



Cave Exploration Group

South Australia

C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

ANNUAL REPORT 1975-76

**TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT to be presented to
the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday,
25th of February 1976 at the
Museum Lecture Rooms - North Terrace,
Adelaide at 8:00 p.m.**

Cave Exploration Group of South Australia Inc.

Twentieth Annual Report 1975 - 1976

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies & Gentlemen

Welcome to this, our 20th Annual General Meeting which shows a very special milestone in the history of the Group. As you may have noticed our name now includes the word "Incorporated". Due to a very fine effort by Graham Pilkington in bringing our Constitution into line with requirements and organizing all the necessary paperwork etc. we are now Incorporated. This takes a big threat from the heads of the Committee as Indeed it does from all the Members as well. Only the Group as a Club can now be sued, whereas before every Member could be sued individually. This does not mean that we can relax over safety standards or the enforcement of correct safety procedures.

While on the subject of safety I would like to express my disappointment at the lack of attendance at the field training days, particularly by the newer members. If we are to maintain our excellent record of nil accidents we must maintain a high level of expertise in techniques and safety procedures. The top of a shaft on a trip is no place to learn how to tie a bowline, belay, climb a ladder or abseil. Training is essential. Also, if we are to give effective assistance to the Police in cave rescue we must maintain a highly trained rescue team and keep an up to date rescue list so that the police can contact us with the minimum of trouble in case of emergency. Perhaps when you are nominating someone for the new Committee you might consider someone for the office of S & R, Training & Safety rather than just a name to fill up the Committee positions.

As can be seen from the financial Statement our moneys have increased considerably in the past year. This is due to the generosity of officers of the National Parks & Wildlife Service, in allowing the Group to remove and sell the pine trees to make room for the new Interpretation Centre to be built adjacent to the existing kiosk building. Our thanks must also go to Russell Bath, Curator of Naracoorte Caves Reserve, for his efforts in arranging contractors to remove the trees and stumps. Thanks Russell!

Work is continuing smoothly on the fossil dig in Victoria Fossil Cave (note new name) and a shaft has been dug at the far end of the fossil chamber to facilitate removal of large quantities of silt from the excavations. A large excavation has been planned by Rod Wells to go down to the base of the silt fill so that a complete strata record can be made. A very large percentage of this cave has been surveyed in the past year and a very high accuracy has been attained due to the use of the Radio Direction Finding equipment kindly loaned to us by V.S.A. through Peter Robertson. RDF has also been used in Alexandra Cave and Blackberry Cave. Alexandra Cave now has a high accuracy map and it is hoped that a high accuracy map will be produced of Blackberry Cave in the near future. We should have our own RDF equipment operating early in the New Year and then we won't have to impose upon V.S.A. when we want to do a major survey of one of our caves at any time in the future.

Occasional Paper No.5 should be out by this meeting. This is a complete list of all caves under the control of C.E.G.S.A. (Inc.) with survey status, descriptions and locations. I would like to thank Ian Lewis for the monumental effort he has performed in producing this paper almost single-handed, including taking some months off from work to complete it. A magnificent dedication to Speleology, and as well, this dedication included participating in 39 caving trips during the last 12 months and leading 32 of them. Thanks Ian!

Tonight you are going to elect a new Committee for the coming year. I urge you, before nominating someone, to find out what their interests are and for what reason they should like to be on the Committee. We need a hard core of willing workers to perform the various duties within the Committee and Group. Think of the Officers required and try to find someone who will perform these duties conscientiously. Just because someone was on the Committee last year does not mean that there is not someone else better suited to take an office in the new Committee. Please think very carefully about your nominations and the Elections.

Finally I would like to thank the Committee for the hard work and support they have given me and the Group in the past year. My thanks must go to Ian Lewis and Graham Pilkington for holding the fort in my absence in the last 3 months of 1975. I must apologise for this absence but unfortunately the mighty Dollar must come first for me. I have tried to attend a few more trips this year and I think I have managed to get to know the active members a little better and now have a rough idea of the great expertise that has been built up in the past few years. I will be standing for President again this year but after this term (if I am elected) I must stand down as I think 3 years is really too long to be in this position. If the leadership is not changed the Group will stagnate and become too fixed in its ideas. To progress the Group must have new ideas injected into it both from the President and the Committee and it is a good thing to have some new faces in the Committee each year. With these few remarks I wish the Group and the Committee every success for the future.

ATHOL JACKSON

COMMITTEE :

Your Committee for 1975 has been:-

Athol Jackson	President
Ian Lewis	Vice President
Anne Wilson	Secretary/Treasurer*
Rod McDougal	Quartermaster
Rod Wells	Library
Ed Bailey	Publications
Max Meth	Search and Rescue
Graham Pilkington	Records
Dot Peisley	Membership
Neville Pledge	Museum Representative
Peter Macrow	National Parks & Wildlife Service Representative

* The post of Secretary/Treasurer was subsequently relinquished by Anne Wilson and the position was filled by Anne's sister Jane.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1975

With Anne resigning in the middle of the year in order to undertake further studies in Perth, the job of Secretary/Treasurer was offered to me, which I accepted. At the same time I informed the Committee that I would be away quite often until the end of the year, and therefore. I must thank Graham Pilkington and Ed Bailey and not forgetting Ian Lewis, for assisting me during the year.

One of the major points of interest this year was the Incorporation of the Group, which was undertaken very efficiently by Graham Pilkington.

Unfortunately, Field Days lost the status they gained last year, but reason for this can be found when one looks at the amount of time that has been spent on ladder making under the supervision of Rod McDougal. The enthusiasm shown here has been commendable.

Graham must be recognised for his work on the Constitution, which hopefully may rest on it's laurels for a while. It has been completely updated and metricated.

One aspect that has been disappointing is the drop in attendance at the General Meetings. Perhaps 1976 will see more faces in the main body of the hall and maybe the return of some of those old faces.

The CEGSA/VSA Dinner held once again at Naracoorte was very much down on CEGSA numbers, but those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The annual dinner was once again held at the 'Golden Door Restaurant' and sported a good attendance. Presentations made at the Dinner were:

Spirit of caving	Dot Peisley	In praise of the coequal role of the woman in caving
Leather Medal	Rod McDougall	for cultivating a 'grass' patch in his soiled overalls
Leather Medal	Kevin Mott	for unauthorised and uncensored public display in, Blackberry Cave, which as he should know is the Publicity Officer's job
Leather Medal	Jane Wilson	Woodpecker's Award for extracting more CEGSA members from out of the woodwork for the Annual Dinner than we even knew we had

SPECIAL AWARDS

John Young and Bob Van den Berg. Both were presented with road maps indelibly showing the way to Glencoe, thus safeguarding each me from the blundering unskilled navigation powers of the other.

Grant Gartrell. Awarded a special Rubber-Tipped 1/2m long pencil to self edit lengthy newsletter contributions.

JANE WILSON

TREASURER'S REPORT

Because of our high rate of expenditure during 1975, our bank balance has been somewhat depleted when compared with 1974, due mainly to the increase in cost of stationary and the large amount of money spent on the purchase of equipment. Although money has been outlaid on equipment, we have had very little return in the form of trip fees/equipment hire.

Account No.4 has been opened this year with a total of \$650.00. This was from the sale of pine trees from the Naracoorte Reserve, and has been put aside with the aim of C.E.G.S.A. acquiring land at Naracoorte some time in the future.

Account No.3, the Alan Hill Memorial Library Fund has added two new books to the library, and opened a Deposit Stock Account to the value of \$300.00. Contributions are still welcome.

The Slide Account, No.2 Account, stands at \$329.69, being only slightly higher than last years total.

JANE WILSON

PUBLICATION OFFICER'S REPORT

In the three years I have been Publication Officer, the last one has been the most uneventful. The same loyal few contributors to the Newsletter have dutifully continued to supply me with Trip Reports and other articles, for which I thank them. Although I value this support from the few, I wish other CEGSA members would occasionally contribute to the Newsletter, a plea I might add, which I have made in previous Annual Reports, but without much success. However, I am still optimistic.

The greatest obstacle I have had to overcome in producing the Newsletter these last 12 months has been the Publication Officer. The last issue, Vol. 20 No. 4, caused me more trouble than any previous issue, mainly due to stencil problems. My first attempt at typing a stencil resulted in both my index fingers becoming experienced enough to reach the giddy heights of blatant mediocrity! In future, therefore, I shall ignore all pleas and any late contributions for the Newsletter will be held over until the next Issue.

I am pleased to report that the supply of suitable photographs for the front cover is sufficient to last to mid 1977. With the recent spate of photographically oriented trips, further suitable Illustrations could be forthcoming. However, despite past criticism, the Newsletter will continue, in the main, to feature scenes from the Naracoorte Caves. Could this be because these caves are more photogenic than other S.A. caves? Certainly Blackberry Cave takes some beating and views of this cave will appear on future issues. Just for a change though, would some keen photographer like to produce a good quality photograph of Corra-Lynn? Say an action shot in the Skeleton Crevasse! What about it you phantom phlashers?

ED. BAILEY

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

This newly created sub-committee has been formed for the purpose of producing more Interest In speleology within C.E.G.S.A. by maintaining a reference source on techniques and actively encouraging members to specialise in selected topics. A further aim is to act as a source of material for talks and lectures, especially for those conducted at other clubs and institutions. A set of eight lectures proposed for student teacher classes in 1976 will form a good start to this collection.

Perhaps the sub-committee's most challenging role is in the education (public relations also!) of the general public i.e. non-cavers. It has been found that most people enjoy learning when it is not forced upon them, which means that they ACTUALLY

PREFER TO PAY. Hence the public will finance the education programme.

The slides sold at Naracoorte are (at present) our main contact with non-cavers (excluding newspaper articles) over which we have minimal control). Therefore, this activity has been incorporated within this sub-committee. The money obtained will still finance Records but the surplus will now be used on education projects.

The annual slide competition has also been absorbed by this sub-committee, which will in future. decide the winning entries, rather than the popular vote method as has happened in the past. Emphasis will be put m both photographic quality and speleological content not "spectacularism" nor speleothems pictured. The best trog slide will be chosen for illustration of gear or techniques. Using the above criteria, Athol Jackson's photograph of the fossil chamber in Victoria Fossil Cave and Kevin Mott's of Ian Lewis abseiling were chosen unanimously (that is, by me!) to be the winners. Next year's slides should show cave formation features. For example, phreatic solution along bedding planes or joints, spongework, fretting or even vadose action.

And to finish with, a teaser for potential cave biologists, do you know that two blind, transparent insects (different caves, different species) were found in Naracoorte in 1975? Two widely separate occurrences of cockroaches (?) with light coloured blotches were also sighted. Anyone interested in investigating please contact me,

GRAHAM PILKINGTON
Chairman Sub-Committee

PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

Most members of the Group are aware that the position of 'Public Officer' was created during last year, with the objective of Incorporating the Group as an Association. This position was initially a co-opted one and thus could be filled at the G.M. that created it.

My first action was to propose alterations to the Constitution that I had moved at the last A.G.M.! My proposals were to include "Public Officer" as an official position, remove technical flaws, alter units to metric, and clarify or remove "loop-holes". These amendments were duly passed.

With the Constitution and Rules in a form that I considered acceptable to the Registrar of Companies, and having completed the red-tape, I respectfully applied to have the Group Incorporated. Having been fore-warned that first attempts are usually unacceptable, it came as a pleasant surprise to obtain a certificate of Incorporation for the Group without any questions asked. Our official registered association number is 4860 and dated 19th November, 1975.

Under the rules of Incorporation we had to have a legal address (not "care of") so the Committee agreed that for convenience it should be that of the Public Officer (at present 66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View, South Australia). If and when we get our own residence then it will become the official address.

Now some members (those who don't read our Newsletters!) will question the value of Incorporation. It does have the following disadvantages:

- (i) cost of Incorporation (\$40.00)
- (ii) cost of amending the Constitution or Rules (\$0.50 a time)
- (iii) delay in the amendments coming into force (must first be agreed to by the Registrar of Companies)
- (iv) possible none-acceptance of an amendment
- (v) no material gains for members (not that this has occurred in the past nor was it expected to in the future)
- (vi) the Group can be sued up to the value of all it's possessions.

However, the following advantages have been considered to outweigh the above:

- (i) liability ceases to fall on Group management should any liability occur. Individual members could still be sued, but only those considered by law to be directly responsible. Previously ALL Group members could be individually sued.
- (ii) enables the Group to purchase property in it's own right, enter contracts or obtain loans.
- (iii) prestige.

Talking of prestige and noting that I am supposed to monitor the legality of the Group's activities, I regret to mention an incident that occurred at one of last years G.M.'s when it was later found that two motions had been passed at that meeting with the 'votes' of unfinancial Members. Steps have now been taken to ensure this cannot be repeated. The problem was that the Members concerned had forgotten to pay their 'subs' for such a long time they were under the Impression they were financial! The Chairman of each meeting now has a current list of financial members supplied to him by the Membership Officer.

If all goes well, I should have nothing to report next year.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

RECORDS REPORT

Most small groups have what is sometimes called "fads", C.E.G.S.A. is no exception. Last year's was mapping. But before getting on to that, I will report briefly on the other work that has been completed in the last year.

A new caving area has been designated by the letter **A** standing for the Adelaide Hills Region. The old **Y** area (Yorke Peninsula and Adelaide) was considered to need splitting. Both geologically and geographically they are 'independent' zones, the original tie was seemingly to stop Reynella Cave from being in a zone all alone. Yorke Peninsula is still **Y**, so the old **Y** numbers are largely unaffected. Only the newly allocated (and hence little known) numbers given to Sellicks Hill and others have altered. The previously used **Y** numbers will NOT be reused. This should prevent confusion.

The Regions covered by the various letters have been formalised and drawn (by Ian Lewis) on maps produced for that purpose. Usually the exact boundary has been shown to be flexible, that is, the boundary exists as a wide band - to be restricted, as necessary, by future Records Keepers when and if karst features or caves are found within those bands.

All areas except Region **F** have had additional numbers allocated. We can thank Ian for most of this work.

The pride and joy of '76 should be the result of six months solid work by Ian (with the occasional helper) to produce our next Occasional Paper. This publication will contain a summary (in C.E.G.S.A. language) of our caves, our maps and our recording system. It is mainly for internal C.E.G.S.A. use and does not aim to compete with the total caving coverage of the Karst Handbook, but it is thought that the new version of the Handbook will not have the personal touch that Ian's Paper will have.

I mentioned in the last Annual Report that a 'bench mark' system, mainly for horizontal control, was needed for the Naracoorte area. This has commenced by utilising the Lands' Dept's hundred and section survey data with C.E.G.S.A. surface surveys to tie in cave entrances, R.D.F. points and good old stobie poles. This work has been tied to the Australian Map Grid using the arbitrary (within 5m) value of 481485.0 Easting and 5901300.0 Northing for the NW Hundred corner of Joanna and 'assuming' the Hundred's Western boundary to run (grid) North-South.

The value of this work has already been witnessed with the new Area Maps 5UVD and 5UVE, each of 10,000 standard mapping sheets covering 100m by 100m each. Naturally, most of these 'sheets' do not exist physically but it has enabled the Victoria Fossil Cave map to be exactly related to the new Kiosk area maps which in turn have the correct local cave relationships shown. Cave maps as such do not exist under this new system for the Reserve, but a reduction of the 1:250 maps to produce 'kilometre' maps at 1:2500 will be available later.

Map numbering will conform to the A.S.F. standard with the C.E.G.S.A. maps being numbered sequentially. The difference is that the sequential numbers will also be the sheet (printed) number and, therefore, temporary gaps will occur in the list. Sheets from a larger map (e.g. 5UVE) will also have a special sheet number giving it's Easting and Northing co-ordinates in 100m steps from the SW corner, e.g. Alexander Cave tourist entrance and the Kiosk is on sheet 17/9 of 5UVE, in particular it is map number 5UVE.CEG411. It can be readily seen that each sheet of 5UVE has it's own unique CEG number (sequential) as well as it's co-ordinate number viz: 5UVE.17/9

While on the subject of maps I will mention that map index cards were produced this year based on the A.S.F. system (with additions) and will make it easier to complete the A.S.F. sheets later.

Map transport has been gradually moving to flat support rather than rolled (under pressure from your truly) and in this way the maps are more usable for longer periods without stalagmites appearing on each corner. The current map holder is a sealable plastic map hanging holder, clear plastic on one side and of A1 paper size. A thin sheet of wood of A2 size is placed in this and on folding double (the holder not the wood!) is O.K. for our new A2 size sheets. The older larger sheets generally fit in the A1 size available. The clear plastic enables the map to be examined without soiling.

For the first half of 1975 and staggering on into the second, a mapping evening was held at Jim Cundy's place 'every' Monday night. This formed a useful meeting place to discuss the new map sheets and symbols and to co-ordinate Group activities in new or continuing surveying / mapping projects such as the Victoria Fossil Cave survey. The evening faded as a working night and became firstly a teaching night for would-be surveyor / draftsmen (or woman) and then a general social get-together. Jim's move to Coomandook will remove even this vestige next year but maybe another 'central' spot can be found and the working night re-vitalized.

Suggested projects for the coming year are (a) continuing the high grade ($\pm 0.2\text{m}$) surface network of the Naracoorte area together with the appropriate cave plans, and (b) the creation of a photographic section of Records (actually a revival) to compliment the maps and illustrate speleological features.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

SAFETY AND TRAINING REPORT

A number of Field Days were held during 1975. Attendance was encouraging but as is usual, the 'same few' were left to organise activities. However, some newer members did learn a few basic techniques in ladder climbing, safety on ladders and climbing ropes using mechanical aids.

It is regretted that so little attention was paid to 'Search and Rescue' exercises involving:

- (a) Stretcher Techniques
- (b) Recovery of 'lost' cavers
- (c) Simple first aid
- (d) Accident prevention.

C.E.G.S.A. has not had a serious accident in it's caving history. This is attributed to the responsible attitude of trip leaders to foresee dangerous situations and to advise and take all reasonable precautions.

But accidents do happen. In the coming year I intend to make more people aware of the problems in safety and training and to promote some active and practical training exercises.

MAX METH

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The past year has been notable in many ways with an enormous amount of work being done and despite quite a measurable turnover in membership, numbers are still high. Enthusiasm is at a peak and we find many associates stepping up to become full members and looking back on trip reports we find a variety of new names appearing, notably among the younger set. The apparent danger of 'cliques' forming has not yet happened and all age groups seem well integrated.

Encouragement, experience and knowledge have all been shared resulting in our keener new members gaining the confidence to start projects of their own. Unfortunately, there are still some who are happy to be members in name only and on reading the

latest A.S.F. newsletter other clubs are having the same trouble. We also have a fringe of others who turn up at trips and meetings who whilst not joining the club still wish to reap the benefits and fade away when approached for application to the club. Other long standing members simply 'forget' to pay their fees and whilst still attending club trips are not really members.

Many and varied have been the activities with mad 'Gumbys' digging in 'impossible' places, joining up caves with 'super-sport' connections, and others chasing breezes up and down the State. Hundreds of survey trips were run mostly to Naracoorte and Curramulka and literally months of mapping nights have achieved, for the Group, an up-to-date record of known caves. Other projects such as ladder making or Field Days were organised but not so well attended. Is it that they sounded too much like work or maybe it's because they were not underground activities? It might be better if we tried these activities down a cave for a change!

Socially, cavers are quite slow and the annual 'bun fight' between VSA and CEGSA was poorly attended by CEGSA with less than a dozen of our Group turning up. We were well outnumbered. Our own Christmas eating contest was better attended mainly through the strong-armed tactics of our Secretary.

Despite the extortionate rise in postage and inflation, we haven't yet raised the membership fees and our Editor (bless his socks!) keeps turning out the Newsletters which seem to turn up with alarming regularity. So with my typewriter running hot and fingers blistered from folding, arms aching from stamping envelopes, I breathe great sighs of relief and a feeling of warm satisfaction surrounds me as the last one descends into the post box. Unfortunately some bounce back because people on the move forget to advise a change of address.

Looking at our mailing list we can see that new caving groups have sprung up interstate and we are exchanging newsletters with them. The lists of members and associates contain the names of all FINANCIAL members so If you can't see your name, you know why!

The apparent drop in membership is misleading as I have purposely omitted the names of members who have been unfinancial for the past year. Remember, being unfinancial excludes you from voting.

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Honorary Life Members	7	6	6	7	8
Full Members	37	37	48	47	45
Honorary Associates	5	5	5	5	5
Associate Members	53	40	41	47	33
Total	102	88	100	106	91

In conclusion, I would like to thank other members of the Committee who have helped and guided me through the past year.

DOT PEISLEY

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

C.E.G.S.A.'s activities in the past year do not appear to have differed notably with respect to gear, from those of other recent years. Consequently the use (and abuse unfortunately) of caving equipment has continued as such, and 1975 is unlikely to be remembered for presenting any new practical aspects of S.A. caving. There has not been a large influx of regularly active new members and teaching people to handle gear from start has not often arisen. Because of this, problems cropping up have generally been associated with people knowing the right way to use equipment, but not taking the care to apply it. It hasn't been a matter of telling people how to care for the gear, since they already know, but more just to get them to smarten up and stop doing things like leaving ropes in hot sun, or treading on them etc. Just a little more effort could make it that bit safer and easier, and possibly give gear a longer life.

Ladder Making

Probably the greatest single difference this year has been the step up in ladder production. To date 16 ladders have been completed and other are in various stages of completion. After initial enthusiastic meetings, general Group response particularly poor in view of the number of people who had ordered ladders and construction was left largely to regulars. Throughout the year, those who did all and learnt a great deal in the way of tips and shortcuts. There's more to the ladders than meets the eye. Financially, the Group is still well on top, in the making of the ladders. Due to inflation several items have increased drastically in price from original estimates, but we saved over \$200 when we borrowed a hydraulic press to suage the ladder ends. As this cannot be borrowed again, the money saved will have to be spent on the remaining suages, but I believe the group will come out at least even.

I would like to thank Fred Sanders for the use of his workshop in the city, and everyone who helped with their time or facilities.

Field Days

Several field days were held early in the year, but these turned into Single Rope Technique exercises for enjoyment rather than serious training practise. Following this, the future of field days was discussed at a general meeting, and it was decided to run a specific training trip for belaying. This was poorly attended and it became obvious that people who needed training in use of gear were not coming, so none were held in the latter part of the year. I suggest that in future, field days be held in the hills because:

- (a) There is no cave - people will not wander off making the trip unorganised,
- (b) There are higher, safer sheer cliffs,
- (c) No rifle range,
- (d) The general locality may attract more cavers.

Whilst I dislike making caving regimented, it seems to me that people will have to be pushed a little into attending training trips, and that trips will have to be more tightly organised. Several of the field trips have had some people on ropes or ladders, some eating, saw caving, or hiking around and it was difficult to know who had used what gear.

Practise and efficiency in setting up equipment on trips has shown that training trips are definitely necessary - it often takes us much longer than necessary to rig up pitches and get everyone down. Field trips not only teach new members how to handle gear, but also keep everyone else in practise. Their future will depend on attendance and how willing people are to use them effectively.

General Comments on Gear

- (a) Carbide lamps have continued to grow less popular, with only three requests for use this year. The Q.M. has Group permission to purchase up to two more if the need arises, but more people are switching to cap-lamps. A multiple charger is planned for the hut.
- (b) 2 helmets were retired. These were so old that the plastic had badly deteriorated.
- (c) A 30m tape (metric both sides) an order, still to be obtained
- (d) C.E.G.S.A. has 'acquired' a near-new large manila rope estimated at 60m long. This appeared in the hut one trip and it's owner cannot be located.
- (e) Bolt cutters purchased for ladder making purposes.

ROD McDOUGAL

CAVING ACTIVITIES

Adelaide Hills

More activity took place in this region than for many years, as attention focussed on the upgrading of information for the forthcoming Occasional Paper No.5. "Cave Descriptions and Map Lists".

A report of small caves and springs at Second Valley was followed up (after an initial trip early in the year) by a survey of the hillside and surrounding solution features. The cave has now been named Second Valley Springs Cave. A surface survey of the Sellicks Hill area immediately around the caves was made by a small team and the hills around examined for other features (unsuccessfully). If anyone has any sense, this recent Sellicks search should be the last one, as numerous trips have covered the same areas just as fruitlessly in previous years. Trip Leaders to Sellicks - take note.

Two trips were necessary to locate Kongarati Cave, near Normanville, from data out of old Museum records. This cave has been mapped and located properly and consists of a single large chamber about 80m long and 10m square, formed in shale in a steep cliff. A trip to relocate Salt Creek Cave nearly succeeded except that the Trip Leader bungled his directions and stopped everyone about 200m short of the cave, after an 8km paddock – and - scrub drive. However, a later trip found a new cave close by with quite acceptable decoration in it, after contacting an ex-local who was kind enough to show it to us.

Carrickalinga Cave was visited by a large group in the middle of a heat wave, following the misdirections of the same Trip Leader who caused the confusion mentioned above --"Oh, it's just beyond this next gully" but it was eventually found and a survey commenced. Cave reports at Halletts_Cove were investigated, but these turned out to be the crests of eroded anticlines along the shoreline which barely reached beyond daylight.

Several Reynella_Field Days were held and two memorable ones had their caving venues diverted to those well known speleo-areas, Myponga and Christies beaches.

Ian Lewis.

Eyre Peninsula

Only one trip was run to this area during 1975, namely, over the slightly extended October Long Weekend. It resulted in the discovering of several new caving areas and some sizeable cave finds. Customarily, the trip started at Lake Hamilton, finding one new small doline (Neil's Hole) several km east of the lake on the way there, in the vicinity of Oakdale Station.

Homestead Cave was visited and some hardy (i.e. stupid) types braved the water passages for a look at the inner chamber of this attractive cave. Honeycomb Cave was entered and explored by about six people, who managed to find another entrance – a caving rarity. A sketch has been drawn of the cave, but a detailed survey is necessary to adequately understand it's complicated layout. The cave looks likely to go if pushed with any vigour.

A huge sea cave and a sinkhole were discovered and mapped at Talia, where more sinkholes await investigation. A series of very large dry sinkholes were discovered on the top of a large hill east of Lake Newland, which were also mapped. Time did not permit the examination of all these and several others were discovered on aerial photographs after we returned to Adelaide. A new sea cave at Elliston was explored, but a word of warning, nose-pegs are desirable as other visitors have adorned much of the sandy area with rubbish etc.

Finally, potholes have been located on an old Lands Dept map near Kyancutta, but these are still to be investigated. as they were only noted after our return to Adelaide, unfortunately.

Mr and Mrs Nosworthy, owners of Lake Hamilton Station, provided accommodation, an excellent meal and most entertaining company during the trip. Mr Nosworthy's water divining lessons raised hopes that gifted CEGSA diviners can do wonders detecting holes in the Naracoorte Reserve.

Ian Lewis.

Flinders Ranges

As usual, Mairs and Clara St Dora Caves were visited on a couple of occasions. The flood waters of 1974 have by now largely receded. Gem collectors were active in the latter cave and removed a quantity of calcite crystals, but as a result of discussions with CEGSA they are currently being shown the conservation side of speleology.

A party of four speleoettes (women cavers) visited Narrina Lake Cave (Woodendinna Cave) during the middle of the year and after merrily paddling and swimming through the flooded cave, they named the entrance lake chamber "Cherubs Chamber" in honour of the event. Indeed, the water level is still 4.5m higher than it was when the cave was surveyed by Wayne Goedecke in 1970. In a later trip, I was fortunate to go diving in the cave and found it quite a strange sensation to float over footprints which were submerged in 5m of water, probably undisturbed since the surveying team put them there. The cave has a small air pocket in one of the far reaches of the wet sections, with tree roots coming through the wall. This may indicate a former entrance which would be close to the surface under the creek bed just south of the existing entrance. The gate is stiff, but still quite serviceable, thankfully.

One trip was also run to the Lower Flinders with the intention of chasing up obscure caves and details about them. Grey's Hut Cave (the cave which is made up of holes packed up on top of each other, --see Newsletter report) was revisited for the first time in many years. Orroroo Cave was also relocated and explored to a moderate extent, due to lethargy inspired by high humidity and a desire to go to Orroroo Pub for a slap-up meal. Even the Spirit of Caving needs nourishment to continue.

Ian Lewis

Kangaroo Island

Since the January 1975 trip to K.I. reported in last year's Annual Report, no trips have been run to this region.

Lower South East

Several CEGSA trips have been made to this area, where local caving activity has been quiet due to Fred Aslin's other commitments. Don't worry, Fred, you've always got CEGSA to help you out. A four day trip with 20 or so people and centred on Glencoe Church Hall resulted in the surveys of 8 caves, most of which are still not completed or drawn up. Drafting is the bane of all keen surveyors. G-14 cave on the Glenelg River was dived, revealing a series of difficult and narrow cross-rifts that were penetrated for a short way to the limit of "squeezeability". Not recommended diving. Tantanoola Lake Cave was visited three times and divers on the last trip discovered a low tunnel running off the bottom of the lake to the east. This looked very crumbly, silty and dangerous and was not explored for this reason.

During the same weekend, a new cave in a quarry bench was discovered and sketched, although it is likely to be quarried away in the coming months.

The complex of caves at the Gran Gran corner came under scrutiny during the year and a large map of the caves in relation to each other is nearly completed. Each cave has been surveyed and the long-rumoured connection between Gran Gran and Quarry Caves was discovered jointly by the surveyors of each cave, who managed to both survey the connecting chamber without either of them finding or noting the extensions off it that led to the other cave. It has also been decided that the fourth cave of the group (L-37) always known simply as "unnamed cave" will now be officially named "The Unnamed Cave". It has been known to us for so long as this that it seemed appropriate to formalize it.

Several small diving trips have explored some of the less well known wet caves in the area and CEGSA is slowly accumulating knowledge of it's underwater sinkholes, instead of just the dimensions of the entrances.

Ian Lewis

Murray Plains

Only two trips were run to this region - one a "tourist" trip (dreadful thought) and the other an investigation trip to a little known area inland of the river.

The first was an abseil-explore-piccie-fun-dig-hijack-the-punt trip which 15 people indulged in. The easternmost branch of Punyelroo Cave was explored for a total of 200m beyond the big log at Log Junction (the distance was measured) and an end point was reached at this distance, in a narrow and crumbly unstable slit passage. Yes, an attempt was made to hijack the punt, but the punt operator pointed out (slowly) that. "It's tied on with cables, see". This squibbed the whole operation.

The second trip was to Bakara to chase up the Bakara Well Caves, discovered by Wayne Goedecke in 1971. The main cave is reasonably long, and was not fully explored on this occasion, as several adjacent entrances were investigated on the same day. The area is east of Nildottie and has a reasonable caving potential, deserving of several trips during the coming year.

Ian Lewis

Nullarbor Plains

Early in the year, a small diving trip was run to investigate further extensions in several caves. A second airspace was found in Tommy Graham's Cave, beyond the second sump which is now approximately 130m long. This airspace occurs along the edge of a loose and dangerous rockpile that reaches up approximately 40m before it chokes off. Further small side passages were noted in Weebubbie Cave.

Two CEGSA surveyors, Kevin Mott and Ian Lewis, were invited by the S.A. Museum to take part in an expedition to Koonalda Cave, sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The Anthropologists needed very detailed maps of a special rockfall chamber containing rock and wall engravings of great age (18000 to 40000 years) and also required an accurate overall plan of the cave at a scale larger than CEGSA's 1960 1 inch to 50 feet map. The expedition was almost the final phase of the Archaeological work started at the cave 20 years ago by Dr A. Gallus, then a member of the first CEGSA / ASF Nullarbor Plains Expedition led by Elery Hamilton-Smith. During the course of the trip, two new blowholes and three new dolines were investigated, four new caves were noted or located and three more were heard of in discussions with local people but not followed up.

The records of the Nullarbor Plains Region are steadily being brought up to date and CEGSA has been in regular contact with the Western Australia Speleological Group's Records Officer for the Nullarbor. Since it is 10 years since the previous publication, an effort to assemble the information in written form will be made following the publication of the State Cave Reference Book.

Ian Lewis,

Yorke Peninsula Region

Town Cave received some attention during the year, at a time when winter rains were at their peak and storm waters from the Curramulka town streets were finding their way down the shaft in torrents. Some brave speleo-photographers took their cameras into the cave and managed to get them out again still in working condition, after having taken some pictures. Most of the cave lakes were dived after great efforts were made to carry in diving gear, but each of them proved small and terminal although the experience was worth the trouble.

Some problems with people removing several sets of locks from the Town Cave entrance has raised the issue that once again someone will come to grief poking their head down the shaft and that we could be held responsible to some degree. It seems that the gate may require some modification to prevent the locks being "got at" so easily and an approach to the local Town Council to keep an eye on the gates may be justified.

Bone-Stick-and-Bottle Cave was mapped recently during a trip to fence the entrance off for Mrs. Goldsworthy, who was concerned that children trapping rabbits in the paddock may fall in if they do not see the entrance in the twilight. The mapping revealed an interesting joint orientation that is very similar to nearby Town Cave.

New caves were found with local help at Coobowie and Minlaton. Both occur in soft white Tertiary limestone and show horizontal development, particularly at Coobowie. This cave has been explored and mapped and a shallow sump dived for some distance through small phreatic tunnels and cold water. The cave at Minlaton is very shallow and barely reaches beyond daylight, but digging may reveal more low passages and further investigations would be worth while.

Corra-Lynn Cave was visited on only a few occasions to do some survey work of a tidy-up nature and no replacement of the broken inner gate has been made yet. Even digging has stopped for a while, as CEGSA has concentrated it's efforts elsewhere in the State during the year.

Ian Lewis

Naracoorte Region

A great deal of Naracoorte activity this year was centred around Victoria Fossil Cave, as squads of survey teams mapped chamber after chamber during the winter months. The cave maps are only just beginning to be drawn up and mapping the further regions of the cave has not yet been completed, although this may now be a little easier as we become more familiar with the cave's nether regions. Surveying a complex series of roughly circular chambers is much more tedious and time consuming than the relatively simple "straight-and-narrow" passages of Corra-Lynn Cave and this explains the apparent slowness in finishing the project.

As also with Corra-Lynn, the use of the RDF (Radio direction Finder) has proved invaluable, not only for the Victoria Fossil Cave, but for cave positioning over the entire Reserve. Graham Pilkington deserves special commendation for his work in surveying

the entire Reserve with a theodolite (although several others had done it years before) and placing all the data in a computer which printed out the co-ordinates of cave entrances, trees, stobie poles, fence posts, kiosks (and sewer vents?). This extremely valuable work enabled us to set up a grid system over the Reserve of 100m squares, enabling us to show the caves in relationship to each other in great detail. So far, Tomato-Stick and Cathedral Caves are drawn up on the grid and Alexandra Cave will soon be added.

The survey of Wombat Cave done by Ian Lewis in June 1974 was at last drawn up in December 1975 -- some kind of record for slothfulness -- and this has also been included on the 100m grid system. This and many other mapping and drafting jobs were completed by a small group of speleos who spent most of December in the Hut, wandering out occasionally to do field checks of data. All this activity plus the advent of dozens of cavers over the Christmas period prompted the cleaning out of the hut, some repainting and further possum proofing of the roof.

The most magnificent discovery of the year was made in Blackberry Cave by Grant Gartrell. Hundreds of metres of richly decorated passages, culminating in a chamber with a 5m straw, are a find really only rivalled by the Fossil Chamber discovery or the pushing through of the "Drop Off" years ago in Mullamullang. The cave is now approximately one km in length and may be the key cave to the whole Reserve complex. Future exploration is bound to be profitable, but access to the cave must continue to be restricted, even to experienced CEGSA members, as there is a grave risk of damage to parts of the decorated sections through over use. Everyone in the Group must exercise restraint in visiting this cave for the benefit of both the cave and other cavers.

December 1975 also saw a resumption of that favourite old pastime the CEGSA Mass Digging Trips. We dragged the "Tub" and the "Ark" (collectively referred to as the boats) out of their rusting silence in the Hut storeroom and managed to find enough rope to pull them with. Two huge digs were run in Tomato -Stick Cave following reports of vibrating ground just north of the kiosk where the pines once stood and one involving 8 people cracked through to a very low chamber containing some bones of interest to the paleos (naturally!) The other Tomato-Stick dig was aimed towards the far reaches of Cathedral Cave with 100m of space in between, but has run into rocky floors at this stage and is being "rested".

Three large digging trips into Alexandra Cave, with permission from Russell Bath, (thanks Russell) pushed both ends of the cave as well as one side, but nothing new was broken into (not even the kiosk safe!) despite the removal of several tonnes of silt.

Finally, S-102 was visited several times late in the year and diving gear was dragged through. All lakes were searched but yielded no further passages, as was expected. Looking at the HUGE rock collapses in the cave and musing on the possibilities of extensions beyond them, CEGSA Excavators ("Diggers" is such a common word!) are contemplating an attempt to tie large cables around boulders at opposite ends of suitable chambers so they can be slowly winched towards each other, revealing huge extensions in both directions in one hit! The only limits to achievements are those of human ingenuity.

Ian Lewis

The work on the fossil deposit in Victoria Fossil Cave has been carried out on a part-time basis since 1969, with the help of CEGSA members and students from Flinders and Adelaide Universities, aided by a small grant from the South Australian Government. During 1975 the project was given a great boost when I received an A.R.G.C. grant and I was able to employ an assistant, Barbara Nichol, on a full-time basis, to prepare the vast collection of specimens.

The careful work of previous years has yielded what is possibly the largest collection of complete crania of extinct kangaroos and thylacoleonids in existence. The collection is providing new insights into the nature of many late Quarternary species. Portions of the collection have been sent to experts in various fields of vertebrate taxonomy: Meredith Smith has published a paper on the reptiles in which she describes a new species of boid snake; Mike Taylor has prepared an interesting paper on the frog fauna; and Gordon Sanson of Monash University is examining some of the *Macropus* species.

By the time this report goes to press we should have completed our most ambitious project to date. In December we commenced the sinking of a shaft from the surface through to the rear of the fossil chamber, a depth of 16m. The final breakthrough was made during a trip in late January '76. In this regard I would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr Reynolds and the staff of the Naracoorte Council depot for their help and co-operation in this work.

In February a large party, mainly from Flinders University, will be involved in the sinking of a 2m x 1m pit through the deepest part of the sedimentary cone in the fossil chamber. This project will involve the removal and processing of 50 tonnes of sediment and is aimed at clarification of the stratigraphic relationships within the fauna. The fragmentary material retrieved in this excavation will be identified by comparison with the previously collected complete crania, jaws, etc. The excavation will also allow us to collect more carbon in the hope that we may overcome some of the problems associated with the dating of previous samples.

During 1975 the Australian Government made a grant of \$80,000 for the building of an on-site museum and laboratory where the fossil collection could be displayed. The plans for this building are now complete and 1976 should see it's commencement.

To all of you who made 1975 such a successful year at Naracoorte, thank you, I hope it will only be surpassed by 1976.

Rod

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1.2.76.

EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions to:		
B.C.R.A. 1976 & 77	17.35	
A.S.F.	87.00	
		104.35
Purchase of Publications		15.54
Stationary		198.40
Postage		54.98
Purchase of Equipment		
Ropes	78.39	
Ladders	162.54	
Locks	14 30	
Light Table	50.00	
		305.23
Radio Licence		56.00
Badges and Stickers		67.51
Social Dinners:		
Annual		164.00
Hire of Lecture Room		46.50
Incorporation Fees		46.25
E.T.S.A. - Naracoorte Hut		21.69
Petty Cash		66.05
Sundries		78.42
Cash in Bank 1/2/76		227.58
		1452.50

INCOME

Membership Subscriptions		
Full	195.00	
Associate	106.50	
Country	36.00	
		337.50
Sale of Publications		42.10
Trip Fees		28.05
Stickers and Badges		11.85
Social Dinners		
Annual		168.00
Ladders		133.00
Carbide		2.50
Sundries		59.68
Fridge Fund		4.00
Bank Interest		20.76
Bank Balance as at 27/2/75		645.06
		1452.50

EQUIPMENT HELD BY QUARTERMASTER

1. One carbide lamp and several parts (G.M. approval to purchase two more on need)
2. Carbide stock 110 lbs
3. Carbide sieves – 3
4. Digging equipment:
 - a) 2 boats
 - b) 3 shovels
 - c) assorted bars, picks etc. held at Naracoorte
5. First Aid Kits - 2 (on permanent loan from B. Dunn)
6. Helmets – 6
7. Ladders
 - a) Old stock (8) full length plus one shortened due to damage and (8) slings
 - b) 16 complete new ladders, plus others in stages of production and (40) new slings
 - c) S & R (3) emergency only
8. Miners Dials and Jiggers (2)
 - (i) Property of C.E.G.S.A.
 - (ii) Property of late Alan Hill
 - (iii) 2 short stadia
9. Ropes:
 1. 120' BS3104 No.4 Nylon
 2. 120' BS3104 No.4 Nylon (retired)
 3. 120' BS3104 No.4 Nylon
 4. 240' BS3104 Nylon
 5. 120' 7/16" Manilla
 6. Manilla - as above
10. Radios - Telephones -3 field types
11. Typing and Printing Equipment:
 - Dyeline Print Machine
 - Duplicator
 - 2 Typewriters
 - 1 four drawer vertical file
 - 1 map cabinet

In addition to the above there is an enormous quantity of miscellaneous items including weights, pulleys, scales, poles, bars, straps etc. See Q.M. if Interested.

ROD McDOUGAL

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 S.A. Museum, North terrace, Adelaide 5000
 Southern Caving Soc. P.O. Box 121, Moonah, Tas. 7009
 St George Caving Team, C/- 1 Carrington Rd, Hurstville, N.S.W. 2220
 Speleologia Emiliana, Piazza VII Novembre 1944, Cassero di Porta Lane,
 40100, Bologna, Italy
 Sydney Speleo. Soc., Abstracts Editor, P.O. Box 198, Broadway, N.S.W. 2007
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