

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP

South Australia

C/o SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE.

ANNUAL REPORT 1961-2



SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT to be presented to the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday the 28th of February, 1962 at the National Fitness Rooms, 69-70 South Tce., Adelaide, at 8 p.m.

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

Ladies and gentlemen.

Your committee has great pleasure in once again submitting the following report covering the group's activities in its sixth year of operation ending 28th February, 1962.

CAVING ACTIVITIES:

Once again only twelve official trips were run, but with the large influx of new members most of these trips have been well attended and have produced useful results. Transport rather than a lack of interest was the cause of several trips falling through, but the position is improving in this regard. There has been particular emphasis on surveying and a record amount of work has been done, bringing the list of satisfactory maps to fifty completed and another seven in progress. The group has co-operated in several cave diving ventures in the South East.

1. YORKE PENINSULA AND ADELAIDE

The survey of Corrells Cave has continued during the year, and practically all the cave above the rope has been completed. Several digs have been started and appear to be still heading into unknown country. The most interesting development in the zone has been the discovery of a cave within sixteen miles of Adelaide, its existance being unsuspected despite considerable research into geological literature. Contacts on the lower Yorke Peninsula seem to be more confident of locating the legendary caves and potholes of this area.

2. EYRE PENINSULA

A trip to this area proved of immense interest since most of the party had not previously visited the area, but no significant finds were made although a lower water table made the lake in the caves easier to cross. Wind eroded rockshelters, complete with old decorations, were visited at Cape Wiles, south of Port Lincoln.

3. FLINDERS RANGES

Three trips were run to the Flinders Ranges, and a new extension was found in Clara St. Dora, Buckalowie Creek. This was found originally by the guano miners in the 1920's, but the fine display of decorations was not damaged and has been safely lost ever since. Record floods in the Arcoota area slowed down a recent party which, however, investigated several reports in the Willow Waters - Yourambulla areas near Hawker.

4. NULLARBOR PLAINS

No CEGSA trip was run this year although the W.A. Speleo Group has made their first official visit to the area.

5. KANGAROO ISLAND

No official trip was held on Kangaroo Island although several group members have privately visited various caves including Mount Taylor and Kelly's Hill.

6. SOUTH EAST

Five trips visited the South East and much useful work was achieved. Surveys are in progress in Punyelroo and the Sand, Beekeeper's and Fox Caves Naracoorte, and maps were received in records of Hells Hole, Caroline Sinkhole, Lake Cave and Sinkhole Tantanoola, and the Bat Cave Naracoorte. A second bat cave has been located at Naracoorte and banding carried out. Diving was conducted by Victorian members of CEG, particularly in the Mount Schank area. A report of the tourist possibilities of the Lake Cave, Tantanoola, is being prepared for presentation to the Tourist Bureau.

INTERSTATE

Members have again travelled wide and the Alice Springs Bat Cave and Mole Creek in Tasmania have received their attention.

SEARCH AND RESCUE:

Once again, despite the potential dangers, we are pleased to report that the Search and Rescue has not been called out.

RECORDS AND LIBRARY:

During the past year the library has continued to expand at a fairly satisfactory rate. The additions have included the normal intake of newsletters and programs from other caving and related organisations, viz: The Australian Speleological Federation, The Tasmanian Caverneering Club, The Victorian Cave Exploration Society, The Adelaide Bush Walkers, The Brighton Nature Society and the Speleological Societies of Cooranbong, Sydney, Sydney University, The University of New South Wales, Kempsey, Orange and Canberra.

Overseas contributions include the bulletins of The South African Speleological Association and Slovensky Kras. Also various publications by the Cave Research Group of Great Britain, notably, "Cave Rescue", "The Instruction and Training of Novices to Caving", (A Syllabus), "Ogot Agen Allwedd", "The Deepest Cave in the World" and a Biological Supplement.

We are also privileged to have obtained a variety of occasional papers and books, including - Suggested Cave Survey Standards, from the A.S.F.; The Dip Cave - Wee Jasper, by J. Jennings; Caves in Norway, by K. Renwick; The Underground Water of the Murray Basin, by E.P.D. O'Driscoll, (a Mines Department bulletin); A Preliminary Report on the Kaarst Morphology of the Nullarbor Plains, by J. Jennings, (CEGSA occasional paper No. 2) and two Russian Translations, - Thirty Years Under Ground, by N. Casteret; and The Cave Divija.

Unfortunately very little work has been accomplished towards the completion of the card index of South Australian Caves; however the index to the library is now virtually complete. It is also unfortunate that the statements of previous years must be reiterated, in that members are not making full use of the facilities offered by the library. This can once more be put down to the inaccessibility of the collection and points directly to the undesirability of housing the library in the home of a private member. It cannot be stressed too strongly that considerable thought must be given towards procuring a suitably accessable permanent venue for the records and library of this group.

GEAR AND EQUIPMENT:

The hand crushed carbide is coming to an end and a new supply will have to be obtained. Work has started on new wire ladders and this should be completed in the near future. The following list of gear is held by the Quartermaster as at 28th February, 1962.

225 ft. ladder; 120 ft. $1\frac{1}{2}$ " manilla rope (life line); 120 ft. $1\frac{3}{4}$ " manilla rope (gear line); 30 lb. carbide (approx.); 3 only 4 gall. water drums; 1 only 6 gall. water tank; 1 set of scales and weights, 3 adjustable ladder belays; 2 shovels; 1 pick; 1 sledge hammer; 1 hurricane lamp; 1 Tilley lamp; 2 helmets; 1 army steel helmet; 4 ex-army telephones; 120 ft. twin telephone wire; 1 single sheaf pulley block; 1 miners dial (Japanese); 1 Brunsen 5" compass; 1 cloth tape; 3 first aid kits; 1 box collecting gear; various eating utensils (washbowl, ladles, etc); 1 bowsaw and blades; 1 bucket; hydrogen apparatus; 1 box assorted tin foods; 20 lbs. honey.

MEETINGS:

In an effort to reduce wasted time in meetings, the Museum meeting held in the past has been cut out and a monthly meeting at the National Fitness Rooms has replaced it. All general business has been handled by the committee, who reported back to the general meeting. From the increased membership and numbers attending the various functions, this policy has clearly paid dividends. A short business meeting followed by a lecture or similar entertainment is now normal practice. Speakers have included John Mitchell on Snakes, Dr. P.S. Hossfeld on the South East, E. Lovegrove on Moutaineering, P.F. Aitken on Insects, and several film shows.

CAVE MAN'S DINNER:

Nineteen people carried on the best traditions of the Annual Cave Man's Dinner held once again at Rigonis and proceeded home ably.

A.S.F.

A year of notably little action was concluded with CEGSA's decision to withdraw its affiliation from the A.S.F. A proposed survey school to be held at Naracoorte fell through for lack of entries and it is felt that the A.S.F. has ceased to fulfil its early promise.

COMMITTEE:

This year's committee consisted of the following members:

N.J. Mollet President J. Somerton Vice President R.T. Sexton Secretary J.D. Bishop Treasurer G.D. Beard Publications Officer A.R. Jackson Quartermaster C.W. Giles Search and Rescue Fred Sanders Advisory P.F. Aitken Museum Representative

TREASURER'S REPORT:

CEGSA has had a satisfactory financial year although heavy expenses for replacing gear are expected in the new year. The details may be seen on the accompanying balance sheet.

MEMBERSHIP:

There has been a most gratifying increase in membership in the past year and a large number of interested persons are expected to swell these numbers even further.

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

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HONORARY TREASURER J. D. BISHOP

FULL LIST OF MEMBERS . . . 1ST FEBRUARY, 1962.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: CORRELL, Mr. & Mrs. H. HAMILTON-SMITH, Elery

HILL, A.L.

HOSSFELD, Dr. P.S.

SANDERS, Fred

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BEARD, G.D.

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3 Napier St., Renown Park. ML4839

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R. T. Sexton.

Hon. Secretary.