



Gnamma Hole C203

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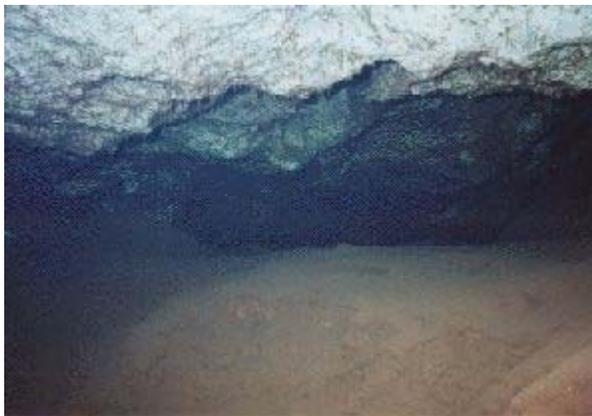
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This is a very interesting sister site to Dozer Cave (C203) and a masochist's dream !!!

The solution tube entrance through dense conglomerate rock is . . . tight. Those of slightly portly or herculean proportions should avoid this cave. A gravity assisted descent is possible, but the exit with one arm above the head and one below whilst prussicking through the restrictive rock tube should be reserved for complete masochists and/or those of diminutive frames !!



The attached map shows the layout of the cave and should give an indication as to the site access difficulties. The diver abseils 9m straight down into the 5m diameter lake chamber and perches on a rock in approx 1.5m of water. Gear is lowered and donned whilst prussicking gear is left on line. The water quickly dirties from the disturbed silt mound underfoot. It is advisable to stay off the bottom as long as





possible in order to avoid silting up the site before entry (floating or using an inflatable mattress to assist gear donning could help).

The conglomerate rock of the dry bell chamber continues underwater to approx 5m depth where soft chalky limestone is encountered and a more typical sinkhole collapse is realised. The silt mound chokes the floor in the three possible leads from the entrance sink. To the SW lies a silted up chamber that leads towards Dozer cave (some 50m away). To the NE lies a low flat silty tunnel lead that penetrates some 7m before the silt floor chokes the passage (see photo). To the North lies a small domed chamber within the conglomerate rock that has an aven (approx 70cm diameter) leading upwards at a 45 degree angle. Silt & mud that has come down the aven has formed a silt cone beneath it. There is no known feature on the surface matching this Aven.

It is possible that following high rainfall influxes through the Dozer/Gnamma system that the silt will be re-positioned such that the conduits may become passable. Darren Brooks has visited the site over a

period of three days following cyclonic rains during which a continuous flow of water of stream size entered Dozer Cave and caused the water in Gnamma Hole to boil continuously. Midget cave divers would be most beneficial !!

The most unusual aquatic troglobyte was seen at Gnamma Hole in Mar 2001 – the blind eel (see photos/gallery). A small white eel with light brown speckly spots along its 30cm body. The eel's body is approximately 1cm in diameter, it has a tubular type of mouth and no eyes. It is adapted to feed on the tiny troglobitic crustaceans that inhabit most of the caves containing water in the Cape Range region. Many of the troglobitic blind gudgeon fish are also resident here.

Thanks go to Darren Brooks for co-ordinating and assisting with the cave diving efforts. Anyone considering caving or cave diving in the area is strongly encouraged to contact him before their visit.
Dbrooks@nwc.com.au

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[Map](#)



[Back](#)

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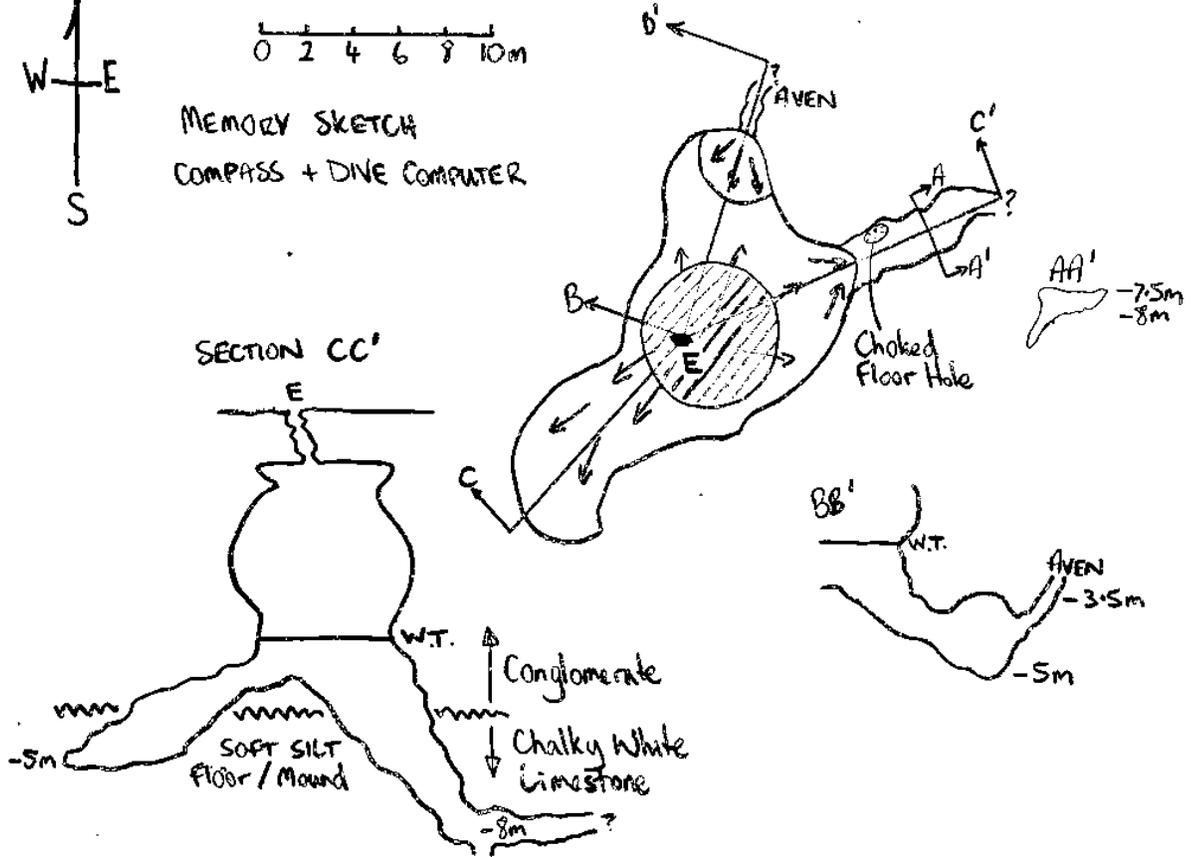
Gnamma Hole Sketch

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