

Waves ‘n’ caves

Promoting the sport

Welcome to our fifth newsletter.

In this edition:

- Melbourne gets a new ship
- Diving with the Seals
- Going Cav/sink
- Going Cave
- Going Penetration
- Past & Upcoming Events

New Permit Box!

Forestry SA have a new permit collection box. This is also a tender box with the top of the box for permits.

You will need to go to this new building to pick up SA Forestry permits from now on.



What's been happening?

Welcome to the wavesncaves fifth newsletter.

This is our first fully online newsletter. Now that we are not printing and posting our newsletters anymore, but instead putting an online version for all to download, we're able to include more information and more photo's, without having to worry about the cost factor!



A number of things have been happening since the last release of our newsletter. Some of us have been teaming up with the Warrnambool Sub Aqua Club to visit the Giant Cuttlefish at Whyalla, diving various sites at Mt Gambier, extending our experience with courses and visiting the seals at Montague island to name a few!

Cray season is now back in, and the weather is getting warmer. We're wanting to know if there are many interested in a catch 'n cook weekend down near the Mount (Gambier).

Plans are also going ahead to arrange a trip to the Nullabor later next year. (more mentioned later in this newsletter).

We are looking at organizing a rebreather information, demonstration and tryout night, and are looking for ideas for upcoming dive trips.

Little blue has cleared up, and now there is half decent visibility down near the bottom.



Diving with the Seals (By Kasey)

After diving on a live-a-board at the Great Barrier Reef 6 months earlier, I was looking forward to getting back into the warmer waters at Batemans Bay. I don't care much at all for our freezing cold water down here (yeah, I know – I'm a sook, but I'm cool with that!!)

In March 2007 three couples (Adam and myself, Aaron & Adele and Clyde & Julie) journeyed off to stay for a few days at "Adam's business friend's" holiday house just out of Batemans Bay. We were delighted to discover with some research before traveling down that we couldn't have chosen a better spot as there were so many little sheltered bays for us to discover and dive in! Divers Paradise!!



Plenty of shore dives and lovely sandy beaches for those to relax on, if choosing not to dive (ahem, not mentioning any names) each time. So it covered every-ones desires. Oh, not to mention the great shopping and food in Batemans Bay for us girls when taking a break!

The first day there, Clyde and Adam (keen as mustard as always) decided they wanted to go for a dive first-thing, but the rest of us, feeling a bit tired paddled and snorkeled around in the bay while they headed off into deeper waters. Upon surfacing later they commented on discovering a minefield of stingrays on a large sandy patch which we were all eager to find if return-

ing to the same spot for a dive later in the week.

After our splash in the waves, we found the little dive shop in Batemans Bay where we got some good directions to start out search for great spots for shore dives. In the shop, they had some fantastic comic pictures drawn up with incidents that have happened over the years such as one of the instructors being "clapped" over the head by a Manta Ray insisting he got out of its personal space! Poor bugga, he said that it was like a loud clap of thunder hitting him and was a bit spun out after the incident. Not to mention black and blue all down both sides of his body and sore for quite a while after!

Our first group dive was at a cove that we discovered ourselves. It too had a lot of sting rays in the shallows that we were careful not to disturb too much. The boys had their "racing fins" on and Adele and I found it a lot of work sometimes to keep up with them, so when I lost them a few times it was not fun at all – if anyone knows me, I'm not the most confident or co-coordinated diver at all! Lots'a grumpy wife talk (signing) underwater going on when-ever I caught back up to Adam!

On this dive we came across my first stone fish sighting (very hard to pick out) and plenty of sea urchins everywhere – which are different to the ones on our coast here – much larger and the spikes are not as 'pointy' but more rounded.

The next dive for the day I chilled out with Julie (our only non-diver on this trip) while the others went for another dive.

The following day we went out on a small charter boat to go to Tollgates, but unfortunately that day was way to rough to go diving with the Grey Nurse Sharks



so the skipper took us to another location where we were supposed to see a maze.

We searched for this place but at 30 meters with very poor visibility and a reasonable surge we gave up looking. It was becoming hard work trying to make our way around and to keep together.

The boys decided to head back to the anchor shortly after as with the depth and hard swimming most of us were getting low on air. We spend a little time searching for the anchor, and then abandoned the anchor search and started our ascent with no reference or shot line.

I had also experienced for the first time Narcosis just before we decided to ascend. While gearing up for the dive earlier, I had tried on Adele's prescription mask and had that blurry strained eye vision. So when I was down at about 30 meters, feeling uncomfortable trying to keep up and stay together with the others, my vision suddenly became strained and I felt light headed and like I was making my eyes go crossed eyed! I remember thinking to my self – "Darn, I must have Adele's mask on – DOH, not good"!! And then continued on my way and started the ascent with the others and didn't notice that the feeling had quickly gone away.

Not long after, Clyde came up to Aaron and myself signaling "out of air" – he was so casual about it that Aaron and I looked at each other first before Aaron (not one to be fooled easily) reached out and grabbed Clyde's gauge then

suddenly realizing that this was no joke, gave Clyde his spare reg!

You see, the thing with Clyde is that he doesn't get worked up about anything like that and just takes it all in his stride... so instead of the wide eyes and fast frantic motions that you'd expect for an out-of-air diver; you get with Clyde – a nice casual, no hurry approach. But I'm sure that if Aaron or myself took another 10 seconds to act on his signal we would have discovered a different kind of signaling to the first one!

We had some more great dives together over those 3 or 4 days and then it was sadly time for Clyde and Julie to leave and get back home for work.

That day was also our trip out to Montague Island. The weather wasn't perfect for diving but thankfully the Island shelters the surge and wind quite well. But don't be fooled about the strong wind being able to blow the foul stench from the seals nesting on the rocks away from us – oh boy was it hard to endure!

We originally planned to have the first dive with the Grey Nurse sharks around the other side of the island, but upon approaching the island – the basking seals jumped into the water and came around the boat coaxing us into the water. Even the boys decided to forget about the sharks and all they wanted to do was gear up and get in.

Our first dive there was supposed to be a drift dive, but the captain dropped us in on the wrong side, so instead we had to work our way against the strong current to try to get to the seals.

By the time we got close to them we had used up half our air but fortunately another diver with the group had a loud horn and he got the attention of some seals

who swam around the point to find us! We had a short time playing with them before surfacing to find the boat.

After surfacing and a short break / changing tanks etc (where one person – again no names ...and NO it was not me!) had an accident with their tank where it fell off the seat, breaking off one of the hoses and free flowing for a while. But all was ok, there was still plenty of air left in it for our second dive.

This time us divers insisted where to be dropped off into the water and we landed much closer to the seals and didn't have to exhaust ourselves getting to them.



The seals were spectacular! So playful and inquisitive. Some were happy to copy and lay opposite us on their bellies on the sandy floor. They look so cute with their puppy dog eyes – but not aloud to touch, apparently they can bite hard!

Other seals enjoyed vigorous play, trying to get behind you all the time – making the divers twist and turn to keep up as they swim around you! They like the attention so if you keep your eyes on them and keep active they will hang around you – otherwise you become too boring for them and they will go off and find someone else to play with.

We think Aaron may have got the better of one particular seal that was intently playing with him as it had to abort play to head straight for the top for a breath



Hand feeding a Moray at Batemans Bay

before coming back for more!

The water was so beautiful and clear (not like what I'm used to down south) and reminded me a bit of Cairns. 24 degree waters and about 20 meters Vis... oh so lovely!

Diving with these gorgeous, playful creatures was just amazing. It was also nice to know that this wasn't a breeding colony so didn't have to worry about sharks. Although after finishing the dives we were told that a Great White was sighted around the Island a few weeks before – that did upset me quite a lot, but didn't matter because we were heading back for the shore by then.

I'm glad that we didn't know about this shark sighting as on the end of our first dive around the Island – having been dropped off 'up-wind' (or what is now more commonly known as a "reverse-drift-dive") we didn't get





Adelle in a cave we found at Batemans Bay
swept around the Island to where the boat was waiting for us.

So, after bobbing in the little bay, waiting for quite a while, we decided to swim out away from the island into the wide open sea to see if we can look around the point to where the boat was... however after (for me a very, very uncomfortable long wait) about 15 – 20mins of floating around feeling very vulnerable on the top of the water... even though everyone else was pretending to be totally ok with the situation – “What-ever” ...the boat finally came looking for us, as we were way over our scheduled time to arrive back. YAY! Safe at last!!



On the trip back to the main land we were delighted to share a special few minutes with a school of dolphins riding on the bow wave, jumping and showing off. It was just beautiful and a lovely moment to savor. Adam got a couple of good photo's and a tiny snip of video footage of one coming out of the water at the bow before they headed off into the vast blue sea. ☺

Have you visited our website lately?

Our website contains a number of changes, including both the Waves n Caves newsletters as well as the Warrnambool Sub Aqua newsletters!

The website also includes video footage of different dive sites, as well as an ever increasing number of photographs—a number of which have been put up there by the Warrnambool mob. If we're not careful, they may just take over the whole website! We need to get busy with some photographs!

The screenshot shows the homepage of Waves 'n Caves. At the top, there's a banner with a photo of a diver. Below it, the site title 'Waves 'n Caves' is displayed. A navigation menu includes links like 'Home', 'Dive Sites', 'Members Only', 'News Letters', 'Photo Gallery', 'Commuting Calendar', and 'Contact Us'. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Site Introduction' and a link to 'KFS Dive Torches'. The main content area features a large image of a diver and some text about the torches. A 'NOTICE TO MEMBERS' section is present, along with a 'President's Message' and a 'Nudibranch Trip' section. At the bottom, there's a footer with links to 'Cave Divers COASTAL CAVES' and 'www.wavesncaves.com.au'.

A new link to various weather sites (including up to 10 day forecasts) for major locations has also been added to the site.

Our buoyweather account is back online, and notices and passwords to this facility have been emailed out on the wavesncaves mailing list!

If you're not on the mailing list, (and if you haven't been getting emails from us, then you're most likely not) - and would like to be, please email your email address to adam@wavesncaves.com, and we will add you to this list.

If you've got an idea or suggestion for the website, or would like to advertise on our website, please feel free to let us know.

We already have information on the KFS HID torches, as well as Accommodation at Port Fairy and Mt Gambier! ☺

Warrnambool Sub Aqua Club

The Warrnambool sub aqua club plan dives for every weekend, which range widely in the skill levels involved, so there's something for everyone!

The Warrnambool sub aqua newsletters are on our website, and dates are listed on our main page, as well as our calendar. Why not check them out, and join them for a few dives?

If going, make sure you let the mailing list know your plans, as there may be other interested people who would come with you. ☺



New Indemnity Requirements

Due to some changes, the CDAA requires new indemnity form to be filled out by all members. This is because they have changed insurers at a reduced cost to the Association.

Changes come in all forms and this indemnity is one of them, in a world of litigation everyone is running scared of getting a lawsuit.

Please read the [new indemnity form](#) on their website (located at www.cavedivers.com.au), and check the box on the web page so that they can place your name on the web site as having completed the enrolment or renewal requirements.

Please help the volunteers who work for the CDAA in their own time by [logging on](#) and completing this as soon as you can ☺

Going Cavsink. (By Adam)

For those who aren't in the known Deep Cavern is the new name for 'the CDAA Cav/Sink' rating. At the time I did my course—it was still the two "Cavern and Sinkhole" courses put together.

After completing my open water course—I found that bad weather seemed to follow me wherever I went. It wasn't long after my initial certification that I got landed with the nickname "Rough water".

I wanted to go diving, but most of the time the weather wouldn't let me. That's when a few friends told me about their involvement with the CDAA, and what cave diving has to offer.

Upon hearing that "it's weather independent", I needed no more convincing. After 12 months of being certified, I signed up for the 'cavsink' course. Little did I know what I was in for!

I joined Kylie, Ben and Charlie on this course where Linda Claridge was to be our instructor for the weekend.

The course consisted of 4 days (Friday to Monday) which included 3 training dives and one pre-assessment dive in Gouldens, and 3 site training dives in Sinkholes.

We arrived at Mt Gambier on the Friday, and started with our theory in the comfort of the living room—where we learnt about the history of cave diving, gear considerations, dive planning, contingency and emergency procedures and underwater communication. We found this quite interesting (as Linda would have noticed by the large level of discussions and questions from all of us).

After some time, we moved out-

side the house, where the sun greeted us for a pleasant afternoon to work on our land drills. This consisted of us wrapping guide lines all around the outside of Freddy's house in Mt Gambier, and then following them back with our eyes closed. We learnt about line placements, various rope knots, wraps and tie offs - many of the things we would start using that afternoon in our training dives.

Then, it was time to take our first dive in a cavern site. We grabbed some lunch on the run, and made our way to a cavern known as 'Gouldens' to the unwary—or more commonly known as "The CDAA torture chamber" to the experienced!



Photo By Steve Parkinson

We had our first dive brief, and entered the water. Our first dive there was mayhem. We learnt very quickly about the undesired properties of silt, along with the need to improve our trim and buoyancy quickly. While we were OK with our buoyancy with previous open water dives, we found it much more difficult when we needed to stay still, minimizing our movements while tying off line. At this point, I started to wonder if we were going to be able to pass the course, but Linda was reassuring us that most people have problems with the first dive - and we just need to become familiar with the new environment. We were going to sleep well that night!

The next day greeted us with more good weather, where we

continued with 2 more dives at Gouldens. We improved on our buoyancy, and started to run our line down to the back of the cavern, where we then started to have additional skills thrown into the equation. This included simulations of being out of air, which involved finding our buddy quickly, signaling to them (if we had time), and grabbing one of their reg's to breathe off. Not long afterwards we would lose our masks, and have to make our way together along the line we laid until we were safe back at the secondary tie-off point.

The first time we did this, I was paired with Kylie. She was the reel person, so my job was just to stick next to her while we made our way back to the surface. I didn't find this too difficult, as after all I just hung onto her with my eyes closed, and let her give me a free ride back to the start.

The second time round it was my turn to do the work, and Kylie's turn to get a free ride. This is where things started going pair shaped for me.

Once the mask was removed, I found myself breathing quite quickly—and unable to slow my breathing down. I stopped what I was doing to try and get it under control, but I was failing.

... I stopped what I was doing to try and get it under control, but I was failing.

I was able to think quite clearly, and knew that I wasn't panicking—so I couldn't figure out what was wrong. Later on, I was to learn about anxiety and that there is a distinct difference between anxiety and panic.

Thankfully with anxiety—you can still have a clear head—it's more a subconscious reaction. I proceeded to lock and abandon the

reel as per the dive plan, and started to head quickly along the line back to the surface. Feeling my way along the line, I passed a couple of wraps, and then found to my horror, that while I locked the reel, I had not abandoned properly. It was still tethered to me! Thankfully (and goodness knows how) - neither Kylie or myself were not tangled in the line. I disconnected my tether from the reel, and continued our exit. After about 1/2 way back I noticed that my breathing had settled down, and made the rest of the trip comfortably.

Not happy with my breathing, I decided to study further into anxiety. I found out later that task loading up too quickly without experience can cause these symptoms, and that they can be overcome over time by becoming more familiar with the environment and diving. Another cause can be the sudden cold water hitting your forehead when the mask is removed. By putting my face in the water (without your mask on), and breathing through my reg' before each dive I was able to overcome this problem and become quite comfortable without my mask.

This training really stretched us way beyond the basic training of our open (and advanced) water courses that I had done the previous year. But, all the pain was going to be worth it. To be able to dive sites regardless of the weather!

We packed up our gear, while Freddy, Brett and Smiley helped out by filling our tanks with the handy portable compressor trailer they have. We then headed home, where we enjoyed a good meal, and a well deserved sleep!

The following morning consisted of yet another dive at Gouldens, which was to be our pre-assessment dive. I was buddied up with Kylie again, and things

went quite smoothly for us all this time.

After feeling our way along the line again back to the second tie-off, Linda decided to push us a little further, by taking away our 3rd reg'-leaving us to share one regulator between us both. I took two breaths, took the reg out of my mouth, and passed it to Kylie. She then took her two breaths, and pass it back. This continued for a number of exchanges until Linda then decided to flood Kylie's mask. At about this point Kylie had a few things on her plate, and forgot about me. After a short amount of time without getting any air, I decided to give Kylie a polite tap on the shoulder, where she then remembered me, but at the same time Linda indicated for me to grab one of my own reg's and breathe off that again.

This exercise wasn't part of the cavsink course, (but is done later on at a cave level). I guess on these courses you don't want to make it look like you're doing things easily otherwise these instructors must see it as a challenge, and try some more things out.

Well—after all the cheek we had been giving Linda the last few days, I guess we kind of deserved it.

During the pre-assessment dive at Gouldens, we also learnt the basics of abseiling, noting that it would be required to get into other sites further down the track, such as Hells Hole, and The Shaft. Gary showed a pair of us the techniques while the other pair did their pre-assessment dive, and then the roles were reversed.

It had been nearly 15 years since I had abseiled down a cliff face, and I wasn't over confident about it the first time round, but it all came back to me relatively quickly.

Did you know...

Members of the CDAA are not only able to dive sites in Mt Gambier, but their CDAA card will also get them permits to explore dry cave sites, such as Morgan's and Snake Hill!

There are some great dry sites to explore (and sites that you're able to take non divers to!). This can make a great day out for family and friends, and can also be a great way to add to a weekend's diving in the South East of SA!

Next we had our site training dives. No longer were we going to have to follow lines back to the surface whilst having no mask and sharing air. We were going to be able to start enjoying our dives now!

Our first site training dive was to be on Mr. Normans property at a site called One Tree. This site takes a little getting in (or more especially out of) with twins on. It is a sinkhole, with a narrow path way cut down from the top to near the waters edge, but as the water level has dropped, we needed to find an alternate route near the end. Nothing that a star pick and length of rope couldn't fix.

This site's water can constantly change with varying weather conditions. For us, we were greeted this day with a temperature of 14 degrees Celsius and murky visibility.

As we descended, I remember that I could only see part of the group below me murkily due to the algae in the water. As I passed through 15 meters I noticed a drop in temperature. We were passing through the thermalcline. Shortly after, it cleared

up into crystal clear, but dark water. A feeling not unlike driving through a fog patch at night, and then coming out the other side, where the air is clear, and you can see for miles. I looked in awe, as I was seeing visibility in water like I have never seen before. I could see the whole group quite clearly. Shortly afterwards our torches lit up the bottom as we leveled out, being careful not to touch the bottom, or cause silt to stir up from our fin movements. We proceeded to lay line around the walls, watching to make sure that we stuck to our dive plan. (Sequence, Air, Depth, Duration and Distance).

All too soon we hit our time limit, and had to start our return. Finally we were out of Gouldens—in clear water, and enjoying ourselves. We still had to work hard, as the environment was new to us, and we needed to constantly watching our buoyancy. An uncontrolled ascent at this site which exceeds 40m could be disastrous. But even with all the workload, we were enjoying ourselves!

Our next dive was to be at Little Blue, almost a stones throw away from one tree. We geared up on the handy bench at the car park, and made our way down the steps onto the floating pontoon. Getting in and out of this site would be a little easier!

Taking the giant strides, we each entered the water, and then made our way down the shot line to 20m. While down there, we took notes of our depth, and air at different times on our slates, so we could calculate our SAC



(surface air consumption) rate afterwards, which then helps us plan dives in the future, knowing how much air we will use at any given depth.

Little blue was quite murky. Unlike one tree, we never saw the water clear up, and at a guess the water vis' remained around 3 meters. While there, we did more line work around the walls, and continued to practice our trim, different propulsion techniques, as well as a mask removal and replace exercise. Once again, our buoyancy was now critical. Thankfully our previous training dives in Gouldens paid off, and we were able to control our buoyancy and trim within the parameters set.

We then packed up again, and called it a day. One more nights sleep, and then we had our final dive! This was to be the dream dive. Finally we were going to see the world renowned Piccaninnie Ponds!

The water was magnificently clear. Yes—this is what I was here for!

We made our way out to Pic's early that morning, as we needed to be geared up, and ready to enter the water for out 8:00am timeslot.

We walked out onto the floating pontoon, and took a giant stride into the first pond. We then made our way to the chasm, and started down to the dogs leg. The light fading slightly as we descended to the dogs leg, where we spent a short time shining our torches down past the dogs leg to the forbidden territory.

The water was magnificently clear. Yes—this is what I was here for!

After a short pause at the dogs

leg, we made our way back up part way, and then through into the Cathedral. This is the only site as cavsink divers, where we were allowed into a true overhead cave environment. It was simply magnificent. All the pain we had gone through had finally paid off.

The chasm was quite dark inside, but it was easy to see the exit, with the Morning sunlight shining it's way through the clear blue tinted water into the openings of the cave. This dive ended way too soon, but I knew now, that we had passed our course, we could come back and visit this place, and many others any time that we wanted!

Linda and Gary were fabulous instructors. Linda had great patience, was extremely encouraging, and taught us some excellent diving skills which I'll keep for the rest of my life.

Gary provided us with the rope work, additional advise, and a bit of mischievous entertainment whenever Linda wasn't looking.

The cavsink course was by far the best dive course there is out there as far as progressing with experience.

Not only does this course get you into sites such as Kilsby's, Piccaninnie Ponds, and "The Shaft" - it also covers the requirements that you normally have to do separately with other 'specialty' courses through another agency, such as a Deep Diving Course, Peak Buoyancy Performance Course, and the Wreck Diving course to name a few.

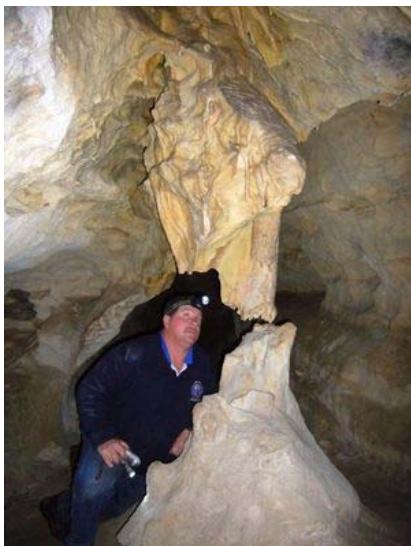
We certainly got our investment back, and I would recommend this course to anyone who was considering advancing their diving beyond the open water course—even if they aren't interested in going to caves! 

New Dangers discovered in Cave Diving!

Yes—that's right! Do a search on the internet for 'most dangerous sport', and on almost all the results, you'll find the sport we love the most.

However—the site that cracked me up the most was <http://www.kidzworld.com/article/1984-worlds-most-dangerous-sports>, which amongst other things included the risk of getting "eaten alive by a cave creature".

I must admit—I've seen some nasties down there whilst diving, but I don't think that they'd try to eat me. Those ugly critters are normally more interested in having a beer after a good dive. ↗



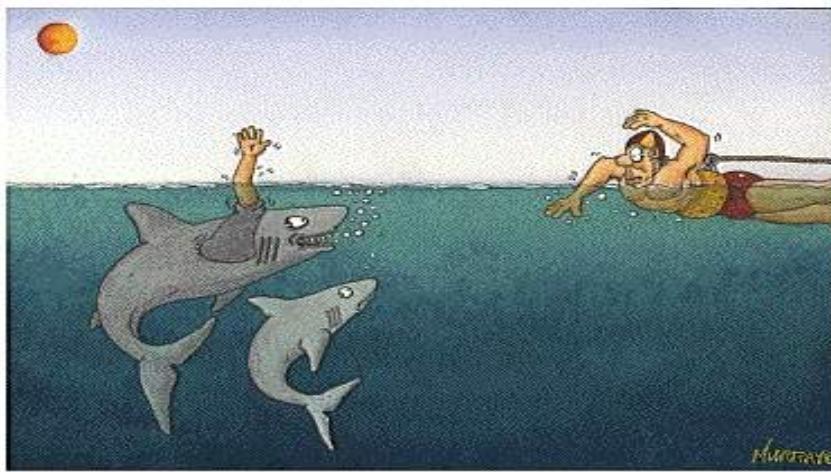
Articles Wanted!

Have you taken a good dive trip somewhere (Doesn't matter how long ago), that you would like to share with others? What about a course that you've done, or some experience that you'd think could help others?

Did some funny things happen on your original open water course (or can you even remember that far back) that you'd like to share?

We're looking for new articles for the next newsletter. Please consider sharing some of your past experiences with us!

If you can help us, please send articles to adam@wavesncaves.com along with any photo's you may have! (They don't have to be formatted—plain text will be fine!) ↗



Looking for Accommodation?

Whether you're chasing it for a night, a weekend or a week, this spacious 3 bedroom house with good size living areas and fully furnished, located in Wimmera Street Mt Gambier may be what you're looking for.



It includes an outdoor entertainment area at the back with facilities for diving gear to be hung up on. Perfect for scuba divers visiting the Mt Gambier region, whether to dive in caves or the nearby sea.

It also makes an excellent place to stay while doing your CDAA course! Prices start at \$20 / head / night.

For bookings, contact Kelvyn or Paula Ball

Ph: (03) 5384 2259
Mob: 0428 842 259 / 0427 842 259

Email:
freddy145690@bigpond.com



Going Cave (By Adam)

After having my cavsink rating (or deep cavern) for over half a year, and many dives at the Mount—the darkness continued to beckon. I had decided that it was now time to look at what was involved to obtain my Cave rating. I kept hearing stories about what these other cave rated sites had to offer—and I deeply wanted to enjoy this experience too!

I had more than exceeded the number of required unsupervised dives in sinkhole sites, but decided to have some practice in Gouldens before going for my course. This was to include reel work, and buddy breathing while reeling back to surface, both with eyes closed, and with masks removed.

Timing worked in well, as Freddy wanted the same practice for his Penetration course—so a weekend was spent with some pleasure dives, followed by the ‘fun’ at Gouldens.

Later on, I was to find that these practices were going to pay off, as even with this practice—I was still needing a lot of improvements. I would have hate to have done my course without this).

But before messing up Gouldens—I decided to have a look around. (Since all previous dives at Gouldens were training dives, I really hadn’t got to just look around and see what Gouldens has to offer as far as a normal dive is concerned). I also seemed to recall hearing someone say that Goulden’s wasn’t a bad dive site. Well—looks like I was sucked in!

After a quick look around, Freddy and I started some line work, and then did some stress test practicing.

At one stage, I got my leg tangled in the line near the second-

dary tie-off, and needed Freddy to help me out. After he assisted me, he headed straight back down the line to retrieve his primary mask, which had fallen off his forehead previously.

At this point, I was on my back, and I decided to inflate my BCD to raise off the ground—keeping the silt down to a minimum. After a couple of feet I found myself stuck. The line was tangled around my valves!

This left me in a rather embarrassing situation. Here I was—turtle on my back with my line stuck in the valves. I could only imagine what Freddy would say when he returned to see me in this position. I considered my other options, which was to either cut the line, or to take off my BCD, fix the problem, and put it back on.

I decided against cutting the line, as apart from being embarrassed—it wasn’t a serious situation at this point, and I don’t think Freddy would have appreciated it.

I also considered removing my BCD, but once again the situation wasn’t serious at present, and in removing my BCD I could cause more problems, so I decided to take the embarrassing route, and wait for Freddy to come back and have a laugh.

Apart from that incident, I found I handled the practice dives much better than I expected, so I decided to go ahead and book in for a cave course. It seemed like an eternity for the course weekend to arrive, but it finally came. Gary Barclay was to be my instructor (or should I say tormentor) for the weekend. Something he does quite well!

I was quite excited about the course, and spent some time going over the students handbook a few times previously, to try and learn everything I needed

before arriving.

Not being able to obtain a 2nd buddy for my course, Freddy was kind enough to volunteer for me. The poor bloke. Only 3 weeks prior had he completed his Penetration course, and swore that he would never dive in Gouldens again. 3 weeks later—he was back there diving!

The first day involved theory and was pretty straight forward, in which a number of the topics covered revision of the cav/sink course. We also went over land drills and some revision before entering the water, all of which seemed pretty straight forward.

The diving at Gouldens seemed easier than the cav/sink course, as I wasn’t as nervous about the simulated running out of air scenarios. After doing my cav/sink course, I had a bit more of an idea of what I was in for, and so could mentally prepare myself for it. (Or so I thought). I still made a number of mistakes, and was quite slow with my reel work—which was a constant reminder that I was going to need to continue to practice well after completing the course.

The first dive consisted of following a complex line course (which included a section of loose line, and line that crossed paths) while blacked out and sharing air with an ‘out of air’ buddy. I needed to be careful not to tangle myself up, or to dislodge the wraps and tie offs.

I ended up pulling myself along the line, instead of using it for a guide. This is a real no-no, as it can dislodge the wraps and cause line-traps, which Gary picked me upon on after exiting the water. Apart from that, this seemed to go relatively smoothly, although I did have to stop at the two locations where the line intersected itself to figure out how I was supposed to cross it without getting my buddy or myself tangled.

The next dive consisted of another out of air simulation, but this time buddy breathing with no masks, while reeling back to the surface. Again, the practice a few weeks previous with Freddy helped my confidence through this, and I wasn't feeling too bad about the course.

Another task was to cut line that was tangled around my tank valves while keeping a continuous link between my reel and the line to the surface whilst being blacked out. This gave some entertainment to Gary and Freddy as they observed me trying to find the line and missing it on each pass by a matter of centimeters. After a number of minutes (and a number of laughs I heard under water at my expense), I managed to complete the task.

That was it for the day. Time to go back, and do some theory, review the day, and do the test. We also spent some time seeing a number of photo's from Gary and Linda's recent dive trip to Europe.

It was nice relaxing atmosphere, which personally I believe is the best way to learn. I feel comfortable, I'm enjoying myself, and I retain more information in that sort of environment.

Unfortunately, I didn't get much sleep that night. A late night, followed by an early morning left me feeling a bit groggy. The cold fresh water at Gouldens fixed that up though!

This next dive at Gouldens was my pre-assessment dive. It consisted of an out of air simulation, followed by a mask blackout where I was to lock and abandon the reel, and lead my buddy back to the surface while sharing air.

I really felt I was doing well this time, as I was used the line as a

guide, instead of pulling myself along it. I was beginning to enjoy Gouldens—maybe it's time for me to see a shrink!

After successfully completing that exercise with a few hiccups, I went to retrieve the reel while Gary and Freddy started packing up. When coming back to the ladder, I found Freddy sitting down at the bottom with his fins removed going nowhere. This seemed strange, as only earlier that morning he was expressing his love (or lack thereof) for Gouldens. Now he was happy to sit around at the ladder. Maybe he had a change of heart?

Not so... I found out shortly that bees were swarming above the lake in great numbers—, and being allergic to bee stings, Freddy had no choice but to wait it out under water.

...I found out shortly that bees were swarming above the lake in great numbers—and being allergic to bee stings, Freddy had no choice but to wait it out under water.

I don't know how Gary arranged it—but he sure did manage to throw in the unexpected with this course! I guess you have to expect anything when cave diving.

Thankfully these bees aren't like the ones at the two sisters dive site, and aren't overly aggressive. I made my way back to the car while defending myself from the bees to find Gary still in his wet drysuit hiding from the bees in his car.

We then started looking for some gloves for Freddy, but a few minutes later Freddy came up after all the bees less a few stragglers had moved on.

The next dive was to be my first in a real cave (and hopefully with no bees!). Allendale! My first look at the entrance to the cave

was quite daunting, I started getting second thoughts about whether cave diving was really for me, but I soon found out that the entrance looked worse than it really was.

I also found out that while I thought I was good with my buoyancy, getting into a true cave environment really brings out the worst in you—and I found myself struggling in my drysuit much more than expected. Getting down to the back of the cave didn't take too long, but Allendale sure was a site to see. I'll be back there in the near future for sure!

Although it was at Allendale where I think I learnt my greatest lesson. When Gary asks you how you think you went, never tell him you think you did ok! He delighted in pointing out every detail of the dive that I needed to improve on—which I hate to admit, but he was right. I needed to improve my buoyancy, my reel work, use the pull and glide, and change my gear setup! However, with the with the lack of sleep, and

all my faults pointed out to me, I became concerned as to whether I could pass this course.

I decided if I was going to improve, I needed to catch up on some sleep and do something to improve my trim and buoyancy. That night was going to be an earlier night, and I was going to wear earplugs!

We were greeted the following morning by a police raid on one of the flats next door. Bees and drugs... never a dull moment on a cave course!

The final day involved a dive at Pines, and Fossils caves. With the buoyancy problems I had experienced the previous day—I decided it was time to go in my wetsuit instead. (A dive that is, not a leak!) This turned out to be

a good decision, as my buoyancy and trim improved immensely. In hindsight I probably should have done my whole course in my wetsuit—as there are already many things to learn without adding an extra variable to the list.

Pines included laying the line down the back, and then following the line back out with a buddy while blacked out. Gary threw a few extra surprises in there for me too while I was down the back. I guess on these courses you need to expect anything at any time!

Making my way back to the surface while being blacked out in a cave is vastly different from Gouldens! I kept finding myself bumping into rocks to my left and right, and then getting caught in squeezes that I had to try and figure my way through. Not easy when you can't see where you're going. And then there was poor Freddy (being my buddy) who took a bit of a beating as I pushed him into rock after rock while being blacked out as he was hanging onto my arm.

Apparently our return was a bit of entertainment for a few pene-

tration boys who were doing deco back near the entrance.

One more dive to go—at Fossils cave. Gary played a nasty trick on me before I entered the water, which got my leg stuck in silt up to my knee! One of these day's, I'll learn not to give cheek to my diving instructors! (Then again, I probably won't!)

Fossils has a nasty habit of silting up bad if you muck up, so I was quite grateful that I was in my wetsuit!. This dive started by laying line down the back, which I did far more efficiently than before. I learnt that the pull and glide method was a wonderful friend!

After finishing the line laying, Gary indicated to me to look back at the surface, where I was greeted with a beautiful view of the cave right back to the surface. Since we came around the back we were viewing through undisturbed blue tinted water, and it was a magnificent sight!

Next, we turn off all our torches,

and it's my job to get us back out of the cave. There were parts of the dive that seemed pitch black to me, although it wasn't really

... apparently our return was a bit of entertainment for a few penetration boys who were doing deco back near the entrance.

any different to having the mask blacked out.

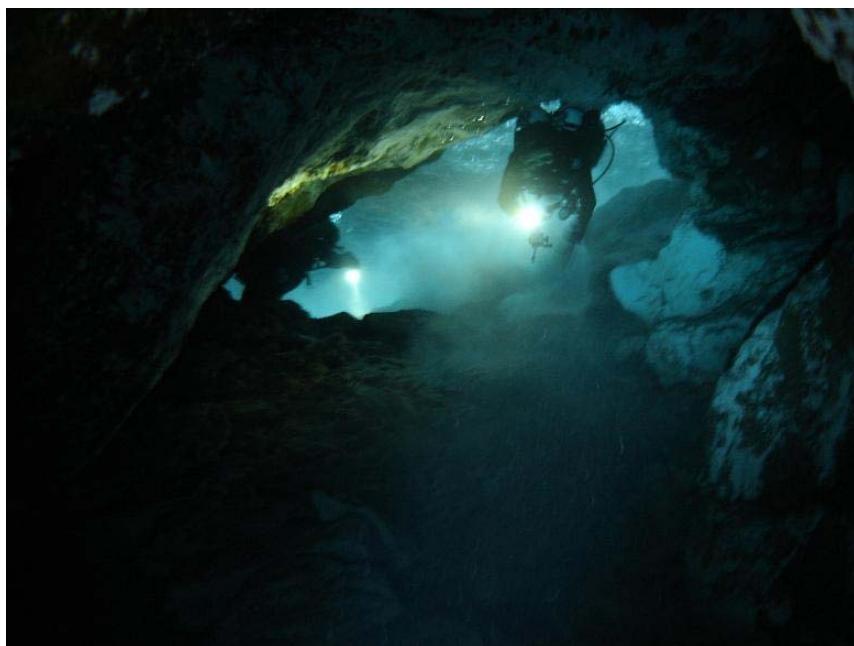
I enjoyed this dive and challenge after some good advise from Freddy. ("Treat it as a game, not as a course" he told me). Why didn't he give me that advise earlier!

After getting out, I remembered my lesson. I wasn't going to say that I thought I did good. I waited for Gary's comments, and was pleased with the result! Looks like I had improved quite a bit since my dive yesterday at Allendale!

I had passed the course! At the time, it was a bit surreal to me, and it hadn't quite sunk in, (or maybe it was my lack of sleep), but boy did my wife hear about it all later when I returned home!

Once finished, Freddy and I decided to go back to Pines for a nice relaxing dive—to enjoy the certification I had just earned. I decided to dive dry this time, to just see the difference, and for a bit of practice. While there, I found my tether which I dropped previously when blacked out. I knew we came back for a reason!

The cave course was a fantastic experience—which as crazy as it may sound I enjoyed. Gary was great to learn from and had some good advise about my diving techniques, attitudes, and the changes I need to make to my gear.



Allendale Cave—Photo by Gary Barclay

It's also great to do a course with a bloke who has a sense of humour. It gives you a few laughs during the course, and even more when you look back on the weekend, while also helping to take the anxiousness out of it a little—a great atmosphere to learn in.



Then there was Freddy, who without I wouldn't have even been able to attempt the course! His help with the practicing in Gouldens, being there as my dive buddy, being patience while I kept ramming him into walls at Pines, the extra advise and the encouragement were invaluable. I'll be owing him for quite some time to come!

Reflecting back on the weekend, I can see that while I did pass the requirements - I would change a few things if I had the time over again.

Firstly, I learnt that my reel work needs a lot of improvement! After passing the Cav/Sink course, the sites I dive in don't need reels, and I had become sloppy and complacent. This really showed up in my cave course. I should have spent more time on my cavern dives using the reel to become more confident and familiar with line laying.

Secondly, I learned that no matter how good you think your buoyancy and trim is - a cave course is going to show you up a lot more than you think. Having the time over again, I would seriously consider doing the whole course in a wetsuit.

Thirdly—sleep. Yup.... Need to have that sleep!

It seems it wasn't long ago that I was only thinking about going for my Open Water course, and definitely not further. I wouldn't have dreamt of becoming a cave diver. All I wanted was a dive in Cairns and maybe a couple of shore dives down here.

Further more, after the horror stories I heard about cave diving from a tour guide at the Naracoorte Caves a decade previous—I decided I was never going to go anywhere near an underwater cave!

Thankfully since then, I've been surrounded by mates who have told me the truth about cave diving, where I've come to know the real stories, and the safety of this sport! Without them, I would be missing out on so much!

I never imagined that taking the first step by getting my open water scuba certification was going to lead me to such a new world of experience I never thought existed. I'm so grateful for the encouragement of my cave diving friends, and the bad weather that forced me to go further than Open water! If I never continued, I would have missed out on so much! ↗

Melbourne to get a new Ship!

It's been on the cards for a while, but it looks as though Melbourne is finally going to get its very own Frigate, the HMAS Canberra.

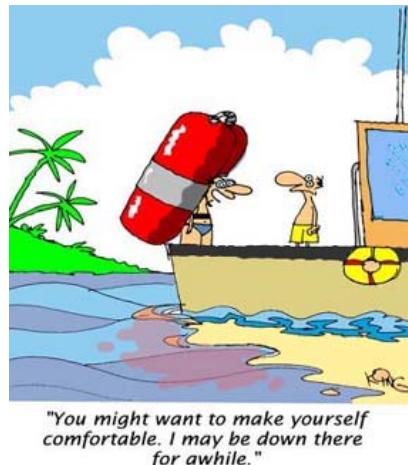


It's going to be great to have this ship so close to us (and hopefully in a better dive location than where the Hobart was placed in Adelaide!)

The current proposed site for the sinking of this vessel is half way between Barwon Heads and Point Lonsdale (just to the south west of the J-Class Submarines) sometime in 2008.

If this goes ahead as planned, it should rest in 36m of water, with a 22m dive to the top of the wreck.

No doubt this will be a popular dive, and a dive that we will be looking at putting on our agenda! ↗



Let's get personal!

Are there any dives that you would like to do that aren't listed, or any other special requests or achievements you'd like to make? Let it be known.

Send your thought into the mailing list, and let everyone else know what you'd like to do to see if we can organise additional dives with others who are interested.

Going Penetration

(By Freddy)

It's been five years since I had completed my cave course., and since then I've been thoroughly enjoying myself making countless trips to Mt Gambier to dive the caves, as well as a number of trips to the Nullabor. With all the diving I had done, I was still missing out on some of the best dives Mt Gambier had to offer. It was time for me to take my final step to Penetration. Amongst other sites, this would allow me to dive the back end of Pines to the CCR room, Iddlebiddy's, Englebrechts west, and of course the world famous Tank Cave!

The cave rating is great, but has a few restrictions. Firstly, you can only go into spots where you and a buddy can come out side by side (eliminating the ability to go through small restrictions some sites have). Secondly, you can only penetrate to a distance of one third of your air supply on twin tanks before you have to return.

The Penetration rating however was effectively limitless. You can take as many additional stage bottles with you as you want, and go through any spot you can squeeze yourself into.

Unlike the previous courses I had done, this Penetration course would be much more strict. It has a number of instant pass/fails, including the stress test (which included buddy-breathing without a mask, while doing line work).

We did this back in the cave course, but it was 5 years earlier, and unlike the cave course - I would have no second chances.

So, prior to the course, I decided to spend a few weekends in Gouldens to make sure I was confident enough with my Buddy breathing without a mask.

There's not much of a call to use it in regular diving, so it wasn't something I had done recently. With the added pressure of instant pass/fail tasks, I thought it best to make sure I was up to meeting the requirements.

My pre-course practise dives went better than expected, and before too long the penetration course was upon me.

The course was to consist of two long weekends, which I envisaged would push me to the extremes.

The first day started off with theory. I'm not too good at theory (and when I came to doing the exams later on, I wish I had paid more attention!). We started out day one with theory in the living room of our Wimmera St house in Mt Gambier, which is a great place to stay when visiting the region—perfectly setup for divers alike. (Shameless plug)

Theory consisted of case histories, line work (including an introduction to arrows and pegs / personal markers – also known as “cookies”), and other calculations to take into effect when going with stage bottles.

It's interesting to be taught by two instructors too. Warrick (who was influenced by the GUE approach) was explaining that having all stage bottles mounted to the left was the best approach along with wrapping your long hose around your neck, whereas Barry (a TDI man) was countering him explaining the benefits of “Lean to the left – Rich to the right, along with having a hose long enough to reach the ground which is packed away.

Thankfully however, there are no absolutes in relation to gear layout within the CDAA. It's up to each person to survey the situation as to what will best suit the environment, and their own personal requirements as to which way they arrange their gear.

We also covered the use of Jump Reels, and covered the training we would be doing at Gouldens that afternoon, including the introduction of ‘The Triton course’ (which is effectively a complex line course that the instructors lay previously, and we're required to navigate it, and do jumps).

It was now time to get into Gouldens and start our in-water training sessions. At Gouldens, our first dive consisted of dropping off a stage bottle at the start of the triton course, tying off our reel, coming to the cross intersection, pegging our way home, following it out, jumping to the next line – go out again, and jump a second time (whilst blindfolded), and then made our way back to our stage bottle, retrieving the jump reels and markers on the return trip.

The second dive included gear removal through a restriction (where you remove your gear, push it through a tight restriction and follow it through, to put it back on again after passing the restriction), and also included taught line cutting.

The second day was similar to

...where you remove your gear, push it through a tight restriction and follow it through, to put it back on again...

the first, but once we got out to the end, we were blindfolded, taken out somewhere, and had to do a lost line search, before locating the triton, and then making our way back to the exit.

The first lost line search I did took me 15 minutes (with a 20 minute window), where I missed the line on my first pass, but found it on the second.

Next we would go through a restriction while sharing air with a

buddy while not losing contact with a line. (With all these things, except the line search and retrieval – if you lost contact with the line, you were walking home – course over).

Next was our stress test, which effectively was just buddy breathing with our masks removed whilst retrieving the line back to the surface. Our last 6 weeks of practise made this relatively simple.

The third day was our evaluation course, where we did everything we had done the previous two days in one water session. Thankfully this would be the last I was to see of Gouldens (or so I thought! A so called “friend” dragged me back there 3 weeks later to buddy him up on his cave course!)

The following weekend we had our first site dive, which was at “The Pines”. Here we would enter the Penetration section of the cave. Fixed lines had been put in the cave which Gary had placed the night before.

We had to carry our stage bottles, tie off our line, mark our exit point, headed down the line where we made a jump to a 2nd

fixed line, pegged the line, headed off through the floor into the Penetration section where we got to 22m (which was the maximum depth for that dive), .

We then turned the dive, and started for home where we were blindfolded, and had to make our way back through the restrictions. Mysteriously, extra jumps were placed on the line on the way out that weren’t there on the way in. It was up to us to determine which line was ‘ours’, and not get lost. (Once again, following the wrong line would lead to an instant dismissal).

The dive itself wasn’t that difficult, but Warrick was stressing to us before the dive that if we went off on the wrong line on the re-

...And then there was Gary, who instead of helping me explain the situation to David, decided to be most unhelpful...

turn trip, it was instant failure.

Most of the pressure / stress on the course was introduced mentally prior to the dive by the instructors, as I found the diving itself wasn’t real difficult.



The next dive was at Ididdlebiddy. There is a fixed line at Ididdlebiddy, so our dive plan was to follow the line to the back, where we did a forced mask exchange (to our spare), and return on only one backup light (between the two of us). During this dive we were not to touch the wall, floor or roof of the cave.

The instructors would decide which torch we would use to come back on, and I knew these wonderful delightful instructors or ours would choose the worst one we have.

I was buddied up with David, and we went through our pre-dive torch checks. During this we found one of his torches had almost depleted batteries. Just a dull glow was emitting from the bulb. Never mind, we had additional torches in our kits. However, David decided that he still wanted to take that torch as well!

I tried to explain to him that if he took that torch (even as a fourth ‘non necessary’ torch), that the dead torch would definitely be the ones that the instructors would choose - and we would have to make our way back on a near flat battery!

Unfortunately though, David wasn’t understanding me or my concerns about his dead battery.



The boys on the penetration course, with Gary and Warrick

And then their was Gary, who instead of helping me explain the situation to David, decided to be most unhelpful, and kept encouraging David to take the wrong torch! The mongrel!

In the end, the only way to get David to leave that torch behind was to tell him that it was either me or that torch he was going in on the dive with. Reluctantly (and still not understanding why) - he left that torch behind.

...it was either me or that torch he was going in on the dive with!

Sure, it was a bit comical for Gary and Warrick, but I'm the one who would suffer!

The next dive was our final site dive at Englebrechts West. This dive was relatively simple. We just had to go in, do a forced mask exchange, and come back through a restriction sharing air using a long hose.

Warrick was laughing as I was paired with Gary, and he didn't think that Gary and I due to our build—would fit through the restriction.

We were greeted with a hand-shake and compliment when we exited later by him after we proved him wrong.

The course was over. Two weekends in the making, but I finally have my ticket. Now I only have 20 penetration dives to do outside my course, and I'll be able to start attacking Tank! To boldly go where some have gone before.

May 6th—Kilsbys

Once just wasn't enough for some so a few of us wandered back to Kilsby's again one month after our last dive trip to see what else it had to offer. Surprisingly, the weather was pretty good for us (considering the rain we'd had lately). Also just as surprisingly was the water level, which appeared to be up a noticeable amount.

June 2nd & 3rd—Pics, One Tree & The Shaft

Originally planned just for the shaft, we decided to make a good weekend out of this, and added Pic's and One Tree to the list of sites we were to dive this weekend.

Past Events (In Brief)

We've had quite a bit of diving on over the last year, so we're only able to mention a few events here.

April 7th (Easter at the Mount)

The Easter weekend spent at the Mount where a few got to dive Kilsby's for the first time, and many a story was made up about (and a few laughs had at the expense of) a non-showing diver.

Saturday greeted us with a crisp cold morning as we entered into Pic's at eleven o'clock. The water considerably dirty after the recent rain (couldn't see the bottom of the 1st pond from the surface), but we pushed our way over to the dogs leg, and up through the cathedral. It wasn't the cleanest we've seen Pic's, but was well worth the dive none the less. Upon surfacing, the clouds had broken up, and the sky was blue.

That afternoon we took advantage of the good weather and made our way to one-tree. The water was clear all the way down this time where we managed to get ourselves into some deco time.

Unfortunately the following day was not to be the same. The dive at the shaft was met with some light rain in the morning, although things did clear up in the afternoon which allowed us to get a bit of sunlight down into the water using the mirror to redirect it to the right angle. Oh—and you'll never guess who we got to meet this day!



Gary demonstrating the use of line arrows, and that size is important!

June 30th—Cleanup Weekend

Gary Barclay (CDAA Site director) organised a weekend cleanup over at the Mount. This included cleaning up of rubbish out of Hells Hole, Putting Steps in at Allendale, and the erection of some new dive bench tables at a few sites in the area.

July 6-9th—Whyalla

A couple from Horsham teamed up with the gang from Warrnambool and trekked across to Whyalla in search of the Giant cuttlefish.

While the weather wasn't the best for diving, we got a few dives in at a sheltered place where there were cuttlefish galore, and a great time was had by all.

October 27th—Cave Course

Another diver gets certified for cave diving. (See article on page 7 for article.)

November 10th—Cape Jaffa

Andrew, Alan and Adam ventured over to Jaffa with Ken and Ardy to grab some crays. A number were caught (including 3 over 3kgs).

This was Alan and Adams first catch by diving! Well... Alan has come home with Cray's before—but going over to SA, catching nothing, and having a Professional give you one of his out of Sympathy doesn't count!



Other excitements such as being run over by a 30ft cray vessel by an Unnamed Horsham businessman, and recovering a scuttled trolley was also accomplished this weekend.



Upcoming Events

Phlyctenanthus australis (Ralf) By Linda Claridge

With harvest upon us, not many have come to us with dates of when they plan to go diving at certain locations, (so this list is minimal) however the Warrnambool Sub Aqua club have dives planned until the new year, and these can be found on the website (both under the news section on the main page, and also in the calendar section).

January 26th—The Shaft

Freddy will be guiding the shaft this Australia day weekend. Contact Freddy, or book online.

March 23rd—Easter Weekend

Talk about spending part of the Easter break at Mt Gambier is in the air. More information will follow as the date gets closer, either in the next newsletter, or online on the website.

Some ideas for next year include:

- Emily Wreck—Portland & Sharks tooth Reef
- Diving in the cold at Tasmania
- The J Class Submarine's or Lonsdale wall at Queenscliff
- A Catch n Cook weekend at Port McDonald
- BBQ n Video Night
- Lochard Wreck
- Easter Weekend (March 21-24) at Mt Gambier
- Nullabor Caves in Sep '08

December 9th—Pickering Point (Warrnambool)

WSAC are organizing a dive to Pickering Point. Contact Mick O'Brien for more information.

December 16th—Emily Wreck (Portland)

WSAC are organizing a dive on the wreck if all goes well. Contact Jeff Cotrill for more information.

December 30th—Helen Rock (Warrnambool)

WSAC are organizing a dive to Helen Rock. Contact Doug Trotter for more information.,

If you have some ideas on what you would like to dive, please send it into the mailing list, or let Freddy or Adam know, and we'll add it to the list. ↗

Divers Dictionary

- * **MASK**- Storage container for sea water samples until you reach the surface.
- * **FINS**- Torture device invented during the Spanish Inquisition.
- * **SNORKEL**- Breathing tube used to suck in seawater and insects while on the surface.
- * **WET SUIT**- Exactly what a diver does when the cold and caffeine kick in.
- * **DRY SUIT**- Glorified inner tire tube and just about as comfortable.
- * **NARCOSIS**- Does that cost extra?
- * **2nd Stage**- Not a theater term.
- * **SPARE AIR**- The air left in your buddies' tank.
- * **BOAT DIVING**- A complex task because boats usually don't dive.
- * **WRECK DIVER**- What you become after running out of air at 40m.
- * **EMBOLISM**- A BAD THING!
- * **OCTOPUS**- Eight legged sea creature which attaches to your face at inopportune moments.
- * **B.C.**- The extra flotation you gain after many holiday meals.
- * **SHARK**- Bottom feeding, cannibalistic, spineless, invertebrate (sure it's redundant), often found in court-rooms, newsrooms, and car lots.
- * **GIANT STRIDE**- An acrobatic maneuver so called because of the 15 foot drop to the water which occurs when the boat rolls to port while you are exiting the starboard side.
- * **BUDDY BREATHING**- An often impossible task because your buddy has long ago left your side in search of the bikini clad, web-footed, neoprene fish.
- * **BUDDY DIVING**- "Same day, same ocean- we must be buddies."
- * **PLAN YOUR DIVE / DIVE YOUR PLAN**.- It's like a diving safety mantra only different.
- * **FREE ASCENT**- Finding a way to go up without paying for it.
- * **1/3 RULE**- When going away for the weekend, 1/3rd of your money should be spent on travel, 1/3 on accommodation, and 1/3 on beer.
- * **DIVE TABLES**- Discarded Furniture normally found at the bottom of sinkholes.
- * **TECHNICAL DIVING**- Diving with a computer.
- * **MAX DEPTH**- The maximum depth your computer is allowed to go to.
- * **DIVE COMPUTER**- A \$700 addition to your weight belt.
- * **V.I.P.**- "Someone who finds it Virtually Impossible to Pee inside their wetsuit."
- * **V.I.P.**- Something your buddy turns into when you run out of air.
- * **NITROX**- A gas put in your tank that makes you go faster. (Similar to nitros in a car)
- * **BOTTOM TIME**- Time spent sitting on the narrow, uncomfortable bench on the way to the dive site.
- * **PURGE**- The button you push to get rid of the chili-dog you belched into the regulator.
- * **TUB DIVER**- Specialist in off season, shallow, freshwater dives.
- * **FLOOD**- What your sinuses do to your mask.
- * **BUOYANCY CONTROL**- The art of not沉底 or rocketing past mean sea level.
- * **DIVE LIGHT**- A waterproof carrying case for dead batteries.
- * **GEAR BAG**- Storage device for sand, shells, old sandwiches, mildewed T-shirts, and stowaway sea critters.
- * **DIVE KNIFE**- An underwater magnet for rust that in an emergency won't cut through hot butter. A weapon that training organizers class as "Not a weapon".
- * **THE SECRET OF DIVING**- Inhale, exhale, repeat as necessary. "

Looking for Accommodation?

Whether you're chasing it for a night, a weekend or a week, this spacious 3 bedroom house with good size living areas and fully furnished, located in Wimmera Street Mt Gambier may be what you're looking for.

It includes an outdoor entertainment area at the back with facilities for diving gear to be hung up on. Perfect for scuba divers visiting the Mt Gambier region, whether to dive in caves or the nearby sea.

It also makes an excellent place to stay while doing your CDAA course! Prices start at \$20 / head / night.

For bookings, contact Kelvyn or Paula Ball

Ph: (03) 5384 2259
Mob: 0428 842 259 / 0427 842 259
Email: freddy145690@bigpond.com

