 32-33
Which Regulator is RIGHT - John Vanderleest	14-16
CDAA Mapping - John Della Zuanna	18
Ginnie Springs - Glenn Hicks	30-31



Front cover:

Photo title:
Kilsby's.

Photographed by
Richard Harris.

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ABN 65 062 259 956

P.O. BOX 290, NORTH ADELAIDE 5006

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

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

CONTACT LIST

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

NATIONAL DIRECTOR - Steve Trewavas
Email: national@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0423 021 488.

STANDARDS DIRECTOR - Jane Bowman
Email: standards@cavedivers.com.au Ph: 9579 2600

Quality Control Officer - Stan Bugg
Email: quality@cavedivers.com.au AH: 03 9379 8791

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

Instructor Materials - Scott Edwards
Email: materials@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0438 214 131.

Instructor Advocate - Andrew Higgins. Mobile: 0413 569 164.
E: advocate@cavedivers.com.au

BUSINESS DIRECTOR - Helen Higgins. Phone: 0411 720 440.
Email: business@cavedivers.com.au

Treasurer - Tammy Beattie. Email: treasurer@cavedivers.com.au

SITE DIRECTOR - Rob Brennan
Email: site@cavedivers.com.au Mob: 0414 821 322.

Kilsby's Access - Craig Larkin.
Email: kilsby@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0418 821 191.

Tank Cave Access - Noel Dillon
Email: tankcave@cavedivers.com.au - Mobile: 0407 530 103.

Shaft Access - Bruce Bulled
Email: shaft@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0418 337 786.

PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS DIRECTOR - Jason Caldwell
Email: publications@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0404 070 029.

Records Officer (Membership matters) - Rob Lee.
Email: records@cavedivers.com.au PO Box 371, Somerville VIC 3192

Guidelines - Graphics & Advertising - Dave Bryant: 0417 125 710
P.O. Box 2198 Rosebud VIC 3939. E: seapics@alphalink.com.au

CDAA Products - Tara Parkinson - Mobile: 0400 688 548.
Unit 2/7 Condah Crt, Ashwood VIC. 3147. Email: products@cavedivers.com.au

Webmaster: Tony Richardson. Email: web@cavedivers.com.au

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

ACT: Heike Apps. Phone: 02 6291 0566. E: actrep@cavedivers.com.au

NSW: Mark Jobbins Ph: 0411 191 590. Email: nswrep@cavedivers.com.au

N.T.: Jeff Swann Email: ntrep@cavedivers.com.au

QLD: Tim Featonby Ph: 0402 129 253. Email: qldrep@cavedivers.com.au

SA: Ken Smith Email: sarep@cavedivers.com.au

South-East SA - Grant Pearce Mob: 043 8833103. E: sesarep@cavedivers.com.au

WA: Peter Buzzacott Email: warep@cavedivers.com.au

VIC: Ian Taylor Email: vicrep@cavedivers.com.au

Public Officer - Kevin Burrowes Ph: 08 8272 6833 E: kburrowes-cpa@senet.com.au

CDAA INSURANCE

Public Liability policy limit A\$10,000,000.00 Policy# SY-CAS-08-041140.
Expiry: 30th September 2010. Insurer: Willis Australia Ltd.

PINE TANK DIVE LODGE

Divers Air, Nitrox & Trimix

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

PHOTO: RICHARD HARRIS

GLENCOE
LAKE EDWARD RD
P: 08 8739 4020
M: 0438 833 103
stay@ptdivelodge.on.net

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

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

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



Pine Tank Dive Lodge

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

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Editorial

On this page you will see a new spot called 'Dave's 2 Bar'. I have asked Dave Bryant, our typesetter and layout man to add a little input each month, so you the readers can learn who Dave is and what he does.

Guidelines will undergo some changes moving forward. This edition will be the last edition to have black and white pages. From 2010, all pages will be colour and this will be beneficial for both members and advertisers. I wish to keep the ratio of advertising to articles similar to what it is now.

We have tightened the deadlines in an attempt to reduce the pressure on our very hard working Dave Bryant and hopefully this will go a long way in reducing the embarrassing amount of errors that have crept into the publication. Seanna Cronin has offered her services as a proof reader to further help reduce errors – thank you Seanna and welcome aboard.

We will have a regular gear review and start to introduce some new regular sections like photo/video tips and others I am working on.

Guidelines is our members publication and as such, we wish to keep the members interested in reading the publication. I am looking at reducing the amount of 'seemingly uninteresting' official information in preference to moving that content to online only.

A number of members have asked me if we will go fully online only for Guidelines in the future – simple answer – NO. Part of the cost of membership is to fund this magazine and the majority of members like to sit down on their comfy chair with a beer and have a read. We will keep Guidelines this A5 sized, fully printed format, just hopefully better than it has ever been before.

Dive safe and enjoy, Jason Caldwell
Records and Publications Director

Email: publications@cavedivers.com.au



'Dave's 2 Bar'

As Jason said, next issue we are going full colour so we're hanging for some awesome colour pictures and great new articles. Keep them coming. Guidelines will feature more articles, gear reviews and gallery images than ever before, beginning March issue 2010. Cover shots; we need more cover shots and Gallery images. Covers need to be portrait and emailed in high resolution, thanks. Have a great Christmas everyone, I'm itch'n to get in the water a whole lot more this summer, Dave.

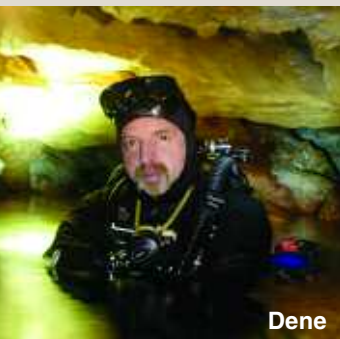
~ ARTICLES FOR GUIDELINES ~

- Send articles preferably by email to: publications@cavedivers.com.au
- Email to publications@cavedivers.com.au and seapics@alphalink.com.au
- Text files should be saved as Word files or Simple Text and pictures as separate jpeg files. If mailing please send pics and text on CD. Send to PO Box 2198 Rosebud 3939 Victoria.
- Pictures saved from digital camera or scanned from photos must be at least 200-300 dpi at 15cm wide, RGB files, and saved as Maximum Quality JPEG's, or Tiffs if mailing.

Peter Buzzacott:

Murra El Elevyn

Even living in WA, life can sometimes get a bit hectic so every few months we leave the city behind and head out to the Nullarbor. This time we would visit Murra El Elevyn, an imposing oval-shaped doline collapse near the highway, west of the Cocklebiddy Roadhouse.



Dene

Dene and I met after work on Wednesday, packed the car and set-off at 6.30pm, making it to Hyden by 10.30 that night. Despite having a population of only 200, Hyden is near the famous Wave Rock so the pub has beds for 154 guests, but when Dene and I walked in it was shoulder-to-shoulder, and when we asked for a room the barmaid said "You're joking aren't you"! Turned out there was a country festival on (Hyden is a bit like Midsommer) and not a spare bed in town, till a very jolly farmer offered us room back at his place. After closing we followed his trayback Landcruiser away from the crowd and, remembering Wolfe Creek, Dene muttered "if this guy starts heading down miles of dirt road we're turning 'round'". But, Elliot could not have been more hospitable and we celebrated our good fortune with a few coldies before hitting the hay, so to speak.

The next day we fuelled-up when the servo opened at 7am and set-off for Norseman via a 300km gravel short-cut. Morning tea at the BP then straight on to Murra and we were there by 2.30pm, well-fed and well-rested. We set up camp nearby, then rigged up the cave-ladder and separate safety-belay rope. We decided to get a load to the water and check out the route before setting up the A-frame, since neither of us had been here before and we hadn't found any detailed trip reports. Dene went first, I lowered a few backpacks down to

him, then clipped onto the rope and followed.

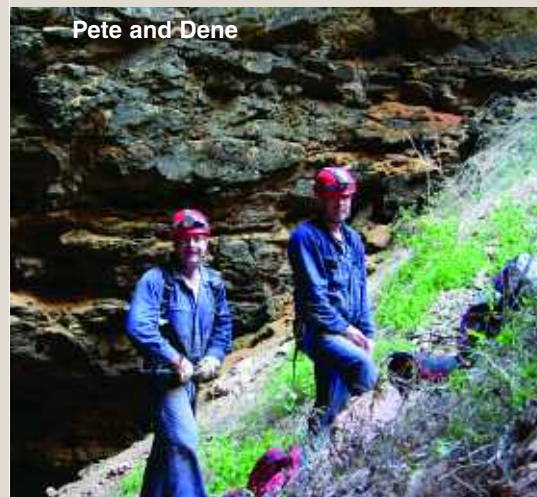
We picked our way carefully down to the water, our headlights lighting the way, and were pleased to note the track is marked with small piles of rocks instead of those dreadful plastic reflectors. At the water's edge we bagged gearing-up spots and made our way topside. It was getting cool so we decided to knock off for the day and set-up the A-frame in the morning. No rush, and I was cooking chicken for dinner so we got the campfire going and opened a Western Australian red. The full-moon rose, burning orange when it was low but then brilliant white when higher, the stars came out and a gentle breeze blew, making the flames flicker and dance. Yup, our heads re-calibrated themselves and the pressures of work disappeared with the smoke of our campfire.

The next day I cooked-up a hearty breakfast of hot burgers and chips, and packed us a couple of sliced beef and fried potato sesame-seed rolls each for lunch. Dene backed-up the Triton near to the edge and we opened the boot, pulling out ten tanks, all our diving gear and a spanking-new A-frame I'd only finished painting on Tuesday. The week before I'd studied Paul Axton's plans carefully, bought the metal (\$130), clips, chain, eye-bolts and rod-ends (~\$100), and spent a couple of days at a mate's engineering workshop fabricating the beast. Being super-busy I



hadn't yet had chance to try it out, in fact Dene and I put it together for the very first time that morning. Just as we expected though, it all fitted together beautifully and fortunately I'd welded the A-frame hinges to the outside of the tripod legs instead of the inside. Neither of us has even seen an A-frame before so that was a spot of pure luck. Dene went down below whilst I figured out how to use it. Hoist up the load, run the rope through a whale-tail and lock it off, dis-engage the pulley-brake, swing out the load and Bob's your uncle. We had 100m of rope so we let out a long tail to hang beneath each load and Dene would pull it further down into the cave as I lowered the gear slowly.

By 10am we were carrying the gear to the water, passing delicately curled white crystal helictites growing



Pete and Dene

horizontally out from the walls. These were an unexpected treat to discover. By 1pm we were set-up and having lunch, then we kitted-up and sat in the water on the large limestone slab ideally suited to putting your fins on and pre-dive adjustments. We planned four dives so we'd brought five tanks each. We'd save the back-mounted twins for our last dive and use the three independents for the first three dives, slinging one per dive and turning at half-plus-twenty.

We descended, did some stretching, valve-drills, bubble-and-dangle checks, I tied-off a primary and secondary and led away towards a large narrow horizontal window to the main passage. A 3-4mm white cord was loosely tied to the rock with yellow tape Dorf-markers every 10m along it, heading away from the main passage and upwards on an angle. We followed it and surfaced in the air-chamber we'd seen on the map we downloaded from the CDAA website.



Looking Up

Low passages head in opposite directions and supposedly re-join the flooded sections, making three different circuits possible, each with a dry section, but we were here to dive not crawl so we descended and made our way up the main passage.

Murra is wonderful, spectacular, magnificent, and just the best dive in WA. Large rooms, countless smooth eroded features, fossils everywhere, winding passages, surprises around every corner. I tied off and signaled the turn, we referenced the cave on the way out and made a safety stop, during which we found a window near the limestone slab we'd sat on, looking down onto our own line.

Time for afternoon tea; staminade and museli bars. Yeh, it felt like a real expedition now we were on hard-tack. A cave cricket scampered by, avoiding our light. They're like a cross between a grasshopper and a spider and they're surprisingly common in Murra.

Tanks changed, we explored more side passages, add another 50m of line to the 120m laid on the first dive and we found an enticing restriction that looked like it might lead somewhere. Murra used to be rated Penetration but in 1998 it became dual-rated not long after Pines, but the delineation isn't as clear and the National Director at the time (Steve Sturgeon) advised cave divers to just stay in areas where they might swim "side-by-side". Hmmm... think we'll need another look at that hole and think about it tomorrow.

We surfaced, de-kitted and made our way topside,



taking one empty tank each to leave under the A-frame. Murra is home to a colony of Chocolate Wattle Bats and, as recently as 2000, cavers found up to 200 dead bats in a single visit. Thankfully, this trip I found just one. Even so, September is bat breeding season so we took care each day to exit quietly before dark, so as not to disturb their nooky. We headed to the roadhouse for a hot shower but before that we nipped out to Tommy Graham's cave to retrieve the old visitor-book and replace it with a new waterproof notebook.

The WA Maritime Museum have given us advice on how to carefully treat it and photograph each page underwater in an attempt to rescue what we can, but we fear the book is a write-off. Back at camp we made a fire and cooked-up tins of chunky soup with real balls of meat, like the advert on telly.

We got the maps out and talked about that restriction. Dene is rated cave but it looked like it might go somewhere, but then again it might be too tight for two of us side by side... hmmm...is it or isn't it, and where is that STOP sign when you need one?

The next day we decided to have a look and make the call for our last dive, when we'd be down to just back-gas. Meanwhile, I spotted a large opening above us so Dene led us that way and I shot video of his line work. Nice work Dene. Then the way on narrowed, got a bit low, and BAM! a huge chamber with potential leads in every direction. Wow – this cave is awesome. During our safety stop on the way out I noticed large strands of grey goo hanging under each ledge. Very odd – I shot some video and pondered them. They looked organic, like algae – could they be alive? Yes, turns out they are; *Microbial Mantles*. When it rains the bat guano washes down through



Just a little drop!



Air Chamber



The manager

the rocks and these chemotrophic life forms convert the chemicals into energy and slowly grow. They are so delicate they are easily destroyed by a careless fin and recover slowly, if at all, so I am glad we took such care in the entry lake. Further in we didn't see any so they probably grow best close to the food source.

For our last dive we decided I'd go through what we weren't sure was a restriction or not, and either wave Dene in or turn around and come out. As it was I got a body-length in there and it was obvious it pinched out so I turned and rejoined Dene, and we went on exploring elsewhere. We weren't really measuring but estimate we laid out roughly 250m of line, and so we probably saw about half of the longest distance, but we've missed an entire side passage that re-joins the air chamber, and there is much more to see yet, so we will definitely be back.

By 2pm we were packing up and hauling out. Towards the last load I was wondering if I should bring independents next time instead of manifolded 12-litre steels but that's half the fun so as soon as it was all out I nipped up top and hauled it up as quick as Dene clipped it on. By sunset we were off to the roadhouse for our traditional celebratory coldie, and to cement the endearing friendship we (the CDAA) have with the Cocklebidy Roadhouse I presented the manager with a framed CDAA poster for the bar.

Another campfire under moon and stars, another well-earned sleep and we were on the road by 7.30am, breakfast at Caiguna and unloading the car by 6.30pm. That's right, we were home in time for dinner, and back to work the next morning. Two guys in one car, five tanks each, four dives and another great weekend away. Weebubbe next, now we've got an A-frame (our thanks to Paul Axton for sharing the plans).

Richard (Harry) Harris:

Cave SAR Management Forum

Lower Moutere, NZ. August 7-9th, 2009

New Zealand contains the deepest and perhaps the most challenging dry caves in the southern hemisphere. Its small but committed caving community has a well-organised, and well-practiced Cave Search and Rescue (Cave SAR) capability. This 2-day Cave SAR Management forum provided an excellent opportunity for myself, and Joe Sydney (Australian Cave Rescue Commission, and Union of Speleology - Cave Rescue Commission Oceania Co-ordinator for Cave Rescue), to exchange ideas with the cavers in NZ.

The focus of the weekend was not so much the nuts and bolts (pardon the pun) of cave rescue, but the management infrastructure and behind-the-scenes workings of cave SAR in NZ. As a newcomer to cave SAR myself, and with cave SAR organisations in some areas of Australia in their infancy, I found the forum to be very relevant and useful. In particular it was of great interest to see how the New Zealanders manage the relationship between official rescue authorities (e.g. the Police) and volunteers (the cavers).

Interesting talks were heard from the local police SAR-coordinator, LandSAR representatives (LandSAR could be likened to some aspects of the SES in Australia), Alpine Cliff Rescue, SARINZ (a teaching body who provides free SAR training to any NZ resident including technical rope and rigging courses), NZ Speleological Society and a media trainer. Different regions (including the Aussies) gave short presentations on their manpower, training levels, equipment stores and other capabilities giving a clear picture of the state of Cave SAR preparedness in NZ.

During the course of the weekend we completed two Cave SAR exercises on paper during which we ran through all the requirements for the rescues, including first response teams, incident control

posts, forward staging areas, communications, manpower and other logistics. We learnt how to prioritise our goals and best use our sometimes limited resources. As most of those in the audience have been involved in 2 or 3 actual deep cave rescues and multiple less challenging rescues, there was a huge amount to be learned from their experiences. Deep cave rescue is a major undertaking!

For me the most important observation was the well established relationship between the volunteer cave rescuers, the police (who like in Australia maintain control of all incidents) and other SAR services. The police in NZ now accept and support the use of experienced cavers for the underground component of Cave SAR incidents. In the very early days of cave rescue in NZ, it was quickly established that other services like mine rescue or the fire department did not have the necessary skill set



Flight home over New Zealands alps!



'Harry' and Joe giving their presentation on Australian 'cave rescue' resources.

to perform cave rescue. Over many years an excellent relationship has developed between the police and cavers, and they now cooperate on all Cave SAR callouts. The police indemnify the cavers, and LandSAR offers (limited) life insurance to all volunteers who work under the Police department's jurisdiction for the period of the rescue. Furthermore volunteer rescuers are compensated for travel and other minor expenses. I wonder if the no-fault ACC insurance system in NZ makes some of this a lot easier, as this seems to be a potential sticking point in Australia.

Another worthwhile concept is that of cave specific "pre-plans". If a cave is felt to be "high risk" (e.g. technically difficult, flood prone, frequently visited especially by inexperienced or non-cavers) then a specific SAR management plan can be drawn up in anticipation of an incident in that site. Details include important local contacts, phone numbers, helicopter landing sites, communications issues, rigging info for pitches etc etc. This can significantly streamline rescue operations in the event of an SAR callout.

An Incident Management System (IMS) is central to the organisation of any search or rescue. A version of this system is used in many countries including Australia. In NZ, it is called CIMS... the "Coordinated Incident Management System". When the police receive a callout, they appoint an Incident Controller. This person will notify the

region's Cave Advisor (a local caver who knows the caves and is a SAR enthusiast!). Together, the police and Cave Advisor will facilitate the rescue, appointing other personnel as required. These might include an Operations Manager, Logistics Manager, Intelligence and Planning Manager.

The more prolonged and complex the rescue becomes, the bigger the management structure will become. Various teams will be tasked to enter the cave such as a First Response / Medical team, Communications Team (laying wire for the Michie Phones), Supply Teams and Rigging Teams. Whilst a small rescue

may require only the First Response Team, and be completed in 6 hours, a major deep cave rescue with a stretcher-ridden patient may use 100 personnel and take several days. The Cave Advisor

continued page 32

ALLENDALE EAST GENERAL STORE.

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

Clean Divers Air

FREE Tea and Coffee while you wait!

CDAA Members Discount!

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

50-52 Bay Road, Allendale East

Phone: (08) 8738 7274

John, Sharon and Erica.

NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

DECEMBER 2009

I wish to thank all who attend this year's AGM and worked to make it a great success. Talks by John Webb and Casey McKinlay were very well received. Personally I found the insights given by Al Warild into caving in remote depths of the world very inspiring. I trust all those who attended found the week-end entertaining and worth giving up a day of diving.

We have come to the end of an era with the departure of Warrick McDonald as the longest standing National Director in the CDAA's history. Warrick has served the Association well and I feel his legacy has been the healthy financial state that the Association is current reaping the rewards of. I hope the new Directorate will work cohesively to improve our sport. It goes without saying but please feel free to email me or the other directors at any time with your concerns or ideas to help improve the CDAA. Change only occurs with input from others.

On that note, I would like to welcome aboard the following Directors; Jason Caldwell (Publications) and Jane Bowman (Standards). I look forward to working with them both. I would like to thank the number of people who showed interest in the Standards Director's position. It was not an easy task but the elected directors feel that Jane is the best fit for what we as an association need to achieve in the next 12 months. Standards Director position will be vacated and elections held next year.

I wish to acknowledge Christopher Brown, our latest life member. This is thoroughly deserved and I am proud the membership echoed this with their vote. Chris has achieved more for Australian cave diving

than most and is a thorough gentleman.

Finally I would like to acknowledge Max Marriott who is having serious health issues at this time. Max is a long standing Instructor for the CDAA and has recently announced his retirement from Teaching. He is a past director and a passionate supporter of the sport he loves. I know he has personally had a profound effect on many Adelaide ocean divers and headed them towards another avenue of diving. Max our thoughts are with you.

Regards

Steve Trewavas



FOR SALE V-5000 HID

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



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

The Cave Divers Association of Australia - Linking Landowners to End-Users

The Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA) formed in 1973, in response to a number of high-profile cave diving deaths and today has nearly 700 members and a safety record that is second to none. Land owners and managers entrust the CDAA with ensuring the safety of divers through training, access conditions and equipment requirements. Often landowners impose site-specific caveats and entrust the CDAA to enforce those access rules, which they do through a range of measures including the punishment of offences with suspensions, fines and/or, in the extreme, expulsion from the association. Benefits to landowners include that they have a single point of contact (a site manager), day-to-day enquiries regarding access are dealt with on their behalf, and over time the CDAA often install and maintain infrastructure such as steps, ladders and benches. Benefits to members include that high-quality training is available in

Australia, access is negotiated for and arranged on their behalf, a network is available to locate appropriately experienced guides, and there are many sites now with infrastructure such as a gantry for lowering gear and kitting-up benches. The challenges the CDAA face at the start of the 21st Century include the emergence of new technology, such as rebreathers and scooters, and the increasing affordability of travel, and with it cave-diving tourism. Each year CDAA members dive caves in Europe, Asia and the Americas, and they assist international cave divers to visit Australian caves by administering and policing a Special Visitors Permit system (SVP). The CDAA is Australia's largest cave diving organization and one of the largest in the world. I'm working on a presentation to describe the (overall successful) relationship between land-owners/cave-managers, and cave-diving members of the CDAA.

Peter Buzzacott

LETTERS...

My First AGM Experience

This year, my husband and I attended the CDAA AGM for the first time at the Barn Palais in Mount Gambier. Being new members of the CDAA, following the completion of our Deep Cavern course, run expertly by Jane Bowman and Terri Allen in September, we did not know what to expect.

After a great dive at Kilsbys, we headed to the Barn for the symposium and were very impressed by the variety and the quality of the presentations. The three speakers were interesting and informative offering different aspects of exploration. The venue was great and we had the opportunity to meet with new people.

We were surprised that there were less than 20% of members in attendance but came to the conclusion that maybe some members had too far to travel. Although, later at dinner there was a couple who had travelled all the way from Sydney!

The AGM proceeded normally with brief presentations from the directors reflecting on their reports and offering their thanks to everyone who made a positive contribution to the CDAA. Warrick and Terri were presented with certificates to acknowledge all their hard work and then it was onto the nominations for Life Membership. Chris Brown received his – although I discovered later that this was the second time he had been nominated – and then I was horrified to hear that Warrick's nomination had been refused.

I can understand that some people may not agree with some of his decisions but I am astounded that people would consciously make the effort to vote against such a nomination for someone who has committed their time and energy voluntarily for more than 10 years.

As a new member to the CDAA, I may be speaking out of turn but it seems obvious to me that anyone who puts that much commitment into a voluntary organisation should be entitled to a lifetime

membership as a matter of course. The fact that this has been refused by ballot is a reflection on the members of the CDAA – those who voted against and those who did not make the effort to vote at all. Perhaps this is something that should be taken into consideration when discussing the constitution of the organisation.

The food at the Barn was fantastic and the company was great but I was left with a bitter taste in my mouth at the end of the evening. I understand that Warrick can be nominated again next year for lifetime membership and I know there are lots of members who would be keen to make the nomination but in my eyes the damage is already done. I hope that at next year's AGM, people will turn up to give their thanks to Warrick and to show him the recognition that he deserves through life membership and maybe a gift as a small token of thanks for him to remember his time at the CDAA with fondness.

Member 4505

DKG Drysuit repairs and accessories

- Drysuit repairs • Quality repairs & components
- Weezy base layers and Weezy undersuits & accessories



24-hour turnaround for emergency repairs for latex neck & wrist seals!

Standard repair time for latex neck seals wrists is 7 days.



Zip repairs front & back donning 7 day turn-around*

- Pocket & Pee valve fitting and repairs
- We supply custom made Otter suits neoprene or trilam in a cave cut or off the rack sizes at great prices
- DUI Zipseals refitted with new seals, a big money saver.
- Viking drysuits at low cost
- Australia wide via AusPost

Further info on prices available on website

Contact: Damien Grigg ~ Ph: 03 9327 9322

Mobile: 0432 277 917 ~ Email: Damien@drysuit.com.au

www.drysuit.com.au

DIY supplies at reasonable costs (glues, seals, melco tape, ports)



Dependent on stock and suit

Bauer Junior Compressors

2x BAUER Compressors Re-built

2005 model \$4,500

1998 model \$4,200

Cultri Sub (Italian) \$3,750

Also, 400mm Diam Portholes \$250ea

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

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

Certificate No. 121206/58

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

CLEAN AIR SERVICING

0409 009 149 or 03 9776 9249

Which Regulator is the RIGHT Regulator for Cave Diving?

John Vanderleest

Every diving instructor who ever existed will insist on telling you that the regulator they use is the best regulator for you. But this article is about which is the BEST regulator but which is the RIGHT regulator.

What difference does it make I hear you say? Well, that depends on whether you side mount, dive deep, use a scooter, keep your gear wet, let it melt in the heat, need to fly etc etc.

Over my years of cave diving (long enough to have dive buddies get married, have children and see me cave dive with those children and now watch them having babies of their own - oh my, I suddenly feel depressed), I've used several dozen brands and regulator designs. I presently use a Poseidon Xtreme, which I have found an excellent all rounder for the type of cave diving I now do.

As I have not dived with every regulator on the market, I can truly only tell you about the ones I have owned. I can tell you what I liked about them and what I didn't like. In doing this, I hope you can make up your own mind as to which regulator is right for you.

I have/had some very robust metal cased units such as my Scuba Pro and Kirby Morgan. These units were strong, extremely reliable, gave excellent flow and came with an adjustable knob on the side that changed the breathing resistance. Set up correctly, you could set the flow rate from barely breathable through to positive flow.

I found these regs excellent for diving in surf, deep diving and cray bashing. Their strength was excellent when cray bashing and bouncing around on some of the small private boats used to get to the dive sites. No matter how many times they were belted in the boat or smacked against rocks, they never gave up.

The tuning knob was ideal for a number of reasons – when used on stage tanks, I could de-tune the reg to have ensure that I did not lose any gas if the reg was bumped, currents

etc. For cray bashing where you can be upright, upside down, in strong water flow etc, all changing every few minutes, the ability to down tune a reg is ideal. I also found that being able to tune up the regs when working hard at depth an ideal feature.

So if they were so great, why use anything else? Basically, it was weight. When you are a diver and need to fly, you have problems with weight. While it might not seem much, I often carry 5 regs when I fly (2 primary, 2 stage and 1 spare). A few hundred grams saved here and there soon adds up into kilograms which then translates into significant dollars if you are overweight. Because of this reason, I don't use these regs when I travel.

The second group of regs I use are full faced units. I own both an Aga and Kirby Morgan unit. These are ideal for extreme cold water, or where there is a higher chance of losing your regulator from your mouth.

The Aga unit I own is positive pressure, which means that you use more gas than you would with a standard regulator. I keep the unit now mostly for safety. If I ever need to use in-water recompression (not recommended unless no other option exists), this is my unit of choice. I have it plumbed to be able to switch between multiple air supplies and the positive pressure helps minimise water leaking into the mask.

For cave diving, the positive pressure is a disadvantage because of the gas consumption. For people who are twin independent

users or are using stage tanks, the mask is a poor choice because changing regs means changing masks.

The Kirby Morgan full face mask does not have a built in regulator. You clip in your own regulator. Because of its design, I can change regs without losing the mask. However, the mechanism used to seal over the mouth means that it is not ideal for twin independent or stage tanks. For divers using manifolded back mount cylinders without stage tanks, it's a viable option.

Most divers I know who use these masks like them because the primary regulator can be clipped into the mask. Therefore if the diver convulses or goes unconscious, they are far less likely to drown.

For cave diving, the mask has its place, but is not for everyday cave diving.

The third group of regs are side exhaust units. As I prefer independent side mount configurations for cave diving, it's my regulator of choice. I have used Oceanics, Poseidon

Cyclons, Jetstreams and Xtremes.

When scootering, I find the Cyclons and Jetstream designs can easily catch the water current and free flow – this happens mostly on the regs that are NOT in your mouth. While you can overcome this through careful placement of the regulator, the twisting and turning you do in cave diving will, from time to time, cause these regs to free flow.

I did use Oceanic side exhaust regs for a long time. I liked their small size compared to other regs but found that they would not hold their tune for long. The second stage diaphragm in these regs developed indents (memory) from the rigid plastic they rest against. It was not unusual for these diaphragms to move ever so slightly and for the diaphragms to leak. I used to carry spare diaphragms with me and regularly swap them over. The ones I removed would no longer have any pressure on the rubber, allowing it to pop back into shape (lose its memory).

Blue Lake Diving

- Air Fills • Nitrox Fills • Minor Repairs
- Overnight Scuba Cylinder Testing*, O2 cleaning*

(*Prior arrangement required)

trimix and high pressure O2 available

Guaranteed o'night Air/Nitrox fills... drop off before 8pm... filled by 7am next morning!

All enquiries
Darren Walters - 0408 845 511
Email: darren@justabledlodge.com.au

Lot 7, Capirco Rd, Compton (via Mt. Gambier)
PO Box 9286, Mount Gambier West, S.A. 5291

Tripod
available
for use!

Another trick used by other divers was to put some grease on the rubber. In effect, filling up the dents. This also had the advantage of stopping the high pitched squeal often associated with these regs.

One of the other disadvantages of these regs was that many people complained that they breathe wet. However, this was generally only evident when people used an elbow joint on the reg which altered the angle the regulator sat in the mouth, lifting the exhaust to a high point and making it difficult for the water to drain out. The problem is overcome easily if you understand the reason.

I now use Poseidon Xtremes. I like their small profile, they are side exhausts and they have never free flowed when scooting. The first stage design is different from anything else on the market and they claim a much longer period between services. I have had my first set since they were first released and not had any concerns so far.

This article is not intended to promote or

knock any particular brand of reg. All regs mentioned in this article I purchased, and most I still own. I have owned several other brands but all were a variation on the types described already.

As regulators are very expensive items and a good reg can make a good dive a great dive, choosing the right one is important. It is not a simple matter of walking into the first dive store you see and asking the dive shop owner. Balance what you hear from people who work in dive shops with divers who are doing the sort of diving you are doing or intend on doing. Instructors are a good source of information, but don't underestimate the value of the many highly experienced divers who are doing and not teaching. Most importantly, if you can, see if you can borrow some regs to try out. It's amazing how many people will allow you to do so. Once you have found the reg for you, go to the dive store and buy five, don't tell your wife/husband what you just spent and then go and have fun.

enjoy your stay at **Just a Bed Lodge**

• 6 individual bedrooms, 4 with two single beds and 2 with a double bunk and a single bed.

• Each bed is supplied with mattress cover sheet, pillow/pillow case.
Please provide your own linen or linen is available for a small additional cost.

• Each bedroom is individually lockable allowing for a secure area for personal effects.

Rates from \$30 pp per night!

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

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

Contact Suzanne on 0427 884 729 or Email: suzanne@justabedlodge.com.au

www.justabedlodge.com.au

Down To BUSINESS

The AGM this year was a great success with 90 people attending the dinner and 100 people attending the symposium. The speakers did a fantastic job, keeping us informed and entertained. The venue was outstanding, great food, comfortable accommodation and excellent service. Many prizes were given away. Craig Larkin was the successful bidder in the auction acquiring a fantastic HID torch very generously donated by Casey McKinlay and Halcyon. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Tara Parkinson for doing an outstanding job on Products all night. I'd also like to congratulate Chris Brown on his Life Membership. Next year's AGM has been booked at the Barn Palais again on the October 2 so mark this date in your diaries now.

Immediately preceding the AGM, we held a SGM to vote in a change to the Constitution requiring 20% of members to vote in order to successfully pass amendments to the Constitution. As a quorum was not achieved a vote could not be taken so this change has been passed onto the Constitution subcommittee for inclusion in its work. The other Constitutional amendments which were voted on were also unsuccessful and these too have been passed onto the subcommittee for consideration. Neville Skinner, who was involved with the proposed amendments, was welcomed onto the subcommittee and I'd like to pass on my thanks to Neville for his positive contributions. The Constitution subcommittee has almost completed its work and we hope to have

the proposed draft to the National Committee for consideration by the New Year.

The online Opinion Poll closed on the 31st October and the results and subsequent Finance subcommittee proposals were placed on the website for your perusal. To summarise, the members supported almost equally two of the options put forward. The first was to utilise the Associations' funds for a capital purchase and the second was to keep the current funds and utilise the surplus each year on member services. The subcommittee proposed that these two options now be developed further.

All the subcommittee proposals were handed over to Mike Reed who has drafted a Strategic Directions document incorporating these proposals. The National Committee is now considering this document and making final adjustments. This document should be on the website early in the New Year and you will be informed via the News List.

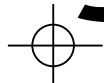
Thank you to all the members who have sent through photos for the displays. I am now in the process of organising the first of the displays and will keep you informed of the progress.

Regards,
Helen Higgins.



CDAА Mapping

John Dalla-Zuanna



By way of a quick intro, in my role as the Mapping Officer, I would propose the following objectives to be met within the next 12 months..

A) Create a Ground Zero point for each of the published CDAА sites. This will enable all data collection to be referred appropriately.

B) Upgrade of all the published maps on the CDAА website which have not been adjusted recently.

C) Create a storage base of collected data (from the membership) which can be referenced to the Ground Zero point of that sinkhole / cave.

D) Hold at least one cave survey workshop in each State and publish methods and techniques for collecting survey data via guidelines and the web.

Once data is collected, I wish to coordinate with a number of talented "cartographers" to derive cave maps or sections of cave maps for the membership to peruse and even continue to add definition. The sinkholes also lend themselves to excellent 3D

structures with enough survey data.

I would now like to hear from people who wish to take on various projects at a preferred site and would encourage all to participate. There are some experienced cave surveyors out there and by connecting with those new to surveying, interested divers, these techniques can be passed on.

An example exercise would be to do a perimeter survey of a sinkhole at a specific depth. Say at 0m and then 3, 6, 9m etc. With this data, I can mesh the sections and create a 3D profile...

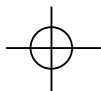
If you wish to do some homework, on land, stretch your guideline out and create 4 sides of a rough square (close the loop) and call each point/bend A - B - C - D. Now measure each length (with a tape measure) and the direction (in degrees using a compass) of each length and complete this table:

Station	Bearing (Deg)	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Ceiling Depth	Floor Depth	Left Wall	Right wall
A	From A to B	(A-B)	Ignore for now... ;-)				
B	From B to C	(B-C)					
C	From C to D	(C-D)					
D	From D to A	(D-A)					

Once completed you could draw this out to scale on paper and compare your actual distance/bearing between D-A and your drawn scale...

How's your accuracy?

Interested? Contact me. Mob: 0407 887 060



'Standards Direction'



I was disappointed to have missed this year's AGM, but from all reports, it was a wonderful event. I was pleased however to be invited to take on the role of Standards Director for the next 12 months, and am looking forward to working closely with all of the current Directors and office bearers of the CDAА.

Steve had already started some great projects in his role of Standards, one of which was to implement compulsory attendance at a workshop for all Instructors every 24 months. This will continue and will hopefully include other things such as training videos, seminars and equipment familiarization workshops.

A Training Committee has already been formed and we have started work on a number of issues. Some training materials have already been upgraded, and special thanks needs to be given to Terri Allen and Warrick McDonald for their work on the Deep Cavern and Advanced Cave student notes. Although these are both finalized, they are also a 'work in progress' and are being modified and improved upon constantly as

ideas and technologies change.

The Cave Course is the next major, and important area to tackle and will hopefully be in place within the next few months.

Other areas of discussion by the Committee include;

- Increased number of dives on Cave and Advanced Cave courses
- Climbing workshops for members
- Oxygen Provider course for members
- Continuing Sidemount Workshops conducted in various States
- Possibility of completing theory requirements of courses online
- Workshop updates for members

I'd like to thank all those who volunteered for the Committee, it was great to see so much interest. If any members would like to address any standards related issues with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at janelbowman@hotmail.com.

GUIDELINES FULL COLOUR ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2010

Guidelines will be printed Full Colour as of March 2010 but B&W Advertising will still be available.

New Advertising Rates have been established, as follows:

Colour: Full Page \$350 Half Page \$250 Quarter Page \$150

Mono: Full page \$250 Half Page \$150 Quarter Page \$100

Full Page ads on pgs 2, 3 or Outside Back Cover = \$400 each*

*Must be booked for one year

Just in time for
Christmas...
New DVD

**Steve Bogaerts -
A Cave Diver Story.**



Venture into the life of cave divers, as they map the unknown underwater caves of Mexico. These underwater cave systems in Mexico are more extensive than anywhere else in the world. In fact, all three of the planets longest submerged cave systems are found on the Caribbean coastline. Follow Steve Bogaerts through some of the most amazing cave diving footage ever filmed.

Experience first hand the beauty & danger of cave diving on this amazing cave diving DVD. Purchase your copy of this stunning documentary filmed in full HD quality & experience the adventures into the depths of these massive underwater cavern systems.

Price \$35

To order your copy of this Brand New DVD, please order direct from the Online Store via the CDAA web page.



**CDAA
PRODUCTS
NEWS**



**Looking for a few extra stocking
fillers for Christmas?**

Don't forget we have lots of little items available from **key rings & stubbie holders**, to our full range of cave diving **DVD's** including the brand new DVD 'A Cave Divers Story'.

We also have a full range of **clothing** for all weather conditions.

Just visit the on-line store to purchase your items.

Merry Christmas & Happy Diving
Tara Parkinson
CDAA Products Officer.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2009.

Hi All

Well, wasn't the AGM an incredible show this time around? Congratulations must go to all who had any part in organising this event. Speakers were great and fun was had by all who attended. This show is fast becoming the calendar event not to be missed, so I would be putting next year's date on your calendar. These nights are a far cry from the loud, bitchy infighting nights of the 80s & 90s.

As listed in the previous report, we needed to create 2 new positions within the Association. These positions are Mapping Co-ordinator and Science Officer. I would like to welcome aboard John Dalla-Zuanna as Mapping co ordinator and Trent Lee as Science Officer. John has a long and involved history with the CDAA and has been very proactive with previous mapping projects. John can be contacted on Mob 0407 887 060.

The Science Officer will be involved with dwindling water tables, critters and creatures and anything else scientific that happens in and around the cave environment. If you would like to contact Trent, please send through an email, and I will pass it on (until we organise an email address for him)

On the site note it is pleasing to see that there will be no closure of Ewen's

Ponds to diving. This is mainly due to the input from the vocal minority of our interested members. We need to express our thanks to them for the work they have put in. Maybe we should all become so passionate. Good job. Little Blue has a "Dive at your own risk" sign at it so be aware of the risks that you will be taking on by diving the site.

I will be putting out the call to assist in a cleanup at Hell's Hole. This will more than likely happen early in the New Year. Please let me know if you are interested, and what dates you would be available, and I will try to organise a weekend that suits as many people as possible.

I need to thank all the volunteers who have helped run site access, unsung workers who at times get some very unreasonable requests for access at the last moment. Please, can we allow a reasonable amount of time to work the bookings and remember that these guys are volunteers. This will help all have a good time. I also need to thank Ken Smith for the tireless effort that he is putting in as SA Rep. We are looking forward to the sidemount workshop that he has organised on the 6th December.

Remember access is a privilege, not a right.
Safe Diving, Rob



Publications and Record's Director's Report

Well it has been a busy start to the role while I found a suitable replacement for the position of Records Officer. I would like to wish a very warm welcome to Rob Lee for this position. Rob is a family man with two children, a wife, a full time job and a dive charter business - Rusthunters. To now put his hand up for one of the busiest roles in the Association, shows his level of commitment to the members and cave diving. Welcome aboard Rob.

One of the things I wish to achieve is raising the profile of Cave Diving in Australia – both nationally and internationally. On a national level, this involves doing something a little more than what we have done in the past. We are looking at putting a regular monthly article in Dive Log commencing January 2010. Initially it will be something on the history of cave diving in Australia and why the CDAA was formed. From there we will go into trip reports and exploration of caves. Members should be aware that the CDAA will receive a very small fee for submitting these articles (\$50) and this will be kept in the kitty to help cover costs involved in preparing the articles for a different media format. Also, please know that anything you submit for Guidelines could be reprinted in Dive Log – including photographs – all will be credited.

I am in the process of getting a forum up and running which will replace the email discussion list in time. The intention with this forum will be to have the members' first and surnames, along with their CDAA numbers shown on every post.

This will ensure that nobody hides behind a 'handle' and that everyone knows who they are talking to. This should ensure that the forum is reasonably self regulating – but time will tell I suppose. The forum will be open to anyone who has ever been a member of the CDAA regardless of if they are a current member or not, but it will not be open to the public in any way. The news list; which the majority of members are subscribed to will remain in place to allow Directors and Office Bearers to update members on important news announcements. This is a non reply email list, so you can rest assured that all emails you receive will be civil.

The website will also get a makeover in the future and I would like to make the completion of QA forms considerably easier than it currently is. A red flag prompting you to complete your form when you log in is one idea that seems to have some merit. Too many members are forgetting to do the QA forms once they have finished a course and the Records Officer is unable to send out their cards until it is complete. Hopefully the flag will help reduce this issue.

I am always open to new ideas and concepts, so feel free to contact me at any time.

Dive safe and enjoy,
Jason Caldwell



CDAA INSTRUCTORS

NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Penetr	NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Penetr
A.C.T.				VICTORIA. cont.			
APPS, Heike (CDAA 2776) BH 02 6249 9170 AH 02 6291 0566 E: heike.apps@ga.gov.au	Yes	Yes	Yes	CLARIDGE, Linda (CDAA 2214) Mobile 0408 052 070 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au AH (03) 5565 8793	Yes	Yes	Yes
N.S.W.				DALLA-ZUANNA, John (CDAA 236) Penetration instructor Phone: 0407 887 060 Email: jd@paintandcustom.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes
GRILLS, Peter (CDAA 1780) AH 02 4955 4497 Mobile 0419 820 920 E: peter_grills@hotmail.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	HARDMAN, Lorraine (CDAA 2824) Mob: 0418 304 120 E: PALdiving@people.net.au	Yes		
SOUTH AUSTRALIA				HIGGINS, Andrew (CDAA 3329) Mobile: 0413 569164 E: ah3329@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
COSTELLO, Peter (CDAA 3378) Mob: 0417 494 771 soudiv@southerndiving.com	Yes			LESLIE, Paul (CDAA 3184) Phone: (03) 9879 2868 Email: info@melbournediving.com.au	Yes	Yes	
MARRIOTT, Max (CDAA 1268) Mob: 0428 897 897 E: dive69@internode.on.net	Yes	Yes	Yes	McDONALD, Warrick (CDAA 1882) BH: (03) 9579 2600 E: info@abocean.com.au Mobile 0408 374 112	Yes	Yes	Yes
SELBACH, Steve (CDAA 3495) Phone: 0413 134 827 Email: steve.selbach@mac.com	Yes			MONACO, Rubens (CDAA 1731) BH 03 5984-1799 E: info@idcscuba.com.au Mobile: 0413-429-533	Yes	Yes	
TAYLOR, Ian (CDAA 3568) Phone: 0411 118 134 E: ian.taylor4@defence.gov.au	Yes	Yes		QUEENSLAND			
VICTORIA				FEATONBY, Tim (CDAA 3372) Mob: 0402 129 253 E: tim.featonby@defence.gov.au	Yes	Yes	
ALLEN, Terri (CDAA 3483) Mob: 0419 176 633 E: terri.allen@baker.edu.au	Yes	Yes		WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
BARCLAY, Gary (CDAA 1735) AH (03) 5565 8793 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes	PAYNTER, Geoff (CDAA 3784) Mob: 0407 445 112 E: gpaynter@geo.net.au	Yes		
BOWMAN, Jane (CDAA 1880) BH: (03) 9579 2600 E: info@abocean.com.au www.abocean.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes	INSTRUCTOR ADVOCATE: ANDY HIGGINS.			

UPCOMING COURSES

DEEP CAVERN Courses

January 1 - 31, 2010 in Melbourne & Mt Gambier
Every Month - Midweek or Weekend courses. Flexible schedule in Melbourne & Mt Gambier.
One theory day, pool session and 3 days in Mount Gambier. Twin tanks supplied if you don't have your own.
Instructor: Rubens MONACO 0413-429-533 info@idcscuba.com.au

January 18 - 31, 2010 in Melbourne and Mt Gambier.
Includes 3 hour pool session, gear critique and theory in Melbourne and then 6 dives in Mount Gambier.
Instructor: Jane Bowman 03 9579 2600 E: info@abocean.com.au http://www.abocean.com.au

January 23 - 26, 2010 in Mount Gambier
Full time course entirely in Mount Gambier SA. Incl Theory, dives, wireladder climbing workshop.
Instructor: Linda CLARIDGE 0408 052 070 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au

February 18 - March 1, 2010 or May 13 - 24, 2010 in Melbourne & Mt Gambier.
Includes theory, full gear critique and assistance with modification as well as a 4 hour pool session completed in Melbourne. 3 day weekend you will complete 3 Cavern Dives and 3 Sinkholes in Mt Gambier.
Instructor: Paul LESLIE 03 9459 4111 E: paul@melbournediving.com.au

February 25 - 28, 2010 in Mount Gambier, SA.
Full time program offered in Mount Gambier SA. Includes all in-water training and site dives.
Instructor: Linda CLARIDGE 0408 052 070 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au

CAVE Courses

January 1 - 3, 2010 in Mount Gambier SA3 day full time course conducted entirely in Mount G.
Includes all theory, 3 training dives and 3 site dives.
Instructor: Linda Claridge 0408 052 070 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au

January 1 - 31, 2010 in Mt Gambier Midweek or weekend courses.
Every Month - Midweek or Weekend courses. Flexible schedule in Mt Gambier
3 days of diving in Mt Gambier. Dates to suit you. Only 2 students per course max. Twin tanks supplied.
Instructor: Rubens MONACO 0413-429-533 E: info@idcscuba.com.au

March 16 - 22, 2010 in Melbourne & Mt Gambier
Includes theory, assistance with mods including use of Finger Spools, Arrows and Cookies. All completed in Melb.
3 days, 6 Dives, 3 Cave Sites in Mt Gambier. Instructor: Paul LESLIE 03 9459 4111 paul@melbournediving.com.au

April 24 - 26, 2010 in Mount Gambier SA
3 day, full time course offered entirely in Mount Gambier. All theory, 3 training dives and 3 site dives conducted
Instructor: Linda CLARIDGE 0408 052 070 garinda@tpgi.com.au

April 27 - May 3, 2010 in Melbourne & Mt Gambier
Includes theory, assistance with mods including use of Finger Spools, Arrows and Cookies. All completed in Melb.
3 days, 6 Dives, 3 Cave Sites in Mt Gambier. Instructor: Paul LESLIE 03 9459 4111 paul@melbournediving.com.au

Advanced Cave

April 2 - 6, 2010 in Mt Gambier or June 12 - 20, 2010 in Mt Gambier
Full time Advanced Cave program run entirely at Mt Gambier. Please download the application form from the web site and pay careful attention to the prerequisite and equipment requirements.
Instructor: CDAA 0407 566455 E: standards@cavedivers.com.au

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 a \$60 weekend fee will be required before any bookings can be accepted.

Jan. 1-3, 2010 New Years Day. Warrick McDonald	March 6 - 8 Victoria Labour Day. Adelaide Cup. Steve Trewavas	May 8 - 9 Gary Barclay
January 23 - 24. Steve Trewavas		May 22 - 23 Richard Irndorfer
February 6 - 7. Linda Claridge	March 20 - 21 John Dalla-Zuanna	June 12 - 14 Queens Birthday. Jane Bowman
February 13 - 14. Rob Brennan	April 2 - 5 Easter. Jane Bowman	
February 27 - 28. Andrew Higgins	April 24 - 26 Anzac Day. Rob Brennan	

**The National Committee advises that
as of the 1st January 2010,
the Tank Cave booking fee will be
increased to \$60 per weekend**

CDAА SITE ACCESS - www.cavedivers.com.au

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

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

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
------	-------	-------	----------------

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 CDAА diving endorsement for the site and carry current
Fossil	C	Mt Gambier 5290 Ph: (08) 8735 1177 Fax: (08) 8735 1135	financial CDAА membership card. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DEH before access is permitted and original copy must be received by DEH prior to diving. 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. \$26/dive or annual Permit \$60. 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	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 CDAА 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 (stop signs)	
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 CDAА website)	
Stinging Nettle Cave	P	Open every weekend max 3 divers per day undertaking 1 dive per day (check an update on CDAА website).	
Iddlebidy	P	Open every Saturday max 4 divers, 1 dive only (check an update on CDAА website)	

Owner: Contact Forestry SA by email: conservationandrecreation@forestrysa.com.au. Fax: (08) 8724 2870 or Phone: (08) 8724 2876 or book on-line via the CDAА website to arrange permit. Collect permits from the Forestry Office, RHS of driveway to Carter Holt, Jubilee Hwy, Mt G.

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 CDAА	Access - Open Weekly. Refer to CDAА 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 or contact Craig at kilsby@cavedivers.com.au No animals, visitors or mid-week diving allowed.
----------	---	--------------------------	---

CDAА SITE ACCESS

SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
------	-------	-------	----------------

MOUNT GAMBIER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (continued)

BARNOOLUT SITES

Ten Eighty	S/C	Scotts Agencies P/L	Access:
ALL BARNOOLUT SITES ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSED.			

Blacks Hole	S/C	Scotts Agencies P/L	
-------------	-----	---------------------	--

Shaft	S/C	Generally open one weekend a month. Trevor Ashby	For access dates refer to Guidelines or the CDAА 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 CDAА 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)
-------	-----	---	---

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 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.
- East	C	Council	
- West	P	Lessee Ph: 0418 133 407	

Three Sisters	P	Millicent Council	Download Indemnity from Web Page. Access available for experienced Penetration divers only. Low profile systems advised. 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. DYCER	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@cs.usyd.edu.au. Phone (02)97434157	
-------------------	---	--	--

Rum Jungle Lake	S	Unrestricted access currently exists – Please refer advice Guidelines #68 or check CDAА website.	
-----------------	---	--	--

Burrinjuck	S/C/P	This is a tri rated site. Please see details in issue No. 73. There are no specific access arrangements.	
------------	-------	--	--

CDA A PRODUCTS ORDER FORM

Please send to: Tara Parkinson
CDAA, Unit 2/7 Condah Crt,
Ashwood, VIC 3147, or order On-Line
at www.cavedivers.com.au

QTY / COUNSIZE	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
	Abseiling Handbook. For those involved in basic recreational abseil instruction, this book details safe abseil practises for beginners. Contents include, risk management, equipment, anchor systems, abseil site set-up and instruction and emergency procedures.	\$20.00	
	Basic Underwater Cave Surveying. The standard publication for anyone remotely interested in research and survey techniques used in water filled caves.	\$30.00	
	Cave Diving Communications. A manual from NSS - CDS dealing exclusively with all underwater communications used in cave diving. Including touch, torch and line signals, and use of line arrows and jump reels.	\$25.00	
	Cave Diving - A Blueprint for Survival. A book by the world-renowned cave diver, the late Sheck Exley, this is a case study of a number of accidents that have occurred in the USA and how to avoid them.	\$20.00	
	Cave Diving - Articles & Opinions A comprehensive Guide to Cave Diving & Exploration. Edited by Jill Heinerth & Bill Oigarden. Written and edited by some of the top cave divers in the world, this book covers everything from basic equipment to advance cave exploration.	\$70.00	
	Cavern/Cave Diver Workbook. This workbook is the official training manual used by the NACD for the Cavern Diver and Cave Diver courses. It includes sections on accident analysis, cave types and their formation, equipment, communication and emergency procedures.	\$40.00	
	Caverns Measureless to Man. The story of the passion for cave diving of the late Sheck Exley who spent his life exploring underwater caves. Publications Directors pick. <i>Amazing book you can't put down once you start, a must read!</i>	\$50.00	
	CDAA Occasional Paper No. 2. From National Conference 1981. Includes topics such as Fossil Cave, Belay Techniques and Cocklebidy 1979.	\$2.00	
NEW!	Divers of the Dark - Exploring Budapest's Underground Caves A unique journey into an underground world that only a handful of people have visited. One of the most well-known springs is Malom Lake. It is a doorway to the cave system called Molnár János. Nobody knows how far or how deep below the city the tunnels reach. Magnificent photos!	\$75.00	
	Diving in Darkness By Martyn Farr. Personally signed by the author. Provides a clear, concise and modern overview of the essential equipment, skills and techniques required to dive in caves, mines, wrecks and beneath ice. Published in softback Diving in Darkness is packed with 170 photographs and diagrams throughout its 128 pages.	\$65.00	
	Hidden Splendours of the Yucatan. Hidden Splendours of the Yucatan is photographer/author Lalo Fiorelli's story of exploration, teaching, and photography in the caves of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. His stunning photography is complemented by the lively, down to earth writing style that brings the experience of exploration.	\$49.00	
	NSS Cave Diving Manual. The standard reference manual in cave diving covering just about every conceivable topic. New Edition.	\$55.00	
	NSS Cavern Divers' Manual. The standard reference manual in cavern diving covering almost every conceivable topic. Also most principles behind safe sinkhole and cave diving.	\$30.00	
	The Darkness Beckons. By Martyn Farr. The history and development of cave diving.	\$75.00	
	The Taming of The Slough. This is Sheck Exley's exciting story of the discovery and mapping of the Peacock Springs Cave System - at the time the world's longest underwater cave.	\$45.00	
	Vertical. - A Technical Manual for Cavers by Alan Warild Vertical is a definitive guide to vertical cave exploration techniques. It describes deep cave exploration methods: emphasising the importance of safety, conservation and documentation. The fifth edition of Vertical is illustrated with photographs from expeditions on five continents.	\$45.00	
	Australian Cave Diving - A Contrast. By Tony Carlisle. Four short documentary type videos on Warbla Cave, Three Sisters Cave, The Road to Toad Hall and Tank Cave.	\$25.00	
NEW!	"Axziz Mundi". A unique expedition into the inner jungles of the Yucatan. For over a decade, explorer Curt Brown and his team of cave explorers have been pushing deeper into the inner jungles of the Yucatan in search of unexplored cenotes.	\$35.00	
	Cave Diving Beneath the Ozark Mountains - DVD - with footage of Ginnie Springs and the Gasconade River in the Ozark Mountains, Missouri. Over four days the team reach 2000 feet in, 200 feet deep, using scooters which they drag through restrictions using ropes. In this DVD they extend the survey of the cave.	\$30.00	

	QTY / COU/SIZE	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
DVD's		Cave Diving Mount Gambier – DVD - from Novice cavern sites, to the much more intriguing penetration dives, 'Cave Diving Mt Gambier' will take you to places that are only accessible by trained cave divers and rarely seen by others. Featuring 15 of the most popular dive sites in Mt. Gambier.	\$40.00	
		China - Beneath the Wall – DVD - Sichuan Province in central China is home to some of the world's biggest cave systems. This film follows a team of British explorers as they attempt to link together two of the, most spectacular caves and complete the tantalizing through trip. But as with so many expeditions into the unknown, things don't quite go as planned... A great film about dry caving exploration.	\$35.00	
		"Down Deep Down Under" . A spectacular film by Alex Wyschnja. Discover the hidden secrets of Mt Gambier's famous fresh water caves. Tucked away in S.A.'s Sth East are some of the country's best known freshwater caves. The physical challenge of cave diving makes Mount Gambier a diver's mecca.	\$25.00	
		"Facing Darkness" . Following some of the greatest cave divers in north Florida, Facing Darkness invites you to discover the underwater caves and how divers safely explore them. About the geology, the danger and the passion.	\$35.00	
		Wookey Exposed . Filmed and produced by Gavin Newman, this award winning film looks at the spectacular discoveries made by successive generations of explorers and joins the latest team to take up the challenge. Using specially designed camera systems we follow the divers to the very limits of the exploration as they attempt to push on into the darkness beyond the end of Wookey Hole.	\$35.00	
		NEW! WKPP Push for the Connection – DVD - Explorers from GUE's Woodville Karst Plain Project resolve to establish a link between two of the largest underwater cave systems in the world. Following a series of previously unimaginable dives, exploration divers push nearly 7km into the extreme depths of the Wakulla & Leon Sinks cave system	\$35.00	
CLOTHING		SIZE		
		• Embroidered Crew Neck T-shirts . Black, Navy and Steel Grey - S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$25.00	
		• Embroidered Polo Shirts . Grey with black trim or black with red trim. Look very smart!	\$35.00	
		• Embroidered Hoodies . Black only - Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$70.00	
		• Embroidered Trekka Jackets . Black only - Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$135.00	
		• Polar Fleece Jumpers . Colours: Blue, Black. Original logo. Keeps you toasty warm & smart!	\$60.00	
		• Polar Fleece Vests . Blue, Black. Original logo. Great to wear as extra layer under the drysuit!	\$50.00	
		• Ladies Contrast Tee . Ladies stylish cut in Grey with Navy Blue sleeves. Sizes 8, 10, 12, 14.	\$25.00	
		• Beanies . Black only.	\$20.00	
		• Caps . Black only.	\$20.00	
MISC		• CDAА Key Rings . Blue with gold motif. CDAА P.O. Box on back.	\$5.00	
		• Round Sticker . CDAА logo over line arrow.	\$1.00	
		• Bumper Sticker . Featuring photos by Dean Chamberlain.	\$1.00	
		• Log Book Folder . With embroidered CDAА logo on the front cover.	\$35.00	
		• Tank Cave Poster . Full Colour 14.5" x 25" poster of Tank Cave by Peter Rogers. Price includes p&h.	\$8.00	
		• Tank Cave Map . Premium matt or gloss 120g paper \$96.00 (laminated \$22.00 extra, silver back \$132.00)		
		• CD of Guidelines 1-94 All Guidelines as searchable pdfs on CD.	\$10.00	
		• Stubby Holders - high quality 5mm neoprene with CDAА logo	\$8.00	
		• Travel Mugs - great for having a cuppa on the run	\$12.00	
		• Mask Slap Straps - fully embroidered with CDAА logo	\$16.00	

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

Address: _____ Plus P&H \$12.00

_____ Postcode: _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Card No.

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

☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____ Ph: () _____ Fax: () _____

Closing the loop with Ginnie

by Glenn Hicks

Image: Dean Chaimberlain

In late November 2009 a group of three from the 'NW Divers' (NSW division) made their way to Northern Florida with the intention to make a series of dives in the freshwater caves. With only two weeks available for this initial expedition it was understood by all that the number of selected sites would be limited – to try and visit all available sites in this time frame would be impossible.

To 'validate' the overseas expenses the group first visited DEMA in Orlando where they had the chance to observe some of the new equipment/technologies. Whilst a somewhat smaller event, when compared to previous years, there was still a relatively healthy smattering of new 'dive stuff' which included products such as the Poseidon Mark VI closed circuit rebreather (CCR) and many more.

After a couple of days of intense socializing and 'networking' we decided it was time to make the short drive to Lake City - which would act as 'base camp' for our diving extravaganza. We stayed at the Super 8 Motel (Lake City) and had managed to pre-book a rate equivalent to \$27 pp per night inc. continental breakfast – exceptionally good value.

Whilst we had carried most of our dive equipment with us we of course needed a range of gear to complete the package i.e. tanks, lead and gas. We had been pointed in the direction of Amigo's Dive Centre which is a little over half way between Lake City and Ginnie Spring – our first port of call. It has to be said that Wayne at Amigo's could not be a more helpful, accommodating relaxed guy if he tried. He has a great set-up with huge quantities of clean air, pre-mixed 32% Nitrox, Helium and Oxygen. He also has an extensive range of rental equipment: be it single cylinder, stage cylinders, twin sets, side mount kits, no mount kits, lights, reels, scooters... We were particularly pleased to find that he also was/is totally 'CCR friendly' as two of our group were diving CCR (a Dive Rite Optima FX and an Evo+) – both units were catered for in terms of cylinders and Extendair™ scrubber cartridges/ Sofnalime.

As always we decided to make a short 'check out' dive to ensure that all the gear had travelled okay and to make any final adjustments to our weight systems/trim. As usual, this was a worthwhile exercise... We made this dive in the Cavern site at Ginnie Springs. This is typically used as a training site as it is relatively shallow, combines an open water area and a partially covered cavern section. Whilst we had heard about the clarity of the water in these caves systems we could not believe what we saw - the water was literally 'Gin clear'. After a 30 minute paddle about we made our way back to the wooden steps - that seem to be a signature of the area to make diver's lives easier – and, as it was getting dark, were treated to a spectacular site. The lights from the car park were clearly visible from 6 – 10 metres underwater and the patterns created by the refraction through the clear water were amazing!

We were all systems go! We spent the next days focusing our diving attention on sites such as Devil's (Ginnie Spring), Madison, Peacock and Little River. Whilst all quite different in terms of underwater topography, features, condition and accessibility – they were all awesome and offered similar water clarity as we had found on day one. There is no question; these cave systems are extensive, beautiful and well maintained.

During week two of our trip we chanced upon the Dive Rite team, which was conducting a Tech Tour at Ginnie Spring. It seems they had a huge number of local and international visitors in town following DEMA and were therefore providing academic and practical training on their Nomad side mounting kit and Optima CCR.

This was particularly fortunate for me as the only open circuit diver in our NW group. It had been an interesting lesson this trip with regards to dive planning for a mixed team of open circuit and CCR divers – frankly it was starting to cause a few headaches. Because the Floridian sites are typically 10 – 30 metres in depth it is feasible for CCR divers to make 2.5+ hour dives without even incurring any decompression obligation. Of course this is not so true when breathing on open circuit plus the logistics of carrying more gas/cylinders. I had been considering the idea of buying a CCR but had not had too much exposure to them personally until this trip.

The Dive Rite team could not have been more accommodating and welcomed us into their event. I was particularly fortunate that it was Lamar Hires (Owner and co-founder of Dive Rite Inc.) who conducted my 1:1 pre-dive briefing on the Optima FX before I then made an intro dive in the cavern area (thanks to Ron Carlo from Dive Rite also for floating along beside me). I had heard that buoyancy would be quite different on CCR as the exhaled gas is retained within the system, scrubbed and re-used – this was noticeable but okay. What I did notice was how quiet it was – I could only hear the gentle noise of my breathing but that was all – blissful. It was incredible how differently the fish interacted with me because I wasn't blowing bubbles at them!

We were invited to join the cook off (BBQ) at the end of the day and had the chance to ramble on about 'all things diving' with a large group of likeminded individuals. We certainly offer our thanks to the Dive Rite team for being so welcoming and supportive (and for the beer and burgers...).

We continued to make our ever increasing (duration and distance) dives in Devil's, and Madison before I came to the

realisation that my turn had come... It was time for me to evolve as a diver and therefore a Dive Rite Optima FX CCR was ordered. Whilst there are many different views about the various CCR's currently on the market the Optima FX is streamlined, proven, competitively priced and well supported by Dive Rite both in the USA and Australia; At the time of writing this article I am like a child before Christmas with anticipation!!

So, in conclusion; the Floridian cave systems are absolutely incredible. An interesting dynamic of many of these caves is the presence of flow – this was a new phenomenon for our group whose cave experience has been more aligned with Mt. Gambia and NSW. It certainly added a new dimension to our planning and gas management considerations. However, with a temperature of 21°C in the water (and therefore thin undergarments only), gin clear water, extensive variety, extremely welcoming locals, stable weather conditions, cold beer and great steaks what more could we ask for?

We reluctantly left Florida behind us but I am now armed with my shiny new Optima FX which seemed a fitting way to close the loop with Ginnie. It is fair to say that a return journey in 2010 is already planned (maybe even two...)

Ginnie Springs
<http://www.ginniespringsoutdoors.com>

Amigo's Dive Centre
<http://www.amigosdivecenter.com>





Joe Sydney with Steve Kesler (NZ) managing a CIMS paper cave rescue exercise.

may decide to mobilise cavers from all over the country for such rescues, and so up to date callout lists of cavers (and their skill sets) are kept by the regional Cave Advisors. In a major disaster it is possible that Australian cavers would also be called in, and there is ongoing interest by the New Zealanders in streamlining the process by which this could happen.



Conference centre with Cave SARex participants. Australian representatives: Richard 'Harry' Harris of SA-bottom left and Joe Sydney-sitting behind Harry.

One deficiency in NZ Cave SAR is in the area of sump and cave diving rescue. There are literally less than half a dozen cave divers in the NZ caving ranks and most of these dive only intermittently. I had some early discussions with the Kiwis about the possibility of Australian cave divers being called upon in an emergency. This dialogue will continue.

My thoughts after the conference:

With the exception of the NSW CRS, I suspect Australia is generally in a poor state of preparedness for cave rescue compared with NZ.

Cave accidents requiring rescue are a rare event in Australia, hence it is difficult to motivate cavers and authorities to prepare for such events. However when an event occurs, this decreases the chances of a good outcome.

Excellent caving experience exists within the current Australian club structure. What is lacking is the relationships with Police and SES that our NZ counterparts enjoy. A Cave SAR Management forum such as this would be an excellent way to further develop these relationships. Local and national Cave Search And Rescue Exercises (SAREX's) would highlight our strengths and weaknesses. Such exercises would encourage police to

call out cavers earlier during Cave SAR incidents.

Because of the small numbers of incidents and few "cave SAR" cavers in Australia, perhaps each region need only maintain a small, motivated Cave SAR unit; but be quick to call in other regional units for more major incidents. We need to maintain our list of "SAR Cavers" and communicate with each other more often/effectively. Areas like Tasmania with deeper caves will need to maintain higher levels of operational readiness, but other regions should also encourage a few cavers to be "deep" cave trained and practiced.

Skills relevant to Cave SAR seem easy to come by in NZ. SARINZ will train individuals in all aspects of general SAR, and will also offer technical rope training with certification at no charge. Do we have anything comparable for volunteers?

Pre-planning could be done for some Australian caves considered high risk. Paper exercises could be done (even via internet or teleconference?) for different caves. It would be interesting to plan a hypothetical rescue for a remote Nullarbor or Kimberley cave! How do we get cavers to these areas in a hurry?

I wish to continue to organise a system for a national cave sump rescue team and consider the possibility that they could be called out by places



Joe was 'picked up' by Police van & driven for 4.5hrs from Christchurch to the conference centre, Whenua-Iti, Lower Moutere, Nelson-South Island.... and returned!



Time for fun! With a given scenario, resources and time limit, rescuers co-ordinate their exercise. The details were fed onto an Excel spreadsheet which regenerated the time it took to undertake the rescue with some interesting results!

like NZ. A sump rescue SAREX would be interesting.

Joe Sydney would like to see Michie phones being held in all clubs around the country...a very reasonable and achievable goal.

Consider a regional SAREX with Australian and NZ cavers, as the Kiwis have a great deal of experience and knowledge to offer. In Tasmania??

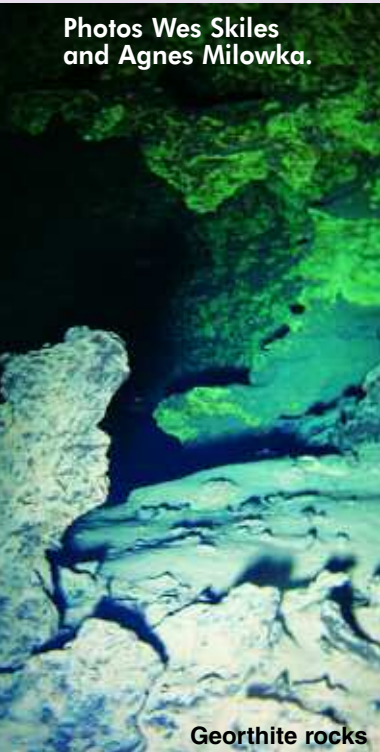
I would like to thank the CDAA for assisting with funding to help me attend this forum, and to thank the very generous NZ hosts for their hospitality.

Mission Spring

I started off like any other tourist cave diver; diving all the big caves, thinking Florida is all about crystal clear springs, big tunnels and that it has long ago been tapped out... as it turned out I was wrong on all accounts.

Agnes Milowka

Photos Wes Skiles and Agnes Milowka.



Geothite rocks

Mission Spring was one of those off-the-beaten-track sidemount caves out in the middle of the woods. It has never got much traffic or interest from the hordes, as it is only a few hundred feet long. It is just as well that in my book, any cave is a good cave and I decided to go and check it out. Mission Spring has an upstream and downstream section and the exploration of each is a completely different story. So first let's go with the flow and head downstream.

No one has managed to negotiate the downstream section before and my buddy, James Toland, and I were keen to check it out. James went in first with an 80cf tank and not much else but had no luck getting through. He looked at me and asked, 'so do you want to have a go?' No need to twist my arm, so down I went.

At first glance the crack looked impassable, not even big enough to fit a tank through, let alone a person. However, on closer inspection I realised that to the right was a low flattener. I rearranged a few loose rocks and had a go at pushing through. Next thing I know - POW - I was in! So I tied off the reel and off I went down the passage. At this point I had no BC, no fins... a tank and a light in one hand and a reel in the other. I was roof walking for about 12m and then I reached a big pit. That's when I thought, this puppy goes! I tied off the reel and made my way back to get some proper gear and my buddy. I popped out of the water and was so stupidly excited I could hardly get a full sentence together. The gist of the babble was - grab your gear we're going diving!

I had to push the 95s in front of me to get in there, which was no surprise. But then I had an interesting predicament... I could not fit with the Nomad on. The harness came off, I was real happy about the quick release buckles let me tell you, and then all the gear got stuffed down the hole. As I was dressing myself on the other side of the restriction, it became apparent that my buddy was struggling to get in. He eventually waved me off, so I set off down the passage, picked up the reel and descended down the pit.

It is difficult to describe the burst of energy and pure adrenaline that I was feeling at this time. It was all I could do to settle down the pounding heart and calmly tie off along the way. Nothing can beat the moment you unwind a reel into completely new and uncharted territory. One feels pure, unadulterated joy and happiness, all peppered with a bit of a thrill.

While I had laid a bit of line here and there, further in and deeper down, typically I was just tagging along on other people's projects. This time it was different. In the end I laid 200m of line and had to work for every inch. The entrance restriction is just the beginning. The whole place was choked up with sand so the going was tough; a few of the restrictions took a significant amount of time to negotiate.

As the downstream is a siphon this meant that the vis in front of me was nonexistent. Several times I had to stop and chill for a while, hoping the vis would clear enough for me to see which way was onward, after I had wedged myself into dead end corners and crevices.

As it turned out James did follow me in eventually, he squeezed in with no gear and



just the single tank, keen to have a look. But as he put it, I had redefined a restriction; he had to breathe out to get through the tight stuff. Needless to say, the process of removing gear and pushing it back up the hole was repeated on the way out and a celebratory drink followed.

It was certainly an exciting discovery, to be able to push through the tightest of restrictions. Yet, it was the upstream section of the cave that is the leading lady of this story. The upstream section had been on my list of places to visit for a while, and finally on Christmas day I decided to do just that.

By all accounts there was only about 100m of passage, but I heard it was a pretty little cave. Well, imagine my surprise when I got to the end of the line and saw that whilst the line stopped, the cave clearly didn't.

So I tied off a reel and spooled out. At first it was hard yakka, very low passage, filled with sand and then muddy clay. There is a good 300m of wriggling, in between a rock and a hard

place; the restriction is unrelenting. Yet I pushed it, I persevered, I believed... and more to the point I fit! Eventually the cave opened up a little... then it opened up some more. My third day there I was swimming in quite a sizeable passage. It is here that I experienced the most awful of moments, the line on my reel ended, and yet the big cobalt blue passage ahead of me kept going. I dreamt about that passage that night and what could potentially be around the corner. Determined not to experience

this disappointment again, the next day I took in two reels. Well, it seems not even that was enough.

I kept going back, day after day for two weeks and each day unceremoniously dumped reel after reel into the cave and yet it just didn't end. In a couple of weeks I laid more than 1.8km of line, it was incredible. Those two weeks were amongst the best of my life, where I did very little other than sleep, eat, knot line and explore. I was keen to keep the discovery under wraps,



Ag surveying



Perfect Tunnel

given that in cave country secrets are hard to keep. I feared people could tell by the stupid and unrelenting grin on my face that something was up; either I was getting laid every hour on the hour or I was laying line in a virgin cave. Spending several hours a day at Wayne's knotting line could also have given folks a bit of a hint. I feel extremely lucky to have gotten the opportunity to discover it all piece by piece without anyone breathing down my neck.

Finally at the end of the two weeks I realised I had to stop and survey. This was a difficult decision as the allure of seeing more unexplored cave was great. Yet it had to be done, since as they say, if you don't survey you haven't really done it. So I figured out what the DADs (Depth, Azimuth, Distance) were all about and sunk my teeth into it.

Soon the thrill of pursuing virgin passage left me and I tackled creating the map with the same zeal as the initial exploration. I wanted and needed to see where the cave was heading. Laying line for the sake of laying line is not all it is cracked up to be, and the decision to stop to survey the joint was the best one I could have taken. The more time I spent in the cave the more I realised that I was having an impact and I began to struggle with an ethical and moral dilemma in regards to my presence. Seeing the cave in a pure, untouched state... and seeing the impact, however small, that I was having was daunting. While it is a phenomenal feeling to reach a place no other human has ever seen before, one's very presence robs it of its virginity and it will never be the same again.

In the end it was the completed survey that helped to ease my inner demons, as the information gained in regards to the extent and layout of the cave has proved to be useful to the management of the area. It confirms that the State made the correct decision in regards to the acquisition and protection of the land. Further the discovery illustrates rather neatly that while not every spring is easily accessible, some are too small

even for me to squeeze into, nonetheless they are there and chances are they lead to long and extensive cave systems.

This means that everyone, cave diver and layman alike, should be environmentally aware and think about the Floridian aquifer during their day to day activities. Despite this, it is difficult to



Big Passage

dive the cave and not feel sad knowing that it will never be in its untouched and pristine state again. In fact, it is likely that many more folks will follow in my footsteps, as I have effectively paved the way. I don't like hypocrisy, I don't see why it is okay for an explorer to go blazing through a cave, where everyone else who follows is said to be trashing the place. While I do feel protective of the cave and hope that the all too fragile, scraggly passages will remain safe from wanton damage and destruction, I realise that in the end, despite everything, others will follow. The only consolation is that the cave itself will act as a natural filter.

The system is not for everyone, it is an advanced sidemount cave to put it mildly. If you don't like tight, nasty cave with plenty of silt and Ts, you will not enjoy yourself. And if you do head downstream, keep in mind that there will be precious few who will be able to recover your dead body.

The exploration of the cave was a mind blowing experience, to turn a cave with just a few hundred feet to a cave with almost 3km of passage was quite an adventure. What is perhaps most remarkable about the exploration is that it did not involve hiking through the jungle and reaching the deepest, darkest, furthest reaches of the earth. It did not require trimix, numerous stages, scooters or even a rebreather. It was old school and it was right here in Florida. The relatively shallow depth meant I could spend up to five hours underwater, and unlike the deep caves, the majority of my time was spent cave diving and exploring rather than hanging on deco... I say majority, as it seems eventually even at an average depth of 10m you run into deco.

In the end perhaps the most interesting section of the cave is right in the first 15m. Here scattered remains of days gone by lie in between the pebbles and stones at the bottom of the cavern. The cavern area can bring a diver closer to a significant historical period of America's past that is all too often forgotten. It is said that Mission is so named because the Spanish baptised the Indians in the spring. I cannot confirm or deny this, but I'm not one to let the truth get in the way of a good story, so let's go with it.

It is a fact, however, that the Spanish did set up a mission on the banks of Mission and much archeological evidence has

been found in the area that confirms this. It is possible that this site may have been the early 17th century mission of San Augustin de Urica (ca. 1610-1656). The Spanish ceramics from the site suggest that the greatest period of activity was around the early to mid 1620s. While the mission was small and less well off economically than others, it was nonetheless in the thick of things in terms of significant historical events, with epidemics, famine and finally the Timucuan revolt affecting its existence. When the Spanish missionaries baptised the Indians, they had hoped that they will begin a new type of life; for better or worse they certainly did.

Then there are the late 19th early 20th century artefacts – ironstone, transfer printed white ware ceramics, portions of glass jars and bottles – which indicate the site was occupied during that period. Interestingly this coincides with the boom of Luraville in the 1880s when it was a major shipping point for Sea Island cotton, bright leaf tobacco and vegetables. The plantations in the area were among the leading producers in the state at the time. Certainly the boom period didn't last long, as by the 1920s Luraville was a ghost town, and it seems to this day the area has remained a little sleepy, bar for the throngs of keen cave divers.

It is unfortunate that much of the surface artefact concentrations from around the sink have been removed by enthusiastic collectors over the years. I hope that history won't repeat itself and that the scant remains of the times gone by, that have managed to survive underwater against all odds, are not picked over by a few selfish divers.

It would be an unfortunate event indeed, as seeing shards of Indian pottery inside the cave that date back to the 1600s – well, that is a hard one to beat.

I want to thank Wayne Kinard, Wes Skiles, Mike and Sandra Poucher, Lamar Hires and James Toland for providing me with equipment, knowledge and support throughout the project.

Reference:: Lana Jill Loucks, *Political and Economic Interaction between Spaniards and Indians: archeological and Ethnohistorical perspectives of the mission system in Florida*, University of Florida, 1979.



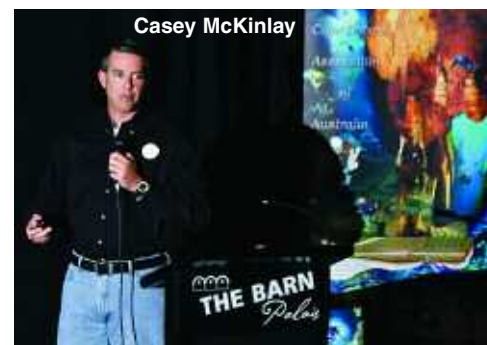
Bottle



Pig Bones



Unspilit Passage



Casey McKinlay



John Webb



Alan Warild



John Webb



Casey McKinlay

SYMPOSIUM 2009

Photos by Dave Scarlett



Steve Trewavas



Alan Warild

AGM AFTER PARTY PHOTOS by TERRI ALLEN



NO LIMIT 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.



X Series (Cave Cut)

- 1000 denier Cordura™ w/ PU lamination outer shell
- 15mm urethane internal bladder
- Centrally located elbow to avoid tank valve/regulator interference
- Available in either 37lb / 17kg or 55lb / 25kg lift bladder



Solo

- Continuous one piece harness system
- Stainless steel D-rings and cam buckle included
- Removable shoulder pads accept stainless steel D-rings



HTS

- Streamlined modular harness system with comfort back pad and lumbar support
- Comes standard w/ adjustable Velcro® cummerbund (removable)
- Comes standard w/ crotch strap – 5.1cm webbing with scooter ring (removable)

Contact your nearest Hollis stockist for fitting, sales and service or visit
www.oceanicaus.com.au

Location Photography: Doug Artberg