

CRAIG CHALLEN

A N D

RICHARD HARRIS

WITH ELLIS HENICAN

against all odds



Top left: L-R: Geoff Paynter, Richard Harris, Ken Smith, Craig Challen, John Currie, Simon Doughty and Mark Brown. At the finish of the 2008 Cocklebiddy expedition after extending the known cave for the first time since 1995. *Photo by Geoff Paynter*

Top right: Harry with his father, James Dunbar Harris, in Whangarei, New Zealand, in 1997.

On our expedition with the Wet Mules diving group in China. Behind Harry and Craig lies the Daxing Spring, which the team dived to 213m depth. *Photo by Heather Endall*





Shortly after everyone was safely out of the cave successfully, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull spoke to the Australian rescuers on a Skype call, which was set up in a tiny hotel room.

Our interpreter, Kittanu Supasamsen, or Nu for short. Nu's job usually involved getting rowdy Australians out of jail, so the cave rescue was a new adventure for him.

Photo by Richard Harris



Harry giving the rescue team a lesson in Anaesthesia 101.



Craig and Harry back at the surface after a day in the cave.



Craig in the ambulance during the 'escape' from meeting the Thai prime minister, accompanied by Kittanu and the Thai medical and nursing staff.



As Harry disembarks from the plane in Chiang Rai, the body of Saman Gunan is loaded into the Thai Navy aircraft on the right. A military parade gives Saman a send-off. *Photo by Richard Harris*



Above: The boy is asleep, his full face mask is on and Chris Jewell is strapping the cylinder to his chest. In the background, Rick and John await their turns. *Photo by Richard Harris.* *Below:* A syringe was used to anaesthetise the boys and the coach in order for us to safely perform the rescue. *Photo by Josh Morris*





Above: At the top of the steep slope in chamber 9, the boys await their turn to escape the cave. *Below:* Only their lights can be seen. On the slope itself Dr Pak (rear) and a Navy SEAL chat with Harry.





Above: Harry greeting Coach Ekk (left) and Craig with one of the older boys (right) in the hospital after the successful rescue mission.

Below: Meeting young Titan in the hospital after the rescue. Always smiling!





Nine months after the rescue, Craig and Harry visit six of the Wild Boars boys and Coach Ekk at a temple in Thailand.

Reunited with two of their rescuers, the boys take turns kneeling in front of Craig and Harry, bowing and resting their head a moment on the divers' knees, before getting up and sharing a hug.



John Volanthen, Rick Stanton and Craig relax at Le Méridien Chiang Rai resort. *Photo by Richard Harris*





An honour: Harry receiving the Edgar Pask Citation from Dr Kathleen Ferguson on behalf of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland in London, December 2018.

Craig and Harry after being awarded Australians of the Year 2019. *Photo by Mick Tsikas/AAP*



(clockwise from left) Matthew Fitzgerald, Troy Eather, Justin Bateman, Robert James, Christopher Markcrow, Kelly Boers, Benjamin Cox, Craig Challen and Richard Harris, standing with bravery medals they received for their roles in the rescue. *Photo by Sean Davey/AAP*

Harry and Craig meeting Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Admiralty House during their Royal Tour of Australia. *Photo courtesy Government House*

