# CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

P.O. Box 144, Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000



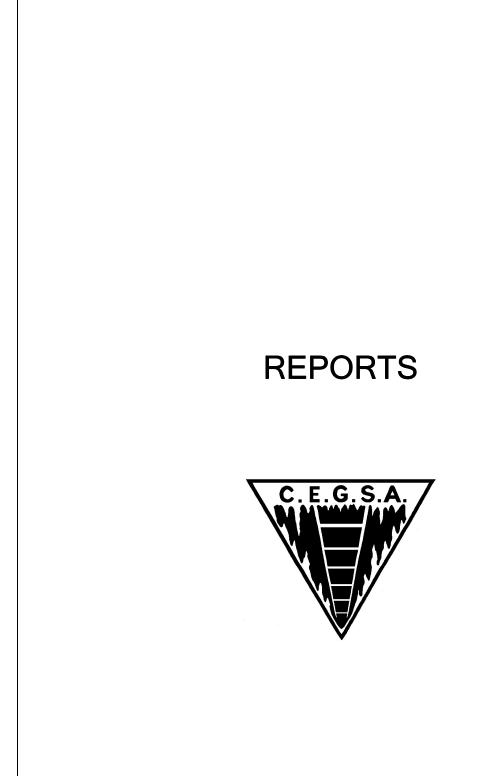
# ANNUAL REPORT 1988

**Thirty Third Annual Report** 

Presented to the Annual General Meeting on Friday 10th February 1989 at the Stag Hotel, Adelaide.

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CEGSA is the major recreational caving and speleological body in South Australia. It is the only South Australian council member of the Australian Speleological Federation. Because of our long standing involvement with caving we have a vast bank of data and expertise to offer those who manage our caves. The caves are a valuable resource and if managed properly and not exploited will be available for future generations to enjoy.

We have been a member of the Sinkholes Liaison Committee since it's inception. Initially the committee was primarily concerned with cave diving. Issues are now increasingly involving dry caving. It has been important for the group to be involved as our input has been constructive and we have been aware of developments that may directly or indirectly affect us from the outset. Not the least it has paved the way for closer co-operation between CEGSA, CDAA and various government and private landowners.

1988 saw the commencement of discussions with National Parks and Wildlife Service aimed at improving our input into the management of caves and classification of cavers so that caving skills can be recognised and acknowledged. To this end a CEGSA sub-committee has been set up to formulate guidelines for caver assessment and certification. Members of the Scout Caving Group have been invited to participate in this committee which has already prepared a draft outline of proposals. Allied to caver categorisation is the need to determine cave classifications and the interrelationships between the two. This would give cave managers a tool with which they can logically manage their resource. They will not have to make arbitrary decisions based on assumptions and gut feeling.

Caving is an activity we all enjoy and there are many caves yet to be discovered and a great deal of knowledge yet to learnt. We must always strive to ensure that future developments are based on accurate knowledge and will benefit both the cave and caver, yet satisfy management. Thus we must endeavour to be an integral part of the planning and be prepared to spend time and resources to attend what ever meetings and activities are required of us to achieve this goal.

This year we established the position of Membership Liaison Officer to liaise with new members and to co-ordinate trips and trip requests. Full use was not made of the office by members during the year. If we are to maintain an active programme in which all members may participate then we need such an interface between members. Help make 1989 a more active year by utilising this position. It will save the committee trying to determine what the silent majority of members really want.

Throughout the year the members of the Committee did their share to help the group run smoothly. I would like to thank them for their support during the year. To the other members who have pitched in from time to time and the families I also offer my thanks for their support and forbearance.

Kevin Mott

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership has been up this year and the Group more than ever has been up and caving. The membership liaison officer, Sue McDonald, has contributed to this as members became aware that all official trips must be registered with Sue either at meetings or through the Newsletter. In this way members have been more able to find out what trips are going and contact the leader in charge.

Several experienced cavers, trained by the Scout Caving Group, have joined as well as beginners this year. This has helped to increase the number of people who can run trips for the group in the future.

The health of the Group was certainly very good for 1988, when even the newsletter editor complained too many articles to print.

Awards presented for 1988 were

#### **LEATHER MEDALS**

**David Trehearne** 

**Leather Friend** for protection, assistance and determination of the bottom a cave; especially when using SRT.

Paul Harper

**Leather Film** for those times when you need to capture that special shot and you don't have any film.

**SPIRIT OF CAVING** Gary White

**RIVETTS REWARD** Chris Hales

#### OCCASIONAL AWARD Peter Horne

A flexible compass for surveying in tight passages to prevent the need to masochistically return to retrieve crushed gear.

Peter Kraehenbuehl

#### The Committee for 1988 was

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
EQUIPMENT
SAFETY &TRAINING
MEMBERSHIP RECORDS
MEMBERSHIP LIAISON
RECORDS
TRIP COORDINATOR
LIBRARY
PUBLICATIONS
A.S.F. REPRESENTATIVE
S.A. MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE
PUBLIC OFFICER

Graham Pilkington
Peter Kraehenbuehl
Max Meth
Kevin Mott
Peter Kraehenbuehl
Graham Pilkington
Sue McDonald
Stan Flavel
Sue McDonald
Bill Parker
Kevin Mott
Mac MacDonald
Neville Pledge
Graham Pilkington

Kevin Mott

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1986	1987	1988
12	11	11
28	28	34
21	19	28
_13	12	6
74	70	79
4	3	3
2	3	4
27	31	32
23	20	18
<u>130</u>	127	<u> 136</u>
	12 28 21 13 <b>74</b> 4 2 27 23	12 11 28 28 21 19 13 12 74 70 4 3 2 3 27 31 23 20

An excellent growth year for CEGSA with long-term Associates converting to Full membership and an increase in Associate numbers back to the levels of five years ago.

Membership cards were not issued this year while their value and use was reappraised. The decision is to continue their use in 1989 but to Full members only, thereby preventing any misunderstanding of what Associate membership means.

Graham Pilkington

#### SAFETY AND TRAINING REPORT

During 1988 there has been ongoing training of members in ladder and belay use, particularly for the newer members of the club. To most members such activity is second nature but sheath damage to one of the group's belay ropes during 1988 indicated that we do not always get it right all the time.

Most of South Australia's caves are horizontal in nature so we do not practice vertical work as often as in some other caving areas - which is a good reason to practice these techniques on a regular basis.

Implications from the caver and cave classification committee which was formed in 1988 are that everyone of us will have to undergo some form of leadership assessment if we wish to cave on national parks in future. Although this was not a popular move from National Parks with club members initially it appears that such a scheme will make it easier for National Park personnel to prevent inadequately experienced parties from visiting some of the more sensitive caves in the state. Preserving our caves for future generations has always been the common ideal shared by CEGSA and National Parks, so in the give and take we will all benefit from the minor inconvenience of the leadership scheme.

Peter Kraehenbuehl

# PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

Another great legal year - we stayed out of trouble.

Graham Pilkington

#### RECORDS REPORT

1988 was a steady year for the Records Officer and with no new additions to the family some work continued to the Group's ever growing resource of cave data. Controlling Records involves the intermingled processes of collecting, collating, storing, referencing, reading, writing and mapping, researching, investigating, correcting, completing, compiling, filing, sending, receiving and issuing all manner of printed paper.

Controlled access to CEGSA's collection of maps and cave descriptions and locations is available to other bodies upon request. Individuals usually must be associated with a group or have a responsible member of a caving group apply in writing to CEGSA for the use any Records material. Phone conversations to me asking for cave locations will usually be unfruitful except with prior arrangement. Maps are the property of the group and unauthorised copying is thus not tolerated. If members are planning a trip and need details of locations and access to caves give you and the Records Officer (and often the Equipment Officer) time to coordinate and bring any requested items to the General Meeting prior to the trip.

If you are holding any cave related material, including information on cave life, caving activities and overseas clippings that just wont fit in your already overcrowded filing cabinet please donate to the Group. This year we were fortunate to have acquired another four drawer filing cabinet that is just waiting to unburden you of anything cave oriented. In the past clippings have held important insights into the way non-cavers interpret these dark holes in the ground.

Stan Flavel

#### **PUBLICATIONS REPORT**

It was pleasing to see a good selection of articles for the Newsletter during the year. Some articles had to be held over for the next issue. It is nice to be able to wield some editorial power. Keep them coming. Photos for the cover would also be nice to receive. Don't be shy - send them in; it will save me regurgitating all my old ones.

Volume 33 of the Newsletter contained only three issues, so don't go looking through the WPB for the missing issue #4; you won't find it! Volume 34 will revert back to four issues per volume. This was done to bring the volume of the Newsletter into line with the financial year. Several years ago we changed the financial year but forgot about the newsletter.

There always seems to be more trips reported to the General Meetings than appear in the Newsletter. If you go on a trip pen your views. Don't rely on others to do it.

Kevin Mott

#### LIBRARY REPORT

The library had a little more use in the year just ended. This may be due to the list of books available which appeared in Newsletter 33(2). If you missed out, lost your newsletter or joined after the newsletter was published let me or the next librarian know and you shall receive one.

As you guessed I am now passing the library on to someone else. So if you have the time and room, volunteer NOW. Finally, please return any and all books and publications to me so I may pass them all on as soon as possible.

Bill Parker

# **EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

Following the purchase of the theodolite last year we have now purchased a levelling staff and a staff bubble. The gear has already received use by members both above ground and underwater (staff only).

Two helmets and a ladder were retired during the year. The ladder was in Sellicks Hill Cave. One cable broke due to corrosion. Normally we do not leave gear in a cave and the demise of this ladder demonstrates why.

When borrowing gear please approach the equipment well before the trip to give him time to get the gear ready. Please ensure that gear is returned promptly and in a clean and tidy condition.

We are looking at the purchase of harnesses and gear for self lining during 1989.

Kevin Mott

# **EQUIPMENT LIST**

Rope No. 2 12mm Manila - 36.5m

 No. 6 to 10
 12mm Manila - 18.0m

 No. 11
 12mm Nylon - 10.0m

 No. 12
 12mm Nylon - 27.5m

 No. 13
 2 x 20m Bluewater Static

 No. 14
 50m x 11mm Bluewater

No. 15 50m x 11mm Edelweiss

No. 16 50m x 11mm Elite

Ladders 15 Helmets 13

Gear bags 4 haversacks

Stitch plates 2

Survey Equipment Cooke Troughton and Sims Theodolite

3m Levelling staff and staff bubble Miners Dials CEGSA

CEGSA (1979)

Property of late A.L.Hill

Silva sighting compass Suunto PM5 inclinometer 100m fibreglass tape

Stretcher Dragmat
Magnesium powder 2 drums
Digging equipment 2 boats
3 shovals

Battery charger 240v AC /12v DC with 8 outlets

Carbide sieves 3 Electric cooker 1

Office equipment 2 x Bookcases

3 x 4 drawer filing cabinets Map cabinet (wooden)

Vertifile

Light tables A1-size (box on stand)

A0-size (box)

Geo-seismic apparatus Water levelling tube

Training equipment Rope protectors

1 pair Jumars 79 Spelean sit harness

Rappel rack 4 x karabiners

Tilley lamp

Assorted cooking utensils





# **ADELAIDE HILLS**

Trips to this area concentrated on the Second Valley area. A13 was tied into cadastral boundaries to determine actual ownership. A4 was relocated and a survey of the cave made as the description did not appear to match the cave.

Delamere Sinkhole was looked at late in the year. It is not a sinkhole in the true sense but merely an influx or a hole where a stream "sinks" underground. There are numerous other holes and depressions in the area worth looking at.

One visit was made to A14. No visits were recorded to Carrickalinga Cave as the owner still refuses access permission.

#### EYRE PENINSULA

No trips were run to this area this year.

# **FLINDERS RANGES**

There were quite a few trips to the Flinders Ranges this year with beneath the Flinders Ranges being a popular place to explore in 1988. The Flinders area has some spectacular scenery and must be one of the most picturesque caving areas in this country. With this year's rains it was magnificent.

Caving activity in the Flinders usually takes cavers to number of popular caves that are either large or pretty or wet or dusty or have bones, (eg. Mairs, Clara St. Dora, Narinna or Oraparinna/Arcoota). After satisfying one's curiosity and having breathed in enough dust or bat guano the intrepid caver can wander around in a generally scenic area and find new caves (or rediscover forgotten caves).

New caves and related features were located and recorded in the Angepena, Arkaroola, Narinna, Blinman and Oraparinna areas with promise of more to come. A new area near Wilpena needs further investigation.

Continuing my love affair with the Flinders caused me to lead four more (unreported) trips into the heart of this great wonderland. Areas covered included The Gammons, Moro Gorge, Arcoota, Buckalowie, Arkaroola, Narinna, Blinman, Oraparinna, Trezona and Wilpena. Caves visited included F8, F9, F11, F14, F15, F20, F24, F29, F33, F46, F48, F49, F59, F63, F65, F66, F67, F69, F71, F74, F76, F77. Wooltana Cave was the scene an SRT exercise.

Areas of exploration included the Trezona Range, Narinna Hut, around Mount Hack and the southern area of Narinna Pound, Wirrealpa, Oraparinna and the Bunkers Ranges. The elusive Mt. Hack Cave has still not been found, yet again. Many caves were located and explored, including F46, F47, F48, F81, F82, F83 (Moro Gorge), F80, F84, F85, F86, F94 (Arkaroola), F87 (Angepena), F90, F101 (Trezona), F89, F91, F96, F97, F98, F99, F100 (Blinman).

### KANGAROO ISLAND

This was the place to be during the Easter break. The location and identification work in and around the Kelly Hill area was the main object of activity. As cavers kept getting disoriented in the scrub new caves kept turning up - will they never end? Except for K7 all caves in the K7-10 series have now been positively identified so the KH series of temporary numbers have been discontinued and K numbers allocated for all features. The number of recorded caves on Kangaroo Island now total 102. A trip led by Brent Golledge in May finally located K7.

CEGSA was invited to conduct a cave search and rescue course for National Parks staff and State Emergency Service personnel over the June long-weekend. Everyone who participated in the course found it beneficial. It also established a relationship with the SES on Kangaroo Island.

An unpublished draft management plan for Kelly Hill is to be revised and incorporated in a management plan for Flinders Chase. Several of the new caves near Kelly Hill are to be utilised for adventure tours.

#### LOWER SOUTH EAST

The level of activity in this region dropped this year, with only a few recorded trips going there. These were run by some of the newer members of the group as familiarisation trips. Although little work was done on these trips we are building up a core of members who are gaining an appreciation of the caves and what is required in the area. This should lead to more members able to run trips to the area.

Despite diving commitments Peter Horne still managed to find some new caves and update information on known caves. Vandals once again attempted to destroy the gate on Tindales Cave. They were unsuccessful but some minor repair work by Woods and Forests was necessary. Vandalism in Morgans Cave received some local television coverage. National Parks have maintained the restriction on entry into Tantanoola Lake Cave and as far as we know have made no progress determining access criteria to the cave. The group has made two submissions regarding access to the cave.

The CEGSA/VSA dinner was held in Mount Gambier in June.

CEGSA has maintained its presence on the Sinkholes Liaison Committee which meets in Mount Gambier. The delegate usually does not get much time to go caving but if others want to go caving these meetings provide an ideal opportunity.

#### **MURRAY PLAINS**

Once again Punyelroo Cave topped the list as the most visited cave in the area. Trips ranged through the average tourist type trip to several survey training trips. The cave is ideal for this as it is relatively close to Adelaide, of easy access and not too difficult to survey. The cave was also one of several used for the scout Jamboree. A rescue from the cave during the Jamboree left the Blanchetown SES eager for more cave S&R training. CO<sub>2</sub> levels were monitored in Punyelroo and averaged 0.12%. The highest reading was 0.2% at Randell's Rock.

Two new caves near Mannum (M26 &27) were reported to Krunchy by a couple of local kids and these were quickly located and mapped. M25 near Sedan was located and mapped during the year but we have not been able to find the nearby blowhole marked on Lands Department maps. A new cave and an ex-cave were located in Blanchetown.

Other caves visited in the area were the ever popular Gloop Cave, M6 and M19.

#### **NULLARBOR PLAINS**

Max Meth led a trip to Old Homestead Cave at Easter. The exploration and surveying of the cave continued. While at Old Homestead a shed and water tank were installed for the benefit of future trips.

Thampanna Cave was visited and the exploration and mapping of this cave continued. Whilst out there they came across a group of WA cavers searching for caves with ultralites. Despite the fact that other cavers obviously visit the area there are never any reports of new discoveries. Surely it can not be only our specialty.

Some exploration and mapping of some smaller caves near Mundrabilla completed the trip.

In December Max and Gary White explored some of the Nullarbor cliffs from a yacht. Approximately 40 holes were recorded. Many of these appear to be caves caused through erosion by the sea. Others higher up in the cliffs are definitely caves worthy of further exploration.

Pannikin Plain Cave collapsed early in December trapping an exploration diving team underground. They were all safely evacuated. Following the collapse the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management have closed the cave until further notice due to the highly unstable nature of the entrance

#### **UPPER SOUTH EAST**

Again this once popular area was poorly visited by CEGSA. Two reasons appear to be the cause of this downturn in popularity. Those who formerly led trips to the area are not doing so and newer trip leaders are unsure of the area. Members are still unsure of caving requirements. A trip to the area needs to fill out a permit form (in duplicate) four weeks in advance stating date of trip, leaders, caves to be visited and number and/or names of trip members. Names of trip members can be flexible. The important information for NPWS is the total number and the names of leaders. If parties are prepared to do some legitimate work, eg survey, photo monitoring etc., there is still a large number of caves that can be visited on the reserve. There is also a large number of caves off the reserve. Discussions with NPWS regarding caver categorisation and cave classification should go a long way to easing the situation at Naracoorte.

Robyn Kesby has left NPWS and Jo Bauer is now the Chief Guide at Naracoorte and responsible for the issue of caving permits. We need to maintain visitation to the area to ensure we do not lose touch with the area and there is still a great deal of work to be done.

#### YORKE PENINSULA

Another 500m of surveying was completed in Corra Lynn leaving about 1km to finish the high grade survey of the 13.5km of passages. No significant new discovers were made but GuzzOff-North-2 was finally dug through at 3m to reveal a 12m long tunnel ending in another dirt blockage. The cave has now been closed by the manager while we try to work out a feasible scheme for CEGSA to control access.

Little other caving was done except at Town Well Cave over which the Minlaton Town Council confirmed CEGSA's access control authority. A few significant sea caves have been located on the lower part of the Peninsula.

#### INTERSTATE

The Nullarbor continues to be the most visited interstate area due to the enthusiasm of our Ceduna correspondent, Gary White. Several trips were made by small parties with the longest being to Old Homestead Cave during March and April. Caves visited during 1988 were N63, N83, N132, N165, N193, N206, N208, N311 and N312.

An interest in particularly vertical caving by several members prompted trips to the eastern states as well. In January a two week tour of Yarangobilly, Tuglow and Bungonia areas to mostly practice SRT or get wet. Caves visited include Tuglow Cave, Eagles Nest (with UNSWSS), Bath House, Inn Stable Cave, River Cave, East Deep Creek, North Deep Creek, Acoustic Pot, Steam Pipe, Argyle Hole and Odyssey Cave. This led up to a Tassie trip in September with the highlights including Kubla Khan Cave, Mini Martin, Skyhook Pot, Exit Cave, Midnight Cave, Croesus Cave and Owl Pot.

A brief visit was made to the Katherine area by one member as part of a consultant team from the Australasian Cave Management Association





GENERAL ACCOUNT			FINANCIAL	STATEMENT
RECEIPTS				
Full members Associate members Long term associate members ASF levies (Life members) Family memberships	•	1156.00 \$348.50 \$95.00 \$45.00 \$36.00	\$1680.50	
Equipment hire Maps Newsletter subscription Badges Sale of stickers Donation - Joyce Bakker  Sale of publications Proceedings of 14 <sup>th</sup> ASF conf Proceedings of 16 <sup>th</sup> ASF conf Karst Index Occasional paper 4 - Mullamullang Occasional paper 5 - SA cave ref bk Occasional paper 6 - field notes	1 1 2 4 3	\$103.80 \$8.00 \$31.00 \$21.00 \$3.00 \$9.00 \$15.00 \$15.00 \$12.00 \$18.00 \$15.00	\$175.80	
Bank interest TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$120.00 <u>\$38.79</u>	\$2015.09
Add Bank balance as at 1.1.88				\$335.21 \$2350.30

GENERAL ACCOUNT	FINANCIAL STATEMENT		
PAYMENTS			
Newsletter: Printing Postage Labels & computer hire Total Newsletter Costs	\$515.00 \$211.32 \$109.40	\$835.72	
ASF subscription levy		\$374.00	
Aust Post box rental Postage Telephone directory listing	\$48.00 \$2.01 <u>\$35.00</u>	\$85.01	
Gear Bags Cloth Badges Books		\$50.84 \$233.00	
SA Diving Fatalities On Rope	\$6.00 <u>\$39.95</u>	\$45.95	
Federal Govt Tax Financial Institutions Duty	\$4.00 <u>\$0.56</u>	\$4.56	
TOTAL PAYMENTS			\$1629.08
Add Bank balance as at 31.12.88 Cash on Hand at 31.12.88 Less		\$528.37 \$232.80	
Outstanding cheque 163022		<u>\$39.95                                   </u>	\$721.22
\$2350.30			

ACCOUNT No.3 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**RECEIPTS** 

Bank interest \$60.80

Add Bank balance as at 1.1.88 \$1483.26

\$1544.06

**PAYMENTS** 

Federal Govt Tax \$0.35

Financial Institutions Duty \$0.02

\$0.37

Less Transferred to Capital Account \$1543.69
Bank balance as at 31.12.88 \$0.00

TOTAL \$1544.06

**ACCOUNT CLOSED** 

CAPITAL ACCOUNT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance as at 1.1.88 \$6492.86 Add transfer from Account #3 \$1543.69

Add Interest \$637.90

\$8674.45

Less

Federal Govt Tax \$3.34

Balance as at 31.12.88 \$8671.11

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# TREASURERS REPORT

The Group's General Account balance rose this year from \$335.21 to \$721.22 and this reflects the increase in membership. Part of the increase in membership subscriptions was due to fees paid in advance for 1989.

The total collected in subscriptions (\$1680.50) was sufficient to pay for

Newsletter production \$835.72

ASF capitation levy \$374.00

running expenses

Max Meth





# MEMBERSHIP LIST

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A	
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F	McINTYRE David 8804 (H) 268-2816
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F	McRAE Colin 8002 (H) 382 7905
	3 Kerrin Avenue MORPHETT VALE SA 5162
Α	McSHANE Steve 8820 (H) 263-8953 (W) 266-1666
_	5 Nanette Road VALLEY VIEW SA 5093
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