

## Sunday 10th November - continued

10:30am	<b>Public Talk on Cave Diving in the Mt Gambier Area</b> Dress Circle, Main Corner, Bay Rd, Mt Gambier
Dives at 12pm & 1:30pm	<b>Live Cave Dives filmed &amp; displayed on the Big Screen!</b> Engelbrechts Cave, 26 Chute St, Mt Gambier
All Day	<b>SROP Workshop – Richard Harris (continues Monday)</b> The Sump Rescue and Recovery Orientation Program (SROP) is a must do course for any cave divers who would like to learn more about the basics of responding to an emergency that arises when caving and diving. Run by the CDAA's SAR Officer Richard Harris, the course is now in its third year and is being constantly refined to offer an insight into the 'first response' following the loss or death of a team member during a cave dive; whether on a weekend in Mt Gambier, or on an expedition in the world's remotest locations. Considered a minimum introduction to the skills and knowledge of who to call and what to do in the first vital hours of a serious incident in cave diving, the SROP should be mandatory for all advanced cave divers especially those who run trips with less experienced cavers. Joined by other experienced CDAA educators, Richard delivers a dynamic and hands on introduction to this difficult topic. Course duration 1 1/2 days, cost \$50.00. <b>Contact sar@cavedivers.com.au. Bookings essential.</b>

## Monday 11th November

Morning	<b>SROP Workshop – Richard Harris (cont'd) (finishes 2pm)</b>
10:30am – 3:00pm	<b>Historic Hard Hat &amp; Current Cave Diving Dives - Little Blue Sinkhole, Mount Salt Rd, Mt Schank</b>

## State Visits by International Guests – Nov. 2013 - Venue & Times TBA

<b>Belize's Giant Cave to Iceland's Fissures &amp; More... – Paul Heinerth</b>	
Sat. 2nd Nov. - Sydney	Paul Heinerth is one of North America's pioneering Cave Divers and cave explorers. His bio is extensive, as is his ability to tell a good yarn. Join Paul for an evening highlighting some of his recent explorations in the Giant Cave in Belize and the Submerged Fissures in Iceland amongst others. With over 40 years experience in Cave Exploration and 20 years CCR cave diving Paul will take you on a journey around the world. This Cave Diving presentation will include material not part of the CDAA's 40th AGM Weekend Presentations and will ensure that once you hear some of his adventures you will want to hear more!
Sun. 3rd - Hobart	
Thu. 7th - Melbourne	
Fri. 15th - Adelaide	
Sat. 23rd - Perth	

<b>Pozo Azul &amp; Emergence de Ressel, European cave Diving at its most Challenging - Jason Mallinson</b>	
Sat. 2nd Nov - Sydney	Poza Azul in Spain is, they say, a bit like Cocklebiddy, only longer, and since 2002 Jason Mallinson has explored this cave to reach a world record breaking distance of over 9 kilometres through multiple sumps and depths reaching 71m in the immense 5160m long Sump 2. From his earlier explorations in the Emergence de Ressel in France, where the divers were forced to change from multiple large 20 litre Open Circuit cylinders and vast supplies of O2 & He to CCRs to continue the exploration, to Poza Azul in August 2013, Jason will showcase these cave diving explorations, and others, and the whole range of technical cave dive equipment used, including specially designed electronic mapping systems, sidemount CCRs and modified scooters. Covering material that is not part of the CDAA's 40th AGM Weekend Presentations, this is truly cave diving to the extreme!
Sun. 3rd - Brisbane	
Thu. 7th - Melbourne	
Fri. 15th - Adelaide	
Sat. 23rd - Perth	

## CAVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN 2013

### AGM and Symposium 2013

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA). To celebrate, we are holding an exciting two day event on the 9th and 10th of November in conjunction with this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

There will be a number of talks, demonstrations and displays, at which we will also be inviting public participation.

Speakers will include notable Australian and international cave divers. We are also planning on inviting various dignitaries including representatives from local and state government, private land owners and the local media.

The venue, the Main Corner, is conveniently located in the centre of town at 1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier.

The Symposium will be held in the Dress Circle commencing at 9:00am.

The AGM will follow at 6:00pm and dinner will be served in City Hall at 7:30pm.

We hope that you can join us to celebrate 40 years of CDAA history.



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## Friday 8th November

Time	Agenda item
7:00 - 10:00pm	<b>Cocktail Function – Landowners and special guests</b> The CDAA will host a Civic Function for Landowners, Access Facilitators, Regional & City Council Representatives from Wattle Range Council, District Council of Grant and the City of Mount Gambier and invited Special Guests. CDAA Representatives will include the CDAA Directors, Life Members, Hall of Fame Members and others who have contributed to the CDAA's historical celebration and landowner relations in the South East. The Venue, the King's Room, upstairs at Main Corner in Mount Gambier, will be themed to celebrate the history and involvement of the CDAA within the South East with Historical Displays, Lights Shows and information highlighting the significant involvement of the Association within the area and around Australia. This theming will be open to Members over the AGM Weekend and also open to the Public for a limited period after the 40th weekend.

## Saturday 9th November

Time	Agenda item
9:00 - 9:15am	<b>Member Registration and check in</b>
9:15 - 9:45am	<b>Welcome from the National Committee The CDAA Today &amp; Looking Forward – National Director, John Vanderleest A Brief Summary of State Events</b>
9:45 - 10:30am	<b>40 Years of CDAA History - Peter Horne/Ian Lewis</b> The formation of the Cave Divers Association of Australia in 1973 was a significant event in the history of Cave Diving in Australia. For over 40 years the CDAA has fostered the growth and development of both cave diver training and underwater cave exploration around Australia, established long lasting and respected relationships with Landowners & Government Departments and has trained in excess of 5000 cave divers. Members have broken world records, discovered and mapped new caves and underwater cave systems, created acclaimed award winning documentaries and have been recognised by peers and industry both internationally and in Australia. However its origins and early years were moulded by events that occurred beforehand. This presentation will begin by covering the key events that led to the formation of the CDAA including the deaths of the 1969-1974 period, the Committee which was appointed by the Government (of which one of the presenters was a member), the very first Nullarbor exploratory dives and the first CDAA meetings in the Allendale Hall. It will also review the successes of such CDAA supported projects as the Kilsbys, Shaft, Engelbrechts, Iddlebidy and Piccaninnie Ponds mapping projects, the Water Quality Assessment Directorate work done to monitor groundwater pollution, the success in dealings with local Aboriginal and Museum heritage groups and how CDAA techniques, training, testing & gear evolved to enable divers to do more than just survive cave diving, but rather go on to do great things!

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## Saturday 9th November - continued

Time	Agenda item
10:30-11:15	<b>The Role of the NACD &amp; NSS-CDS in Cave Diving &amp; Cave Diver Training - Paul Heinerth</b> Unlike Australia there are two major Cave Diver organisations in North America. Whilst both the NACD (National Association of Cave Divers) and NSS-CDS (National Speleological Society - Cave Diving Section) offer training, and some instructors are dual certified, both organisations operate separately and have distinct differences, yet both set the accepted framework for Cave Diver Training and access levels for Cave Divers. This presentation will look at the reasons for the formation for both organisations, the differences in how they operate, what they offer to members and overseas visitors, where their training programs are headed and the types of projects and explorations being supported by each of them. New technology (CCR), changes to equipment styles (sidemount) and the expansion of competing commercial training agencies (such as IANTD, TDI & GUE) mean the NACD and NSS-CDS are having to adapt to a changing training and cave diving world. Media coverage on any incident results in questions about safety and on-going access to public sites. Lessons learnt from the NACD and the NSS-CDS and how they adapt when dealing with the public and regulators can apply to the CDAA.
11:15-11:30	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:30-12:15	<b>ASF Overview – Tim Payne and Chris Brown</b> While the CDAA origins are in Mt. Gambier, cave diving in other parts of Australia has evolved from within the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) as an extension of dry caving. Over time the CDAA has become a national organization and ASF cave diving has evolved and advanced from sump style diving to incorporate the types of techniques prevalent in Mt. Gambier. Despite the convergence of the organizations there are distinct differences; almost all diving activities within the ASF involve either research or exploration of some type. This talk will outline some of the history associated with cave diving in the ASF, the formation of the ASF-CDG and some of the activities. Occasionally activities of the ASF-CDG and the CDAA intersect and there have been a number of activities where divers from both groups have collaborated or leap frogged each other. One such cave, which is one of Australia's most famous, is The Shaft. A little of the exploration history and the culminating exploration done by the ASF which finally reached and mapped the bottom of the cave (?) will be discussed.
12:15-1:00pm	<b>The Cave Diving Group's Success – from Training to Explorations – Jason Mallinson</b> The UK's Cave Diving Group does not give formal training, yet its divers are amongst the most accomplished and respected cave diving explorers in the world. Formed in the 1940's names like Rob Palmer, Martyn Farr and Rick Stanton are familiar to most CDAA members and have explored caves throughout the UK, Europe and The Americas. Its continuous existence to the present day makes it the oldest surviving diving club in the world. The CDG's function is to educate and support cavers for recreational and exploratory operations in British sump conditions, basically meaning sidemount diving. Training is on a mentoring system with a rigorous assessment and examination to pass to become qualified. However from the birth of cave diving in Wookey Hole Caves in 1934 to today's use of CCRs British Cave Divers have pioneered much of the equipment and techniques now accepted as standard. <i>...continued page 4</i>

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## Saturday 9th November - continued

Time	Agenda item
12:15-1:00pm	<p><b>Jason Mallinson - continued</b></p> <p>So what makes the CDG and its divers so successful? This presentation will look at how the CDG undertakes it's training, how it is structured to support cave diving around the UK and further afield, and how the various styles of diving and the subsequent use of CCRs are so successfully incorporated by its divers. This makes the CDG just not the oldest cave diving organisation in the world but also one of the internationally most enviable for the exploration achieved by its members.</p>
1:00-1:45pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:45-2:30	<p><b>Diving with the Wet Mules and Friends – Ken Smith, et al</b></p> <p>The Wet Mules were officially born at the Pearse resurgence in 2010. However, well before then, the Wet Mules team and friends have been having some challenging cave diving adventures around Australia. This talk will describe what they have been up to in recent years, from Cocklebiddy, to a Volcanic Crater in New Zealand to the Pearse Resurgence. Each trip has its own particular challenges. Rebreathers are necessary for much of this work, however the Wet Mules won't let the presenter have one! So this presentation will be assisted by fellow Mules in describing how they are used.</p>
2:30-3:15	<p><b>GUE Australia Cave Explorations – Andrew Cronan</b></p> <p>As a group Global Underwater Explorers (GUE) is recognised and respected for their focus on Education, Exploration and Research and their achievements in both Cave and Wreck diving have been documented internationally for National Geographic &amp; the Discovery Channel. GUE have had a presence in Australia since 2001 and a number of CDAA members participate in GUE projects related to the underwater cave environment, whether for conservation or research, here and overseas. These GUE based teams have undertaken projects in, amongst others, the Nullarbor, Blacks, Blue Creek in New Zealand, the caves in Fengshan and San Men Hei in China and karst explorations in PNG &amp; Thailand. This presentation will review the success of these projects, and others, and will show how the GUE concept has been implemented to support the core exploration and research involved. Many CDAA members use some or all of the diving procedures utilised and as such will have an insight into the teamwork involved.</p>
3:15-3:30pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
3:30-4:15	<p><b>The History and Future of Rebreathers in Cave Diving – Paul Heinerth</b></p> <p>Since the arrival of rebreathers on to the recreational diving scene in the mid 1990's Cave Divers have looked at the potential benefits for exploration. Long duration dives, lengthy penetrations and deep diving have all become more acceptable when using CCRs. From the history making explorations into Wakulla2 over 15 years ago to today's deep diving projects in Mexico and Florida, including the deepest cave dives in the US in Weeki Wachee, CCRs are the forefront of cave diving. But with this new technology comes added risk. This presentation will look at how CCRs have established themselves in Cave Diving and Cave Diver Training, what the benefits are and how cave divers are adapting to their use. The question should be, is there a future for cave diving without rebreathers?</p>

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## Saturday 9th November - continued

Time	Agenda item
4:15-5:00	<p><b>Huautla – Exploration in the Depths of the Earth – Jason Mallinson</b></p> <p>Mexico's Sistema Huautla is perhaps one of the most complex of the world's deep caves. With 17 entrances and numerous independent and physically demanding deep routes, dropping nearly a mile into the earth, this dark labyrinth requires extensive rope work and multiple days of effort to reach the lower depths of the system. In 1994 Dr William Stone used his self-designed CIS Lunar rebreather to pass what was then considered the terminal sump, diving from a portable platform suspended over a pool of water, discovering some 3.3km (2 miles) of new passage, but ultimately stopped by Sump 9. In 2013 a multinational team of cavers and divers once again visited Sistema Huautla in hopes of pushing deeper into the flooded lower passages, the UK's Jason Mallinson amongst them. Rebreathers would be key to performing these dives, due to the difficulty of hauling equipment deep into the cave. In the years since Stone's 1994 expedition, rebreather diving has developed significantly, both in terms of technology and knowledge and in contrast to the complex electronic rebreathers used previously, divers in the 2013 expedition used manually controlled rebreathers fitted with KISS valves. During this expedition Jason reached the extreme limit of the exploration, diving to 80m in the last sump using a full classic KISS Rebreather. <a href="http://www.cdg-exped.org">www.cdg-exped.org</a></p>
5:00-5:45	<p><b>A Photographic Journey Through the South East - Liz and Peter Rogers</b></p> <p>Peter and Liz Rogers have both taken thousands of photos in the caves &amp; sinkholes of the Mount Gambier area - a generation apart. This father and daughter talk will cover the then and now with a visual look at cave diving in The South East. From early wetsuit dives in the Shaft without buoyancy compensators to the results of the latest in the digital photographic revolution, these images are set to remind us all why diving in the Limestone Coast is so special. Over the years sites have changed, photography has developed new techniques &amp; equipment and divers have pushed further to explore new leads. Capturing this amazing journey Peter &amp; Liz will take us on an exploration of the underwater environment hidden below the paddocks, forests, lakes and even homes in Australia's most famous Cave Diving region. Taken over a period of more than 30 years and with photographic skills few cave divers have mastered then, or now, be prepared for some fascinating images of Cave Diving in the South East past and present.</p>
5:00-5:45	<p><b>Instructor Meeting – Standards Director &amp; CDAA Instructors (to be held in the Kings Room)</b></p> <p>An Instructor update to review current training procedures and issues and to discuss current and future CDAA Training Policy.</p>
5:45-6:00pm	<b>Break</b>
6:00-7:00	<p><b>AGM- Dress Circle</b></p> <p>Director Reports, Election Results and Motions brought before the AGM.</p>
7:30-11:00pm	<p><b>CDAA 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner- City Hall</b></p> <p>The weekend highlight. A special 40th Dinner Celebration sure to entertain and allow you to mingle with old friends and dive buddies. Not to be missed. Winners of the CDAA 40th Anniversary Photo Competition to be announced along with special guests and an opportunity to honour members past and present. <b>Bookings essential</b> - see separate booking information.</p>

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## Sunday 10th November

A number of workshops and activities are planned. Members are invited to attend one workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon. A lunch time BBQ will be arranged and venue advised on the weekend. Morning sessions will run approximately 9:00am-12noon and afternoon sessions 1:00-4:00pm unless you are advised otherwise by the workshop presenter.

All bookings, unless directed otherwise, to [cdaais40@cavedivers.com.au](mailto:cdaais40@cavedivers.com.au)

**Morning Mapping Workshop – John Dalla-Zuanna**  
A view and hands on experience of, • the art of underwater surveying and • putting the data into a map. This workshop will overview the techniques of collecting data during a cave or sinkhole dive. You will use compass, tape, knotted line, slates and other tools to gather measurements and images to then take to your desktop. Here we will arrange the data using available software programs into maps and overlay onto Google Earth. For this workshop, you will need to bring some hardware, if possible... a compass, slates & pencil, a reel with knotted guideline (every 3 or 5 metres), and a laptop. You may wish to share some equipment and laptop with your buddy, but the desktop work should be experienced individually for maximum effect. Once registering your interest, you will be advised on a couple of programs to download and how to activate them prior to the workshop.

**Morning Photography Workshop – Liz Rogers**  
Not getting everything you expected out of your new (or new to cave diving) underwater camera rig? Or looking to take the next step with your shots? Bring along your camera equipment and dive buddy model for a hands-on cave photography workshop with a focus on lighting. Liz Rogers will cover off camera strobes, modelling techniques and lighting control in a practical dry session to help you get the images you're looking for on your next cave dive. Numbers will be limited to ensure good interaction, so get in early!

**Morning SRT Workshop – Tom Aberdeen**  
A practical workshop with an emphasis on understanding SRT gear and how to use it safely whilst getting a feeling for prusiking and abseiling. Every participant will have an opportunity to don SRT gear and practise both abseiling and prusiking techniques and if time permits, how to change direction on rope.

**Morning Cave/Advanced Cave Preparation Workshop – Andy Higgins**  
This workshop is an opportunity to see first hand the skills and techniques required as part of the CDAA's Cave & Advanced Cave Diver programs. Regarded as some of the most stringent training requirements in Cave Diving this workshop will suit any member looking to upgrade their rating in the near future or just review the skills that make CDAA divers some of the most capable Cave Divers around. This is a land based workshop that will focus on skills such as primary line laying, finger spool use, line markers, line cutting exercises for Cave & Advanced Cave level, stage tank set up, and stage tank drop off/pickup. This will also allow participants the opportunity to test themselves under the watchful eye of an experienced Instructor, and give you the opportunity to update and practice these skills correctly, maybe before diving on your next CDAA Course.

**Morning Nullarbor Planning Workshop – Gary Barclay/Linda Claridge**  
Taking a trip to the Nullarbor is often the highlight of a CDAA Member's Cave Diving experiences. Sites such as Cocklebiddy, Weebubbie and Murra El Eleyn offer exploration opportunities and challenges not found elsewhere in Australia and often involve trips in excess of two weeks duration. This workshop will look at how to plan, set up and execute a safe and enjoyable Nullarbor Trip with a look at the equipment, skills and support systems needed from compressors, generators, air fill hoses and site plans to camping needs, transport requirements and those home comforts often missed but easily taken.

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## Sunday 10th November - continued

Time	Agenda item
Afternoon	<p><b>Sidemount Workshop – Jason Mallinson</b> Sidemount diving has a history as long as cave diving with explorers developing systems to dive the small sumps &amp; passages found in much of the UK. Today it has become an optional tool for many, often used in conjunction with other styles of diving. With exploration now having to extend existing sites or dive in more remote areas sidemount has become a requirement, with training options at dive centres around the country. This workshop will look sidemount configurations and how these are adapted to suit varying conditions and equipment requirements, including the use of sidemount for and deep explorations.</p>
Afternoon	<p><b>Rebreather Workshop – Paul Heinerth</b> The growth in rebreather diving in Australia has been amplified within the cave diving fraternity, with a recent survey of CDAA members showing over 200, or 25% of active members, being endorsed for rebreathers. Training in diving rebreathers is one thing, but learning to use them safely in caves is another. This workshop will discuss the procedures, protocols and configuration options necessary to safely dive CCRs in a Cave. Each CCR requires user familiarity and training with that unit, however many of the CCR Cave Diving requirements are universal. A must for any CDAA Member currently diving CCR or interested in moving down that track! (Instructors attending the Cave Instructor CCR Workshop MUST attend this session)</p>
4:30-6:30pm	<p><b>Instructor CCR Workshop – Linda Claridge (Standards Director) &amp; Paul Heinerth</b> From Deep Cavern to Cave and Advanced Cave, many CDAA Members and potential students are looking at or already dive CCRs as their preferred configuration. With this comes the need to consider what Open Circuit systems should be retained and how such divers can be integrated into CDAA courses and dives. Currently all CDAA courses are open circuit based and CDAA Instructors are unable to train divers using CCRs. This workshop will look at what procedures are used in CCR Cave Diver Training overseas and how these could apply to CDAA programs and divers. Discussions will be on how the CDAA may allow Instructors to accredit qualified CDAA divers who then switch to rebreathers as well as what it would take to allow CDAA Instructors to accept students already diving Rebreathers. <b>(CDAA Instructors only:</b> Accreditation to qualify CDAA Divers using rebreathers may be awarded to Instructors attending this workshop if this is approved by the National Committee and Instructor base. Instructors must attend the previous Rebreather W'shop).</p>
10:00am onwards	<p><b>Live Cave Dives – Englebrechts Cave</b> Frank Ziegler, the team from Professional Divers in Portland and suitably qualified CDAA Members will run cave dives from Englebrechts Cave screened live on TV display screens for anyone interested to watch. Using a combination of Commercial Diving and standard Cave Diving equipment live images will be streamed from inside the cave to bring both the hidden treasure of Englebrechts to light but also to show just what it is to be a cave diver!</p>
Various throughout the day...	<p><b>Community Talks – CDAA Representatives</b> As part of the 40th Celebrations CDAA Directors, Guests and Members will be making presentations to the Mount Gambier and wider South East Community showcasing Cave Diving and the involvement the CDAA has in the region. Media interviews and community group visits will help highlight the CDAA's long term history and future with the South East along with helping to dispel myths about cave diving and show just what it is that makes Cave Diving an exciting and safe activity.</p>