

Waves 'n' caves

www.wavesncaves.com

SPRING 2008



What's been happening?

Welcome to the wavesncaves eighth newsletter.

Crikey—it's spring already! Many things have been happening since our last newsletter.

A number of divers, including Gary Barclay, Linda Claridge and Dr. Richard Harris (Dr. Harry) undertook a 'scientific' expedition to the bottom of Blue Lake in Mt Gambier. It's amazing what you can wangle your way into under the title 'scientific expedition'.

But, we all know it's a big hoax and they didn't really dive it. They gave it away when they reported reaching the bottom with a depth at around 70m. Everyone **knows** that Blue lake is bottomless.



Welcome to our eighth newsletter!

In this edition:

- Past Events
- Upcoming Events
- Illegal firearms discovered at Hells Hole
- Diving the President
- Out of air emergencies
- Update on the HMAS Canberra
- Deadly Creatures—the box jellyfish.
- Possible Closure of Ewens

Doug's find in Hells hole during the cleanup weekend.



In addition to this, Piccininni ponds has also been explored and mapped, including the finding of a new cathedral like room almost directly under the cathedral room at a depth of 110m.

An interesting item was found at Hells hole by Doug during the cleanup weekend in the form of a double-barrel shotgun still loaded with two live cartridges!

The action of the gun was in good working order. Anyone who is missing a double barrel shotgun should contact the Mt Gambier police lost and found department to arrange a time to visit and see if it's theirs.

Congratulations go to Steve and Kelly, who have tied the knot over in Fiji with a number of Warrnamboolians tagging along to celebrate the occasion and escape the freezing weather we've been having!

Freddy and Adam arranged at short notice a quick trip to Vanuatu. This was done solely for the benefit of those wanting to dive the President Coolidge next February to make sure that it's still there and in a good diveable condition. Our hat goes off to them and their thoughtfulness. (Yeah right!)

A car has burnt down and a trailer exploded on a return trip from the Nullabour—although the trip was not a complete loss as Cocklebidly yielded additional passage to Dr Harry and Craig Challen.

Lastly, the HMAS Canberra has been moving along quite nicely. It made it's way into Geelong and is currently undergoing work to make it sterile for the sinking.



Past Events

June 1st—Hells Hole Day

This weekend was a success with many attending both the Saturday and Sunday to clean up and improve various dive sites. A big thanks goes out to Trevor from SA Forestry for providing equipment and food for the occasion!

Many items were collected from Hells hole, including white goods, shopping trolleys, and a double barrel shotgun (which was handed into Police by the SA Forestry). Interestingly enough another firearm was found just the previous day (which was also handed into Police) prompting the police to do some dives in there themselves which revealed even more weapons!

It is believed that the firearms were those stolen from a break-in approximately 4 years ago.

Many attended the dive at Hells hole creating a lot of work lowering and lifting both gear and people for a good part of the day. The smiles all round though showed that this was a very successful day and enjoyed by all, as was the BBQ SA forestry provided!

July 19-28th—SS President Coolidge, Vanuatu

Adam and Kelvyn travelled to Santo for a weeks dive in the tropics where Adam found on the difference between diving in a nation worried about litigation and OH&S, compared to a tropical island paradise that worried about the diving.

August 2008 —Parko & Kelly Tie the knot.

Congratulations to Steve and Kelly who tied the knot in Fiji with a number of Warrnamboolites in toe. The opportunity to dive the perfect tropical waters and swim with the bull sharks was not lost either!

August 23-24th —Mt Gambier Caves

A number of caves were dived and enjoyed in Mt Gambier this weekend including Pines, Iddlebidy, Nettlebed and Englebrechts.

Upcoming Events

Sep 27—Oct 11th Nullabour Trip POSTPONED

The Nullabour trip has been postponed until next

year due to a variety of circumstances. Contrary to flooding rumors those planning on going were not frightened by the stories of exploding trailers!

October 17th—Catch N Cook

Cray season will be back into the swing, and we're sure that there's more than just a couple that will be ready for the great hunting and the feeding experienced found with these unique creatures. There has been talk of holding a catch n cook this weekend over at Port MacDonald.

November/December

Open water courses will be held as we have a list of quite a number of interested divers. If you are interested in getting your Scuba ticket, please feel free to ask Adam (adam@wavesncaves.com) for more information.

Short-notice Events

Unplanned diving events happen almost on a fortnightly basis, with trips all over the coast and inland at caves! (Even overseas trips are sometimes arranged at very short notice!) These trips, normally decided within a week or two of the dive are communicated between divers on the waves n caves mailing list.

If you are not on the mailing list, then you are most likely not in the know of the majority of the dives that take place!

If you would like to be on the mailing list, send an email to help@wavesncaves.com requesting to be added. The mailing list allows all involved to be able to send emails to the list members about any intended dives. ✍



Brittle Starfish found during Open Water Course in Port Fairy's at Pea Soup.

“Diving the SS President Coolidge

By Adam Hair

“Peaceful and surreal”. “Like being in space surrounded by a thousand shooting stars”, “Beautiful, out of this world.”, “Disney on Acid” (*my favourite quote*).

These were some of the words to describe the night dive on the Coolidge. The torches were off, all you could hear were bubbles rising, and all you could see was hundreds of little fluorescence green ‘light bulbs’ appearing like a crazy 3D movie rushing back and forth against a pitch black background. To one side one could see a silhouette of a diver outlined amongst all the dashing lights—the guide.

Then, as a diver swam off, a small trail of green fluorescent sparks trailed behind, coming from the wake of their fins. No torches—just magic.

This was the night dive on the SS President Coolidge. - A luxury passenger ocean liner that was kitted out by the US War Department in the 2nd world war—now sitting at the bottom of the beach just off Santo Island in Vanuatu after hitting a ‘friendly’ mine.

28 degree tropical waters, clear blue water, tropical fish, colourful coral and a still, calm ocean are just some of the things that surround this wonderful dive location.

Access to the Coolidge is from the beach. A tropical garden awaits where you gear up, only metres from the passage to the ocean.



I’ve only dived in tropical waters twice previous including a live-a-board in Cairns. It was a fantastic trip. The waters here are very similar. You have your colourful coral reefs with tropical fish. The warm and clear water, and easy diving. But it was also vastly different.

There’s not just the reefs, you have the variety of the wrecks and million dollar point. (More later). Variety everywhere, both in and out of the water!



There’s no 2hr boat ride out to the reef. No seasickness (if you’re that way inclined). No OH&S ‘rules’. You’re even allowed to hand feed the fish!

We dove with Alan Powers Dive Tours. The guides were fantastic and extremely friendly and had a great sense of humour.. We were treated like Adults and respected to the level of our diving capabilities, whilst still being looked after comfortably.

Many of the restrictions we have whilst diving in Australia were not imposed on us over here. The guides were careful to look after us and safety, but didn’t have to worry about the extra overhead of litigation, allowing all of us to concentrate on what was really important—the diving!

It’s laid back. It’s island lifestyle. It’s paradise! The locals are so friendly and it’s a completely different culture.

Santo takes roughly the same amount of flight time from Brisbane as it does to get to Cairns, and after diving here and seeing the differences, I doubt I’ll ever see Queensland again. (As it costs about the same too!)

The first dive on the Coolidge is the introductory dive. A relaxed and fascinating dive to the prom deck—(maximum depth of around 30m).

I know what you’re probably thinking. I’ve done Open Water and are only permitted to 18m. Trust me—diving here is something completely different. You feel like you’re at 8m when you’re really at 30!

Whilst we were there, there were a number of divers diving on the Coolidge that had not even gone into double figures in the log books—and here they were diving and enjoying this ship (both inside and out) effortlessly..

The prom deck introduces you to the ship by way of the bow, a 3” turret gun on the deck, with unfired

shells all around it, and the bridge of the ship. Tropical fish and coloured coral growing all over it.



From here you make your way back up to the side of the ship, over the salvage holes into cargo bays 1 and 2, have a quick peek in if you like, and then head back to the deco area for a safety stop.

At the decompression stop there were plenty of things to do. Look at the coral garden, and fish life. Say G'day to Nemo, and hand feed the variety of fish—which is a ball of fun in itself!

If this wasn't enough—we also had our H2O UNO cards on us. (Underwater Uno) which kept us occupied while completing our safety and deco stops.

The SS President Coolidge hit a 'friendly' mine field whilst coming into the channel back in the 2nd World War. It was ran aground on the beach to allow the roughly 4000 passengers and crew to disembark before sliding quietly back into the tropical waters and resting on the slopey bottom.

After 70 years many of the original items remain. The medical bay still houses many medical items, including full Plasma bottles, Field Morphine kits and colourful powder for who knows what.



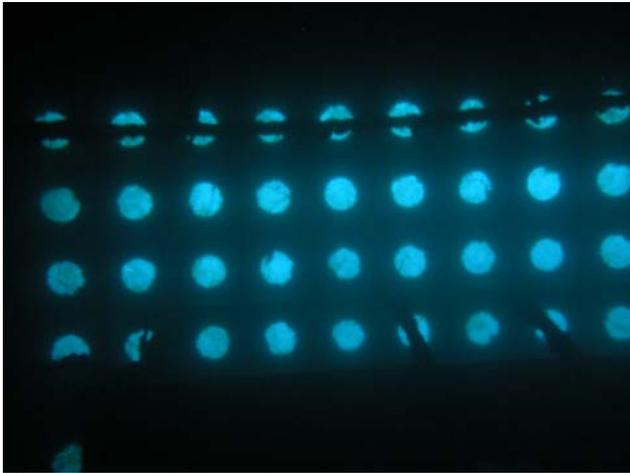
Then there's the passage ways, which still hold many of the internal decorations, chandeliers, and the famous 'Lady' statue.

A Springfield sniper rifle can be found in another passage way, as well as many other war equipment and munitions all over.

As you swim through the ship, it's important to re-



member to look up otherwise you'll miss out on the opportunity to take in the beautiful view of the port hole lights, beaming bands of light rays into the ship.



Another cargo bay holds various vehicles and equipment.

We also entered the engine room where most of the gauges still remain intact, and found that some of the valve's can still be turned! (That's quality built equipment considering it's been lying in the salt water now for nearly 70 years!)



If you're a depth junkie, why not visit the stern. Depending on tide you will reach a depth of 60-70m. (Just expect to be doing some deco time and get to know Nemo better!)

There are many variety of dives you can do on the ship, and you'll never cover all of the ship in one visit!

However, if the Coolidge is not enough for you and you want more variety there's plenty of other things to see.

Million Dollar Point is just a kilometre down the



road. At the end of the 2nd world war, the US had a problem. They had all this equipment and they couldn't take it back to the USA for a variety of reasons, so they offered to sell it to the French at a cheap price.

Apparently the French weren't prepared to pay this price, most likely believing that the Americans would drop the price further because they were in a Jam and needed to get rid of the equipment.

Instead, the US defence force decided to build a jetty and drive the equipment of the edge. When they filled up the sea at that point with equipment,



they made a coral landing on top, and extended the pier out further to drive off more equipment.

The site received it's name for the (then) value of goods that entered the water.

Now that area is a haven for marine life and makes quite an interesting dive site. It includes tractors, dozers and trucks to name a few.

There are also 2 smaller shipwrecks there, that sunk during salvage operations, one which is still



intact enough to be able to penetrate through the bridge and down into the engine room. The dive site in itself is remarkable, but dims in contrast to being so close to the Coolidge.

Make sure you don't overlook this dive site if you've never been there before though!

If that's not enough variety for you, there are also other great dive sites, which include wrecks such as The Tucker (a US Destroyer) and The Henry Boneaud.

If you're looking for something a bit different why not take some time out to dive the pristine reefs in and around Espiritu Santo including Bokissa North Reef, rated one of the most colourful and healthy reef systems in Vanuatu!

As mentioned previously, seeing that diving here is around the same price as the tropics in Queensland, but you have the additional variety, history and culture— I would highly recommend anyone that's thing of diving in Queensland seriously consider visiting Vanuatu instead! ✍️

Believe it or not!

ALICE Springs has one of the highest rates of the bends in Australia - despite being 1500km from the ocean.

According to a write-up by Alice Burton in he Courier Male, April 29, 2004 four cases of decompression illness are reported in the town each year.

Elizabeth Mowatt , the Hospital emergency director said: "When I tell people this they look at me in disbelief - after all, we are in the middle of the continent."

Almost all of the incidents are caused by visitors boarding aircraft and flying to central Australia almost immediately after diving on the Great Barrier Reef.

They do not give their bodies enough time to recover and decompress, preventing nitrogen bubbles forming in the blood and tissue.

Dr. Mowatt stated that dive trips off the Queensland coast often involved 14 dives in four days, adding "Intensive diving like that can push people to the limit."

Dr Mowatt is a qualified diver, and said few tourists were aware of the dangers from the cumulative effect of too many dives in too short a time, They're not leaving long enough time (before) flying after repetitive diving - they don't want to sit cooling their heels, that's when they start taking risks."

Would you like to dive the Coolidge?

A number of us are planning on visiting Vanuatu again next February. (Actual dates to be confirmed).

An information night will be announced on the mailing list that will include travel, accommodation and dive details as well as a Q&A time to help give you all the information you need to decide if you would like to go, as well as information you will need to organise flights, accommodation, etc at the same time.

The information night will be announced on the mailing list. If you are not signed up on the mailing list, and would like to be, or if you would just like to be notified when the information night will take place, please email adam@wavesncaves.com and let him know.

Deadly Creatures

The box jellyfish

The Australian box jellyfish (*Chironex Fleckeri*) is a very dangerous creature that inhabits Australian waters, although they are not true jellyfish. The box jellyfish belong to the animal class Cubozoa, as opposed to true jellyfish which belong to the Scyphozoa class, even though they show many similar characteristics.

The other species that is known to have caused deaths is *Carukia barnesi*, commonly called Irukandji. This one is a tiny jellyfish, only about thumbnail size which frequent the oceans in northern Western Australia and the beaches on the Kimberley coast.

The box jellyfish has been responsible for more deaths in Australia than Snakes, Sharks and Crocodiles.

During the colder months they tend to live near the mangrove plants on the coastline, however during the summer season they come out which is when they cause potential problems.

The box jellyfish gets its name from its square body which can be 20cm along each 'box' side, and has poisonous tentacles draping below. Depending on who you talk to, these tentacles that can reach up to 80cm in length, or 3m in length. The jellyfish can grow up to 2kg's in weight.

There are about 15 tentacles on each "corner", and each tentacle has thousands of stinging cells (nematocysts). These stinging cells are activated by contact with certain chemicals on the surface of fish, shellfish or unfortunately enough—humans.

Box jellyfish are transparent and pale blue in colour, which makes them difficult to almost impossi-

ble to see in the water. (So much so that for years nobody knew what was causing swimmers such excruciating pain, and sometimes killed them.)

The box jellyfish can propel itself forward in a jet like motion and can reach three to four knots, that's 1.5 to 2 metres per second. (As opposed to 'true' jellyfish which drift.)

Box jellyfish can see. They have clusters of eyes on each side of the box. Some of those eyes are quite sophisticated, with a lens and cornea, an iris that can contract in bright light, and a retina.

Because of their speed and vision, some researchers believe that box jellyfish actually actively hunt their prey, while others insist they are passive opportunists (meaning they just hang around and wait for prey to bump into their tentacles).

This box jellyfish has caused at least 63 deaths in Australia since 1884 that we know of.

While it's hard to give a general answer as to when exactly the stinger season starts and ends, it is generally accepted that it is during the wet season (from October/November to April/May). However, in southern parts stingers have been encountered up until June, and in the Northern Territory they have been known to be all year rounders.

The sting of *Chironex fleckeri* have several very severe consequences, which is due to its cardio-toxic effect on the heart, and neurotoxic effect causing damage to the nerves, along with the dermatonecrotic effect caused to the skin.

What this means is that it's not uncommon for victims that have had extensive contact to experience cardiac arrest within minutes.



Even if one escapes this, the sting can be so excruciatingly painful that the victim can go into shock which can be fatal if the victim is swimming alone.

If stung whilst swimming the victim will rarely be able to make it back to shore on their own.

Once stung, the tentacles stick tightly to the skin, and can continue to release venom if not treated correctly, worsening the condition.

Severe stings can lead to necrosis of the affected tissue (which means it gets eaten away...), which is where the nasty scars come from.

First aid includes CPR if the victim goes into cardiac arrest which should take priority over everything else, but fortunately enough not all stings cause cardiac arrest.

The remaining stinging cells can be neutralised by pouring normal vinegar over the tentacles (soaking them for at least 30 seconds). Then the tentacles can be removed. (Attempting to remove the tentacles prior can cause more venom to be released). 

Out of air emergencies

Before obtaining my pilots license I would from time to time hear about plane accidents in the media. It seemed as though flying had it's fair share of risk but once I started studying I learned a very interesting fact. It would appear that a large portion of cases were preventable and caused by rushing or carelessness on part of the pilot and not the aircraft or any other unforeseen circumstance.

In addition to this, the most dangerous time statistically for pilots wasn't when they were new to flying, but was more so after they have spent more than 200 hours in the air.

This was mainly due to the fact of the pilot not running into any major problems previously, and taking a laid back approach to flying, ending up with the pilot taking shortcuts and being carelessness.

After reading a study of causes of Out of Air emergencies it would appear as though the same can be related to diving! Most of the causes for out of air emergencies are preventable and are due to the laid back approach that many divers take after they've been diving for some time.

It is easy to become familiar with our pre-dive checks, and after visiting so many dive sites we can lose our state of alertness when diving which increases this risk.

So, keeping this in mind, we've decided to look into the top 10 causes of Out of Air emergencies, and see just how many of these can be prevented, and how easy it is to do so.

1. Distraction; lacking situational (air supply) awareness.

Distractions can be caused by additional workloads

which can include being in an unfamiliar and uncomfortable situation, or concentrating too much on getting the perfect photo, catching the biggest darned cray you've ever seen, etc.

While distractions are inevitable we need to allow for these when diving and keep a good safety margin for reserved air/gas.

2. Environmental considerations.

These can include exceeding planned depth, encountering unplanned currents, cold exposure, entanglements and narcosis.

3. Regulator malfunction due to poor or no maintenance.

Regulators can fail. While we may not be able to prevent this completely, having them maintained on a regular interval can certainly help to prevent this.

4. Failures to O-ring, hose and diaphragm.

Once again, careful inspection of o-rings, hoses and attachments on a regular basis can help to prevent this.

5. Free-flow due to sand, foreign particles or ice formation.

Rinsing and inspection of dive gear, especially when diving in environments that include surf (such as beach dives) can help to prevent this.

6. Erroneous (or lack of) pressure gauge readings and alarms.

Some times pressure gauges can misread. Probably the most dangerous situation of this is when the pressure gauge is over-reading. (Telling you that

Looking for Accomodation?

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 and 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: freddy14569@bigpond.com



you have more air than you really do).

The best way to check this is to watch the gauge after you have turned off the tank and unpressurised the reg. The gauge should go to zero.

7. Improper rigging of equipment.

This is probably more of a problem when we're using borrowed or hired gear and not understanding how the gear works, but still sometimes laziness can cause us to take short cuts.

The best advise is, if unsure—ask.

8. Damage caused by impact, abrasion or sharp objects.

When you consider some of the things we put our dive gear through, it's no wonder that this is in the top 10 causes. Once again, carefully inspecting our gear and taking good care of it should help reduce this risk.

9. Failed mouthpieces.

This can be due to old mouthpieces, or mouthpieces not cable tied on properly. Adding this as part as your visual inspection would help.

10. Inadequate gas supply or an improper fill.

I was surprised to see this on the list. While some might point the finger at the dive shop or tank filler, the finger here really should be pointed direct to the diver. One of the first things we should do after turning on our tanks is to inspect our gauge.

After that, we should also be checking our gauge regularly through the dive. Either or both of these checks should eliminate this from being an issue, but yet it's made it's way into the top 10 causes of OOA emergencies.

Maybe divers aren't too different to pilots. After

gaining some experience with diving and having no problems, can we too adapt the approach of "it'll never happen to me" and start taking shortcuts.

Maybe it's something for us all to ponder... *pen*

HMAS Canberra

Well, we're keeping track of the goings on with the HMAS Canberra. The good news is that it's still moving forward, and we're likely to be able to dive on it the first half of next year!

Additional good news is the proposed site for the sinking of the Canberra. If all goes to plan the bridge should be accessible at 18m, with the sea bed and deeper parts of the ship lying to depths up to 35m.

With this range of depth, the dive site should accommodate for various rated divers beginning with the Open Water certification.

The ex HMAS Canberra arrived off Port Phillip Heads at around 10pm on the Monday, 9th June 2008 and entered bay at noon on Tuesday.

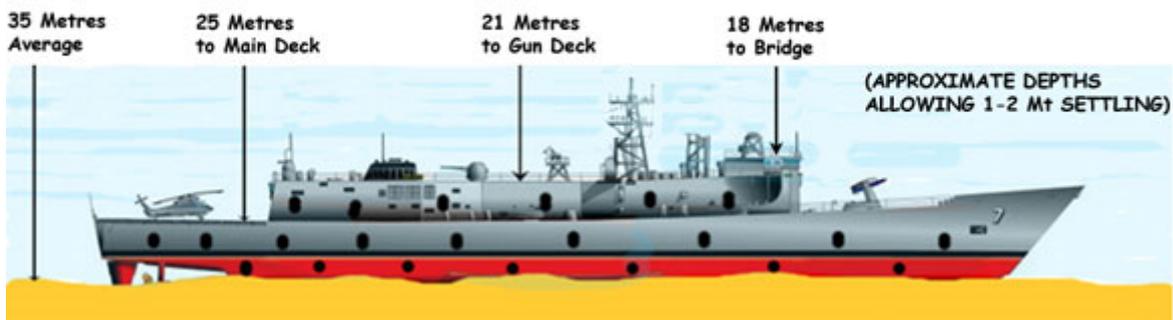
It made it's way up the South Channel and arrived in Geelong on Wednesday.

The Canberra is now currently undergoing cleaning and preparation. Once this is done, and the red table is completed the vessel will be towed back out of the heads and sunk.

At this stage, VARS are indicating a proposed sinking for the first quarter of next year, but with a few hurdles left with permits and some beaurocracy remaining it may take a little while longer.

We will keep you posted to the events on the website as well as other newsletters as we have more information. *pen*

CONCEPTUAL DRAWING AND PROPOSED SITE DEPTHS FOR THE EX HMAS CANBERRA



Pop Quiz:

Do You Know Your Buddy? Does he hate you?

Here's a quiz to help find out:

- 1) Does he give you the "wait here" sign and you are still on the boat?
- 2) Does he "forgets" to close your dry suit zipper?
- 3) When you give him the out of air signal, does he passes you his snorkel?
- 4) When you indicate you are low on air, does he writes on his slate "I'll get you some" and swim off?
- 5) When you give him the "OK" signal does he gives you the finger?
- 6) Does he spits in your mask for you while you're wearing it?



Do You Need To Practice Better Buoyancy Control?

Here's another quiz to help you find out:

- 1) Do you rely on the silt trail you always stir up to find the shot line at the end of the dive?
- 2) Do you insist that you never wear fins because it makes it more difficult to walk on the bottom?
- 3) Is the only place you can hover at the surface?
- 4) On ascents, does your entire body clear the surface of the water.
- 5) Do you use 50 bar for breathing and 150 bar for your BC.?
- 6) Are you certain you went for only one dive, but your computer has logged three?
- 7) Do you think being neutral in the water means that you don't fight with your buddy?

Do you know any good jokes? If so, please send them in to newsletter@wavesncaves.com. We need some good ones—can't you tell?!? Thanks to those who participated in this edition!

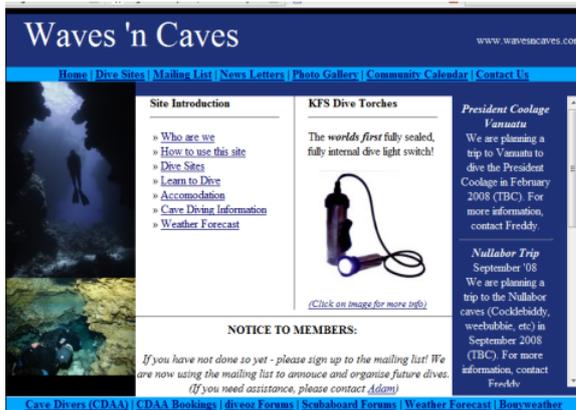
Have you visited our website lately?

One of the more popular parts of our website is the photo's section that is constantly been updated by various members.

Why not visit the photo's section and view or comment on the photo's. If you have some yourself—add them there.

(If you don't know the password, ask on the mailing list or email help@wavesncaves.com) as you will need to know it to upload your own photo's.

Have you seen the new video's uploaded which include video footage of the Goat Track in Tank cave, and Englebrecht's East in Mt Gambier?



Current and past editions of the Waves'n'Caves newsletters as well as the Warrnambool Sub Aqua newsletters can also be found and downloaded on our website.

The Buoyweather account is currently suspended until the weather warms up a little more. Information and password will be released on the mailing list when it's operational again.

The latest information on upcoming dives, including the interactive dive calendar can also be accessed via our website.

If you've got an idea or suggestion for the website, would like to submit a newsletter article, or would like to advertise on our website, or newsletter, please let us know. We are always looking for more articles, jokes, funny pictures, ideas, constructive criticism, etc.

You know your buddy is...

A Doctor, when you give him the out of air signal and he writes you a prescription, his golf clubs are attached to his tank and you can't read his dive log.

A Police officer when you give him the out of air signal and he writes you a ticket, he hides behind a reef watching for speeding divers, and as a Dive-master he asks the boat captain "Where's the closest donut shop?"

You know your dive gear is old, when you go to turn on your air and everyone runs, the Smithsonian Institution wants to display your equipment, and there's more duct tape on your wetsuit than there's neoprene.

You know your buddy is inexperienced when:

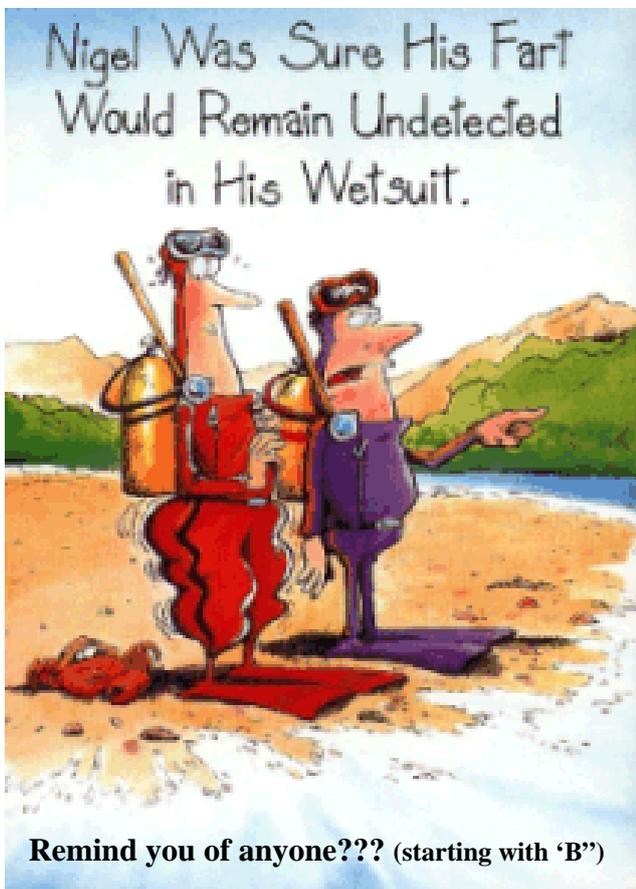
He asks, "which one of these thingies goes in my mouth"?

He offers to carry everyone's gear to the boat.

He thinks BC is a comic strip about cavemen?

He's upset when you tell him his dive computer doesn't run Windows Vista.

He pees in his wetsuit BEFORE he gets in the wa-



ter

He argues that NITROX was a monster who battles Godzilla

Ge says "Oh, I just wait 'til I get that "tingling feeling", then I know it's time to surface"

Top 10 Reasons Santa Claus Doesn't Dive

10. He's jolly enough with out getting narced.

9. Still mourning the mysterious disappearance of his dive buddy, Frosty the Snowman, while diving in the Bahamas.

8. He hates it when his dry suit leaks and his fuzzy red woolies get wet.

7. Rudolph's nose shorts out under water.

6. His sleigh failed Coast Guard inspection.

5. He's nervous because great white sharks have made the "naughty" list for 25 years running.

4. Dry suits not available in "jolly old elf" sizes.

3. That big white beard makes it impossible to get a good seal on his mask.

2. It's hard to get 32 fins on those little reindeer feet.

1. His elf-produced wooden regulator is dangerous at depth.

POSSIBLE EWENS CLOSURE

Submissions are currently being accepted by the Department of Environment and Heritage SA for a proposal to close Ewens Ponds to divers.

It would appear as though the initial plan is to stop all scuba diving in the park . Ewen's ponds is a fantastic dive spot, available to all snorkelers and Open Water divers, and is the only place in Mt Gambier that non CDAA divers are able to dive a sink hole with crystal clear water.

Submissions are being accepted up until 25th December, meaning that there is still some time to dive this site until the decision is made, however if you have not dived this site before, I would strongly advise that you visit it so you can also share the experience of diving this site, before it may be possibly closed.

More information is available at http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/pdfs/ewens_ponds_cp_amend_draft.pdf