



Cave Exploration Group

South Australia

C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

ANNUAL REPORT 1971-72

**SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT to be presented to
the General Meeting on Wednesday
the 23rd of February 1972 at the
Museum Lecture Rooms - North Terrace
Adelaide at 8 p.m.**

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT 1971 - 72

Sixteenth Annual Report of the Cave Exploration Group of South Aust.

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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting the following report covering the Group's activities and finances for the year ending 23rd of February 1972.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The past year has appeared a relatively quiet one for the Group, however, a considerable amount of work has been completed. More cave was found and mapped than during the previous one and many other activities have proved extremely successful. Some interest and work which last year centred on Naracoorte has been drawn away resulting in new discoveries in Sellick's Hill Cave and in two trips to the Nullarbor Plain. One of the most noticeable problems is that many of the more enthusiastic, capable and active cavers in the Group have much of their time taken up within the Committee. This is a problem which seems to repeat itself every year.

The Committee this past year has been one of the youngest to be elected by the Group. Any lack of experience which may have existed was more than made up for by their fresh new ideas, strong interest and their willingness to work, in spite of many early setbacks and a lack of confidence in the Committee shown by several senior members of the Group.

At the Annual General Meeting, Ernest Maddock was elected to the position of President of the Group. It was indeed a sad and hard-felt loss to the Cave Exploration Group and many of its individual members when Ern passed away on the 28th. June after a short illness.

The Search and Rescue Organization is now reconstructed into an effective and efficient group with a carefully planned programme which will equip and train a squad for any emergency. The library and records are now accessible to the members and much more material has been added. The format of the newsletter has been altered lifting it from merely a social newsletter to a journal of trip reports and scientific items of interest and value to cavers.

In electing the new Committee it is important to take into account the work done by members of the last committee and to elect members capable of filling these positions and completing work started by their predecessors. The active members of the Group are young and only a young and active Committee will hold their interest in the Group and mold them into leaders of the future.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have stood by me throughout the year making it a most successful year for C.E.G.S.A.

Peter A. Chappell.

COMMITTEE.

Your Committee for this year was :-

Ernest Maddock/ Peter Chappell	President.
Peter Chappell/ Grant Gartrell	Vice-President.
Anthony Lake	Secretary.
Merrilyn Bateman/ Patricia Lake	Treasurer.
Edward Sangster	Library & Records
David Hawke	Quarter-master.
David Hawke	Search & Rescue Squad Leader.
Peter Tunbridge	Membership Officer.
Trevor Maddock	Publications Officer.
Grant Gartrell	Conservation Representative.
Anthony Lake	A.S.F. Representative
Neville Pledge	Museum Representative.
Ernest Maddock/ Peter Warren	Tourist Bureau Representative.

(NOTE: Above where two people held one position the top name signifies the first person to hold the position while the second name is that of the person who replaced that member at some time throughout the year.)

During the year Merrilyn Bateman resigned from the Committee and Pat Lake replaced her as Treasurer. When Ernest Maddock passed away Peter Chappell was elected to the vacant position of President while Peter Warren, Acting Curator of National Pleasure Resorts, became the new S.A.G.T.B. Representative. Grant Gartrell filled the position of Vice-President vacated by Peter Chappell.

Several Sub-Committees were formed during the year. The respective chairmen of the two most successful of these sub-committees, namely Search & Rescue and Conservation, have been listed above with the Committee members. They were David Hawke and Grant Gartrell.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This past year has been most successful, with eleven general meetings, including an Annual General Meeting, being held. At six of the meetings either a speaker or film followed general business.

At one meeting members of the South Australian Police Search and Rescue Department talked on their activities and exhibited much of the equipment used. The talk was illustrated with slides.

Mr. Robert Swinbourne of the Botanic Garden, Adelaide, spoke at another meeting on 'Central Australia' and this lecture was also illustrated by an excellent set of slides which the speaker had taken.

Norm Poulter spoke at the mid-year meeting on his exploits and achievements in Khazal-Dam, Australia's deepest known cave, at about the time of the A.S.F. Conference.

Neville Pledge spoke on the 1970 American expedition to Lake callabouna, of which he was a member. He also showed a moving film he had made during the expedition.

Another member of the South Australian Museum staff, Mr. Peter Aitken, Curator of Mammals, gave a lecture on 'Mammals of South Australia' which was directed towards conservation. The impressive slide collection and excellent dialogue was of mammoth interest to all present as evidenced by the great number of questions relating to nature conservation, which were asked.

The last two meetings of the year were completed by Alan Hill who spoke on basic compass work, and finally by a talk on the Christmas Nullarbor trip and the exploration achievements of that expedition.

During the year a motion for increase of fees was passed by a General Meeting. The fees are now :-

Full Members	\$5.00
Associate Members	\$3.00
Full Country Members	\$3.00.

These subscriptions become due in February of each year (at the Annual General Meeting) in accordance with the Constitution.

An Occasional Dinner was held at 'The Barn', Mc. Laren Vale, during the year and the Annual Dinner was held at the Crafers Hotel, Crafers. Both occasions were excellently attended. At the Annual Dinner the following awards were presented :-

Spirit of Caving	Harry Baker
Leather Medal	Norm Poulter

Photographic Competition :-

Best Colour Slide	B. Dunn.
Best Cave Slide	G. Cantrell.
Best Personality Slide	R. Calbreath.
Best Black & White	T. Viesser.
Consolation Prize	N. Poulter.

Throughout the year trips were held to most of the major caving areas of this state as well as the Nullarbor Plain. Reports are to be found elsewhere within this Annual Report.

I would like to thank all those within the Group who supported the Committee and myself throughout the past year.

Anthony W. Lake. B.D.S.

SEARCH & RESCUE REPORT

This year has been fairly busy for the Search and Rescue team from a practice point of view. Once again we have been very lucky in not having any major accidents. There have been two training weekends at Naracorte, both of which were fairly successful in that they achieved what they set out to but they were a little lacking in group support. Practices this year have tried to place more emphasis on patient handling and rescue technique than on searching cave systems. There have also been two field days at Reynella Quarry which proved to be quite successful. The area is a lot better than the old spot in National Park, Belair, and has a variety of pitches of varying difficulty which have proved very useful for training beginners. The people who attended these meetings certainly learnt something and became a lot more confident in handling the gear they were using.

Correspondence has been entered into with Search and Rescue groups in England and a lot of relevant information has been received especially regarding stretchers and telephone systems.

It is hoped to have a completed telephone system operating early in the new year when the final design for the 'drag sheet' should also be ready. Lists have been drawn up of the minimum requirements for first aid kits and gear kits. These will be made up and sealed as soon as possible.

A lot of thought has been put into organisation and control of the team during the actual rescue. What is really needed is a lot more practice and a lot more support from Group members. Everyone should put their name onto the call-out list and come along to practices. Remember, if you think you know it all you can always teach someone else. Thankyou for your support this year.

Peter Chappell, David Hawke & Bunnie Dunn.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

Despite the fees rise which took place during this year there has still been a considerable influx of new members and the same turn-over which is evident every year. As the list below indicates, the number of associate members has remained relatively stable with those graduating to full membership or dropping out being replaced by new members. Although there appears to be a drop in numbers of full members the list gives a somewhat erroneous view in this respect as figures for previous years have not been completely accurate. Many of the older full members had ceased to be active members of the Group and had become names on the appendix of members found in the back of each Annual Report. On contacting these people it was found that many of them no longer wished to remain members for various personal reasons. Others, it was found, had not been members for some years but publications and group correspondence had still been sent to them. Now, thanks to the fees rise and some excellent leg work by Tony Lake, the membership figures are accurate and up to date at last.

Many of the associate members of last year have this year become full members and are very active in Group affairs. Many of the associate members gained this year have also become extremely active with the result that C.E.G.S.A. is now a young but most active Group and consolidation by some of the older members, which is already evident, is all that is needed to make the next year the most fruitful one in the Group's history. This cannot be left to some, though, but requires active participation by all members of the Cave Exploration Group.

This year one Honorary Life Member and one Honorary Associate Member were appointed. Mr. Fred Aslin graduated to the ranks of Honorary Life Member by unanimous vote and no-one is more worthy of this honor than Fred. His field of activity is too wide for elaboration here and his personal interests far too numerous to record but one does not need to look too far to discover just how active Fred has been in Group affairs.

The Honorary Associate Member elected was Dr. W.G. Inglis, then Director of the South Australian Museum and now Director of the Department of Conservation of the Environment. His position in the affairs of our state is fair indication of Dr. Inglis' value to us and his help to the Group through his capacity as Director of the Museum is well known to us all.

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS	5	5	4	6	6	7
HONORARY ASSOCIATES	3	4	4	4	4	5
FULL MEMBERS	37	35	37	41	48	37
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	30	35	29	39	50	53
	<u>75</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>102</u>

Peter J. Tunbridge. B.Sc.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

Four newsletters were produced this year, three of which consisted of twenty-four pages and the final one of eight pages. This year has witnessed a certain amount of reorganization of the newsletter with experimentation in cover photographs and maps. Although these were of only marginal success they could be greatly improved if the printer has time to acquire a greater knowledge of the operating of the duplicator. I found it took me a large part of the year to learn intimately the workings of the machine at my disposal. For this reason, I feel it may be advantageous to give particular consideration to experienced operators when selecting the new publications officer. Also, those who may be interested in such a future position may find it useful to assist the publications officer and so get to know the job and exactly what is required of a publications officer.

Lectures presented at meetings throughout the year were published in the newsletter in complete text or at least in summary, whenever possible. The reason for this was to give country members a chance to enjoy the same lectures and also to provide a record for these lectures for those who may wish it. Abstracts of recent speleo-literature were also included in this year's newsletter when they were available for the purpose of keeping members up to date with recent additions to the library and exactly what is available to them in this field. All abstracts printed are, or will be, in the Group library.

A salient reason for the radical increase in the size of the newsletter was the unusual abundance of contributors this year. In so many previous Annual Reports the publications officers have commented on being the authors of the newsletter and I am pleased to be able to write that I do not have to repeat this remark. Contributions throughout the year have been excellent and at one stage they were so numerous that it was necessary to hold over a certain amount of material till the following newsletter. The next publications officer may be happy to know that already material is awaiting publication also.

It was mentioned in the previous Annual Report that a publication could be produced on the Naracoorte area but, due to numerous complications and setbacks this has been indefinitely postponed. The initial idea, however, has not been forgotten, and when the necessary research has taken place the publication will most certainly move into its secondary stages of development. What has been sadly lacking has been a strong and concentrated effort by a large part of the Group instead of the same old few. At the same time it must always be remembered that the Group is an amateur organization with many diverse interests and those interested in such an aim must attempt to consolidate their efforts to that end.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the newsletter throughout the year and assisted in numerous other ways.

Trevor H. Maddock.

A REPORT ON BAT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1971 - 1972

By T.H. Maddock.

SUMMARY

Banding and other observational activities were carried out on seven species of bats over the period, February 1971 to February 1972. The species, Miniopterus schreibersii, Eptesicus pumilus, Chalinolobus morio and Nyctophilus geoffroyi are considered to be cave-dwelling over at least part of their range and, therefore, are of main concern here. Investigations carried out on the Nullarbor Plain, Western Australia are also included here.

1. Notes on banding are included for the species, Miniopterus schreibersii and an appendix of selected recoveries is included. Seasonal and other movements recorded over the study period are given. The first record of a new wintering site on the Glenelg River is mentioned. Notes on breeding are also included.

2. A maternity colony of bats of the species, Eptesicus pumilus is recorded in the Flinders Ranges. Mention of wintering colonies in this region is also made. Some non-cave habitats in south-eastern South Australia are also included.

3. Some observations on seasonal and other movements of the species, Chalinolobus morio on the Nullarbor Plain are given. Mortality in the species is also mentioned.

4. Nyctophilus geoffroyi is recorded from Mullahmullang Cave, Nullarbor Plain. Some non-cave habitats for this species in south-eastern South Australia are included and banding details are noted.

INTRODUCTION

The four species of bats which may be considered cave-dwelling over at least part of their range in South Australia, Miniopterus schreibersii, Eptesicus pumilus, Chalinolobus morio and Nyctophilus geoffroyi, belong to the family, Vespertilionidae which is the largest family of bats, having more than 270 species distributed throughout the world's temperate and tropical regions. They are extended to the limit of tree growth in both hemispheres. Although predominantly tree-dwelling, many species are cave-dwelling and these are of great interest to the bio-speleologist and to the biologist, supplying information on adaption to the environment, and on the evolution and radiation of mammals. The ranges and habitats of South Australia's cave-dwelling Chiroptera are of no exception.

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Banding of bats was resumed in South Australia after a lapse of nearly three years and Bat Cave at Naracoorte was once again the focal point for much of the banding activity. The range of bat research activities was also considerably extended this year and, in all, seven species of Microchiropteran bats were observed throughout the state. Three of these species, Miniopterus schreibersii, Chalinolobus gouldii and Nyctophilus geoffroyi were banded throughout the year. An appendix of selected recoveries for these species is included at the end of this report.

Miniopterus schreibersii

This gregarious species is found in large numbers in many of the caves of the south-east of the state. About 99% of all bats banded belonged to this species and over 70% of these bats were banded at the Bat Cave, Naracoorte. About sixty banded individuals were recovered by the writer over the study period and an equal number has been recovered by Mr. Fred Aslin of Mount Gambier. Interesting details on age and movements were collated from these recoveries. Figure I shows some of the recorded movements of individuals banded during this year.

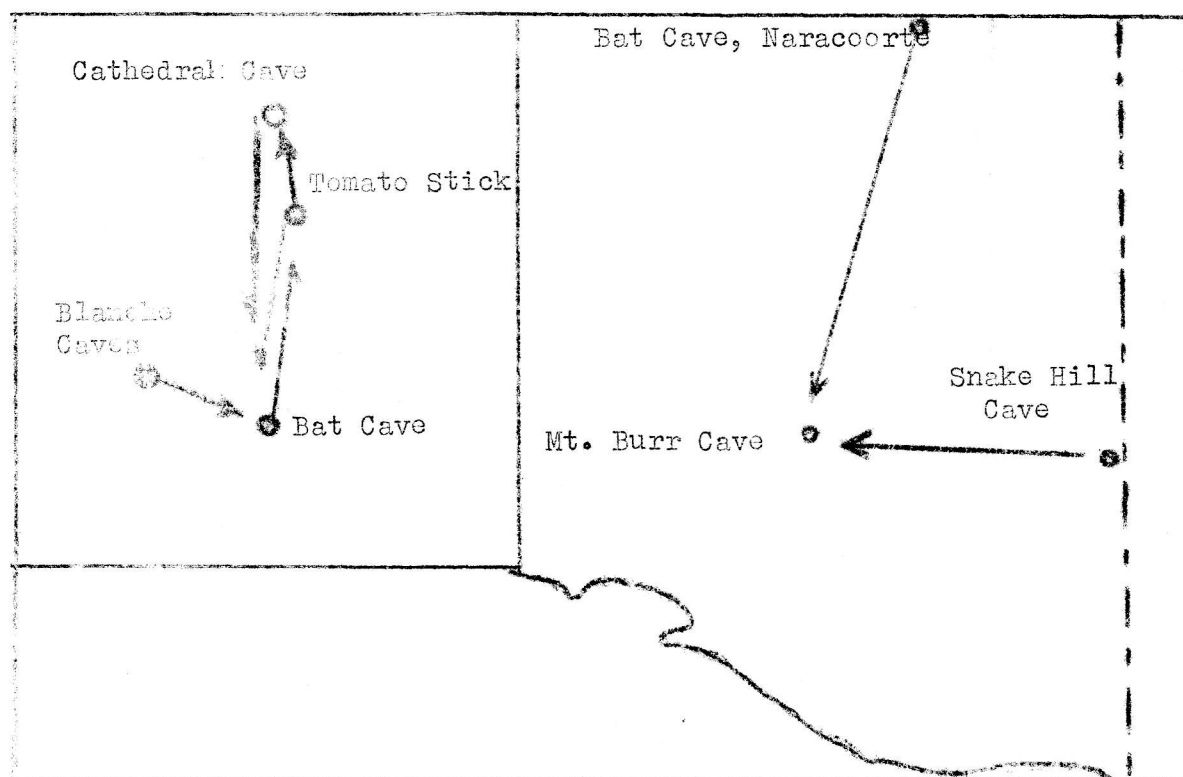


Figure I. Movements of Miniopterus schreibersii in S.A. during 1971. Inlay shows local movements in Naracoorte area.

Due to technical difficulties and other personal pre-occupations research on this species was not as extensive as originally anticipated. Groups of thermistors (remote temperature-reading devices) were installed in the Bat Cave at Naracoorte at the beginning of the year but unfortunately are not yet operational. Visits to other wintering sites of M. schreibersii were not as regular as originally hoped.

The first signs of breeding this season were recorded in the first week of November when three lactating females were recorded from a sample of some seventy female bats. One female was found to be carrying a suckling infant. All other individuals of this sample were heavily pregnant at this time. Trapping in the Bat Cave exactly one month later, it was observed that no pregnant females were recorded but several lactating individuals were found amongst the sample.

It is interesting to note that, at the time of the first sample (first week in November), the main maternity chamber (see Figure 2.) was unusually empty of bats and that those trapped in this chamber during this visit were, without exception, males roosting singly and in a torpid condition. On further investigation, the majority of the colony was found in a low flat area between the main maternity chamber and the far chamber (see Figure 2.). The bats were clustered in a massive single cluster on the roof of this area which is only a few feet above the huge rock-pile floor.

A satisfactory explanation for this most unusual behaviour has not been found although it appears it may have been some attempt at greater control on temperature regulation. On the second visit (one month later), however, the colony had adopted the usual roosting habits in the high ceiling domes of the main chamber.

Late in February of 1971 two bats were observed copulating on the floor of the main chamber in Bat Cave. This was a most interesting observation as copulation and fertilization does not generally take place till considerably later of this species in the Naracoorte area.

During the past year, Mr. Fred Aslin established that a cave (GI4) on the north bank of the Glenelg River, in Victoria, supported a wintering colony of bats of the species, Miniopterus schreibersii. He reports ten or twelve bats being in it in the early hours of 12/14/71, one of which was caught to verify the species. Several small guano piles were observed within the cave.

Bats were sighted in several other caves along the Glenelg River during 1971 but species was not confirmed in most cases. Both M. schreibersii and Myotis adversus inhabit caves in this area.

Eptesicus pumilus

Mr. Alex McLeod reported a colony of bats of the species, Eptesicus pumilus from a disused mine adit in the Gammon Ranges, Northern Flinders Ranges. Many of the females in the colony were carrying suckling young and the colony appeared to be a maternity one. A more detailed report on this colony and on this species is currently being prepared by Mr. McLeod and the writer, and may appear in a separate journal shortly.

Dr. C.T. James of the Field Naturalist's Mammal Club also reports a wintering colony in Erachina Gorge in the Flinders Ranges. It is hoped that both these colonies will be banded and investigated further during the forthcoming year.

The writer has also recovered individuals of this species from such roosts as canvas blinds and under roofs in the south-east of the state. The species is widely distributed throughout South Australia.

Chalinolobus morio

The Nullarbor Plain was visited twice this year by members of this Group, and on each occasion bats were observed within its caverns. On the first trip Mullahmullang Cave was visited and on the second Mullahmullang, Weebubbie, Cocklebiddy, Murra-el-eleven, Abrakurrie Caves were visited. Bats were recorded from all but Cocklebiddy Cave.

In May, 1971, Peter Chappell reported seeing bats, including several dead ones, in Mullahmullang Cave. The species was not confirmed but it appears most likely that it was Chalinolobus morio, the chocolate-wattled bat.

Over the Christmas-New-Year period, Ian Lewis recorded sightings of C. morio from Weebubbie, Murra-el-eleven and Mullahmullang Caves while Ric. Bowen reported sighting bats in Abrakurrie Cave.

On the Christmas trip a newly discovered section near the entrance of Weebubbie Cave was observed to contain large quantities of guano although no bats have been reported from this area. Bats were sighted in the main-chamber of the cave.

Ian Lewis reports seeing some several hundred bats in Murra-el-eleven Cave which was previously suspected of being a maternity site for C. morio on the Nullarbor Plain (Hamilton-Smith, 1966). A large number of dead bats were observed in both Murra-el-eleven and Mullahmullang Caves during this visit, also. One banded bat was seen in Murra-el-eleven Cave but, unfortunately, escaped capture.

Nyctophilus geoffroyi

The lesser long-eared bat, Nyctophilus geoffroyi has not generally been considered cave-dwelling and has lately been the focal point of some controversy over whether or not it does actually dwell in caves. The writer has banded individuals of this species from canvas blinds and found them in barns in the south-east of the state over the past year. It is generally recorded as abundant from most areas of South Australia.

Previously, however, remains and live examples of N. geoffroyi have occasionally been recorded from caves (Purchase, 1961; Hamilton-Smith, 1966). Over the Christmas period further information on their recovery from caves did come to hand when Ian Lewis reported two dessicated carcasses from the Easter Extension of Mullamullang Cave. From their geographic position within the cave, however, it does appear that these bats may well have become lost and possibly perished as a result.

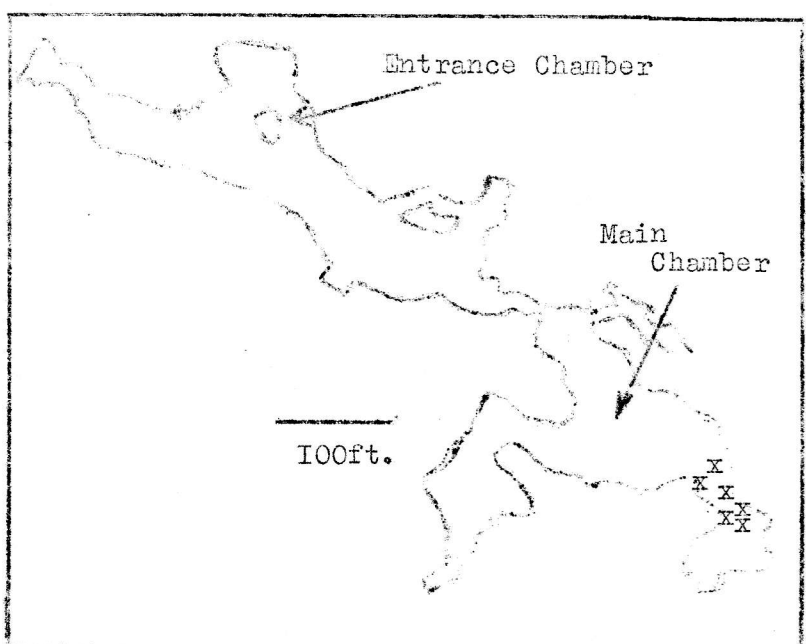


Figure 2.

Bat Cave, Naracoorte showing area where bats were found clustered (marked with 'x').

CONCLUSION

Other species observed during the year were Chalinolobus gouldii (which was banded), Tadarida planiceps and Taphozous georgianus. Although certain of these species are cave-dwelling over at least part of their range, observations on them in South Australia were exclusively from surface roosts of various types.

With the extent of research activities in South Australia now, it is necessary for more people, and especially more banders to be registered if these bats are to be investigated in any depth.

The co-operation of many members of the Group, plus the interest of several individuals, throughout the past year has been particularly evident. Among those deserving special mention are Messrs. Fred Aslin, Ian Lewis and Alex McLeod who have, all three, made useful contributions to the present knowledge of Australian bats, throughout the past year.

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- Dwyer, P.D. & Hamilton-Smith, E. Breeding Caves and Maternity Colonies of the Bent-winged Bat in South-eastern Australia. Helictite 4, No.1. 1965.
- Hamilton-Smith, E. Fauna of the Nullarbor Caves in Caves of the Nullarbor. The Speleological Research Council. 1967.
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APPENDIX

SELECTED RECOVERIES OF BANDED BATS DURING 1971.

- 030.32327 banded 4/xi/1961 at Bat Cave, Naracoorte by Jack Hood;
recovered 19/ix/1965 at Bat Cave, Naracoorte;
" 26/ii/1968 at SIIO, Wandilo Forest near Mt. Gambier;
" 10/iv/1971 at Bat Cave, Naracoorte.
- 20.43345 banded 9/iv/1971 at Bat Cave, Naracoorte by T.H. Maddock;
recovered 6/vi/1971 at Mount Burr Cave by Fred Aslin.
- 20.05807 banded 2 /i/1963 at Bat Cave,,Naracoorte by E. Hamilton-Smith;
recovered 9/iv/1971 at Bat Cave, Naracoorte by T.H. Maddock.
- 20.44549 banded 10/vii/1971 at Big Cave, Naracoorte by T.H. Maddock;
recovered 11/vii/1971 at Bat Cave, Naracoorte by T.H. Maddock.

Please note that complete recovery data may not be included for each bat presented here.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Although no conservation sub-committee meetings were convened, some activity in this area has occurred, due mainly to outside pressures.

In conjunction with the South Australian Mountain Activities Federation a preliminary general submission was made to the Minister of Conservation to acquaint him with the work of the Group and the problems of cave conservation. A more detailed follow-up submission should be made in the near future.

An exercise, organized by Fred Aslin and Ian Lewis, to clean up Earl's Cave near Mount Gambier was well timed. Government attention focussed on water pollution problems in the South-East at about the same time and enabled the Group to draw attention to the whole of cave conservation in this issue. Television interviews over this point also encouraged some public interest to be brought onto this subject. Once again, this needs a strong follow-up in the coming year if the greatest success is to be made of this venture.

Grant Gartrell Ph.D

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

Numerous items of the Group's equipment has been pensioned off over the past year and more is now due for retirement. The Group has acquired a new length of No. 4 nylon climbing rope; something which has been needed for some time. We should consider adding at least another fifty feet to our supply of ladder. Twenty-five feet of ladder has been pensioned off to Sand Cave and a further twenty five feet should go the same way.

Survey equipment is also due for replacement. The tripods owned by the Group at present are virtually worthless and consideration should be given to purchasing a good quality replacement. The tapes are also showing wear and need better treatment by those who use them.

The Group may, in future, consider the establishment of S&R kits to be sealed and held for any rescue attempts. In this way the equipment necessary if we ever have a real rescue will also be ready. The help of all members in establishing a continually working Search and Rescue team is most important to the Group.

I should like to thank all those people who have assisted in any way throughout the year with the Group's equipment and also those who have returned things promptly enabling us to keep track of CEGSA's equipment. Thank you to you all.

David Hawke.

QUARTER MASTER'S REPORT CONT.GEAR LIST

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

275 feet of ladder	2 sets bone sieves
12 slings	600 ft. manilla rope
12 helmets	240 ft. nylon rope
4 carbide sieves	2 sand hauling barges
2 carbide lamps	trenching tools
ladder making equipment	Set of scales

SURVEY EQUIPMENT

1 miner's dial	1 X 100 ft. Steel tape
2 tripods	2 X 60 ft. cloth tapes
2 X 100 ft. fibreglass tapes	2 stadia staffs

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Dyeline print machine
 Duplicator
 2 typewriters

SEARCH & RESCUE EQUIPMENT

1 Clarke stretcher	2 first aid kits
3 Don-V telephones	1 set webbing bands

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Group's expenditure this year has been covered by the income. The number of members has remained relatively stable at about the one hundred mark but the increase in membership fees has produced an increase here. Figures for the sale of publications this are slightly down on those figures for the previous twelve months, however.

Expenditure for the twelve months has mainly been concentrated on gates, locks and other devices for restricting the indiscriminate entry to caves. Similar amounts were also invested in the purchase of two-way radios and on their license fees.

Figures for trip fees throughout this twelve months are comparable to those of the preceeding year. It must be remembered that monetary gains from the sale of publications are generally diverted into the production of future publications which makes publicly available the results of any research of the Group. For this reason members should attempt to keep up sales of our publications.

Patricia Lake.

REPORT ON LIBRARY AND RECORDS 1971/72

The main aim this year has been to make the Group's information store more available to members. This has been steadily growing for sixteen years and includes material classified as below:

LIBRARY:

1. Books - Mostly non-Australian - range from light reading about caves to general caving techniques to specific studies on Fauna and Geology in S.A. to related topics..
2. Journals - Two British (C.R.G. & Pengelly C.S.T.), one American (N.S.S.) and numerous (actual number varies) Australian periodicals are available for SHORT loan to members. In these will be found answers to all the questions you never thought of about caving. (If you don't know what C.R.G. etc. means please ask or browse through and find out).
3. Speleoddities - The CEGSA scrap-book. This contains historic relics from way back and makes humerous reading for new members and old alike.
4. Articles - Short papers on single topics usually related directly to caving projects; maps both Lands Dept. plans and geological; aerial photographs.....

RECORDS:

1. Trip Report Books - Three volumes in duplicate (one copy held by Museum) containing reports by trip leaders on work done on caving trips. Reports are filed in date order and each volume is indexed.
2. Master List - Caves are listed by Zone number and references listed on each master sheet.
3. Maps - Original tracings of cave surveys and prints of same. It is hoped that one standard sheet size will be introduced by ASF at the Sydney Conference this Xmas so that these can be filed in book form.

The order introduced by previous librarians has been maintained. Articles are now stored in suspension files in a metal filing cabinet. Books have been plastic-covered. Maps will remain a problem until they can be reduced to standard size sheets, but they have at least been listed. An ample supply of folders has been procured for the journals. This is all very well, but after filing copies of journals and keeping track of what who has/wants/should have written/saw/heard/smelt what, there isn't any time left to extract information from the heap and serve it delicately to one and all in those juicy, bite-sized, melt-in-your-mouth chunks that we all love so well.

This situation can be very simple. Firstly, appoint a Librarian AND a Record Keeper. Their primary functions should be to use the information we already have to plan caving projects in a systematic manner, search for new information while cross-referencing the Library and Records, and to provide as many shortcuts as possible for new trogs to become caving 'heavies'.

Secondly, the routine work of running the systems now established can be spread among members, preferably thinly (it's easier and you can have a good look around while you're at it). Thirdly, but most important, USE THE LIBRARY - NOT JUST ON MEETING NIGHTS - IT IS ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE IF YOU ARE PERSISTENT.

Edward H. Sangster.

A REPORT ON CAVING ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1971/72
by Grant Gartrell & Edward H. Sangster.

Trips this year were generally well attended despite the usual cancellations and last minute changes. One recurring problem is that the same few people generally feel obliged to act as trip leaders and inevitably become overloaded with work. More volunteers to plan and lead trips would be welcomed. It is pleasing to note a healthy number of new members caving consistently throughout the year. A large percentage of our longstanding paid-up members, on the other hand, may be beginning to forget what a cave looks like.

YORKE PENINSULA AND ADELAIDE

Early in the year Corra-Lynn Cave (formerly known as Correll's Cave) was gated to protect the cave and the hordes of inexperienced visitors from each-other. Both CEGSA and Mr. D. Correll hold keys to the cave and Mr. Correll made them available to parties who approached him in a responsible fashion. The cave is regarded by CEGSA as essentially a training cave, although further extensions are inevitable as usual.

The gate on the Town Cave, Curramulka, has been modified to protect the locks from attacks by vandals with bolt-cutters. The Bone Cave dig on the property of Mrs. Goldsworthy, at Curramulka, is now down thirty feet and waiting only for manpower before it is extended further.

Sellicks Hill Cave, thirty miles south of Adelaide, has been revisited and the digging has been renewed. A major breakthrough at the -70 ft. level by a party led by Grant Gartrell has increased the total depth to between 150 and 200 feet. The cave is interesting and has good possibilities of continuing, but stabilization of the soil walls supporting (?) large boulders at the breakthrough constriction ladder

drop seems mandatory if continued access to the bottom of the cave is desired. The cave, fortunately, has a substantial gate and, at present, access is restricted to working parties with a maximum of three experienced cavers only below the ladder. There may be a case for reopening and gating the nearby cave at road level since this appears to be an upper level continuation of the bottom chamber.

BYRE PENINSULA

Lake Hamilton Caves were visited twice this year, at Easter and at Christmas. A number of small new caves were reported. It was pleasing to observe that the Quarry Industries operations near Honeycomb Cave have stopped 20 yards from the entrance and the cave is still intact. Homestead Cave was visited and found to be in good condition.

A large number of entrances have been reported approximately fifteen miles north of Lake Hamilton. While large caves seem unlikely, the area still appears promising.

MULLAMULLANG PLAIN

On a small trip to Mullamullang Cave in May, Wayne Goedecke and a small team were successful in scaling the Dome with the aid of a forty foot extension ladder and a number of thirty inch pitons. No further extensions were found and the 140ft. climb is NOT recommended. The team likened it to climbing crumbly scones. (Anyone who has climbed a scone will know the feeling well.)

A very successful diving/dry caving trip was led by Ian Lewis after Christmas and took in Weebubbie (now about 1200ft. longer and still going), Abrakurrie, Mullamullang (Easter Extension extended into another maze), Murra-el-eleven (bat colony and extended into another lake) and Cocklebidy, where the party was washed out by torrential rain. Cocklebidy was pushed for 1000ft. underwater but silt clouding of the water created difficulties near the entrance section of the lake and limited exploration further. A report will be published on this trip later in the year and Christmas, 1973 has been earmarked for the next big expedition.

FLINDERS RANGES

Mt. Simms Cave and Woodendinna (Narimna Lake) Cave were gated by CEGSA and it is believed that Mairs Cave was gated by a group of Pt. Augusta cavers. The damage that is being done to caves in remote areas such as the Flinders Ranges by casual visitors is alarming. It is a shame mairs Cave was not gated years ago. While gates, like door locks on private houses, should be unnecessary, experience shows them to be the only hope for protecting some caves.

Backwater Cave was relocated and its location map has been appropriately adjusted.

NARACOOORTE

Work in Victoria Cave continues to dominate the Naracoorte scene. A second smaller bone chamber with amazingly well preserved material was discovered in a remote section of the cave. The cave is still neither fully surveyed nor explored.

The newly discovered Sand-funnel Cave, on Crawford's property immediately north of the CEGSA hut, was previously known as a blind sink. Mr. Crawford credits its opening to the application of gelignite. A narrow pipe entrance descends about forty feet to a large passage-like chamber, four hundred feet of which has been surveyed. A further extension of twelve hundred feet of labyrinthine, yet to be completely explored and surveyed, was later found by a party led by Grant Gartrell.

A dig begun by Trevor Maddock and Alex McLeod in Wombat Cave eventually yielded a well decorated three hundred foot extension. Although there seems little hope of pushing this further, the discovery once again indicates the potential hollowness of the area near the reserve, and several digging projects on the reserve may yet yield results.

LOWER SOUTH-EAST

Fred Aslin continues as fast as man-power will allow him, in this region. From the rate at which some caves are disappearing under piles of rubbish even that may not be fast enough. The damage being done to caves in this region is a national (and particularly a State) tragedy. Hopefully, there may yet be light at the end of the tunnel. Attention has been drawn to cave pollution problems in connection with a State Government survey of the water resources of the Lower South-East. An inspection of the badly polluted Earl's Cave by a party including the Deputy Premier, Mr. Corcoran, received widespread publicity throughout the news media.

The recent death of a Victorian in Picanninny Ponds has, once again, drawn attention to a situation which has become worse. The National Parks Commission has closed the area to divers pending discussions with interested parties on controlling access. Private landowners faced with similar problems may not be so accommodating.

CEGSA has always been interested in the deep sinkholes and water-filled caves of the region because of their geomorphological and hydrological significance. Maps of a number of these were produced over ten years ago. Despite the upsurge in interest of late, however, diving has been only sporting and greatly uncoordinated. It is hoped that generated interest over the Nullarbor trip may encourage divers to take more interest in the more serious aspects of their hobby and the formation of an underwater caving group would greatly assist this.

APPENDICES

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 14.1.1972.

Subscriptions to & purchases of publications	£ 109.50
Stationery	84.95
Postage	56.32
Purchase of equipment	252.35
Social Dinners	261.25
ASF Conference refunds	40.50
Sundries	41.94
Ferry Cash imprest	18.83
Balance as at 14/1/72 (bank pass book)	<u>461.50</u>

£1327.14

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STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 14.1.1972.

Membership	298.00
Sale of publications	70.65
Trip fees	125.32
Stickers & badges	24.50
Social Dinners	277.50
Sundries	33.97
Bank interest	16.86
Balance as at 20/1/71	<u>480.34</u>

£1327.14

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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) - MEMBERS IN FEBRUARY 1972.

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