

CEGSA NEWS



Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia Inc.

Volume 43 Number 2

Issue 170

MAY 1998



CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

PO Box 144, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, South Australia, 5000.

<http://www.users.on.net/smilner/index.html>

Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December, at 7.30 PM in the Royal Society of South Australia meeting room, Natural Science Building, South Australian Museum.

1998 Committee

President	Steve Milner	(H) 8278 3784 (W) 8303 8904 (F) 8232 3381 (E)(W) steve.milner@dhn.csiro.au (H) steve.milner@adelaide.on.net
Secretary	BILL Binks	(H) 8431 4490 (E) bbinks@cobweb.com.au
Treasurer/Membership	June MacLucas	(H) 8261 4180
Training	Marie Choi	(H) 8322 0895 (W) 8326 1777 (E) battymariec@picknowl.com.au
Safety	Frank Hankinson	(H) 8322 4300
Quartermaster	Mark Sefton	(H) 8277 9086 (W) 8303 6600
Research Coordinator	Steve Milner	As Above
Museum Representative	Neville Pledge	(H) 8272 5483 (W) 8207 7454

Other Office Bearers

Public Officer	Graham Pilkington	(H) 8395 6713 (W) 8396 3044
Key & GPS Holder	Simon Kendrick	(H) 8331 3750 (W) 8223 5544 (F) 8223 5347
Librarian / Records	George MacLucas	(H) 8261 4180
Publications	Athol Jackson	(H) 8337 8759 (E) atholjax@cobweb.com.au
Trip Liaison (Logbook)	Steve Milner	As Above.
Speaker / Presentation Coordinator	committee	

Representatives

Australian Speleological Federation	Peter Kraehenbuehl	(H) 8278 4531
	Graham Pilkington	(H) 8395 1624 (W) 8396 3044
	Mark Sefton	(H) 8277 9086 (W) 8303 6600
	Steve Milner	As Above
S.A. Speleological Council	Graham Pilkington	(H) 8395 6713 (W) 8396 3044
	Steve Milner	As Above
Caving Leadership Standards -	Peter Kraehenbuehl	(H) 8278 4531
Working Group	Marie Choi	(H) 8322 0895 (W) 8326 1777

Cover Photograph:- Karin Sefton in Kelly Hill Cave (5K1), Kangaroo Island. (Photo by Steve Milner)

CONTENTS

Volume 43 Number 2
Issue 170
MAY 1998
CONTENTS

	AUTHOR	PAGE
Presidents Spot	Steve Milner	31
June General Meeting	Steve Milner	32
Policy Statement	Steve Milner	32
CEGSA Trip Leaders	Committee	32
Design for Spirit of Caving Medals	Committee	33
Shortcuts for Geology in the Pipeline	Fred Sanders	33
WANTED – Eyre Peninsula Caves	Max Meth	33

TRIP REPORTS

Adventures in Moo Moo Land	Damian Grindley	34
Yorke Peninsula (Stenhouse Bay & Corra Lyn)	Jules Gheude & Bill Binks	35
Flinders Ranges, Easter	Kerry Ninnies	36
South East	Steve Milner	38
Flinders	Steve Milner	38

TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

The Beginnings of CEGSA	Grant Gartrell	39
The Sea Caves of Talia, Eyre Peninsula SA	Gillieson & Holland	40
Naracoorte Happenings	Steve Bourne	41
The Other Side of Caving	Fred Aslin	42
Thampanna Cave, 6N 206	Ken Boland (VSA)	43
Library and Records	George MacLucas	46
Membership	June MacLucas	47
SOS Cave, 5U 132	Mark Sefton	48
Obituaries	Fred Aslin	52
Nostalgia Corner	Max Meth	53
The Story “Behind” the Survey	Un-named Caver	54
CEGSA Equipment	Mark Sefton	54
Cave Names	Kevin Mott	55
Calendar of Events	Committee	57

The deadline for copy or background material for Volume 43 Number 3 (Issue 171) must reach the Editor by Wednesday 12th Aug 1998. Material not meeting this deadline may be retained for possible use in a following issue. The preferred method is on 3.5” IBM floppy disk or via EMAIL at atholjax@cobweb.com.au as an attachment, in Word or ASCII text format. Of course other forms of communication will still be gratefully accepted.

The views expressed in this publication are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc., its Committee or the Editor.



PRESIDENTS SPOT

Attendance at the General Meetings is pretty poor and I wonder how we should go about attracting people back to the meetings. Some members like the formal Royal Society Rooms, which are quiet and a good place for a slide show, others like the more social atmosphere of a Pub. Perhaps we should go for a blend of the two, what do people think? I guess that sometimes the formal bit of the meeting really drags, you know, reading out the previous minutes, business arising, office bearers reports and so on. I think that maybe we should once again cut this part of the meeting to no more than 60 minutes to allow more time for informal chats and slide shows or other presentations. Against this, the committee is pretty busy at the moment on all sorts of fronts and is attempting to communicate these activities to the membership, and this takes up lots of time at the meeting. Would people prefer to hear about the machinations of the committee at the meeting, or on paper in the CEGSA News, or even informally from the committee members over a beer! However, some things must be discussed with the membership in a participative manner, especially when important issues are in progress. Any feedback on the structure of the meetings would be most appreciated.

Because of the poor turnout at the last General Meeting the scheduled talk / discussion on Ethics and Exploration was cancelled, it has been rescheduled to the June General Meeting, see the advertisement elsewhere in this issue of the CEGSA News. This talk is intended to highlight some of the pitfalls that may be encountered when we discover new caverns. As (hopefully) CEGSA re-enters a discovery phase, it is pretty important that the newer members of the Group become familiar with the techniques and guidelines used to reduce impact to an absolute minimum. This talk is sure to be pretty lively.

While on the general issue of meetings, if anyone is prepared to give a short talk to CEGSA Members at a General Meeting, then please contact me. It could be about anything to do with caving; trips, video, techniques, fauna, art, ... anything ... please.

Now to some housekeeping:

- The first item on my list is the AGM minutes, someone must have the record book containing past minutes and someone was involved in taking minutes for the 1995 and 1996 AGMs, Please dig into your memory and help me discover the whereabouts of these records.
- Also missing, is a Suunto compass and Suunto clinometer, if you are holding gear such as this and you do not know who it belongs to, please give me a call and we'll compare the serial numbers.
- The third item on my list is the whereabouts of the second key to CEGSA PO Box 144 in Rundle Mall, someone must have it.
- Fourth item. I am setting up a CEGSA e-mail mailing list and in doing this I have the e-mail addresses of 27 CEGSA members (nearly half the membership!). If you would like to be on this list, can you please contact me by e-mail [steve.milner@adelaide.on.net]. By the way, the e-mail addresses of members are available on the members-only web pages on the CEGSA website [<http://www.users.on.net/smilner/index.html>].
- If anyone is missing past issues of CEGSA News or the Australian Caver please let me know and I will organise the recovery of back issues.

Now at last to caving; in April there was a collaborative trip to Maires Cave and Clara St Dora in which Rod Wells of the Flinders University and several researchers and students were "guided" by CEGSA to bone deposits and geological features in the caves. This was a most successful weekend for all those involved. At Easter there was a joint CCV / VSA / CEGSA caving weekend down in the Upper and Lower South-East of SA and the South-West of Victoria. See articles on these trips elsewhere in this issue.

Lastly, it is with sadness that I report the demise of the South Australian Underwater Speleological Society (SAUSS) after 12 years of life. A few individuals that remained decided to wrap up the groups affairs and pass on the SAUSS records and assets to CEGSA. I believe that any cash assets will be used to bind their records before they are put into the CEGSA library. The closure of SAUSS does not mean that underwater research in South Australia will come to a close, but means that activities such as these will probably continue as research activities within CEGSA, which CEGSA fully supports.

Steve Milner.

ETHICS AND EXPLORATION - JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Background: at a lively meeting at the president's abode, a sub-committee investigated the theme of Ethics and Exploration. The aim was to work out what we cavers should do and not do when it comes to looking for and exploring new caverns. While the sub-committee seemed to have firm ideas on how to go about this task, we realised that not all (if any) of the CEGSA membership are sufficiently well prepared to undertake exploration in a sensitive manner.

So, in an attempt to enlighten both the newer members, and old hands, we propose to have a free-for-all discussion on the subject: Codes and Conservation and Ethics and Exploration.

To set the ball rolling, Grant Gartrell will talk through some practical local issues and Mark Sefton and Steve Milner will provide another perspective on overseas and expedition caving. All cavers are invited to participate and add their tuppence-worth.

Hopefully, at the end of the evening, cavers will be all fired up to find new caves and push back the frontiers of caving in South Australia. Who knows, SNACS (sensitive new-age cavers) may become the buzz word of the late-nineties. (I thought SNACS were what we had after the meeting! Ed.)

POLICIES OF THE MONTH:

These policies have been approved by the membership at recent general meetings. If anyone needs any background information or further details, please talk to members of the committee.

- CEGSA does not advocate the use of self-lining of pitches for beginners, nor should this technique be the preferred method of rigging for large parties.
- CEGSA members will not undertake cleaning and restoration programs within caves without approval from the CEGSA committee. The CEGSA committee will seek the appropriate advice from the relevant experts in the field to ensure that the work is done according to the best practice.
- It's CEGSA not C.E.G.S.A. !!!! [Thanks to Graham Pilkington for bringing this to our attention, something that's in the Constitution and Rules].

CEGSA TRIP LEADERS.

At a recent meeting, the CEGSA committee reaffirmed the necessity of having approved trip leaders for official CEGSA trips. To this end, the committee has resolved that all approved CEGSA trip leaders must sign the "Trip Leader Responsibilities and Indemnity Agreement" form before leading any future official CEGSA trip. These forms are available at every meeting and on request from the safety officer, Frank Hankinson. A further requirement is that a trip must be entered into the CEGSA "Log Book of Trips and Activities", prior to the trip by either the approved trip leader, or where appropriate, by approved trip leaders. The Log Book is held with Steve Milner.

By the way, everyone should have signed an individual indemnity form when he/she joined. If anyone has missed out on this, please contact the membership officer, June MacLucas, or the safety officer, Frank Hankinson.

CEGSA Committee, 13/5/98.

Call for Design/Artwork for Spirit of Caving Medals.

In the 40-odd years since the inception of CEGSA there has been a Spirit of Caving Award and more recently a "Spirit" of Caving Trophy has been passed on from year to year. The disadvantage of this style of award has been that recipients have had no permanent reminder of their award and to correct this, medals will be struck and be given to past and future awardees.

So from now on, at each CEGSA Annual Dinner and AGM a medal will be awarded to CEGSA's most promising caver as a permanent reminder of the occasion, and as usual the "Spirit" will be passed on year to year. Past recipients of the award will not be forgotten and each will be presented with a medal engraved with their name and the year of the award (at the next AGM and Dinner).

As yet we do not have a design or artwork for the medals and the committee is calling for submissions. *The design or artwork may be in any medium and could vary from a simple sketch of an idea to a more polished concept.* At this stage it does not matter because there are several more steps before the finished die is prepared. The medals will be approx. 4cm diameter and be single-sided, the reverse side will be engraved with the recipients name and the year of award.

The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday 12th August, 1998** for consideration by the committee on that evening. The committee will then select the best designs for reproduction in the August issue of CEGSA News and at the September General Meeting, CEGSA members can decide on the design that will be used.

The funds for this project are covered by monies raised at the last CEGSA Auction and from work carried out by CEGSA photography. Any queries should be directed to the committee.

SHORT CUTS FOR GEOLOGY IN THE PIPE LINE

Just when a little anastomosis
Can save our pipes and hoses,
It must be good for you and me
To serve our wit and repartee.

Did Moses really fall from grace,
And split those vaunted tablets?
Was anastomosis just the thing
To join those ancient laws?

The caver is a funny bod,
He pushes, squeezes till it hurts,
But never fear
There's now the lurk –

Just ring up Dr. Fixit;
In next to no time flat,
His little arty anasto team
Can clear that sump or choke.

From karst to Cambrian base
The super glue of time and place
Anastomosing ancient joints
Has left a gap of points in time.

If only aeolianite could speak
To sands of modern times
With relics of our early man
Could anastomosis bridge the span?

Anastomosis : (Medical Dictionary) Linking of the branches of one blood vessel to another.

Mosis : A tube.

Fred Sanders.

WANTED – Eyre Peninsula Caves

Max Meth has taken on the job as coordinator for Eyre Peninsula caves. He has been through the existing records and has found records up to 5E72 but has also found some photographs of caves purported to be 5E74, 75 and 76. If anybody can enlighten Max as to the whereabouts of information to solve this riddle could they please contact Max at P.O. box 622, Ceduna, SA, 5690 or e-mail at maxmeth@arcom.com.au or phone on 08 8625 2700.

TRIP REPORTS

ADVENTURES IN MOO MOO LAND

Famous Five : Frank Hankinson, Marie Choi, Fred Aslin, Kevin Mott and Damian Grindley

Features : 5L363, 5L411, 5L309, 5L324, 5L99

Hummm,

When someone says "we've been saving this one up for you" I've learnt to get suspicious particularly when the word dairy farm just happens to sneak into the conversation, as it conjures visions of over curious hefferlumps standing in oceans of....(left to the imagination) However I was suitably itchy enough to get down an ozzie cave to be talked into it.

So Sat 14th Feb 1998 saw myself, Frank and Marie meeting up with Fred and Kevin on said farm near Mt Gambier where literally millions of A\$ had been invested in the place. Our first target 5L363 had apparently been known about by a former landowner who had entered as a child finding some (supposedly) 100m in one direction and 40m in the other. Fred on previous trip entered down a narrow slot to find approx 100m, then dug below the slot to allow survey access for himself and Kevin. However the crack in the other direction proved too narrow, hence our presence to excavate a way in.

Once the resident sleepie had been removed I dug, Frank guided the buckets and Fred and Kevin hauled and spoil disposed. In all about a cubic meter was shifted in forty minutes. It mostly consisted of well compacted moo bones, rocks, rusty barbed wire and Abalone shells??. The main danger being the meat hook used to haul the bucket up as it did want to pick our noses.

Our efforts revealed 40m of heavily shelved tall rift with active moonmilk in its upper third. A somewhat agitated possum watched as Marie photographed, Fred and Kevin surveyed and Frank and myself forced a way over a calcited constriction at the end by peeling off a couple of layers of uncalcited ceiling. 3m was gained before straws barred the way, however it all seemed to be heading back towards the surface. Six weta's where also noticed on exiting.

Frank then took the landowner and his son for a looksee. They where so stoked that he got his front-end loader out and started moving rocks that had been artificially placed over what appeared to be a cave entrance approximately 100m from 5L363. Once the rocks had been removed a couple of hours sustained digging in what had obviously been used as a fire pit got us basically nowhere. Mind you we all had a good giggle imagining the wonders the photo's of the front-end loader in use would do for our reputation in CEGSA.

Then we hopped over to another paddock that contained an old well down which at some stage a steel bore-pipe had been sunk. Apparently this well intercepted a void which had been entered a couple of times by that youthful ex landowner. Prospects didn't sound wonderful as Fred had tried to access the cave previously hurting his ribs in the process. However a slightly different approach saw myself slipping down the first 3m to stand at a slight enlargement atop the broken end of the bore pipe. Interestingly the walls teamed with literally hundreds of weta's. A ladder was then rigged just in case it opened out below and by forcing the pipe into the wall with the small of your back it was possible to slip down hitting the bottom at -10m. A small rift led off in both directions. Frank joined the fray bringing a jemmy bar to open up a small hole observed in the floor. This led to a passage some 2m lower but exactly mimicking that above. Due to the difficulties of the entrance Frank and myself were left to survey with muddied hands. This took two hours for only 45m of passage! Interestingly, careful examination of the entrance pipe to what is now 5L411 revealed footsteps carved in the limestone every half-meter or so.

Finally for the day we looked at another hole on the property, which was covered by an old concrete water tank. It proved possible to pivot this onto the cars trailer enabling access underneath, unfortunately the pit proved only to be a couple of meters deep. As usual Fred and Kevin did sterling work with surface traverses.

Sunday was not quite so eventful. A lot of time and expletives were spent investigating an extremely tight 4/5m solution tube pointed out by Trevor Winniot (PISA ranger). Unfortunately this subsequently turned out to be the known 5L324. The hole adjacent to 5L309 was lowered by half a meter or so, but prospects seem limited here. Finally we abseiled into 5L99 cos it was there and none of us had done it.

Oh, By the way none of us even saw a cow turd all weekend, never mind stood in one!

Damian Grindley

%%%%%%%%%

Remember that when trips are approved or recorded as CEGSA trips, it is on the understanding that the necessary permission has been obtained from the appropriate landowner or land manager.

YORKE PENINSULA

Stenhouse Bay, Yorke Peninsula within Innes National Park and Corra Lynn.

Date of trip: Wednesday 6th May 1998.

Trip members: Jules Gheude, Bill Binks, Mick Hardy, Karen Fuller, Dale Frost, Deirdre McCormack.

Preamble

This trip was organised in order to solve the riddle of 'what's down this hole' discovered by Mick H some 12 years ago.

Following due protocol, I contacted Innes National Park HQ (some weeks earlier) and spoke to Senior Ranger Andrew Moylan. To my dismay Andrew had not even heard of CEGSA and was reluctant to allow people to search for caves within Innes NP, due to potential liability if we discovered and entered a cave and also potential damage to flora. This park has some spectacular but fragile dune flora.

To put Andrew at ease I suggested that he speak with other NPWS sites we deal with citing Kelly Hill on KI and Naracoorte/Mt Gambier. I then spoke to Grant Gartrell for contact names who promptly contacted Andrew M and did some pretty swift PR work. (Thanks Grant). At Andrew's request I faxed him a letter detailing where exactly I wanted to look, and included mine and Bill's experience at caving and vertical work.

Andrew M granted me permission to do the trip on the day after having spoken to Brian Clarke (Naracoorte) and establishing a protocol of conduct in his covering letter to me. (A copy will be lodged with the CEGSA committee etc). Andrew M has only been with NPWS at Innes for 6 months.

The Trip

We all arrived at SH Bay late Tuesday night, and made camp at Pondalowie camping site. Early on Wednesday we broke camp and Karen F and Deirdre M went off for a dive at Chinamans Beach, while the lads headed for NPWS HQ to talk to AM.

The Hole is located not far from 'The Gap' (a small bay with sheer walls approx 60m high) and is positioned roughly 15m horizontally and 30m vertically from the ocean. Access to it is along a 'goat' track which local fishermen use to access a fishing ledge. This track is very steep and walking it constantly impresses upon the walker that this is bloody dangerous.

Beyond the immediate entrance to the hole is a small cavern that can accommodate approx. 3 people who don't mind sitting next to a gasping abyss (you can hear the ocean through it). Bill B set the rig for a ladder (x2) drop and a rope belay. Jules G took the first plunge. The hole turns out to be a sheer 20m drop to an upside down Y junction which drops down a further 4m on either side. There is water down here, but the offshoots do not provide a big enough entrance to the ocean. The walls were polished smooth and (according to Bill B and Mick H) there is some decoration at the very bottom.

Mick H, Bill B and Dale F all gave the Hole a go.

Karen F and Deirdre M joined us at the hole. We packed and bolted for Corra Lynn.

Jules Gheude

After a belated yiros at Warooka we scrambled to Corra Lynn by 4 pm, ready to pack more into our day of action. As dusk approached we bravely ventured into the foreboding darkness below and headed for Grand Central.

From here the intrepid party made its way to Taylors Tomb, Rope Crevasse and Bushwalkers Run. Here came the first real challenge. We climbed up the hole directly above Bushwalkers Run, leading to Crystal Attic. This was Deirdre's first ever caving trip so it took a long time for us all to climb up, but she did very well with the bridging technique required.

Having conquered this climb, Deirdre rested while the rest of us had a look around Crystal Attic. We saw vastly more tree roots than crystals. Those of us who thought the hard bit was behind us were unpleasantly surprised when we started to squirm down the exposed slot into Crystal Chamber. But eventually, all made it down safe and sound.

From here we moved on to the Big Stalagmite, Crystal Maze and then the climb back down to Bushwalkers Run. By this time everyone, including Deirdre and the knee pad-less masochists were really enjoying the squirming and climbing. We continued out to Bushwalkers Chamber for a well-earned rest. When the clock struck 8:10 pm all agreed it was time to head out. Thank goodness we weren't relying on Julius and his trusty compass to guide us back to the darkness of the entrance. You really have to work out which end of the needle points north Jules!

It was a great 4 hours of caving, a Baptism of Fire for Deirdre and hopefully an appetiser for future trips for Mick, Karen and Dale.

Bill Binks

FLINDERS RANGES EASTER TRIP

Date: 9/4/98 - 20/4/98

Trip Leader: Eddie Rubessa

Participants: Ray Gibbons, Terry Gibbons, Julius Gheude, Bill Binks, George MacLucas (Grandad), June MacLucas (Nanna), Aaron and Kerry Ninnies.

Caves Visited: F9, F85, F86, F99, F100 and F105.

Caves Located and Allocated Numbers: F119, F128, F129, F137 –155,

Trip Objective: To explore new karst areas for caves and continue work in F105, Boulder Bore Cave.

On Thursday night we all set off at separate times but all met at Trezona camping ground at some late hour which obviously was not met with many pleasantries from the earlier arrivals. Only one roo was reported hit on the trip up, which was not located after the event. Next morning Bill struck up a pose that was to become familiar to us all by the end of the trip, he had brought a video camera with him. We all travelled to Blinman to refuel and were given a touristy trip though the Blinman Copper Mine by Irving Cain who is running this as a tourist attraction, so a small donation was offered for his kindness. I think we all were suitably impressed. As June and George had not been to Chambers Gorge, Ray offered to take them for a look into the gorge while Eddie, Bill and myself visited another gorge further north we had briefly looked at last November, F119 Teatree Creek Cave was located. This cave is approx. 20m above the creek with an entrance 3m high and 4m wide, it is about 7m long with a 1m round roof entrance at the end. After checking with the land owner we met up with the others and set off into the gorge which was our main objective for the Easter weekend. We had been pre-warned by the owner that the track could be a bit precarious but only one spot was of any concern when the track dropped off 1 -1.5m on both sides, with only what seemed a few millimetres to spare on both sides of the car. Needless to say Bill was there with his video camera, as he was when George became bogged in the sand of the creek. Many holes could be seen on the way in and "Look there's another one!" was heard often. This was going to be a good spot to locate new caves. A good campsite was found with the essential waterhole close by.

Ray and Julius were up early on Saturday and found a new cave, F128 that they reported to have an entrance 1.7m wide by 1.5m wide. It is approximately 7m long with a left-hand bend 3m into the cave and is conical in shape tapering to nothing. Then as a group we headed off along the creek, but there were too many holes to look at. Ray and myself kept to the creek while the others headed over the hills. Ray discovered a small hole about 10m above the creek with a 1m wide by 0.4m high entrance. The cave itself is 3m wide with a low passage of about 5m leading to a small chamber about 5m high. This was later numbered F137, Dead Stump Cave. Further along the creek we found a large collapse with a 4m wide entrance into a 15m long passage where the dirt floor came up to the ceiling and made it too difficult to go any further. This cave, F138 has good potential for digging. In the rest of the collapse old flowstone and lots of Stick nest rat midden was found. Everybody was too busy to have lunch together this day as they all were either wandering around looking at the holes close by or they just had not come down off the hill yet. Where was George? The main attraction was F139, Big John Cave. This has a large entrance of 15m by 15m which goes in for approximately 8m, a higher ledge could be seen about 10m up which was covered in Stick nest rat midden but was not able to be reached. After lunch most of us went back to walking those hills. F141 was discovered, the entrance is 0.75 wide by 0.5m wide, this goes in about 2m then does a sharp left turn and continues for another 3.5m and is 1m high and 1.5m wide. There is a small slot above the entrance. Ray then found F142, Acacia Cave. The entrance is 2m wide by 3m high and hidden by, you guessed it, an acacia bush. The total length is 8m and slopes up sharply over much old flowstone. Some of us had had enough of walking those hills but Eddie, Bill, Julius and Terry continued and found F143. The entrance of this is 2m wide by 4m high this then goes in 3m by 3m and then vertically for another 3m. They then found F144, Niagara Waterfall Cave that is about 20m above the creek. The entrance is 1m wide and 1.3m high and has a 1m round rock in it. It then goes in for 6m with a height of 2m and is 1.5m wide with a slightly horizontal taper. The last cave found for the day was F129. This cave has 3 entrances with a total length of 8m between the 2 furthest entrances and is 1m high and 2.5m wide.

Easter Sunday of course had brought the Easter Bilby. Speckled eggs were found in odd places by everyone, except Julius. Had he been a naughty boy this year? No, he just could not see for looking, it took him almost the rest of the week before he found them. It is good he is better at spotting caves. This morning was spent walking one hill, one large hill west of the camp. Unfortunately no caves were found. Lunch found us back at the main waterhole where we watched Bill do death-defying feats to get to the entrance of a hole, which unfortunately was not worth numbering. Another entrance which was easier to get to was F140. This entrance is triangular shaped with the base being 2m, it goes in approximately 6m being 2m high and 3m wide. It then slopes up at a 45° angle for another 6-7m with a roof hole about midway along this section of about 2.5m. There is signs of bats being in this cave. A few people took a dip in the pool, which seemed to drain everyone's energy and so we returned to the camp. Upon our return it appeared that a small tornado had been through the camp, with its epicentre located over Bills tent and the table with the stoves on it. Bills tent was found down the creek somewhere and the table, with all that was on it was spread everywhere. Once the camp was put back into

working order the boys tried their hand at paving by extending the already rock area around the fire. We did have a lovely patio area by the time they had finished and they were discussing putting up the walls just before the sun went down.

Monday 13th heading north again. The road out was in very bad condition and we had to stop numerous times to do road repairs. Of course Bill was there with his video again. Perhaps he was only doing this to get out of lugging all those rocks!! We did find three new caves on this road, all of which are not in limestone. The first, F145, Tower Cave has an entrance 2m by 2m and is 9m deep, 6m wide and 4m high. F146 is opposite Tower Cave over a gully with an entrance 3m high by 2m wide. It goes in for 3m, then up a step 1.5m high and continues for another 2.5m to a roof window. The entrance to F147 is 2.5m high and 0.75m high and then goes straight up for 5m and is 2m by 1m. This cave also has Stick nest rat middens in it. This road took us back to the Copley road and we said goodbye to the MacLucas' who were off to Alice Springs and the Gibbons' who were heading back to Adelaide. Eddy, Bill, Julius and myself continued on to the Balcanoona Rangers Station to let them know we were in the area. We then drove on to see the next landowner to ask permission to go onto their property and to investigate a report of a cave by Fred Aslin in 1982 that had never been allocated a number. That night we set up camp not far from the gorge we were to check out. Just before we were about to retire for the night a dingo (?) started howling very close to the camp with a friend returning the call from the other end of the gorge. If I hadn't been in my sleeping bag already I would have shown the boys how to deal with our noisy neighbours by getting out there and yelling and throwing a few decent sized missiles at it. Instead we put up with the howling on one side and Julius snoring on the other for quite some time.

Next morning we found the cave described by Fred and it is now numbered F148, Snail Cave. The entrance is 1.5m wide and 2.5m high and the cave starts to taper in for 6m and then inclines at about 15° for another 5m. F149, Overalls Cave was also located in this gorge. The entrance of this cave is 0.6 wide by 0.4 high which leads into a chamber 1.7m wide by 0.75 high and 3m deep at the end is a vertical rift passage that extends for about 3m. Many other holes were found in this gorge that can all be added to the X files. We then walked to the closest peak finding some more holes for the X files and saw many that we could not get to. The remains of a weather balloon were found and the boys had an argument over which bit they were going to keep. After lunch we checked in with the landowner and headed for Arkaroola Spring. On this road was where we all decided that four wheel driving is definitely not good fun. The road was terrible and looked like it had not been used for quite some time. The only highlight to this track was seeing an echidna crossing in front of us. We all had to get out and have a closer look, Bill in that familiar pose again. The animal appeared to be very calm and did not do their usual disappearing trick, but seemed to take quite an interest in us too. That night we camped near a spring, in which Julius and Bill revelled in the cold water. It must be all that Tasmanian caving.

The morning of the 15th had us all feeling a bit domestic, Julius did his washing, Bill was vacuuming the tent and Eddie was making the beds. What was I doing? being the only female left on the trip. Nothing. Strange hey? Unfortunately I had had a touch of the lurgy during the night and didn't feel up to doing much at all. After lunch the boys, getting a bit tied of their domestic chores, started trekking north up a large gully, while I sat by the spring watching three Grey teal duckling feeding. While trekking the boys saw a Yellow footed rock wallaby which was a bonus for Julius who had not seen one before. The rock did not look very promising as it was mostly Woollana volcanics but two caves were located. F151, Cyclops Window has an entrance 8m wide and 6m high, the cave itself is bowl shaped going in 8m and 9m wide and 6m high. F150, Arkaroola Spring Cave over looks a talc mineral occurrence. It has an entrance 2m wide by 1.8m high, it is 6m long, 4m wide and 3m high. While the others were away our camp site became very popular with all the local euros, I never felt I was alone as there was always at least two standing around watching me at a very close distance and there were others just passing through.

Next day we visited Arkaroola Prospect, a very uninteresting mine. On the northern road out of Arkaroola Spring we discovered that Cyclops Window is very visible for quite a few kilometres. On the way to Arkaroola we visited F85, Dulux Cave, it is very obvious where this cave got its name from and F86 Stubbs Waterhole Cave. We also visited the entrance of F9, Woollana cave as neither Bill or Julius had been there. Going to Arkaroola Village was a rude shock after being out in the middle of no where. We probably saw it at its worst as there were 18 Four wheel drives from Saint Peters College plus the usual tourists. We just got out as quickly as we could. That night we had luxury, a shower. We stayed in the shearers quarters of a station owner who has become interested in our work. The night was spent catching up on giving these caves we had found grid references, names and numbers.

Julius informed us on the morning of the 17th that a ghost had visited him in his room during the night and she had requested some help in the bathroom. He even tried to oblige by getting up but when he turned the light on she was gone. I would have liked to know if she was in the bathroom waiting for him but he didn't make it that far. The day was spent digging in F105, Boulder Bore Cave to remove fill that had been inserted by a previous owner. This dig had been started in Easter last year and will still continue as at the end of the day it had started to open out. We set a limit of 20 buckets each per shift and marked off each bucket with a mark on a rock under the appropriate name. I wonder if these marks will stay on the rock. I can see in a few thousand years when some archaeologist discovers this site and wondering what sacred ritual went on in this place. A total of 84 buckets was removed and we approximate this at about a tonne and a half. A small jawbone was found and is yet to be identified. The day did not finish until well after sundown. We were all very eager to get into the shower and go to bed that night.

Saturday we headed off to Copley for morning tea and a Quandong pie. On the way we stopped to watch a beautiful 1.5m Brown snake get off the road. We even had a Dick Smith impersonator stop as well. he also was

impressed by this reptile. Next we headed for Parachilna Gorge and do the 5.5km walk into the Blinman Pools. We are not sure we actually go there but we saw lots of pool and went for a swim in a couple of them. While the boys were swimming I got my chance to use the video camera, but all I could seem to focus on was cracks (ask Bill). We also found two new caves in this mainly Trezona formation rock. The first one found was F152. The entrance of this cave is about 15m above the creek and is 4m wide and 1.7m high, with a large column of rock in the centre of it. The cave is about 5m long and tapers to the end. There was Stick nest rat midden found in the entrance. F153, Caesar Cave is almost opposite F152. The entrance is 2.5m wide and 1.2m high. The cave goes in 9m and tapers towards the end. There is a branching passage 1m in from the entrance which is about 3m long and comes to another small entrance. That night we camped in Parachilna Gorge.

On Sunday we went for a drive on the Glass Gorge road from Parachilna Gorge to Blinman. We spotted some areas that need further investigation. We eventually found F100, Collapse Cave and have given it a new grid reference, as the old ones did not have it on the right ridge. We mapped this cave and Bill should have the finished product done soon. This area could do with some more investigation as many holes were seen. As we could not find a decent waterhole for a dip we went on to Blinman for a welcome shower after caving in this dusty cave.

Monday, unfortunately, saw us heading south back to Adelaide. On the way we stopped at F99 Yourambulla Cave. This cave is a popular tourist spot and as Bill was using the GPS he kept pretending to use it as a mobile phone so he would look like all the rest of the yuppies. Two new caves have been opened up to the public so they have also been numbered F 152 and F153.

This trip had been extremely enjoyable and I would recommend anyone who wants some variation in their caving trips to join one of the future trips to the Flinders. I have heard some bad reports about the use of GPS but we found it invaluable when you are out in the middle of nowhere and trying to locate a cave.

YOU HAVE READ THE REPORT, SEE THE MOVIE. SOUND TRACK OUT SOON.

Kerry Nannes.

%%%%%%%%%

SOUTH EAST

Butterfly Extension (5U8/9) with the Caving Club of Victoria 10th April, 1998.

Steve Milner and Mark Sefton (both of CEGSA), Rob Atkins, Sally Whitehead, Kath Rowsel, Ian Farhall and David Blank (all CCV).

Except for an incident that resulted in a black-eye for a CCV member the trip was most enjoyable. Some photos were taken. 3 hours.

Drik-Drik-4 (3DD4) with the Caving Club of Victoria 11th April, 1998.

Steve Milner and Mark Sefton (both of CEGSA), Rob Atkins, Dean Achterdenbosch, Kath Rowsel, and Ian Farhall (all CCV).

This was a great trip upstream from the doline of DD4. But for the vast quantities of mud, the vadose canyon was easy-going. We climbed the ladder that had been rigged the previous day using a scaling-pole and investigated the upstream sump. The sump was truly a sump but could respond to de-watering using hoses or digging. Prospects are interesting. On the way out a team member had minor problems as the result of a tumble. 5 hours.

FLINDERS

Maires Cave (5F3) and Clara St Dora (5F4) with Flinders University Researchers and Students: 25th and 26th April, 1998.

CEGSA: Steve Milner, Bill Binks, Ian Richards, Marie Choi, Frank Hankinson, Damien Grindley, Amanda Wagener.

Flinders University: Rod Wells, Kevin Moriarty, Linda Ayliffe, Matt McDowell, Liz Reed plus 5 others.

The objective of the trip was for CEGSA members to escort the Flinders University researchers and students safely in and out of 5F3 and 5F4. The new CEGSA vertical ladder kit was employed, as were the extra sit-harnesses and 8 UIAA approved caving helmets. The Flinders people aimed to investigate the old bone site in 5F3 and look at ways of dating the deposits. After much searching, the old site was rediscovered and some bits of bone of the ancient megafauna were sampled. Some calcite was also sampled for uranium/thorium dating. In 5F4, some putative sediments were sampled from very high up in an aven. On the surface a few surface features were sought and located, and a stick-nest-rat nest was found. At the end of the weekend, the trip was declared a success by those involved. A special thanks went to Ian Richards and the other CEGSA members who helped the Flinders people up and down the 22m pitch of 5F3.

I took some photos in 5F3 and 5F4, which turned out pretty well. Future front cover material!

Steve Milner.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

The Beginnings of CEGSA

An Old Geezer's History of Leather Medals

Before I say another word, I wish it to be known quite unequivocally that inside this rapidly aging frame there still resides a sixteen year old, or thereabouts. On the outside my whiskers are becoming a distinguished shade of silver blond rather than surfie blond, except for the bits where I seem to have mislaid the spaghetti I was eating the other day, or was it macaroni? Nobody expects me to know the difference any more, which is why it's always a source of amazement to me that anyone still bothers to ask me anything. If you are over twentyfive, you're clearly well on the way to Alzheimer's anyway. So read on, before it's too late! I thought that I was adequately disguising the fact of my antiquity until our illustrious President asked if I might wrack what's left of my brains (he wasn't quite that blunt) and reveal for all and sundry the origin of that most esteemed CEGSA award, the Leather Medal. It gave me great pleasure indeed to realise that I wasn't sure. I asked Athol Jackson, who goes back even further than I do, and he wasn't sure either, so we referred back to the Founding President of CEGSA himself. He who has the most professorial and distinguished beard of them all, a dead ringer for Father Time himself, none other than Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith, and he was sure, although he graciously pretended not to be able to recall all the finer points. But his recollections opened the floodgates of memory for me, and so, whether you like it or not, here comes a bit of history which may or may not add colour to your perhaps otherwise pedestrian peregrinations.

When I joined the Group about thirty six years ago it was doing many exciting things. It was already about seven years old and was operating in a very professional manner. It had even in this time produced an extensive collection of records including many outstanding cave surveys, and several Occasional Papers. It was affiliated with the South Australian Museum. It lodged a master set of its records with the Museum, and reported annually to the Museum Board. It was already well steeped in tradition, and it even then had a broad spectrum of members ranging from the most impressive through to the "You don't have to be mad but it helps!". Some people were both at the same time, and one who definitely fell into this category was Alan Hill.

Alan was a great organiser and a dedicated member of CEGSA who lived life hard and sadly died young but certainly left an impression on those that knew him. An engineer by profession he was an innovator, a philosopher and an excellent teacher, and I learned a lot from him in those early days. Elery reports that Alan was responsible for the CEGSA logo.

From Alan I learned of such things as the "Tourist Barrier" and the "Choofer Problem", not to mention the "What do we do next, leader?" syndrome, all of which are just as relevant today as they were in the 60's. While there would have been none more egalitarian than Alan and the other members of CEGSA in those days, the expeditions, trips, call them what you will, needed leaders. Some people made better leaders than others, but the duties and responsibilities of leaders were taught and discussed in those days and were the subject of debate. Not much has changed, has it? This problem may have caused Alan to seek inspiration from George Orwell, for that is where he found it, but more of that later.

Before we get to that, what is the "Tourist Barrier?" It was observed that if a new person joined CEGSA they obviously wanted to see some pretty caves. If they only went on familiarisation or "touristy" type trips, which have their legitimate place in the scheme of things, their estimated life in the Group was two years, during which time they contributed nothing, and after which they left to take up bush-walking or canoeing, or tennis. Two years was regarded as the "Tourist Barrier." It was the job of the leadership to channel their raw interest into more productive areas, such as learning how to be a good surveyor, or a good photographer, for example, within this period of time. Often when this happened, they would by putting something in to the Group get much more satisfaction out of it in return, and bingo, they were much more likely to crash through the tourist barrier and stay with the Group into their dotage. A real problem still today, and the solution remains the same. What about the "Choofer Problem?" In this case the problem remains the same, but the name has changed. Back in the old days, cavers when camping did not have stoves that ran off cylinders of propane gas. If we were well equipped, we had funny little stoves that ran off shellite or white spirits, and were very light to pack in a rucksack, and made a choofing noise when burning, and didn't explode very often. The trouble with these things is that they didn't work very well in a breeze, and so their owners set up camp, and then all disappeared individually behind trees to cook their tins of spam and baked beans. This was really antisocial, and the antithesis of all sitting around the campfire telling well oiled stories and terrible jokes. This antisocial phenomenon was known as the "Choofer Problem", and it explains why cavers who wait until the cold weather to go camping aren't simply crazy. They just appreciate the social benefits of a good campfire out of the bushfire season.

Anyway, back to Alan Hill, George Orwell and the problem of leadership in an egalitarian society. Alan found the answer one day when he was browsing through "Animal Farm", which once again is wonderful satire as relevant

today as the day it was written. The pigs, who took over the running of the show in "Animal Farm" solved the problem simply by declaring that "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others".

But once Alan had found this much inspiration within Animal Farm he read further, and it was as a result that the first Leather Medals were awarded at the 1957 CEGSA dinner. The idea behind this was to give formal recognition to cavers who had done something out of the ordinary during the year, and if it was lunatic, highly embarrassing, or just ridiculous, so much the better. The recipient of the leather medal would be expected to describe the circumstances behind the award at the dinner, and thus contribute substantially to the hilarity or conviviality of the night. This tradition has been preserved virtually intact now for over forty years, which means that over the period more than one hundred medals must have been presented... and there is a long story behind each of them!

I'm certainly not going to tell you all of mine, but the first two have particular memories for me, and both were presented by then President Athol Jackson. The first was in 1964, for "holing the Fox", and the second a year later was the Leather Medal and Bar, "for major breakthroughs in cave safety and the bar to get himself out again." I leave the details to your fertile imaginations.

The certificates accompanying the leather medals, which were secretly and laboriously manufactured in the shape of a CEGSA badge out of leather, were inscribed with the excerpt from "Animal Farm" which inspired them:

"The animals decided unanimously to create a military decoration, 'Animal Hero, First Class', which was conferred there and then on Snowball and Boxer. It consisted of a brass medal (they were actually some old horse brasses which had been found in the harness room), to be worn on Sundays and holidays. There was also 'Animal Hero, Second Class' which was conferred posthumously on the dead sheep."

Grant Gartrell

%%%%%%%%%

THE SEA CAVES OF TALIA, EYRE PENINSULA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dave Gillieson and Ernst Holland. Jan 1998.
[Reprinted from the ACKMA Journal, Number 30, March 1998]

Introduction:

Talia Caves first came to our notice from a tourism booklet extolling the features of the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. The caves we visited are on the shore of Anxious Bay west of Talia Station on the Flinders Highway approximately 190 km south east of Ceduna. The features we visited are listed as E17 Talia Sea cave, (The Woolwash) and E18 Erosion Sinkhole, (The Tub), under the Eyre peninsula in the Australian Karst Index 1985 (Matthews, 1985). The Karst Index lists a number of caves in the Talia / Elliston region, but the extent of the aeolian calcarenite surprised us and clearly more karst features may be found there. In particular, there is extensive use of karst groundwater from the thin lens of calcarenite, while there are numerous shallow solution dolines in the hinterland.

Geology and Geomorphology:

The Talia caves and karst form part of the Newlands land system (CSIRO, 1977). This system is comprised of mobile calcareous dunes, swampy depressions and calcreted dunes whose dominant land covers are coastal heath, sown pastures and cereal crops. The area is semi-arid with a mean annual rainfall of 400mm. The western shore of the Eyre Peninsula consists of Quaternary calcarenites that in the Anxious Bay area uncomfortable overlie early Tertiary sandstones that have been planed by marine incursion during the late Tertiary or early Pleistocene. The coastal cliffs are around 10m high above shore platforms sloping at 10 to 15 degrees. The coast is a high energy environment with the shore platforms continually swept by a large swell. Coarse clastic deposits of cobbles and sand have been emplaced in the caves and on ledges above normal tidal range. This can be seen clearly near the entrance to Woolshed Cave.

Well developed jointing in the sandstone has permitted development of rocky headlands and geos, the latter allowing penetration of seawater into and underneath the calcarenite. Collapse of the calcarenite cliffs is aided by this undercutting, making the present cliffs ephemeral features.

The Caves:

The Woolshed cave 5E17 is located at the foot of a small cliff and extends into the cliff for approximately 80 metres with a bank of cobbles at the end indicating that the cave would not be accessible at high tide. Sloping ledges on either side of the passage have formed at the contact of the calcarenite and the sandstone, and are covered by a steep and partially consolidated bank of cobbles and coarse sands. There are numerous tafoni on the entrance overhang and small sandy stalactites. It is interesting to note that the cave E-17 is now known as WOOLSHED CAVE and given a different geology than stated in the Karst Index. [as per the introduction, the

cave was known as "Talia Sea Cave" or "The Woolwash" and the Karst Index incorrectly states the base rock as granite. (ed)]

The Tub 5E18 is a collapsed doline back in from the cliff edge with some of the original cave still existing between the doline and the foot of the sea cliff. This short cave is a flattened ellipse which is inundated at high tide and whose floor is developed in sandstone. Seepage springs occur at the landward side of the doline and may aid further wall collapse. During storms the whole floor of the doline is inundated.

Management:

The Woolshed Cave and the Tub are on public land and are managed by the Elliston Council. As the features are in a dynamic landform, human impacts (which are possibly minor) are soon eradicated. Hands on management mainly takes the form of signposting, interpretation and access, all which appear to be carried out quite sensibly. The interpretation of the feature is simple, correct and to the point, also their recognition that natural process are ongoing is enlightening. The council is to be congratulated on enhancing the safe enjoyment and interpretation of these unusual and significant coastal features.

The sign reads:

WOOLSHED CAVE

The rock at the base of these cliffs is a coarse-grained sandstone which shows some cross bedding. The cave represents a weakened joint in the sandstone along which the destructive action of the waves has been most effective. The roof of the cave is composed of much younger limestone which covered the rock in the past. With sea levels rising since the last Ice Age, some of the limestone has also been eroded leaving an elongated cave following the joint. Further change is inevitable.

References:

Matthews, Peter, G. 1985 AUSTRALIAN KARST INDEX, Australian Speleological Federation Inc.
CSIRO, 1977, Environments of South Australia, Province 4. Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas, Canberra, CSIRO Division of Land Use Research.

%%%%%%%%%

NARACOORTE HAPPENINGS

Developments are happening quickly at Naracoorte Caves and as most CEGSA members live away from the area, I will try and keep you up to date through this newsletter.

Just before Christmas the third visitor entrance was opened. The entrance that was in use has been filled in and the original one sealed to restore something near normal humidity. The new entrance has drawn much comment but, whether you like it or not, it makes moving tourists into the cave very easy.

There has been acceleration in research being undertaken in caves both on and off the park. I have been involved in some of it and it has highlighted to me that some cavers and lots of researchers need to be reminded of cave etiquette.

In February I took Matt McDowell to several caves for his research on sand cones. We visited Echidna cave which is suffering under weight of visitation, no doubt due to the novelty of the entrance. Many of the sand cones have been damaged and some cavers like to dig for bones which is good fun but reduces their value for research. If you are one of these I suggest you contact the researchers at Flinders University and offer your assistance. As cavers, we need to avoid the cones in this cave. Do we need to mark them off or simply place a sign inside the entrance? Matt also looked at sand cones in Sand Cave, both trogged cones near the entrance (photo in Feb. GEO magazine) and some still pristine in the far reaches of the cave. Matt is a most considerate researcher as he didn't even ask to sample these. There is a major cleaning job looming here as a large amount of rubbish is collapsing in from the surface on to the largest sand cone. Any volunteers?

Sandfunnel Cave was also visited, as far as I can determine, for the first time in about 10 years. (apart from the very friendly 5 foot brown snake who took exception to me invading his space) The entrance chamber is in remarkable condition with virtually no sign of previous cavers. Kevin Mott mapped this area and he could see no sign of their mapping work. This demonstrates how our caves do rehabilitate themselves, no matter how slowly.

Liz Reed is using Wombat Cave as a major part of her thesis and has had the cave shut down for 2 years. The reason for this is to allow her to study the movement of bones in the cave. (taphonomic processes for the intellects) Access is now denied as even landing on the wrong side of the entrance cone would ruin the experiment. By the time access is granted again there will be track marking in there and possibly a fossil dig. For a highly visited cave it still holds much important undamaged research material.

While on research, Steve Brown is working in Cathedral Cave on his thesis. Unfortunately someone decided to help him out and dug some bones out of his dig for him. This is highly inconsiderate and can lose valuable data. Please be aware that Naracoorte is a World Heritage area, not just for caves or bones, but the research that can be carried out here. I am finding working with the researchers great fun and a great learning experience. Don't be afraid to help them out and respect their work. You may even get to see some great caves!

The new interpretation centre is now going up quickly and may be ready by October. The animals are looking fantastic from the little we have seen. If the vision comes to fruition we are going to have a world class facility at Naracoorte.

I look forward to keeping you abreast of research, caving and changes at Naracoorte.

Steven Bourne.

%%%%%%%%%

THE OTHER SIDE OF CAVING

PROLOGUE

In August 1995 Mrs Nancye Pearson, a colleague working on a range of local history subjects in the "Les Hill Room" at the Mount Gambier public library casually mentioned having seen some old newspaper references to caves. For a start I didn't take much interest in what she was offering to me, but I took the details anyway.

I mentioned to her some subject areas I was interested in, and promptly forgot the matter. Nancye is both methodical and persistent and I continued to receive sheets of paper with all sorts of interesting tit-bits. These just collected around the house as I was not at all sure what to do with them.

Kevin Mott came to the rescue late in 1995 by offering to type them into a single sheet, one sheet for each newspaper. Still the pile grew so Kevin made a computer listing so he could arrange each newspaper in date sequence. Still the pile grew - clearly we had started something! Gradually the format changed, the type size had to be reduced, we added the cave identification prefix (where it was known) and page and column references.

Kevin then refined his ideas and as the list had grown from dozens to hundreds of items he sorted by PAPER and CAVE IDENTIFICATION.

I spent many hours in front of microfilm readers adding data to incomplete entries and correcting the inevitable mistakes. I then remembered that my individual cave folders contained hundreds of newspaper clippings going back nearly forty years. Yes young fry, I have been actively caving for forty five years!

Suddenly the list grew rapidly, and indeed the only constraint on the speed at which it continues to grow is the amount of time Kevin and I spend on it. We have actually all discovered newspapers we had never heard of. Nancye continues to provide the old newspaper references and we provide the last thirty to forty years.

Part of the CEGSA newspaper clippings collection has been added to the listing (KRM), but a lot more remains to be done. The present list of 1861 entries sounds impressive but much more remains to be done. Some of the additional work can be done in the South East, some has to be done in the State Library in Adelaide and some items will have to be done in the libraries of other Australian capital cities.

Why bother? Quite apart from the historical aspects of who found and explored our caves and when, we are actually locating caves new to us on a regular basis. There are also lots of human interest stories relating to dug wells, guano mining and sale, geological and hydrological reports and those we have added for their general interest.

I am proposing to write a series called "The Other Side of Caving" to show that caving has many facets and that a pen and an open mind are as needed as overalls and helmet. I hear myself saying in 1998 what I started saying forty years ago.

- ⇒ If you don't document it you lose it.
- ⇒ Caving is a team task.
- ⇒ I build on what my predecessors have left me - both in caving and in life!

That is why I want to show and share

THE OTHER SIDE OF CAVING

Fred Aslin.

THAMPANNA CAVE, 6N-206

My attention was drawn to Thampanna Cave in 1982/83, prior to my first caving trip to the Nullarbor region. A dramatic photo in a newspaper showed Norm Poulter hanging from a ladder in the solution pipe entrance measuring the quite phenomenal wind speed in the 2.5 metre diameter vertical tube.

The cave is rather different from the beautiful, but docile, æolian limestone caves of south-west Western Australia, which is where I was living at that time.

From that first interest, I have visited the cave frequently and have joined in the game of "hats down the pipe" at Thampanna many times. Few hats reach the bottom!

The Nullarbor

The Nullarbor is a large, flat, dry, barren, windy, remote area. It stretches for several hundred kilometres from east to west and is a couple of hundred kilometres wide from north to south. One excellent paved

road, the Eyre Highway, traverses the southern region of the plain to link east with west. Beyond that there are only tracks, many of them forming a confusing network, heading north and south.

The Nullarbor is only apparently flat. The plain actually rises and falls some ten metres or more over a distance of around three kilometres. The tops of the low ridges tend to consist of exposed limestone while the valley bottoms are generally covered by deep sediments.

Caves may occur in all areas, although some evidence suggests that larger caverns occur "off" the ridges, where more water collects. An example is Old Homestead Cave [6N-83].

The average rainfall in the Nullarbor is only about 100mm. However, sudden, heavy precipitation does occur and the very dryness of the plain can prevent absorption and the consequent flooding can cause obliteration of tracks and, rarely, dangerous run-off into caves. One cave entrance has collapsed due to flooding in recent times. Fortunately, the cavers inside were not harmed.

The soil of the Nullarbor is very thin or non-existent. Trees in any number grow only in a roughly 20 kilometre wide belt parallel to the coastline. Firewood is scarce or non-existent in most areas away from the coast.

The plain is exposed directly to the prevailing westerly winds, which can, and do, blow constantly for days.

Movement by vehicle is easy enough if tracks are dry which is as well since everything must be carried in. Food, water, fuel and, in some parts, even firewood are required. Emergency help is all but forgotten and any equipment accidentally left behind is simply written off.

Nevertheless, the area and climate are friendly enough, within the limits indicated above. Local station managers are usually most cordial. Their "runs" typically extend for thousands of kilometres.



Four wheel drive vehicle in *Thampanna Cave's* "valley". Cave entrance is on right.
Photo: Ken Boland, April 1995.

Blowing caves

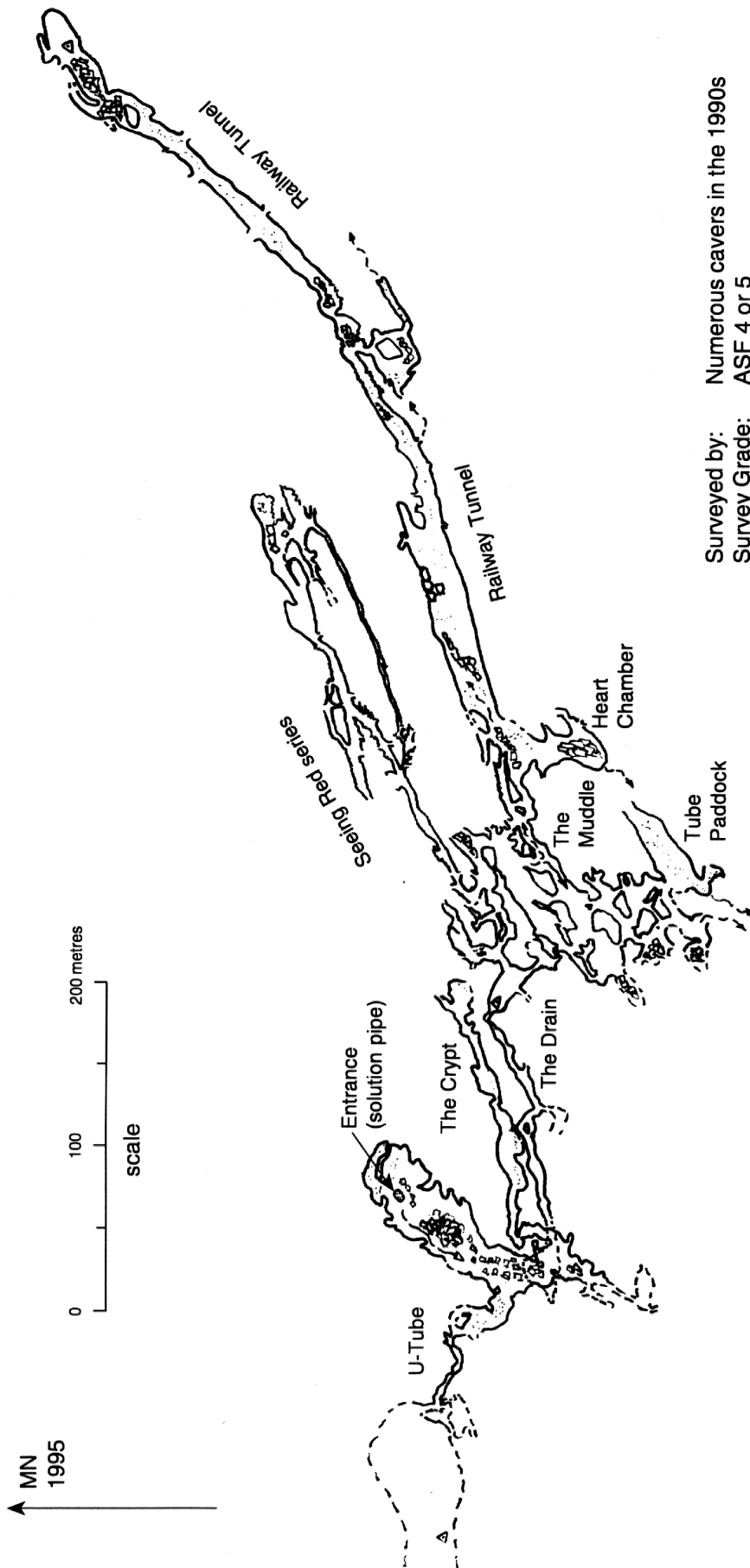
Much is made of the wind that blows from the Thampanna Cave entrance. Does this wind mean very much? There are many "blowholes" and drafting solution pipes dotted over the Nullarbor and a high proportion of these blow quite strongly. However, very few have been found to lead to caverns of any size. Of these very few, Thampanna is certainly the largest known.

It seems reasonable to propose that the volume of air we see coming out of blowholes and caves in the Nullarbor cannot be explained by the volume of the enterable cavern below the entrance but is held in a network of small spaces and crevices in the parent rock—the Abrakurrie Limestone. This formation is quite porous and is bounded by the Wilson Bluff Limestone underneath and sealed in by a top layer of hard, impervious material called the kankar layer. This calcareous layer is typically around a metre thick and, once penetrated by solution or collapse, the air trapped in the Abrakurrie Limestone will flow quite freely to the atmosphere. The available volume of air may be quite large due to the presence in the formation of small but numerous solution features, especially anastomosing (branching and rejoining) tubes, and the formation's inherent porosity. So, it is not necessary to assume a large cavern to explain the volume of wind blowing from a cave or blowhole.

Thampanna Cave expeditions

The difficulties in mounting a survey expedition to any of the caves of the Nullarbor consist of organisation (50%), getting co-expeditioners to survey (as distinct from touring) (49%) and surveying (1%).

Thampanna Cave [N-206] Nullarbor Plain



Surveyed by: Numerous cavers in the 1990s
 Survey Grade: ASF 4 or 5
 Drawn by: Ken Boland, May 1997
 ASF Map No: 6N-206.VSA 271

Copyright © 1997, Ken Boland.

I have given myself the task of trying to collate, track down, sift, placate and document all information in relation to Thampanna Cave. A fair bit of this is now complete.

The wind in Thampanna

Thampanna Cave, from the evidence of the survey, appears to be heavily reliant on the Abrakurrie porosity for its large flow of wind. The cave has extensive passages but the volume of these passages would not be able to account for the entrance flow velocity. Moreover, a strong flow is not usually present in the main passages such as The Drain and The U Tube, which are the two obvious routes to expect the breeze to follow.

Water in Thampanna

Once one's attention passes from the wind flowing into or out of Thampanna, the next feature to capture one's attention at the entrance area is the enormous drainage area. Popular understanding is that the Nullarbor is more-or-less flat. Yet, if one stands at the Thampanna camp-site and looks north across the cave entrance, the top of the next low ridge, some two or three kilometres away, appears to be many times the height of a vehicle stationed near the entrance.

Nearly all large caves of the Nullarbor have collapse entrances. The entrance to Thampanna has no element of collapse whatsoever. Its single solution pipe entrance captures the run-off from seemingly many square kilometres. Thampanna is the only known extensive Nullarbor cave with a solution pipe entrance. To date, no one seems to have been fortunate enough (or unfortunate enough if inside the cave) to witness a heavy flow into Thampanna, with one exception.

A scout group was camped at Thampanna during a heavy downpour in the mid 1990s. The leader of the group, Michael Woodward, told me that he'd been woken by the storm and decided to look at the cave. He reported a deep flow swirling around the doline, too deep and too strong to risk leaving the highest edge, some three metres above and twenty metres distant from the entrance. The water seemed to be all but filling the entrance pipe when viewed from this vantage by torchlight. This observation had reinforced an idea that simply being inside the cave at the time of heavy rainfall would be fatal.



*Thampanna Cave's Entrance pipe.
Photo: Ken Boland, April 1995*

However, I don't believe this to be the case. Inside the cave, just twenty metres from the bottom of the solution pipe, is an area of fine dusty sediment that has clearly not seen water for a very long time. It is powder, there are no flow marks, light insect parts and bird remains are prolific and show no signs of ever having been moved by water. Being in this location during a massive downpour could be very enlightening!

There are many areas further into the cave which show signs of never having seen water. These include the large rockpiles, the very clean halite (salt) crystal areas and the extensive "coffee and cream" (salt and gypsum particles from the roof) sediment areas.

Although the danger of being drowned appears to be all but nonexistent, the possibility of being cut-off from the entrance by water does exist.

First, the Drain was discovered by members of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) at a time when they were unable to go south-west due to the U Tube being full of water. Secondly, The Drain has convincing signs that it fills completely, the ceiling being coated with sediment and plant debris.

Thirdly, a low crawl at the start of the Railway Tunnel was once found to be water filled by CEGSA member, Max Meth. At the time, The Drain and The U Tube were virtually dry, raising the question of which route the water took to get there. While The Drain is the obvious route, The Crypt, much higher in elevation, does show signs of water flow. It is parallel to The Drain and is of similar length and may well feed water to the Railway Tunnel when The Drain is dry.

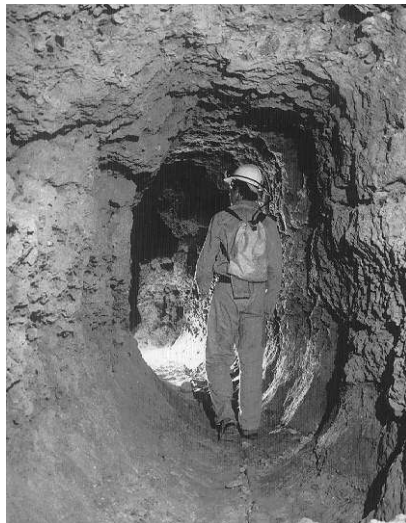
The catch with all these theories of potential cut-off by pooled water, is that no one has any idea how long these passages take to drain. The water may seep away rapidly or it may be a much slower process.

One of these potential cut-offs may be bypassed. By examining the survey, it may be seen that The Crawl at the start of the Railway Tunnel may be bypassed by gardening a short rockfall area. So far no time has been spent on this.

Geomorphology

Within Thampanna one finds evidence that passage development is almost, totally phreatic (see photo). Cave development appears to have descended rapidly to about 50 metres below the surface (eg at the beginning of The Drain) and stays more or less on that level in the north-eastern passages.

Passages go up over rockfall areas but the base level is always about the same. At this base level there are sediments, often moist, and flow marks revealing a fairly slow movement of water, except at significant constrictions.



The U-Tube, *Thampanna Cave*.
Photo: Ken Boland, Dec 1992

To the southwest, in the "second collapse series", development appears to be somewhat older and higher than the base level at -50 metres and therefore no longer gets a chance to have its feet muddied. Passages within Thampanna are oriented along two main directions. There is some evidence to suggest this is due to joint control. It is in the "Seeing Red" series that this is most evident. One cannot help but notice in the smaller passages and tubes a highly defined preference for certain directions. These are 062° and 140°. The first is the direction of long passages and the second provides the cross linking passages. I have noticed that Goat Cave [N-745], only a few kilometres away, follows the same main 062° direction. A comparative examination of other nearby caves could be interesting.

The survey

The surveying of Thampanna has been almost as complicated as the cave itself. Trips to the Nullarbor are usually limited by available time and resources. People are frequently newcomers to the Nullarbor and so want to move on and see other caves before time, food and water run out. Add to this the daily trip underground along The Drain, followed by The Crawl, which has to be repeated on the way home, and enthusiasm is found to drain away, not to mention kneecaps.

Because of these constraints, a particular philosophy of surveying has been adopted. What seems to be most valuable is done first and the "little bits" are left to the next generation. Surprisingly, this approach has resulted in the protection of many "Coffee and Cream" areas by later finding the survey has gone right around them thus avoiding the need to cross them at all.

My intention is to expand upon this initial overview of Thampanna Cave in a series of future articles describing specific features of the cave.

Ken Boland. (VSA)

This article is reprinted from NARGUN Vol.30 No.2 with kind permission of the author and editor. Thanks to Peter Ackroyd for putting the time into scanning the pictures for this article.

%%%%%%%%%

LIBRARY AND RECORDS UPDATE

The last few months have been productive for surveys and drawing data.

The big one has been a large collection of original survey maps of Thampanna 6N206 that have been handed over personally by Ken Boland of VSA while on his way to the west for a conference. Sheets from 1-10 CEGSA Map No. 4121. Ken also presented original survey maps of Knife Blowhole 6N94 and Goat Cave 6N745. Many thanks and nice work Ken.

Many thanks for other drawings handed in:

Kangaroo Island Frightnite Cave 5K105 handed in by Damian Grindley and surveyed by Damian Grindley and Frank Hankinson.

Map of Pannikan Plain Cave, Nullarbor 6N49 by Tim Payne an ASF Member. CEGSA Map No. 3262.

Also by Tim, Anastomosis Cave, Nullarbor 6N1384 CEGSA Map No. 4041.

Maps from Steve Milner of Nullarbor caves. Skases Delight Cave 6N1436 CEGSA Map No. 3303,

Bug Hole 6N1426 CEGSA Map 3301 and Bleeding Pit 6N1433 CEGSA Map No. 3302.

Other items handed in : Monographs from Alan Jevons, Jules Gheude and Neville Pledge. Other articles from the WEB from Steve Milner and news cuttings from Athol Jackson and Kevin Mott. Kevin Mott has also catalogued the CEGSA News cutting scrap books which consisted of 6 scrap books with hundreds of cuttings over a period of many years. (over 40 years! Ed.) Thanks Kevin, a tedious job.

Max Meth even with his enormous commitment to the Nullarbor requested and was granted that he be Coordinator for the Eyre Peninsula region. Arrangements were made with Max to copy CEGSA files of this area. Congratulations Max.

Bill Binks has been busy with trips to the Flinders this year finding numerous new caves with Eddie Rubessa, Kerry Ninnies and Ray and Terry Gibbons. Bill has agreed to be coordinator for this area.

The Next Working Bee Saturday 30th May at 2.00pm until late is mainly going to be rearranging the Records Room from one area of the house to another. Hopefully this will make the records room more accessible and easier to work in.

The working bees this year have been poorly attended leaving it all to the usual few, so please become a **FRIEND OF CEGSA LIBRARY** and take on a project of tidying, rearranging, filing and cataloguing. There is still so much work to do. The working bees offer interesting reading with good fellowship as well as good food thrown in seated around the warmth a roaring fire.

George MacLucas, Librarian and records officer.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW FULL COUNTRY MEMBER

ZOLLINGER Retro 9803 4/6 Foster St, HAMILTON VIC 3300 03 5571 2544

NEW ASSOCIATES

GEORGE Trudy 9804 4 Duval Drive, MORPHETT VALE SA 8382 3276
SIWES Naomi 9805 PO Box 313, SUMMERTOWN SA 8390 3904

TRANSFERRED TO FULL MEMBER

GHEUDE Jules 9504 2/5 Kintore Ave., PROSPECT SA (H) 8342 9025
(W) 8393 4298

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER

SZABO Tom 9603 33 Pamela Drive, PARA HILLS SA 5096 8395 6283
GERDES Jenny 9709 7/70 Boucaut Ave, KLEMZIG SA 5087 Mob 0411 621254
PILKINGTON Graham 7201 41 Lindsay Avenue, VALLEY VIEW SA 5093 (H) 8395 6713
CASTLE Tim 9710 7/70 Boucaut Ave, KLEMZIG SA 5087 Mob 0411 621254

E-mail: castle@wantree.com.au

MEMBERSHIP ID CARDS

It was agreed at a General Meeting earlier this year that CEGSA will venture into plastic ID Membership cards. This is now in progress and should be available at the cost of \$1 to all Full Members. They can be picked up at the June General Meeting or forwarded to you at your request.

**May I remind some of you that your Membership fees were due in January 1998?
CEGSA needs you and your support so please update your membership soon.**

1998 CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES

FULL MEMBER	\$35
COUNTRY MEMBER	\$30
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$28
LONG TERM ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$35
VARIATIONS FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	
1) 1 ST FULL MEMBER \$35 + 2 ND FULL MEMBER \$35	
LESS \$20 FOR ONLY ONE NEWSLETTER =	\$50
2) 1 ST FULL MEMBER \$35 + 2 ND ASSOC MEMBER \$28	
LESS \$20 FOR ONLY ONE NEWSLETTER =	\$43

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT INCLUDE ASF FEES, YOU MUST PAY THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT LISTED BELOW AS WELL AS CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES.

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION (ASF) FEES FOR 1998 (INCLUDES INSURANCE)

FULL/ASSOC/LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$24.50
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$42.00
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP	\$17.50
FIRST YEAR MEMBERS (with Australian Caver)	\$24.50
(without Australian Caver)	\$5.00

ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERS

There seems to be a drop in membership this year, especially associate members. We are a small minority group and to succeed we need to encourage new members and indeed encourage longtime members back into the group. Ring someone on the committee, talk to us, let us know what your interests and needs are in regards to caving. Encourage new interested parties to join CEGSA, talk to your friends, point out the advantages, finding and surveying caves, recreation in caves, training trips and the opportunity to hire caving equipment with SRT gear, helmets, lights, ropes, ladders etc.

**THIS IS A GREAT CLUB THAT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR OVER 43 YEARS
PROMOTING A WORTHWHILE AND INTERESTING SPORT, SPREAD THE WORD.**

JUNE MACLUCAS, Membership Officer.

SOS Cave (5U 132)

Introduction

SOS cave, previously known as Shaftesbury Shaft, was apparently first found and entered by Colin McRae, Tony Lohmeyer, and other members of the Shaftesbury Club during the winter of 1983 following the opening of the entrance shaft to the surface (Mott 1983, McRae 1984). The major part of the cave was explored by Dayle Gilliatt and Max Meth on the 7th and 8th of October 1984. A sketch map was produced on that occasion and published (Gilliatt, 1984). Several months after my arrival in South Australia in 1987, a survey of the cave was begun and continued in sporadic fashion over a period of eight and a half years. This article records these trips, as well as some additional detail of the resulting map and of the cave.

The Survey Trips

The following information is based on my survey notes, memory, and a single trip report (Asche 1988). As always, my notes list only those who took part in the surveying, so I apologise to anyone who was on one or more of the trips but whose name does not appear below.

23-24 January 1988. Max Meth and Sue Asche commenced surveying the first chamber from the bottom of the entrance shaft, while Karin Sefton, Lance Hoey and I surveyed from the start of Aussie Crawl into the second chamber (see map). A voice connection between the lakes in the first and second chambers was established. The following day the same teams returned to the cave. We completed the second chamber to just below the climb down, and the main part of the entrance chamber.

12 March 1988. Again, two teams returned to the cave to continue the survey from the end of the second chamber. Max Meth and others went through Clayton's Squeeze and surveyed into the cave to the start of the Black Passage. Meanwhile, Karin Sefton, Lance Hoey and I surveyed from the bottom of the climb out of the second chamber and around some unappetising low grovelly stuff, then through Clayton's Squeeze to join up with the start of Max's survey.

It was during this trip that Lance's unusual compass reading techniques came to light. It soon became obvious that some of the bearings didn't make much sense, with apparent right angle turns in the direction of the survey being accompanied by relatively small changes in the bearings. At first, I put this down to the uncomfortable nature of the terrain making it difficult to judge the turns in the survey, but when Lance insisted that a compass reading was 390° was obvious that something else was afoot. To cut a long story short, Lance had somehow acquired an unusual compass reading skill and was able to read the upside down reflection of the numbers on the compass but could only read the real values by looking in the compass 'at a funny angle'. All the 6s came out as 9s (and vice versa), the 2s and 5s were likewise interchanged, as were the 7s and 4s (the astute reader will realise that additional visual and perception skills are needed to carry out these conversions)! Needless to say, much rechecking of bearings was undertaken.

We caught up to Max's group, and I spent half an hour digging my way around the right hand side of the rockpile which effectively blocks the south east extension of the Black Passage and heads towards S102 Cave. I progressed about 20 m into the rockpile before giving up. Max followed up behind with the end of the survey tape. We then called it quits for the day.

10 June 1989. Max, Karin and I returned to the cave more than a year later, surveyed a small side passage in the entrance chamber, and then, starting from where we had left off last time, surveyed through the Black Passage to the start of the collapsed area beyond.

28 January 1990. This was mainly a tourist trip into the cave, during which Max and I managed to survey the 50 m low crawl beyond the final chamber at the far end.

14 July 1990. Yet another tourist trip. I managed to tie up some loose ends from previous surveys.

Undated. I am not exactly sure where this trip fits into the sequence of events, the relevant notes having gone temporarily astray during house moving. In any case, on this occasion I was accompanied by Steve Milner, Eddie Rubessa, Gareth Evans and Glen 'D', some new blood, willing to give a hand with mapping the cave. We surveyed the whole of the section to the west of the entrance, and a long section of the entrance chamber.

SOS Cave — 5U 132 (formerly known as Shaftesbury Shaft)

Naracoorte, South Australia

Surveyed to ASF Grade 5.2 by members
of CEGSA, 1989–1996

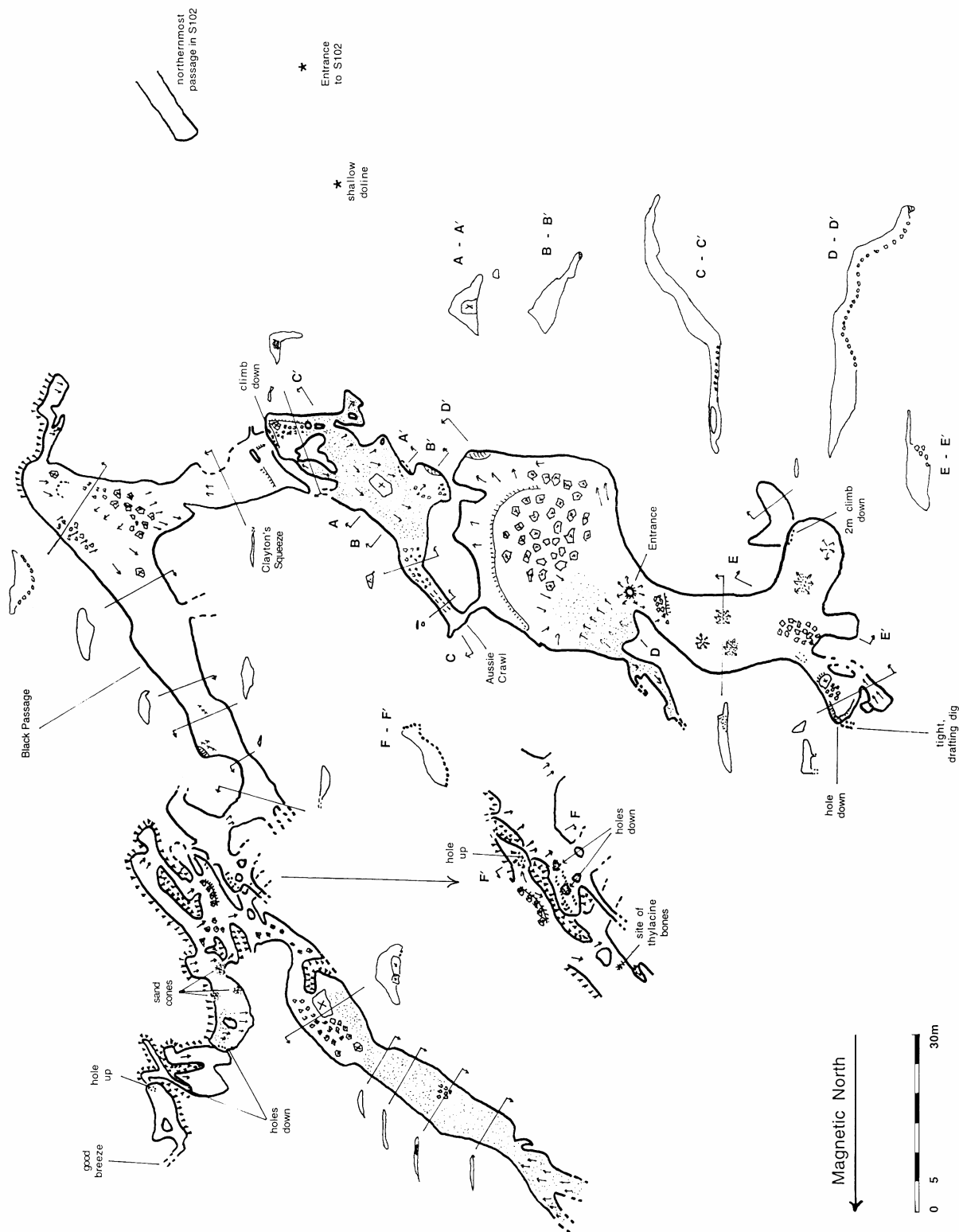
Drawn, M. Selton, M. Meth

Surveyed length (discontinuity), 584 m

Relative coordinates (meters)

Bottom of entrance shaft	0, 0
Hole down to tight, drafting continuation, western end of cave	21.5 N, 35 W
South-eastern corner (southern extremity)	37 S, 97 E
North-eastern extremity (drafting continuation)	96 N, 76 E
Ends of low crawl, northern extremity	100 N, 9 E 106 N, 10 E

Survey grade in some breakdown areas, ASF grade 4.2. Width of small passages (< 1 m) have sometimes been exaggerated for ease of drawing. Large piles of rocks and large boulders have been shown, but smaller rocks littering the floor are generally not shown. The calcite flakes at the end of the Black Passage should not be regarded as permanent features. Roof steps are only shown on cross sections.



LEGEND

- slope
- ▬ edge of rockpile, not a real wall
- ▬ cliff/floor step
- ▬ lower level passage
- ▬ undefined wall
- ▬ sand/sediment/dried mud
- ▬ sandcone
- ▬ rocks
- ▬ boulders/large rocks
- ▬ lake
- ▬ calcite flakes

17 May 1992. All the relatively pleasant bits (from a mapping perspective) were done, leaving just the collapsed area between the Black Passage and the final chamber to complete. It took two expert surveyors in Ken Grimes and Graham Pilkington plus Graham's son Roger and myself several hours of grovelling to complete the lower part of the rockpile, essentially the expanded section shown in the centre of the map. We then surveyed to and around the final chamber, finally tying in with the survey of the 50 m low crawl.

September 1992. Another tourist trip, but I was able to persuade Eddie Rubessa and Mac MacDonald to help me repeat a traverse covering the area surveyed on the previous trip. Poor loop closures in the grovelly bits of the rockpile had cast aspersions on the compass reading skills of a member of the previous party. In the event, the resurvey showed that there was nothing wrong with the main traverse of the previous survey and the less-than-ideal loop closures presumably reflected difficulties in compass readings in some of the more restricted parts of the rockpile. Even so, in order to protect reputations, the name of person who read the instruments on the previous trip shall remain shrouded in secrecy (it wasn't me or Roger).

25 April 1996. Another three and a half years elapsed before the final surveying trip into the cave, which should give you some idea of how much enthusiasm I had for the task, and how difficult it can be to get CEGSA members to go on surveying trips sometimes. This time, I was accompanied by Jacques Martini from South Africa, who was over here on a caving holiday. Jacques and I had done a fair bit of surveying together during my three and a half year stay in South Africa, so it was a bit like old times, except that this time I was doing the drawing. Jacques had mapped in excess of 100 km of cave in South Africa, so his experience on this occasion was invaluable. We spent several hours non-stop mapping through low crawls in rockpile, and completed the north-eastern section of the cave. Jacques collected several samples of minerals here and in other parts of the cave for analysis.

The Survey

The map shown is, for the most part, self explanatory, but a few additional comments are required. Firstly, the survey was commenced from the bottom of the entrance shaft. The lower part of the shaft is very narrow, and corkscrews straight downwards. It is virtually impossible to determine how much the top of the shaft is offset from the bottom and this has not been attempted, but it is unlikely to be more than a couple of metres.

The length of the entrance pitch was not measured on any of the trips described above. According to Mott (1983), 55 feet of ladder just touched the top of the soil cone on the floor at the base of the pitch. Allowing for a few rungs spare at the top of the pitch, the fact that the ladder does not hang vertically at the top, and the fact that the point where the cave can be said to start is ill-defined, the pitch can be said to be approximately 15 m. Our own experience was that two 8m ladders were sufficient to rig the pitch, providing the first rungs were close to the start of the climb.

The difference in elevation between the start of the survey (at the bottom of the pitch) and the remote points in the cave has not been calculated, even though the data are available to do so. I have not bothered because the traverse entailed numerous legs through difficult terrain making instrument readings problematic in some areas. Previous experience has led me to believe that, while compass-reading errors are usually random and can therefore cancel each other out, inclinometer readings are often systematic and therefore additive. So I would have little faith in the results of any such depth calculations.

The positioning of the northernmost passage of S102 on the map is based on a comparison of two maps drawn at slightly different scales and is approximate only. The relative position of the entrances of the two caves were determined by tape and compass. 'Holes up/holes down' etc shown on the map are from a perspective of travelling into the cave. The expanded section in the centre of the map is 2 x scale. Finally, the CEGSA map number allocated by CEGSA records, which I forgot to add to the map shown here, is CEG6021.

The Cave

The following notes are not intended to be a complete description of the cave and its main features. They are simply a few observations, some from memory only, which I think are worth recording.

Care is required on the entrance pitch which is tight at the bottom (similar to that of Brown Snake Cave), and is potentially difficult for large cavers, or cavers who are excessively tired. At the surface, the shaft 'funnels out' and the sides comprise loose sand, only partly consolidated by bracken and blackberry (bring your own snippers if you intend descending the cave).

The first chamber is roomy, with the floor steeply descending at the southeast corner to a small lake. The passages to the west of the entrance are generally easy going. A climb down in the far northwest corner of this extension leads to a breezy but too-tight continuation, one of the two (weakly) drafting

prospects for further discovery in the cave.

A short, flat out rocky crawl (Aussie Crawl) leads from the first to the second chamber. The latter is dominated by extensive slopes and crawls in sand which has invaded the chamber from the surface. Several years ago, a shallow depression opened up on the surface a short distance from the entrance to S102 cave. It was assumed at the time that the sand from this depression was draining into S 102. However, the survey showed that the approximate plan position of this depression was just beyond the upper (southeast) wall of the second chamber of SOS cave. Although a subsequent inspection showed no evidence of additional sand flow into the second chamber, it nevertheless seems likely that the formation of the new depression on the surface is associated with the process of infilling of the second chamber.

At the top of the second chamber and to the left, a short traverse along a canyon leads to a climb down through a hole into a low chamber. After a short flat out crawl (Clayton's Squeeze) and a downward slope, the cave opens up again. The northernmost passage of S102 (shown on the map) is a low streamway which ends at a blockage of small boulders and rocks, partly cemented with calcite. Just beyond Claytons Squeeze in SOS, a similar blockage lines the right hand wall and appears to mark the place where the two caves once connected.

About 30 m beyond Clayton's Squeeze, a T junction with a larger passage is reached. The right hand branch ends at a rockpile blockage. At the time, easy digging along the right hand wall of the blockage gained a further 20 m. A continuation of the passage in a southeasterly direction for 70 m beyond the start of this rockpile would reach S 102, but the effort is currently not worth it given the ease of access to the latter.

The main cave continues along a rocky passage (the Black Passage) in which the boulder covered floor is lined with a slippery black deposit, presumably of organic matter from standing water which once filled, or partly filled the passage. A tiny lake on the right hand side, and some calcite raft deposits, are all that remain from such water. Unfortunately, repeated traverses by cavers have badly scuffed the floor of the Black Passage. In future, it would be desirable if cavers who make such discoveries could mark a single route through the cave. It is not difficult for cavers to each carry a single role of flagging tape with them on exploration trips (as was done to good effect on recent surveying trips into Victoria Fossil Cave).

After a duck through a hole, then a right hand turn, the base of an extensive rockpile is reached. This is best negotiated by climbing up the slope (just follow the well worn path), ignoring a low crawl on the left, then ducking up through another hole at head height and veering left into a broad flat area. From here there are two ways on. The 'main route' is back down the slope and along a rocky passage into the final chamber, partly strewn with boulders, but with a sandy floor against the left hand wall. The cave continues from this final chamber as a 50 m long broad flattener with a dried mud/sandy floor. At the far end, this passage slopes up, divides into two, and becomes completely choked. There is no breeze to encourage attempts to progress further.

The second 'way on' from the extensive rockpile is to climb up to the top until the upper 'wall' is reached, and to then turn left. An uncomfortable set of crawls leads ultimately to the most remote point of the cave, the north eastern extremity. To follow this route, simply keep to the left at all times. At the far end, a small gap through boulders with a modest draft, marks the second 'prospect' for further progress in the cave.

The final section of the cave traversed to reach the north eastern extremity is essentially a single broad passage, mostly blocked with rockpile. The route effectively follows the left hand side of this passage with rock collapse on the right, then tunnels through the rockpile to where a short climb up reaches the right hand wall, with the breakdown now on the left hand side.

Secondary deposits. Five samples were collected for analysis on the final surveying trip, black 'popcorn' from Aussie Crawl, and four samples of moonmilk and similar mould-like deposits from the ceiling, mostly in the vicinity of the collapsed area surveyed on the final day. All samples consisted solely of calcite. Microorganisms have been described in moonmilk, and some authors are of the opinion that they play a role in precipitating calcite in this finely divided form.

Fossil deposits. Several bone samples were removed from the cave during trips held prior to the commencement of the survey, and presented to the South Australian Museum. A skull which was examined by the museum was from a previously undescribed fossil wallaby, *Congruus congruus* (McNamara, 1994). Unfortunately, we have been unable to comply with requests from museum staff to retrieve additional bones from this new fossil wallaby, most importantly, the lower jawbone, because the people who removed the skull from the cave did not record it's location. Reports from the two members of the party who retrieved the skull are conflicting, with one member of the opinion that it came from the final chamber, just before the 50 m long flattener, while the other thought that it had come from the upper section of the extensive rockpile beyond the Black Passage, i.e. on the route to the north eastern extremity (J. McNamara, personal communication). A bone-collecting trip conducted

recently, retrieved a near-complete skeleton from near the base of the rockpile; this was examined by the museum and turned out to be that of a thylacine (see map for location). Some additional individual bone fragments were retrieved from the final chamber, just before the 50 m long flattener, but these also did not belong to the fossil wallaby. The sites from which these bones have been collected have been marked with yellow flagging tape. **Please do not remove this tape.**

This author is of the opinion that the fossil wallaby skull may have come from the sandy floor of the western side of the final chamber. From memory, the colour of the sand matches that adhering to the skull. A cursory inspection of the sand on a previous trip uncovered bone material, but as this was too friable to remove, it was not investigated further. I would therefore suggest that future trips to the cave avoid further trampling over this sandy area until it has been properly investigated by people who know what they are doing, and that anyone intending to visit this final chamber should try to keep to the boulders. Perhaps the final 50 m flattener should also be left alone as it too is a potential bone repository. Similarly, cavers travelling to the north eastern extremity of the cave should keep an eye open and take care, as the remains of the fossil wallaby might instead be located on this route. It may, of course be a matter of too little, too late, as these areas have already been disturbed. Unfortunately while many cavers readily bow the knee in adoration to pieces of recrystallised calcium carbonate, especially those of unusual configuration, other aspects of caves are not afforded the same respect. On one early survey trip I can remember the carcass of a roast chicken being dismembered and consumed during a lunch break in the final chamber. So far, no chicken bones have been identified by the museum!

Acknowledgments

We thank the owners of the farm on which SOS cave is located for their kind permission to visit the cave, and for their assistance in preserving the entrance. Mineral samples were collected, analysed, and commented upon by Dr. Jacques Martini of the Council for Geoscience in Pretoria, South Africa. Finally, no mapping of a cave, or bone collecting is possible without the willing assistance of club members.

Mark Sefton. May 1998

References

Asche, 5. 1988. *Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group S.A.*, **32(4)**, 63.

Gilliatt, D. 1984. *Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group S.A.*, **29(3)**, 43-45.

McNamara, J.A. 1994. *Records of the South Australian Museum.*, **27 (2)**, 111-115.

McRae, C. 1984. *Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group S.A.*, **28(4)**, 4.

Mott, K. 1983. *Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group S.A.*, **28(3)**, 3-4.

%%%%%%%%%

OBITUARIES

John James (Jack) LITTLE 8-8-1909 - 29-3-1998

For most of the caving fraternity this man lived and died without crossing your path. To those of us who were lucky enough to have met, worked with, and best of all to have listened to Jack, he will long stay in our memory. His local knowledge was surely only matched by his surviving brother in law, Keith McEachern. These two gentlemen (and I use that word quite deliberately) are without equal in their local knowledge of the Glenelg River area. Much of this knowledge has resulted in caves being located and documented.

I was not able to attend his funeral, but his family have reminded me that he is buried in the Strathdownie cemetery. To you in Adelaide or Melbourne this place may not convey a setting or give you a "feel". Set in far western Victoria it is truly a rural place, and the vision of rabbits digging around the graves, birds twittering in the scrub or walking around the pasture is surely something Jack would approve of. He was a man who fed the birds off his wrist at his back door and manufactured his own

musical instruments. His face had a perpetual wry smile and his heart and voice conveyed help and hope.

Rest in peace gentle man. I for one am a better man for having known you.

Fred Aslin.

Peter Charles BLACKMORE

12-10-1955 - 1-3-1998

Mount Gambier caver, diver and aerial observer of caves, Peter Blackmore died in a plane crash at an airshow at the Mount Gambier airport in front of a large crowd of friends, relatives and general public.

Peter caved with me and dived for me through the 1970's and 1980's. When he took up flying he used that medium to report entrances or take me up to check something out. The SA Museum holdings are the richer for his donations of scientific specimens obtained via his diving efforts. It does not matter that many outside of the South east did not meet or cave with Peter, he made his mark regardless. Significant (if any cave can be more important than another) cave numbers like L200 and L250 are testimony to his efforts.

I knew him as a friend. I not only saw him die, but I was first on the crash scene with my CFS brigade. Daily the dog barks next door ("Oscar" came from the Blackmore's), my neighbour appears in her garden (Mary is exactly to the day two years younger than Peter and went to school with Peter's sister). Such are my reminders of this man.

No more will he waggle his wings to me as he flies over my property to and fro from the Mount airport. It is significant that all who knew him are agreed that what he did he did well.

Fly on my friend.

Fred Aslin.

%%%%%%%%%

NOSTALGIA CORNER

NEWS FROM PAST NEWSLETTERS

10 YEARS AGO [33#1 Jun 1988]

- Feb 1988, Graham Pilkington stated that 1.6km still needs to be mapped in Corra Lynn Cave 5Y1. Currently (1998) the cave is 14km long.

20 YEARS AGO [23#2 Jul 1978]

- Jul 1978, Grant Gartrell very eloquently summed up the benefits of cave digging.

30 YEARS AGO [MAY-JUL 1968]

- May 1968, Joe Jennings printed the 4th and final portion of a glossary of caving terms. This glossary had 110 terms and was written by Joe on 4 Feb 1960.

40 YEARS AGO [22 June 1958]

- May 1958, an Easter trip to Lake Hamilton resulted in wading in water "up to our necks" to survey the Homestead Cave 5E1. Oh, and at Naracoorte, Lost Cave 5U34 was located (again).

HISTORICAL ITEM

90 YEARS AGO

R J Anketell led the WA team to survey the route for the Transcontinental Railway across the Nullarbor. Anketell left Kalgoorlie on 1 Jul 1908. The party surveyed to the SA border where they built a cairn. The surveyors noted several caves and blowholes. The party returned to Kalgoorlie on 27 Sep 1908. (J T Furner surveyed the SA section from Port Augusta to the WA border in 1908-9).

Max G Meth

THE STORY “BEHIND” THE SURVEY

Once upon a time while surveying a recent discovery a certain unnamed caver decided to progress slightly ahead of his two unnamed mates. At this time the three unnamed cavers thought that all they had to do was to survey a relatively small chamber and the job would be finished. While he was away, unnamed caver one crawled around a constriction and found a chamber that dwarfed the one that was being surveyed. After a cursory inspection unnamed



caver one returned to tell his two mates that they would be doing a lot more surveying than they had counted on. At this the ever-untrusting unnamed caver two made a polite remark not unrelated to disbelief. Unnamed caver one then suggested that unnamed caver two put his money where his mouth is and bet a six pack on it. Not to be out done unnamed caver two stated that not only would he put a six pack on it but that if the chamber was anywhere near the size claimed he would put his mouth elsewhere and “kiss unnamed caver one’s arse”. The only problem with this whole scenario is that when unnamed caver one saw the photo’s he got the impression that unnamed caver two enjoyed it all a bit too much.

%%%%%%%%%

CEGSA EQUIPMENT

Mark Sefton (Quartermaster) and Steve Milner went through the CEGSA equipment a couple of weekends ago and identified some pretty old gear that is seldom used. Some gear is still good and perhaps should be retained by the group and some is almost rubbish, but may be worth something to someone. We would like to ask people to look at the lists below and ask for people to put their hands up to look after worthwhile items.

“Worthwhile” stuff

- 10m Hawser-laid rope (Nylon)
- 5m Digging Rope (Hemp)
- 5m Digging Rope (Hemp)
- 10m Digging Rope (Hemp)
- 2m Rule (no divisions)
- 1 Set of rescue practice notices
- 2 Drag Mats ... both very heavy and of questionable use in a rescue!
- 10+m Ladder / tether-making cable (4mm)
- 3 Crimping tools
- 3 Bone Sieves
- 2 Bottles magnesium powder
- 1 Large Light Table / Box
- Misc. Silk screen kit

Then there is the junk(?) which could be auctioned off at a CEGSA fund-raiser:

- 1 Digging boat
- 2 Carbide Sieves
- 1 Set of carrying straps
- 1 Levelling tube / telephone line

- 1 Kerosene hurricane lamp
- 1 Plastic food drum
- 1 Power distribution board (faulty?)
- 2 Death abseil racks (museum pieces)
- Misc. Electrical leads, unidentifiable equipment
- Misc. Nuts and bolts

We would welcome suggestions on what is worth hanging on to and what is worth auctioning off.

Looking back through the old Annual Reports, and looking at what we have now, there is quite a bit of missing gear: Sticht plates, pulley, pitons, SRT hardware (descenders, ascenders, karabiners, harnesses), Silva compass, 100m fibreglass tape, RFDS Radio, theodolite, Geo-seismic apparatus. Some of this gear may have been retired or may simply be looked after by CEGSA members.

If anyone has information about any CEGSA equipment in their possession, or know of any gear that has recently been retired, can you please let me or Steve Milner know, so that we can complete an inventory and be able to record properly where the gear is.

MARK SEFTON,

Quartermaster.

%%%%%%%%%

CAVE NAMES

The following cave names have been gazetted under the Geographical Names Act 1969 - 1982 and are recognised as the geographical name of the place or feature. Note the spelling of some names. An early version of this list was published in CEGSA Newsletter 33 (3) p50.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>GAZETTE</u>
Alexandra Caves	U3, 90	16-8-990 p590
Arcoota Cave	F5	5-2-1987 p251
Bandoona Cave	F37	5-2-1987 p251
Bat Cave	U2	16-8-1990 p590
Biduna Blowhole	N116	5-2-1987 p251
Bildoolja Cave	N31	30-6-1988 p2061
Blackfellow Cave	L107	13-9-1990 p843
Blanche Caves	U4-6	16-8-1990 p590
Boars Cave	L26	19-10-1987 p1501
Bones Ponds	L265	12-3-1987 p622
Bunabie Blowhole	N21	30-6-1988 p2061
Burleeyung Cave	A16	16-5-1996 p2491
The Catacombs	N20	2-10-1986 p1237
Cathedral Cave	U12-13	16-8-1990 p590
Cave Hill		28-7-1984 p185
Caves Waterhole		12-5-1995 p1205
Collins Cave	L31	12-3-1987 p622
Dittaminkinna Cave		19-12-1985 p2127
Diprose Caves	N96-98	5-2-1987 p251
Disappointment Cave	N85	5-2-1987 p251
Drop Drop	L29	12-3-1987 p622
Ela Elap	L14	29-10-1987 p1501
Evans Caves		13-12-1984 p1836
Ewens Ponds	L159-161	12-3-1987 p622

Fossil Cave	L81	4-5-1989 p1215
Good Friday Caves	F6	5-2-1987 p251
Goulden Hole	L8	4-5-1989 p1215
Goulden Waterhole	L8	29-10-1987 p1501 (see 4-5-1989)
Hells Hole	L40	12-3-1987 p622
Ivy Cave	N13	2-10-1986 p1237
Jimmies Cave	N23	5-2-1987 251
Kilsby Hole	L46	29-10-1987p1501
Knowerwinung - Kukwart Runaway Hole		19-12-1985 p2127
Knowles Cave	N22	2-10-1987 p1237
Koomooloobooka Cave	N6	30-6-1988 p2061
Koonalda Cave	N4	30-6-1988 p2061
Mares Cave	F3	22-2-1996 p1229
Maroona Cave Soak		17-2-1994 p191
Maxs Hole	L100	12-3-1987 p622
Mount Sims Cave	F7	5-2-1987 p251
Murrawijinie Caves	N7-9	2-10-1986 p1237
Palankarinna Cave		19-12-1985 p2127
Piccaninnie Blue Lake	L9	12-3-1987 p622
Piccaninnie Ponds	L72	12-3-1987 p622
Robertson Cave	U19-20	16-8-1990 p590
The Tub	E20	28-10-1993 p2110
Umpherstone Cave	L6	12-3-1987 p622
Victoria Cave	U1	16-8-1990 p590
Warbla Cave	N1	30-6-1988 p2061
Weekes Cave	N15	30-6-1988 p2061
Wet Cave (Stick Entrance)	U10	28-7-1994 p180
Wet Cave (Tomato Entrance)	U11	28-7-1994 p180
White Wells Cave	N14	2-10-1986 p1237
Wigunda Cave	N147	15-9-1988 p1100
The Woolshed	E17	28-10-1993 p2110
Wooltana Cave	F9	21-8-1986 p607
Wurwurkooloo	L7	29-10-1987 p1501
Yanggunha Adnya Cave		13-4-1995 p1423
Yourambulla Caves		12-5-1994 p1205

OTHER INTERESTING NOMENCLATURE TIT BITS

Manning's Place Names of South Australia refers to **Deadman Cave**. It is described as being north of section 381, hundred of Willunga at the base of the northern cliffs of Blanche Point. The corpse of a murder victim was found there.

The Sunday Mail of 18 January 1998 in an article on Yorke Peninsula mentions a place named **Howling Cave Beach**.

From the above it can be seen there are caves other than those described in OP 5 or similar publications. Some of these references date back many years so why are there not any reports in the CEGSA News of these places being visited and documented. Afraid of finding a new cave.....Eh!

Kevin Mott

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates	Type of Event	Description	Contact
30/5/98	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
4/6/98	Caving	Sellicks Hill 5A25	Grant Gartrell
6-8/6/98	Caving	Flinders Ranges – Wirrealpa	Bill Binks
18/6/98	Caving	Sellicks Hill 5A25	Grant Gartrell
24/6/98	General Meeting	Royal Society Rooms	Steve Milner
27/6/98	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
22/7/98	General Meeting	Royal Society Rooms	Steve Milner
12/8/98	Newsletter	Deadline for Articles	Athol Jackson
26/8/98	General Meeting	Royal Society Rooms	Steve Milner
Coming Soon!	Caving	Foray Interstate	Marie Choi
2nd - 11th October	Caving	Mundrabilla HS. Survey & Exploration	Steve Milner

For updates on the calendar point your browser to
<http://www.users.on.net/smilner/index.html>
 or contact Steve Milner.