CEGSA NEWS



Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.

Volume 46 Number 2 Issue 182 MAY 2001



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 usually in the Royal Society of South Australia meeting room, Natural Science Building, South Australian Museum.

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Cover Photograph: Paul Harper entering the new entrance to the North West Passage of Victoria Fossil Cave at Naracoorte. **Photo:** Bill Binks.

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QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

Calendar of Events

High usage equipment will now be stored at the quartermaster's residence. Please make arrangements with the QM well in advance of required date for equipment. The QM can be contacted at the telephone numbers on the previous page.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

The deadline for copy or background material for Volume 46 Number 3 (Issue 183) must reach the Editor by Wednesday 8th August 2001. Material not meeting this deadline may be retained for possible use in a following issue. The preferred method is via E-MAIL at atholjax@senet.com.au as an attachment or on 3.5" IBM floppy disk, 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

As winter is approaching it is getting harder to get out of the arm chair and drag ourselves to the general meetings, I know this is true as only ten people turned up at the April general meeting so we could only sit around, talk and watch a video as we did not have a quorum to hold a meeting. So it would be nice to see a few more members supporting the running of the club and turning up, its not all politics and policy occasionally we talk about past trips and sometimes even plan future trips. Talking about trips I know there are a few newer members wanting more trips run well 3 beginners trips have been recently cancelled as no-one showed any interest, my advise to you if you want to go caving is contact the person running the trip or speak to someone on the committee to organize a trip because if you stand back you wont go caving.

Legal and liability issues have been on the committee agenda for a while now and they are far from being resolved. As CEGSA controls access to several gated caves the committee has decided that until our legal position is clarified only Speleo Council clubs will be given keys to access the caves we control. And only CEGSA members may borrow gear from our Quartermaster (for club trips only).

For all those who think that being on the committee is a picnic remember its the committee that holds the unenviable position of being the individuals who will potentially be sued if people are injured or property is damaged on a CEGSA trip.

If an individual is injured on a CEGSA trip and decides to sue the club for negligence it will be the trip leader and the individuals on the committee who will be putting their houses on the line defending the action, not the general club membership. Our insurance might cover us if there is no negligence, but that would have to be tested in court, so what it boils down to is when the committee accept a person as a trip leader or select someone as the training officer or safety officer the committee depends on that person doing the right thing, the trip leader/officer must be answerable to the committee for their actions and must be willing to follow committee directives otherwise the committee is faced with being responsible for members who are off doing whatever they please - which is just not on.

The committee is putting together guidelines to encourage members to act safely and to think safety, when we have a draft we will circulate it for comment. We don't want to make hard and fast rules that will stifle our caving but looking at legal/liability issues and our duty of care to the membership the committee has to take action.

On a lighter note I would like to squash a vicious rumour being spread about me by certain under weight individuals who get great delight in making fun of normal size people who cant fit in the rat holes they go in:

- 1. I was not stuck!
- 2. I went through the same hole two years ago!
- 3. The hole shrank!
- 4. It was my shoulders that were too large not my gut!
- 5. It's the last time I am following 9 year olds and under fed Uni students!

El Prez.

Paul Harper.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Dave Trehearne and Andrea Ratcliff who have tied the **Ultimate Knot**.

To Linda Deer who has attained the **magic 21** years.

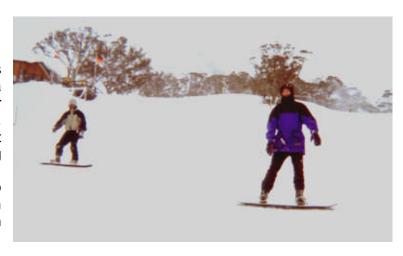
TRIP REPORTS

SNOWBOARDING and Caving in NSW, August 2000.

Party: Dave Glowacki, Julius Gheude and Bill Binks.

SNOWBOARDING? Yes - not normally material for CEGSA newsletters, but do we really care! In August 2000 (a while back I know) Jules, Dave and myself headed off on a 9 day odyssey into NSW and Victoria, with the main aim of going snowboarding for the first time, and not killing ourselves. We did actually go caving for half a day at Wee Jasper, hence my justification for this report in CEGSA News. But snowboarding was the main event, was bloody good fun, and we plan to do it again this year. This is therefore a bit of an ad for fellow caver-type people out there to join us being boarder-type people later this year, when CEGSA Does the Snow.

After a massive drive from Naracoorte, we arrived at Wee Jasper Sat night and abseiled into Dip Cave for a look on the Sunday. That night we stayed at Bill's sister's place in Canberra. After a touristy morning, we headed for Jindabyne in mountains to the south. Driving up to Thredbo village the next day, Dave and I encountered falling snow for the first time – amazing!. We discovered how NOT to learn to snowboard (straight down hill!), then quickly improved and were soon venturing higher on the mountain.





Jules and Dave

After a couple of beers that evening, I enticed Dave and Jules back out to the slopes for some night action!! Needless to say, it was a blast & we stayed till we got kicked off. The fun continued the next day, despite cloudier weather, VERY sore muscles and almost permanently losing Jules somewhere at Thredbo. Our trip home was an anticlimax and long, but very scenic — via NSW south coast, lots of forest, Eden, Orbost, Buchan Caves (no caving but caught up with some VSA members), and Melbourne.

So, please contact us if you're interested in

a week of serious mayhem in the snow in August or September, when we embark on

**** BILL AND DAVE'S FUNKY SNOW VENTURE 2001 ****

Bill and Dave's Funky Snow Venture 2001: Likely itinerary is four days snowboarding at Thredbo with one rest day in middle. We might try to have a look at Yarrangobilly Caves on our rest day, and give it a vague link to caving. Group size would probably be a maximum of 6.

Bill Binks

Corra Lynn Come and Try day and BBQ, Sunday March 25th

Participants: Paul Harper, Graham & Siona Pilkington, Paul Deer, Tim Payne, Frank Hankinson, Frank Stomski, Lance Hoey, Barbara Mcfadyen, George, June and Aaron MacLucas, Gary Woodcock & Jeanette Chapman & the young ones, Marie Choi plus 11 visitors.

This was the first come and try day to be held at Corra Lynn cave since the access arrangements had been reviewed with Andrew Slater, the property owner. It was also to be an opportunity for Andrew to get to know some of the membership and for the club to mend a few fences. Andrew was to join us in the caving but was unable to because he had injured his back (keep in mind he had married just a few weeks earlier).

The day was to start by meeting all parties at the bowling green in Curramulka at 9.30am for cave indemnity forms to be signed, most parties were on time, including those who thought it might be too early. Paul and I delivered the signed forms to Andrews house where Brett the visitor that had caught a ride with us spotted a mouse spider in Andrews front garden. These are a solid looking little spider with a reddish head or jaw area, they have a toxin similar to bees but much stronger. Anyway after a quick chat to Andrew to confirm using his shearing shed for the BBQ we headed off to the cave.

Paul Harper and Tim Payne took half the visitors to chamber Crvstal area Whilst Paul Deer and myself took the rest to rats squeeze for a quick look. A few made an attempt to get through but chose not to push it. (For those that don't know what area I am talking about it's the 4mtre long really tight crawl on the right near the cauldron and leads to the drumstone). We then headed to the top of Woodside where we rigged a ladder and belay: it was slow going as we had about 10 people in the group. We eventually made our way back to the cauldron where



Paul Harper (stuck) in squeeze.

Photo: Marie Choi.

we met up with Paul and Tim's party. They were coming out of the squeeze opposite from rat's squeeze. Tim and Frank had made their way out of this squeeze with few problems. This was not to be the case for our illustrious leader, Mr Harper. He was having a fine time trying to extract himself with some help from Frank who was trying to lubricate him with his drinking water. After Frank and Tim did a little gardening around the hole Paul was finally able to extract himself. (No more Death by Chocolate for Paul)

Once our group had amused itself enough watching Paul's antics we headed up the cauldron and on to rope crevasse before exiting the cave for the BBQ. Paul H and his group headed out to lower Woodside so they could de-rig the ladder. We reached the surface to find that Graham had spent his time productively tiding up all the loose gravel from around the steps. Once all gear and cavers had returned we headed to the shed to be met by Andrew for the BBQ. Our timing was great too because not long after we all got inside it bucketed down.

The Group spent a few hours eating and socialising with Andrew before heading home. All in all it was a good day and Andrew enjoyed the opportunity to meet some more members. Plans are afoot to make it an annual event.

Marie Choi.

Victoria Fossil Cave – the new bits.

Party: Gary Woodcock, Bill Binks, Frank Hankinson, Paul Harper and Steve Bourne.

In 2000 there were three trips to Victoria Fossil Cave as part of the continuing project (now 5 years old) to confirm the extent of the cave and update the survey. Since finishing the south-eastern part of the cave, the focus has been on the central areas around the Great Hall and on the north western extremities. Defining the boundaries of the North West Passage (NWP) was of particular interest, in light of the roadwork aiming to move the road away from the cave. Whilst drilling test holes for the new road in early 2000, a new cavern was found just outside the known limits of the cave. An entrance into this chamber was created by NPWS and the chamber was briefly explored. The third trip of the year, in December, was intended to "wrap up" the survey in the end of the NWP and check if the new chamber was in fact part of the main cave.

9-10 December 2000

We continued surveying the 'fingers' at the far end of the NWP from where we finished on the last trip. This included relocating and linking in with the RDF stations originally placed in the early seventies. Late in the day, having pretty well finished this area, Paul and Frank had a close look at the end of the most western 'finger' chamber and found a way on under the wall and into a low tunnel with a slight breeze. Although very tight and awkward due to the numerous sharp rocks, the crawl continued northwest for over 25 metres until opening up into a sizeable chamber with a rock pile. We surveyed about halfway through the crawl, and then had a close look at the rock pile. A route through the left side of the rock pile was found and led into more open space on the other side. We realised we were now in the new entrance chamber, and within a few minutes found the shaft, leading about 10 m to the surface. We were not able to exit through the shaft, but realised its potential benefit of allowing straightforward access to this remote section of the cave. We headed out the normal way through tourist section, which took nearly two hours.

On the Sunday we took things a bit easier and surveyed parts of the southern side of the Great Hall in detail, including adding a side passage left off the original map.

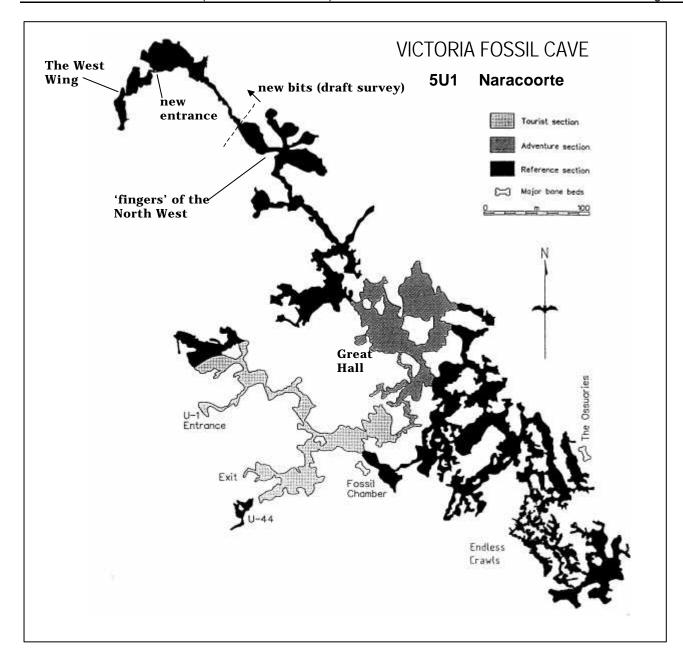
24-25 February 2001

A ladder was rigged to enter the shaft now confirmed as the cave's 'newest' entrance (see Paul on the cover). We began surveying the main chamber, which is roughly 25m wide with a roof height of over 4m in places. Several leads off this central hub were identified and partly explored. One of the more promising was just next to/below the entrance hole itself (tentatively named the West Wing). This dropped down to a base level crawl for a few metres, then opened up to a low chamber, followed by another. Frank and Steve made an arduous return trip to the end of the NWP and concluded that the new entrance was definitely the most sensible way in to this area. After exiting to lunch at the Bent Wing Cafe, we spent the afternoon surveying the connection back to the last station in the extension of the NWP – thus linking in with the rest of the cave.

On Sunday some of the side leads were probed further. We surveyed a traverse into the West Wing, up to a small end alcove that contains bones in a clay floor. This is a sensitive area and at this stage the survey is fairly basic. There are bits off this passage and other leads from the main chamber that are yet to be fully surveyed. It does appear that the cave extends under the newly bituminised deviated road. Exactly how far it goes is uncertain: maybe we are actually closing in on the true north west boundary of this sprawling giant!

There will be more trips to this part of the cave (next sometime in June) and other sections that need further survey work. If you are interested in helping with this survey/exploration project please contact Gary Woodcock (h 8380 5154) to find out about the next trip.

Bill Binks.



The Defrosted Caver (at Snake Hill, Easter 2001).

Back in 1991 an almost perfectly preserved prehistoric man, who had lay entombed in the ice for five millennia, was found on an Alpine glacier. Scientists, the media and the public were rightly amazed at this wondrous find and at the intersection of improbable circumstances that had caused him to be fleetingly exposed and then to be found before he turned to dust.

Everyone searched for a suitable name for this find - a name that was poetic, a name that captured its wonder and awe, a name that would resonate with scientific significance. They finally came up with ... 'the iceman'. Oh well.

Now what is the significance of all this, I hear you ask. Only that, like the iceman, if he could talk (which he couldn't of course - the find was wondrous, but not that wondrous), or perhaps like Rumple Stiltskin or like Mel Gibson in that movie about the pilot in the time capsule (although suggesting an analogy between myself and Mel Gibson might be stretching things just a tad), I have an uncontrollable urge to tell you how the world has changed.

You see, I have just returned to caving after a long break. I won't tell you how long a break,

but I started caving at that difficult age when one is too old for toys and too young for sex. Then I discovered sex. Now I am just too old.

My impressions of caving now come from scouring the Internet and from one and a half trips with CEGSA and my knowledge of the real state of the caving world are probably wrong. However, I don't want facts to stand in the way and am putting my impressions down on paper before what was then and what is now become intertwined and hopelessly blurred.

The changes, and lack of changes, in caving technology is perhaps the most obvious thing that comes to mind. When I started researching lighting I expected carbide, somewhat like cigarette smoking, to have largely died out or at least only be indulged in by small ostracised groups, huddled alone. However, at least on the net it seems that some people still defiantly light up, although, like smokers, they are being assailed by a non-carbide lobby. While I never used carbide myself (or at least never inhaled) I am heartened by the survival of these belching dinosaurs. They certainly add to the romance of caving (speaking of romance - when Norbert Casteret stripped off to plunge through sumps, where did he keep his candle?).

It will be a sad day when the last carbide caver dies (probably killed by all these carbon microparticles and other nasties I keep reading about) and the only light seen underground is the cold sterile glow of LEDs.

In the electric world there now seems to be wide choice of off-the-shelf lighting solutions. In my day Oldhams and acid burns were de rigueur. However, I am also heartened to see that cavers in the field still resort to homemade modifications and that a roll of electrical tape and pliers are still part of the kit. May that elusive search for the 'perfect caving light' continue.

When I stopped caving the impact of SRTs were just being felt and I suspected that ladders might have died out. They are, of course, still around and like the poor will probably always be with us. What has changed a lot is belaying. In my day you just wrapped the end of a rope around yourself, tied a bowline and happily trusted your life to some big beefy bloke who usually anchored himself by jamming his crotch against a convenient rock. Now belaying involves an incredible amount of hardware and time and, I suspect, sometimes leads to 'what the hell, it's only a little pitch, let's not bother with a belay' situations.

While I am sure that these new belaying methods and technologies are better, strangely I don't *feel* any safer. Perhaps it is that primarily trusting in flesh and bone and muscles to stop your fall just seems more comforting than trusting in nylon and aluminium and a manufacturer's guarantee. Maybe this change in technology came about because all that rock-in-the-crotch anchoring finally took its toll and these belayers of old just didn't have any offspring to pass on their skills to.

Enough of the nostalgia - now for what Marie actually asked me to write about - the Easter visit to Snake Hill Cave.

I am glad Marie coaxed and cajoled me past the first little squeeze, which didn't turn out to really be much of a squeeze at all. I found this an unusual cave. It is not often you visit a cave that is so shallow that parts are actually above ground. I was warned that angry fallen (or falling?) snakes were a hazard, but the risk of sunburn wasn't mentioned. Still, it is certainly nice to be able to work on your suntan and cave at the same time and the ability to say 'that's enough' and exit virtually anywhere has to be a plus.

All-in-all a fairly pleasant and comfortable cave (apart from the real squeeze that I enviously watched many in the party try for, to my mind, no obvious reason) and one that I would recommend to claustrophobics everywhere.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

NEW FULL MEMBERS - WELCOME TO

0108 **ACKROYD Peter** (H) 03-9347-8058

384 Canning Street, CARLTON NORTH VIC 3054

TRANSFER TO FULL MEMBERSHIP

9804 **GEORGE Trudy** 0004 **DEER Paul**

WELCOME BACK TO FORMER MEMBERS

9205 **NATHAN Graham** (H) 8389 8092 (W) 8269 5788 Fam with 9213 Post Office, URAIDLA SA 5142 9213 **PACKER Jasmin** (H) 8389 8092 (W) 8269 5788

In Fam with 9205 Post Office, URAIDLA SA 5142

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9413 LOWE Dave P O Box 5024 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

PHN/FAX (H) 08 8952 2415 PHN (W) 08 8951 4325 (E)(H) read@dove.net.au (E)(W)catdgl@ozemail.com.au

Chris Gibbons. Membership Officer.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

YEAR 2001 CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES	CEGSA	+ ASF	TOTAL
FULL MEMBERSHIP	\$38.00	\$26.00	\$64.00
FULL COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP	\$32.00	\$26.00	\$58.00
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$31.00	\$26.00	\$57.00
LONG TERM ASSOCIATE	\$38.00	\$26.00	\$64.00
First Year Associate (no Australian Caver)	\$31.00	\$5.00	\$36.00
Life Member (Active)	\$0.00	\$26.00	\$26.00
ASF fee for full time students		\$18.50	
VARIATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	CEGSA	+ ASF	TOTAL
1) First Full member \$38 + second Full member \$38	\$76.00	\$44.00	\$120.00
Less \$16 for only 1 CEGSA NEWS	\$60.00	\$44.00	\$104.00
2) First Full member \$38 + Second Associate member \$31	\$69.00	\$44.00	\$113.00
Less \$16 for only 1 CEGSA NEWS	\$53.00	\$44.00	\$97.00
3) First Associate member \$31 + second Associate member \$31	\$62.00	\$44.00	\$106.00
Less \$16 for only one CEGSA NEWS	\$46.00	\$44.00	\$90.00

Chris Gibbons.

Treasurer.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

For Caving Clipart and other Tiddbits http://www.angelfire.com/mo/bucketheadsgrotto/

Gear and UK info try http://www.berniescafe.co.uk/

Marie Choi.

BCRO Incident Report for Period

1st January 2000 - 31st December 2000

	Cave Rescue Organisation	Cornwall Mineshaft RU	Cumbria Ore Mines RU	Derbyshire CRO	Devon CRO	Gloucestershire CRG	Irish CRO	Mendip RO	Midlands CRO	North Wales CRO	Scottish CRO	South East CRO	South Wales CRO	Swaledale FRO	Upper Wharfedale FRA	West Cornwall Mines RG	Others (1)	TOTALS
Caving Incidents	12	-	2	4(4)	•	2	1	5	2(4)	1	•	1	4		1	•		34
Persons Assisted	23		2	6		1	1	12	0	3	1	1	9		2	•		60
Fatalities	1	1	0	0	ું	0	0	0	1	0	12	0	0		0	2		2
Persons Injured ⁽²⁾	2	•	1	0	•	1	1	0	0	3	3	2	2		0	-		12
Helicopter assistance (3)	2(2)		2(2)	1	+	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	0		0	-		5
Animal Incidents	6	774	1	0	¥	1	0	0	0	0		0	1	-23	2	1		12
Assistance to other teams	7020	1	w	2	2	13	3	100	_(4)	÷	180			•		3.0		0
Totals Underground Incidents	18		3	4	*	3	1	5	2	1		1	5	1	3	1	·	46
Surface Incidents	31(5)			1(6)	2	1		2	2			4		15	10(5)		×	59
Persons Assisted	57	14		-	*	1		1	*			4	:•:	39	12	je.	×	110
Fatalities	3(5)				*	1		0			9			2	5(5)	•	×	9
Persons Injured	20	e#			*	0		0	•:	*			X = 1	14	5	: ·	х	39
Surface Animal Incidents	3			*		0		0		*		3.00	(**)	2	0		×	5
Assistance to other teams	3	=	NEW.	12	-	0		-	2	4	i.	•	•	2	0	9.	×	5
Totals Surface Incidents	37	22		1	¥	1		2		4.			(Ge)	19	10		9	69

NOTES:

- 1. The "others" column reflects underground rescues carried out by member teams of the MRC and whose incident reports have been submitted to the BCRC.
- 2. Injuries include those assisted for a medical condition, but exclude cavers assisted through exhaustion.
- Row records use of helicopter to evacuate casualty, figure in brackets is the number of calls to the RAF included in the total.
- 4. Derbyshire Cave Rescue and Midland Cave Rescue were called to an incident in Dudley Mines, see incident 9.
- 5. CRO was called when two schoolgirls were swept away in flood conditions at Stainforth in North Yorkshire. UWFRA were called in to assist this difficult rescue. Members of the Cave Diving Group (CDG) were also called in. This rescue involved many other services.
- 6. Derbyshire CRO was asked by Derbyshire police to assist in the search for a missing person in a quarry near Matlock. The body was, however, found before DCRO arrived. The team did a search for forensic evidence on behalf of the police.

Further details relating to this incident report or about the BCRC and its membership can be obtained from the Hon Secretary,

Pete Allwright, Pearl Hill, Dent, Sedbergh, Cumbria LA 10 5TG; telephone 015396 25412 Email: PeteAllwright@compuserve.com

Summary of Incident Report, 2000

- 1. There was one underground caving fatality in 2000:
 - A caver drowned in flood conditions, see incident 31
- 2. Of the 34 underground incidents, teams undertook 4 incidents assisting the police in the execution of their duty incidents 9, 14, 23 and 34. Of these, 2 involved fatalities incidents 23 and 34.
- 3. The main causes and injuries sustained over recent years are recorded here. The *Injuries Incurred* table includes fatalities and exposure/hypothermia incidents.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
assist police	2	3		7	2	14
cave diving			1			1
equipment failure		1				1
exposure/exhausted	3	3	6	2	4	18
fall	11	4	5	4	4	28
flooding	1	4	4	2	3	14
hung up	1		2			3
light failure	1				1	2
lost or overdue	8	9	15	11	8	51
medical emergency	2	2	4	2	2	12
missing person	2		1	1	2	6
other	4	2	1	1		8
physically stuck	2	3		1	5	11
rock fall	2	2	1	3	2	10
self marooning		3	1	1		5
unable to climb				1	1	2
(Grand Total	39	36	41	36	34	186

	1996	1997	1998	1999 2000	Total
arm lower/wrist			1	2	3
arm/humerous shoulder	2			1	3
Chest Injuries	1		2	2	5
Drowned			1	1	2
Exhaustion/hypothermia	1	2	9	1 5	20
femur - pelvic injuries	1	1		1	3
Head Injuries	2	1	1	1	5
Knee Injuries			2	2 1	3
leg - lower/ankle	3	1	2	1 3	7
Medical condition	1	1	2	1 1	6
Multiple Serious	1	2			3
Spine/back injuries	1	2	1	2	6
Grand Total	13	10	21	7 18	68

Table 1: Incident Causes

Table 2: Injuries Incurred

- 4. The Cave Rescue Organisation is based in Clapham, North Yorkshire.
- 5. The underground animal incidents included 1 calf, 5 lambs and 6 dogs. `Surface Incidents' include fell/moorland rescues and searches. Teams, chiefly although not exclusively in the north, carry out these duties as part of their normal workload. These incidents are also recorded in the Mountain Rescue Council Incident Report for 2000.
- 6. Attendance of rescue personnel was recorded in 33 (30, 32) of the incidents. These involved an average of some 88'/4 (48'/z, 170) man-hours of effort and 15 (12, 21) personnel at an incident. (Figures in brackets are for 1999 and 1998 respectively.) These figures do not include resulting equipment maintenance and re-equipping of rescue vehicles. In this report, incidents are recorded where personnel have been deployed to the site; other problems or alerts are not included.
 - 7. The following table provides the age profile of the casualties involved *where they have been reported:*

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
10-14	1	2	2	2	1	2	1				11
15-20	8	9	12	5	2	4	6	3	2	2	53
20-24	15	4	14	10	5	3	2	14	12	5	84
25-29	4	5	11	10	2	7	5	6	1	2	53
30-34	9	7	6	3	2	4	4	5	5	4	49
35-39	1	2	1	3	2	3	3		1	1	17
40-44		1	3	2	1		7	2	3	5	24
45-49		2	2	1		2	1	4	5	2	19
50-54			1	1	1	1		1	2	3	10
55-59				2	1		1				4
60-64	1						1		1		3
65-69										1	1
70-74								1	2		3
75-79						1					1

Summary of Incidents for 2000

1. Sunday 2 ,lanuary by CRO at 18:13 (for 3/4 hour)

Rumbling Hole, lost or overdue, not known

Cavers (2m) reported overdue. Were found by lead CRO party returning across the moor.

2. Monday 3 January by MRO at 13:00 (for 1/4 hour)

Thrupe lane Swallet, flooding, individuals,

Person reported trapped by flood waters. Whilst measures were being taken to divert water, caver (m) returned to the surface having sat out the worst of the flood and made his way to the surface as soon as the route was practical.

3. Sunday 9 January by SWCRO at 18:00 (for 1/2 hour)

Ogof Gwynt yr Eira, lost or overdue, club

Party overdue from digging and diving trip. A team member was dispatched to check for vehicle still at cave. Missing cavers arrived back at 18:50 and team was stood down -mix up over callout time

4. Thursday 20 January by MRO at 19:00 (for 1 hour)

Swildons Hole, lost or overdue, school

Leader of a party became separated from his party (5m) somewhere in the region of Jacobs Ladder. He had last seen them heading in the direction of Baptistery Crawl and into Showerbath Chamber. He had been unable to follow, and when he failed to make contact with them above Jacobs Ladder he made a quick search of the Wet Way. MRO deployed a search party to the upper reaches of the cave. This party met the group on the way to the cave.

5. Saturday 5 February by UW FR.A at 21:30 (for 6 1/2 hours)

Dowbergill Passage. lost or overdue, not known

Two cavers (m36,m29) failed to find way through Dowbergill Passage from Providence to Dow Cave. Eventually found and escorted out.

6. Wednesday 16 February by CCRG at 13:40 (for 2 hours)

C10. Symonds Yat, medical emergency, adventure training

Member of youth group (m) suffered slipped disc in cave. Fire and Rescue called by 999 operator - cave rescue called some 30 minutes later. F&R and a paramedic went underground and casualty was assisted to surface and taken to road head at river level for evacuation to hospital.

7. Wednesday 8 March by SECRO at 00:03 (for 2 hours)

Bedlams Bank Quarry, Surrey, lost or overdue, club

Two cavers (2m30s) became lost in the western section of the old stone quarries leading to "The Groutings" (contains 10 miles of similar looking passage). The leader had previously been to this area three times. Their ladder down the entrance shaft had also been disconnected and dropped down the entrance shaft!

8. Thursday 30 March by DerbyCRO at 16:10 (for 2:08 hours)

P8, Castleton, exposure/exhausted, club

Caver (m52) became exhausted and was unable to climb first 8 metre pitch. Companion did not have equipment to help him up. Straight forward rescue complicated by attendance of large numbers of fire service personnel and breakdown of surface communications.

9. Sunday 2 April by DerbyCRO and MidlandCR0 at 18:45 (for 3 3/4 hours)

Seven .Sisters Cave. Dudlev. assist police

Warden observed 6 people entering the mine, but saw only 2 returning. Alarm was raised and DCRO were asked to investigate. A joint effort between DCRO/MCRO and the police established the missing youths were drunk or drugged, and were not approachable. Rescue operation was called off.

10. Monday 3 April by CRO at 22:18 (for 3 1/2 hours)

Gaping Ghyll, exposure/exhausted

Different groups of cavers entered system via Flood Entrance, by Stream Passage Pot, or by Dihedral shaft. Shortly after leaving Main Chamber, caver (m22) became exhausted. He was assisted/hauled to the surface via Bar Pot.

11. Saturday 22 April by CRO at 10:35 (for 3 hours)

Sell Gill Hole, fall, scout

Caver (f52) on first descent of SRT rope suffered an uncontrolled descent of about 10 metres on the second pitch, suffering compression fractures to the spine and severe bruising. Evacuated to surface and by RAF helicopter to hospital.

12. Wednesday 3 May by SWCRO at 18:51 (for 3:03 hours)

OFD Top Entrance, medical emergency, club

Caver dislocated kneecap in the Shatter Pillar area of the cave. Assistance was called. Meanwhile the caver (f23) started to make her way out of the cave with assistance. Was met by rescue team just after Edwards Short Cut. Casualty was then carried in stretcher to surface. A smooth and fast rescue was effected through the self-help effected by the casualty and her party.

13. Monday, 8 May by MRO at 22:00 (for 3 hours)

Rhino Rift, lost or overdue, not known

A trip ticket for a group visiting Rhino Rift was found on the board at the Belfy. There was concern that a party of 4 had been down the cave since the previous day. The missing party's car was located at the farm, but on checking with the farmer, it transpired they had only entered the cave mid-morning that day. They were expected to be on a long trip. Later that day, the farmer raised the alarm when the cavers failed to surface. It was decided to wait until midnight before instigating action. When MRO arrived at the farm at 01:00, the car had gone- they had missed the group by minutes.

14. Wednesday 10 May by COMRU at 16:30 (for 5 1/2, hours)

Honister Slate Quarry. Cumbia, missing person. non-caver

Called to assist police/mountain rescue in search for missing man (63) in Honister Hause and Yew Crag Quarries. Nothing found. (Man was reported near Keswick at time of rescue.)

15. Sunday 28 May by CRO at 14:40 (for 6 hours)

Stream Passage Pot, fall, club

Caver (m43) lost control on abseil while resting at a deviation on the 3rd pitch and fell some 5 metres, suffering a fractured rib and severe bruising. He was lowered down to Sand Caverns and evacuated to Main Chamber, where he was lifted out on the Bradford Pothole Club winch. Assisted by Bradford Pothole Club members.

16. Saturday 10 June by COMRU at 13:00 (for 8 hours)

Smallclough Mine, Nenthead, Cumbria, fall, club

Party of 2 entered mine and one (m43) descended Hydraulic Shaft first pitch. Found that ladder was too short. Attempted to climb back through heavy flow of water and lost grip, falling approximately 5 to 7 metres, and landed prone on back, suffering serious spinal injuries and a detached sternum. The alarm was raised by his companion. local mountain rescue teams called to assist with evacuation up pitch of about 33 metres and approximately 1 kilometre of crawling and stooping levels. Doctor with casualty throughout. Taken to Newcastle General by RAF helicopter. Assisted by Penrith and Patterdale MRTs.

17. Thursday 20 July by DerbyCRO at 22:45 (for 1 3/4 hours)

Jug Holes, Matlock, light failure, individuals

2 locals and a visiting friend (m21, m20, m 19) entered lower entrance to do through trip, but got lost, when all their penlight torches failed. Quickly found and escorted out.

18. Saturday 22 July by CRO at 21:25 (for 1/2 hour)

Tatham Wife Hole, lost or overdue

Party of cavers (3m,f) reported overdue. Were found at their vehicle by initial investigation party.

19. Friday 28. July by DerbyCRO at 23:00 (for 1 1/4 hours)

Nettle Pot, Casleton. lost or overdue, club

Party of 2 experienced cavers (m36, m21) were reported overdue. Met on surface by advance rescue party. The time for callout had been mis-interpreted and rescue was called much too early.

20. Tuesday 1 August by CRO at 17:40 (for 1 3/4 hours)

Big Meanie, Leck Fell, physically stuck, individuals

Caver (m22) became physically wedged. The weight of tackle bags and other equipment on rope below hindered escape. CRO removed personal gear, then he was assisted out relatively easily.

21. Sunday 6 August by CRO at 06:45 (for 10 1/4 hours)

Gaping Ghyll, physically stuck, individuals

Caver (m42) became physically wedged whilst returning through Sahara Passage, and suffered light failure. He was freed by companions but was on 'wrong' side of small passage. Rest of party made their way out on failing lights to raise alarm. Casualty waited for some 8 hours in darkness for CRO teams to arrive. He was escorted out via Eastern Way and Southgate back to Bar Pot, where he was hauled up the pitches.

22. Wednesday 16 August by CRO at 14:50 (for 2 hours)

Yordas Pot, unable to climb, individuals

Two cavers (m.f), believed of limited experience, descended Yordas Pot in high water conditions. One (f40) was unable to return up 24 metre pitch. CRO found her very cold and wet. She was quickly hauled to the surface.

23. Saturday 19 August by GCRG at 12:00 (for 2:03 hours)

underground sites around Symonds Yat, missing person, non-caving incident

Called in by Hereford and Worcester Constabulary to search underground sites in and around Symonds Yat for missing person. Body found at the base of cliffs by the other agencies searching the crags

24. Saturday 19 August by CRO at 23:30 (for 3 1/2 hours)

Gaping Ghyll, flooding, individuals

Cavers (m48, m32, m32) passed through the Font and explored the Whitsun Series. Meanwhile, the Font flooded as a result of the prevailing weather conditions. The three were reported as missing and Craven Pothole Club (who were operating the Main Shaft winch) search likely routes before calling CRO. Meanwhile, they bailed the Font and made contact with the missing cavers, and soon they were able to pass through. They were met by the CRO and cave divers, who were making their way into the cave.

25. Sunday 20 August by CRO at 12:15 (for 1 1/4 hours)

Short Gill Cave, Barbondale, physically stuck, not known

Caver (m52) became stuck in 5 metre entrance climb. As his companions freed him, a rock fell on his head, inflicting minor head injuries. He was brought to the surface as CRO lead team arrived and was able to walk to road head with assistance. AA air ambulance called but was not used.

26. Wednesday 27 September by CRO at 15:03 (for I 1/2 hours)

dig near, Aygill Caverns, Casterton Fell. rock fall, club

Caver (m68) trapped by legs in a surface dig after the boulders moved in the entrance. Quickly released by CRO members. He suffered bruising to both legs.

27. Saturday 30 September by SWCRO at 16:20 (for 4 hours)

Ogof Pen Eryr, physically stuck, club

Caver (m25) failed to negotiate squeeze, leaving a further 5 cavers marooned inside cave. He was released suffering bruised ribs and all returned safely to surface.

28. Sunday 1 October by MRO at 12:00 (for 1/4 hour)

St Cuthberts Swallet, physically stuck, individuals

Report of caver (m) physically stuck in Entrance Rift and could not move. The "baby bouncer" and hauling equipment was requested, and sent underground. The caver had already been freed. There was some concern over possible flooding which brought urgency to the situation.

29. Friday 27 October by NWCRO at 19:50 (for 3 hours)

Bwlch y Plwm Mine, Gwynedd, fall, individuals

NWCRO were called to support the South Snowdonia and Aberglaslyn MR teams when cavers (Im, 2f) suffered various injuries as a result of abseiling difficulties. The male casualty suffered a broken leg, whilst the two females suffered lower arm injuries.

30. Saturday, 4 November by SWCRO at 19:00 (for 3 hours)

Pant Mawr Pot, exposure/exhausted, club

Caver (m) unable to climb ladder. Casualty hauled up 20 metre shaft and returned to base via team landrover.

31. Sunday 12 November by CRO at 14:42

Lancaster Hole, flooding. individuals

(10 1/2 hours, 38 persons) Two cavers entered the Main Drain in Lancaster Hole reportedly at Stake Pot. Almost immediately the first caver was washed away by high water. The second caver quickly followed. The latter found slow water at Fall Pot and, although suffering head injuries, was able to make his way out of the cave and up Lancaster Hole to raise the alarm. A search of the Main Drain was greatly hampered by the high-water conditions; the caver could not be found in and around the area of the Main Drain that could be searched.

Monday 13th November: (11 1/4 hours, 18 persons) A similar search was repeated in rising water conditions. This included a wider search of the high level passages and the through route through to Wretched Rabbit. All were negative.

Wednesday 15th November: (5 1/4 hours, 6 persons) The Main Drain from Stake Pot to the sump were searched by a small party in lower water conditions. Preparations for a larger search to include divers were made.

Sunday 19th November: (14 1/4 hours, 39 persons) A planned search of the sump by cave divers was organised, and much diving equipment was ferried into the cave. A search of the Main Drain up from the sump was initiated and the body of the first caver was found above Stake Pot, between Oxbow Corner and Stake Pot. It has since been established that the cavers entered the Main Drain at Oxbow Corner.

32. Saturday 25 November by ICRO at 12:20 (for 10 1/4 hours)

Pollbeg Cave. Poll na Gollum. rock fall, club

Caver (m) trapped by his left leg in a rock fall. Two cavers stayed with the casualty whilst two other raised alarm. Serious difficulties and delays in raising mountain or cave rescue through the emergency system, and local ICRO warden was contacted directly. On arrival, it was reported a further collapse had occurred whilst attempting to free the caver, and that some of the rescuers were now trapped beyond. A full national callout was instigated. The extrication of the injured caver was difficult and dangerous in restricted conditions, and the cavers injuries meant that time was critical. Caver and others were freed at 22:30 and was examined by a doctor before transport to hospital. Assisted by Doolin Coast Guard, fire service throughout.

33. Saturday 2 December by MRO at 18:30 (for 2 hours)

Swildons Hole, exposure/exhausted, scout

Caver (f40) unable to climb ladder at the 20ft pitch. Water levels were very high. She was hauled up the pitch and was then able to make her own way out with assistance from the rescue team.

34. Sunday 10 December by MCR0 at 09:45 (for 5 1/2 hours)

tunnel at Stirchley, Telford, Shropshire, assist police Assist police in location and retrieval of body from tunnel.

LIBRARY AND RECORDS

We have recently purchased a copy of *Australian Bats* by Sue Churchill consisting of 230 pages of identification guide with information to over 75 species of Australian bats.

Alan Jevons before he departed for his new employment in Sydney handed in data from various projects he has worked on in the past. Alan also donated spare folders for filing purposes.

Simon Kendrick donated to CEGSA many topographical maps of different areas of Australia, which includes a high percentage of South Australia. (not yet catalogued)

Clare Buswell of FUSS has handed in data from a recent Flinders trip to Wilkawillina Gorge including photographs of F187 "Chokes and Slopes", F188 "The Sisyphean Slip", F189 "Purple Zinc Cave" and F190 "Paul's Rift".

George MacLucas.



It's either an elaborate hoax or they were more advanced than we thought.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
23/05/01	General Meeting	Royal Society Room	Paul Harper
26/05/01	Working Bee	Library and records	George MacLucas
26 -27 /05/01	Caving	Furner, South East (see below)	Dave Glowacki
02/06/01	Caving	Corra Lyn – novice special (see below)	Paul Harper
09 -11 /06/01	Caving	South East (see below)	Marie Choi
13/06/01	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Paul Harper
07/00/04	O a sa a sal Maratina s	Devel Conint Deve	Daviddaman
	General Meeting	Royal Society Room	Paul Harper
30/06/01	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
11/07/01	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Paul Harper
25/07/01	General Meeting	Royal Society Room	Paul Harper
28/07/01	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
08/08/01	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Paul Harper
08/08/01	CEGSA NEWS	Submissions due	Athol Jackson
	General Meeting	·	Paul Harper
25/08/01	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
08-16 /09/01	Snow Fun	Private Unofficial trip (see article)	Dave Glowacki Bill Binks
29/09– 14/10/01	Caving	Nullarbor (see below)	Graham Pilkington
	Caving	Ongoing Vic Fossil Survey contact	Garry Woodcock
	Caving	Regular trips to 5A25 contact	Grant Gartrell
28/12/01 -15/1/02	Caving	Tassie, Mole Creek - Ida Bay - Junee Florentine (see below)	Marie Choi

May 26th & 27th - Furner in the South East. Survey Training and Exploration Trip. Come and help Dave explore and survey some of the 40+ features he found there a few years ago. Contact Dave Glowacki on 08 8762 4183.

June 2nd - Corra Lyn Cave. Great novice trip with Paul Harper. Contact Paul on 8270 2359 for details and bookings.

June 9th - 11th (Long Weekend) - South East. Contact Marie for Details.

September 29th – October 14th. Nullarbor Trip. Survey & exploration trips into Old Homestead along with caves on the SA side of the border. Contact Graham Pilkington for details.

December 2001 / January 2002. Tasmania Mole Creek, Ida Bay & Junee Florentine. Caving starts December 28th. Big New Years Eve Party in Mole Creek with Cavers from all over Australia. Numbers are limited. Contact Marie to register your interest. Closing soon.

Don't forget to register your trip with the Trip Liaison Officer so that the trip becomes official and is covered by insurance. If it is not registered then it is not covered and you may be liable. You must also be an accredited trip leader with the appropriate skill endorsement to take a party underground.

Also, please make sure that a report of the trip is submitted.