

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

PO Box 144 Rundle Mall, SA, 5000
<http://www.cegsa.org.au>



ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Sixty Fourth Annual Report

Presented to the Annual General Meeting
held on Saturday 15th February 2020
at 143 Tyeka Drive, One Tree Hill, SA

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PRESENTS THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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REPORTS



2019 COMMITTEE

President	Mark Sefton
Secretary	Matt Smith
Museum Representative	Neville Pledge
Treasurer	Mark Corbett
Committee	Steve Milner
New Member Liaison	Pam Payne
Quartermaster	Neville Skinner
Committee	Heather Siebert

2019 OFFICE BEARERS

Public Officer / Library & Records / Membership	Graham Pilkington
Publications	Athol Jackson
Quartermaster / Key and GPS Holder	Paul Harper / Neville Skinner
Webmaster	Matt Smith
Search and Rescue	Richard (Harry) Harris
Training / Safety	Matt Smith
Landowner Liaison (records)	Garry Woodcock
All Trip Leaders	see list on p10

2019 AREA COORDINATORS

Nullarbor Plain, Yorke Peninsula, Murray Mallee, Torrens, Eyre Peninsula, Gawler Ranges, Pitjandjara Lands (NW of SA), NE of SA	Graham Pilkington
Upper & Lower S E (dry), Glenelg River	Kevin Mott
Lower S E (wet)	Peter Horne
Adelaide & Kangaroo Island	Grant Gartrell
Flinders	Stan Flavel

2019 REPRESENTATIVES

Australian Speleological Federation	Graham Pilkington
S.A. Speleological Council	Mark Sefton
Nullarbor Karst Project Steering Committee (WA)	Paul Hosie
Kanawinka Geopark Liaison	Ian Lewis

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On sitting down to write this report it occurred to me that each year the lines between the achievements of CEGSA in particular and the South Australian Caving community in general are becoming increasingly blurred. Three of our Committee also have active leadership roles in the Scout Caving Group, reminding me of the time when I first joined CEGSA, several recent and current CEGSA Committee members are also members of FUSSI and some FUSSI members are, or have been CEGSA members. This year, South Australian cavers hosted a search and rescue workshop and exercise run by the ASF, a talk by Harry Harris for cavers on the Thailand Cave rescue and in 2021 will organise and host the next ASF conference at Ceduna with field trips to the Nullarbor and Eyre Peninsula. The South Australian caving community is small in number but collaboration gives us the economy of scale and the benefit of different groups bringing their own strengths to the table – technical skills, safe caving practices, the enthusiasm (and fitness!) of younger cavers and the acquired knowledge and experience of us older folk.

The benefit of working together is certainly not just limited to South Australia. In terms of cave discoveries involving our members this year, the most prolific have all been in groups including cavers from a variety of local and eastern states clubs. Steve Milner's expeditions to the Bunda Cliffs and Graham Pilkington's to the Nullarbor are attended by cavers from all over Australia, my trips with Graham to the Kimberly are only possible through the efforts of SUSS cavers and the discoveries at Bullita each year are the result of hard work by participants from all over Australia and even from overseas. Graham's unceasing efforts to develop and further fine-tune OzKarst as a platform for data storage and retrieval have been helped by the preparedness of both CEGSA and interstate cavers to use OzKarst and provide feedback.

To satisfy insurance requirements CEGSA trips should include someone with a first aid certificate. The Committee intends to make having a current first aid certificate a requirement for renewal of Caving Leader status when Office Bearer positions are determined after the 2020 AGM. Trip Coordinators will not require a first aid certificate themselves but will need to ensure that caving parties for which they are responsible include someone with such a certificate.

Earlier this year I volunteered to 'hold the fort' to give our previous President, Ian Lewis, a bit more spare time to bring his PhD thesis to fruition. But I will not be standing for President in 2020, not least because my wife and I will be doing a lot of travelling during the year. At the end of this brief tenure I would like to thank all those who served the club this year, both on and off the Committee, especially Matt Smith, Mark Corbett, Athol Jackson and Graham Pilkington. I would especially like to thank Paul Harper who undertook the role of Quartermaster – a position he held for over two decades despite personal commitments preventing him from being able to go caving on a regular basis.

Mark Sefton

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2019 AWARDS

Stirrer's Spoon

To **Steve Milner**, for causing a stir – but not of the controversial or frivolous style! In this case it is awarded because of Steve's special role in two areas – 1) developing a new area of cave exploration – the Nullarbor Cliff edges themselves with spectacular results and 2) for his considerate and empathic liaising with the Mirning people of the Nullarbor. CEGSA has not had such connections before and Steve's contact and relationships with the Mirning Native Title Holders has an important ripple effect on cavers' relations with the Nullarbor custodians going forward.

Mundrabilla Marble

To **Ken Smith**, for taking modern communication technology to the next level (down, not up!).

SECRETARY REPORT

In 2019 the committee elected to reduce the number of meetings it held, with a goal of reducing some of the overhead required in regards to minutes. While this has succeeded to a certain extent, there are still challenges faced by the committee in regards to organising the flow of emails and conversation on CEGSA business.

In 2019 the secretary produced 11 General Meeting minutes, 3 committee meeting minutes, 1 AGM minutes as well as numerous email and communications to members.

Matt Smith.

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LIBRARY AND RECORDS REPORT

OzKarst

The *OzKarst Users Group* has been useful this year with members seeking help in tackling problems that they have encountered and in performing operations/selections of data. The software is now stable and is in "Beta Mode".

The link procedure for external GIS databases now includes the option to create a "comma-separated-values" file so that packages such as OziExplorer can import OzKarst data.

Most data entered still focuses on the Nullarbor because it's the software used to exchange and supply Nullarbor data between Australian caving groups. However, several Karst Areas of NSW and our South Australian Areas as well as some western Victorian Areas are being assembled.

OzKarst Library

Only I, Fred and Jeanette Aslin, and Peter Dykes have been adding to the library. This has retarded data accumulation but has allowed easier development. The Library section that handles internal organization information was re-organized so that a folder is used for each organization's data category, for instance *Minutes of General Meetings*. Because each organization has a unique "Publication code" (CEGSA is number 1 of course!) then all folders of an organization can easily be added or removed from one overarching folder. Previously data was stored by category such as "Minutes" then by club name. This made removing internal club-specific (and possibly confidential) data laborious when handing over copies of OzKarst. It also made it difficult to add new data categories; now each club can add their own.

Library

Most journals are now obtained digitally and placed into OzKarst but a few hardcopy books and journals have been added to the Library.

Graham Pilkington.

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PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Four issues of Vol. 64 of CEGSA NEWS were published this year in February, May, August and November (a combined total of 90 pages as well as the Annual Report for the AGM in February. There has been a small quantity of high quality material submitted but I could always use more, it seems to be getting less each year. There have been quite a few quite important trips that have not been formally reported. Reporting at a General meeting only informs those present at the meeting and not the rest of the Membership. Only a very short précis is included in the minutes. Please write a report for the newsletter so everyone knows what is happening. It is a responsibility of being a trip leader. CEGSA NEWS continues to be available on the website for those members that have indicated they would prefer to receive it electronically. In the coming year it will not be an option as the committee has decided it is no longer viable to provide hard copy.

Athol Jackson.

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PUBLIC OFFICER REPORT

The Committee is compiling a list of proposed changes to the Constitution and Rules for possible implementation next year. These include keeping them in line with Group policies as well as updates needed to facilitate use of electronic banking and communication. If members have suggested changes that they'd like to bring to the Group's attention then please contact the Committee.

Graham Pilkington

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Honorary Life Members	13	13	12	12	12	12
Full Members	31	32	32	27	28	28
Long Term Associates	6	8	11	9	6	8
Associate Members	11	10	6	8	7	4
Honorary Associates	0	1	1	0	0	0
sub-total	61	64	62	56	53	52
Family members	24	24	19	16	16	18 (10 families)
3-Month Associates	63	40	72	81	83	67
All members	148	128	153	153	152	137
Newsletter Exchange	32	32	31	31	30	30
Newsletter Gifts	13	12	11	12	11	10
Total	193	172	195	196	193	177

Only the highest membership category for a member was used. The numbers include every person who was a member at anytime during the year. Note that *family members* does not include the Full and Associate members of the family.

Graham Pilkington

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EQUIPMENT REPORT

I picked up the gear from Paul Harper on 28th October 2019, and still have not created a list of items in Excel format that I can use for recording the issuing of gear and annual reporting.

I recently purchased a 4-tier shelf for \$39.00 from Bunnings to stack the items on (see picture).

It is my intention to list all items to be printed in the newsletter each year as part of AGM reporting.

I understand I was the only one who used any equipment this last year – some tapes and carabiners for a Flinders Ranges trip.

All items have been maintained in good condition, but the ropes are now 22 years old and despite looking good, need to be replaced as they age with time and cannot be guaranteed to withstand a fall.

Neville Skinner

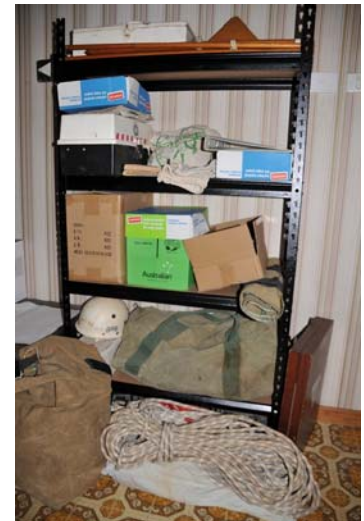
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SAFETY REPORT

No safety concerns were reported during 2019. The CEGSA committee has determined that all Trip Leaders are required to hold a current First Aid certificate.

It was an important year for Cave Rescue training though, with numerous events held in SA:

- Cave Radio training day



- Search & Rescue Training at Mairs Cave
- ASF Cave Rescue Commission workshop held at Glenelg

All were well attended by CEGSA members, as well as other SA Caving Groups and national guests.

Matt Smith.

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TRAINING REPORT

No formal training was offered in 2019, with the exception of the Cave Rescue events mentioned in the Safety Officer report.

Matt Smith.

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SEARCH AND RESCUE OFFICERS REPORT

2019 was a busy year for your SAR Officer performing his duties as Australian of the Year! However some progress was made with relevant training. Clare Buswell (FUSSI) has been especially active with some rescue exercises and training. FUSSI has purchased a Cave Link communications system which is particularly effective and reliable. I sent a message to Clare from Toad Hall chamber in Cocklebidy cave which she received in Adelaide! The system has been in use in NZ for some time and is a wonderful bit of technology.

In September, a National Cave SAR symposium was organised and held in Adelaide under the guidance of Brian Evans (Convenor, ASF-Australian Cave Rescue Commission). Mathew Smith was a key organiser and SA was represented by myself, Clare, Tim Payne and others. Most states and territories and NZ were represented. It was a great opportunity to get all the states on the same page and some significant deficits were recognised. As a result a national working party, regional SAR coordinators, callout lists and a more national approach to cave rescue is being worked on.

October saw the CDAA AGM held as usual, and the annual Sump Rescue Orientation Program (SROP) was run by Victorian paramedic and caver Phil Croker. Attendance as always was strong. Work continues on the development of a "simple" letter of agreement between the CDAA and SAPOL Water operations to allow a cooperative effort on rescues and recoveries, but is being held up due to WH&S concerns. It's only taken about 10 years to get to this point but I will not give up on this!

Finally, I went to the Takaka Valley in New Zealand in November to help run a cave SAREX involving a sump. Real world conditions at the back of a cold multiple sump cave made for a very realistic scenario and once again illustrated to me that our brothers and sisters across the Tasman are miles ahead in their cave rescue capability. They can now add sump rescue to their armamentarium. As a bonus, I even got to lay some line to finish a great week.

Richard Harris.

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ASF REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

I'm still on the ASF Executive in the position of Senior Vice-President.

The ASF Library has been moved to North Wyong near Sydney and now accepts our publications in digital format. The new ASF Librarian, Cathi Humphrey-Hood, intends to store all journals in digital format hence I've submitted the OzKarst digital library to the ASF for inclusion to reduce duplication of effort.

The next ASF Biennial Conference will be held in Ceduna at Easter 2021 run by the SA Speleological Council.

The ASF Executive has had a busy year implementing many of the ideas that came from the Strategic Plan. Keep a watch for the online member surveys and have your say. Being implemented is direct

contact with members, including FEEDBACK instead of just passing on information, as well as club-to-club communications as a forum to speed up and improve discussions and decisions on ASF codes, practices, and actions.

The requirements of and options for a national karst database as a replacement of / adjunct to / development of the web-housed *ASF Karst Index Database* have been developed under the leadership of ASF Executive member Rod Smith. The final options, methods of achieving the desired goals, and implementation schedule have not been decided on. Write to Rod, put yourself on the focus group, and have your say!

Many of the Codes of Practice have or are being updated including adding new ones such as *Working with Children* as required or at least managed under new State Laws – this includes when a trip is led to another State; our group must then comply with that State's law.

Graham Pilkington

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South Australian Speleological Council



**Australian
Speleological
Federation**

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Members



13 NOVEMBER 2019

2019 Annual Report

The SA Speleological Council met twice in 2019, and discussed other topics of importance via email correspondence over the course of the year.

The focus for the council in 2019 has been the 2021 ASF Conference in Ceduna, as well as increased preparedness for cave rescue.

The council ran three events during the year:

- A talk by Dr. Richard "Harry" Harris on the Thai Cave Rescue, which raised over \$500 for Operation Flinders
- A Cave Search & Rescue training weekend at Mairs Cave in the Flinders Range run by members of the NSW Cave Rescue Team
- Hosted the National Cave Rescue Workshop

In 2020 we hope to:

- Continue to work with local stakeholders to improve access to a range of cave regions in South Australia.
- Support the committee formed to plan and run the 2021 ASF Conference
- Enable to newly formed SA Cave Rescue Team to develop a framework for communication and training of local cave rescuers

Sincerely,

Matt Smith - Branch Commissioner Scout Caving Group
On behalf of the SA Speleological Council

APPROVED CEGSA TRIP LEADERS

Name	Caving Leader level
Marie Choi	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Stan Flavel	Horizontal and Laddering
Grant Gartrell	Coordinator
Paul Harper	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Richard Harris	Horizontal
Peter Horne	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Kraehenbuehl	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Ian Lewis	Horizontal and Laddering
George MacLucas	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
June MacLucas	Horizontal
Steve Milner	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Tim Payne	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Graham Pilkington	Horizontal and Laddering
Mark Sefton	Horizontal and Laddering
Neville Skinner	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Matt Smith	Horizontal and Laddering
Tom Szabo	Horizontal and vertical
Michael Woodward	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical

All the above named are also CEGSA Trip Coordinators.

Members may query the classification of any Trip Leader at any time with the committee.

It is a requirement that each trip be organised by an approved Trip Coordinator to be classed as an official CEGSA trip. It is also a requirement that dependent party trips be led by an approved Trip Leader at the appropriate skill level for the cave being entered. Trip Leaders are expected to maintain their First Aid training.

Graham Pilkington

PRIVACY OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

This privacy statement has been prepared in order to demonstrate the commitment of CEGSA Inc. to protect the personal privacy of its members.

No superfluous Data Collection

- * CEGSA aims to collect as little information as it can; only collecting the data which is necessary to maintain and improve its service to members.

Collection of Personal Information

- * Information will be collected by means of registration or application for membership forms provided to prospective members and current members.
- * Information will not be collected by the club without the member's consent.

What personally identifiable information will be collected?

- * Your name, address, telephone numbers and Email address.

The period for which the information will be held.

- * For as long as the Group requires the information.

The information collected may be used for the following purposes.

- * To send you CEGSA NEWS and other club information.
- * To register you with the Australian Speleological Federation.
- * To be published in the CEGSA Annual Report.
- * As a means of contact by other members.
- * To identify any contributions a member has made to the Group.
- * To follow up on any data collected or any item borrowed from the Group, even after leaving the Group.

Disclosure of personal information

- * If you do not wish to have your contact details published in the Annual Report or CEGSA NEWS you must request same in writing to the Group.
- * In the unlikely event of an investigation it will, however, provide information to a law enforcement agency, if they have exercised a warrant for the inspection of its records.

Security

- * CEGSA uses reasonable precautions to keep the personal information disclosed to it, secure.

Accountability

- * CEGSA offers members the opportunity to view all information that it maintains about them and to have any inaccuracies in this information corrected. It may ask for identification in the interest of security.

Notification of Changes

- * If CEGSA decides to change its privacy policy, it will post the changes in CEGSA NEWS so that all its members are always aware of what information it collects, how it is used and under what circumstances it may be disclosed.

Contact us

- * If, at any time, you believe CEGSA has not adhered to its stated policy, please contact the Secretary, in person, or by mail to its Postal Address: PO Box 144, Rundle Mall, SA 5000.

CAVING ACTIVITIES



ADELAIDE HILLS & FLEURIEU PENINSULA

The main focus over the past 12 months has been on expansion plans for the Sellicks Hill Quarry.

An application for a new mineral claim, MC 4414, on behalf of Southern Quarries Pty Ltd was publically advertised on 24 January 2019, with closing date for submissions of 7 March 2019. CEGSA prepared and lodged a detailed and comprehensive submission. This drew significantly on our experience in previous dealings with Southern Quarries which resulted in both the initial recording of extensive cave system Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave 5A20 in October 1991 and its subsequent destruction by implosion in December 1993.

As a direct consequence of that event, and subsequent enquiries, new Tenement Incident Procedures were considered and adopted by the now Department for Energy and Mining, ostensibly to provide better protection for significant caves that might be intersected in future, while at the same time not unduly impeding mining operations.

As it transpired, it became clear during the course of discussions with representatives of Southern Quarries about the MC 4414 proposal, that it focussed principally on extraction of material from what is known as the "Sellick Hill Formation," the least cavernous member of the Normanville Group, and only peripherally intersected shallower layers of the Wangkonda Limestone, known to contain both 5A5 and 5A25 and other karst features which all point to a linking major cave system.

As a consequence of the very limited impact of MC 4414 upon the Wangkonda Limestone it has been considered on balance that the likelihood of deleterious intersection by mining of any upper reaches of the predicted major cave system is small, but not vanishingly small, and that therefore it would be fair and reasonable not to object to the mining foreshadowed by the mineral claim, provided that reasonable procedures are in place for the careful assessment of any cavities intersected during the course of that mining.

This proviso is, in theory, the protection already provided to caves by virtue of the current Tenement Incident Procedures. However, while these Tenement Incident Procedures have now been in place for a quarter of a century, there is no sign whatsoever of them having been brought into play to facilitate any expert assessment, or even basic assessment of cavities intersected, let alone achieving their putative function.

It should be noted that Southern Quarries has a relatively new pit heading south, and there is, not unexpectedly, evidence of significant cave development exposed in deeper quarry faces in the northernmost end of this pit. No accessible cavities have been intersected, because the cave development so far observed is totally clay-filled.

It should also be noted that this particular section of the quarry is already approved, and does not form part of the current application.

Nevertheless, it is clear that these particular sections of cave are related to drainage from an intersecting ephemeral creek and mirror similar cave development which formed 5A20, concentrated largely along the boundary between the Fork Tree limestone and the Heatherdale Shale. It is therefore reasonable to infer similar cave development to 5A20 may be expected to progress along the same boundary, at depth in a Southern direction, may not be entirely, or even partially clay-filled and may quite possibly still be intact at the completion of the presently approved mine plan.

Given the emphasis on public consultation in the modern approval process, it is important that further discussion with both the Department for Energy and Mining and with Southern Quarries take place to achieve the right balance between the need for mine products and the need to identify and protect significant caves and karst drainage systems.

Right now we do have an opportunity, and it is in everyone's interests, to progress this dialogue, but at the same time we need somehow to devote more effort to the potentially very rewarding exploration of 5A5 and 5A25 in order to more effectively make our case for the protection that we know this resource warrants.

Grant Gartrell.

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EYRE PENINSULA

No trips were reported.

Graham Pilkington

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FLINDERS RANGES

Nil Report.

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KANGAROO ISLAND

It is with considerable regret that I must report that far too much has happened on Kangaroo Island over the last twelve months, especially over the last month or so.

After an abortive attempt to reinstate the iconic “Shark Hook” helictite several years ago, a concerted and very successful effort to re-attach it “once and for all” was made during a recent visit. The job took advantage of experience learned during the first attempt. Many photos and some video were taken to record both the successful process and its pleasing outcome. It was subsequently extremely disappointing to be advised that within a very short space of time the reinstated speleothem, although our repairs remained intact, had failed again, ostensibly along a new and previously intact calcite crystal cleavage plane, and the hook section had again succumbed to gravity, incurring further damage. Once again the pieces were carefully collected and stored in the office, pending yet more repair work, this time with a newly acquired dental curing wand and resins designed to withstand the hostile environment dentists routinely encounter in our mouths. While the box with the portions of the “Shark Hook” was safely secured in the Kelly Hill office, the office itself recently was destroyed by fire, more about which below, along with many important records and presumably the “Shark Hook” as well. Even in the unlikely event that parts of the speleothem did survive the fire, the building itself incorporated significant amounts of asbestos sheeting, which will require careful handling as part of the clean-up process, and effectively mitigates against any significant chance of salvaging the “Shark Hook” remnants.

What a shame, and even more so, as it would appear that the speleothem may have been shattered on this occasion by vibrations induced during pneumatic drilling to upgrade rock-bolting of the roof of the tourist cave entrance decline, probably less than 10 metres away from this highly sensitive decoration area. It is quite reasonable to surmise that, because of its mass distribution as a base loaded helictite, the “Shark Hook” is likely to have been what is known as a “high-Q” structure with a distinct resonant frequency making it more vulnerable to drill-induced vibration than the more conventional speleothems adjacent to it. It is suggested that such potential peripheral effects should be given more consideration before employing methods more appropriate to mining operations in such circumstances again in the future. On a small scale the event calls up reminiscences of the famous Tacoma Narrows Bridge disaster. In this instance strong winds “played” a suspension bridge in the USA like a musical instrument, setting up resonant oscillations which grew stronger and stronger until they ultimately and spectacularly exceeded the elastic limits of the structure.

Also on this visit further exploration was undertaken of a new cave under a sink-hole a short distance to the west of the original K1 Kelly Hill entrance. The very strong airflow out of the cave first encountered gave us hope that we might be able to track it through rock-pile areas in various parts of the cave, but unfortunately the weather improved quickly, a new high was established and the breeze was quickly lost.

Most people will be by now well aware of the recent fires that have devastated much of the natural capital of the western half of Kangaroo Island as well as a great deal of the infrastructure which has greatly improved our ability to visit the area. Gone with much of the wildlife are not only the Kelly Hill Office and a house, but the beautiful Flinders Chase Visitor Centre at Rocky River and the nearby Baudin Research Centre, which had in recent years become our very much appreciated base while visiting Kelly Hill, not only improving our comfort after hard days underground, but our productivity as well.

Our plans for further visits to continue the work early in 2020 must be temporarily on hold, but I am sure that we will be keen to continue with our projects as soon as it is practicable to do so.

But my own observations over many years tell me that we are entering into a completely new era in regard to fire management. Some of the older CEGSA members may recall that I once owned, about 45 years ago, a large property near Seal Bay on Kangaroo Island. I am pleased to say that now we all have shares in it, as a couple of thousand acres of it was incorporated into the Cape

Gantheaume Conservation Park. Even back then, by studying Landsat images while sitting at my desk as an Australian Exchange Scientist in the US Navy's Naval Underwater Systems Centre in Connecticut I was able to plot the progression of 5 separate bushfires across that property.

I have also searched for caves at Kelly Hill following at least three separate bushfire events, and one or two more in the Chase as well, all suspected of being started by lightning strikes, over the last forty years. The first time, after some regrowth, was with the legendary George Lonzar, an excellent bushman who headed up the Flinders Chase team. He was able to take me straight to the K11 entrance which had been lost for years. We then re-surveyed the K11 track and, with management approval, re-cut it, and it became the first section of the now popular Kelly Hill to Hanson Bay track. While re-cutting it we found a set of keys dropped by previous curator Doug Seton many years prior, but when the keys were later ceremonially presented to Doug at a CEGSA dinner he didn't seem to be overly grateful, commenting that they weren't much good anymore because he'd long since changed the locks.

While all of those fires were very serious events, none were anywhere near in the same league as the latest fires, and the simple reason for the difference is the more extreme energy levels we are encountering in the current weather systems. My simple statistical studies, based on our Bureau of Meteorology's own data, show unequivocally that there is currently a doubling of the frequency and a substantial increase in the intensity of extreme weather events every 20.5 years, and that there is now a 97% probability that this is related to human induced global warming. Simple fact. No argument. What used to be considered a one in a hundred year event has now become a one in 12 year event, and in twenty years will become a one in 6 year event, so until we get society's carbon emissions back under control, we really do need to factor this stuff in when revising our fire management strategies or there won't be an insurance company left standing, let alone any National Parks.

What can CEGSA do to help? We have recorded a great deal of information at Kelly Hill, starting with the most impressive 1955 base survey of the then known Kelly Hill Cave. Since then we have carried out surface surveys recording numerous notable karst features, surveys of several other significant caves and surveys of major and not yet fully explored extensions discovered in both the main Kelly Hill and Frosted Floor caves. Copies of all these records were maintained in a map cabinet in the Kelly Hill office and would certainly have been destroyed in the fire. It is comforting to know that we maintain a full set of these records within the CEGSA record system, and with the surveyors who continue to progress "in the background" some longer-term mapping projects. It is time that we revisited this vital data collection, both with a view to replacing the Kelly Hill repository, and for determining future priorities. We are also reminded of the great importance of CEGSA's ongoing program of protecting our extensive karst database by digitizing our records and maintaining sensible data back-up procedures.

Grant Gartrell.

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LOWER SOUTH EAST (Dry)

2018		2019	
L	721	L	729
L (Forestry)	1076	L (Forestry)	1076
LXKRM	835	LXKRM	852
LXDJL	15	LXDJL	15

The only recorded trip was one run by FUSSI in December. Mick Ringshaw has found several new caves at Noorla Yo Long. A new feature was found on the northeastern edge of Mount Gambier. A previous owner reported pulling a calf out of it many years ago. Patrick Fitzgerald and Steve Fordyce have down a preliminary survey of the cave.

Richard Harris visited the area and talked about the Thailand cave rescue at a packed out fundraiser.

Kevin Mott.

MURRAY PLAINS

A few trips went to Punyelroo and Gloop, mostly by none-CEGSA cavers.

Graham Pilkington.

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NULLARBOR PLAINS

We still await the creation of an ASF Nullarbor Special Interest Group. At the ASF Council meeting in January 2020 re-invigoration commenced.

The usual annual VSA “flying” trip visited and located Nullarbor features. Ken Boland is coming to the end of his piloting days hence drones are being considered to continue the task of systematically scanning for new karst features. The use of drones over National Parks requires special permission and their range is very limited except for large expensive models.

An April trip had members from CEGSA, SUSS, and VSA continuing the exploration and surveying of **Thampanna Cave**.

The second trip in November had members of CEGSA, SUSS, and HCG. A few tens of metres of the lower levels close to the entrance of **Webbs Cave** were surveyed. The survey of the *Rift Series* in **Old Homestead Cave** was almost completed with only 80m in the middle still to do. The west end of the Rift named *Spiders Dawn* was completed. About 200m was added to the cave length but removal of more duplicated survey traverse data meant that the COMPASS length is now 37.6 km. **Thampanna Cave** continued to expand, mostly south of *The Drain*, with another 1.5 km added in 2019 bringing the cave length to 9.5 km.

Ian Lutherborrow of HCG handed over, in OzKarst, a complete compilation of the work that he has been doing over the last 20 years on the Nullarbor. Most of this has been locating and describing features near to and north of the rail line but many other places have been visited to clear up question marks. He has especially focused on the Quartermaine-Wheeler and Paul Devine data sets.

Graham Pilkington.

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TORRENS

Chris Blok has visited the area – sand still blocks the caves.

Graham Pilkington.

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UPPER SOUTH EAST

Latest numbers

2018		2019	
U	273	U	276
U (Forestry)	900	U (Forestry)	900
UXKRM	535	UXKRM	535
UXDJL	8	UXDJL	8

FUSSI, Scout Caving Group and Latrobe Uni were the main players in caving activity during 2019. FUSSI visited U1, U22 and U26 in March. The Scout Caving Group ran trips in March and August visiting U7, U8, U10, U15, U34, U44, U47 and U132. Mick Ringshaw has been visiting the dune ranges east of Kingston SE and has recorded several new caves. The Keilira fire in December passed over the top of U136, U199 and U200. Hopefully any bats in U199 survived.

The work on surface improvements at the caves reserve have been completed. The adventure playground for kids was opened and is proving to be quite popular. The facilities at the entrance to Victoria Fossil Cave have now been completed and the revegetation around the cave loop walk is starting to take hold.

In May Naracoorte hosted the ACKMA Guides School and the ACKMA AGM. Both events were well attended and a chance to show off the new improvements. During November the caves celebrated the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the fossil deposit by Grant Gartell and Rod Wells. It was also the 25th anniversary of world heritage listing with Riversleigh.

Kevin Mott.

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YORKE PENINSULA

7 trips were logged for Corra Lynn Cave. 1 for CEGSA; 3 for FUSSI; and 3 trips were led by CEGSA for Mercedes College.

Graham Pilkington.

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DIVING REPORT

Within the South Australian cave diving world, the biggest news has been the connection of the 10-kilometre Tank Cave system to the nearby small Fossil Cave (Green Waterhole). This has resulted in discussions with National Parks who manage the site, although it is actually part of Crown Lands along the roadside. The connection is very tight and limited to highly-skilled CDAA Advanced Cave divers. In mid-year, Peter Horne and Ian Lewis did a 'Condition Report' dive in Fossil Cave and advised National Parks that the connection tunnel is against a back wall and not in the vicinity of the fossil-recovery grid established under Professor Rod Wells' supervision in the 1980's when most of Fossil Cave's bones were removed by cave divers for study and a thesis done on the recovery process. These fossils have been well-preserved in the silt and the fresh water and are parallel in age and condition to the Naracoorte Caves fossils preserved in dry sandy silt at the World Heritage site. In conjunction with the link passage discovery, an excellent summary of the laws about ownership below the land surface in SA was written by Julien Louys, a qualified cave diver and palaeontologist, and his article was reproduced in CEGSA News in mid-2019.

Ian Lewis.

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INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS (excluding the Nullarbor Plain)

At the beginning of the year, five members attended the well-run ASF conference based at Devonport and took the opportunity to visit some of Australia's finest caves. Later in the year members Matt Smith and Heather Siebert visited three caves at Wee Jasper. Graham Pilkington and Mark Sefton joined various interstate cavers for five weeks, first in the Kimberly and then at the Judbarra-Gregory National Park. More than 20 km of cave was mapped during these trips.

Mark Sefton.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



2019 Income and expenditure statement by the Treasurer
Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.
Period ending 31st December 2019
(Cash Basis)

INCOME	2018	2018	2019	2019
CEGSA Membership		1,440.00		1,885.00
Full Member	852.00		1,062.00	
Associate	38.00		68.00	
Family	262.00		425.00	
Introductory	228.00		330.00	
Joining Fee	60.00			
Printed NEWS		200.00		300.00
Cave Maintenance including key hire		5.00		
Donations		39.50		11.00
Caving Trip Travel Expenses		200.00		70.00
Library & Records Sales				
Bank Interest		468.10		608.26
Society Cheque Account	8.64		9.37	
Investment Accounts	459.46		598.89	
General Meeting Suppers		363.50		331.20
Sundries - Conference T-shirt sales		20.00		
Sundries - ASF refund				175.00
Sundries - Audit adjustment fees				
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		2,736.10		3,380.46
Extraordinary Income				
ASF Levy & Insurance 2018 onwards		2,588.00		3,527.00
TOTAL INCOME		5,324.10		6,907.46

EXPENSES	2018	2018	2019	2019
CEGSA News & Annual Report		862.60		549.35
Printing	602.40		316.35	
Postage	260.20		233.00	
Post Office Box Rent		201.00		205.00
Library & Records Expenses		64.55		
Annual Subscriptions/Memberships				
ACKMA				
CEGSA Web Site				79.99
General Meeting Suppers & BBQ		315.84		159.65
Treasurer Expenses				
Caving Trips Travel Expenses		100.00		125.00
Sundries		123.93		519.75
Equipment purchases			352.00	
Cave maintenance			144.75	
Awards	83.98			
Gifts for speakers	21.95		23.00	
Printing	18.00			
Meeting Room Hire		330.00		330.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		1,997.92		1,968.74
Extraordinary Expenses				
Australian Speleological Federation Levy		2,888.00		2,881.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	4,885.92	4,849.74
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	738.18	1,411.72
Annual Surplus/(Deficit)	438.18	2,057.72

2019 Balance Sheet by the Treasurer
Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.
Period ending 31st December 2019
(Cash Basis)

ASSETS	2018	2019
<u>CURRENT</u>		
Cash at Bank – General Account	9,243.77	10,631.65
Cash at Bank – Investment Accounts	23,211.07	23,809.96
Petty Cash on Hand – Treasurer	20.00	90.95
TOTAL	32,474.84	34,532.56
LIABILITIES		
<u>CURRENT</u>		
Accumulated Membership Fund	29,705.65	29,497.83
CEGSA 50 th Year Book Fund	683.99	683.99
Australian Nullarbor Caves Expedition Fund	830.02	830.02
ASF unpaid levies	817.00	1,463.00
Un-presented Cheques		
Surplus/(Deficit) from year's activity	438.18	2,057.72
TOTAL	32,474.84	34,532.56
<u>CEGSA 50th Year Book Allocation</u>		
Balance	683.99	683.99
<u>Australian Nullarbor Caves Expedition Allocation</u>		
Balance	830.02	830.02

The following revised 2018 report is submitted following the identification of non-cash expenses that were included in the report last year and omission of cash expenses that were incurred in 2017 but transacted in 2018 and thought at the time to have been accounted for in the 2017 report. Changes to the report appear as boxed numbers. Income was not affected.

Revised 2018 Income and expenditure statement by the Treasurer
Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.
Period ending 31st December 2018
(Cash Basis)

INCOME	2017	2017	2018	2018
CEGSA Membership		2508.00		1440.00
Full Member	817.00		852.00	
Associate	487.00		38.00	
Family	718.00		262.00	
Introductory	390.00		228.00	
Joining Fee	96.00		60.00	
Printed NEWS		375.00		200.00
ASF Levy & Insurance pre 2018 (Note 1)		4629.00		
Cave Maintenance including key hire		6.00		5.00
Donations		78.00		39.50
Caving Trip Travel Expenses		93.00		200.00

Library & Records Sales	5.00	
Bank Interest	666.79	468.10
Society Cheque Account	11.71	8.64
Investment Accounts	655.08	459.46
General Meeting Suppers	326.60	363.50
Sundries - Conference T-shirt sales		20.00
Sundries - Audit adjustment fees	60.00	
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	8747.39	2736.10
Extraordinary Income		
ASF Levy & Insurance 2018 onwards (Note 1)		2588.00
TOTAL INCOME	8747.39	5324.10

EXPENSES	2017	2017	2018	2018
CEGSA News & Annual Report		936.15		862.60
Printing	507.15		602.40	
Postage	429.00		260.20	
ASF Levy & Insurance (Note 1)		5172.00		
Post Office Box Rent		196.00		201.00
Library & Records Expenses		104.48		64.55
Annual Subscriptions/Memberships				
ACKMA		150.00		
CEGSA Web Site				
General Meeting Suppers & BBQ		262.54		315.84
Treasurer Expenses		9.95		
Caving Trips Travel Expenses		93.00		100.00
Sundries				123.93
Awards			83.98	
Gifts for speakers			21.95	
Printing			18.00	
Meeting Room Hire		330.00		330.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		7254.12		1997.92
Extraordinary Expenses				
Australian Speleological Federation Levy (Note 1)				2888.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		7254.12		4885.92
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		1493.27		738.18
Annual Surplus/(Deficit)		1493.27		438.18

Revised 2018 Balance Sheet by the Treasurer
Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.
Period ending 31st December 2018
(Cash Basis)

ASSETS	2017	2018
CURRENT		
Cash at Bank – General Account	9265.05	9243.77
Cash at Bank – Investment Accounts	22751.61	23211.07
Petty Cash on Hand – Treasurer	20.00	20.00
TOTAL	32036.66	32474.84
LIABILITIES		

CURRENT

Accumulated Membership Fund (Note 4)	27941.03	29705.65
CEGSA 50 th Year Book Fund	683.99	683.99
Australian Nullarbor Caves Expedition Fund	830.02	830.02
Unpaid Australian Speleological Federation levies		817.00
Un-presented Cheques	1088.35	
Payments owed to members		151.35
Surplus/(Deficit) from year's activity	1493.27	438.18
TOTAL	32036.66	32474.84

CEGSA 50th Year Book Allocation

Balance	683.99	683.99
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Australian Nullarbor Caves Expedition Allocation

Balance	830.02	830.02
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Note 1:**ASF levies**

By resolution of the general membership, as of 2018 monies handled by CEGSA on behalf of the ASF are considered extraordinary income and expenses respectively.

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TREASURERS' STATEMENT

The following report represents to the best of my knowledge and ability an accurate report of the transactions of the Cave Exploration Group South Australia Inc. (CEGSA) using a cash basis. There are several anomalies in the methods of prior CEGSA reports (dating to at least 2014) and are maintained in this report in order that it should be comparable. It should be noted that the CEGSA 50th year book allocation, the Australian Nullarbor Caves Expedition Fund and, by resolution of the CEGSA membership in 2018, funds held by CEGSA but belonging to the ASF are agreed to be liabilities of CEGSA. The accumulated membership fund and annual surplus or deficits that are also included under the category of liabilities however these are actually CEGSA's equity. It is important to note that funds owed to members who have contributed towards CEGSA's expenses are not agreed liabilities and due to cash basis reporting are not listed. As of 31st December 2019 these funds are \$907.95 and are noted here unofficially so that the apparent surplus of funds of \$2057.72 is not taken as an exceptionally profitable position but rather, as an artefact of the delay in payments.

On an accrual basis (calculations not shown), CEGSA maintains a steady financial position, with an overall loss of \$313.23 this year. During 2019, CEGSA made two extraordinary purchases, including a Michie phone (\$352.00) and contributed to replacement of the locks of Mairs and Clara St Dora caves (\$144.75). These items of expenditure are unlikely to be repeated in 2020. It should be noted that at present, the interest rates on long term investments are approximately 40% lower than was available in previous years and this is expected to impact our returns at the end of 2020.

During the preparation of this report errors were noted in the 2018 report of which a revised statement is included. The revised 2018 figures are used in the 2019 report. The following reports are not prepared by a qualified accountant and are submitted pending audit.

Mark Corbett.

CEGSA Treasurer 2019.

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MEMBERSHIP

and

MAILING LISTS



Membership List for 2019

excluding 3-month Associates

CF	ACKROYD Peter	0108	
CL	ASLIN Fred	6401	
F	BAKKER Joyce	5801	died mid-year
CA	BLOK Chris	0002	
AT	BROWN Chris	0901	
CAf	BULLE Martin		with 1701
CAT(fam)	CAMPBELL Al	1306	
CAT	CAMPBELL Dee	1307	with 1306
CAf	CAMPBELL Matt		with 1306
CA	CARLYLE Catherine	1403	with 1402
CA(fam)	CARLYLE Clive	1402	
F	CHAN Janice	1901	
F	CHOI Marie	9408	
F	CORBETT Mark	1405	
F	DILLON Joel	1603	
F	ELLIS Bob	1601	
F	FLAVEL Stan	7901	
L	GARTRELL Grant	6301	
CA	GILLIESON Dave	1801	
F	HANKINSON Frank	9404	
Af	HARPER Ben		with 8802
Af	HARPER Nicola		with 8802
F(fam)	HARPER Paul	8802	
F	HARRIS Harry	0401	
CF	HAWKES Peter	6514	
L	HORNE Peter	8102	
CF	HOSIE Paul	9806	
L	JACKSON Athol	5701	
Af	KRAEHENBUEHL Bryce		with 8407
F	KRAEHENBUEHL Janine	9301	with 8407
F(fam)	KRAEHENBUEHL Krunchy	8407	
Af	KRAEHENBUEHL Tara		with 8407
CAT	LAWSON Dave	1503	
L	LEWIS Ian	6701	
L(fam)	MACLUCAS George	8004	
L	MACLUCAS June	9209	with 8004
CL	METH Max	7101	
CF	MILNER Steve	9004	
CL	MOLLET Noel	5514	
CL	MOTT Kevin	7401	
Af	PAYNE Maya		with 9503
Af	PAYNE Mitchel		with 9503
F(fam)	PAYNE Pam	9503	
F	PAYNE Tim	0007	with 9503
Af	PILKINGTON Anabell		with 1101
Af	PILKINGTON Benjiman		with 1101
Af	PILKINGTON Charlie		with 1101
CAT	PILKINGTON Charni	1305	with 7201
F(fam)	PILKINGTON Damien	1101	
CAf	PILKINGTON Ellie		with 7201
L(fam)	PILKINGTON Graham	7201	
Af	PILKINGTON Isiah		with 1101
Af	PILKINGTON Juliet		with 1101

Af	PILKINGTON Natasha		with 1101
Af	PILKINGTON Rory		with 1101
F	PLEDGE Neville	6302	
CAf	POLMAN-SHORT Mieke		with 1701
CAf	SCHMIDT Jamie		with 7201
AT	SEFTON Karin	8710	with 8709
F(fam)	SEFTON Mark	8709	
L	SEXTON Bob	5518	
CF(fam)	SHORT Rob	1701	
F	SIEBERT Heather	1609	
F	SKINNER Neville	0601	
F	SMITH Ken	9210	
F	SMITH Matt	1102	
AT	SNOW Mike	1504	
F	SZABO TZ	9603	
AT	WASILEWSKI Steve	0305	
F	WOODWARD Michael	8106	

membership class

F	Full
A	Associate
AT	Associate, long term
Af	Associate because a family member
L	Honory Life

qualifier

C	living well outside Adelaide Metro
(fam)	prime family member

Mailing List in 2019

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NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	HUNTSVILLE Alabama USA
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SPELEOLOGIA EMILIANA	BOLOGNA. Italy
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SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	REDFERN NSW
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