

Cave Exploration Group

South Australia

C'O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

ANNUAL REPORT 1977-78

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT to be presented to the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 22nd of February 1978 at the Museum Lecture Rooms - North Terrace, Adelaide at 8:00 p.m.

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC.

TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

<u> 1977 - 1978</u>

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to present to you the Twenty Second Annual Report of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc. The preceding 12 months contained a wide range of caving and associated activities, with members travelling even further afield in search of new caving experiences. Some of these activities will be dealt with by others in this report.

The work by CEGSA members during the previous 12 months in the Victoria Fossil Cave, Naracoorte, assisted in this cave being re-opened to the public in 1977. The improvements to the cave lighting, pathways and general access is quite spectacular and should prove to be a big tourist attraction.

The group had the pleasure of meeting Elery Hamilton-Smith in July, during which the National Heritage Assessment study was thoroughly discussed. As a result of this meeting, the Group has formed a subcommittee to pursue further this subject and to make recommendations on the registering of caves and other Karst features. This project is a long term one and the results of what we do, or omit to do, will be felt for many years.

The provision for colour slides for sale at Naracoorte continues to expand. The addition of a large range of single slides, together with the provision of slide sets now in preparation, should increase the volume of sales.

The Group, I am pleased to say, is getting very Search and Rescue conscious. In previous years, S & R exercises were conducted wholly within the Group, but fresh ground was covered last year during July when CEGSA organised a multi-disciplinary exercise. The weekend's activity involved 80 people, drawn from CEGSA, the S.A. Police, St. John Ambulance, the State Emergency Service, interstate cavers and Scouts. Many useful lessons were drawn from the exercise, more widespread first aid knowledge among CEGSA members being one example. Another was that such exercises should be an annual event, not only to keep alive the lines of communications which now exist between organisations, but also to upgrade training in old members and to train new members. It is hoped that future exercises will see the National Parks and Wildlife Service also participating.

The one disappointment of the year was a televised film by the A. B. C. of so called expert' cavers exploring Tantanoola Lake Cave. This cave is really spectacular and it is a pity the A. B. C. did not display more regard for the uniqueness of the cave. The fact that just about every safety rule covering dress and conduct was also broken says very little for the public image and sense of responsibility displayed by the A. B. C. A letter of complaint to the producer of the film resulted in a reply so unsatisfactory that I believe any further films by the A. B. C. on caving would display a similar disregard for safety of both the cavers and the cave.

Social activities by the group included two dinners. The first was the Annual CEGSA-VSA affair at Naracoorte, organised this time by the VSA and was held in the Naracoorte Hotel.

As usual, CEGSA was outnumbered by the opposition, but this did not prevent an enjoyable evening being experienced by all participants. The second dinner was our own annual one, held this time at the home of Jan and Gordon Peterson, Hahndorf. Our hosts really worked hard to make the evening a success and all who attended really enjoyed themselves, with more than enough to eat and drink. Unfortunately, only 28 members attended, which means the Group is out of pocket, as catering was based on an expected 40 people. It is intended that next year catering will be strictly on the basis of the number of members who pay beforehand, with no allowance for last minute arrivals, so be warned!

I would like to thank the Committee and also the members generally for the support they have given me over the last 12 months. Special thanks go to their forbearance in tolerating the many 'clangers' I dropped. In accepting the position of President, I had little idea what was involved in chairing meetings, not having done this task before. Being thrown in the deep end is certainly traumatic and looking back I see two things, firstly how much I had to learn and secondly what you had to tolerate, my thanks again.

Being new to this position, I do not know if it is acceptable for the President to make suggestions in his Annual Report regarding future action by the Group. If it is not acceptable, then I am about to drop another clanger, so here goes.

Two things deeply concern me at the moment, one is the inadequate gating of caves and the other is the vandalism in caves as a result of inadequate or non-existent gating. Consequently, I would like to recommend to the 1978 Committee that a concentrated effort be made to effectively gate at least the more valuable caves to prevent unauthorised entry and the almost inevitable damage which ensues. In addition to protecting caves, gating will also protect CEGSA's name, as any damage found in caves is almost automatically laid at our door.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members a Happy New Year and wish the Group every success in the future.

ED BAILEY

COMMITTEE

Your Committee for 1977 has been:

Ed Bailey President

Graham Pilkington Vice President / Records
Jane Wilson Secretary / Treasurer

Kevin Mott Search and Rescue / Quartermaster

Athol Jackson A. S. F. Representative

Dot Peisley Membership
Jim Cundy Publications
Dale Arnott Library

Neville Pledge S.A. Museum Representative

Peter Macrow National Parks & Wildlife Service Representative

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Unfortunately, I have to begin this year's report on a low note due to the disappointing attendance at the annual-dinner. It was an extremely well catered for meal with a tremendous amount of work put into it and thanks must go to Jan and Gordon Peterson for their work and hospitality.

On a high note, however, was the Annual CEGSA / VSA Dinner at Naracoorte, which was very well attended, and a good time was had by all.

At the Annual Dinner, the following presentations were made:

SPIRIT OF CAVING: Linda Whaley **LEATHER M EDALS:** Kram Smith,

Jane Wilson, Kevin Mott.

And in conclusion I would like to thank Linda Whaley for giving such a willing hand with the Minutes.

JANE WILSON

TREASURER'S REPORT

No: 1 Account:

1977 brought a large increase in expenditure in the areas of stationary and postage. Stationary more than doubled and postage followed closely. Some of this increase can be accounted to annual rises in the cost of paper and stamps, and the rest to the cost of printing and posting the extra copy of "Newsletter". Hopefully, the next step will not be to increase the cost of subscriptions.

Unfortunately, a loss was made on the Groups two social dinners. The major area of concern was the annual dinner held at the Peterson's house, which was fairly poorly attended. This is always disappointing for those who put so much time and effort into these functions.

No: 3 Account:

In place of the original \$300 deposit stock in the Savings Bank of S.A., the Group has reinvested the \$300 in a fixed term deposit stock with the same bank, in order to gain maximum interest.

No: 4 Account:

This account was started in 1975 with the \$650 from the pines at Naracoorte, and now stands at \$99. 92. Since the account was started, the money has been used to buy a vertical file for CEGSA maps (purchased 1977) and has also aided the publication of Occasional Paper No: 5 in 1976

In 1977 the Group invested \$2,000 in a Hindmarsh Building Society Term Deposit in order to gain maximum interest, this \$2,000 coming from National Parks and Wildlife Service for work done at Naracoorte.

JANE WILSON.

No: 2 Slide Account:

The large rise in the value of slide sales this year was due to this being the first full year of operation after the lapse several years ago. The full set was increased to 24 in July. Replacement of the more inferior slides will be the main task next year.

Costs of reproduction have steadily risen since I started the operation but these have been absorbed by (i) expansion of the set (wider appeal); (ii) bulk reproduction (lower costs but higher overheads); (iii) moving into the slide-set market (ousting commercial opposition as was done with the single slides).

Two sub-sets of six are now on sale at the Naracoorte Kiosk. Next year I hope to increase sales by expansion of outlets, the Kiosk sales being a saturated monopolised market.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

SAFETY AND TRAINING REPORT

The most noteworthy event of the year was the Search and Rescue exercise conducted in July, 1977. This exercise, based on that held by the Cave Rescue Group of N.S.W., was well attended and quite successful. Although people learnt where they were lacking in knowledge, the exercise will only be completely successful if people learn and practise the techniques they did not know. Field days held during the year were well attended and concentrated mainly on laddering and secondly on abseiling and jumaring.

Mapping and training evenings were held on the Wednesday nights not taken up with Committee or General Meetings. Because these were attended by the same people, mapping was the predominant feature of the evenings. Everybody continues to learn so it is hoped that more people will attend these evenings in 1978.

A detailed call out list for caving emergencies was formulated for Naracoorte after the July exercise. This was published in the Newsletter and a copy has been placed in the hut. All cavers should become familiar with it.

Late in the year a collapse occurred in the 'pop-up' in Cathedral Cave. Luckily no one was injured but it is a serious reminder that accidents can happen at any time. A large number of people visit this cave so it may be timely to approach National Parks to have entry to the cave restricted for safety reasons and also paleontological reasons. Help make 1978 a safe caving year by being prepared, carrying a first aid kit that you know how to use and attending training evenings to learn or discuss anything you don't know or have problems with.

KEVIN MOTT

PUBLICATION OFFICER'S REPORT

During the past year I have received numerous compliments from around Australia about the new-look Newsletter.

When I undertook the position I made it clear to all members that I wanted a lot of support in an effort to improve the standard of the Newsletter. I would like to thank you all for the way in which you responded to my nagging. As a result the Newsletter has improved in both quality and quantity this year with a new high class offset cover by courtesy of the Subterranean Foundation; a variety of cartoons and poetry; trip reports on all caving activities under-taken by the Group; while the "Other Article s" ranged from some high grade comedy to extremely technical articles.

Although 1977 did not see an Occasional Paper, I believe that the increased quality, quantity and frequency of the Newsletter (now 5 issues per year) easily makes up for this.

A very big thanks must go to Jan Peterson for all the typing, as the improved quality is largely due to her efforts.

JIM CUNDY

P. S.

The state in which the majority of the reports were handed to me for this publication can scarcely be called anything but deplorable. Reports, which should have been in a fit state for the typist, required about 6 hours of rewriting, deciphering, editing and correcting some appalling spelling and grammatical errors.

I accept no responsibility should any report not read as intended.

JIM CUNDY

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As usual this year has been a busy one for membership. We have had another upsurge of interest and influx of new faces. C. E. G. S.A. (Inc.) has always had a large turnover of members and this year is no exception. Membership has taken on a more youthful appearance, a general trend of the past two years.

Our intrepid editor has churned out many Newsletters and this, of course, means plenty of extra work for the membership officer. It makes it difficult to keep track of members if they fail to notify me of changes of address or phone numbers and I still get some returned marked "Left address" or "Not known". For those who think that notification of change of address to the Post Office is sufficient, they should bear in mind that this notification must be renewed every month or mail will be returned undelivered. It would save a lot of time and hassle if a short note was sent (after all you don't want to miss out on your Newsletter. hmmm?).

Social events this year have not been foremost but those we have had have been very successful. Both the CEGSA / VSA and the Annual Dinner had a reasonable turn-out and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. Competition between VSA and CEGSA was kept to a minimum although we did capture the coveted award of "Pisspot of the Night" via Ian Lewis.

Another happy occasion saw two of our members getting married (to each other) though these blissful newlyweds appear to have gone into hiding.

Caving-wise we have had a busy year also. At last we have awoken interest in the Flinders Ranges and more trips have been there this year. I have enjoyed many trips there myself and it is always a pleasure to visit, admire the scenery and look for new caves. We are getting more adventurous and travelling even further afield visiting other States. We've even gone as far away as Queensland and Tasmania. Those lucky enough to visit these places have come back raving and making us green with envy.

Some of our members have been out giving talks and slide shows to various organisations. In this way we can help to spread the good word and make people aware of the unique beauty of caves and the inherent danger of public ignorance towards the treatment of caves. We must all do what we can to educate people into respecting these areas and preserving them for future generations.

I would like to thank the Committee for their assistance this year and especially our Secretary. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes that people are not aware of and the time and effort put into it often goes unnoticed. This year seems to have been especially busy and has kept everyone on their toes.

I hope everyone gained from this years caving and that this coming year will be a successful and rewarding one for all.

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Honorary Life Members	6	7	8	8	10
Full Members	48	47	45	48	49
Associate Members	41	47	33	44	53
Honorary Associate M embers	5	5	5	-	2
	100	106	91	100	114

Two Honorary Associate Members were nominated. They were Jan Peterson and Alex Sherriff. Jan has been a very hard working lady, always willing to help and Alex has had a longstanding interest in CEGSA and promotion of caves.

We also have two new Life Members. They are Athol Jackson, past President and Committee Member and Ian Lewis a past Committee Member and hard working troglodyte.

DOT PEISLEY

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The face of the CEGSA library has changed a little over the past year. The cataloguing system has changed from the unwieldy Dewey system to a system which is very simple and therefore much more compatible with the caver's mentality.

All books have a number on the left hand corner on the outside cover. The numbers are arbitrary and go from one (1) onwards. All books are filed in their numerical order. Each book has a ledger card, which contains the basic details of the book such as Author (s), date of publication etc.; these cards are also filed in numerical order.

If a book is borrowed then the borrower's name is noted on the back of the card. The borrower is then requested to return the book by the next G.M. if possible, and the card is filed in a 'books on loan' section. If the book is not to be borrowed for some reason (e.g. if we have only one copy and the publication is now unobtainable) then 'not to be borrowed' will be noted on the ledger card.

Eventually we hope to have a cross index to subject, author, and title, but there are more pressing demands at the moment.

All members are welcome to make use of the library. However, if you are just browsing please put the book back in numerical order.

Also if you have a book which has been outstanding for a while, its return would be appreciated.

DALE ARNOTT.

PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

The major events of this year affecting the Public Officer were the motions passed at the July General Meeting (all of these given in Newsletter Vol. 22 No: 2) and the reimbursement of expenses paid by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for work done by CEGSA members at the Naracoorte Caves Reserve.

The former required acceptance by the Companies Office (i.e. lots of paper work) and necessitates a reprinting of the Constitution and Rules (last update was February, 1976), whilst the latter need guiding through CEGSA in the legal manner for no Company Tax to be incurred.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

Although the number of people attending trips appears to have dropped, the use of group gear has increased during the year. This is especially noticeable in the stock of carbide which was extensively used during the May expedition to Mullamullang. Generally, equipment borrowed has been returned promptly and in a clean and tidy condition. A new system of booking equipment out was introduced to enable a better record of use of equipment to be kept.

Two old ladders were retired because of damaged rungs. Little work was done on the new ladders because of the unavailability of suitable swages for the rungs. Some of the early ladders had problems of rung slippage due mainly to the swages being unsuitable. Tests are being conducted to find the best way of fixing these with epoxy resin. Through years of use the ropes have been building up dirt between the strands. These have been washed to remove the dirt and increase the safe life of the ropes. Both miners dials were serviced during the year. One of these will have a new graticule fitted to make the instrument easier to use in low light conditions. The electric typewriter was serviced during the year.

The Groups' equipment has been increased with the installation of a multiple battery charger by Athol and an electric cooker by Gordon in the Naracoorte Hut. Ten new helmets with chinstraps were bought during the year. Three ladders; two from Bernie Dunn and one left at Naracoorte and unclaimed, have been acquired. The most expensive purchase was a new vertical plan cabinet for safe and proper storage of the Groups' maps.

Two stretchers were obtained during the year. A dragmat stretcher was manufactured for the S & R exercise and was found to be quite successful. The other is a Neil Robertson stretcher and, because of poor condition, should be considered for horizontal use only.

Two good wooden frame beds, kindly donated by Harry Baker, were stolen from the hut just before Christmas. The hut was locked at the time but there is no sign of a forced entry.

KEVIN MOTT.

RECORD'S REPORT

The highlight of the year was the purchase of a vertical map filing cabinet to house all our original maps. It holds about 2,000 sheets of A2 size by hanging them from strips stuck onto the originals. Any map is extractable without removing any other.

None-A2 sized maps are now being numbered (1,000 on) to facilitate records keeping. It's not only for the old maps either, several large, important maps were produced this year including Kevin Mott's U1 maps, Jim Cundy's Henschke's Quarry map and Neil Smith's Mullamullang Easter Extension map.

It seems that Records still averages one new map a week, but credit must go to Jerry de Graaf for half of them. He has been very active over on Eyre Peninsula and has raised the number of karst features (mostly enlarged holes under a few metres of caprock) to 71. Other new numbers have been given in the N, K, M and U Regions with many U caves still unnumbered (awaiting location data).

Records Evenings have been run on the odd Wednesday evenings of each month with attendance varying from 1 to about 12, the usual number being 4. Most of the map transfer/indexing to the new vertiplan was done on these evenings.

Updates to the Cave Reference Book have been published in the Newsletter. I would recommend that people extract these and append them to their copy. Please pass update material directly to the Records Keeper for indexing. They will pass the data on to the Editor.

A second copy of our Glenelg River data (Victoria Area G) was passed on to the Victorian National Parks on request.

The revitalised photographic records (Jim pushing!) is being managed by Jim Cundy. To start off, we are storing shots of cave entrances (N, L and U having commenced) or the number of Karst features and interior photos of endangered caves (e.g. Quarry caves). Old photographs of caves or very closely associated features, which are of historic note are also recorded. All donations of cave photographs (B/W, colour, slides) are gratefully accepted. If you wish to keep your photo, Jim will reproduce a copy for the Records (finances and appropriateness permitting).

Remember to keep those trip reports rolling.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

CAVING ACTIVITIES

Flinders Ranges

This past year has been a very dry year for the Flinders and caving trips to this area dropped off somewhat. Early in the year a trip was made to the Melrose area and Mt. Remarkable and Grays Hut caves were visited. A scour of the surrounding area failed to turn up another rumoured hole. Orrorroo Cave was visited and a dig was started. The high humidity of this cave makes it uncomfortable for any prolonged exertion so it will take a few trips before much can be done. The property adjacent to this cave was also rumoured to have another cave but unfortunately the owner has filled in the hole and bulldozed over the top.

The Orraparrina area was the scene of a bushwalk and cave search and Eyrie Cave was relocated and trogged. Unfortunately there has been damage by vandals (as happens with caves in the Flinders).

Narrina Lake Cave is now more accessible as the water level has dropped about 2.5 metres due to the very dry conditions. However it is still a lovely splash and swim to see any of the cave.

From information passed on regarding holes near the Copley area another trip was made to this area. Following the maps provided and careful directions by the station owners it was disappointing to find what were described as caves were no more than small holes not much more than overhangs or old wells. However they still talk of the large sinkhole with 'a gale' pouring out through the top but they are all very vague about its location. Apparently the aborigines used it and consider it to be sacred so they keep its location secret.

Arkaroola was well scoured and many interesting holes (from a distance) were disappointingly shallow the deepest going to 20ft before pinching off.

Buckalowie was visited and Mairs cave was well photographed. Again it was seen that Clara St. Dora is still suffering from casual vandals, though the gated section still remains fairly intact.

As you can see the Flinders has seen visits to most caving areas. It still holds lots of potential - so how about it Folks?

DOT PEISLEY.

Upper South East Region

Naracoorte, as usual, has been visited regularly but activities have diversified again now that CEGSA's involvement with the National Parks & Wildlife Service Victoria Fossil Cave project is minimal. Of interest to everyone is this year's follow-up to last year's possum-proofing and interior painting (de-staining?) of the Hut. Further painting has been done, but more importantly, repairs and clean-up. The windows should now be lockable so that if you forget the key forget about using the Hut. For interior comfort, the floor has been levelled and linoleum laid, a couple of lounge chairs added and a stove supplied (to replace the old wood stove which is falling apart). Thanks to the members who supplied the materials and did the work.

Another new feature in the Hut is the present Party Location Board. It is not just a wall decoration as some people considered the old one to be. This has ample room for all the relevant details that would be needed if needed.

CEGSA's event of the year was a Search and Rescue exercise on the Naracoorte Caves Reserve with about 80 people attending, including St. John's, the State Emergency Squad, Civil Defence, and Scouts. A better account can be obtained from the year's Newsletters.

References to the difficulty of exiting caves such as Saddle make one horrified at the prospect of getting injured persons out. Which reminds me, how many could find the caves listed on the Location Board? Not many! Hence the need for the older members to take others to the less frequented caves.

Photographic records of the entrances and their settings were made this year for all the Naracoorte Area caves north of the Reserve and some of those near the Hut. Accurate locations, clarification of which caves have been numbered, and the investigation of reports of new caves were done at the same time. Many well known caves have never had location maps drawn for them because they are well known. Caves are lost that way. Take U56 for example, many older members had been there then no-one went for a while, the trees were cleared, we tried to find it again. Result - it had vanished! Conclusion - it was covered over during the bulldozing. Not so. One old map in Records has its location. It turned out to be the newly found Snail Cave on the hill just behind where U56 was thought to be.

10.

The interior descriptions match just to confirm this. It was also thought doubtful that Snail would have been overlooked after U56 had first been discovered.

The Victoria Fossil Cave project was officially ended this year as far as CEGSA goes with the completion of the cave maps and payment by the NPWS. Maps of other Reserve caves have since been handed over and further maps will follow.

Other events this year have been the continuance of the bone digs at Henschke's Quarry and the Vic; photography in the tourist caves for the slide set; the CEGSA / VSA Dinner; and last but more importantly, a change of Head Ranger for the Reserve. The Reserve has seen many changes under the care of Russell Bath, including the major change in emphasis from attracting more visitors to educating those who do come. This was a consequence of management transfer from the Tourist Bureau to the NPWS. Russell is now in charge of the Inness National Park on the Yorke Peninsula. We wish him well.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

Eyre Peninsula

Considerable exploration over the last 12 months has led to the discovery of many small caves and a few larger ones to bring the total of numbered features up to about 70.

Two areas receiving most attention were firstly, within 25 km of Port Lincoln where caves are generally wide mouthed collapse dolines with small caves under ledges or single room size chambers entered by narrow solution tubes. Secondly the area east of the Flinders Highway between Lake Hamilton and Talia, where there are numerous large sinkholes, several up to 100 m wide, and a number of deeper caves with entrance pitches to 9m.

Recent contacts with station owners near Nowhere Else (dinkum) give promise of many more caves.

Highlight of the year was the surveying of E60, Compressor Cave, a mind-blowing experience on a day with a big swell. The cave has two entrances, the lower one of which admits great waves to some inner chamber (not yet explored) where they are compressed and then expelled in a spectacular high pressure spray into the interior of the cave.

A short flight to Thistle Island with owner Theo Modra to explore and survey the long rumoured Dead Horse Cave is also worthy of mention. The 75m long passage approximately 7m wide x 3m high is the next best thing to luxury caving and as such is quite out of character with other Eyre Peninsula caves. Significant features are the numerous roof holes small gypsum flowers and the presence of a few examples of half tubes on the walls.

JERRY de GRAAF

Murray Plains

Several trips were run to this area which has an ill deserved bad reputation. Caving is not always air conditioned motels and tuxedos. During these trips maps were produced for M15, M16 and M17. Portee Cave was relocated as access to this cave has altered due to the area becoming a sanctuary for the Hairy Nosed Wombat. Murray Bridge caves have disappeared amongst quarry rubble. There is plenty of surveying and exploration to be done in the Bakara and Marne River areas.

KEVIN MOTT

Lower South East

Unfortunately this area tended to be neglected during the year. A survey of Monbulla Cave was commenced due to the somewhat generalised nature of the original survey. Some filming by Richard Sprod was done in Tantanoola Lake Cave. National Parks are still having trouble with vandalism of the gate to this cave. This cave was also the subject of portion of a controversial film on caving by the A.B.C. Unfortunately the advise of local yahoos was followed instead of that of the ranger and some rather shoddy scenes showing totally unsafe caving practises. Paperwork consisting of mainly mapping to complete partially drawn maps of the Gran Gran area has been the only other CEGSA activity.

The Cave Divers Association of Australia held their annual general meeting at Mount Gambier. Several CEGSA members attended and found it most informative. As this goes to press a trip to Glencoe will be underway to tidy up loose ends in mapping.

KEVIN MOTT

Glenelg River

This area received more interest than it has in past years with several surveying and tourist trips. 3G4 map was amended by resurveying sections of the cave and a map was produced of 3G12. The relevant data and maps have been forwarded to the VSA who are responsible for controlling work done in this area. One trip combined with the VSA for a cave search.

Further trips are planned for next year and hopefully some of these may coincide with trips by the Victorians.

KEVIN MOTT

Yorke Peninsula Region

Two new caves distracted some of the effort from the usual Y1 and Y2 trips. Y20 was discovered by a farmer with the tractor wheel trick. The cave is a simple blocked fissure that needs time to remove its own dirt, nobody's going to do it for it!

Y21 holds more promise with a larger terminal chamber at the bottom and a breeze. Town Well Cave (Y2) was given the once over using SRT for access and exit.

Lighting gear from Flinders University made the Bone Dig a home from home although I gather that further passages are still not recommended for home dwellers, especially MOTT size or larger.

Corra Lynn (Y1) has seen its usual half dozen trips, mostly for surveying, but further passages, as usual, have been found. About one km was surveyed but half of this consisted of resurveys to upgrade poor quality work. The only major find was of about 180m in the Upper level NE of the Big Stalagmite. Surveying also located the top of the dirt-filled fissure that blocked the Ramshorns / Bushwalkers junction.

Sadly, nearly a year has passed without the new loo. The Coomandook firm of Cundy & Mott Trogs (very limited) have outlined a dry solution but Lady Loo Loo has not yet obtained the walls she requested. The old convenience was mistaken for a woodpile and used for firewood.

Maybe they thought they were removing an environmental eyesore, but the person responsible for painted white guidelines throughout most of the cave put a much greater one back again. He (it was a he) even had the gall to paint ENTRANCE and EXIT on the door. When things like this happen, the sense shown by farmers in burying entrances (why else but to protect the cave?) becomes obvious.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

Nullarbor

There were three trips to the Nullarbor during 1977, all of them during May. Two of the three were diving trips while the third was the large scale multi-club Mullamullang trip. This trip saw 18 cavers descend on the cave for about a week of extensive exploration and mapping, which resulted in about another 1km of cave added. At the conclusion of this trip all but three left, the remaining three were Kevin Mott, Kram Smith and Jim Cundy who spent another week doing minor surveys, cave locations and photography.

The first trip for the year was a predominately a S.A. diving trip by Ron Allum, Peter Stace, Phil Prust, Allan Grundy and Roger Townley. The initial report stated "Nullarbor, sometime 1977, 3 or 4 caves. Went x distance in wet type stuff, called water", however a later report was more revealing. The caves visited were; Cocklebiddy, where they did 4-5 dives and put in several RDF points with Ron Allum's special underwater RDF; Tommy Grahams, which has now come to an end; Murra-El-Elevyn, which needs mapping; Weebubbie, in which they found a probable end in very deep water; they also went to Warbla for a wallow in the bat guano.

The other diving trip was from W.A. led by Hugh Morrison, and while the Mullamullang expedition was under way, these divers were doing bigger and better things at Cocklebiddy. Using a new diving technique and only very experienced divers they managed to greatly extend the known length of this cave; and its still going in a straight line with the passage about 12m x 12m in cross-section. They then retired to Weebubbie for a rest and some photography.

The last year has seen a large number of new maps, new caves and three trips. A highly successful year for the Nullarbor.

JIM CUNDY

Kangaroo Island

First it is necessary to mention a post-Christmas 1976 trip to Kelly Hill, which was somehow overlooked at the time of compilation of the 1976-77 Annual Report, other than by way of a brief mention in the Safety and Training report. On that trip a number of small cave entrances just above the flat to the east of the main Kelly Hill cave system were located by systematic pattern searching through extremely dense bush, and a surface map of entrance locations was produced. Two of these caves were found to have quite roomy chambers preferably entered by rigging internal ladders but none of the caves in this group has yet been found to extend very far south through the ridge, although several caves have good breezes. On the same trip a surface search failed to locate New Year's Eve and New Year's Day caves, but found another entrance and promptly lost it again. Since the caves were originally located the underbrush (primarily Acacia armata) has grown beyond recognition and it would be possible to pass with in two metres of an entrance without seeing it.

While searching 3/4 km. south of the main cave at Kelly Hill for an entrance noted by Rocky Berryman and George Lonzar after a bushfire some years ago, we found instead a large twin solution pipe entrance reminiscent of both the K1 and K11 en trances, but unfortunately blocked with sand some distance down. Two minor depressions were also found about 100 metres away. After a day's digging on that trip, and several days more by a small party in May, the sink is showing promise of opening out into what may be the roof of a chamber about 6 metres below the surface.

A walk to the coast from West Bay Hollow Cave during the May trip located what may be the efflux of West Bay Hollow Cave. About 7m. above sea level at the base of some gently sloping limestone cliffs a trickle of water flows from a rockpile and over the exposed gneiss into the sea. A quick crawl into the rockpile has revealed some quite large rimstone pools, but no obvious way upstream is apparent yet. A more thorough investigation is certainly warranted.

A small trip later in the year included a low level flight by light aircraft along the coastal cliffs in the region. Perhaps it was just the darkness of the shadows, but several sea caves left a lasting impression.

Finally, during a small trip after Christmas 1977, further walking in the general area of the solution pipe dig mentioned earlier located a large closed depression similar in appearance to the one near K11, but with no entrances opening off it. Further to the northwest a new cave consisting of a single roomy chamber with some nice decoration was also discovered. So far we still do not seem to have found any entrances fitting Rocky's description, but it's good fun looking.

Cavers used to be able to go to Kelly Hill and set their watches back twenty years, in itself a refreshing and enjoyable experience for most.

Over the last Year or so, however, the acceleration of progress coming to Kelly Hill has reached giddy proportions and caused some of the more preservationist or 'stick-in-the-mud' amongst us to wonder where it's all going to end. When it's all boiled down, though, the pretty old path has been upgraded into a pretty new path upon which far fewer people will twist their ankles and stub their toes, and the dear old ugly tin shed has given way to a far more aesthetic and functional brick and green pine log structure, which with very little additional effort could be converted into an opera house or a space rocket launcher.

A new innovation for Kelly Hill has been the upgrading of tracks in the sinkhole area west of K1 to a standard where they may be used for a self-guided educational nature walk. There is a great deal of interest and beauty at Kelly Hill besides the caves themselves, and such a walk offers a valuable addition or alternative to an inspection of the tourist cave for the visitor prepared to make the effort. It is obvious that Bruce Allen has developed a strong interest for Kelly Hill, and it must be difficult for him to leave before a number of his projects are completed. It is pleasing to know, however, that he will have the opportunity to apply his talents at Naracoorte, and we wish him well in his new position.

It is heartening to see the increase in moisture in the Kelly Hill tourist cave following installation of an airtight door as part of the new entrance building. Decoration which has been dry for some years is now coming alive again, even though the year has been drier than most. The importance of this restoration of former conditions draws into focus an even more fundamental alteration to the cave system which has been wreaked by man and which should be urgently investigated and corrected.

Peter Davis tells us that when he was a small boy about 20 years ago, every year the water would roar into the main Kelly Hill influx and that the children in their boat were not allowed beyond a certain point in the creek because the current near the sink was too strong and they would stand a good chance of being sucked in. The entire cave system owes its very existence to that water, and the fact that it drained away in several places after banking up along the flats behind the ridge. Today a levee bank on the northern side of the south coast road, just north of the influx, diverts all the water away so that it ultimately joins the Southwest River. Rarely if ever does any water reach the cave system. While periodic flooding of the flats may be undesirable today because of the establishment of tourist facilities there, some method of restoring at least a portion of the flow back into the main influx should be implemented without delay. Construction of a couple of sluice gates and the laying of a large diameter pipe under the road would go a long way towards solving the problem.

GRANT GARTRELL

Interstate Caving

This year has seen a continuance of the far-flung trips recommenced by CEGSA a couple of years ago. Four of our members attended the Cave Rescue Practice at Bungonia (NSW) in March. Another epic Tasmanian trip during Easter saw 5 members of CEGSA (combined with 6 from VSA) descend on Mole Creek for some real heavy caving. During September, 6 members experienced some totally different types of caves at Chillagoe (Nth Qld). Six members also descended on Buchan (Vic) at varying times during the New Year to help the Vics with surveying, digging etc.

Trips to Glenelg River and the Nullarbor are noted elsewhere. Ian Lewis, wishing to remain top traveller, has been caving in the United Kingdom, Ireland, S.W. Europe, U.S.A., Canada and Mexico ______ envy, sob, sob.

JIM CUNDY and GRAHAM PILKINGTON

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

1st FEBRUARY 1978.

Treasurer's Statement

The enclosed financial statements of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia Inc. for the year ended 1st February 1978 are, in my opinion, properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group as at the 1st February 1978 and of its results for the year then ended in accordance with the provisions of the Group's Rules.

JANE WILSON

Auditor's Report

The enclosed balance sheets and income and expenditure statements of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia Inc. are in my opinion, properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group as at the 1st February 1978 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

c/f

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1st FEBRUARY 1978

INCOME:	C. E. G. S.A. NO. 1 A/c.		
Membership:			
Full:	212.00		
Associate:	116.00		
Country full:	22.00		
Transfer Fees:	<u>12.00</u>	362.00	
Newsletter Subscriptions		2.00	
Sale of Publications		114.90	
Trip Fees		83.70	
Social Dinners:			
CEGSA / VSA	198.00		
Annual	145.00	343.00	
Sale of Stickers and Badges		7.15	
Sale of Magnesium Powder		<u>11.50</u>	
		\$924.25	

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year ending 1st February 1978, C.E.G.S.A. NO: 1 A/c. - (continued)

INCOME: (continued)

Balance brought forward		\$924.25
Donation		50.00
Sundries		5.00
Transfer from No: 4 Account		450.00
Bank Interest		6.32
Petty Cash on hand $(1/2/77)$		2.49
Bank Balance		155.80
Extraordinary income (Note 1)		<u>1.00</u>
•		
		\$1,594.86
		4)======
EXPENDITURE:		
Subscriptions to:		
A.S.F.	\$168.00	
Helictite (Note 2)	6.00	
William Pengelly	7.23	181.23
Stationary:	<u></u>	
Roneo Vickers	152.25	
Leather Medal Certificates	2.20	
miscellaneous	10.60	165.05
Postage		201.55
Purchase of Equipment		
Helmets	57.00	
Mapping materials	32.55	89.55
Service on Electric Typewriter	<u>==:==</u>	80.00
Printing Ink		20.04
Social Dinners:		_0.0.
CEGSA / VSA	210.00	
Annual	150.00	360.00
Publications		168.34
Reimbursement of No: 2 Account		141.45
Reimbursement of overpaid subsci	riptions	7.00
ETSA for Naracoorte Hut		5.40
Hire of Museum Lecture Room		30.00
Petty Cash on hand 1/2/78		8.76
Cash on hand 1/2/78		39.00
Cash in bank 1/2/78		97.49
Cubii iii Ouiii: 1/2//O		<u> </u>

\$1,594.86

C.E.G.S.A. NO: 2 A/c. THE SLIDE ACCOUNT

INCOME:	1977	1978
Sale of Slides	\$244.80	\$803.60
Cash in Bank (1st February)	304.44	57.60
Bank Interest	37.13	8.73
Sale of maps		0.80
Transfer from No: 1 A/c re Sales Tax		11.45
Misdirected cheque		10.00
Loan repayment from A/c No: 4		230.00
	\$586.37	\$1,122.18
EXPENDITURE:		
Slide reproduction	\$245.97	\$795.86
Sales Tax	52.80	184.77
Photographic materials, processing etc.		32.65
Contribution to "S.A. Cave Reference Book"		100.00
Misdirected cheque		10.00
Loan to Account No: 4	230.00	
Cash on hand		5.10
Stationary		1.42
Postage		0.68
Cash in Bank (31st January)	<u>57.60</u>	<u>0.26</u>
	\$586.37	\$1,122.18
ASSETS:		
Cash in Bank	\$57.60	0.26
Cash in hand		5.10
Slides in stock at cost	160.06	652. 78
Loan to Account No: 4	230.00	
ASSETS:	\$447.66	\$658.14
Less LIABILITIES:		
Photographic materials		\$11.35
Rubber stamp		8.97
Cash advance		<u>8.56</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES:		28.88
Leaving NETT ASSETS:	\$447.66	\$629.26

Giving NETT increase in ASSETS for year of \$181.60.

C.E.G.SA. NO: 3 A/c. - ALAN HILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

INCOME:

Bank Balance as at 1/2/78	\$30.63
Donation	2.00
Dividend from Alan Hill M. Fund (Deposit Stock)	22.17
Interest	0.80

\$55.60

EXPENDITURE:

Cash in Bank 16/1/78 \$55. 60

ASSETS:

Cash in Bank (Ac. No: 3) \$55. 60 Cash in Deposit Stock 300. 00

\$355.60

C.E.G.S.A. NO: 4 A/c. - THE CAPITAL ACCOUNT

INCOME:

Occasional Paper No: 5	\$248.10
Donations from work at Naracoorte Reserve	2,850.00
Bank Interest	3.35
Cash in Bank 1/2/77	<u>9.69</u>

\$3,111.14

EXPENDITURE:

Transfer to No: 1 Account	\$450.00
Vertical Map, filing cabinet	561.22
Hindmarsh Building Society	
(Term Deposit Account)	2,000.00
Cash in Bank 1/2/78	<u>99.92</u>

\$3,111.14

ASSETS:

Cash in Bank	99. 92
Term Deposit, Hindmarsh Building Society	<u>2,000.00</u>

\$2,099.92

NOTES TO ACCOMPANY AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING 1st February 1978

- 1. Extraordinary Income comes from monies received without receipt for Account No. 1.
- **2.** Account No. 1, Cheque to Helictite uncashed as at 1st February 1978.

EQUIPMENT LIST

1. 2. 3.	Carbide Stock Carbide sieves Digging equipment	(a) (b) (c)	2 boats 3 shove	9 kg 3 Is bars and picks etc. (Naracoorte)
4. 5.	Helmets Ladders	(0)	assorted	13
		(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	9 new 2 plus s 3 plus s	us slings lings (Naracoorte) lings S&R ick (unclaimed)
6.	Miners dials etc.	(a) (b) (c)		of C.E.G.S.A. of the late A. L. Hill stadia
7.	Ropes	No:1 No:2 No:3 No:4 Nos: No:1	5–10	36.5m BS3104 No:4 Nylon 36.5m 12 mm Manilla 36.5m BS3104 No:4 Nylon 73m BS3104 No:4 Nylon 18.3m 12mm Manilla 10m Nylon
8. 9. 10. 11.	First Aid Kits Air-splints Webbing bands Stretchers			2 2 1 set
		(a) (b)	dragmat Neil Ro	
12. 13. 14. 15.	Field telephones Magnesium powder Refrigerator Electric cooker			3 plus several reels wire 2 drums 1 Naracoorte 1 Naracoorte
16.	Office equipment	(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)	Duplica Typewr Four-dra Map cal	iters - 1 electric, 2 manual awer filing cabinet

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC. MEMBERS to the 1st FEBRUARY 1978.

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Tasmanian Caverneering Club, Box 416, G. P. O. Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005

Union Internationale De Speleologle, c/- Bundesdenkmalamt, Hofburg,

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