

C.D.A.A. Newsletter

No. 121 - SEPTEMBER 2012

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- 2012 Symposium Guest Speakers
- Hall of Fame Nominations

PLUS...

Peter Buzzacott:

A Greek Odyssey

Ian Lewis:

Karst Science; Murra El Elevyn

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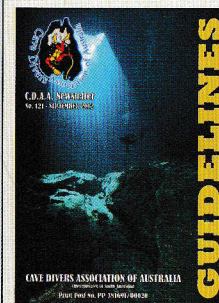
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Cover:

Kilsby's.

Diver is
Wayne Johnson

Photo by:
Liz Rogers

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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GUIDELINES is a newsletter of the Cave Divers Association of Australia. All articles for the following issue are to be sent to the Publications Director, Email: publications@cavedivers.com.au

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CDAA INSURANCE

Policy Type: Combined Liability Insurance Policy# SY-CAS-08-041140
Insurer: Liberty International Underwriters ABN: 61 086 083 605
Level 27, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney NSW 2000
Name Insured: Cave Divers Association of Australia
Public Liability \$10,000,000 any one claim. Expiry: 30 September 2012

'The Basic Rules of Cave Diving'

Through the study of past cave diving related accidents, researchers have found there are a number of common causes for these accidents. By becoming familiar with these causes, divers can learn to avoid similar accidents.

From the research, five main contributing factors have been found in over 90% of cave diving related fatalities.

These causes have led to the five basic rules:

- **Be Correctly Trained.**

In the vast majority of fatalities world wide, the divers involved had no formal cavern/sinkhole (Deep Cavern) training. Of those who did have training, most were diving outside the recognised limits of that training. Many open water Instructors have died in caves.

- **Run a Continuous Guideline to the Open Water (Surface).**

In a large number of overhead fatalities, victims failed to run a continuous guideline from the open water. When silting took place or they became disorientated, exit was then not possible with gas remaining.

- **Always keep a Minimum of 2/3rds of the Starting Gas Supply for Exit when Entering an Overhead Environment.**

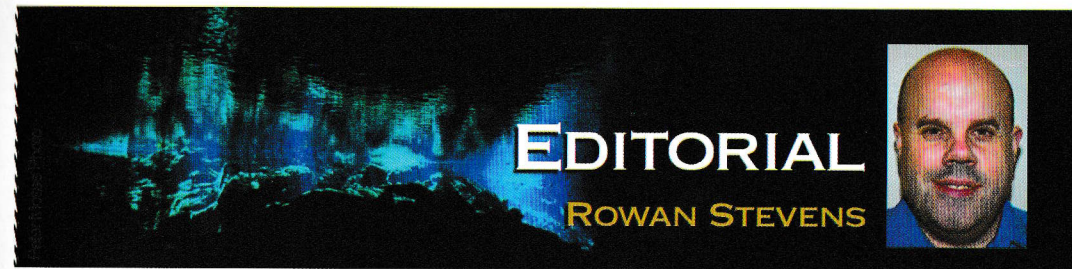
The rule is seen as the minimum in overhead environments and may not offer enough gas if trouble is encountered at the maximum penetration.

- **Always use a Minimum of 3 Light Sources.**

In cave diving this would be a primary and a minimum of two backups, all with the ability of lasting the duration of the dive.

- **Don't Dive Below 40m on Compressed Air.**

The CDAA's maximum depth limit is 40m. Of the trained, well equipped cave divers who have died, almost all were diving beyond 40m on air.



Dear Members,

This is our last issue before this year's **Member's Symposium and AGM** that is being held on **Saturday 27th October 2012** in Mt. Gambier. For further information refer to Page 7 for AGM details and Page 12 for Symposium details.

In this issue ...

Enclosed are two inserts – the **2012 BALLOT PAPER** and the **2012 AGM MEMBER NOMINATIONS AND MOTIONS**. Refer to the ballot paper for voting details. This is your constitutional right as a CDAA member to ensure that your voice is clearly heard – make your vote count!

This year the Business Director and Standards Director positions are up for voting. Our current Standards Director, Jane Bowman, is not seeking re-election so the National Committee thank her for her time and contributions to the role and wish her well in the future. This year's nominations are on the enclosed insert and our web site will have expanded information for each candidate.

Also for voting are Amendments to the CDAA Constitution, member motions and nominations for inclusion into the CDAA Hall of Fame. The member motions were submitted at the last minute without prior discussion so the National Committee have provided voting advice to members on these motions (refer to the insert). Hall of Fame information is on pages 22-24.

Also in this issue ...

John Vanderleest summarises the consolidated outcomes of the 2012 State Meetings – Where to from here? Peter Buzzacott takes us diving through Greece and Ian Lewis shares the mysteries of Murra El-Elevyn Cave.

And finally ...

In an effort to lift our game on communication and collaboration in the digital age new rules are being introduced for the CDAA Forums which take effect on 1st October 2012. Refer to pages 26-27 for further details.

See you at the AGM in Mt. Gambier.

Happy and Safe Diving.

Rowan Stevens #3177 | Publications and Records Director
M: 0417 550 509 | E: publications@cavedivers.com.au

Articles for Guidelines Dec. 2012 - Deadline is Nov. 15th.

- Send articles by email to guidelines@cavedivers.com.au
- Text files should be saved as Word files or Simple Text
- Pictures saved from digital cameras or scanned from photos must be at least 200-300 dpi at 15cm wide, RGB files, and saved as Maximum Quality JPEG's.

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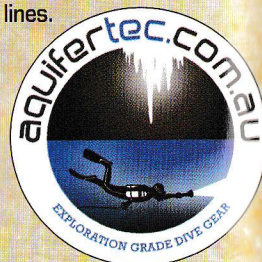
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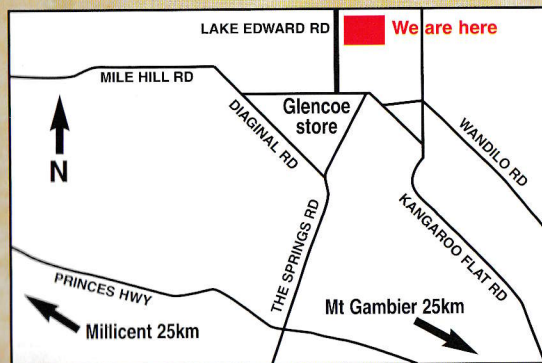
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- **Best prices for Light Monkey HID and LED lights.**
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AGM 2012 INFORMATION

This year's AGM 2012 information will be posted to the web site (www.cavedivers.com.au) no later than Friday 21st September 2012. To access, login using your CDAA number and password and select (from the left hand menu) "**Members Document Library**". When the page is displayed, select **AGM 2012** from the drop-down list. The minutes from last year's AGM, the agenda for this year's AGM, the Directors' annual reports and the proposed new Constitution can all be found here. Once the financial statements for the year 2011-2012 are finalised they will also be posted here.

Please register your attendance for the Symposium on the forums to assist with catering.

To book & pay for the AGM dinner, visit the online store before Monday 22nd October 2012.

Helen Higgins, Business Director.

The CDAA needs...



YOU

What can you do to help?

Check out www.cavedivers.com.au for all the latest news and announcements.

Regular notices and calls for help are posted to the CDAA forum: 'National Committee and Area Representatives' at <http://www.cavedivers.com.au/forum/forum.php>.



Check your email program to ensure that emails from the domain cavedivers.com.au are not sent to your Spam folder.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2012

Dear Members

Over the past 4 months, the National Committee has been busy talking to members and collecting your thoughts on direction for the Association. What is clear is that members wish the association to be recognized as the Cave Divers Association of **AUSTRALIA**, not of **Mt. Gambier**. Members want us to act and be recognised as the world's leading cave diving association. By this, it means we seek the highest levels of cave diving skill amongst our members, we outwardly show support and respect for each other, we pro-actively protect the environment and contribute to cave science, and we continue to develop our exploration skills and commitment.

The focus of the National Committee and our new business plan will reflect these ideals. While our focus over the past 12 months has been to stabilise the Association, the focus going forward is to grow the Association. And with this growth, we can expect a renewed and invigorated spirit within the membership. We can expect dive shops and instructors to promote the CDAA, we can expect to grow and strengthen our membership, and we can grow our engagement and mutual respect of the cave diving community both nationally (non CDAA organisations) and around the world.

Of course, this requires your constructive involvement to assist the association to move forward, rather than being stuck in the past. The key to our success is you.

Now is one such time for you to make such a commitment. While very simple to do, it still means being proactive by taking an interest and helping shape our future. We are of course talking about this year's election. Being proactive and taking an interest in our future means more than simply putting a mark on a piece of paper. It's more than considering who you would like to be your voice at National Committee meetings, it's about who is the person best placed to deliver real results to represent all voices and who will provide a balanced and unbiased view.

This year we have some good candidates, with good

intentions. All are willing to offer their time and energy for the good of the Association and all will work well as a team in the National Committee. So, good luck to all candidates. We look forward to finding out who will be in the new team.

Some of the outcomes which the National Committee have achieved during the past 3 months include:

- Held (in conjunction with each State Representative) a series of State based discussion workshops around the country.
- Approved and supported an exploration project to video mapping the deep sections of the Shaft.
- Reached agreement from Graham Kilsby's to change the lease agreement to allow only 2 divers in the water at a time, rather than a minimum of 3 divers.
- Developed and ran a trial to incorporate the use of Tank Cave into the Advanced Cave course.
- Undertook an Advanced Cave course and cross over program on the Nullarbor.
- Refined operational guidelines for Tank Cave Guides to ensure consistency.
- Commenced working on developing the CDAA risk register, a requirement of new national Occupational Health and Safety (OH/S) regulations.
- Developed and completed the training notes for the Cave Rescue Program, with thanks to Richard Harris and Jane Bowman.
- Made it easier for members to renew and pay their membership renewals on line, with thanks from members' comments to improve our web site.
- Made it easier for site managers and land owners to use our IT systems to validate member's membership and certifications, with thanks from our land managers, Forestry SA and DEWNR.
- Made it easier for Site Officers to centrally store indemnity and application forms, thereby reducing manual workload and unnecessary duplication of effort.
- Made it easier for Site Officers and members to deal with booking cancellations and credits.
- Completed the revision of the Constitution in

readiness for voting, a massive task with thanks to the Constitution Committee.

- Brought the Association's finances into order with the books in readiness for auditing and have updated our systems and processes to close any gaps or discrepancies, many thanks to Tammy.
- Now have an going budgeting process.
- Created roles for a Safety Officer, Search and Rescue Officer, Grants Officer, and 40th Anniversary Coordinator.
- Begun to electronically scan and store all member records (indemnities, applications, records of training) online.

Given solidarity in our membership and real commitment to improve our national and international standing, we will continue to build on our strengths which is you the membership and continue to give members a reason to want to be part of the CDAA.

May the outside of your drysuit remain wet and the inside dry.

Regards, The National Committee



John Vanderleest,
National Director



Helen Higgins,
Business Director (Acting)



Jane Bowman,
Standards Director



Grant Pearce,
Site Director



Rowan Stevens,
Publications and Records Director

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State Meetings 2012 – Where to from here?

John Vanderleest

As Cave Divers we have a lot to be proud of. Many of the diving techniques and equipment bear their history on ideas, techniques or the innovation of cave divers. Things like wings, side mounts and HID dive lights used by deep ocean and wreck divers can be directly attributed to developments within the cave diving community. There are also anti-silting techniques, side mounting, scooters, cave radio and much more to add to the list.

Not only can CDAA members be proud to have been there at the forefront of the development of equipment and diving techniques, we can also be proud of our safety record, contribution to science and environmental protection.

Being at the forefront of diving did not just happen. It came about because as cave divers we are always looking to improve. It came about because as an associated team of people, we chose to be at the forefront, we chose to take risks, we chose to support those that want to break new ground in exploration, we chose to have ongoing education, we chose to adapt or build equipment to better suit our needs and we chose to conserve our environment and to contribute to cave science whenever we could.

However, what we chose in the past does not mean that it automatically sets our future direction. We do not have to continue to be at the forefront. We can choose to be sport cave divers, with no exploration, no innovation, lower standards and fixed on the safety of the known sites around Mt Gambier. There are members who legitimately would like to see the more risky aspects of cave diving moved out of the CDAA so that we do not risk access to our current sites.

So the question before us today is "What do the majority of members want for the future of the CDAA?"

To begin to discover the answer to this question and to start to formulate a vision for the future and supporting business plan, a number of State meetings were recently held. These will be followed up with an electronic questionnaire to capture the thoughts of those that were not able to attend the State meetings.

At the State Meetings, I was delighted at some of the thinking and conclusions people were drawing. The spirit of exploration, on-going education (different from instruction), conservation and wanting to be at the cutting edge was alive and well. Members were open with their views and willing to listen to the views of others. They looked for common ground on which to build and did not want to waste effort on things where people could not agree. Members not only wanted to fix some of the things that are broken, but looked to things that would leap frog us back into being at the forefront of cave diving.

The key messages for the National Committee were common between all the States, but the ideas and thinking varied. Here is the consolidated summary from those who assisted in note taking during the meetings:

1. Members wish to be the Cave Divers Association of AUSTRALIA, not Mt Gambier. This means that we must better support areas outside of Mt Gambier. Ideas included things like more State meetings, overseas guest speakers for all States, not just Mt Gambier, the National and Site Directors having a physical presence with landowners outside of Mt Gambier, and better support to develop a local instructor base. States outside of Vic and SA wanted funds to be better spread across the country and not solely focused around Mount Gambier.
2. Members wanted Education, not Instruction. Ideas included things like creating a managed educational resource library of articles and video clips of tricks and techniques. More practical workshops and more recognition of training outside of the CDAA were very common thoughts.
3. Members wanted course options to cover non-traditional cave diver training. Things such as sump diving and single rope techniques were two examples.
4. Members wanted the CDAA forum brought back to something where the majority of members were willing to contribute. The forced removal of members who use the forum to grandstand, denigrate

others or kill off conversation was seen as something well overdue. Members wanted the forum as a place for information gathering, sharing or developing ideas.

5. Members wanted to better support exploration. Exploration could be as simple as visiting the Nullarbor for the first time, through to the discovery and exploration of new caves. Ideas for support included things such as changing regulations that restrict exploration, the sharing of exploration techniques, supporting material, supporting grants and even a suggestion to purchase equipment such as ground penetrating radar.

6. While not discussed at all meetings, Science and Conservation came through as something we need to spend more time on. No-go zones, stay on the line zones and sustainable access were discussed. The establishment of things like permanent cliff anchor points, site toilets etc. were discussed as positive things aimed to minimise the environmental impact of cave diving activities.

7. The work being undertaken by Richard Harris on Search and Rescue was considered to be something positive for the Association. Many members could clearly see the advantage of such capability in places such as Cocklebidby Cave.

8. There was some interesting discussion on the definition of solo diving, with no one definition being common amongst all. There was also interesting discussion in attempting to define a difference between solo diving and planned separation from your buddy. What appeared to be a common view was that planned separation is still solo diving, but done in a manner where the time apart is minimised so the overall risk is lower. In the end, all agreed that we do solo dive, even if only for minutes at a time, and it does have a place in cave diving. The challenge ahead will be considering control measures (if any) and how we will manage public and land owner perception.

9. Members believed that membership fees were cheap compared to other clubs and it would not be unreasonable to increase fees to \$120 per annum. However, before doing so, members would like the National Committee to provide details on how and why this money was needed. The common opinion was that we should not increase fees without a clearly defined purpose.

10. Members believed that Guidelines could go electronic in order to save costs. Some States discussed the advantages of being able to offer Guidelines to non-CDAA cave divers throughout the

world, to attract international articles and grow the size of the magazine.

11. Members agreed that having something to help 'At risk' divers is a good thing for the Association, but also agreed that such things were often value based and prone to prejudice and discrimination. While many ideas were presented, the only consistency between members was that it was the moral obligation of all members to approach people they think at risk and have a discussion.

12. Most members believed the CDAA should have more focus on securing access to dive sites. Many references were made regarding the sites that are already being dived by some members, with access arrangements outside of the CDAA. Site references included areas in QLD, NSW, Mt Gambier and the Nullarbor.

13. Members also believed that you should not be compelled to do your cave diving training using the same system, but be allowed to use the system of your choice; back mount, side mount or rebreathers. There was acknowledgement that this might restrict access to instructors as not all instructors were confident to teach all forms of diving.

Below are some of the ideas that were not discussed at all meetings, but were common amongst the States that did discuss.

- Having equipment such as A-frames and Ladders permanently available out on the Nullarbor.
- More experience on Rebreathers before being allowed to use them in a cave environment.
- Having discount fees for unemployed, students and families.
- Having hire equipment such as Compressors available for members.
- Doing bulk buys of equipment and offering discounts for members.
- Having CDAA organised overseas trips.
- To be a CDAA instructor you should be on the top of your game – cave diving experience in more than one country, technical diving instructor etc.
- If we accept solo diving, the other standards such as minimum equipment need to be altered to suit.
- If we accept solo diving, a mentoring program and course leading to endorsement might be more desirable than just a course by itself.

**John Vanderleest, National Director
On Behalf of the National Committee**

Symposium 2012

This year the members' symposium will have an Aussie flavour with a number of exciting local speakers presenting on their exploration, mapping, research and training. The Symposium will be held in the Dress Circle at the Main Corner, 1 Bay Rd, Mt Gambier, commencing at 9am. The AGM will follow at 6:00pm and dinner will be served in City Hall at 7:30pm. We hope to see as many members as possible attend this year. The CDAA AGM is being held in Mt Gambier on the 27th October.

Guest Speakers this year include:



Craig Challen

A Perth Veterinary Surgeon by profession, Craig Challen is an avid cave diver and explorer and member of the Wet Mules dive team.

Beginning diving in 1994 he progressed to cave diving in the late 1990s. In 2000 a developing interest in deep diving led him to become one of the early adopters of closed circuit rebreather technology in Australia. The attraction of technical diving for Craig is the twin challenge of the use of advanced technology and engaging in exploration of previously unvisited places.

Much of Craig's early cave diving was on the Nullarbor Plain of Western Australia and South Australia. In 2008 he returned to Cocklebidy Cave and extended the line in this famous cave.

Craig is additionally an enthusiastic wreck diver. Notable expeditions include RMS Niagara in New Zealand, HMS Victoria (146m vertical battleship in the Mediterranean off Lebanon) and USS Atlanta off Guadalcanal. For the past 10 years he has extensively dived WWII wrecks of the Java and South China Seas. Recently he dived to 200m on the former HMAS Derwent with Dave Bardi and Sandy Varin.

In 2009 Craig was the recipient of the OzTek Technical Diver of the Year award.

Craig's principle current project, with the Wet Mules, is exploration of the Pearse River Resurgence in New Zealand. Ongoing exploration of this world-class site recently led to a dive to 221m in the 6.5°C water. The cave continues further and deeper. The exploration of the Pearse River Resurgence will be the focus of Craig's talk.

Paul Hosie

Paul is a Perth based caving and cave diving explorer. He has had a passion for caves since he was a young fellow. In 1997, this passion for caving collided with his love of scuba diving and spawned his rebirth as a CDAA qualified cave diver. After diving all the CDAA registered sites on the Nullarbor with his mates Andy Nelson, Craig Challen and Karl Hall (the PACK Rats), they dived all the other wet caves of the Nullarbor and in so doing discovered unexplored passages, sidemount diving and eventually, unexplored cave diving sites. Together with his buddies, Paul has been fortunate enough to explore and map over 15,000m of virgin cave diving passages in WA from the Kimberley to the Cape Range and the Nullarbor. Paul attributes this good fortune to the enthusiastic support of knowledgeable dry cavers of the ASF, time spent on the ground and perseverance.

The first presentation will be an overview of the caves and cave diving sites on the Roe Plains including Madura, Nurina, Olwoglin, Burnabbie and Slot Caves. Between these caves there are over 7,000m of submerged passage, most of it accessible only on sidemounts. A brief history of the discovery and exploration of the area will be given, together with a description of the unique features of the caves and why they have been deliberately restricted in access. Current maps of the caves together with video footage will also be presented. The second presentation will focus exclusively on a new cave on the Roe Plains which was first dived on 6th October 2011. It currently has over 4,000m of surveyed passages and a maximum penetration of 1,250m. This cave has the largest passages and chambers discovered so far on the Roe Plains.

By the time of the AGM the cave will have a name, and be more than doubled in length - Ha! A video of the cave's unique features will be shown together with the current map and details of the efforts made to date, the exploration team, the equipment used and logistics involved.



Pippa Waterworth

Pippa has been cave diving for 4 years and during this time has gone on 16 trips into the Nullarbor. Her enthusiasm for diving in the Nullarbor combined with her prior education in biology, to Masters level, and subsequent work in microbiology, and ecological surveying has prompted the present research. She is currently living in Perth, and is completing a PhD at the University of Western Australia.

Pippa will be talking on her research investigating rare mantle communities of the Nullarbor Plain. Bacteria are often the only living organisms in the wet sections of caves on the Nullarbor Plain. Although these organisms are single celled and as such too small to be seen by the naked eye, they reproduce very quickly and therefore develop into large communities that can easily be seen. These communities have two forms: a mat form that can be seen on rocks and ledges, and looks like cottonwool; and a hanging form, known as mantles that hang down from surfaces. It has been said that they are slow growing and fragile, which means divers may cause them great harm, but in reality not much is known about their growth or spatial distribution. What is known, is that generally bacteria reproduce quickly, about every 20mins, and keep reproducing until limited by resources or space; there is no reason to believe that bacteria in the Nullarbor are any different. Wanting to gain a better understanding, she set out to study the growth and spatial distribution of bacterial communities in the Nullarbor region. 18 months into a 30 month study, that involves Murra El Eleyyn, Warbla, Olwoglin, Burnabbie and Weebubie caves, she is beginning to learn more.

Richard Harris

Richard Harris (or Dr Harry as he is better known), is an Adelaide based tech diver and underwater photographer. To pay for this expensive addiction he works as an anaesthetist and diving medicine physician!

Diving for over thirty years, he has embraced rebreather technology to explore and photograph wrecks and caves in Australia and the South Pacific.

For Harry, the ultimate thrill is to photograph previously unseen dive sites and then share them through his publications. He has had numerous articles/images published in the international diving literature; in magazines, books, newsletters and advertisements. He has recently been busy mapping and researching caves in his backyard, the Mt Gambier region of South Australia. He has a growing interest in underwater video production and his footage has been used in current affairs, documentary, National Geographic and feature film productions.

The last few years have seen his involvement in expeditions to Kija Blue Sinkhole in Western Australia, the Hypipamee Crater in Queensland, the Pearse Resurgence in NZ and wrecks like The RMS Niagara and the SS William Dawes. Unfortunately the list of sites he wants to visit remains longer than the list he has seen! In 2009 he was the recipient of the OZTEK'09 'Outstanding Achievement' Award to mark his exceptional contributions to cave diving exploration.

Harry has an active interest in diving safety, accident and fatality investigation, especially pertaining to cave, rebreather and technical diving. He is currently the SAR Officer of the CDAA and is an Australian Regional Coordinator for the IUCRR.

Harry will be discussing SAR and accident investigation in Australia, and our role in the local international community.



John Dalla-Zuanna

John Dalla-Zuanna completed a diving course in 1973 with Southern Aquanauts Diving Academy and began Cavediving in that same year with a club trip to Mt. Gambier.

At this time, he was also working as a casual sales assistant in the diving sports department at Myer Melbourne which was managed by Graham Bradshaw, one of the CDAA's first Treasurers. Thus, it was inevitable after a bit of persuasion that John finally joined the CDAA (#236) in 1975 by attending a Category 1 & 2 testing program.

Becoming firstly a FAUI and then a PADI instructor, John was prolific in the testing and then training of CDAA members from 1978 and through to the 90s and is still a current Advanced Cave Diving Instructor. John also served as a Committee member for the Association and has held various official positions throughout the years.

In earlier years visiting & diving caves in Florida, Italy, Yugoslavia and New Zealand, as well as caves throughout Australia, gave John a range of experience. More recently joining in expeditions which include: Kija Blue, in the Kimberleys, a remote sinkhole in northern Western Australia, 2006: Tank Cave, Mt Gambier, SA, ongoing mapping & surveying of over 8 kms of underwater passage: Slug Lake, Jenolan Caves, NSW 2007: Cocklebidy Cave, WA in 1981, 2008 & 2009: Blue Lake, Mt Gambier, SA. Soil Sampling & Videography: Picanninie Ponds, SA. Mt Hypipamee Crater, Atherton Tablelands FNQ 2011: Ongoing deep survey & 3D mapping Projects: June Resurgence, Tasmania 2009; and the Pearse Resurgence, New Zealand Expeditions, of 2010, 2011 & 2012.

John is also a member of the ASF - CDG, and is a recipient of the NSS-CDS 2007 Exploration Award.

John's hobbies also include the sourcing & development of specialized equipment for the various expeditions, including: The "Thumper", a ground penetrating underwater radiolocation system, Sidemount Rebreathers, Lithium Polymer Batteries for scooters for extended range travel and Heated Vests for extended time in cold water diving.

More particularly, using an evolution of mapping techniques and software, some amazing results in 3D cave maps & Virtual cavediving have been produced. This is the focus of John's current interest and talk.

DESTINATION: GREECE

A Greek Odyssey

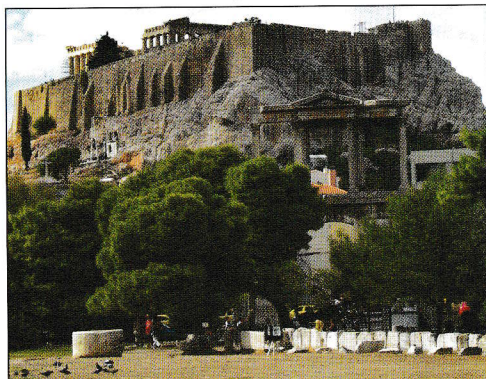
By Peter Buzzacott #4233



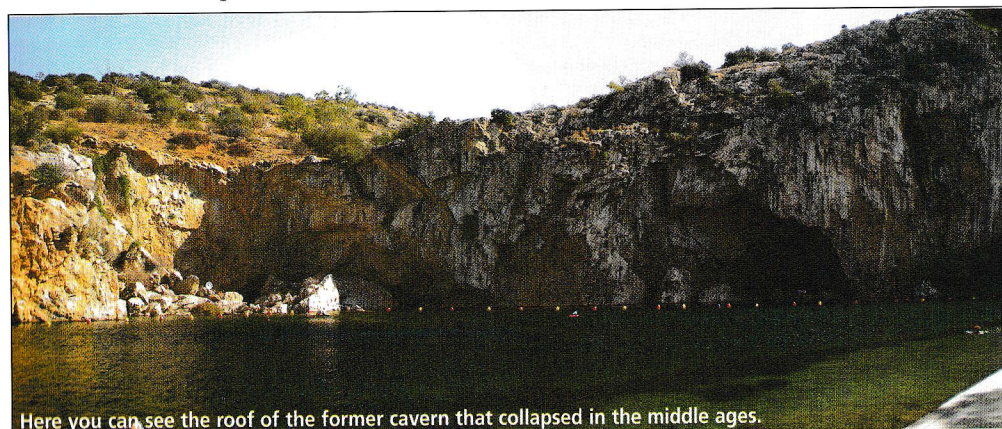
Just months before Greece collapsed economically the European Undersea Baromedical Society (EUBS) awarded me \$2,000 to speak at their annual scientific meeting about tissue supersaturation in West Australian divers. Afterwards I caught the night train to Athens for a week of diving Europe's largest flooded chamber. This story is about my trip there amongst the chaos. Five months after my visit all international trains in and out of Greece were cancelled due to massive rail cuts. Today Greece remains cut-off from the world by rail.

It was 1am at the Turkish border and the armed border guards were taking away another hapless traveller trying to escape to Europe. There was shouting. We didn't see him again. We queued-up in the cool night under dim incandescent light, waiting for our passports to be stamped so we could cross into Greece, on our way to Athens via Thessaloniki. This run-down border outpost was a far cry from the lavish and historic railway station in central Istanbul, where the Orient Express travelled to and from London in the heyday of rail. We climbed back onboard the post-WWII French sleeper cars, got under our blankets and the train moved off into the night.

Of course, now we were in Greece the train arrived in Thessaloniki hours late and concerned travellers approached the indifferent conductor, explaining that they had flights to catch, as though he was magically able to make-up the lost hours. He nodded, "yes, we are late." It was hot, there was an open-air bar over the road and I was in no rush anyway. Another train came, eventually we reached Athens and I found a cab. Arriving at the family-run Bed-n-Breakfast midway between the city and the cave, the night porter said there was a message from my buddy Argyris



View of the Acropolis from the Temple of Zeus. Hadrian's Arch in the foreground.



Here you can see the roof of the former cavern that collapsed in the middle ages.

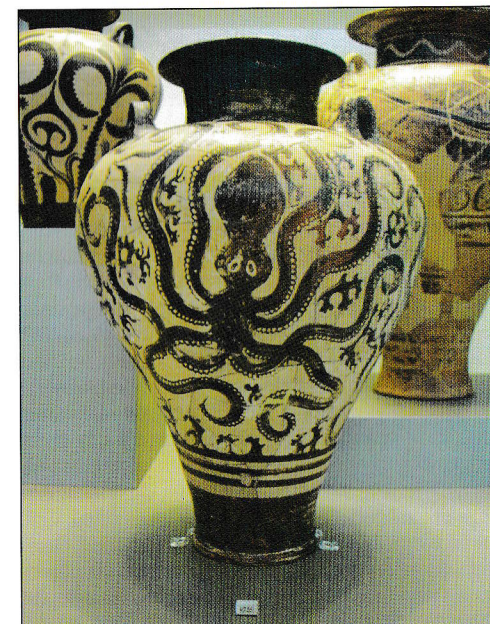
Argyriadis, the most flamboyant Greek I am yet to meet. I called him in the morning, we said hello, then he said "wanna go dive? I'll be there in half-an-hour".

Quickly I pulled anything non-diving out of my enormous backpack and sprinted up the street looking for a shop selling food and drink, wolfed down a sausage roll and returned with a bottle of water in time to meet Argyris. We squeezed into his small sedan, now laden with sets of banded independents and dive gear, and got to know each other on the way. Argyris is the NACD Safety Officer for Greece and I'm a member of the NACD, so we swapped the names of people we knew and I got a good feeling this was going to work out just fine. Grotte de Vouliagmeni is a mineral spa about 20km from the city, in one of the poshest and most expensive suburbs of Athens and, (formerly), Europe. There are Neolithic and Bronze age building remain here, a 5th Century BC outpost from when the foundations of western civilisation were laid, and delightfully warm 24-degrees C water pours up into the lake out of Mount Hymettus, overflowing into the nearby Gulf of Corinth in the Ionian Sea. Famed for the healing powers of its minerals, this shallow lake is popular with old people, some of whom could be seen scooping up handfuls of mud to use as natural "mud-packs". Across the lake the roof of the former cavern can be clearly seen. Apparently, it collapsed sometime in the middle ages.

We geared up, no deco gas today, this was a check-out dive, (on 5/25 trimix). We made our pre-dive checks and drills, finned across, went through into the "divers only" area and descend-



Back-mounting buddies (and, yes, that is a Dacor Microbrain!)



Museum piece. Amphora with three large octopi among rocks and seaweed. 15th Century BC.

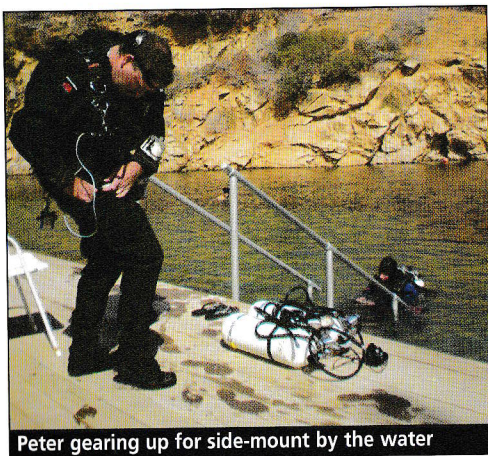
ed into the cave along a 7mm shot-line. The cavern was filled with car-sized boulders. A thinner main-line headed in and dropped steadily, down though a window at 30m and into the main chamber. Wow! This cave is MASSIVE. Maybe 100m-wide and at least 970m long. Four divers have died in here and no wonder, it would be so easy to wander away from the line in search of a wall only to then waste precious time searching for the line out. Even against the roof the line

may be as deep as 75m, although we reached only 50m today and with just 15-minutes in the cave before heading out for a little deco. I surfaced with 110-bar left in each tank and Argyris seemed pleased enough with me. Over the next couple of dives we found narrower, siltier sections and compared signals, procedures, just generally got to know each other. Knowing he was checking me out before we ventured too far in I eventually asked "so, how are Australian cave divers then?" "Good," said Argyris, before adding "but of course, Greek divers are better!"

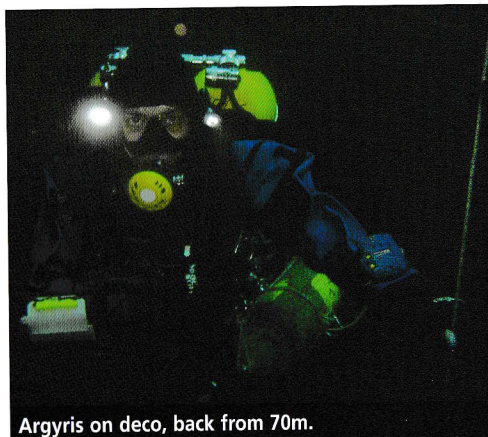
My routine was to dive with Argyris, have a couple of beers by the lake afterwards, then head into Athens for

dinner beside some ruin or other. A couple of times I'd had moussaka under the Acropolis and I'd visited the Temple of Zeus, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Parthenon itself, built on a site inhabited for at least 7000 years. Being Australian, it was great to see such ornate architectural history and I had been in town for just over three days when we started cutting plans for accelerated deco, using V-Planner, (which I am a fan of, by the way). We geared up quietly by the shore, each of us mentally visualising the dive ahead, although I did greet a couple of old dears with "kali mera" which means "good morning", (and that earned a few giggles). Around us Black Moly and silver Kotos came in for nibble at my fingertips. These fish are extremely rare and may even be endemic. There were reeds aplenty at the edge, all biomarkers for the health of the ecosystem. Then we went to 66m depth, on 21/20 trimix, with EANx57 for deco. The dive went well, deco went well and we exited though mud-caked retirees. The thermo, or picno, -cline at 40m is well known but I'd found a second ~cline at 60-63m. Argyris said he would look for this on our next dive, which was to be our last, (for this trip, anyway).

We set aside a day to off-gas and I visited the National Archaeology Museum of Athens. What an amazing place, filled with Greek and Roman statues, pottery, jewellery, much of it decorated with fish or other sea creatures. Bronze, marble, gold, every room was filled with jaw-dropping discoveries. In one room there was even a beautiful bronze of possibly Poseidon, god of the sea, earthquakes and springs. There was a suggestion that it may have been Zeus, and was formerly holding a lightning bolt, but I reckon he was



Peter gearing up for side-mount by the water

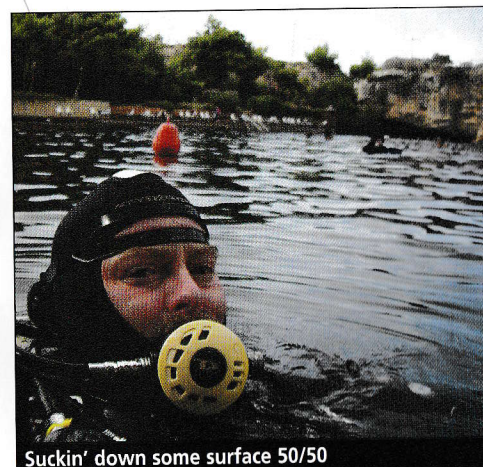


Argyris on deco, back from 70m.

Poseidon holding a trident, given that our god of springs was originally such a more powerful figure than Zeus.

On the way back into town for dinner I got swept-up in a mass demonstration. Thousands of protestors converged on the city centre, loud-hailers urged them on, the police languished kerbside smoking cigarettes, uninterested. Greece was facing certain economic collapse and the people were angry. One guy told me he'd been making bombs and his revolutionary group had written to police saying they were going to rape their families. It was pretty full-on.

The next day we geared-up for our last dive, to 75m on trimix18/36 with EANx46 for deco. In the end we turned at 70m and I never quite figured out why, but we'd gone further in than before and I was warm, in good company and diving Europe's biggest flooded chamber so I was happy. What's a few meters between good friends and Argyris had certainly become that over the preceding week. Plus, Argyris visually confirmed the second thermocline at 60m and I recorded it with a Sensus Ultra logger. Interesting, looks like a band of warm water sandwiched between bands of cooler water. Afterwards we enjoyed cold beers by the lake and talked about coming down to Australia to dive the Nullarbor. Unfortunately for our colleagues overseas, with the GFC and Europe on the brink of collapse, coming to Australia is both significantly more expensive than it used to be, and also it is a time when everyone else in the world is knuckling down. If ever there was a good time to bring in international guests for our AGM then this is it. Thank you Argyris for your generous hospitality, further and, despite having been through this cave before, I realised I'd led us up a blind alley. We retraced our steps and found the



Suckin' down some surface 50/50

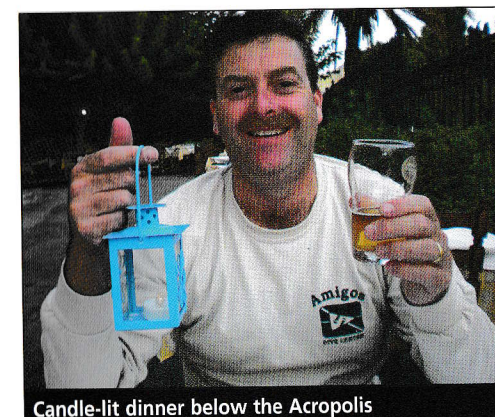
correct route, then crawled for a while over gravel through a low section, then crab-walked sideways through another narrow passage, the rushing water waist-deep and almost irresistible. Fifteen minutes in and we reached the sump, a narrow, low restriction at the bottom of a rectangular shaft about 0.5m X 1.5m wide and 2m deep (with a river pouring up out of it). I tried negotiating my way through using some upside-down rock-climbing techniques, my mask flooding and regs free-flowing but I'd come in on the wrong angle and needed to turn around, which was impossible once in the rift. With my back against



Poseidon, God of the sea, earthquakes and... springs. (or, maybe Zeus)

the rock behind me and my nose just inches from the rock in front, I withdrew and Homer had a go. Fighting the flow he pulled himself down and, with brute force, under the ledge and disappeared. I tried again but still couldn't get it so I hovered out of the flow and thought about solving this problem. Below me a light shone, a hand appeared and moved some small rocks away before signalling "Okay?" I dived down, signalled back and tried going feet-first. Gee-whiz, the flow was awesome. Feet-first was definitely the way to go because I could put my legs through, swing them left and finally get my chest down on the deck, ready to slide under the ledge. I slid sideways and I was under. Mask full, regs flowing, I looked up, found the way on and... Homer was there signalling "Turn". Awe, nuts! I back-tracked and surfaced, Homer joined me, we turned to go.

The "walk" out was a battle against being swept away. Careful not to get a leg trapped under a ledge, at last we slipped along in the water towards the exit and emerged into sunlight. The time of year might not have been ideal but now I've dived a siphon near the High Tatra and a resurgence in the West Tatra National Parks. All-in-all it was a great adventure, more caving than cave diving but both caves afforded me experiences we just don't have on mainland Australia. The scenery was breathtaking and the mood jovial as we backpacked our way out of the park. We said our goodbyes and Honzo dropped me in town with a promise to come see me down under. Honzo, you are welcome anytime buddy (I'll even get some extra milk delivered).



Candle-lit dinner below the Acropolis

Next: A riot of a time in Athens, home to Europe's largest flooded chamber.



Mysteries of Murra El-Elevyn Cave

A brief comparison of four great cave diving areas through documentaries

By Ian Lewis #258

Origins of the name?

Many people think the word 'Nullabor' is a very recognisable aboriginal name for the great treeless plain. But it isn't - this name was used by the ancient Romans 2000 years ago to describe 'no trees' in Latin (null arbor) similarly to Murra-El-Elevyn was thought to be a changed spelling of an indigenous name. Try saying it fast! It's tricky. The best guess so far is that it is named after somewhere in North Africa and is an Arabic word. If so, who would have given it a name and why?

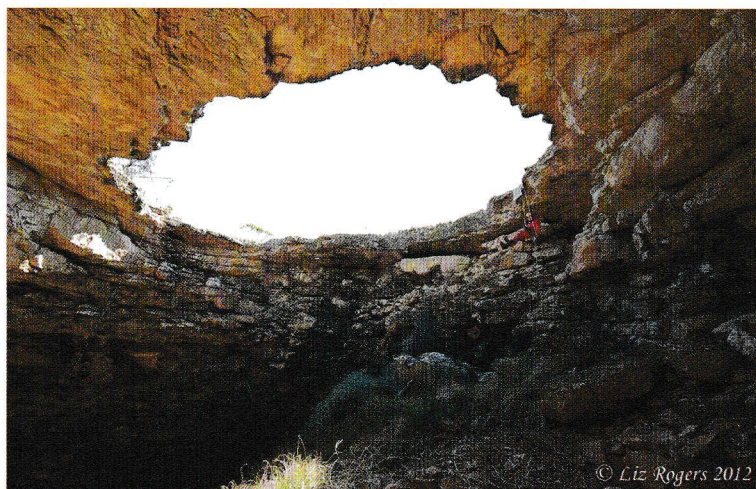
One possibility is from Afghan camel drivers who worked the fringe dry country and deserts of South Australia around the border areas. Not far from the SA-WA border is Albala Karoo Bore, an artificial square-cut well 2x2m which drops 100m to a mud bottom. This also appears to be an Arabic name. Whoever divined that spot to dig a 100-m well on the treeless plain by hand 100 years ago was either mad or really knew what they were doing. The Afghan camel drivers of a century ago in SA and WA really did know the desert craft. And both Murra-El-Elevyn and Albala Karoo are along the overland path that Edward John Eyre blazed from east to west as the first European to cross the Nullarbor.

Water and Bats

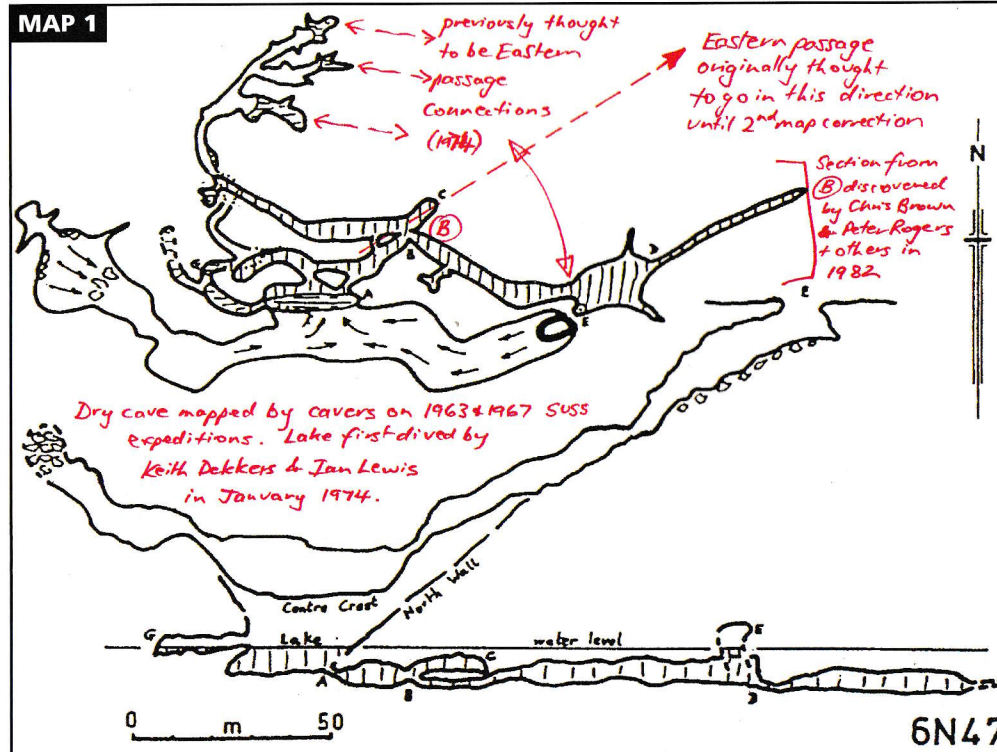
Murra is one of the more easy deep caves on the Nullarbor for explorers and pastoralists to get to water, even if the water is pretty brackish. On several cave expeditions in the 1960's and 1970's into Mullamullong Cave, when cavers camped 3km underground, we all adapted to living on brackish cave water

after about 24 hours (and a bowel clean-out). So the water in Murra could have been welcome and relatively easy to obtain by early settlers.

The bat chamber further in past the lake is the largest bat room of all known Nullarbor caves. Thus it is extremely significant for the survival of the Chocolate Wattle Bat (*Chalinolobus Morio*) across the Nullarbor. Bats in such numbers seem only to have been also in Warbla Cave, which is one reason why it is a protected reference cave site. But about 100-130 years ago as Murra became well known to Nullarbor travelers and stockmen etc, a cable was set up from the entrance to the bottom and the bat guano mined and bucketed to the surface to be sold in the farmlands around Perth and Adelaide for fertiliser. This happened in bat caves everywhere across Australia about that time with devastating effects on the bats. Heat, light, smoke, noise and human presence totally disturbed these bat breeding sites and bat populations plummeted. Can you imagine the effort and appalling conditions swinging a pick or a shovel by candlelight in such a hot environment filling your lungs with fatal amounts of bat guano dust? What a hell hole Murra must have been and the lake was the only way to cool off and re-hydrate. The remains



© Liz Rogers 2012



of the bat guano winch and bucket etc are still in the entrance today.

Evolution of Murra Maps

Cavers in the 1960's produced the first Murra map of the big dry section from the entrance to the bat room. Keith Dekkers and I were the first divers in the lake in January 1974 and I drew the first attempt at an underwater map and added it to the dry map. It was a really rough guesswork map without a compass and estimated distances. The most northerly small passages with shallow pools is still my old map. I thought the mazes ran northwards. But in 1982, Chris Brown, Peter Rogers and others updated my map east from point B and discovered three eastward passages and airspace (map 1). Between their map and a better one (map 2) the airspace has now been located almost directly beneath the entrance! I would still like to see this maze pinged as I think the directions are not yet accurate, so go for it guys!

What Questions the maps reveal...

The Map 2 plan and section raise some major questions. The whole large entrance slope is flooded with rubble but what did it fall into? Certainly not the lowest flat water-filled level as although Liz Rogers' beautiful photos show broken slabs underwater, they are



© Liz Rogers 2012



© Liz Rogers 2012

all part of a different lower geological layer and process. So I predict a middle dry layer yet to be discovered and pretty-well full of rocks but maybe extending laterally for quite a distance as shown on the Map 2 section. But the airspace with its beautiful delicate gypsum crystals would not lead upwards into another layer - it has been formed by undermining by solution from the bottom level where the water is, almost certainly along the reported weakness of the 'fault line' or joint line reported by divers. Does anyone know who has drawn the detailed maze in Map 2 plan? Please let me know! I have also indicated possible maze direction trends which should extend beneath the entrance collapse chamber as a separate low layer unaffected by rock collapse much closer to the surface. This type of underwater maze well beneath large Nullarbor rock piles is already known in the Nullarbor Cave passages (see my article on that cave in a previous Guidelines).

Growths and Temperatures

Peter Buzzacott has written several articles and papers on the mantle growths underwater in Murra and temperature anomalies at various spots in the maze. The mantles would be getting nutrients from bat guano elements in the water, likely trampled into the lake by 130 years of human activity but maybe for earlier than that. The temperature changes present a very interesting question yet to be tackled - other caves like Tommy Graham's also have warmer water. Does that warmth

work its way up from greater depths? Are there possible deeper mazes getting to depth levels like the end of Weebubbie's Railway Tunnel? These are some of the mysteries of Murra El-Elevyn Cave!

Ian D. Lewis

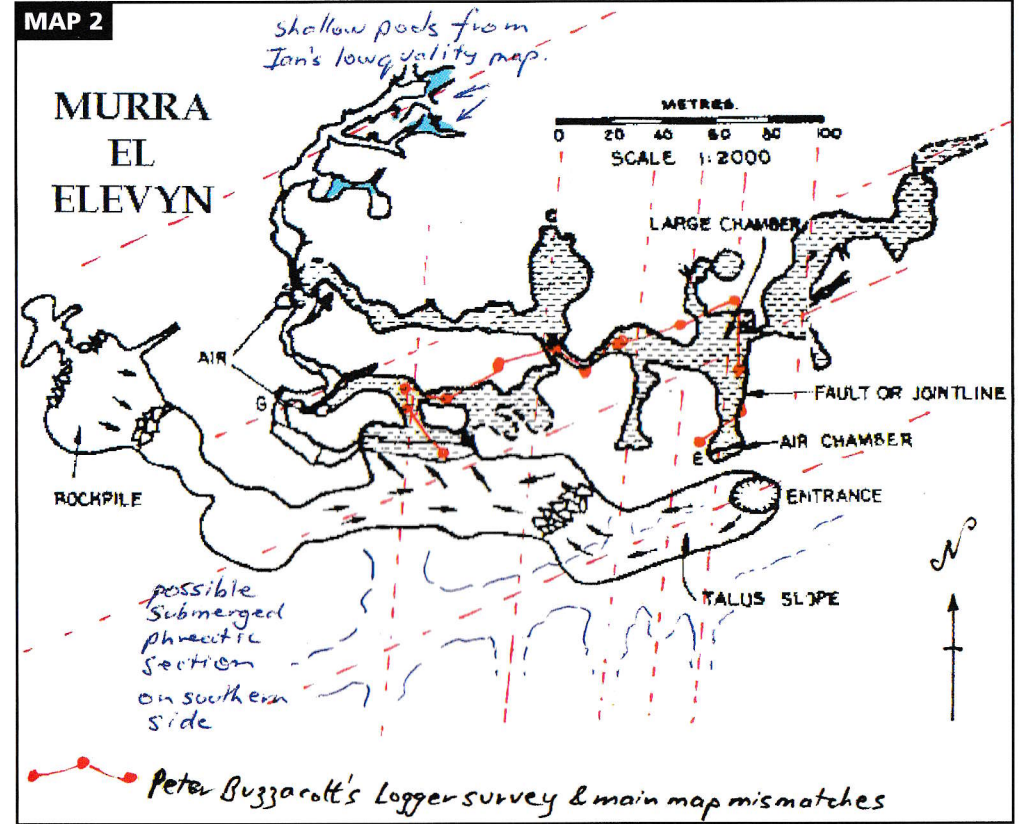
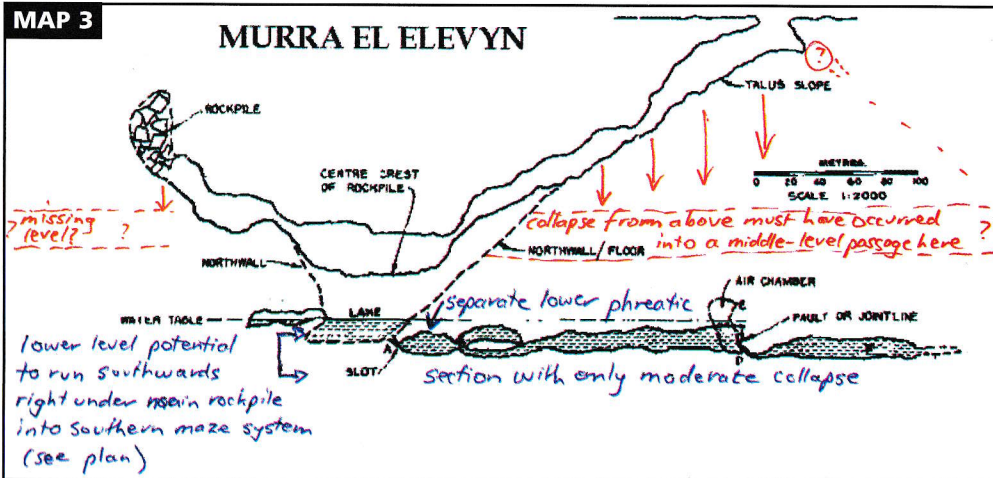
Photos

All photos are by Liz Rogers and are on her Flickr site. They are just fabulous and are a credit to the sport and science as they also contain so much geological information. She follows her father's excellent contribution to cave diving as Peter Rogers virtually single-handedly recorded all those early Nullarbor underwater discov-



© Liz Rogers 2012

eries in the 70's and 80's with his trusty Nikonos camera. Liz has taken that tradition to a higher level! In the Red helmet is Ken Smith and the Blue helmet is



Nominations for Hall of Fame 2012

Nominations for **Hall of Fame** are to be voted in 2012.

This year we have three Nominations on pages 22, 23 and 24.

Please read each before you cast your vote on the enclosed Ballot Paper.

Nomination for Hall of Fame

Andrew Wight #656

Renowned Cave Diver and Underwater Film Specialist

Andrew Wight was an Australian underwater explorer and film maker, and a CDAA member for more than 30 years. He died in a helicopter crash in NSW on Feb 4, 2012.

Andy was one of the CDAA's most highly-experienced cave divers. He grew up on the family farm in Harrow, Western Victoria and took up diving and caving while studying Agricultural Science at Latrobe University in the late 1970's. He became a CDAA Cave Diving Examiner and also served on the CDAA Committee as the organization began to become more professional at the start of the 1980's.



We all called him "Andy" or "Wighty". He had a larger-than-life personality and formed an underwater film company using a play upon his nickname – "Great Wight Productions"! He was highly motivated and operated at the leading edge of the sport of cave diving. In particular, he had a special talent for group motivation, dive team leadership and possessed excellent public relations skills. He said he was "not so mechanically inclined" but more than made up for that with an ebullient "Can Do" attitude.

He initiated and led the record breaking Pannikin Plain Cave Diving Expedition in 1988 in an innovative way, using new "Aquazep" underwater scooters, wearing "Quad" tanks and engaging multiple professional sponsorships for the expedition in a way not done by the caving or cave diving world before. He produced the real-life drama Pannikin Plain Expedition documentary "Nullarbor Dreaming" and received the Australian Geographic's "Australian Adventurer of the Year" Award.

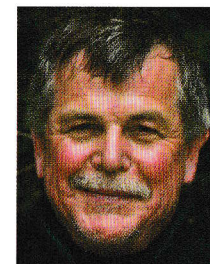
The Pannikin Plains documentary subsequently launched his international film directing career making nearly 50 diving documentaries with "The Deep Probe Expeditions" and "The Adventures of the Quest", including the caves of Florida, Cuba, the Bahamas and the Mexican cenotes plus 3D IMAX films and the cave diving adventure feature film "SANCTUM" with James Cameron. We all greatly miss our dynamic and entertaining friend. He made an outstanding contribution to the sport of Cave Diving in Australia and across the world. Accordingly, two of us wish to nominate him for membership of our CDAA Hall of Fame.

Proposed by: Ian Lewis #258 **Seconded by:** John Dalla-Zuanna #236

Nomination for Hall of Fame

Ken Smith #799

I hereby wish to nominate Ken Smith (CDAA #799) for election to the Hall of Fame within the CDAA. I propose that Ken clearly embraces and advances the aims and objectives of the Association not only here within Australia but as a worthy representative of our sport in many countries overseas.



Ken first had his interest piqued by caves when he visited Wookey Hole as a 9 year old boy in 1963! As a student at Sunderland Polytechnic, he did a British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC) open water course in 1976 and from then on his life was to be intimately involved with diving in all its forms. When he migrated to Australia he joined the CDAA as a Category I/II diver in 1980, being taught by the great Lewis and Allum. But it wasn't until his first trip to the Nullarbor in 1987 that he began to realise the possibilities that cave diving would offer. So he quickly did the Category III assessment and later in 1989 attained his Category IV certification. It was around the same time (the mid 80's) that Ken also started dry caving with the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) and was involved in many trips to Naracoorte Caves as well as Mt Gambier with that group.

Since those beginnings, Ken's caving experience has been as extensive as it is diverse. No less than 11 Nullarbor trips followed his first one in 1987 with many of the more recent of these being exploratory trips to the Roe Plain. He has visited many corners of Australia including Kija Blue and the Ningbing Ranges in the northwest and the famous Bundera Sinkhole (seeking remipedes with Dr Bill Humphries). To the east, Ken has similarly contributed to discoveries in the Jenolan Caves, The Buchan region of Victoria (the Murrindale Potholes Master Cave), the Hypipamee Crater in the Atherton Tablelands and in Tasmania, in particular the new Tiger's Eye system and the Junee Resurgence.

A turning point in Ken's cave diving exploits, and indeed his life, was the development of a compact underwater radiolocation system that soon became known colloquially as his "pingers". Initially designed to facilitate the original comprehensive above/below ground survey of Tank Cave these quickly became the technology of choice for many of the mapping projects around the country and the world. It saw him invited on a large number of exploratory and mapping expeditions from that point on. In his usual self-sacrificing manner, the use of this system often saw him walking the surface terrain on locating duty whilst the rest of the team revelled in the diving below him. Think of any significant well mapped discovery over the last several years and it is almost certain that the integrity and accuracy is a direct result of being "pinged".

Ken has been very fortunate to dive overseas on many occasions, and in Florida he is especially well known and respected. As an ambassador for Australian cave diving he has no peer. He has enjoyed (a somewhat disgraceful!) eight trips to Florida with his dear friend Forrest Wilson, the inventor of the line arrow. Ken in fact re-ignited Forrest's passion for cave diving after a quiet period in his diving career and continues to inspire this pioneer within our sport. During these trips to Florida he became, for some years, a regular at the annual workshop of the Cave Diving Section of the National Speleological Society (NSS-CDS), building strong relationships with our USA counterparts. His achievements did not go un-noticed in that part of the world, having been awarded the NSS-CDS Discovery award in 2007 and their Scientific Award in 2011.

Ken is the ultimate team player. Never one to put his own diving needs first; he is often seen peering over a multimeter or deftly wielding a soldering iron to fix someone's rebreather or battery pack. He has taken the lead in many of the scientific aspects of recent trips like the fauna sampling in Hypipamee Crater and the Pearse Resurgence, as always forgoing his own dives in order to achieve results with an exacting attention to detail. Last of all, his good humour and apolitical stance make him a welcome addition to any team. His skills in bringing CDAA divers together in his role as SA State representative has had a significant impact in improving the relationship between many CDAA factions.

With the aims of the CDAA being to develop, advance, promote, map, educate, explore, conserve and research the underwater features and environment that we love and respect, one rarely encounters an individual that better demonstrates and embraces each and every one of those elements.

Proposed by: Adrian Richards #1769 **Seconded by:** Greg Bulling #1331

Nomination for Hall of Fame

John Dalla-Zuanna #236

It is with great pleasure I would like to propose John Dalla-Zuanna ("JDZ") for membership of the CDAA Hall of Fame.

JDZ has been a mentor to myself and numerous other cave divers during his long association with the CDAA. Starting his diving career with the Southern Aquanauts Diving Academy in 1973, it was not long before he joined the CDAA (only 2 years after its inception) in 1975. However like many at the time, John had been visiting the Mount from the time he got his C card with Ian McRae, the owner of SADA. The only prerequisite was a single tank, Fenzy and a balanced regulator for the deep diving! Within 3 years he was a FAUI Open Water Instructor, and a cave examiner in the CDAA. This marked the beginning of a very long and prolific career as a diving instructor from which a great number of us have benefited.



It is in the field of diver training that JDZ has made very significant contributions. He attained the level of PADI Open Water Instructor in 1980 and Course Director in 1985 and holds no less than 19 specialty instructor qualifications, not including his Medic First Aid ratings. In cave diving, he was prolific in teaching from the late 70s to the late 90s, and is still an advanced cave instructor today. His calm and methodical teaching methods bring out the best in his students and his wise philosophy counsels those less suited to the sport!

JDZ has continuously contributed to the running of the Association since he first joined. In 1978 he was elected as part of the committee, acting as the Victorian Treasurer and Records Officer. With Ian Lewis as the first editor, this committee was involved in starting our Guidelines newsletter. He was re-elected for a second term in 1979 and then in 1984 he served as the Victorian Secretary. He was always part of the various training advisory committees over many years, but perhaps most importantly he has been an unofficial "advisor" to many of the national committees who have sought his advice during their terms! His balanced perspective on so many issues has poured oil on troubled waters more than once. He remains active with his current role as Mapping and Research Officer and Chairman of the Tank Cave Management Committee.

In terms of actual cave diving experience JDZ has few peers. He first visited the Nullarbor in 1981. In 1986 he appeared with buddy Simon McCartney in the Weekend Australian Magazine after diving the infamous Sydney tunnel, which ran at depths of over 70m under Sydney Harbour. That same year Simon and JDZ made numerous trips to Jenolan to dive the caves there. John has been a pivotal part of the Tank Cave mapping efforts from the early days and his unique "Thumper" radiolocation system has assisted with confirming many of the survey points in this and other caves around Mt Gambier. He continues to regularly guide in, and introduce new divers to Tank Cave today.

In 1983 John learned sidemount diving from Woody Jasper in Florida, and has been one of the CDAA's leading proponents of the technique since. He is expert in the use of a variety of diving styles and was an early adopter of closed circuit and mixed gas technology to further his exploration. Working closely with Kerry McKenzie in 2002, they modified the Dolphin Semiclosed Rebreather to a highly successful closed circuit unit, and performed a remarkable 85m deep dive on the scuttled Bayonet in the Victorian ship's graveyard. Since then JDZ has dived numerous deep caves and wrecks using the Dolphin, Prism, Megalodon, KISS, rEVO and Satori rebreathers. He has produced innovative and streamlined "mini-rebreathers" for decompression in the habitats on the Pearse resurgence expeditions, developed a vibrating heads up display for his homebuilt units, built long distance lithium battery packs for the Cocklebidy push dives in 2008 and 2009, heated undergarments for cold water diving and is currently working on extending his 3D mapping technology which has already produced stunning representations of Piccaninnie Ponds, Tank Cave and the Pearse Resurgence. An excellent guy to have on any team!

John has been involved in exploration, and contributed to recent expeditions to Kija Blue in the Kimberley, Mt Hypipamee Crater in Queensland, Junee Resurgence and the Lawrence Rivulet in Tasmania, the Pearse Resurgence, the Nullarbor Plain and numerous caves in the Mt Gambier area including the new deep sections of Piccaninnie Ponds. In 2007 he was a recipient of the NSS-CDS Exploration Award. He is a member of the Victorian Speleological Association and the ASF-CDG.

For JDZ's almost lifelong dedication to the CDAA and the sport of cave diving, I recommend him to you as a Hall of Fame member.

Proposed by: Richard Harris #1360

Seconded by: Noel Dillon #2038

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Lifting our Game – Electronic Communication and Collaboration in the Digital Age

Recently the National Committee ran a series of State Meetings to ascertain "what do the majority of members want for the future of the CDAA"?

One item consistently mentioned across the various meetings was bringing **the CDAA forum back to a standard where the majority of members are willing to contribute.** It was commonly agreed that forced removal of members who use the forum to grandstand, denigrate others or kill off conversation was seen as something well overdue.

We have heard you. Below are the revised and simplified CDAA forum rules.

Simplified CDAA Forum Rules

All forum users are required to read and agree with the Forum Rules before access is granted. Forum users failing to abide by the Forum Rules will lose posting access. Repeat offenders will be formally charged under the terms of the Constitution.

By posting to the CDAA forums, you hereby agree to abide by the Forum Rules.

Forum Intent

There are 3 basic uses for the Forum:

- **To seek advice.** There are no dumb questions.
- **To discuss and develop ideas.** Nothing is impossible.
- **To share experiences.** To learn and celebrate success.

Part of learning is for members to share their experiences both good and bad. Members who are willing to share their negative experiences should be extolled - for this is how we learn and progress. Also watch your sense of humour as posts may be read by people from a variety of backgrounds and ages.

Forum Posting Rules

The following **is** positive contribution:

- Responding to every post (question, thought, idea), with respect.
- Growing ideas in order to innovate.
- Separating facts and opinion.
- Finding common points of agreement.
- Working out differences politely.

The following is considered **inappropriate** for the CDAA Forum:

- Any posting that may be considered bullying – this includes:
- offensive language;
- tormenting or putting another person or organisation down (don't flame, troll, insult, harass, threaten, rant);

- saying things to create or support factional fighting.
- chastising members with lesser experience.
- Posts that do not contribute to the conversation – no "Empty" or useless posts with content such as "lol" or "cool".
- Any posting considered to be libel or slander.
- Any posting containing vulgarity, racism, profanity, and bigotry.
- The copying of any material for purposes outside of the Forum.
- Any posting discussing illegal activities.
- Any posting that does not abide by the Forum Intent.

Note: In addition to the CDAA Forum Rules, members are also bound by appropriate State and Federal laws related to Bullying (this is now an offence), Libel or Slander.

Forum Posting Infringements

- First Offence – Guidance/Coaching by the Moderator, Web Master and/or National Committee.
- Second Offence – One (1) month exclusion from posting.
- Third Offence – Six (6) months exclusion from posting.
- Fourth Offence – Formal disciplinary charges as per the Constitution.

Appeals against Forum Posting Infringements

Members may appeal the decision for infringement for the first 3 offences by submitting their objections to the National Director. Such appeals will be discussed at the next National Committee meeting. Until such an appeal is discussed, the infringement penalty will remain in effect. For a fourth offence the appeal process will be as per the Constitution.

Forum Governance

The CDAA forums fall under the primary governance of **Publications and Records** portfolio, operating as part of the National Committee. Moderators (or "mods" for short) are appointed as delegates of the National Committee to ensure that online communications between members fall within the forum intent and rules. Any CDAA member can report a suspected breach by clicking on the "Report Post" button.

Effective from the **1st October 2012** the National Committee will be enforcing the new simplified rules of conduct for the CDAA forums. The forums are a place for information gathering, sharing and developing ideas and a service for all members.

After all, the next best cave diving technique that could one day save your life could be a proven technique practiced by members who are unwilling to share for fear of ridicule or reprisals.

The Internet has a large selection of resources available on Forum Etiquettes, some are:

<http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-behave-on-an-internet-forum>

http://forum.buildyourown.org.uk/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=51

<http://forum.spore.com/jforum/posts/list/43309.page>

<http://forum-services-review.toptenreviews.com/25-forum-posting-etiquette-tips.html>

Rowan Stevens, Publications and Records Director
On Behalf of the National Committee

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Yes

Welcome Two New Instructors

The National Committee would like to congratulate both Geoff Chambers and Steve Dale for successfully completing their Deep Cavern Instructor Internships. Both Geoff & Steve are from the Melbourne area and are qualified technical, Trimix and Advanced Cave divers.



Geoff



Steve

We welcome them as Instructors and look forward to working with them in the future.

Jane Bowman.
Standards Director.
On behalf of the National Committee

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www.justabedlodge.com.au

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	DEWNR - P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290 (08) 8735 1177	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. for Environment, Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR) Smaller groups, no need. Fax: (08) 8735 1135 General Diving: Divers to contact DEH and notify of date and site to be dived. Please make requests by phone or fax only. Divers must have the correct CDAА diving endorsement for the site and carry current financial CDAА membership card. The diver must have signed an indemnity with DEWNR before access is permitted and original copy must be received by DEWNR prior to diving. Training: The Instructor is to notify DEWNR of the date the sites are needed and to forward signed indemnities from each student and their temporary card number/ membership number. Permit holders by phone or fax. Be aware of delicate vegetation. \$26/dive or annual Permit \$60. NOTE: Members can login to www.cavedivers.com.au and download pre-populated indemnity forms and these must be submitted to DEWNR at least 2 weeks prior to the intended dive date. NOTE: Divers should renew their Piccaninnie Ponds indemnities at least 2 weeks prior to their intended dive date.
Gouldens	CN	DEWNR	
2 Sisters	CN	DEWNR	
Fossil	C		
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	DEWNR	
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 is 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: conservationandcreation@forestrysa.com.au. Fax: (08) 8724 2870 or Phone: (08) 8724 2876 or book on-line via the CDAА website to arrange permit. Divers must advise FSA of their online booking. 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 & 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 - We have access fortnightly. Minimum of 3 divers in the water at one time. 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. No diving on Total Fire Ban Days.

BARNOOLUT SITES

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

Blacks Hole S/C Scotts Agencies P/L

Shaft S/C Generally open one weekend a month. Trevor Ashby

Engelbrechts - East C Council

- West P Lessee Ph: 08 8723 5552

Contact: Brenton & Kemele

Three Sisters P Millicent Council

McKay's Shaft S

Tank Cave P CDAА

Baker's Cave C Manager: Brad Dibble

NULLARBOR - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Cocklebidy C/P

Murra El Elevyn P/C

Tommy Grahams C

Weebubbie S/C DPI

N.S.W. - WELLINGTON CAVES

Limekiln P/C Both Penetration and Cave Level are being accepted for this cave depending on its 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 CO₂ levels during Summer/Autumn. Access is co-ordinated with the Wellington Caves management by Greg Ryan - greg@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.

Tec Training

In Mt Gambier

TDI Advanced Nitrox
TDI Decompression Procedures
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TDI Trimix
TDI Sidemount
TDI Cave Sidemount
PADI Tec 40
PADI Tec 45
PADI Tec 50
PADI Trimix 65
IANTD Advanced Nitrox
IANTD Technical
IANTD Normoxic Trimix
IANTD CCR Cave

If you hold a current CDAА Deep Cavern Certification and are looking to complete one of the above courses, you can now do these courses in Mt Gambier.

Benefits include:

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Course Information: www.idcscuba.com.au

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