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C.D.A.A. Newsletter
No. 139 - MARCH 2017

THIS ISSUE...

- *1957 Wellington Caves Exploration*
- *Interview with Ken Smith*
- *Croatia with JP Bresser*
- *World's Best Cave Dives*
- *Itching to get back to Tank Cave*

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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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Photo by Liz Rogers

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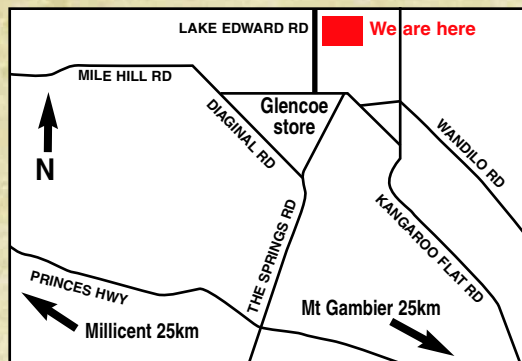
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EDITORIAL ROWAN STEVENS



Dear members,

Welcome to the March 2017 edition of Guidelines where we travel back in time to December 1957 for the filming of Sanitarium's breakfast spread, Marmite, in Wellington Caves.

We also interview Ken Smith, a long term CDAA member, as he reminisces his entry and adventures in cave diving. Ryan Duchatel, another CDAA member, shares his experiences as a new diver into Tank Cave.

And other goodies enclosed.
Enjoy

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

FROM THE DESIGNERS' DESK...

Hate to be blunt, but I NEED YOUR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS for Guidelines ...

I can't say this enough but each issue I am having to track down quality stories from overseas or from the Historical Diving Society in South Australia. It is getting more and more difficult to get good quality articles. So I ask You, the readers, and I hope you are diving and filling in your log books - why not put pen to paper and write up a little story about your latest trek, site report or maybe a gear review, unbiased of course!

INTERVIEWS... I am slowly Interviewing past and present divers who were Cave Divers or might have delved in to Cave Diving before the CDAA was created. It's exciting hearing about the early days, the first dives with the earliest of gear and amphibious camera equipment. If you know of anyone I should approach for an interview, please send me an email and I'll get to it, and I need more ladies to Interview too!

Many of you know I'm not a cave diver and for once I wish I was. I am flying to Mexico (Tulum) in mid April then having two weeks in Cuba with my wife Miranda. Great news, I can have a dive or two in the caverns (with my Open Water cert) but I must admit seeing more of the amazing caves both there and here in Australia would be a wonderful privilege. So, those of you who do get the chance to dive these magnificent caves, please, please, send me an article or two, or a gallery of pictures with captions - it doesn't have to be a full on article as such. I know I'll be writing something about my own experience at Tulum, even if it is only from a Cavern perspective. Let's hope the GoPro doesn't flood! I can never say it enough, Thanks for your support.

Dave Bryant.

Articles for Guidelines June 2017 - Deadline is May 25th

- Send articles and jpeg images by email to guidelines@cavedivers.com.au

NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

MARCH 2017

It's been a quiet quarter on the CDAA front, which is to be expected for this time of the year. Despite having lots of volunteers working, we all appreciate the warm weather and calm seas and all do what we all like doing – go diving.

For those of you who missed the news, Leon Rademeyer has stepped in to take on the role of Site Director. Being a local resident of Mt Gambier, I know that it will make a big difference in the region. Leon joins us from South Africa and brings with him some unique and different perspectives on cave diving and what can be done to make cave diving better. I am sure that his experience will be of great benefit to us all.

We also have our newest CDAA instructor Rob Main set up shop in Mt Gambier. Rob has taken the plunge and moved down from Sydney to set up operations. Rob believes there is a growing need for facilities and services similar to what you might get in Florida and wants to be the person to help bring it to us. We ask that you support your fellow members with your business.

Speaking of members' businesses, did you know that we have on our website an area where you can advertise your business or look up what other members have to offer. This is a great way to support each other, and who knows ... maybe that pool you are planning to build in your backyard can have a tunnel placed under the slab of your house ... Hmmm, I am starting to think now ...

To connect your business or needs with other members login to the web site (www.cave-divers.com.au) and navigate to 'Member Services ...' and then select 'Services Board'. From here you can view services from other members and add your own to the board.

In WA, we saw a significant uplift in our training capability. Geoff Paynter became our first WA Advanced Cave Instructor, and Joseph Bicanic and Andrew Poole have become our latest Cave Diving instructors in the region. With getting closer to finalising access for all on Pannikin Plains and continued exploration on the Roe Plains, we expect to see our WA membership continue to grow at a steady rate.

On the international front, we hope to have some of our first CDAA instructors established over the coming months. To help here, we have removed the CDAA instructor fees, something that will also help us retain our existing instructor base here in Oz. An international instructor pool will be of great benefit to members wanting to train abroad and not have to deal with a crossover program when they get back home.

Still on the agenda is the discussion around our core principles. At the end of the last quarter we sent you some basic questions and asked for your feedback. The majority of people gave simple feedback as YES or NO to both questions, but some did respond in the spirit of the request we made and gave us back constructive feedback on how to improve the questions being asked. With this in mind, we will be now

asking you to vote. Because it's not a constitutional change, we will use electronic voting for this purpose. To help and make sure you get a chance to make your opinion count, please make sure that you login to the website and confirm your email address is up to date. We will not be making exemptions for people who do not have an up to date email.

Finally, on the Tank Cave front we discussed with you whether we should be moving Tank Cave into a trust to help us protect this asset in case of litigation. Law suits are more likely when it is known that the defendant has assets, in our case, Tank Cave. Often these suits are not about who is right or wrong, but about how much money you are willing to pay to make the problem go away. The more money and assets you have, the more a lawyer will push for. If there is an injury, the family can be quite unreasonable and in their grief, may not care what impact it has on the Association. This situation is well-known and understood by our partner organisations in the USA.

I will brief you more about this via email and ask you again to put your vote on a direction for the CDAA.

May your drysuit remain wet on the outside.



John Vanderleest,
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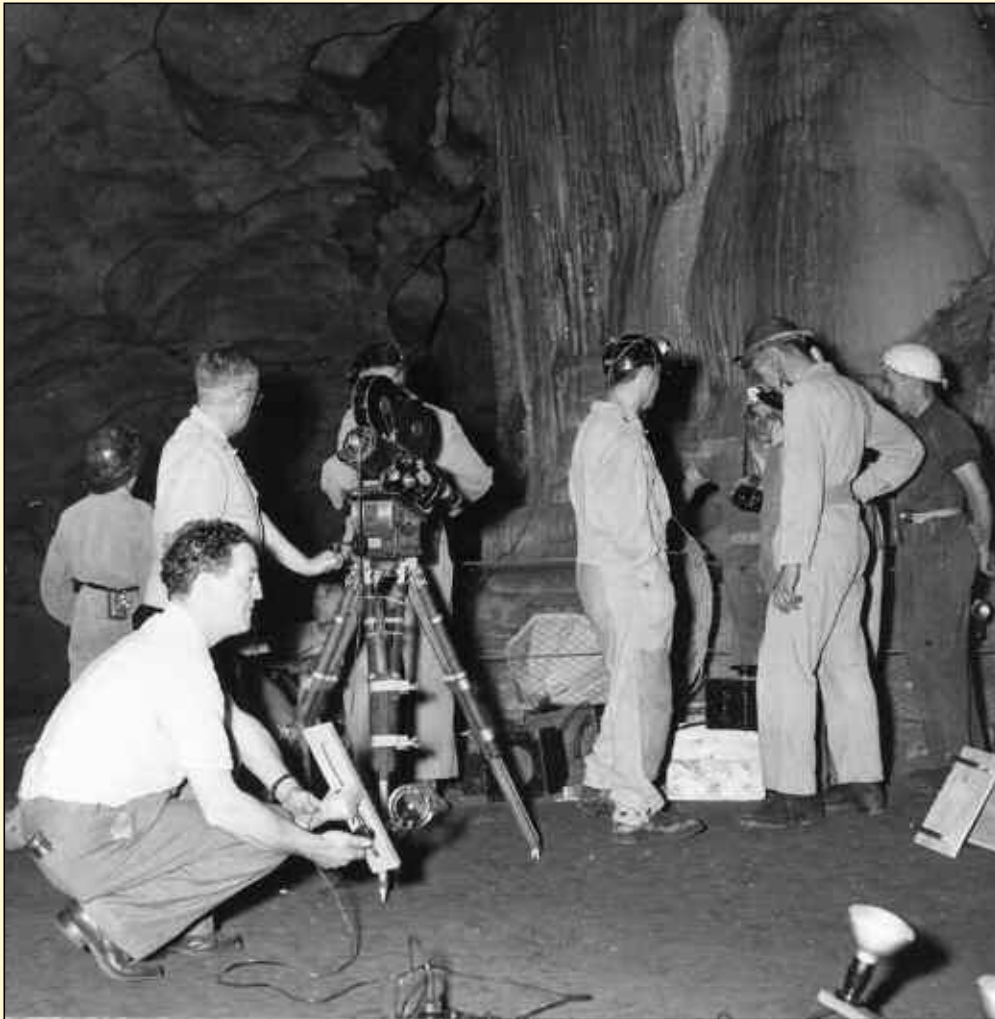
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WELLINGTON CAVES FILMING TV COMMERCIAL - DEC. 1957

As reported in The Wellington Times. Photos supplied by Greg Ryan

On Saturday 2 December 1957 a group of divers from the Sydney Speleological Society visited the Wellington Caves, west of Sydney. What was interesting about this cave diving weekend was that it was filmed for a TV commercial for, of all things, Sanitarium's breakfast spread, Marmite. What's interesting about the photographs that have survived is the range of scuba gear that was used.



Filming commenced on Saturday afternoon with the arrival of both the [film] unit and the speleologists at the caves. The main part of the filming was done in the Cathedral Cave, which was brilliantly lit by floodlights. Many different settings were filmed, shots being taken of the speleologists as they descended into the caves and as a group setting down and preparing their equipment.

A lapse in activities occurred during the afternoon while the unit and the group awaited the arrival of the diving equipment from Lithgow. Due to a breakdown, the equipment did not arrive until Saturday night and diving operations did not commence until 10.30pm.

The unit then filmed frogmen entering the Cathedral Cave pool in search of new caves.

On Sunday, having completed all interior shooting, the unit filmed the arrival of the group in a Landrover and a utility and their entrance in the Cathedral Cave.

Using special equipment, designed for its type of exploration, it is essential that the group had included in its numbers, men capable of operating and maintaining this equipment.

Divers are trained to naval frogmen standards and maintenance men, also trained as divers, come from every walk of life.

Electrical technicians, capable of operating and maintaining the only and the most essential lifeline between the frogmen and the base party, the AFLO (short for Apparatus For Laying Out line and underwater navigation) were included in the party.

Members of the party included two girls, Marica Montague of Fwedock (diving) and Nancy Doust of Kogarah (general equipment).



Other members of the party were Ben Nurse, leader (diving), P. MacGregor (photography and diving), R. Wardrop (communications) H. Cunninghame (communications and diving), W. Reynolds (diving), T. Draper (Quartermaster) – all of Sydney.

The Sydney Speleological Society is still in existence. What is interesting about the photos from the diving history point of view is the scuba equipment used. The combination of the Australian Lawson Lung, which its chest mounted second stage, as well as the early Porpoise.

Thanks to Greg Ryan for supplying the pics and newspaper report.



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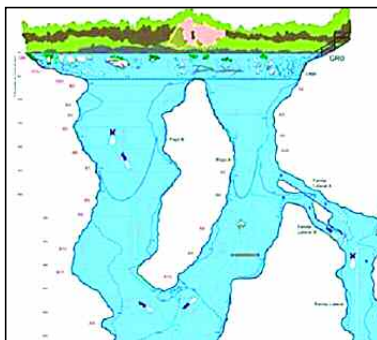
Rappel 72m down into a cave and an underground, crystal clear lake, 80m deep, with the area equivalent to the size of a football field. Snorkeling or diving reveal the breathtaking beauty of this place: some of the largest underwater stalagmites in the world, up to 18m high.

Because of the various flooded caves in the region, such as the Mysterious Lagoon, Anhumas Abyss, Mimoso Grotto, Buraco das Abelhas, among others, the region of Bonito and Jardim (Bodoquena Mountain Range) is considered a landmark in Brazil for cave diving and one of the best places for the development of this activity.

The Mysterious Lagoon, as can be seen in its underwater topographic map (right), is the perfect setting for technical diving.

At 8 meter deep two tunnels are open, with about 10 meters in diameter, that join again at the depth of 50 meters, forming a single canal that descends vertically over 220 meters deep.

The Mysterious Lagoon will offer



Credential	Scuba guide	Scuba equipment required	Maximum Depth
Cavern Diver	Mandatory	Cavern Diver	25 meters
Intro to Cave Diver	Mandatory	Intro to Cave Diver	30 meters
Cave Diver e Normoxic Trimix Diver	Mandatory	Cave Diver e Normoxic Trimix Diver	60 meters

the following types of technical diving:

Dives are planned within the limits the certification of each diver, and will be accompanied by a local dive instructor that will oversee the entire operation.

Specific rules must be followed, such as:

- It is imperative that divers have DAN insurance within the validity period, with an insurance coverage related to the type of diving to be done.
- Dives below the depth of 30 meters should use helium gas in the mixture (with equivalent narcotic depth of 30 m).
- It is forbidden to enter the Mysterious Lagoon side slits, located between 20 and 30 meters.

Technical dives below 60 meters will be authorized upon request in advance and following all the technical recommendations of CECAV/ICMBio.

Source:

<http://lagoamisteriosa.com.br/cave-diving>

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Ken Smith - A Little Bit of Everything Rolled in to One!

Interview By Dave Bryant.

*What do you get if you cross Switzerland, a cup of tea, and a soldering iron?
Why Ken Smith of course. Like Switzerland he takes no side in politics and is a
friend to everyone. Like a cup of tea, well Ken loves a cup of tea (with fruitcake).
And the soldering iron? They say Ken could solder before he could walk!*

But what is such a renaissance man doing in the CDAA?

*There are very few active members who have been cave diving for as long as
Ken, and even less who have dived in as many different countries.*

*He is an accomplished side mounter, trimix diver, surveyor, raconteur and in
the tradition of great cave divers, a renowned inventor.*

*As an ambassador for Australian caving and diving, we could not do any better
than Ken Smith who has made friends in every corner of the globe.*

Tell us a bit about your youth, where you were born and what started your interest in diving?

I was born in Frimley, Surrey, England in 1953. School kids in the early 60s had few distractions. No computers or mobile phones of course. Even a black and white TV was a luxury that many families could not afford. However we did have comics; Eagle, Buster, Beezer, Dandy, Beano and others all brightened the otherwise dull life of English school boys.Girls has their own comics as I recall.

In 1960 the Beano began a comic strip called The Great Flood of London. London was flooded, the homeless Foster family decided not to leave and took up residence in the

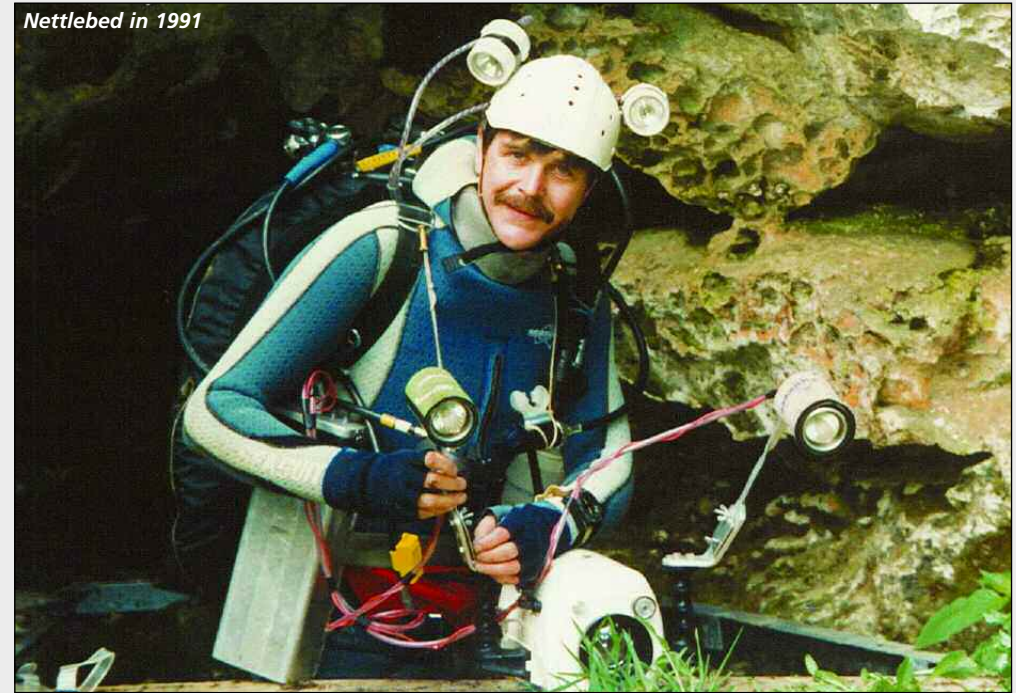
tower of Big Ben. The children Ted and Trixie became accomplished divers and had many adventures breathing from their twin hose regulators. Most exciting was their exploration of the flooded tunnels of the underground railway system.

Three years later, in 1963, I first visited Wookey Hole in Somerset. Chamber 3 was as far as tourists could go then. The guide pointed to a low wooden boat which cave explorers could use to float under a low archway to explore the passages beyond. I was hooked and I wanted to do that too! I did succeed, but it was 49 years later that I finally returned to begin a cave dive at chamber 3.



Olwoglin Downstream 2012

Nettlebed in 1991



Madison Blue,
Florida,
1982

When did you start cave diving? Was it something you were introduced to or did you stumble upon it in a magazine?

As a student at Flinders University in the early 70s I did quite a bit of caving at Naracoorte. In the mid 1970s I was working in the UK and I learned to dive with the BSAC at Sunderland Polytechnic. My early dives were off the coast of Sunderland in the North Sea. Very cold I have to say, but the marine life was good and we caught lobsters and large crabs by diving off the shore. In summer 1976 I went to Oban in Scotland on a diving trip. Most of my gear I was able to carry on my BSA650 motor bike. The sea was warmer on the west coast thanks to the gulf stream. Marine life was plentiful we collected sea urchins and king scallops.

Back Australia in 1977 I joined the newly formed Adelaide Skin Diving Club. My first Australian dive, at Aldinga reef, was a revelation. Then the club organised a weekend trip to Mt Gambier. We dived Ewen's Ponds using steel 72s with J valves. Then we snorkelled in Piccaninnie Ponds! This was when I decided to become a cave diver. A friend gave me a birthday present of the newly published "Cave Diving in Australia" by Ian Lewis and Peter Stace. However, work intervened and it was 1981 before I finally signed up for a cave div-

It is the year 1970. After being struck by a massive tidal-wave, London is flooded to its rooftops. Like countless other Londoners, the Foster family are made homeless by the flood but they refuse to leave the huge city, and make a new home in the clock-tower of Big Ben.

One day, Harry Foster, young Trixie and Ted and Uncle Fred, who is a London bobby, are exploring the flooded city in their yellow life-raft when they spot a sentry box in the water ahead...

The GREAT FLOOD of LONDON



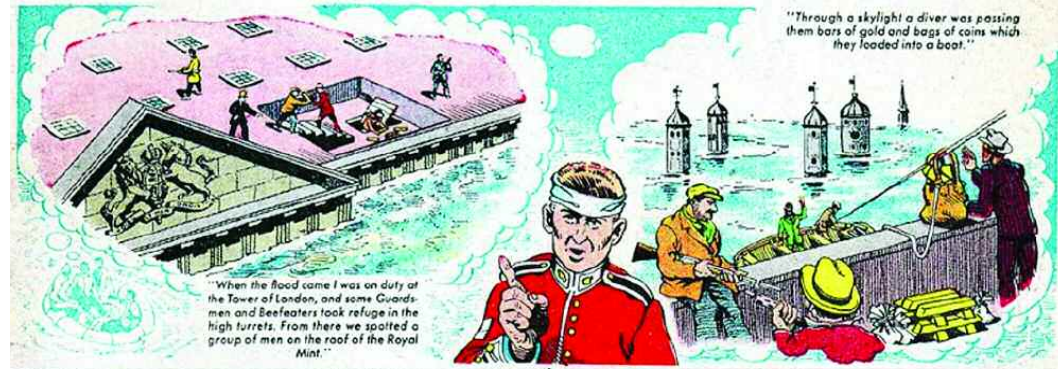
"Con, Dad!" gasped Ted. "There's a soldier in the sentry box." As the Fosters paddled closer, they saw that the sentry was a corporal of the Guards, with blood dripping from his head wound. After the Fosters had tended to the soldier's injury and helped him aboard the life-raft, Corporal Jack Mackay told his story....



"Then the gang of looters—for that's what they were—started to attack the Tower. There were too many for us and they had plenty of guns. I was thumped on the head as I went for my rifle. But when I came to I managed to slip out of the turret and escape in the sentry box. Now I think the looters are using the Tower as a headquarters and they're holding the Beefeaters hostage."



"I'm not finished with these looters yet," growled Corporal Jack. "And you'll be needing some help," said Henry Foster grimly. "You can count on the Foster family." Suddenly, Trixie gave an excited shout. "Look, Dad—a boat!"



"When the flood came I was on duty at the Tower of London, and some Guardsmen and Beefeaters took refuge in the high turrets. From there we spotted a group of men on the roof of the Royal Mint."



Within a minute the boat drew alongside the dinghy. "Well, if it isn't Alf Hoggins and his fire-boat!" exclaimed Harry Foster. "What are you doing here, Alf?" The fire-boat's skipper was a neighbour and a friend of the Fosters and he explained that he was delivering fresh water to survivors of the flood. But Harry Foster was already thinking up another job for the fire-boat.



The Fosters and the Guardsman boarded the fire-boat. Then Harry Foster told the crew about the looters in the Tower and gave them details of a plan he had thought up to capture them.



Late that night, the fire-boat, its noisy engines stopped, was paddled silently between the four turrets of the Tower of London. Suddenly the turrets were lit as brightly as day as the boat's searchlights were switched on. Next instant there was a loud roaring sound as powerful jets of water, hot from the boat's hoses, and blasted into the turrets. Like rag-dolls the turrets' hoists were swept from their stranglehold.

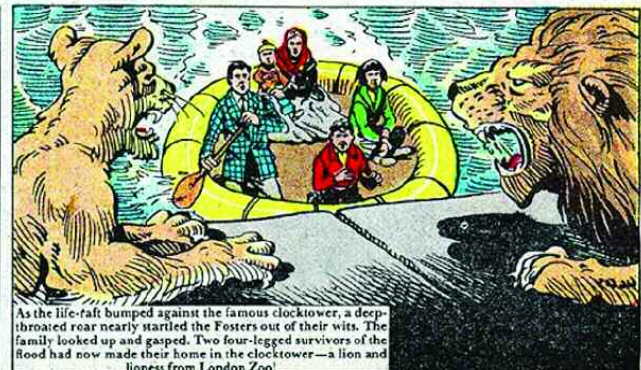


Circling the turrets in their life-raft and the fire-boat's dinghy, the Fosters and their friends pulled the half-drowned crooks from the chill waters. There was no fight left in any of the gang.



Then the looters were bundled aboard the fire-boat and securely bound. With Uncle Fred and Corporal Jack standing watch over them the crooks were transported to high ground, safe from the flood, where the authorities would deal with them.

After waving a cheery farewell to the crew of the fire-boat, the Fosters paddled back to their home in Big Ben.



As the life-raft bumped against the famous clocktower, a deep-throated roar nearly startled the Fosters out of their wits. The family looked up and gasped. Two four-legged survivors of the flood had now made their home in the clocktower—a lion and lioness from London Zoo!

NEXT WEEK:—Harry Foster—lion-tamer!

This Comic Strip by David Sutherland in 1960 started my interest in diving.

Ken and Forrest Wilson after a dive in Wookey Hole 2014

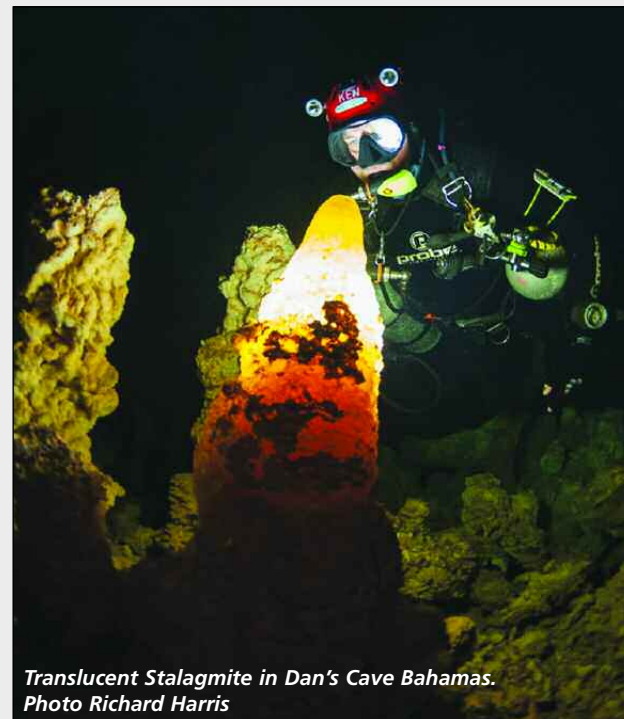


ing course at Adelaide Skin Diving Centre. A number of people were being trained and our instructors were Ian Lewis and Ron Allum. The training culminated in an intensive weekend of cave diving at Mt Gambier. I travelled down in Ron's famous Kombi van. At the end of the weekend we had done enough diving to be qualified as Category 1 and 2 cave divers.

What is your earliest memory of the most memorable cave or cavern dive, and why?

In 1982 work took me to Atlanta, Georgia in the USA. Ian Lewis suggested I should contact a cave diving friend of his, Forrest Wilson, who lives in Atlanta. This was a great suggestion. Forrest took me to Florida on the Thanksgiving weekend of 1982 and introduced me to the wonders of Florida cave diving. I was probably diving beyond my skill level, but Forrest looked after me well and I had a good time. The final dive was a 1000 ft penetration into Madison Blue. Forrest lent me one of his

The perils of diving the Roe Plains.



Translucent Stalagmite in Dan's Cave Bahamas. Photo Richard Harris

famous upside down back mounted systems. The cylinder valves were protected by a metal frame and could be easily reached during the dive. This was the first time I had dived with twin cylinders. Forrest and I have been good friends ever since and we have been on many trips together. Now in his seventies, Forrest is still actively cave diving.

In 1987 I went to the Nullarbor for the first time with the Underwater Explorers Club (UEC). We dived Weebubbie, Cocklebidy to the rockpile, Murra Elevyn and Tommy Graham's. All in an eight day trip! I was still only a Cat. 2 diver but I came back determined to train for my Cat. 3.

Dave Warnes was very helpful in training me and my buddy, Doug Alford, for our Category 3 test. The test was conducted in Goulden's and afterwards we nervously waited in the Bellum Hotel for the opinion of the examiners. We had passed!! After a year I qualified for Cat 4 and



Ken and Forrest Wilson returning from a dive in Ressel 2, France. Photo Duncan Price



Ken diving the Ressel, France. Photo Liz Rogers.



Pinging the deep section of Piccaninnie Ponds by boat.

Dave took me for my first dive in Englebrecht's West. This dive was memorable for me. In those days the water level was higher and the entrance was a challenging, tight, zero visibility restriction. Dave went in first and tugged the line when he was through. I followed and spent a long time in zero vis. with my back mounted tanks pressed against the roof and my chin in the silt. Suddenly I got through and was rewarded by the sight of three divers in the distance with their blue light beams flashing around in the crystal clear water. It was Dave, Stan Bugg and Des Walters. I think at this point I felt I had become a fully qualified cave diver.

Describe the emotion, the wow factor, and how your fascination for Caves has led to a career involved with the Wet Mules.



Locating a Pinger in Weebubbie.

In Jan 2011 I went on my first trip to the Pearse Resurgence in New Zealand. Richard "Harry" Harris was keen to explore the cave beyond his previous penetration limit at 177m depth. I came along as a support diver and to install a surface supplied 12 volt system for the diver's heating vests. Craig Challen, John Dalla-Zuanna, Sandy Varin and Dave Bardi made up the team. On the way home our flight was delayed and we spent a long time waiting at Christchurch. I tried to lighten the mood by telling a few stories. One was about a

man I had met at a coal plant in Virginia USA. He said I probably "earned enough money to burn a wet mule". Craig thought "Wet Mules" would be a good name for a diving group. He set up the web site there and then. So that is how the six of us became Wet Mules. Since then the group seems to have become quite notorious. Maybe it is due to our interesting diving exploits? Although I like to think our series of cooking videos "Diving the Menu" have contributed to our fame.

...and what adventures this link with a group of adventurers have led to?

Since then the Wet Mules have had many adventures. However, the Pearse Resurgence has probably been the central activity of the group. Successive trips to the Pearse have discovered more and more deep passage. The 2016 trip saw

Harry Harris and Dave Hurst diving to 229m on a dive that lasted around 12 hours.

Another interesting trip took us to the Mt Hypipamee Crater near Atherton in Queensland. Information at the time suggested a large tunnel leading off from the crater at a 70 m depth. Sadly this was not to be. We found a maximum depth of 70 m but no tunnel.

Describe briefly your life as a cave diver, where you ended up diving, were there any mishaps along the way and what were the highlights of your time in the sport. Do you live by any rules and what would you tell youngsters getting in to the sport?

Baptizing Spring, Florida with Sandra Poucher, Forrest Wilson and Barbara am Ende.



I have been lucky to do a lot of interesting cave diving in Australia and around the world. I have dived caves in nine countries. Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Mexico, the Bahamas, Germany, France, England and Wales.

A turning point for me was in 2000 when my buddy Adrian Richards and I built a radiolocation system to assist with mapping Tank Cave. An underwater transmitter was placed in the cave and located with a portable receiver on the sur-



Ken in the Cascade Room, Dan's Cave Bahamas. Photo Richard Harris

face. This allowed the cave passage to be precisely located and enabled more accurate surveying than is possible with underwater line surveys. I called the underwater transmitters "Pingers" and the name has stuck. They have been used extensively at Mt Gambier and the Nullarbor. They have also been used at Peacock Springs in the USA where they helped establish locations for an interpretative trail. Visitors can follow a trail above ground and read signs describing what is below their feet. At Wookey Hole in the UK a pinger has been used to assist with locating a new tourist passage. The most extensive overseas use has been in The Bahamas where Brian Kakuk has used two pingers over several years in the quest to connect Dan's Cave to Ralph's cave.

The Pingers have got me invited on many interesting trips. More trips than my personality alone would have achieved! I am proud to say that my work on the Pingers has been recognised by two significant awards. In Florida in May 2010 I received the Science Award from The National Speleological Society – Cave Diving Section (NSS-CDS). In 2013 I received a 40th Anniversary Member Achievement award at the CDAA AGM in Mt Gambier.

In Australia I have enjoyed many trips to Mt Gambier and the Nullarbor. Thanks to my friend Paul Hosie I have also dived in more remote places. In 2005 we dived the Ningbing ranges in

the north of Western Australia. We also dived a large sinkhole near the Bungle Bungles. We were amazed when the bottom of the cave dropped away beyond our reach. A trip in 2006 pushed the sinkhole to a depth of 111m, the second deepest cave dive in Australia. It is now known as Kija Blue.

I have taken part in several interesting trips to the caves of the Roe Plains, beginning in 2004. On October 6th 2011 I was on the surface in Olwoglin with Brian Kakuk when Paul Hosie broke through into the downstream section. When Paul started the dive I told Brian he would probably return with an empty reel, saying he had found a new cave. This was exactly what happened! Later that day Paul and Al Polini extended to cave to 300m penetration. Paul very generously suggested Brian and I dive the next day. We both emptied our reels as the cave passage got bigger. We turned at about 600m penetration. My hands were shaking with excitement and I couldn't write on my slate, so Brian had to do the mapping as we swam back.

What would I tell youngsters considering the sport of cave diving? The best advice I have for cave divers came from Chris Brown. He was guiding at Shaft once and he spent some time going through the pre-dive briefing and safety plan. When he finished he asked the assembled divers for the most important thing they should remem-

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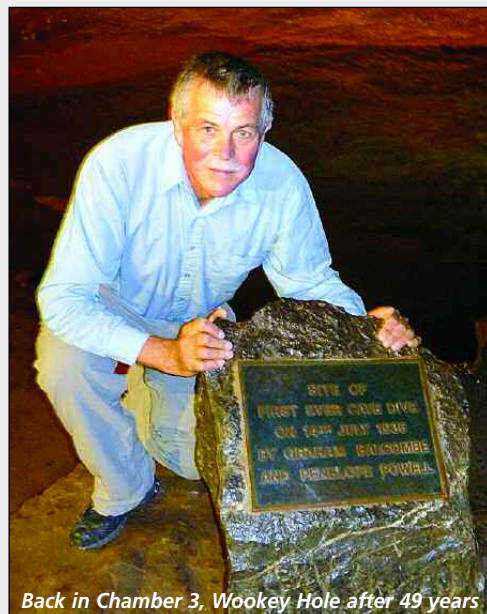
ber on the dive? No one answered, so Chris said it was to "Have Fun"... I can't think of better advice.

6. If you had your time all over again, would you do anything differently?

I have never committed to using a rebreather. With hindsight it would have allowed to do more diving in some of the extreme sites we have visited, so I regret this to a degree. I always said that I didn't really need a rebreather, or I was too old, or too absent minded (sometimes I start a dive without my fins). But if I had bought a rebreather I think it would have been fun.

Maybe it is not too late? I have friends who have tried many rebreathers so I can get some good advice on which one to use....?

*Thanks to David Bryant and the CDAA for asking me to write this. I hope I have a few more adventures to come.
Safe Diving! Ken.*



Back in Chamber 3, Wookey Hole after 49 years



Losing my head in Florida 2009

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Tank Cave - Itching to get back after our Cave course

By Ryan Duchatel • Photos by Tom Gower

Bonds made during courses always seem to last the test of time. Ryan Duchatel, Jake Harden and Tom Gower completed their CDAA advanced cave diving course together in December 2016. Since we left we were all itching to get back down to do more diving together, and were lucky to be able to meet up for a day of tank cave diving over first weekend in March. With Tom and Jake only having completed a few post-course dives in Tank cave, and having been a few months between our last visits, we were not looking to rush our experiences, but slowly progress through the dive groupings. For those not who have not yet dived Tank cave, it is hard to describe how vast a network of tunnels it contains, but with over 7km of passages, it's something akin to a labyrinth.



Ryan Duchatel (middle) and Jake Harden (left) swimming through the vast A tunnel.



Jake Harden in the large shallow room at B6.

Like most other divers, we huddled around the Tank cave map, discussing the options we had for each dive and recording them on the board. We decided to make the most of the days dives and navigate as much of the main line cave as we could. Our first dive was a circuit dive, we entered the B tunnel at A6, and swam the whole length of the B tunnel back to the A line, where we turned left and continued to the end of the A tunnel where it terminated at A15. We then meandered back the entire length of A tunnel

stopping under "Lake Ayre" to have look up into the air chamber and to take some photos under the reflection of the surface lake. This dive took us over 100 minutes and we swam just over a kilometre of cave.

Our second dive was a similar style of dive, but spending most of our time exploring the "C" tunnel, we swam the entire length of C tunnel to C8, where the sounds of trucks passing over head was obvious. We then swam back to the beginning of J tunnel, which connects the C tunnel and



Ryan Duchatel swimming above the line in "C" tunnel.



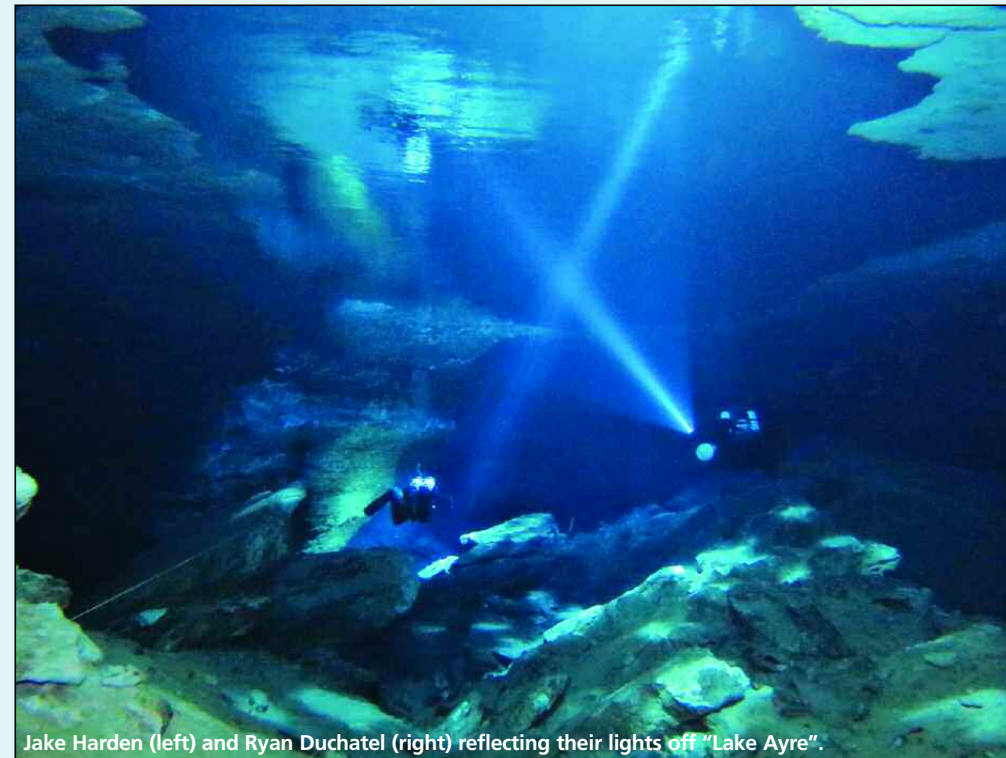
Ryan Duchatel (middle) and Jake Harden (left) swimming through the vast A tunnel.

the A tunnel. We swam through the J tunnel and joined onto the A tunnel and exited the cave (whilst also taking some extra time around Lake Ayre). This dive was also around 100 minutes. Ryan and Tom utilised their rebreathers; Ryan on his JJ-CCR and Tom on his rEvo. The "bubbleless" nature of rebreather diving, complements the serenity and tranquillity of tank cave. It also meant

this allowed them to do a whole days diving on one set of fills, not having to worry about the logistics of getting fills for the next dive. We were not short on light, with both Tom and Jake sporting Stephen Fordyce's "Elk" lights, there was more than enough light to go around and made for some great photos.



Ryan Duchatel (front), Jake Harden (right) swimming through B tunnel.



Jake Harden (left) and Ryan Duchatel (right) reflecting their lights off "Lake Ayre".



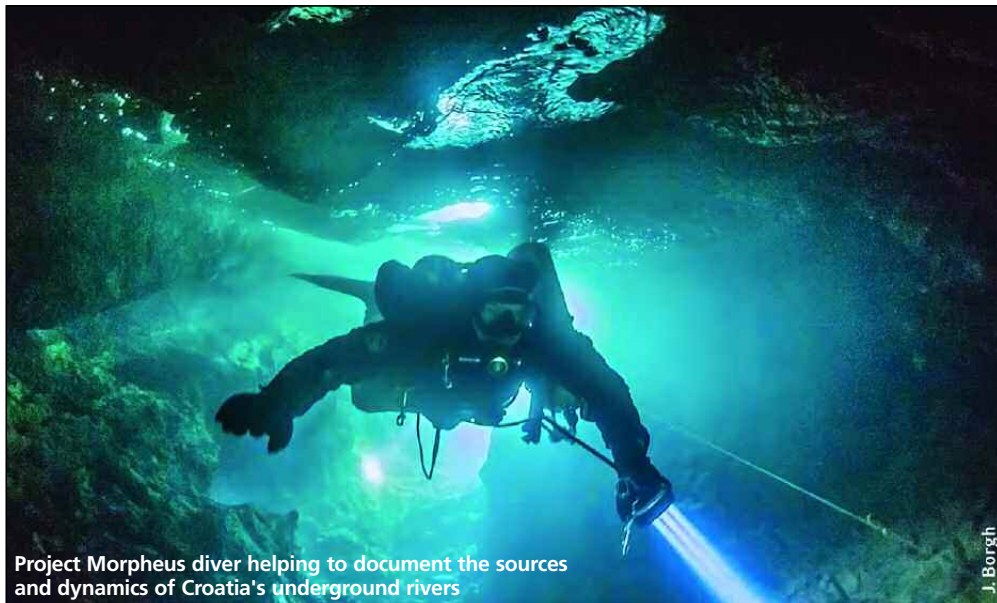
Jake Harden (left) and Ryan Duchatel (right) in the large shallow room at B6.

Majerovo Vrelo: Following One of the World's Cleanest Rivers to Its Source

By JP Bresser

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I'm no stranger to Croatia; I have visited this wonderful country for more than 10 years now, mostly in pursuit of exploring the majestic shipwrecks of the Adriatic and (of lesser priority) the cooking skills of my friend, Maurizio Grbac. The last couple of years Maurizio has drawn me inland, away from the ocean, where a different Croatia unfolded. The coastal region is known for its clear water and Mediterranean lifestyle — an appealing family tourist attraction. Inland Croatia is a different story: the locals by nature and history keep a polite distance from strangers, and the impact of the war is still noticeable, like a healing scar. Landscapes range from rough and mountainous to lush, green settings blossoming around huge lakes and waterfalls. I quickly learned to appreciate this different side of Croatia, and specifically what the inland has to offer: fresh water, and tons of it.



Because of the success of the project I organized together with Maurizio in the Cetina region under the umbrella of the Project Morpheus Initiative in 2014, I jumped to the occasion when Maurizio talked about a new location where multiple springs create one of the cleanest rivers in the world, a river called Gacka.

My idea was to use this opportunity to fulfill the many requests I receive from GUE divers eager to take their first steps in the world of project diving but finding it hard to kick start their dreams, as most global projects prefer some kind of experience. Why not use this project as an occasion for development and to coach participants while working together as a team to reach a set of common objectives?

In the fall of 2015, a European team consisting of GUE divers from the Netherlands, Croatia, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Czech Republic, Switzerland, and Italy traveled to the beautiful region around Otacac, Croatia, where we all met in our hotel. Together with Maurizio, I began the first briefing, emphasizing the importance of clear and simple objectives, while dictating the flow and structure of the project. Our objectives were simple: create a highly detailed map of the first area of the cave, produce a video documentary on the project and region, clean up garbage in open-water and cave environments, produce a high-resolution panorama photo, collect sedi-

ment samples, and film deeper parts of the cave using rebreather technology.

After the initial briefing, small teams formed, each with a team leader. The beauty of working with small teams within a larger group of people is that it streamlines logistics and oversight and creates a clear leadership structure. This system would make my life as a project manager much easier, as each team leader would be responsible for data gathered and the report at the end of every day.

Project Morpheus is not only about cave diving, documenting, surveying, and laying line, but also about grasping the bigger picture of the importance of understanding and preserving the fresh water reserves in Croatia. As the water quality from the springs is generally very good, whole regions rely on them for drinking water. By documenting the sources and dynamics of these underground rivers, we can arm local authorities with priceless data that can help them more efficiently manage and preserve the quality of the water.

Towards that end, members of the team went to Otacac to meet with Marina Legcevic, the director of the Water and Sewerage Company, to film an interview with her and get a better understanding about the importance of fresh water in this region.



She explains: *We are located at the most important spring of the river Gacka, called Tonkovic Vrilo. The company provides water to the Otocac area, Vrhovina county, and parts of the town Senj.*

The capacity of Tonkovic Vrilo is 400 liters per second. With this capacity, Tonkovic Vrilo can provide water to the whole Lika-Senj county, which consists of more than 50,000 people. Besides Tonkovic Vrilo, other famous springs here include Majerovo Vrilo and Klanac Vrilo. There are several other springs in the area, such as Kostelka, Knjapovac, Begovac, and Sinacka Pucina.

The water running through the Gacka River is important for this entire area; the river provides drinking water from the springs I just mentioned. The Gacka River is the second-cleanest river in Europe, and the third-cleanest river in the world. Because of this, the river is rich in important flora and fauna. The Gacka has many different species of fish - the most important is the autochthonous (indigenous) river trout. Besides the trout, there are also some grayling, northern pike, and the famous white-clawed river crayfish. Proteus anguinus, also known as olm or the cave salamander, can also be found in the deepest parts of the river.

We also visited the Croatian Center for Indigenous Karst Water Fish and Crawfish Species. The main function of the center is to con-

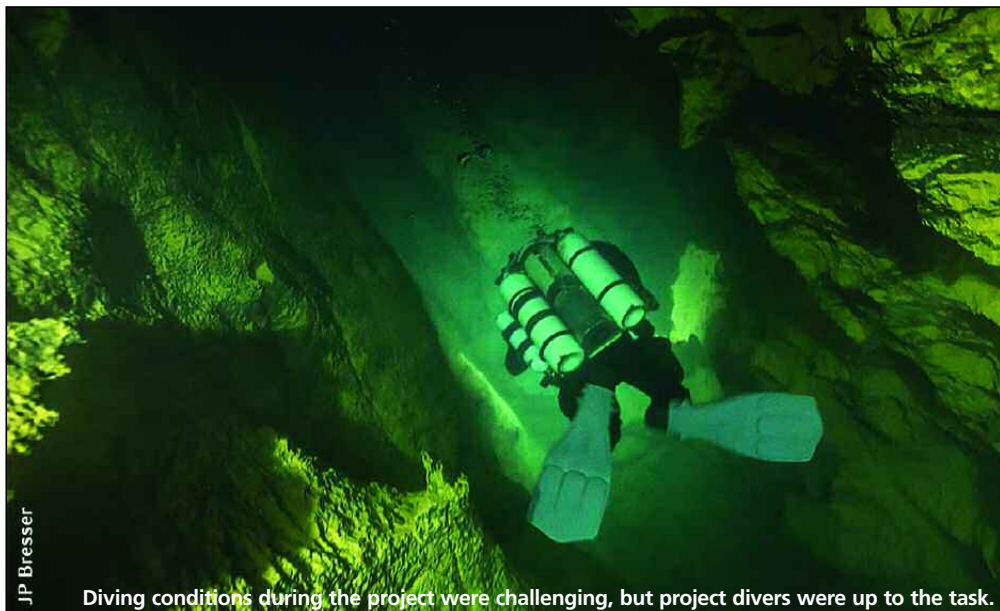
duct scientific research on indigenous karst water fish and crayfish species, with emphasis on their genetic profile and spawning behavior. The center has its own foundation stock of the indigenous river trout, and they run a successful fish restocking program in the Gacka River to improve the fishing tourism in the area. In addition to the river trout, the center also farms a type of river crayfish, the European crayfish (also known as the noble crayfish, broad-fingered crayfish, or by its genus and species name, *Astacus astacus*), which is used for restocking other karst rivers in Croatia and elsewhere.

Diving conditions at Majerovo Vrelo proved quite challenging due to considerable flow at the entrance and limited visibility in the beginning. This was handled well by the teams, who adjusted rapidly and began efficiently gathering data. Every day ended with a general debriefing, during which logistics and results were discussed. I strongly believe that sharing experiences and recorded data on a daily basis benefited not only the teams, but made the entire project run smoothly.

TESTIMONIALS

Nils Gilles, Germany

It was my first time participating in a project like this, and I was eager to see how the different GUE divers from several countries would successfully operate together.



Diving conditions during the project were challenging, but project divers were up to the task.

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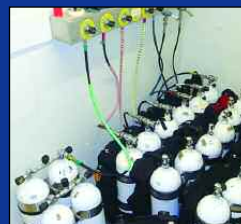
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From day one, it went efficiently and everyone was on the same page. In the evenings, results were reviewed and the team discussed what could be done to improve data collection. I think one should.

Map of the first section of Majerovo Vrelo (Courtesy of JP Bresser) highlight that such a project is not limited to the days of diving at the local site - it also means preparation and research beforehand (e.g., how to achieve specific goals, like "creating panorama pictures in underwater caves" in my case), as well as processing data afterwards to get presentable results.

It was a great experience to participate in a project that involved working with people I had never met before and whom I now consider friends - thanks for this experience!

Bart Hoogeveen, The Netherlands

When traveling to Croatia for the Morpheus project, I wondered if my nine cave dives after cave 1 certification were enough to contribute to the project.

Now that the project is finished, I think it was a good decision to join the project with only nine cave dives. It was just awesome to be part of a project. I'm convinced I learned a lot more in a week of project diving than a week of plain cave diving.

Jimmy Borgh, Sweden

Day one started with a detailed briefing about the project itself and what was expected of us as a team. We were broken down into smaller teams with different tasks. I was very happy to find out that I got a spot in the video documentation team.

The first dive of the project was a scouting dive with a small team, in which I was included. Its goal was to scout the cave and assess what conditions to expect during the coming week and to see that the line was intact. JP also shot some video for which I helped as a light diver.

On our return, JP explained that it was up to us to get good video footage, and he communicated the project's different objectives for a planned television documentary. That put pressure on us, but also helped us to focus and to improve our work. The total experience of my first project was positive and gave me tons of experience to bring to the next project as I continue my journey in project diving.

Jens Olberts, Germany

One of our goals for this year's cave Project

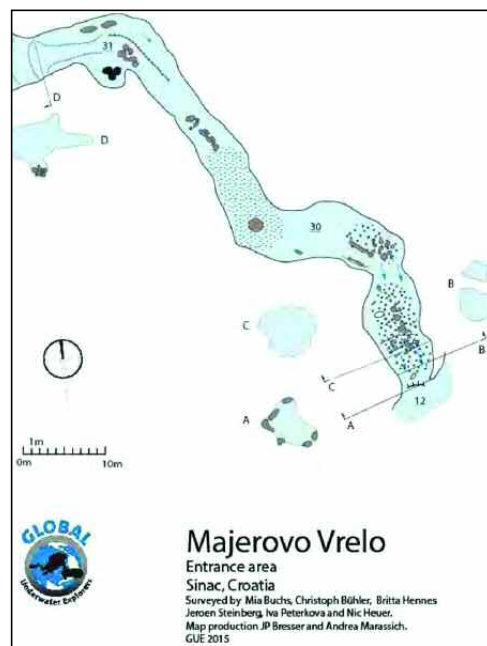
Morpheus at Majerovo Vrelo was to clean up the pool and further parts of the cave. During one of our first dives into the right-hand tunnel, we noticed a very confusing line situation. In some passages up to four different lines crossed each other; some of the lines were even broken. Therefore, we decided to install a new line and remove all the old lines from this passage.

While laying a new line on the way into the cave, we had to work against noticeable flow. On the way back, the ow made our efforts of removing and collecting the old lines quite demanding. All went well and resulted in a clean and clearly-laid-out side passage.

















RESULTS OF PROJECT MORPHEUS 2015:

- Video documentary: <https://vimeo.com/156668638>
- A detailed map of the rst section of the cave
- Lines cleaned and repaired
- Cleaned up trash from spring and cave
- Sediment samples taken

The Team: Josef Chroust, Nils Gilles, Flip Vernooij, Geert Allaert, Jeroen Wilms, Jeroen Steinberg, Dijana Stupar, Huub Martens, Bart Hoogeveen, Serge Pelikaan, Jens Olberts, Ramona Olberts, Roger Hovind, Jimmy Borgh, Iva Peterková, Nic Heuer, Britta Hennes, Mia Buchs, Christoph Bühler, Anne- Marie Bresser, JP Bresser, Maurizio Grbac, Andrea Marassich.



CDAA INSTRUCTORS

NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Adv. Cave	NAME	Deep Cavern	Cave	Adv. Cave
NEW SOUTH WALES				VICTORIA Continued			
 BOULTON, Alex (CDAA 4125) Mob: alex@subaquaservices.com.au	Yes			 CLARIDGE, Linda (CDAA 2214) Mob: 0408 052 070 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes
 FEATONBY, Tim (CDAA 3327) Worworing Heights, NSW Mob: 0402 129 253 E: tim.featonby@hotmail.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	 DALLA-ZUANNA, John (CDAA 236) Mob: 0407 887 060 E: jdz@paintandcustom.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes
SOUTH AUSTRALIA				 EDWARDS, Chris (CDAA 2247) Mob: 0417 116 372 Email: chrisedwards01@me.com	Yes		
 MAIN, Robert (CDAA 4909) Mob: 0411 519 825 E: rob@reef2ridge.com	Yes			 McDONALD, Warrick (CDAA 1882) Mob: 0408 374 112 E: info@oceandivers.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes
 PAYNE, Timothy (CDAA 2640) Mob: 0448 147 927 E: Tim@diveessentials.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	 MONACO, Rubens (CDAA 1731) Mob: 0413 429 533 E: info@idcscuba.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes
VICTORIA				 MUSCAT, Tim (CDAA 4557) Mob: 0422 127 802 E: tim_muscat@bigpond.com	Yes	Yes	
 ALLEN, Terri (CDAA 3483) Mob: 0419 176 633 E: terri.allen@monash.edu	Yes	Yes	Yes	WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
 BARCLAY, Gary (CDAA 1735) Mob: 0407 527 921 E: garinda@bigpond.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	 BICANIC, Josip (CDAA 4691) Mob: 0421 571 779 Email: joseph_b@me.com	Yes	Yes	
 BOWMAN, Jane (CDAA 1880) Mob: 0407 566 455 E: janelbowman@hotmail.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	 PAYNTER, Geoff (CDAA 3784) Mob: 0407 445 112 E: gpaynter60@bigpond.com	Yes	Yes	Yes
 CHAMBERS, Geoffrey (CDAA 3484) Mob: 0438 059 886 E: geoffie1@gmail.com	Yes						

Stella Del Curto

SWITZERLAND

www.stellastyles.com

Stella Del Curto was born in Locarno (Ticino, Switzerland). She is an underwater photographer and scuba instructor.

She says, "I have always loved taking pictures but photography has become a great part of my life starting from 2005, when I bought my first DSLR camera.

Two years later, in March 2007, I started my diving experience in the cold waters of the Lake Maggiore.

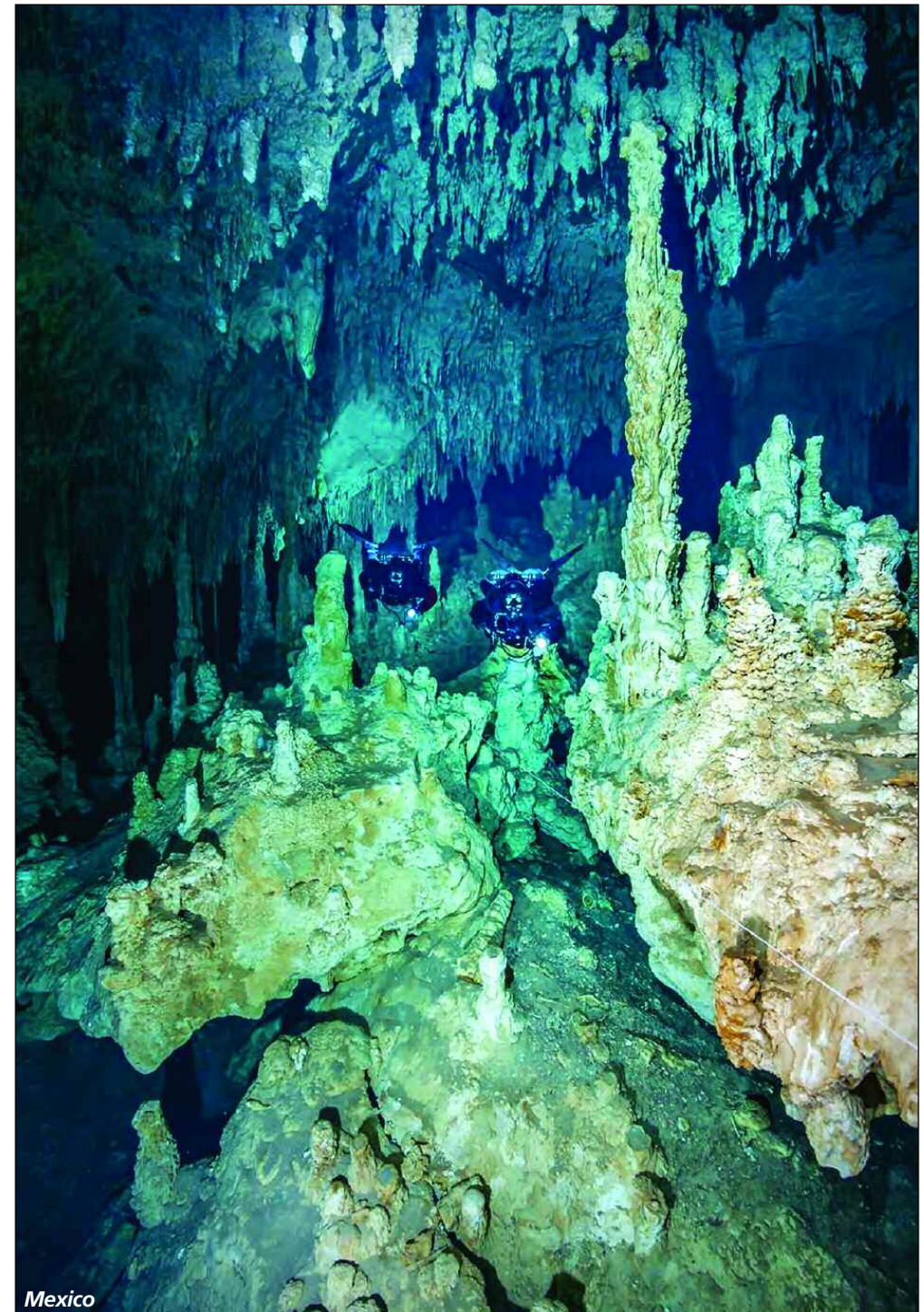
Merging these two big passions has been a natural evolution, and I have always worked to become a better diver and a better photographer.

I do my dives mostly in the Lake Maggiore, in the famous crystal clear rivers like Maggia or Verzasca and in the near Tirrenian sea (Liguria, Toscana). Of course I also love to travel all around the world, visiting new places and discovering new creatures. I like to explore all the places below the surface of water; river, lake, sea, ocean, cave, doesn't matter where, if there is water, I am there!"



Stella will feature a Gallery of her images in the June 2017 issue of Guidelines

Bue Marino and Bel Torrente caves in Italy.



Mexico

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2 Sisters	CN	DEWNR	Generate a DEWNR Permit from www.cavedivers.com.au and either post to DEWNR (PO Box 1046 Mt. Gambier SA 5290) or hand deliver (11 Helen St, Mt. Gambier) before a booking can be made. A CDAA Membership card must be carried at all times. Training: Instructor must generate DEWNR permits from www.cavedivers.com.au for their students and submit to DEWNR before use of the site.
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Piccaninnie Ponds	S	DEWNR	Bookings can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au
Horse & Cart Tea Tree	CN CN	Dale & Heather Perkins Dale & Heather Perkins	Phone (08) 8738 4083 or email dhperkins@bigpond.com at least 24 hours in advance.
Little Blue	S	District Council of Grant	Booking can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au .
Allendale	C	District Council of Grant	
Ela Elap	S	Dean & Carol Edwards	Obtain key from Management at Bellum Hotel.
One Tree	S	Mr. Peter Norman	Visit the house before diving. If no one is home - no dive!
Dave's Cave	C		Maximum 3 divers all weekends between May & November inclusive (check and update on CDAA website).
Hells Hole	S	Forestry SA	Booking can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au . Show ForestrySA Permit to obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Ctr.
Pines	C/AC	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au . Cave Rated divers cannot enter Advanced Cave Section of Pines.
Mud Hole	C	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au
Nettle Bed	AC	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au . Show ForestrySA Permit to obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Ctr.
Stinging Nettle Cave	AC	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au . Show ForestrySA Permit to obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Ctr.
Iddlebiddy	AC	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au . Show ForestrySA Permit to obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Ctr.
Kilsby's	S	Graham Kilsby	Bookings can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au .

CDAA 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
MT. GAMBIER - SA (continued) The Shaft	S/C	Trevor Ashby	Booking can be made online from www.cavedivers.com.au . Landowner mandates Dive Supervisors (with their own Insurance) leading all dive trips.
Engelbrechts - East - West	C AC	Mt Gambier Council Lessee: Ph: 08 8723 5552 Owner:	Obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Information Centre. Diving should be avoided after heavy rain due to possible water contamination. Diving hours are now restricted to 8am to 8pm CST.
Three Sisters Access available for	AC	Wattle Range Council	Download Indemnity from www.cavedivers.com.au and email to council@wattlerange.sa.gov.au . A \$30 processing fee can be made over the phone on (08) 8733 0900 after Council has received your indemnity. Allow 4 wks for indemnities to be processed.
Tank Cave	AC	CDAA	Bookings can be made online at www.cavedivers.com.au . An email to the Tank Cave officer is required to dive. Booking Officer is Noel Dillon Email: tankcave@cavedivers.com.au
Baker's Cave	C	Janet & Bruce Saffin	Bookings can be made online at www.cavedivers.com.au . An email to the Tank Cave officer is required to dive. Booking Officer is Matthew Skinner. Email: bakerscave@cavedivers.com.au Climbing equipment required. One member must have previous dive experience at site.
NULLARBOR - WA			
Cocklebiddy	C/AC	WA Dept of Parks & W/Life	Apply in writing for permission to dive at least 4 weeks in advance of trip to:
Murra El Elevyn	C/AC	WA Dept of Parks & W/Life	District Manager, PO Box 234, Esperance, W.A. 6450. Phone: (08) 9083 2100.
Tommy Grahams	C	WA Dept of Parks & W/Life	
Burnabbie	AC	WA Department of Lands	Apply in writing or email for permission to dive at least four weeks in advance of trip.
Olwoglin Cave	AC	WA Department of Lands	Miss Shannon Alford, Email: Shannon.alford@lands.wa.gov.au Phone: (08) 6552 4661 Fax: (08) 6552 4417 P.O. Box 1143, West Perth WA 6872.
Weebubbie	S/C	WA Department of Lands	A site indemnity form must be filled out for each visit to the site. Diving permission acknowledged by official letter from Land Owner.
WELLINGTON CAVES - NSW			
Limekiln (McCavity) Cave	C/AC	Wellington Caves Management	Access coordinated by Greg Ryan Email: giryan@gmail.com Ph: (02) 9743 4157 Both Cave and Advanced Cave Level are being accepted for this site depending on its water level at the time. When entrance is under water, Advanced Cave Divers only!
Water (Anticline) cave	C	Wellington Caves Management	Access coordinated by Greg Ryan Email: giryan@gmail.com Ph: (02) 9743 4157 Affected by high CO ₂ levels during Summer/Autumn.