27 national AIDA ‘Contacts’. Fully constituted national ‘Members’ include named national representatives and national consultants, whereas fully constituted national ‘Contacts’ have two named contacts. There is no indication on the AIDA web site as to what is meant by the term national representative, national consultant or national contact. At the time of writing, the BFA, which is the UK national AIDA Member, has a nominated national representative and a national consultant.

And for those of you who have been unable to get Verdi’s slave girl of Amneris, the King of Egypt’s daughter, out of your minds since I first mentioned AIDA, yes, indeed there is an AIDA Egypt, which is one of the national AIDA Contacts with a nominated contact #1!

South Pacific region

What about representation in the South Pacific region? The only national AIDA Member state I could identify was that of Fiji, with a national representative but no national consultant. Australia is a national AIDA Contact with Sacha Dench of Freedive Australia being the first contact, and Scott Laverty of HMAS Penguin being the second contact. Their e-mail addresses are <sacha@freedive.com.au> and <scott.laverty@defence.gov.au> respectively. New Caledonia (AIDA France) and New Zealand are also both national AIDA Contacts each with a nominated contact.

The final port of call was the ‘Enter Freedive Australia’ web site.\(^3\) However, this could not be accessed until the WARNING - DISCLAIMER gate had been cleared. This cautioned, like the BFA, that Freedive Australia accepts no liability for the various potential adverse outcomes associated with the interpretation, application, or instruction of any information presented within the web site.

The Freedive Australia web site has a selection of accessible topics under the following main headings:

- Training
- Why Freedive?
- Gear
- Adventures
- Meet the Experts!
- News
- Freediver Fun
- Message Board

In exploring the options, it was noted, in particular, that most of the data on the current world records page of the ‘Freedive News’ section were out of date, as compared with the data shown on the equivalent AIDA web page. For children you can go to ‘Amphibians with Attitude’, the Freedive Australia “cool new marine studies programme and holiday for kids”.

Finally, when passing through the WARNING - DISCLAIMER gate one comes across an additional barrier not mentioned earlier. This is the EXTRA WARNING, an absolute pièce de résistance, which reads as follows:

“*Young adult males are the most likely to suffer from shallow water blackout, the most common freediving accident and are expressly asked NOT TO BE DICKHEADS and to respect their own limitations. Always dive with a competent and alert buddy*”

Now that is what I call a good, old-fashioned, in your face ockerism, or WYSIWYG in cyberspeak!

References

   <www.britishfreediving.org>.
   <www.aida-international.org>.
3. Freedive Australia.  

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am researching the history of recompression chambers (RCCs) in Australia. Based on my research to date, Australia’s first chamber was a Heinke chamber that came to Broome, Western Australia in 1914.\(^1\)

A variety of RCCs were used during the next 50 years, mainly for the treatment of decompression illness using air tables. It was not until the mid-1960s that a chamber was purpose built for the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and installed at the Prince Henry Hospital, Sydney.

To assist with my ongoing research, I welcome any contributions of information on chambers, their use and the people involved.

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Reference

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