



In this edition:

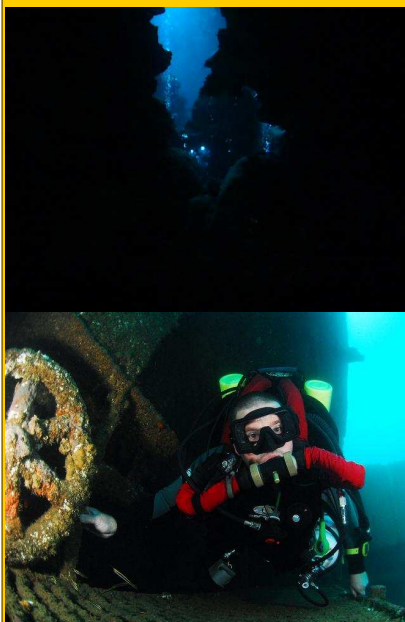
- Giant Cuttlefish
- Saving your dive
- Loch Ard Wreck
- New Website and Features
- Ewens Ponds Update

Above: Freddy 80m down on the City of Rayville wreck .

Below: Air bubbles float up through the entrance to the cathedral @ Picinnini ponds.

Far Below: Dan checking out the Tasman Hauler Tug off Eden with his rebreather.

Right: Air chamber found at Engle-



The Waves N Caves Newsletter


Where has the year gone? Sorry for taking so long to get out this Edition of Wetnotes, but much has happened since the release of the last edition, including yours truly becoming a father—which has impacted my time to do the newsletters a little more than first anticipated.

Firstly I'd like to give my thanks to a number of people who have helped contribute to this edition, including Steve Saville, Lachlan Ellis and Gary Barclay for their articles and support!

Next, we have a new website. The website has been modernized (although still needs some tweaks), and also now contains a private forum. The forum includes sections for diving in Warrnambool, Adelaide, Mt Gambier, as well as other dive and non-dive interests. More information about the new forum later on.

A new book called "Side Mount Profiles" has hit the shelves, with Linda Claridge and John Vanderleest modeling on the front cover. Yours truly has purchased a copy and is 1/2 way through reading it, and finding some quite interesting information within.

We also have an articles on the Loch Ard Wreck by Gary (which also made it in Dive Log), an article on Cuttle Fish and Lost Gear by Steve and and some handy tips that could save you sitting out a dive, information on diving with sidemounts, and an interesting equipment failure that occurred while in an isolated air chamber.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Wetnotes! 



Cuttlefish in July

By Steve Saville

Having not Dived the Cuttlefish Breeding frenzy at Whyalla for some years - the opportunity knocked weather wise, whilst preparing for a Flinders Ranges trip in the first week of July.

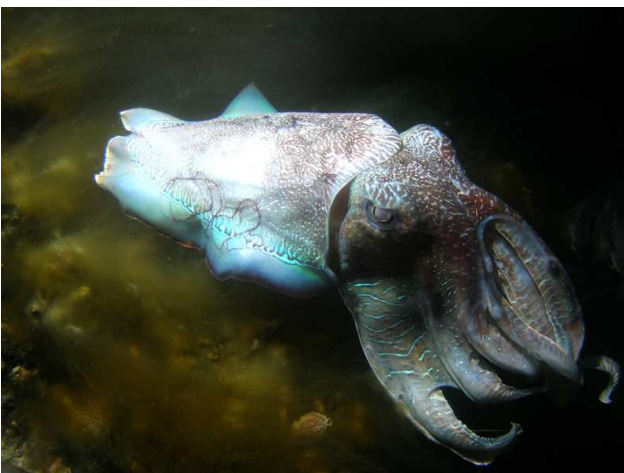
Further, not knowing whether there will be many opportunities to dive again given the desalination plant they wish to build to feed Roxby Mining – I really wanted to get down there again.



The concerns from conservationists is that the de-salination plant may vary the salinity which will kill off the eggs, and as cuttlefish tend to die after breeding it won't take long for the cuttlefish that breed here to vanish.

The cuttlefish are considered to be a sub species which are unique to our waters.

I planned the one dive, having diverted from Port Augusta whilst travelling in convoy with friends and headed directly to Port Bonython – or what is commonly referred to as the Fence Line. There is a recycled walkway that traverses first section of Rocks, before having to scramble the last 5-10 of rocks, depending on tide.



The first thing I found when arriving on site was my car was actually on fire, inside the service body.

Some wiring had shorted, creating enough heat to burn and meld together some shopping bags and plastic wire protection sleeves.

Anyway – I was overcome with black billowing smoke as I cracked open the reasonably air tight service body door.

Once sorting that out, and checking my Dive gear was OK – Diving I went.



Anyway as for the Dive Conditions – Fantastic. No Movement in tide, no Wind, Great Viz, and a lot of Green Algae, hanging about due to lack of North-erly's blowing hard.

Well the Algae made for interesting Photo opportunities with the Cuttlefish. Diving Late in the day and surfacing just on dark I was further blown away by the beautiful clear sunset.

A fantastic late afternoon other than the fire. A beautiful hot cooked meal was waiting for me at the Shearers Quarters where I was staying back in the Flinders Ranges.

Happy Diving All. – Steve 

Save your Dive

Consider making a save-a-dive kit

At some point in our diving we have gone to gear up and found that something's gone wrong. A strap has broken, an o-ring is blown, or something needs adjusting or repairing.

If you've been fortunate there's been another diver around or possibly the charter boat operator with some tools and spare parts that's been able to assist you and get you up and running, but should we be relying on others to save our dives?

It's not always possible or practical to bring our whole dive toolbox with us on certain dives or holidays—but there are a few things we can bring along that can get us out of most trouble.

Some shops provide their own 'save a dive kits'. We've taken into consideration what dive shops have, and have also added a few extra's to the list which we think may come in handy that many save a dive kits overlook..

And—as you can't carry everything all the time, we've broken up kits into two different types. The Basic, and Advanced 'save a dive' kits:

Basic: Light Weight / Good for Travel

Advanced: Bigger kit, not worried about weight.

Basic / Small Kit

- Spare O-Rings
 - Tank O-Rings
 - Hose O-Rings
 - Reg O-Rings
- Spare LP and HP reg Plug.
- Zip Ties
- Allen Key and Screw Driver
- Small Shifter / Adjustable Wrench
- Scuba 'Multi Tool'
- Spare Clip
- Spare Mouth Piece
- Spare Mask Strap
- Spare Fin Strap & Fin Clip
- Dental Pick / Hook.
- Electrical Tape
- Bike Puncher Kit. (Repairing Drysuit Seals)
- Bungie Cord
- Bees Wax

Of course, there may be a few other items that you might want to add or take from this list—but it's a starting point.




Advanced Kit

The Advanced Kit contains all of the Basic/Small kit Plus:

- Scissors
- Side Cutters
- Silicon Grease / O-Ring Lube
- Line / IP Gauge
- Spare Battery for Computer
- Chem Lights
- Surgical Tubing
- Clips
- Duct Tape
- Spare Fin Strap
- Spare Mask
- Copy of your Cert Card
- Dry / Surface Torch (For gearing up during the night or in dark caves)
- Spare Torch Batteries
- Aquaseal
- Permanent Marker (aka Texta/Sharpie)
- Dive Tables
- K-Din adaptor

There's some ideas to consider. If you have any comments about these, or think that we have missed anything—we'd be more than interested to hear from you on our forums.

Another option to save your dive is to have your cert card scanned in and stored online somewhere in a safe place (where you need your username and password to access). This way, if you forget your cert card when you go diving, you can have the shop look it up online. (We used this option earlier this year whilst at South West Rocks to get a diver out of trouble).

If you would like your cert card stored on the Waves 'n Caves website—just let us know! 

A dive on the Lochard

By Gary Barclay

A touch of history— The shipwreck coast is a very appropriate title for this inhospitable coastline that stretches from Port Fairy in the west to Moonlight Heads in the east.

It has been the final resting place of about 180 ships of all sizes that never made their final destination, some with total loss of lives and some just wrecked on the cliffs and beaches along this wind-swept coast. Some folk even speak of the 'Bass Strait Triangle', between Victoria and Tasmania where many ships and planes have been lost without trace or their whereabouts unknown. Many stories have been told over the years but none more than the ill fated 1878 Loch Ard.

The Loch Ard was a 1693 ton, three mast square rigged iron sailing ship – one of many of the Loch line vessels to end its career as a ship wreck (16 of the Loch line's 23 ships that set to sea were to end their days in a watery grave).

She was built in Glasgow Scotland by Barkley, Curle and Company. She was 263.7 feet long with a breadth of 38.3 ft and a depth of 23ft. With her two decks and masts she reached a height of 150ft. On her third voyage to Melbourne she left Gravesend (England) laden with 53,000 pounds of cargo complete with some highly valuable exhibits to help celebrate the opening of the Melbourne Exhibition building. Among these was a full size peacock from the Minton Potteries in England.

On the night of May 31st 1878 the Loch Ard was in the Bass Strait Triangle and in the early hours of the morning she struck the tip of Mutton Bird Island at a place that was later to become known as Loch Ard Gorge, several kilometres east of Port Campbell.

The Loch Ard was carrying a crew of 37 and had a



passenger list of 17 people who had just bedded down after a party to celebrate their planned arrival in Melbourne the next day. What a shock to be awakened by the noise of timber striking the Rocky outcrop.

With cold water rushing in and no time to prepare for the peril that was happening to the 52 souls on board only 2 were to survive – Eva Carmichael, a passenger who with her family was immigrating to Australia and Tom Pearce, one of the crew. Tom was credited with rescuing Eva (a non-swimmer) from the water after hearing her cries as she clung to a spar.

50 others perished in a short time of the ship first striking the end of the Island. Their story is now embedded in our maritime history.

The Loch Ard was the last ship to bring paying passengers from England under sail. All passenger vessels that sailed to Australia after this disaster were steam assisted vessels so the Loch Ard voyage was the end of an era.

Diving the Loch Ard shipwreck is unique due to the fact that it is can't always be dived frequently because the often inclement weather and strong sou'westerly winds can limit boat access. Should weather conditions be favourable though this can be an awesome dive.

With a payload of both passengers and cargo the array of wreckage found on the sea floor can be varied. Lots of metal from the wreckage can be found spread around and what appear to be barrels lay amongst them. These are in fact solidified concrete that was once contained within timber barrels with the timber now long rotted away. Large chunks of granite bound for Melbourne can also be seen.

Continuing our swim along the wreck we see broken crockery and sheets of glass, now heavily scuffed and frosted by near constant blasting by the sand and ocean. A heavy coverage of marine



plants and algae now almost completely cover the bollards that we encounter but are quickly identified as our eyes and brains becoming accustomed to identifying man-made objects from ocean debris. In pockets amongst the wreckage and in holes scoured by the oceans movement we find small mounds of lead shot, some of which we have not noticed before.

The constant movement of water at this site means that sand movement is frequently covering or uncovering the relics in this area. Over the years the bow of the ship has broken from the wreck and now lies on its port side with the bowsprit pointing up towards the surface.

Crayfish can be seen lurking in the shadows beneath parts of the wreck seemingly aware that they now reside in a marine reserve and as such are covered by the 'no take' rule.

Further along we see some still intact wooden crates and barrels and locate an area that first seems to be a cave but upon closer inspection we recognise that it is in fact the final resting place of the keel and the hull of the Loch Ard. We stop to touch this piece of history that once graced the waves of the world before we head back to our boat 24m above us.

Today the wreck of the Loch Ard can be found very simply once you have located Mutton Bird Island but it actually lay undiscovered for 90 years until a local Warrnambool diver – Stan McPhee located it in 1967.

She had been battered by the sea for those 90 years but underwent some further fierce battering as the early divers blasted and looted the wreck for any valuables that they could find.

The wreck is now protected by the Victorian Heritage Act (1995) and the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act (1976) which dictates that nothing

can be removed from the wreck.

Local Contacts:

Daktari Surf/Dive: phone 03 55624006

Email sharene@daktarisport.com.au

Port Campbell Boat Charters: phone 0428 986 366

Email: phillipyounis@bigpond.com ✍

Steve's Lucky Dive Finds.

By Steve Saville

Well I have lost a few things during my years of Diving, Currently outstanding to be found is one Turtle Fin, however, what is uncanny is the Finds of my lost items.

I lost my Pee Valve Bolt out of my drysuit in Pines, and some 10 months later, whilst catching up in the Mount with Freddy and the others, Freddy says - look what I found after just doing a dive in Pines, and holds up a Lost Pee valve bolt.

Blow me away, thats mine I said, and Freddy was kind enough to hand it over, so I could plug the hole.

Well, last weekend, I went for a dive at Rapid Bay Jetty with Luke B. I towed the boat over to Wirrina - as I was not up to walking the Jetty, and was telling Luke the story of me losing my Strobe Filter at Rapid Bay some 8 months earlier. I had tucked it into my waist belt, and forgot about it - likely losing it when I unkitted before getting into my boat. Anyway, after attempting a failed dive at Rapid Head with the seals, we swung around to Rapid Bay Jetty for a dive. I tend to anchor in a similar area most times.

Luke and I made our way back from the jetty to the boat on different dive paths, Luke was pretty busy with his photography, and I was just ploddering around. Well, with a smile Luke presents to me on the boat one Strobe Filter, fully in tact, but with some 8 months of growth on it. it was sitting in the sand not far from where I had anchored.

So all that is missing now is one X Large Turtle Fin. So please keep an eye out peoples - Lost about 12 Months ago, somewhere in the Spencer Gulf. ✍

Ewens Ponds Update

At present there seems to be some confusion as to what is happening with Ewens ponds. Presently the signage at the site hasn't changed, with divers and snorklers still permitted to rock up and dive the site.

However, one of our readers spotted on the D.E.H. website. (SA's Department of Environment and Heritage) a link that says otherwise:

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/sanpr/ewenponds/fees.html>

We contacted the D.E.H. in regards to this, and the staff weren't aware of the website changes, or any changes that have gone through yet so it would appear as though diving there—at least for the time being and while no signs have changed—is situation normal.

However—the early release of the changes on their website indicates that changes are definitely set to go ahead.

By viewing the website— we can determine that:

- Time Slot Bookings will be Required.
- Indemnity Forms will be Required.
- Annual Concessions will be available, or...
- ...there will be a fee \$10.00 per Adult for a snorkel.

What the website doesn't show, and is most concerning to us—is that there is no specification for Divers. We have not been able to get any official answers, but if the lack of diving access on their website is anything to go by, then it would appear as though diving this site may no longer be an option for much longer. ✍



Upcoming Events

January 1st (New Years Day)

Currently undecided at time of writing—there have been some discussions on the Waves n Caves forum about some possibilities, including the Adelaide area, South East Coast (S.A.), and Warrnambool / Portland Area.

Jan 22nd / 23rd

Mt Gambier Weekend. Some divers are already booked into Tank Cave. Other dive sites may also be visited this weekend, depending on numbers and certification levels.

Jan 29th / 30th and Feb 4th / 5th

Open Water Course. Bookings are currently underway, and more information about this is available on our Forum. Alternatively contact Adam or Linda for more information.

February 2011—Truk (Chuuk) Lagoon

A number of divers are heading over to Truk to do some diving on awesome WW2 wrecks.

Late Feb / Early March 2011—Batemans Bay

A group of people are heading up to Batemans bay to visit the Seals, Grey Nurse Sharks, and some friendly Blue Groper. Contact Adam for more info.

Easter 2011—Eden

A group of people are heading over to Eden to dive the tugs.

July 9th—24th—Nullabor Caves

Freddy and Gary are planning a couple of weeks diving at the Nullabor. Currently there are a number of interested parties. Contact Gary or Freddy for more info.

August 2011—Santo—Vanuatu

We just can't stay away—so we're planning on heading back again this year. Contact Adam for more information.

These trips and others are indicative only. As usual, dive trips are planned all the time that don't make our newsletter. The best way to keep up to date on dive trips is to visit the Website Calendar (on our forums), or view the information posted within the forums. ✍

Our New Website

As you may have noticed by now—we've changed our website. A number of things have changed with the latest website including the calendar, photo album and the addition of a brand new forum which will be used (amongst other things) for dive trip announcements and discussions.

PHOTO ALBUM

During the change we ran out of space on our old server and couldn't host additional photo's. This was no good to us, so lead us to relocate to a larger one. Unfortunately during the move, the old photo album became corrupt.

Adam spent quite some time trying to get it repaired, but in the end only the photo's could be salvaged. All is not lost though—we have integrated a new photo album into our forum which operates in a similar way, however it gives us some additional options too!

CALENDAR

The new calendar is integrated within our forum. As such, you need to have a forum account to view the calendar, but the forum account also allows you to add events too.

As always, we are more than willing to help you learn the new technology, so if you have any questions all you have to do is ask. :-)

FORUMS

There's been a bit of talk in this latest edition about our new Forums. We're aware that there may be a number of users unfamiliar with forums, so we thought it might be a good idea to give a brief introduction now so you can jump right in and participate in the discussions!


In the most simplest form a forum is an online text discussion, where everyone can see everyone else's replies. These replies are organised into topics, which are then categorised into Boards.

So if you ever get lost on forums or don't know where to get to a discussion remember.... **"Boards"** contain **"Topics"** which contain individual **"Posts"**

Topics can also include other interactive features such as Polls and direct links to other online resources. (We have a poll going at present asking if members would like to receive Wetnotes—whether

it be printed and posted, or via the internet).

One of the problems that people have with forums is knowing which threads to open up to see what are the most recent talked about topics. By default, boards with new posts since your last visit will show an icon indicating that a new post has been made.

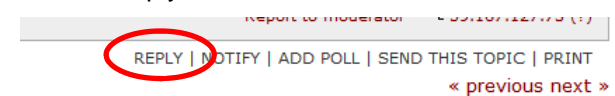
On the WavesnCaves forums, the icon that denotes a new post has  been made looks like the picture below:

So if you ever see an icon like that in the left hand column of the forum, go and check it out!

Eventually you will find a discussion that you want to reply to, whether it is to sign up for the latest planned dive trip or telling Adam to shut up....again.

To reply to an existing topic:

1. Make sure you are in the topic you want to reply to, and that the post you want to make is relevant to the discussion at hand
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on the "Reply" button

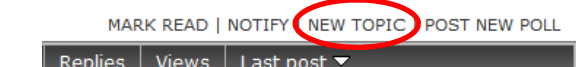


3. This will take you to the "Reply Post" page. This page has many different buttons and functions, but you can basically leave all of them alone. All you need to do is type your message into the largest white box that you see.
4. Finally, click "Post" to attach your message to the topic.

Once you have had a bit of a click around on the forums and you are familiar with reading other peoples topics and replying to them, its time to start your own topics!

To start your own topic:

1. Once you have decided the purpose of your new topic, have a quick look at the forums and decide which Board your topic would fit into best. Open this board by clicking on it.
2. At the top of the page, locate the "New Topic" button and click on it.
3. You will now see a page that looks very similar to the "Reply Post" page. You fill it in exactly the same way, except you must also fill in the "Subject" field



4. Finally, click "Post" to create your new topic.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the forums in the near future!

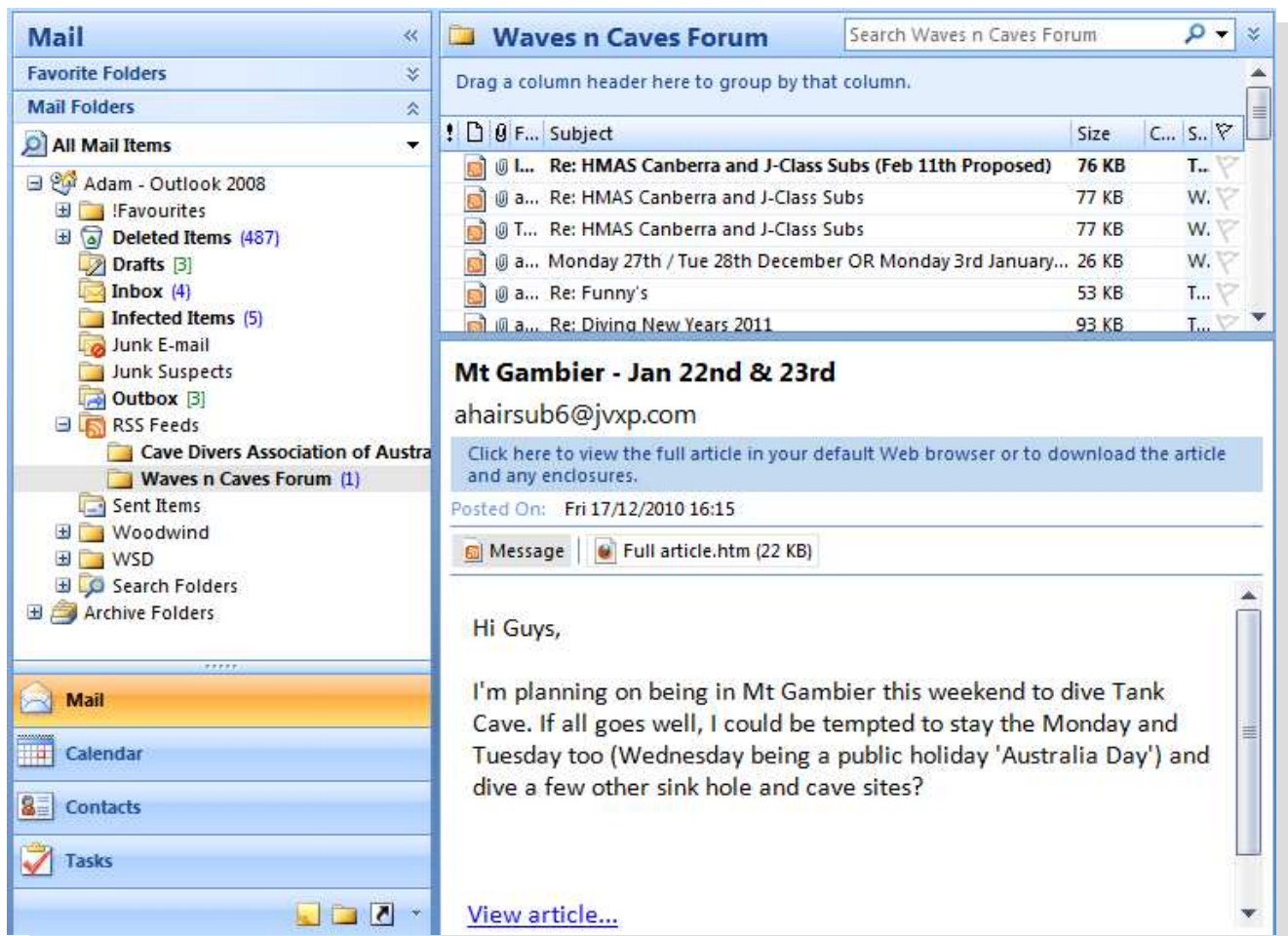
Lachlan Ellis. 

THE FORUM IN YOUR EMAIL

For those who are too busy in life to get on the computer and browse through web pages to see what's going on, there are a few good alternatives.

One of which is to have the forum topics show up as emails in your email client (such as outlook) by using RSS feeds in the forum.

Instead of needing to go online and view multiple pages, you can have all the information show up in your email program as shown in the following image:



There are a few benefits to doing it this way.

Simplicity. It is very simple to view all the recent posts, and this can be done within a matter of seconds from the one spot, instead of having to browse online through various pages.

Speed—Some forums are not as fast to load as others. (A classic example of this is the CDAA forums at present). By using RSS feeds, the conversations can download into your email client in it's own time, and you can come back and view all the conversations once they've been loaded onto your


own computer making it very quick and efficient to browse the various topics and post.

Organising—It is simple to sort the topics by sender, topic, date, etc. You are also able to do searches through the topics on your own computer quite simply.

If you get to a topic that you wish to reply to, or view as a conversation, simply click on the link that says 'View article' at the bottom of the email. This will open up your web browser and take you directly to that topic.

What you need to know.—In order to setup the RSS feed in your email client, you will need to know a couple of things.

- 1) The RSS feed to put in your email program.
- 2) You will also need your username and password SAVED in your web browser.

More information on how to setup RSS feeds and complete step by step guides can be found in our forum. Alternatively feel free to ask Adam for help, and he'll be more than happy to get you set up. 

NEW MOVIE—SANCTUM

'Sanctum' the movie, a James Cameron 3D extravaganza, will be released in the cinemas come February 2011, and as cave divers—is something that we're rather excited about! Not only because it's based on cave diving, but because some of the filming has been done in our own back yard—in caves that we've dived in ourselves!

The 3-D action-thriller Sanctum, from executive producer James Cameron, follows a team of underwater cave divers on a treacherous expedition to the largest, most beautiful and least accessible cave system on Earth.

When a tropical storm forces them deep into the caverns, they must fight raging water, deadly terrain and creeping panic as they search for an unknown escape route to the sea.

Master diver Frank McGuire (Richard Roxburgh) has explored the South Pacific's Esa-ala Caves for months. But when his exit is cut off in a flash flood, Frank's team—including 17-year-old son Josh (Rhys Wakefield) and financier Carl Hurley (Ioan Gruffudd)—are forced to radically alter plans. With dwindling supplies, the crew must navigate an underwater labyrinth to make it out.

Soon, they are confronted with the unavoidable question: Can they survive, or will they be trapped forever?

This movie was inspired by the true events that occurred on the Nullabor Plains back in the 1988. A freak storm dropping more than a years worth of rain in 20 mins caused the entrance to the cave in Pannikin Plains to collapse, trapping 13 divers from being able to get out for a couple of days.

That's about as far as the movie takes it though when compared to the real story. From there, instead of following what actually happened at the Nullabor, it takes a twist and uses a completely dif-



ferent fictional storyline for the entertainment of the viewers. (So don't think this is a documentary)

Viewing the movie trailers, it would look like we're in for a treat. There is some breath taking footage of various cave systems and cave diving (including some of our own caves), along with plenty of action and underwater filming and other adventure.

If you haven't seen the trailer already, you can view it online by visiting:

<http://sanctum.movie-trailer.com>

As cave divers, we always need to be prepared for a variety of obstacles, and I dare say that after this movie's been released, we might have some explaining to do to our friends and family as to how our diving differs from that in the movie. ✍

That's it for another edition of Wetnotes. Thanks once again for everyone who helped to make this edition possible.

We would much appreciate additional contributions to go towards our next Edition. Please contact Adam if you have an article of interest.