

CEGSA NEWS



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

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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: A small section of bones in 5L441. **Photo:** Marie Choi.

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QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

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 4 (Issue 184) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **14th November 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

Not many people are turning up for meetings lately, which is disappointing - we did not even have a quorum at the last general meeting! I know it is hard to get out of the house on a cold winters night but your club needs your support and input to run effectively.

We still don't have insurance so CEGSA activities are still on hold till we are insured. I have heard that the ASF have some policies in mind but nothing has been finalised yet, but hopefully it will be soon. We are in a strange position at the moment as we are a caving club but we cannot go caving as a club. You of course can still go caving as individuals as long as you don't use CEGSA's name to get access to the caves.

While you are not caving there are other activities you can pursue apart from polishing your caving boots and waxing your helmet. You could help George on one of his Records/Library working bees, you can borrow some of the thousands of magazines and books we have in our Library, surf the Web for caving sites, you can write some articles for the newsletter or the E-news, you can put together a presentation for the next general meeting or you can phone around and organise an unofficial caving trip.

We have lost two committee members this year, Pam Payne left to pursue studies and we got Peter Horne to replace her as secretary. Steve Milner left due to work commitments and we got Graham Pilkington to replace him. I would like to thank Pam and Steve for the work they did on the committee and to welcome Peter and Graham to the joys of boring tedious committee work.

Happy (non) Caving

Paul Harper

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STOP PRESS

NEWS FLASH

From information buzzing around the airwaves it appears that the ASF may have finally got onto an insurance company that is prepared to provide a policy for us. It is still in the embryo stage at the moment and will take a few weeks to finalise but we live in hope that it will happen.

TRIP REPORTS

Cave Ridge & Lower South East: EASTER 2001 April 13th - 16th

PARTICIPANTS:

CEGSA: Marie Choi, Fred Aslin, Kevin Mott, Linda Deer, Paul Deer, Kathy Binks, Lance Hoey, Barbara McFadyen, Adam Branford.

FUSSI: Jo Sullivan.

Victorians: George Christie, Helen Altmeajer.

Visitors: Anthony Hele, Anita Muller, Richard Kennedy and Talitha

Friday April 13th

Day 1 was spent at cave ridge tidying up some survey data and trying to make the link from 3CR1 to 3CR2 (We call it CR2 but it isn't officially numbered as yet. Dave Glowacki and Frank Hankinson found the cave around 4 years ago). The newer cavers in our group were impressed with the formation that can be seen in this cave. The survey work also confirmed that during a search and rescue exercise that was held in late 2000, the "patients" were not in the mapped area of the cave. The evening was spent at the Eastern Hotel having dinner.

Saturday April 14th

Day 2 was spent at Snake hill 5L119, fortunately no snakes but a few bats and swallows. Snake hill is an excellent cave for taking beginner and large groups as there are several paths and you can split the group up to take and also numerous entrances for making a quick exit. But do watch out for snakes in the warmer weather. Most of the group also checked out 5L307, a small but stunning cave full of good quality moon milk and orange limestone walls. We then moved the group to Loftys 5L262 cave but I had trouble recognising the area as they had cut down all the pines since I was last there 3 years ago. The removal of pines has resulted in the cave becoming more active. We headed back to the hall after this cave for some well deserved R&R.

Linda led a small survey party to The Well 5L44 for 2 days to do more survey work on the cave and to check out a previous lead. They managed to tidy up some of the previous confusing data, and found that the lead that looked so promising on a previous trip wasn't. There is still much more of this cave to explore and survey.



Adam in an Entrance, Mount Salt Area.
Photo: Marie Choi.

Sunday April 15th

Day 3 was spent at Donovan's Dairy (the largest Dairy in the state I believe). Here we split up into groups to check out the entrances to Hereford Stream Cave 5L71. One Entrance had to be dug open. When the entrance was finally opened Dave entered the cave and found a camera flash at the base of the rock pile. It apparently belonged to Motty who dropped it in the cave during the bat study during June 1999. Against the advice of Fred he attached the flash to the camera, lowered it carefully into the cave through a very small hole and attempted to take a photo. As he pressed the shutter the flash departed and commenced cave exploration by itself. The flash was cleaned and tested. It gave one flash then died.

Syncarids were found in the cave. This caused great excitement as we assumed it extended their known location. A search of the group's records showed Master Horne had already found them in the same location (curses, foiled again). Obviously he visited the site before it was completely blocked or he was very skinny. Once into the cave the group could explore for a while, unfortunately they found many of the passages had been completely blocked by the previous owner in their attempt to fill in the holes.

Part of our group left after lunch to return to Adelaide whilst the rest of us headed to a small cave in a Quarry, 5L442. It was in one of these that whilst surveying, we discovered a full skeleton of a snake. The small cave went down to water. Before leaving the property it was suggested we visit a small rubbish filled cave, 5L203. As we parked the cars a procession of several hundred cows began to file past. Anthony remained in his vehicle whilst the rest went to the cave. He claims to have witnessed every possible cow expression as they filed past for 30mins. Some members of our party will wind their windows up in future; cow slobber over your seat isn't very pleasant. The evening was spent finishing off and drawing up the days survey data.

Monday April 16th

On day 4 the remaining members of our trip, Anthony, Kathy, Adam, Lance, Barbara, Kevin, Fred and Myself head to an area called Mount Salt onto private property that has some attractive Karst features and at least 3 parallel caves (5L 441, 5L444, 5L445). 2 of these caves had long roof openings and were easy to access. We broke into smaller parties to survey the caves and plot them. Barbara received an impromptu lesson on cave surveying with Fred whilst Kathy and Anthony helped out Kevin. All three caves contained rare ferns. These caves were very attractive and it would be an excellent opportunity for some wonderful cave photos. Fred, Kevin, Lance and Barbara continued caving after lunch whilst the rest of us headed off. All in all a productive and interesting weekend.

Marie Choi & Kevin Mott

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Eyre Peninsular & Nullarbor, 14 April to 1 May 2001

CEGSA: Graham Pilkington, Ray & Chris Gibbons, June & George & Aaron MacLucas;

CEGSA Visitor: Aaron (Azza) Draxler

CEGSA: (from 28 April) Max Meth, Peter Ackroyd (also VSA)

CLINC: (from 27 April) Dawn Graves, Rob Klok

VSA: (from 28 April) Ken Boland, Daryl Carr, Margaret James, Hank Coppus

Karst features visited:

5E17, E54, ?E66, plus 5EXG1-7

5N1, N21, N144, N176-177, N210, N264-265

6N371, N374-379, N381-382, N387-389, N401-409, N411, N413-414, N720-725, N974, N979, N982, N1203-1209, N1212, N1215-1216, N1278-1279, N1305-1312, N1352-1361, N1363-1365, N1367, N1704-1734

6NX152, NX156, NX159 now N1721, N1723, N1722

Adjustment to previous trip report: 6NXG7 is now 6N1707.

The "-XG" were features seen but unknown to Graham.

Saturday 14 April: Like most good trips we were delayed setting off. This time it was Ray's trailer lights not operating. George had planned an Eyre Peninsula visit to Talia Cave hence we stopped for the night about 20 km SW of Kyancutta.

Sunday 15: On the way to Talia we stopped off at Slaters Crater E54, a 25m diam 1m deep rock-rimmed doline with a soil floor. Nearby was supposed to be E66 but we found so many features (EXG1 to EXG4 plus lots more near them) that we could not determine which was E66. The major difficulty is that the location is only accurate to within a km or so. E54 was about 800m "out of place". These other features are all shallow depressions and holes 1 to 2m deep with most having cavities under caprock.

The Talia Cave E17 area was very interesting. It is a mostly a series of sea caves in cliffs up to 12m high, depending on the state of the tide! The caves are formed in cemented dune limestone along the contact with the underlying granite. The cliff top is nearly horizontal but the limestone cliff varies in thickness from 12m (limestone near sea level) to about 2m, the rest being granite. E17 is formed at sea level horizontally along a joint in the granite capped by a limestone cave whereas most of the others are cavities up to 4m deep and 10m long cut into the limestone on top of granite slopes rising from the sea. EXG5 and EXG6 were both 10x4x2.5m tall in 4m thick limestone 360m and 280m S of E17.

After unsuccessfully looking for several nearby numbered features (again the bad locations) we travelled to Max's at Ceduna where we stayed the night.

Monday 16: Having obtained permission weeks ago from SA National Parks to visit specific caves on the Nullarbor we stopped at N210 for June to take photos for her artwork. Ray found a drafting passage under the SW section of the doline (before the descent into the cave proper) that went for about 10m around the doline. It still goes and drafts hard but more suited to dingos than people.



Large chamber in Black Surprise at about 28m depth. Photo: June MacLucas

Graham worked his way into a cave on the NW corner of the doline. This was within doline collapse rocks and descended maybe 6m with about 15m of passage again around the doline.

Camp was made at Wombat Cave N264.

Tuesday 17: Ray and Azza started the survey of the entrance chambers of Black Surprise N265. Graham and Aaron explored the lower chambers. June, George and Chris did artwork and took photographs in N264.

Wednesday 18: N264 and N265 were tagged. June, George and Chris did more artwork and photos in N264. Ray & Aaron continued the survey of N265 to the start of the "Surprise". Graham & Azza surveyed the east side of the Surprise, to be joined later by June & George who took photos. By the end of the day, N265 was measured as 140m long and 32m deep.

Thursday 19: A fun surface day locating N177 and N144. After a long search N177 was located 1150m south of the supposed location only 6m E of the track whereas N144 was within a 100m of the given location. With the now accurate GPS readings, it was feasible to map the N144 doline outline just by using the GPS; it is 190x150m. During the day we also located N1, N21, N176, and N979. N979 is a hole from the Quartermaine-

Wheeler list that had a good location description once you knew where it was. It was about 3km from where it was expected, due to not knowing the location of overgrown tracks. It had breathing holes at the bottom of a 20x20x7m deep doline.

Friday 20: After the vehicles had been down to Eucla to collect fuel, we searched for nearby features and located 6N1704 to 1706 which were tagged. N982 was a rockhole while N974 was another QM feature that turned out to be the cave mentioned in an 1899 "Eucla Recorder" article that we had decided to find.

After the long day searching we decided to get to Old Homestead Cave before dark. However, George decided that he would grade the Link Track with his trailer. To do this he dropped the trailer wheels off, axle and all. He didn't get more than a few metres before giving up and stopped dead. After much discussion we decided to abandon the trailer for the night, just taking what we could on to the OHC.

Saturday 21: Trailer Day. We went back to the trailer to get the rest of the gear and decide how to fix it. Options ranged from loading it onto Ray's vehicle roof, to dragging it with or without a makeshift axle to Forrest or Eucla to weld the axle supports back on. After close examination of the damage and wear and tear it had already suffered in nine years of outback travel over rough tracks (and no tracks!) George decided to salvage what he could and leave the tray for possible use as a track grader blade.

To get in some exercise for the day, Graham cleared rocks off the main track north of OHC.

Sunday 22: The first of many walking days to locate as many as possible of the karst features near to OHC. Over the last 16 years many features have been noted but the true locations have been difficult to determine due to lack of reference points and the large distances involved. It was found over the next week that features were up to 800m out of place whilst some that were within a 100m took a long time to find because no description was known and you have to be within a few metres to see them. The very bad locations appeared to have occurred because the “trees” that were used to sight to triangulate the positions were not always the trees that the sighter thought they were. The new GPS readings have so far been repeatable over days, months, and a year with a discrepancy of typically 1-2m and a maximum of 4m. No more lost blowholes! Aaron, Azza, June, George & Chris located some features to the N. Ray & Graham walked SE allocating N1707-8.

Monday 23: Aaron & Azza visited the Spring Series while June Chris & George did a painting trip into the South Cave. Ray & Graham completed the feature locations to the SE & S out to 3km. Since we visited the features mainly to take GPS readings, the sites are simply listed at the top of this report rather than on each day's walk.

Tuesday 24: Graham, Azza & Aaron located features to the N and NE, also allocating N1709-1713. Ray & George visited the Officers Mess. June went with Chris to paint in the North Cave.

Wednesday 25: We all went to Forrest for a shower and a lunch made by Yvonne & Max, the managers at Forrest. We discovered that they have a full welding kit available in case we need to use it in the future. It had been one of the unknowns in taking the broken trailer to Forrest. We did not want to struggle for 46km to get it there only to discover there was nothing to fix it with.

Thursday 26: Graham & Azza went N to locate most of the rest of the features within 3km of OHC. We also added new features N1715-1720. Ray went on a Link Track clearance binge, clearing about 3km of the cross track between the northern and southern Mundrabilla-Forrest “roads”. Chris walked 3km SE to a ridge to get a good view of the country – you can see a long way from 6m up.

June & George went painting in the North Cave. Aaron collected a huge ball of string from the South Cave. He tried to tell us that he wound it up.

Friday 27: Ray had not got over his enthusiasm for shifting rocks and spent all day finishing off the cross track to the southern road. In the morning, Graham and Azza completed the GPS locations of all the features within 3km to the north including N1721-1723, which had been NX152, NX159 and NX156. In the afternoon, Graham helped Ray extend the clearance along the Link Track.

The others went caving except for Chris who went for a walk. In the afternoon, Dawn & Rob from CLINC arrived.

Saturday 28: Today we moved to near the other end of the Link Track to “Ken's second airfield” close to N1788. Ken flew in and landed just before we arrived. He had landed before and then gone looking for us over at OHC. The rest of the VSA party arrived in three vehicles a few minutes later. They had a surprise for us, Max Meth was with them!

Most of the people went over to N1788 just for a look see before dark. They located three other features in the process.

Sunday 29: Ray, Max and Graham found, tagged and described N1714, N1724-1733, including “GS316” from Ken's last trip. Several turned out to be caves; the longest was N1727



Ken Boland and his Light Aircraft.
Photo: Hank Coppus.

with about 30m of passage. The others visited most of the features located on Ken's last trip while Ken did what he came for – flying. Ken arrived back just before dark and reported a large doline about 8km west of the Eucla-Reid Road.

In the evening Chris and June orchestrated a wedding reception for the newly weds Dawn and Rob. We all wore bow ties and a special wedding meal including wedding cake supplied from the original reception held in WA that we did not attend. (See next article.)

Monday 30: Graham, Ray & Chris left for Adelaide. But on the way we went with almost everyone else to check out the large feature noted by Ken. With the GPS fix from Ken it was easy to find even though there was no track leading to it. I didn't have time to look all over, but what I saw of N1734 it turned out to be a large entrance chamber maybe 100m long, 40m wide and 15m high. The deepest section was about 36m and had a breeze coming from under the wall. Maybe the VSA mapped the cave during their stay? I gather that a few days of rain stopped a planned party from camping there during the next few days to properly explore it.

Tuesday 1 May: We went home. June, George, and the two Aarons stayed on for a few extra days. Ken and crew then spent the next week or so flying around looking for new features.

For once no surveying was done in Old Homestead Cave! But we did allocate 31 new features including 19 near OHC and GPS'ed 80 known features including 67 near OHC.

Graham Pilkington.

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BUSH WEDDING CELEBRATION

On April 30th 2001 15 Nullarbor cavers celebrated the wedding of Dawn Graves and Rob Klok from CLINK Western Australia .

This was quite a celebration and one that Dawn & Rob had no idea was in the wind.

Invited to the formal wedding celebrations included:

Ken Boland, Margaret and Daryl Carr from VSA.

Hank Coppus from Mt. Isa also VSA.

Graham Pilkington, Max Meth, Peter Ackroyd, Ray and Chris Gibbons, George and June MacLucas and Aaron MacLucas from CEGSA

Aaron Draxler a young friend of CEGSA member Kerry Ninnies.

Plus the bride and groom Dawn Graves and Rob Klok from CLINK.



Chris and Ray Gibbons, Dawn and Rob Klok.
Photo: June MacLucas.

Planning for the celebrations hatched weeks before during a working bee session held at the MacLucas household. June and George had been invited to the actual wedding held in WA two weeks before leaving for the Nullarbor, unfortunately they could not attend. Therefore not to miss out, it seemed a great idea to celebrate the occasion when we all met up with Dawn and Rob at the planned Link Road campsite of Ken Boland, where we all planned to congregate for various lengths of time and take part in the VSA exploration.

Chris Gibbons really excelled in the preparations for the event. This was to be a formal occasion that required full dress. Chris rather handy with the needle and thread came up with almost a full wedding gown for the bride (including veil). A matron of honour outfit for June, and as this was a formal event all males were required to wear bow ties for the occasion. This was again handled by Chris who came up with wonderful bow ties made from brightly coloured scraps of this and that.

They were all a sight to behold with grins to match.

Ken Boland good humourly blessed the occasion and we all wine, dined and some even danced the night away. It was a fun loving occasion that was shared with 15 cavers from four different states. Rob and Dawn were delighted and played their part with fun and zest. Dawn eager to remain the bride, wore her gown for several days and the bow ties and other wedding gear came out again to celebrate June's birthday two days later.

Thanks must go to Chris Gibbons for all her work to make this a great occasion and to Dawn and Rob who let us invade their honeymoon on the Nullarbor and to all who attended as without all of them this memorable evening would not have existed.

June MacLucas

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Corra Lynn, 3 May 2001

CEGSA: Graham Pilkington, Pam Payne, Paul Deer.

Mercedes College: Teacher and 10 students.

CEGSA led a two hour adventure tour to introduce the students to caving.

Graham Pilkington

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Lower South East, June 9th – 11th 2001, Queens Birthday Weekend.

Trip participants: Marie Choi, Daniel Fletcher, Bekki Bulger, Anthony Hele, Adam Branford, Yvonne Zollinger and Kevin (the King, master gate maker) Mott.

Caves Visited: 5L307, 5L119, 5L328, 5L67, 5L441, 5L394, and 5L 263.

The weekend's base was the Venturer Hall in Mount Gambier, with Anthony opting for a little luxury at the Jail Backpackers inn. Yvonne who was caving with other Victorians in the Drik Drik area joined us for our Sunday trip, which made a nice change from the mud at DD4. We arrived late Friday evening and proceeded to experiment with some gifts that I had got for Dave Glowacki who was recuperating in the Mount Gambier Hospital after his close encounter with a Tractor tyre. I had obtained him a small companion who could bark, sing, wag his tail and completely annoy him, but was well and truly house trained. We planned to visit him on the Saturday evening. I will let Daniel, Bekki and Adam fill you in on the caving.

Saturday June 9th

Haydn's 5L263 (Marie, Daniel, Bekki, Anthony)

After a leisurely morning, we finally made it down the entrance, the first of many for the weekend. We made it through to a small chamber where Daniel and Bekki explored a passage to the right. The passage was small, yet sandy, making it easy to army crawl through. This passage went for about 8 meters before heading slightly up and over a small rock pile to a new chamber. This chamber had decoration and some very beautiful dry and wet rim pools. Upon returning to the main passage to be greeted by a relaxed Marie and Anthony, we continued down to the main large chamber. There was a rumour of there being a new opening in the floor in the main chamber. We all had a look around to see if we could find any new opening, which is quite entertaining as to some of us, the whole thing was new!!! Marie did find a section of the cave that appeared to be where someone had been digging. After some carefully exploration, we discovered some bones. After carefully removing a few to drop in at the museum, we searched the remaining sections of the chamber and headed for the surface. On the way out we took time to observe the spectacular rim pools on the right, in the section between the two main chambers.

Moon milk 5L307(Marie, Daniel, Bekki, Anthony)

After a short break we entered 'Moon milk cave' named because of two reasons, we didn't know it's official name or number and because of the beautiful lublinite decoration throughout the cave. Once

again it was another sandy bottom cave, which made it great to move on! The floor had an interesting hollow sound, which was also reflected by the various amounts of sand people had obviously moved, in order to find the 'great break through'. We all observed the gorgeous walls and the brilliant white reflected from the ceiling where no finger has touched. It was stunning!! There had been a dig towards the rear of the cave that some of us just had to explore! Daniel went down, feet first of course, only to find that his feet found lots of space. Out he came to only enter again head first. Upon getting down to where his feet were he realised that if only his legs were 1 foot longer he would have found the end. Marie tried to assist him in his journey back up by keeping his feet together, (with the use of his laces) but she wasn't quite quick enough! Then there was the foul air problem in the passage as some were busy trying to contort their body out of the 'dig' passage. The air finally cleared and allowed the group the opportunity to discuss the cave and its beauty, only to have Daniel discover a jaw bone sitting in the sand. The group finally managed to make it back to the surface, to be greeted by fellow caver, Adam Branford.

Snake Hill 5L119

After a lunch break Adam, Marie, Daniel and Bekki entered Snake Hill. We entered, visiting the many various small roof chambers between each entrance/exit hole. We discovered many 10's of bats in the first few sections. Stories regarding the type and amount of rubbish that was removed on the last Cleanup Australia Day were shared. Upon reaching the 3^d solution tube, we discovered a weird thing! Mouse Spiders!!! They must have felt the movement in the ground from us walking and decided to come and say 'Hello". They appeared from under the ledges, thus encouraging us to move on (quickly) and to check where we stopped next time. Adam then pointed out a lovely variety of 'fuzzy animal droppings'. Very nice!!! It was nice to stop about ½ way through our journey to turn off our lights and realise that there were actually complete dark zones within this cave. We hadn't reached any yet!! We also took this opportunity to discuss the rest of the cave that we weren't going to see today. There were stories told to reflect previous visits.

After this lovely break, we continued on to a smaller section, known to Adam as the 'organ pipes'. One person zipped through, only to discover an exciting thing in the roof. You could only find out if you made it through to see for yourself. This then encouraged those who found the pipes a bit of a challenge, to give it go, and another, and another when they didn't succeed at first - to see the amazing thing in the roof! When through, we all got to admire the beautiful 'nail' (a survey nail) in the roof. That first person that zipped through began to crawl very quickly away from the other larger members of the group!!! We were glad to find out that we were still heading in the right direction as some were not going to go through the pipes again. We soon exited the cave and some even began to see the funny side of the nail situation.

Bekki Bulger & Daniel Fletcher

Saturday Night

After a quick clean up at Adams we met up at the hospital to cheer up Dave. The Hospital has only been opened for a short time and was quite impressive. We walked in on Dave as he was finishing his sumptuous dinner. He was pleased with his new companion for a short time, before it got annoying and then played with the toy tractor I had got him. We visited with Dave for about an hour before we needed to head off for tea and he needed his rest and beauty sleep as he was still very swollen and sore.

Now over to Adam for his views on Sundays Caving

Sunday June 10th.

9:30 at the scout hall was again the starting time. Today we'd planned to explore a few new caves as well as some older caves that we had heard about but had not visited before. The first stop was L238, Glendene Park cave, to the south of Mt Gambier. We arrived at the time that we said that we would find a sturdy wooden ladder waiting for us out of the cave entrance. We also found the landowners waiting with offers of coffee and the toilet. Adjacent to the entrance was a selection of newborn lambs (It was lambing season after all...). Marie noted that they would make lovely little pets; however I thought they'd be better cooked, preferably medium-rare. After a brief chat with the owners we commenced down the wooden rungs of sturdiness. Certainly a change from the normal trapeze act required to enter such places.

Glendene Park certainly proved to be a nice cave to spend some time in. Copious amounts of clean moonmilk, together with lovely scalloped phreatic passages made for a pleasant time indeed. We walked to the end of the main chamber and had a quick look around for any leads. After exhausting all options we headed back towards the entrance. At about halfway back we spent half an hour or so assuming different positions as Marie proceeded to flash us. It proved to be an interesting experience, and I must say that all of the photo's turned out well. After playing around a little more and a bit more exploring, we headed up towards the light and lunch. Glendene Park cave has not had the trauma of much visitation as is evident in far too many of the Lower South East caves. This was evident by the fairly clean walls and untrashed passages. Hopefully, with strict policing of visitors, it will remain this way.

Next to Glendene Park is L67, Moorra cave. An insignificant hole, with little decoration and even less to hold the interest in all but a few cavers.

Following lunch, we followed Mott over to a dry well with a windmill head over the top. After setting up the necessary rigging, Bekki carefully negotiated her way down to the bottom. The well contained many interesting things, none more so than the complete skeleton of Mr Ed, the horse. After negotiating the abundance of wire and dirt, Bekki entered the more interesting bits of the cave. Daniel, Marie and Kevin followed whilst Anthony, Yvonne and I foolishly braved the bitter cold.



Moonmilk in Glendene Park Cave.
Photo: Marie Choi.

The three surface dwellers went walkabout, looking for any other features in the paddock surrounding the well. This resulted in nothing but a few cowpats, wet feet and frozen faces. Meanwhile, below the surface, the group was finding a plethora of bones and fossils. These were carefully being extricated from the ground. Somehow, during the bone and fossil dig, Daniel moved a rock, which was, in turn, assisted by gravity. The resulting sound was clearly heard above ground, making for some interesting comments to be uttered. At the conclusion of the survey and dig, the team emerged extremely happy and grubby. I've not heard what all of the experts have said about the finds, but I wait with bated breath.

To finish the afternoon, we followed Mott, looking for a windmill with a cave underneath it. After deciding that 25 windmills were probably one or two many on this freezing day, we went to ask the landowners. They weren't home, but we did discover a MASSIVE cave entrance. Well...massive compared to most caves down here. The entrance was at least 8+ metres deep. The landowners had been using this cave as a rubbish dump for many years now, as was evident by the amount of household rubbish piling up. They'd even put in place a chute that allowed for easy disposal. It seems that people will never learn.

Following this we returned to the Mount for hot showers, hot food and much needed rest and relaxation. Kevin turned up a little later with a completed map of L394, Mr Ed cave (Not official name!), drawn to the Mott's meticulous detail and accuracy. Oh...that reminds me. If you ever want to see a superb example of cave gating, go and see Glendene Park. Surely this Mott creation is a masterpiece on any league of the finest cave gates. Just ask Motty!

Adam Branford.

Back to Bekki and Daniels report.

5L441 – Anthony, Marie, Kevin Mott, Daniel, Bekki and Adam (briefly)

After driving down a fairly average 'track' we found the particular hole in what could be described as a busy karst area. We entered the small fissure with the intent to survey the area underground. We took measurements in the first 2 or 3 chambers, working in a generally north direction. The last chamber to be surveyed had a pool of water about 5 meters long to be bridged before continuing on



Bekki, Kevin and Daniel with Bone Samples.
Photo: Marie Choi.

the other side. What lay on the other side of the pool of water was the most spectacular bone deposit I have seen. We quickly transferred our effort from surveying the cave to finding bones that were loose enough to be removed without damage and with the limited tools we had available. We removed some samples for the museum; perhaps the most exciting (to Marie at least) was the discovery of a set of Thylacoleo teeth. We also removed Stenuris jaw and some skull samples. Not all samples have been identified yet. Marie also took some photos of the very impressive fossil deposit. In this chamber was also some more traditional decoration, stalactites and other cave formations. After spending an hour or so removing samples to interest the palaeo's, we carefully packed the fossils for the journey home. On the way we dropped into the Wonambi Centre at Naracoorte to try to get the samples identified. Unfortunately Steve and Liz were both absent from Naracoorte that weekend so we had to wait until the following week to have any identified at the museum. I'm sure that this particular cave will be revisited by some more professional palaeontologists to better our understanding of the now extinct mega fauna.

Bekki Bulger & Daniel Fletcher.

Not a bad weekend's work, Dave would have kicked himself if he could, as he was supposed to join us for the weekend. Steve Bourne made a trip to 5L441 to photograph and assess it. See his report about what we brought out of the cave.

Marie Choi .

%%%%%%%%%

Star Group Training Corra Lynn Cave July 12th & 13

Marie Choi Ian Richards & 26 Star Group Members

In early July I received a call from acting Sergeant Vincent Foyel with regards to accessing Corra Lynn cave for a number of team building and a search and rescue practice trips. As CEGSA had not had a lot of contact with the Star Force in recent years I considered it an excellent opportunity to re-establish relations and develop a working relationship with them.

Unfortunately due to the lack of insurance, we could only send members along if we were covered by their insurance. Vincent got back to me a few days before the first trip to give the all clear to send some members along. I contacted a number of members with only Ian Richards being available at such short notice.

We had a leisurely drive up on the Thursday morning. I was half expecting to meet up with the police on the drive, and as I am a known lead foot watched my speed very carefully. When we reached Port

Wakefield I decided to contact Greg M (who was coordinating the first trip) as I assumed they were well ahead of us. Not so, they were still 40 minutes out of Port Wakefield. Ian and I decided to cruise into Curramulka to view Town Well cave before heading for lunch at the Port Vincent pub. I had warned the police to look for someone with purple streaked hair (I had to do something silly when I turned 40).

After Lunch and dropping off gear at the accommodation we headed out to the cave. The Star Group is currently undergoing some changes by merging with a number of the other specialist police groups, such as the mounted police and Dog Squads. We did a short brief about what the cave was like and what to expect, I then handed out kneepads that were much appreciated once we were underground. The aim of this first exercise was to give the group an understanding to the different hazards in the cave and what was required to get around. We had larger groups than would be desired which cut down the amount of cave they got to see but they got a good idea.

I took my group down to grand Central, showed them rats Squeeze, (they weren't convinced you could get through it) before taking them up the cauldron and down rope Crevasse and on to bush walkers, I then got my group to navigate out, They almost got it right. Meanwhile Ian had given his group the magical mystery tour (his memory of the cave was a little rusty) but they managed to find their way out okay. They are sticklers for time keeping. We then headed back to the hostel to clean up for a BBQ tea. Some of the police went for a run and a quick soccer game, I wonder if they would have done that after several hours underground.



Police S&R Exercise Participants.

Photo: Marie Choi.

There were about 26 officers along on this trip who were excellent hosts. We even had a celebrity amongst them. It seems one of them had dressed up as Santa to abseil into a kids Xmas do, only to get his beard caught up in his device and have to be rescued by his colleagues (it was on most News Channels). We also had some interesting conversations with a number of them about how they got into this career and what their specialties are. Did you know you can do a course on bombs?

The next day we headed back to Corra Lynn for the very short search and rescue exercise. We were given a dummy to place as a deceased person, Ian was to be injured and I was to be lost. We placed the dummy down the Taylors Tomb crevasse, whilst Ian was around the drumstone with a broken ankle, I was lost in the bushwalkers area. Ian and the Dummy were found relatively quickly and stretchered out whilst I headed out once our deadline had been reached. The exercise was debriefed, and group photos taken before heading back to the Hostel for lunch and cleanup. All in all, the 2 days went well even with the restricted time limit. Its hoped that this will lead to regular future exercises together.

Marie Choi.

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Police STAR FORCE trip to Y1, Corra Lynn Cave.

2-3 August 2001

Participants:

CEGSA: Marie Choi , Nigel Dobson-Keefe, Graham Pilkington and Paul Harper.

OTHER: About 25 Police officers comprising of STAR Force, Dog Squad, Mounted Section, Underwater Recovery Section, plus one Paramedic.

The trip was organised and run by the STAR Force as an orientation/team development event for the different police units to get to know each other and to see what a cave looks like. We ended up being

involved as Marie volunteered us to act as guides which was a good idea as we got a better idea of how they operate and how we would fit in if we are called up to help in a search / rescue.

The first day was for cave orientation and the second was for a mini search and rescue exercise.

We started off by meeting the police at the Port Vincent Pub at the civilised hour of 12 noon, where they bought us our lunch. We then headed to Y1, once there we split into 4 teams; each led by a caver and backed up by a policeman who had caved before.

We planned our routes so that we would not come face to face in some grotty crawl. We had a briefing, and then they let us loose. We had limited time so we were only able to show them a small part of the cave but they saw a good cross section of crawls, squeezes and climbs and they were suitably impressed with the potential complexity of a search or rescue.



Star Force S&R Exercise party.

Photo: Marie Choi.

We spent the night at the Pt Vincent hostel where the police were good hosts and cooked up a huge BBQ and even stood back to let us get served first, Marie complained that I had too much on my plate but what the heck I was a 'guest' and it was paid for out of my tax money. The next morning after bacon and eggs we wandered back to the cave for a mini search / rescue.

Graham took a few late comers for his version of a gentle tour of the cave while Marie and Nigel went into the cave to act as victims along with a life size stuffed dummy.

The scenario was one caver (Paul) came out of the cave with the story that three of his companions were still in the cave, two were in an area of Bushwalkers Run (the dummy was dead, and Marie was injured

... or was it the other way around? The search party who found them had trouble working out which one was the dummy.). Nigel was missing. His last known location was the 'Map of Tassy'.

The police then organised three search teams and briefed them.

Team one who were going to Bushwalkers Run were shown the location of the victims on the map so it was an exercise in map reading. They were to be followed later by Team two who would have the stretcher. Team three had the task of finding the 'Map of Tassy' which some members were shown the previous day and to their credit, most had a good idea where it was.

I believe Team three navigated to Skeleton Crevasse and found Nigel unharmed and escorted him out.

I followed Team one into Bushwalkers as an observer. Their team work and communication skills were excellent, the leader was able to decipher the map (he had the three level spaghetti map) and we were able to find the victims. The dummy was carried out and Marie who had an injured arm was escorted out. Near Ramshorns Team two met us and for the experience they strapped Marie into a stretcher and carried her up the steps at Ramshorns.

We had a debrief on the surface, and then went to Pt. Vincent where they fed us again!!! before we all headed off home.

It was a good two days but next time it would be better to spend more time underground ... there were so many squeezes to take them through and so little time.

As a reward for our services they gave us the secret password that will get us out of being given a ticket next time we get caught speeding. You look the copper in the eye and say 'UPYOURSUGLY' and the speeding ticket will be forgotten about.

Paul Harper.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

CF BINKS Bill 9412 (H) 8595-9164 (W) 8595-9138
PO Box 411 LOXTON SA 5333

Chris Gibbons.
Membership Officer.

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR COUNTRY MEMBERS

Gerret Springer and Family -- Mt Gambier.

Gerret was approached if he would like to write a little bit about himself and his family for you. He handed the task to me - so this is what you get:

How did it all begin? Well, it all started in Berlin, Germany. And as I heard the next question often enough before - Gerret and I are from East Germany. (Maybe this is why we are so keen on digging tunnels?) We never thought of caving then, but we discovered diving for us as teenagers - 20... years ago. Actually it was not just diving - it was what we call 'Orienteering diving'. There is a set course underwater with checkpoints to find as quickly as possible. You take a compass and metering device and off you go. We loved that kind of diving. The diving community was very small in East Germany, probably a bit like caving in Australia. You went away for the weekend, all ages from kids to pensioners together, go camping, have BBQ's, drinks & parties - it's not just the sport which is important. The community counts.

After working in the unified Germany for some years, Gerret got restless. He applied for an Australian job 'to get some interview experience'. But as he got the invitation to be shown around some Australian operations it started to get serious. So we came - for 2...3 years - almost 6 years ago.....

We came to Mt Gambier. The ocean is pretty rough for diving. There are caves. The caves have crystal clear water. Right ! - Cave Diving did get hold of us and never left us since. We went to the Nullarbor - for cave diving again. Went to Abrakurrie as well. Awesome! We met people like Paul Hosie and Ken Smith and finally got in contact with June & George and later with other CEGSA people. What a bunch! Like back home in the orienteering diving days!



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

Well, Australia is such a nice place. Just a pity that we have not as much holidays as in Germany. There is so much to see and experience. We probably need another few free days to discover...

Photo 1: This is Katrin getting ready for a dive in the SHAFT (5L158). In the front our little one, Lucas, is checking out some SRT gear. The shaft is an incredible hole. The opening is just right to fit through (hanging on the rope) with a bottom larger than the MCG. The water is as clear as anything I have seen. In the summer the sun is creating a blue laser like beam all the way to the bottom - hence the name.

You see the reflections of the waves on the surface

lake on the bottom at 35m. That's the shallowest point. The cave is pretty deep. Reputably 120+m below the water table - however the owner restricts diving to 40m.

Photo 2: This is Gerret ready to lower himself into Iddlebidy (5L250). That cave is famous for the clay blocks underwater, which are preserved virtually untouched. The slightest contact - and they collapse. Only well trained cave divers are allowed in there to keep it that way.

Photo 3: Here Katrin dives the famous Picaninnie Ponds (5L72). The water is not quite as clear as in the shaft, but there is a lot more sunlight and a chimney like shape makes it the perfect spot for photographs.

Photo 4: And here are our two boys, Robert and Lucas, who love dry caving.

If you ever need some assistance in checking out 'that puddle' - please contact us. Otherwise looking forward to caving with you sometime, somewhere - hopefully not too far ahead.

Best regards,

Katrin, Gerret, Robert & Lucas Springer.

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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

Please Note: As insurance costs are unknown at the moment the ASF fees will probably increase.

*Chris Gibbons.
Treasurer.*

Paleo Report on 5L441

Earlier this year a small cave containing fossil material was discovered by CEGSA members in the Mt. Gambier region. Very excited members turned up at the Naracoorte Caves with several fossil specimens and a few digital images. Marie Choi asked if someone with some palaeontological knowledge was able to inspect the site, to determine the scientific value and what animal remains were actually present.

After speaking with Associate Professor Rod Wells and other Flinders University palaeontologists I arranged to visit the site with Kevin Mott. Unfortunately Kevin was unable to make it and Fred Aslin very kindly agreed to accompany me to the cave.

What an amazing little cave! The cave itself is little more than a crack in the limestone, 6-8 metres deep with water at its lower levels and mostly only one metre wide. The fossil deposit is a fissure fill with a fairly complex history. It appears animals have been trapped, falling into the fissure, with the rising and falling water level mixing the bones and cementing them together with sands and calcite. Each mixing further jumbled the bones, breaking them down further and creating a new matrix of bones. The most recent event however, has left an amazing collection of incredibly complete fossils, many limb bones, skulls and jaws.

The species identified include *Simosthenurus gilli* and *Simosthenurus brownei* (leaf-eating kangaroos), *Macropus* spp. (the kangaroos we are familiar with), *Sarcophilus* spp. (Tasmanian Devil), some snake vertebrae and *Thylacoleo carnifex* (the famous 'Marsupial Lion').

The path into the cave even contained a *Thylacoleo* jaw that everyone had trodden on at a step-down point!! Fortunately the material was so strong it survived this.

I congratulate CEGSA members on the discovery of this very important deposit, some research is sure to take place in the future here. Some points I feel need to be noted regarding bones in caves.

1. Fossils are an important part of the cave system and should be treated with the same respect as cave decoration. Unlike cave decoration, fossils do not grow and replace themselves if damaged.
2. The removal of fossils is not necessary to bring such deposits to the attention of palaeontologists; a photograph will more than suffice.
3. Valuable information may be lost by simply moving bones to a 'safer point' in the cave.
4. Although ASF regulations state that bone should be moved to a safer point from pathways, this is in fact in breach of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. Not all caves are on Government land, but these guidelines should be observed in all cases.

If any members are interested in learning how to identify megafauna so they can determine whether bones in a cave are of extinct animals or not, without the need for removing them, call Steve Bourne and Liz Reed at the Naracoorte Caves. We are more than happy to spend time with cavers to show you the features to look for and how to deal with the discovery of bone deposits in caves.

The excavation, collection and necessary data recording of fossils in caves requires specialised skills and should be supervised by a palaeontologist. What appears to be a 'solid' fossil can fall apart in your hands if you don't know the necessary techniques to recover it safely (it's happened to me when I've been helping). There are plenty of opportunities available for volunteers if you want to share in the thrill of discovery and fossil excavation. All you need to do is contact us at the Naracoorte Caves. Researchers here are always looking for helpers and will only be too happy to involve and teach you.

Without cavers we wouldn't have a World Heritage Area because the fossils wouldn't have been found at Naracoorte. So keep on caving and take plenty of photos of what you find. Remember the saying, "Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photographs, keep nothing but memories".....

Steve Bourne.

LIBRARY AND RECORDS

Received from Kevin Mott many copies of cave articles from local south-east papers, such as *Border Watch*. Included in this collection an article featuring Allendale Cave explaining the history of the fill-in and nature's eventual revenge by reopening the cave, hence the divided road around the cave.

Another interesting article in this collection featured the making of the film on Engelbrecht cave. And yet another article worth looking at is on Cathedral Cave with a photo of ex CEGSA member Steve Bourne, Naracoorte Cave National Park Tourism Service Manager.

Neville Pledge handed in some maps of the Kimberley Area that included Tunnel Creek Cave, Old Napier Downs Cave and Cliff Foot Caves near Barnett Springs. These maps were from an earlier CEGSA era and were drawn up by Joe Jennings and Dr. M Sweeting.

Received map of 5L426C CEGSA Map No. 3146 by Damian Grindley, surveyed by D. & A Grindley, Marie Choi and Frank Hankinson. Note this cave carries a warning on high levels of carbon dioxide.

Received from Peter Ackroyd map of Roaring 40s Cave 6N1728 CEGSA No. 3160, sketches of 6N1920, 6N1921, 6N1922, 6N1923, 6N1926, 6N1927 and 50 GPS locations of assorted karst features of the Nullarbor.



The First Binding. Photo: June MacLucas.

June MacLucas found an article by Andy Spate *Karsting around for bones, Aborigines and karst caves in south eastern Australia* from *Australian Archaeology* No. 45, 1997 page 35-44.

Received from Simon Kendrick cutting from Blue Mountain tourist paper *Camp in a Cave, a privately owned cave*.

Good news. At the last working bee the new binding equipment that Athol Jackson organised from the funds donated to CEGSA by the disbanded Subterranean Foundation, finally commenced. This equipment now allows the binding of selected periodicals into book form. This event, along with the cheers of onlookers was duly documented for the files. Graham Pilkington has been busy indexing and chasing missing magazines while Athol has also been busy photo copying damaged or discoloured magazines.

Also underway is the filing of topographical and geographical maps into a double bay vertical map cabinet also purchased through the Subterranean Foundation funds. This second hand cabinet required modifications to the pitch locations and were carried out by Ray Gibbons and Lance Hoey.

George MacLucas.

VALE: Mrs ERNA MARY MAVIS THOMSON

Mrs Thomson, wife of the late Nullarbor pioneer Capt J.M Thomson passed away after a short illness in July 2001. Mrs Thomson kindly lent to several CEGSA members at various times Capt Thomson's famous 'slide machine' along with his slides and notes for documentation by Kevin Mott and Ian Lewis and to June MacLucas to use at the Speleo exhibition of cave art work that included photographs and history of caving of the Nullarbor.

June MacLucas.

A Titbit from the Internet.

Title: Spelunking as a manifestation of a counterclaustrophobia.		
Title Abreviation: J Am Psychoanal Assoc		Date of Pub: 1989
Author: Myers WA;		
Issue/Part/Supplement: 3	Volume Issue: 37	Pagination: 727-35
MESH Headings: Adult; Attitude to Death; Case Report; Dreams; Human; Leisure Activities (*); Male; Phobic Disorders (*PX); Psychoanalytic Interpretation (*); Psychoanalytic Theory; Psychoanalytic Therapy; Sibling Relations; Unconscious (Psychology) (*); -AA-;		
Journal Title Code: H9Z	Publication Type: JOURNAL ARTICLE	
Date of Entry: 891226N	Entry Month: 9003	
Country: UNITED STATES	Index Priority: 2	
Language: Eng	Unique Identifier: 90062837	
Unique Identifier: 90062837	ISSN: 0003-0651	
Abstract: Material is presented from the case history of a patient whose interest in spelunking (cave exploration) was found to be an unconscious expression of a type of counterclaustrophobia. Both oedipal and preoedipal determinants of the claustrophobic anxieties are delineated. Of particular note in this instance is the testicular element in the genesis of the patient's claustrophobia. His confusion of the movements of his testicles into his inguinal canals during childhood defecation with the movements of the feces themselves lent an special intensity to his fear of being flushed away from the mother by an expulsive anal birth from the claustrum. Childhood anxiety aroused when his testicles would become trapped in the inguinal canals was an important forerunner of the adult fear of being trapped in confined spaces. A counterphobic element of the spelunking per se was his enjoyment in hanging suspended by a rope in caves. In this manner, he was able to act out (by virtue of his body-testicle equation) his identification with, and control over, the disappearing testicles in the setting of a claustrophilic union with the mother.		
Abstract By: Author		
Address: Cornell University Medical Center.		

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The Power of 1

Did you know:

$$111111111 \times 111111111 = 12345678987654321$$

It follows that also:

$$11 \times 11 = 121$$

and

$$111 \times 111 = 12321$$

and

$$1111 \times 1111 = 1234321$$

and

$$11111 \times 11111 = 123454321$$

and so on.

INTERESTING! But if your article had been here I wouldn't have to put non caving items in the Newsletter.

Athol.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
22/08/01	General Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Paul Harper
25/08/01	Working Bee	Library and records	George MacLucas
12/09/01	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Paul Harper
26/09/01	General Meeting	Royal Society Room	Paul Harper
29/09/01	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
10/10/01	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Paul Harper
24/10/01	General Meeting	Royal Society Room	Paul Harper
27/10/01	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
14/11/01	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Paul Harper
14/11/01	CEGSA NEWS	Submissions due	Athol Jackson
28/11/01	General Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Paul Harper
01/12/01	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
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

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. **Closed.**

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.

Please Note: There are no trips advertised for the near future due to the lack of insurance cover. Please keep your eye on the E-news for information about trips after we get insurance confirmation.