



Cave Exploration Group

South Australia

C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

ANNUAL REPORT

1967-68

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT to be presented to
the ***General Meeting on Wednesday***
the ***28th of February 1968*** at the
Museum Lecture Rooms - North Terrace
Adelaide at 7.30 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT 1967-68.

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (S.A.)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Committee has great pleasure in submitting the following report covering the Group activities and finances in the year ending 28th February 1968.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last twelve months have been a time for consolidation, both in the Group's and individual members finances. Relatively few people have been attending trips, and the majority of trips have been to regions within easy reach of Adelaide.

The Group's large outlays on a purchase of magnesium powder and the publishing of the Occasional Paper on the Mulla-mullang Expedition have both been worthwhile, with almost all our stocks of each commodity already sold. It is to be hoped that our members' bank balances are similarly replenished after the expenses of numerous Nullarbor trips the year before. A second publication, produced jointly with Sydney University Spel. Society and titled "Caves of the Nullarbor" has just been printed.

Most notable has been the number of calls from outside bodies for speakers, and, on several occasions for organizers or leaders for Scout, Church or youth group caving trips. We have been pleased to assist these people as much as possible, to encourage the right attitude to caves and safety, and, where possible, channel their enthusiasms in useful directions.

Few people realise the volume of work handled by the Committee each year, where a great deal of effort goes into dealing with various and often unusual requests of this nature, as well as the normal work of maintaining Group records, etc. and correspondence with other bodies on Group business.

My thanks go to all the members of the Committee who have done a stirring job this year. Those who are retiring deserve a well earned rest.

You are asked especially to do your bit to help in the running of the Group in the coming year. This is a most important year for us all with the Aust. Speleological Federation Conference being held in S.Aust. after Christmas. We will need numerous people around that time and afterwards to ensure the success of the Conference and particularly the field trips which follow.

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A. S. F. CONFERENCE.

The Seventh Biennial Conference of the Aust. Speleological Federation will be held at Graham's Castle, Goolwa, from Thurs. evening 26th December to the Sunday night 29th December 1968, with

A.S.F. Conference (cont.)

field trips departing the following day.

Speakers on many aspects of caving will be invited, and, in addition to films, slides from all over Aust. will make interesting viewing.

Field trips are planned for periods of up to three weeks to the Nullarbor, Kangaroo Island, and the South-East, and each will have enough work for three months.

Post-conference field trips are generally a good chance for local groups to tackle some of their bigger projects.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is much the same as usual, an increase of only 4 ; although the turnover is consistently large.

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>Admitted 1967/68</u>
Hon. Life Members	3	5	4	
Full Members	33	35	40	9
Hon. Assoc. Members	-	4	4	0
Associate Members	25	35	35	16
 TOTAL	 61	 79	 83	

SAFETY, SEARCH AND RESCUE

Another field training day was held with great success in National Park Belair in late September, where members practiced ladder climbing, belaying, abseiling and free climbing. No suitable times have been found for practice cave search and rescue this year, but the coming year could see some.

The Bush Search and Rescue Organisation of the S.A. Mountain Activities Federation again had its capabilities tested at a Practice Search and Rescue in August. The dependence of that group on C.E.G.S.A. for specialised caving knowledge and techniques places additional responsibility on our own Search and Rescue Group.

A genuine search call by the Police at Easter to look for Scouts in Punyelroo Cave near Swan Reach found most of our members on Kangaroo Island. The chief trouble was that the Police were working to an obsolete contact list, the replacement for which was not at that stage available to the right member of the Force. This was unfortunate as the new list had been sent and would have worked well.

Fortunately the emergency was resolved safely, with the missing scouts emerging as help arrived. We are indebted to one of our old members Peter Love, for the assistance he gave to the Police.

" " " " " "

COMMITTEE

Your Committee for the past year was :-

Grant Gartrell	President
Leslye Gartrell	Secretary
Ron Galbreath	Treasurer
Alan Hill	Records
Peter Hawkes	V.Pres. Q.master. Search/res.
Norm Hocknell	Membership, Librarian
Athol Jackson	Newsletter Editor
Fred Sanders	Expert Extraordinaire
Ian Holt	Co-opted non-voting
Museum Rep.	Judith Mclean Smith

CAVING ACTIVITIES.

Apart from a few exceedingly popular trips, it would appear on the surface that caving had gone underground over the past twelve months.

Few of our programmed trips have got away, and even less to the places advertised. This is to be expected in many cases when the programme is worked out up to 3 months ahead, and by the committee, who generally are only able to draw on the same few overworked leaders.

The total number of caves on record has increased since last year, and the "Tourist Barrier" is still with us. New members should perhaps not be taken on guided tours of a few hundred caves as initiation, but preferably introduced early to the whole art of cave-surveying and trip-report writing.

No matter how simple it may seem, the undertaking and completion of some project, properly recorded, is far more rewarding than any amount of aimless sightseeing.

When it is not pouring torrents of rain on those cosy community campfires there is usually a fire-ban, so the "Choofer problem" is still with us, although in a new and very shiny form. Kerosene is giving way to L.P. gas.

KANGAROO ISLAND

A large party visited the Island at Easter and completed the survey of the Emu Caves System. A nearby doline was successfully excavated, and a preliminary survey shows that further exploration of

KANGAROO ISLAND (con)

the new cave is warranted.

Several reports of entrances were investigated without success, and even some known cave entrances could not be located due to the regrowth of almost impenetrable scrub. The area is extremely promising but requires plenty of manpower and time.

YORKE PENINSULAR AND ADELAIDE.

The survey of Correll's Cave at Curramulka has been extended, although much remains to be done.

Several cave searches have been conducted south of Adelaide. A small cave was visited near Cape Jervois, a sink near Delamere, and numerous blocked solution tubes including a 12' deep double shaft at Sellicks Hill.

Two small caves on the Field River, other than those already known, have been visited, and rumours of a third have yet to bear fruit.

FLINDERS RANGES.

The main trip to the Flinders Ranges was for the purpose of underwater exploration of the Narinna Lake Cave. This exploration, although incomplete, observed extensive underwater chambers and connections between the three known lakes. There is some dispute about the depth reached, believed to be 80 ft.

Quagmire conditions made it impossible to investigate old reports of a cave between Mt Hack and Narinna Hut, but a new cave was found several miles south of the Narinna Lake Cave.

SOUTH-EAST.

A major mapping program in the Sand Cave has produced interesting results, including numerous new extensions to what is now undoubtedly the biggest cave at Naracoorte.

Mapping of the Fox Cave is near completion, although several new sections have yet to be drawn up.

Several entrances have been discovered south of the Mosquito Creek Reserve, and are being excavated.

A major project has been the digging of an alternative entrance to the Victoria Cave for the Tourist Bureau. This project is now well under way, although more must be done before tourists will be able to stroll through.

A preliminary meteorological study has been made in S102, a "breathing cave" at Naracoorte.

The depleted ranks of the Mt. Gambier section have had an overwhelming task keeping pace with reports of new caves. Scrub clearing in the Caroline area is partly responsible for this.

SOUTH-EAST (con)

Once again Fred Aslin appears to have been the Group's main systematic bone-digger. It seems that he can dig them much faster than they can be identified however.

Cave Conservation in the face of ever increasing farming is becoming a more pressing problem in the Mt Gambier area. For example Five Corners cave, mentioned in the last Annual Report, is now polluted by drainage from a recently constructed dairy, conveniently situated over one entrance.

EYRE PENINSULAR AND NULLARBOR.

No trips were held to either region, although one of our members was able to investigate reports of several blowholes in the Northern portion of the Nullarbor plain. It has been suggested that a diving trip to the Nullarbor Cave Lakes should be organised in the near future.

NARACORTE HUT :

With increasing use of the Hut it is desirable that we should once again enforce the levy. A set of rules for use of the Hut will shortly be posted inside it, and members are asked to co-operate with them.

Various improvements to the Hut are contemplated but more urgently some repairs must be undertaken, including soldering of the tank tap, which is now leaking badly.

On the matter of fencing an area of land around the hut, it is believed that we may do this provided that the fence does not detract from the appearance of the area. However we would have no legal right to exclude members of the public from the fenced area, and would need to call upon one of the guides to remove anyone interfering with our equipment. The matter is still under consideration.

RECORDS:

Several sections of our records have been brought almost up to date, although much work is still required. Our special thanks to Rick Hutchings for constructing the dye-line machine which has made maps available once again.

LIBRARY:

Our library has grown considerably over the past 12 months, but unfortunately we still do not have bookcase accommodation for it in the lecture room, and it is unable to function satisfactorily.

It is hoped that the situation will improve now that the new Lecture Room is becoming established.

NEWSLETTER:

Common difficulties encountered in putting out the Newsletter include :-

1. NO CONTRIBUTIONS .
2. IMPOSSIBLE GRAMMAR .
3. ILLEGIBLE WRITING ... (not all typists are mindreaders too!)

DO YOU FEEL GUILTY ??? The Newsletter is put out for the benefit of all the Group...lets try to do our part this year.

MEETINGS:

Attendances for the most part were good, varying between 19 and 36 people, the usual quiet period being around exam and pre-Christmas times.

During the year we have had some excellent guest speakers, incl. Vic Linke talking on Lava Caves in Victoria, Gordon Gross on his trips to New Caledonia, and its Caves; Peter Robertson on caves in Victoria and Mt. Gambier; and Alan Hill on the trip up the Birdsville Track.

A special night was Dr. Hossfeld's illustrated talk on Rock Shelters, followed later in the year by a respectful account of his life and work by Dr. Brian Daily.

Three French Caving films, lent by the French Embassy were shown; four B.P. films, and at various occasions general slides by members.

Most people managed to find their way to meetings despite the change in location from upstairs in the Museum to the Lecture Room at the Rear.

CAVE-MAN'S DINNER:

Once again our Cave-man's Dinner was held at the Florentino Restaurant in Hindley St., and once again it was thoroughly enjoyable. Thirty-six people were present including our special guests Mr & Mrs Ern Maddock and Dr and Mrs Brian Daily.

The Annual Photographic competition organised this year by Tony Butterfield, had a professionally judged section and a popular vote section, both of which were won by Grant Gartrell. The standard of slides shown was generally very high, and judging was difficult.

Leather Medals were proudly presented to :

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Peter Robertson | - for caving with a bang. |
| Harvey Cohen | - to remind him. |
| Bill Daw | - A leather tow-rope. |
| Ron Galbreath | - For underwater illumination in the Tantanoola Lake Cave. |
- Ben Nurse (Syd. Speleo. Soc.) for " busting the Efflux ."
and a special Rubber Bat was presented to Wayne Goedecke to help him fly through the Sand Cave.

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT:

No major replacement of gear was required during the year. The two first aid kits were checked and replenished.

Please note that C.E.G.S.A. gear is not for use of outside groups unless it is a combined trip. This is not appreciated by some members. Members should also point out that for non-members using Group gear, NO responsibility for use of same is accepted and everyone in C.E.G.S.A. using same does so at their own risk.

NEW TO GROUP: A new item has joined the group:- a Dyeline print machine for printing maps. Maps can be printed up to a size of 40"X30" with a very good result. There are now over 100 maps of South Aust. caves on sale to Group members.

During the coming year a large amount of work will have to be carried out on the caving equipment. This is particularly so with ladder and slings, as a large amount of these will be required for the field trips after the Australian Speleologist Federation Conference at Christmas 1968.

Please do all you can to help at the working bees which will be organised during the year for this purpose. They are a lot of fun and they can help you as well as the Club.

GENERAL

Our thanks are given to all who helped the Group in any way, whether it was in direct material aid; a talk to the Group; services rendered; or just good old-fashioned moral support!

For the Committee,

L. GARTRELL. (HON. SEC)

GEAR LIST as at 28-2-68.SURVEY EQUIPMENT.APPROX. VALUE.

1 Miners Dial	\$ 20
2 Tripods	10
2 x100 ft. fibreglass tapes)	
1 x100 ft. metallic tape)	10

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Dyeline paper	\$ 80
Dyeline print machine	20
Maps	\$100
Typewriter	20
Duplicator	40

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

225 ft. ladder	\$ 90
3 slings	2
1 Clarke Stretcher	10
8 Helmets	8
1 Trenching tool	1
2 First Aid kits	30
1 Set scales	5
500 ft Manilla rope	50
120 ft Nylon rope	10
3 Don -V telephones	10
4 Carbide sieves	4
2 set bone sieves	10
2 carbide lamps	4
Misc. equipment (Plastic plates, bowls, buckets frypans etc.)	30
Ladder making equipment	40

Total	\$ 604
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FINANCIAL REPORT.

Statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 28.2.68.

<u>Receipts.</u>		<u>Payments.</u>	
	\$		\$
Cash in hand	5.38	Postage & freight	43.63
Cheques "	3.00	Books	23.00
Subs.	164.00	Sub to Journals	40.95
Trip fees	36.10	Room hire	19.00
Occ. papers	195.09	Wreath	4.00
Maps	16.35	ASF Conference dep.	30.00
Books	11.10	Paper	56.92
Badges	4.50	Printing box lights	17.70
Mag. powder	30.25	Maps	11.00
Dinner	97.00	Coudrey Press	10.95
Motor bike	20.00	Exchange cheques	3.50
Auction	52.72	First aid kits	19.50
Bank int.	18.55	SAMAF Subs.	5.00
		" Brochure	25.00
		ASF Subs.	20.00
		Dinner & Social	106.30
Bank balance	\$ 658.04		436.45
10/2/67	364.83	Cheques from '66/7	13.00
	\$ 1022.87		449.45
		less cheque not presented	20.00
			429.45
		less cheque returned	3.00
			426.45
		Bank balance 2.2.68	591.24
		Cash in hand	3.18
		Cheque "	2.00
			\$ 1022.87.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

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WIGLEY Tom

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X CHANDLER Dr. Graham
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X CLARKE Cynthia
X CRABB Peter
Da COSTA Dean

DOLAN Paul
EVANS Keith
X FIDLER Pamela
X FOOTE Allan
GARTRELL Lynn
GLIDDON Graham
X HANCOCK Ronald
X HOCKNELL Edna
HOCKNELL Peter
X HOLDERNESS-RODDAM Robert

X HORSFALL Christopher
X IDE Robin
X LEWIS Ian
X MADDOCK Ernest

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X STEVENS Diana	As above.
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YOUNG Albert	"Gloucester" Flat 39, Yorktown Rd. East Elizabeth.
" " " " " " "	" " " " " " "

THE GROUP EXCHANGES PUBLICATIONS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

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 Aust. Conservation Foundation. P.O. Box 91 Eastwood N.S.W.
 A.S.F. Librarian
 A.S.F. Secretary.
 Canberra S.S. P.O. Box 530 Canberra.
 Cave Research Ass. 3842 Brookdale Blvd. Castro Valley, Calif. U.S.A. 94546
 C.R.G. "Lindum" The Homend, Ledbury, Herefordshire. England.
 Central Qld. S.S. The Caves. QLD.
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 Helictite, Box 183 P.O. Broadway. N.S.W.
 Kempsey S.S. c/o 4 Albert St. Kempsey N.S.W.
 Metrop. S.S. P.O. Box E120, St. James, Sydney N.S.W.
 National Fitness Council 70 South Tce. Adel.
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 Orange S.S. c/o 15 Moresby St. Orange N.S.W.
 Royal Geographic Soc. Institute Buildings, North Tce. Adel.
 Sth. African Speleo. Assoc. P.O. Box 4812, Cape Town, S. Africa.
 S.A. Dept. of Mines 169 Rundle St. Adelaide.
 S.A. Museum North Tce. Adel.
 S.A. Tourist Bureau 18 King William St. Adel.
 Southern Caving Soc. 139 Augusta Rd. Lenah Valley, Hobart Tas.
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 Tasmanian Caverneering Club Box 641G. G.P.O. Hobart TAS.
 Uni. of N.S.W. S.Soc. P.O. Box 17, The Union, Uni. of Sydney, N.S.W.
 Victorian Cave Exp. Soc. Box 5425CC, G.P.O. Melbourne.
 Western Aust. Speleo. Group, Box S1349, G.P.O. Perth. W.A.
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