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C.D.A.A. Newsletter

No. 161 - SEPTEMBER 2022



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Front Cover:

Brock Hayden
in Kilsby's.

Photo by
Kerrie Burow.

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ABN 65 062 259 956

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

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

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CONTACT LIST

Please contact the most relevant person or, if unsure write to:
C.D.A.A. P.O. Box 544 Mt Gambier SA 5291 www.cavedivers.com.au

NATIONAL DIRECTOR - Grant Pearce
Email: national@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0438 833 103

Science Officer - Ian Lewis Mobile: 0427 284 051
Email: ian.lewis2@sa.gov.au

Media Contact - Rick Nash Mobile: 0413 083 644
Email: national@cavedivers.com.au

Risk Officer - Rick Nash Mobile: 0413 083 644
Email: national@cavedivers.com.au

Search & Rescue Officer - Richard Harris
Email: info@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0417 177 830
Phil Croker 0423 393 347

STANDARDS DIRECTOR - Joseph Monks Mobile: 0409 792 480
Email: standards@cavedivers.com.au

Quality Control Officer - Tim Featonby Mobile: 0402 129 253
Email: quality@cavedivers.com.au

BUSINESS DIRECTOR - Benn Walton Mobile: 0412 751 873
Email: business@cavedivers.com.au

CDAA Products - Email: info@cavedivers.com.au

Bookkeeper - Vacant Email: business@cavedivers.com.au

SITE DIRECTOR - Kelynn Ball Mobile: 0428 842 259
Email: site@cavedivers.com.au

Mapping Officer - Tim Payne
Email: tim@divessentials.com Mobile: 0448 147 927

Tank Cave Booking Officer - Damian Bishop
Email: damian.bishop@live.com.au Mobile: 0433 345 743

Kilsbys Booking Officer - Craig Larkin
Email: kilsby@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0418 821 191

Lady Nelson Booking Officer - Corrie Harry
Email: corrie@scubacapers.com Mobile: 0400 008 460

Shaft Booking Officer - Gary Barclay
Email: garinda@bigpond.com Mobile: 0407 527 921

Bakers Booking Officer - Kelynn Ball
Email: site@cavedivers.com.au Mobile: 0428 842 259

Little Blue Booking Officer - Email: site@cavedivers.com.au

PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS DIRECTOR - Nathalie Mahler
Email: publications@cavedivers.com.au - Mobile: 0452 002 893

Records Officer - Brendan Moore Mobile 0407183522
Email records@cavedivers.com.au

Guidelines - Graphics & Advertising - David Bryant
Email: seapics.davebryant@gmail.com - Mobile: 0417 125 710

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

ACT: Ryan Post. Mob: 0439 855 067 Email: ryan@ryanpost.com.au
NSW: Matthew Pridham. Mob: 0410 598 859. Email: matt.pridham@yahoo.com.au
N.T.: Jeffrey SWANN. Mob: 0419 561 515 Email: jeff@darwin.ortho.com.au
QLD: Ben SHIELD. Mob: 0405 260 276 Email: benray80@hotmail.com
SA: Damian BISHOP. Mob: 0433 345 743 Email: damian.bishop@live.com.au
WA: Jamie HARDWICK Mob: 0488 552 427
Email: jhardwick@scubaimports.com.au
VIC: Benn Walton Mob: 0412 751 873 Email: bennwalton@hotmail.com

Public Officer - Andrew Seifried Mob: 0404 275 637
Email: info@cavedivers.com.au

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.
Name Insured: Cave Divers Association of Australia Inc. Policy# 441680
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Pine Tank Lodge



Photo by Liz Rogers

Lodge Features:

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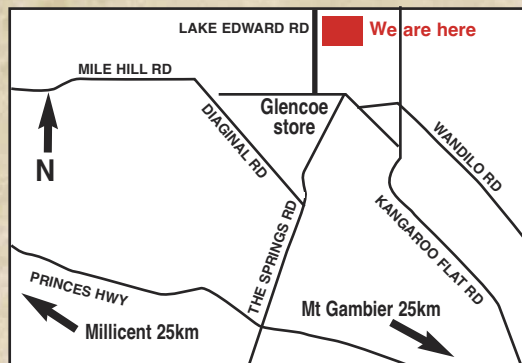
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Pine Tank Dive Lodge AquiferTec Australasia

Lake Edward Rd Glencoe, Sth Australia
Mobile: 0438 833 103
Email: stay@ptdivelodge.on.net
Email: admin@aquifertec.com.au
Web: aquifertec.com.au



Publications Report Nathalie Mahler

Hope you're all doing well and as excited for some warmer weather as I am. Nothing much has changed on the publications front, as always I'm very thankful for all the assistance I get that keeps us up and running, particularly Benn and Brendan who spent a little extra time helping me out in July as I enjoyed a really exciting trip to the Nullarbor.

Coming up on the end of the year, we're focused on organising ourselves for Oztek as well as the AGM. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you there. As we're approaching the AGM, I'd encourage everyone to spend some time looking at the candidates and voting. Thank you to all the interim directors who stepped in over the course of the year, I know it's not been the easiest and it really has been a big time commitment.

As always, any photos or exciting stories please don't hesitate to forward them to me to share with the rest of the members.

Nathalie Mahler (#5413)
Publications & Records Director

AGM - Symposium ~ 5 & 6 Nov. 2022.

Nominations to be received no less than 45 days before polling date!

Venue - 'Dress Circle'

(to my understanding still the same complex, just a different room).

With travel restrictions lifted, we're looking to bring divers back together in person this year.

More details will follow and be communicated to members as things are confirmed.

If you are interested in presenting at the symposium, please send expressions of interest along with a brief summary to publications@cavedivers.com.au.

Did you know?

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Simply Log in and Edit your Membership Details by these steps...

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Articles for Guidelines Dec. 2022 - Deadline is November 18th

- Send articles and jpeg images by email to seapics.davebryant@gmail.com •

National Committee Update

SEPTEMBER 2022

Hi folks.

With Covid restrictions easing it's great to see our members diving more. By way of an update, there has been a change of administration, with Joe Monks stepping in as acting Standards Director, and myself stepping in as acting National Director. On behalf of the National Committee, I would like to thank both Tim Featonby and Rick Nash for their service. Whilst the previous Guidelines issue mentioned a potential merger with ACE, we have since been advised by our Lawyers and Insurer that the proposed merger was not in the best interest of the CDAA. In addition, a significant number of members instigated formal complaints against the merger, citing several constitutional breaches that would have resulted.

Several former ACE members have re-joined, and many more have commenced their cross-over process to become CDAA members, we would like to welcome you aboard.

I would like to encourage you all to attend this year's Annual General Meeting, with several excellent speakers lined up, and some very exciting news to be exclusively revealed about a new discovery. Dr. Harry is running another SROP course, with the local SES involved.

There are a number of National Committee positions up for voting this year, please show your support for your preferred candidates via the online voting process when you receive your invitation to vote.

Next year our 50th CDAA Anniversary is shaping up to be our best ever. If you would like to be involved in this momentous milestone as

either a presenter or help in the organising you are most welcome, please register your interest with the National Committee.

Oztek is on during October 1-2 this year, and we will have a booth in place, with members giving presentations. Feel free to come by for a chat, maybe enquire about a crossover course or pick up some CDAA merchandise. Hope to see you there.

Grant Pearce, CDAA 1382
Acting National Director



On behalf of the National Committee



Benn Walton,
Business Director



Kelvyn Ball,
Site Director



Joseph Monks,
Standards Director



Nathalie Mahler,
Publications and
Records Director

Standards Report

Joseph Monks

Hello Team,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself for those who don't know me. My name is Joseph Monks, and I am currently standing in as the Standards Director until the upcoming election at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, I previously held this position prior to the last election.

It is a great honour, but a full-time commitment being a director for the CDAA. Anyone who has held one of these positions, no matter whether it has been a day, a year, or multiple terms, can attest that there is a lot of work and time involved. So, in that spirit I would like to thank the out-going directors for all their hard work and time in their roles, and a big thanks to those who are currently holding temporary positions until the AGM. Best of luck to the people running for positions this year, I know the members will appreciate your nomination and if successful, your term in office.

As for the role of Standards Director, it's all going great so far. I have been inundated with new and upgrading students/members, so a huge congratulations to them. We have also had lots of members returning to the CDAA, and daily I am told about trips being organised to Mt Gambier and the Nullarbor. Fingers crossed the COVID crisis has now reached a point where we can live with it, and it will no longer disrupt our lives and travel plans.

There have been some recent updates to the Regulations so I would advise all members to refresh their knowledge when time permits.

We have several instructors either joining the CDAA or up-skilling. These members are a key part of the CDAA as they are representatives and ambassadors for us and the sport.

We have some very interesting projects coming up in the next few years as I take on the role of Australian Research Council (ARC) Liaison Officer. I will be working alongside Griffith University, Dr Julien Louys, and other Universities and museums across Australia, assisting with co-ordinating and diving, to collect data and materials from the underwater environment. It's very exciting stuff, and we hope to have many members helping out as it will be available to all levels of diving.

As many of you know, Oztek is fast approaching, and is being held in Melbourne this year; the CDAA will be attending. Please feel free to come along and have a chat and support the CDAA. There will be merchandise for sale and maps on display. Hope to see many of you there.

I will finish now with a thought-provoking quote as it is our 50th anniversary next year in 2023- "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

George Santayana

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Joseph Monks #4653

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Business Report

Benn Walton

Hi Members,
We have finally turned the corner and look to be heading into warmer weather and longer days after another cold wet winter of gearing up in a forest, the middle of a paddock or on the side of the road. Bring on the flies and hot winds! As we move toward the latter part of the year OZtek & the AGM/Symposium planning remain the main items on the list. The CDAA stand at this years OZtek is shaping up nicely and should be a great base for members and non-members alike to drop in and catch up on the latest info and goings on, we look forward to seeing you there in October.

Members will have the opportunity to vote for several candidates across three director positions this year via digital voting, details of which are within this edition of guidelines, I urge everyone to take the time to read the precis submitted and put forward their vote. I would also like to thank the previous and interim directors for their time and input as well as the candidates who have put up their hands to chip in and help the CDAA continue into its 50th year!

Cheers,
Benn Walton, Business Director. #4671



Site Report

Kelvyn Ball

Hello All,

Looking forward to the Next AGM, as we all know COVID-19 hasn't allowed us to have a person to person AGM for a couple of years now, so see you all in person in November. Thank you to all the past and present Director's for all the long hours and hard work associated behind the scenes and thank you to all that have nominated for the forthcoming positions. Great to see there are a few in each Position up for Vote.

OZTEK is also around the corner in Melbourne and will be a great event and place for members to catch up. Unfortunately, it is the same date as a family wedding and so I won't be able to make it sorry but will catch up with everyone at the AGM instead. Enjoy this wonderful event that celebrates our sport.

On the Dive Site front, always continually talking and negotiating with Landowners about access, maintenance etc.

A new regulation from Kilsby's has been added. A cancellation policy has been added

for any bookings for less than 21 days. Please be aware of this when booking your spots. Working Bee coming up for Tank Cave to help with the installation of the toilet amenities and general tidy up. Email will be sent out when the date is organised.

Just a quick reminder to always check booking and access details before diving, may be new regulations or directions added. Huge shout out to our BOOKING OFFICERS, who do a fantastic job logging and checking bookings and opening new dates for divers as needed. Thank you for your dedicated time and effort. This is often a daily task that goes unnoticed by many as to how many hours are required on top of their normal job. Again, Thank you.

Safe Diving to all,
KELVYN BALL
CDAA SITE DIRECTOR

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CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 2022

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Nomination for National Director: Michelle Doolan #4710

Proposed by: Jane Bowman #1880 Seconded by: Ben Claydon #4826

NOMINATION STATEMENT:

Dear members,

I am a passionate cave diving explorer who has been with the CDAA for over 10 years, with cave diving experience around Australia and internationally in Mexico, Dominican Republic, USA, South Africa, Indonesia and Vanuatu. Having trained and explored across the globe with the CDAA, TDI and IANTD as a current trimix-CCR advanced cave diver, I am keen on growing and diversifying the organisation.

Specifically;

- Future proofing the Instructor cohort.
- Actively engaging and encouraging new members into the cave diving worlds we so love.
- Strengthening relationships with stakeholders around Australia to increase site access for all members, whilst benefiting the local communities in which we operate.
- Improving transparency across decision making processes within the committee, to ensure an equitable governance structure.

I believe I am suitable for the role of National Director as:

- I am a senior chartered engineer and team leader, working on major rail infrastructure projects, with capabilities in risk management, stakeholder relations and large capital project delivery.
- I have a double degree in Environmental (Civil) Engineering and Arts (Geography) with an understanding for balancing the key needs of conservation in line with sustainable development.
- I am a diving instructor and understand the importance of quality, consistency and safety in teaching.
- I have previous volunteer experience in a board environment as an Operations Manager and have held presidential roles in scuba diving clubs.

It would be an honour to support and grow the CDAA going forward.

Michelle Doolan #4710.

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 2022

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Nomination for National Director: Grant Pearce #1382

Proposed by: Andrew Seifried #2941 Seconded by: Mathew Rochford #4827

NOMINATION STATEMENT:

Dear members,

I would like to offer this nomination of Grant Pearce as a candidate for National Director.

Grant is an active CDAA Member for 35+ years. and once served as Site Director (Approx. 2013) during which he participated in the exploration, surveying, and eventual access to Olwolgin Cave. He managed the Blue Lake explorations and CDAA Piccaninnie Ponds Deep Survey (Fed Govt funded) and was involved in explorations across the Cook Islands. As a professional consulting Engineer and Groundwater Scientist, Grant offers experience in corporate risk management, strategic planning, and policy development, i.e., with Forestry SA as Manager of Corporate Risk, and with the Department for Water (SA Govt), SE Mt Gambier Manager Groundwater Science.

He served as principal environment and risk consultant with Parson Brinkerhoff and PPK working in SA, China, and Malaysia. Grant is an IANTD CCR Instructor, ratings include full CCR Trimix. As a groundwater scientist, Grant is an active researcher in Karstic origins and development, which he applies to unconfined aquifers and those in which we dive. He is currently assisting with new site access for members and would like to see more instructors, and our training standards upgraded. He is acting as National Director looking forward to a period of stability, whilst also growing our membership.

The 2022 polling date closes Friday, 28th October.

Voting will be conducted via an electronic ballot according to instructions to be sent via email to members. To be eligible to vote you must be a current member of the Association.

The electronic ballot must be completed by close of business, Friday, 28th October 2022 for management of the Returning Officer (Darren Walters #3555).

Detailed voting information will be provided via email.

Questions may be directed to Darren Walters, Returning Officer at waltersd_nbn@iinet.net.au or Benn Walton, Business Director at business@cavedivers.com.au

Please note that Australia Post quote 2-6 days for standard delivery from capital cities to Mount Gambier.

Detailed voting information will be provided with the ballot papers.

Questions may be directed to the Returning Officer at waltersd_nbn@iinet.net.au.

Benn Walton, Business Director - business@cavedivers.com.au.

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 2022

STANDARDS DIRECTOR

Nomination for Standards Director: Ryan Duchatel #4983

Proposed by: Jane Bowman #1880 Seconded by: Mary-Anne McLeod #5011

NOMINATION STATEMENT:

As a long-time member of the CDAA I wish to put my nomination forward for Standards Director. Having been an active member of the CDAA since 2013, I am incredibly passionate about cave diving and helping grow our cave diving community. Through this commitment to the CDAA I have recently become the newest CDAA Basic Cave Instructor. Professionally, I am a PhD qualified scientist, and deal day-to-day in laboratory occupational health and safety, research ethics and standards, giving me the appropriate foundation to take on this role effectively.

Diving is ever evolving; with new technologies and increased skill levels allowing divers to continue to push the boundaries of exploration, leading to the discovery of wonderful new sites, even as recently as the new areas of Tank Cave. With this, standards must also evolve and keep up with our rapidly progressing sport.

I hope to contribute to the role of Standards Director of the CDAA through ensuring standards are maintained at a high level and are in line with the progressing standards of cave diving internationally. To do this, we will engage the greater CDAA Instructor body, and in collaboration with divers at the top end of our sport, ensure the CDAA remains relevant into the future and continues as a peak body of cave diving internationally.

Lastly I have the time, motivation and passion to assist the CDAA forwards into its next phase of life.

Ryan Duchatel – CDAA #4983

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 2022

STANDARDS DIRECTOR

Nomination for Standards Director: Chris Edwards #2247

Proposed by: Phil Croker #3124 Seconded by: Paul Wembridge #4714

NOMINATION STATEMENT:

I have been an active member for 32 years, am qualified at Advanced Cave level and a current Instructor at Cave level. I also hold Trimix certifications for both open circuit and re-breather. During the 90s I was Publications and Records Director implementing the CDAA's first website and electronic database. I work in the Television sector as both a Director and Editor, a job that requires both team and leadership skills. It requires a capacity to weigh all options and fairly evaluate before making decisions, all skill sets transferable to the Standards role.

As a key to the future growth of our sport, I believe more work is needed to position the CDAA as the authority in cave diving training in Australia, whilst being the centre point of hard-earned trust with our land owners, managers and members alike. Diving technology continues to advance in several areas such as CCR, and so I am keen to see further advancement in our training standards to reflect this type of progression.

In co-operation with the existing Instructor body and National Committee, I would also like to explore innovative ways to increase our instructor numbers.

If elected I will do my absolute best to ensure that all decisions are made in the best interests of the majority of the members so that we can all do what we most want to do. That is, go diving safely.

Chris Edwards – CDAA #2247

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Questions may be directed to the Returning Officer at waltersd_nbn@inet.net.au.

Benn Walton, Business Director - business@cavedivers.com.au.

**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 2022**

STANDARDS DIRECTOR

Nomination for Standards Director: Joseph (Josip) Bicanic #4691

Proposed by: Damian Bishop #4738 Seconded by: Craig Challen #2993

NOMINATION STATEMENT:

Dear Members,

The CDAA has grown so much since its inception. I'm proud to be a CDAA Instructor and especially enjoy teaching about CDAA history and it's success's in increasing safety and especially reducing fatalities.

As Standards Director I'd like to tweak this well-oiled machine and as I'm both a CDAA and TDI Cave Instructor I would view this both from a national and international perspective.

For those of us not based in Vic or SA we affectionally call it the CDAA of Mt Gambier as, understandably, the training and its outcomes are Mt Gambier focused (where it all began). However courses in the Mount are vastly different to say a course on the Nullarbor. There are several approved minor variations to courses when run on the Nullarbor compared to Mt Gambier and although these variations are passed on verbally or in email, these changes are not officially documented and this is an example of what I'd like to update.

Our current Standards generally reflect sister agencies equivalency. However there are enough grey areas that need clarification which in turn would aid CDAA members when travelling overseas.

So why vote for me:

- CDAA Member 2011, Instructor Since 2014.*
- TDI Full Cave, Stage Cave, Advanced Side Mount (Cave Specialty) and CCR Instructor.*
- Facilitate Nullarbor Expeditions.*
- Worked closely with John Dalla-Zuanna on the 2018 updates for Basic Cave and Cave courses.*
- I will bring my "Can Do" attitude that I apply in my Dive Instructing and Curtain Business's to the position of Standards Director. Joseph (Josip) Bicanic*

Joseph (Josip) Bicanic – CDAA #4691

**CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 2022**

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

Nomination for Business Director: Ben Claydon – CDAA #4826

Proposed by: Rohan Flack – CDAA #5045 Seconded by: Luke Carden – CDAA #4814

NOMINATION STATEMENT:

Application for Business Director (National Committee), Cave Diving Association of Australia Dear members,

I have owned several businesses over the last 30 years of my career with a wide diversity such as one of Australia's largest big screen rental companies – with hundreds of employees and offices nation-wide – down to a tiny forklift rental company where I did everything including being the 'floor-sweeper.'

I am an Advanced Cave Diver and an instructor of people who like to dive in the salt water. Having been introduced to cave diving, certifying nearly a decade ago, I must say I much prefer the refreshing fresh water of caves.

I believe I would add value the CDAA by combining these two passions as a potential Business Director on the National Committee.

My focus with the CDAA will be to ensure;

- All governance obligations are met*
- Promising ideas are executed on behalf of all CDAA members*
- A strategic business plan is developed over the next 12 months*
- The CDAA stays on track and to work as a cohesive and successful association*

I believe in the CDAA; specifically - its relevance, history, importance to cave diving and community. Your vote will be much appreciated.

Ben Claydon – CDAA #4826

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Benn Walton, Business Director - business@cavedivers.com.au.

CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 2022

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

Nomination for Business Director: Mathew Rochford – CDAA #4827

Proposed by: Grant Pearce – CDAA #1382 Seconded by: Meggan Anderson – CDAA #4942

NOMINATION STATEMENT:

In submitting my candidacy for the role of Business Director, I seek to again bring my experience as professional manager to the National Committee.

My professional life has provided me with extensive experience in enterprise risk management, governance, strategy, operations, finance, and policy. Furthermore, I hold an IT degree and an MBA. I joined the professional ranks of the dive industry in 2009, the CDAA in 2013, and now a PADI instructor; I bring broad experience in the dive industry and extensive travel experience from Mount Gambier, the Nullarbor, and Mexico to the role.

In seeking to return to the National Committee, I wish to continue development of the association's business plan, electronic voting reforms, and product refresh. I believe our association needs to continue its efforts to make strategy, goals, financial position, and planning be reflective of members' wishes, transparent and accountable.

I continue to see the benefits for more extensive use of technology, to engage members in planning, decision making and particularly voting.

Our association has faced a range of challenges over the last few years, and I believe my professional background in governance, risk, and change management would serve to streamline processes and clearly define strategic and governance parameters.

Having previously served on the National Committee and driven significant constitutional change through adoption of digital voting, I have gained insight to the association and believe I can make a positive difference.

I am seeking your backing to allow me to again serve as your Business Director.

Mathew Rochford – CDAA #4827

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Pic: Alison Perkins
2019 OZTek
Cave Category

OZTek
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OZTEK.COM.AU

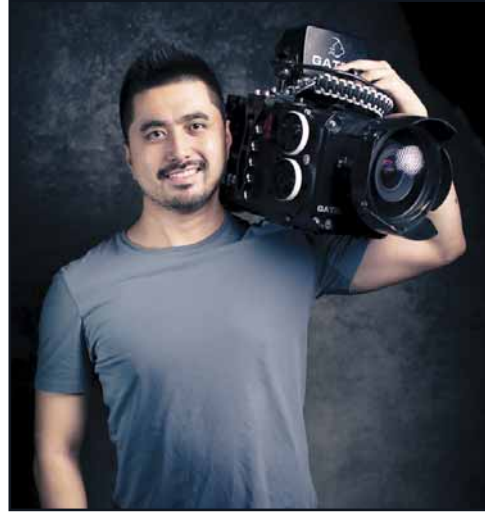
OZDive Show '22
OZDIVESHOW.COM.AU

P O R T F O L I O

Fan Ping is a Chinese photographer and filmmaker based in Atlanta, USA. He specializes in combining artistic elements with nature and complex lighting skills in overhead environments, and this artistic style has brought him international acclaim, including awards from many major underwater photo and video competitions.

- Commended in Wide-angle category, Underwater Photographer of the Year 2022;
- Film selected by 18th International Ocean Film Festival;
- Film selected by 2020 Swiss UW Festival;
- Silver award DPG/Wetpixel Master Underwater Imaging 2020;
- 1st place in Video category, MIDE Lens Beyond Ocean 2018;
- 2nd place in Wide-angle category, DEEP Indonesia 2018;
- 2nd place in Wide-angle category, Underwater Photographer of the Year 2018;
- 1st place in II Mare category, See in the Sea Underwater Photo Competition 2017;
- 1st place in Story category, first EPNF China Wild Life Photo Competition 2017;
- 3rd place in Human Interaction category, United Nations World Ocean Day Photo 2017;
- Grand award and 3rd place in Nature and Color category, UWPixel China Underwater Photo 2016;
- 1st place in Wide-angle category, ADEX China Underwater Photo Competition 2015.

Ping has been focused on underwater cave photography in the recent years, and joined



KUR (Karst Underwater Research) as a photographer/videographer to document the beautiful springs of Florida. He believes "In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught," and hopes people will fall in love with the underwater world through his lens. The name of his studio "Be Water Imaging" is inspired by Bruce Lee. He wants to be formless yet powerful as a cave diver and photographer, just like water, and eventually be able to push the boundaries of underwater photography. Please check out more of his work and his Underwater Cave Photography course at: www.bewaterimaging.com

Facing page: **Devil's Ear at Ginnie Springs.**

Page 22: **Gallery at Ginnie Springs.**

Page 23: **Fissure on Sweet Surprise line at Ginnie Springs.**



BE WATER



Buford Spring cavern.





Facing page:

Window 1300' at Ginnie Springs.

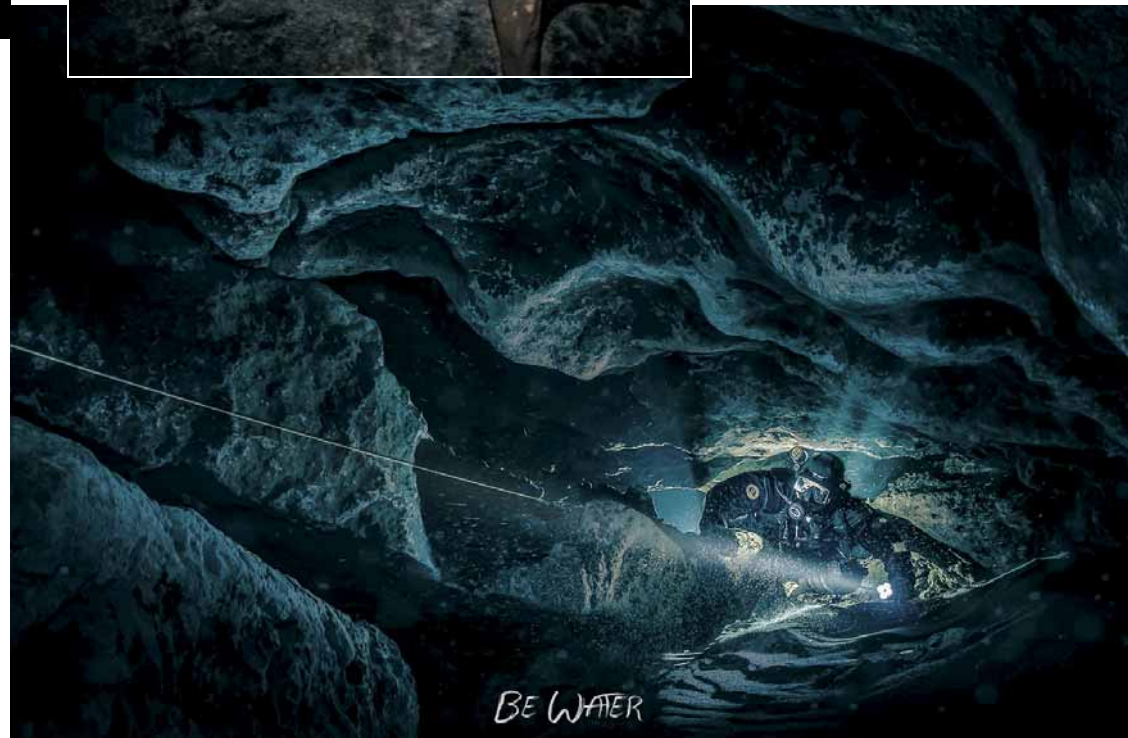
Bedding plane at Jug Hole.

Peacock 1 Spring cavern.

This page:

Whale Bone at Ginnie Springs.

Diamond Sands restriction
at Jug Hole.





Salem Express Shipwreck

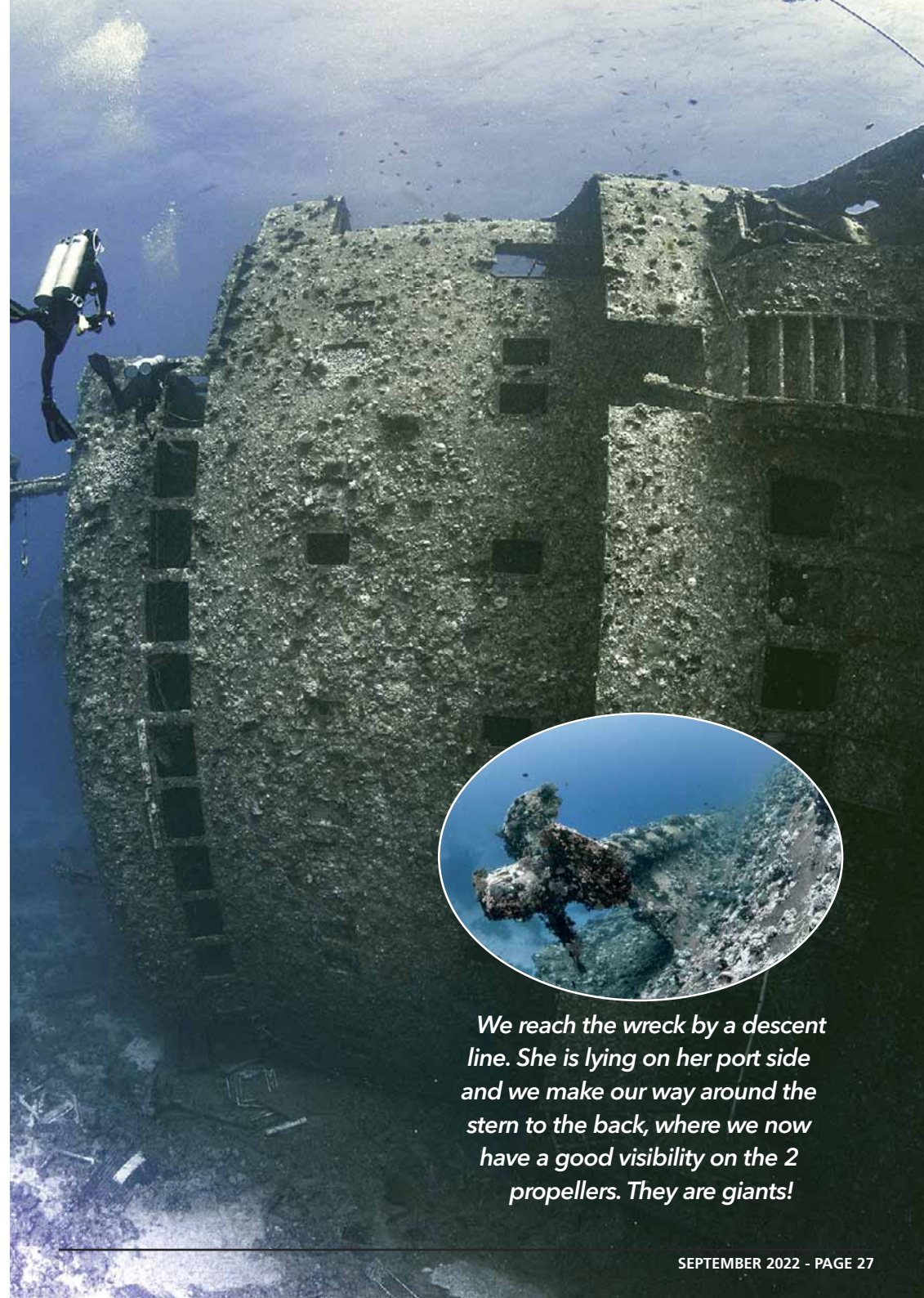
Story and Photos by Kurt Storms.

The Salem Express was launched in France in June 1965 under the name 'Fred Scamaroni' a member of the French resistance of WWII. The owner of the ship was The Compagnie Generale Transatlantique. She was a roll-on, roll-off ferry for vehicles and passengers in the Mediterranean. In June 1966 it began sailing its first route between Marseille-Ajaccio after being delayed for a fire in the engine room. The Ship was 115m long and 18m wide. She was sold in 1988 to the Samatour shipping company and started running trips between Safaga and Jeddah under the name 'Salem Express'.

In 1991 Salem Express began sailing her usual 450 mile journey from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to Safaga, Egypt. The Trip would take about 36 hours where it was intended to unload 350 passengers in Safaga before heading to Suez. This route was a standard schedule since 1988, however, the ship's departure was delayed for 2 days in Saudi Arabia because of a mechanical fault.

On the 14th of December 1991 she was returning from Jeddah with hundreds of pilgrims who had just been to Mecca. A storm was blowing gale force and the people on the outer decks were getting drenched, so the captain decided to stay close to the shore to shave time of the journey, instead of the longer route along the outer

reefs. Unfortunately, the captain misjudged their position, and at 11:31pm she ran out an outer pinnacle of Hyndman Reef. The result was disastrous.



We reach the wreck by a descent line. She is lying on her port side and we make our way around the stern to the back, where we now have a good visibility on the 2 propellers. They are giants!

Not only was water coming in from a hole on the starboard side, but the impact was hard, the impact caused that the bow loading door to open, letting thousand of liters of water in. Almost immediately the ferry started to list over to the starboard side, making it impossible for the crew to deploy any of the lifeboats.

The Salem Express under the command of Captain Hassan Moro, who had the command from 1988, sank within 20 minutes of hitting the reef. Many people died trapped inside the wreck. Because there was a hard storm and the fact the tragedy occurred more than a hour from the port in the middle of the night, rescue boats arrived much to late. More than 180 of the survivors had to swim to the shore. Loss of life was considerable, with the official figure being quoted as 464. Rumor suggested that the ship was overloaded and that the death toll was closer to 1200. Many bodies were recovered after the sinking, but eventually a halt was called due to the danger involved and that the wreck was sealed with plates welded across openings.

The first survivor Ismail Abdul Hassan, an amateur long-distance swimmer who worked as an agricultural engineer, stood on the ship's deck as it went down. He followed the lights of the port and swam to shore, surviving 18 hours in the water. He attended to lead two other men to safety, who held onto his clothes, but died of exhaustion on the way.

Diving the Salem Express

We reach the wreck by a decent line. She is lying on its port side and make our way around the stern to the back, where we now have a good visibility on the 2 propellers. They are giants. Between the propellers we see the rudder. After taking some pictures we go to the decks, and we see the lifeboats on 30m of depth. In the past there where 2 lifeboats on the bottom. But now there is only one left. Nobody knows where the second on is.

I like wrecks, but I don't like lifeboats on the bottom of the ocean. Lifeboats are supposed to carry people when the ship sinks, and bring them

in safety, and they can't do that when they're on the bottom.

At the back of the ship, I see on the bottom of the ocean, a television, radio. People who dived the Salem Express before me, they had to put it like this, because this is not a natural movement.

We go further to the front and see the big exhausts. on the side you see the logo of Salem Express. The Exhaust are full of live. Lots of corral grows in the years the ship has sunk.

Further to the front you come to the captain's deck. I penetrate it, and I come in the room of the captain, his bad. There is not lots of instruments anymore. I go up and I find my exit by a door on the side. I continue my way, via port side, and enter the cargo zone via an open hatch. I descend here and penetrate via this road into the corridors of the ship, here one can still find remnants of cars.

It is still grim, knowing that many lives were lost in this tragic accident. On the way, I come across a few wheelbarrows with mattresses in them, suitcases. From afar I suddenly see the light penetrating back into the wreckage.

After emerging from the wreckage, I now look for a way to the restaurant. I go through an opening in the restaurant. adopt a stable position, so that I can also take some photos here.





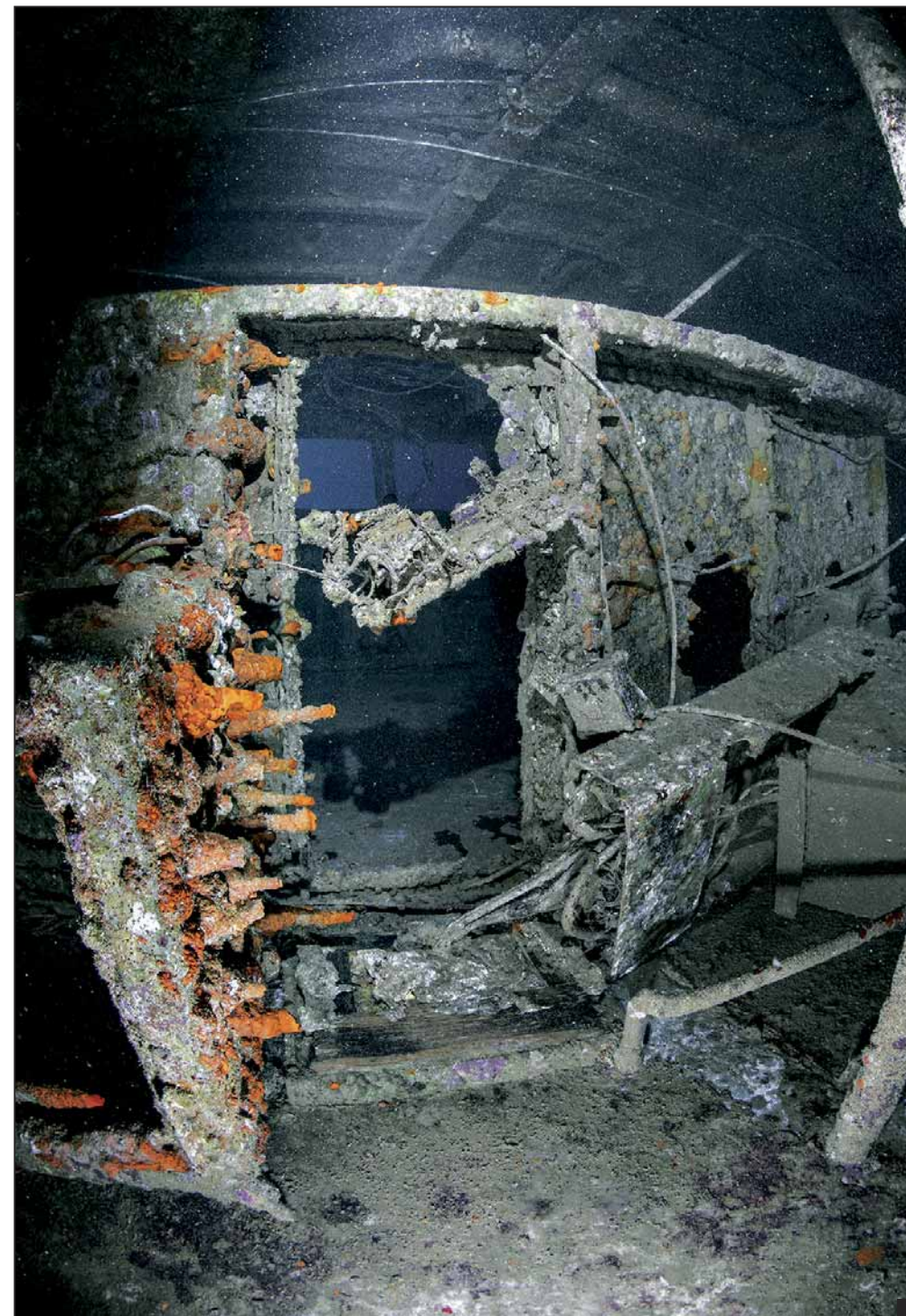
The tables are still standing, but the upholstery has deteriorated bit by bit over the years.

Now it's time to say goodbye to this beautiful wreck and do my decompression duties.

These are not so big, this is because I did the dive on my Divesoft Liberty SM rebreather, so the decompression obligations are drastically less compared to traditional diving. Once back on the boat, everyone is quiet for a moment.



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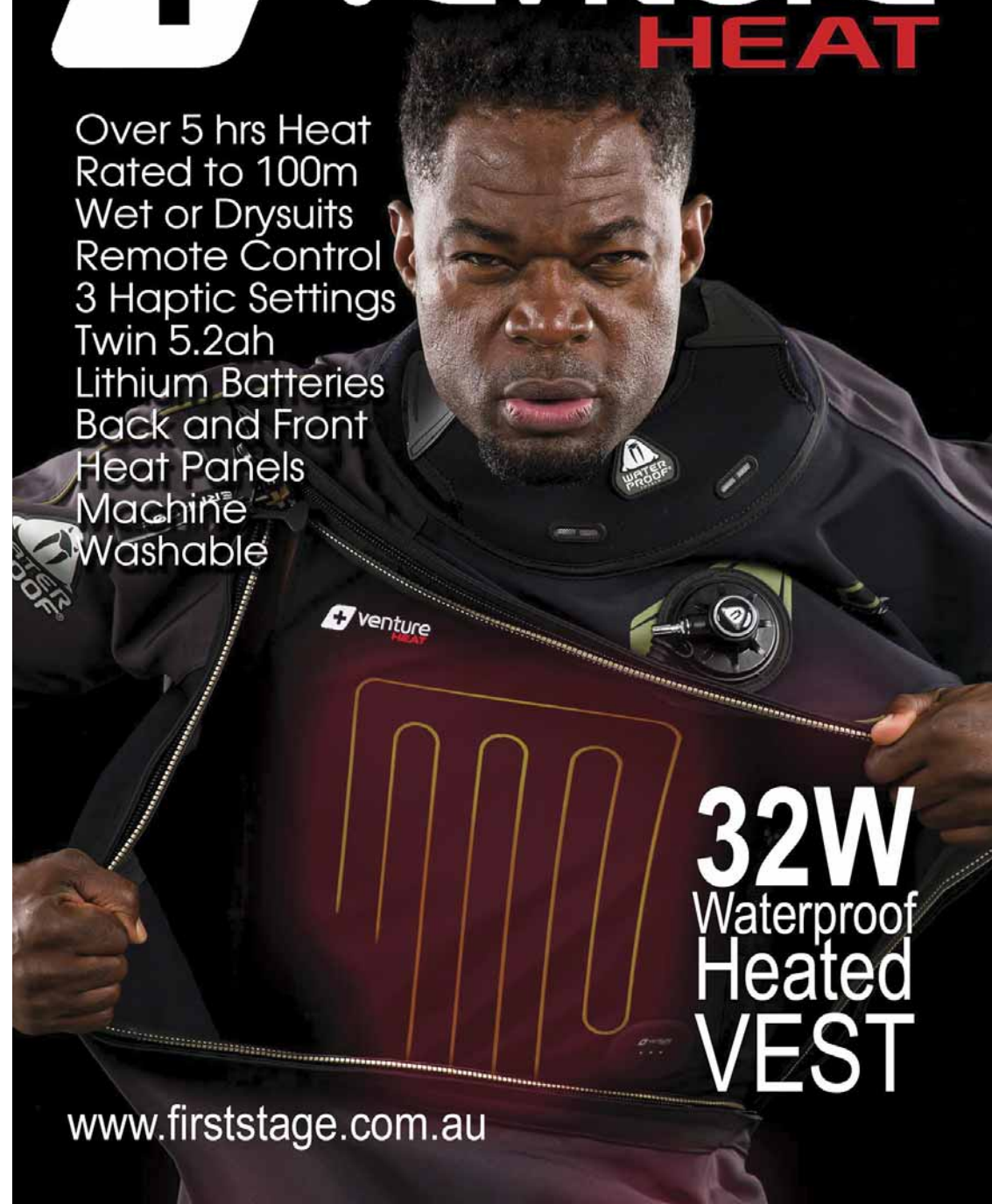
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Making Sense with MNemo

Story and Photos by Josh Richards

Like most folks stuck in Melbourne's lockdown, I didn't have much to get excited about during 2020. Having finished my cave course in late 2019 and then leaving Mount Gambier under less than ideal circumstances, all I could do was dream about was getting back to explore the caves I was finally qualified to get into. More than just diving and admiring them though, I desperately wanted to get back to try and understand Mount Gambier's caves - why they are shaped the way they are, understand how the different rock formations have developed, and (like every new and overly optimistic cave diver) hopefully use all of that to discover something new!

Trapped in lockdown, all I could do was dream, plan... and shop online. A few months into the pandemic I'd learned about a little black box being used by exploration cave divers all around the world to develop quick and relatively accurate line surveys, and immediately realised the best way to use my COVID-19 relief payment was to send it to a German electrical engineer in Mexico called Sébastien. Six weeks later a package from Playa Del Carmen arrived on my doorstep, I opened it up, and started jumping with excitement at the idea of surveying every cave on the Limestone Coast... as soon as the borders reopened.

At it's core, the MNemo is a just an underwater line-measuring device with a built in depth gauge and compass. By pulling open a Delrin gate in the middle of the device, you place the cave line inside and lock it into place. From there it's simply

a case of holding the MNemo level to take a compass and depth reading, and pushing the MNemo along the line to measure it's length. Once you get to the other end, you take a second compass & depth measurement, and the MNemo averages out the two readings and uses the line length to provide a straight-line "shot". Put a series of these shots together consecutively, and you wind up with a stick map survey of your cave - easy! By the time I finally moved back to Mount Gambier and got around to trialling the MNemo, I'd already finished my Advanced Cave course. Given it has a nice combination of cavern areas and some decent tunnel too, Pines seemed like the perfect place to test it out and learn how to use this new-fangled survey tool.

My initial (and rather shaky) survey of Pines.

As simple as it is in principle though, the MNemo does take a little bit to truly really understand, and my initial survey of Pines quickly showed how NOT to do things! It turns out not all cave lines are perfectly straight, and when you're trying to take measurements up a near-vertical chimney into the Crazy Czech Room it's ridiculously easy to finish one shot and start another without realising you've changed depth! Coupled with a misguided attempt to make the survey more accurate by recording lots of small shots (which actually reduces overall accuracy), and a realisation after the dive that the line-measuring wheel hadn't been fully calibrated; that first survey attempt served more as a learning experience on how to use the device than providing anything useful... but it was a start!

The first survey also showed that I'd need to gain more experience before I tried to survey the deeper parts of Pines properly. What I really needed was a long and relatively shallow cave that could

be slowly surveyed without worrying about decompression, and ideally a cave with two or

three entrances so I could refine the survey data using separate GPS points. Luckily I knew just the cave for the job: Tank.

ence of using the MNemo there was invaluable - I've learned many of the little tricks that improve the quality of it's data, while getting to explore pretty much every nook and cranny you can without a research permit, AND helping friends get their group dives done too!

With a resurvey of Tank complete and a mountain more cave experience for my efforts, I figured I'd learned enough to tackle Pines again.

Running the MNemo up the chimney into the Crazy Czech Room still isn't easy or fun, but taking fewer and more accurate shots made all the difference to the over-

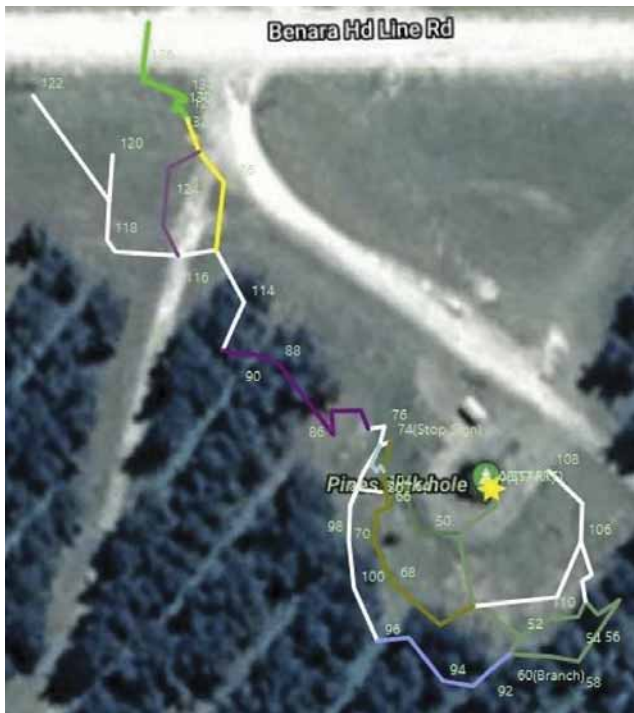


more entrances so I could refine the survey data using separate GPS points. Luckily I knew just the cave for the job: Tank.

At it's core, the MNemo is a just an underwater line-measuring device with a built in depth gauge and compass...

As much as I've loved helping new Advanced Cave divers gain experience by taking them through their familiarisation "group" dives at Tank, I have to admit to an ulterior motive too - joining your Group 1 & 2 dives provided the perfect opportunity to run the MNemo along lines that more experienced AC divers generally ignore! As I've been told plenty of times, the lines in Tank have been resurveyed more times than anyone in the CDAA can remember. However, the experi-





all survey accuracy. Learning more about the MNemo's mapping software (Ariane's Line) helped enormously too, and soon the survey of Pines started to reveal all sorts of hidden secrets... or atleast a few things I'd never realised before! The data from the Wedge Room and the White Room showed they were only meters apart, so on the next dive several of us went back and discovered they were actually connected! The hole may only be big enough to pass a GoPro through, but if you go poking around at the bottom of the Wedge Room (or decide to squeeze through the gnarly stuff at the back of the White Room) you'll probably find the gap in the rocks where they connect too.

Likewise, surveying into the Director's Tomb showed that it ended remarkably close to the bot-

tom of the chimney that runs up to the Crazy Czech Room. But inside the Director's Tomb felt like a dead-end, and there was about 2m difference in the depth of the two lines anyway - no luck! Looking from the other side near the chimney though, we spotted a silty hole in the floor hidden behind some rocks - squeezing down into it, two of us suddenly popped out into a weird and jagged-edged room we quickly recognised as the end of the



Director's Tomb! Might be worth keeping the original name though - "Director's Tunnel" doesn't have quite the same ring to it.

Running the MNemo through the most basic and often overlooked caves has proven enormously insightful too, even if it hasn't led to any discoveries or connections. Even though I've dived Allendale East dozens of times, it wasn't until I looked at the survey data on a satellite map that I realised the cave runs North-West back into the town, rather than South/South-East towards paddocks and the ocean like I thought it did.

What's really interesting however is the fissure at the very back of Allendale has water coming out of it, and all that water has to go somewhere - there must be a pretty big tunnel buried somewhere under the dirt we all walk down on our way to the water!

Stinging Nettle proved a surprise too - not because it shows a potential connection to Pines, but because it's going in exactly the opposite direction!



My original mental image of Stinging Nettle was that it had a series of leads all running clockwise around the doline, and surely one of them MUST connect to the Crazy Czech Room in Pines. But the data doesn't lie, and it turns out all those weird and wonderful leads run North/North-West instead, in precisely the wrong direction to link the two caves. Likewise, the survey of Englebrecht's West showed the solution tube under the Habitat's dry room is disappointingly NOT going to connect to the cave's main air chamber. Instead of being under the highway in front of the accommodation as we'd hoped, the air chamber is in front of the neighbour two blocks East - far too distant for even the most enthusiastic wombat to connect!

After 18 months of quiet but persistent work though, I've managed to survey most of Mount Gambier's known & rated caves with the MNemo. The next challenge will be to see how accurate and effective the MNemo is when faced with the far longer caves on the Nullarbor and Roe Plains. But if the data from Mount Gambier is anything to go by, I'm sure we'll learn all sorts of interesting things and maybe even discover some new tunnels too!



EMERGENCY PLANNING INFORMATION

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Always inform someone (who is not part of your dive team) of your dive plan
- Be prepared, and ensure you can provide critical information (such as your location) to emergency services when required
- Always plan your dive and dive your plan!
- Be trained to administer First Aid and CPR. It's better to have it and not need it, than need it and not know what to do!

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT RESPONSE:

In the event of an incident or accident, CDAA members are to:

1. Assist the person or persons injured.
2. Contact emergency services (if needed) and provide clear and accurate information:
 - a. **WHAT** is the emergency?
 - b. **WHERE** is the emergency? Provide relevant information – street address, GPS coordinates, nearby landmarks.
 - c. **HOW** do emergency services access the site? If possible, direct another member to meet emergency services at the road or a nearby intersection and direct them towards the emergency
 - d. Provide the **NAME** of the injured person/s.
 - e. Provide **YOUR NAME** and contact details.
3. While you are waiting for emergency services record as much relevant information as possible, including times, names and contact details and events leading to incident.
4. Contact the CDAA National Director and/or the CDAA Site Director as soon as possible

MISSING/OVERDUE DIVER:

In the event that a diver has not returned to the surface by the expected time, it is important that members act quickly as time is of the essence. As a guide, if a diver is 15 MINUTES or more over their expected run-time, members are advised to:

1. Contact the CDAA Search & Recovery (SAR) Officer. In the event that the SAR Officer cannot be contacted, call the National Director, or Site Director. Follow the directions provided by the SAR Officer or relevant Director.
2. Provide as much information as you can – names of the missing divers, summary of the dive plan, time the divers entered the water, equipment configuration used, expected run time, time overdue.
3. Establish an appropriate course of action. Consideration should be given to the dive plan, extent of penetration and gas reserves of the missing/overdue divers. Are there other divers on site (or nearby) who may be able to assist with an emergency search. **Note: a search should ONLY be considered if divers available are suitably experienced, equipped, and have sufficient (additional) gas to undertake a search and provide assistance.**
4. If no other divers are available to conduct a search or the missing/overdue divers are not located and have not otherwise returned within the timeframe decided, enact the **ACCIDENT/INCIDENT RESPONSE** procedures listed above.

DECEASED DIVER:











1. If a diver is found to be deceased within the cave, do not disturb the scene. If possible, try to note down pertinent information - location, position, remaining gas, computer runtime, then return to the surface as soon as possible.
2. Contact the CDAA National Director and the CDAA Search & Recovery (SAR) Officer immediately. The SAR Officer will liaise with the relevant authorities as required.

NOTE: Members are advised not to make any statements regarding incidents or accidents to members of the public, to landowners, to the media, or via any other platform/media. Please direct all associated enquiries to the National Director for comment.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000 or 112 (mobile)	CDAA National Director – Rick Nash	0438 815 643
State Emergency Services	132 500	CDAA Site Director – Kelvyn Ball	0428 842 259
Mt Gambier Hospital	8721 1200	CDAA SAR Officer – Richard Harris	0417 177 830
Divers Emergency Service (DAN)	1800 088 200	CDAA SAR Officer – Phillip Croker	0423 393 347

CDAA INSTRUCTORS

NAME	Basic Cave	Cave	Adv. Cave	NAME	Basic Cave	Cave	Adv. Cave
NEW SOUTH WALES				VICTORIA Continued			
 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
 Ryan Duchatel CDAA 4983 Mobile: 0419 268 714 E: ryan@totalimmersiondiving.com.au	Yes			 DALE, Steve (CDAA 3926) Mob: 0468 417 211 Email: info@extremewatersport.com.au	Yes	Yes	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA				 EDWARDS, Chris (CDAA 2247) Mob: 0417 116 372 Email: chrisedwards01@me.com	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				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
 CLARIDGE, Linda (CDAA 2214) Mob: 0408 052 070 E: garinda@tpgi.com.au	Yes	Yes	Yes				