



## **C.D.A.A. Newsletter**

**No. 130 - DECEMBER 2014**

### ***THIS ISSUE...***

- *Photos from the 2014 AGM & Symposium*
- *Nullarbor Expedition with Peter Mosse*
- *CDA A Member Profile - JDZ*
- *OzTek News • New Gear*

**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

**(Incorporated in South Australia)**

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

**SENTINEL**



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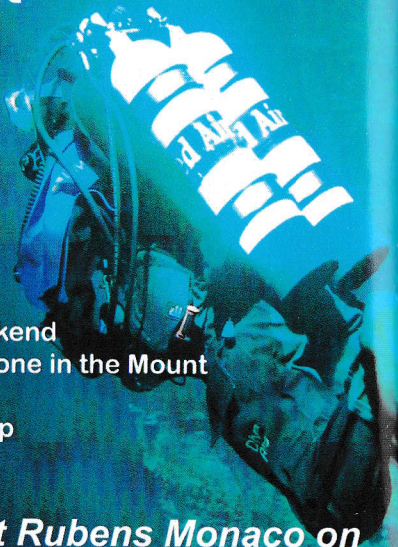
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Email: [info@idcscuba.com.au](mailto:info@idcscuba.com.au) Course Information: [www.idcscuba.com.au](http://www.idcscuba.com.au)



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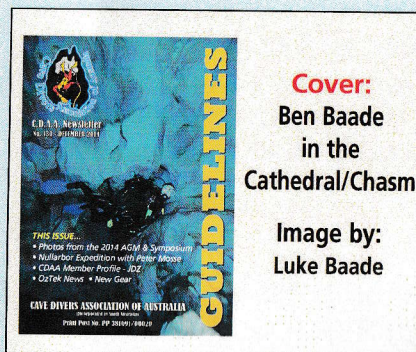
**[www.tecdivegear.com.au](http://www.tecdivegear.com.au)**

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## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ABN 65 062 259 956

P.O. BOX 544, Mt Gambier, SA 5291

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](mailto:publications@cavedivers.com.au)

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### CDAA INSURANCE

Policy Type: Combined Liability Insurance Policy# BN-EAL-14-441680L.  
 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 \$20,000,000 any one claim. Expiry: 30 September 2015.



# Pine Tank Lodge

**Just 5 minutes drive from the best Cave & Advanced Cave dive sites.**

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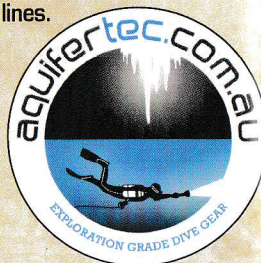
## Courses:

- Deep Cavern to Cave
- Approved TDI Facility offering full range of TDI Technical Courses, Nitrox, Trimix, Deco Procedures and Extended Range.
- CCR Training KISS
- Sidemount



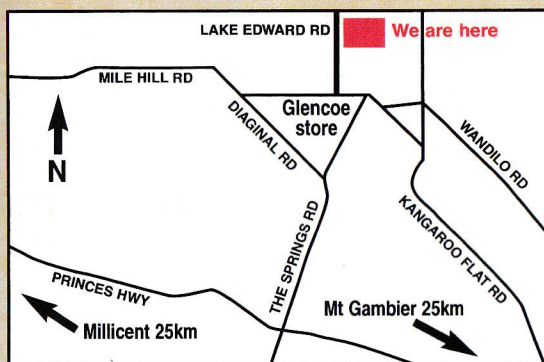
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## Pine Tank Dive Lodge AquiferTec Australasia

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## EDITORIAL

### ROWAN STEVENS



Dear Members,

Welcome to the last mile of 2014 with another year of diving stories and experiences behind us.

The Member's Symposium and AGM 2014 ran smoothly and many of us were delighted with Thorsten 'Toddy' Wälde stories of exploring the magnificent underwater Italian cave systems of Sardinia. The election process saw the 1973 National Committee inducted into the Hall of Fame and two new Directors elected - Peter Horak as CDAA Business Director and John Dalla-Zuanna as CDAA Site Director. This year also heralded in new CDAA Regulations, new CDAA Training Standards and refreshed training materials for Deep Cavern, Cave and Advanced Cave – all now available from the online member's document library.

In this issue ... we see the world's first underwater cave spherical photo panorama from Russia, a first timers guide to diving the Nullarbor by Petter Mosse and Graeme Bartle-Smith, a member profile on our new CDAA Site Director John Dalla-Zuanna. There are gear reviews of the Scubapro Nova LED torches as well as photos from the Member's Symposium and AGM. We even spotted

Santa feeding the locals ...

Signing off for another year.

Have a safe, Merry Christmas and a Happy New 2015.



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



# NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

DECEMBER 2014

As 2014 draws to a close the National Committee want to thank all members who volunteer their time to help with managing the Association, members that take time to provide feedback and thoughts for ongoing improvement and members that simply let us know that they appreciate what is being done.

Recently we finished the National round of State Meetings to elicit sentiment on what members consider are important. The recurring themes across all meetings were:

- Raising Awareness of Cave Conservation and Protection.
- Controlled Access of Tank Cave to Cave level divers.
- Opening up previously closed dive sites and arranging access to new ones.

We found that the interpretation of each theme differed across States. For example 'Conservation' has the following differing interpretations of what members would like the National Committee to implement:

1. Denying access to some or all of a Cave System.
2. Uplifting training to raise awareness.
3. Active participation by members on a conservation project as pre-requisite to Advanced Cave training.

To resolve these discrepancies the National Committee will hold a Strategic Summary in the first half of 2015 so members can help focus the Committees efforts.

On the administration front there have been two changes to the National Committee:

- Peter Horak is now Business Director – new to the Committee; and
- John Dalla-Zuanna is now Site Director – from Acting Site Director.

This brings in new blood to keep things fresh, so we welcome both Peter and John. Linda Claridge also continues in her role as Standards Director.

The biggest focus of the National Committee in 2014 was the completion of the new Regulations, Training Standards and a refreshed set of Student Training Notes across all levels of training. These have now been implemented and changes took effect on Saturday 18th October 2014. So why the changes?

- Hard to find stuff – sometimes you had to refer to multiple separate documents.
- Inconsistent clauses and terminology are sometimes contradictory.
- Did not always mirror what we actually do.
- Was inconsistent with, and duplicated, parts of the Constitution.
- Rebreathers were not able to be used by students on training.
- Diving Regulations for Members (post training) were interwoven with Diver Training Standards (on training). Regulations were rule based stipulating how to dive (methods, procedures, equipment) leading to onerous complexity.
- To make a more solid foundation for future changes.

Key Change to Regulations include:

## 1. New Document Structure

- a. Membership.
- b. Instructor and Diver Training.
- c. Member Diving.
- d. Site Access.
- e. Director and Office Bearer.
- f. Schedules.

## 2. Regulation Exemptions

- a. No longer retrospective.
- b. Are fixed term up to 3 months and cannot be extended.
- c. Must be published to all members as an official notice.

## 3. Diver Certification Cards

- a. Issued upon completion of Training – Never Expire.
- b. For use overseas only.
- c. Does not replace Membership Cards and current financial obligations of members.



## 4. Instructor Renewals

- a. Instead of expiring on 31st Dec will align to membership expiry on 30th June.
- b. Instructor Teaching Status Currency has been strengthened to include training level and training programs taught in the past 1-3 years.

## 5. Added Member Diving Regulations

- a. Adopts a risk based lens on day-to-day diving – responsibility and accountability is on each member to assess diving risks, take action to reduce those risks and accept the residual risk prior to entering a cave environment.
- b. The same regulations apply to:
  - i. Team Diving.
  - ii. Buddy Diving.
  - iii. Solo Diving (future proofing and 2015 topic).

## 6. Updated Site Access Protocols

- a. Moved information bulletins to web site.
- b. Site Access Officers no longer receive any monies – be it a benefit or cost recovery for their work (including site diving fees on the day they perform this role).
- c. Landowner has stipulated Dive Supervisors at the Shaft. Members acting in this capacity must have their own insurance and you are not covered by the CDAA liability insurance.
- d. Added Site access protocols for DEWNR, ForestrySA, Lady Nelson, and WA Caves.

## Key changes to Training Standards

### 1. New Document Structure:

- a. General Diver Training Standards.
- b. Deep Cavern Diver.
- c. Cave Diver.
- d. Advanced Cave Diver.

### 2. Student Notes and Standards now align on theory topics for each certification level.

Articles for  
Guidelines March. 2015 -  
Deadline is Feb. 20th

- Send articles by email to [guidelines@cavedivers.com.au](mailto: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.

## 3. Consistent terminology and framework across training standards:

- a. Controlled Water Training Sessions.
- b. Skills Dive Assessment Session.
- c. Supervised Site Diving Sessions.

## 4. Student assessment criteria simplified for all dives to focus on what skills must be demonstrated.

## 5. Rebreathers can now be used at all training levels.

Many hours of work went into these document changes and we thank all members who volunteered their time to review and provide feedback. With all of this, we look forward to a great 2015 for the CDAA.

May your drysuit remain wet on the outside.  
Rowan Stevens,

On Behalf of the National Committee



John Vanderleest,  
National Director



John Dalla-Zuanna,  
Site Director



Peter Horak,  
Business Director



Rowan Stevens,  
Publications and  
Records Director



Linda Claridge,  
Standards Director

# WANTED

## ARTICLES 4 GUIDELINES

IF SIGHTED PLEASE E-Mail  
IMMEDIATELY, TOGETHER WITH  
ANY PICTURES TO:

The Editor, Dave Bryant  
[guidelines@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:guidelines@cavedivers.com.au)

## REWARD!...

An even better Guidelines  
for everyone.



# OZTeK2015

## 14th & 15th March, 2015

### The OZTeK Experience

*A breath-taking adventure aimed at raising diving to the next level of excitement, the OZTeK2015 Dive & Travel Exhibition spearheads an action-packed weekend of diving info-tainment that's truly out of this world.*

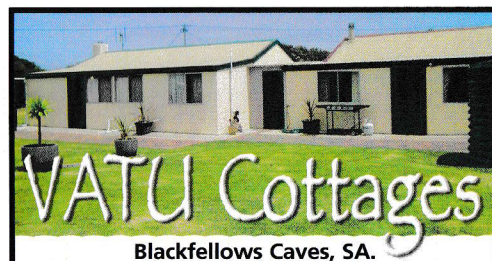
To be held at Australian Technology Park, Sydney over the weekend of the 14th – 15th March 2015, the OZTeK2015 event will again combine the talents of some of the world's most gifted diving authorities with a full-scale Dive & Travel Exhibition representing every facet of diving.

With over 90% of the exhibition space already booked and a comprehensive exhibitor list that already includes: Abyss Scuba Diving; Always Dive Expeditions; Ambient Pressure Diving; Aquanaut; Atomic Aquatics; Australian Underwater Products; BARE; Blue Label Diving; Bubble Scuba; Catlin Seaview Survey; Cave Divers Association of Australia; Christmas Island Tourism Association; Closed Circuit Divers; Cocos Keeling Islands; DAN Asia Pacific; DGX Premier Products; Digital Diver; Dive 2000; Dive Adventures; Dive Dive Dive; Dive Log Australasia; Dive Pacific Magazine; DiveRite; Diversion Dive Travel; Dive Soft; Dive Systems; DiveTek; Dive Victoria Group; DKG Drysuits; eScuba; Fourth Element; GreenForce; Halcyon Dive Systems; Hammerhead CCR; Historical Diving Society; HOG; Hollis; Inon; JJ CCR; Lifeline Marine Radio; Light Monkey; Light&Motion; Luxfer; Mares Asia Pacific; Mike Ball Dive Expeditions; Nauticam; Neptune; Ocean Reef; O.R.C.A.; O.W.U.S.S.; PADI Asia Pacific; Papua New Guinea Divers Association; Professional Divers Training Academy; Quest Tours; Rags II; RAID; rEvo Rebreathers; Rx Dive; Sabah Tourism; Scuba Diver Magazine; Scuba Imports; Scubapix; SDI Australia; Seacam; Sea Safari Cruises; Sea&Sea; Sharkskin; Shearwater Research; Southern Cross Divers; Spirit of Freedom; Sport Diver Magazine; SSI International; Submatix; TDI Australia; TEC Divers; Tech Asia; Termo Industria SRL; The Dive Tub; Truk Lagoon Dive Centre; TUSA; Wakatobi Dive Resort; Waterproof Suits; X-Ray Magazine; and Zeagle, OZTeK2015 is a shop window packed full of the very best that the world of diving has to offer.

Featuring something of interest to everyone who dives - and whose minds remain open to the exciting opportunities made possible by advances in technol-

ogy and training - OZTeK2015 marks the coming-of-age of technical diving and the beginning of a new era of diving possibilities; a generational change in which the only limits are those imposed by the imagination.

A dynamic event focussed on excitement and tomorrow's world of diving adventures, further information about OZTeK2015 – including details about the Photo Competition and the Gala Awards Dinner – can be found on the website at: [www.diveoztek.com.au](http://www.diveoztek.com.au)  
Contact the organisers,  
Sue Crowe at: [info@diveoztek.com.au](mailto:info@diveoztek.com.au) or  
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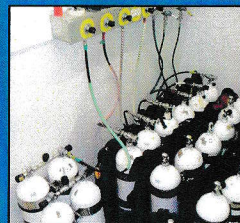
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Contact Suzanne on 0427 884 729 or Email: [suzanne@justabedlodge.com.au](mailto:suzanne@justabedlodge.com.au)



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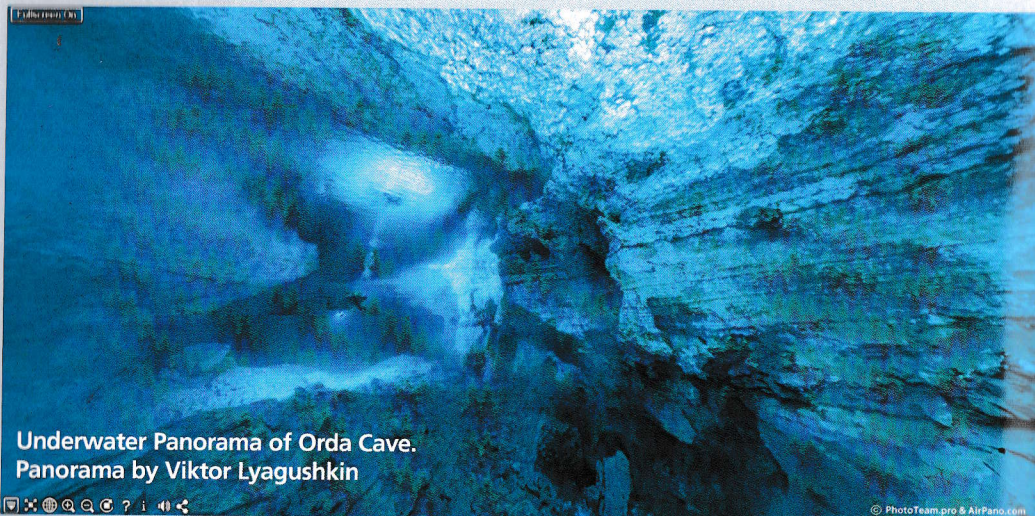
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PO Box 9286, Mount Gambier West, S.A. 5291



# World's First Underwater Cave Spherical Photo Panorama

February 26, 2013 / Russia, Asia



Underwater Panorama of Orda Cave.  
Panorama by Viktor Lyagushkin

The world's first underwater cave spherical panorama was recently photographed inside Russia's Orda cave, the world's longest underwater gypsum cave.

Created by a team from AirPano and Phototeam.pro, the same folks who worked on the Orda Cave Awareness Project in 2010, this 360 degree panorama was "the next logical step" to make this unreachable beauty accessible to most people.

Located on the shore of Kungur River in the southwest corner of Orda village in Russia's Perm region, Orda cave is 5.1 kilometers (3.2 miles) long, with nearly all but 300 meters (984 feet) being under water. It is impossible to set up a tripod or a panoramic head, which means that you won't be able to mount your camera or strobe on a tripod. People can't stand still, but without models you don't see dimensions of a cave. There is no light source except for the one you bring with you. Radio synchronizers don't work under water. So all of the above puts you in the most uncertain place for a photo shoot.

Viktor Lyagushkin, Photographer

With the first underwater spherical photo panorama in a cave now complete, the team looks forward to a busy year as they plan to shoot "an entirely new series of unique underwater virtual tours that have never been done before in the world."

Besides returning to Orda Cave, the team has a list of other locations to shoot including in the Baltic, the White Sea, the Blue Lake (Chirek-Kel) in Kabardino-Balkaria, the Tkhach Caves in Adygeya, the Issyk-Kul' Lake, and land caves of Ural.

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DEEP DOWN YOU WANT THE BEST



# Finally! The Nullarbor

## A first timers guide

Pictures & Story by Peter Mosse and Graeme Bartle-Smith

*The Nullarbor. The name conjures up images of remote outback Australia and a touch of desert. But for cave divers there are the legends and mystique of Cocklebiddy, Weebubbie, Murra, Tommy's and more. And there is the lure of epic adventures and expedition logistics. Tales abound of floods and damaged bodies, grandeur and woe. With lots of work, big setups, big dives, hot days, winds and insects. But it all had to be done!*

With grey hair setting in, and, despite all the memories of our early days in the Mount in the seventies and of the cenotes of Mexico, we felt there was still more to experience. We had to do justice to what Australia has to offer. Most of our old FAUI dive instructor buddies had been over, some multiple times, but for some reason we hadn't yet made it.

All the die-hards we spoke to recommended we "go with someone who has been before, two is a bit risky, three would be better". Well we couldn't find anyone to go with who had been before and we couldn't find a third or fourth person. So, when faced with such a dilemma...lets bloody well do it anyway and just be bloody careful.

So what did we learn as we planned our trip? Heaps. And, if you are pondering the same, it is all summarised below for you to take advantage of. Our first site was Weebubbie. According to plan, we arrived on site, set up camp and proceeded to organise the gear into the hole. As planned, the two ladders were erected and the ropes prepared for lowering the gear. Our preparation paid off, the gear went down without a hitch. Our thoughts did however ponder getting it out again. We had a lifting frame with us so we parked those thoughts until the time came.

We were ready to dive – four days after leaving Melbourne.

That first dive was just wonderful. It doesn't matter how long you've been in the game or how many dives you have done, there is always the thrill of the first dive. Our memories of that dive, a year later, are finding the fixed line for the first time, the vastness of the cavern, both underwater and in the dry section, recognising parts of the cave we'd only seen on sketch maps, the awesome light show from reflection off the surface from under the lake on the way out and excitement that tomorrow we would explore some of the side tunnels.

We had limited our plans to diving just two sites after initially thinking of visiting three. That was a good choice, to take our time and enjoy all that both sites had to offer rather than being on the go the whole time. Murra el Elevyn was that second choice and another thrill of the first encounter followed.

So, if you are thinking this could be for you, the effort is great, particularly the very careful advance planning and the gear in and gear out on site. But, it is well worth the effort. Have a look at the few photos below to whet your appetite.

**Getting There** - (see table below)

Leg	Google Maps Time (hrs)
Melbourne to Mt Gambier	5
Mt Gambier to Port Augusta to Ceduna	12.5
Ceduna to Eucla	5
Eucla to Cocklebiddy	3
Perth to Cocklebiddy	12



*Weebubbie in the morning with sunlight filling the massive above-water chamber. In the afternoon, it's black.*

### Best Time to go -

Late April, May, June or late September to early October. **Permits are required.**

#### • Weebubbie

Bookings need to be made on the CDAA website well in advance (4 weeks is probably suitable). Confirmation and permission to dive will be emailed to you from the Department of Regional Development and Lands (Shannon Alford: shannon.alford@rdl.wa.gov.au).

*One of the requirements listed in Guidelines is to notify the Eucla police (08 9039 5000) on arrival.*

#### • Murra El Elevyn and Tommy Grahams

Applications need to be made at least 4 weeks in advance. Down load the form from the CDAA Website and mail to:  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
PO Box 234  
Esperance 6450  
Attention Robert Blok.

Robert Blok can be contacted on (08) 9083 2100 or by e mail at robert.blok@dec.wa.gov.au. Robert is a great help and easy to talk to.

The form requires information relating to Public Liability Insurance. The details of this are available on the Contents page of Guidelines. Combined Liability Insurance: Policy Number SY-CAS-08-041140 (Public Liability \$10M). Insurer Liberty International Underwriters ABN: 61 086 083 605  
Level 27, 1 Macquarie Place Sydney NSW 2000

### Vehicles -

4WD vehicles are best; however a high clearance robust 2WD vehicle would be OK if there is no rain. With rain, several track areas become very muddy and slippery. One reasonably economic option if you are coming from the east is to drive a 2WD to Ceduna and hire a 4WD at Ceduna (Avis at BP Highway One)

### Trailers -

You will need one; there is a lot of gear!

### Fuel -

There is no need to carry fuel. There are plenty of Roadhouses along the way however they do not necessarily stay open all night. They seem to close around 8pm.

### Water -

The water in the caves is brackish so fresh water must be taken with you. Water cannot be obtained from the Roadhouses except in an emergency. Bottled or cask water may be available. The World Health Organisation suggests a minimum daily requirement of 3.7 L/p/d. For a Nullarbor trip allow between 5 L/p/d (moderate usage) and 10 L/p/d (high usage).

### Food -

Essentially no fruit or vegetables can be taken from South Australia into Western Australia. Specific details can be found at [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au). There is a 24 hr manned inspection point at "Border Village" just east of Eucla.

A fruit and vegetable order can be placed with the Eucla Roadhouse's supplier in Perth for delivery with





**A fully packed car and trailer at Ceduna where we swapped the car for a 4WD**

the roadhouse order. Place the order 1 week in advance and pick it up on arrival. Be humble; the roadhouse staff are doing you a favour by helping you out.

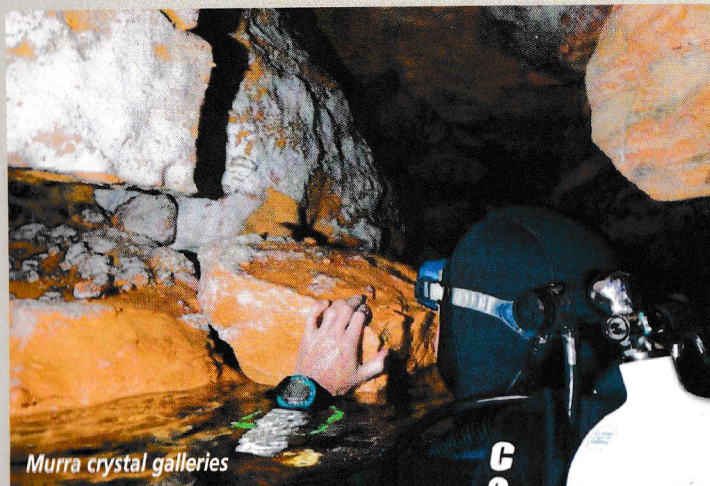
### Clothing -

Wear stout footwear when carrying gear over the rough and unstable surface in the caves. Full ankle support is best. Consider using overalls when setting up for protecting knees and elbows. Gloves are recommended for working ropes and general protection on the rocks.

The flies can be thick! Bring a fly net if you plan to spend time above ground. A safety helmet or caving helmet should be provided for each person. A safety harness for anyone working near the edge during lowering or raising of equipment.

### Weather -

Expect everything from baking hot north winds to cool southerlies or south westerlies and everything in between: all in the one day. Even some rain.



**Murra crystal galleries**

### Lighting -

Headlamps are essential. Indeed, pack a spare one just in case! Also spare batteries. Make sure you have a good bright lantern with plenty of burn time for gearing up at the water's edge and for your underwater return. There is no natural light at Weebubbe, Murra or Tommys.

### Generators and Compressors -

Generators are required for recharging dive lights and for some refrigeration. Consider sharing generators if there are multiple ones on site. The full capacity is seldom used.

It is pleasant to have quiet at night so if possible turn off the generators early in the evening. Continuous operation often results in unwanted freezing of food items in the fridges anyway. Gas fridges and lanterns for camping are much quieter. 3 way fridges are available with an option to run on gas. These are completely quiet and very efficient on gas. A single 7kg bottle will easily last 2 weeks (but check manufacturers specs).

There are no air filling facilities in the Nullarbor so reliable compressors with spare parts are essential. While you can lug the empty tanks out of the cave for refilling it is much nicer to be able to fill them at the water's edge. An air filling line that can run from the surface is worth its weight in gold. Our recommendation is to find one...beg borrow or steal it!. You will need approximately 250 m.

### Ropes -

Lots of ropes are required. A minimum of 50 m is required for lowering and retrieving gear at Weebubbe and Murra El Elevyn. An extra 10-15m tracer rope to attach to the bottom of the lowering rope is useful to allow the person at the bottom to guide the lowering gear as far down the slope as possible and to position it onto a suitable surface. Lots of tapes and karabiners are required for lowering and raising gear.



*You can get the gear in this way but it is a bit harder getting it out.*

### The landing zone



### Diving -

Drysuits or wetsuits (7mm) are suitable for diving the Nullarbor. The water temperature varies somewhat between the various caves and indeed in different parts of the same cave however it is all comfortable diving temperature.

### Communications -

Shouting seems to be adequate for communication. CB radios may work but they may not. Communications from the water's edge to topside is unlikely so alternative systems need to be developed particularly when filling tanks.

### Equipment -

Tanks - Twin 12L are adequate for most diving. Twin independents or side mounts are perhaps easier to work with during lowering and removal from the sites. Deco gas in Weebubbe is useful.

While it is possible to carry a twin set it is safer to carry the tanks down and up as singles. An old style single back pack is excellent (add some padding to the shoulder straps). Alternatively the cylinders can be packed in a rucksack however they tend to roll a bit.

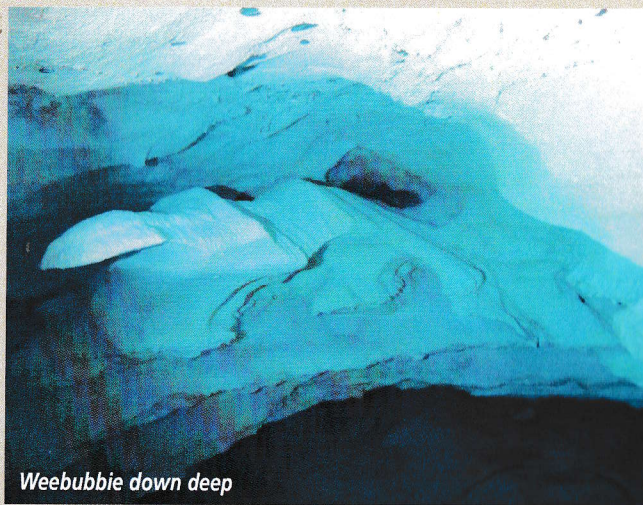
### Weight belts -

While the water is brackish, approximately the same weights used at Mt Gambier are OK. Take an extra 3lb just in case.

### Toileting -

Do not urinate on the rocks in the cave. It leaves a strong unpleasant smell.





Weebubbie down deep

The options seem to be to use a bottle and take it out or urinate in the water and disperse it vigorously.

#### Miscellaneous -

Duct tape, electrical tape, cable ties and super glue.

A well-stocked tool kit is recommended.

Spare regulators and hoses and gauges.

#### Lowering and Lifting Gear -

While gear could be carried into and out of the holes it is easier to lower and lift the gear over the edge nearest to the opening of the cave.

By far the easiest way is to use a lowering frame of some sort (Larkin or Tripod Frame) however gear can be successfully lowered into the cave over the edge. A 3m piece of tough rubber can be used to provide protection for the rope over the edge. Retrieval by this

route is very difficult.

There is plenty of information and some photos on use of Larkin Frames on the internet but these are not particularly good. Perhaps the CDAA could produce an instructional video.

At both Weebubbie and Murra it is approximately 40m from edge to the "landing area" below, so a minimum of 50m of rope is required. 8-10mm climbing rope or anchor rope is most suitable. If using a vehicle for retrieval, a longer length (~10m) of rope will be required.

Lowering and positioning of the gear can be facilitated by attaching a 10-12m tracer rope to the gear, which can be used by the divers down below

to guide the gear as it descends and guide it as far down toward the cave entrance as possible. It also means that they can guide the gear without the danger of standing under it as it descends.

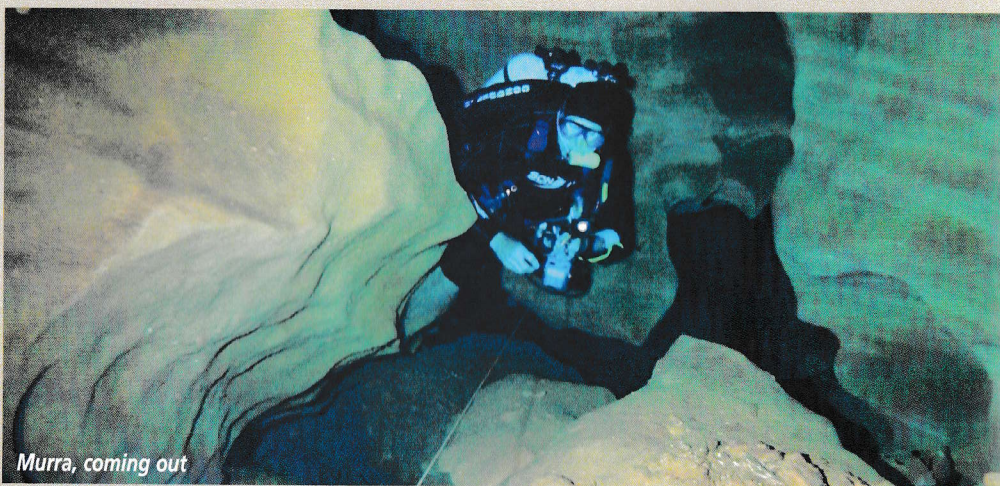
#### Some Ideas -

A number of things would make diving the Nullarbor a bit easier, both for first timers and old hands alike.

- A CDAA gear shed at Eucla and Cocklebidy road-house with custom length ladders and ropes would be a great help. The shed could be secured with a combination lock and wouldn't need to inconvenience the road house owners.

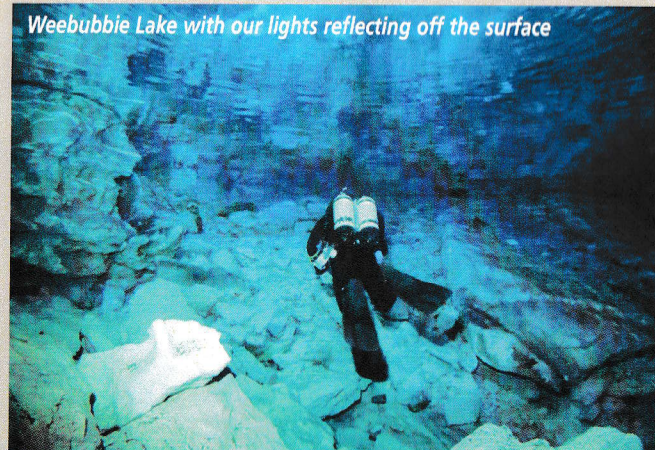
- A Larkin frame or tripod at each base would also be useful.

- An air filling line that can be hired by anyone ven-



Murra, coming out

Weebubbie Lake with our lights reflecting off the surface



turing out would be particularly useful. This one is a little harder, but perhaps there could be one held in Perth and one in Adelaide (Victorian divers have to pass through Adelaide anyway.)

- Production of instructional videos on how to set up and use a Larkin frame or tripod.

- A bulletin board where dive parties could notify their intentions and their preparedness to host/help first timers.

- CDAA hosted/guided tours to the Nullarbor. We are aware that there may be some commercial trips already available.

#### Thanks to;

Thanks to Linda Claridge, Gary Barclay, Steve Trewavas, Bob Wealthy, John McCormick and JDZ for all their information and advice. We now consider ourselves a little less green thanks to them and our own experiences.

#### More to Come . . .

In the next editions of Guidelines, specific guides to Weebubbie, Murra and Tommys will be published.

There is also a plan to set up a section of the CDAA website with a "Wiki" style Dive Site Guide, where people can put up a dive site guide or suggestions for a particular dive site. Others can then make additions or corrections so that it is always as up to date as possible.

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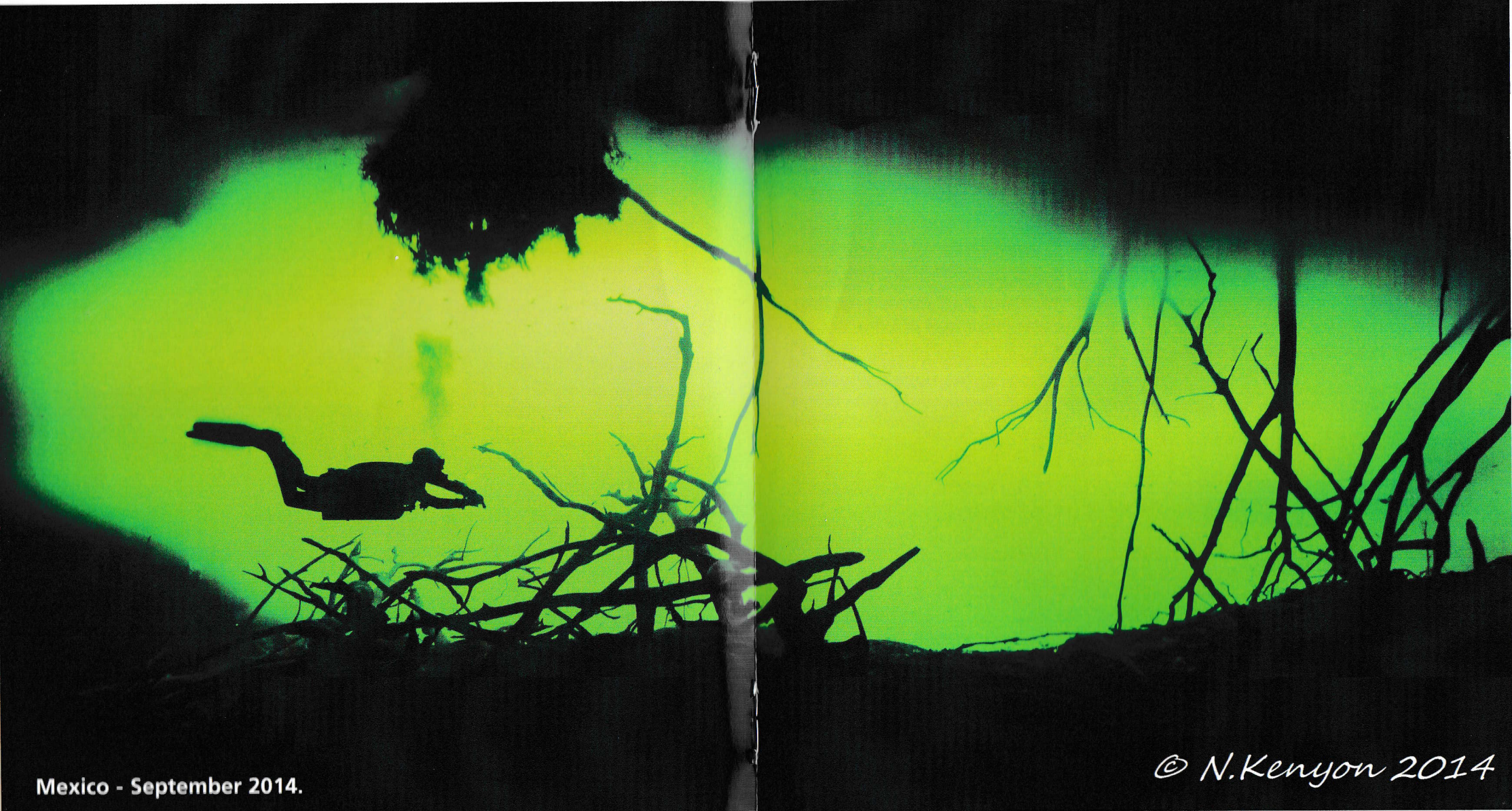
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olightworld.com



# *Guidelines Gallery*



Mexico - September 2014.

© N. Kenyon 2014





# CDA A MEMBER PROFILE



## John Dalla-Zuanna (JDZ)

*I first met John on a dive trip to King Island in 1992. I joined four other divers on a self chartered twin-engine plane for a seafood catch 'n cook weekend. I never knew John was a cave diver until later in the 1990's when I was approached to take over the role of designing Guidelines. I then re-discovered the man they call JDZ, and the impact he was making within the CDA A. He is truly a passionate man who loves life and even more, loves the sport of diving. In October 2014 he was elected as Site Director so you can expect to see John a lot more in the next few years.*

*This is not his first time serving the CDA A however, as he tells us in this candid and inspiring interview.*

by Dave Bryant

Tell us a bit about yourself and your life so far, where were you born? Where did you grow up and what were your interests 'before' diving?

I was Born 1956 in Padua Italy, I arrived in Oz when I was almost a year old and settled in Melbourne.



Shaft entry

Part of the post war migration scheme, mum was a knitting machinist & dad, a shoemaker, even though they were both from farming stock. As a youngster I went hunting & fishing with dad regularly and loved the outdoors. We often went to a friend's shack at Phillip Island and here, I started snorkeling & spearfishing when I was 12. I did a lot of snorkeling...

Growing up, my friend Paul & I spearfished together and snorkled for golfballs all around Melb & Geelong.

What's your first memory of Diving or Snorkeling, and where was it, Fresh or Salt water? Who got you Interested in Diving?

On a family holiday in late '72, I did my first dive on scuba whilst at Lakes Entrance collecting scallops at the bottom of the pier using Pauls new "secondhand" twin hose unit. I was hooked!

Welcome to a brand new section for Guidelines where we interview past and present CDA A members who have made an impact within the Association. Sit back and enjoy old photos, historical facts and some great stories.

However, when back in Melbourne, my folks refused to let me continue scuba unless I did a course!! So I was certified in April 1973 with Southern Aquanauts Diving Academy and immediately joined their club (I didn't have a car yet and I just wanted to dive anywhere!). The club also had rules that to dive deeper than 20mtrs, you need to have appropriate equipment.

I used the money I got from selling collected golfballs (\$1 for the good ones & 20c for the ordinary ones) to buy my first set of gear... US divers tank & rocket fins, Dolphin Backpack, Calypso IV balanced reg, Fenzy BC & Ron Harding wetsuit. I also worked part time at Myers in Melbourne city in the sports and diving department.

What age did you become a Cave Diver?... Was it a challenge or did it just seem Natural? Who inspired you to get in to this particular side of diving?

Almost straight after the completion of my course in '73, the club had scheduled a diving long weekend at Mt Gambier. My shake out dive was Ewens, then Pics then Ewens at night. We were camped at Ewens Ponds. Life didn't get any better... I returned to Gambier quite a few times after that weekend.

I also heard about the starting of the CDA A through the media as I had started to absorb all things diving. I went to Oceans '74 and met divers who had gone to the Mount. By



Early days at Pics





Digging the tunnel in the 1920s.

# Undersea tunnel to adventure

Australia's deepest and most dangerous cave dive is man made

STRANGE sights are not uncommon in Sydney's Balmain. Balacava-clad ASIO men stalking the streets on some



Divers John Della Zuanina (left) and Simon McCartney at the Longnose Point entrance.

tramway system on the North Shore.

enough to tackle the tunnel successfully. "We are not the only

flourish. With the same the

Picture



early Tommy's



Ladder Skills

then, I had a car and I was gone... at my first year of Uni in 1975 I met David McIvor (& Stan Bugg) and my work colleague at Myers was Graham Bradshaw, all who were involved with the CDAA. It was Graham that convinced me to join the CDAA. I did my Cat 1 & 2 test in Nov '75.

**Who else has inspired your direction and passion for Cave Diving and why?**

I went overseas in the late 70's and met some of the early pioneers, Shek Exley & Wes Skyles and I dived virgin caves with Woody Jasper & Mark Leonard. I quickly picked up on

sidemount diving here & I think that the passion these people exuded, the techniques they used, (remembering that these were the halcyon days of exploration) inspired me immensely. I returned to OZ and wanted to share these finds, through teaching and getting more involved in the CDAA.

Since then, I have followed the progress of many well-known cave diving adventurers but one that deserves special mention is the visionary Bill Stone.

Bill has taken me beyond the boundaries of just diving in caves viz rebreathers, exploration, expeditions, mapping technology...

Currently, with the Wetmules (and friends), I have been able to ride those boundaries...

**What is by far the best dive yet, and why?**

A hard question... my first dive in Tank Cave, Kija Blue, 3rd sump Cocklebidy, the bottom of Pics, there are many I could list here...

The most memorable is a recent trip to dive in Fontanazzi Cave, Valstagna, Italy. Beautiful cave dive in its own right, but Valstagna (a cave diving region in northern Italy) is my father's home town & the birthplace of the DZ clan... and where my genes came from... it felt very special.

**From the looks of things you are busier than ever - what do you do for a profession? Is this the first time you have stood for a role on the CDAA Committee?**

I run a motor body repair workshop with my brother called "Paint & Custom Workshop"





first foray onto the committee. In the earlier years, I was elected in 1978/79 & '79/80 as Vic Treasurer, 1984/85 as Vic Secretary and 1990/91 & '91/92 as National Training Manager and 1993/94 as Instructor Training Manager. I think I may have always been on some sub-committee over the years...

Is there any news you can share with us? Where are

you off to next and why is it important to you?

On the Site front, I hope to be able to announce access arrangements to some new

specialising in niche market vehicle – particularly Porsche. Obviously, this funds my obsession?

Taking on the Site Directors role is not my

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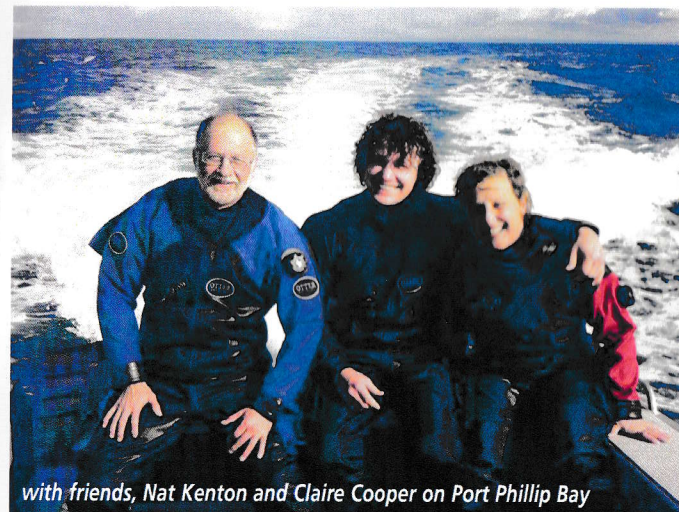
Certificate No. 121206/58

## Engelbrecht Cave and Cafe

9.30-3.30 Thurs-Tues

Looking for a toasted sandwich and a cuppa or some hot soup and a scone in between dives, then call in to see our friendly staff.

Home baked cakes and treats always on the menu along with hot Mahalia coffee.



with friends, Nat Kenton and Claire Cooper on Port Phillip Bay

sites soon.

The Wetmules are heading back to NZ, this time to explore the Blue Creek Resurgence... The known major restrictions may be able to be passed with sidemount rebreathers and thus the beyond beckons... need I say more... After that... maybe China??

Do you have any future goals. Is there a dive site you haven't dived and still want to see? Are there any other ground breaking technological, whizz bang things you want to be a part of to improve Cave Diving, and make it safer for future divers?

Regrettably there are far too many places and caves yet to visit...Bahamas, China, France, Thailand, Indonesia to list a few, I

will just have to take my time and visit them one by one...

With respect to technologies, I think the main area I will focus on is the development of sidemount rebreathers. Not the big units we commonly see, but smaller practical units that are usable in our smaller caves. The majority of cavedivers are not pushing extreme dives and we are quick to copy the latest tech gear that explorers are using and I see an over burdening of equipment etc, far in excess of what would

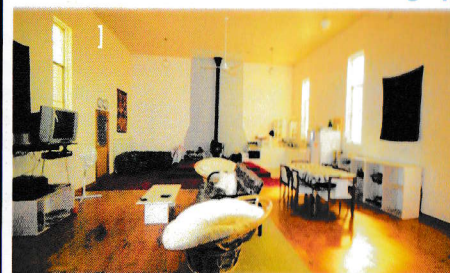
work in most sites, or used by most divers. Using a compact diving system that is not depth dependant, lasting a long time and safe to use, has got to be the ideal diving unit... especially for cavediving. Beyond this, I would like to see the development of rapid mapping technologies... accurate mapping in extreme environments.

What is the future for JDZ?

Cave diving has been a major part of my life. I have gained many great friends, experiences and adventures along the way... I don't expect anything to change...

## Come stay at the Divers Church, Kongorong

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## NEW GEAR

# NOVA 700 & 700R LED from Scubapro

*LED lights are the dive lights of choice among today's divers. Able to burn brighter and longer relative to the amount of power they expend, LED lights inspire divers to dive more by unlocking the door to the world of night diving. Lights turn even the most routine day dive into a more memorable underwater experience.*

SCUBAPRO leaps light years ahead in underwater illumination with the introduction of its Nova 700 and Nova 700R dive lights. The Nova 700/700R's design is technical to its core, conveying power and durability. Machined from heavy-duty aluminum, both lights are lightweight yet built to last, while delivering powerful illumination. They both use the same light head, equipped with the newest CREE XML2 LED, capable of pumping out between 700 and 800 lumens. Both lights use simple twist-on/twist off activation backed by double-O-ring seals. Strategically placed knurling, raised-up diamond-shaped indentations in the metal, improves grip and makes the twist activation that much easier. A shock-proof rubber protection over the end of the light head safeguards the electronics and provides an additional no-slip surface. Rated to a maximum depth of 300m (1000ft), both models are equipped with an overpressure valve on the end cap, an important safety feature not normally found on torches in the Nova 700/700R's price range.

The two lights differ in size and power. The Nova 700 is the larger of the two, measuring 22.2cm (8.7 inches) in length. It is powered by three C-cell batteries—which can be either disposable or rechargeable. The Nova 700R is a more compact rechargeable version, as indicated by the 'R' and measures 14cm (5.5 inches) in length. It is powered by a single 18650 Lithium-ion or Lithium-ion polymer (LiPo) battery. The Nova 700 provides 10 hours of burn time while its smaller colleague, the 700R, gives 2.5 hours.

### THE NOVA 700/700R AT-A-GLANCE

- Rugged black aluminum body offers a stealthy "tech" look while providing lightweight long-term durability.
- Interchangeable light head is equipped with the newest CREE XML2 LED.
- 700 lumen illumination ranks among the best in its class (see below).
- Double O-ring seals ensure watertight integrity.
- Diamond-shaped knurling (metal indentations) on both handle and light head guarantees a firm grip, with or without gloves.

- Easy twist on/twist off activation allows for trouble-free operation, regardless of depth.
- Shock-proof rubber protections keeps the light head from knocks and bumps.
- Over-pressure valve releases any battery off-gassing—the ultimate dive light safety feature not normally found on torches in this price point.
- A depth rating of 300m (1000 feet) ensures worry-free lighting in virtually all diving conditions.
- The Nova 700 is powered by three C batteries, either disposable or rechargeable.
- The Nova 700R is powered by a single 18650 Lithium-ion rechargeable battery, available worldwide.
- Both torches are sold without batteries, providing choice for the diver while keeping downward pressure on both price and potential transport issues.

### THE NOVA 700/700R ADVANTAGE.

Ask a diver what he or she wants in a dive light, and the answer is usually the same: brilliant illumination and lots of (economical) burn time. Both the Nova 700 and Nova 700R LED meet BOTH of these requirements.

### Illumination:

When it comes to evaluating a dive light's brightness, measuring lumens is the easiest and most useful comparison method. A lumen is the intensity of light as it is perceived by a human eye. In other words, a lumen indicates brightness, opposed to a watt which measures power output.

When it comes to cranking out brightness, the Nova 700 and Nova 700R run well ahead of the pack. Producing higher lumens than most primary dive lights—including many large pistol-grip styles—and out-pacing virtually all secondary dive lights, the Nova 700 and 700R lead the market in sheer light intensity.

Here's how the Nova 700 and 700R stack up against a sampling of typical primary and secondary dive lights currently on the market:

Aqua Lung Solo – 260 lumens (U.S. \$199/147.77?)

Hollis LED 6 – 360 lumens (U.S. \$94.95/70.51?)

Oceanic ARC 250 – 250 lumens (U.S. \$119.95/89.07?)

Princeton Tectonics Shockwave – 400 lumens (U.S. \$149.99/111.38?)

Subgear Prolight SG30 – 500 lumens (U.S. \$139/103.22?)

Underwater Kinetics C4 eLED – 275 lumens (U.S. \$145.99/108.41?)

Clearly, the Nova 700 and Nova 700R outshine the others.

### Burn Time:

Using a set of three C-cell batteries the Nova 700 delivers intense maximum illumination which gradually settles into a steady light output, delivering 10-plus hours of total burn time. On a fully charged lithium-ion battery, the Nova 700R maintains its maximum light intensity well through its charge, delivering a maximum burn time of approximately 2.5 hours.

### Battery Availability:

- For the Nova 700: C-cell batteries are widely available and can commonly be purchased for about \$1.50 apiece. C-cell rechargeable batteries are widely available and can be commonly purchased for about \$4 apiece.
- For the Nova 700R: A 18650 lithium-ion rechargeable battery is widely available, worldwide, and can be purchased for about \$10.

### WHICH NOVA 700 IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Any diver looking for a powerful primary torch for night diving, or a secondary/backup torch for lighting up those dark reef crevices on a day dive, will want to include a Nova 700 in his or her gear kit. The only question is, which one?



For divers who like a durable dive light with good heft, a generous hand grip, excellent illumination and long burn times, the Nova 700 is the ideal choice.

For divers who like a more compact light that they can stow in a BC pocket, that offers maximum light intensity throughout an entire day or night of diving, and recharges quickly and easily, the Nova 700R is the ideal choice.

### SUMMARY

Divers will appreciate the Nova 700 and the compact Nova 700R for their ability to light up the dark spaces and bring out the vibrant colors on night dives as well as day dives. Equipped with overpressure valves, a safety feature rarely found on dive torches at this price, the Nova 700 and Nova 700R are lightweight, built to last and easy to use. Add 700 lumens of intense illumination and 2.5 to 10 hours of total burn time, depending on model, and either of these dive lights would be a welcome addition to any diver's gear kit.

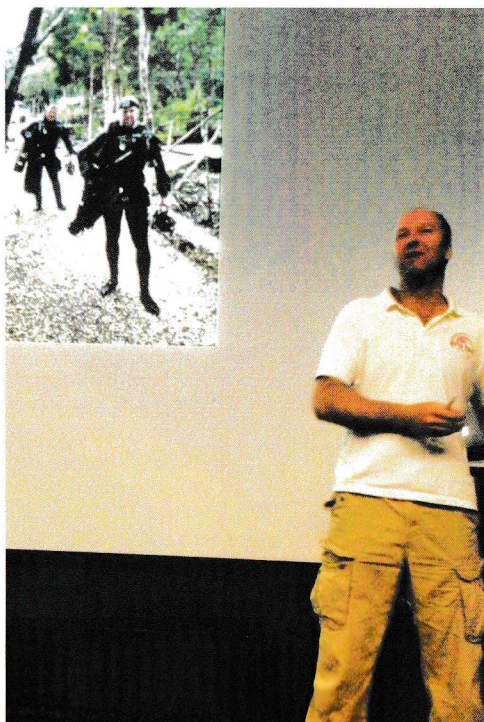
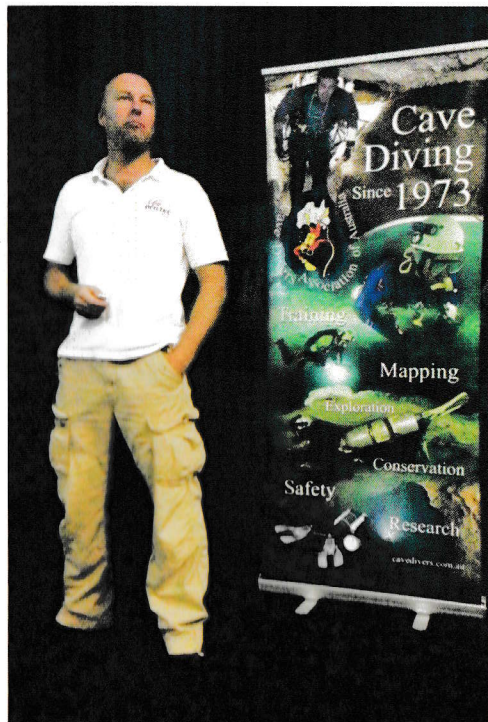


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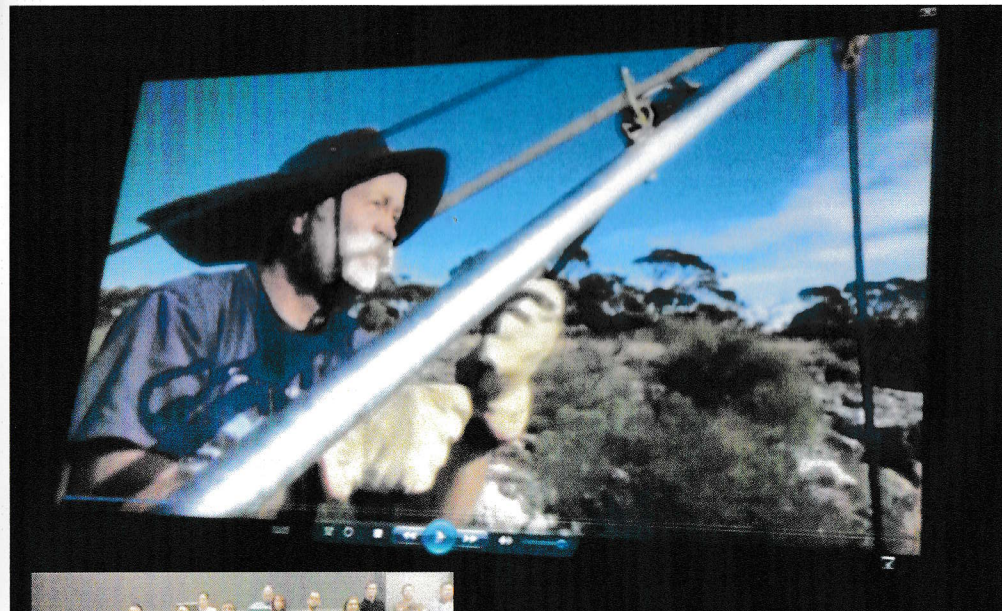


Above: Michael Collins and Ted Matthews.

Below: Thorsten 'Toddy' Wälde



## • Symposium Photos 2014 •



Chris Brown features in a video presentation



Below: Garry Sanders with Ted Mathews

Below Left: Helen Higgins with Bruce Bulled





## • Annual Dinner Photos 2014 •



JDZ, Richard Harris, Liz Rogers, Michael Collins, Ken Smith, Neville Skinner

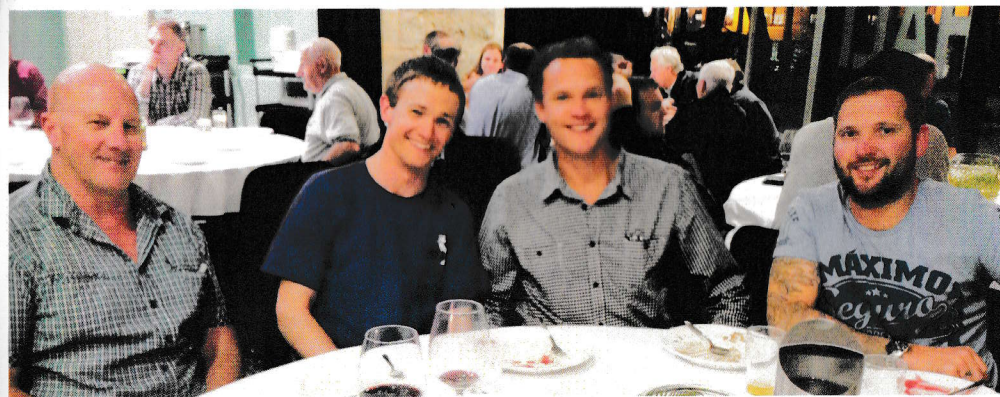


Mark Robinson and friend, Linda Claridge, Gary Barclay, Pat Fitzgerald, Steve Arnell



Tim Featonby, Rowan Stevens, Tim Muscat, Michael Mallis, Paul Wembrige

## • Annual Dinner Photos 2014 •



Above: Tony Coventry, Stephen Fordyce,  
Dan Mitchell, Dave Taylor



Left: Bruce Bulled, Peter Streit



Below: Thorsten (Toddy) Walde,  
Claudia Decandia, Noel Dillon



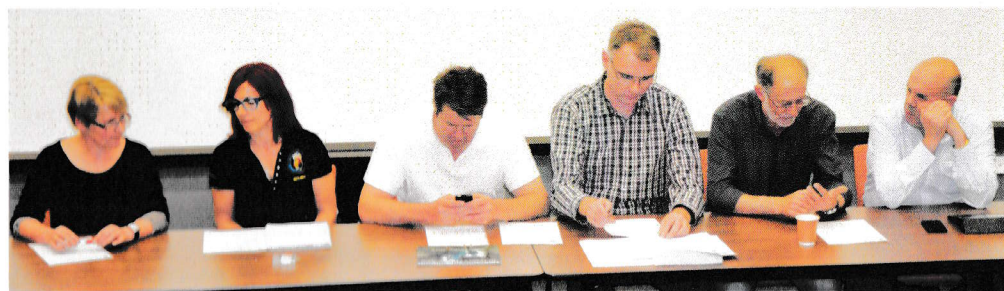
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Left: Left: Richard Tunney, Ben Patterson, Linda Claridge, Sarah Wagner

Below: 'members' looking at the SF2 sidemount rebreather – presented by Toddy!!  
Janine McKinnon, Tim Featonby, and Pat Fitzgerald, looking at Toddy

Bottom: The National Committee



## CDAА INSTRUCTORS

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Deep  
Cavern

Cave

Adv.  
Cave

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Yes Yes Yes



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Yes

### NAME

Deep  
Cavern

Cave

Adv.  
Cave

### VICTORIA Continued



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### WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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# 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 AC = ADVANCED CAVE

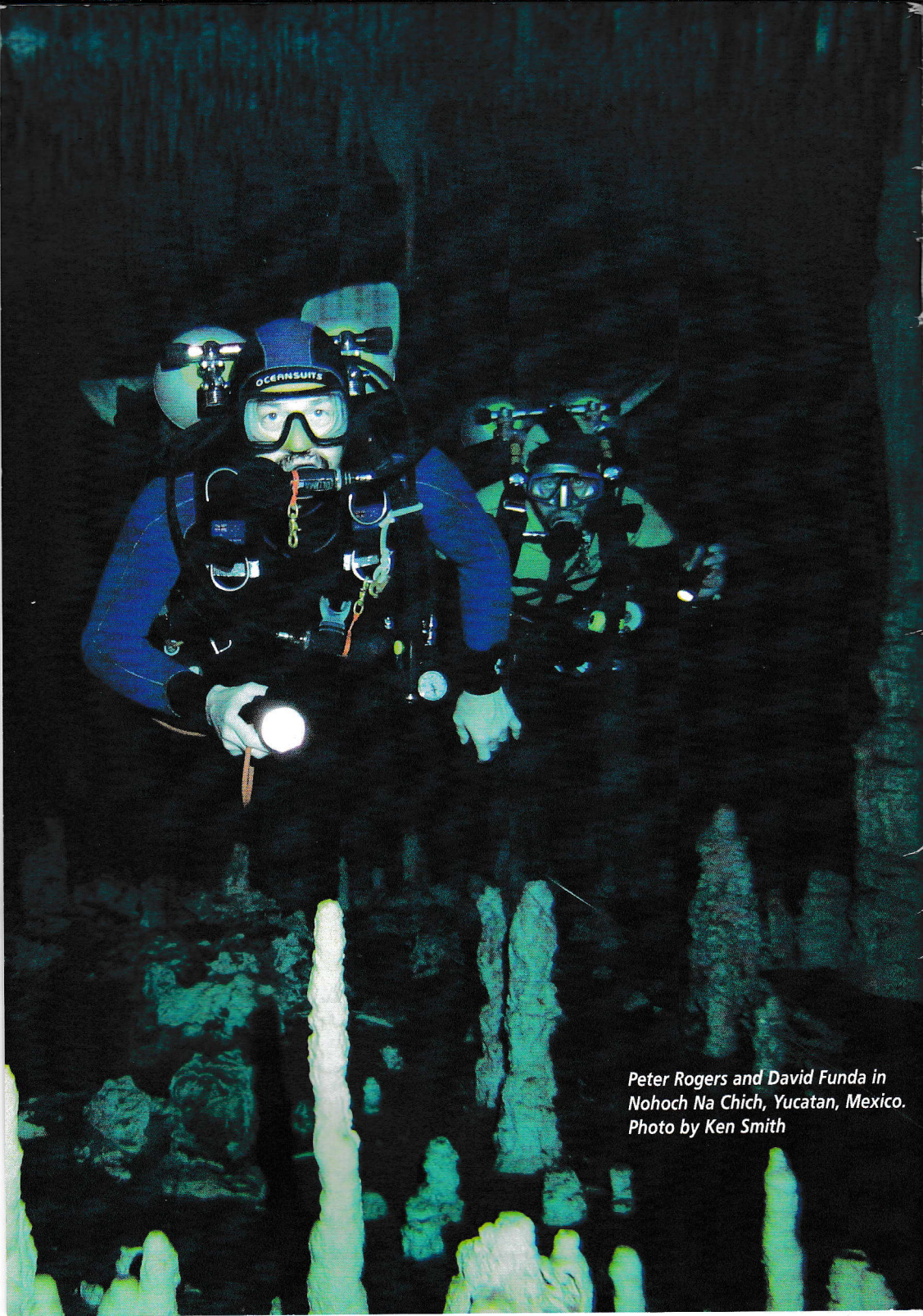
SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
<b>MT. GAMBIER - SA</b>			
Ewens Ponds	Nil	DEWNR - P.O. Box 1046 Mt Gambier 5290	Groups of 6 or more, phone/mail to Dept. for Environment, Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR). Smaller groups, no need. (08) 8735 1177 Fax: (08) 8735 1135
Gouldens	CN	DEWNR	<b>General Diving:</b> Divers to contact DEWNR and notify of date and site to be dived. Please make requests by phone or fax only.
2 Sisters	CN	DEWNR	Divers must have the correct CDAА diving endorsement for the site and carry current financial CDAА membership card.
Fossil	C		The diver must have signed an indemnity with DEWNR before access is permitted and original copy must be received by DEWNR prior to diving. <b>Training:</b> 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.
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	DEWNR	Bookings can be made online via the CDAА web site.
Horse & Cart	CN	Dale & Heather Perkins	Permission not required - must carry card.
Tea Tree	CN	Dale & Heather Perkins	Obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Information Centre.
Little Blue	S	District Council of Grant	At least 1 week prior by email: dhperkins@bigpond.com or phone (08) 8738 4083.
Allendale	C	District Council of Grant	Key available from Simon Livingstone at the Bellum Hotel.
Ela Elap	S	Dean & Carol Edwards	Visit the house before diving. If no one is home - no dive!
One Tree	S	Mr. Peter Norman	
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/AC	Forestry Sth. Australia Phone: (08) 8724 2876 Fax: (08) 8724 2870	Unrestricted days or numbers - Cave rated divers must not enter Penetration sections (stop signs)
Mud Hole	C		Unrestricted days or numbers.
Nettle Bed	AC	or book on-line via the CDAА website to arrange permit.	Open every weekend. Maximum of 4 divers per weekend undertaking 1 dive only (check an update on CDAА site).
Stinging Nettle Cave	AC	email: conservationandrecreation@forestrysa.com.au	Open every w'end max 3 divers per day undertaking 1 dive per day (check updates on CDAА website).
Iddlebidy	AC	Forestry Sth. Australia	Open every Saturday max 4 divers, 1 dive only (check an update on CDAА website)
		Forestry Sth. Australia	<b>IMPORTANT:</b> Divers must advise Forestry SA of their online booking. Collect permits from the Forestry Office, RHS of driveway to Carter Holt, Jubilee Hwy, Mt Gambier.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No diving on Total Fire Ban Days.</li> <li>Permit also required to run compressors during fire danger season.</li> <li>Keys for Hells Hole, Nettle Bed, Iddlebidy and Stinging Nettle Cave can be obtained from Lady Nelson Visitor Ctr on presentation of Forestry SA permits.</li> </ul>
Kilsby's	S	Landowner leased to CDAА	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 <b>No diving on Total Fire Ban Days.</b>

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SITE	LEVEL	OWNER	ACCESS DETAILS
<b>MT. GAMBIER - SA (continued)</b>			
Shaft	S/C	Generally open one weekend a month. Trevor Ashby	For access dates go to the CDAА web page. 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. <b>Download form off website.</b>
Engelbrechts - East - West	C AC	Mt Gambier Council Lessee: Ph: 08 8723 5552 Owner: John & Sue Douglas	Obtain key from Mt Gambier Tourist Information Centre. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. 2 divers must sign out keys, all divers must sign in advising which groups they are diving with. Diving should be avoided after heavy rain due to possible water contamination. Diving hours are now restricted to 8am to 8pm CST.
Three Sisters	AC	Millicent Council	Download Indemnity from Web Page. Access available for experienced Penetration divers only. Access agreement must be signed prior to diving. Allow 4 wks for indemnity process.
Tank Cave	AC	CDAА	Access Manager: Noel Dillon. Email: tankcave@cavedivers.com.au
Baker's Cave	C	Janet & Bruce Saffin	Access Manager: Matthew Skinner. Email: bakerscave@cavedivers.com.au Climbing equipment required. One member must have previous dive experience at site.
<b>NULLARBOR - WA</b>			
Cocklebidy	C/AC	DEC	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	C/AC	DEC	
Tommy Grahams	C	DEC	
Burnabee	AC	Department of Lands, WA	Apply in writing or email for permission to dive at least four weeks in advance of trip.
Olwolgin Cave	AC	Department of Lands, WA	Miss Shannon Alford, Email: Shannon.alford@lands.wa.gov.au Phone: (08) 6552 4661 Fax: (08) 6552 4417
Weebubbie	S/C	Department of Lands, WA	P.O. Box 1143, West Perth WA 6872. A site indemnity form must be filled out for each visit to the site. Diving permission acknowledged by official letter from Land Owner.
<b>WELLINGTON CAVES - NSW</b>			
Limekiln (McKavity) cave	C/AC	Wellington Caves	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) cave	C	Wellington Caves	Affected by high CO <sub>2</sub> levels during Summer/Autumn. Access is co-ordinated with the Wellington Caves management by Greg Ryan - Email: gjryan@gmail.com. Phone (02) 9743 4157.
Rum Jungle Lake	S	Coomalie Community Govt Council	Unrestricted access currently exists - Please refer to website.
Burrinjuck Dam	S/C/AC	NSW Parks & Wildlife	Please refer to website. There are no specific access arrangements.





*Peter Rogers and David Funda in  
Nohoch Na Chich, Yucatan, Mexico.  
Photo by Ken Smith*