



C.D.A.A. Newsletter

No. 141 - SEPTEMBER 2017

## **SPECIAL MEXICO ISSUE...**

- *Yucatan Wonder Caves*
- *Tom St. George Gallery*
- *Documenting Mexicos Caves*
- *New Gear from Scubapro*

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(Incorporated in South Australia)

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*Back Cover: Julie Houston in Cenote Tajma Ha. Photo Colin Murray.*

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### Cover:

**Amy Tiffin in  
 Cenote El Pit,  
 Tulum, Mexico**

**Image by:  
 Tom St. George**

## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ABN 65 062 259 956

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

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### CDAA INSURANCE

Web Site PDF: <http://www.cavedivers.com.au/public-documents>  
**Policy Type:** Affinity Combined General & Products Liability Policy - LIU-CAS-AEAL-14-01  
**Insurer:** Affinity Insurance Brokers Level 1, 1265 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham. VIC 3912.  
 Underwritten by Liberty International Underwriters ABN: 61 086 083 605. Incorporated in Massachusetts, USA.  
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Photo by Liz Rogers

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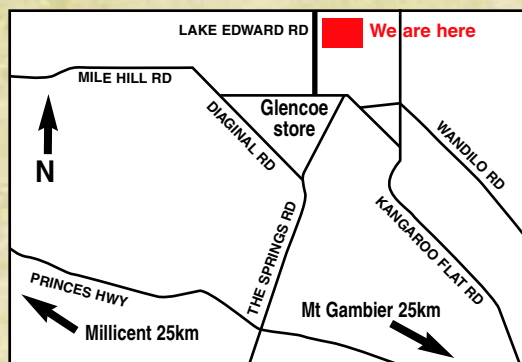
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Dear members,

After 6 years at the helm, this is my final Guidelines as I have decided to step down as Publications and Records Director to make way for Meggan Anderson (our Records Officer) to step into the role. It has been an amazing time and I feel very privileged to have been supported by members during this period - thank you.

AGM 2017 is just around the corner - Sat 28th Oct 2017. Voting is now open so don't forget to submit your preferences - see the enclosed ballot. Now Sit Back and Enjoy a Mexico centric edition of Guidelines.

Happy and safe diving.

**Rowan Stevens #3177** | Publications and Records Director  
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## FROM THE DESIGNERS' DESK...

Another three months has rushed by and I have no idea where it went, other than getting excited about another summer only a few months away. Someone said to me the other day, "you know Christmas is only 20 weeks away"... thanks very much I really needed to know that. But, with that comes warmer waters, manta rays and leopard sharks (here in Byron Bay) and long sunny days. As much as I miss the beautiful summer days diving Port Phillip Bay I do enjoy the diving here in Byron, and the occasional dive trip overseas, such as the 4 dives I did at Tulum and Cancun earlier this year. I have written a story about our trip and my experience from an Open Water divers' perspective. It seems like every Australian cave diver has either been to, or is planning to travel to Tulum and the Yucatan. In the spirit of adventure I proposed last issue we make this issue a Mexico special and with that you will read some wonderful stories, informative hints and tips and travel guides about Tulum, Playa Del Carmen and many of the Cenotes and dive sites in this area known for its world class cavern and cave diving.

During my time in Tulum my wife and I dived with Julia Gugelmeie and she was a spectacular Dive Guide. Her partner Tom St. George has offered us a spectacular gallery of images this issue and I think you'll agree he has *The Best Life* exploring the hundreds of cenotes near Tulum and documenting the stunning underwater landscapes, caves and massive sinkholes.

So, sit back, relax and enjoy another issue of GUIDELINES, and get inspired to jetset off to Mexico for the trip of a lifetime. All the best from sunny Byron Bay (a close second to Tulum!)

**Dave Bryant.**

## Articles for Guidelines Dec. 2017 - Deadline is Nov. 20th

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



# NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2017

Dear Members,

For this year's National Committee membership vote, it is great to see so many members put up their hands. Whether you vote for a person or not, I believe you should still thank them for their willingness to stand.

This will be Rowan's and my final Directors Guidelines report as we both prepare to step down from the Committee. Whilst the Site Director role is up for voting, I hope that you continue to support Leon who has been doing an excellent role with the landowners around Mt Gambier. With him living locally and working for the media, he has his finger on the pulse in the area and is able to bring local insights to the National Committee that we would not normally get.

On the Business front, our AGM and Annual Symposium is on Saturday 28th October 2017 at the Dress Circle, Main Corner - Mt. Gambier. This year we are excited to have Michel Vasquez as our guest speaker. Michel will be speaking in Perth, Sydney, Mount Gambier, and Cairns - see your State Representative for dates. At the Member's Symposium we have an amazing range of prizes from our sponsors. Scubapro have donated Pyroflex steamers. Reef2Ridge are offering a Deep Cavern course you can gift to family and friends keen to experience what we all know and love. TFM Engineering is again offering a quality engineering product. Halcyon, a strong supporter, is again offering up sponsorship. Hollis, a C45 LX wing a pair of F1 lite fins, and Deep Dive Gear is a new sponsor for the event. The City of Mount Gambier has again offered to sponsor our event with use of their fantastic venue, and Opening Remarks on the day will be from Mark McShane, Chief Executive, City of Mount Gambier.

At the time of writing this report, the Committee does not yet know the outcome of our electronic vote on whether or not we should adapt and endorse open water divers in caves and sinkholes. The vote strikes at the very core of the CDAA as the outcome is not about the Kilsby's Sinkhole, but

about every cave diving site in Australia. If the decision is to endorse open waters divers in caves and sinkholes, it will open a path for the National Committee to renegotiate access for the Kilsby's. But it will also mean we have to prepare for reduced access elsewhere. Submissions for open water diver access to places like Pics will need to be reviewed, and with open water divers competing for the limited time slots. So while diving Kilsby's may again become easier it will not be without trade offs at other locations. The reality is that no matter which direction members choose, you will not be getting everything you want. Whatever the outcome, I ask that you respect the majority decision and then work with the National Committee on taking us all forward.

On the training front, the revision of the CDAA Training Standards manual is underway with the process expected to be completed by the forthcoming AGM weekend. The need for revision of the Training Standards is threefold:

1. Our expanding instructor base in States other than Victoria & South Australia have demonstrated difficulties in providing relevant training to members and therefore a review of the standards from their perspective was necessary.
2. The CDAA is receiving a higher level of demand for crossover programs as our members return to Australia with certifications from other agencies and also, with an increase in visiting cave divers, the course parallels needed to be reviewed carefully.
3. The current Training Standards document/s had some inconsistencies and needed some housekeeping done.

The Vertical Access Training program standards will be targeted for release at the AGM weekend also with its implementation immediately after. John Dalla-Zuanna (Standards) adds "I thank both John and Rowan for being always present and consistently available to keep the machinations of the CDAA running when and where required. The CDAA runs smoothly because of all the work done not seen... they'll have big fins to fill!!"

On the Publications front, Rowan has been busy updating the website to add online bookings and site key management for site access managed the Lady Nelson Visitor Centre in Mt. Gambier. This change will greatly benefit all parties and we expect it to be live before the AGM weekend. After six years on the Committee I asked Rowan reflect on his experience. Rowan's response was:

*"The situation in which I (along with John) came onto the National Committee was at a time when two cave diving fatalities had occurred and the association had slide into factional infighting. It was trial by fire as nothing really prepares you to step into a crisis. In my portfolio, publications and records had been largely neglected and the enormity of the task ahead was intimidating - fixing a toxic electronic forum, digitizing 40 years of paper training records that were deteriorating, finishing an incomplete website, automating tasks that had to be performed manually, e.g. handwriting receipts and mailing addresses on envelopes and so on. Foundation publications such as the Constitution, Regulations, Training Standards where fragmented, contradictory and out of date. There was no secure members document library and over 120 issues were raised for website items requiring attention.*

*With the hard work of my team including: David Bryant, Simon Roberts and Meggan Anderson things slowly improved and were turned around. I thank each of them for their dedication, hard work and always wanting to improve the CDAA. I am especially thankful of David Bryant who has and continues to do a stellar job in producing and editing Guidelines.*

*I thank the support of all members during my tenure and am grateful to the following people who have helped along the way - Helen Higgins, Linda Claridge, Warrick McDonald, Jane Bowman, Peter Horak, Grant Pearce, Graham Roberts, Darren Walters, Damian Georgiou, Deb Williams, Tim Muscat, Richard Harris, Noel Dillon. Also, the late Max Marriott and the late Barrie Heard who over the years encouraged me to step in and contribute. Lastly, I thank the current National Committee for their guidance and support including John Vanderleest, John Dalla-Zuanna, Mathew Rochford and Leon Rademeyer.*

*Today I leave my portfolio in a better position than when I found it and feel privileged at having had the opportunity to serve as a Director of the CDAA. Stepping down after 6 years was not an easy decision, but my mind was made up when our Records Officer, Meggan Anderson, wanted to step into the Director role having worked in my portfolio and learning the ropes for the past 2 years.*

*I offer my support to Meggan as our next*

*Publications and Records Director and to the next National Committee and wish them well for the journey ahead. I also offer my continued support as web master to the CDAA in keeping our systems maintained and running smoothly."*

After one year on the Committee I ask Mat to reflect on his experience. Mat's response was:

*"The expression that comes to mind is 'it's everything and more'. I did not expect the scale of the operations, the number of stakeholders, and the interactions and balancing act to keep us all diving. Standards, insurance, landowners, sponsors, instructors, students, and members, are some of the stakeholders that come to mind before you start in the role. But then you deal with apparel manufacturers, shipping, advertisers, printing, housing, site facilities, expo promoters, caterers, venue security, legal teams, local council, safety officers, creative designers, web hosting, processing reimbursements for all our hard-working volunteers, banks, and so much more. Whilst it is easy to think of the CDAA as just the website where we book our diving, we are the peak body for Cave Diving in Australia and the scope of our operations is so much more than just diving in Mount Gambier. And it is such a privilege to be trusted with delivering what each member wants from our Association and to represent them in all my dealings. Finally, whilst every member is looking to our Association for something different, I am always struck by how much we all care about our caves, and cave diving."*

Lastly from me, it has been a privilege to have worked with so many good people both on the committee and in other volunteer roles. The enthusiasm and dedication of these people has made being the National Director a privilege.

And for my final time.... may your drysuit remain wet on the outside.

John Vanderleest  
On behalf of the National CommitteeNational Committee



John Vanderleest,  
National Director



Leon Rademeyer,  
Site Director



Mathew Rochford,  
Business Director



Rowan Stevens,  
Publications and  
Records Director



John Dalla-Zuanna,  
Standards Director



# Members Symposium

Sat. 28th October 2017

Main Corner, 1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier.

The symposium will be held in the Dress Circle commencing at 9:15am.

**The Annual General Meeting will commence at 11.00am, and complete no later than 12:30pm.**

Drinks and Canapes will follow at 7:30pm  
Note that there will be no symposium activities on the Sunday, freeing up members to Dive!

For any questions, please contact Mathew Rochford (Business Director)  
at [business@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:business@cavedivers.com.au) or **0411 529 512**

## AGM Door Prizes:

In 2017, we have been lucky enough to secure sponsorship from:



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## Annual General Meeting and Members Symposium ~ AGENDA ~

9:00 Open and welcome remarks - Mark McShane, Chief Executive of City of Mount Gambier Council

9:10 Michel Vazquez - *The cenotes of the Riviera Maya*

10:40 Morning tea - (Provided)

11:00 AGM - Agenda published separately

12:30 Lunch

13:15 Dr Stefan Eberhard - *Cave Diving and Cave Ecology*

14:15 Michel Vazquez - *Exploration of cenotes and caves of the Yucatan Peninsula*

With Special Thanks to:



**THE CENOTES OF THE RIVIERA MAYA.** In the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico has the most extensive flooded cave systems worldwide with over 330 cave systems. Let me share you through in this presentation the environment of the cenotes and its physical features, speleothems, haloclines, chemicals and some history of the exploration of the cenotes from the Riviera Maya, shared by some of the cave diving pioneers in this region; Steve Gerrard and German Yañez.  
By Michel Vazquez Robles

15:30 John Dalla-Zuanna, Standards Director - CDAA Training Standards Review

15:50 afternoon tea (Provided)

16:10 Stephen Fordyce - *Sump Diving and Elk River Cave*

16:50 Bruce Clulow. The caves of Cook Islands and the new Olwolgin discoveries/map. "The cavedivers bucket list.. Bahamas, Mexico and now.. the Cook Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Bruce Clulow will reveal why the caves on Cook will become the new go-to destination for cave diving. Bruce is also a member of the Karst Monkeys and will update us with the latest finds in Olwolgin cave, complete with the latest map."

17:40 Ryan Kaczowski - *Why explorers do exploration*

18:20 Symposium Concludes & National Director wrap up

19:30 Evening event starts - Tickets on sale soon

23:00 Evening event concludes



# Volunteers Dive into clean-up

***Underwater rubbish cleared from natural attractions***

Story and photos by Leon Rademeyer

***MOUNT Gambier's iconic Little Blue Lake received a much needed clean-up on the weekend as a group of interstate female cave divers visited the region. All members of the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDA), the Melbourne-based group of friends teamed-up with a local counterpart on Saturday morning for a weekend of diving and fun.***

The five women divided their time between Little Blue Lake and the nearby One Tree Sinkhole. "It is our second clean-up visit to Little Blue Lake as we have done so about a year ago," CDAA instructor Jane Bowman told The Border Watch. "We like the region not only for its top-

class cave diving, but also for the beautiful surroundings, food and wine.

"The Mount Gambier area is right on the doorstep of divers from South Australia and Victoria and is a primary cave diving destination." Ms Bowman said pollution is an ever-increasing



READY TO DIVE: Claire Cooper, Simone Lee, Terri Allen, Jane Bowman and Annie Rademeyer at Little Blue.

problem at fresh and saltwater dive sites, not only in Australia, but around the world.

"I always encourage divers to bring a rubbish item or two to the surface on every dive," she said. "In that way we do our bit for our dive sites and the environment in general."

Mount Gambier cave diver Annie Rademeyer said an opportunity to support the local community was always welcomed. "We came prepared with special bags suitable for underwater rubbish collection and others for dumping the rubbish into on the surface," she said.

The bags were quickly filled with mostly empty beer bottles, but also other items like plastic toys, underwear and shoes. Of note was an old two-way radio and car battery.

In addition, a second punctured inflatable swimming pool was brought to the surface after the first one was recovered during last year's dive.

The team was careful not to remove items of interest placed at the bottom by divers over the years, including a number of traffic signs and garden gnomes.

Known primarily as a local cliff jumping and swimming spot, Little Blue dips to around 45 metres at its deepest point and was used as a rubbish dump decades ago.

Its most prominent underwater feature is the wreck of a 1966 Morris 1100 car.

The car came to rest on its wheels towards the middle of the sinkhole at a depth of around 36 metres and is a popular reference point for cave divers.

Scuba diving in Little Blue Lake and One Tree Sinkhole is restricted to CDAA accredited divers.



Some of the rubbish brought to the surface from the bottom of Little Blue Lake on the weekend by a group of visiting female divers. The group of five also visited the nearby One Tree Sinkhole



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# Yucatan Wonder Caves

Story and photos by Pierre Constant ~ [www.calaolifestyle.com](http://www.calaolifestyle.com)

*Once upon a time, 170 MA ago, Yucatan was not yet part of Mexico. Before the break up of North America, South America and Africa, Yucatan was temporarily attached to the northern side of South America. As the proto Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico began to form, Yucatan broke away from the continent, 140 MA ago and became an isolated plate. Rotating counterclockwise and drifting west for the next 50 million years, Yucatan collided with Mexico. A fracture zone emerged on the east flank of the peninsula and the Yucatan basin was formed.*

A recent theory asserts that the Caribbean Plate came into being from an Atlantic hotspot which has faded in time. Evidence shows that the Caribbean Plate is moving westward. The oceanic crust of the South American Plate is in subduction under the Caribbean Plate, which is mostly oceanic, underlying Central America and the Caribbean Sea. The borders of the Caribbean Plate are regions of intense volcanic activity, earthquakes and tsunamis.

Then comes the incredible story of a meteorite that struck the earth. Chicxulub crater, 10km in diameter, resulted from the impact of an asteroid or comet, during the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary, 66 millions years ago. Located north west of Merida, well into the continental crust, the crater would have been up to 300km wide and 20 km deep. It is responsible for the mass extinction of non avian dinosaurs, and 75% of plant and animal species, which affected the whole planet at the time. This amazing discovery was made by geophysicists Antonio Camargo and Glen Penfield looking for petroleum in the late 1970's. A thick layer of andesite, was found 1.3km deep, proof of an intense heat and pressure impact on Earth. Some years later, a greenish-brown clay with surplus iridium was discovered, containing shocked quartz and weathered glass beads or tektites, further evidence of an asteroid impact. A ring of cenotes was also found centered on Chicxulub.

The impact would have caused a mega-tsunami, 100m tall. Dust and particles would have covered the surface of Earth for several years. The long term effect was the creation of the Yucatan basin, where up to 1000m of marl and limestone were deposited during Paleocene times. A cluster of cenotes, along the edge of the crater, suggest that there was a water basin after the impact. The ground water of such a basin would have dissolved the limestone and created cenotes and caves beneath the surface.

***"Cenote" originates from the Mayan word 'dzonot', meaning something deep, a chasm or cavern filled with water. These symbolize entrances to 'Xibalba', the underworld***



Xunaan Ha cenote

Most of Yucatan is made of Cretaceous limestone, 144 MA old. No surface rivers exist. The subsoil is like a sponge through which water seeps. Over the years, rain has dissolved the limestone further. Most curiously, the longest underwater rivers of the world are located in the coastal region of Quintana Roo, east of Yucatan.

Ice ages affected the peninsula between 150,000 and 20,000 years ago. The last ice age, when conditions were colder, saw the arrival of man from Asia, via a land bridge, through the Behring Strait. Due to extreme conditions, people lived underground, in caves. Sea level was 65m below actual level back then. Prehistoric animals also



Land iguana at Jardin del Eden



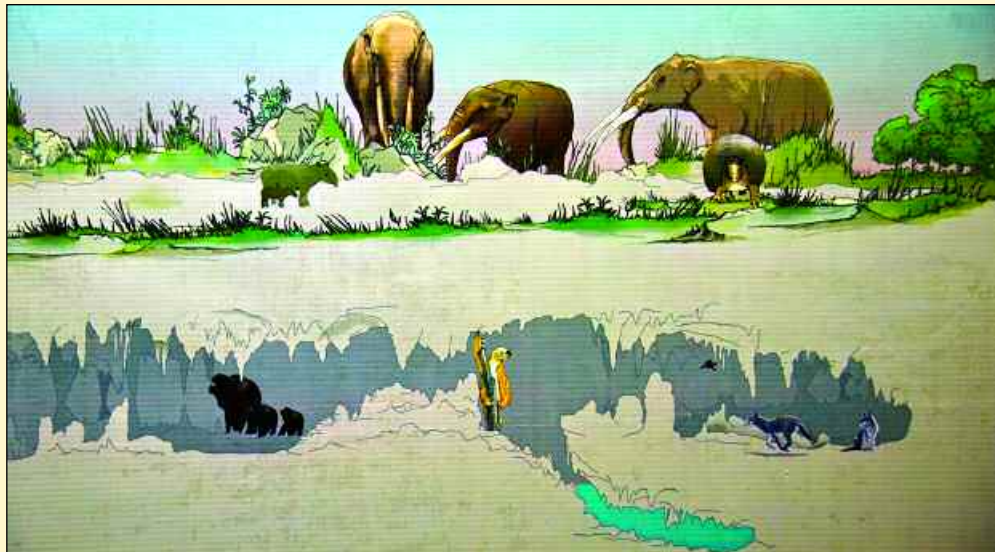


made their home in those caves, such as: bears, ground sloth, "Nothrotheriops shastensis" and the sabertooth tiger, "*Smilodon fatalis*". Above ground roamed the mammoth, "*Mamthus columbi*", mastodont or gomphotere, "*Cuvieronus tropicus*", glyptodont or giant tat-too, "*Glyptotherium floridanum*", 9 ft long. So did llamas, camels, horses, the last two made their way into Asia...

At the end of the last ice age, about 8000 years ago, sea level rose. Most of the caves were flooded by sea water. Freshwater due to rains naturally came on top as a distinct layer. In between is a blurred layer, known as halocline, where salt and freshwater mix. Much later in time, caves played an important role in Mayan cosmogony. "Cenote" originates from the Mayan word 'dzonot', meaning something deep, a chasm or cavern filled with water. These symbolize entrances to 'Xibalba', the underworld, the



Saber tooth tiger and wolf



abode of the dead, but also fertile places where life originates. It is the symbolic path between the earthly world and the infra-world. Vases and potteries were found in those sinkholes, but also offerings such as human sacrifices of young girls. It sometimes served as a burial ground for older people or dignitaries. Nowadays, Mayas consider the cenotes with respect, as a place for "Aluxe" or cave spirits.

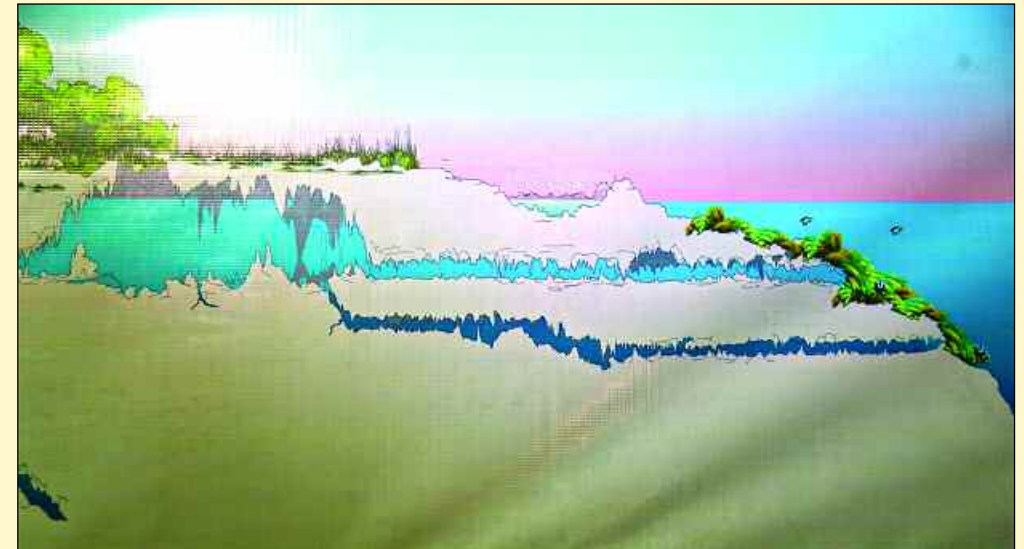
The most impressive underground rivers are classified as 'systems'. Up to date, about 1500km have been explored since 1980. The five largest systems are: "Oxbel Ha" (257Km) with 140 cenotes; "Sac Actun" (247Km) with more than 184 cenotes; "Dos Ojos" (83Km) with 30 cenotes; "K'oox Baal" (74Km) with 44 cenotes and "Xunaan Ha" (52Km) with 31 cenotes.

I was returning to this part of Mexico after a 40 years leave. Naturally, upon arrival at Playa del Carmen, I was up for a big shock. Beach tourism, American style, with a profusion of hotels, restaurants, bars with full music every night. Plus the flock of weird looking creatures that crave that sort of holiday environment and destination. All in all, it was definitely not my cup of tea or biosphere. Should I have not come for a specific purpose, I would have ran away at once!

My aim was plainly a Full Cave Sidemount Course. My cave diver certification from the CDAA (Cave Diver Association of Australia)



Stairway down to El Pit cenote





was already 10 years old (wink Linda) and time was long overdue for me to go into an advanced level. The reason being that my cave diving explorations in Madagascar, were now more demanding and technical. For convenience, I had approached a French dive center in Playa del Carmen, with the hotel right across the street. Phoebe Mexico, established in 2005 by Didier, had already a solid reputation.

My instructor, Jonathan, was a gentle Mexican on the quiet side. Taking my 6 days course in Spanish was not a big issue, although he was fluent in English and French as well. Everything ran smooth and progressive. Nevertheless, I was certainly disoriented in the beginning with the new harness system, new configuration and basically having to get familiarized with a new way of diving. Very far from twin tanks, back mount system that I had learned in South Australia. Times were A-changing eh!... On first day, sidemount theory helped me to adjust straps and D-rings of my brand new harness, both for the shoulders and for the waist. The bungee chord between the two tank valves. The left regulator has a short inflator hose for the direct system. The first stage with pivoting turret and DIN system, the regulator with a 60cm Maxflex hose around the neck. The right regulator displays a long hose for sharing air, if necessary.

The real in water training started on day two. Jonathan drove me to Jardin del Eden, a cenote

25Km south of Playa. All cenotes are on private land, which is owned by a family or by a community. Meaning to say that there is an entry fee per person for the day, which is anything between M\$150 and M\$350, roughly between US\$8 and US\$20. The site is developed with access stairways, platforms, toilet facilities and sometimes even a small cafeteria. An ideal way of eco tourism, which benefits everyone in a "win win" situation. Yucatan cenotes are open for snorkelers, cavern divers, as well as cave divers. Depending on the time of the day, these can be very busy, reminding one of a municipal swimming pool in effervescence! Least should one forget that this tourism highlight of Mexico, equally suits families on holiday, with kids and their lively eccentric games. Should you fancy a peaceful location, you may be up for some unpleasant surprises or look elsewhere... However, early morning is an enchantment for birdlife, such as the Mayan motmot, "Eumomota superciliosa" with yellow, green, black, turquoise blue colour, displaying a ravishing double tail with terminal eyes. Very common is the plain chachalaca, "Ortalis vetula", the Yucatan jay, "Cyanocorax yucatanica", the orange oriole, "Icterus auratus" and the gold breasted black headed trogon, "Trogon melanocephalus". My eyes are once blessed by the sight of a rare tucan species: the Collared Aracari, "Pteroglossus torquatus". A greyish brown land iguana -with black bands- is often



Pierre Louis progression inside tunnel, Caracol

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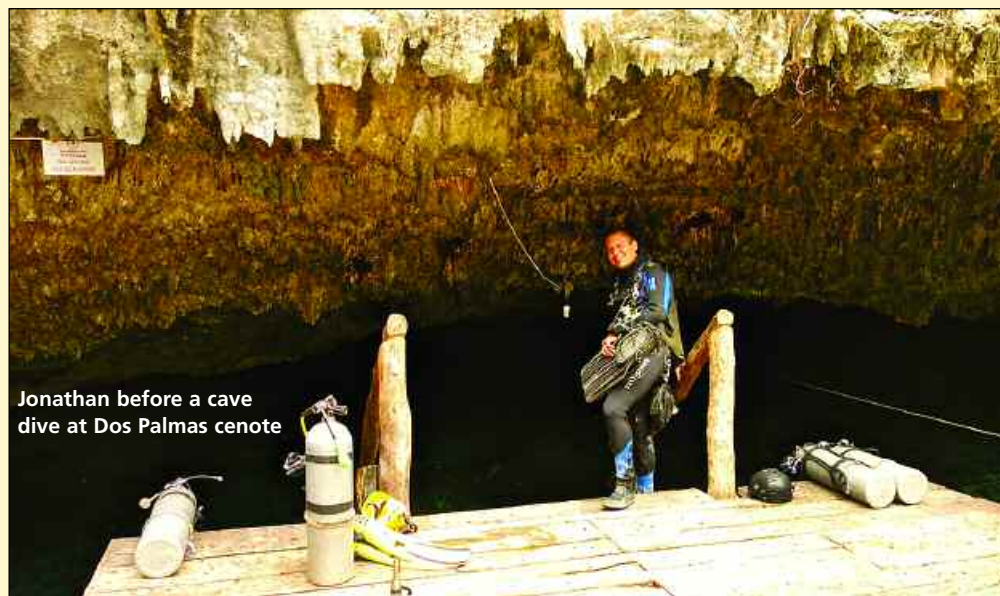


located on sites, highly inquisitive of a diver's preparation. While in the water, one is fascinated by the presence of a highly photogenic freshwater fish: the sailfin molly, "*Poecilia velifera*". Males in hot pursuit of a female are flashing a long dorsal sailfin forward in an exquisite way. The same happens when two competing males are facing each

other. A rather large cichlid fish species is also seen swimming about, highly curious of divers. On a couple of subsequent dives at Jardin del Eden, Jonathan takes me underground. Once the initial jump line is set, we reach a T-junction. Water temperature still at 25°C, we place our cookies, then turn left onto a narrow tunnel that looks more like a crack. One experiences the halo-



Light beam down the stairway into Caracol



Jonathan before a cave dive at Dos Palmas cenote

cline at once, when salt water mixes with fresh-water. Visibility is blurred and there is no way you may take a picture. We come to a dead end, and I lead the way as we turn around. Back at the T-junction, Jonathan signals me to continue straight ahead in the other side of the tunnel. Water temperature is now 26°C and we are still blessed with the halocline. I feel like I am flying through a disorientating dream state. Not my kind of enjoyment, really, but a must do situation. Turning back my mood is uplifted at the thought of getting out of this mess. T-junction again. My relief is short lived. With still 130 bars in the tanks the instructor shows me the turn around sign. Again? No kidding. This time he wants me to unclip the right tank and push it forward into the halocline tunnel. Again? Right. Is this persecution? No, just training boy. I notice that the right tank wants to float up. I have to control it horizontally with my left hand, holding the torch at the same time. I

would not want to handle the camera in such a context. All in all, a challenging experience it is, but all for the benefit of the pupil.

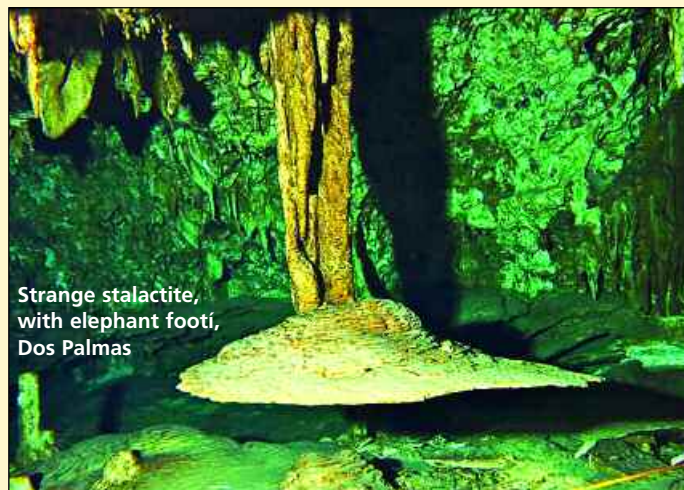
Other training sites include the cenotes of Chikin Ha and Tajma Ha. There we practice jumps, the slate for observations, the out of air and sharing air situations with the long hose, the hand signals while holding the line with a black mask on my face, light signals over arrows... The last day of the course sees us at Xunaan Ha, or 'woman water' in Maya language. A pretty sinkhole in the jungle, it is surrounded by lush vegetation. The site is peaceful, with a welcoming land iguana. That is until the loud and dusty arrival of a horde of mad quads, with a group of 20 Americans! Xunaan Ha happens to be also the location of a 'tyrolienne', where fun lovers slide on a cable and let themselves drop into the water in the middle of the cenote. It reminds me of a squadron of fighter bomber airplanes zooming in on target

with a hissing noise, followed by the loud splash imitating the rockets hitting their aim. For a moment, this feels like being in Disneyworld or Animal Farm. As we enter the water and get ready to submerge with Sidemount, we simply have to be aware and stay clear out of the drop zone! "This is the last time I come here...", confesses Jonathan later on.

The entrance of the cave is mushroom like. Underground, it is well decorated. A big catfish, "*Rhamdia guatemalensis*" show up in the first chamber. The tunnel is narrow, with a low ceiling, perfect for 'side-mount'. Lots of stalactites and stalagmites. The plan for the first dive is to go from a double arrow to a jump on the left, and from a single arrow to a jump on the right for the second dive. Xunaan Ha is part of Dos Ojos system, which is the third largest underground river, 83Km long, with about 30 known cenotes. Upon departure, a stop by the very inter-



Sailfin molly males, facing each other, flashing dorsal fins, Jardin del Eden



Strange stalactite, with elephant footi, Dos Palmas



esting and informative 'Museo de la Prehistoria' at the entrance of Dos Ojos, is a must. It provides a guided visit. There you marvel at the geology of Yucatan, the paleontology, the animals and early humans of the last ice age. Skeletons of various extinct species are on display. Not to be missed. "Dos Palmas" cenote is also part of Dos Ojos system. It is named after the two palm trees that stand erect, in the middle of the sinkhole, on a rocky platform surrounded by a ring of water. Motmots, swiftlets and bats emerge from the cave on the sides, flying about at random. Natural and pleasant, the place looks deserted, but well maintained. A wooden platform overlooks the water, where we lay the tanks conveniently. Once



View upward from the bottom of El Pit cenote



Diver and dead tree stumps at hydrogen sulfide cloud, Angelita

in the pool, we pull the tanks easily with one hand, while the other grabs the D-ring at the bottom and clip it straight to the D-ring on the waist. Jonathan's briefing mentions that we'll be going down current. Maximum depth will be 7,2m for a maximum dive time of 80 minutes. Very scenic, the dive winds its way among wide chambers with big pillars, narrow corridors with stalactites, stalagmites. I notice fields of straws hanging down from the ceiling. In places, skinny stalactites end up with a wide lid like plate or inverted mushroom. Eminently strange formations, for sure, never seen before. The black sediment of the entrance gives way to a fine white silt



Stumps of wood underwater, Chacmool cenote



Catfish, *Rhamdia guatemalensis* Tajma Ha

with calcite flakes. As we turn around after 40 minutes, Jonathan wants me to change the position of the tanks, to the forward D-ring. I mess up a bit and realize that I am desperately swirling around on myself, unable to locate the malicious rubber D-ring on the left side. I have to reach for support on the cave floor... The return against the noticeable current is rather tonic and demanding. Managing a few pictures along the way, I finish with 70 bars in each tank. "You are moving forward too fast!", warns Jonathan, who annoyingly makes it back with 150 bars. Watching him, I notice that his 90° angle fin kick is effortless, like a slow drifting Zepellin. "You breathe like a tourist", he frowns mockingly. Due to a problem with his primary torch, my instructor aborts the second dive. We'll pass by "Museo de la Prehistoria", where director Eugenio Acevez, also a cave diver, gives me a private visit.

Diving Otoch Ha (Nariz), took place with Belgian guide Loïc. Quite isolated in the jungle, this cenote is part of Aktun Ha system. No caretaker is found on location, but a long ball shaped oriole nest silently swinging from a branch. The key for the gate needs to be collected from a ticket office along the Playa-Tulum highway. Long tree roots flow into the sinkhole, all around it, creating attractive curtains. After the primary tie-off, the main line goes to a T-junction, from where it splits. Choosing the left tunnel, we are followed by a little school of silver shining fish named Tetra, ".....", with a yellow lateral line and yellow scissor-tail. Curious about our light beam, they tag along deep into the cave, during the whole dive. "They may get lost in the darkness and die...", adds Loïc. Another very impressive cave it is. I



Divers shadows in Kukulcan cavern



marvel at a gully carved into the cave floor, proof of a once upon a time creek flowing through. Unfortunately, on the way back, my primary torch almost dies on me. Either the charger is at fault or the lithium batteries are too old and out of shape. This makes the guide rather nervous and he would scold me accordingly for it!... I'll find out later that the problem came from the fact that the voltage in Mexico is 110 volts, and not 220 volts as in Europe, therefore resulting in insufficient charge for my torch.

Part of Sac Actun system, near Dos Ojos, Caracol cenote is a surprisingly attractive site. I would guess a sinkhole in the making. A rather insignificant hole in the Yucatan jungle leads into a bell

shaped cave underground, with a lake at the bottom. The wooden stairway climbing down in a spiral is only a few years old. It takes you to a wooden platform on stilts, from where it is easy to access the water. The local family turns on the light show in blue and red colors, for those who want to explore some passages while snorkeling. As a cave diver, I follow Pierre Louis for a penetration of 420 metres along the main line, at a maximum depth of 7.5m. It takes 50 minutes before I signal the turn around, making it back in 30 minutes. For the next dive, Pierre Louis choses a jump to the right, 60m from the entrance. The passage is narrow enough to make me feel like a rat. It is full of restrictions, with zigzags in every

possible direction. "Am I really doing this?" I think for myself in awe. The ceiling is full of small stalactites, definitely a challenge to avoid, when squeezing through restrictions. In the eyes of local communities, Yucatan cenotes access is meant for everyone. Understandably, not everybody is a cave diver. Most people looking for the experience are snorkelers or common recreational divers. Cavern dives are the lot of the masses and are advertised for their unique atmosphere, ie. the natural lightshow underwater, when the sunbeams refract into the water with the best effect. Of course, an eerie taste of the underworld is thrown into the recipe for thrill and enjoyment. Casa Cenote is one of these sites. A shallow water lagoon in the mangrove, it is connected to the sea by an underground tunnel. Freshwater and salt water mix. Marine fishes come into the horseshoe shaped lagoon, to hunt for juvenile fish in between mangrove roots. This is the case of fish species such as tarpons and 'robalo'. Even eels can be found there, should one be lucky. Often seen hiding in the mangrove, a young crocodile inhabits the area.



Oval tunnel and pillars, Nohoch



Jonathan at Heavenis Gate, Nohoch

South of Tulum, Angelita cenote is a deep sinkhole in hard dolomite limestone, which plunges down to 35m in its centre, where a pile of rocks and debris rise. On the sides, however, it may go down to 90m or even to 120 metres. The attraction here is an intriguing cloud of hydrogen sulfide, between 27m and 31m, which hovers like fog between freshwater and saltwater, creating a characteristic blur. Dead tree branches emerge from the mist on top of the hill. A surreal scene, with divers and fluttering torches above. The visibility is rather poor and there is hardly any sunshine filtering through.

Another famous spot for visitors is Chacmool cenote, which is divided into two cavern dives,

one adjacent to the other. The views underwater are striking, with the light filtering through. One dive is Kukulcan, the 'feathered snake', where the cavern is a circuit. It is connected to Little Brother, another circuit passing by Chacmool, showing you fossils of big gasteropod shells, an air dome with roots hanging from the ceiling. Passing by Chacmool, you'll witness a cluster of dead logs rising in turquoise green water. Being so popular, you'll see groups of divers underwater, following each other in single line or coming across one another. This leads to confusion when you suddenly forget who you are with. Not to everyone's taste!

My last dive day with Jonathan takes place at

Nohoch cenote, a quiet site, part of the Sac Actun system, with excellent infrastructure built by AlltourNative. On the occasion, I encounter a type of blind white isopod underwater, "Metacirolana mayana", hopping around the cave floor, deep into the tunnel. To my surprise, the presence of a gold spot shrimp, 2 inches long, is also witnessed, as well as a large "Pennaues sp." shrimp in pastel green colour towards the cave entrance.

Finally, El Pit cenote excited my curiosity, a rather deep cylindrical sinkhole of the Dos Ojos system. It incurs a special entry fee of M\$855 for cave divers (about US\$47). Seen from the top down, it appears elliptical, plummets down to 30m + in the middle. Around noon, when the sun shines almost vertically into the shaft, it becomes very attractive. Ancient human remains have been found on the sides, at a depth of 120m. However, the real attraction in my eyes is of a dif-



Entry to Xunaan Ha cave





Pierre getting ready for a dive at Chikin Ha

ferent nature. Fifteen metres down, Pierre Louis invites me to follow him into the darkness of a narrow tunnel, that branches off horizontally. After a little while, we veer off into a minute chamber on the right hand side. There, in the beam of my torch, covered in fine silt, I discover

with awe and stupefaction the skeleton of a giant sloth, "Eremotherium laurillardi", from the last ice age. A jump backwards in prehistoric times, at least 10000 years ago, that triggers a thrill. I am filled with sudden respect and inspiration, without the shadow of a doubt.

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# Tom St. George

## TULUM, MEXICO

*Tom St George is an underwater photographer based in Tulum, Mexico. He enjoys teaching underwater photography and shooting cave and cavern photo sessions for visiting divers. A member of the team behind the Global Dive Guide app and the official photographer for Cave Camp 2017 & 2018. Originally from the UK, Tom has spent the last 15 years living and diving extensively across New Zealand, Asia and more recently Mexico and Belize. You can see more of his work at [tomstgeorge.com](http://tomstgeorge.com) and [instagram.com/tom.st.george](https://www.instagram.com/tom.st.george).*

Tom St George (centre) -  
A shot from the cave photo  
workshop at Cave Camp 2018.



Cenote Cristal Mainline -  
Tannic acid stained cave and  
black halocline.  
Model Julia Gugelmeier



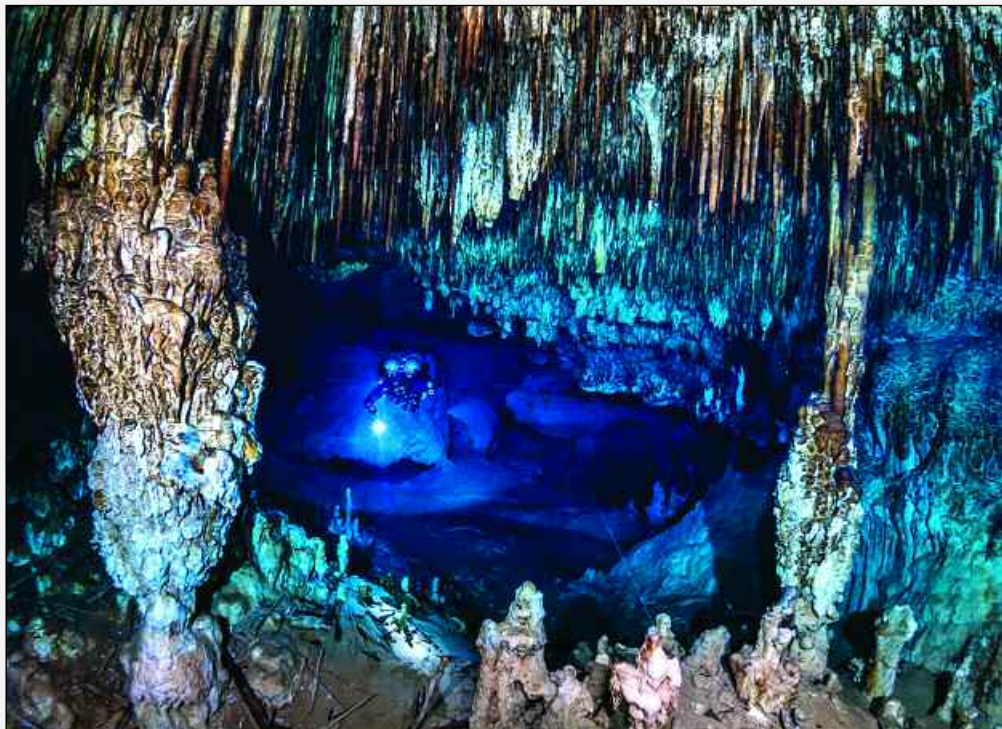
Cenote Jailhouse - view through a forest of Stalagmites at a depth of 20 meters -  
Model Kelvin Davidson





Cenote Otoch Ha - detail of the quite extraordinary formations  
- model Julia Gugelmeier





Cenote Otoch Ha - one room is more stunning then the previous, model Julia Gugelmeier



Cenote Mayan Blue - these double arrows show the way home - Model Julia Gugelmeier



Cenote Mayan Blue - Entrance to the Dead Zone - Model Julia Gugelmeier

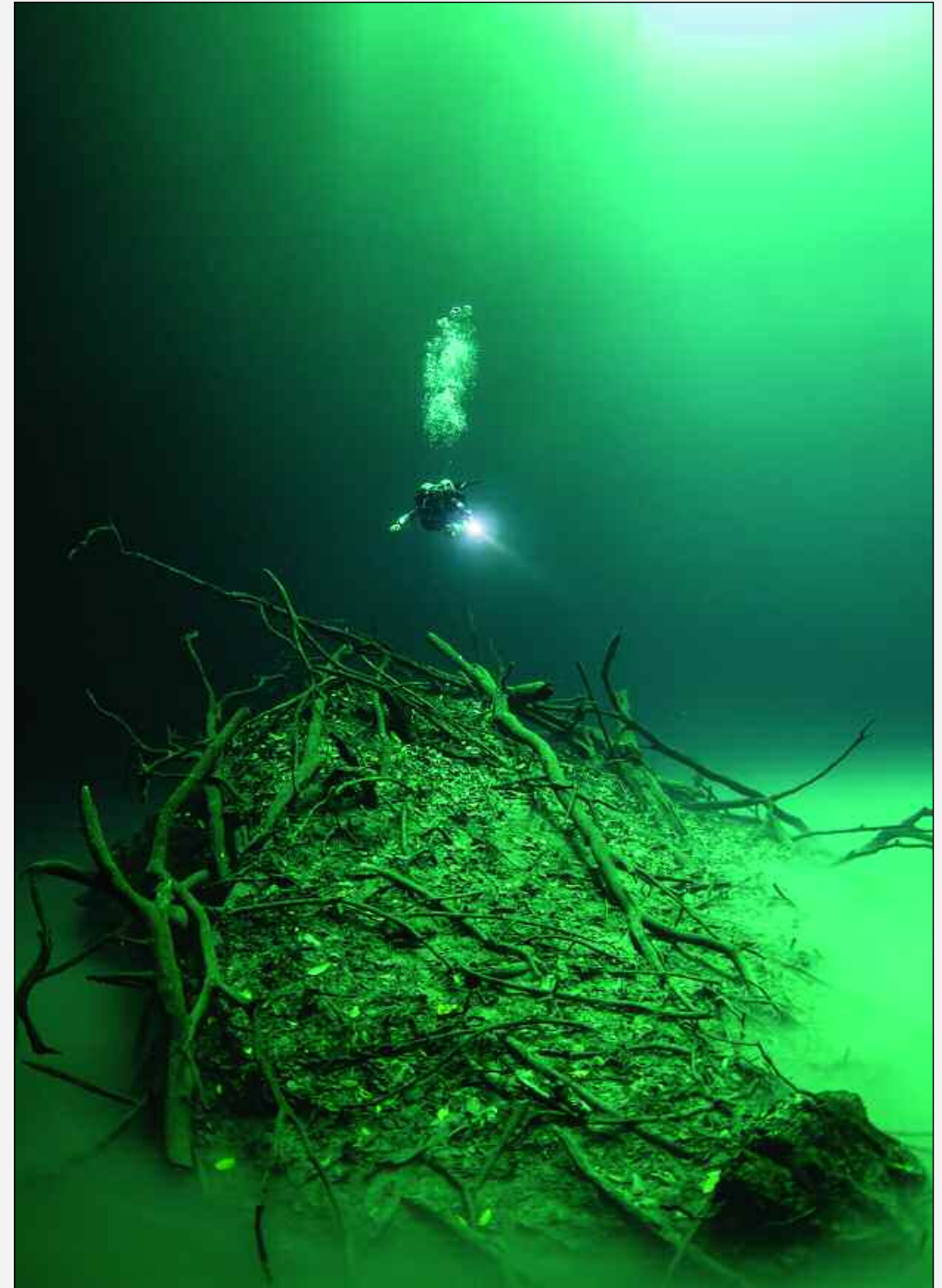




Cenote Caracol - highly decorated section of a side passage of this stunning system



Cenote of the Sun - jumping into the "secret" saltwater passage. model Julia Gugelmeier



Cenote Angelita - Julia swimming over the top of the debris mound that sits in a cloud of hydrogen sulphide. Model Julia Gugelmeier





Cenote Angelita - Julia floats about the 'lake' of hydrogen sulphide next the the debris mound 'island' - model Julia Gugelmeier



Cenote Carwash Entrance Upstream - backdrop through the fallen trees into the underwater garden. model Julia Gugelmeier



Cenote Nohoch Na Chich - Downstream passing a restriction. Model Rosanna Rodriguez

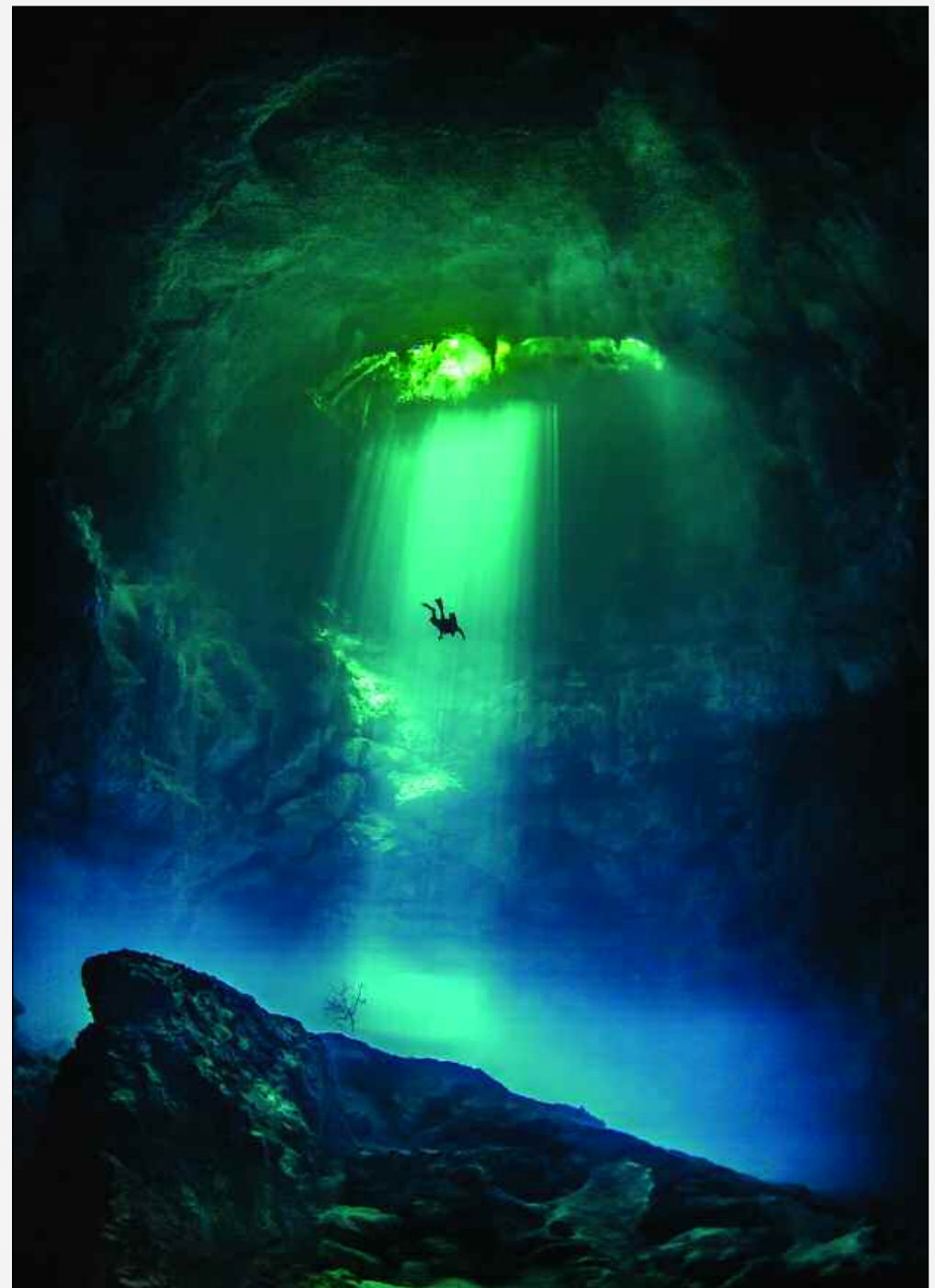


Cenote Calavera - Cavern Line and the sunlight streaming through the entrance behind. Model Julia Gugelmeier





Cenote Mayan Blue - Dead Zone in all it's colourful glory.  
Model Julia Gugelmeier



Cenote El Pit - the summer sunbeams stream through the entrance as the diver ascends.  
Model Amy Tiffin



**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS  
OCTOBER 2017**

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

**Nomination for National Director – Peter Wolf #4419**

*Proposed Mischa Temple CDAA #4313    Seconded by Damian Bishop CDAA #4738*

*Fellow members,  
I am seeking your support for my nomination as National Director.  
I believe that my professional skills and experience are well suited to this role.  
I possess excellent communication skills and have a qualified understanding of the potential risks faced by the CDAA, its members, and other stakeholders. This is of utmost importance when representing the CDAA, and in my opinion key to overcoming issues we currently face as an Association, particularly with regards to site access.  
A CDAA member since 2008, I achieved my Advanced Cave rating in 2011. I have nearly 20 years of scuba diving experience, which includes having owned and operated a successful dive charter. I am a qualified commercial skipper, and completed my Divemaster certification in 2007.  
Since joining the Association, I have been involved in various projects and roles, and I am the current Victorian State Representative. These experiences have provided me with a solid understanding of the inner workings of the CDAA. In order to prosper, it is my contention that we must reduce the level of bureaucracy and re-ignite interest through communication and consultation to engage the broader membership.  
Our goals need to be simple, unambiguous and imminently achievable.  
I also believe that strengthening landowner relations and the CDAA's public image is imperative to ensure the future prosperity of the Association.  
Finally, as the members that already know me can attest, I am enthusiastic, approachable and always open to fresh ideas.  
I would be honoured to have your support.*

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

**Nomination for National Director – Mathew Rochford #4827**

*Proposed Simone Lee CDAA #4818    Seconded by Leon Rademeyer CDAA #5013*

*I am putting myself forward as a candidate for the role of National Director so I can be part of shaping the future of our Association. As a current member of the National Committee, I know how much people care about their Association. I want to build on the outstanding work of present and past National Committees and association members, which has left us such a strong, well respected, leader in our field. I see my academic background in Business Administration and Information Technology as being well suited to help steer the association in the coming years.  
As an active diver in the Mount Gambier region, and a current member of the National Committee, I believe I have a good understanding of the challenges facing our Association. I am a regular visitor to the Mount Gambier region and always try to engage widely with the membership. I still have a strong interest in the business of the Association however see the National Director role as an extension of my current area of responsibility. I want to ensure our assets are protected, our risk profile is well managed, promote our work in both the local community and broader diving community, and see us maintain our strong safety record. All of this supports us engaging with landowners to ensure we retain our precious access privileges, promote conservation, and further our sport of Cave Diving.*

**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS  
OCTOBER 2017**

**SITE DIRECTOR**

**Nomination for Site Director – Benn Walton #4671**

*Proposed Jane Bowman CDAA #1880    Seconded by Marc Saunders CDAA #4315*

*Hi Members,  
I invite your support for my nomination as Site Director.  
As a building and construction professional I believe I can use my skills and knowledge to benefit the CDAA and its members, particularly when implementing much needed site improvements and maintenance.  
I am experienced and comfortable liaising with individuals, groups, and government departments, and understand the importance of meeting the requirements of each stakeholder. Having come from a family of primary producers I can also communicate with private landowners at a grassroots level and understand their needs.  
As a motivated and enthusiastic diver, I am in Mt Gambier on a regular basis. This ensures I am also available on a face-to-face basis to many members and land owners.  
Keeping in mind our shared responsibility to preserve the cave environment both above and below the surface, I, like many others would like to see a renewed focus on site improvements and maintenance, more engagement with members through projects, workshops and social events and an all-round improvement in the communication with the membership. Relaxed and easy-going, but with a strong work ethic, I would welcome the opportunity to represent the association as the CDAA Site Director.*

*Cheers, Benn Walton #4671*

**SITE DIRECTOR**

**Nomination for Site Director – Leon Rademeyer #5013**

*Proposed Annie Rademeyer CDAA #5014    Seconded by Mathew Rochford CDAA #4827*

*Having served as Site Director since the beginning of the year on invitation of the National Committee, I am herewith making myself available in the same capacity for the upcoming term. Professionally I have 20 years of management experience at large corporations backed-up with a number of tertiary qualifications, including a Master's degree in organisational change and management. I am in the process of completing a PhD degree on a related topic.  
As a technical, cave and recreational diver who has received training with the CDAA, TDI, NAUI, IANTD and PADI, I offer substantial experience in, and knowledge of the international diving industry, I am a PADI Staff Instructor (IDCS#643373) with OC and CCR experience and qualifications.  
I am a resident of Mount Gambier and currently also serving as CDAA South East SA State Representative. In this role and as Site Director I have been liaising successfully with landowners on behalf of the CDAA for close to two years. In my current professional role as Chief of Staff at The Border Watch Newsgroup in Mount Gambier, I have been writing articles on the CDAA regularly, promoting the organisation, its reputation and values locally, nationally and internationally.*



CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS  
OCTOBER 2017

## SITE DIRECTOR

### Nomination for Site Director - Kelvyn Ball #3276

Proposed Patrick Fitzgerald CDAA #4366    Seconded by Robert Main CDAA #4909

*I have been an active and passionate CDAA member since 1999. Travelling from our Horsham farm regularly, we purchased a house locally which doubles as a dive lodge for CDAA members.*

*Listening to fellow divers and seeing a need, I initially volunteered for Site Improvement Officer in 2007. It was around this time I also commenced guiding The Shaft and more recently becoming a Tank Cave Management Committee member which complimented my role for Site Improvement and soon after we extended the shed to its current size.*

*Being a Crop farmer & selling grain to local farmers for the past 16 years, has given me the opportunity to build solid relationships with locals including Forestry and DEWNR via several site clean ups. This long-term commitment to relationships will benefit the CDAA as I can negotiate as a familiar and trusted person.*

*I like listening to both members and locals always seeking a positive middle ground that will provide for mutual benefits and keep sites open for members while respecting the interest of the landowners.*

*A vote for me will be a vote to actively meet with landowners on site access, to lobby to open or reopen new sites and improve access to our current portfolio.*

*I am a person of action; I believe achieving an 80% solution on time that is workable is much better than a 100% solution that never comes.*

## PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS DIRECTOR

### Nomination for Publications & Records Director – Meggan Anderson #4942

Proposed by Robert Main CDAA #4909    Seconded by Peter Wolf CDAA #4419

*The CDAA currently finds itself in a changing landscape and I am putting my hand up to help us find our place. I believe while we need to maintain the core principles of the Association, we also need to adapt and look at other ways of working otherwise we risk losing relevance. In terms of skills and experience for the publications role, I have been Records Officer since late 2015, after many years on a dive club committee. This has afforded me the privilege to communicate with many members and be exposed to the different working of the Association behind the scenes. I am responsible for the records (members and instructors) and with issuing visitor permits. My background in English teaching and writing will ensure that Guidelines and other publications continue to be of a high standard. In terms of the website and electronic records system, my goal is that we have a maintenance solution in place that is sustainable and does not rely on a volunteer.*

*I have a great love for Mount Gambier and I'm there at least once a month. I regularly dive and speak with different members. I would be a visible and approachable director not just to members but also to the locals who share their town with us. I work as a social worker and trainer in the public service. You can therefore be assured that I have strong communication and listening skills and will aim to act with fairness and integrity toward all members.*

**Meggan Anderson has stood unopposed and has successfully been elected for the position of Publications & Records Director.**

# The Ultimate MEXICO Dive Trip

**Set the scene - January 24th to Feb. 7th 2018... Sail Fish feeding, Bull Sharks, Deep Wreck Dives and endless Caves and Caverns across 14 amazing days. Spaces are limited. This is one hell of a trip and if you want to do more in Mexico than just cave diving, this could be just what you've been dreaming of!**

This will be a 2 week all inclusive dive excursion consisting of 25 dives. The first 13 dives will be from the Occidental Grand here in Cozumel over the first 5 day's. Your accommodation is 5 star and situated on the beach of San Francisco, just above the bottomless blue paradise of the Palancar Reef system, you'll find an authentic-style estate that delivers all the luxuries of a private oceanside hacienda. Gourmet dining, bright and airy rooms, nightly music and entertainment, daily sports and beach activities, and an on-site spa and salon make the Occidental Cozumel the jewel of any Mexican experience.

The diving from here is all drift diving as Cozumel has a continuous 2-4 knot current throughout the year. The reefs boast ambience, colour and a verity of beautiful marine life to view while drift diving along the beautiful scenery. Between January and March you can see eagle ray's in small squadrons and solitary gliding through the crystal clear waters along with turtles, swimming morays, Giant sting rays, Nurse sharks, Rainbow Parrot fish and Grouper year-round just to name a few! The reef also boasts some stunning topography which also makes this trip a cavern divers paradise.

10 of the dives will be along deep blue walls, around the stunning colourful reefs and through the caverns Cozumel has to offer. 1 Dive will be on the C-53 wreck which is an EX minesweeper sitting in 80ft of water which is fully penetrable. The other 2 dives will be one night dive and a deep cavern dive to 39m at the world famous dive site, The Devils Throat.

After our 5 nights here, we will transfer back to Playa del Carmen to our second hotel the 4 star Allegro Playacar Resort. From here we will be diving the cenotes of Playa del Carmen and Tulum. The cenotes are flooded freshwater cavern/sink hole/cave systems that are sacred to the Mayan's of Mexico. These underwater systems have crystal clear water with incredible rock formations/decoration from stalactites/stalagmites and beautiful light penetration of the cavern from the natural sunlight. 2 of our 8 dives here will be done in

Mexico's famous sink holes, The Pit and Angelita, two dives that should be on any divers list of sites to see!

This trip includes:

- 5 nights in 5\* Occidental Grand all-inclusive resort on Cozumel
  - 13 dives around Cozumel (nitrox fills included)
  - 9 nights in 4\* Allegro Playacar all-inclusive resort in Playa del Carmen
  - 4 Bull shark dives in Playa del Carmen
  - 8 Cenote dives (2 of these dives will be Mexico's famous 2 sinkholes The Pit and Angelita)
  - 1 Sail fish snorkelling safari
  - All meals and alcohol included with accommodation for 14 nights
  - All transfers included for the entire trip
- US\$3250. 15 spaces total (7 spaces left)

See advert on page 24 of this issue of Guidelines.

## Come stay at the Divers Church, Kongorong

**The Huge open plan living room and kitchen is warmed by a wood burning stove with all the cooking appliances you could ever need.**



- Several sofas, LCD television, DVD, Stereo
  - Bunks for 10, 1 double upstairs
  - Doonas and pillows supplied
  - Drying areas – indoor and out
  - Plenty of parking
  - Trestle tables for teaching/gear setup
  - Large outdoor table and bench seats
  - Private double downstairs
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  - Compressors welcomed
  - Gas BBQ
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- Bring 6 friends and stay for free!**

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[www.debwilliams.com.au](http://www.debwilliams.com.au)



## NEW GEAR

# The Scubapro G2

*Ten years ago, SCUBAPRO's ground-breaking design of its award-winning Galileo dive computer changed diving forever. You simply couldn't get a better full-featured wrist-mount dive computer... Until now.*

With innovative technology and a thoughtful, intuitive design, we created the next generation of the Galileo just for you. Customize your screen, colors, orientation, and even the attachments to make the G2 truly your own. With 4 screen templates, you can see as little or as much dive data as you need.

Whether you like to put it on and go, or closely analyze your dive data, the G2 easily goes where you do – from open water, to freediving, to CCR, to sidemount. It's the perfect computer for every level of diver – offering the ideal combination of features and functions to match your individual style of diving.

With the best digital compass in the industry, you'll always know where you are going.

Even your dive profile is one of a kind – based upon your real-time breathing rate, your skin temperature and your heart rate.

Intuitive, reliable and bulletproof, we've combined what you love about the Galileo SOL with everything you've dreamed of in a dive computer. It's everything you expect from SCUBAPRO in full color.

Spend less time reading manuals, and more time enjoying the experience. The G2 makes diving easy.

### FEATURES:

- Same intuitive menu structure, same simple 3-button control system, and same diver-friendly functions that make the Galileo so easy to use. Enables a seamless transition from the Galileo to the G2. All accessories are reverse compatible as well.
- Full-Color TFT (Thin-Film Transistor) dot matrix display screen. Produces vibrant colors for maximum readability to quickly bring your attention to what you need to know.
- TFT screens use less energy. More efficient than other screen types to help extend battery life.
- See as much or as little as you like. Choice of screen display configurations. Customize your data presentation with Light, Classic, Full and Graphical screen options to suit your individual diving style.
- Customize menu listings. Use as much or as little of the G2 technology as you need—it's your choice.
- Multiple Language Choices. Select from more than 19 languages for receiving dive data.
- Predictive Multi-Gas ZHL-16 ADT MB algorithm. Advanced Uwatec algorithm programs up to 8 nitrox/trimix mixes to handle any recreational or technical diving scenario.
- Integrated heart rate monitor. Measures heartbeat and skin temperature and incorporates both into the workload calculations. Integration with the HRM is exclusive to SCUBAPRO.
- Heart rate monitor also lets you visually track your heart rate "real time" to ensure you stay in your individual target zone to maximize your fun and safety at depth. (Maximum Operating Depth: 197ft/60m)
- Hoseless air integration. Monitors tank pressure plus provides true remaining bottom time (RBT) and allows air consumption to be factored into the decompression calculation. Provides support for up to 9 transmitters when all features are activated.



Each G2 comes packaged with a Transmitter, a SCUBAPRO Heart Rate Belt, a Read First manual, a 3M foil screen protector, a soft box, a USB cable and a retractor clip.

- Improved, full tilt digital compass. The best available. Includes bearing memory.
- Rechargeable battery. Provides up to 50 hours of per charge. Battery must be changed by the dealer.
- Huge 485MB memory. Stores pictures, tables, tissue loading status, and 1,000 hours of dive profiles.
- USB cable or Bluetooth Low Energy interface. Easily download dive data wirelessly to your phone or handheld device. Download dive data to a PC/Mac using LogTRAK software.
- Fiberglass-reinforced thermoplastic slim-line casing. Ultra-durable & UV resistant.
- Multiple dive modes. Scuba, Freediving, Gauge, CCR and Sidemount for total in-water versatility.



### The complete Nova2100 SF set includes:

SCUBAPRO UW light head, wide and narrow Goodman handles, pistol grip handle, wrist lanyard, GoPro adapter, 25Wh lithium-ion rechargeable battery, AC power adapter, charging tray, international plug adapters, spare O-rings, O-ring lubricant, O-ring removal tool, EVA carry case with foam insert and instruction manual. **\$970RRP**



# Documenting Caves in Mexico

A pictorial story by Alison Perkins

*In 2011 I moved to Mexico City. For the farm girl from South Australia it was a real “we’re not in Kansas anymore” experience. It’s estimated that around 26 million people live in Mexico City. Imagine the entire population of Australia living on top of one another. Mind blowing!*

Mexico City was everything you might imagine – chronic traffic congestion, pollution, incessant noise, eye-watering smells (good and bad), stomach bugs and cursed midnight mariachis that wouldn’t shut the f@ck up. If you’re a scuba diver, Mexico is a Catholic nation that sure knows how to deliver on a Hail Mary. The diving opportunities are incredible and varied. Cave divers have access to the world’s longest underwater cave systems. Mexico City is a two hour flight from Cancún, the gateway to cave country in the Yucatán Peninsula. There are enough “tourist” cave diving opportunities to keep you busy for a lifetime in Mexico. For me the real fun started when I became involved in some of the cave mapping and documentation projects of the Quintana Roo region. It feels great to use your cave diving skills to contribute to a team effort that can achieve so much more as a group than you could ever do on your own.

MCEP (Mexico Cave Exploration Project) and CIN-DAQ (Centro Investigador del Sistema Acuífero de Quintana Roo) run a twice-yearly science project out of the Zero Gravity Dive Centre. Visiting scientists from Canada’s McMaster University join up with GUE-trained cave divers from around the world to work together on project goals. Large amounts of data are generated in every one week project.

Each day tasks are assigned to diving teams and they head out to the relevant cenotes. There are sediment traps to collect and replace, tempera-



ture/depth sensors to retrieve, sediment cores to tap, water sampling, and camera traps that need their memory cards switched out. Like me, there are cave divers that return year after year to join in the project.

When my secondment to Mexico City was up I returned to living in New Zealand. The two hour flight to get to the caves became a hell of a lot longer. The caves were no less of a drawcard. Participating in the documentation projects is rewarding and the close friendships forged through shared experiences live on.

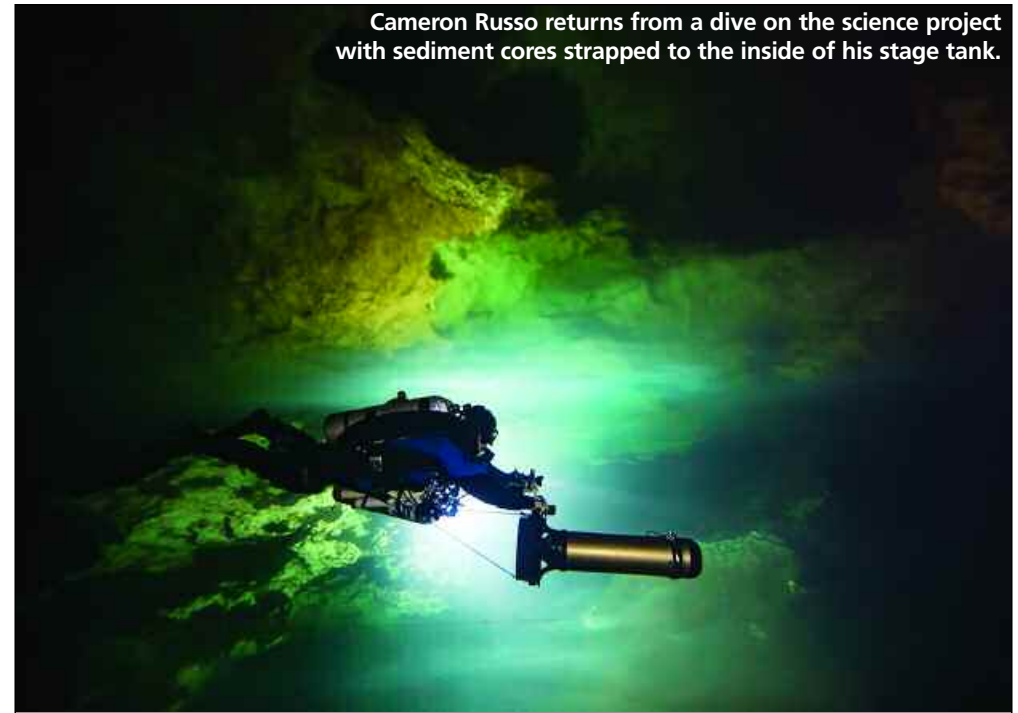
For more cave diving underwater photography from Alison please visit:

[www.inspiredtodive.com](http://www.inspiredtodive.com)

[www.instagram.com/inspired\\_to\\_dive](https://www.instagram.com/inspired_to_dive)

[www.facebook.com/inspiredtodive](https://www.facebook.com/inspiredtodive)

Cameron Russo returns from a dive on the science project with sediment cores strapped to the inside of his stage tank.



Crystal clear water and stalactites are what Mexico cave diving is famous for.





Some cenotes are home to American crocodiles.



Animal footprints, preserved for thousands of years in mud on the cave floor, are one of the newer discoveries from the area.



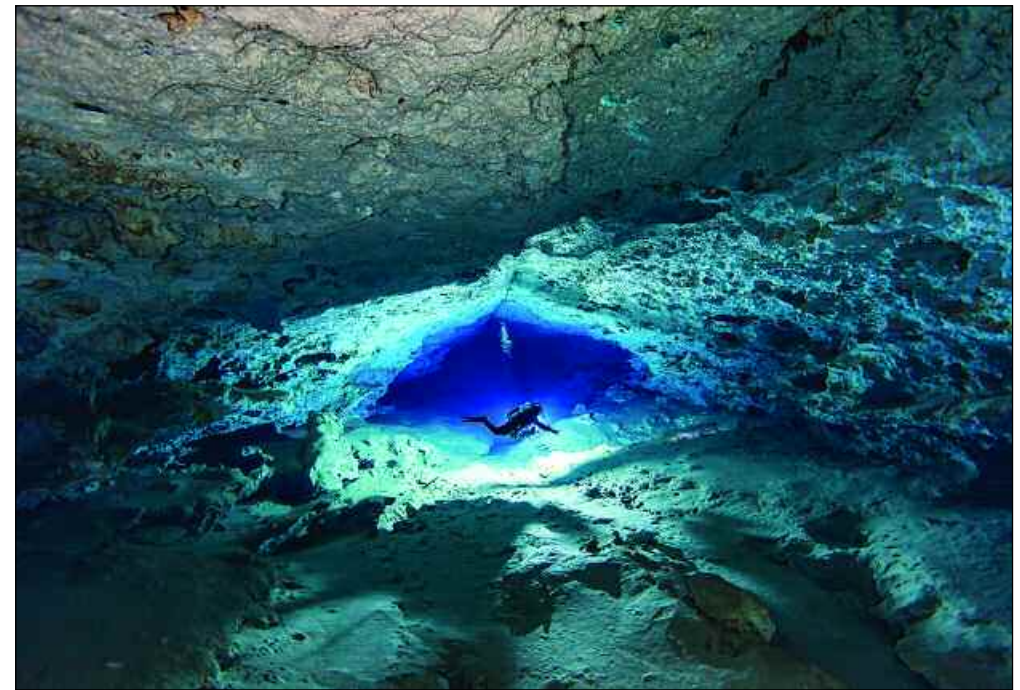
Some cave entrances are small like Cenote Vaca Ha.



Alison switches out the memory card in a remote cenote camera trap by taping the card to the battery of her primary light for travel underwater through the cave.



Tannic water sits on top of fresh water in this dome in cave system Ox Bel Ha.

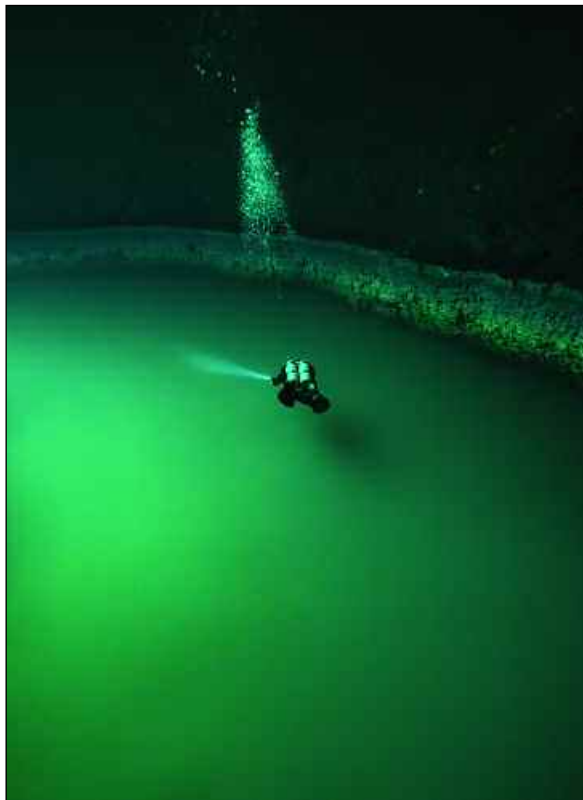


The RB80 (semi-closed circuit rebreather) is a tool that comes with risk but has advantages over open circuit.



Diving skills must be tight around these delicate floor formations.





Mexico has some remarkable sinkholes to match its magnificent cave systems.



Not for arachnophobes – there are tarantulas the size of rats.



Alison Perkins and Cameron Russo at Cenote Nohoch Nah Chich.



Temperature/depth sensors are suspended from chains so that sampling can be done at different depths in the same location.



The caves are natural archaeological sites, containing important bone sites such as this giant ground sloth that is now extinct.



Surface camera traps are used to monitor calcite formation on the water's surface.



It's not easy to bring large core samples safely out of the cave.



A muddy cenote entrance can hide incredible cave diving.



# Cavern Diving with only an Open Water Certification

Story and photos By Dave Bryant.

*Hello all Cave Divers. I know I am preaching to the converted, but, put yourself in my dive boots... if you had the chance to dive in a world class Cenote with just an Open Water certification you'd pretty chuffed, right! I'm not the first one to boast that he got the chance to dive through fresh water caverns in Tulum, but you must admit, it's pretty awesome and an absolute privilege.*

In April 2017 my wife and I took a long-planned trip to Cuba. Our travel route meant our flight was from LA to Cancun and then on to Havana. With such a long flight from Melbourne through to Cancun, (about 22 hours total), my plan was to set aside a few days in Tulum and have a couple of dives in the Cenotes. Better still, we got away from the crowded city and overpriced hotels in Cancun. When I say crowds however, the once small town of Tulum is speedily becoming a tourist mecca so as you can imagine, there is a constant stream of international visitors. The Cenotes, ruins, beaches, seafood, cafes and gift shops mean that tourists are coming here for just a few days but fitting in a hell of a lot of

activity in to their short duration. Divers on the other hand are flocking here because of the over-5000 Cenotes that are located in this part of Mexico. If you're an experienced cave diver, you are in for a treat. If you're an Open Water diver like me, you are also able to access certain sites where there is a good balance of caverns with sunlit exits.

Prior to leaving Australia I had been in contact with a dive guide named Julia who lives in Tulum. After our 15 hour flight to LA followed by 6 hours to Cancun and a two hour bus to Tulum we had pre-arranged to meet Julia and discuss where we would like to dive, or should I say, where we are 'allowed' to dive. The following day we got to know Tulum, enjoyed its cafes



Carwash is a popular training site for students and experienced divers and it's close to Tulum



It's about 120km from Cancun to Tulum, and Cozumel is just east

and restaurants and caught up on some sleep, especially after the free mojitos we got at Happy Hour while staying at The Weary Traveller. The following day we saw the Mayan Ruins which are on the beach, just east of Tulum, and again spend some more time in the town. I tracked down a couple of local dive operators just to get a feel of the facilities in Tulum and to pass on to you what I discovered. Our fourth and final day was planned for an 8am start. Julia picked us up and we drove to get our cylinders. All gear, wetsuits, tanks, dive lights, lunch, drinks, transport and guide services cost us just \$130 USD each.

Our first dive was at Casa Cenote. It's the closest fresh water system to the ocean, and is fed with salt water on the incoming

tide, but it is mostly fresh water. The water clarity depends on the tide so unfortunately we didn't see it at its best. The best thing about this site is the abundance of fish. There are also moray eels and many other salt water species. There are only a couple of cave-like caverns but for a first timer they were exciting, quite large and very dark, and our dive lights came in handy. As a first cavern dive it was a great introduction to the typical Cenote.

From what I have seen on youtube though, the 'typical' cenote is much clearer, much larger and has vastly more cav-



Snorkelling and canoeing is just as popular as diving at Casa Cenote. You'll often see Tarpon near the entrance too

Casa Cenote is a picturesque site, just 100 metres from the sea



erns which lead to stunning caves filled with stalagmites and stalactites. We were told however that as Open Water divers we were limited to the sites we could access.

Our second dive was deeper and far more like a cave dive, or the beginning of. The site called Carwash is a popular training site, and I'm guessing many CDAA members would have dived here during their time in Tulum. It leads to some very nice caves, I was told, but typically it's a crystal clear pond, similar to Ewens Ponds with fragile bottom





*Submerged trees on the at Carwash*

growth and submerged trees with lots of little fish and a resident alligator. To one side is a sloping bank leading to some huge stalagmites, which, for me was an absolute treat to see and photograph. Julia offered me her new 12000 lumen video light which came in very handy, lighting up the 4 metre tall limestone pillars. It also gave me an insight in to how cave divers lay line, and how intricate it is in the process. I have edited a video of my dive with Julia in Carwash.

#### THE LOCAL DIVE SCENE IN TULUM

Initially my search for a dive guide in Tulum led me to JC from Zen Diving. After he had some unexpected family concerns I located another local diver and photographer named Tom St. George via Instagram.

I also asked my friend in Australia, Michael Mallis, but his contact was to be away, so in the end I booked with

Tom and his partner Julia. It went smoothly from there on. We chatted via Messenger in the lead up to us arriving. Julia was a wonderful guide, and very patient. We were new to cavern diving, but not new to fresh water diving. All our planning meant our dives went to plan. Our dive in Casa Cenote lasted well over 90 minutes and a bit less for the dive at Carwash.

On our second day in Tulum I managed to track down two local operators. After studying the street map, we walked several blocks and eventually located Zen Diving. JC was very apologetic and he showed us around his dive store and facilities, which is part of a beautiful little resort. We caught up again with JC for dinner after our two dives and then found out that JC knew Julia, Julia knew someone else, and basically everyone knows everyone in the diving scene in Tulum.



*One of the overhanging caverns at Casa Cenote*



*My wife Miranda chats with Skanda at ProTec*

Additionally we just happened to wander past Speleotech in the back streets. I knocked on the door and was greeted by Bill Phillips. He is a Canadian cave diver and has one of the longest established facilities in Tulum. He has mapped many of the larger Cenotes and over a chat I discovered he is a very laid back local who takes everything in his stride. He is very well respected and runs what seems an excellent dive centre with more than enough gear for divers to rent. His leadership as a dive guide would be second to none I am guessing. He also spoke very highly of Julia as well so I knew we had



*Casa Cenote is a shallow site which offers so much to look at like this moray eel*





*Turtle bones inside one of the caverns at Casa Cenote*

chosen the right dive guide for our needs. Another fantastic dive service in Tulum is ProTec. It's where we got our hire tanks from, and they would have had the best and newest compressors in Tulum. Too many cylinders to count and obviously a very busy and active dive centre. I met Skanda, an Australian Instructor whom by chance I had been chatting to a year prior, from Australia, about a new app called The Global Dive Guide that he and some others in Tulum were constructing. It would seem that if you have to



*A giant calcium pillar dwarfs Julia at Carwash. Photographed with a GoPro4 and 12000 lumen light*

rent tanks or get air fills ProTec is the place to go, but of course there are SO many other dive facilities in Tulum to choose from and heaven knows what everyone else offers in regards to equipment rentals, etc. We met Skanda again later at Carwash with some of his students. It's small world in Tulum, especially in the diving scene.

I only really observed the diving scene for a day or two, so don't take my comments as bible. There are too many independent dive stores, instructors and dive guides to count, and of course with several thousand dive sites, why wouldn't there be! Everywhere you drive, south of Cancun, via Playa Del Carmen and on to Tulum there are countless road side Cenotes.

Some are popular swimming holes or snorkel destinations for tourists who want to cool off. So many are diver-only access locations because they are sinkholes or just not set up for tourists to wander in and go for a swim. If you are planning a trip to Tulum, really do check out the dive sites. Many are by the roadside, but many more have remote locations and as Cave Divers, these are the ones you should aim for.

#### **TULUM SERVICES and ACCOMMODATION**

The general facilities in Tulum are very very good. Accommodation is plentiful. There are countless Backpackers, B&B's, Hotels and Motels, but many are very expensive too. Our room at a very basic hostel was \$40 USD a night with a simple breakfast. The mojitos were free at 6pm too, and they were damn good. A dive centre was next door and they seemed to offer as much diving around Cozumel and Cancun as they did to the Cenotes But Cancun is two hours away so plan to dive here separately. Cafes and restaurants are everywhere. Food is relatively cheap but generally with the US dollar conversion it's pretty much the same as Australian prices, apart from some seafood restaurants which offer prawn dishes for very good rates. One taco place on the main street offered tacos for about 50 cents each but it is always packed as you would expect. Coffee is good, but make sure you go to a good quality cafe. Aussies like cappuccinos and lattes and they are available. Americans drink that black stuff, it's just not right!



*ProTec dive centre*

#### **GETTING TO AND FROM TULUM**

I need to stress a couple of things, but if you've been to Mexico before you will have experienced the tourist traps and sales pitches. Upon arrival in Cancun we wanted to take the ADO Bus to Tulum. Oh, the first bus doesn't go until 9am, bummer. How about a taxi?... just \$80 USD. The bus is just \$15 each... If it's just you and a mate, get the bus. A diving group would have already organised a shuttle transfer or you can get one as soon as you exit the arrivals area. Cancun airport has three departure gates, T1 is for domestic flights, T2 and T3 are for the international flights. The ADO Bus calls in to all three Gates and operates about every 40 minutes from 9am. The one-way fare to Tulum, via Playa del Carmen is just 220



*Streets of Tulum*

pesos or about \$15 USD per person. Don't get sucked in by the overwhelming amount of hawkers trying to sell you a taxi... or go in guns blazing and bargain the hell out of them. You will save 25 to 30% on a taxi fare as we did after we met a couple of Aussie gals and shared a taxi with them. Ok it was more than the bus but much quicker.

After we came back from Cuba, a guy offered the ADO bus to Cancun city for \$12 USD each, but we knew that the actual cost if you buy at the ticket booth is just 73 pesos per person or about \$5. The bus zone was only a stones throw away but for him it was about making a few extra dollars.

#### **DIVING IN CANCUN**

Don't expect lavish dive sites in Cancun, but if you like a couple of shallow reef dives with exceptional fish life, then the Underwater Museum and Reef is just perfect for a double dive and a finish to a great dive holiday. I dived with Coconut Divers, just near our hotel (mentioned below). A double dive is just \$93 USD including all gear, tanks, water on board and a 3-hour time on the water. The Museum dive was very nice and only in 10 metres of water. The reef had stacks of fish and very clear water. A second dive centre based at the resort we stayed at offered the same deal but for just \$85. They had a larger 28 foot dive boat which picked you up directly from the hotel beach front. They also offered a slightly deeper reef dive for \$65 USD with all gear. It's a better reef with turtles and black tip sharks, and more fish. There is also a deep wreck dive too if you're interested.

Whale Sharks are from May til October - best from June til September. Day trips cost \$150 including return transport, boat trip, drinks, lunch, snorkel gear. This was quoted from the dive centre at Dos Playas Hotel. Typically it's a 7.30am departure, full day and the bus ride is 90 minutes to and from the Boat. Cavern diving day-trips from Cancun cost \$185 USD with all gear, dive lights, lunch, drinks, transfers. It's full



*Bil Phillips at his home based dive centre*



day trip but chances are you will dive the sites just south of Playa Del Carmen, and not the sites near Tulum. Most Cavern sites are a 10 metre max depth and the trip is suitable for open water divers.

### STAYING IN CANCUN

If you plan to visit Cancun, aim to stay as close to the city as possible. The Hotel 'strip' is simply huge and a bit overwhelming. It's like Las Vegas but on the ocean front and about 20 km's long from north to south. We stayed at a hotel called Dos Playas. It was very reasonable, about \$90 a night, but food is extra. Some other hotels were double that and didn't include breakfast. Dos Playas isn't huge like the others, it is right on the public bus zone and you can get a ticket to the city for just 12 pesos per person, about 20 cents! The pool, the beach, the restaurant and the overall facilities was exceptional. Dinner was \$15 USD for a general set menu. Some nights have a theme, such as Mexican, Cuban, etc. Cancun is just a 10 minute bus ride away and other restaurant options are 10 minutes south along the hotel zone. The sky is the limit as to the food options. Bubba Gump, Mexican, even a real Aussie Steakhouse!

### GETTING TO & FROM CANCUN CITY / HOTELS

The location from the airport to the centre of Cancun is a 30 minute bus ride, and for only \$5 one-way. From here there are countless public buses but the main ones that will take you down the Hotel strip are the R1 and R2. They are well signed on the windscreen and cost just 20 cents one-way. Tell the driver where you're staying and he will stop near your hotel.

### GETTING TO CANCUN AIRPORT FOR AN EARLY FLIGHT

Dos Playas Hotel had a great location which made getting to the airport a little easier for our early morning flight. The first ADO bus leaves the city depot at 4.30am which meant we also had to catch a taxi from our hotel to the depot for about \$10. Taxis are quite regular, even at 4am and they all want a quick, easy fare, but you can get it for half if you bargain a little. The quoted rate on internet chat sites says a taxi to the airport could be \$35-\$40 USD. We found that the 4.30am bus got us there on time and overall we saved about \$60 as we had two flights ex Cancun.

**NOTE:** You should pre-book the ADO bus the day before! By 5.15am you'll be at the airport as we did for our 7am flight back to Los Angeles.



*Dinner out with Divers. Our dive guide Julia far left.*

If you want to see my videos of diving at Casa Cenote and Carwash, just go to YouTube and type in **seapics-davebryant**. There's also a video of the reef dives I did in Cancun. Happy viewing, and thanks for reading!



*Cars, cars, cars - Havana, Cuba, if you want an add-on!*










*Underwater Museum dive*



*Cancun Reef dive was so abundant*

# 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) Worring 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: 0412 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			 POOLE, Andrew (CDAA 2208) Mob: 0417 040 020 E: andrew@poole.com.au	Yes	Yes	



# CDAA SITE ACCESS - [www.cavedivers.com.au](http://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	Groups of 6 or more, phone DEWNR on (08) 8735 1177 for booking. Smaller groups, no need.
Gouldens	CN	DEWNR	Phone DEWNR on (08) 8735 1177 for booking.
2 Sisters	CN	DEWNR	Generate a DEWNR Permit from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> 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 <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> for their students and submit to DEWNR before use of the site.
Fossil	C		
Piccaninnie Ponds	S	DEWNR	Bookings can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a>
Horse & Cart Tea Tree	CN CN	Dale & Heather Perkins Dale & Heather Perkins	Phone (08) 8738 4083 or email <a href="mailto:dhperkins@bigpond.com">dhperkins@bigpond.com</a> at least 24 hours in advance.
Little Blue	S	District Council of Grant	Booking can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> .
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 <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . Show ForestrySA Permit to obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Ctr.
Pines	C/AC	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . Cave Rated divers cannot enter Advanced Cave Section of Pines.
Mud Hole	C	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a>
Nettle Bed	AC	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . Show ForestrySA Permit to obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Ctr.
Stinging Nettle Cave	AC	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . Show ForestrySA Permit to obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Ctr.
Iddlebiddy	AC	Forestry SA	Bookings can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . Show ForestrySA Permit to obtain key from Lady Nelson Tourist Ctr.
Kilsby's	S	Graham Kilsby	Bookings can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> .

# CDAA SITE ACCESS - [www.cavedivers.com.au](http://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 (continued)</b> The Shaft	S/C	Trevor Ashby	Booking can be made online from <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . 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 <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> and email to <a href="mailto:council@wattlerange.sa.gov.au">council@wattlerange.sa.gov.au</a> . 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 <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . An email to the Tank Cave officer is required to dive. Booking Officer is Noel Dillon Email: <a href="mailto:tankcave@cavedivers.com.au">tankcave@cavedivers.com.au</a>
Baker's Cave	C	Janet & Bruce Saffin	Bookings can be made online at <a href="http://www.cavedivers.com.au">www.cavedivers.com.au</a> . An email to the Tank Cave officer is required to dive. Booking Officer is Matthew Skinner. Email: <a href="mailto:bakerscave@cavedivers.com.au">bakerscave@cavedivers.com.au</a> Climbing equipment required. One member must have previous dive experience at site.
<b>NULLARBOR - WA</b>			
Cocklebidy	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.
Olwolgol Cave	AC	WA Department of Lands	Miss Shannon Alford, Email: <a href="mailto:Shannon.alford@lands.wa.gov.au">Shannon.alford@lands.wa.gov.au</a> 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.
<b>WELLINGTON CAVES - NSW</b>			
Limekiln (McCavity) Cave	C/AC	Wellington Caves Management	Access coordinated by Greg Ryan Email: <a href="mailto:giryan@gmail.com">giryan@gmail.com</a> 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: <a href="mailto:giryan@gmail.com">giryan@gmail.com</a> Ph: (02) 9743 4157 Affected by high CO <sub>2</sub> levels during Summer/Autumn.